

THE 1019 REPORT

COVERING THE 1,019 SQUARE KILOMETRES OF VAUDREUIL-SOULANGES

VOL. 7 NO. 2 - WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2026

HUDSON

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PREMIER'S RESIGNATION SHOWED HIS LACK OF CLASS **P8**

Housing prices up 7.5% in 2025

Average home hits new record for area: \$618,000

BRENDA O'FARRELL
The 1019 Report

As housing prices across the country continued their upward march in 2025, the rate of increase in the Vaudreuil-Soulanges region outpaced some areas in the Greater Montreal region, including the island of Montreal and Laval, but lagged behind the provincial average, according to the latest data by the Quebec Professional Association of Real Estate Brokers released last week.

With 2025 distinguishing itself as the first time the average price of a single-family home in Vaudreuil-Soulanges topped the \$600,000 mark, the year ended with the average price of a home selling at \$618,000, a record-setting benchmark, representing a 7.5-per cent rise compared with prices recorded in 2024.

The average selling price of a single-family home on the island of Montreal jumped 5.4 per cent, to hit \$790,000; while the average price in Laval increased by 5.2 per cent, reaching \$605,000.

See REAL ESTATE, Page 11.

Hospital progressed in 2025



Photos by Nabil Sorial, Special to The 1019 Report

These photos of the two pavilions of the Vaudreuil-Soulanges Hospital were taken almost a year apart, showing the progress of construction in 2025. The top photo was taken last Sunday, while the bottom photo was taken a little over 12 months earlier, at the end of December 2024. According to a statement from the Centre intégré de santé et de services sociaux de la Montérégie-Ouest, work on the \$2.6-billion health-care centre in the past year hit several major milestones, with completion of the exterior shell of the 12-storey pavilion expected this month. There is still no exact date for the official opening of the 404-bed hospital, which will have 11 operating rooms and a 41-stretcher emergency room. Originally planned to open in December 2026, the facility is now slated to go into service in 2027. The delay is, in part, due to the challenge of filling the more than 3,000 new positions the facility will require.

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Rigaud ups taxes 5.3%, invests in infrastructure

JOSHUA ALLAN
The 1019 Report

Municipal taxes will be going up 5.3 per cent on average in Rigaud this year, according to the town's \$19.7-million budget approved last week.

That means the owners of an average single-family home valued at \$538,324 will see their municipal tax bill jump to \$3,757, an increase of \$191. The bill includes \$2,942 in property taxes, which represents an increase of about \$30 compared with last year, and \$815 in other charges like water, sewage, garbage and organic waste pickups, a jump of \$161 compared with last year.

Owners of homes not hooked up to the municipal water and sewage networks — typically properties found outside the village core — will pay \$2,942 in property taxes and an additional \$241 for waste and organic material for a total of \$3,183.

Overall, Rigaud will spend \$19.7 million in 2026. That is \$1.05 million more than last year, representing a 5.6-per-cent increase compared with last year.

The spending increase is attributed primarily to jumps in two categories of expenses — hikes in the fees charged for regional services and increases in the town's payroll.

Rigaud will see the fees assessed by the MRC Vaudreuil-Soulanges, the Sûreté du Québec and the Autorité régionale de transport métropolitain increase by 7 per cent, or \$215,755, to hit \$3.3 million in 2026.

Meanwhile, the town's payroll will jump 7.6 per cent, increasing by \$533,937, to reach \$7.5 million for the year.

The higher cost of personnel is due partly to the addition of several new municipal positions, including management roles in the public works, urban planning and finance departments, newly elected Mayor Charles Meunier explained at the Jan. 13 budget meeting.

The town also highlighted increased costs for waste collection services, which jumped 32.7 per cent, or \$194,664,

to hit \$789,764; and snow clearing, which went up almost 11 per cent, or \$131,850, to reach \$1.33 million.

Three-year capital expenditures

At the top of the meeting, Meunier explained his administration is putting more emphasis on city investments, increasing spending compared with previous years.

"Over the past few years, certain decisions have had very real impacts," Meunier said. "Essential investments have been delayed and our infrastructure planning has not been sufficiently equipped."

He highlighted how the town had made \$3 million in investments on average annually from 2022 to 2025. Last year alone, the municipality had planned to invest more than \$7 million, only to end up investing about \$2 million.

"For a town like Rigaud, this level of investment is insufficient to maintain infrastructure in good condition," Meunier explained. "To regain control, we must gradually increase our level of investment to a more responsible level."

The town's three-year capital expenditure program looks to spend about \$7.6 million in 2026. The largest investment category in the plan is wastewater treatment, at nearly \$2.8 million, followed by municipal building upkeep at \$1.5 million and \$1.1 million going toward roads and sidewalks.

Meunier also stressed the town is exploring all options with regards to making the necessary upgrades to the wastewater treatment plant. Originally built in 1985, the plant reached maximum capacity in the fall of 2024. A moratorium on building permits has been in place ever since.

"That project is going to be a headache," he said during the meeting. "It won't be easy to find ways to finance this project, but we're going to work hard to find ways to do it and raise as much money as possible."

Local Journalism Initiative

Taxes in Coteau du Lac will take 4% jump in 2026

The 1019 Report

Residential property tax bills in Coteau du Lac will go up just over 4 per cent this year, according to the the municipality's \$19.5-million budget adopted last month.

This means the owner of a single-family home valued at \$500,000 will pay \$2,384 in taxes this year, or \$95.45 more compared with 2025.

The residential tax rate was set at 34 cents per \$100 of property value, up slightly from the 33 cents per \$100 of assessment charged in 2025.

The town's overall spending also will increase this year, climbing 5.38 per cent — or just under \$1 million — compared with 2025 levels.

Among key expenditures is the municipality's contribution to the Vaudreuil-Soulanges MRC, which rises 14.5 per

cent, reaching \$1.12 million.

The town's spending on public security, which includes costs for the Sûreté du Québec, jumps to slightly more than \$3.3 million, which represents a 6.1-per-cent increase compared with last year.

Coteau du Lac will present its three-year capital investment program next month.

In a written statement, Mayor Andrée Brosseau said: "In 2026, we will focus on major investments and improvements, in line with the three-year capital plan, which will be presented at the February session. We will also continue to maintain the territory while responding to citizens' needs. Despite the rising cost of living, this budget reflects healthy and rigorous municipal management."

Hudson must add French to street signs: OQLF

BRENDA O'FARRELL
The 1019 Report

All the street signs in Hudson will be sporting a new look and a little bit of French by the end of the year, according to a plan being put together by the town following years of prodding by the province's language watchdog, the *Office québécois de la langue française*.

The move has been in the works since Aug. 31, 2021, when the OQLF sent the town a notice informing municipal officials that under the guidelines of Quebec's Charter of the French Language, the town is required to draft a francization program, said OQLF spokesman François Laberge last week in response to questions from *The 1019 Report*.

Laberge added: "The Office is following up with the City of Hudson, which has postponed the replacement of street signs on several occasions."

Hudson council included a \$130,000 expenditure in its 2026 annual budget approved last month, which will cover the cost of the new street signs along with the installation of new welcoming signs at entry points to the town, said Hudson Mayor Chloe Hutchison in an interview last week.

"We will change the signs in the fall," Hutchison said. "That is the expectation," adding that a new logo for the town will also be included to brand the street signs, a practice that is done in just about all towns in the Vaudreuil-Soulanges area.

The new logo will be designed through



The 1019 Report

Hudson must change its street signs to include French designations, but has the option to include bilingual wording, such as 'rue Main / Main St,' the OQLF says. In another example, signs for Mount Pleasant will have to be changed to 'rue Mount Pleasant / Mount Pleasant St.'

consultation, Hutchison said.

According to the Charter of the French Language, all public and private organizations, including municipalities, are obliged to have a francization program, a document that formally outlines how it ensures the use of French in all operations, like internal and external communication, including communication with the public.

In addition, Article 2 of the Charter re-

quires municipalities include French indicators, like the word "rue," on all its street signs.

In Hudson, this mean street signs along Main Road that now simply say "Main" are required to display the words "rue Main." Other signs, like those that simply show "Mount Pleasant," must be changed to "rue Mount Pleasant," Laberge said.

However, since Hudson is one of 91 municipalities in the province that has

official bilingual status, it can display another language other than French on its street signs as long as French is given prominence.

"Therefore, it could display, for example 'rue Main / Main St.' on the street sign," Laberge said.

Hutchison said the new street signs also will be designed to ensure that they all display the same look.

"There is quite a variety of differences," Hutchison said of the signs currently seen on corners across the town. "The font is never the same. The size is never the same."

Hudson also has been asked to review some of its street names to ensure that they conform with the province's *Commission de toponymie* rules, Laberge said without providing which street names have been flagged for review.

Hutchison said the town has been going back and forth with provincial authorities over a few street names, including Royal Oak, explaining that the town was able to provide proof of historic roots for the name given that oak trees were prominent in the area to justify the use of the name. In another case, such as for Royalview, the name that designates the private road in the Sandy Beach area that the town recently acquired, Hutchison said the town will possibly rename that stretch of the artery to Beach Street after the public section of the street that leads to that roadway.

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Change in recycling schedule draws mixed reactions

JOSHUA ALLAN
The 1019 Report

The start of the new year marked the beginning of recycling pickups in Vaudreuil-Soulanges dropping in frequency to every other week instead of every week, eliciting mixed reactions from residents as they adjust to the new schedule.

While some residents welcomed the measure as encouraging businesses and individuals to reduce their consumption of plastic and other recyclables, others criticized the move as an inconvenience that will ultimately discourage them from recycling.

“I think it’s really disheartening, the amount of people who say, ‘Well, I’m just going to put it (extra recycling) in the garbage,’” said Victoria Henderson, a Hudson resident who administers a local Facebook community page.

Many commenting online have shared their gripes with the reduction in the frequency of recycling pickups, with some claiming their 360-litre blue bins are not enough to contain the amount of recycling they produce over a two-week period.

With four people in her household, Henderson said while she supports the push to reduce waste consumption, she had also been concerned when first hearing the frequency of pickups would be cut in half. However, she has found that breaking down cardboard boxes and cartons creates enough space in her blue bin for the every-other-week schedule.

“I can remember as a kid, when recy-



The 1019 Report

The reduction in the frequency of the pickups of recyclables has sparked complaints from some residents in the region.

cling started, stomping on the milk cartons” to break them down for pickup, she said. “That makes a big difference.”

The change in the pickup schedule was prompted by the private non-profit organization, Éco Entreprises Québec, which was mandated by the provincial government last year to oversee management of recycling services in an effort to standardize the province’s recycling program across all regions. That change went into effect in Vaudreuil-Soulanges at the start of the new year.

“We understand that adjusting to bi-weekly recycling collection may represent a change for some residents,” wrote

Anne-Julie Maltais, the ÉEQ’s communications and public affairs director, in a statement provided to *The 1019 Report*. She explained, however, that the change “optimizes collection routes, maximizes truck filling and reduces greenhouse gas emissions.”

“Bi-weekly collection is a proven model,” she added.

Some households may apply to their towns to request a second blue bin if they meet the following criteria: If their dwelling is home to five or more full-time residents; if the dwelling is used as a daycare, a foster home or for commercial purposes; or if the occupants have a specific con-

dition, medical or otherwise, that would merit a second bin.

Hudson resident Itzel Vazquez said her family has been adjusting well to the change to bi-weekly pickups, even with one bin for her larger family.

“We’re doing well even with six of us on the same single recycling and garbage bins,” she wrote in a message, “but I can clearly see that we’re an oddity.”

One of the grievances is that residents will not receive a tax cut despite the service reduction. The reason, according to St. Lazare Mayor Geneviève Lachance, is that the savings are being offset by towns now being charged to cover the cost of operating the region’s Eco-centres, where large-sized recyclable materials can be disposed of. Managed by the MRC, these centres had previously been funded by the province.

There are, therefore, “no automatic savings that would translate into a tax cut,” Lachance said in a public statement last week.

“There is not much that we can do about it,” said Hudson Mayor Chloe Hutchison in an interview last Friday, referring to the reduction in the frequency of pickups.

While Hutchison has not received complaints personally about the change, she said the town would be open to possibly making recycling bins available at a centralized site in town for people to drop off recyclable material, if there is a demand for it.

Local Journalism Initiative

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Editorial

Growing list of towns grappling with what to do with churches

St. Polycarpe moves to buy largest church in region

What do you do with a church when maintenance costs rise, the number of parishioners drops and the prices of heating and insurance outpace the collection plate's capacity?

It's a question that a growing list of small towns across Quebec are asking. And the latest one in this region is St. Polycarpe.

With 11 of the 23 municipalities in the Vaudreuil-Soulanges area having fewer than 2,500 residents, according to the last census, the Town of St. Polycarpe is far from being the least populous on the list. But with just over 2,300 residents, it finds both its feet firmly planted in the small-town category.

St. Polycarpe does not have a grocery store, but it has a small pharmacy and a mini SAQ outlet tucked into one of its two dépanneurs. If you have kids who play hockey, you have probably been to its arena. There is a decent pizza joint, a municipal library and no traffic. And at the centre of town is a huge Catholic church that faces the winding Rivière Delisle, which stretches from Coteau du Lac to the Ontario border and beyond.

The church is by far the tallest building in the village. It is an impressive structure, like most small-town churches that date back to the first half of the 1800s. It has a magnificent stone facade, an elegant steeple and a central round window set high above the main entrance.

Although the church stands at the centre of the town, and provides the name of its main street, Avenue de l'Église, long gone are the days when it was the spot where everyone in town congregated on a Sunday morning. No longer used for weekly services, it was put up for sale, giving rise to the residents of St. Polycarpe asking the question: What do we do with the church?

Today, the church mostly serves as the point from which the town traces its history. And in the cemetery behind the structure is where the names of the many who came before are found.

This history includes the fact that in 1816 the land where the church was to be built was selected. It was one of three sites offered to the Catholic church. Owned by resident John McDonald, it was chosen because it was the most centrally located. By 1830, the area was for-

mally recognized as a parish, and named St. Polycarpe de la Nouvelle-Longueuil. Construction of the church began in 1834.

It would take another 21 years before the first municipal government would be elected in 1855, with resident John Taylor becoming the first mayor. The population back then was more than 4,000, including several anglophones.

Much has since changed. The town has seen its population drop, and a few years ago, the church was put up for sale, forcing residents to face the question: What do we do with the church?

A small group of residents urged the town to buy it. And earlier this week, the municipal council did just that. (See story, Page 9.) The building's historical significance alone makes this an easy move. The desire to preserve a beautiful piece of architecture supports the decision. But it does not answer the question of what to do with it.

About a decade ago, another town in Vaudreuil-Soulanges — Pointe des Cascades — began wrestling with the same question. It acquired its church and presbytery that stood in the centre of the municipality's village. It converted the church into a library and had plans to transform the presbytery into a town hall. But that plan hit the skids last month when a provincial grant to cover much of the work was put on hold. These projects take money.

In 2022, the Quebec government put forward \$10 million to revitalize 22 heritage religious buildings. The aim was to give these buildings a second life. Some were converted into community centres, while others were transformed into performance spaces. One church in suburban Quebec City is now the École de cirque de Québec, having transformed a 1930s church into a specialized training centre.

And maybe that is the key. No, not circus training centres, but instead of simply trying to save the space for some sort of community service, perhaps these grand old buildings can be used as spaces to invite outsiders to visit, use and discover. Instead of looking inward, the key to finding a new future for these buildings is to look outward and be a source of revitalization.

Brenda O'Farrell, Editor-in-chief

DESPITE HOW BAD THE NEWS IS AROUND THE WORLD, DOC, I'M STICKING TO MY DRY JANUARY!!



Letter to the editor

When feeding birds, offer hearty home-made meals

While I in no way wish to discredit Terry O'Shaughnessey's avian culinary prowess in preparing her Cardinal cookies ("Prepare little treats for the birds on these crazy cold days," *The 1019 Report*, Jan. 7), I would like to point out the meager nutritional value in them.

Yes, treats, but not really a hearty meal.

In cold weather birds burn fat, for which they need a source of replenishment. I have, in the colder months of January and February, always supplied my feathered friends with suet blocks. They are greedily devoured by my flying neighbours at a rate of a block lasting but a few days.

A few years ago, after I was taken aback at the rising cost of the commercially made ones, I explored making my own.

I settled on this recipe. I melt a brick of lard and mix in about six cups of good bird seed and a handful of dried cranberries. Once well mixed, I press it into six jealously hoarded plastic trays saved from my last store-bought suet block. Allowed to cool in the cold, they become quite rigid and pop out of the trays easily.

I also experimented with lining a rectangular baking pan with wax paper and then cutting up the cooled results. That works, but the trays make it easier to get the size right to fit into my hanging suet block holders.

Although the regular gang seems to enjoy my cuisine, they seem reluctant to share their opinions. I regularly check for reviews on Yelp, Open Table and other such sites, but see nary a single post.

I guess they want to keep Alfie's Place a secret unto themselves.

Now that the fields near my home are encased in ice and snow, and the wild turkeys will no longer be able to glean the soy or corn spilled during the harvest, I expect they too will soon be joining the lunch crowd at Alfie's to clean up what the bratty squirrels kicked out of the feeders searching for the sunflower seeds.

Alfred Epstein,
Les Cèdres

Another letter, Page 8.

THE 1019 REPORT

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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:

\$1.334 billion

The value of all the residential property sold in the Vaudreuil-Soulanges region in 2025.

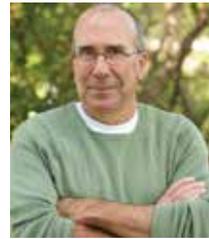
Source: Quebec Professional Association of Real Estate Brokers



Credit: Madeleine Langlois, The 1019 Report

This little inuksuk by the waterfront near Rigaud welcomes the sun on a brisk morning recently, as the day's new light casts a golden glow in the distance. Its location, as the marks in the snow show, is along a trail travelled by a few adventuresome critters. If you look hard enough, you can feel the cold.

Did you see the size of that @#*&! pothole?



Tom Whelan

Practically everywhere one goes these days — the grocery store, the hardware store or a favourite tap room — a common theme emerges: “Did you see the size of that @#*&! pothole?”

Potholes are the latest pandemic to hit the province. It has become so bad that, according to some garages, there is now a shortage of steel rims in Quebec thanks to the sheer volume being sacrificed to the asphalt gods. And that's before we even get into damaged oil pans, suspensions held together by hope and tires shredded like mozzarella on a box grater.

Here in Vaudreuil-Soulanges, we haven't been spared. Two area roads made CAA's Worst Roads in Quebec list: Cité des Jeunes in Vaudreuil-Dorion and Lakeview in Hudson. Now, in Hudson's defence, Lakeview was recently torn up, widened and repaved, so technically it shouldn't be on the list. I'm sure that despite the “improvements,” there are those who still consider it among the worst. But that particular can of worms, or perhaps jar of asphalt, will remain sealed — for now.

Meanwhile other streets like Chemin de l'Anse in Vaudreuil-Dorion and Chemin Ste. Marie in the St. Clet/St. Polycarpe area also have been flagged for their bad conditions.

No offence to the fine folks at CAA Québec, but I decided to carry out an entirely unscientific and nowhere-near-complete survey of Hudson roads last Sunday afternoon. No notepad, no camera, just my black Lab, Sullivan, and me wandering the village for a little over an hour. We covered about five kilometres, stopping only for strategic sniffing. Here is what we found:

Most of Main Road, from about Quarry Point over to Côte St. Charles, is in pretty good shape. Much of that stretch has been repaved in the past five years, so one would hope it hasn't already reverted to

gravel. That said, there are some glaring exceptions. The stretch from McNaughton to Como Gardens could definitely use some TLC. There are some real whoppers along there. No trout jumping out of the potholes just yet, but they're flirting dangerously close to fishing-hole status.

From about Crescent to Côte St. Charles, on the north side of the road, there are some impressive road craters. One spot just east of the Côte road really stood out. Clearly, some sort of excavation took place and a valiant attempt was made to patch the hole. Emphasis on “attempt.” Since then, at least four potholes have emerged in the patchwork, like acne after prom night. The most curious part of the scene is the half-dozen four-foot-tall orange cones. These ubiquitous Québécois eyesores are not positioned to warn drivers of the soul-crushing, suspension-rattling divots ahead. No. They are neatly lined up on the sidewalk — perhaps to prevent flying hubcaps from landing on neighbouring yards.

Elsewhere, several smaller side streets in the village are in need of attention. It seems the smaller the street, the more it's been personally offended by winter. Again, nothing scientific — just a casual observation.

An honourable mention goes to the inverted speed bump on Harwood just west of Daoust. It reopens every year like a seasonal attraction and, the lone little “bump” sign, offers minimal warning. Miss it and, within seconds, you may find yourself losing part of your vehicle.

Overall, while there are some significant trouble spots in our area, we're actually doing fairly well compared with other parts of the province. The Laurentians, the Outaouais and downtown Montreal, to name a few, have it far worse. Small comfort, I know, as you watch your front wheel bounce merrily off into a farmer's field.

Tom Whelan is a veteran broadcaster who can be heard weekend afternoons on CJAD 800 AM. He can be contacted by email at info@the1019report.ca.

QUOTE

“We've never seen such an unpopular premier. What was clear here is that he was completely disconnected. He was the classic grievance politician. It was about blame. It was always about blaming us, the Couillard government, blaming the federal government, blaming the anglos, blaming immigrants. That brought him up to power.”

— Former Liberal MNA David Heurtel, who served as Environment minister and then Immigration minister in the Philippe Couillard administration, commenting on the resignation of Quebec Premier François Legault

Another letter to the editor

Former Hudson councillor questions town's spending

I decided to write this letter after discussions with friends who can't believe we have a troubling financial situation in Hudson or the significance of the size of the hole we are digging over the years. We keep paying more in taxes and see no significant improvement in services.

I was on Hudson council from 2022 to 2025. I decided to participate on council because I was a concerned citizen with a particular set of skills, education and experience. I had recently retired from a 40-year career in finance, including four years as an auditor and 24 years restructuring companies.

While I was councillor for District 2, I twice voted against the budget mainly because of a lack of willingness from Hudson's administration to properly control its activities and spending.

I would also like to confirm that all information used in this letter is from public sources, mainly Hudson's financial statements and budget presentation.

Let's lay down the base: Hudson's population in 2013 was 5,218. In 2023, it was 5,614, an increase of 7.6 per cent in 11 years. While I was on council, annual spending went from \$13 million to \$16.2 million with basically the same population and services. The forecast for 2026 is \$17.8 million, which represents an increase of \$1.6 million, or 9.9 per cent, in just one year.

Increases are normal and to be expected, at least at the rate of inflation or if there is a major change in the scale of operations — which is not the case for Hudson considering there is no increase in population or services rendered.

How can we explain such an increase? Here are a few explanations:

1. The budget payroll for 2026 will increase by \$790,000, or 14.4 per cent, compared with last year's budget. It would have been interesting to have the detailed payroll for 2025 and how they can justify such an increase.

2. This year's budget for recreational and culture will go from \$2 million to \$2.5 million. This increase is mainly based on the following:

A. an increase of \$187,000 in administrative salaries: \$297,000 to \$484,000, a 63-per-cent increase

B. a \$58,000 increase in spending for the pool: \$296,000 to \$354,000, a 20-per-cent jump

C. an increase of \$239,000 in spending on parks: \$490,000 to \$729,000, a 49-per-cent increase, which excludes the purchase of equipment.

The main services offered are a pool during summer, the community centre, kayak rentals, two pickleball courts, an outside ice rink and day camp for the kids, and some community events.

3. The town has an agreement to buy Sandy Beach, which is great for the community and the region. The purchase price, according to our mayor, is \$9.6 million. Of that, \$7.6 million will be financed by long-term debt and the rest will come

from the town's surplus, according to the budget presentation.

In that same presentation, our debt at the end of 2026 will go from \$22.6 million to \$30.2 million. I understand that it will appear in the long-term debt only in 2027, but if we have to pay the seller \$9.6 million, I would think that it will happen in 2026, at some point. So, if we say \$7.6 million at 5-per-cent interest for a minimum of six months, that would represent an interest fee of \$191,000.

They are forecasting to use \$5.3 million of the town's surplus. So how can they forecast to maintain the amount of interest paid to around \$804,000 — when we paid \$884,000 in 2025 — and maintain the interest received to \$350,000?

I can't answer that question since there is never a balance sheet attached to their forecast and no cash flow to confirm the information used.

Here are some more increases:

Public security: \$350,000, or 11 per cent;

Transport: \$399,000, 12.6 per cent;

"Hygiène du milieu, eau et égout:" \$252,000, or 21 per cent

"Hygiène du milieu, matière résiduelle:" \$207,000, or 15 per cent

Lastly, the Town of Hudson intends to spend \$1 million to pave streets each year for the next three years and to pave Main Road, from Quarry Point to Beach, for \$4.5 million. What do you think will happen with the quality of our roads?

The town has other major projects it wants to do in the next three years: a new town hall (\$4 million in 2028), a new garage (\$4 million in 2027), community centre renovations (\$400,000 in 2028), renovations to the Legion (\$330,000 in 2026), purchase of new Kubota equipment to fix trails (\$70,000 in 2026), a new tractor for the ice rink (\$150,000 in 2026), maintaining the Jack Layton Park bridge (\$150,000 in 2026) and rebuilding the bridge (\$350,000 in 2028).

If I have read the budget incorrectly, or if there is information I don't have, I really look forward to being shown how it is not so bad. Do we need this kind of spending? Can we afford it in the long run? Is there not a better way of spending our money?

I encourage the population of Hudson to ask more questions and to show up at council meetings. There is a limit to how much we can increase our taxes and be competitive with our neighbours.

According to Hudson's 2023-2024 financial profile published by the provincial government, the town's long-term debt per unit of evaluation is \$8,103, which is \$3,750 higher than a comparable sized town in Quebec. It is \$1,342 higher than towns in the MRC Vaudreuil-Soulanges.

The average tax charge we pay per unit of evaluation is \$4,821. That is \$1,997 more than what taxpayers in a comparable town in Quebec pay.

Benoît Blais, Hudson

Legault left office in the way he held it



Andrew Caddell

When Premier François Legault announced his resignation last week, there were, as expected, comments from his caucus and colleagues in the Coalition Avenir Québec about his accomplishments and long dedication to public service.

There were accolades from the nationalists in the National Assembly for his many years as a hard-core member of the Parti Québécois. There were those who praised his "inspirational" and "compassionate" leadership during the pandemic.

I was astonished, however, to hear members of the English-speaking community of Quebec offer their appreciation of the departing premier. This was the man who consistently failed over his two mandates to fulfill his promise of being the "premier of all Quebecers."

In an interview, one of his ministers, Christopher Skeete, the putative representative of our community, said: "(Legault) couldn't make everybody happy all the time."

Then, incredibly, speaking of a party that recently resembled the Titanic in the polls, Skeete added: "In the last six months, Quebecers love what we are doing with our policies."

This list of policies would include Bill 1, the quasi-totalitarian "constitution" legislation, and Bill 84, "An act respecting integration into the Quebec nation," which imposes secular dress codes on janitors and school children.

Let's face it, he was terrible for Quebec, and the worst premier ever for Quebec's 1.5 million anglophones.

There's a long list of reasons. First of all, his obsessive defence of the French language to the detriment of anglophones. In his resignation speech he said: "We must stop the worrying decline of the French language, particularly in Montreal, in order to ensure the future of our nation."

Anyone who looks closely at the statistics knows there is no decline in the French language in Montreal, only a decline in *Québécois de souche*. An entire academic book, *Le français en déclin? Repenser la francophonie québécoise*, edited by Jean-Pierre Corbeil, is dedicated to this subject. It points out more and more people of other mother tongues speak French and work in French. Has Legault read it? I doubt it, as he is loath to recognize bilingual anglophones and allophones are part of the Québécois "nation."

Continuing the theme of blaming immigrants for Quebec's ills, Legault had the audacity to say "the explosion in the number of temporary immigrants ... has accelerated the decline of French." I knew

René Lévesque and Camille Laurin, and interviewed them several times. They would never have made such a statement. They believed in immigration to counter the low birth rate, and passed the Charter of the French Language to integrate newcomers into the francophone community.

But what about the pandemic and "*mon oncle François?*"

If you recall, he kept us in total confusion for two years, turning curfews on and off like a tap. And yet, Quebec had the highest number of COVID-19 deaths in Canada.

Then there's the economy. The former chartered accountant inherited a \$6-billion surplus from Philippe Couillard, and with a reverse Midas touch, turned it into a \$13-billion deficit. He burned through billions in tax dollars with the Northvolt fiasco, the SAAQclic scandal, and the failed Lion electric investment.

Finally, his legacy with anglophones.

In 2018, seeking our votes, he promised not to pass language legislation. In 2021, folding to nationalist pressure, he passed the mean-spirited Bill 96 with no consultation. The result is 10 legal challenges of the law, including one by

the organization I lead, the Task Force on Linguistic Policy.

Legault used the notwithstanding clause to protect Bill 96 and the discriminatory "secular law" Bill 21. He perpetually attacked our school boards and cut funding to our universities. He said he heard "too much English" on the streets of Montreal. And then, he brought forward his new "constitution," which refuses to acknowledge the existence of anglophone Quebecers.

This is his record: Eight years ago, he met the leaders of our community and never again. He refused all interviews with English media. He called bilingual anglophones "anecdotes" and, attacking the use of "Bonjour-Hi," he sneered about the "whiners in the West Island."

And, as if to send a final message to our community, in his long-winded soliloquy when he resigned, he refused to utter even one word in English, and didn't have the courtesy to mention our 1.5 million citizens.

It was a departure as classy as the man himself.

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.

He was worst premier ever for anglos.

St. Polycarpe council votes to buy historic church

Decision follows months of citizen advocacy and expert review

CHELSEY ST-PIERRE
The 1019 Report

The future of St. Polycarpe's iconic church was settled Monday evening, as the municipal council voted to purchase the nearly 200-year-old building from the Fabrique Notre-Dame-des-Champs for the symbolic sum of \$1.

The decision comes after months of public debate and sustained pressure from a citizens' group, which has pushed to keep the church — built in 1835 and considered the heart of the village — from falling into private hands.

"For almost 190 years, this church has been the anchor of St. Polycarpe and of Soulanges," Marie-Louise Séguin, spokesperson for the committee advocating for the building's preservation told *The 1019 Report*. "Its future could have gone either way — privatization or collective benefit. The council's decisions will change the face of our town."

The push for municipal acquisition began last February, when concerned residents formed a committee to lobby local officials. Their efforts pushed council to commission architectural and structural assessments last spring, with architect Claude Matte and engineering firm HBGC delivering their reports last September. The studies found the building structurally sound but in need of major repairs, with renovation costs estimated at \$3 million.

While the church is not classified as a



The 1019 Report

St. Polycarpe municipal council voted Monday to purchase the church at the centre of its village for \$1, but estimates claim renovations could cost \$3 million.

heritage property, its size — among the largest religious buildings in Vaudreuil-Soulanges — and central location make

it a strong candidate for new community uses. Advocates hope to see the site transformed into a multi-functional hub,

possibly including space for local organizations, a daycare or creative workshops.

St. Polycarpe Mayor Jean-Pierre Ménard acknowledged the scale of the challenge.

"Like many small towns, our community was built around its church," Ménard said in an interview. "The building needs a lot of love, and financing the repairs will be a major hurdle. But it's worth it if we can preserve this piece of our history for future generations."

Concerns over costs

The church currently remains open for religious services, and the Fabrique, a non-profit association, will transfer ownership to the municipality. Some residents have voiced concern over the cost of renovations and the burden on local finances, but Séguin and her group are urging broad public consultation and exploring provincial grants, partnerships and other funding options.

A Facebook page, "Au coeur de Saint-Polycarpe," has been set up to keep residents informed and involved as the project moves forward.

"This is a turning point," Séguin said. "We hope the whole community will get involved in shaping the future of this landmark."

Local Journalism Initiative



Madeleine Langlois, The 1019 Report

The gates at the Hudson-Oka ice bridge across the Lake of Two Mountains have been closed since Jan. 7.

No date in forecast for reopening of ice bridge

CHELSEY ST-PIERRE
The 1019 Report

After a brief opening early this month, the Hudson-Oka ice bridge has once again closed its gates, leaving off-island residents disappointed and searching for alternatives.

The bridge opened for the winter season on Jan. 5, only to close again just two days later.

It has not reopened since.

According to the operators, the closure is linked to water levels managed at the Carillon hydroelectric dam. They said rising water conditions beneath the ice and warming weather made it impossible to guarantee the 20 centimetres of thickness required for safe vehicle passage.

As of yesterday there was still no indication as to when the crossing would

reopen.

Last year, the ice bridge, which provides a two-kilometre path over the Lake of Two Mountains, had a successful season, with high traffic volumes. It was a welcomed contrast to the two previous years when the crossing had remained closed for most of the winter months. Mild temperatures in December and early January in the winters of 2023 and 2024 prevented the ice from forming a solid base across the lake, the operators said at that time.

In the 2022 season, the ice bridge operated for 48 days, a significantly longer stretch than the average of between 18 and 20 days in past seasons.

Local Journalism Initiative

St. Lazare firefighter killed in accident in Laos

FREDERIC SERRE
The 1019 Report

A young firefighter from Vaudreuil-Dorion who worked with the St. Lazare fire department was killed last week in a tragic motorcycle accident while on a two-month backpacking vacation in Laos.

The death of Toby Vincke, 28, has rocked the local firefighting community, with St. Lazare Mayor Geneviève Lachance offering condolences on behalf of the town, adding: "This is a tragedy that has deeply affected us. We wish to salute his contribution and dedication to our citizens. In these difficult moments, our thoughts go to everyone who is experiencing this loss."

News of Vincke's death reached his family on Jan. 12, several hours after the crash that claimed his life in the southeast Asian country. Vincke had set out on a solo journey throughout Asia last November, and was scheduled to return home in mid-February. He had already visited Thailand and Vietnam and was motorcycling through Laos. Details of what happened are sketchy, according to Vincke's family, and it has been difficult getting news from authorities in Laos.



Toby Vincke

"He was a hardworking guy," said his aunt, Chantal Vincke. "He was always ready to help. He wore his heart on his sleeve. He always wanted to make a difference."

St. Lazare firefighter Phil Bellefeuille said he spoke to his friend the day before the accident "and he said he was having a great time during his trip. He was really happy. It makes no sense that we'll never see him again and we'll never work together again."

St. Lazare fire director Alain Deguire said he was delighted when Vincke approached him three years ago, asking for an opportunity to work for him. Deguire said he already knew the young man because his father, Stéphane, was also a firefighter with the St. Lazare brigade.

"I knew him as a child," said Deguire. "When he came knocking at our door to be a firefighter, it really warmed our hearts to see a local kid wanting to serve the citizens of the town where he grew up. Toby was one of our kids. He was the next generation. This is a huge loss for us."

Local Journalism Initiative

A View From The 1019



Ian Grant, The 1019 Report

Wild turkey or resting turkey? This gobbler was among a flock that lounged in Hudson recently. Some of these birds have grown comfortable with passers-by, although they appear to still want to keep an eye on them.

Artists invite public to contribute to ‘Hurricane of Time’ project

JOSHUA ALLAN
The 1019 Report

Have an eye for art? Whether the answer is yes or no, two local artists working on a large-scale project are inviting the public to attend a collaborative artistic workshop later this month. Participants’ creative contributions will be included in the final immersive project.

“It’s kind of fun, because we’re going to be including them in the installation,” said Diane Collet, one of the artists working on the large-scale project, titled “L’Ouragan du temps,” or “The Hurricane of Time.”

The project will be the result of a 10-week artistic residency at the Conseil des arts et de la culture de Vaudreuil-Soulanges (CACVS).

The workshop invites participants of all ages, languages and levels of artistic skill to design “artistic pocket watches” to be featured in the final project.

“It’ll be super creative,” said Monica Brinkman, who is partnered with Collet to create the installation. “We’ll have a bunch of material. We’ll have all kinds of different paints and things to glue on and add on.”

Both Brinkman and Collet will be at the workshop to chat with participants about the artwork, as well as about the “perception of time,” the project’s theme.

“When you really start thinking about it, time is the rhythm of everything,” said Brinkman, whose artistic style focuses on creating mosaics. “Everything revolves around time.”

“We’re creating very interesting creatures that are going to be part of the hurricane and we’re really becoming very

enamoured with the concept of time and how it affects us,” explained Collet, who has an expressionist artistic background.

The pair had begun the artistic residency in November, setting out to create an immersive large-scale installation that embodies “a storm-like turbulence of time.” Various materials have been used in the installation, including cardboard, canvas, papier-mâché, glue and paint.

“All the art sculptures that we’re making might seem kind of funny, but they all do have really profound messages behind them,” Brinkman added. “It’s kind of camouflaged with beauty and comedy and exaggeration.”

The pair humorously compared the current state of the art studio with that of the late Francis Bacon, a renowned Irish artist who had been known for creating a remarkably cluttered workspace while painting.

“It looks like a hurricane has passed through the studio,” Brinkman joked. “We’re in the zone.”

Workshop participants will be offered a sneak peek at how the project is looking eight weeks into the 10-week residency. The final project will be unveiled to the public Feb. 18.

Brinkman and Collet recommend those interested in attending the Jan. 31 workshop carve out approximately two hours to design the pocket watches and chat over hot beverages.

The workshop will take place on Saturday, Jan. 31, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the CACVS headquarters, 280 Harwood Blvd. in Vaudreuil-Dorion. No prior registration is required.

Local Journalism Initiative

Colossal Canada Crossword

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Courtesy CACVS

Artists Monica Brinkman (left) and Diane Collet are creating a large-scale installation at MRC headquarters.

Driver who hit pedestrian in Hudson blinded by sun: SQ

FREDERIC SERRE
The 1019 Report

Police suspect a driver was blinded by the early morning sun when he struck an elderly pedestrian last Friday in Hudson — an accident that sent the man to hospital with serious but non-life-threatening injuries and forced the closure of Cameron Street for several hours.

“The driver was blinded by the sun,” said Sgt. Valérie Beauchamp of the Sûreté du Québec. “This was purely an accident and no charges will be laid.”

The victim, a 72-year-old man, suffered serious injuries and was taken to hospital. At first, police feared for his life, but according to Beauchamp, the man is now out of danger.

Beauchamp said the collision happened at about 8:30 a.m. on Cameron Street, between Cavagnal and Willow streets. SQ officers and paramedics rushed to the scene. A team of SQ investigators spent several hours at the scene while traffic was rerouted.



In all, 2,193 residential properties were sold in Vaudreuil-Soulanges last year — including single-family homes, condos and plexes.

The 1019 Report

Average selling prices: *Single-family homes*

REGION	PRICES						% Change since 2024	% Change since 2020
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025		
Vaudreuil-Soulanges	\$400,000	\$510,000	\$570,000	\$550,000	\$575,000	\$618,000	7.5%	54.5%
Island of Montreal	\$594,000	\$710,000	\$720,778	\$715,000	\$749,450	\$790,500	5.4%	33.0%
South Shore	\$408,000	\$500,000	\$555,555	\$540,000	\$575,000	\$628,000	9.2%	53.9%
North Shore	\$336,850	\$424,000	\$490,000	\$490,000	\$520,000	\$565,000	8.7%	67.7%
Laval	\$410,000	\$497,000	\$557,000	\$530,000	\$575,000	\$605,000	5.2%	47.5%
Province of Quebec	\$295,000	\$365,000	\$415,000	\$416,500	\$450,000	\$491,000	9.2%	66.6%

Average selling prices: *Condos*

REGION	PRICES						% Change since 2024	% Change since 2020
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025		
Vaudreuil-Soulanges	\$245,000	\$315,000	\$356,000	\$358,500	\$360,000	\$363,000	0.8%	48.2%
Island of Montreal	\$388,000	\$419,000	\$442,000	\$447,750	\$460,000	\$478,000	3.9%	23.2%
South Shore	\$253,000	\$317,000	\$330,000	\$335,000	\$377,930	\$400,000	5.8%	58.1%
North Shore	\$215,000	\$275,250	\$355,000	\$330,000	\$345,000	\$365,000	5.8%	68.0%
Laval	\$279,000	\$340,000	\$380,000	\$380,000	\$390,000	\$416,000	6.7%	49.1%
Province of Quebec	\$272,000	\$328,000	\$360,000	\$360,000	\$378,000	\$398,000	5.3%	46.3%

Single-family homes - # units sold

REGION	# of units sold						
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	% of change
Vaudreuil-Soulanges	2,116	1,706	1,357	1,175	1,320	1,545	17%
Island of Montreal	5,627	5,212	3,916	3,679	4,443	4,827	9%
South Shore	7,905	7,208	5,835	5,233	6,275	6,438	3%
North Shore	9,776	8,262	6,897	5,854	6,984	7,530	8%
Laval	3,521	3,120	2,488	2,108	2,464	2,732	11%
Province of Quebec	75,377	67,914	55,238	49,488	58,380	63,210	8%

Single-family homes – Ave. selling time (# of days)

REGION	Average selling time (# of days)					
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Vaudreuil-Soulanges	62	29	31	51	57	50
Island of Montreal	54	41	39	61	57	49
South Shore	45	28	29	48	47	37
North Shore	50	30	28	44	46	36
Laval	48	32	31	47	47	36
Province of Quebec	91	51	41	54	56	46

REAL ESTATE: Number of properties sold up 17%

From Page 1

House prices in other areas of the Greater Montreal region saw sharper gains, with the average price in the South Shore of Montreal seeing a 9.2-per-cent hike, to hit \$628,000; while on the North Shore the average price gained 8.7 per cent, coming in at \$565,000. Across the province, the average price of a single-family home rose 9.2 per cent last year, reaching \$491,500.

Since the pandemic lockdowns in 2020,

the average selling price of a single-family house in Vaudreuil-Soulanges has jumped a whopping 54.5 per cent, the second-largest rate of increase in the Greater Montreal area, behind the North Shore, where prices increased a staggering 67.7 per cent since 2020. Across the province, the average price of a single-family home has jumped 66.6 per cent since COVID.

The number of homes sold in Vaudreuil-Soulanges last year saw a marked increase, with 1,545 single-family residences

changing hands, representing a 17-per-cent increase compared with 2024.

In all, 2,193 residential properties in the region were sold last year, which in addition to single-family homes, included 573 condos and 65 two- to five-unit plexes. This is an 18-per-cent increase in the number of homes sold compared with 2024. The overall total value of the transactions represented a little more than \$1.334 billion in property changing hands.

Houses in the region also sold faster last

year, with houses lingering an average of 50 days on the market in 2025, down from the 57 days recorded in 2024.

Across the province, 97,214 residential units were sold last year, a jump of 8 per cent over 2024, for a total of \$52.65 billion in transactions, and marking the third-best year on record for sales after 2020 and 2021, according to the real estate brokers' association.

Condo prices stable, but more being sold, and faster

BRENDA O'FARRELL
The 1019 Report

Prices in the condo market in Vaudreuil-Soulanges remained relatively stable last year compared with 2024, although the number of units sold saw a significant uptick, according to the latest statistics compiled by the Quebec Professional Association of Real Estate Brokers.

The average price of a condominium in this region last year was \$363,000 — only

\$3,000, or 1 per cent, more than in 2024.

Since the onset of the pandemic in 2020, however, condo prices in Vaudreuil-Soulanges have climbed a staggering 48.2 per cent — a faster rate of increase than witnessed on the island of Montreal and across the province as a whole.

Condo prices on the island of Montreal have seen hikes of 23.2 per cent since COVID, including a 3.9-per-cent hike in 2025. Across the province, the average

price of a unit spiked 46.3 per cent since the pandemic, and 5.3 per cent last year.

But the rising condo costs in this region is not the only story in this sector of the market. More units are being sold, pointing to an increase in the number of units being added to the market.

In 2025, a total of 573 condos in the region were sold, according to the statistics released. That is 86 — or 18 per cent — more than the 487 sold in 2024.

Condos also sold faster in 2025 compared with the previous year, with units changing hands, on average, after 60 days on the market. In 2024, the average selling time was 66 days. Although sales are happening faster, they are still taking longer than during the pandemic, such as in 2021, when they sold on average in 37 days.

Local Journalism Initiative

TV WATCH REPORT

Theft, homage, grief, magic: It's all coming your way



Denise Duguay

It takes all kinds of programming to make a rich TV life, and this edition of the Watch Report delivers on that variety. But there is also sad news: Yay, that a new season of the epic makeover show *Queer Eye* is back for a new, 10th season as of today, on Netflix. Boo, that it will be the fabulous quartet's final season. All good things must end, and this is a good thing. But we must be brave and stream on.

STEAL (series premieres on Wednesday, Jan. 21, on Prime Video) The "largest armed robbery in British history" has just taken place, but instead of making off with stacks of cash, the criminals stormed the high-rise offices of Lochmill Capital and held guns to the heads of worker-bee traders, forcing them to type out a gigantic transfer of funds to a digital destination unknown. Disguised, rendering facial recognition tools powerless, the thieves are on the run from investigators who are leaning hard on traders Zara (Sophie Turner) and Luke (Archie Madekwe) to find out who stole the 4 billion pounds of pensions and why. Call it a slow thriller, but judging by early indications, it is definitely a thriller.

MEL BROOKS: THE 99 YEAR OLD MAN (documentary premieres Thursday, Jan. 22, on HBO/Crave)

People of a certain (ahem) age will recall Mel Brooks from such slapstick comic films as *Blazing Saddles* and *Young Frankenstein*. Those even older or with a more strenuous eye on the DNA of modern comedy might recall *The 2000 Year Old Man*, a skit about a really old guy's view of ancient history versus what passed for progress on live television in the 1950s. It stands up even all these years later. The architect of all that — working with lifelong collaborator Carl Reiner — is getting the adulatory documentary treatment from acclaimed writer-director Judd Apatow (*Knocked Up*). "I went into comedy because of my love for Mel Brooks. This project is the dream of a lifetime," Apatow says, joining the cavalcade of comedy stalwarts featured in the two-night, two-part homage.

MEMORY OF A KILLER (series premieres Sunday, Jan. 25, on CTV, Fox, Crave) The title of the Belgian novel and 2003 Belgian film from which this new American series is adapted gives away a plot point: *De Zaak Alzheimer*. But forget, if I may, about that for long enough to enjoy the one-time McDreamy neurosurgeon on *Grey's Anatomy* (Patrick Dempsey) resurfacing as a hitman with a deadly "personal secret." Michael Imperioli (*Sopranos*) plays Dutch, a celebrity chef whose restaurant is a front for a mob operation, as well as the best friend of Angelo (Dempsey).

WONDER MAN (series premieres with all eight episodes on Tuesday, Jan. 27, on Disney+) Superhero mov-



Apple TV

Jason Segel and Harrison Ford are back in Season 3 of *Shrinking*, which hits Apple TV on Jan. 28.

ies have the power to change the lives of those on and behind the screen. That's exactly what the central characters in this series about the movie business are banking on. Yahya Abdul-Mateen II plays Simon, a young actor trying to get his big break. En route to trying out for the newest superhero movie, he meets Trevor (Ben Kingsley), who is hoping to revive his enfeebled career. But a funny thing happens on the way to their being considered by "legendary director Von Kovak" (Zlato Buric), who is himself straying from art house films in search of viral fame and relevance. That funny thing could be the arrival of actual superpowers for one of our heroes. Or, maybe not. Scampish and playful in tone, this satirical deconstruction of superhero culture comes from Destin Daniel Cretton (*Shang-Chi*) and Andrew Guest (*Hawkeye*, Brooklyn Nine-Nine) and is the newest entry in Disney+'s own Marvel Cinematic Universe.

SHRINKING (Season 3 premieres the first of 11 episodes on Wednes-

day, Jan. 28, on Apple TV) The show about a grieving therapist (Jason Segel) trying to "get past" the death of his wife and best friend is moving along as grief itself must: After loss, there is occasionally resisted acceptance and then lots of laughter to smooth over the pain until the patient actually finds, one day, that life has and will continue to move along. This show about grief is doing what few other shows attempt — acknowledging there is no solving grief, only making room for it. Hilarious, right? Cue the brilliantly calibrated laughter as the whole gang returns, including Harrison Ford and Jessica Williams as fellow therapists and creator-writer Brett Goldstein as the guilty one, as well as new romantic interests Damon Wayans Jr. and Cobey Smulders.

Broadcast times and dates are subject to change. Questions, comments, suggestions all humbly accepted at d2calm@gmail.com.

THE 1019 REPORT

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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
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
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VAUDREUIL SUR LE LAC:

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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
Ulramar 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

Bright colours, imperfect looks will mark garden fashion in 2026



Terry O'Shaughnessy

GONE TO GROUND

Even gardeners don't want to be gauche. So when the gurus of 2026 declare what will be fashionable in gardens this summer, we listen.

And the good news?

That perfect landscaping is totally out of fashion this year. Instead of emerald lawns fit for a golf course, shaggy walkways will be the way to go. In place of perfectly edged begonia beds, dishevelled blowy flowers will be the ultimate fashion accessory. Perfection is frumpy, say the expert trenders, and I for one am here for that.

But it's not the only wind blowing in garden design world.

Also unfashionable for 2026 will be neutral colours. No more planting your light pink roses with pale perennials. No obsessive gardens of only white flowers or glades of delicate mauve blooms. Instead, splotches of bright colours are what will be in. From oranges next to blues,

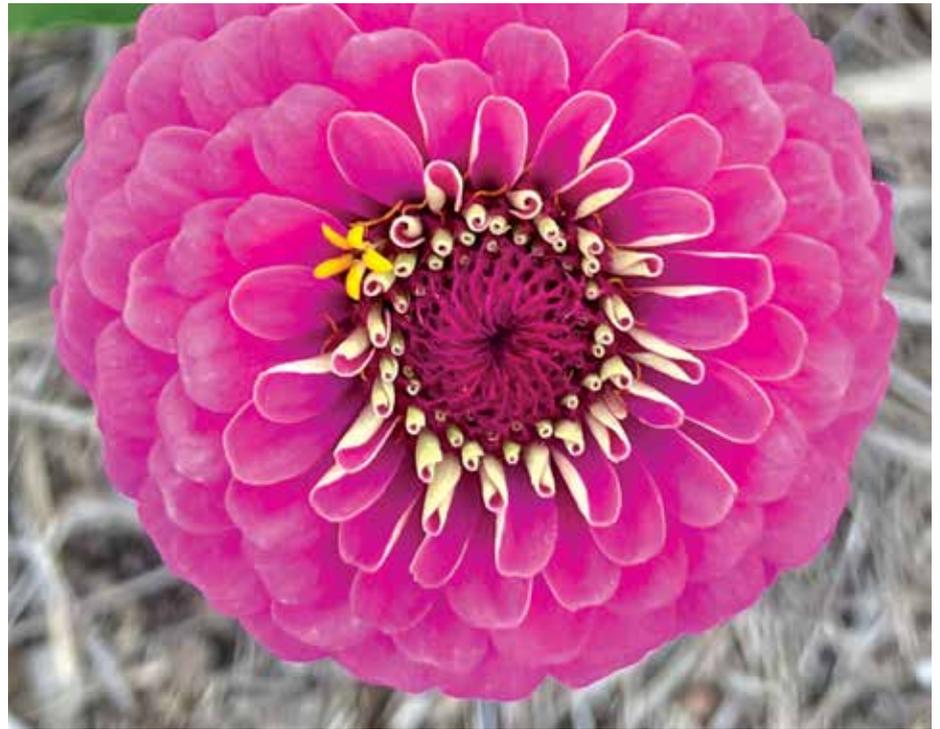
purples next to gold, and reds next to fuchsia pinks, only rash and gloriously bright hues will be cool in the hot summer of 2026.

Our coming imperfection will not end there.

Perfectly matched garden furniture is to be rejected in favour of mismatched chairs and tables. Better to place your wicker chair next to a modern fountain feature, say. Or, accompany an ornate trellis with a sleek chaise longue. But do keep in mind that your traditional wooden trellis is now as unfashionable as shoulder pads and big hair. Though I'm a little bit shocked by this.

Who could think a beautiful wooden trellis would ever be out of vogue? It's a little like saying red and green will be cancelled next Christmas. Or, like throwing out your best black dress even though it's only 20 years old. But the gardening style gurus have spoken and wooden trellises are now drastically off-trend. So can anything please them?

Garden spaces requiring minimal watering are at the top of their 2026 list. Even gravel sections in the garden are be-



Terry O'Shaughnessy, The 1019 Report

On trend for 2026 gardens will be bright colours, like this hot pink zinnia.

ing encouraged so we don't use up all the water once guzzled by the perfect lawns of our unfashionable days.

They further declare that the height of stylish taste this summer will be "edible landscapes." Berry bushes especially will be a top trend, notably blackcurrants. Table-top veggies will be everywhere, with pots and pots of chilis and herbs scattered imperfectly on freshly unmatched garden tables. Tomatoes are about to become all the rage again —

and I read that even hanging cucumber baskets will be seen this summer, though I can't quite picture that yet.

Basically, in 2026 we must allow ourselves to colour outside the lines. Like the mantra "dance like no one is watching," when we throw out our dowdy neat-as-a-pin lawns and flower beds, we must garden like no one is watching. Which, when you think about it, has always been the fashion for gardeners anyway.

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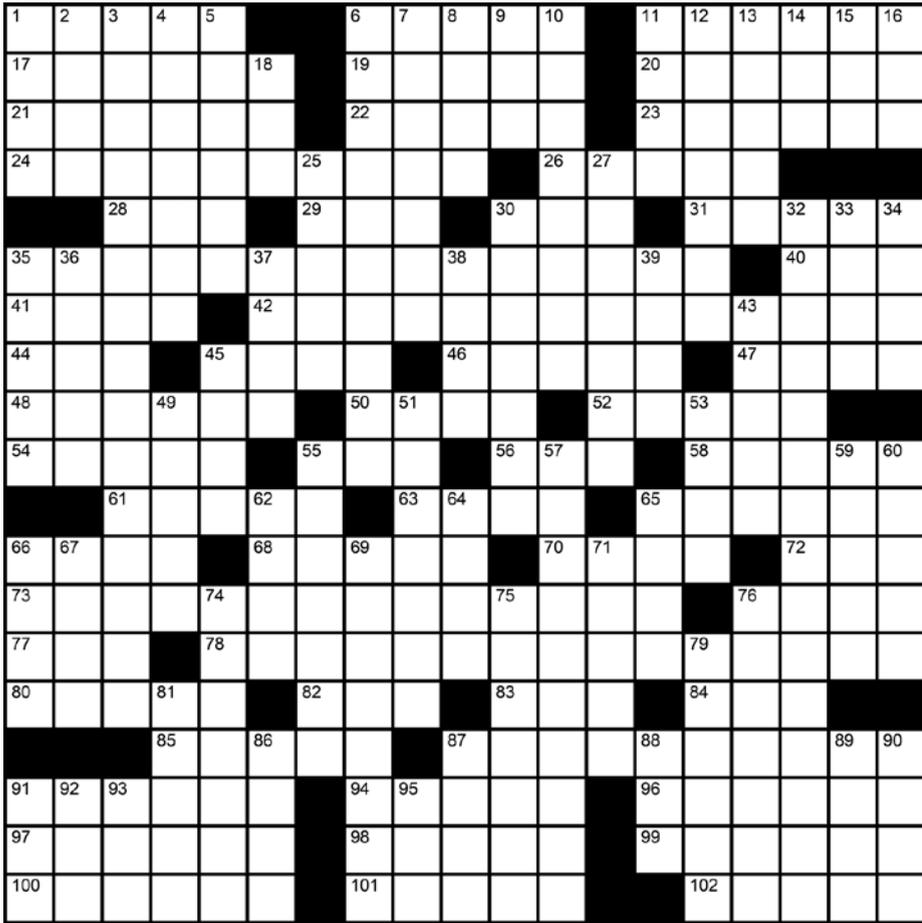
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THE 1019REPORT

Colossal Canada Crossword



SEE SOLUTION PAGE 10

ACROSS

1. Debi __ (Madonna's longtime actress friend)
6. UNESCO World Heritage Site off the coast of British Columbia in the Haida Gwaii archipelago, __ Gwaay Llnagaay
11. " __ - __ " by Canadian quartet The Crew-Cuts
17. Some skirt styles
19. An archangel
20. White-__ Deer (Saskatchewan's provincial animal)
21. __ __ rest (Requires relaxation)
22. Philippine island home to Iloilo City
23. Proprietors
24. Gravy, in a Poutine recipe
26. Singer Ms. Khan
28. Cost
29. __ de coeur (Heartfelt protest)
30. Thai crispy noodles dish, __ Krob
31. "St. __ Fire" (1985)
35. "From ' __ ' to the sign-off prayer..." - Joni Mitchell, "You Turn Me On, I'm a Radio"
40. Apple pie __ __ mode
41. Tubular water creatures
42. Decorative specialty of Canada's Brian Gluckstein: 2 wds.
44. Use a calculator in a way
45. 'Mlle.'-like title in Spain
46. "Kate & __ " (1980s sitcom)
47. Subj. for Grey's of television?
48. Hard sweet treat
50. Sort of freshwater fish
52. 'This __ __ ' (Package-handling direction with arrows)
54. Huff
55. Music for Desmond Dekker
56. Newspaper promos
58. 'The King' in Spain: 2 wds.
61. Art gallery print, commonly
63. Illusionist, archaically
65. " __ the show!" (The spotlight was entirely on ...me!)
66. "Return of the Jedi" (1983) character
68. Zing!
70. Caesar's 1601
72. Clothe
73. School supply by Canadian brand Hilroy: 2 wds.
76. Hungry feeling
77. "Sprechen __ Deutsch?"
78. Fossil finds from extinct flying reptiles: 2 wds.
80. Ancient Greek teller of fables
82. Canadian ID
83. Uno + due = ?
84. Year: Spanish
85. Ms. Kennedy (Panellist on "Front Page Challenge" the famous Canadian quiz show)
87. 'The __ ' aka Canadian hockey great Yvan Cournoyer
91. Grapefruit-like fruit
94. Put on __ __ (Fake it)
96. Ghost-like form
97. Distinctive front feature on a Rolls-Royce
98. Fenugreek as it's also known in cooking
99. Celebrity chef Gordon
100. Justice symbols
101. Empire of Mexico
102. Canadian actor Mr. Rogen's Woman!"
2. Chrysler Building architect, William Van __ (b.1883 - d.1954)
3. Star-packed 1945 MGM musical comedy extravaganza which includes Canada's Hume Cronyn: 2 wds.
4. San __ Fault
5. Attempt to locate once more
6. Inco __ (Sudbury's historic landmark)
7. Kitchen island surface
8. "You __ Seen Nothing Yet" by Bachman-Turner Overdrive
9. PBS funding org.
10. Byproduct of processing fats and oils
11. Ancient Greek portico
12. Donald Sutherland's starring role in "M*A*S*H" (1970), __ Pierce
13. Twofold
14. "This __ House" by Rosemary Clooney
15. 'Throughout' in poetry
16. Docs
18. 1979: " __ Eyes" by Robert John
25. " __ Get Next to You" by The Temptations
27. Units of electrical inductance
30. Letters-carrying sack
32. Anne in Anne of Green Gables ...or... Duddy in The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz: 2 wds.
33. Ms. Kurylenko of "Oblivion" (2013)
34. Gus Van __ (Movie director)
35. Wins the match
36. French artist, Odilon __ (b.1840 - d.1916)
37. Ski chalet's warmth-giver
38. German 'brew'
39. Idealized garden
43. Ontario's __ Ste. Marie
45. Paving stone
49. The Canterbury Tales' wanton and merry pilgrim
51. Lionel __ (Legendary jazz vibraphonist)
53. Mr. Arnaz of classic sitcoms
55. At the earliest time possible
57. New __ Party of Canada
59. Stretch out the shape [abbr.]
60. Safecrackers
62. __ Renfrew (Canadian luxe store)
64. Responded with understanding in a way
65. "Ewww!"
66. Mount of Greece
67. Ron Howard's 'Mayberry' role
69. Raymond __ (b.1929 - d.2023 ...Canadian architect of Toronto's Bata Shoe Museum)
71. __ on (Lavished with care)
74. Qu' __ Valley, in southern Saskatchewan
75. Saskatchewan 1885: Battle of __ (North-West Resistance conflict)
76. Nom de plume: 2 wds.
79. Canadian heroine Ms. Secord's
81. "Good evening and welcome to Slaggers, featuring Denis __..." - The Beatles, "You Know My Name"
86. Boot parts
87. 1980ss heavy metall rodentt bandd??
88. '80s Pres. monogram
89. Greenland's old base camp for Arctic expeditions
90. Who Prince Edward married in 1999, Sophie __-Jones
91. Movie ratings, e.g.
92. Creature of folklore
93. NBA's Heat cty.
95. Pince-__ (Posh eyeglasses)

DOWN

1. Shania Twain's " __! __ Feel Like a

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How the heart of winter is won

MADELEINE LANGLOIS
The 1019 Report

The temperatures have been playing a relentless game — plunging the air into a deep freeze; offering a brief, deceptive warmth and then snapping back to a biting cold once more.

But hiding from the elements would be to miss what the season has to offer. Instead, embrace the crisp air, find joy in a wealth of outdoor activities that make the best of the conditions. There is the silent glide of cross-country skis through hushed woods, the thrill of a snowmobile carving through powder, the invigorating crunch of hiking on a snow-packed trail or the simple pleasure of skating on a local rink as steam rises with every breath. This is how the heart of winter is won.

Celebrate its unique and stark beauty actively.



Photos by Madeleine Langlois, The 1019 Report



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