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Quebecers rally against the Russian invasion of Ukraine

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For the second consecutive Saturday, some 100 Quebecers, including Ukrainian and Russian immigrants, protested in front of the National Assembly against the Russian invasion of Ukraine. On March 5, demonstrators waved blue and yellow flags and signs calling for a NATO-enforced no-fly zone over Ukraine to stop Russian troops from dropping bombs over civilians and shooting from helicopters.

Despite feeling paralyzed by the situation in Ukraine, those present managed to find the energy to rally in front of the National Assembly building. "Every day I call back home in Ukraine to hear my family's voices and to know that they and my friends are still alive," said Oksana Gnushchenkiva, originally from Enerhobar, where, on March 4, Russia took over the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, the largest in Europe. Like everyone following the situation, she is worried that Russian president Vladimir Putin will use this newly taken station as a nuclear weapon against the people of Ukraine. "We are here on a humanitarian and peaceful mission to end this war, and hopefully Canada and NATO can help us," she said.



People rallied in front of the National Assembly on March 5 to protest the Russian invasion of Ukraine. One Russian immigrant held a sign reading, "I am Russian and I am ashamed."

"If NATO believes that the war will not enter Europe beyond Ukraine, it is badly mistaken," said Alexandr Okocha, wearing a Ukrainian cap with the nation's coat of arms. Other protesters went as far as comparing Putin to Hitler, with his ideas of returning Russia to its former glory by invading Ukraine, formerly a part of the USSR, which gained its independence in 1991 following the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

Despite Putin's decisions and actions, many Russians do not want war. However, most independent news outlets in Russia have dissolved or

been shut down, and popular social media sites have been blocked, preventing the sharing of dissenting perspectives about the war. "I called my mother in Russia, who thinks Putin is right and good and doing good for the world," said Petya Popov. "I am here to influence change, even if my mother doesn't believe me. Propaganda in Russia is very strong. It is convincing my friends and family that Russia is only defending against a genocide of Russian-speaking people in Ukraine. They don't have access to outside information to tell them it is ... not true."



Ukrainian Quebecers rally in front of the National Assembly. Like many others around the world, they want the war to end. They are holding up Ukrainian flags; the one on the right includes the nation's coat of arms.



Young Ukrainians and Russians stood outside the National Assembly in protest against the Russian invasion in Ukraine. Their signs read, "Stop War!" "Putin is a nuclear terrorist." "Putin, I'll find a way." "No! To war in Ukraine."

Participants said they were following the news of the ongoing invasion closely hoping it would end soon. In the meantime, Quebecers can support the local Ukrainian and Russian communities by joining the weekly antiwar protests.

Friendly competition reigns supreme at Pentathlon des Neiges

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Every March, the Pentathlon des Neiges gets thousands of Quebecers outside. Since 2005, it has encouraged people of all ages and ability levels to be physically active and to embrace winter and friendly competition. In addition, it donates thousands of dollars annually to the in-school physical fitness initiative "À l'école, moi j'bouge." This year, organizers raised \$42,000 through the Corporate Challenge over the opening weekend.

After a successful weekend of elite racing on March 1 and 2, buses filled with elementary and high school students disembarked at the Pentathlon site on the Plains of Abraham near the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec (MNBAQ). For the annual elementary and high school challenges, the Pentathlon works in partnership with the Réseau du sport étudiant du Québec (RSEQ). On March 3, newcomers studying at the Centre Louis-Jolliet and École secondaire Vanier



Under a bright blue sky in mild but windy weather, amateur athletes ran laps around the Plains of Abraham in the short- or long-distance challenges of the Pentathlon des Neiges on March 5.

were invited to compete after being introduced to

the five sports. By the end of each day, participants were eager to try these sports again.



The Pentathlon des Neiges motivates Quebecers to participate in winter and summer sports and compete in friendly races. No matter how prepared participants are, it's a challenge to complete multiple laps around the Plains of Abraham. Each lap sends racers up and down Gilmour Hill.

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COMMENTARY

Would a leader's winning smile help Conservatives win?

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Just suppose the Conservative Party of Canada elected a likable leader, something (some observers would say) it has failed to do in three tries. Sorry if that sounds harsh.

The last three Tory chiefs were, shall we say, smile-deficient. There was the gritted-teeth grin of Erin O'Toole, the sarcastic smirk of Andrew Scheer and the menacing simper of Stephen Harper. Again, this is how some observers would describe the erstwhile right-wing top dogs' happy faces.

True, Harper, despite his apparent lack of human emotion, did manage to become prime

minister and win three elections. It did, however, take the collapse of the scandal-hounded Liberals led by iffy leaders to pull off minorities in 2006 and 2008, and the further collapse of the Liberals and Jack Layton mania in Quebec nearly wiping out the Bloc Québécois to eke out a majority in 2011.

Alas for Conservatives, once the Liberals found a reasonably likable leader radiating youthful optimism, Harper was gone and free to scowl to his heart's content in the private sector.

As the CPC embarks on its third leadership campaign in five years, it might behoove the rank and file to listen to the experts when it comes time – Sept. 10, actually – to pick a new face for the old party.

A recent study by Abacus Data, a reputable Ottawa re-

search firm, has come up with some clues for a party that has made, in retrospect, some clueless choices of late.

In a *National Observer* opinion piece titled “What kind of leader the federal Conservatives need if they want to win,” Abacus boss Bruce Anderson writes, “[W]hat is clear is that if the Conservatives are going to rely on something other than a dislike for their opponents, they must appear more like a party that would offer secular government, interesting and appealing economic ideas, an unqualified commitment to equal rights for all, and credible climate policy, especially if they are going to promote more oil and gas development.”

All well and good and sounding like a Liberal Party platform. But what about that

elusive niceness factor? There must be research data somewhere to support this, but it seems most voters probably want a prime minister they'd enjoy sitting down and having a beer or latte with, especially if they pick up the tab.

The historical record would show that the two most successful federal Conservative prime ministers have been bona fide bon vivants. Sir John A. Macdonald, though undergoing a historical makeover of late, still stands as the Tory champion, with six majority governments and a total of nearly 19 years as prime minister.

Sir John A. was famously convivial, a quality that no doubt endeared him to a Canadian society pretty much on a prolonged bender until temperance movements and

the First World War sobered people up. Though drink was nearly his downfall on several occasions, Macdonald's political success was due in large part to his good humour.

Legendary historian and archivist Sir Arthur Doughty observed that Macdonald never lost his temper even in the face of bitter attacks and “even the most grave situation had a humorous side for him.”

Fast forward a century or so and we find the next Conservative prime minister with an outgoing personality, so to speak. Brian Mulroney, though he tamed his famous tipping after his first failed leadership bid in 1976, was blessed with the gift of Irish blarney that stood him well as what we now call a “retail” politician, someone to whom average folks

and corporate lawyers could all relate.

He won a historic majority in 1984, again, thanks in large part to a spent Liberal Party, and Quebec enthusiastically embracing the “Boy from Baie-Comeau.”

Mulroney scored another majority in 1988, but his mandate was plagued by scandal and the Meech Lake debacle. Jean Chrétien, an irrepressibly folksy Liberal, dealt the Tories a near-death blow in the 1993 election.

Only two Conservative MPs survived, one of them a half-Irish guy from Sherbrooke with an infectious, dare we say winning smile. He went on to do other stuff, but now, apparently, Jean Charest may be available for a new job, maybe the top job. Just suppose ...

Hundreds turn up (virtually) for Montcalm tramway consultation

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City officials are declaring the first round of public consultations on the tramway a success, with more than 600 people participating over three separate sessions last week.

The sessions targeted merchants, residents and workers in the Montcalm and Saint-Jean-Baptiste districts, where the proposed tramway line will run along Boulevard René-Lévesque. The session for residents, held over Zoom, drew about 500 interested people and lasted more than three hours.

Coun. Maude Mercier Larouche, the executive committee member charged with rallying public support for the tramway plan, said in a news release following the event: “We can be very proud of this exercise which attracted hundreds of people. We answered questions, we listened to concerns and we can improve. We came with the idea of a new dialogue with the population and that is what we have seen.”

Among the other officials representing the city at the residents' session were the



This image shows how the tramway might look along Boulevard René-Lévesque near Avenue Cartier facing east. A tramway car is at left heading west. A new park at the intersection is at right.

councillors for the affected districts, Mélissa Coulombe-Leduc (Cap-aux-Diamants) and Catherine Vallières-Roland (Montcalm-Saint-Sacrement). Both are members of the executive committee. Also on hand were project manager Daniel Genest and several engineering specialists. Mayor Bruno Marchand did not participate.

Participants had access in advance to a 78-page presentation containing various options for the insertion of the tramway in the sector, as well as dozens of depictions of how the installations would look and function. Photos of similar systems in cities in Canada and around the world were also included. The presentation document and

the full video of the session are available on the city's website.

Questions from residents, both written and live, covered a wide range of topics, from ridership projections to the cutting of trees in the tramway corridor. There were several questions about the impact on traffic of the proposed shared street section of Boulevard René-Lévesque between Avenue de Salaberry and Avenue de Boulamaque. Officials explained traffic would need to be rerouted onto Grande Allée and Chemin Sainte-Foy.

Two former city councillors brought questions to the session. Former *Démocratie Québec* leader and councillor for Montcalm Anne Guérette

asked officials to provide citizens with a plan with photos showing which trees would be targeted for removal. Project head Genest said the decision on which trees would be cut will be made by the construction consortium.

Paul Mackey, a former councillor under Jean-Paul L'Allier and an urban planner, asked if there would be enough room to store snow on sidewalks pending removal. An official replied that “snow would be cleared from the tram platform to the right and the snow from the shared track would be cleared to the left; thus the snow would accumulate where the platform and the track meet.”



Workers take down a tree at the corner of Rue Dorchester and Rue Saint-Joseph to clear the way for construction of the tramway line.

Mackey noted that the shared lane “is three metres wide, which does not leave room for snow storage and the cohabitation of cars and pedestrians.”

One participant denounced the project in its entirety. Yannick Stromei told Genest, “Your project is a disgrace,” noting that buses already run near empty on Boulevard René-Lévesque and only 41 per cent of citizens support the project, according to a recent poll.

The next round of consul-

tations was scheduled to be held March 9 for residents and merchants in the Chemin des Quatre-Bourgeois area, which will be affected by preparatory construction for the tramway.

All citizens are invited to fill out an online survey about the tramway plan, found on the city's website.

Mercier Larouche said depending on circumstances, future tramway consultations may be in person or hybrid with online participation.

Unlucky timing: No St. Pat's parade in Quebec City again this year

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The luck of the Irish could not trump the curse of the virus, and for the third straight year there will be no St. Patrick's parade in Quebec City.

In 2020, the 11th edition of the Défilé de la Saint-Patrick was cancelled only a week before it was to take to the streets of Quebec City. At

the time, as the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic took hold, the Quebec government banned virtually all public activities.

The abrupt halt to the parade in 2020 was “heartbreaking,” according to Félix-Antoine Paradis, vice-president of the parade organizing committee. He said mounting a parade this year on short notice would have been impossible, given the many hours of volunteer effort needed to put together the

parade, from getting sponsors to booking rooms for visiting participants.

Paradis noted that the parade in Montreal, which typically runs the week before the Quebec City one, was cancelled for the first time ever in 2020: “It wasn't even cancelled for World War I or World War II. It was crazy.”

The decision to cancel the 2021 edition was less wrenching, given the ongoing pandemic. Paradis said organ-

izers decided to cancel the 2022 parade in February, considering the uncertainty of public health regulations.

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We loved a parade! The 2019 Défilé de la Saint-Patrick featured four pipe and drum bands including the Toronto Fire Services band, seen here marching down Rue Saint-Louis.



STREET VIEWS

The story behind Rue Christophe-Colomb

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This street is named in honour of the famous Italian navigator and explorer Christopher Columbus. Born in Genoa, Italy around 1451, Columbus was hailed as “the discoverer of the New World.”

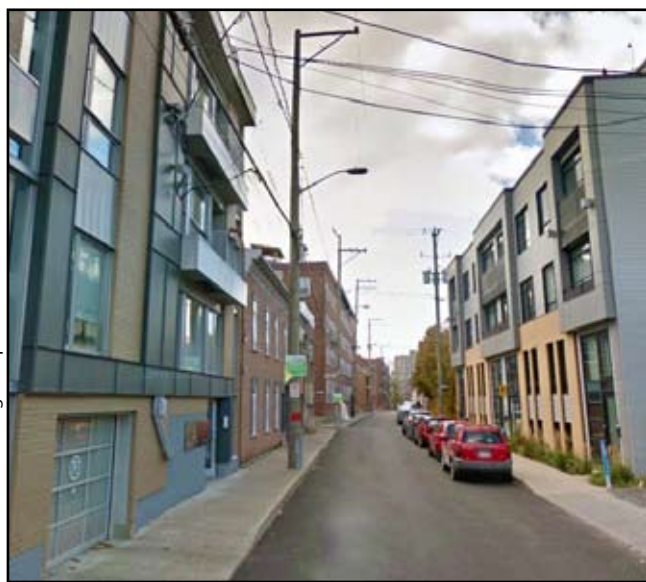
On behalf of Spain, Columbus made four voyages of discovery between 1492 and 1502. He was in search of a westward route to the Indies (East Asia), thought to be the source of spices and other precious goods only obtainable through arduous overland routes.

Following Columbus's persistent lobbying, Queen Isabella I and King Ferdinand II of Spain agreed to sponsor a journey west in search of a route to the Indies. Columbus left Castile on Aug. 3, 1492, with three ships – the *Pinta*, the *Niña* and the *Santa María*. On Oct. 12,

when he thought he was arriving in India, Columbus reached an island in what is now the Bahamas, and later reached Cuba and Haiti.

Columbus was partly inspired by 13th-century Italian explorer Marco Polo in his ambition to explore Asia. He never admitted his failure in this, incessantly pointing to supposed evidence that he had reached the East Indies. Ever since, the Bahamas, as well as the islands of the Caribbean, have been referred to as the West Indies.

Columbus died in 1506. The following year, the Americas were named after Amerigo Vespucci, who realized that these continents were a unique landmass. The search for a westward route to Asia was completed in 1521, when another Spanish voyage, the Magellan-Elcano expedition, sailed across the Pacific Ocean



Rue Christophe-Colomb is a long, one-way street in the Saint-Sauveur district of Quebec City. It runs west from Rue Narcisse-Belleau, crosses Boulevard Langelier and ends at Rue Montmagny.

and reached Southeast Asia, before returning to Europe and completing the first circumnavigation of the world.

Many places in the Western Hemisphere bear Columbus's name, including the country of

Colombia, the District of Columbia (Washington D.C.), Columbus (the state capital of Ohio), and British Columbia.

(Sources: *Ville de Québec toponymie, Wikipedia*)



This posthumous portrait by Sebastiano del Piombo, painted in 1519, is entitled *Portrait of a Man, Said to be Christopher Columbus*. There are no known authentic portraits of Columbus.

MEMORIALS AND THINGS OF FAME

Researched and compiled by Lorie Pierce, lorie@qctonline.com

March 9, 1872 – The Morning Chronicle

The Police Library – Contributions to the Police Library, are still coming in. The Superintendent will gladly receive any gifts of books for the use of the men; those of an instructive and educational character are highly prized. About the first of May, the building adjoining the Central Station will be taken hold of by the Police authorities and transformed into a library and reading room. We wish Captain Voyer all success in his praiseworthy efforts to elevate the educational standard of the men.

March 10, 1897 – The Quebec Morning Chronicle

To the Editor of the *Morning Chronicle*

Dear Sir, – At last the bridge fever has seized the good citizens of Quebec with a vengeance. ... Several multi-millionaires, with a marvel of beautiful recklessness, have each thrown ‘chips’ of from five to ten thousand dollars on the table, railway managers have gone the millionaires more than ten thousand dollars better*, and lastly, Canada's Premier [*sic*], with a munificence eclipsing the prodigality of King Solomon, caps the pile with a blushing million dollars of honest money! Nothing short of the miraculous can now stop the strong flowing bridge tide. ... It certainly was a very delicate compliment [that] the embryo skeleton of the new Bridge Company paid the powers at Ottawa, choosing Cap “Rouge” as the crossing threshold. ... Had Point Levi been blessed with the name of Point Rouge she might have had some chance of seeing the bridge built between Levis and the city! Unfortunately, her lack of a bright name is not only her loss, but it forces the structure to be built three leagues west. ... where nature runs riot; where currents will brook no opposition; where ice will crush to ruin all that oppose it. ... The history of the pier built ... some decades ago, at the bridge site, must now stand out as a vivid object lesson. ... Both pier and filling were quickly torn away by the resistless ice. ... What may appear at present the cheapest site may eventually prove the most costly. ... Time will tell.

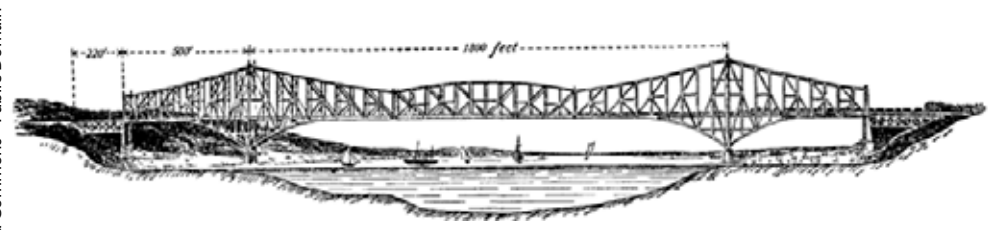
Yours truly,
W.E. Simpson

*to go someone one better = to be greater, better or stronger than someone. (Source: Merriam-Webster)

Note from Lorie: *Rouge* is a reference to the colour adopted by the Liberal Party, which won a majority under Wilfrid Laurier in the 1896 federal election, held nine months before this article was written. (Source: Canadian Encyclopedia)

Editor's note: The bridge failed twice during its construction, in 1907 and 1916, killing 88 people and injuring many more. It took more than 30 years to complete and eventually opened in 1919.

The Quebec Bridge is a riveted steel truss structure and is 987 m (3,238 ft) long, 29 m (95 ft) wide, and 104 m (341 ft) high. Cantilever arms 177 m (581 ft) long support a 195 m (640 ft) central structure, for a total span of 549 m (1,801 ft), still the longest cantilever bridge span in the world. The bridge is currently owned by CN Rail, and a dispute between CN, the Quebec government and the federal government over the cost of maintenance has dragged on for more than 15 years, leaving the bridge partially repainted.



This original drawing of the Quebec Bridge was published in the *Encyclopedia Britannica* in 1911.

March 9, 1922 – The Quebec Chronicle

Spectacular Blaze Damages the Dominion Arsenal

The Dominion Arsenal ... located off Palace Hill ... was badly gutted by fire last evening, placing the case and bullet department temporarily out of commission. The fire in the second storey of the department, close by the power house, was discovered at 5:30 o'clock when a general alarm was rung. ... The news of the fire quickly spread over the city, attracting citizens in their thousands to witness the conflagration. ... The interior of the former artillery barracks, with its solid walls of masonry, when taken over and converted into an arsenal had to be reconstructed, and the beams, partitions and doors were constructed of wood. ... During the years of service, the flooring had become soaked with oil, this probably accounts for the quick spread of the flames that enveloped the building from the second to the third storey and roof.

The fire chiefs, who arrived within four minutes after the alarm was sounded, were quick to realize that they had hard work ahead of them. No time was lost accordingly in stretching the hose, until twenty lines were in play. The water pressure, however, owing no doubt to the number of streams and the time required to shut off the water from other sections of the city service by the water gates, was so weak that the jets could only reach the second storey and were not sufficiently strong to check the ascending flames that were eating all before them. ... Fire-fighters with the aid of ladders, therefore attacked the burning portion of the premises from either side and cutting holes with their axes through the roof, poured water into the burning building. ... The fire burned furiously for two hours [before] it was realized that the fire was completely under control. ... Col. De Bury stated that he was at a loss to account for the origin of the fire until examination was possible.

Editor's note: Articles from the archives are reproduced with the original vocabulary, spelling and punctuation. Explanatory notes may be added.



No St. Pat's parade in Quebec City again this year

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

While Quebec City will not be staging a parade this year, there will be a scaled-down version in Montreal on March 20. It will have 500 rather than the usual 3,000 marchers, no floats and an extended route to space out spectators.

Paradis said a delegation from Quebec City will join the Montreal parade to support them: “I'm really happy for them, and New York and Boston,” cities where the popular traditional parade will also be making a comeback. Local organizers plan to

rev up the green machine to start work on the 2023 parade without delay, with a Zoom meeting scheduled for March 15 at 7 p.m. Paradis said he hopes a mix of parade veterans and newcomers will show up. People who would like to get involved should follow the Défilé de la Saint-Patrick Facebook page for details.

He said there have already been discussions with the new city administration about the possible return of the parade.

Paradis has been a member of the organizing committee since the revival of the parade was first proposed in 2009, only missing

one year. He said he is willing to stay on as vice-president. Parade president Robert Dinan was not available for comment.

The last Quebec City parade was held on March 23, 2019 and featured four pipe and drum bands. The first-ever St. Patrick's parade in Quebec City was in 1837, and the annual parade continued until 1916, when it was cancelled because of the First World War. After a brief revival from 1921 to 1926, the tradition ended. A group led by Peter Farrell, then owner of Nelligan's Irish Pub, organized the first “modern” parade in the city in 2010.

Shannon Irish Show goes virtual on March 12

SUBMITTED BY KERRY ANN KING

It wouldn't be St. Patrick's Day season without the wonderful singing, dancing, music and humour of the Shannon Irish Show. We found out last year that just because there was a pandemic raging, it didn't mean the tradition couldn't continue. That's when an ambitious group of people decided that a previous show could be broadcast to a faithful audience over Facebook. Thousands of people from all over the province, the country, and even overseas tuned in to watch the 50th Shannon Irish Show on Facebook Live.

As it happens, continuing public health restrictions meant that the performers could not gather to practise

and put a show together this year. So once again, we have decided to turn to Facebook to broadcast some fabulous Irish entertainment to launch your St. Patrick's Day festivities.

This year, we are happy to present a Facebook Live broadcast of the 51st annual Shannon Irish Show, the 2017 edition, where the Catholic Women's League celebrated the 70th anniversary of the Municipality of Shannon. Now, five years later, Shannon is a city and celebrating its 75th anniversary. With the town as its theme, this rendition includes some lovely mementos of the past, including a local set dance created by the early settlers of the area, called The Lancers Quadrille. The show also promises to give everyone a healthy dose of Shannon

history, some of it very much tongue-in-cheek as portrayed in a number of quick-witted skits about the lighter side of politics and life in Shannon.

When asked about last year's presentation, many members of our audience said they were sad they weren't able to be at the Shannon Community Centre for a live event, but they felt uplifted knowing that they were watching the show online "together" with friends and family. Just like the Rovers' last song proclaims, "We Rise Again," and we will indeed rise again with a new Shannon Irish Show for you next year. Until that time, please tune into the VEQ Facebook page (facebook.com/voiceofenglishspeakingquebec) on Saturday, March 12 at 7:30 p.m.



Photo by Cassandra Kerwin from QCI Archives

Dale Feeney, MC of the 51st Shannon Irish Show, posed for a photo with former Shannon mayor Jean-Pierre Soucy, then-mayor Clive Kiley, former mayors Maureen Maher and Laurier Picard and Catholic Women's League president Kerry Ann King. Kiley holds the plaque presented to him by the CWL in honour of the 70th anniversary of the Municipality of Shannon in 2017.

Wing skiing through snow and sleet, across the Plains of Abraham



As long as there is a good wind and a sufficient layer of snow, there is nothing to stop Quebecers from wing skiing! This wing skier has an inflatable parachute wing which he holds above his head so that it can catch the wind, and away he goes! Holding tightly, he glides across the Plains of Abraham on his downhill parabolic skis, perfect for quick turning and jumping.



Skiers brave all kinds of winter weather on the Plains of Abraham.

Photos by Cassandra Kerwin

SHANNON IRISH SHOW

51st EDITION FROM 2017

JOIN US FOR A
St. Patrick's Day
CELEBRATION



SATURDAY MARCH 12 at 7:30 PM

View the commemorative show celebrating the 70th anniversary of Shannon on the town's 75th anniversary!

SEE YOU ON
THE VOICE OF ENGLISH-SPEAKING QUÉBEC FACEBOOK PAGE:
[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/VOICEOFENGLISHSPEAKINGQUEBEC](https://www.facebook.com/voiceofenglishspeakingquebec)



REVIEW

The OSQ invites harpist Valérie Milot to the ‘palace’

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The Orchestre symphonique de Québec (OSQ) filled the stage of the Palais Montcalm for *Invitation à la harpe*, a celestial concert held on March 2. The theme for the evening was the music of the harp. The concert was directed by principal guest conductor Bramwell Tovey and featured Quebec harpist Valérie Milot.

A native of Trois-Rivières and a sought-after soloist, Milot has performed with prestigious orchestras such as the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal, Les Violons du Roy and the Orchestre métropolitain de Montréal. Beginning with the 2008 Prix d'Europe, she has won many awards. She has also recorded eight albums. She currently teaches harp at the Conservatoire de musique de Montréal.

She plays a beautiful Italian-made Salvi “Apollonia” harp, one of only 13 in existence worldwide, graciously lent to her by the Canimex company of Drummondville and owned by patron of the arts Roger Dubois.

The program began with the orchestra playing “Rosamunde,” the overture to *The Magic Harp*, a little incidental music composed by Franz Schubert for the theatre in 1819. Two centuries later, it made a very nice opening piece for this very gentle concert.

This was followed by Robert Schumann’s expressive Symphony No. 4 in D minor that he began composing in 1841. It was revised and re-orchestrated many times before the final version, catalogued as Opus 120, premiered in 1852. At the time, it was considered a radical new approach to symphonic form – performed “in a single breath” with no apparent breaks between the four dramatic movements.

After a brief intermission, Milot and her magnificent harp took centre stage for the première performance of *Rituel et danse*, composed by Denis Gougeon for harp and orchestra and commissioned by the OSQ especially for Milot. The strangely beautiful piece began with her standing and rather violently “slapping” the long bass strings of her harp. A timpanist responded by playing a gong in the *corbeille* or mezzanine (balcony) directly above the stage. As the Palais Montcalm stage is significantly smaller than that of the Grand Théâtre, the horn, trumpet and trombone players and another timpanist were also

seated in the *corbeille*, overlooking the string and wind instruments.

In the program notes, Gougeon described his new creation, saying, “The harp is said to be one of humanity’s oldest instruments. It symbolizes the tensions between the material instincts represented by its wooden frame and the spiritual aspirations represented by the vibrations of its strings. These tensions inspired me for the first movement entitled *Rituel*, in which order comes out of chaos through the repetition of significant elements.”

Rituel et danse is Gougeon’s third work commissioned by the OSQ after *Arte!* in 2002 for the choir and orchestra on the occasion of its 100th anniversary, and *Phénix* in 2010.

The concert ended with the lovely *Invitation à la danse*, composed by Carl Maria von Weber in 1819 as a piano piece and orchestrated by Hector Berlioz in 1841. Tovey dedicated this delicate final selection to the children of Ukraine who are fleeing the Russian invasion with their parents.



Harpist Valérie Milot (centre), conductor Bramwell Tovey (left), composer Denis Gougeon (right) and OSQ musicians take a bow after the première performance of *Rituel et danse*, composed by Gougeon especially for Milot and the Orchestre symphonique de Québec.



The beautiful Salvi “Apollonia” harp, which Valérie Milot played during the concert, took centre stage during intermission.

What to do before seeking medical attention during the pandemic.



I’ve tested positive for COVID-19.

BEGIN TREATMENT AT HOME



I have questions about my health.

CALL INFO-SANTÉ 811



I have concerns or I’m in a difficult situation.

CALL INFO-SOCIAL 811



I want to renew my prescriptions.

SPEAK TO YOUR PHARMACIST

Quebec.ca/HealthNeeds

Boischatel family split by war in Ukraine

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When Éric Mainguy started exchanging private messages with a fellow *Star Wars* fan he met on a Facebook page called "Geeks are Sexy," he had no way of knowing he was talking to his future wife. He certainly couldn't have suspected that he would end up navigating a maze of bureaucracy to get her and her daughter out of a war zone – and yet, that's exactly what happened.

Ukraine!"

Mainguy travelled to Ukraine in late January and returned to Quebec on Feb. 16, a married man, but without his new wife and 10-year-old stepdaughter, who had to wait in Ukraine for necessary paperwork to be processed.

"People were saying, 'Oh, you must be thrilled to be back,' but I said, 'No, I want us to be together as a family,'" he said.

Then came the Russian invasion. "There has been conflict [between Russia and Ukraine] for the last seven years, but people were just living their lives," he said. "They were like, 'Yeah, well ...' but then the Russians actually went in, and a lot of people panicked and were caught by surprise. I spoke to my wife and she said the windows of her building were shaking, I said 'Stay away

from the windows and I'll get back to you."

Mainguy, who lives in Boischatel, called the office of his MP, Caroline Desbiens. Desbiens' office "very quickly transferred the call to their immigration attaché, who said, 'If we can do something, we will.'"

Meanwhile, Kateryna Mainguy, her daughter and her mother were able to get a ride into neighbouring Moldova and take a bus to Bucharest, the capital of Romania. Kateryna struck up a conversation with a fellow passenger who put them in touch with a host family. "They took in my wife's family and also her friend's family ... they have jobs and lives, but yesterday their host took the day off to help relocate other people," Éric Mainguy said. "They've been extremely well taken care of, and for my step-

daughter, it's almost a vacation at this point ... but this is not the situation we wanted. They left home with nothing."

The next step is to get the family out of Romania. Late last week, they were finally able to submit visa applications to the Canadian embassy in Bucharest after trying and failing multiple times – the embassy's servers were overwhelmed with traffic. They received a rapid reply with an appointment date for biometric scans.

Kateryna and her daughter intend to settle in Canada; Kateryna's mother hopes to return to Ukraine when the situation allows.

"I think once the biometric scans are done, we'll be able to fly them out almost right away, but I don't want to get my hopes up," said Éric Mainguy. "There's so much red tape everywhere. I know Canada doesn't want to



Newlyweds Éric and Kateryna Mainguy are stuck in a bureaucratic waiting game after she was forced to flee Ukraine with her mother and daughter.

let just anyone into the country, but in Ukraine, there are people waiting in basements without clean water, scared to leave the house – mothers with children and elderly people. We're the lucky ones; there are a lot of people who need help and aren't getting it."

Caroline Laprise are organizing a GoFundMe page to raise money to collect clothes and other supplies for Kateryna and her family. As of this writing, it had raised \$890 of its \$5,000 goal. Any additional funds raised will go to Kateryna's Romanian host family.

Éric Mainguy and his friend

Russian entrepreneur pleads for solidarity

MYRIAM LABBÉ
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In light of the escalating war between Russia and Ukraine, a large part of the Russian community in Quebec City has extended sympathy and support to the Ukrainian people. For Vladimir Gaspariants, owner of the grocery store Chez Vladimir in Sainte-Foy, it is crucial that Russians in Quebec actively show their support for Ukraine and dissociate themselves from the actions of the Russian government.

in Russia, and they knew that if something were to happen to them, there would be people there who would be caring too." There was a long silence, filled by the noises of grocery carts and the conversations of the customers. These women's empathy left a deep mark, and the violence of the current war has left Gaspariants restless.

"I am in Canada currently, and I feel useless as I cannot help Ukraine much," he explained. "Earlier, I even thought of leaving Canada, not to go to Russia, where the opposition is completely gone, but to Ukraine, to do something, though I did not know what..." The organization of protests, supply drives and fundraisers around the province eased his worry. Having settled here about 25 years ago, the former

Muscovite has taken it upon himself to remind people of the distinction between the Putin regime and the Russian people. "I cannot imagine that there would be people wanting to keep this war going. It's the Russian politicians and the government who want it!"

This task is not an easy one, though, as Quebecers have not had a positive image of Russia since before the Cold War. "When I decided to stay here, I really wanted to share two things with Quebecers: chess, for the valuable mentality, and food," Gaspariants said. A master chess player and instructor, he proudly mentioned Russia's historical excellence in chess, ballet, acrobatics and hockey, and the values of the country's world-renowned schools. "For Russians, it is

impossible to give up. If I were to play in a chess tournament, even if I would lose all the first games and it would be impossible to win the tournament, I would keep playing and hope to win one of the next games."

His grocery store boasts products from all over Eastern Europe, and a diverse staff.

More than 20 years ago, while the political tensions in the former Yugoslavia were escalating, he witnessed how the store could serve as a haven for many immigrants. "There were Serbs, Croats, Albanians, all coming here with news and creating this multicultural space, while over there, it was war," he said. The shop has seen an increase in customers in the last few days, who mainly stop by to express their support to Ukrainian employees.



Vira Gnatovska, from Ukraine, and Vladimir Gaspariants, from Russia, have lived in Quebec City for many years, sharing their love for their respective countries and their friendship with the customers of Chez Vladimir.

Buildings in Quebec City illuminated to support Ukraine



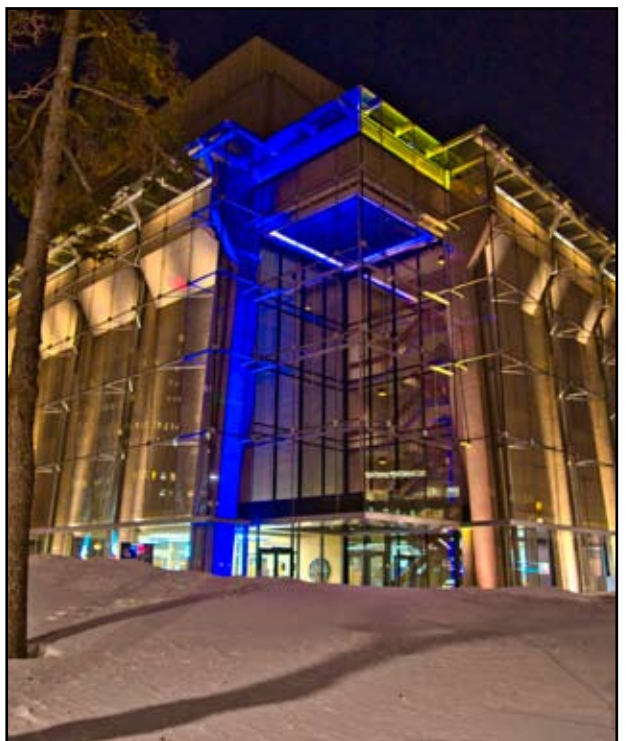
The Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec illuminated the Pierre Lassonde Pavilion in blue and yellow in support of Ukraine as the Russian invasion of Ukraine enters its second week.



The light show at the Joan of Arc Gardens shines in blue and yellow in support of Ukraine.



Pictured right: The four corners of the Grand Théâtre du Québec glow in the colours of the Ukrainian flag.



Quebecers mobilize for Ukraine – and for the world

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For Polina Hristyuk, the last two weeks have been the most stressful time of her life, but also perhaps the most motivating.

Hristyuk, a 24-year-old shop assistant at the Château Frontenac, was born in Poltava, eastern Ukraine, and settled in Quebec City with her family 12 years ago. The Russian invasion of Ukraine late last month didn't come as a complete surprise to her or her family. "It was a fear I had for a long time ... but we were all kind of in denial, because who can wrap their head around a thing like that? It's hell on earth."

She founded the Facebook group Ensemble pour Ukraine – Guide et Événements – Québec in early March as she fielded a flood of questions from friends, family and local media. She has co-organized antiwar rallies in front of the National Assembly for the past two weekends, and is trying to organize a donation drive.

"The community is trying to organize fundraising and supply drives from Quebec [City] and Montreal, and a lot of people have families stuck back there [in Ukraine]," she

said. "We hope [the Canadian and Quebec governments] will let families into Canada, because the Ukrainian community here is ready to welcome them and make sure they feel safe." On March 3, the Canadian government announced it was willing to accept "an unlimited number" of Ukrainian refugees; Natacha Battisti, director of the Centre multiethnique de Québec, recently told Radio-Canada that she expected to help resettle "at least 150" people in the Quebec City area over the next few months.

Another Canadian Facebook group, CANADA – Host your Ukrainian Refugees, is organizing volunteers, supplies and emergency housing for Ukrainian refugees in Canada; the Ukrainian Canadian Congress is also accepting financial, service and in-kind donations through its website.

Alongside the Ukrainian community, major Canadian nonprofits are also contributing to the response effort. The Canadian Red Cross, Doctors of the World Canada, Doctors Without Borders Canada and UNICEF Canada are collecting donations to assist people affected by the war in Ukraine and in surrounding countries.

Nadja Pollaert is the executive director of the Canadian

chapter of Doctors of the World, known by its French acronym MDM. Her colleagues, mostly Ukrainian medical and logistical staff, are evaluating the needs of Ukrainians who are displaced within their own country and around the region. "It's an open conflict and people are also moving, which is not to be underestimated because they're not waiting to get health care; they are moving for their lives. We are looking more into providing services on the border, because Poland and Romania and other neighbouring countries will be receiving a huge influx of Ukrainian refugees," she said.

She said the most efficient way to support people fleeing the conflict in and around Ukraine would be to donate to organizations like hers, rather than volunteering or collecting in-kind donations. "There is a lot of solidarity and empathy in Canada for the situation in Ukraine, and some people will decide to go help ... but wanting to help is one thing and being efficient is something else. There's a reason why humanitarian work is a profession, and in most cases Canadians aren't doing that work, Ukrainians are."

"Right now, our immediate need is fundraising," said David



The Ukrainian flag flew high over an antiwar protest in front of the National Assembly on March 5.

Morley of UNICEF Canada. "You can also write to your MP or MNA to advocate for the Canadian government to invest more in international development." The Quebec government has so far contributed \$150,000 each to MDM Canada and the Quebec division of the Canadian Red Cross, which is also supporting Ukraine crisis response.

In Ukraine, UNICEF is currently providing clean water in cities where water infrastructure has been damaged by bombing, and setting up respite centres for families with children fleeing the conflict. "Kids need a safe place to stay ... and their parents, grandparents and caregivers need a safe place to

rest," said Morley. Morley and others say they hope the international media attention given to the conflict in Ukraine will lead Canadians to pay attention not only to Ukraine over the long term, but also to other global crises. "Before this conflict, climate resilience and COVID-19 vaccine equity were occupying all of our time. More than 70 million kids missed out on routine vaccinations and 100 million are still out of school as a result of the pandemic," he said. "I hope that after this, there will be greater solidarity on the part of Quebecers and Canadians toward other parts of the world."

Perhaps surprisingly, despite the all-encompassing war in her homeland, Hristyuk also hopes Quebecers will pay attention to other crises, including ongoing wars in Yemen and Syria and food crises in Afghanistan and South Sudan. "Russia and Ukraine are taking up a lot of space, and I'm worried we're forgetting about developing countries," she said. "I hope people will stay mobilized and put pressure on world leaders and let them know they're being watched ... and I hope the same spirit will be applied to other peoples affected by conflict," she said. "I hope all of this will play a role in us advancing as a species."

War in Ukraine: How can you help?

COMPILED BY MYRIAM LABBÉ, MYRIAM@QCTONLINE.COM

The QCT has put together a non-exhaustive list of non-sectarian, non-political resources available to Canadians and Quebecers who wish to lend a helping hand to support people affected by the war in Ukraine.

International charities:
 UNICEF Ukraine Emergency Fund
unicef.org/emergencies/conflict-ukraine-pose-immediate-threat-children

Canadian Red Cross • redcross.ca or 1-800-418-1111

Note: Global Affairs Canada has committed to matching every donation made by individual Canadians to the Canadian Red Cross's Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis Appeal.

Médecins du Monde (Doctors of the World)
medecinsdumonde.ca

The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR)
unhcr.ca/our-work/emergencies/ukraine-emergency

The United Nations Crisis Relief Ukraine Humanitarian Fund
crisisrelief.un.org/t/ukraine

Local charities and civilian organizations:
 CANADA – Host your Ukrainian Refugees (Facebook group)
facebook.com/groups/3148765652075065

QUEBEC – Collaboration Santé Internationale
csiquebec.org/aider-csi/faire-un-don-en-argent (in French only)

UKRAINE – Support Kiev Zoo for the safety and transfers of the animals
zoo.kiev.ua/en/how-to-support-our-zoo-and-animals

EUROPE – Keep Ukraine's Media Going (GoFundMe Campaign)
gofundme.com/t/keep-ukraines-media-going

More resources are available on the website below (aggregated by country). However, as the website is crowdsourced, potential donors should exercise caution before donating or providing personal information.
how-to-help-ukraine-now.super.site

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100,000

additional daily trips in Québec City.

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www.tramwaydequebec.info

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VILLE DE QUÉBEC

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Community Calendar of Events

Note: If there is a community event you would like to have publicized, please let us know by email at least two weeks in advance (editor@qctonline.com).

Note: All events are subject to change according to evolving public health regulations.

There are lots of things to do during March Break!
No classes at CQSB schools from March 7 to 11.

Saturdays from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. – The **Morrin Centre** presents **Storytime Online**, a literacy program for children ages three to seven. Each activity begins with the reading of a story followed by a craft inspired by its themes. Free sessions take place on Zoom. For more information about this and the following activity and to register, visit morrin.org or contact our education co-ordinator at antoinedumont@morrin.org.

Tuesdays from 6 to 7 p.m. – The **Morrin Centre S.T.E.A.M.** (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) **Club** welcomes children ages eight to 12 who love to experiment, create and learn more about the world around them. Free sessions take place on Zoom.

March 4 to April 3 – The **Charles Baillairgé Pavilion** of the **Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec** will be open to visitors free of charge. After April 3, this pavilion (the former Quebec Prison) will be closed temporarily in order to prepare it for the construction of the new Espace Riopelle wing. Until then, visitors have the chance to explore the following exhibits: *Jean Paul Lemieux, De silence et d'espace; Alfred Pellan, Le rêveur éveillé; Fernand Leduc, Peintre de lumière and Jean-Paul Riopelle, Métamorphoses*. It's also possible to admire *L'Arbre de la rue Durocher* by Armand Vaillancourt in the atrium and David Moore's *aLomph aBram*, installed in the watchtower, and to look inside some of the old prison cells. For more information and to reserve your time slot, visit mnbq.org.

March 6 to 11 – The **11th annual Festival de cinéma en famille de Québec** (Quebec City family film festival) will be showing a panoply of short and long films in the two Le Clap movie theatres (Place Ste-Foy and Loretteville). In addition to introductory film workshops, the festival offers many movie premières and surprises! For details, visit fecq.ca.

March 7 to 11, 1-4 p.m. – The **Magic Squad** is invited to the **MNBAQ!** In the afternoons during March Break, let yourself be surprised by the magic squad of the Festival de Magie de Québec who will be doing micromagic animations in the large hall of the Pierre Lassonde Pavilion. Free with admission to the museum. For more details about this and other activities at the museum this week, visit mnbq.org/activite/la-relache-au-mnbaq.

March 8 to 13 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. – Take a break and explore the **Musée des Ursulines**, 12 rue Donaconna in Old Quebec. Discover a treasure chest full of activities to delight families, from a giant game of Snakes and Ladders, to an exhibit of historical toys and a scavenger hunt, presented continuously each day. Activities are free with admission to the museum. For children of all ages! For details and online reservations visit polecultureldesursulines.ca/en.

Wednesday, March 9 at 12:10 p.m. – **Midis-musique** in the foyer of the Salle Louis-Frédette at the Grand Théâtre. Free concerts by students of the Conservatoire de musique de Québec – no reservation required. This concert features **Laurianne Houde** (violin) and **Gabrielle Lavoie** (trombone). For more details about this and other upcoming concerts, visit grandtheatre.qc.ca/programmation/midis-musique.

March 10 and 11 at 7 p.m. – **Winterreise**, a joint performance by **José Navas** and **Compagnie Flak**, is a blend of contemporary dance and chamber music created around a lieder cycle by Franz Schubert, presented in an adaptation for piano, voice and dance at Le Diamant. For information and to reserve tickets, visit lediamant.ca.

March 10-13 - March Break activities at **L'Îlot des Palais**, 8 Rue Vallière in Lower Town, Old Quebec. Activities include a GeoRally with GPS in Old Quebec, a scavenger hunt inside the vaults of the Intendant's palace, and for adults only, a GeoRally on the beer route with tastings along the way. For more information and to reserve your spot, visit ilotdespalais.ca.

March 10, 15, 24 and 29 – **In These Spaces** at the Morrin Centre. Are you curious about science, architecture, history or music? Throughout this project, participants will explore a diverse set of subjects using the Morrin Centre's spaces as a backdrop. Over the course of five livestreamed events, experts will talk about their field of expertise with our host **Peter Black**. Visit morrin.org/en/events to view the full calendar or email library@morrin.org to learn more and to sign up!

March 11-13 at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. – **Disney on Ice: L'Expédition de Mickey / Mickey's Search Party** comes to the Videotron Centre. For tickets, visit disneyonice.com.

Saturday, March 12 at 7:30 p.m. – Watch the **51st edition of the Shannon Irish Show**, a rebroadcast of the video of the 2017 show which celebrated the 70th anniversary of the founding of the village (now the city) of Shannon, which celebrates its 75th anniversary in 2022. See you on the Voice of English-speaking Québec Facebook page (facebook.com/voiceofenglishspeakingquebec). See article on page 4.

Sunday, March 13 at 2:30 p.m. – **Concerts Couperin** presents **Trio à cordes** with violinist **Anne-Sophie Paquet**, violist **Mary-Kathryn Stevens** and cellist **Carmen Bruno** of the OSQ who will perform a commented program of music by Dohnanyi, Beethoven et Français. Tickets \$28 (general), \$15 (student), free for 12 and under. Reservation can be made online at Lepointdevente.com, via email at couperin.adj@gmail.com or by phone at 418-654-6904.

Sunday, March 13 at 3 p.m. – **Vitrine sur l'Opéra: Émilie Versailles** (soprano) and **Dominic Poulin** (tenor), two emerging artists from Montreal, will present their favourite songs from the world of musicals such as *Hamilton*, *Dear Evan Hansen* and *Shrek*, as well as classics by Brahms, Schubert and company, accompanied by pianist Louis Laprise. They will be presented by **Zita Bombardier** and the **École de musique Arquemuse** at 151A Rue Saint-François Est. For details and tickets, visit zitabombardier.com.

Sunday, March 13 – Soirée Opéra at Restaurant Trattoria La Scala & La Piccola, 31 Boul. René-Lévesque Est. Enjoy your meal while listening to airs from Italian operas performed by **Émilie Baillargeon** (soprano), **Agathe Herrmann** (mezzo-soprano), **Louis-Charles Gagnon** (tenor), and **Marc-André Caron** (baritone), accompanied by pianists **Anne-Marie Leduc** and **Geneviève Poitras**, and violinist **Aurélié Thériault Brillon**. Reserve by calling 418-525-4545.

Until March 13 – **Pentathlon des Neiges** is being held on the Plains of Abraham. Visit pentathlondesneiges.com/en to see the full program and see article on page 1.

Until March 13 – **Below the Ice with Mario Cyr**, an immersive photo and video presentation, allows visitors to discover a mysterious and almost inaccessible place, the Canadian Arctic, projected on giant screens at the Centre des Congrès de Québec. For more information and tickets, visit souslesglaces.com.

Until March 13 – **Plein les yeux et les oreilles** at Place Jean-Béliveau, in front of the Videotron Centre, invites visitors to have fun while becoming actors in a unique collective work. Sonic

Runway converts audio signals into light pulses that travel at the speed of sound through a 112-metre corridor made up of arches fitted with LED lights (best viewed after sunset). An ice-skating trail in the nearby wooded area and warming stations complete the experience. The site is open every day free of charge.

Until March 13 – The **Aquarium du Québec**, located at 1675 Ave. des Hôtels, near the Pont de Québec, offers lots of family activities during March Break. In addition to opportunities to meet some 10,000 marine animals, there will be bouncy castles, face painting, workshops where you can build models of sea creatures using recycled material and discover ImMERsion, an immersive projection which puts you in the picture. Visit sepaq.com for more information.

Monday, March 14 at 7:30 p.m. – **Irish Heritage Quebec** will hold an activity in McMahon Hall, St. Patrick's Church, 1145 de Salaberry in Quebec City. **Joe Lonergan**, a retired teacher, former president and current member of the board of IHQ, will give a presentation entitled *The Irish in Sainte-Foy*, reviewing Irish presence in Sainte-Foy from the 19th century to the present. Refreshments will be served and parking stubs for Îlot St-Patrick will be validated. For further information, phone Irish Heritage Quebec at 418-704-3404.

Tuesday, March 15 at 7:30 p.m. – Lecture by law professor **Louis-Philippe Lampron** in French, entitled, *Urgence sanitaire et Loi sur la laïcité de l'État: quel impact sur la liberté religieuse au Québec?*, at Chapelle Montmartre Canadien, 1679 Chemin Saint-Louis. All are welcome to this free event.

Wednesday, March 16 at 7 p.m. – Join the Quebec City Women's Club (QCWC) for an online presentation *Factors that affect our Hunger, our Food Choices, and our Weight* by QCWC 2021 bursary recipient **Inès Auclair Mangliar**, sponsored by VEQ, Jeffrey Hale Partners and the QCWC. We will discuss our hunger and how it is influenced by our hormones, our food choices and the Canadian Food Guide recommendations. We will debunk assumptions about weight and quickly overview the principles of intuitive eating. For more information and to register, contact Debbie Stowe (debbie@stowe.ca; 418-844-1840).

March 16 at 8 p.m. and 17 at 10:30 a.m. – The **Orchestre symphonique de Québec**, directed by guest conductor **Nicholas Carter**, presents *Voyage with Prokofiev and Borodine* with soloist **Roman Simovic**, first violin of the London Symphony Orchestra, who will play Prokofiev's Violin Concerto No. 2. For more information and tickets, visit osq.org/concerts/prokofiev-borodine.

Thursday, March 17 at 7 p.m. – **Opéra pour les nuls** (Opera for dummies), is back for a second edition! Our host **Guy Langlois** will immerse you in the history of *Les Contes d'Hoffman*, in the company of singers **Zita Bombardier**, **Geneviève Labrèche** and **Michaël Thériault**, accompanied by pianist **Vincent Brière** at the Ninkasi Bar and Bistro, 801 Rue Saint-Jean. For details and tickets (\$12), visit zitabombardier.com.

Until March 20 – **There's Always the Plains for March Break!** Enjoy sliding, cross-country skiing, skating, or snowshoeing on Quebec City's largest playing field. Visit the Plains of Abraham Museum where admission is free for anyone 17 and under. Participate in a rally questionnaire, view period presentations such as the *Battles 1759-1760* exhibit or go back in time at the *Identities* exhibit. At nightfall, the Joan of Arc Garden, with its majestic elms and the famed Joan of Arc statue, is illuminated with an artistic aura in keeping with the site. Take a welcome rest at the warming station complete with Adirondack chairs and a fireplace. For more details, visit ccbn-nbc.gc.ca/en/activities/events/during-school-break.

OBITUARY

Ronald BIRON (1940-2022)

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of Ronald Biron. Ronald passed away on February 13 at the age of 81. Son of Gaudias Biron and Robéa Boucher, he grew up on the family farm in Saint-Agapit, Quebec with his 11 siblings. His strong entrepreneurship skills led to various successful careers: insurance broker, business owner, first individual member of the Montreal Stock Exchange, and more recently rubber factory owner and manager.

Ronald loved his family. Most will remember him as an intelligent man who enjoyed a good joke and a friendly game of cards.

He leaves in mourning his common law spouse Louise Gagné; his daughter Chantal and sons Ghislain and Maxime; his grandchildren Mikko, Mia and Alexis; as well as siblings, nieces, nephews and countless friends.

The family will receive condolences in Longueuil and in Saint-Agapit: on Friday, March 18, 2022 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Maison Darce Funeral Complex (505 Boul. Curé-Poirier, Longueuil), and on Saturday, March 19, 2022, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Complexe des seigneuries (1080 Bergeron Ave, Saint-Agapit). A funeral service will follow at 1:30 p.m., on March 19, 2022, at the Saint-Agapit Church (1154 rue Principale, Saint-Agapit).



BFD
BEAUDOIN FERLAND I DUPUIS
MAISON FUNÉRAIRE

Daylight time begins on Sunday, March 13

QCT STAFF

It's time to **SPRING FORWARD** this weekend and lose an hour's sleep! We officially shift to Eastern Daylight Time at 2 a.m. on Sunday, March 13. You'd best set your clocks and watches forward one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, March 12, or you may be an hour late for whatever you have planned for Sunday morning. "Spring forward, fall back" is one of the sayings used to remember which way to set your watch. You set your clock forward one hour in the spring when daylight time starts, and back one hour when it ends in the fall.



Police plenary addresses profiling, ongoing projects

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After stakeholders in the Limoilou nickel debate addressed members of city council and took questions on Feb. 3 during a groundbreaking plenary session, Mayor Bruno Marchand, his Québec Forte et Fièvre party and the three opposition parties turned their attention to policing and to the Service de police de la Ville de Québec (SPVQ).

SPVQ chief Denis Turcotte and director of organizational development Jean-François Bernier presented an overview of the structure of the police service and its major ongoing operational concerns at a plenary session on March 2. Marchand's spokesperson, Thomas Gaudreault, said the meeting was "an initiative of the new council."

"It's important that councillors understand the structure and functioning of the police service ... even more so when the council is mostly composed of first-time elected officials, including myself," said Marchand, adding that the plenary was initially proposed by opposition leader Claude Villeneuve.

Turcotte and Bernier addressed the new central police station under construction at the intersection of Boul. Louis-XIV and the Autoroute Laurentienne, and the renovations to the F-X Drolet facility in Saint-Roch, which will bring the neighbourhood police station, the city courthouse and a small detention facility under one roof. They also addressed provincial funding for sexual violence and organized crime prevention, ongoing equity, diversity and inclusion

efforts, participation in two domestic violence prevention pilot projects and the eventual implantation of a "new generation 911" system allowing dispatchers to track callers with geolocation.

Several councillors asked about diversity on the police force itself, which has no Black officers and very few officers of colour. "We want to inform and empower and give people from minority groups the tools to become police officers, but it's a long process," said Turcotte. "We had one officer who was Black, in the 1990s, but they decided to continue their career in the Montreal region. There are some [young people of colour] who study police techniques here at Collège Notre-Dame-de-Foy but then work elsewhere."

Councillors Alicia Despina and Claude Lavoie of Québec d'abord and Jackie Smith

of Transition Québec asked Turcotte and Bernier about police efforts to address racial profiling, particularly in light of the videos of the forceful arrest of two Black teens outside the Dagobert nightclub that surfaced late last year. Those videos, and the videos of four other separate incidents that appeared in the ensuing weeks, shone an uncomfortable spotlight on the lack of diversity within the SPVQ and the methods of the GRIPP unit assigned to patrol near clubs and bars.

Turcotte mentioned that the SPVQ was working with the Chaire de recherches sur l'intégration et la gestion de la diversité dans l'emploi (CRIDE) at Université Laval to obtain data on profiling and on interactions between the police and citizens from diverse backgrounds. That information will be contained in a report that is expected



Police chief Denis Turcotte addresses city council on March 2.

later this year.

"If there is racial profiling, I am totally against it and the officers are at risk of sanctions. If I am made aware of it, there will be an internal investigation," said Turcotte. "If people feel they have been profiled, we need to be aware of it."

"If a person feels like they've been mistreated by the police, it might not be

easy to trust the police to handle their complaint," Smith said. Despina suggested streamlining and publicizing the procedure for filing a complaint against an officer, which Turcotte said was "a suggestion to look into."

"I want people to file complaints and they will be investigated," he reiterated.

REVIEW

Attention: Fragile packs a punch in any language

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The clowns in *Attention: Fragile* don't say very much, apart from a few simple words like *là* (there) and *ça* (that) and universal sounds like "ah," or "ha ha ha!" A brief synopsis: two boxes are delivered to the stage by a gum-chewing, headphone-sporting, mono-syllabic delivery guy. Out pop two seemingly newborn humans, who name themselves after the boxes they arrived in: *Attention* and *Fragile*.

They comically explore their environment, made up of a plant and two boxes, which quickly grows to include an office desk, a problematic coffee machine and a photocopier. A catalogue appears and more and more stuff is ordered. With each box delivered, the desire for more grows, but where to put it all?

This play is intended for children aged five to 10, but the complexity of the themes — overconsumption, consumerism, excess and the protection of nature — makes it interesting for adults as well.

The *QCT* sat down post-show with the actor, co-creator and artistic director of *L'Arrière-Scène*, Jean-François Guilbault. "This show is particular because we don't have words, so we don't really talk, but it's extremely exhausting. It's [only] 55 minutes long, but it's really dense because we never leave the stage. Playing my character is like a sprint. The costume is quite warm and I'm wearing lots of layers; we start with bubble wrap costumes which are extremely suffocating, but that serves the purpose of the feeling of the show ... [with] all those objects being more



Jean-François Guilbault, actor and co-creator of *Attention: Fragile*, spoke to the *QCT* about the complex metaphors behind the clowning around on stage.

and more invasive. At the end of the show we feel like we have no more air. I really do feel like that physically; when I'm not in good shape for the show, I'm exhausted."

For the actors, Sunday's show wasn't as rowdy as usual (even though my own child banged her head on the seat in front of her from laughing so hard). Guilbault believes family shows that include adults are quieter because grown-ups understand "the tragedy in the last third of the show" when things get darker. "I think that kids pick up on it after the show has ended," said Guilbault, adding, "When we play in front of 200 kindergarten kids, it is insane!" The uproar of laughter fuels the mania the actors are feeling.

This past week, when they performed in front of chatty schoolchildren, the actors had "a lot of interaction" with the youngsters. Guilbault explained, "For instance, when I received the telephone [in a delivery box] someone called out to me: 'Call 911!'" At another show, a child yelled "There's

still hope!" as the lights faded away on the final scene. "It's weird; that's the first time this happened and it's exactly what we want." Guilbault said they believe that there is no subject off limits with children, but you have to leave them with hope.

For about 15 minutes after the show, the actors answered questions from the young spectators. One question: Is *Fragile* your real name? Answer: No it's a metaphor for the character *Fragile's* mental health and tendency toward addictive behaviour. Another question: What's in the big boxes [at the end of the show]? Answer: Whatever you can imagine in them!

Guilbault and director Liliane Boucher, who co-founded *Samsara Théâtre* in Montreal in 2008, have been picking away at this idea for a long time. The first performance was in November 2019. Even with pandemic restrictions, Guilbault estimates about 80 shows have been presented to date, with ambitions to take the show international by changing a few small words

into Spanish, Italian, English or other languages.

"I think there are many ways to read this ending," said Guilbault, "but we would like to say that nature is stronger

than those big boxes. Nature finds a way."

If you are looking for some culture mixed with humour during your March Break activities, *Attention: Fragile* will

be at Théâtre Les Gros Becs in Place Fleur de Lys until March 13. To reserve tickets, visit lesgrosbecs.qc.ca/spectacle/attention-fragile.

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Illusions are Real: Manif d'art 10 brings public art to the city

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As part of the 10th edition of the Manif d'art biennial, about a dozen outdoor public works of art can be found across the city, including at Place D'Youville, Le Diamant, Dufferin Terrace, Église Saint-Roch, Place Ste-Foy, Place d'Armes, the Cartier-Brébeuf National Historic Site and in front of the National Assembly.

The art takes the form of sculptures, photos, collages, installations and even *Invisible Museums of the Unseen*, an interactive audio installation with a mobile app using geolocation. Many works are surprising, perplexing and playful, while others engage with more serious topics.

Guest curator Steven Matijcio, director of the Blaffer Art Museum in Houston, Texas, was in Quebec City for the launch of the Manif in February and spoke to the *QCT* about

the overarching theme, *Illusions are Real*. "I wanted to express, in some small way in this little microcosm, the pervasiveness and proliferation of illusion; that illusion doesn't just live in one sector of our society. It really permeates and inundates so many facets of our being. It was really crucial that this exhibition be expansive both in terms of the topics, the materials, the artists," he said. "I wanted it to be varied and show the way illusion circulates so freely in our society."

The photos here offer a glimpse of a few of the outdoor works. Manif D'art is a 66-day celebration of art spread out over three months and 34 sites, with the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec hosting the central exhibit. This year's theme is mystifying and amusing, at times unsettling, putting doubt in the viewer's mind with trompe-l'oeil techniques. Manif d'art 10 runs until April 24.



Does this image look familiar? Multiple self-portraits by Londoner Gillian Wearing recreate symbolic historical figures like the Mona Lisa (pictured above). The artist dons "hyper realistic silicone masks featuring the single disconcerting detail of holes cut out for her eyes, short-circuiting the illusion and revealing its constructed nature." Wearing's work is a metaphor for the masks we all wear. Things are not always as they appear in life and they certainly aren't in *Illusions are Real*.



La pelle du printemps, an interactive auditory sculpture near Porte Saint-Jean, gets tested out by these three brothers, Diego, 8, Mateo, 6 and Rafael, 4, visiting from Montreal during March Break. This work was created by Jean-Pierre Gauthier, originally from Matane, who lives and works in Montreal. Gauthier used an object most Canadians are familiar with in the dead of winter, a plastic snow shovel, and reconfigured it to form a tree-like structure. Passersby are beckoned by the chirping sound produced when the shovel-handle cranks are turned. Sounds of spring come forth from the branches of the incongruous yellow and red tree.

Friendly competition reigns supreme at Pentathlon des Neiges

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Competition continued throughout the second

weekend. On March 5, a cloudless blue sky, sunshine and a strong cold wind greeted competitors. People

were ready to race in the solo, tandem and team short- and long-distance races. Christopher Busset, winner of the Iceman event the previous weekend, was once again at the starting line. Spectators wondered if he had it in him to win another solo long-distance race.

Busset did cross the finish line first, completing 13.1 kilometres of biking, 5.3 km of running, 9.8 km of cross-country skiing, 7.3 km of skating and 5.2 km of snowshoeing in just over two hours. The Silent Hunters won the tandem challenge, and Emma Olson won the women's individual category, making her the first woman to finish the solo long-distance race. As for the short-distance, Ilrick Duhamel and Suzanne Harrison were the individual winners and the

Joyeux Speedes won the team race.

On Sunday, Quebecers woke up to a lot of newly fallen snow. In preparation for this, organizers of the Pentathlon announced that the Family and Friends and Social Integration challenges would keep to the schedule, while the long-distance team challenge would be advanced by an hour, starting at noon instead of 1 p.m. Living up to their reputation, hundreds of Quebecers showed that they are truly made for this weather, dressed from head to toe in winter gear and goggles.

As the morning progressed, wind intensified and snow transformed into hail, sleet and freezing rain, covering the roads in ice. For safety reasons, the Pentathlon cancelled the biking portion of the long-distance team challenge and replaced

it with a second running segment, and all distances were shortened. Participants were undeterred and eager to start moving through the course. The PCN Élite Homme team finished first in 72 minutes. By mid-afternoon, all competitors were either home or on their way there to warm up and dry off.

The Pentathlon continues until March 13. Elementary

and high school students and their parents can try sports including hockey and ice canoeing. For more information, visit pentathlondesneiges.com/en/semaine-de-relache.

For race times, visit sportstats.ca and search for Pentathlon des Neiges and the desired race(s).



Christopher Busset had a repeat success this weekend. After winning the first Iceman Ultra Challenge the previous weekend, he returned to win the solo long-distance challenge: biking 13.1 kilometres (four laps), running 5.3 km (three laps), cross-country skiing 9.8 km (three laps), skating 7.3 km (20 laps) and snowshoeing 5.2 km (three laps) in just under two hours.

Photo by Cassandra Kerwin

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Enjoy a taste of Pi Day! 3.1415926535897932384626433 ...

RESEARCHED & COMPILED BY SHIRLEY NADEAU
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March 14 (3/14 in the month/day format) is Pi Day, an annual celebration of the mathematical constant π (pi), observed on this day since 3, 1 and 4 are the first three significant digits of pi.

The letter π is the 16th letter of the Greek alphabet and it represents the sound of the letter "P." It is also the first letter of the Greek words for "periphery" and "perimeter," i.e. the circumference of a circle.

Pi is defined in Euclidean geometry as the ratio of a circle's

circumference to its diameter. It is a mathematical real transcendental (and thus irrational) constant. No matter the size of the circle, the ratio of the circumference to the diameter is always equal to 3.1415926535897932384626433 ... an infinite continued fraction.

According to the *Guinness Book of World Records*, the most accurate value of pi is 62,831,853,071,796 digits long and was reached by a team from the University of Applied Sciences Graubünden in Switzerland on Aug. 19, 2021. Using a high-powered computer, the challenge took 108 days and nine hours to complete and added 12.8 billion digits.

Pi Day was founded in 1988 by Larry Shaw, an employee of the

Exploratorium in San Francisco. Celebrations often involve eating pie or holding pi recitation competitions.

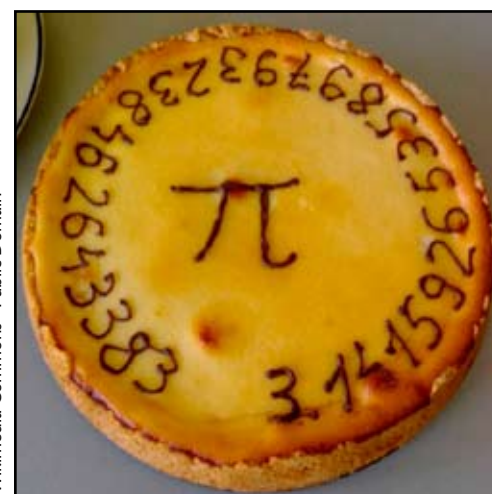
Until the 20th century, the number of digits of pi which mathematicians had the stamina to calculate by hand remained in the hundreds, so that memorization of all known digits at the time was possible. In 1949, a computer was used to calculate π to 2,000 places, presenting one of the earliest opportunities for a more difficult challenge.

Later computers calculated pi to extraordinary numbers of digits, and people began memorizing more and more of the output. The world record for the number of digits memorized

has exploded since the mid-1990s, and it stood at 100,000 as of October 2006, when Akira Haraguchi of Tokyo took 16 hours and 30 minutes to recite the numbers. He can now recite about 111,700 digits.

Pi Day has been observed in many ways, including eating pie, throwing pies and discussing the significance of the number π , due to the words "pi" and "pie" being homophones in English and the coincidental circular shape of most pies. Fittingly, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology has often mailed its application decision letters to prospective students so that they arrive on Pi Day.

Sources: *Wikipedia and alchetron.com/Akira-Haraguchi*



Wikimedia Commons - Public Domain

This Pi Day pie was created at Delft University of Technology, Applied Physics, Seismics and Acoustics in the Netherlands on March 14, 2008.

2022 Paralympics

Canada has 12 medals as Games come to a close this Sunday

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Canada is having a wonderful week at the 2022 Paralympic Winter Games in Beijing. As of this writing, athletes have won a total of 12 medals after three days of competition.

Canada's Paralympians have won four gold, two silver and six bronze medals. Only China, the host country, has more medals than Canada, with 24.

Mollie Jepsen of West Vancouver, B.C., won gold in the women's downhill standing event in para alpine skiing. Canada won two more gold medals in para cross country. Brian McKeever of Canmore, Alta., the country's most decorated Paralympian, won the men's visually impaired 20-

kilometre event, and Natalie Wilkie of Salmon Arm, B.C. won the women's standing 15-kilometre race.

Finally, Tyler Turner of Campbell River, B.C. won gold in men's para snowboard cross. Turner is in the SB-LL1 class, which is for snowboarders with moderately affected movement of the knees or legs, the absence of one leg above the knee or of two legs below the knee.

Canadian athletes won two silver medals in para alpine skiing and para snowboard. They also won three bronze medals in para alpine skiing, one in para biathlon and two more in para cross country skiing.

On the ice, Canada's para hockey team opened the tournament with a 5-0 loss to the United States

on March 4. Canada played South Korea on March 8 (result not available at press time). China, Slovakia, Italy and the Czech Republic are the other countries in this event.

In mixed wheelchair curling, Canada is undefeated after four games as of this writing. The curlers defeated China 7-3, Switzerland 8-4, Latvia 10-3 and the United States 7-4.

Meanwhile, in light of the invasion of Ukraine by Russia, the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) has banned Russian and Belarussian athletes from the competition.

The Paralympic Winter Games will close on March 13. CBC and Radio-Canada will televise the closing ceremonies, starting at 6 a.m.



Wheelchair curler Ina Forrest and para hockey player Greg Westlake led the Canadian athletes into the Bird's Nest National Stadium in Beijing during the opening ceremonies of the 2022 Paralympic Winter Games on March 3.

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The year the Ukrainian Peewees won the hearts of Quebec City

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Author's note: *The outpouring of love towards Ukraine by the international community reminded me of a peewee hockey team from Kharkiv, Ukraine, that won the hearts of Quebecers: the 1992 Druzhba-78 team.*

They arrived in Quebec City after a 20-hour flight to play in the most prestigious minor hockey tournament in the world: the Quebec International Pee-Wee Hockey Tournament.

Coach Ivan Privilov had his players, all born in 1978 (thus the name Druzhba-78) and hand picked from 166 schools around the city of Kharkiv, play disciplined hockey, with strict training on

and off the ice, and above all, respect for the game.

The playmaking ability of this team was amazing, and they won the hearts of every hockey fan in Quebec City. Kharkiv dominated play despite wearing uniforms and socks with holes in them. Their skates were worn out and the equipment they had was not safe to use.

Businessman Louis Garneau and the former AM radio station CJRP got together and sponsored the team with new uniforms and hockey socks. Local businesses also supported the team, getting the boys new gear, much to their delight.

The youngsters had almost no extra clothes to change into, so the Patro Roc-Amadour got them new clothes.

Kharkiv did not lose a

single game in the tournament, even beating a team from Russia to qualify for the Champions Cup, where they defeated the young Hartford Whalers, to the delight of the fans in attendance in the old Colisée. Defenceman Andrei Lupandin was named the tournament's most valuable player, an honour he was proud to receive because Wayne Gretzky also won that award.

After the peewee tournament, Privilov, now deceased, had the team tour North America, where they not only played peewee teams, but also played and beat bantam all-star teams with players two years older than they were. Sometimes the kids would play the bantam all-stars in the evening after playing a tournament game earlier in the day.

Privilov wanted the boys to see what it was like to play high-calibre hockey in North America, because the young players all wanted to play in the NHL.

Two members of that team did go on to play in the NHL. Dainius Zubrus was drafted 15th overall in 1996 by the Philadelphia Flyers. Zubrus played 1,293 games in the NHL with the Flyers, Canadiens, Capitals, Sabres, Devils and Sharks.

Defenceman Andrei Zyuzin was selected second overall in the 1996 NHL Entry Draft by the Sharks. He played 496 games with the Sharks, Lightning, Devils, North Stars, Flames and Blackhawks before ending his career in the KHL in Russia,

As for Lupandin, although

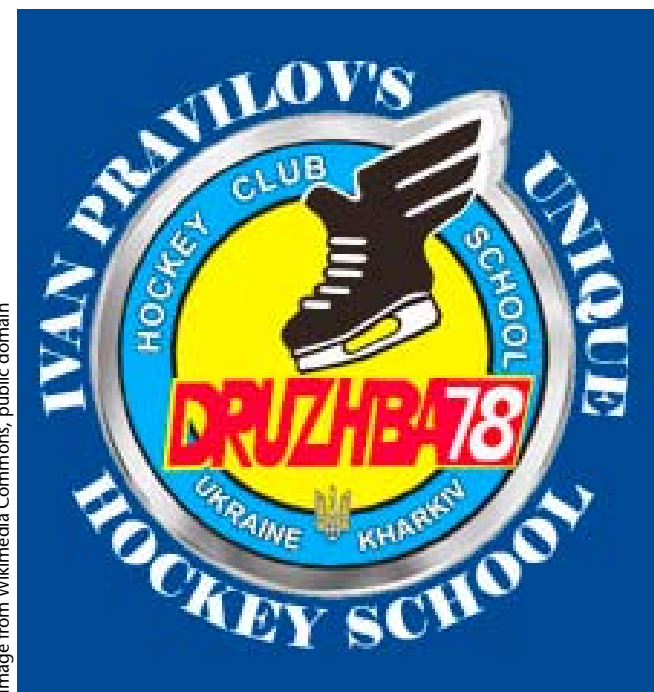


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he never got drafted by an NHL team, he played nine seasons in various North American minor leagues.

If you want to know what *druzhba* means, it is Ukrainian for friendship.

Remparts celebrate women in sports with a victory

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James Malatesta scored the game-winning goal late in the second period as the Quebec Remparts celebrated women in sports with a 3-2 victory over the Baie-Comeau Drakkar on March 6.

Pier-Olivier Roy and Xavier Filion were the other scorers for the Remparts. Defenceman Louis Crevier added two assists and was named the game's first star.

Before the game, the Remparts acknowledged the work of women in sports. A number of sports journalists and businesswomen were honoured, along with members of the Cégep Limoilou women's hockey team.

The game was refereed by Elizabeth Mantha, who worked the bronze medal game of the women's Olympic hockey tournament in Beijing

a few weeks ago. Mantha also worked in the American Hockey League earlier this season, and became the first female referee in the history of the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League (QMJHL) in late February.

The win against the Drakkar was the Remparts' eighth in their last 10 games. The Diables Rouges now have the best record in the league with 65 points, two more than the Charlottetown Islanders. However, the Islanders have five more games to play.

Head coach and general manager Patrick Roy was pleased that his team rebounded well after suffering a 7-4 loss on March 5 to the Chicoutimi Saguenéens.

After that loss, Roy was furious with both his goaltenders, Fabio Iacolo and William Rousseau, saying they did not do the job needed to keep the team in the game.



Screenshot by Luc Lang from YouTube

Nicole Bouchard (centre), longtime director of team services and media relations for the Quebec Remparts, made the ceremonial puck drop before the March 6 game between Baie-Comeau and Quebec as the team honoured women in sports.

Iacolo responded the next day by stopping 17 of 19 shots fired at him by the Drakkar.

Earlier in the week, the Remparts won both their

road games, against Baie-Comeau (6-3 on March 1) and Chicoutimi (4-1, March 3).

Quebec will play the Blainville-Boisbriand Armada on

March 9. Two nights later, Rimouski will host the Remparts at the Colisée Financière Sun Life.

The Remparts will be

back at the Videotron Centre on March 16 to host the Shawinigan Cataractes.

Lady Lions hoops team still perfect, SLC hockey finally comes home

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It was a very busy weekend for CEGEP Champlain-St. Lawrence sports as basketball, hockey and volleyball teams were in action in the Réseau du sport étudiant du Québec (RSEQ).

In basketball, the Lady Lions remain undefeated in 2021-22 after they beat the Titans of Cégep Limoilou 63-55 on March 4. They lead the Northeast conference with 16 points, with a six-point cushion ahead of Cégep de Sainte-Foy and Cégep de Chicoutimi.

The Lady Lions will visit the Cégep de Sainte-Foy Dynamiques on March 9. Tipoff is scheduled for 7 p.m.

The Lions won the first game they played in November, 56-37, also on the Dynamiques' home court.

They will then travel to Saguenay to face the Cégep de Chicoutimi Cougars. Game time is set for 1 p.m. on March 12. If the Lady Lions return with two victories, they will almost clinch first place in the conference.

The men's team was not as successful, losing 62-41 to the Titans on March 4. They will also travel to Saguenay on March 12 to face the Cégep de Jonquière Gaillards.

With a record of three wins and six losses for six points, the men's team currently trails Collège d'Alma by two points for a shot at fourth place and a playoff spot. However, the Jeannois already have one game in hand.

Hockey

In Montreal, François-Xavier Bédard scored the first two goals for St. Lawrence as the Lions beat the Cégep André-Laurendeau Boomerang 3-1 on March 6. Félix Pothier scored the Lions' third goal five minutes into the second period. Forward Zacharie Charest added two assists. Goalie Benjamin Catellier stopped 20 of 21 shots for the win.

After playing the Dynamiques of Cégep de Sainte-Foy on March 8, the team will play on home ice for the first time this year on March 11, when they host the Collège Lionel-Groulx Nordiques from Sainte-Thérèse de Blainville. The game will be played at the Aréna des Deux-Glacs in Val-Bélair at 7:30 p.m. The Lions are back in action less than 24 hours later when they host the

Jeannois from Collège d'Alma at 4 p.m. on March 12.

Finally, St. Lawrence honoured the senior members of the Lady Lions volleyball team on March 6 at the Lions' Den. The celebrations did not last very long, however, as St. Lawrence lost three games against Cégep de Sainte-Foy, Cégep Garneau and Cégep Limoilou.

The volleyball team is winless this season with only two games remaining. However, the spirit they have shown this season can easily compensate for the lack of victories.

Audrey-Anne Blanchette is the Lady Lions' top scorer this season, scoring an average of 15.6 points per game. Blanchette is currently second in the RSEQ behind Audrey Yerle of Cégep de Chicoutimi.



Photo courtesy of the SLC Lions via Facebook