

# THE 1019 REPORT

COVERING THE 1,019 SQUARE KILOMETRES OF VAUDREUIL-SOULANGES

VOL. 7 NO. 9 - WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2026

## HUDSON

TOWN ADDS TO ITS SANDY BEACH HOLDINGS **P3**

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## This is how they roll in Rigaud



Ian Grant, The 1019 Report

Out for a casual weekend walk in this region sometimes mean heading out on horseback with a friend. And this is exactly what these two were doing on Tialon Road in Rigaud, near the Dunelm Equestrian Centre. Ah, the sights of spring are finally really here.

## Mom at centre of massive search for abandoned child released

FREDERIC SERRE  
The 1019 Report

The mother of a three-year-old girl who was found not criminally responsible of abandoning the child on the side of

an Ontario highway last June — a case that triggered a massive three-day search throughout the Vaudreuil-Soulanges area — has been released from a psychiatric hospital and now resides at a halfway house.

The case attracted wide attention when the woman, 34, pulled her SUV into the parking lot at the fireworks outlet off Highway 20 in Coteau du Lac on June 15 and asked an employee to call police, saying she had lost her daughter, launching a dramatic search.

The case made international headlines when, three days after her disappearance, the child was found exhausted, hungry, but safe by Ontario Provincial Police Officers near Casselman, Ont., on the side

of Highway 417. During the course of the massive police search, SQ officers discovered a dead dog, believed to belong to the woman, in a ditch off Highway 30 near Highway 20 in Vaudreuil-Dorion.

Last December, a judge with the *Commission d'examen des troubles mentaux* — an independent provincial government adjudicator — ruled that while the mother, a resident of LaSalle at the time, had made significant progress in dealing with her mental-health issues, she still had more work to do and ordered her transferred from the Philippe Pinel Institute in Montreal's east end to the Douglas Institute in Verdun.

See **MOTHER**, Page 4.

## Exo aims to get you to W.I. REM Transit routes rejigged to access new rail service

JOSHUA ALLAN  
The 1019 Report

With the launch of the West Island branch of the REM light rail line less than two weeks away, the Exo public transit service unveiled its new bus network for the Vaudreuil-Soulanges region, which will include the creation of four lines that will bring commuters to and from the Anse-à-l'Orme REM station in Ste. Anne de Bellevue.

Starting May 18, local commuters looking to catch the REM will be able to take the newly created 490, 491, 590 or 790 bus lines from Vaudreuil-Dorion or on Île Perrot.

"The arrival of the REM will allow a certain flexibility" for commuters from the region, said Marco Cruz, Exo's director of mobility development, during a briefing last week.

From Monday to Friday, Lines 490 and 491 will run from the Vaudreuil commuter rail station, making three stops along the way in Vaudreuil-Dorion and crossing the Île aux Tourtes Bridge before reaching the Anse-à-l'Orme REM station, for an estimated 21-minute trip end to end.



See **BUS NETWORK**, Page 11.

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

Jane O'Neill, St. Lazare  
Heather Dubreuil, Hudson (renewal)

Corinne Murphy, Vaudreuil-Dorion  
Nancy Hope, Pincourt

Frederique Lissoir, Lachine  
Robert Fortier, Vaudreuil-Dorion (renewal)

Diane Hodgson, Hudson  
Teresa Amorosa, Rigaud (renewal)

# Hudson buys additional Sandy Beach lot for \$1.3 million

BRENDA O'FARRELL  
The 1019 Report

With all members of Hudson council in agreement last week, the town signalled it will expand its natural land holdings in the Sandy Beach area, and purchase a privately owned residential lot along the waterfront for \$1.3 million.

The move will add the lot, commonly referred to by its assigned address of 2 Royalview Street, to the 35 acres purchased earlier this year from Nicanco Holdings. The \$1.3 million price tag brings the total purchase price of land in the area to \$10.2 million, including the \$8.7 million price tag for the seven adjacent lots, which the town took formal title to in March.

The town will cover the Royalview purchase using funds from its accumulated budget surplus, thereby not adding to its long-term debt load, Mayor Chloe Hutchison confirmed yesterday.

The combined acquisitions, Hutchison said, “now, protects the full length of the unbuilt waterfront for the enjoyment of generations, current and future.”

The reaction from residents who commented on the move at the April 28 council meeting was mixed.

“I want to thank all of you here today for the fact that Sandy Beach is ours and for having the courage and vision, and listening to your people and making it happen after so many years,” said Laurie Rubin, a member of the Save Sandy Beach group, a grassroots movement that



The additional waterfront lot the town has agreed to buy is outlined in red.

has been advocating for the preservation of the area.

A former councillor, however, questioned whether the town could afford the added expense.

Explaining he supports the \$8.7-million purchase of the original 35 acres, former councillor Benoit Blais challenged the town’s new council on the price of the additional lot. He qualified his comment, saying he was in favour of the purchase, but not at any price.

“Can we afford to buy it for \$1.3 million?” Blais asked, explaining the price per square metre is more than double the price per square metre paid for the lots acquired from Nicanco.

“We asked ourselves the same question,” Hutchison said in response, explaining that two separate independent evaluators pegged the value of the land

very close to the \$1.3-million price.

“It’s a buildable lot,” she added, explaining the proposed updated flood maps “will not have a substantial impact when they are adopted.”

The town could not negotiate the price, as the purchase is the result of the first right of refusal it registered on the property in 2023. Under the terms of the right, the town was informed of the current owner having accepted an offer to purchase the lot for \$1.3 million in March, triggering its option to acquire the land by matching the offer.

“We either seize this opportunity or we don’t and the price continues to go up as land continues to increase in values,” Hutchison said at the April 28 council meeting.

As it stands now, the purchase plan for the original 35 acres in the Sandy Beach

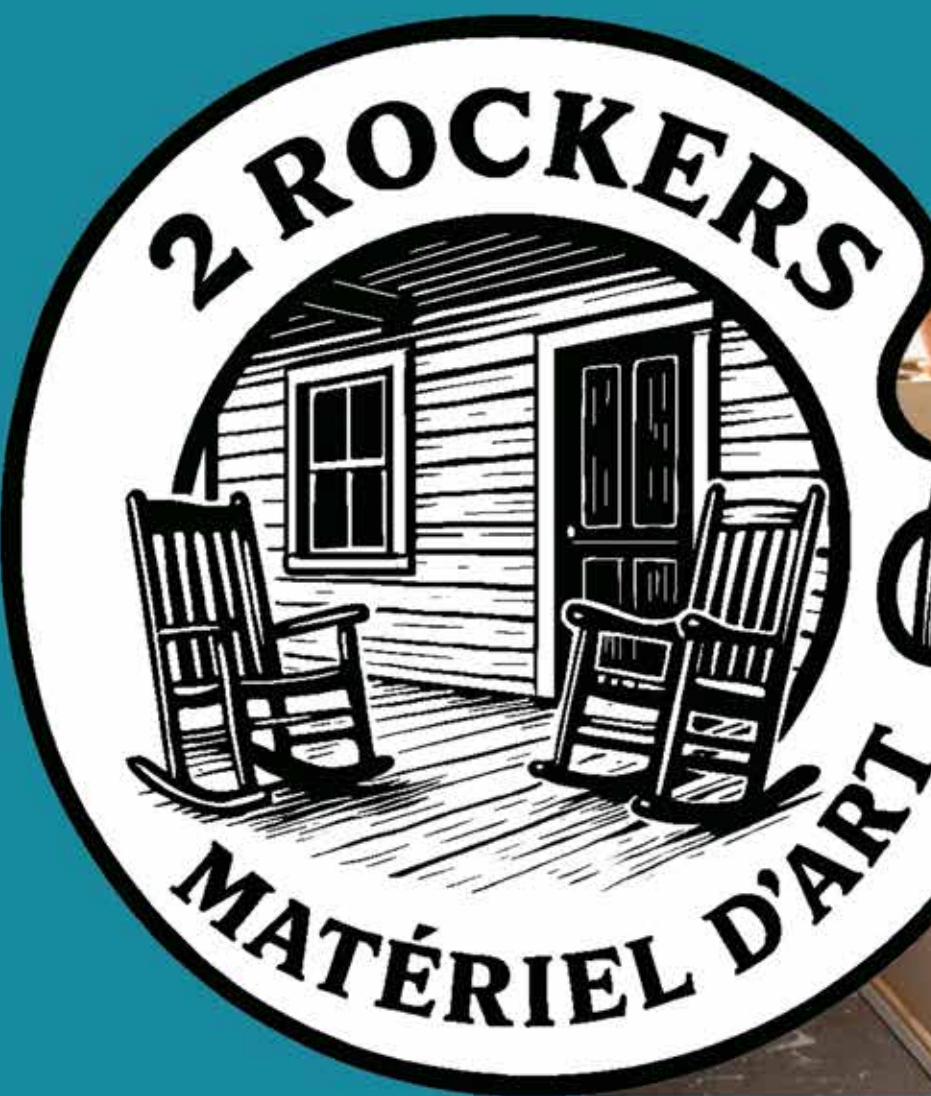
area — which includes \$8.75 million for the land plus financing fees, pushing the acquisition cost to \$9.6 million — will be covered by \$2 million taken from the town’s accumulated surplus, with the remainder being carried by a \$7.6-million loan, which was approved by the provincial government in January. This loan will be reduced to \$5.6 million upon the receipt of a \$2-million grant from Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal, which was confirmed in February. The latest purchase of 2 Royalview will not require additional borrowing, as the funds will be taken from the town’s accumulated surplus.

According to the *Registre foncier du Québec*, the public database of all real estate transactions in the province, the lot at 2 Royalview was purchased by the current owner on July 15, 2021, for \$780,000 plus taxes. No mortgage was registered.

On Aug. 1, 2024, a mortgage for \$1 million was registered on the property. Granted by a private firm specializing in short-term bridge financing, the loan carries a 25-per-cent annual interest rate “calculated daily and compounded monthly.”

The current assessment role for 2025-2027 pegs the value of the lot at just under \$1.17 million. The previous role pegged it at just under \$885,000. The annual municipal tax bill on the land is \$6,224, according to the listing posted on the Centris real estate website.

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## MOTHER: Case triggered massive 3-day search

From Page 1

Three months earlier, the mother was found not criminally responsible at the Valleyfield courthouse of unlawful abandonment of a child and criminal negligence causing harm. Quebec Court Judge Bertrand St-Arnaud determined that the mother was suffering from an episode of mixed mania with psychotic symptoms when she pulled up to the fireworks outlet. This prevented her from distinguishing right from wrong, he said. Both the defence and the prosecution agreed with St-Arnaud's verdict, who said he was basing it on a detailed psychiatrist's report.

Last month, the woman's case was brought before a review board of the Quebec Administrative Tribunal at the request of the Douglas Institute. After the hearing, the four-member tribunal voted unanimously to release the mother to a halfway house with a list of conditions.

According to the tribunal's report, the mother must comply with a series of conditions, since she "poses, due to her mental state, a significant risk to public safety." She will, therefore, have to live in a location approved by the hospital, comply with the recommendations of her treatment team, refrain from using any drugs, and undergo testing.

If her mental state deteriorates — or if she engages in behaviour that would increase the risk she poses to public safety to the point where that safety could no longer be ensured by the imposed conditions — she may have to return to detention in a psychiatric facility. The hearing transcript makes no mention of the woman's daughter, who now reportedly lives with her father.

On the day of the child's abandonment, the mother told a Sûreté du Québec police

officer dispatched to the fireworks outlet that "she had not slept all night and that when her daughter woke up, (the mother) started making breakfast while singing and dancing. Then, suddenly, she became afraid of something, panicked, and left with the little girl and the dog in her car."

The mother, who worked at a popular Old Montreal restaurant, said she had not been well for six months. After her arrest by SQ officers, and during her interrogation, the mother would laugh hysterically, then burst into tears. She claimed that "some entity was pulling the strings" and repeatedly mentioned the movie *The Matrix*.

According to the mother, her daughter's eyes were "weird" and she was, therefore, "possessed by the devil." She said that the little girl had been "reprogrammed" by a former co-worker with whom she had had a toxic relationship.

In the months leading up to the incident, a psychiatrist assigned to the case reported that the mother was "out of balance and her loved ones told her she was going crazy."

According to the doctor's summary, during the holiday season in 2024, everything changed: the mother separated from the girl's father and was on the verge of burnout. The woman posted nearly 250 videos on TikTok, where she talked about "resetting her nervous system" and that "energy does not die and that supports the theory that we are in some kind of simulation."

She finally left her job, which she had held for more than a decade, in early June. None of her coworkers had seen her since. "The last month, we really felt that she was disconnected," said one employee.

*Local Journalism Initiative*

## Vaudreuil's watering ban getting rough reviews

JOSHUA ALLAN  
The 1019 Report

As the weather warms up and plants begin to grow, residents in Vaudreuil-Dorion are taking issue with a recent city bylaw, banning them from using potable water to water their lawns.

The new restrictions are included in an update of a 2022 bylaw, which had significantly limited the times residents are permitted to water their lawns using city water, replacing it with a blanket ban. This updated bylaw went into effect at the start of the new year. Only those with a permit from the city are allowed to water their lawns with potable water.

Mayor Paul Dumoulin received several comments, sometimes veering into a heated exchange, from residents who are upset with the change.

Resident Lina Maiorano, one of several who spoke out at Monday's council meeting, suggested the city use a more gradual approach, "and you wean us into not watering our grass."

"By then, maybe I'll be dead, because I don't like yellow grass," she added, receiving applause from some in attendance.

Others criticized the fact that they felt the city came up short in communicating this bylaw change, feeling that it was dropped on them without notice.

While Dumoulin agreed the city could have been more effective in communicating, he said the objective is necessary in the fight against climate change.

"We talk all the time about climate change, climate change," he said. "But we have to make decisions. We made them."

He also noted that the Quebec Water Strategy 2018-2030 and the Quebec Drinking Water Conservation Strategy 2019-2025 requires municipalities to reduce their water consumption.

In the summer, the average Vaudreuil-Dorion resident uses about 600 litres of water a day, Dumoulin said. "With the statistics that we have, we need to reduce our water consumption by 20 per cent per person. We are obliged by the law to get there."

Residents are able to apply for permits to water their lawns under certain circumstances, including seeding a new lawn or laying down sod. Permits will not be accepted any time during the months of July or August.

# Vaudreuil sur le Lac faces pushback

## Residents send town back to drawing board on proposed urban plan

JOSHUA ALLAN  
The 1019 Report

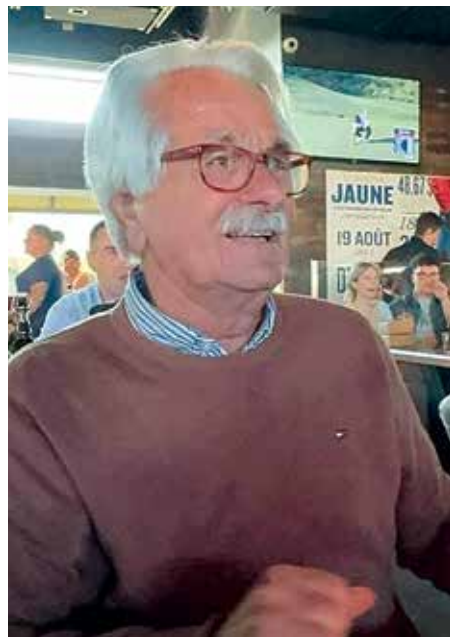
The small town of Vaudreuil sur le Lac has witnessed significant pushback by residents through the past few months over a proposed overhaul of its urban planning regulations, culminating with the town's promise last month to pause the project and "return to the drawing board."

"The population does not agree at all with the new vision of the municipal council," said Claude Pilon, the town's former mayor and a longtime resident, who has been an outspoken critic of the changes over the past few months. "They want to overhaul zoning (and) permit multi-unit housing, while we don't want it."

The proposed changes, presented during a public information session in February, would have indeed seen parts of the small town re-zoned to allow the construction of multi-unit dwellings of between two and three storeys, as well as zoning for commercial usage and a portion of a wooded area close to Highway 40 being partitioned for a new industrial zone.

This would represent a significant change for the small town, which is made up almost entirely of quiet neighbourhoods of single-family houses alongside wooded areas, bordering the Lake of Two Mountains.

The plan, presented by Montreal-based urban planning firm APUR on Feb. 26,



Former mayor Claude Pilon among those critical of town's plan.

listed the town's objectives with this project, including its vision to "support the development of recreational and tourism activities" as well as to "improve and secure mobility conditions." The overhaul would also bring the town's urban planning bylaws in line with the MRC of Vaudreuil-Soulanges' updated land use and development plan — a requirement for all municipalities in the region.

The pushback by residents on this project was swift. The Feb. 26 information



Mayor Mario Tremblay promises to take comments into account.

session, as well as public council meetings in March and April, were attended by dozens of residents in the town, which has a population of about 1,350.

"I know that the residents are not happy, because residents (usually) don't attend municipal council meetings," Pilon pointed out, having served as mayor from 1998 until 2020.

Attendees at those meetings took turns voicing their disapproval of the plan, explaining that they fear it could change the

tranquil identity of their small town. The exchanges sometimes became animated, with those in attendance often applauding points made by speakers against the proposals and attendees occasionally raising their voices when addressing the council.

"We chose to live in Vaudreuil sur le Lac for its tranquility and safety," explained resident and former councillor Lise Lefort. "We are small (as a town) and we want to stay that way, preserving our tranquility, and that is the primary reason why we, the residents, chose to settle here from the very beginning."

The debate came to a head at the April 16 council meeting, where Mayor Mario Tremblay opened the meeting by reading a prepared statement, explaining the town would "return to the drawing board in order to see how your comments, your suggestions can be implemented in relation to the municipality's legal obligations."

Tremblay also pointed out that the town plans to organize "a new public information session in the coming months."

The town will "do what the people want in Vaudreuil sur le Lac," Tremblay said at the meeting, adding: "When the population does not agree, and they have ideas, you need to listen to the population."

Neither Tremblay nor the town's urban planning department responded to requests from *The 1019 Report* for additional comment.

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## Editorial

# Hudson council has shown courage of its convictions

Let's face it, in today's world we all stand in judgment — of others, the actions of others and, occasionally of ourselves. But that last kind appears to be falling from fashion.

In fact, now more than ever, it seems, we tend to rush to judgment. Then, all too often, we forget it quickly and move on. Or worse, hold on to it, standby as it turns into resentment and allow it to fester.

All this rapid-fire judgment and the enormous ease to inflict social-media-fuelled blowback makes for a world where it is harder and harder to show courage of conviction. But every so often, this courage is put forward. When it does, it catches the light, and glimmers. It is a subtle thing, this glimmer. It's like a wink, a gesture that, when well timed, can express more than words. And when noticed, is received with warmth and appreciation, and is often fondly remembered for a long time.

An example of how the courage of conviction is not totally a thing of the past came last week, when Hudson town council voted to purchase a two-acre lot at the east of the land it recently acquired in the Sandy Beach area. This additional piece of waterfront land came with a comparatively hefty price, an element that deserved a considered pause. And consideration was given from all indications. But then council, despite knowing it would be subject to sharp judgment from some, showed the courage to hold to its clearly stated conviction — that the preservation of natural spaces was a priority, especially in a location that has been a cherished shared space for so long.

It would have been easy to say the initial purchase of Sandy Beach-area land was enough. It would have been possible to say the land that had been held by developers was saved, and preserved. An argument could have been made that council did what it could without buying that last bit of beachfront.

All of that could have happened. And

all of that could have satisfied the hardest judges within the community — those who worry about street paving and capital expenses and all the other lines on an annual budget. Of course, this is not to say that those concerns are not pertinent, nor important. They are. The difference is weighing importance in the context of priorities, and being nibble enough to juggle the two while contending with a shifting set of circumstances where opportunities arise on their own timetable.

Despite all of that, there is another judge that still has not rendered its verdict in all of this — that of history. It will take a long time before that judgment is delivered. But when it does, it will take a much wider context into consideration. And it might come to the conclusion that preserving all the land at Sandy Beach, including not just the part that was under immediate threat of a large-scale development, but all of what makes the site a unique landscape that provides for an enduring legacy for an entire community — to experience, to share and to preserve — was an opportunity that was not missed, nor dismissed, nor somehow discouraged, but seized when it was presented despite it arriving in less than perfect or desired form.

That is courage. That is public stewardship that was outlined, articulated and executed.

Bravo.

When Sandy Beach officially reopens in the coming weeks, if you find yourself down there, look upward to see the sunlight filter through the leaves of the trees. Look for that glimmer. It will be a subtle thing that glimmer, and know that for generations to come — in the decades and centuries that will follow — others will see it too. That will be the wink they will receive from a time when some still had the courage of their convictions. And it will, indeed, be fondly remembered.

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

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## Letter to the editor

### Statement from PM's office on new Governor General

*The following is a statement from Prime Minister Mark Carney's office on the appointment of Louise Arbour as the next Governor General of Canada.*

As Governor General, Ms. Arbour will be the representative of His Majesty The King in Canada. She will be Canada's 31st Governor General since Confederation and the first Governor General of Canada appointed by His Majesty.

Ms. Arbour is a world-renowned legal scholar, judge and leader in human rights and justice. With a career of service spanning more than five decades, she has held nearly every office a Canadian jurist can hold, and several that no Canadian had held before. She was appointed as a judge to the Supreme Court of Ontario, the Court of Appeal for Ontario, and the Supreme Court of Canada. In 1996, she was appointed by the United Nations as chief prosecutor for the International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and for Rwanda. In these roles, she led efforts that resulted in the first conviction for genocide since the Genocide Convention and the first indictment for war crimes of a sitting head of state.

Ms. Arbour was appointed High Commissioner for Human Rights by the UN Secretary-General in 2004 and later served as UN Special Representative for International Migration from 2017 to 2018. More recently, Ms. Arbour delivered the Independent External Comprehensive Review on misconduct in the Canadian Armed Forces, which became a catalyst for unprecedented culture change



Louise Arbour was named Canada's 31st Governor General yesterday.

and reform.

Ms. Arbour is a Companion of the Order of Canada, Canada's highest civilian honour, and a Grande officière de l'Ordre national du Québec. She has received nearly 100 honours and awards, including 42 honorary doctorates from universities around the world. Ms. Arbour's experience, judgement, moral clarity and conviction will serve Canada exceedingly well.

The prime minister expresses his deepest thanks to Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon for her exemplary tenure as Governor General and for her lifetime of advocacy for Inuit rights, Indigenous self-determination, and the preservation of Indigenous language, culture and identity. Her legacy will endure not only in her service, but in the way she served — with an unshakable belief in Canada.

*Statement issued on May 5, 2026*

### SUBMIT A LETTER

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# FACT:

## \$11,584

The amount the Town of Hudson paid to Vaudreuil-Dorion-based Csur la télé in March to record and livestream its municipal council meetings in 2026. The sum includes a \$10,089 charge for 13 council sessions this year, plus \$1,495 for a special public meeting on Feb. 19.

Source: Town of Hudson



Madeleine Langlois, The 1019 Report

Perhaps not your typical way to greet guests at a bridal shower, but this so-called host, apparently named Henrietta, welcomed those attending Christina's bridal shower last week in Hudson. It was not quite clear what the theme was, but off-beat was definitely part of the vibe.

## Looking back, I've discovered: Good childhood friends all had great mothers



Tom Whelan

This Sunday is Mother's Day and, for me at least, it feels a little more poignant than usual. Not because of my own mother or my wife, both of whom were and are exemplary in every sense of the word, but because of two other Mums who have been very much on my mind.

Over the past 10 days or so, I've attended the funerals of the mothers of two of my oldest friends in the world. "Sadly" is the word that comes to mind, of course. Oddly enough, however, I came away from each experience feeling uplifted. Even joyful, which might sound like an unusual takeaway from a pair of funerals, but there you have it.

There are a handful of us who grew up together in the west end of Montreal, long before many of us made our way out into the world. We came from Irish families, knew each other from the first day of first grade, and were, at least officially, altar boys and choir boys, very much in the literal sense. Outside of church, let's just say our behaviour didn't always live up to the job description.

We played on the same teams, got into the same scrapes and, until university, attended the same schools. Some of the families were large, quite large by today's standards. Seven children in one household, six in another. My own family, with three offspring, felt downright minimalist by comparison.

What stands out most now when I look back at those times are the kitchens. If you happened to be in one of those homes around mealtime, there was never a question of whether you were staying. A plate would appear, a chair would be found, and you were part of the crew. No fuss, no ceremony, just a simple, generous assumption that there was always room for one more.

I have many fond memories of the two Mums to whom we recently said goodbye. And, of course, of their sons, men I'm proud to still call my friends more than 65 years later. When I stop to think about it, it is something of a marvel. I'm not entirely sure whether it's an anomaly

that the same small group of friends has stayed close through all that life threw at us — marriages, careers, moves and the occasional curveball. Distance has come and gone, as it does, but somehow the connection never faded.

More than that, we seem to have an unspoken agreement: When one of us is having a tough time, the others show up. Maybe not always in grand gestures, but in calls, visits and the kind of quiet support that only comes from decades of shared history. I find myself genuinely grateful for that. It's not something I take for granted.

So how does one walk away from not one but two funerals feeling uplifted, even smiling?

A big part of it, I think, is that these were quintessentially Irish funerals. Oh sure, there were tears. There should be. But they were accompanied by laughter. Lots of it. Stories were told, some polished with age, others perhaps improved slightly in the retelling, and before long the room was filled with warmth as much as it was with remembrance.

The officiants at both services played a role as well. Each had known the Mum about whom they were speaking, which made their words feel personal and genuine. One priest, after outlining a long list of virtues, paused and said, "If Patsy ain't in heaven now, there's not much hope for the rest of us." That line alone made being there even more special, and it drew exactly the kind of reaction you'd expect.

With the number of first cousins in both families, the funerals quickly took on the feel of neighbourhood reunions. Faces I hadn't seen in years — decades, in some cases — were suddenly right there in front of me, a little older, perhaps a little wiser, but instantly familiar.

So this Mother's Day, along with celebrating the remarkable women in my own life, I'll be raising a quiet toast to those two Mums, and to all the kitchen tables, open doors and lasting friendships they helped create along the way. Without them, I wouldn't have the best friends in the world.

*Tom Whelan is a veteran broadcaster who can be heard weekend afternoons on CJAD 800 AM. He can be contacted by email at [info@the1019report.ca](mailto:info@the1019report.ca).*

## QUOTE

**"The Vaudreuil-Hudson line is currently operated by Exo and will continue to operate even after the REM is launched. Vaudreuil-Hudson line users will be able to continue taking the train to travel downtown. The REM will become an additional complementary offer."**

— Réseau express métropolitain online information

# A View From The 1019



The 1019 Report

**Just a fox out on a trot:** This sly-looking creature was just out for a short tour in the Vaudreuil sur le Lac area recently, in the middle of the afternoon. Not too nervous, not to shy, it just went about its way.

**Le Pont/Bridging**  
Fête - is Celebrating  
**30**  
ANS-YEARS

<p><b>D'entraide entre voisins</b></p> <p><b>Musique en direct</b> Collations complémentaires Activités pour les enfants</p>	<p><b>Of Neighbours Helping Neighbours</b></p> <p><b>Live Music</b> Complementary Snacks Kids' Activities</p>
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**samedi le 23 mai 13h-16h**      **Saturday May 23rd 1-4pm**

**Centre communautaire Hudson**  
**Hudson Community Centre**

**info**

# To counter separatists heading into fall vote, feds need 'dream team'



Andrew Caddell

Last month's Liberal policy convention in Montreal was more about convening than policy: the corridors of the Palais des Congrès were packed with 4,500 delegates networking away, while the policy sessions were sparsely attended. I wandered the halls to eavesdrop on gossip, attending a few policy sessions.

One panel impressed me: under the title "Building Canada Strong," the speakers were Finance Minister François-Philippe Champagne, Industry Minister Mélanie Joly, Privy Council President Dominic Leblanc, Heritage Minister Marc Miller and Public Works Minister Joel Lightbound.

All are fluently bilingual, each is smart, articulate and represents an important constituency: Montreal (Miller and Joly); rural Quebec (Champagne); Quebec City (Lightbound); francophones outside Quebec (Leblanc).

As the Oct. 5 provincial election draws nearer, the tone of Parti Québécois leader Paul St-Pierre Plamondon has become more shrill and anti-Canada. He is preparing the way for a "Oui" in the referendum campaign he will, no doubt, promote ad infinitum over a four-year mandate if elected. I have been casting about for a group to deliver a counter message for the "Non." The convention panel might be the group.

The PQ leader, known as PSPP, is a compelling orator. He has distilled his campaign into three key messages:

- Canada is a colonialist country with no legitimacy, which undermines Quebec's potential;
- An independent Quebec will reap a \$90-billion windfall, as taxes sent to Ottawa do nothing for Quebecers and are wasteful duplication of services;
- Freed from Canada's "oppression," Quebec will be one of the richest countries in the world, like Denmark or Sweden.

Of course, each of these arguments is fallacious, notably the one about the \$90 billion sent to Ottawa. But without anyone to explain federal government spending on dozens of ministries, a military, a foreign service, regulatory bodies, a national police force, prisons, an intelligence service and more, the average Quebecer believes PSPP's nonsense.

And this is not your grandmother's PQ. As a reporter at the National Assembly in 1977, I recall the first cabinet of René Lévesque, composed of gentlemen like Jacques-Yvan Morin, Dr. Denis Lazure

and Claude Morin. They talked about "sacrifices" for separation and Lévesque's dream of "sovereignty-association" with Canada. Plamondon's rhetoric is harsh, dismissive and radical, and he seems to believe it.

While federalists hope new provincial Liberal leader Charles Milliard will swoop in and steal victory from Plamondon, a split in the vote between new CAQ Premier Christine Fréchette, Conservative Eric Duhaime and Milliard will probably result in a PQ victory. This should force the Carney government to develop a strategy in response.

In the 1980 referendum campaign, there was a travelling roadshow for the "Non" composed of Jean Chretien, Créditiste Camil Samson and a smattering of Quebec politicians. They crisscrossed Quebec, speaking in church halls and arenas, building support.

The 1995 "Non" campaign by contrast had a boring list of speakers in boring venues, and was overwhelmed by the charismatic Lucien Bouchard.

Enter the "dream team" of Miller, Joly, Champagne, Leblanc and Lightbound. They could match the star power of PSPP and his crew, and offer substantive rebuttals to his preposterous accusations.

Each one knows their files and the financial, social and economic issues associated with separation. Each can talk credibly about the consequences of a "Yes" vote without being accused of fomenting fear. And to Péquistes who claim francophones are second-class citizens in Canada, each has made it big on the national and global stage.

There is no doubt such a group needs to be formed, with clear strategy, messaging and outreach. Church halls and arenas may give way to Zoom and streaming, but it must convince the average Quebecer federalism works.

While some Quebecers will call for a strategy for "Constitutional renewal," separatists like Plamondon just want their own country. And confronting an existential threat from the United States isn't the best time to recommend greater devolution of powers. No, this campaign must be fought on Canada's merits. And they are many.

Famed columnist Lysiane Gagnon compared Quebec politics with hockey, saying "Québécois like a team that fights to win, and that's the one they will support, or respect."

A "dream team" of smart, attractive francophone ministers could boost the federal side's referendum scoresheet. The draft for star players should begin now.

**Miller, Joly, Champagne, Leblanc and Lightbound could be the ticket**

# Les Cèdres woman who rented home for murder freed

FREDERIC SERRE  
The 1019 Report

A Les Cèdres woman who participated in the torture and killing of a young crypto influencer in 2024 by allowing the killers to use her basement for \$3,000 is already a free woman, despite being sentenced last January to two years behind bars.

In a hearing last week, the Quebec Parole Board ruled that Joanie Lepage, 34, had turned her life around so much that she doesn't need to be in prison.

"Your progress, your commitment, your sense of responsibility, and the quality of your reintegration plan lead us to conclude that the risk of recidivism you present is not unacceptable," the board members ruled.

Lepage was released from prison after serving one-sixth of her sentence and sent to a halfway house, only weeks after pleading guilty to participating in a gruesome kidnapping that ended in murder, committed at her home on Rolland Street in Les Cèdres, a quiet residential road just off Cité des Jeunes Blvd. near the border with St. Lazare, in June 2024.

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 he and

his friends were attacked by a group of hooded armed suspects in the parking lot of the condominium building in Old Montreal where Mirshahi lived. The victims were driven to Lepage's house 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 during Lepage's trial revealed that she had 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? Fuck, 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 Quebec Court 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.

During the parole board hearing, members were presented with details about the kidnapping, noting Lepage was experiencing financial difficulties, and had turned to a friend who then put her in touch with a group looking for a place to rent.

"You assumed that your basement would be used for trafficking activities," the board noted.

The board ruled that the evidence, however, showed that she was unaware of the crime's fatal outcome, which led her to plead guilty to a reduced charge of false imprisonment.

Her prison term turned out to be shorter than expected, as she was already serving the remainder of her sentence in a half-

way house.

At the hearing, Lepage admitted to having turned a blind eye, expressing regret and shame over her actions. Since then, she has worked hard to get her life back on track, notably by cutting all ties with the criminal underworld.

The board also highlighted the quality of her current support system, noting that she now benefits from a healthy social circle and has broken with her substance-abuse habits. Consequently, her risk of reoffending was officially classified as "low."

"You also address the consequences of your actions for the victims — including the death of one of them — with sensitivity and authenticity," the board noted.

As part of her pre-parole release, Lepage remains subject to several obligations, including participating in reintegration programs and eventually re-entering the workforce.

*Local Journalism Initiative*



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## THE 1019 REPORT

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# Vaudreuil opposition party names new leader

JOSHUA ALLAN  
The 1019 Report

Nearly six months after coming up short in her bid for mayor of Vaudreuil-Dorion, Karine Lechasseur announced that she is stepping down as head of the municipal party Inspire Vaudreuil-Dorion late last month.

Her resignation was soon followed by the party's announcement Monday that volunteer and candidate for council in last year's election, Marie-Claude Nolin, would sit as Inspire Vaudreuil-Dorion's interim leader until a permanent leader is elected in 2028. Her appointment was announced at the party's first annual general meeting last Thursday.

"It is with great humility, but also with pride, that I have accepted this interim role until our members select the person

who will lead us into the next election," Nolin said in a statement. "For me, a city like ours deserves a political party that invites us to work together toward harmonious development built in partnership with the community."

The party will launch its race for leadership candidates in 2027, official spokesperson Christiane Veillette said, emphasizing the election process will be done "with transparency, openness and in collaboration with our members."

Lechasseur had originally announced her decision to step away from her role as leader of Inspire Vaudreuil-Dorion on April 22 through an open letter.

"I accepted this role with a clear intention: to devote myself fully to our city and contribute to its development," reads the letter from Lechasseur, who is also a real

estate agent. "I have decided to step down in order to refocus on my professional activities, while remaining committed to the development of our community."

Lechasseur lost her bid for mayor in last November's municipal election. Long-time councillor Paul Dumoulin won the mayor's seat, with 59 per cent of the vote. Dumoulin replaced Guy Pilon as leader of the ruling Parti de l'action de Vaudreuil-Dorion. Pilon retired from politics after serving as mayor for 20 years.

Of the full slate of candidates presented, Inspire Vaudreuil-Dorion won two of the eight council seats. Jasmine Sharma retained her seat in District 3, while first-time candidate Vanessa Leduc won in District 7.

Nolin had run for the council seat in District 8 but was beaten by the Parti de

l'action's John McRae. She had received 45.6 per cent of the vote.

Prior to her run for mayor, Lechasseur had served as District 4 councillor, having been elected in 2021 as part of Pilon's party.

In 2023, Lechasseur, along with fellow councillors Jasmine Sharma and Diane Morin, split from Pilon to sit as independent councillors, expressing that they were unsatisfied with what they felt was a lack of inclusion and collaboration on the part of the Parti de l'action.

Lechasseur and Sharma went on to launch Inspire Vaudreuil-Dorion, which was designated as an official municipal party in May 2025.

*Local Journalism Initiative*

# Longtime resident wins Hudson by-election

BRENDA O'FARRELL  
The 1019 Report

Like the Habs' win on Sunday night, Hudson's new town councillor Andrew Dumas is celebrating his win and looking forward to the next round.

"I will put my efforts into projects that can best benefit from my experiences and in a priority that will best suit what is already planned," Dumas said yesterday.

Dumas, the co-owner of Sauv e's restaurant in the heart of the District 3 village

area that he now represents, won handily in the by-election, collecting 155 votes, representing 52.7 per cent of the ballots cast, according to Elections Qu bec.

Rival candidates Luc Dionne, who ran unsuccessfully in last November's general election in District 2, received 74 votes, or 25.2 per cent of the ballots; while Victoria Henderson came in third, receiving 65 votes, representing 22 per cent support.

In all, only 297 ballots were cast, which put the voter turnout at 33.7 per cent.

Three ballots were rejected. There are 881 registered voters in the district.

"Although I didn't win this election, I want to congratulate Andrew Dumas on his victory," Henderson said in a statement. "I hope the coming term brings progress and positive change for our community."

Supporting the vibrancy of the town's commercial core is an aim Dumas hopes to provide.

Among the issues he raised during the

brief by-election campaign was improving the town's signage, making parking in the village easier, and ensuring bylaws limiting noise and hours of operation are enforced.

A resident for 27 years, Dumas started the Hudson Hospitality Association and is a member of the town's Business Development Committee.

## Elwood Quinn Celebration of Life

Quinn Farm, May 16 & 17, 9am to 5pm



We will be holding a celebration of life for Elwood Quinn, the co-founder of Quinn Farm. We invite all those whose lives were touched by him to join us for a day at the farm in his honour. Whether you join us for a few minutes or a few hours, your presence will be meaningful to us.

Admission to the farm will be free throughout both days.  
Please head to [quinnfarm.qc.ca](http://quinnfarm.qc.ca) to RSVP.





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# BUS NETWORK: Buses from Vaudreuil to go straight to REM

## From Page 1

These two buses will run this route every 15 minutes at peak hours, with total running time stretching from 5:30 a.m. until around 1 a.m. each weekday. Line 491 will also run on weekends from about 7 a.m. to about 10:40 p.m.

Line 591 will make the run between the Dorion commuter rail station and the Anse-à-l'Orme station. Exo estimates a 25-minute end-to-end travel time for this line, which will make stops in Pincourt and L'Île Perrot, including one stop at the Île Perrot train station. Line 591 will first leave the Dorion station at 5:50 a.m. on weekdays, running about every hour before making its last return at 8 p.m.

Line 790 will run exclusively on weekends between 7:22 a.m. and midnight, making trips about every hour and a half. Starting at the Papillon-Bleu Elementary School, off Harwood in the old Dorion sector of Vaudreuil-Dorion, the bus will make stops in Pincourt and L'Île-Perrot before arriving at the Anse-à-l'Orme station.

Cruz said the changes will allow commuters from the region to access the West Island REM line without having to use their cars.

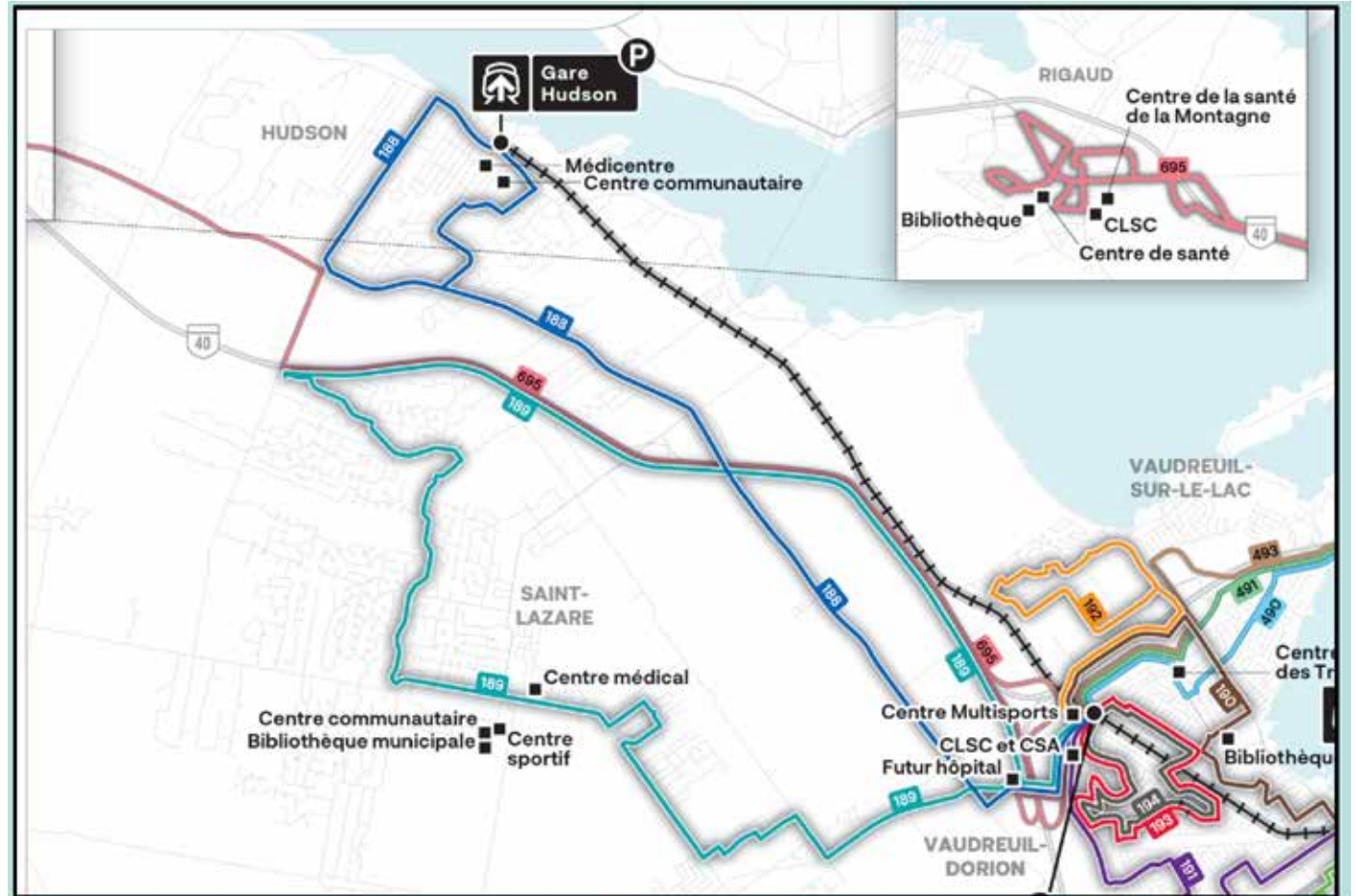
The issue of adequate parking at the West Island REM stations has been the focus of ongoing discussions. The Anse-à-l'Orme station, for example, was built with only 216 parking spaces. The next-nearest station in Kirkland has 200 spaces, but these are reserved for Kirkland residents. The station that follows, Fairview-Pointe-Claire, still does not have a parking plan in place.

## Regional bus network adjusted

Along with new bus lines to access the REM, Exo also unveiled adjustments made to the local bus routes within the Vaudreuil-Soulanges region, which includes a renumbering of each bus line, as well as a "simplification" of the route network.

A side-by-side comparison of the current and future routes shows a significant reworking of bus routes in Vaudreuil-Dorion and on Île Perrot, with noticeably fewer lines travelling through suburban neighbourhoods.

"The lines are a bit straighter, with less overlap," Cruz explained, "contrary to current lines where there is lots of overlap and lines that cross each other."



This is the new bus network on Île Perrot.

Courtesy Exo

"The objective was really to make the network easier to read and to create a network that connects to the station, allowing passengers to transfer either to the Vaudreuil line or to lines that connect to the REM," he added.

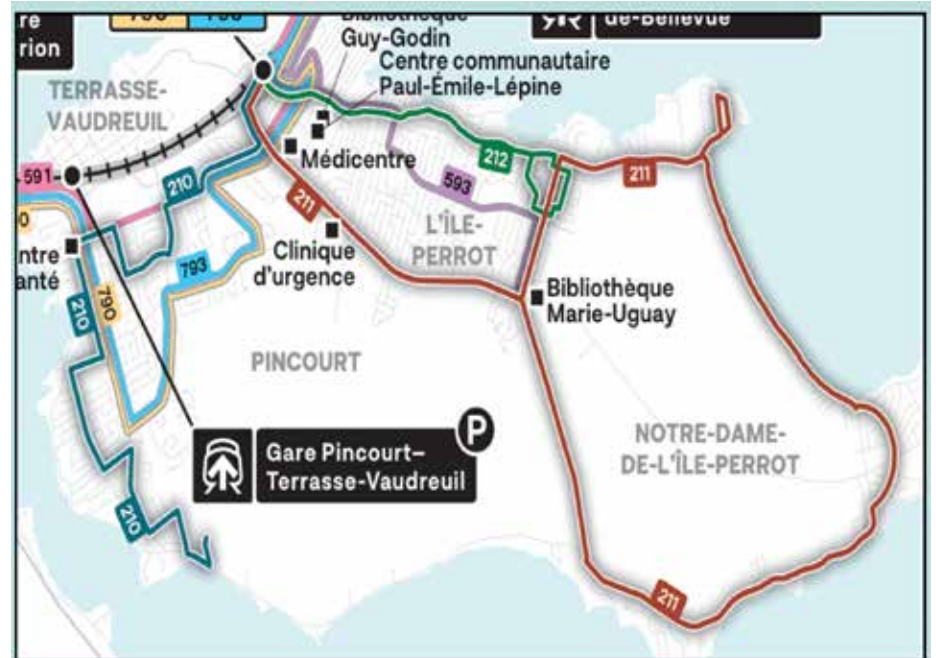
Fewer changes are seen along the bus routes in Rigaud, St. Lazare and Hudson. Rigaud's Line 61 will be renamed Line 695, St. Lazare's Line 51 will be updated to Line 189, and Hudson's Line 21 will change to Line 188.

Cruz confirmed that the bus schedule in these towns will remain "very similar to what we have today — the same number of trips, the same service times."

One small but notable route change will be done to Line 188, which will travel between Hudson and the Vaudreuil station. Instead of travelling along Highway 40, the bus will take Harwood, stopping close to the future regional hospital, before arriving at the station.

Exo's train lines and adapted transport network have not been affected by this change.

"It's really a redesign of the bus net-



These are the new Exo bus routes serving St. Lazare, Hudson and Rigaud.

work only," Cruz added.

These changes go into effect starting Monday, May 18, the same day as the REM's planned launch in the West Island.

Commuters are able to view their new bus lines and routes using the simulator tool, accessible through the Exo website.

Local Journalism Initiative

# Trucker assault in Île aux Tourtes rage case set to be heard

FREDERIC SERRE  
The 1019 Report

Nearly two years after a female trucker was beaten unconscious during a shocking road rage incident on the Île aux Tourtes Bridge during long traffic delays due to work that limited the number of lanes open on the span, the victim will finally have her day in court when the case goes before a judge this summer as the suspect faces one count of assault causing bodily harm.

Trucker Stephanie Ross says she is ready to face 47-year-old John Kirwin Labissiere of Terrebonne in court, and is relieved the case will finally be heard by a judge during a two-day trial scheduled for

Aug. 31 and Sept. 1.

"The slow wheels of justice are finally turning," Ross said. "It's been frustrating and long, but things are finally moving."

Ross suffered a major concussion and facial injuries on Aug. 21, 2024, during a fender-bender incident, which forced the closure of the bridge in both directions for several hours as paramedics and Sûreté du Québec officers did their best to reach the scene due to heavy bridge congestion at the time. According to the SQ, the road rage incident was sparked by a dispute as both trucks were stuck in heavy traffic in the westbound lane at about 3:30 p.m.

A shocking video of the brazen attack,

obtained by *The 1019 Report* and other media, showed Ross, a resident of Morin Heights, being punched in the head and knocked unconscious by a male trucker. The video also showed two Transport Quebec employees trying to reason with Ross's attacker, as he hovered over Ross, who was lying unconscious on the pavement. She was transported to hospital for treatment.

Three months after the assault, the SQ arrested Labissiere, who does not have a criminal record. He was released on bail and continues to be free.

Nearly two years after the attack, Ross is still feeling the physical and mental ef-

fects of the assault.

"I am getting neuropsychology treatments for my PTSD," she said. "It is greatly needed and appreciated. I am also getting physio for my jaw and shoulders."

Waiting for the case to inch its way through the court system has been frustrating for Ross and her spouse, she said.

"I have been processing things in my head, and although legally it's OK, common sense is out the window! I meet with my PTSD therapist, it is welcomed and hopefully calms my hamster in my brain."

Local Journalism Initiative

## TV WATCH REPORT

# Right now, there's TV viewing for every taste, more or less



Denise Duguay

Bookended by soft-hearted stories from the lands of Jane Austen, Hollywood and sentient octopi, the rest of this edition of viewing suggestions has more adrenaline than any one episode of *The Pitt*, which we are all missing except for the gory bits. Well, there are occasional gory bits on tap here as well. Be prepared to look away or to wipe away a tear.

**THE OTHER BENNET SISTER (series premieres on Wednesday, May 6, on BritBox)** Described in the trailer as “from the world of Jane Austen,” this new spinoff is based on the 2020 novel of author Janice Hadlow imagining what might have become of the overlooked middle sister in Austen’s classic, *Pride and Prejudice*. Ella Bruccoleri (*Ludwig*, *Call the Midwife*) plays the unapologetically bespectacled and bookish Mary Bennet, who escapes a family home governed by a shrewish mother and sisters but lovely supportive dad (Richard E. Grant). But it seems that London is not content to let Mary remain overlooked. Cue suitors, true friends, self-love and righteous reinvention.

**M.I.A. (series premieres Thursday, May 7, on Showcase and a week later on NBC)** “From the cre-

ators of *Ozark*” is all I need to know about this new thriller, which looks just as sharp, suspenseful and murderous as the 2017-22 Jason Bateman-Laura Linney crime-family drama (Netflix). Drugs are also central to this new Florida-set series. Etta Tiger Jonze (*Shannon Gisela*, *Strip Law*) is a limp kitten when pulled from the ocean, but she soon recovers her memory and murderous drive to avenge the killing of her family. Edward James Olmos (*Mayans M.C.*) plays the baddest guy. Carey Elwes (*The Princess Bride*) plays Kincaid, a detective who hopes to find her because “the wrong people could be looking for her.” No need for a Red Bull before, during or after watching this.

**LEGENDS (six-part series premieres Thursday, May 7, on Netflix)** It’s the early 1990s in England and that country’s Customs and Excise is losing its war on drugs. Enter the Legends, average folks who are quickly crafted into undercover agents. Steve Coogan (*The Trip* movie series) plays the boss who struggles with his own undercover trauma. Tom Burke (*The Lazarus Project*) gladly graduates from inspecting carry-on at Heathrow. Douglas Hodge (*The Great*) will do his buttoned-down best to protect the team from government overseers. Created by Neil Forsyth (*The Gold*).

**REMARKABLY BRIGHT CREATURES (premieres Friday, May 8,**



Courtesy Netflix

Sally Field and her leggy friend star in *Remarkably Bright Creatures*, which lands on Netflix on Friday.

**on Netflix)** Shelby Van Pelt’s bestselling debut novel is the basis for this movie about Tova, an aquarium employee (Sally Field) who befriends the resident giant octopus, Marcellus (voiced by Alfred Molina). Additional story layers (not to mention a pre-Mother’s Day release date) will necessitate extra tissues: Tova is a widow, and Marcellus is “on a mission to solve a mystery that will heal the widow’s heart and lead her to a life-changing discovery,” according to promotional paperwork. Lewis Pullman (*Lessons in Chemistry*) plays Tova’s hapless colleague.

**MARTY, LIFE IS SHORT (documentary premieres Tuesday, May 12, on Netflix)** Does it seem weird that Netflix is going ahead with director Lawrence Kasdan’s documentary celebrating the life and comedy of Martin Short only a couple of months after the death by suicide of his daughter? (The film was completed before her death.) Does it seem macabre to even ask? Rather,

I’d say it’s not only OK, but necessary for this show to go on. Before, during and after the Canadian-born comic actor was honing his skills on SCTV, Saturday Night Live, *Only Murders in the Building* and comedy tours with and without pal Steve Martin, Short has been impressively frank about the early deaths of his parents, his brother, his wife and recently friends and colleagues Catherine O’Hara and Rob Reiner. “Those kinds of situations are horrible,” he told *The Guardian* a few years ago, “but I think that you are either empowered by them or you become a victim of them.” That’s admittedly a lot of philosophical weight on a comedy but let’s follow his lead: Laugh, cry, rinse, repeat.

*Broadcast dates are subject to change. Rants, questions and suggestions all gratefully accepted at d2calm@gmail.com.*

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# Yes, vertical gardening is definitely on the rise



Terry O'Shaughnessy

## GONE TO GROUND

As those recent photos of space from Artemis II so majestically show, the horizon is not fixed. It all depends on where you're watching from. A hot new gardening trend is adopting this fresh point of view.

Instead of growing traditional "ground" gardens, condo owners and apartment dwellers are tilting the horizon and planting vertically. They are literally using the air for space, creating the kind of place where, instead of looking down to see what's blooming, you look up. In this landscape, or air-scape, your garden looks at you.

Of course, small yards and balconies have never lent themselves to the usual "horizontal" style of gardening. So planting upwards has always been the answer for urban (and suburban) herbalistas who don't have any land to work with. But the popularity of vertical gardening is most certainly, ahem, on the rise.

For example, I live in an apartment with a large balcony and would like to grow food as well as flowers. It seems like

a big ask. But the vertical gardening gurus simply say: Go for it.

Big planting pots of about 15 to 20 litres are now out there, all ready to go. I've filled them with lighter style soil than if planting in the ground, and made sure there's lots of good drainage.

Three different kinds of morning glory vines (pink Scarlet O'Hara, violet Grandpa Ott and the self-explanatory Heavenly Blues) are ready to start climbing once the weather permits — and I'm also going to plant the climbing heirloom peas called Little Marvel.

Growing upwards is not the only trick vines can do, so I'll also plant them in a hanging basket or two and have some foliage and flowers tumbling down over the balcony. A bright nasturtium vine of hot yellow and orange flowers will make a nice contrast to the morning glories, and I even hope to train all the vines to cover as much of my windows as they can manage. I'm hoping the greenery will help block the sun that cooks my apartment to cinders every day from noon until sunset.

Then comes the food.

First will be my "soup garden," with herbs like thyme, basil, rosemary, sorrel and sage. Some will be in pots, but others



Terry O'Shaughnessy, The 1019 Report

Hanging baskets are essential to vertical gardening, and hardy pansies are the perfect plant to start with because they cope with crazy changes in temperature — and can come in at night.

will reside in true vertical gardening fashion in growing bags or hanging baskets.

Then there will be the "salad garden" of chives, a big planter of kale, another of arugula and a heirloom cherry tomato plant.

Finally, there will be a folly — because what garden worth its salt doesn't have

something that borders on crazy? I think this might take the form of a zucchini plant. I've researched, and apparently it can be done if you have a minimum five-gallon pot and the kind of personality that can surrender to dreams that can't always be defended.

You just have to get used to looking up.

# Community Bulletin Board

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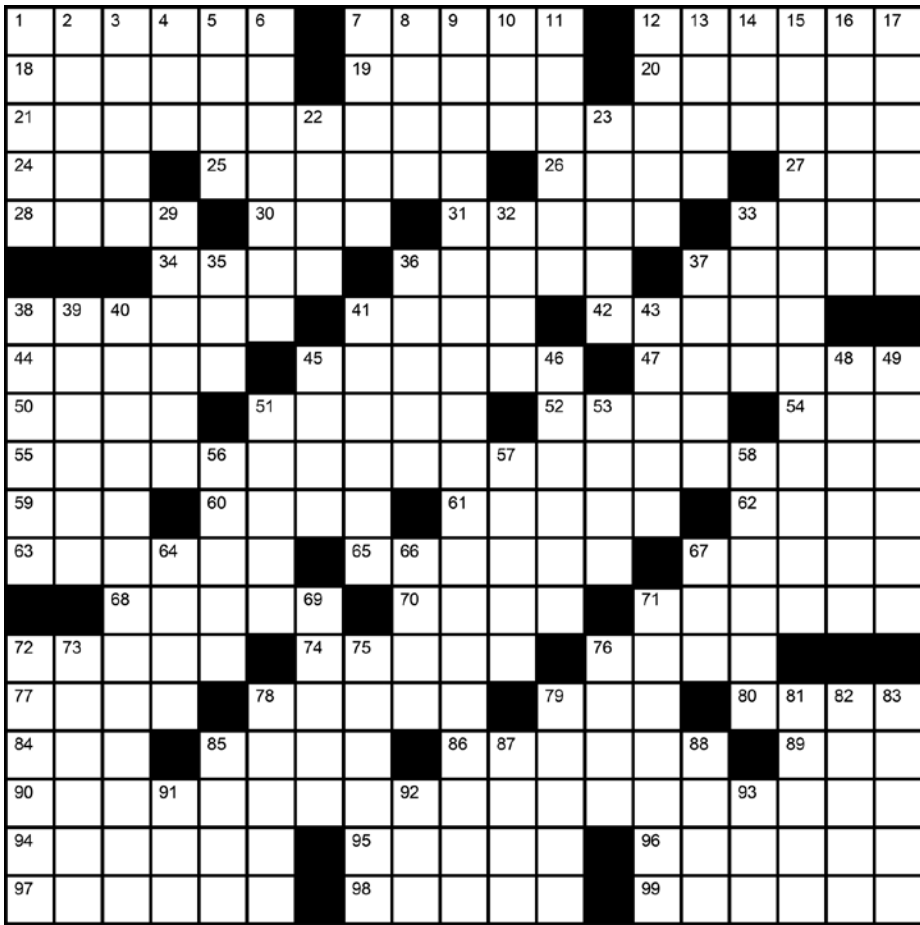
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# THE 1019REPORT

## Colossal Canada Crossword



SEE SOLUTION PAGE 10.

**ACROSS**

1. Federal election participants
7. Wight, Man and Arran
12. Cinnamon variety
18. Alanis Morissette song
19. Smartly dressed
20. Canada's three coastal waters
21. \_\_\_\_\_ National Park, in Nova Scotia
24. Denzel Washington movie, "The Book of \_\_\_" (2010)
25. Sashayed
26. Edouard \_\_\_ (Illustrator of Jules Verne books)
27. 'Saturday Night Fever' soundtrack song by MFSL: "K-\_\_\_"
28. Minute's mini moments
30. "Queen \_\_\_" (1955) starring Joan Crawford
31. Certain carnivorous cuts
33. Steals someone's stuff
34. Joan of "The Last Emperor" (1987)
36. Sammy Davis Jr. hit: "I've \_\_\_ Be Me"
37. Musical pauses
38. Bursts with praise
41. "There's no \_\_\_ thing." (That's not real)
42. Tea time treat
44. \_\_\_ and Lower Canada
45. Slept in the barracks
47. Music legend Mr. Redding, and namesakes
50. Fridtjof Nansen's Arctic expedition ship
51. Marie \_\_\_ (Belgian opera singer b.1834 - d.1907)
52. Mr. Schumacher of race car driving
54. "\_\_\_ - \_\_\_ Believe" by Cissy Houston
55. Shania Twain's everlasting hit: 4 wds.
59. Request
60. Aesir ruler in Norse myth
61. Three-piece suits components
62. Ancient Greece's love god
63. The heavenly sky, to a poet
65. Mr. Bentall, Canadian singer-song writer
67. "The Storied Life of A.J. \_\_\_" (2022)
68. Relative-by-marriage
70. C-3PO, et al.
71. Pharaoh of ancient Egypt with a variantly-spelled name
72. Sleep \_\_\_
74. Tahini treat
76. Ms. Ramirez of "Grey's Anatomy"
77. Leader in old Venice
78. Alpha-\_\_\_ (Heinz Canada classic)
79. Utah's cap.
80. Los Angeles football players
84. Hinterland Who's Who website, \_\_\_ca
85. Pub order
86. Detect
89. Caustic solution
90. Newspaper profession of Terry Mosher aka Aislin who is an Officer of the Order of Canada: 2 wds.
94. Fox, in Quebec
95. Cutlass \_\_\_ (Old Oldsmobile model)
96. Single tiny piece: 2 wds.
97. Puts up a skyscraper

98. Petulant outburst, \_\_\_ fit
99. Retro lawn fun, Slip ' \_\_\_

**DOWN**

1. Unsavory indulgences
2. "Wow!", in Mexico
3. Subject
4. Toronto-to-Montreal dir.
5. 'Spare' bones?
6. Scriptorium's staff
7. Basketry fibre
8. Pump or loafer
9. Alberta and Saskatchewan: 2 wds.
10. Pu-\_\_\_ (Tea variety)
11. "The \_\_\_ of Radio" by Rush
12. North Pacific salmon
13. US rights org. since 1920
14. 'S' of GBS (Newfoundland band)
15. Canadian hockey star Macklin Celebrini's team: 3 wds.
16. Owing: 2 wds.
17. Evaluate/determine
22. Biblical paradise
23. Ms. Lollobrigida and Ms. Gershon
29. Conniver's plan
32. Will-\_'-\_\_\_-wisp
33. Guido \_\_\_ (Baroque painter)
35. "Have You Seen \_\_\_" by The Chilites
36. "Patience" by \_\_\_ ' Roses
37. "Hahahahaha ...Ha!" in a text message
38. Loud chuckle!
39. Rebelled
40. Niagara vineyards bubbly: 2 wds.
41. \_\_\_ . Anthony (American suffragist b.1820 - d.1906)
43. Canned drinks often
45. Capital in Apulia in southern Italy
46. Unmanned flying crafts
48. Winnie-the-Pooh friend
49. Ms. Spacek's of "The River" (1984)
51. Inuit myth's sea goddess
53. Creative-ish
56. "Tada!"
57. Orange soft drink brand
58. Goethe National Museum location in Germany
64. Leg joint
66. "I'll have \_\_\_ please." (Lettered sandwich request in the caf')
67. Outlying
69. "\_\_\_ Was Young" by Eric Burdon & The Animals
71. "Rocky \_\_\_" by The Beatles
72. Stick or bind
73. Garlic \_\_\_ (Recipe seasoning)
75. Affix
76. Long cut
78. Fortifies
79. Go off course
81. Court story
82. Other name of the 'Opossum Shrimp'
83. Seven, in Rome
85. \_\_\_ Hope, Ontario
87. Rowing implements
88. Lengthy time periods
91. Tic-\_\_\_-Toe
92. Caesar's 52
93. First word in Dante's Inferno...

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# Birds, birds, birds

Spring has sprung. — finally.

The birds have been patient. Despite the coolish temperatures up until now they have gone about their business flittering about, and singing their sweet melodies.

We waited longer than usual for the season. The air finally feels charged with the promise of a vibrant renewal. And we are just a few sunny days away from the full transition from April showers into May flowers.

Listen for the birds.





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