

THE 1019 REPORT

COVERING THE 1,019 SQUARE KILOMETRES OF VAUDREUIL-SOULANGES

VOL. 6 NO. 23 - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2025

DORION

TRANSPORT QUEBEC MOVES A BIT ON HIGHWAY 20 BYPASS **P3**

POINTE des CASCADES

QUEBEC PUTS CITY HALL GRANT ON HOLD **P5**

ÎLE PERROT

GROUP TO KEEP PUSHING FOR MERGER **P9**

HOLIDAY MARKETS

ROUNDUP OF UPCOMING CHRISTMAS FAIRS **P12**

MRC to cut top official's paycheque

BRENDA O'FARRELL
The 1019 Report

The top elected official of the MRC of Vaudreuil-Soulanges is going to take a cut in pay in the new year. But the amount that will be trimmed from his salary — the highest of all the heads of regional authorities in the province — is a matter that will be determined by a committee later this month.

"I have no problem with that," said Patrick Bousez in an interview with The 1019 Report last week, referring to planned rollback of his compensation.

The committee was mandated by the MRC council, which is made up of the mayors of the 23 municipalities in the Vaudreuil-Soulanges region.

Bousez, the mayor of the tiny municipality of Rivière Beaudette near the Ontario border, was re-elected prefect of the MRC at a special meeting Nov. 19 by the members of the regional council. The vote marked the beginning of his fifth consecutive two-year term at the helm of the regional council. He defeated Hudson Mayor Chloe Hutchison in a vote of 16 to 10. Due to the size of the municipalities they represent, the mayor of Vaudreuil-Dorion gets three votes, while the mayor of St. Lazare gets two votes.

See MRC, Page 4.

Jolly Ol' Gent arrives



Madeleine Langlois, The 1019 Report

Winter arrived early this year, catching many unprepared, including Santa, it appeared, as he arrived in Hudson last Saturday evening on his boat, which had not been stored for the season yet. But sources have confirmed his sleigh will be in top working order by Christmas Eve. For more photos of the last weekend's Santa parade in Hudson, see Page 15.

'It's definitive,' Hudson clinic will close, owners say

BRENDA O'FARRELL
The 1019 Report

There is no turning back. There is no possibility of reversing the decision. The Hudson medical clinic will close its doors and cease operations next April, according to the owners of GMF Hudson.

"We've announced it to our employees," said Dr. Tara McCarty, one of the co-owners of the clinic that serves about 11,000 patients in the Vaudreuil-Soulanges region. "The business is no longer financially viable."

Despite renewed negotiations between the Quebec government and the federations representing doctors and medical specialists in the province announced late last week, McCarty said there is nothing short of a complete withdrawal of the health-reform legislation adopted by the CAQ government in October that will change the owners' decision.

"It's definitive," she said. "Three doctors are leaving. And the rest of us don't want to practice in this province."

There are seven doctors who work at the clinic, including four co-owners, McCarty explained. Three of them, including one of the co-owners, last week formally submitted their resignations. They will be leaving the province.

See HUDSON GMF, Page 11.



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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.

Marcus Owen, Hudson (renewal)
Marian Dupont, St. Jacques, Que.
Walter Makowski, St. Lazare
Don Dickson, Hudson (renewal)
Shelley Potter, Rigaud
William E. Crowle, Hudson (renewal)
Peter DesRoches, Hudson (renewal)
John Hughes, Hudson (renewal)

Beverly Evoy, St. Lazare
Peggy and Mike Sheppard, St. Lazare (renewal)
Patricia Cap, St. Lazare
Deborah Lafluer, Hudson (renewal)
Joanne Semenak, Hudson (renewal)
Alfred Epstein, Les Cèdres
Helen Hodgson, Rigaud (renewal)

James Forbes, Les Cèdres (renewal)
Lars Erup, St. Lazare (renewal)
Matthew Stenberg, Hudson
Oscar Tellechea, Rigaud
John Pichovich, Hudson
Doug Allan, Beamsville, Ont.
Jennifer Jobin, St. Lazare
Alex Landovskis, Montreal

Randy Hargreaves, Pierrefonds
Alexandra Shandling, Hudson (renewal)
Lawrence Sweeney, Vaudreuil-Dorion
Nicole Lacelle, Kirkland
Julia Mutusky, Hudson
Ken Tolhurst, Howick

Plan for Highway 20 bypass in Dorion takes step forward

Transports Quebec recommends creation of 'continuous highway corridor'

JOSHUA ALLAN
The 1019 Report

Advocates pushing for the construction of a high-speed bypass route for Highway 20 in Vaudreuil-Dorion are applauding after Transports Quebec has finally recommended the project move forward, marking a significant win in the decades-long campaign to eliminate the traffic lights along the busy transit route.

But not everyone is celebrating quite yet.

"We're extremely happy," said Pierre Z. Séguin, one of the organizing members of The Alliance of Citizens for a Real Highway 20.

Séguin is proud of the work his group has done to advocate for this project.

"Maybe it's not 100-per-cent thanks to us, but we are a big part of this success," he said in an interview.

His group was privy to a letter from Transports Quebec sent to politicians at the federal, provincial and municipal levels across Vaudreuil-Soulanges on Nov. 17 confirming a feasibility study for the project has been completed.

The ministry "recommends the creation of a continuous highway corridor incorporating public and active transportation facilities," reads the letter from Fadi Moubayed, director-general of Transports Quebec.

"The project remains a priority for the ministry and could be included in future



This is the planned route for the Highway 20 bypass route through the Dorion section of Vaudreuil-Dorion, which Transport Quebec has finally officially recommended to move forward following the completion of a feasibility study.

Quebec Infrastructure Plans (PQI), depending on the evolution of budgetary availability," the letter stated.

"We were extremely happy because it's the first time (Transports Quebec) officially acknowledged that there is a real need for a bypass road in Dorion," Séguin said.

Finally, he added, "Harwood Boulevard will become a local street, and that's what we want."

But Vaudreuil-Dorion Mayor Paul Dumoulin cautions the project is not a done deal.

With 34 years of experience in Vaudreuil-Dorion politics, Dumoulin is not cel-

ebrating just yet, explaining the letter is "politically correct" in its wording but lacks a firm commitment.

"We want more than politically correct," he said. "We want some real answers and we want them to commit themselves."

The timing of the letter, however, is advantageous, Dumoulin admitted, pointing out that it comes in time for next fall's provincial election.

"For sure (the candidates) are going to have to tell us what they want to do with the 20," Dumoulin said yesterday.

Séguin added his group will push for the project during the election campaign.

"We're going to work very hard to make sure that every candidate commits themselves to make sure that this issue will be resolved very quickly and not 25 years from now."

Séguin's group will meet with Dumoulin, the MRC of Vaudreuil-Soulanges and business development organization Développement Vaudreuil-Soulanges in January to discuss next steps, including how they plan to advocate for the bypass project to be included in the Quebec Infrastructure Plan (PQI).

Over the past 60 years, various residents in Vaudreuil-Dorion have voiced the need for the construction of a bypass route that would divert Highway 20 traffic away from Harwood, where traffic lights lead to heavy congestion as drivers from the region and beyond attempt to cross the Taschereau Bridge into Île Perrot en route to Montreal. It is estimated that around 87,000 vehicles traverse the boulevard each day.

In May 2024, the Alliance of Citizens for a Real Highway 20 launched a petition calling for the project, which Séguin said received about 15,000 signatures.

The proposed bypass route would start at the Taschereau Bridge, run westward alongside the railway tracks north and reconnect to the rest of Highway 20 about three kilometres to the west, diverting a significant chunk of vehicle congestion away from Harwood Blvd.

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- Peter Hadekel, former columnist and editorial page editor at The Gazette

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Hockey coach rescues elderly couple from fire

FREDERIC SERRE
The 1019 Report

It's been four days since Pincourt hockey coach Eric Fitzgerald pulled an elderly couple out of their burning home, but the impact of what he did "hasn't sunk in yet," he said.

"Although I hear there's a lot of stuff going on online," he added. "I haven't had a chance to sit down and take a look at it all. But I will admit: It hit me around 11 that night when I finally sat down and realized, wow, that was quite intense."

Fitzgerald, 39, is receiving widespread

praise, along with kudos from firefighters, for his actions last Saturday at about 8:30 p.m. when he noticed thick, black smoke coming from the attic of a house on 8th Ave. while driving his son and another player home from hockey practice. Fitzgerald, who is also an electrician, immediately pulled over and joined a neighbour who was also trying to find the source of the smoke.

Fitzgerald says he knew there was no time to waste and immediately called 911 and entered the house, where he was met by heavy smoke and flames. That's when

he found a blind woman in her 80s, who was dazed and confused. After leading her outside, Fitzgerald re-entered the burning house and rescued the woman's husband, who is also in his 80s. The couple was huddled inside Fitzgerald's pickup truck to keep warm while Fitzgerald and a neighbour entered the house to make sure there was nobody left inside.

Fitzgerald says he has been in daily contact with the couple's daughter, who lives in Ottawa and reached out "to thank me for saving them."

The couple is doing well, he said, add-

ing: "My mom and I made some food for them. We got them a nice care package."

Fitzgerald says he is thankful for a strange twist of events that led to the rescue, starting with a practice that was delayed by an hour, along with a detour to drop off two players and another coach, which resulted in him driving by the burning house at 8:30 p.m.

"I'm just grateful that I was in the right place at the right time and given the opportunity to help," he said.

MRC: Bousez is highest paid regional official in province

From Page 1

Hutchison, who put her candidacy forward for the top job at the meeting, was elected a member of the MRC's executive council.

St. Lazare Mayor Geneviève Lachance was elected deputy prefect, replacing former Île Perrot mayor Pierre Seguin, who retired from politics.

According to an in-depth analysis of salaries paid to public officials across the

province by La Presse in October, Bousez earned \$203,282 in 2024. That included \$31,352 as mayor of Rivière Beaudette, which has about 2,700 residents, and almost \$172,000 in base salary as prefect and stipends for sitting on other regional bodies, including committees related to the Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal. The salary for prefect of Vaudreuil-Soulanges in 2024 was just under \$152,000.

The compensation put Bousez at the top of the salary bracket among MRC prefects in the province in 2024, surpassing the second-highest earning regional leader, the head of the MRC of the Vallée du Richelieu, who was paid almost \$86,000, La Presse reported. He also earned almost double the amount paid to the prefect of the MRC of Roussillon, which is the largest MRC by population, with 194,872 residents; compared with Vaudreuil-Soulanges, which has a population of 169,873.

Bousez's compensation last year also surpassed the fees paid to the mayors of Quebec City, who earned just under \$200,000 in 2024; and the mayor of Sherbrooke, who made just over \$200,000 last year, La Presse reported.

Bousez salary has increased over the

years since he was first selected to chair the regional board in 2017. In 2021, according to reporting by The 1019 Report, he earned \$25,290 as mayor and an additional \$156,843 for his functions as MRC prefect, bringing his total annual income to \$182,133.

The mayors of the Vaudreuil-Soulanges also elected a new executive committee for the MRC on Nov. 19. It now includes Charles Meunier, the new mayor of Rigaud; Sylvain Brazeau, the mayor of Les Coteaux; Peter Zytynsky, the mayor of Pointe des Cascades; Paul Dumoulin, the new mayor of Vaudreuil-Dorion; Mario Tremblay, the mayor of Vaudreuil sur le Lac; Danie Deschênes, the mayor of Notre Dame de l'Île Perrot; and Hutchison.

CORRECTION

In an article about the MRC Vaudreuil-Soulanges's planned compost processing facility in the Nov. 19 edition of *The 1019 Report* it was incorrectly reported the plant will be built in an industrial park in

Les Cèdres. In fact, the plant will be built in an industrial park in Coteau du Lac.

The 1019 Report regrets the error.

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Town presses Quebec after grant put on hold

Delay puts Pointe des Cascades plan for new city hall in question

DYLAN ADAMS LEMAÇON
The 1019 Report

The tiny town of Pointe des Cascades is asking the Quebec government to reconsider — or at least clearly explain — its decision to postpone promised funding for the municipality's new town hall project.

The request was made in a letter sent to Premier François Legault on Nov. 18 by the town's mayor, urging the provincial government to either reinstate a \$777,000 subsidy pledged in 2022 to help cover the lion share of the cost to convert a former church presbytery into municipal office space.

"We respectfully request that the file be reconsidered," the council wrote in the letter. "Failing an immediate reinstatement of the subsidy, we ask that a firm letter of intent be sent to us within two months confirming your government's commitment to funding the project in 2027."

In 2022, the town of about 1,800 residents, located along the shores of the St. Lawrence River just south of Île Perrot, had been informed that it would receive a grant that would cover about 70 per cent of a \$900,000 plan to convert the former church presbytery into municipal offices.

"The present city hall just doesn't cut it any more," said Mayor Peter Zytynsky.

Municipal offices are currently located in a former Caisse Desjardins building. But the growing little town, which has

seen its population nearly double since 2004, needs more room for staff, which is now working out of offices in several buildings.

"We have to locate people in other buildings. We're overwhelmed with too many people in one building," Zytynsky said.

About 10 years ago, the town acquired the local church and presbytery on Chemin du Fleuve in the centre of the municipality's village. The church has since been converted into a public library, and the plan was to convert the presbytery to be used as a new city hall.

The interior of the building needs to be renovated, while additional exterior work, including improving the parking area, was part of the project that had been approved by a provincial infrastructure grant.

"We were ready to go to public offer," Zytynsky said, explaining municipal officials were set to issue a tender seeking bids. "And then we get this shock," referring to the notice last month that the grant was put on hold.

The town has already invested about \$74,000 to carry out a study and draft plans for the project.

"The sudden postponement of the subsidy now jeopardizes the project and puts us in a difficult position to explain to the population," the letter states.

"Our small municipality does not have the means to assume such an investment

alone," the letter concludes

According to the mayor, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs last month informed the municipality it needed to review the public tender documents. Two days later, the town received a letter stating the entire project was suspended until April 2027.

"People are working over each other," Zytynsky said, describing the crowded

conditions in town offices now. "There's no access for handicap people to come in. There's no place for citizens to come park."

Zytynsky has met with Vaudreuil-Soulanges MNA Marilyne Picard and held discussions with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

SQ examining two vehicles seized at fatal crash site

FREDERIC SERRE
The 1019 Report

A month after florist Olivia Hughes was struck and killed while walking along Bédard Avenue in St. Lazare, the Sûreté du Québec confirmed yesterday that investigators are examining two vehicles seized at the scene of the crash, including a pickup truck.

"Yes, indeed, two vehicles were seized that night at the scene," SQ spokesperson Valérie Beauchamp told The 1019 Report. "Were they implicated? Only the investigation will reveal that. It's an ongoing investigation."

According to the SQ, both vehicles — a car and a pickup truck — were seized at the scene of the crash, which occurred at about 8:30 p.m. on Nov. 1. near the dark-

ened intersection of Bédard Avenue and St. Louis Street.

"The ongoing investigation must look if those two vehicles are connected in any way to the (death)," Beauchamp said.

Late last month, the SQ also confirmed that a man in his 30s was arrested at the scene of the crash and charged with impaired driving, but Beauchamp said the SQ has not linked the arrest to the death of Hughes.

SQ major crime investigators initially suspected a hit-and-run driver was behind the crash that killed the 35-year-old entrepreneur, who had attended an event the same day where she had worked on a floral installation.

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Editorial

It's time to make some noise Region can send a strong message

It was a stunning display of a politician's total lack of ability to read a room.

That was one of the take-aways from a 5 à 7 in St. Lazare on Nov. 20 hosted by Soulanges MNA Marilyne Picard. It came a day after *The 1019* carried a news report of officials with two family medicine clinics in the region, known as GMFs, or Groupes de médecine de famille, warning that the provincial government's Bill 2 would force the closure of the clinics.

Several doctors associated with at least three GMFs in the region were at the event. They attended to make sure Picard got their message directly. As a member of François Legault's CAQ government that pushed the legislation through the National Assembly a few weeks earlier, Picard needed to hear how the law would impact their practice and, ultimately, the care for their patients. The public meeting was the perfectly timed event to discuss the issue face to face.

The doctors were clear. They will not practice medicine, they told Picard, if the government turned doctor-patient interactions into time-limited exchanges that prioritized speed in order to meet the performance targets outlined in the legislation. They warned the approach proposes to reduce health care to a fast-food-style service, with the aim of simply getting the customer in and getting them out in order to increase the number of customers served. If that becomes the goal, the standard of care, they — and others — would reconsider their future in the province.

The doctors were not alone. A number of concerned residents, patients who rely on family doctors who work at these clinics, were there, too. And each one waited patiently until they got a chance to express their concerns to Picard. A few had just got access to a family doctor after being on the waiting list for years. They did not want to lose their family doctor, they told her.

Picard, for her part, listened respectfully, as she was flanked by her aides, who intervened as they extracted her from one conversation and directed her to the next.

Perhaps anticipating the concerns of residents who would show up to the event, given the wide public pushback to Bill 2 since it was approved, an aide to Quebec Health Minister Christian Dubé attended the event. Alain Généreux stressed the doctors did not fully understand "the spirit" of the new legislation, and that negotiations would continue to improve the law, a practice that is usually undertaken before legislation is approved, not after. An important point Généreux, appeared to dismiss as trivial.

But then it came. The reason why Picard hosted the event in the first place.

She had an announcement to make, she wanted to share what she referred to as "good news." She will be seeking re-election as the CAQ candidate in next year's general election.

There was little applause.

The sprinkling of Picard supporters in the room offered their encouragement. But for all the others — the doctors, the nurses, the patients in the room — the announcement left them shaking their heads. If they had hoped their elected official would take their messages back to her government and reverse course on Bill 2, that hope evaporated right there. Their concerns were merely unfortunately timed background noise.

You couldn't come up with a better example of how to misread a room.

Fast forward one week — to last Wednesday: The Hudson GMF announced it will close its doors at the end of March, on the eve of Bill 2 being enacted. The owners of the clinic — again — are stating it clearly. They will not reconsider the move. They are done.

The government might be able to make some changes to the legislation that would make large GMFs in urban centres financially viable. But in smaller communities, where smaller clinics provide the front-line health-care services, Bill 2 is making it impossible, they say. The realities are different. Yet, no one in the CAQ government — including Picard — seems to notice or care.

In an interview following her announcement, Picard told *The 1019 Report* her aim was to ensure that no clinic in the region closes. By her own measure, she is now clearly failing. The owners of the clinic will not be reversing their decision.

How many doctors will leave the province? How many doctors from this region will leave?

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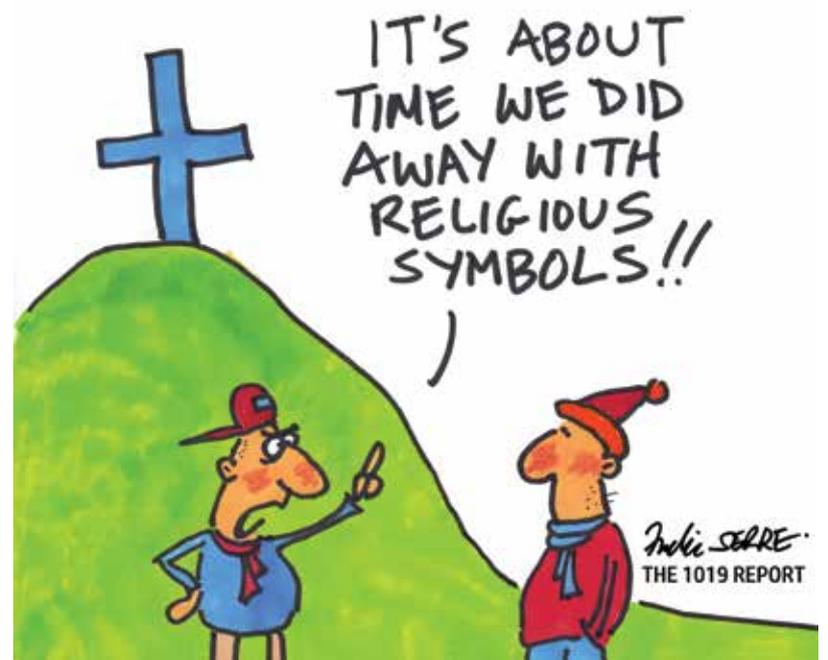
Let's strike a chorus.

Let's make some noise.

Clearly, Picard hasn't heard us — yet.

Brenda O'Farrell, Editor-in-chief

CAQ EXPANDS SECULARISM LAW



Letter to the editor

MNA Picard urged to recognize Bill 2 doing more harm than good

This is a translated version of an open letter sent to Soulanges MNA Marilyne Picard:

I'm sure you are receiving many emails regarding the closure of the Hudson Family Medicine Group (GMF) and its direct link to Bill 2, introduced by the CAQ government.

My wife and I share these concerns. We both have our family doctors at this clinic. Like 11,000 other patients, we will have to find new solutions for our health-care needs.

I understand your strong commitment to ensuring that all Quebec residents have access to a family doctor.

I understand that Bill 2 aimed to guarantee all Quebec residents access to a family doctor. Unfortunately, it is clear that it is having the opposite effect. It has

alienated doctors to the point that they are now considering leaving the province.

I urge you to ask the CAQ government to recognize the current situation and suspend Bill 2. A genuine dialogue with our doctors is necessary to find a way to achieve Bill 2's primary objective: access to a family doctor for every Quebec resident.

My wife and I are concerned about the future of Quebec, and hope you will succeed in convincing your colleagues that the path taken by the CAQ government is not resolving the problem it claims to solve. It is important to repeal this law before the damage becomes irreversible.

Thank you for your attention.

**Martin Smith
Hudson**

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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.

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THE 1019 REPORT

THE 1510 WEST

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FACT: 1,600

The number of people in the Vaudreuil-Soulanges region who rely on food assistance every month. These individuals turn to 18 accredited organization for help. And all of these organizations — including La Source d'Entraide in St. Lazare, the Hudson fire department and Paroisse Sainte-Jeanne de Chantal in Vaudreuil-Dorion — are accepting registrations for Christmas baskets. If you can, give generously.

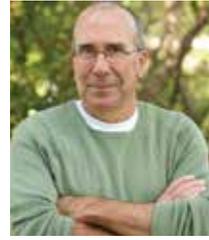
Source: Table de concertation en sécurité alimentaire de Vaudreuil-Soulanges and Moisson Sud-Ouest



Madeleine Langlois, The 1019 Report

The Grinch was front and centre last Saturday in Rigaud as an army of elves collected letters for Santa. The annual service delivers the mail directly to the North Pole, including letters that came in all shapes and sizes, and penned in a rainbow of colours by kids who are hoping to be on Old St. Nick's Nice List.

Lighting up the night Welcome to the season that frustrates and sparkles



Tom
Whelan

If there's one seasonal tradition that truly unites us in Vaudreuil-Soulanges, it's the annual neighbourhood ritual of putting up the holiday lights. Not the holidays themselves, not the carolling, not even the good-natured debate over who has the best tourtière. No. What truly binds us is the shared, silent understanding that we will all, at some point, be standing outside in questionable footwear, battling a string of lights with one cold hand inside a mitten and one exposed so we can "feel the plug properly."

I say this with authority because, once again, I waited just a bit too long. Every year I tell myself: "This time I'll get ahead of it. I'll be the guy casually sipping coffee on a mild November morning while effortlessly draping lights like a modern-day Michelangelo."

And every year, without fail, I find myself out there in December, snow blowing sideways, ladder wobbling ominously, performing what can only be described as a one-man slapstick routine for anyone driving past.

Meanwhile, in Hudson, they're already ahead of the game. Last weekend the town held its official lighting of the holiday decorations. It is always a lovely event. Granted, I am a bit biased, but, once again this year, Hudson's Main Road is shining like a Hallmark movie set. Everything looks perfectly arranged, beautifully illuminated, and just festive enough that you feel guilty about the half-decorated front porch you abandoned when the freezing rain started.

In every neighbourhood, the rituals vary. You have the "one wreath and done" folks, the sensible minimalists. Their homes quietly whisper, "We believe in the spirit of the season, but we also believe in not climbing ladders." A tasteful wreath. A warm porch light. Done. They'll be inside sipping mulled cider while the rest of us are outside muttering words that definitely aren't in any Christmas carol.

Then, at the other end of the spectrum, you have the Griswold enthusiasts: the households that seem to start planning in August. They draw diagrams of cable

runs and wattage loads like they're preparing for a NASA launch. These are the homes where every shrub gets its own light net, where reindeer graze on the lawn in a manner that would make the "imagineers" at Disney envious. They plan it so that every 10 minutes something twinkles, pulses, spins or bursts into song.

You know you've found one of these homes when you hear Hydro-Québec's grid audibly groan as dusk settles. They flip the switch, the streetlights dim for a bit just before the house erupts into a synchronized display visible from across the river. I always admire the dedication. Partly because it's impressive, but mostly because it makes my own tangled-light heap look almost intentional. "Oh that? This year I decided on a modern art installation."

Of course, no holiday lighting season is complete without the classic mishaps

Hudson shines like a Hallmark movie set.

— the ladder that decides to sink an inch into the snow at the worst possible moment, the lights you carefully tested indoors that mysteriously stop working the moment they touch the outdoors as though they're allergic to fresh air and inflatable snowmen.

Let's talk about those brave, but unstable souls. They look charming on the box, but in real Quebec winter winds? They spend most of December either face down in a snowbank or rolling down the street like a slow-motion escape attempt.

Yet, somehow, it's all part of the charm. The neighbourhood slowly brightens. The evenings feel warmer, even when they're not. We nod at each other's efforts, whether it's the modest wreath or the full-scale light show. Because at the end of the day, it's not about perfection. It's about creating a bit of sparkle — no matter how lopsided, tangled or wind-toppled it may be.

As for me, I'll get my lights up. Eventually. Probably this weekend, assuming the ladder behaves. And the snow holds off. And I'm not bowled over by a runaway inflatable snowman.

So see you out there. I'll be the one untangling lights in the driveway, trying to convince the neighbours this is all part of "The BIG Plan."

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

"As the députée de Soulanges, the most important is that no clinic closes."

— Soulanges MNA Marilyne Picard in response to hearing from residents, doctors and nurses at a public meeting in St. Lazare on Nov. 19, one week before owners of the GMF Hudson announced they would be closing their clinic at the end of March.

ART EXHIBITION
LUMIN Art
 december 5 to february 15
 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. PARC LE 405

Multiplicité brings together 16 artists from Vaudreuil-Dorion who have created self-portraits based on the theme of the 1980s. 345 Elementary School children from the area and 39 art students from Cité-des-Jeunes High School have also joined the movement.

This new exhibition joins those of previous years and an exhibition by the Club photo Vaudreuil-Dorion, for an even more enchanting experience!

Set design: Philippe Corriveau
 Music composed by four young people from the Arts - études - musique program at Cité-des-Jeunes High School.



 Parking available for people with reduced mobility

MEZAIK DIFFUSEUR DE CULTURE 

Lives & Legacy
 For more information call 514 823-9779
 or email to Info@the1019report.ca



Colossal Canada Crossword  

E	N	C	I	R	C	L	E	S		B	A	P	T		H	I	L	L	
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Paul McCartney can still put on a show



Andrew Caddell

I will never forget Sept. 8, 1964. That was the day The Beatles came to the Montreal Forum for what turned out to be their one and only appearance in the city. I had just turned 12 years old, and it had been 10 months since I had first heard their music on the radio.

My friend Brian Greenway and I listened to rock 'n' roll stations in Montreal and across the American seaboard. But The Beatles were different: the melodies, guitars, percussion, harmonies, the mix of blues and rock, all said something more than the Tin Pan Alley creations of the past. We grew our hair, consumed all things Beatle, watched them on the Ed Sullivan Show that February, and went to "A Hard Day's Night." We were "Beatlemaniacs" and formed our own rock group with two friends. I failed to master the bass guitar, but Greenway went on to fame with April Wine.

So the Beatles two concerts in Montreal that year were huge events, and tickets were affordable at \$4.50. Then my parents weighed in: I could not go, as the prospect of a riot at the Forum was too great. Thousands of screaming teenage girls might crush a 110-pound pre-teen like me. My objections were ignored.

Little did we know there was a plot by the separatist FLQ to kidnap Ringo Starr and disrupt the tour. The Beatles played the concerts with police protection, sang a dozen songs in a little more than half an hour and left Montreal immediately. They never came back, as the shows were the only ones on that tour that didn't sell out.

Fast forward 61 years, 56 years after the Beatles broke up, with John Lennon and George Harrison long dead. Paul McCartney was coming to the Bell Centre for two nights. I plunked down \$600 for two tickets in the 300 level to listen to an 83-year-old sing songs from decades ago.

The three hours of music was worth every penny.

Yes, this is not the McCartney of yesteryear or "Yesterday." He had trouble hitting the high notes, and uses a teleprompter to remember the lyrics of his songs. But he is still a phenomenal musician, playing his standard Hofner bass guitar, ukulele, mandolin, piano, and a variety of acoustic and electric guitars.

His guitar and drums backup offered superb music and harmonies, accompanied by a trio of trombone, trumpet and saxophone, so every song was as good as

the original version. It is notable the Beatles stopped touring because of all that screaming, and their inability to replicate the sophisticated instrumentation of the studio. This show was proof there is a formula for a live show with depth, and the use of multimedia screens was a perfect complement to the music.

Every lyric of virtually every song was familiar to the more than 20,000 present, beginning with "Help!" and through to "Let Me Roll It," "I've Just Seen a Face," "Michelle," "Ob-La-Di, Ob-La-Da," "Band on the Run," "Get Back," "Let It Be" and "Hey Jude." The inevitable encore featured "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band," "Helter Skelter," "Golden Slumbers/Carry That Weight," and suitably "The End."

Sir Paul recognized his late bandmates, John and George, with touching tributes, playing "Something," and offering a duet with John on the big screen signing "I've Got a Feeling." He was sentimental about the early days of the band in Liverpool in 1958, 67 years ago.

When Monty Python's Flying Circus toured the world, John Cleese saw people

mouthed the scripts, as they knew them by heart. The same with McCartney: Every person, whatever their mother tongue, knew the lyrics and sang along. There was

enormous appreciation among the francophones in the crowd for his attempts to speak French and, of course, for "Michelle."

At the end of the show, McCartney and his band came on stage waving the flags of Canada, Quebec and the United Kingdom. Despite a few "boos" for the Maple Leaf and Union Jack, there was no language but that of music on a magical evening.

As the last line of "The End" emphasized at the conclusion of the concert:

"And in the end
 The love you take
 is equal to the love you make."

Indeed, what may be McCartney's last tour was a gift to all us aging "Beatlemaniacs."

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.

Île Perrot group to keep pushing for merger

New faces on councils positive, despite poor showing of pro-merger candidates

JOSHUA ALLAN
The 1019 Report

A group pushing for the merger of the four municipalities on Île Perrot will regroup and continue its mission despite the disappointing results of last month's municipal elections, where candidates associated with the group were unsuccessful in their bids for office.

"It wasn't a success," said Gérard Farmer, a spokesperson for the group Avenir Île Perrot — Becoming Île Perrot, in an interview last week. "Was this a sign? I don't know."

Among the candidates associated with Avenir Île Perrot were the group's communications director Lise Chartier, who lost to incumbent Daniel Lauzon in the race for the District 3 council seat in Notre Dame de l'Île Perrot. She had told *The 1019 Report* back in August that the topic of an island-wide merger would be a "subject that will be discussed" on the campaign trail. Chartier's campaign was interrupted as she dealt with a health issue. Lauzon collected more than 61 per cent of the vote.

Farmer also named Gabrielle Labbé, who fell short in her bid for mayor of L'Île Perrot last month, as being associated with the group. The former District 3 councillor lost to former District 2 councillor Marc Deslauriers, who was elected the town's new mayor. Deslauriers captured nearly three-quarters of the vote.

Labbé could not be reached for comment.

Deslauriers, meanwhile, had stated on social media during the campaign that he was open to "conducting a factual study on the possibility of municipal regrouping," but would respect the decisions of the neighbouring towns should they choose not to participate.

"It's good news if he's open," said Farmer of Deslauriers' position, adding the group will try to organize a meeting with him and the new L'Île Perrot council in the new year.

Deslauriers and Labbé were part of L'Île Perrot council last summer that voted in favour of requesting a government-subsidized feasibility study from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MAMH) to look at the benefits and drawbacks of merging the four municipalities — L'Île-Perrot, Terrasse Vaudreuil, Pincourt and Notre Dame de l'Île Perrot — into a single city. L'Île Perrot was the only municipality of the four to support a study. The provincial government requires at least two municipalities to agree to a study before moving forward with the analysis.

Prior to the municipal election, only the towns of L'Île Perrot and Pincourt had agreed to meet with the group. Pincourt had opted not to adopt a motion requesting the study.

Notre Dame Mayor Danie Deschênes and Terrasse Vaudreuil Mayor Michel

Bourdeau had voiced their opposition to the idea of a merger, stating on several occasions that such an action would be unnecessary and potentially costly to residents. Both mayors were re-elected last month.

Farmer, however, said the group will attempt to meet again with each of the four municipal councils.

"In my opinion, it's very important that this study be done," he explained. "There are even people in the Quebec government who say that there are still too many municipalities."

Last month, Quebec Municipal Affairs Minister Geneviève Guilbault said en-

couraging municipal mergers would be a priority, noting they would allow smaller municipalities to more easily finance their services.

Farmer said his group is hopeful new faces on town councils will bring new perspectives to the subject.

"Some councils have changed — some more or less, some more," he said. "So we'll see the willingness of the new councils to see if they want to have the study."

"That's what we're going to do next year," he added. "We'll let the holiday season pass and then we're going to contact all the municipalities to ask them again to do the study."

Heavy damage caused by house fire in Notre Dame

FREDERIC SERRE
The 1019 Report

Quick action by six regional fire departments is being credited for saving a residence in Notre Dame de l'Île Perrot early last Wednesday morning when flames broke out in the garage. No injuries were reported, the garage was gutted, but the rest of the residence suffered water and smoke damage.

According to Yanick Bernier of the Notre Dame fire department, neighbours called 911 after seeing smoke billowing

into the sky from the home on Ponsard Street. By the time firefighters arrived, flames were shooting out of the garage and threatened to engulf the rest of the two-storey house. Bernier said it was too early to determine the cause of the blaze.

Damage to the residence was reported to be heavy, said Bernier, who added that firefighters from Pincourt and Notre Dame de l'Île Perrot were assisted by their colleagues from Vaudreuil-Dorion, L'Île Perrot, Les Cèdres, Hudson and Terrasse Vaudreuil.

THE VAUDREUIL-SOULANGES ECOCENTRES NETWORK



VAUDREUIL-DORION

FRIDAY: 8AM - 4PM
SATURDAY AND SUNDAY:
9AM - 4PM

📍 LOCATION
2800, rue Henry-Ford
Vaudreuil-Dorion (Québec) J7V 0V8

SAINT-ZOTIQUE

FRIDAY: 8AM - 5PM
SATURDAY AND SUNDAY:
9AM - 4PM

📍 LOCATION
2050, rue Principale
Saint-Zotique (Québec) J0P 1Z0

RIGAUD

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY:
9AM - 4PM

📍 LOCATION
32, rue de la Coopérative
Rigaud (Québec) J0P 1P0

PINCOURT

FRIDAY: 8AM - 4PM
SATURDAY AND SUNDAY:
9AM - 4PM

📍 LOCATION
750, boulevard Olympique
Pincourt (Québec) J7W 7C8



Winter
schedule
starting
December 1st



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 www.tricycle-mrcvs.ca/en

 MRC
VAUDREUIL
SOULANGES

An artistic swirl: Where art and real world collide

Construction of immersive installation to offer view of 'turbulence of time'

JOSHUA ALLAN
The 1019 Report

Two visual artists from Vaudreuil-Dorion say they're excited to get started constructing a large-scale immersive project at the headquarters of the Conseil des arts et de la culture de Vaudreuil-Soulanges (CACVS). Self-described "besties" Monica Brinkman and Diane Collet were named as the winners of the council's 2025-2026 artistic residency in October for their proposal, titled "L'Ouragan du Temps" or "The Hurricane of Time."

"We want to create a positive hurricane, if this is possible," Collet said. "Something that wasn't destructive as well. The whole world is kind of a mess right now."

"Our goal is to create an immersive large-scale installation that embodies a storm-like turbulence of time," Collet continued. "What happens through the day, through the seasons, that sort of thing. People will hopefully be able to walk inside it, sort of like a spiral, and experience the time shift and the perception shifts."

The project is expected to take up half of a large conference room at the CACVS headquarters, located at 280 Harwood Blvd. in Vaudreuil-Dorion. The residency, which is meant to support the work and visibility of local artists, spans a total of 10 weeks (discounting two weeks during the holidays) lasting until mid-February. The exhibit will remain open for several weeks thereafter.

Collet and Brinkman are looking to apply a mix of various materials for this installation, including cardboard, canvas, papier-mâché, mirrors and paint as well as making use of natural light from the room's ground-level windows.

"Intuitive" was the word Brinkman used to describe the pair's planned approach to this project.

"We're approaching this very intuitively, so we're going to install ourselves on (November) 24th with all our materials and through our constant dialogue with each other, things will sort of be created."

"So we're also excited to see what the final result looks like," she added.

The pair had previously collaborated on several artistic installations, with Brink-



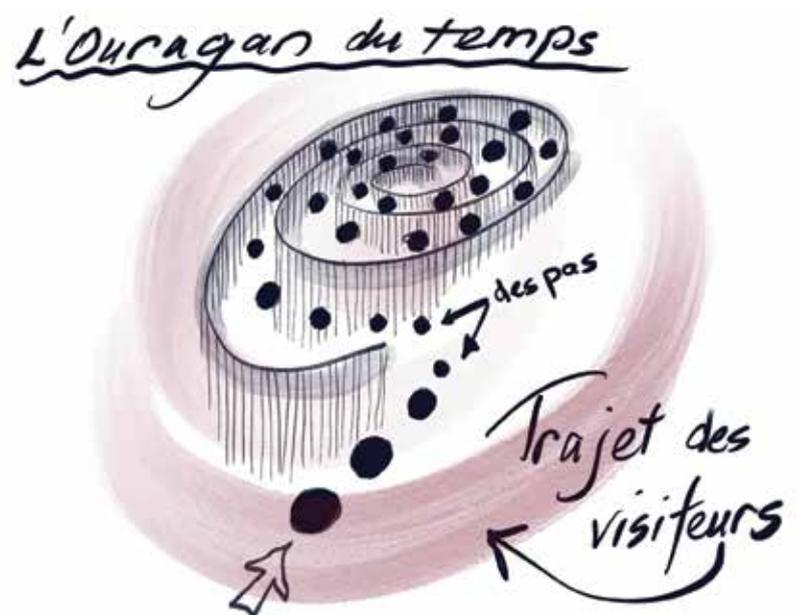
Courtesy Conseil des arts et de la culture de Vaudreuil-Soulanges

Artists Monica Brinkman (left) and Diane Collet have been selected to create a large-scale installation at MRC headquarters that will allow visitors to walk through what they are calling the 'Hurricane of Time.'

man explaining that her mosaic style compliments well with Collet's expressionist art, describing their approach as both "experimental" and "playful."

"We don't go down the habitual route," Collet added. "We're not just preoccupied with beauty or things that have come before. We're always trying to experiment and discover."

The pair also plan to host a workshop where residents can contribute to the project. No precise date has yet been set, but it will likely be done in the new year, they explained. The duo recommends for interested participants to keep an eye on the CACVS website for an announcement of the workshop date. Contributions from residents will be kept in the final installation.



Survey looks to inform how to improve local arts and culture offerings

JOSHUA ALLAN
The 1019 Report

Have you been to a show at Hudson Village Theatre? Taken in some live entertainment in Vaudreuil-Dorion's 405 Park? Visited a local museum? The people who help provide these cultural offerings want to know.

It is all with the aim to improve art and cultural offerings in the region, which continues to grow.

That is why officials with Vaudreuil-Soulanges's regional cultural association is looking for feedback about local art, history and heritage through an online survey as it prepares to review and update the region's decade-old cultural policy.

The Conseil des arts et de la culture de Vaudreuil-Soulanges (CACVS), in collaboration with the regional MRC, is asking residents to take 10 minutes to share their thoughts about the 1019 region's cultural offerings — covering everything from historic sites to live performances, to festivals based around food and music.

The survey, offered in French and made up of 26 multiple-choice questions, looks to get a sense of how engaged residents are with cultural events at the local and regional levels as well as ways to improve community participation. The poll is open to all residents, with a special emphasis on those working in the artistic and cultural sectors.

"Your voice counts in shaping the cultural future of our growing territory," reads a statement issued by the MRC de Vaudreuil-Soulanges last month. "The objective: to take stock of the actions carried out, evaluate their impact and identify the adjustments needed to adapt to the new realities of our dynamic region."

The CACVS is looking to update its regional cultural policy, drafted in 2015. Since that time, the region has seen considerable growth, with its population now estimated to be around 169,000, according to provincial estimates. This represents growth of around 20,500 in the last decade, or about 14 per cent.

"This review will help guide future cul-

tural initiatives and optimize resources to meet the needs expressed by citizens, artists and cultural stakeholders in the area," the statement continues.

Survey participants are eligible to win one of six \$50 gift cards, which are valid in more than 100 stores and restaurants in the Vaudreuil-Soulanges region.

The survey will accept responses until Sunday, Dec. 7.

Interested participants can access the survey on the MRC's website at <https://mrcvs.ca/> or go directly to <https://fr.surveymonkey.com/r/politique-culturelle-vs/>

Doctors insulted by Picard's refusal to condemn Bill 2

BRENDA O'FARRELL
The 1019 Report

Describing Quebec's new health-care reform legislation as a "complete travesty" and a "slap in the face," doctors from across the Vaudreuil-Soulanges region attended a reception hosted by Soulanges CAQ MNA Marilyne Picard late last month to express their outrage with the provincial law.

"It's going to be a huge disaster," said Dr. Ioana Varlan, one of about 20 doctors who attended Picard's event Nov. 20.

"I am absolutely not working as a family doctor under this law," Varlan said in an interview with *The 1019 Report* shortly after speaking directly with the MNA.

She was disappointed, but not surprised at Picard's reaction to the doctors expressing their opposition to Bill 2. Picard voted in favour of the legislation when it was approved by the National Assembly in October, and continues to back the law.

Varlan, a co-owner of the family medical clinic known as the GMF Hudson, last week formally announced her resignation. She is one of three doctors at the clinic who will be leaving the province due to the legislation.

"I love living in Hudson," Varlan said. "I see patients on the street. It's been a privilege to be their doctor."

"It doesn't help anyone," said Dr. Alexandra Massicotte, the medical director of the GMF-U, which operates clinics in Vaudreuil-Dorion and St. Polycarpe, who also attended Picard's reception to express her opposition to the legislation.

Massicotte said she had invited Premier François Legault to visit her clinic to allow him to see personally how her clinic operates. She had not received a response from the CAQ leader.

"I find it devastating," said Dr. Sabrina Bartolucci, who works out of the GMF Hudson, who also attended Picard's event.

"My dream of being a family doctor is being ripped apart by this government," Bartolucci said in an interview after speaking with the MNA.

Bartolucci began practising just about a year ago, and said she was "lucky to have found this team," referring to her colleagues and co-workers at the Hudson



The 1019 Report

Doctors discuss their concerns with health-care reform legislation with Alain Généroux, an aide to Quebec Health Minister Christian Dubé (left), while Soulanges MNA Marilyne Picard (with back to camera in foreground) listens.

clinic.

"My heart is broken," she said, adding: "I truly feel my hand is being forced right now."

Asked about the reaction she received from Picard after speaking directly to the MNA, she said: "I'm tired of hearing they will explain this law to us."

Dr. Sophie Maurice, who works at the Centre Medical des Trois Lacs in Vaudreuil-Dorion, was disappointed with Picard's support of the legislation.

Waiting times for patients to access medical help need to be shortened, Maurice said, but the new law offers no help or support to doctors to make that happen.

"I'm shocked that this is happening where I live," said Norma Tochijara, a resident of Hudson who also attended

Picard's reception to express her opposition to Bill 2 and attempt to persuade the MNA to convince her government to withdraw the legislation.

Tochijara left the gathering feeling defeated.

For her part, Picard remained supportive of the law, and said the public and doctors need to understand the law is seeking to change the way Quebec views how front-line services need to be accessed. And she stressed that financial help will be offered to local clinics, referencing a \$50-million funding envelope announced by the CAQ government. But she could not be specific as to how that help will be divided.

In an interview with *The 1019 Report*, she reiterated her goal to keep all clinics in her riding open.

"As the député de Soulanges, the most important is that no clinic closes," Picard said, adding: "It's possible that there will be some changes (to the legislation) with the negotiations that will be held."

"We are working now to better explain the law – as much as with citizens and doctors."

Prior to the event, Picard met with doctors at the clinic in Hudson, she said, and sent their questions directly to Health Minister Christian Dubé's office.

"She does not quite understand how it works," said Dr. Gabrielle Gregoire, a co-owner of GMF Hudson, who met with Picard. "She does not understand the bill she supported."

HUDSON GMF: Three doctors have resigned

From Page 1

"I'm going to practice anywhere but Quebec," she said in an interview with *The 1019 Report* last week.

McCarty has practised medicine for 15 years, first in the West Island until moving to Hudson in 2021.

In a statement issued Nov. 26, McCarty and her three partners said: "It is with deep sadness that we announce that the GMF Hudson will be closing permanently on April 1, 2026. Despite every effort to maintain operations and continue providing care to our community, the clinic is no longer financially sustainable as a business, and Law 2 sets conditions in our practices that are unacceptable to a critical number of our physicians."

One of the clinic's doctors will be moving to the Maritimes, McCarty said.

The decision comes after McCarty and

her partners issued a warning in mid-November, stating the new legislation, which links doctors' compensation to performance targets, threatened the financial viability of their clinic and proposes to force doctors to change how they interact with patients.

The clinic's patients are being notified directly by their doctors, McCarty said, adding they will be placed on the provincial waiting list to obtain a new family physician.

"This is the worst decision I've ever had to make in my life," McCarty said.

"The model mandated by Law 2 prioritizes volume over quality, speed over safety, and quantity over patient-centred medicine," the clinic's statement issued last week reads. "Accepting this model would mean compromising the values that have shaped our clinic since the be-

ginning: compassion, respect, safety and excellence in care. We cannot, and will not, provide rushed or unsafe care."

"We will not put patients at risk," McCarty added in an interview. "That is not how we practice medicine."

In addition to the seven doctors, the Hudson clinic also has three nurse clinicians, four nurses, three nurse practitioners, one social worker, a clinical pharmacist, a manager and six part-time secretaries.

"We created what I think was the absolutely best team to work with," McCarty said. "We were so lucky to have them. It wasn't perfect, but it was pretty good."

Hudson Mayor Chloe Hutchison has raised the issue of the clinic's pending closure at last week's meeting of the MRC Vaudreuil-Soulanges council, asking the regional authority to recognize the loss of

doctors and the access to front-line medical care as a regional priority, impacting families across the territory.

"There is a loss that is happening. There is a sense that it's part of the social fabric," Hutchison said, referring to what the clinic represents to the community.

And residents have questions, the mayor added. "Who is going to look after them?" is one of the major preoccupations she has heard.

But on a larger scale, Hutchison said, are the questions of what the elimination of access to health services at a local level will mean for smaller communities in the province. It underlines the fragility of smaller communities, she said. It's an issue that needs to be recognized.



CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIRS AND HOLIDAY MARKETS

HUDSON

Hudson Holiday Market 2025

Alibi Barn, 422 Main Rd.
Friday, Dec. 5, 3 to 8 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday,
Dec. 7-8, noon to 6 p.m.

This event is in support of Nova Hudson.

Holiday Craft Fair & Market

Mount Pleasant Elementary School
97 Mount Pleasant St.
Saturday, Dec. 6, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Christmas Market

Hudson Creative Hub
273 Main Rd.
Saturday, Dec. 20, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

VAUDREUIL-DORION

Marché de Noël École Brind d'Amour

400 St. Charles Ave., Pavillon P
Friday, Dec. 5, 5 to 9 p.m.

RIGAUD

Marché de Noël de Rigaud

Édifice Paul-Brasseur
10 St. Jean-Baptiste Street East
Saturday and Sunday,
Dec. 13-14, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



L'ÎLE PERROT

Marché des Saveurs — Édition Noël

Paul-Émile-Lépine Community Centre
150 Perrot Blvd.
Saturday and Sunday,
Dec. 13-14, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

STE. JUSTINE DE NEWTON

Marché de Noël de Ste. Justine de Newton

Ste. Justine de Newton Comm. Centre
2842 Principale St.
Friday and Saturday,
Dec. 5-6, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

LES CÈDRES

Marché de Noël Les Cèdres

Pavillon des bénévoles
145 Valade St.
Saturday and Sunday,
Dec. 6-7, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



ST. ZOTIQUE

Marché de Noël St. Zotique
l'École des Orioles
20 des Maîtres Ave.
Sunday, Dec. 7, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Community Bulletin Board

NOTICE OF CLOSURE OF INVENTORY

Notice is hereby given that Shirley Knight Taylor residing at 224 Champlain, Pincourt, J7W 5E6 died on August 14th 2025.

An inventory of her property has been compiled in accordance with The Quebec Civil Code. Relevant parties may consult the inventory at 224 Champlain Pincourt Qc J7W 5E6.

*Given on November 27th 2025
by the liquidator Kenneth Taylor.*

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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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TV WATCH REPORT

Mom goes a little wild and a few holiday departures



Denise Duguay

You can easily find your own seasonal programming by just powering up the TV or opening your apps. We add to that with a Michelle Pfeiffer movie. But beyond that, this edition of the Watch Report offers some palate-cleansing holiday alternatives, including a music doc, a period Western and a dog tale. Merry viewing!

OH. WHAT. FUN. (movie premieres Wednesday, Dec. 3, on Prime Video) Some of you will find this holiday family movie relatable. Or, more accurately, some of you will find this painfully, regrettably relatable, while others will be cheering, possibly drunkenly, and considering their own domestic job action. Claire (hello Michelle Pfeiffer, but what's the deal with the accent?) has been taken for granted once too often by her husband (Denis Leary) and family (including Jason Schwartzman). Her escape takes her to the stage of the annual holiday mom contest, hosted by Zazy Tims (Eva Longoria). If there's a drinking game tied to this movie, it should probably be to take a drink every time either Zazy or Claire takes a drink. Go!

IT'S NEVER OVER, JEFF BUCKLEY (documentary film premieres Thursday, Dec. 4, on HBO/Crave) Part of the HBO Music Box documentary series, this looks at the life of one of the most influential singer-songwriters of the 1990s. His fans include Thom Yorke of Radiohead, Matt Bellamy of Muse, Aimee Mann, Adele and Alanis Morissette. He died at age 30 of accidental drowning after going swimming in a Tennessee river. No trace of drugs or alcohol. Instead, Jeff's weight was the legacy of his folk icon father, Tim Buckley, who abandoned him at six months and who died by suicide at age 28. Those are the tough bits. The beauty comes from Jeff's ethereal voice and his prolific output. Often cited in this documentary is Jeff's eerie certain-

ty that he would not live long enough to enjoy the reverence his music still holds. Go find his version of Halleluja. (Sorry, not sorry, Mr. Cohen.)

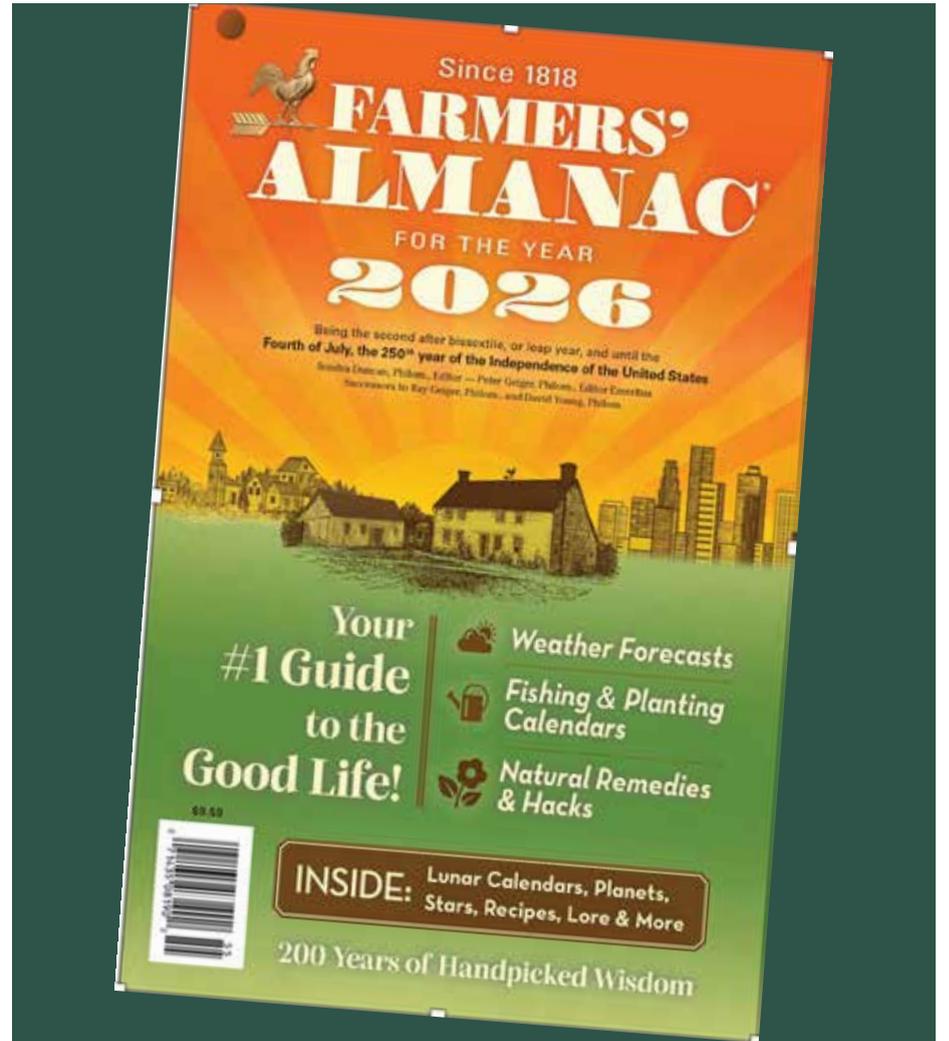
THE ABANDONS (series premieres with all 10 episodes on Thursday, Dec. 4, on Netflix) Recklessly high expectations for this American Western set in a town called Angel's Ridge in 1854. It centres on the love and land dealings between two families headed by widowed women: one of imperious land owners and the other the title's assemblage of outcasts. Gillian Anderson (*Sex Education*) is the wealthy and demanding Constance Van Ness, channeling Ian McShane's low voice and violent presence in HBO's classic Western *Deadwood* (2004-06, streaming on Crave). Lena Headey (*Game of Thrones*) is Fiona Nolan, den mother to a motley lot who refuse to cede their claimed land. Strong frontier women feuds conjures memories of another excellent though painfully short-lived Western, *Godless* (2017, streaming on Netflix). Add a supporting cast that includes Brian F. O'Byrne (*The Bastard Executioner*), Michael Greyeyes (*Blood Quantum*), Michiel Huisman (*Rebel Moon*) and Patton Oswalt (*A.P. Bio*) and *The Abandons* is a solid weekend of holiday procrastination.

MERV (movie premieres Wednesday, Dec. 10, on Prime Video) Anna (Zoey Deschanel, *New Girl*) and Russ (Charlie Cox, *Daredevil*) have consciously uncoupled. Merv, their mutt, refuses to accept this. So they all go to Florida on vacation. Well, not *together* together, but they end up together trying to cheer up Merv. (Clever Merv.) That is a thin plot. There is even a scene in which all three do a downward dog in yoga class. So schmaltzy that ... I can't wait, charmed by the ridiculousness and the irresistible appeal of Deschanel. I believe in you, Merv!



Courtesy Netflix

The Abandons, starring Gillian Anderson (centre), hits Netflix on Thursday, Dec. 4.



This is the final edition of the Farmers' Almanac, a publication that has offered what it calls "handpicked wisdom" for 200 years.

Sun sets on long history of practical advice and weather predictions



Terry O'Shaughnessy

GONE TO GROUND

Gardeners and farmers alike were a bit shocked recently when they heard the news that the *Farmers' Almanac* had decided to shut its doors. After more than two centuries, the much loved publication announced it would end a 208-year run with a final 2026 edition (which is out now). But just as quickly, the shock turned to confusion. Because as it turns out, there are in fact two almanacs: the *Farmers' Almanac*, which has stopped its presses, and *The Old Farmer's Almanac*, which is, yes, even older, at 234 years in print — and counting. Understandably, its editors are at some pains to note that *The Old Farmer's Almanac* is still going strong.

At first I was startled to learn there was more than one such publication — because how could two separate farmer's almanacs have flourished and maintained their own readerships for so long? But it seems I shouldn't have been surprised.

There were once hundreds of these kinds of almanacs serving farmers and gardeners across North America, spotlighting all the natural peculiarities of regions, terrains and weathers. Even Benjamin Franklin published his own *Poor Richard's Almanack* back in the day. It offered observations about the land and

astronomy, not to mention advice on crop-planting times, fishing calendars and home remedies for the 13 colonies of New England who were busy rebelling against the most powerful king in the world, but not too busy to get their corn in on time.

Almost all of these almanacs are gone now except these two venerable publications which have survived the passing of the years. Until this month, that is.

With its editors citing financial challenges created by a changing media landscape as the cause, the last edition of the *Farmer's Almanac* was published in Maine, its modern home, though it was first printed in New Jersey in 1818.

For two centuries it had advised farmers on long-range weather forecasts and other practical information. Gardeners were also avid readers of the almanac, both for predictions about the weather (that endlessly fascinating topic for anyone), and for tips on growing food and flowers. Home cures were also popular, as were recipes and star-gazing information, especially the dates of full moons and, in certain regions, the tides.

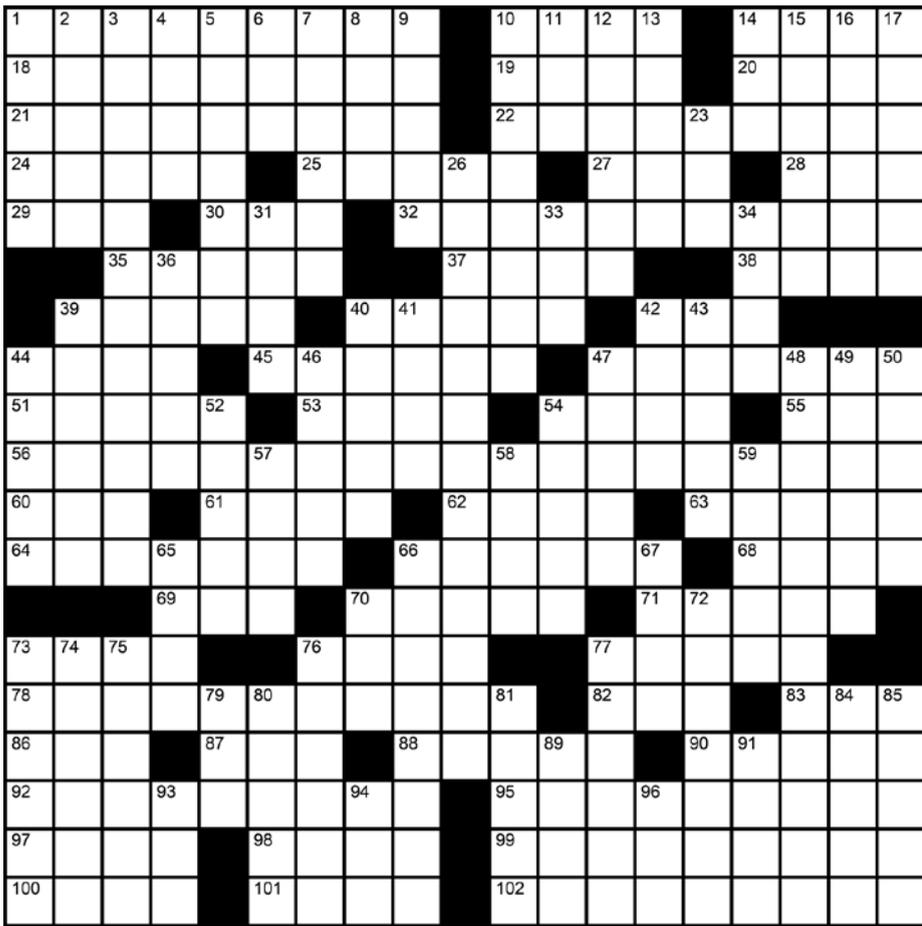
The final *Farmers' Almanac* 2026 issue is on the shelves now. Access to its website was discontinued on Dec. 1.

In a final statement to its readers, the editors closed with this: "So go ahead — plant your peas when the daffodils bloom. Watch for a red sky at night. Tell the kids how Grandpa always swore by the Almanac. That's how our story stays alive."

After 208 years, that's an impressive story.

THE 1019REPORT

Colossal Canada Crossword



SEE SOLUTION PAGE 8

ACROSS

1. Forms a ring around
10. Biblical preacher John, e.g.
14. Parliament __, in Ottawa
18. Where the Elves are getting busy pre-festive season: 2 wds.
19. Margarine
20. 'Chick' completer (Little songbird)
21. Wild fruit jelly flavour
22. Forward position for Gordie Howe: 2 wds.
24. Worker when bulldozing a site say
25. "Pleeeeee don't ___!" (Zombie movie plea!)
27. The Beatles! "I Want to Hold Your Hand" German version: "Komm, ___ mir deine Hand"
28. The Hollies hit: "___ Carousel"
29. 'Com' add-on (Movie with laughs)
30. Roman myth household deity
32. Uniquely-named rodent in Banff National Park: 2 wds.
35. James and his actor son Scott
37. Diminutive suffixes
38. "This should come ___ surprise..." (Everybody knows already but...)
39. "___ Hit Me Yet" by Blue Rodeo
40. Ancient Greek colony
42. Young sheep
44. 'Govern' suffix (#14-Across is the hub of it in Canada)
45. Family of Hamilton-born "SCTV" star Martin
47. Medicine Hat, Alberta star Bruno of "The Beachcombers"
51. Ayers Rock in Australia, as it is also known
53. "Ouch!"
54. Bank's temporary help
55. Heavy weight ...States-style
56. Locations where thrifty CanLit readers might browse for classic titles, ___ - ___
60. #1-Down's answer, in English
61. Prince of Wales' motto, Ich ___ (I Serve)
62. Golfer's norms
63. Greek myth's goddess of fortune
64. Paul Newman's outlaw role Butch
66. Manitoba... Northeast-of-Winnipeg town, Lac du ___
68. "SCTV" funny bit
69. Pre-smartphone handheld device [acronym]
70. NHL award for the top defensive forward, Frank J. ___ Trophy
71. Sprang up
73. Challenge
76. Jai ___ (Basque court game)
77. Not ___ stretch of the imagination (No way!)
78. Newfoundland & Labrador's provincial tree: 2 wds.
82. Suffix with 'Velvet'
83. Literary fairy queen
86. Inclined
87. River of Hiroshima
88. L'Oreal Paris hair dye
90. Roughage
92. Bay of Fundy arm, ___ Bay
95. Cold War era spherical structure in the Saskatchewan community of Alsask near the Alberta border: 2 wds.
97. "Citizen ___" (1941)
98. "___ Lap" (1983)
99. Brief silent era film, ___ - ___
100. RCMP rank, _/_.
101. Cobblestone
102. Generously given gifts

DOWN

1. Stuff in a Sherbrooke scribe's stylo
2. "WarGames" (1983) airspace protection org.
3. World Cup downhill skiing legends from the land of the red Maple Leaf: 2 wds.
4. "Who Can ___ Now?" by Men At Work
5. ___ Smith (Canadian Country Music Hall of Famer born in Central Butte, Saskatchewan)
6. In French it's the 'Regime de Pensions du Canada' ...and what is its three-lettered acronym in English?
7. Horses running at leisurely paces
8. Music legend Ms. Fitzgerald (b.1917 - d.1996)
9. Archaically bubble over with anger
10. Yellowknife's spectacular glow, Aurora ___
11. Legendary boxing surname
12. ___ Cove (Nova Scotia postcard image)
13. "Run ___" by Bobby Vee
14. "Hee ___"
15. Manners of speaking
16. McCartney's co-songwriter
17. Smoothly, in music terminology
23. Still pending on a sched.
26. 'MP' of RCMP: 2 wds.
31. Carpenter and Fire
33. "The Crying Game" (1992) star Stephen
34. Spaghetti sauce brand
36. "The Jetsons" pet
39. British actress, ___ Bonham Carter
40. Hawkeye State denizen
41. Wholly ___ part
42. Patio furniture wood
43. Surrealist artist Max
44. Burton Cummings' creation
46. 2012 chart-topper by The Lumineers: 2 wds.
47. Canada ___ (V-formation migratory flapper)
48. Toronto... TSX listed company identifiers: 2 wds.
49. Canadian author and public speaker Ms. Gregoire Trudeau
50. Map detail
52. Took apart
54. Canadian portrayer of Ben on "Bonanza"
57. Performed well, ___ good job
58. RBC = Royal ___ of Canada
59. Variety of green tea
65. The ___ (Hamilton's newspaper, for short)
66. Arctic Ocean arm, ___ Sea
67. Mr. Diggs of "Private Practice"
70. 35mm camera, e.g.
72. Fled the farm's pen: 2 wds.
73. T.O. Blue Jays competition from Ariz.
74. 1st Greek letters
75. Reviewer's evaluation
76. U.S. Army attack helicopter
77. Necklace maker at times
79. Thor Heyerdahl's raft, ___-Tiki
80. Footprints
81. Mr. Flynn of swashbucklers
84. ___ du Salut (The Salvation Army, en Francais)
85. Labatt servings
89. Suffix meaning 'collection'
91. Mid-month times
93. Comprehend
94. Creative arm pic
96. Evita's land [abbr.]



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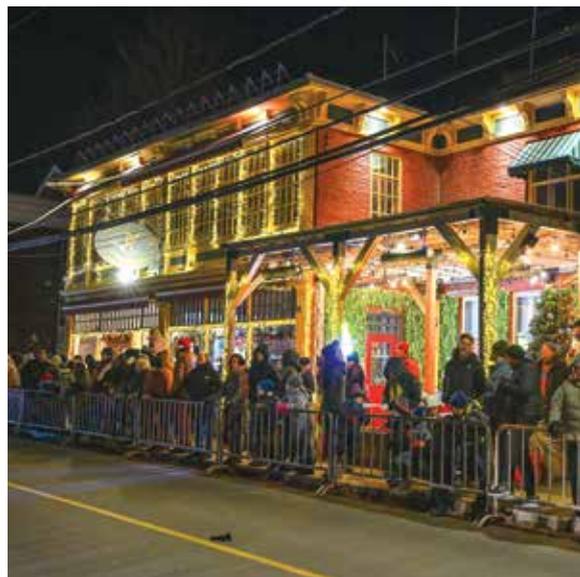


There was magic in the air

The 1019 Report

The evening was dark but the Christmas lights lit up Main Road in Hudson in a festive glow last Saturday as crowds lined the route to see Santa arrive.

The mood was cheerful and light. It was — in every sense — a wonderful start to the most wonderful season of all.



Photos by Madeleine Langlois, The 1019 Report





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