

# THE 1019 REPORT

COVERING THE 1,019 SQUARE KILOMETRES OF VAUDREUIL-SOULANGES

VOL. 7 NO. 3 - WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2026

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## Vaudreuil in Top 100 rent-friendly cities in Canada

Ranks above both Montreal, Pointe Claire

**BRENDA O'FARRELL**  
The 1510 West

The City of Vaudreuil-Dorion ranked 18th on the Top 100 list of best cities for renters in 2025 — well above Montreal and Pointe Claire — according to a survey compiled by *The Globe and Mail*.

In fact, the ranking also positioned Vaudreuil-Dorion third out of the 20 cities in Quebec to make the list, which surveyed prices and other metrics in 235 municipalities with more than 20,000 residents across the country. Among the standards measured in the analysis were affordability and availability of rentals, along with the stability and livability of the markets.

Vaudreuil-Dorion's ranking at No. 18 was behind only Sherbrooke — the top Quebec municipality on the list, at No. 13 — and Quebec City, the second-highest ranked city in the province, at No. 17. Montreal came in at No. 23., while Côte St. Luc and Pointe Claire, the only other municipalities in the Greater Montreal area to make the list, came in at No. 80 and 94, respectively.

See **RENT-FRIENDLY**, Page 2.

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## Will Hudson accept Sandy Beach grant?



## Town puts question to taxpayers

**BRENDA O'FARRELL**  
The 1019 Report

As the Town of Hudson prepares to sign the deed of sale next week to formally take possession of the 35-acre tract of waterfront land at Sandy Beach, municipal officials are launching an online survey to gauge support for the next step — deciding whether to accept a \$2-million grant from the Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal to reduce the burden of the \$7.6-million loan bylaw that has been approved to finance the purchase.

“Council is leaning towards accepting the grant subject to public consultations,” said Hudson Mayor Chloe Hutchison last week in announcing the survey.

Hutchison explained that council is also looking to adopt formal safeguards as part of a management plan for the natural space. The aim, she said, would be to follow a “conservation-first approach centred on monitoring, patrolling and managing overuse and adaptive measures, such as temporary or seasonal closures if regeneration is needed.”

The online survey will ask residents a series of questions and solicit feedback from residents.

See **SANDY BEACH**, Page 9.

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The 1019 Report  
Officials with the Town of Hudson are scheduled to sign the deed to formally take possession of the Sandy Beach area on Feb. 11.

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**Cold enough to cross:** The Hudson-Oka ice bridge is finally in full service. The 2-kilometre track across the Lake of Two Mountains, which had been forced to close early last month after only two days of operation because the ice was not thick enough, is now accommodating motorists. Cold temperatures since mid-January, including a recent polar vortex that pushed the mercury down to bitter-cold levels, provided the perfect meteorological conditions for the ice to thicken. Last weekend, as cutting winds whipped across the lake, a steady stream of vehicles made the trek across the ice, offering a unique winter experience for those who opted to take the road less travelled.

## RENT-FRIENDLY: Average rent in Vaudreuil was \$2,055

### From Page 1

According to the data, the average rent in Vaudreuil-Dorion was pegged at \$2,055 per month in 2025. This was an average of all apartment sizes, from bachelors to three-bedroom units. This figure represented a 3.6-per-cent year-over-year increase. In comparison, rents nationally have decreased 1.2 per cent on average in the last two years, according to figures from the National Bank of Canada.

In comparison, the average rent in Montreal was listed at \$1,890, a 2.1-per-cent drop from the average in 2024. All data used in the survey, which was published in November, was taken from Rentals.ca and Urbanation.

In Pointe Claire, the average monthly apartment rental was \$2,139 in 2025, a 1.2-per-cent year-over-year increase.

In December, Rentals.ca and Urbanation listed Pointe Claire as having the second-highest rental rates in Quebec for the month of November.

*The Globe and Mail* survey also pointed out that 31.2 per cent of renter households in Vaudreuil-Dorion spent more than 30 per cent of their income on shelter. Banks in Canada recommend that people spend no more than 30 to 32 per cent of their gross income on housing, a parameter that is being tested in the last five years as home affordability keeps rising.

Overall, Vaudreuil-Dorion scored a 53 on a scale of 100 as a rent-friendly place. The score dropped to 42, in terms of its pedestrian friendliness, and a high-ranking of 92 in terms of car friendliness.

In comparison, Pointe Claire scored a 51 on a scale of 100 as a rent-friendly

place, 41 in terms of its pedestrian friendliness, and a high-ranking of 95 in terms of car friendliness.

Montreal scored 73 on the 100-point scale on overall rent friendliness, 86 for pedestrian friendliness and a 64 for its car friendliness.

Drilling down into the specifics of rental prices, the survey showed the average rent in 2025 for a bachelor apartment in Vaudreuil-Dorion was \$1,140, which represented an 8.8-per-cent decrease compared with 2024 rates, for a unit that averaged 640 square feet.

A one-bedroom unit in Vaudreuil-Dorion went for \$1,841 per month, which was a 4.1-per-cent year-over-year jump, for an average apartment that offered 745 square feet of space.

Meanwhile a two-bedroom unit in Vaudreuil-Dorion rented for an average of \$2,074 in 2025, a 4.6-per-cent hike over 2024 rates, for an average unit that measured 1,048 square feet.

In Pointe Claire, a bachelor apartment was \$1,176, or a 9.8-per-cent increase over 2024 rates, for a unit that averaged 455 square feet, while a one-bedroom went for \$1,834 per month, up 4 per cent over the previous year; and a two-bedroom unit rented for an average of \$2,326, a slight 0.6-per-cent hike over 2024 rates.

In Montreal, a bachelor apartment rented for an average of \$1,488 in 2025, while a one-bedroom apartment rented for an average of \$1,714 in 2025, while a two-bedroom unit averaged \$2,166, according to the survey.

Local Journalism Initiative

# Exo layoffs a worrying sign: local officials

JOSHUA ALLAN  
The 1019 Report

The recent announcement of Exo's sizable layoffs may not impact the train schedule along the Vaudreuil-Hudson line, but could potentially signal trouble ahead for the nearly 2,700 Vaudreuil-Soulanges residents who take the train every day, say local officials.

"It's not easy for anybody," said Vaudreuil-Dorion Mayor Paul Dumoulin of the uncertainty around the train's future viability.

His city — the largest municipality in the 1019 region — sees the highest share of daily ridership along the Vaudreuil-Hudson line, with more than 1,800 daily commuters catching the train at either the Vaudreuil or Dorion stations, according to data provided by Exo.

Exo had announced last week that it was cutting 73 jobs, totalling 11 per cent of its workforce, in an effort to meet its target of \$100 million in reduced spending by 2028. The cuts primarily impact the organization's customer service department. However, Exo "does not anticipate any service disruptions" for the Vaudreuil-Hudson line this year, spokesperson Rosalie Lavoie told *The 1019 Report*.

Still, Dumoulin said the move is not a positive sign for things to come. Especially, he noted, when the REM opens its West Island branch, expected this spring, which threatens to compete with the Vaudreuil-Hudson Exo line for riders in



The 1019 Report file photo

Nearly 2,700 residents of the Vaudreuil-Soulanges region take the Exo train every day, including only about 90 who catch the train in Hudson. Statistics show ridership between Hudson and Vaudreuil is the lowest along the Vaudreuil-Hudson line.

the West Island.

"There won't be any cuts," said Hudson Mayor Chloe Hutchison in an interview referring to the Exo line's service offering. "But there won't be any improvements."

Ridership at the Hudson station is the lowest along the Vaudreuil-Hudson line, with around 90 riders daily on average.

Though the line only departs from the station three times each weekday in the early morning, Hutchison had previously said that local riders "enjoy the comfort of the train from origin to destination."

Last week, Hutchison said her understanding is that Exo now "has to feed the REM," explaining the focus of transit authorities is to ensure that use of the new

light rail network is emphasized. This is already demonstrated in some areas in the Greater Montreal region, where Exo had reconfigured certain bus routes to bring commuters to REM stations.

However, Dumoulin expressed that if it comes between taking the bus to the REM and taking a car, most commuters will opt for option B.

"If I want to take the train and there's no train, I'm going to take my car," he said. "The first reaction of the people is to take the car, not to take the bus. It's to take a car."

"It's already difficult to (drive) with a car in the area. Imagine when the REM will be (open)," he said, pointing out that shuttle buses will not reduce existing traffic. This, he added, will only make traffic in the area "worse and worse and worse."

Exo had been tasked by the provincial government with reducing annual spending by \$100 million by 2028, but the 0.4-per-cent budget cuts this year only amount to around \$19 million.

"It will be impossible to achieve the target of \$100 million in recurring savings by 2028 without impacting service, unless we identify other solutions with our partners," Lavoie explained.

She added that officials at Exo are currently in talks with the Montreal regional transit authority "to assess the conditions necessary to provide services that adequately meet the needs of the population."

*Local Journalism Initiative*

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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.

- Keith Heller, Hudson
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- Janet Sproule, St. Lazare (renewal)
- Cynthia Canavan, Hudson**
- Eve Law, St. Lazare (renewal)
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- Harriet Jacobs Ebdon, Hudson (renewal)
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- Lisa Jacobsen, Rigaud
- Tom Cobb, Hudson**
- Nadine Tousignant, Vaudreuil-Dorion

# Les Cèdres woman sentenced to 2 years for role in murder

## She allowed her basement to be used for victim to be tortured, killed

FREDERIC SERRE  
The 1019 Report

A Les Cèdres woman who participated in the torture and death of a young crypto influencer in 2024 by allowing the killers to use her basement for \$3,000 will spend the next two years behind bars.

Appearing before Quebec Court Judge Joey Dubois at the Valleyfield courthouse last Thursday, Joanie Lepage's lawyer pleaded to allow the 34-year-old woman to live with her parents.

But Dubois ruled Lepage must face the consequences of her actions, adding: "The circumstances of the crime demand a prison sentence. The accused must take responsibility for her actions, and must be dissuaded from acting in the same manner in the future."

Lepage was arrested in August 2024 and charged with murder, aiding and abetting after the fact, and false imprisonment. Last December, she pleaded guilty to false imprisonment, which resulted in the other charges being dropped.

The victim, Kevin Mirshahi, a Montreal crypto trader, was enjoying a night of bar hopping with three friends in Old Montreal on June 21, 2024, when they were attacked by a group of hooded and armed individuals in the parking lot of the condominium building in Old Montreal where Mirshahi lived. The victims were driven to Lepage's house on Rolland Street in Les Cèdres. The next morning, three of the victims were released unharmed, but Mirshahi was kept tied up in the basement,

where he was tortured and killed. Mirshahi's partially decomposed body was found bound and gagged in a north-end Montreal park four months later.

An intensive investigation by the Montreal police homicide squad rounded up Lepage, along with three other individuals — Darius Perry, 27, of Châteauguay; Guillaume Nobert, 36, of St. Lazare; and Nackeal Hickey, 26, of Montreal. All three were charged with complicity to commit murder and kidnapping Mirshahi and three other persons. They are all awaiting trial.

Evidence presented to Judge Dubois last week revealed that Lepage kept a diary in which she wrote about allowing a childhood friend to use her basement for

\$3,000.

"June 21, 2024, \$3,000 to let some not very nice people use my basement? F--k, yeah, for 72 hours maximum, I can't wait for them to leave and for the smell of Javel goes away!" she wrote. In the end, however, she was never paid.

"The evidence shows that she acted out of greed," said Judge Dubois. "The note she left leaves no room for interpretation. As we can see, she seems to have had no hesitation in embarking on this venture to obtain the sum offered."

"Silence is golden, speech is silver. Never ask questions," Lepage also noted in her journal, which was seized by police.

Local Journalism Initiative

# Investigation into fatal accident still ongoing: SQ

FREDERIC SERRE  
The 1019 Report

Three months have passed since florist Olivia Hughes was struck and killed on a darkened street in St. Lazare, and the intense police investigation is ongoing, with the Sûreté du Québec saying it could take several more months before investigators can determine what exactly happened.

"It could take a year," SQ Sgt. Valérie Beauchamp told *The 1019 Report* yesterday. "It's a very complex case, and it's

very difficult. What really happened? Did she fall? Was she hit after she fell? Or, did she get deliberately hit? This case could be criminal, it could be accidental."

Hughes, a popular 35-year-old St. Lazare entrepreneur, was struck by a vehicle while walking along a darkened stretch of Bédard Street near the intersection of St. Louis Road at about 8:30 p.m. on Nov. 1. At first, the SQ said they were investigating a possible hit and run, but a

month later, stopped referring to the incident that way.

Police have also confirmed that two vehicles — including a pickup truck — were seized at the scene. The SQ also said that a man in his 30s was arrested at the scene for drunk driving, but Beauchamp said the SQ has not linked the arrest to the death of Hughes.

Yesterday, Beauchamp said she could not provide additional details about the

case because the investigation is still ongoing.

"Confidentiality must be applied in this case," she said. "We must wait for the expertise to be done on the two vehicles and see if they are connected in any way to the (death). There is a lot of proof to examine and a lot of expertise to confirm."

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## Editorial

# Is CAQ even capable of pulling off Bill 2 reforms?

You do not need a medical degree to recognize that when persistent minor aches and pains turn into a major situation, you should seek a proper diagnosis to have a chance at healing the problem — or at least attempt to manage it. Persistent ills should not be ignored. If they are allowed to progress and fester, they could reach a point where there is no fixing them.

That is the theory. It is pretty straightforward. But when applied to the woes affecting Quebec's health-care system, there is one added complicating factor: those responsible for fixing the problem are also the ones who have ignored it and allowed it to fester. And now, those same CAQ government officials are the ones who are about to be completely distracted with a leadership race and an upcoming election while simultaneously being plagued by a desperation fuelled by the strong fear they will be ousted from office.

So how will the redrafting of Bill 2 be handled between now and March? Remember, that was the promised plan.

First, let's review how we got here. Before there was Bill 2, there was Bill 106. Introduced in May last year, Bill 106 was aimed at improving access to medical services. This came, of course, in the wake of the CAQ's broken promise to ensure that every Quebecer who wanted to have a family doctor, would have a family doctor.

Unable to deliver on its promise of a family doctor for all, Bill 106 was, by default, deemed to be the next best thing. In theory, it was going to change the system to make access better. But what it did was propose changes to the way doctors were compensated and linked their remuneration to per-patient performance.

The warning flags were waved: It would be unworkable. But the CAQ pushed forward with another promise: The bill would be improved through negotiation with the federations representing the province's doctors.

Well, that promise was broken, too, when the CAQ superseded Bill 106 with Bill 2 last fall. It then invoked closure to limit debate before it was approved. The part of Bill 106 that infuriated and insulted the doctors the most — the remuneration restructuring — made up a big part of Bill 2.

As most Quebecers now know, the backlash to that legislation came fast and furiously. Hundreds of doctors looked

into leaving the province. It forced the government to reconsider. But only to a degree. Bill 2 is still on the books. But the CAQ promised to delay implementing it with the aim to improve it through negotiation with the federations representing the province's doctors. Sound familiar?

To their credit, the doctors' federations have supported this opening. They recognize that something has to give. Too many Quebecers do not have a family doctor and, therefore, have trouble accessing medical help. This has to change. Minor aches and pains cannot be what clogs our hospitals' emergency wards.

But the government's decision to sort of go back to the drawing board came at a price, as Health minister Christian Dubé resigned.

### The problem is a lack of doctors

It could also be argued that the debacle was the last straw that stripped Premier François Legault of any hope of turning his plummeting approval numbers around, leading to his decision to step down as party leader.

So where does all this leave the plan to put forward reasonable, workable reforms through a consensus-building process with the doctors in the next month?

What is needed is not just a tweaking. A new concept must be put forward. And now, it all has to be done with fewer family doctors in the province, because some who had made plans to leave Quebec or retire in the wake of Bill 2 are not turning back.

The problem of how to improve access to health-care services has not been properly diagnosed. The problem is not the doctors. It is the lack of doctors. And that dilemma has been made worse as the way it has been handled to date has prompted some family doctors to leave Quebec or retire. And many are not going to turn back now.

As the weeks continue to tick forward, and the election gets closer, where is all the energy going to be put to come up with a new, well formed, firmly based solution?

Odds point to the CAQ attempting to dodge flubbing this issue a third time before this fall's election. And therein lies an opportunity for the Liberals. If they can only get their act together and put forward a solution, a whole lot might soon change in Quebec.

**Brenda O'Farrell**  
Editor-in-chief

### SUBMIT A LETTER

If you would like to submit a letter to editor for publication, please email your comments to [bofarrell@the1019report.ca](mailto:bofarrell@the1019report.ca).

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.



## Letter to the editor

### It's time to fly the flag, Canada

The following is a statement issued Feb. 2:

Every year on Feb. 15, we celebrate National Flag of Canada Day.

Since it was first raised in 1965, the flag has been a symbol of pride and belonging, reminding us of the values that bring us together: democracy, unity and equity.

In 2026, we will celebrate this day with a sporting spirit. As proud bearers of the Canadian flag, athletes embody values of dedication and resilience that inspire us all, regardless of their discipline or level of competition.

Canadian Heritage launched the Our Community Flag Bearers contest, which runs until Feb. 15. The contest highlights the everyday influence of remarkable citizens in their communities, just like the athletes selected to carry the flag at the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The contest offers every Canadian the opportunity to shine the spotlight on an exemplary person: a committed neighbour, a dedicated coach, an inspiring newcomer or a passionate volunteer. The process is simple: just fill in a short online form to share the exceptional stories that shape our country. You and your nominee could even receive a Canadian flag!

Here are a few ways to cele-

brate National Flag of Canada Day:

- Nominate one person for the Our Community Flag Bearers contest and encourage your friends and family to enter.
- Illuminate your community's iconic sites in red and white and take part in the national illumination initiative alongside the Parliament of Canada, the Senate of Canada and other iconic buildings and monuments across the country.
- Wave your flags to cheer on Team Canada at the 2026 Olympic Games (Feb. 6 to 22) and Paralympic Games (March 6 to 15).
- Show your national pride with the digital toolkit. It includes posters, banners for social media, backgrounds for virtual conferences and more.

Visit the National Flag of Canada Day website to learn more and discover educational and entertaining content for young people.

Let's raise the Canadian flag together, from coast to coast to coast, and celebrate it as a symbol of all that makes our country strong.

**Marc Miller, Minister of Canadian Identity and Culture and Adam Van Koevorden, Secretary of State for Sport**

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THE 1019 REPORT THE 1510 WEST

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# FACT:

## \$134,700

The amount the Town of Hudson will spend to provide branch-collection services in 2026, which represents a decrease of \$45,200, or just over 25 per cent, compared to the amount spent collecting branches from residential homes in 2025.

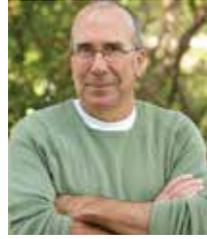
Source: Town of Hudson



Madeleine Langlois, The 1019 Report

**Follow instructions much?** The written sign is clear enough. The visual sign — an overflowing garbage can — seems to support the message. But dog walkers along this trail in Rigaud appear to have not understood. Or, maybe, they just willfully ignore instructions because it's easier. It is said that what you do when no one is looking says a lot about your character. Obviously, some need to do better.

# What do you do when your neighbour is out of control?



Tom Whelan

There is a neighbour I am becoming increasingly worried about.

They live in the house on the street that makes you sigh a little harder when you drive past. The snow hasn't been shovelled all winter. The recycling bins are always overflowing, sometimes with things that very clearly do not belong in there. There's noise at odd hours. Shouting, even.

You get a general sense that no one inside is terribly interested in what the rest of the neighbourhood thinks.

At first, you try to be patient. Everyone has a rough patch. Maybe they're renovating. Maybe they're going through something. You give them the benefit of the doubt, because that's what polite people do.

But then it keeps going.

The neighbour gets louder. It is almost as if they are daring anyone to watch. It seems intentional, as if the point is not the message itself but the volume at which it's delivered. Opinions are shouted, not shared. And they're rarely followed by listening.

What's more concerning is how pushy this neighbour has become — always leaning over the fence to tell everyone else how things should be done, how the entire street would be better off if everyone just followed their lead. There's an assumption baked into every interaction that they know best, and that dissent is either weakness or hostility.

Occasionally, they go a step further and mutter about moving in on your side of the fence. It comes in the form of loud, vague threats about how your space would be better managed if they took it over themselves. When you object, they wave it off as a joke. You're never entirely sure whether they mean or not.

Adding to the irritation is the fact that they never quite get your name right. You've corrected them. Others have corrected them. There's a sign, clearly visible. Still, they persist, confidently calling you something else entirely, as if accu-

cy is optional and effort overrated.

Meanwhile, their own place continues to slide. Windows need fixing. The porch railing looks unsafe. There's a pile of junk near the garage that has been there so long it may qualify for heritage status. You can't help noticing that while they're very focused on what everyone else is doing wrong, they seem oddly uninterested in tidying up their own mess.

Privately, you worry. Not just because it's unpleasant, but because the chaos has a way of spilling over. Noise travels. Neglect spreads. A badly kept property can affect the whole street.

And here's the thing that really keeps you up at night: this neighbour is big. Really big. Their house looms. When they slam a door, you feel it. When they decide to host a party, the entire block is impacted, whether they RSVPed or not. You can't just ignore them. You can't pretend they don't exist. You live right next door.

At some point, it dawns on you that this isn't about property standards or noise complaints at all. It's about stability. Predictability. The unspoken agreement that we all try, at least a little, to keep things from descending into total disorder.

They are loud. They are pushy. Their house is in disarray. They shout from the porch at all hours, picking fights with passers-by, insisting the neighbourhood would collapse without their guidance — while the paint peels and the foundation cracks behind them.

And that's when it hits you: this neighbour doesn't actually live down the street. They live just south of the border.

As a Canadian, you watch from your own modest, well-insulated home, nervously stirring your coffee. You don't want conflict. You don't want drama. You just want the yelling to stop, the garbage to be dealt with, your name to be remembered, and the fences to stay exactly where they are.

Because when your biggest neighbour is having a very public meltdown, pretending it doesn't affect you is the least believable fiction of all.

*Editor's note: Tom Whelan wants to make it clear he appreciates all his immediate neighbours.*

## QUOTE

**“We need to safeguard official bilingualism to preserve not only our languages, but also the cultures they embody. Our cultures. ... Moreover, living alongside one another, as anglophones and francophones, has taught us how to live with difference and diversity. It has freed us from cultural homogeneity and has made us a better people. That alone makes bilingualism worthwhile.”**

— Raymond Th  berge in a public statement last month as he reflected on his term as Canada's Commissioner of Official Languages, which came to a close at the end of January

# A View From The 1019



Madeleine Langlois, The 1019 Report

**Yikes, it's cold:** This black squirrel did not waste any time looking for his shadow as he emerged from his lair recently. As he bounded across the snow, wondering what possessed him to step out in such weather, his fur attracted the tiny flakes. He was heard muttering: "Six more weeks of this, really?"

## Two cars torched in Les Coteaux

FREDERIC SERRE  
The 1019 Report

The Sûreté du Québec is investigating the torching of two cars parked in the driveway of a residence in Les Coteaux last Friday night.

The incident took place at on Du Lac Street. According to the SQ, no injuries were reported and the house suffered minor damage, thanks to the quick response

by regional firefighters. The vehicles, however, were destroyed.

The SQ said one witness reported seeing a car speed away from the scene moments before the cars went up in flames.

"This is close to my house," said neighbour Chantal Laplante. "We heard a loud boom, and I thought a tree had fallen."

## Colossal Canada Crossword

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# Carney deserves praise for his Quebec speech



Andrew Caddell

religion, we had a way of working together for over 250 years, and we should be proud of it.”

Mulcair feels Carney “is not afraid to take on the PQ and their world view.”

The problem for nationalists is Carney’s speech undermines the narrative of perpetual victimhood propagated by them for decades. They will call for a unilateral declaration of independence following the expected referendum, blaming Canada’s “colonial exploitation” and “oppression” of Quebec since 1867.

How can they claim this?

For nationalists, the Plains of Abraham were the beginning of British oppression. The Quebec Act in 1774, written by Guy Carleton recognized the right of French Canadian Catholics to work in government. To nationalists, it was a con job.

To Péquistes, the 1837 rebellion left French-Canadians embittered, even though many of the “Patriotes” were English-speaking and many French-Canadians (Cartier, Taché, Chapais and others) became Fathers of Confederation.

The nationalists focus on Lord Durham’s post-rebellion report and his project to assimilate French Canadians. The real story is of Canada’s premiers, Louis Hippolyte La-

fontaine and Robert Baldwin, who established responsible government and threw the Durham Report in the garbage.

The latest lie is Quebecers never supported Confederation in 1867, ignoring French Canadian leaders who supported it and the election that year endorsing the agreement.

My belief, as someone whose French-Canadian roots go back to 1640, is many of us are the embodiment of Canada, the product of Indigenous, French, English and new Canadians over centuries. We have borrowed, learned and shared with one another. We have fought together, fallen in love and built a great country.

As Carney said in Quebec in defiance of Donald Trump: “Canada doesn’t live because of the United States. Canada thrives because we are Canadian. We are masters in our own house. ... We choose a bright future, worthy of the ground on which we stand. We choose Canada.”

This was an overdue response from a prime minister to Quebec nationalists. Bravo to him for the courage to speak out.

*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.*

### Carney offered overdue response to nationalists

You have to give Mark Carney points for courage. In a single week he spoke in Davos and confronted Donald Trump and his choice to reject the rules-based international order, then, he went to Quebec City and challenged the Quebec nationalist narrative of Canada’s history.

In Davos, he outlined what is being called the “Carney Doctrine.” Calling the current global shift in relationships “a rupture, not a transition,” he said Canada was changing its tack: “We’re engaging broadly, strategically with open eyes. We actively take on the world as it is, not wait for a world we wish to be.”

In Quebec City, he dared to suggest the Plains of Abraham is the symbolic cradle of Canada.

“Two hundred and sixty-seven years ago, this ground was soaked with blood. Two empires had collided. One had prevailed. What would come next? The answer that emerged — slowly, imperfectly, not without struggle, but unmistakably — was cooperation. Partnership. A shared future.”

The response from nationalists in Quebec was pure vitriol.

Parti Québécois leader Paul St-Pierre Plamondon spent 30 minutes refuting Carney in his closing speech at the PQ annual meeting, failing to mention the cost of living or health care. After accusing Carney of being “part of a long line of colonialists,” he flatly stated: “Quebec does not exist thanks to Canada. In fact, Quebec has survived in its specificity in spite of Canada. ... In spite of all (Canada’s) efforts of sabotage and assimilation.”

Bloc Québécois leader Yves-François Blanchet used the same platform to shout out a long list of indignities against francophones in Canada’s history. And, then the usual suspects in the Quebec media empire had their turn. Columnist Michel David said Carney’s speech was comparable to “Alice in Wonderland.”

Surprisingly, even federalists piled on. On Radio-Canada, Dimitris Soudas, a former spokesman for then-prime minister Stephen Harper, compared Canada and Quebec with the Turkish occupation of Greece for 400 years. *Toronto Star* columnist Chantal Hébert, on a podcast, said “(Carney’s) contention you started the Conquest on a happy road that leads you to rainbows is not going down well.”

It was, therefore, refreshing to hear former NDP leader and current pundit Tom Mulcair say on CJAD: “It was so reassuring to hear that sterling speech. It was ‘We have a proud history together, but instead of taking over and removing language and

# SANDY BEACH: Town to register land as conservation area

## From Page 1

Hutchison said residents are invited to share their concerns and what she termed their “points of vigilance” to best protect the natural space.

The town, which is scheduled to sign the deed to take possession of the land on Feb. 11, will host a public information session on Feb. 19 to present the results of the survey. Council will also outline its position in detail.

At the same time, council is moving forward to amend a 2024 bylaw that restricted access to the waterfront land in the Sandy Beach area that outlined fines for anyone found to be trespassing on what had been up until now private land.

In parallel, the town is also preparing to register its acquisition of Sandy Beach with the CMM’s *Répertoire métropolitain des initiatives municipales de conservation*. This move is a pre-requisite for the awarding of the regional authority’s \$2-million grant.

All lands registered become part of the CMM’s commitment to preserve 30 per cent of its territory from development, Hutchison explained in an interview.

“It’s an extra layer of protection,” she said, adding all registered conservation lands are preserved in perpetuity.

Following the Feb. 19 public information meeting to outline the survey results, Hudson council is tentatively set to approve a resolution to formally accept the \$2-million grant at its Feb. 24 council meeting, just prior to the March 1 deadline set by the CMM to accept the grant.

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

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

Some residents have expressed opposition to accepting the grant as it would carry conditions — namely that any restrictions on access to the site would have to apply to all residents of the regional authority’s territory, which includes 82 municipalities on and around the island of Montreal, and could not favour Hudson residents.

The \$7.6-million loan as it stands now has pushed Hudson’s debt to a historical high, estimated to hit \$30.2 million by the end of this year.

*Local Journalism Initiative*



The 1019 Report

The Town of Hudson will host a public information meeting Feb. 19 to share the results of an online consultation to help gauge support for accepting a \$2-million grant from the CMM to subsidize the cost of buying Sandy Beach.

## In Vaudreuil-Dorion: Opposition councillors decry being left off committees

JOSHUA ALLAN  
The 1019 Report

The only opposition councillors on Vaudreuil-Dorion city council are speaking out after being excluded from all municipal committees, while the mayor defends the decision to exclude them, explaining committee members should share a common set of values and vision.

Councillors Jasmine Sharma and Vanessa Leduc were the only two members of the Inspire Vaudreuil-Dorion party elected last November and are the only members of council who are not on any of the city’s 10 committees. The committees are currently made up of councillors who were elected under Mayor Paul Dumoulin’s Parti de l’action de Vaudreuil-Dorion banner. These committees focus on topics that include urban planning, traffic, the environment, sports and health.

“An exclusive approach is not, in my opinion, what is best for our community,” said Sharma, who is serving her third term as the District 3 representative. “When you choose to, as the mayor indicated, just surround yourself by like-minded individuals, you may have blind spots that you’re not taking into consideration in your decision-making.”

What’s more, Sharma maintains committee work is “absolutely fundamental” to the decision-making process for a municipality.

“You can’t necessarily cover within council all of the different areas that a municipality has to deal with,” she explained. “As councillors, the only opportunity we truly have is through committee work. Otherwise, we’re essentially relegated to dealing with the town manager and trying to get information that way.”

For Leduc, who was elected in District 7 for the first time in November, she views the decision to exclude the Inspire Vaudreuil-Dorion councillors from the committees as a missed opportunity for good-faith inter-party collaboration.

“With differences of opinion, with discussions, with debates, I personally find that can move things forward,” Leduc said.

However, Dumoulin views the situation

from a different angle.

“For now, to start, I have to put some people (on committees) that I know have the same values and the same vision that I do,” he said in an interview. “I cannot put some people that I don’t know what their values are and what their vision is.”

He would be open to adding the opposition councillors to committees once he becomes familiar with their vision and values and trust builds between the two parties.

“I have to understand where they want to go with their vision and their values,” he explained. “At the basic (level), it’s trust. And after that, we’ll see where we go on with that.”

It’s not the first time Sharma has been excluded from the city’s committees. In 2023, she, along with then-councillors Karine Lechasseur and Diane Morin, had left the majority party to sit as independents after they had been left off the city’s committees. Then-mayor Guy Pilon had cited a lack of common political vision as the reason for their exclusion.

Sharma and Lechasseur went on to create Inspire Vaudreuil-Dorion last April and presented a full slate of candidates in the fall election. Dumoulin, who had been a councillor for 34 years prior to being elected mayor, won with nearly 60 per cent of the vote. His party’s candidates won six of the eight seats on council.

In the meantime, Sharma and Leduc said they would create other initiatives to contribute to political life in the city outside of committees. This, they said, will range from organizing smaller meetings with residents of their districts to discuss specific issues, to larger “Citizen Agoras” that invite the entire community to discuss broad topics or ideas. The pair are selecting dates and locations for the first events.

“The idea in this is just so that we can be better representatives and we can perhaps bring more information and perspectives to the rest of council as well,” Sharma said.

*Local Journalism Initiative*

**On weekends,  
FROM JANUARY 18  
TO FEBRUARY 14**

**Special events  
at parc de la Maison-Valois  
on January 30, February 7 and 14**

**Introductory activities  
at parc-nature Harwood  
on January 24**

Details: [ville.vaudreuil-dorion.qc.ca](http://ville.vaudreuil-dorion.qc.ca)

Vaudreuil  
— Dorion

# Region makes push for Highway 20 reconstruction

**JOSHUA ALLAN**  
The 1019 Report

The wildly held theory that there is strength in numbers is what officials in the region are applying as they make a collective push to encourage the Quebec government to complete Highway 20 by including it in the province's updated infrastructure plan, which is set to be tabled next month.

"We're all together with the MRC, all the cities, to push this project," said Vaudreuil-Dorion Mayor Paul Dumoulin, who pointed out that transforming the stretch of road through Dorion and Île

Perrot into an expressway without traffic lights, has been an ongoing issue for the past 60 years. "It's important for the area. It had to be done now."

Dumoulin, along with officials from the MRC and the four towns on Île Perrot — Notre Dame de l'Île Perrot, L'Île Perrot, Terrasse Vaudreuil and Pincourt — have been urging the Quebec government to commit to creating a continuous Highway 20, which currently features a seven-kilometre stretch from Vaudreuil-Dorion throughout Île Perrot with traffic lights at nine intersections.

These traffic lights create significant traffic congestion, as the highway connects Montreal directly with Ontario's Highway 401, and is traversed by more than 23 million vehicles annually. Throughout all of Canada, this seven-kilometre stretch remains one of the last remaining areas where a major highway features traffic lights.

This project would include the "construction of a continuous highway corridor between Route 342 (Harwood Blvd.) and the Galipeault Bridge," following the recommendations made in a study

by Transports Québec this past summer, reads a press release issued from the MRC last week.

On Thursday, Dumoulin, along with MRC Prefect Patrick Bousez and Notre Dame de l'Île Perrot Mayor Danie Deschênes met with Quebec Transport Minister Jonatan Julien and Soulanges MNA Marilyne Picard to push for the highway to be included in the updated infrastructure plan. While Julien did not verbally commit to including the project, Dumoulin said he told the group that "he doesn't understand why it's not done yet."

The MRC had adopted a resolution the day prior, calling for the project to be included in the provincial government's plan, especially given that "future population growth in the region and the imminent arrival of major traffic generators, including the Vaudreuil-Soulanges Hospital, will exacerbate an already unbearable situation," reads the resolution.

The towns of L'Île Perrot, Notre Dame de l'Île Perrot, Pincourt, Terrasse Vaudreuil and Vaudreuil-Dorion also each adopted resolutions in January calling for the project.

"Really, this file has potentially never gone this far before," said Deschênes last month. "We would like this not to just be a promise, like we've been getting for 60 years. We would really like everyone to talk about it, that we put it in the (infrastructure plan) and that we proceed."

*Local Journalism Initiative*

# Highway 30 tolls to drop 20 cents

**BRENDA O'FARRELL**  
The 1019 Report

The tolls on Highway 30 in Les Cèdres will be reduced slightly at the end of the month, dropping to \$4.40 for a standard car from the current rate of \$4.60, marking the first time the price has dropped since the autoroute opened in 2012.

The move was announced last week due to a decrease in the amount of vehicle traffic on the expressway, according to a statement issued by A30 Express, the private consortium that operates the autoroute under a public-private partnership with the Quebec Ministry of Transport. The new rates go into effect Feb. 28.

The number of vehicles using the stretch of highway between Vaudreuil-Dorion and Valleyfield dropped below 30,000 a

day in 2025, A30 Express said. The company did not provide specifics on exactly how many vehicles passed through the tolls last year, despite Transport Quebec lifting the tolls throughout the year due to periodic complete closures of the Île aux Tourtes Bridge along Highway 40 due to maintenance work.

The tolls on Highway 30 have steadily increased since the autoroute opened in 2012. At that time, the fare was just \$1.50 for a passenger vehicle. By 2015, the tolls had hit \$2.40. In 2024, they were \$3.90. Last year they were raised again to \$4.60.

The toll for larger vehicles — including delivery vans, some pickups, transport trucks and vehicles towing trailers — will be dropped to \$3.30 per axle, down from the current \$3.45 per axle.

Electric cars continue to be exempt from the tolls. This exemption is expected to continue until April 2027.

To qualify for the toll exemption, owners of electric vehicles must be registered with a green licence plate from the Société de l'Assurance Automobile du Québec and be equipped with a transponder.

Revenues generated by the tolls cover repayment of the debt incurred in construction of the expressway and its maintenance.

## Île aux Tourtes to be closed tonight

The tolls on westbound Highway 30 will be waived as of midnight tonight until 5 a.m. tomorrow, Thursday, Feb. 5, as the westbound lanes of the Île aux Tourtes Bridge will be closed completely during that time for ongoing maintenance work.

## ENSURING FOOD SECURITY FOR CANADIANS

Global grocery prices have risen over the last five years due to supply chain disruptions, trade instability, and climate change. Our Liberal government is responding with a multifaceted plan that provides direct support to Canadians, strengthens food production in Canada, and helps community food banks meet the growing demand.

**1** We are replacing the GST Credit with the **Canada Groceries and Essentials Benefit**, providing a permanent 25% increase and a one-time 50% top-up in June 2026.

**2** We are investing **\$500 million** to help Canadian food producers expand capacity, stabilize supply, and strengthen Canada's food sovereignty.

**3** We are offering **immediate expensing for greenhouses** to supercharge food production year round, right here at home.

	Base: GST Credit	25% Increase	One Time 50% Top Up (June 2026)	Total Benefits
Single Person	\$543	\$136	\$267	\$950
Couple, 2 children	\$1 086	\$272	\$533	\$1 890

The maximum benefit amounts a household could receive. Actual payment amounts are based on household type and income.

**4** We are providing **additional financial support** to help community food banks respond to increased demand.

**5** We are launching a **National Food Security Strategy** focused on affordability, supply resilience, and long-term access to food.

PETER SCHIEFKE

Member of Parliament - Vaudreuil

Subject to Royal Assent.

PeterSchiefkeLiberal 
 (450) 510-2305 
 Peter.Schiefke@parl.gc.ca

# 2 local mega projects make Top 100 list

## Hospital, new Île aux Tourtes total \$4.9B in investments

**BRENDA O'FARRELL**  
The 1019 Report

The Vaudreuil-Soulanges Hospital and the new Île aux Tourtes Bridge — which represent a combined \$4.9 billion in investment — have been listed among the biggest public infrastructure projects in the country, according to an annual report published by *ReNew Canada* magazine last month.

The \$2.6-billion hospital centre in Vaudreuil-Dorion was ranked as the 39th biggest public construction project in Canada, while the \$2.3-billion bridge was listed as the 43rd largest project measured by dollar value.

The magazine, which focuses on infrastructure initiatives, position the 1019 region's hospital as the second largest health-care construction project in Quebec, just behind the \$2.66-billion Complexe hospitalier CHU de Québec-Université de Laval, which will consolidate two Quebec City hospital centres at one new site. The Vaudreuil-Soulanges hospital was also ranked as the seventh-largest public undertaking in the province. Last year, the hospital was listed as 29th on ReNew's list of public infrastructure projects.

The medical facility will feature 404 beds, employ about 3,200 people and contribute \$407.5 million to Quebec's annual gross domestic product, according to a report commissioned by the CISSS



Nabil Sorial, Special to The 1019 Report

The \$2.6-billion Vaudreuil-Soulanges Hospital was ranked 39th on the Top 100 biggest public construction projects in Canada by ReNew Canada.

and Développement Vaudreuil-Soulanges in 2022.

The overall largest infrastructure project in the province is the \$9.4-billion REM light rail network. Partially completed, with train lines linking downtown Montreal to the South Shore and North Shore, it is expected to launch the West Island line later this year before extending a spur to Dorval airport. In all, the REM

network will have 67 kilometres of track.

### Île aux Tourtes is No. 43

The largest project in Canada is the \$26.8-billion refurbishment of the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station in Pickering, Ont. When completed in 2030, the plant will produce 2,000 megawatts of electricity, enough to power 2 million homes, according to ReNew Canada.

The construction of a new Île aux Tourtes span is listed as the second-largest of three bridge projects in the country at the moment and 43rd overall on the Top 100 list of projects.

The most expensive bridge project is the \$2.76-billion plan to build a new span linking Quebec City with l'Île d'Orléans. Still in the preliminary stages, with construction not yet started, the new structure is scheduled to be completed by 2028.

The third-largest bridge project listed is the \$1.64-billion Pattullo Bridge in British Columbia's Surrey area.

The \$6.4-billion Gordie Howe International Bridge, linking Windsor, Ont., with Detroit in Michigan, did not make the list this year. Despite it not yet open to vehicle traffic, the span was completed at the end of 2025. It is expected to open in the coming weeks.

Other Quebec infrastructure projects that managed to find a spot on ReNew's list of Top 100 projects include the \$7.6-billion extension of the Montreal métro's blue line (in 10th place), the \$4.3-billion ALTO Toronto-Quebec City high-speed rail line (in 22nd place), and the \$2.796-billion refurbishing of the Louis H. Lafontaine Tunnel linking east-end Montreal to the South Shore.

In all, 23 projects in Quebec made the Top 100 list.

*Local Journalism Initiative*

# Hearing the call of the wild

## If you live near woods, coyotes might sound a little louder

**JOSHUA ALLAN**  
The 1019 Report

For many in Vaudreuil-Soulanges, it's not uncommon to hear the barks, howls or yips of coyotes in nearby woods at night. But if you've been hearing it during the day and more often, don't be alarmed. We're entering coyote mating season.

From late January to early March, these wild canines become more active and visible during the day as they search for a mate. Experts are sharing tips on how locals can respect coyotes by keeping themselves and their pets out of their way during this important season.

"One of the biggest misconceptions is that coyotes suddenly become aggressive during mating season," explained Lesley Sampson, the co-founder and executive director of Coyote Watch Canada, a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing education about these animals.

Seeing a coyote strutting about during the daytime may seem like they're being bold or brazen, "but it's normal behaviour," she wrote in an email.

Through its education programs, Coyote Watch Canada aims to dispel the image some people have of coyotes being a pest or a nuisance, and instead spread awareness of their ecological value. Many scientists, Sampson pointed out, regard coyotes as a "keystone species" that have a positive impact on controlling rodent and small mammal populations, as well



Courtesy Coyote Watch Canada

Coyotes are generally skittish animals, but will become defensive if threatened, which includes when they cross paths with a dog, especially one not on a leash.

as removing deceased wild animals from the landscape, "which supports healthier ecosystems overall," she explained.

Coyotes are generally skittish animals, but will become defensive if they feel threatened, Sampson continued. One of the few instances where this may occur is when a coyote crosses paths with a dog, especially one that has been let off its leash while on a walk or hike.

"Using a leash is the most proactive choice for their own protection," Sampson explained. "The blame does not fall

on dogs or coyotes when negative interactions occur. Coexistence starts with people."

Even in backyards, Sampson recommends that pets be supervised and that all attractants, like food waste, fallen fruit or nuts be removed from the yard.

"These steps aren't about fear," Sampson added, "they're about common sense when living in shared landscapes with wildlife."

"People just have to be smart about things," said Rob Boisvert, a co-founder

of the 269 Animal Rescue group.

Since 2018, Boisvert, alongside his partner and daughter, has worked all over the Vaudreuil-Soulanges region, as well as elsewhere in Quebec and eastern Ontario, finding and rescuing injured and distressed wildlife, which he then transports to wildlife clinics. Over the years, he has received calls concerning dozens of different wildlife species, including several calls about coyotes in the region.

As they become more visible this season, residents must realize "that we're sharing our area with wildlife," Boisvert said. "They (coyotes) have nowhere else to go."

If residents do cross paths with a coyote, Coyote Watch Canada implores people not to turn their backs or run away. Instead, it recommends standing one's ground, making eye contact and stomping or making noise to scare the coyote off. Small pets and children should be picked up and larger pets tightly leashed. Should the coyote begin to approach, the group urges residents to kick or throw dirt, small rocks or sticks toward, but not directly at, the coyote, while continuing to make noise until it leaves.

These actions reinforce an important message for the animals, Sampson said, adding: "People aren't something coyotes should approach."

*Local Journalism Initiative*

# Brace yourself: Love is about to be set ablaze



Terry O'Shaughnessy

## GONE TO GROUND

What do you get when you cross a wild fiery horse with a gentle declaration of love?

You get the rare and auspicious occurrence of Valentine's Day and the Lunar New Year, not three days apart. The Year of the Fire Horse dawns on Feb. 17, and it goes without saying that this rare combination should not go uncelebrated.

Both holidays rely heavily on all things floral, and the rather lovely combination of horses and hearts must blaze with one thing above all else: the colour red. Whether it's a dozen red roses, a scarlet azalea or some burgundy peonies, red is the key to conveying your love as well as your wishes for prosperity, health and longevity for the year ahead.

This upcoming union of galloping horses and racing hearts is a kind of permission to really let loose.

"Wild horses couldn't drag me away," you might be tempted to write to your Valentine, and you would be right on message.

"I'm on fire for you, baby," you

might sing to the Horse in your life, and, again, it's a no-fault performance there.

Perhaps you could offer your Horse those dozen red roses, sending your Valentine a big pot of crimson marigolds, favourite flowers of any Fire Horse worth their salt. Because why not combine the power of both in this special year?

Here are some further floral ideas to stoke your Fire Horse heart.

A dozen bright red tulips would carry the same heft of a dozen roses but would add a welcome hint of spring, sending the message of renewal, one of the central themes of any Lunar New Year.

Or, how about a bouquet of red peonies?

Peonies of any colour are an important symbol of every Lunar New Year, so having red ones this particular year would be fantastically festive.

A beautifully mixed floral bouquet would also work well. Think roses and tulips with some zinnias and anemones perhaps. Maybe throw in a few chrysanthemums — in a Fire Horse Year, these could be red, but also golden or orange. Just make sure the bouquet is a mostly all-red affair and you will completely sat-



Terry O'Shaughnessy, The 1019 Report

For both the New Year of the Fire Horse and Valentine's Day, the key festive floral colour is red.

isfy the heart of any horse.

Finally, I think I speak for gardeners everywhere when I say who wouldn't want packets of dark red hollyhock or dianthus seeds, and maybe some bright red nasturtium seeds for the summer garden to come? The new range of seeds for

2026 has just become available and I, for one, would love a Valentine comprised of these flowers-to-be. Renewal is one of the major themes of the Lunar New Year, after all.

Just like Valentine's Day, when you think about it.

# THE 1019 REPORT

WHERE TO PICK UP A FREE COPY

### VAUDREUIL:

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

### DORION:

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

### ST. LAZARE:

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

### HUDSON:

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

### VAUDREUIL SUR LE LAC:

- Dépanneur SERVI-Express, 1051 St. Charles

### RIGAUD:

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

### ILE PERROT:

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

### PINCOURT:

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

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

# MRC looks to bolster region's farming sector

**BRENDA O'FARRELL**  
The 1019 Report

As Vaudreuil-Soulanges continues along a trajectory that places it firmly among the fastest growing regions in Quebec — seeing a population increase that more than doubled the provincial average, according to the last two federal census counts, and housing construction in 2024 alone jumping 300 per cent — regional officials are aiming to update the area's agricultural zoning plan to ensure activities in this sector of the economy are maintained and supported.

About three-quarters of the territory within Vaudreuil-Soulanges is zoned for agricultural use, according to data from the MRC. That represents an area of just more than 160,000 acres. The region has also seen the number of farms increase in the last 15 years, bucking a national trend. But the type of farming in the region is shifting, with preliminary findings of the MRC's updated profile of the sector showing a significant increase in the number of produce growers, while the number of animal operations has dropped.

But despite the health of the agricultural sector in the region, there is no denying the pressure it is under from development, says Caroline Cyr, a regional planning advisory and spokesperson for the MRC.

That is part of the reason why the MRC has decided to update its agricultural zoning plan, which was last profiled in 2014.



Courtesy MRC Vaudreuil-Soulanges

The green shaded areas indicate the territory in the MRC Vaudreuil-Soulanges that are zoned for agricultural use.

The exercise, launched last year, includes holding a series of three public forums aimed at soliciting input from the farming community, municipal officials and socio-economic groups in the region. The aim is to outline the priorities of the region's agricultural sector to ensure its needs and potential for growth are prioritized, as well as incorporated into the region's larger development plan, which is anticipating more residential, commercial and industrial growth, Cyr said in an interview with *The 1019 Report*.

The first two forums — hosted last November and in late January — have focused feedback on nine themes, including the promotion of local production, adapting to climate change, managing waterways, protecting agricultural land, taxation and co-existence with the

non-farming community.

The MRC has also engaged a consulting group to update the socio-demographic and economic profile of the agricultural sector in the region. And it is within the scope of the preliminary outline of that characterization that the growth of the sector and the shift within it is most easily seen.

According to the preliminary findings obtained from the MRC, there were 456 farm operations in the region in 2024, up from 438 registered in 2010. There was also a 17-per-cent increase in the number of farms involved in crop production, including fruits, legumes, vegetables and forages, between 2010 and 2024. These farms now account for almost 80 per cent of agricultural activity in the region.

During the same period, the number

of farm operations that focused on animal production dropped by almost 30 per cent. These farms, which include dairy and beef cattle production, now account for about 20 per cent of farming in the area.

More farms are also offering direct-to-consumer sales of their goods, according to the MRC's preliminary data. Statistics show an 82-per-cent increase in the number of farming operations that did direct-to-consumer sales in 2024 compared with 2010. And the number of operations that do on-site food processing for final sale have increased by 142 per cent.

Cyr described the farming sector as an "economic generator" in the region, with a growth in the number of smaller producers. The sector also accounts for 11 per cent of the region's employment.

Once the profile and consultations are completed, the MRC aims to create an action plan to help bolster its farm sector. Among the initiatives envisioned are establishing an agri-food centre in Rigaud, creating a hub to support small producers and encourage buy-local campaigns, and promote cultivation on land that has fallen out of production in the region.

*The MRC's next farm sector consultation forum is scheduled for March 18, from 9 a.m. to noon, at the Centre Sportif Soulanges in St. Polycarpe.*

Local Journalism Initiative

## Community Bulletin Board

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This project has been made possible by the Community Media Strategic Support Fund offered jointly by the Official Language Minority Community Media Consortium and the Government of Canada.

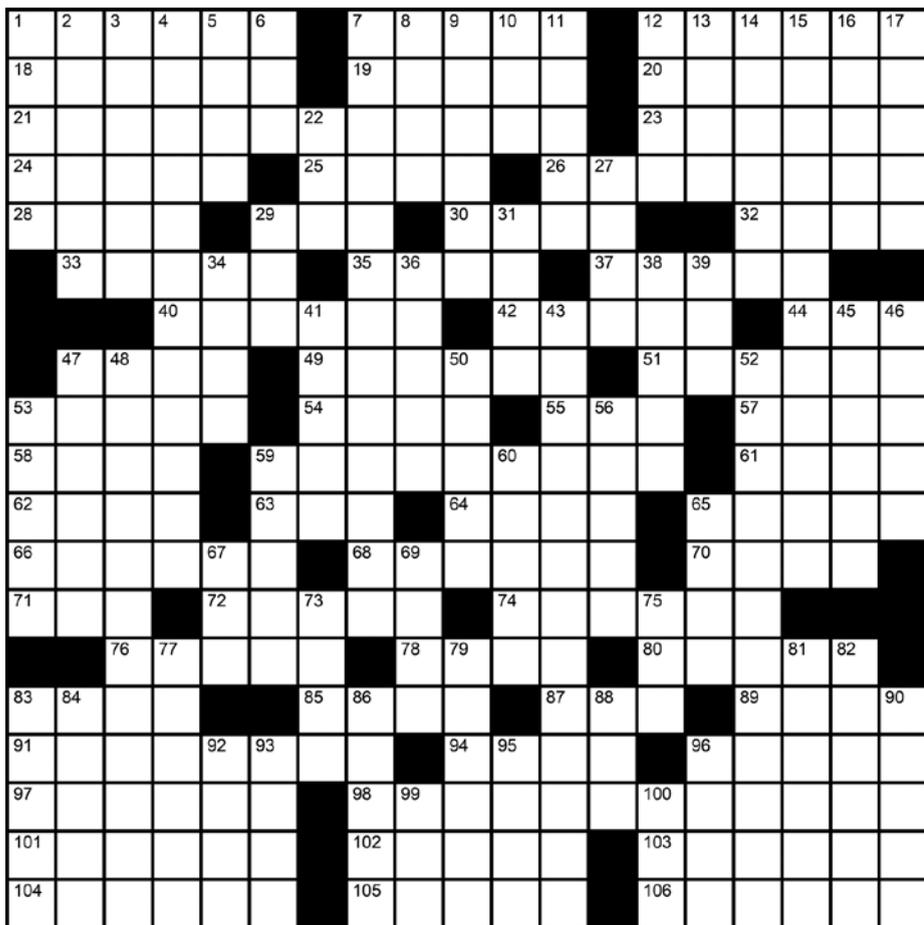
Vaudreuil-Soulanges 2026 Calendar  
Screensaver Download

*Madeleine Langlois*  
maddyLane photography

maddyLane.ca

# THE 1019REPORT

## Colossal Canada Crossword



SEE SOLUTION PAGE 10

### ACROSS

1. Check the price at the checkout counter once more
7. "Candid Camera" practical joke
12. Winter boots company in Canada
18. Card game that's rather tricky?
19. Washing machine cycle
20. Debate against in the House of Commons
21. 1993 Harold Ramis directed film that takes place on February 2nd: 2 wds.
23. "Lemme \_\_ \_\_..." (Have I gotta story for you...)
24. Joe \_\_ (The Yankee Years baseball book subject)
25. Practically shut as a door
26. Frozen apple juice drink of Quebec: 2 wds.
28. On \_\_ (Without a contract)
29. " \_\_-haw!"
30. First-rate
32. Meshworks
33. Hal who directed 1979's "Being There"
35. Trucker with a handle, commonly
37. " \_\_ Roll Duty" by Kim Mitchell
40. " \_\_ the Future" (1985) starring Michael J. Fox
42. Classical music composer, Louis \_\_ (b.1784 - d.1859)
44. Lettered colas
47. Haywire
49. Someone ceasing shirts creases
51. Wild West ghost town structure
53. Fetch \_\_ of water (Go to the well)
54. Minstrel's instrument
55. Wife of Archer in "The Maltese Falcon" (1941)
57. Have a hurt
58. Rarely, in olde text
59. CCGS \_\_ (Light icebreaker in the Canadian Coast Guard's fleet named for the 19th-century Newfoundland heroine who aided ship wreck passengers)
61. Vintage arcade game, \_\_-Ball
62. Famed puppeteer Tony
63. Australian state [acronym]
64. King \_\_ (Shakespeare title character)
65. Declares with certainty
66. Loyal about: 2 wds.
68. Real estate professionals
70. Apportion
71. Initials-sharers of John & Yoko's son
72. Pres. in "W." (2008) starring Josh Brolin
74. Red Rose sachet: 2 wds.
76. Central America country, \_\_ Rica
78. Vancouver Island's coastal community Ucluelet, endearingly
80. Wood strips
83. Biblical instrument
85. Surrealist painter Salvador
87. As written
89. Babe Ruth, 'The Sultan of \_\_'
91. TD \_\_ (Hamilton sports/entertainment venue)
94. Guesses [abbr.]
96. \_\_ notes (Give an off-the-cuff speech)
97. Shuts
98. Black-and-red pattern popular in Canadian winterwear: 2 wds.
101. The \_\_ (Canadian vocal quartet blending opera and pop)
102. Awkward
103. Dress
104. Poshly pass on a proposal: 2 wds.
105. Spanish 'afternoon'
106. \_\_ City, Yukon

### DOWN

1. Military units, e.g.
2. Moon of Jupiter
3. Hockey game results
4. Saskatchewan town where a faith building meets a crossing?
5. 18th-century composer of "Rule, Britannia!"
6. "Waking \_\_ Devine" (1998)
7. Competitive fashion design series, " \_\_ Canada"
8. Capital of Latvia
9. Mr. Crouch (Gospel singer b.1942 - d.2015)
10. Org. in "Snowden" (2016)
11. Enter the code: 2 wds.
12. \_\_ Saint-Luc, Quebec
13. Intl. oil cartel
14. Earth-to-satellite connection
15. 1950 hit by Nova Scotia's country music legend Hank Snow: "The \_\_"
16. Up to now: 2 wds.
17. Brings up
22. Highlander's 'have'
27. Mackerel variety
29. Calgary International Airport code
31. "The ' \_\_ 'e knows above a bit, the bullock's but a fool..." - Rudyard Kipling
34. \_\_ 'Argent (Newfoundland town)
36. Telephone \_\_ (Quarter-in-the-slot structure)
38. " \_\_, \_\_ we have vegetarian instead..." (Hey, I was thinking for dinner we might have...)
39. Yearly tax return deadline org.
41. Pottery ovens
43. Sandringham, the \_\_ in Norfolk in England belonging to the Royal Family
45. Fit together or cling
46. Daggers
47. "Girl with \_\_ Earring" (2003) starring Scarlett Johansson
48. Group of tusked Canadian Arctic mammals: 2 wds.
50. Author, Zora \_\_ Hurston
52. Gig for Canadian legend Paul Anka: 3 wds.
53. Helpful hockey coaches [abbr.]
56. Vice \_\_
59. Have \_\_ (Be equipped with an exit strategy)
60. French for 'annuity'
65. Ms. Clooney (Spouse of actor George)
67. CFL feats garnering cheers
69. Region conquered by Caesar
73. Erykah \_\_, Singer called the 'Queen of Neo Soul'
75. Univ. degree, e.g.
77. Prayer, archaically
79. Canadian star Mr. Sutherland
81. Twitter communications once
82. Don Quixote squire, \_\_ Panza
83. Bank customer's holdings [abbr.]
84. Ancient 'sandal'
86. Scope
88. 'I' in PEI [abbr.]
90. Subway currency
92. 'Evening' in Milan
93. Rather like the alphabetic letter before T
95. Law enforcement org. in "Dirty Harry" (1971)
96. West Coast sch. in The States
99. Moviedom's Ms. Merkel
100. Repetitive handwashing perhaps, e.g.

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# Red barns in winter

MADELEINE LANGLOIS  
The 1019 Report

Amid the white landscapes in the Vaudreuil-Soulanges region, red barns stand out as enduring symbols of rural heritage.

The dash of cheery hues adds a little warmth, and a touch of nostalgia.

Even in February's icy grasp, the tiniest bursts of colour offer a whisper of comfort and a hint of warmer times to come.

Photos by Madeleine Langlois, The 1019 Report





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