

THE 1019 REPORT

COVERING THE 1,019 SQUARE KILOMETRES OF VAUDREUIL-SOULANGES

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RIGAUD

RESIDENTS ASKED TO REDUCE WATER CONSUMPTION **P3**



Region facing worker crisis

Exemption to keep foreign workers needed

BRENDA O'FARRELL
The 1019 Report

Joining forces to make a unified plea, municipal, regional and business leaders from across the Vaudreuil-Soulanges region last week issued an unprecedented urgent call for a territorial exemption from both the provincial and federal governments for the latest announced changes to immigration policies to ensure against the loss of temporary foreign workers employed in the region.

Raising the alarm of a pending workforce crisis, the region's economic development board — DEV Vaudreuil-Soulanges — said the impact of recent policy announcements limiting access to foreign workers is being felt, and it is coming just as the region prepares for the opening of the new Vaudreuil-Soulanges Hospital.

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HUDSON

MEDICAL CLINIC POSTPONES CLOSURE **P3**

VAUDREUIL

FIGURE SKATERS MAKE OLYMPIC HISTORY **P5**

HUDSON

DOG RESCUED FROM COLD GOES UP FOR ADOPTION **P11**

Winter rounding the bend



Madeleine Langlois, The 1019 Report

Harsh colds, plenty of snow, the Olympics — it has been a good winter for those who enjoy embracing the season, like these two taking a leisurely skate around the oval in Chartier de Lotbinière Park in Rigaud. The ice conditions have been fantastic this winter. For those of you, not so inclined: There are exactly 30 days until spring.

Nuisance bylaw raising objections

Who judges what's 'exotic,' 'hateful?'

JOSHUA ALLAN
The 1019 Report

An update of an MRC-wide bylaw on what is considered a nuisance is raising alarm bells for residents and officials in the small village of Ste. Justine de Newton. While the bylaw had already been in force for several years, the proposed update has brought to light what some in the town view as regulations that are too broad, use ambiguous language and do not account for their rural lifestyle.

The bylaw on nuisances grabbed public attention last week as Ste. Justine council was set to approve the updated version. Around 30 residents in the town of fewer than 1,000 inhabitants attended the Feb. 10 council meeting, with several speaking out against multiple elements within the bylaw.

As a result, the council agreed to postpone the vote to adopt the bylaw “in order to better determine our position going forward,” said Mayor Shawn Campbell.

“There are so many details about these laws that nothing is clarified,” said Danielle Lavergne, who was among the residents who spoke out at the council meeting. “Some of these (articles) are just so far-fetched.”

See **NUISANCE**, Page 2.

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NUISANCE: Law could be open to wide interpretation: residents

From Page 1

“There are so many details about these laws that nothing is clarified,” said Danielle Lavergne, who was among the residents who spoke out at the council meeting. “Some of these (articles) are just so far-fetched.”

The bylaw is made up of 26 articles detailing what could be considered a public nuisance. Although it has been on the books for at least the past 20 years, it has been updated every few years. And each time it is updated, the town councils in all 23 municipalities in the region are required to approve the changes.

The vast majority of the articles in the proposed updated version are identical or nearly identical to the previous version, which had last been approved in 2019.

However, the far-reaching nature of some articles within the bylaw are causing concern for some residents and officials, who worry that their scope and vague language could be open to vastly different interpretations of the legislation.

One article some are taking issue with prohibits the display of “any item, erotic object or representation of an erotic nature in or on any public or private area.” This specific phrasing, written in French, remains unchanged from 2019.

“Well, what are ‘erotic’ (items)?” asked Lavergne, who added that this could be open to different interpretations.

She is uncomfortable with the use of the term “private area,” which does not specify whether this would be applied solely to areas of private property that are directly public facing.

“Who is the MRC to tell me what I can do in my private home or in my bedroom?” Lavergne said.

Ste. Justine de Newton town councillor Stéphane Lapointe says a risqué calendar hanging in a private garage could potentially be interpreted as being “erotic in nature” within a “private area,” according to the bylaw.

The bylaw relies on the judgment of others to decide whether or not such items on private property are “erotic in nature,” as well as individual SQ officers on whether such a nuisance complaint is valid, potentially resulting in a fine.

“The bylaw is clear; erotic content in public and in private is prohibited, both indoors and outdoors,” he said, pointing

out that other articles in the bylaw, such as hours permitted to mow one’s lawn, are not open to interpretation.

Newly included in this bylaw update is the ban on displaying “hateful content” in public and private spaces. This clause is included within the same article as the erotic content prohibition.

“But they don’t define what ‘hateful’ is,” Lapointe said.

Some also take issue with a section of the bylaw that gives SQ officers or municipal employees the ability to “visit and examine” properties in order to “ascertain whether the regulations of the council are being complied with.” As with erotic content, this article was included in the bylaw’s 2019 update, and the wording remains unchanged.

For Lavergne, she considers this an “infringement of our privacy,” and worries about the potential consequences of this measure.

“I have dogs and farm animals. What happens if somebody comes onto my property and my dog happens to bite one of them? Whose dog are they going to put down?”

If Lavergne’s home were to be paid a visit by inspectors to ensure the nuisance bylaw is being complied with, she said she would almost certainly receive a fine, as would most farmers in the town. Whether it be for “intermittent singing, barking, growling, howling or shrill cries” by her farm animals, as the bylaw describes it, or animal excrement that has not been “immediately” removed from her large property.

Even a clause prohibiting broken-down vehicles from being parked on properties shows a lack of knowledge about life in rural towns like Ste. Justine de Newton, Lavergne added.

“Things break down all the time. You’re constantly keeping something to fix this or fix that,” she explained.

While the bylaw exempts agricultural workers from some nuisances listed, such as making noise and producing foul odours “that may cause discomfort to one or more persons in the neighbourhood,” these exemptions are only applied “in the course of their agricultural activities.”

The bylaw is set to be approved by all municipalities in the Vaudreuil-Soulanges area, and is set to be enforced as of March 1.

How regional bylaws are enacted

In Quebec, a set of regulations that are shared by all municipalities within an MRC is known as a “Règlement municipal harmonisé.”

In Vaudreuil-Soulanges, there are currently seven such bylaws. They cover everything from nuisances to public security issues. These harmonized rules enable the Sûreté du Québec to enforce these bylaws consistently across the region, rather than having to apply slightly different rules from town to town.

Modifying and updating these harmonized bylaws does not fall under the purview of the MRC. It is left to the individual municipalities, which must each approve these regulations.

The work to coordinate the harmoniza-

tion is handled by a committee of municipal clerks, with the clerk from each of the 23 municipalities in the Vaudreuil-Soulanges region participating.

Once drafted, these regulations are subsequently issued to each of the region’s municipal councils for adoption.

Now, each municipal council is in the process of approving the changes. That is what was planned in Ste. Justine de Newton last week when residents raised objections.

As it stands now, all municipalities are scheduled to each vote on the changes. If they are approved, the new harmonized nuisance bylaw will go into effect on March 1.

Local Journalism Initiative

Rigaud trucks in water as it deals with aging network

FREDERIC SERRE
The 1019 Report

While Rigaud residents will need to arm themselves with patience as the town's drinking water woes continue over the next several months, Mayor Charles Meunier says the town's new director-general will be formulating a plan of action to allow Rigaud to eventually replace its aging infrastructure.

But for now, Meunier says, Rigaud is bringing in drinking water from external sources and strict water consumption rules continue to be in effect.

"The rules are yielding results, but must continue for the time being," said Meunier, who blamed severe cold and a harsh

winter, combined with last summer's dry weather for the water crisis.

"The cold weather and frozen ground are issues being faced by other towns," Meunier told *The 1019 Report* yesterday. "It's not just our town."

"We must be able to continue to provide drinking water to our citizens," he said. "Our system is fragile, and we have a challenge on our hands."

The Town of Hudson also issued a public notice Monday regarding water consumption, but it was aimed at residents and businesses located in the west end who get their water from Rigaud.

On Monday, Rigaud advised citizens to continue to reduce their water consump-

tion.

"The efforts that the city has collectively made since Sunday are yielding results," the town said in a statement, "but must continue for the time being. The network has been under severe strain in recent weeks. In a short period of time, six incidents (broken pipes or equipment) have occurred on the network, compounded by a particularly harsh winter. The depth of the frost is currently reaching our pipes and even the rock, further weakening the cast iron pipes that are already in poor condition."

The town must rely on water deliveries to maintain its reserves at the required level and ensure essential needs are met,

Meunier said.

In its advisory, the town urged citizens to take shorter showers, only wash dishes when the dishwasher is full (avoid peak hours from 6 to 10 a.m. and 4 to 8 p.m.), fill sinks to wash dishes by hand instead of letting the water run, and only wash laundry when washing machines are full, and do so outside of peak hours.

Water-use restrictions are not the only infrastructure problem Rigaud is dealing with. In 2024, the town's wastewater treatment plant hit its processing capacity, sparking a building moratorium in the village core. That moratorium continues to be in effect.

Local Journalism Initiative

Hudson clinic credits community support as it puts off closure

JOSHUA ALLAN
The 1019 Report

After months of uncertainty, the GMF Hudson family medical clinic confirmed late Monday that it will postpone closing for the time being, crediting the immense support it has received from the local community over the past few months in its decision to continue operations.

"We're incredibly lucky," said Dr. Tara McCarty, one of the family physicians at the clinic. "I don't think there are many other communities like ours. Certainly, all my colleagues in other clinics did not have that kind of overwhelming support from their patients like we did."

The GMF had detailed its decision to postpone the clinic's closing "until further

notice" to its Facebook page late Monday night, re-confirming its message shared with *The 1019 Report* back in January.

The clinic had first announced in November its decision to close by April due to the financial instability that would come about from Bill 2, the Quebec government's overhaul of how physicians are paid, which is now being heavily amended following intense criticism.

McCarty said the clinic has received an incredible wave of support from its patients, Hudson residents, investors in the building where it operates, and Hudson Mayor Chloe Hutchison.

"We were really worried when we said that we were closing that there would be

a lot of backlash from patients in terms of anger and aggression," McCarty explained. "But I have to say, for a huge part, everyone has been so incredibly supportive."

This support, she added, has ranged from contacting elected officials, to signing petitions, to offering words of encouragement to clinic staff.

"To be honest, it's made us keep going and keep fighting," McCarty said.

As for now, Dr. Malaika Awori is the only physician who is confirmed to be leaving the clinic and will be heading to Prince Edward Island in the near future. Dr. Ioana Varlan, who had informed her patients in December that she was plan-

ning a "relocation and a reorientation" of her professional activities, is now deliberating on whether she will leave, McCarty said. She added that Dr. Alexandra Valencak had previously informed the clinic that she was planning to leave, but is now looking to stay.

While things are stable for the time being, the clinic cannot definitively confirm that it will remain open until after the new legislation is passed, which will determine the new remuneration structure for doctors.

"We're going to try and see if we can swing it," McCarty said.

Local Journalism Initiative



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DEV to Santé Québec: Show us your hiring plan for hospital

BRENDA O'FARRELL
The 1019 Report

As construction of the new Vaudreuil-Soulanges Hospital advances, and as the Quebec government continues to scramble to find a compromise after facing widespread backlash that forced it to retreat from implementing its harshly criticized health-care reforms, political and business leaders in the region are demanding Santé Québec outline its recruitment strategy to ensure it has a plan to staff the new facility when it opens in 2028.

“Show us your strategy for the hospital,” said DEV Vaudreuil-Soulanges president Danie Deschênes at the press conference last Wednesday.

The demand is one of five official requests put forward last week by regional political and business leaders who gathered to issue an unprecedented plea to provincial and federal officials, saying the region faces an urgent and immediate worker shortage crisis that needs to be addressed.

Since construction of the hospital began in 2022, Quebec has twice pushed back the opening of the hospital. Originally planned to welcome its first patient in December 2026, health officials last January pushed back the opening of the facility to the summer of 2027. Then, last July, officials revised the date again, setting the opening now for spring 2028.

The delays, in part, have been attributed to difficulties in filling the more than 3,000 new positions the new facility will require.

“I wouldn’t be able to say if they have a plan,” Deschênes said in an interview with *The 1019 Report* last week, referring



Nabil Sorial, The 1019 Report file photo

The opening of the new hospital has been pushed back twice since construction began. It is now slated to open in spring 2028.

to Santé Québec’s specific staffing plan for the new hospital. “We hope that they do.”

In 2021, provincial officials launched a recruitment campaign — including an initiative to entice qualified personnel from other countries.

At that time, the then-assistant project director for the future hospital, had described the staffing processes to *The 1019 Report*, calling recruitment “an important challenge.”

Last year, Anne-Marie Gagnon, a

spokesperson for the Société québécoise des infrastructures, which is overseeing the construction of the facility, pointed to the labour shortage as one of several factors in delaying the opening.

But the new hospital is not the only health-care facility in Quebec struggling to fill vacancies.

A report by the Montreal Economic Institute in September 2024 claimed nearly half of all nurses in the province are leaving the profession before age 35. Meanwhile, a record 780 general practitioners

have left the province or quit between 2023 and 2024. Then, last year, the provincial government’s introduction of Bill 2, which aimed to overhaul how doctors are remunerated, sparked outrage within the health-care sector and spurred hundreds of more doctors to reconsider their future in Quebec.

It is in this context that regional officials raised the alarm last week, asking for a territorial exemption from both the provincial and federal governments for the latest announced changes to immigration policies to ensure against the loss of temporary foreign workers employed in the region, further tightening the squeeze on an already strained labour market.

Asked if Santé Québec is doing its job to ensure the hospital will indeed open given the increasingly difficult staffing climate, Deschênes said: “At this point I can’t say that they are.”

“It was the government that decided that yes we are building a hospital, and now that we have challenges with recruitment are we going to be closing different levels of the hospital?” she continued. “It is an issue that has been ongoing for a long time.”

The CAQ government’s decision to scrap its foreign worker program only adds to the crisis, Deschênes said.

Requests for comment from *The 1019 Report* last week to officials with the *Centre intégré de santé et de services sociaux de la Montérégie-Ouest*, the regional health authority, in charge of staffing at the regional level have gone unanswered.

Local Journalism Initiative

EXEMPTION: New hospital, proximity to Ontario part of region’s unique situation

The timing of the opening of the new hospital, which will add further pressure in an already tight labour market, is creating a perfect storm that threatens the region’s continued economic growth, and will stifle business expansions and jeopardize investment.

Vaudreuil-Soulanges is in a unique position, said Joanne Brunet, the director-general of DEV, as she pointed to the opening of the new hospital, which will generate more than 3,500 jobs, putting what she described as “significant pressure” on a labour market already struggling to keep up with demand.

Adding to the local pressures is the region’s proximity to Ontario, which is prepared to welcome temporary foreign workers currently employed in this region who now face an uncertain future as these workers grapple with the prospect of not being allowed to renew their work permits in this province in the wake of the CAQ government’s move last fall to scrap the *Programme de l’expérience québécoise (PEQ)*.

“We are asking governments to recognize our territorial uniqueness and provide us with the tools needed to fill 10,000 new positions by 2030,” Brunet said, pointing to what DEV predicts will be the region’s job needs in the next few years.

“Few regions in Quebec can anticipate the scale of their workforce needs

with such precision,” said DEV president Danie Deschênes, who is also the mayor of Notre Dame de l’Île Perrot.

There are currently about 1,000 workers with permits employed in the region, including about half who are classified as temporary workers, according to Francine St-Denis, director-general of Réseaux Vaudreuil-Soulanges, an agency that supports community integration for immigrants and assists in job searches.

Many of those workers face uncertainty as they will not be eligible to have work permits renewed, St-Denis said.

“Behind every work permit are families and children who have put down roots here,” she said. “Integration does not happen overnight. It requires sustained effort and collective commitment. Vaudreuil-Soulanges has done its part.”

“This government is literally undermining our recruitment strategy for the coming years,” said Jean-François Blanchard, CEO of the seniors’ home CHSLD Manoir Harwood in Vaudreuil-Dorion and the CHSLD Soulanges in Coteau du Lac. He employs 48 temporary foreign workers.

Blanchard said several of his workers are looking at options to move to eastern Ontario in order to maintain employment in Canada.

The testimonials continued at last Wednesday’s press conference as private-sector employers, one by one, de-

scribed the crucial role foreign workers have played in the growth of Vaudreuil-Soulanges, which has seen strong economic expansion and a population surge that has outpaced the Montreal metropolitan region and the provincial average.

Laurent Avril, vice-president of Fleury Michon Amérique — a Rigaud-based company that prepares meals for large commercial customers, like airlines, including Air Canada and Air Transat, and retail food service clients across North America — employs 400 people, including about 180 foreign workers. The company is also looking to expand production and grow its workforce.

“These workers are now well integrated into the region,” Avril said of the foreign workers employed. “They have housing, cars and actively participate in community life. Losing them would force us to turn down contracts and slow the company’s growth.”

In addition to the demand for a territorial exemption to allow all temporary foreign workers currently employed in the region to be able to renew their work permits, DEV outlined four other demand:

- An accelerated international recruitment process for all businesses in the region;
- Specific measures to support recruitment to ensure the opening and operation of the new hospital;
- Support for local businesses that now

face a more difficult recruitment process due to the opening of the hospital;

- And that Santé Québec outline its recruitment strategy to regional stakeholders to ensure it aligns with their recruitment initiatives.

“Here, strong employers are being forced to make difficult decisions simply because they no longer have visibility on the renewal of their workers’ permits,” said Pierjean Savard, president of Conteneurs Experts, a Vaudreuil-based company specializing in modifying shipping containers.

Savard, who is also a member of the DEV board of directors, says workforce uncertainty is having a direct and immediate impact on a long list of local companies.

Patrick Bousez, the head of the MRC Vaudreuil-Soulanges, underlined the urgent need for the provincial and federal governments to provide exemptions to the region.

“Vaudreuil-Soulanges is not developing by chance,” Bousez said. “For more than 20 years, the region has experienced sustained demographic growth.”

“The transitional measure requested by DEV is not a favour,” he added. “This request is a necessity grounded in real needs.”

Local Journalism Initiative

Vaudreuil figure skating pair make Olympic history

JOSHUA ALLAN
The 1019 Report

While they may have fallen short of the podium, Olympic figure skating pair Deanna Stellato-Dudek and Maxime Deschamps from Vaudreuil-Dorion are still leaving the Games having made a lasting impression on fans across the region and the country.

Around 50 locals gathered at the Vaudreuil-Dorion municipal hub last Sunday to watch Stellato-Dudek and Deschamps' first round in the pairs event.

"It was exciting!" said city councillor Jasmine Sharma of the event, adding that watching the pair, who are the only Olympians representing the Vaudreuil-Soulanges region in this year's Olympics, filled her with "tremendous pride."

"It was heartwarming to see after their struggles," Sharma added, "because we knew that they perhaps could not have made it to the Olympics because of an injury."

Stellato-Dudek and Deschamps finished in 11th place. After their first round on Sunday that saw a few errors, including one fall, the pair improved in their next skate Monday. During both performances, they wowed judges and viewers with impressive one-hand overhead lifts.

"They fought back and they never lost the performance," said CBC colour commentator and former Olympian Sandra Bezic during the broadcast.

This had been both Stellato-Dudek and Deschamps' Olympics debut.



Deanna Stellato-Dudek and Maxime Deschamps of Vaudreuil-Dorion finished 11th in the pairs figure skating on Monday. Facebook

Stellato-Dudek's journey to the Games has made headlines these past weeks. At 42, she is the eldest among her figure skating competitors, and one of the oldest first-time athletes in the figure skating category in Olympics history.

A native of Illinois, she had retired from competitive figure skating in 2000, but decided to lace up again in 2016, at age 33, with the goal of one day competing in the Olympic Winter Games.

She partnered with Deschamps, a Vaudreuil-Dorion resident, in 2019 and gained Canadian citizenship by 2022. The pair won gold at the 2024 World Figure Skating Championships in Montreal, with Stellato-Dudek making history as the oldest woman to win the world title at age 40.

Their Olympic dream was nearly out of reach when Stellato-Dudek suffered a head injury during a training session in Montreal on Jan. 30. She overcame this

injury, however, to compete in the pairs event on Sunday and Monday.

"We all held our breath during their two performances," said Vaudreuil-Dorion Mayor Paul Dumoulin. "We dreamed alongside them of an Olympic medal, but beyond the result, it is their journey and determination that make us deeply proud."

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Editorial

Milliard is giving Liberals a shot at a second chance But MNAs have to do their part

Second chances are wonderful things.

They are especially splendid when they are not wasted. And that is the challenge the Quebec Liberal party now faces. Will it be able to propel itself into the position to be a viable option to form government between now and this fall's election with its new leader, Charles Milliard?

Last weekend in Trois Rivières, the party faithful threw their support behind Milliard, a clear-eyed federalist who pledged to address pressing issues in the province — health, housing, education, attracting investment.

Milliard outlined a sound priority list and carved out his position on the political chess board that is being set up as Quebec speeds towards the next election. He made no apologies for being a proud federalist. He made it clear what he believed needs to be fixed, offering the broad strokes on how he would go about doing it. He promised to protect the French language, while also acknowledging the English-speaking community.

He also took aim at Parti Québécois leader Paul St-Pierre Plamondon's plan to hold a referendum on Quebec separation. Now is not the time to divide and diminish Quebec's place in Canada nor the world.

"Quebec has its place within Canada, and together we will make Quebec a leader in the federation," he told the cheering crowd.

Perhaps the most striking stance Milliard offered was a sense of fearlessness. After eight years of the Coalition Avenir Québec running the province, we need a "breath of fresh air," he said. It's time to put an end to the flailing of the CAQ that has made a mess of our health system, our public finances. And he signalled to everyone who might feel that Quebec has stopped being a safe bet — from investors to immigrants on work permits — that things will change.

He did not just offer criticism. He offered a plan that included bold initiatives, including listening to what regional representatives would require to meet the specific needs within their territories; promoting artists and culture, instead of focusing specifically on language in a divisive fashion; setting ambitious, yet defined housing targets; and proposing health-care programs, like 24/7 telehealth access and support to help seniors stay in their homes longer.

The Liberals have an opportunity to put its false start that was its ill-fated selection of Pablo Rodriguez as party leader behind them. But its caucus — the few MNAs now in office — who supported Rodriguez have to do better. This includes Vaudreuil MNA Marie-Claude Nichols and her colleagues in the West Island ridings. They showed themselves ready to ride a leader's coattails. That is not good enough. Mere criticism of the government is not good enough. They too have been given a second chance to prove to loyal Liberal supporters that they bring something to the table as individuals.

Milliard is correct when he says trust is earned. All Liberal MNAs have to show how they will do better, be better, perform better, represent everyone.

It's a tall order. This is not the time to be arrogant.

The Liberals have a second chance to get it right this time — to regroup, recalibrate and reorient themselves. Milliard appears poised, striking the right tone, ready to stand up to the old separatist tropes that aim to divide, and eager to set a positive path forward. But his team has to not just stand behind him, but be part of the change.

Brenda O'Farrell
Editor-in-chief

Adam Starkey
Graphic/Website Designer
astarkeymontreal@gmail.com

Contributors:

• Dylan Adams Lemaçon
• Joshua Allan • Denise Duguay
• Madeleine Langlois • Peter McCabe
• Terry O'Shaughnessy
• Frederic Serre • Tom Whelan

Newsroom: 514-246-2981
Advertising: 514-823-9779
www.the1019report.ca

Brenda O'Farrell
Editor-in-Chief
bofarrell@the1019report.ca

Marc Beaulieu
Director of Sales and Marketing
mbeaulieu@the1019report.ca

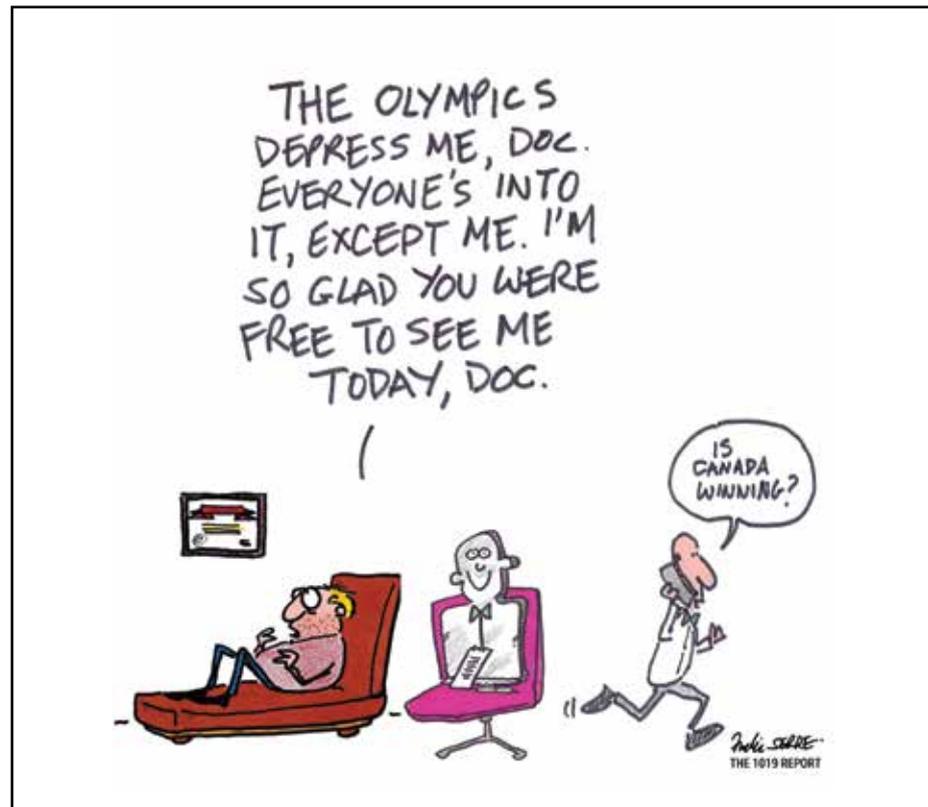
Mike Lague
Senior Account Representative
mikelague5@gmail.com

Jody Kydd
Business development
Jody10191510@gmail.com

Elisa Shepherd
Senior Account Representative
elisa10191510@gmail.com

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Letter to the editor

TALQ offers its objections to CAQ's proposed Bill 1

The following are excerpts from a presentation made yesterday by TALQ, an advocacy group for English-speaking Quebecers, to the National Assembly committee hosting consultations on Bill 1, the CAQ government's proposed constitution.

Bill 1 makes no mention of Quebec's English-speaking community's citizens, only a brief, tangential reference to its "institutions" — before going on to undermine some of the very institutions it promises to protect or value.

Where does the bill say the English-speaking community is being dealt with unfairly?

The answer lies in these details.

(It) would forbid school boards, universities, municipalities, professional orders, hospitals and more than 120 organizations from challenging government laws in court using public funds, as they now are able to do.

The most important institutions associated with Quebec's English-speaking community are its school boards, hospitals, universities and CEGEPs, almost all of which also serve a large portion of the francophone population.

This is a deterrent measure intended to discourage independent organizations — some of which are key institutions within Quebec's English-speaking community — from defending the rights of Quebecers in court.

This bill also contains what amounts to a made-in-Quebec "notwithstanding

clause" that declares a government can designate any legislation as crucial to the Quebec nation, making it exempt from judicial oversight. One can imagine just how many laws would be so designated to avoid judicial review.

We are encouraged by the extent of the opposition to the proposals in Bill 1, whether it comes from the Quebec Bar Association, Indigenous representatives, human rights organizations, or numerous other stakeholders from diverse backgrounds and from both main linguistic communities.

We urge all parties represented in the National Assembly to listen to the concerns expressed by the public and to demonstrate the courage to adopt a broader, more generous, and more inclusive vision of Quebec, in which everyone can contribute fully, with the profound conviction of being recognized as a full and welcome citizen, a vision rooted in Quebec's proud tradition.

A proper constitution must be by the people, for the people. Bill 1 is more by the government, for the government.

If it chooses to pursue a constitutional project, the government should launch a much broader process, including an independent legal review.

Sylvia Martin-Laforge,
director-general
TALQ and
Marion Sandilands,
legal consultant

SUBMIT A LETTER

If you would like to submit a letter to editor for publication, please email your comments to 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.

FACT: 449

The number of trees that were felled in Hudson in 2025 as part of the municipality's Ash Tree Action Plan, which aims to eliminate diseased trees afflicted by the Emerald ash borer, an invasive beetle. The trees that were cut included 237 dead trees and 212 ash trees.

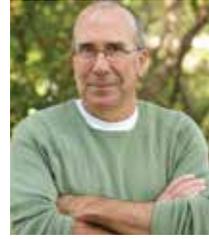
Source: Town of Hudson's environment committee



Madeleine Langlois, The 1019 Report

Feather and fern-like patterns can be seen as ice crystals form on the surface of this stream in the Rigaud area. Blanketed by a gentle snow, this is how winter slows, but doesn't stop the flow of water. According to the weather forecast, flurries are expected into the weekend, with temperatures hovering above the deep freezes we experienced early in February.

Cutting into winter, Olympic Games offer welcomed distraction



Tom Whelan

In my mind, every February in this part of the world arrives with the same personality — grey, grumpy and cold enough to make you question every life choice that ever led you outdoors.

This year, winter didn't ease into things politely. It kicked down the door in January and announced itself with wind chills that hurt your feelings and your face. Which is why the arrival of the Winter Olympics feels less like a sporting event and more like a public service.

The Olympics give February a purpose. Suddenly, the darkest, iciest stretch of the calendar has something shiny to focus on other than snowbanks that refuse to melt and driveways that need clearing — again. There's comfort in knowing that somewhere out there, elite athletes are also cold. Only, they are cold on purpose, and in far snazzier outfits.

Around here, winter sports already feel like a daily endurance event. Anyone driving around Vaudreuil-Soulanges lately could be forgiven for thinking potholes have been added as an exhibition sport. Slalom driving on the Highway 40 approach to the Bridge That Shall Not Be Named? Freestyle suspension testing on Harwood? There are craters so large you half expect to see them roped off with a sponsor banner. If Olympic judges were involved, you would at least get points for difficulty and style while attempting to navigate around them.

As the Games unfold, something else remarkable happens. People with very specific, very narrow sporting interests suddenly become global experts. Folks who normally only watch hockey religiously, obsessively and loudly, miraculously transform overnight into highly qualified Olympic judges.

Ice dancing? Oh, everyone has thoughts.

"The footwork was sloppy."

"That lift lacked emotion."

"I didn't feel the story."

These are comments that come from people who struggle to make it from the reclining lounge to the fridge without tripping over the ottoman.

Ski jumping is another fan favourite for armchair expertise.

Viewers who have never jumped off

anything higher than a curb suddenly analyze take-off angles, wind conditions and landing form with alarming confidence. There's always someone who says, "I wouldn't have leaned forward like that," as though they routinely and intentionally launch themselves off cliffs on weekends.

Then there are the obscure sports — the ones that only surface every four years and immediately steal our hearts. Biathlon remains a personal favourite. Ski hard, stop suddenly, shoot accurately, repeat. It's like when cross-country skiing meets a spy movie. Watching athletes go from gasping for air to calmly hitting targets makes most of us feel deeply inadequate, especially those of us winded by shovelling the front steps.

Luge, of course, continues to defy logic. Hurling down an icy track at terrifying speeds, inches from disaster, lying on your back, steering with your calves as though it comes naturally. It's the sport that makes you ask, "How did anyone invent this?" Followed closely by, "Who volunteered for the first run?"

Now that I think of it, it was probably a group of dads, many moons ago, with metal garbage can lids on the 18th hole at Whitlock. But not without first exclaiming: "Watch this, hold my beer."

Through it all, though, there is one event that unites the country and turns living rooms into national command centres: Men's hockey. Hope springs eternal, especially when the opponent is the U.S.

The rivalry is intense and fierce. Oh sure, we'll politely compliment their skill and speed while chatting with the starter at a Florida golf course in March. But every red-blooded, toque-wearing, Tim's-sipping Canadian wants our boys to win. And win spectacularly. Because hockey isn't just a sport here. It's cultural heritage, winter therapy. And the bragging rights are wrapped in red and white.

So yes, February is bleak. The cold bites, the roads resemble obstacle courses and spring feels impossibly far away. But the Olympics give us something to cheer for, argue about and bond over while waiting out winter's worst.

And if Canada takes gold in men's hockey... What am I saying? Not "if," but "when," especially over the U.S., well, that alone might be enough to carry us straight through to March.

QUOTE

"Canada is a community that relies on each other's grace."

— Prime Minister Mark Carney addressing those who gathered for a vigil last Saturday for the victims of last week's shooting in Tumbler Ridge, B.C.

A View From The 1019



Madeleine Langlois, The 1019 Report

If you ever wondered why Canadians support the country's Olympic hockey teams with such enthusiasm, look no further than this view of the Lake of Two Mountains in winter. For it is in quiet, still places like this that the dream of hockey glory takes flight. It is places like this where the whisper of our game's spirit swirls. It is out on the ice, unprotected from the wind, that the determination required to bring home gold is found.

Colossal Canada Crossword

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Jolin-Barrette getting rough ride over Bill 1

Proposed constitution threatens English-speaking Quebec



Andrew Caddell

I was in Quebec City on Feb. 4. It was cold in La Vieille Capitale, but Justice Minister Simon Jolin-Barrette was on the hot seat at hearings studying the Coalition Avenir Quebec's Bill 1, the so-called Quebec Constitution legislation.

As you may recall, the controversial "law of laws" was tabled in the National Assembly on Oct. 9, without any prior consultation, which is standard practice. On first reading, the bill was rejected by all the opposition parties in the National Assembly. A series of groups, including Quebec First Nations and Le Barreau du Québec have called for the legislation to be scrapped.

The only prior study on the issue was by a "consultative committee" in November of 2024, led by nationalist law professor Guillaume Rousseau. Its mandate was to "recommend measures to protect and promote the collective rights of the Quebec nation." It called for greater Quebec independence in language, secularism, culture and on the international scene.

Bill 1 creates a society where French predominates over human rights.

Marie-Hélène Lyonnais, a PhD candidate at University College London, says Bill 1 "reinforces the idea that the Quebec nation is composed of first- and second-rate citizens, only the first category being deserving of full recognition and protection in Quebec's new constitution."

This prompted the group I lead, the Task Force on Linguistic Policy, to present a brief in November and testify at hearings into Bill 1 earlier this month. Our three-person delegation was joined by a professor from McGill University, the Canadian Party of Quebec, an English arts network and an English schools parents committee, all opposing Bill 1.

Our 4,000-word brief was difficult to condense into an eight-minute oral presentation, so I stuck to the key points: the bill doesn't respect international law or the Canadian Constitution, and is a threat to Quebec's English-speaking community.

We called for a chapter in the legislation on the enormous contributions of the non-francophone community. I pointed out the Quebec narrative of anglo Quebec emphasizes "exploitation, domination and English bosses" and not "the statesmen, doctors and entrepreneurs who

helped build Quebec."

Several sections of Bill 1 are beyond the powers of the National Assembly. We called for them to be removed.

I closed by citing former West Island MNA and MP Clifford Lincoln, who told the National Assembly in the 1980s "rights are rights are rights."

Jolin-Barrette opened the question period by mispronouncing my name as "Cadwell." He questioned my assertion Bill 1 should not include a right to self-determination, as according to the United Nations, only colonies or "oppressed people" qualify.

He asked if I had read the Quebec Court of Appeal judgment in the "Anderson" case.

He meant "Henderson," where an attempt to throw out Bill 99 (Quebec's response to the federal Clarity Act) had failed. However, the 2021 decision outlined Quebec had a right to self-determination, but

only within its own areas of competency. It seems obvious breaking up the country might have an impact outside Quebec's jurisdiction.

This was followed by questions from opposition members.

Liberal André Albert Morin asked if we agreed with the consultation process.

I said tabling the bill before a public consultation was "putting the cart before the horse."

Bill 1 will incorporate the new language law, Bill 96, into the "Constitution." It refuses services to 500,000 anglo Quebecers not educated primarily in English in Canada. This denies many who were raised elsewhere access to government services in English.

Afterwards, Jolin-Barrette confronted me, saying I was wrong. However, the Charter of the French Language says, "An agency of the civil administration may (only) ... (provide) services in English to a person declared eligible to receive instruction in English."

I posted on X the next day providing the facts, asking the minister for an apology.

I'm still waiting.

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.

Several groups condemned the bill

Still waiting for apology from minister

Three arenas now offering livestreaming

FREDERIC SERRE
The 1019 Report

It's not exactly Hockey Night in Canada, but for youngsters playing hockey at three arenas in the Vaudreuil-Soulanges region, seeing their games livestreamed on television is the closest thing to the big leagues, thanks to a new service provided by Montreal-based LiveBarn, which is setting up cameras in thousands of arenas across Canada and the United States.

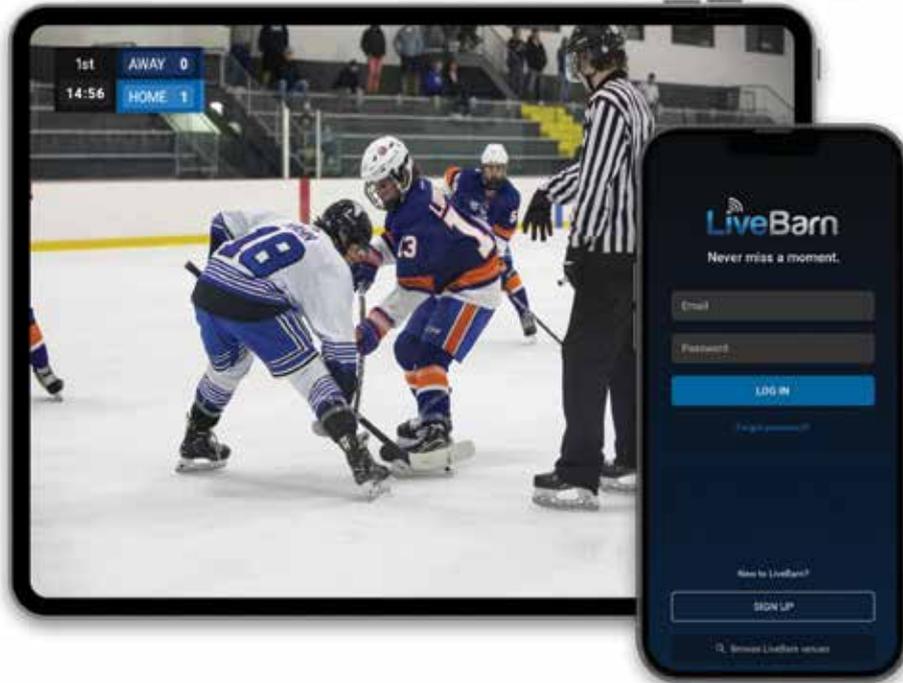
LiveBarn can be found at the Cité des Jeunes and Vaudreuil-Dorion arenas in Vaudreuil-Dorion, and the Centre Sportif Soulanges in St. Polycarpe.

In the West Island, the service is also available at the Sportsplexe Pierrefonds and at the Beaconsfield Arena.

"LiveBarn cameras operate on a motion-detect basis, meaning a rink operator must schedule or block off times when they are blacked out," the company said in a statement, adding that on-ice video is typically archived for 30 days.

According to LiveBarn, its cameras can be found in more than 4,000 venues across North America, streaming a number of sports, including hockey, basketball, swimming, soccer and lacrosse. People subscribe to be able to watch the livestreams.

"To help families and athletes stay con-



LiveBarn offers livestreaming of action at almost 4,500 venues in 49 states in the U.S. and in 10 Canadian provinces, including three venues in the 1019 region — at two arenas in Vaudreuil-Dorion and in St. Polycarpe.

ected, we are pleased to announce that LiveBarn is now officially available at the arena," reads a statement issued by officials with the City of Beaconsfield. "We know that busy schedules, travel or

distance can sometimes make it difficult to be in the stands. This service allows everyone to stay connected through live and on-demand video of on-ice activities."

LiveBarn generates revenue through streaming subscriptions (\$28 a month for a basic plan and \$38 for a premium plan) to those wanting to watch local teams play.

Under the terms of its agreements, LiveBarn offers exclusive live streaming, "ensuring families and fans can watch all league games live and on-demand from anywhere they choose."

"Subscribers to LiveBarn will also be able to utilize a growing suite of additional technology. LiveBarn features live tagging and player analyses designed with player development and advancement in mind."

LiveBarn says its product "brings families closer to the action and fosters a stronger sense of unity within our hockey community."

Launched in 2015, and based in downtown Montreal, LiveBarn is reportedly an \$80-million business, with a technology that has evolved to the point of tracking individual players and isolating their activity. Cameras and technology are provided for no charge to the facility and portions of the subscriptions go back to the host.

Local Journalism Initiative

Firefighter pulls his neighbour from burning house in Rigaud

FREDERIC SERRE
The 1019 Report

Friends and colleagues are calling him a hero, but veteran Ste. Marthe firefighter Steve Pellin insists he's just "a good guy who did what anybody would have done" when he pulled an injured man out of his burning house in Rigaud last Wednesday evening. And it wasn't just any ordinary man — the man is Pellin's 67-year-old neighbour.

In an interview with *The 1019 Report*, Pellin said he was on the road in his personal vehicle when he heard a call on his radio about a fire at a house on Route 201

in Rigaud shortly before 6 p.m.

"When I heard the call, I noticed that the address was that of my neighbour's, so instead of driving to the Ste. Marthe station, I went straight to the fire," said Pellin, a firefighter for 30 years.

Not wearing any gear and dressed in his winter jacket and boots, Pellin immediately entered the house and found his neighbour, dazed and confused, standing at the foot of his stairs as heavy smoke filled the house.

"He was inside, confused, his respiratory system was affected. The residence was full of smoke, so I carried him out of

the house and brought him to my vehicle, where we waited for the first responders from Rigaud to arrive," said Pellin.

In no time, his colleagues from Ste. Marthe, as well as firefighters from St. Clet, Rigaud and Hudson and St. Lazare arrived on the scene to battle the blaze, which reportedly began in the garage.

A firefighter to the core, Pellin says he even shut the door behind him as he was carrying his neighbour out of the smoke-filled house. Upon arrival of his colleagues, the man was taken to hospital by ambulance to be treated for smoke inhalation and is reportedly recovering well.

"He's doing much better," said Pellin. "He's regained colour in his skin."

Scores of friends and colleagues took to social media to praise him for his heroics.

Pellin, however, downplayed his actions, but said his neighbour personally thanked him for saving his life, which he said he appreciated.

"Hero? I don't think so," Pellin said. "I'm just a good guy who made a right decision that night."

Local Journalism Initiative

Speed and snowy conditions cause 3 crashes in area

FREDERIC SERRE
The 1019 Report

Police, paramedics and tow truck operators were kept busy last week as they responded to a series of traffic accidents in the region, including a pair of collisions in St. Clet and in Ste. Justine de Newton — with slippery roads, snowy conditions and speeding being blamed.

The Sûreté du Québec suspects speeding may be behind a two-car collision on Cité des Jeunes Road in St. Clet at about 4 p.m. on Feb. 10. The cars were going in the same direction, headed to St. Polycarpe, when the crash occurred. Snowy conditions may have played a role in the accident, which left two drivers slightly injured. Paramedics treated them at the

scene.

At the same time, police reported a school bus left the road in St. Polycarpe and ended up in the ditch. The crash happened on Élie Auclair Road. No injuries were reported.

In Ste. Justine de Newton, police closed down 2ième Rang last Wednesday morning when a truck lost control on an icy

patch and drove into the ditch, ending up on its side. The truck driver was not injured and managed to crawl out of his rig before police and a tow truck arrived on the scene. The road was closed for several hours to allow the truck to be towed.

Disaster averted as fuel truck slides off road in Hudson

FREDERIC SERRE
The 1019 Report

What could have been an environmental disaster last Thursday in Hudson was averted thanks to the work of the town's fire department and public works employees, who spent more than eight hours preventing 20,000 litres of fuel from spilling out of an overturned oil delivery truck, which crashed into a field off Main Road.

It took a full day for a specialized

heavy-vehicle crane to gently put the truck upright while workers made sure there was no fuel spillage.

"The vehicle maintained its integrity," said municipal spokesperson Laura McCaffrey. "There was no fuel spill."

The operation could end up costing MacEwen Petroleum, a Maxville, Ont.-based oil delivery company, a hefty price, as it must cover the cost of the crane and municipal officials called out to assist.

The truck was loaded with an estimated 20,000 litres of fuel when the driver lost control on an icy patch on Main Road between Alstonvale Street and Aird Avenue. The truck rolled on its side, landing in the privately owned field.

According to the Sûreté du Québec, the driver was not injured. Police blocked off the area to traffic for the rest of the day as heavy machinery was brought in to lift the truck, and firefighters were brought in

to supervise the operation. Municipal officials were also on scene, said McCaffrey.

Efforts to reach officials from MacEwen were not successful yesterday. MacEwen is a company that has been in business in Ontario and Quebec, as well as throughout the country since 1976.

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Tom Cobb, Hudson

Abandoned dog rescued from cold goes up for adoption

FREDERIC SERRE
The 1019 Report

A frightened dog found tied to the door handle of St. James Church in Hudson in minus-24-degree weather last week will be available for adoption this week, the West Island SPCA announced Monday while the organization and police continue to search for the person who abandoned the animal.

“All legal waiting periods and required procedures have now been completed,” the SPCA announced earlier this week. “The dog has undergone a full behavioural evaluation and has received all necessary veterinary care. We are happy to share that he is doing well and progressing beautifully. He will officially be available for adoption this week.”

Early on Feb. 9, construction workers who arrived at the church — which is undergoing major reconstruction after a fire in April 2024 — found the young Labrador-

mixed breed canine tied with a leash to the front door. According to the Sûreté du Québec and the SPCA, it is believed the dog had been brought there the night before.

The workers called the SQ, and officers then contacted the SPCA, which sent animal control agents to the scene to pick up the animal. The dog has since been in the care of the SPCA at a location in St. Lazare.

“Overnight temperatures reached minus-24°C, placing this animal in immediate danger of freezing to death, especially since he was tied and had no possibility to seek shelter on his own,” the SPCA said. “He is now safe and warm. He has been fed, given fresh water, and is resting on a comfortable bed.”

SPCA agent Daniel Lavallière said the search for whoever abandoned the dog has so far brought no results.

“We have absolutely zero news,” Lavallière told *The 1019 Report* on Monday. “There’s no camera footage, no witnesses, nobody has seen anything from our neighbourhood investigation. This type of thing happens more often in small and quiet towns, unfortunately. The police also have heard nothing.”

SQ spokesperson Valérie Beauchamp said police will take action if the SPCA is able to provide them with information.

“We are grateful to everyone who showed concern, shared information, and supported this case,” the SPCA said in its social media post this week. “Because of you, he now has a second chance at a safe and loving future. Stay tuned — his adoption profile will be posted soon.”

The SPCA has named the dog Roadie, and believe he is about 2 years old.



Photo courtesy West Island SPCA

This dog, abandoned and tied to the front door of St. James church in Hudson last week, was rescued from the minus-24-degree C temperatures on the morning of Feb. 9.

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Madeleine Langlois
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Signs that warm a gardener's heart



Terry O'Shaughnessy

GONE TO GROUND

With wind chill dragging the temperature down to minus-28 and a big snowstorm on the way, it was a bit of a lifeline. I had gone out to stock up on the usual siege food items for yet another bout of winter, and there it was: a colourful pop-up gardening display across from the usual shelf of windshield wiper fluid. Hundreds of packets of seeds for this summer just lying there in plain sight, enough to soothe even the most desperate shivering gardener.

Oh, the relief. Summer was going to come again, in spite of all evidence to the contrary.

It took only a minute to buy 10, or was that 20, packets of seeds. Not because I will be able to plant them all, but just because I could. It's too early to get seedlings going indoors yet, after all. We're still about four weeks away from that. But it's not at all too early to plan. I've heard from a few gardeners who are already thinking about their flower beds, complete with lists and sketches. The ones

planning vegetables from seed are especially organized as those plants need to be started even earlier than flowers. But still, it's not too early for any gardener to begin assembling supplies for that first mental-health assault on winter — the indoor propagation of seeds for summer.

Hardware stores and dollar stores are starting to stock just what we need.

I like those inexpensive trays with little "pucks" of dried peat and growing medium that transform into perfectly contained seed pods when soaked. All that's left to do then is sink your favourite flower or veggie seed into the peat and place the tray in good light.

Specialized lights work best to encourage growth and prevent the leggy-ness that sometimes results when seedlings don't get enough natural light. But in my case, I have yards of sunny windowsills and have never needed alternative light sources. My only other supplies aside from peat pod trays are bigger pots to later transfer any seedlings that start to gambol outside the confines of the tray. Like puppies which are all the same size at the beginning, eventually you need a bigger bowl and bed. Plants can be like that, too.

Judging by the seeds I grabbed out of sheer relief the other day, it looks like



Terry O'Shaughnessy, The 1019 Report

In spite of all evidence to the contrary, summer is going to come again.

I'm headed for easy and traditional flower exploits this summer. I'm planning for zinnias and marigolds — nasturtiums and morning glories. Some moonflowers will also find their way in as well as some kale and arugula. Finally, there will be a good batch of old-fashioned Four O'Clocks

which will not only scent the night air, but completely take care of themselves.

A plan requiring almost no planning is what this gardener is after this year. Now that I know from my new collection of seeds that summer will come again, that is.

THE 1019 REPORT

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- 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
- Epicerie 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.

Hudson Shrine Club presents



THE ULTIMATE FAN EXPERIENCE RAFFLE

WIN 2 FRONT ROW SEATS TICKETS
at the Bell Centre — against the glass
March 26 against Columbus Blue Jackets



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 – Only 200 Tickets Available

Prize package includes:

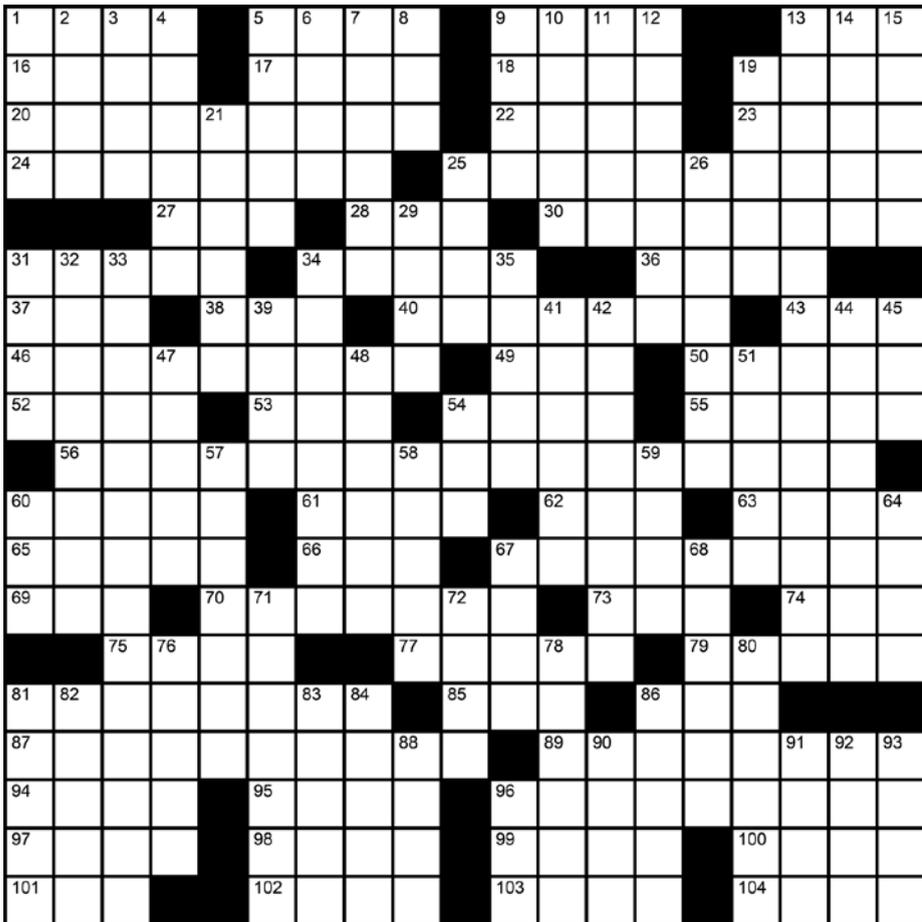
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- Access to Canadiens dressing room following the game
- Two signed jerseys – Suzuki and Caufield



Tickets will be available at **Cardinal Microbrasserie**
 (466 Main Road, Hudson)
Monday, February 23, 2026.

THE 1019REPORT

Colossal Canada Crossword



SEE SOLUTION PAGE 10

ACROSS

1. 1980 hit movie and song
5. Seeded
9. The Ramayana heroine
13. Wiretap
16. “___ it!” (That’s really groovy!)
17. Bank ___
18. Nobleman
19. Catapult
20. 2026 The Year of the ___
22. Pre-wknd. shout in the office!
23. Consequently
24. The Merry Widow, for example
25. Laura Secord sweets in heart-shaped boxes for Valentine’s Day
27. ‘_’ in Inuvik
28. Loud noise!
30. Professional hockey players in #96-Down
31. Battling on the battlefield: 2 wds.
34. Soft purple
36. AIR-ihk-___ (Way to pronounce ‘Erikson’, the surname of Leif, the legendary Norse navigator)
37. Ill
38. 1959 Kingston Trio t.u.n.e.
40. Currently: 3 wds.
43. Vitality
46. Canadian legend Paul of the 1972 Summit Series
49. ‘Depart’ suffix
50. ‘The People’ of The Arctic
52. ‘Seven’ in Portugal
53. ‘Effective Time Management’, in brief
54. Street sign
55. Gets a tooth ready for a filling
56. Celine Dion chart-topping power ballad in 1996: 4 wds.
60. Pulls into a car spot
61. Foretoken
62. There, in Latin
63. Fortify
65. Family name in “East of Eden” (1955)
66. PBS funding org.
67. Evangeline, par exemple
69. US dog breeds org.
70. Wise one’s hot herbal infusion?: 2 wds.
73. Prohibit
74. Saloon supply
75. ___ of hair
77. Olivia’s role in “Grease” (1978)
79. Take back what was spoken
81. Best examples
85. Certain N. American
86. To and ___
87. 2005 Drew Barrymore/Jimmy Fallon baseball-themed romantic comedy filmed in Toronto: 2 wds.
89. German, to a Parisian
94. Wild animal’s retreat
95. “Able was ___.” (Palindrome)
96. “Yep, you bet!”
97. X-___ Knife
98. Ms. Vardalos and Ms. Peebles
99. ___ Shan Mountains (Range in Central Asia)
100. Ms. MacNeil (East Coast music legend)
101. Josephine ___ (Scottish author of The Daughter of Time)
102. Landscaping rolls
103. Talk to ya later, cute-style
104. Barenaked Ladies hit

DOWN

1. Inventory tracking system, commonly
2. Go for ___ (Jump in the pool)
3. Morass
4. Advice-giving Nymph in ancient Rome
5. Coin-placing openings
6. 20th-century Dutch astronomer Jan
7. Sushi side
8. SSW opposite
9. NBC’s “Late Night with ___ Meyers”
10. Belonging to a Shakespearean schemer
11. Split second
12. Mr. Ribeiro, “Dancing with the Stars” co-host
13. Winnipeg-born singer-songwriter of romantic song “I Will Play a Rhapsody”: 2 wds.
14. Prodding person
15. Makeup item for lips
19. Mr. Ledger of “A Knight’s Tale” (2001)
21. “Tommy Can You ___?” by The Who
25. Nashville singer’s trophies, e.g.
26. Avalanche, archaically
29. Canadian star Mr. Thicke
31. CFL players, e.g.
32. Maple’s outer layer: 2 wds.
33. A visit to Quebec City for Bon homme’s annual Carnaval, for one: 2 wds.
34. Hit for Canadian band Edward Bear: 2 wds.
35. Jean ___ (Quebec pharmacy chain)
39. Faithful, in Germany
41. Gambol or lark about
42. Well-placed showbiz newcomer with famous family roots in the industry: 2 wds.
44. Newfoundland’s famous offshore oil platform
45. Third letter of #22-Across
47. Poker packs
48. Neil Young’s Ontario hometown when very young
51. Prod
54. Cain, to Adam & Eve
57. Requests/petitions: 2 wds.
58. W.B. ___ (Irish poet)
59. Ricky Martin’s “Livin’ La ___ Loca”
60. Harper Valley gr.
64. Disavow
67. Vitamins added to milk, ___ D
68. Habituated
71. Security digits for instant 24-hr. cash: 2 wds.
72. Apiece
76. 1993 Nirvana album: ‘In ___’
78. Ancestry.ca purchase, ___
80. Rock band, Faith ___
81. ___ Major (Key of Beethoven’s “Piano Sonata No. 4”)
82. ___ River (Alberta town)
83. Farm song letters.....
84. Prized violin, e.g.
86. Swashbucklers legend Errol
88. Opening to ‘pool’ or ‘pit’
90. Maple ___ (Toronto hockey player)
91. Alike
92. ___ pot (Nasal irrigation aid)
93. Pair
96. Ontario cty.

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COMMUNITIES created on ice

MADELEINE LANGLOIS
The 1019 Report

Ice is a big part of Canadian winters. And a big part of Canadian winters in Vaudreuil-Soulanges is the frozen waterways. They do more than define the terrain; they forge a community that celebrates the cold. Nowhere is this more evident than in the seasonal tradition of ice fishing. Across the icy expanses, clusters of quaint huts create temporary villages of anglers, turning hours of patient waiting into a cherished communal experience.

Photos by Madeleine Langlois, The 1019 Report



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