

THE 1019 REPORT

COVERING THE 1,019 SQUARE KILOMETRES OF VAUDREUIL-SOULANGES

VOL. 7 NO. 1 - WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2025

ST. LAZARE

MUNICIPAL TAXES TO GO UP 3.8% IN 2026 **P3**

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VAUDREUIL

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Hudson preps for more Sandy Beach consultations

BRENDA O'FARRELL
The 1019 Report

With the confirmation the provincial government has approved Hudson's \$7.6-million loan bylaw to buy Sandy Beach arriving just before Christmas — the last hurdle that officially secures the waterfront site from the threat of development — the focus now turns to the next issue in the decades-long saga to save the natural space: Should the town accept a \$2-million grant from the Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal to help finance the purchase?

"And that is coming up soon," said Hudson Mayor Chloe Hutchison in an interview with *The 1019 Report* last weekend.

With a deadline of March for the town to decide on the grant, and Hudson council having switched its schedule of monthly public meetings to the last Tuesday of each month, council will have to vote on the grant at its Feb. 24 session.

That means public consultations will have to be held quickly.

"That's a big one," Hutchison said.

The promised consultations have not yet been scheduled.

See SANDY BEACH, Page 4.



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1019 grocery survey is back Prices at local stores up 19% since 2022



The 1019 Report file photo

Since 2022, *The 1019 Report* has been comparing the prices of a basket of 10 basic grocery items at the major supermarket chains in the Vaudreuil-Soulanges region. The results show how prices have increased in the past four years, jumping almost 19 per cent. In the last two years, the rate of increase has slowed somewhat, but continue their upward push, with the traditionally lower-priced outlets hiking their prices the most. See the story on Page 11 and a detailed breakdown of the prices on Page 10.

Hudson clinic to stay open — for now

JOSHUA ALLAN
The 1019 Report

The doctors at Hudson's only medical clinic have put their plans to close the clinic on hold.

"We have decided to temporarily suspend our plans to close the clinic," Dr. Tara McCarty, one of the clinic's co-owners, told *The 1019 Report* yesterday.

The decision comes following an agreement reached between Quebec's association representing family doctors and the provincial government just before the holidays to overhaul the heavily-criticized Bill 2.

"Until those details are known, we believe it is both prudent and responsible to pause irreversible decisions," McCarty stated, referring to the agreement to amend the controversial legislation by March.

This pause does not eliminate the possibility of the clinic closing in the future, however.

McCarty explained that one of the physicians has confirmed her intention to leave the clinic to practise medicine in Prince Edward Island.

See HUDSON CLINIC, Page 4.



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These are just some of the people who are showing their support for community journalism.
Each week, we will spotlight others. We hope you follow their lead.

Natalia Filijowycz, Vaudreuil-Dorion
Steven Peel, St. Lazare
Glenn Lucas, St. Lazare
Marguerite King, Hudson (renewal)
Audrey Stewart Miller, Hudson

Michel David, Hudson
Bruce Ward, Vaudreuil-Dorion (renewal)
Kenneth Key, Hudson (renewal)
Carolyn Belec, St. Lazare (renewal)
Harriet Jacobs Ebdon, Hudson (renewal)

Chris Gobeil, Hudson (renewal)
Lisa Jacobsen, Rigaud
Nadine Tousignant,
Vaudreuil-Dorion
Tom Cobb, Hudson

Rebuilding St. James: Repairs to church continue despite delays

BRENDA O'FARRELL
The 1019 Report

Anyone who has taken on a renovation project knows: It never goes as you had planned. And so too has the task of rebuilding St. James Anglican Church after a fire ripped through its roof and destroyed the attached hall in April of 2024.

“Right from the start, there was no question, we were going to rebuild the church,” said Marcus Owen, a volunteer who is overseeing the reconstruction, while providing a tour of the interior of the historic stone building last Sunday, giving residents an update on the ongoing work.

But the plan to rebuild the church, which was originally constructed in 1842, has seen significant delays.

Stripping the building down to the stone walls to clear the damage caused

by the fire revealed structural frailties that needed to be addressed, Owen explained. That required added expertise, additional work, a different approach — all extended the timeline of repairs and added costs.

Along the way, options were outlined. One decision that has been made, Owen said, is to leave much of the original stonework that can now be seen inside the stripped down interior exposed, allowing visitors to see the beautiful craftsmanship.

But other issues remain unresolved. The biggest one is how to rebuild Memorial Hall, the large meeting space that stood attached to the old church, which was completely destroyed by the fire.

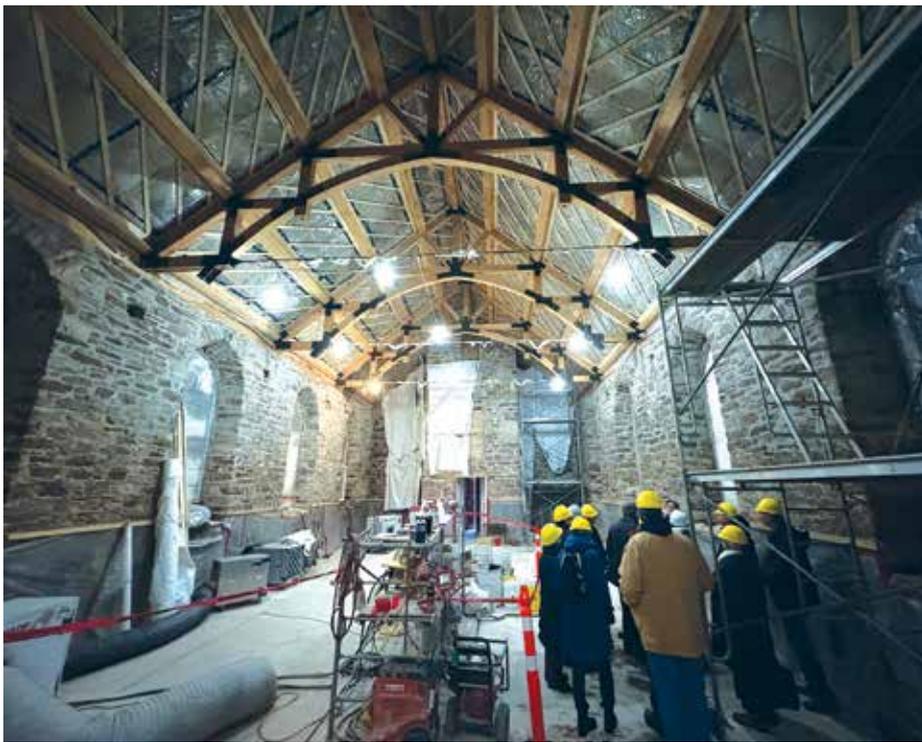
Most of the funds from the insurance coverage will be directed to rebuild the church, leaving a need to fundraise to finance construction of a new meeting hall, Owen said.

At the moment, the committee over-

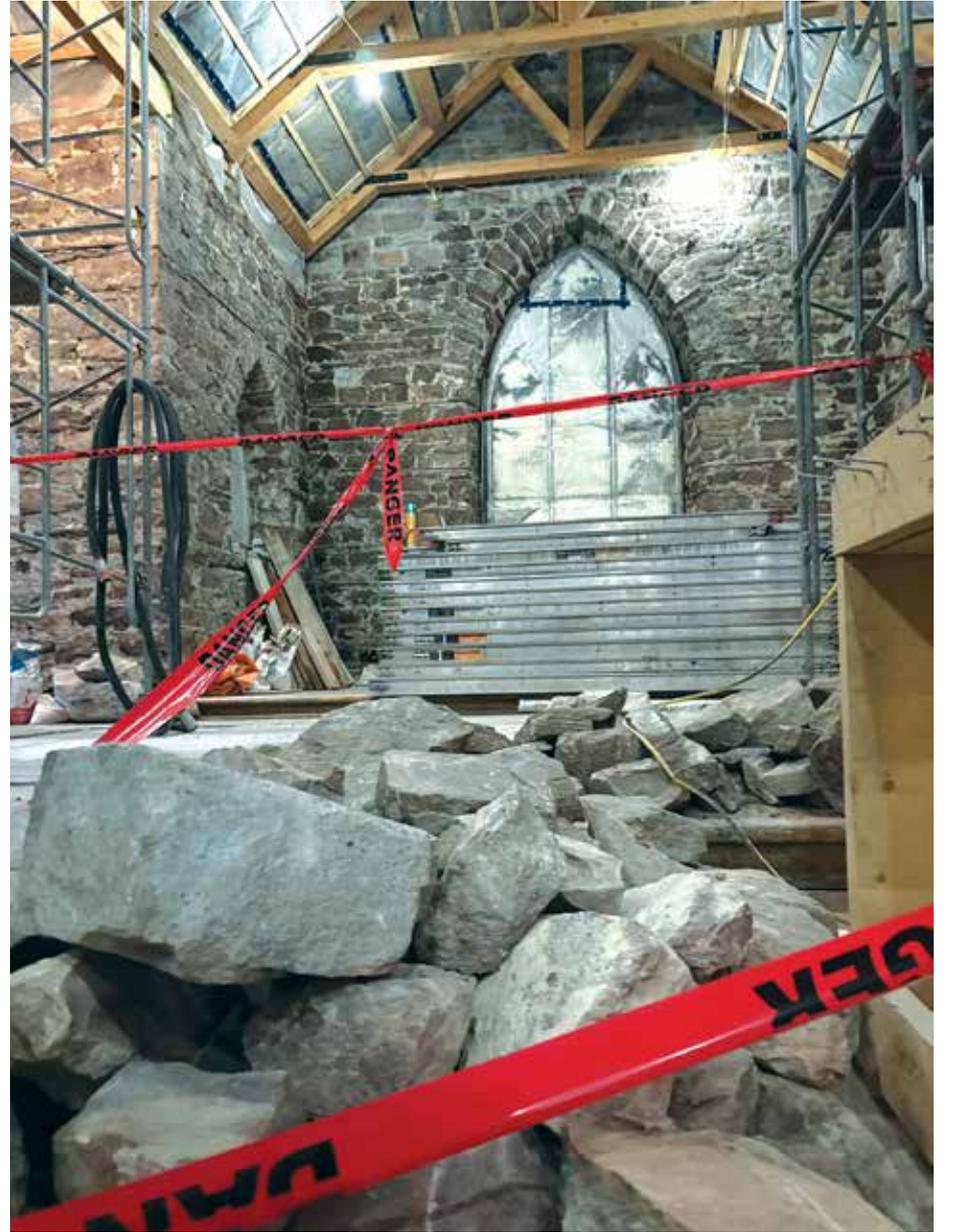
seeing the reconstruction work does not have a plan for the hall, nor does it have a figure of what a fundraising objective would be.

“What would we like to put there, what can we afford to put there to meet the community’s needs,” Owen said, all re-

main to be determined at this stage. Only one decision has been made: Any new hall will not be attached to the church like the old Memorial Hall was. Where it will be located exactly and whether it will be linked to the church by a covered walkway are under consideration.



The new roof trusses can be seen from the interior of the church.



The 1019 Report

Stone masons are expected to complete repairs by the end of January.

Average tax bill in St. Lazare to jump 3.8% in 2026

JOSHUA ALLAN
The 1019 Report

Homeowners in St. Lazare will see their municipal taxes increased by 3.8 per cent this year, according to the town’s \$48.4-million budget adopted last month.

Owners of an average single-family home, valued at \$702,694, will pay \$3,881 in taxes this year, which represents a \$143 increase over last year.

The residential property tax rate for 2026 has been set at 44.26 cents per \$100 of property valuation, up slightly from the 42.46-cent rate in 2025.

Included in the calculation of each tax bill is a \$290 annual water tax, up \$10 from 2025; a \$195 garbage tax, also up \$10; a \$165 sewer treatment charge, which is the same since 2023; and a \$50 potable water treatment plant fee, which is also the same as last year.

The property tax increase in 2025 averages out to about \$2.75 more per week for the average single-family home.

In a statement released following the budget’s adoption on Dec. 16, the town pointed out that the 3.8-per-cent increase is close to the 3.4-per-cent increase in the



The 1019 Report

Among the recreational activities provided by the Town of St. Lazare are the facilities at Bédard Park.

Montreal region’s consumer price index. The town also noted increases in payments to the MRC, the Sûreté du Québec and to the Autorité régionale de transport métropolitain, which all together account for an increase of \$700,000, or around 7 per cent more than in 2025. St. Lazare will pay a combined \$9.9 million to these agencies.

In total, the city plans to spend \$48.4 million in 2026, which is an increase of \$2.1 million from last year — or 4.6 per cent.

“For me, this is my ninth budget which I have presented, and I can say, quite frankly, that year after year the exercise becomes more and more demanding,” said Mayor Geneviève Lachance during

the budget meeting. “Costs are rising very quickly from one year to the next. Standards are becoming increasingly stringent and needs continue to grow. Our objective was clear: to protect services, maintain our infrastructure and respect taxpayers’ ability to pay while remaining transparent about the reality of costs.”

Lachance also took a moment to acknowledge the efforts of the new council in preparing its first budget, noting how seven of the eight councillors, elected in the November municipal election, are political newcomers, adding the endeavour of drafting a budget is “not an easy one.”

Along with the budget, the city adopted its three-year capital expenditure program. The program calls for investments totalling nearly \$71 million over the next three years, with \$26.7 million slated for 2026. Of this year’s amount, \$12.3 million will be subsidized.

As has been the case in the past several years, the largest investment under the plan this year is categorized under environmental health, which will make up nearly \$21.8 million in 2026.

SANDY BEACH: CMM grant would limit restrictions of outsiders

From Page 1

Last October, Hudson council voted to authorize administrators to submit an application for the \$2-million CMM grant, which had been offered to the town. But a decision on whether to accept it is still pending.

In August, several residents at a public information meeting expressed opposition to accepting funding from the regional authority as it would impose conditions on how the waterfront area could be managed, including any imposed access restrictions would have to apply equally to all residents of the CMM. That means if the grant is accepted, Hudson would not be able to limit access to the beach and forested trails only to Hudson residents, a move some residents worry, could make the site too crowded.

Hutchison said she and the members of council are not opposed to accepting the CMM grant for several reasons.

“It’s \$2 million that is not coming out of our pockets that can go to other projects,” she explained, adding there are a number of measures to control access.

“We can control it by putting a price on parking,” she said, while also cautioning that strict restrictions to all non-Hudson residents would send the wrong message, especially given that the municipality’s businesses count on visitors to survive.

“Is that what we really want to be known for?” Hutchison asked.

Adding to the tight deadline for public consultations is the fact that council is

also awaiting to receive a management plan from Nature Action Québec, which was mandated last fall to draft a plan that would outline what parts of the 35-acre tract of land would be open to the public and what areas would need to be protected.

Hutchison said the management plan would help frame the public consultations and focus the discussions.

“We need to be clear about what we want to safeguard,” she said.

A survey of residents could also be part of the consultation process, she added.

According to the plan outlined by council last fall, taxpayers will begin to see a \$121 annual charge added to their municipal tax bills beginning in 2027 to pay down the debt. If the \$2 million in CMM funds are accepted, it would reduce the annual charge assessed to taxpayers.

Last August, the town struck a deal with the owners of the waterfront land to purchase seven waterfront lots — six owned by Nicanco Holdings Inc. and one owned by a numbered company — for \$8.75 million. An additional \$440,000 in net purchase-tax charges and \$410,000 in financing fees for a loan amortized over 40 years pushed the total cost to taxpayers to \$9.6 million. The town then attributed \$2 million of its surplus to the purchase, resulting in the need for a \$7.6-million loan. The CMM grant would drop the loan to \$5.6 million.

Hutchison said the \$7.6-million loan as it stands now has pushed Hudson’s debt to

a historical high. Last month, when Hudson approved its \$18.8-million budget for 2026, it confirmed the town’s debt would hit \$30.2 million by the end of this year, up from \$21.4 million at the end of 2025.

Acknowledging it is a new high for the town, the debt is still well within the ratio municipalities must maintain, Hutchison said.

Managing debt requires discipline, the mayor said, adding: “I don’t have a problem with that.” She added the town con-

tinues to have to pay down debts incurred by prior administrations, including for its sewer system and fire hall. If the fire hall project had been put to public consultations, she said, she questions whether the project would have been as large or located at its current site.

“We’re still dealing with the cost of it,” she said, referring to the fire station.

The town expects to announce plans for the consultation on the CMM grant in the coming days.

HUDSON CLINIC: Closure is still a possibility: Doctor

From Page 1

“The remaining physicians are undecided and are awaiting clarity both on the final version of the legislation and on the position taken by the (doctors’ group representing family practitioners) before determining their next steps,” she added.

“While this pause offers a brief moment of relief, it does not resolve the fundamental issues that led us to consider closure,” McCarty explained. “What’s most frustrating is that after all this turmoil, there is still nothing on the table for patients, there is nothing in the agreement that actually helps patients get care when they need, nor anything that enhances our ability to provide timely, high-quality, relationship-based care.”

“Until there is a clear and credible plan

that supports both patients and frontline providers, the future of this clinic remains uncertain.”

The Hudson GMF had originally announced back in November that it had planned to close its doors this coming April in response to the Quebec government’s Bill 2, which would have implemented coercive measures, such as threatening financial penalties against doctors, in an effort to expediate access to health care. However, an agreement reached between the Quebec government and the province’s association representing family doctors Dec. 11, in which the government promised to heavily amend the law with input from doctors, left those plans in flux.

Bonne année 2026!
Happy New Year!

Paul Dumoulin, maire

Conseillers municipaux (de gauche à droite)

Première rangée : Sarah Champagne (district 6) et Nancy Dallaire (district 5)

Deuxième rangée : Alexandre Ménard-Levasseur (district 4), Jasmine Sharma (district 3), John McRae (district 8), François Séguin (district 2), Vanessa Leduc (district 7) et Luc Marsan (district 1)

2026
Happy New Year

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Founder of Quinn Farm fondly remembered

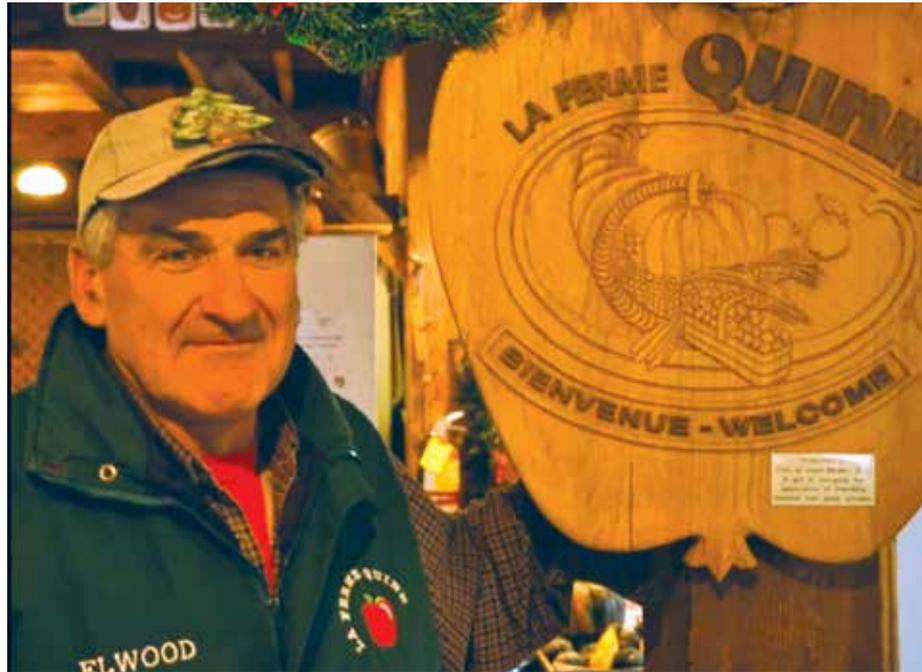
FREDERIC SERRE
The 1019 Report

Eight months ago, Elwood and son Phil Quinn and their staff were credited with saving the life of a worker at Quinn Farm in Notre Dame de l'Île Perrot who had suffered a heart attack while in a field at the farm. Performing CPR and using a defibrillator, the Quinns' actions were widely celebrated for bringing the man back from the brink.

Sadly, Elwood Quinn himself was felled by a fatal heart attack last Saturday morning at the Perrot Blvd. farm. The founder of the popular Quinn Farm was 78.

"He left us after feeding his animals, driving his tractor, and sharing breakfast with his dear friends," said Phil Quinn in a post on social media. "He passed away from a heart attack, an almost perfect passing for a farmer."

Quinn described his father as "a passionate man who passed on to us his love of agriculture — knowledge inherited from our ancestors and deepened by years spent in the fields, enjoying the fruits of his hard labour."



Elwood Quinn died Saturday. He was 78 years old.

Tributes from fellow farmers, clients and even journalists began pouring in on Sunday morning after the Quinn family announced the death on social media.

"On behalf of the employees and campers at Fatima, we offer our deepest sympathies to the Quinn family and farm employees on the passing of Mr. Elwood

Quinn," said a spokesperson for the Centre de plein air Notre Dame de Fatima. "For nearly 30 years, our proximity to your land has allowed us and our campers to get to know a man who was deeply passionate about his farm, his animals and agriculture. We will cherish fond memories of him and have deep respect for the legacy he leaves behind."

Phil Quinn said the hardships of his father's past "made him a tough man, but at times he could be so tender. For some things, he was incredibly patient, while he could also have a short fuse. He loved his farm so deeply and was immensely proud of it."

"More than almost anyone, he was proud that his family worked this same land, and that every year, tens of thousands of people gathered there with joy," said Quinn. "All the trees he planted more recently, he would say, 'I'll never see the shade these trees will cast, but the grandchildren will be able to sit in it.'"

Quinn said a celebration of his father's life will be held in early May.

St. Lazare's in-house snow removal finding its legs: mayor

JOSHUA ALLAN
The 1019 Report

The start of this winter season kicked off St. Lazare's public works department carrying out a majority of the town's snow-clearing duties. Though the early days generated complaints from some residents, Mayor Geneviève Lachance is confident the department is working out the kinks, and the move will ultimately save the town money.

"As usual, when we first start with a service, people will notice a difference and employees have to adjust," Lachance said in an interview Monday. "It's a new service that they offer so, of course, there will be some improvement needed."

She also pointed out that the first snowfall in November had "hit us so early on, the training for the employees wasn't even done yet."

Workers have been adjusting as the winter season continues, Lachance added.

Snow removal in the eastern and northern sections of the town is being carried out by town employees. This area covers

everywhere east of Du Bordelais Street and north of De la Grande Allée Street. The remaining area, which includes most of the Cedarbrook and Maple Ridge neighbourhoods, is covered by Ferme Gérard Martel & Fils Inc., which also offers private residential snow-clearing services to many homeowners in St. Lazare.

The reason for this mixed dynamic is due to the lack of responses to a call for tenders put out by the town last summer following the expiration of its four-year \$7.5-million deal with contracting company ALI Excavation.

The town only received one bid for its snow-clearing contract. It would have increased costs by 81.2 per cent compared with the 2024-25 season, according to city communications director Christelle Paré.

"This significant increase was one of the main factors that led the municipal administration to reassess its service delivery model for snow removal," Paré explained.

While taking on snow-clearing services required the purchase of equipment, Paré explained the town anticipates the town's annual cost of snow removal will be about 50 per cent less than what was proposed

in the lone bid received.

"It is still too early to know the actual savings that will result from this new service delivered by our internal teams," she added.

Teen fined \$1,611 for speeding in St. Lazare

FREDERIC SERRE
The 1019 Report

It was a sobering Christmas for a Vaudreuil-Dorion teenager after he was busted by Sûreté du Québec officers for driving 134 kilometres per hour in a 50 zone on Dec. 20 and fined \$1,611.

The SQ constables caught the 18-year-old man driving on Côte St. Charles in St. Lazare shortly after midnight. The officers immediately gave chase and stopped him, issuing him a ticket and slapping him with 18 demerit points. The young man also had his driver's permit suspended for sev-

en days.

Meanwhile, in St. Lazare yesterday morning, SQ officers were involved in a high-speed chase with a suspected stolen SUV.

The chase ended with the SUV crashing into a house at the intersection of Brunet Street and St. Louis Road, near Cité des Jeunes. The male driver was arrested and charged with possession of a stolen vehicle. A search of the SUV resulted in the seizure of tools and equipment used to steal cars.



2026 Budget

The Ville de Saint-Lazare's Municipal Council adopted the 2026 budget at its meeting held on December 16, 2025.

The \$48.4-million budget remains firmly focused on responsible and disciplined management of public funds.

Despite ongoing economic challenges, the Ville de Saint-Lazare is limiting the increase in property taxes to 3.8% for the average household.

The 2026 municipal taxes

Municipal taxes are payable in 3 installments. The due dates for the payments have been established as follows:

- 1st installment - Tuesday, March 17, 2026
- 2nd installment - Tuesday, June 16, 2026
- 3rd installment - Tuesday, September 15, 2026

For all the details, visit the city's website at www.ville.saint-lazare.qc.ca/en/budget

Editorial

Hudson taxpayers should invite help to build a new legacy

Some things do not have to be difficult. Nor do they need to be made difficult.

Just two thoughts for Hudson taxpayers as the town prepares to launch its latest round of public consultations on whether it should accept an offer of a \$2-million grant from the Communauté de Montréal to offset the cost of buying the undeveloped area around Sandy Beach.

With the news that the provincial government has approved the town's \$7.6-million loan bylaw to finance the purchase coming just before Christmas, the question of whether to accept the CMM grant now becomes the next focus of the ongoing public conversation in the decades-long campaign to save this unique area from development. After years of debate, there is a wide consensus in Hudson that keeping this 35-acre tract of waterfront land from being turned into a housing development is the right thing to do. It only took a few decades, imagine that. It's true what they say, times do change. Eventually.

But maybe not all has changed, as last year, a number of residents raised objections to the idea of accepting the CMM grant because it would come with what they called "strings attached." The "strings" are whatever restrictions the town would impose on the site in terms of access, would have to apply to all residents of the CMM. This would mean the public space could not be accessed by Hudson residents only. All CMM residents would theoretically have equal access.

There is a lot to unpack there.

First, let's throw in a little perspective. Hudson taxpayers foot the bill to pave roads, well, at least some of them, with the cost of main arteries receiving provincial grants. But there is never any discussion about restricting access to these streets to only Hudson residents. Outsiders enter the town to go to restaurants, stores and schools. They even take up parking spots. And the same happens in other towns. This is not a new concept.

What is new is that Hudson is now accepting these grants. That is very different from what had been happening for years, decades even, as many roads were not rebuilt in Hudson. That was due to a corrupt administrator who did not want to accept grants and the accountability and scrutiny that would have come with them. That legacy created a culture of doing things differently in Hudson, like building a fire hall without provincial grants. Has that served Hudson taxpayers in the long run?

But let's get back to Sandy Beach.

Imposing restrictions to how, when

and how many can access the site, given its size and environmental fragilities, will have to be part of a management plan. That's a given. There shouldn't be a free-for-all at Sandy Beach. There will be rules. There should be rules. And those rules will need to be applied to Hudson residents, too.

But if the prevailing rule is everyone from outside Hudson is banned, how will that rule be enforced? Do you set up checkpoints? Put up a fence to keep people out? There is a cost for that, too, and it is not just financial. Perhaps a difficult question needs to be asked here: Is this tendency to shun outside help somehow a by-product of taxpayers being groomed by a former corrupt culture of doing things differently? It's just a question.

So let's look at what other towns are doing.

Just last month, the Town of Notre Dame de l'Île Perrot announced it would invest \$4.1 million in its newly expanded nature park. A total of \$1.8 million of that will come from the CMM. That is in addition to the \$1.4 million the regional authority kicked in back in 2024, when Notre Dame bought six hectares to add to its new nature park for \$3.5 million. The town even solicited financial support from other partners to finance its purchase, including the federal government, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and a private foundation.

Last May, the Town of St. Lazare adopted a plan that aims to conserve 30 per cent of its territory as natural spaces by 2030, an objective that aligns with the target set by the United Nations in 2022.

Across the CMM since 2022, 188 *Trame verte et bleu* grants have been issued to projects in 48 municipalities totaling \$308 million, including the acquisition of 69 natural spaces.

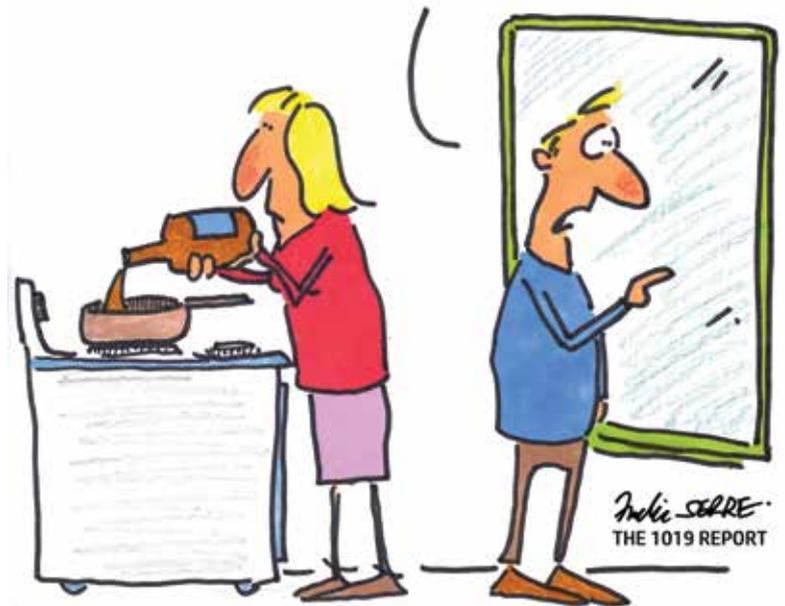
Towns are making plans, formulating long-term visions and receiving grants. It all takes time, planning, defined targets, money and courage. And none of it is being done with a town going it alone.

Maybe Hudson should invite help. And start with the first bold and beautiful step it has taken with the purchase of Sandy Beach and accept a grant to lighten the financial burden and focus on how to create something future generations will be proud of, and thankful for.

Some things are difficult. But they do not need to be made more difficult. Hudson taxpayers should take advantage of the CMM grant.

Brenda O'Farrell
Editor-in-chief

EASY ON THE OIL,
HONEY. WE DON'T WANT
THE U.S. MILITARY
INVADING OUR HOME...



Letter to the editor

Task Force on Linguistic Policy to Legault gov't: anglos do exist

The following is taken from the Task Force on Linguistic Policy's brief submitted to the National Assembly's committee studying Bill 1, the CAQ government's Constitution for Quebec:

We represent people who have just arrived in Quebec, and those who have been here since the first settlers and beyond to the beginning of time.

We are the English-speaking community of Quebec, 1.25 million citizens. Contrary to this flawed legislation, we do exist. We recognize and encourage the flourishing of French as the majority language in Quebec. But we stand with those who do not speak French: the elderly, visible minorities, the rural poor,

the indigenous people, the physically and mentally challenged. These are the people who require government services. Many were not educated in Canada and, therefore, could be denied government services according to Bill 96 and would be permanently discriminated against in Bill 1. That is unfair, egregious, immoral and unconstitutional. It is not the Quebec we know, and it is not the Quebec we see evolving into the future.

Quebec will be a pariah in the western world by adopting such a fundamental law. And we will join in the criticisms of it until it is withdrawn.

Task Force on Linguistic Policy

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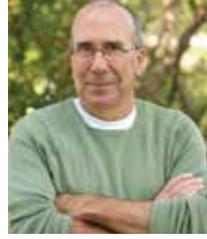
Please include your full name, address and phone number. Only your name and the municipality in which you reside will be published if your letter is selected for publication. Let's get the conversations started.

FACT: \$9.9 million

The combined total St. Lazare taxpayers will fork over to the MRC Vaudreuil-Soulanges, the Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal, the regional transit authority and the Sûreté du Québec in 2026. This figure represents a \$700,000 increase — or a 7.6-per-cent jump — compared with 2025. These expenses account for 20.5 per cent of St. Lazare's annual budget this year.

Source: Town of St. Lazare

Post-Christmas lights, towering snowbanks and a few questions



Tom Whelan

January in Vaudreuil-Soulanges arrives quietly. The holiday rush is over, the calendar is suspiciously empty and the landscape settles into its winter look. Plowed roads, towering snowbanks and more than a few sets of Christmas lights still glowing bravely in the night.

This is the moment when two seasonal debates collide. First, are the snowbanks. That rugged, accidental sculpture created by municipal plows and reinforced by every passing storm. Then, there's the question of holiday lights. Whether they should come down promptly on Jan. 2 or be allowed to linger, providing a bit of sparkle through the darkest weeks of winter.

Let's start with the snowbanks.

Snowbanks in Vaudreuil-Soulanges are not mere piles of snow; they are semi-permanent structures. They arrive overnight, often without warning, and immediately redefine our relationship with our driveways. One morning you're admiring a freshly cleared entrance. The next, you're staring at a white wall that says, "Good luck, see you after coffee."

We learn quickly to adapt.

Mailbox access becomes an Olympic sport. Parking is a delicate operation involving angles, momentum and the unspoken hope that the plow doesn't return just as you've finished shovelling. Snowbanks also have a curious way of shrinking your property. That generous front yard you enjoyed in July? By mid-January, it's been reduced to a narrow corridor between the house and the street.

And yet, there's something comforting about them. Snowbanks signal that winter is doing what it's supposed to do. They muffle sound, slow us down and give the neighbourhood a shared look, everyone in the same frozen boat, so to speak.

Which brings us to the holiday lights.

Early January is when festive enthusi-

asm collides with reality. Technically, the holidays are over. The tree is down, the decorations are boxed up, the mountain of pine needles, some of which will hide until July, are vacuumed up. But those lights. Those tend to stay. And stay. And honestly, no one is in much of a hurry to judge.

Because once January settles in, it gets dark early. Really early. The kind of dark that arrives before dinner and lingers long after breakfast the next day. In that context, a few strings of lights don't feel like holiday leftovers. They feel like survival tools.

Across Vaudreuil-Soulanges, neighbourhoods quietly agree on this. Twinkling lights along rooflines, wrapped around bushes or outlining a porch suddenly feel less like Christmas charm and more like seasonal decor. They add warmth to streets lined with snowbanks and make evening walks a little more cheerful.

In fact, the snowbanks and the lights work well together. The snow reflects the glow, softening it and spreading it around like nature's own diffuser. What might have felt excessive in December now feels just right in January. It's less "festive overload" and more "we could all use this right now."

Of course, there's always that one house that takes things to another level — the full display still going strong, music possibly involved. But even that earns a kind of respect. It takes commitment to keep the lights up when the windchill is uncooperative and the ladder is frozen into the ground.

Maybe that's the real January lesson. We don't have to rush the reset. We can let the snowbanks be snowbanks and allow ourselves a bit of lingering brightness to ease the transition. The lights will come down eventually. The snowbanks will melt ... eventually. Until then, they define this in-between season.

Finally, I leave you with two questions. For just how much longer do we have to continue saying "Happy new year?" Is there a prescribed protocol?

And, if I promise to make my martinis very dry, does that count as doing "Dry January?"

I know, that was three questions.

Lights reflecting on snow are like nature's diffuser.



The 1019 Report

Unique trail marker: This distinctive metal sculpture marks the beginning of the recreational trails at the Harwood Nature Park in Vaudreuil-Dorion. Called Emergence, it was installed last September as part of the MOSA festival of words. Created by Madeleine Turgeon and Gabriel Laframboise, it features a series of words said to convey hope, light and humanity.

QUOTE

"More money."

— That was the answer 37 per cent of respondents to a survey opted for when asked to rank their choices of what they most wished for in 2026. The online poll, conducted by Research Co. in November and released on New Year's Day, presented respondents with four options. "More money" was chosen by 37 per cent, while "more health" was selected by 30 per cent and "more time with family and friends" was preferred by 26 per cent. "More travel" was the top choice of only 7 per cent. The answers, however, varied significantly by age, with 51 per cent of those 18 to 34 listing "more money" as their top choice, while 48 per cent of those 55 and older choosing "more health." Those 35 to 54 were more evenly split, with 38 per cent preferring "more money" and 28 per cent listing both "more health" and "more time with family and friends" as their top choice.

A View From The 1019



Madeleine Langlois, The 1019 Report

If a tree falls in a forest, does it get covered in snow? That is a question that is easily answered. But it's more interesting to look at it if it is propped up by its branches, giving it an elevated presence by the walking trail.

Colossal Canada Crossword

A	M	A	P			O	W	L	E	T		H	E	A	D	U	P	
L	I	B	E	R		D	I	E	G	O		I	N	L	I	N	E	
A	M	A	T	O		M	E	L	M	A	N		L	C	P	A	G	E
R	E	F	U	G	E	C	A	B	I	N		F	L	Y	I	N	A	V
M	O	T	L	E	Y	C	R	U	E		N	U	S		N	A	V	E
		A	R	D			R	U	B	E	S		V	I	S	A	S	
S	P	P		S	I	A	L		X	A	V	I	E	R	S			
C	O	L	O		E	D	O	M		N	E	O	G	O	T	H	I	C
E	N	O	L	A		S	A	T	I	N		N	G	O		A	D	A
N	O	V	E	L			F	R	O	O	T		M	I	N	E	R	
I	K	E		B	E	E		O	R	C	H	S		S	O	N	A	R
C	A	R	M	A	N	G	A	Y		K	E	L	P		N	A	L	O
			I	N	T	E	R	A	C		N	C	A	A		H	S	T
P	E	P	S	I		S	I	L	T	S		R	N	A				
A	T	A	T		S	T	E		H	E	A	R	T	Y	F	A	R	E
R	O	M	E	R	O	S		P	O	L	A	R	V	O	R	T	E	X
K	I	E	R	A	N		T	A	M	E	R	S		N	A	O	M	I
E	L	L	E	R	Y		U	R	A	N	O			E	M	M	E	T
R	E	A	D	E	S		O	L	S	E	N			E	S	T	S	

Let's take a moment to look back - and ahead



Andrew Caddell

It has been a holiday of comings and goings, from Kamouraska to Montreal to Kamouraska to Ottawa. With time for Hanukkah, Christmas, a bout of the flu (which was not fun), freezing temperatures everywhere and some end-of-year winter biking and skating on the Rideau Canal. I think of how four seasons and 12 months passed in the blink of an eye. As did my new post as columnist here.

So into a new year, with hopes things might get better, we are already into the takeover of a sovereign state by our southern neighbour. And we are just into 2026.

This is an opportunity to look both back and forward. I have often avoided year-end summaries, or predictions of the year to come. Of course, given the above events, I am reminded of Yogi Berra, who said: "It's tough to make predictions, especially about the future."

To me, they can be too bold in their presumptions or fail to grasp the pertinence of events past. For some "unremarkable" stories may yet prove to have historic importance. Remember the first computers, the internet and COVID did not initially

From Trump, to Carney, the rise of Quebec nationalism to Rodriguez's departure

make headlines. In looking back, I note half my columns last year featured topics connected to Quebec. That's understandable, given you, my audience, and my attachment to Kamouraska, the little town on the south shore of the St. Lawrence River, east of Quebec City, where I live. It has been my desire to provide insight into the issues of rural Quebec.

Among those columns, I expressed concern about the rise of Quebec nationalism and the Parti Québécois, under its admittedly brilliant but self-absorbed leader, Paul St-Pierre Plamondon. Given St-Pierre Plamondon is presumed to be Quebec's next premier, his determination to hold a referendum and possibly invoke a Unilateral Declaration of Independence mean he bears watching.

Meanwhile, the current premier, François Legault, is going nowhere, and will more than likely lead the party he created to a crushing defeat. This despite throwing out a plethora of legislation targeting minorities, including a "Constitution" to act as a bulwark against multiculturalism and bilingualism.

Meanwhile, with the departure of Quebec Liberal leader Pablo Rodriguez, it appears Charles Milliard will lead the party into the fall election after a leadership "coronation" in March.

In February I spoke to an international conference in Florida about our relationship with the United States. I wrote afterward: "We have to change the way we do business, and change our collective mindset about ourselves and our country." I warned that Americans would retreat into its own hemisphere: "But now, things are changing, as Donald Trump backs off from America's role as 'global policeman' and looks inwards. It appears he is seeking a new American Imperium within global spheres of influence."

The new American National Security Strategy says just that: it is the justification for the invasion of Venezuela.

From a column in March, the implications for Canada and our Arctic: "While (Trump's) desire to annex Canada must be taken as real, it may be cover to carve up the North with the Russians and Chinese."

I predicted Justin Trudeau would walk away on his own volition, which didn't

happen, and commented on a bad campaign by Prime Minister Mark Carney, which contributed to his failure to win a majority.

On federal finances, I wrote about the need for investments in defence and intelligence and cuts in the public service. It seems the

current budget exercise reflects that philosophy, but it's hard to tell, as the heavy tome landed with a thud in November, and its "generational" effects are still opaque.

The Quebec National Assembly will hold hearings on the "Constitution Bill" in February, at which as president of the Task Force on Linguistic Policy, I will be a critical participant. I will also be at the Supreme Court in March to challenge the Notwithstanding Clause of the Constitution. Both could have a long-term impact on Canada. I will report on those events and more.

When I was a young reporter, I would joke with colleagues how every journalist had an out – to say at the end of a report: "It remains to be seen." Indeed, that applies to the above.

Best wishes to readers of this column; thanks for your feedback in 2025. And let's hope 2026 gets better.

Andrew Caddell is a veteran journalist and columnist. He writes a regular column for The Hill Times, which covers Parliament and the federal government. He is president of the Task Force on Linguistic Policy, a grassroots group that was formed in the wake of Quebec's Bill 96, which overhauled the province's Charter of the French Language.

Vaudreuil to build \$14.6M outdoor refrigerated rink

DYLAN ADAMS LEMAÇON
The 1019 Report

While regular outdoor rinks in Vaudreuil-Dorion are in full use, plans for a \$14.6-million outdoor refrigerated ice rink complex are moving forward, city officials have confirmed, with construction set to start in March.

The city says the decision to move forward reflects a combination of long-term planning and the impact of climate change on outdoor skating.

“Over the past several years, we’ve noticed fewer days with usable ice,” said Olivier Van Neste, the city’s director-general. “This rink will allow us to start the season in early November and continue through March, with consistent ice quality thanks to the roof and refrigeration.”

Van Neste explained that rising winter temperatures and frequent thaws have made it increasingly difficult for city crews to maintain quality ice on the city’s outdoor rinks.

This rink will be built adjacent to the Parc-école des Quatre-Saisons on Toe Blake Street, just east of De La Gare Boulevard. It will feature an NHL-sized ice surface and will complement the park’s existing recreational facilities, in-

cluding soccer fields, a basketball court, a playground and a splash pad.

Van Neste said the city considered the location carefully, choosing a site near a large population concentration and a school for accessibility. He noted that the new rink will not only provide a longer and more reliable skating season, but also serve as a flexible recreational space in warmer months for basketball and other activities.

“It’s a first step,” he said. “We’ll see how it’s received, and it may guide future infrastructure decisions in the city.”

And the time is right, according to Mayor Paul Dumoulin.

“There’s a lot of movement in Vaudreuil right now, and we are really happy about that,” Dumoulin said. “When we have an influx of revenue, that’s when we have to make investments.”

Three municipal departments will share responsibility for the project: The engineering and environment department will oversee construction, the recreation and culture department will manage operations and programming, while the public works department will handle ongoing maintenance.

Financing will come entirely from a

municipal borrowing bylaw, covering the full \$14.6 million. No provincial or federal subsidies are currently available for this type of project, although city officials hope the final cost will come in lower than the approved maximum.

According to Van Neste, city officials visited rinks in other towns to gather insights on both successes and challenges, following similar initiatives in the region, going as far as Varennes. The towns of St. Zotique and Notre Dame de l’Île Perrot have already built refrigerated outdoor rinks.

In late February 2025, Coteau du Lac saw a \$7.6-million project temporarily blocked by residents concerned about the cost.

Vaudreuil-Dorion officials say the city’s growing population and growing recreational demand make this investment necessary.

When asked about potential backlash to the project, Van Neste said residents have generally responded positively to the plan, though city officials acknowledge that large investments often spark debate.

The city currently has 13 outdoor ice rinks, but this will be its first to feature refrigeration and a roof. Van Neste did say that the Harwood sector could eventually be considered for a similar facility if demand and usage support it.

The project is part of the city’s broader five-year capital plan for parks and green spaces.

N.D.I.P. homeowners to see 5.9% tax hike

JOSHUA ALLAN
The 1019 Report

The owner of an average home in Notre Dame de l’Île Perrot will pay \$238 more in municipal taxes this year — an increase of 5.9 per cent — as is laid out in the town’s 2026 budget, adopted last month.

That means the total tax bill for an average single-family home — valued at \$673,000 — will be \$4,256.

The taxation rate for these homes is set at 48.36 cents per \$100 of valuation, an increase of around 4 per cent compared with last year. Along with property tax, the municipal tax bill includes \$292 in water tax, which represents a \$5 jump compared with 2025; as well as \$301 in a water treatment tax, which is unchanged from last year.

Also included in the tax bill this year are contributions to a contingency funds for drinking water — \$75 per household — and wastewater infrastructure — \$25 per household.

Mayor Danie Deschênes described these added costs as proactive measures to ensure proper water infrastructure for the future as municipalities expect fewer government subsidies.

“We know that in the next 10 years we will have major underground investments to do,” Deschênes explained at the Dec. 15 budget meeting.

“To finance that in the long term, it’s the same thing for our houses, we prepare every five years to change the roof, and we prepare financially. It’s really a good practice.”

“One hundred dollars per residence will be placed in the contingency fund and will be used to repair our infrastructure and plan the work,” she said.

The town’s \$26.35-million budget for 2026 increases spending by about \$1.44 million over 2025 levels.

Among expenses that have increased are those charged by regional authorities and police, including \$3 million for the Sûreté du Québec, which represents a 15.8-per-cent hike compared with 2025; \$1.16 million for the MRC, which is a 7.3-per-cent jump from last year; and \$645,200 for the Autorité régionale de transport métropolitain, which is a 5-per-cent increase.

The city also approved its updated \$33.7-million three-year capital expenditure program, which includes \$12.2 million in investments for 2026.

This year’s investments include \$3.2 million for infrastructure work on the town’s water and sewer networks, as well as \$4.1 million for its nature park, of which \$1.8 million will be subsidized by the Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal.



The 1019 Report

Flames ripped through the upper level of this house in Les Cèdres last month. It was built in 2014, replacing the original house at this spot that had been destroyed by fire.

Fire strikes twice: House rebuilt after 2014 blaze damaged by flames

FREDERIC SERRE
The 1019 Report

Lightening might not strike twice, but fire did in Les Cèdres.

In 2014, Les Cèdres resident Vanessa Poitras Rocque and her family looked on helplessly as their house on Chemin du Fleuve burned to the ground. The family then left Les Cèdres, and a new house was built by new owners of the lot.

Then, in the earlier hours of Dec. 11, flames gutted the new house, and it took more than 50 firefighters from 10 regional municipalities about four hours to put out

the blaze.

According to Les Cèdres fire director Alain Deguire, flames were spotted at about 2:45 a.m. in the second storey of the house along the waterfront on Dec. 11. The cause of the fire is believed to have been electrical. No injuries were reported. Damage to the residence, however, was heavy.

“I feel for them,” said Poitras Rocque, about the young family living at the residence. “I had chills when I learned about (the fire).”

Les Cèdres property taxes rise 4.8%

The 1019 Report

Residential property tax bills in Les Cèdres will increase next year by about 4.8 per cent, according to the municipality’s \$14.4-million budget adopted just before the holiday break.

This means the owner of a single-family home valued at \$529,700 will pay approximately \$2,956 in municipal taxes in 2026. That is \$135 more than the \$2,821 paid in 2025. The bill includes a \$290 annual charge for sewers and a \$125 fee for garbage pickup.

The town’s overall spending is also rising, climbing \$779,000, or 6 per cent,

compared with 2025. This increase is largely due to higher shared-service costs.

Major expenditure items for shared services include charges for the Sûreté du Québec increasing 5 per cent, or \$79,000, to hit \$1.66 million; the contribution to the Vaudreuil-Soulanges MRC de payments jumping 1 per cent, or \$7,500 to \$765,000; and fees to the Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal climbing 8 per cent, or \$13,000, to reach \$176,000.

Taken together, overall shared-service contributions are up 6 per cent, or \$99,500, reflecting broader regional cost pressures.



THE GROCERY LIST:

- Honey Nut Cheerios cereal, 725g
- 12 large eggs
- Lactantia Milk, 2%, 1L
- Yellow potatoes, 10 lbs
- Bananas, 1kg
- Celery stalk
- Ground pork, 500g
- Salmon, 1lb
- POM bread
- Kraft Singles cheese (14-slice pack)

STORES VISITED:

- **Maxi:**
92 Cardinal Léger, Pincourt
- **Super C:**
44 Cité des Jeunes, Vaudreuil-Dorion
- **Metro:**
300 de la Gare, Vaudreuil-Dorion
- **IGA:**
1869 Ste. Angélique Rd., St. Lazare

AVERAGE PRICES

- January 2022: \$50.13
- January 2023: \$57.48
- January 2026: \$59.64



The 1019 REPORT GROCERY SURVEY



CHEERIOS

JANUARY 2026	R: \$7.00	S: \$5.99 R: \$6.99	.....	S: \$6.99 R: \$9.29	S: \$4.87 R: \$7.99
JANUARY 2023	R: \$4.99	R: \$6.49	R: \$5.99	R: \$7.99	R: \$8.99
JANUARY 2022	S: \$4.49 R: \$4.98	R: \$4.99	R: \$5.99	S: \$4.99 R: \$7.79	S: \$4.44 R: \$7.79

EGGS

JANUARY 2026	R: \$4.15	R: \$4.09	.....	R: \$3.99	R: \$4.19
JANUARY 2023	R: \$3.85	S: \$3.33 R: \$3.85	R: \$3.99	R: \$3.89	S: \$3.49 R: \$3.89
JANUARY 2022	R: \$3.34	R: \$2.99	R: \$2.99	R: \$3.29	R: \$3.49

MILK

JANUARY 2026	R: \$3.83	R: \$3.69	.....	R: \$3.89	R: \$3.89
JANUARY 2023	R: \$3.59	R: \$3.59	R: \$3.59	R: \$3.59	R: \$3.59
JANUARY 2022	R: \$3.29	R: \$3.29	R: \$3.29	S: \$2.75 R: \$3.29	R: \$3.29

POTATOES

JANUARY 2026	S: \$4.49 R: \$6.00	S: \$4.99 R: \$5.99	.....	R: \$6.99	R: \$6.99
JANUARY 2023	S: \$5.00 R: \$5.99	S: \$4.00 R: \$5.99	R: \$3.99	R: \$6.99	S: \$5.99 R: \$6.99
JANUARY 2022	R: \$9.98	R: \$5.99	R: \$5.99	R: \$5.99	R: \$6.99

BANANAS

JANUARY 2026	R: \$1.52	R: \$1.52	.....	R: \$1.96	R: \$1.96
JANUARY 2023	R: \$1.30	R: \$1.52	R: \$1.96	R: \$1.96	R: \$1.96
JANUARY 2022	R: \$1.52	R: \$1.65	R: \$1.74	R: \$1.96	R: \$1.90

CELERY

JANUARY 2026	R: \$3.50	R: \$3.99	.....	R: \$4.99	R: \$4.99
JANUARY 2023	R: \$4.49	S: \$3.00 R: \$4.49	R: \$4.99	R: \$4.99	S: \$3.99 R: \$4.99
JANUARY 2022	R: \$1.98	R: \$2.99	R: \$3.29	R: \$3.99	S: \$2.50 R: \$3.49

GROUND PORK

JANUARY 2026	R: \$5.51	R: \$5.50	.....	R: \$5.50	R: \$6.42
JANUARY 2023	R: \$4.94	R: \$5.82	R: \$6.67	R: \$6.27	R: \$6.52
JANUARY 2022	R: \$4.90	R: \$4.22	R: \$6.50	R: \$6.66	S: \$5.37 R: \$6.80

SALMON

JANUARY 2026	R: \$16.00	R: \$18.24	.....	R: \$17.85	R: \$18.85
JANUARY 2023	R: \$15.72	R: \$14.99	R: \$18.65	R: \$15.99	R: \$18.17
JANUARY 2022	R: \$7.99	R: \$14.38	R: \$9.27	R: \$17.45	R: \$16.74

BREAD

JANUARY 2026	R: \$3.50	R: \$4.29	.....	R: \$4.69	R: \$4.69
JANUARY 2023	R: \$3.99	R: \$3.69	R: \$4.49	R: \$4.49	R: \$4.49
JANUARY 2022	R: \$3.29	R: \$3.29	R: \$3.99	R: \$3.69	R: \$3.79

KRAFT SINGLES

JANUARY 2026	R: \$6.29	S: \$3.97 R: \$5.99	.....	R: \$6.29	R: \$6.49
JANUARY 2023	R: \$3.99	S: \$4.49 R: \$5.49	R: \$5.99	S: \$5.49 R: \$5.99	S: \$5.49 R: \$5.99
JANUARY 2022	R: \$5.29	R: \$2.97	R: \$4.99	S: \$4.99 R: \$5.49	S: \$5.47 R: \$5.79

TOTAL

JANUARY 2026	S: \$55.79 R: \$57.30	S: \$56.27 R: \$60.29	.....	S: \$63.14 R: \$65.44	S: \$63.34 R: \$66.46
JANUARY 2023	S: \$51.86 R: \$52.85	S: \$50.92 R: \$55.92	R: \$60.31	S: \$61.65 R: \$62.15	S: \$62.68 R: \$65.58
JANUARY 2022	S: \$46.06 R: \$46.56	R: \$46.76	R: \$48.04	S: \$55.76 R: \$59.60	S: \$53.98 R: \$60.07

Groceries prices at local stores up 19% since 2022

BRENDA O'FARRELL
The 1019 Report

Since the pandemic, the cost of groceries has soared, and although prices continue to rise year over year, the rate of increase is slowing some, a trend that is reflected in recent national surveys and mirrored by *The 1019 Report's* ongoing review of prices at supermarkets across Vaudreuil-Soulanges.

In fact, local food prices at local grocery outlets have jumped a whopping 18.96 per cent on average between January 2022, when *The 1019 Report* first started monitoring food prices in the region. And although the prices recorded on Saturday, Jan. 3, continue to climb, they are rising at a slower rate. Since January 2023 and now, the cost of 10 basic food items tracked by *The 1019* at the different supermarkets in the region has increased 3.75 per cent on average.

Another change seen in the region — there are fewer grocery chains. There are no longer any Provigo stores in Vaudreuil-Soulanges. The two stores operated under that banner — one on St. Charles Avenue in Vaudreuil-Dorion and the other in Coteau du Lac — have been converted to Maxi stores. Both Provigo and Maxi are owned by Loblaw Companies Limited. The closest Provigo store is now found in the West Island.

The newspaper's survey included one store from each of the major chains — IGA, Metro, Maxi and Super C. The 10-item shopping list featured basic food items, with the exact same items purchased at each store. The breakdown of



The 1019 Report file photo

The price of a basket of 10 grocery items purchased at five local chain supermarkets last week varied in price from a low of \$55.79 at the Maxi in Pincourt to \$63.34 at IGA in St. Lazare — a difference of \$7.55 or 13.5 per cent.

the individual prices are listed in the chart on Page 10.

In January 2023, the average bill for the 10 items came to \$57.48, rebates included. All the basic food items were non-taxable. As of last Saturday, the average bill for the same items was \$59.64, which represents a jump of \$2.16, or 3.75 per cent. In January 2022, the average price was \$50.13 — almost \$10 less compared with current prices.

The most expensive prices were found at the IGA in St. Lazare and the Metro in Vaudreuil-Dorion. The grocery bill at IGA last week was \$63.34 including rebates, a difference of \$7.55, or 13.5 per

cent, compared with the cost of the same items at the Maxi in Pincourt, which totalled \$55.79, the lowest bill of the stores surveyed. The bill at Metro hit \$63.14, \$7.35 less than at Maxi.

Items that saw the greatest surge in prices include cereal, bread and fish.

For example, a 725-gram box of Cheerios cereal at Maxi rose from the regular price of \$4.98 in 2022 to \$7 last week, while a loaf of POM sliced bread at Metro went from \$3.69 in January 2022 to \$4.69 last week. A pound of salmon doubled at the Maxi in Pincourt, jumping from \$7.99 in 2022 to \$16 this past week.

The prices rose the most between Jan-

uary 2023 and January 2026 at Super C, although they continued to be below those at Metro and IGA. The prices for the 10 items at Super C jumped 10.5 per cent in the last three years, compared with 2.41 per cent at Metro and 1.05 per cent at IGA.

Hikes expected to continue in 2026

According to Canada's Food Price Report compiled by researchers at Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia, food prices, which were predicted to increase between 3 to 5 per cent in 2025, actually rose about 4 per cent, based on data from the first 11 months of the year. These results align with *The 1019 Report's* findings.

In 2026, food prices could jump by another 4 to 6 per cent, the report's authors predicted when they issued their latest report in December. This would push the annual grocery bill for a family of four up almost \$1,000 in 2026, bringing the total to \$17,571.79. The expected increase will be largely driven by meat prices, which are expected to jump 5 to 7 per cent. It is estimated beef prices alone will see another 7-per-cent hike.

Rising prices at the grocery store have now pushed a quarter of the country into what the report's authors describe as food insecurity households.

"Despite steadier inflation, Canadian families are still feeling the squeeze at the grocery store," said Dr. Sylvain Charlebois of Dalhousie University. "Our forecast for 2026 makes one thing clear: food affordability will remain a major pressure point in the year ahead."

Ridding Ottawa River, Lake of Two Mountains of invasive species

JOSHUA ALLAN
The 1019 Report

Thirty-thousand pounds worth. That's how many water chestnuts environmental technicians painstakingly removed by hand from several bays along the 1019 region's northern shoreline this past summer.

While the project to eradicate this invasive aquatic plant from local waters has been paused for the winter season, the environmental group behind this endeavour is already preparing to take to their boat again next summer and resume this meticulous task.

"It is a very, very big undertaking and the situation is quite critical for this plant," said Marianne Théoret, an ecology project manager for a regional watershed non-profit organization, known by its French acronym COBAVER-VS.

The water chestnut "creates these dense mats that end up depleting the oxygen in the water, which, in turn, kills all the native plants (and) also affects the fish," Théoret explained. "Just for a more human perspective, it makes it impossible to drive your boat through large areas of the Ottawa River where people like to fish."

Originally from Eurasia, and introduced to North America in the late 1800s, the water chestnut has invaded rivers and lakes across eastern Ontario and southern Quebec, with the species first reported in the Ottawa River in 2005.

The project to remove this species,



Courtesy Sophie Baril, COBAVER-VS.

Technicians in Rigaud Bay last summer removed water chestnut colonies.

which is funded by the Quebec Environment Ministry, had sent Théoret and two other environmental technicians into bays in Vaudreuil-Soulanges stretching 42 kilometres, from Pointe Fortune to Vaudreuil-Dorion, to remove water chestnuts from the Ottawa River and the Lake of Two Mountains.

The project had originally received funding for three years, this coming summer being its last. Technical issues in the summer of 2024 led to a later start to the project and around 9,000 pounds of water chestnuts being removed.

The project will likely have to be extended beyond next summer "just because it is such a big undertaking," Théoret said. "It's looking to be a very long-term project."

The team of technicians had worked from June to September removing the plants.

"It's manual," Théoret explained. "Quite literally we sit in the boat and you reach out over the side of the boat and you pull the plants out. There's no way around it, unfortunately. It's the best way to remove the plant" while not disturbing the nearby native flora.

"Even if it's backbreaking labour, it's really rewarding to see the difference when you come in and you remove colonies," she added.

While the group covers bays along the region's northern shoreline, the Bay of Rigaud is by far the most impacted by water chestnuts, with 20,000 of the 30,000 pounds removed last summer coming

from that area. The issue was less pronounced, conversely, on the eastern portion of the river and in the Lake of Two Mountains, with the Bay of L'Île Cadieux seeing only 22 pounds removed.

"The idea is to prevent this plant from making its way further down the river," Théoret said. "That's largely the main goal of this (project)."

As this particular species of water chestnut is inedible, the removed plants are composted by a local farmer.

While Théoret said locals have been keen to offer help, COBAVER-VS cautions those who have not been trained to identify water chestnuts against taking it upon themselves to remove the plant from the river.

"Often we've heard, 'Oh yeah, I've seen this plant before,' and then they point to it and it's a completely different species of plant," she explained.

What's more, improper disposal of the plant could risk seeds spreading and another water ecosystem being colonized.

Théoret encourages locals to download a Quebec-government-created app called Sentinelle, which is used to identify exotic invasive species. The data collected by the app is monitored by the Environment Ministry in order to analyze potential hot spots or outbreaks of invasive plant and animal species.

"I would say that is probably the most beneficial way for someone who wants to help," Théoret said.

TV WATCH REPORT

Get ready for a whole lotta female power, plus Matt and Ben



Denise Duguay

Despite gains, women in film and television still get short shrift when it comes to roles and paycheques. But not in this edition of the Watch Report, which features an impressive array of female power, offset by a very guy-guy thriller starring bros Matt Damon and Ben Affleck. Let's take the win.

SMALL ACHIEVABLE GOALS (Season 2 now on CBC/Gem), THE PITT (Season 2 premieres Thursday, Jan. 8, on Crave) and THE NIGHT MANAGER (Season 2 premieres Sunday, Jan. 11, on Prime Video)

Sometimes, TV creators/streamers/broadcasters are so successful at whipping TV watchers into a frenzy, I get a little suspicious, and before I know it, everyone else has seen it and at that point, I'm so far behind that... Well, this is for me to bring up at the next therapy session, but my point is, I missed the start of three great shows that are returning. I swallowed my pride and belatedly jumped on the bandwagon for the Canadian menopause comedy *Small Achievable Goals*, for Noah Wyle's return

to the emergency room in *The Pitt* and the John Le Carré spy drama *Night Manager*. I'm glad I did. If you too dig in when a show is getting too much hype, accept my belated welcome to these three shows. They each soon return for sophomore seasons, with the sweaty ladies of *Small Achievable Goals* dabbling in hormone replacement therapy, with another adrenaline shift at Pittsburgh Trauma Medical Centre and with Tom Hiddleston working under a new name but still finding trouble in *Night Manager*.

HIS AND HERS (series premieres all episodes on Thursday, Jan. 8, on Netflix) Overstimulated by too much holiday socializing and need a thriller to calm you down? I will also be raising the question with my therapist of why we find crime so comforting, but I digress. This new murder mystery has strong enough lead actors to raise it from this very crowded genre. Tessa Thompson (*Westworld*), the great, seething Jon Bernthal (*Daredevil: Born Again*) and Pablo Schreiber (*Halo*) star in a story that takes place in the small town of Dahlonega, near Atlanta, Georgia. Small enough that everyone knows everyone, including the dead body in the morgue.

RIOT WOMEN (series premieres on Wednesday, Jan. 14, on BritBox) Now that *Small Achievable Goals* has ful-



Helen Williams, courtesy BritBox

ly propped open the door to menopause on TV, the timing of this British series' arrival is near perfect. Happy Valley writer-director Sally Wainwright now brings us this new series about the forming of a punk band by a handful of menopausal women who are mad as hell at all manner of things and they're not, in the parlance of that great movie *Network*, going to take it any more. Is this band any good? Matters little. The performances are bound to be good, from the likes of Joanna Scanlan (*Slow Horses*), Tamsin Greig (*Friday Night Dinner*), Lorraine Ashbourne (*Sherwood*), Taj Atwal (*Line of Duty*) and Rosalie Craig (*Moonflower Murders*). Hey ho, let's go!

PONIES (series premieres Thursday, Jan. 15, on StackTV and Showcase) The year is 1977. The place is Moscow. Two secretaries are doing Olympic-calibre eyerolls at being demeaned by their bosses. But then their husbands are killed. The CIA intervenes both because of the circumstances of the men's deaths and because the wives are well placed to provide undercover help for the investigation,

being that their employer is the American Embassy in Moscow. *Bea* (Emilia Clarke, *Game of Thrones*) and *Twila* (Haley Lu Richardson, *The White Lotus*) are not smooth operatives, but they are very motivated. Looks like a thriller, with a dash of slapstick.

THE RIP (movie premieres Friday, Jan. 16, on Netflix) I first encountered the work of writer-director Joe Carnahan in the 2006 film *Smokin' Aces*, starring Andy Garcia, Jeremy Piven, Ray Liotta and Ryan Reynolds in a cinematic explosion of guns, volatile comedy and loud music, set in Las Vegas. It was a blast. The plot made no sense, but sometimes it's the journey, right? Carnahan's back with another strong cast — including Matt Damon, Ben Affleck, Steven Yuen, Kyle Chandler and Teyana Taylor — and another story — “inspired by true events” — with crazy suspense. Cops have found millions in cash in a derelict house. But a lot can happen before these buckets of cash can be safely logged into evidence at the police station. And a lot does happen. Buckle up!

THE 1019 REPORT

The 1019 Report covers the news within 1,019 square kilometres of the Vaudreuil-Soulanges region — stories that are worth your time.

VAUDREUIL:

Dagwood's, 54 Boul. de la Cité-des-Jeunes
Super C, 44 Boul. de la Cité-des-Jeunes
La Belle Province, St. Charles
RBC, 585 St. Charles
Pharmaprix, 585 St. Charles
Global Pet foods, 585 St. Charles
IGA Famille Déziel, 39 Boul. de la Cité-des-Jeunes
BMO, 580 St. Charles
Dairy Queen, 3-578 St. Charles
Dépanneur 4Seasons, 488 St. Charles
Dépanneur Chez Madeleine, 181 St. Charles
Couche Tard, 2933 Boul. de la Gare
Metro Plus Marché Roy, 3000 Boul. de la Gare
Chartwell Le Prescott, 1335 Rue Émile-Bouchard
Banque CIBC, 3030 Boul. de la Gare
Sélection Vaudreuil, 3041 Boul. de la Gare
Banque Scotia, 3070 Boul. de la Gare
Vaudreuil Nissan, 7 Boul. de la Cité-des-Jeunes
Épicerie Salina, 3100 Harwood Rd., Unit 64
McKibbin's, 3036 Blvd de la Gare

DORION:

Jean Coutu, 253 Boul. Harwood
ESSO, 330 Boul. Harwood

ST. LAZARE:

IGA, 1869 Ste. Angélique
Brunet Pharmacy, Main shopping plaza
Dépanneur, 1831 Ste. Angélique
Sonic gas station, 836 Route de la Cité des Jeunes
Esso gas station, 585 Route de la Cité des Jeunes
Quincaillerie St. Lazare, 1704 Ste. Angélique
Pharmaprix, 1780 Ste. Angélique
Bonisoir/Esso, 2665 Côte St. Charles

HUDSON:

IGA, 484 Main Road
Brunet Pharmacy, 465 Main Road
Hudson Variety, 443 Main Road
Juniper Café, 60 Cameron St.
Shaar's Dépanneur, 58 Cameron St.
Hudson Hardware, 490 Main Rd.
Que de Bonnes Choses, 484-D Main Road
Petro Canada, 3237 Route Harwood
Souvlaki Authentique, 3239 Route Harwood
Sauvé's, 399 Main Road
Cardinal Brewing, 466 Main Rd.

VAUDREUIL SUR LE LAC:

Dépanneur SERVI-Express, 1051 St. Charles

RIGAUD:

La Belle Province, 515 St. Jean Baptiste
Super C, 466 Chemin de la Grande-Ligne
Jean Coutu, 464 Chemin de la Grande-Ligne
IGA, 461 Chemin de la Grande-Ligne
Tim Hortons, 445 Chem. de la Grande-Ligne, Rigaud, QC
Crevier Libre service, 61 Rue St. Jean Baptiste

ILE PERROT:

Station des Sport, 336 Grand Boulevard
Pétrole Leger, 100 Grand Boulevard
Ultramar Dép. du coin, 1151 Don Quichotte
Metro Plus Ile Perrot, 450 Don Quichotte
IGA Super Marche, 110 Don Quichotte
Pharmaprix, 10 Don Quichotte

PINCOURT:

Pharmaprix, 101 Boul. Cardinal Léger
Maxi & Cie, 92 Boul. Cardinal Léger
Couche-Tard, 115 Boul. Cardinal Léger
Metro Plus, 107 Boul. Cardinal Léger
Uniprix, 111 Boul. Cardinal Léger
Dépanneur Tabagie, 106 Boul. Cardinal Léger
Toyota Ile Perrot, 2100 Boul. du Traversier

Prepare little treats for the birds on these crazy cold days



Terry O'Shaughnessy

GONE TO GROUND

Before you put away your cookie cutters for another year, here's an idea: make a batch of bird-seed ornaments for all those assistant gardeners out in your yard. All the birds that stay for the winter are hungry and super cold right now, and will certainly welcome your gift with bells on.

I've never known whether it's right to feed the birds all year round. But I do believe that when it's been below zero for days, as it has been, and snow lies thick on all the scrub ground, our garden birds could use some homemade baking. It isn't hard to do.

You'll need one package of four envelopes of unflavoured gelatin. (They come together in cellophane wrap in the baking aisle). You'll also need some corn syrup (two tablespoons), some flour (1/4 cup), some warm water (one cup), some room-temperature water (1/3 cup) and three to four cups of mixed bird seed.

First thing to do is select your cookie

cutters and grease the inside of them thoroughly. Collect some skewers or knitting needles — anything that you can make a hole with. Line a cookie sheet with a sheet of foil or parchment paper. Then, get started on the mix.

Mix the gelatin with the warm water in one bowl, stirring to dissolve. Next, in another bowl, stir the flour and room-temperature water to a paste. Add two tablespoons of corn syrup to the gelatin mix. Then, add the bowl of flour paste, and mix it all together.

Finally, sift in the bird seed and stir it all together. If you feel that you have made one hell of a mess on the counter, that's good. It's exactly what you're looking for.

Fill each of your cutters with the mix, packing them fully. Lay the filled cutters down on the cookie sheet and puncture a small hole in a good spot to later insert some cord. Then, leave the tray in the fridge overnight or in a cool garage for a few days because they need to "cure" for a while. When the time comes, bring the cookie sheet into the warmth of the kitchen for a few minutes, and push the now-solid mix out from each of the cut-



Terry O'Shaughnessy, The 1019 Report

Shaped by cookie cutters, these seed treats can help birds weather the cold.

ters. Loop some twine through the holes and it's done. Just hang these bird treats from tree branches, fences, gate posts or any place you like to feed the birds.

Like I said, though never sure about feeding birds in summer, these crazy cold winter days are a totally different

thing. As I sit here writing, it's minus-15 degrees just beyond the window, but it apparently feels like minus-22 with the windchill. Just how cold must it feel if you're a little finch or chickadee? A few leftover Christmas cookie cutouts of bird seed could make all the difference.

Community Bulletin Board

NOTICE OF CLOSURE OF INVENTORY
(Newspaper Notice: CCQ, Section 795, Para. 2)

Notice is hereby given that Fritz Pierre, domiciled in his lifetime at St-Lazare, QC, died on May 9th, 2025. An inventory of his property has been made in accordance with the laws of the Province of Quebec. It can be consulted by interested parties, upon request, by writing to the liquidator at 2574 rue Du Bourgogne, St-Lazare, QC, J7T 2C1, Att. Léonie Pierre.

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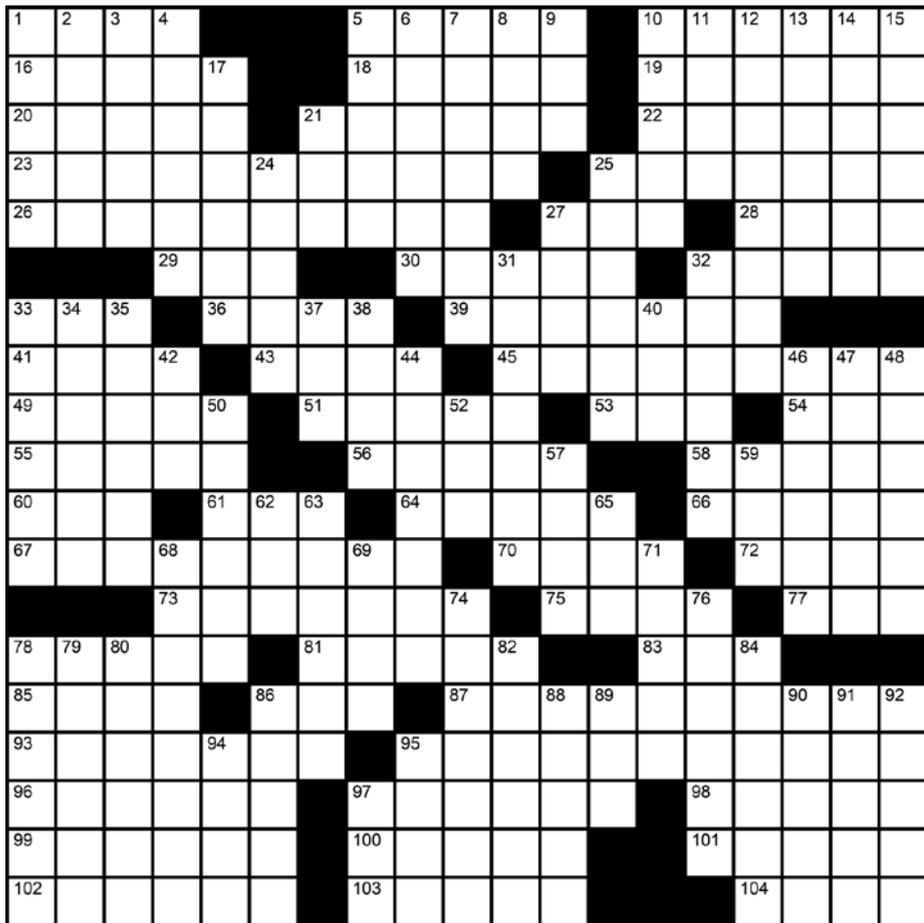
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THE 1019REPORT

Colossal Canada Crossword



SEE SOLUTION PAGE 8

ACROSS

1. Look at ___ (Get directions)
5. Nocturnal flight hatchling
10. Journey north: 2 wds.
16. Latin 'book'
18. San ___ (California city)
19. Queued: 2 wds.
20. Italian opera baritone, Pasquale ___ (b.1878 - d.1942)
21. Giraffe in "Madagascar" (2005)
22. American publisher of Anne of Green Gables in 1908, ___ & Company
23. Abbot Pass ___ National Historic Site of Canada (Stone shelter from 1922 on the Continental Divide in the Canadian Rockies)
25. Travel, Canada Geese style: 3 words + letter
26. Canada's Bob Rock produced 1989's 'Dr. Feelgood' by which American band?: 2 wds.
27. 13th Greek letters
28. Church area
29. 'Stand' add-on (Basic)
30. Czech-born Canadian actor Jan of "Witness" (1985)
32. Travel documents
33. Abbr. for 'multiple species' in botanical names
36. Earth crust's upper layer
39. Bandleader Mr. Cugat's
41. Denver's state [abbr.]
43. Biblical land
45. Architecture style of Toronto's historic Metropolitan United Church
49. Sister of Sherlock Holmes in Nancy Springer mystery novels
51. Certain fabric
53. Stop-_-__
54. "Cold Mountain" (2003) role
55. Farley Mowat creation
56. ___ Loops (Kellogg's cereal)
58. Excavator
60. Pres. Eisenhower
61. Honey maker
64. Classical music groups, e.g.
66. Underwater technology
67. Alberta village northwest of Lethbridge
70. Seaweed variety
72. The New Moon's Arms author Ms. Hopkinson, 2008 Sunburst Award for Excellence in Canadian Literature of the Fantastic winner
73. Canadian debit card service
75. 1906-founded sports org.
77. 1945 to 1953 US Pres.
78. Famous soft drink
81. River sediments
83. Cellular letters
85. Rat-_-__
86. Fr. holy woman
87. Stick-to-the-ribs cuisine: 2 wds.
93. Acting legend Cesar, and family
95. Source of bitter cold in January forecasts: 2 wds.
96. Oscar-winner Mr. Culkin
97. Some circus performers
98. Supermodel Ms. Campbell
99. Sleuth of literature, ___ Queen
100. 'Heavens'-meaning prefix
101. Archaic ant
102. 19th-century British writer Charles, and family
103. Merlin ___ (Football great turned actor)
104. Abbreviated approximations

DOWN

1. Strawberry ___ Clock (Psychedelic rock band)
2. Prefix to 'graph' (Old duplicating device using stencils)
3. At the ship's stern
4. 1965: "I Know a Place" singer Ms. Clark
5. Shakespeare: "Crying ' ___ Cassio!' as it were. His gesture imports it." - Othello
6. ___ Post (Lead role on #68-Down played by British-born-Canadian-raised actor Alan Young)
7. Canadian hockey great Mario
8. "A Summer Place" (1959) star Richard
9. US-style heavy weight
10. Skiing slopes
11. 'Consist' completer (Reliability in performance)
12. Mountaineer (One who would rely on #23-Across)
13. Ms. Ross and Ms. Rigg
14. Coastal body of water along Nunavik in northern Quebec, ___ Bay
15. Annoying pets?
17. Canadian communications/media giant
21. 1200 to Nero
24. Singer Ms. Gorme
25. Jazz ___ (Music genre)
27. Filmdom's Ms. Campbell
31. Traditional flatbread in Canada
32. Auto racetrack sound effects!
33. ___ drive (Cape Breton Island's Cabot Trail)
34. Central Alberta town north of Red Deer
35. Piping ___ (Sort of shorebird)
37. Following-BCs years
38. Bakery staple
40. #5-Across came from one
42. "Hurray!" in a way
44. Montreal's famous elev.: abbr. + wd.
46. Daryl of movies
47. Epitomes
48. ___ cake
50. Canadian opera singer, Emma ___ (b.1847 - d.1930)
52. 'Ulter' add-on (Concealed, as a motive)
57. So...
59. 'Opt' suffix (Choice)
62. J.R.R. Tolkien creature
63. Spews or rids
65. 2002 Winter Olympics locale [acronym]
68. Talking horse sitcom: 2 wd.
69. "Video" by India. ___
71. "What the Thunder Said" in T.S. Eliot's poem The Waste Land, ___
74. "The Outsiders" (1983) star, ___ Howell
76. Unspecified person
78. 'P' of SJP
79. Arc de Triomphe de l' ___ (Paris' monumental landmark)
80. Canadian star Ms. Anderson
82. Greek moon goddess
84. ___ chalet
86. Walkmans and PlayStations
88. Singer Mr. Neville
89. B. & O., et al. as per Monopoly
90. Molecular bits
91. Convened once more
92. Doors to the outside
94. Scarce
95. Canadian gov. hub, ___ Buildings
97. Your, in Italy

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January is when winter does its best wintering

MADELEINE LANGLOIS
The 1019 Report

January invites us to do a little wintering. The season is nature's cue to turn inward. As the world slows, our energy settles; there's no need to rush. This month is meant for quiet introspection — long, bundled-up walks, curling up in blankets with a good book by the fire, sipping hot tea, welcoming early evenings and simply allowing winter to be winter. It's a time for rest, renewal and gathering strength for the year ahead.

As the new year begins, take the time to reimagine new horizons and fresh beginnings.



Photos by Madeleine Langlois, The 1019 Report • MaddyLane Photography





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