



PAGE
5
VICTOR
Laurin

Remembering
Kris Kristofferson

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PAGE
5
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NEW BRIDGE OPTIONS

Have your say on the designs shortlisted for the future Alexandra Bridge



Taylor Clark
LJJ Reporter

Three shortlisted design concepts have been unveiled for the replacement of the historic Alexandra Bridge.

The designs dubbed Echo, Rendez vous, and Motion were presented to the board of directors of the National Capital Commission at a public meeting on October 1.

First serving as an interprovincial passage for trains, horse and wagons, electric streetcars, and pedestrians, the 123-year-old bridge was deemed to have reached the end of its life. In 2019, the Government of Canada directed the crossing to be replaced within 10 years.

Working with the public, Indigenous communities, and stakeholders since 2020, the Public Services and Procurement Canada and the National Capital Commission have narrowed down three concepts for the public's viewing.

The first of the designs was Echo which reinterpreted the current bridge. But the design team's lead bridge architect Martin Knight clarified that it was not a replica.

"The Echo bridge concept draws inspiration from the historic Alexandra Bridge, combining heritage with modern design. Featuring two V-piers and a refined twin structural truss, it honours the original bridge while remaining in scale with the landscape and with Kīwekī Point," said Knight.

Spanning 210 metres, the concept would maintain a distinct identity while respecting the landscape of the National Capital Region. Indigenous expression was represented in the design with the inclusion of timbre members between the top cords, invoking the structural bracing of an Algonquin birchbark canoe.

The public spaces were marked by V-shaped supports. This gathering space could be enhanced with seating and seasonal canopies. Like all three design concepts, the



The National Capital Commission wants the public's input on the three concept designs proposed for the replacement of the Alexandra Bridge. PHOTO: NATIONAL CAPITAL COMMISSION WEBSITE

pedestrian deck, and the public space were on the upstream side while the roadway was on the downstream. Cyclists would be able to breeze through the bridge's centre without interrupting passersby with a naturally separated pedestrian deck.

Putting the Ottawa River centre stage as the defining environmental and social component of the landscape, the Rendez vous design wished to strengthen the concept of a meeting place.

"It appears to step lightly in the Kitche Zibī with a pair of graceful arches meeting at water level, acknowledging the river's importance to the Algonquin Nations and defining a collective vision to create a bridge and urban landscape as a place of exchange," said Knight.

Continued on page 2

Consultation highlights urgent needs of English-Speaking Quebecers



Tashi Farmilo
LJJ Reporter

Innovation, Science, Economic Development Canada (ISED) and the Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions (CEDQ) held

a virtual consultation with English-speaking communities in Quebec on October 8, delving deep into the realities and challenges facing these communities in their pursuit of economic stability and growth.

Continued on page 2



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NEW BRIDGE OPTIONS

Have your say on the designs shortlisted for the future Alexandra Bridge

Continued from page 1

The set of arches spanning 290 and 220 metres meet a single pier in the river. Although the pair reached more than 15 metres above the existing bridge at their crown, the architect said the arches' height and transparency amplify views providing a feeling of openness. Where the arches dip below deck level, the public space forms creating a seasonal, flexible stage when closed to traffic.

The final design – Motion – took in-

spiration from the flow of the Ottawa River and the American eel which calls the river home. “The architectural approach effortlessly blends with its surroundings, weaving a harmonious tapestry of land, water, and sky.”

Its defining three rolling arches mimic the flowing water below, rippling up and down from end to end. The heights of the arches varied with the central arch measuring 3.5 metres taller than the existing bridge and secondary arches

3.5 metres lower, creating a dynamic silhouette that was still in scale with its surroundings.

“The signature form of the bridge marks a new destination for the National Capital core area and provides a rich experience when viewed from below as well as from afar, matching another unique element to this much-loved river scene.”

Two open houses were held in Gatineau and Ottawa to give attendees one-

on-one time with the project team in early October. The public can also provide feedback on the three concepts by completing an online survey on the National Capital Commission website until October 24.

The comments will be considered in the final design concept, which will be submitted for approval in spring 2025. The replacement work was expected to begin in 2028 with the new bridge to be operational in 2032.

Consultation highlights urgent needs of English-Speaking Quebecers

Continued from page 1

The discussion brought to light the enduring struggles of English-speaking Quebecers—struggles that reveal a divide between these communities and the broader Quebec socio-economic landscape.

The focus of the consultation was the social economy—a model that, while thriving in francophone regions, remains underutilised among English-

speaking communities. Hoffman Wolff, representing CNET and the Regional Development Network, spoke candidly about the need for English-speaking Quebecers to see the social economy as not only viable but as an empowering alternative that could redefine local economies. Wolff described a dynamic model where community-run businesses prioritise not just profit but the well-being

of people and the environment, a concept that, if embraced, could shift the economic fortunes of English-speaking communities.

However, as the consultation unfolded, it became clear that many English-speaking communities face significant barriers that go beyond economic opportunity. Participants expressed concern over the persistent youth unemployment rates, pointing out that despite bilingual education, English-speaking youth still struggle to find meaningful employment. The issue isn't merely one of job availability but one of identity and belonging—how can these communities, with their distinct linguistic and cultural heritage, find a foothold in an economy that often feels inaccessible?

The conversation turned to the urgent matter of affordable housing. Many English-speaking Quebecers, particularly those in rural regions, face challenges in accessing suitable housing options. The scarcity of resources, combined with rising costs, has left many struggling to find stable, affordable places to live. The problem is compounded for seniors and those needing home care services—while services exist, they are often inaccessible due to language barriers. Without bilingual services, the elderly and vulnerable feel increasingly isolated, cut off from the support they need.

As these pressing issues were laid bare, participants emphasised the need for targeted actions. There was a call for stronger support for community leaders who, with limited resources and mounting challenges, carry the burden of sustaining these communities. This was not just about funding but about capacity-building—creating conditions where leaders could thrive, innovate, and inspire without facing burnout. The idea of pooling resources and forming regional partnerships was discussed as a way to build resilience, yet the reality remained that without a significant shift in policy and funding, the gaps would persist.

The session left participants and organisers alike with the understanding that addressing the needs of English-speaking communities in Quebec demands a deeper, more inclusive commitment. It is not enough to acknowledge the struggles; the work lies in transforming those acknowledgments into action—building systems that not only meet basic needs but that respect and uplift the unique identity of these communities.

As the dialogue continues, there is hope, but there is also the recognition that true change will require sustained effort, collaboration, and a commitment to bridging the linguistic and cultural divide that has long defined Quebec's economic landscape.



AVIS DE RADIATION

Prenez avis que **PAUL HUNEALT**, autrefois notaire, a été radié de façon temporaire du Tableau de la Chambre des notaires du Québec pour une période de cinq (5) ans aux termes d'une décision sur sanction rendue par le Conseil de discipline le 19 juillet 2024 et devenue exécutoire le 22 juillet 2024.

Le Conseil de discipline a déclaré l'intimé coupable des infractions suivantes :

Chef 1 : À Gatineau, entre le ou vers le 1^{er} janvier 2019 et le ou vers le 27 avril 2023, ne pas avoir pas fait preuve de diligence raisonnable en faisant défaut d'inscrire au registre foncier, sans délai après leur clôture, 103 actes de radiation.

Chef 2 : À Gatineau, entre le ou vers le 1^{er} janvier 2019 et le ou vers le 27 avril 2023, à même les fonds qu'il détenait en fidéicommiss, avoir détourné ou utilisé à des fins autres que celles indiquées par ses clients une somme totalisant 12 170, 75\$ qui lui avaient été confiées dans l'exercice de ses fonctions, en prélevant les sommes destinées à la publication de la radiation avant la présentation au Registre foncier du Québec. (86 actes)

Chef 3 : À Gatineau, entre le ou vers le 1^{er} janvier 2019 et le ou vers le 27 avril 2023, avoir fait défaut d'avoir, dans les plus brefs délais après la signature de 32 actes de vente ou de prêt, veillé à la signature des actes de radiation.

Le tout, en contravention aux dispositions des articles 14 et 15 du *Règlement sur la tenue des dossiers et des études des notaires* et 56 (7) du *Code de déontologie des notaires*.

Le Conseil de discipline a imposé à l'intimé une période de radiation temporaire de cinq (5) mois pour le chef 1, de cinq (5) ans sur le chef 2 et de neuf (9) mois sur le chef 3 précités, le tout à purger de façon concurrente.

Lieu : Montréal
Date : 2 octobre 2024

Roxanne Daviault, notaire
Secrétaire substitut du Conseil de discipline

To see more of the *Post*, go to
westquebecpost.com

Gatineau Park Protection Bill sparks debate over private property concerns



Tashi **Farmilo**
LJJ Reporter

A proposed bill designed to protect Gatineau Park has ignited debate among conservationists, lawmakers, and local residents, with concerns focused on its handling of private property within the park's boundaries. Introduced by Member of Parliament Sophie Chatel in collaboration with Senator Rosa Galvez, the bill aims to provide formal legal protection for Gatineau Park, which, despite being a cherished federal green space, has lacked such safeguards for decades.

The bill seeks to establish official boundaries for the park and grant the National Capital Commission (NCC) stronger authority to manage the park's ecological health. Chatel has made clear that her intention is to ensure the park's preservation for future generations. "The bill proposes to define clear official limits for the park and preserve it for the benefit, education, and enjoyment of Canadians," she said in a statement. "It guarantees that the park's ecological integrity will be protected, ensuring that the park will remain intact for future generations."

Since her election as MP for Pontiac, Chatel has prioritised Gatineau Park's protection, pointing to the need for formal legal status to prevent further development within the park. Her bill is the latest attempt to provide a legislative framework for the park, following 13 earlier proposals between 2005 and 2013 that failed to pass through Parliament. These earlier attempts stalled due to election cycles or other legislative roadblocks.

For Chatel, the stakes are high. The park is home to 90 plant species and 50 animal species that are at risk in Québec, and it draws more than 2.6 million visitors each year. These visitors contribute significantly to the local economy, generating an estimated \$241 million in GDP and supporting nearly 5,000 jobs



A proposed bill to protect Gatineau Park, including Meech Lake, has sparked debate, with supporters praising its ecological focus and critics arguing it neglects the issue of private property development within the park's boundaries. (TF)

PHOTO: TASHI FARMILO

in the surrounding communities, according to the NCC.

Despite these positive intentions, critics argue that the bill does not go far

enough to address the growing concern over private property development within Gatineau Park. Jean-Paul Murray, Secretary of the Gatineau Park

Protection Committee and a long-time advocate for the park, has raised alarm over the ongoing construction of private homes inside the park's borders.

According to Murray, 137 new houses have been built within the park since 1992, a trend he argues threatens both public access and the ecological integrity that the bill purports to protect.

"The park is paid for by the public," Murray said. "Why should private owners, whose properties are supposed to be acquired by the NCC, continue to profit at the expense of the park's ecological health? The bill does nothing to stop this."

Murray, referencing the importance of national parks, described Gatineau Park as an example of "democracy applied to the landscape," stressing that it should remain a public space for all Canadians rather than be encroached upon by private development.

Continued on page 6

Chelsea Council aims to improve resident participation



REUEL **S. Amdur**

Mayor Pierre Guénard announced at the October 1 meeting of Chelsea Council that there will be new opportunities for community input. Coffee sessions with the mayor are scheduled at his office in the municipal building from 8:30 to 10:30 on October 23, November 20, and December 12. In addition, Chelsea will have a fireside chat about mobility issues on October 28 at La Fab. The meeting also saw a power-point presentation on Chelsea's strategic plan. More about that in another report.

Guénard announced that Chelsea is moving from a three-year investment plan to a five-year plan. The hope is that the new approach will mean success in attracting more grant money.

Traffic control has been one of residents' common concern, often related to speeding. Council has been address-



Alex Mac Rae raised riverside erosion matter at Chelsea Council meeting, October 1.

PHOTO: REUEL AMDUR

ing these on a case-by-case basis but now intends to address the matter more systematically. In the meantime, it decided to request the Ministry of Transport to reduce speed on the 105 from the Alonzo Bridge to Old Chelsea Road to 50 kilometers an hour.

Several people spoke during question period to express concerns about the designation of the bottom of Burnett Road as an access point to the Gatineau River. Alex Mac Rae was the first to ad-

dress the matter. One concern was the possibility that motorized boats would be set afloat at the site. The mayor and Councillor Kimberly Chan made it clear that the location would be for swimmers and non-motorized boats only. Mac Rae also spoke of the need to stop cars at the bottom of the road and about erosion because the bottom sector of the road runs straight into the river. The response was that there will be more naturalization of the area around the access point and bollards will be placed before the point.

When the Post asked Mac Rae if he was satisfied with Council's plans, he said he was 90% happy. He still worried that the access point designation would attract too many people, many from beyond Chelsea. However, Chelsea plans to establish other access points along the river, so that not all the traffic will come to the Burnett location. Parking problems, however, remain unresolved.

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National Newspaper Week is about Supporting Local Journalism



Paul Deegan

According to the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism's Digital News Report 2024, Canadians' trust in news is 39 per cent. For comparison, Americans' trust in news is even lower at 32 per cent.

There are many variables at play in the decline of trust, including engagement-driven algorithms that deprioritize hard news – which traditionally provided a common set of facts – in favour of reinforcing one's point of view rather than informing the reader. The rise of 'fake news', misinformation, and disinformation are among other factors in the decline of trust.

Across Canada, newspapers – whether print or digital – continue to cover school boards, cops, courts, city

hall, and other issues that matter to the daily lives of Canadians. That's why Canadians' trust in their regional or local newspaper stands at a relatively healthy 65 per cent.

But real journalism by real journalists – not some artificial intelligence tool that scrapes the web for content, which is not always reliable – costs real money. Real local journalism involves the hard work of gathering facts, shows evidence of first-hand reporting – such as independent research, interviews, and fieldwork – and editing. The light rewriting, reproduction, or aggregation of news from external sources is not original journalism, nor is simply cutting and pasting news releases or loading up a website with copy from a wire service or with a carousel of clickbait.

While there is no one silver bullet to solve the economic crisis in journalism,

there are solutions that can help.

First, businesses can support their local newspaper through advertising.

Governments – federal, provincial and local – can follow the lead of the Ford government in Ontario earmark 25 per cent of advertising spend to domestic news publishers. For context, the feds spent more on China's TikTok last year than all Canadian print publications combined.

The private sector shouldn't be competing with the public broadcaster, which takes in \$73,139,000 in digital advertising revenue while receiving \$1,271,800,000 in direct annual government subsidies.

The government can provide the Competition Bureau with the tools and resources it needs to complete its investigation into online advertising practices in Canada.

And finally, Canada Post needs to

return to the long-standing policy of exempting community newspapers with commercial inserts (e.g., flyers from local hardware and grocery franchisees) from the Consumers' Choice program. Community newspapers with commercial inserts are not 'junk mail'.

In a world where misinformation travels faster than truth, newspapers and their websites keep Canadians informed, connected, and engaged in communities from coast to coast. National Newspaper Week is an opportunity to recognize the 3,000 print journalists who work tirelessly every day to get news out to Canadians, but it's also an opportunity to reflect on how we, as Canadians, can support their work.

Paul Deegan is president and CEO of News Media Canada

LETTERS

to the **Editor** *Opinions expressed are not necessarily shared by the paper*

Chapleau Deputy Mathieu Lévesque focused on east Outaouais when he is responsible for all of Region 07

Over the last few months, I have noticed articles in the *West Quebec Post* featuring Mathieu Lévesque, Quebec deputy for Chapleau in the east end of Gatineau. He is also the minister responsible for Outaouais. But judging on the announcements, like the one in the last *West Quebec Post* about investments to combat climate change, he is focused on his own back yard.

Is this typical? Maybe I expect too much from elected officials? As a high-ranking CAQ minister (he is also Deputy House Leader, after all), my naïve self just assumed the rest of Outaouais would also be represented by him. Sure, there are liberal ridings and many anglophones, many federalists too. But this is an opportunity for the CAQ.

In the *West Quebec Post* article, I read that the minister of Environment Benoit Charette is invested in this Green Economy Plan for eastern Outaouais. Clearly the CAQ has taken

note of our region.

Many of my neighbours were pleasantly surprised by the CAQ response to Covid and their consideration for anglophones. The leadership gave daily Covid emergency updates in English and information was published in English too (in this newspaper if I recall?). Then, the schizophrenic move to reverse freedoms for anglophones confused most of this newspapers' readership, I am sure. All the rules around oppressing anglophones were a major back-track to the linguistic progresses made during the pandemic. What is going on with this party? And is Mathieu Lévesque speaking up for us?

It is time for the ministers to look a little farther west. We exist too and deserve the government's attention.

**Name withheld upon request
Outaouais**

Mega fish farm: where's the continuing coverage?

Dear *West Quebec Post* team: I read with interest the article about the planned salmon mega-farm in the Pontiac. Will your team give the public more information? We don't want another situation like

the Above Ground Nuclear Waste Dump plans, where the public cue-ed in too late to impact the planning.

**Jenny Gravelle
Pontiac**

Letters to the Editor Guidelines:

To make sure your letter is published:

All letters must be signed with a phone number (not published). Any language is acceptable ... but be clear, civil, and not rude. All letters are edited for grammar, punctuation, spelling, etc, and for length. Expect your letter to be edited. No personal attacks, nor promotional pieces for political candidates or parties accepted.

The Editor

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Remembering Kris Kristofferson



At twilight, we are thankful for those past and present who have enriched our life's journey. Through the darkness of night as we slumber, we often meet them in our dreams. At the first light of a new day, we are grateful for the gift of life with all the promises it offers. As the twilight of our own lives sets upon us, we often reflect upon these things.

There are others, too; others, whom we may never have met, yet who have enriched our life's journey. Today, I want to share with you one of those others, who for over 60 years has shaped many of my thoughts. That person is Kris Kristofferson, one whom I have never, nor will ever encounter. Circumstances prevented meeting Kristofferson, as you will see here. His legacy of poetry in song remains, although, at 88 years, the sun has set on his life. Kris Kristofferson was a Renaissance man.

A Rhodes Scholar with a Master's degree in English Literature, he would clean studios for others as a janitor. He was a boxer and a football player. The son of an Air Force General, he became a helicopter pilot himself. He was a featured actor in Hollywood productions. It is his songs that often stir my reflections on life's experiences. Please, please, if you're able, seek and listen to *That Silver-Tongued Devil*. Listen also to *Darby's Castle* and to *Casey's Last Ride*. The latter, sung by Bytown Bluegrass, is my favourite version of the song.

Kristofferson wanted these lyrics of Leonard Cohen's song, *Bird on a Wire*, on his tombstone: Like a bird on a wire, like a drunk in a midnight choir, I have tried in my own way to be free. Kris Kristofferson died on September 28. Here are two personal stories about the singing poet:

When I was writing about country music, one of the venues that presented live entertainment was the Gilmour Hotel on Bank Street in Ottawa. There, one evening, Chris McCann was entertaining. Today an inductee into the Ottawa Valley Country Music Hall of Fame, Chris had just released her award-winning recording *Dance With Me Darlin* on the RCA label. Chris McCann relayed this intriguing story:

Kristofferson was performing at Barrymore's up the street. As Christine stepped outside during a break, she noticed Kristofferson near his tour bus. Racing toward him, she introduced herself as sharing a common first name and handed him a disc of her latest hit.

In the early 2000s, I was one of a group receiving vocal coaching from Meredith Matthews. At the time, our Monday morning sessions were held at Orpheus House. Bill Connolly, a singer-songwriter, was part of that group. He was also the owner of Oceanfront Properties with commercial real estate holdings in Canada and the United States. One of those properties was a strip mall in Corpus Christi, Texas. At that venue was a music store where each year a star with the name of a well-known entertainer was embedded in the sidewalk. Bill suggested Kris Kristofferson, since he resided in Brownsville, Texas at the time. When Kristofferson came to Corpus Christi for the ceremony, Bill asked him if he would come to Ottawa to present a songwriting workshop. Kris agreed and Bill connected him to Chris White, co-founder of the Ottawa Folk Festival. White, a Nova Scotia native son is also a talented singer, songwriter and performer.

Kris Kristofferson would come to Ottawa in mid-August 2007, as one of the featured performers who would also conduct songwriters' workshops at the Ron Kolbus Centre and sing on the outdoor stage at a Woody Guthrie tribute. At the time, I eagerly awaited the event, since, like Bill, I anticipated meeting Kris Kristofferson. It was not to be.

Meredith had arranged a seminar for us that same weekend at the Sears and Switzer Acting Studio in Toronto. That Sunday night, returning from the weekend seminar, as we drove down the 401, the rain tumbled down.

Kristofferson was on stage at Britannia Park with his most loyal fans seated in the front rows. As the storm started, all had to move indoors for shelter. Those in the back rows were the first to enter the Ron Kolbus Centre, taking their places at the front near the stage. There, those who had come first were the last to enter. They were furious. Like them, I felt sad that I had lost my one chance to see Kristofferson in person. As Bill observed, "You can only be in one place at a time."



Netanyahu Invades Lebanon

by Gwynne DYER

AUTHOR, HISTORIAN & INDEPENDENT JOURNALIST

Binyamin 'Bibi' Netanyahu, Israel's prime minister, has launched his invasion of Lebanon. As usual in the opening stages of Israeli incursions into that fragile country, the signs and portents look good for the Israel Defence Forces (IDF).

Thousands of Hezbollah's senior and mid-level leaders have been killed or maimed by the Mossad intelligence agency and the IDF has destroyed a significant portion of the organisation's huge missile inventory in their launch sites. Iran's gesture of support for Hezbollah, 180 ballistic missiles fired at Israel on Tuesday, did little damage.

Moreover, Tehran is clearly not interested in a major war with Israel, let alone with Israel's ally and protector, the United States. The regime said after launching those missiles at Israeli military targets that the penalty for Israel's recent assassinations of Hezbollah supreme leader Hasan Nasrullah and Hamas's political leader Ismail Haniyeh has now been paid.

Netanyahu, of course, is brimming with confidence and vows that "Iran will pay a heavy price" for its salvo of missile attacks. Indeed, he is so convinced that this is his moment of triumph that he is taking on Hamas in Gaza, Hezbollah in Lebanon, the Houthis in Yemen and Iran (population 88 million and the proud possessor of lots of enriched uranium) all at once.

The whole of Israel is on a victory high after the striking success of last month's attacks on Hezbollah and the interception of most of Iran's and Hezbollah's retaliatory missile launches against Israel.

Jubilant former Israeli prime minister Naftali Bennett said out loud last Tuesday what Netanyahu clearly also really believes but cannot say: "This is the greatest opportunity in fifty years to change the face of the Middle East." He then urged Netanyahu to go after Iran's nuclear facilities and "fatally cripple this terrorist regime".

It looks and sounds like the jubilation Israelis felt after defeating all their country's Arab neighbours in 1967. The high is unlikely to last as long this time, but even if this turns out to be a real and lasting Israeli victory rather than just the first round in a much longer struggle, a decisive outcome is not possible.

No matter how many Hezbollah fighters and cadres the IDF kills in its current advance into Lebanon, no matter how many rockets and launch sites it destroys, only two outcomes are possible.

Either Israel opts for a permanent military

occupation of the southern part of Lebanon, which would entail a constant flow of Israeli casualties in a guerilla war against it, just like in the occupation of 1982-2000. Or else it withdraws after smashing things up as much as possible, whereupon Hezbollah starts rebuilding its forces and launch sites for the next round.

At some point the shooting will stop, and Israel will still be a country that rules over seven million Jews with full rights of citizenship and seven million Arabs, some with limited rights but most with none.

It will continue to be surrounded by four countries containing 159 million Arabs. Two of those countries have signed peace treaties with Israel, but popular opinion in all four still sees the Jewish state as the enemy. Moreover, regimes can be overthrown and peace treaties can be broken.

And Iran will still be there too. Even if the war that seems to be getting underway now should end in the overthrow of the current Iranian regime (a real though small possibility), any new Iranian regime that relies on popular support would probably also see Israel as a threat and an enemy.

One might add that Israel has had nuclear weapons for about sixty years, and Iran could have them in six months any time it chooses to defy the United States. Its current forbearance is based solely on its confidence that neither the US nor Israel will try to destroy its 'threshold' nuclear weapons status.

That Iranian calculation is probably still valid, because President Joe Biden has made it clear that the United States will not support an Israeli attack on Iran's nuclear sites. Without US support, especially in the form of tanker aircraft, such an attack would probably fall far short of expectations – and might well make Iran weaponise its uranium.

This is the context in which Israel was born and in which it still lives. The idea that it can break out of these constraints by mere military force is a delusion, and even Netanyahu may not believe it. His primary goal, after all, is not strategic. For him it's mainly a tactical manoeuvre designed to keep himself in power and avoid jail.

At the moment it sounds deluded to say that this futile, bloody nonsense will only end when Israelis and Palestinians both accept that the borders defined by the end of the 1948 war are legitimate and permanent. But this is not delusion. It is a cold, hard fact.

Catering company raises funds to upgrade the Chelsea sugar shack and vineyard



Sophie Demers
LJI Reporter

In December of last year, My Catering Group purchased the Chelsea vineyard and sugar shack, Le Vignoble de Chelsea. Le Vignoble de Chelsea will be the closest vineyard to the nation's capital and will be used for farm-to-table catered events.

Owner and founder of My Catering Group, Derick Cotnam, wants to make the location an agri-tourism destination. In order to do this, the sugar shack will need some upgrades. Using a Quebec crowdfunding website, La Ruche,



Le Vignoble de Chelsea

PHOTO: COURTESY

and selling tickets to a fundraising soirée the new owners of the site were able to surpass their \$20,000 fundraising

goal. The "party with a purpose" event took place on September 29, the event consisted of food, music and drinks that

were enjoyed by all. The funds raised totaled \$21,945.

The new owners are working closely with the MRC des Collines-de-l'Outaouais, Tourisme Outaouais and Juniper Farms in order to get to know the community and prioritize sustainability. The upgrades will mostly be updating equipment throughout the rest of the year just in time for next year's sugar shack season. Equipment upgrades will include an oil-fired evaporator, tubing, pumps, and syrup containers, tanks, and pans.

Le Vignoble de Chelsea is located at 1582 Route 105 in Old Chelsea.

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Gatineau Park Protection Bill sparks debate over private property concerns

Continued from page 3

Murray's primary criticism of the bill is its failure to include a right of first refusal for the NCC to purchase private properties within the park when they go on sale. This mechanism, he argues, is essential to gradually phasing out private development and ensuring the park remains a public space. Murray believes the absence of such a provision in the current draft undermines its core goal of protecting the park's ecological integrity. He also refutes Chatel's assertion that such a provision would be financially unfeasible for a private member's bill, citing a 2009 Senate ruling that, he says, demonstrates it could be included without violating parliamentary rules.

Chatel has responded to these concerns by pointing to the legal constraints on private member's bills, which cannot impose new financial obligations on the government. As she explained in a statement, "I cannot deal with private property acquisitions because I'm limited by what a private member's bill can do." Nonetheless, Murray contends that earlier bills, including those introduced by former MPs Ed Broadbent and Paul Dewar, managed to include a right of first

refusal without triggering constitutional or financial challenges. Murray believes that excluding this option now is a missed opportunity to address one of the park's most pressing issues.

The ongoing debate over the bill underscores the broader challenges facing Gatineau Park. Despite its importance as a green space for the Ottawa-Gatineau region, the park has been governed largely by the NCC's master plan, which lacks the force of law. This has left it vulnerable to development pressures, particularly from private landowners within the park's boundaries. Chatel's bill is an attempt to rectify this by formalising the park's status, but without tackling the private property issue head-on, some fear that it will not go far enough.

As the bill moves toward its introduction in the Senate this fall, public consultations continue, with Chatel urging residents to stay engaged and provide feedback. She has expressed optimism that this legislative effort will finally provide Gatineau Park with the legal protection it has long needed, while also balancing the diverse interests of local communities, Indigenous groups, and conservation organisations.



Real People Reporting Real News

It's no secret that thousands of news stories are published in Canada each day. From local community features to national breaking news stories, the real people reporting real news in your community work tirelessly to ensure readers have access to credible news they can trust.

But who exactly are the real people reporting the news? It could be the person sitting next to you at your favourite coffee shop or the spectator who cheers on your local little league each week; it's someone in the community just like you!

And just like you, these real journalists care deeply about their community - so much so that they've made it their life's work to keep citizens informed and connected. At the core of every newspaper is a team of real people committed to telling real stories that impact the lives of those in their community.

Champions of the truth come in many forms. It could be journalists and photographers who are on the ground capturing these stories as they happen - using the power of words and imagery to make change. It could be publishers and editors who keep

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There are a handful of powerhouses behind every story who all have one common goal: keeping our democracy thriving through vibrant, independent and local news media.

Each National Newspaper Week, we celebrate the real people reporting real news for their ongoing commitment to keeping communities connected and our democracy thriving through credible reporting. While they might be people in your community, they are also champions of the truth.

Trusted newspaper content is more important than ever in today's world, where disinformation travels faster than the truth. Journalists, not AI, power Canadian newspapers - the most credible source of information that remains written by humans, for humans.

Learn more about National Newspaper Week at www.nationalnewspaperweek.ca or www.ChampionsoftheTruth.ca.

The Importance of Canadian News Media in the Age of Misinformation

The Canadian news media landscape has changed and evolved more over the last decade than ever before. We're living in the age of information overload. Without tools to distinguish fact from fiction or help us find what's relevant to our day-to-day lives, misinformation makes it easy to get lost and confused.

Independent local news media outlets are essential to providing Canadians with the factual and reliable information they need. Canadians need to know where and how to access credible news. Here are four ways to stay connected with your local news:

- 1) **Go directly to the source** - When in doubt, get it straight from the source! There's no better way to access credible, relevant news than heading straight to your local newspaper's website, reading the e-edition of the paper, or picking up a print copy.
- 2) **Newsletters** - If you're looking for convenience, get the news straight to your inbox by subscribing to a newspaper newsletter. You'll get local content straight from the source, and you can sign up for multiple newsletters from different newspapers to get a variety of relevant content.

- 3) **Subscriptions** - Check to see if your local paper has a subscription service, whether print or digital. It's a surefire way to support your newspaper and the industry, all while keeping you informed through credible news.

- 4) **Podcasts** - Are you often on-the-go, or just not a big reader? Many outlets now offer news podcasts as a great and reliable way for Canadians to access relevant information. It's easy to stay informed with dependable and factual information even if you lead a busy lifestyle.

Ultimately, there are many ways to consume local news media content. Interacting with your local newspaper and supporting its content is an act of civic engagement that helps to uphold our country's democracy.

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Québec interrompt les travaux sur la route 148 en raison de contraintes budgétaires

Carl **Hager**

MUNICIPALITÉ DE PONTIAC – De nombreux résidents, dont le député de Pontiac André Fortin, ont été surpris d'apprendre que le gouvernement du Québec a discrètement interrompu le projet de réasphaltage du tronçon à quatre voies de la route 148 à Luskville la semaine du 22 septembre. Les avis publics



De la machinerie lourde est toujours présente aux abords de la route 148 après que le gouvernement a brusquement interrompu le projet de réasphaltage. (CH)

PHOTO: CARL HAGER

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concernant l'arrêt des travaux ont été minimales, mais le manque de fonds et l'augmentation des déficits ont été invoqués comme raisons.

« C'est du jamais-vu. Pendant toutes mes années au Parlement, je n'ai jamais été témoin d'une telle situation. Pourquoi commencer des travaux sur la route si c'est pour les arrêter quelques semaines plus tard avant qu'ils ne soient achevés? Les travaux sur la route 148 étaient prévus pour la période de septembre à décembre. Leur interruption entraînera une augmentation des coûts futurs, le gouvernement sera probablement poursuivi en justice et des travailleurs perdront leur emploi. L'entrepreneur perd un contrat important. Comment peut-on être sûrs que le gouvernement honorera ses engagements à l'avenir? », a déclaré M. Fortin.

Le chantier de 17 millions de dollars sur le boulevard des Allumettières, dans le secteur de Hull, a également été interrompu.

Roger Larose, maire de la Municipalité de Pontiac, dit avoir été informé de l'interruption des travaux

rouriers par André Fortin et non par le gouvernement. « Comment peut-on donner le feu vert à un projet d'envergure si l'argent pour le financer n'a pas été mis de côté? Les travaux ont dérangé les gens; or, ils ne sont pas terminés et il faudra recommencer l'an prochain », a déclaré le maire. L'un des objectifs des travaux était de réaménager l'entrée du Dépanneur général à l'extrémité ouest des quatre voies afin d'assurer une meilleure sécurité à l'entrée et à la sortie du commerce.

M. Larose a indiqué que la municipalité doit réparer un important ponton qui s'est effondré sur le chemin Thérien à la suite des pluies torrentielles du mois d'août. Il craint que l'approbation des réparations par le gouvernement ne soit encore retardée et dit qu'il est peu probable que le gouvernement apporte une aide financière.

Un asphalage temporaire de la route sera réalisé pour les mois d'hiver, mais le gouvernement n'a pas précisé à quel moment les travaux reprendront l'année prochaine.

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Province halts Highway 148 roadwork over budget problems

Carl Hager

MUNICIPALITY OF PONTIAC – Many residents, including Pontiac MNA André Fortin, were surprised to find out the Quebec government quietly halted the repaving project on the four-lane section of Highway 148 in Luskville the week of September 22. Public notices of the roadwork stoppages have been minimal, but a lack of funds and increasing deficits were cited as reasons.

“Unprecedented. In all my years in parliament, I've never seen such a thing happen. Why start work on the highway when it's going to be stopped weeks later before completion? Route 148 road work was earmarked for the September to December period. The stoppage will incur increased future costs, the government will probably be sued, and workers will lose work. The contractor loses out on a major contract. How can the government be trusted to honour its commitments in the future?” said Fortin.

The \$17 million project on Boulevard

des Allumettières in the Hull sector was also halted.

Roger Larose, mayor of the Municipality of Pontiac, said he learned of the highway work stoppage through André Fortin, not from the government. “How can the go-ahead be given on a major project if the money for financing it hasn't been set aside? The work has inconvenienced people, it's not finished, and it will have to start over again next year,” said Larose. One of the goals of the work was to re-engineer the entrance to Dépanneur général at the west end of the four-lane to ensure safer entry and exit from the establishment.

Larose said the municipality also has a major culvert to repair on Thérien Road as a result of torrential rains in August. He worries the government's approval of the repairs will be further delayed and says it's unlikely the government will assist financially.

The highway will be temporarily surfaced for the winter months, but the government hasn't specified when work will resume next year.

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Indian Residential School Memorial unveiled a call for truth and reconciliation



Tashi Farmilo
LJJ Reporter

On September 30, 2024, the Canadian Museum of History marked the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation with the unveiling of a monumental work by Kwaguł master carver Stanley C. Hunt. The Indian Residential School Memorial Monument stands as a profound testament to the Indigenous children who were forcibly taken from their families and sent to residential schools—many of whom never returned.

The monument was inspired by the harrowing discovery of unmarked graves at the site of the former Kamloops Indian Residential School in 2021, a moment that shocked the nation and exposed the long-buried horrors of Canada's colonial past. In response, Hunt created the monument to honour the lost children and their families, ensuring their stories are neither forgotten nor silenced.

"I will remember the day we heard about the children in Kamloops," Hunt said during his emotional address at the unveiling. "No words in any language could be put together to make this make sense. Now that time has passed, it will never make any sense to any of our people." He reflected on the incomprehensible pain of these tragedies, stating, "All those children came from loving families, from thousands and thousands of years of tradition. How could something like this have been hidden for so long?"

Carved from a single trunk of red cedar, the 5.5-meter (18-foot) tall monument features 130 unsmiling children's faces—an unsparing reminder of the lives lost and disrupted by the residential school system. A raven, a protector in many Indigenous cultures, perches above them, its wings symbolically outstretched to call the spirits of the children home. "The raven has the seed of life in its beak," Hunt explained. "His



The newly unveiled Indian Residential School Memorial Monument invites visitors to reflect on the tragic legacy of Canada's residential schools, serving as a powerful call for truth, healing, and reconciliation. (TF)

PHOTO: AMAR MAROUF

wings are grown to call the little spirits home, to bring them back to their families. That's where they deserve to be."

The monument is not just a memorial, but a powerful call to action. Hunt made clear that while the discovery of the graves has opened a painful chapter in Canadian history, it is only the beginning. "Now that we know this is part of our history, as dark as it is, we can-

not turn away. We shouldn't be searching for these children anymore—they should bring the truth to us. Every child deserves to be found, named, and honoured."

The symbolic elements of the monument are profound. Emblems such as the maple leaf and the initials of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and North-West Mounted Police are carved

upside down—a gesture that condemns the institutions complicit in the tragedies of residential schools. "It was never a school," Hunt said. "If it were, there wouldn't be graveyards. What kind of school has graveyards for its students?"

Hunt also touched on the deep scars left by these institutions, calling on Canada to truly embrace the process of reconciliation. "If Canada can understand that this is the truth, if we can face this together, then we can begin to heal. Reconciliation is often spoken of, but the truth must come first." He urged those present to take responsibility for learning this history, emphasising that reconciliation is not just an abstract concept but a core value that must guide the nation forward.

The unveiling ceremony, attended by dignitaries, Indigenous leaders, and members of Hunt's family, was a powerful moment of collective reflection. "I'm very proud to be here with so much of my family today," Hunt said. "This monument is for our children—those who were taken and those who are still with us. We must lift them up."

Hunt's words resonated deeply with the audience, underscoring the importance of acknowledging the past while working toward a better future. "It's painful to speak of these things," he admitted, "but we need to. If we don't, we'll never heal. And healing is what this monument is for—for the children, for the families, for our people, and for all of Canada."

The Indian Residential School Memorial Monument, now permanently installed in the Four Seasons Salon at the Canadian Museum of History, invites visitors to bear witness to this dark chapter in Canada's history. It stands as both a symbol of remembrance and a call for ongoing dialogue and education. As Hunt concluded, "One day, we'll all learn more, and we'll be better humans for what we've learned. That's my hope—for healing, for reconciliation, and for a future where we honour the past but move forward together."

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