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Crowds turn out in solidarity with homeless community

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The 33rd edition of La Nuit des sans-abri took place in Place de l'Université-du-Québec on Oct. 22. From 6 p.m. onwards, members of the public were invited to participate in an event demonstrating solidarity with those sleeping rough on the city's streets, while simultaneously offering a window into their reality.

The square was dotted with gazebo tents bearing the colours of the Ville de Québec, the smell of frying food hung in the autumn air and The Who's "Baba O'Riley" played from a hidden sound system, as children danced in circles with their parents and anyone else who felt the urge to participate in the festive atmosphere.

A young man, possibly in his mid-20s, sat cross-legged at the edge of the open area, not far from the giggling kids. He wore dark clothing; his hair was cropped military-style and he frantically rifled

through a cloth bag looking for something. Distracted from his task momentarily, he took a deep lungful of smoke and watched the revelry as though witnessing his surroundings for the first time. It was quickly evident that the annual event is well attended both by those wishing to show solidarity with homeless people and by members of the homeless community themselves.

One of the many stalls was managed by staff and students from Collège de Lévis. Valérie Laflamme-Caron, a pastoral facilitator at the college, explained how students contributed \$25 each and volunteered to distribute snacks, drinks and hygiene products to whomever might need them, an annual tradition since 2013. Student volunteer Zachary Braeuel, 16, participating for a third year, spoke of wanting to give useful resources to those in need and trying to offer a sense of hope to those less fortunate than himself. He also said that

it was a chance to take himself outside of his comfort zone, an important aspect of appreciating his own good fortune.

The stall distributing warm food was run by Raphaël Auclair and Guillaume Bilodeau of Le Piolet, an organization working with vulnerable young adults aged 16-35. Le Piolet offers a social program, temporary accommodation for those on low incomes and a professional cooking school which teaches practical skills that may lead to employment opportunities in the culinary sector.

Before the 9 p.m. solidarity march, Pascale Belleau withdrew from the steps where she had been soaking up the atmosphere and made her way toward Côte d'Abraham. A veteran participant for the last 20 years, she spoke of how live music and a spectacular show had historically drawn her in but that this year's event was somewhat subdued by comparison. She felt that the pandemic was likely to blame for the shift



At La Nuit des sans-abri at Place de l'Université-du-Québec, people were able to learn more about homelessness in Québec City and the services offered to those who are homeless, recently homeless or at risk of homelessness.

away from live entertainment, but was adamant that she would be back next year to show support for the homeless community before the arrival of another unforgiving Québec winter.



Volunteers from the Société Saint-Vincent-de-Paul distribute hot drinks at La Nuit des sans-abri.

Area athlete runs 300 kilometres for MS research

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On Oct. 23, Mathieu Gélinas jogged into Québec City on the final leg of his 300-kilometre journey from Tadoussac, to raise funds for multiple sclerosis (MS) research. Just after 2 p.m., he arrived at the Edwin-Bélanger Bandstand on the Plains of Abraham, where a small group of friends and family congratulated him on achieving his goal.

Gélinas, 27, is an athlete from Sainte-Anne-de-Baupré who watched his grandmother succumb to MS. "Faced with a feeling of helplessness, I often ask myself the same question: how can I do my part to help people with MS?" he wrote on the MS Society of Canada Challenge website. "That's when I challenged myself to raise \$20,000 for the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada. ... From there came the idea of running seven marathons in seven days - a total of 300 kilometres - from Tadoussac to Québec City. The *Crinqué Contre la SP* [in French, MS is known as *sclérose en plaques* or SP] adventure was born."

Once Gélinas completed the challenge, he said he couldn't believe it was over. "It is absolutely natural for me

to take on this 300-km [run]," he said. "My team and I took it one section at a time because before you know it, it's over. I have trouble believing that a week ago I was in Tadoussac and right now, I'm standing in the middle of Québec City." He continued, "I did it in the name of all the victims of MS and their families and friends. There is nothing I would change in the plan. If I have the opportunity to do it again, I will."

"In addition to the run, we are making a documentary, which adds to the experience and to the challenge and gives us something to keep afterwards," said Gélinas.

"For us, it's great to have people like Mathieu Gélinas who decide for themselves to create challenges, to bring together partners and friends. We can get involved and offer them all the necessary tools to do their challenges," said Marie-Ève Simard, director of marketing and communications at the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada, Québec Division. "We invite anyone to organize a fundraising event, whether it's a 300-km run, a dinner, an auction or a game night, for example - visit our website for more information."



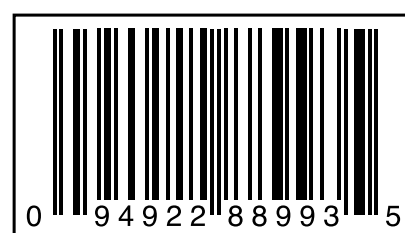
From Oct. 17 to 23, Mathieu Gélinas ran 300 kilometres from Tadoussac to Québec City in an effort to raise \$20,000 for multiple sclerosis research.

"Our mission is to invest in research to better understand the disease, to find a cure and to prevent the disease, as well as to offer support, programs and services for those affected and their entourage: coffee meetings, virtual conferences, meetings with researchers [and] advancing certain government files," said Simard.

For more information on MS, visit mssociety.ca.



A group of friends and family congratulate Mathieu Gélinas, sitting on the picnic table, after he completed his 300-kilometre run for MS research.



Label /

COMMENTARY

I declare: Like it or not, PQ and QS have sparked debate on what an oath should mean

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Having painted themselves into a corner, as many a pundit put it, over this royal oath business, the newly elected independence-minded members of the National Assembly from Québec Solidaire and the Parti Québécois may have found that corner to be the first common ground leading to a possible merger, five years after QS members rejected the first such proposal.

A lot of media ink and pixels have been devoted since the election to discussion of such a sovereigntist marriage of convenience. Practically speaking, it would give the new entity $11 + 3 = 14$ seats, and therefore more than the 12

required for official party status in the legislature, which comes with a bounty of resources with which to needle and cajole the Coalition Avenir Québec hordes in the Salon Bleu.

We could not help but note, as have other commentators, that none of the previous sovereigntist leaders, from Lévesque to Marois, kicked up such a royal fuss over uttering a few utterly pro forma words that are part of the democratic rigmarole. Hold your nose and swear, they say, or cross your fingers behind your back.

The royal elephant in the realm might be that the late (and lamented) Queen Elizabeth II actually was a queen worth swearing to. She had, no matter how you felt about the concept of monarchy in general, a transcendent class that

somehow evoked – colonialist outrages of the British Empire aside – the triumph, such as it is, of human civilization.

King Charles III, with every flaw and failing in his life exposed to public ridicule and scorn, just doesn't command the same respect.

As much as there's been a flap over paying allegiance to the king, very little attention has been paid to the second part of the oath MNAs are required to swear to take their seats.

It goes: "I, [duly elected human being], declare under oath that I will be loyal to the people of Québec and that I will perform my duties as a Member of Parliament with honesty and justice in accordance with the Constitution of Québec."

In accordance with what,

now? Last time we checked – just now – there was no such thing as a "Constitution of Québec."

As commentator Nathalie Elgrably-Lévy pointed out in an opinion piece in the *Journal de Québec/Journal de Montréal* last week, "Québec does not have a formal constitution duly approved by the people. There is only a plethora of legislative texts in Québec (Charter of Rights and Freedoms, Charter of the French Language, Act respecting the fundamental rights of the people of Québec, Election Act, etc.) in which some may see vague constitutional principles."

So, if the "Constitution of Québec" in the oath is not the non-existent constitution of Québec, is it the Constitution of Canada? If so, given the

absence of then-premier René Lévesque's signature on the document negotiated in 1982, would not swearing to uphold that parchment be somewhat more offensive to sovereigntists than symbolically kissing the ring of *le roi* Charles III?

On that point, a group called the Conseil national du Mouvement laïque québécois (CNMLQ), makes the case that the oath of allegiance to His Majesty "is contrary to the Québec Charter of Rights and Freedoms as well as the Canadian Constitution of 1982."

Charles, of course, as is the tradition dating back to Henry VIII and his spat with the pope over a divorce, is also head of the Church of England. This means, according to the secularist (and sovereigntist) advocates of the CNMLQ, that

Canada entrusts "the office of head of state to a monarch who exercises religious functions and who is compulsorily Anglican under British laws."

In other words, swearing an oath to the de facto Anglican pope would "derogate from the principle of equality of all citizens in our charters."

As much as the PQ and QS have painted themselves into a corner by essentially requiring the new legislature to pass a law to let them skip the royal oath and take their seats, they have opened wide a debate over the legitimacy and content of our solemn national vows.

While we're at it, why not look at that national anthem, with a god (whose?) keeping our land glorious and free, and that arm holding a cross.

Gabrielle-Roy library expansion on track for summer 2023 opening

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Initially envisioned for 2021, the complete rebuilding of Bibliothèque Gabrielle-Roy, the city's flagship library, is now slated to be complete by the end of next summer.

The library, in Place Jacques-Cartier on Rue Saint-Joseph in the heart of the Saint-Roch district, closed its doors in September 2019 after moving some 180,000 books and documents to a nearby recreation centre for temporary storage.

Construction, involving essentially the complete tearing down of the existing structure, began in the fall

of 2019 and was soon beset by delays and work stoppages as the pandemic raged.

Despite the delays and consequent increases in construction costs, the city says the project has maintained its \$43.3-million budget. The revised target of a grand reopening in early 2023, however, has been scrapped, and the new goal is the end of August.

City spokesperson Karine Desbiens told the *QCT* in an email that the "library renovation and expansion project has reached the interior construction and exterior landscaping stage."

She said, "The next major steps are to complete the exterior envelope as well as the

interior partitions, to install the central staircase allowing circulation in the heart of the library [and] to install all the built-in furniture as well as the interior finishes. In the spring, the landscaping work will follow."

Desbiens said, "Contracts are being awarded for specialized furniture and equipment that have been the subject of recent calls for tenders, and the installation [of that equipment] will follow the end of the work."

The city's website notes, "Since its inauguration in 1983, the Gabrielle-Roy library has welcomed more than 25 million visitors. The central library of the Bibliothèque de Québec network, it was

the first in Québec to set up a cultural complex for the professional dissemination of the performing and visual arts, thus inspiring several other libraries."

The final stages of the revamped library come as a recent report gave low marks to Québec City for the quality of its public libraries. Last week, designated National Public Libraries Week, the Association des bibliothèques publiques du Québec released a report showing the city's libraries were trailing the provincial pack in five categories measured: acquisitions, opening hours, square footage, seating places and human resources.

The city scored a 57 per



Photo by Jonathan Letellier-Black

Construction of the exterior of the expanded Bibliothèque Gabrielle-Roy is nearing completion.

cent average, well below the provincial mark of 70 per cent. The worst category was human resources, with a 36 per cent rating compared to

ideal circumstances.

Québec City operates 26 public libraries on its territory, with Bibliothèque Gabrielle-Roy by far the largest.

Villeneuve quits tramway committee; city buys more land on route

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With the start of full-bore construction slated for next year, the city is gradually acquiring property required for the installation of the tramway line along the proposed route.

One of the major pieces is the former Shell station at the corner of Avenue Cartier and Boulevard René-Lévesque, the future site of a public square associated with the tramway station there. The city bought the land, according to information made public in June, for a \$2.4 million out-of-court settlement that avoided expropriation.

With the sale not yet finalized, the owner of the property, Sobey's Developments Limited Partnership, the real estate arm of the New Brunswick-based Sobey's corporation, has erected a security fence around the perimeter.



Photo from Ville de Québec

Opposition Leader Claude Villeneuve has quit the tramway implementation committee.

According to information obtained by the *Journal de Québec*, the owner must pay for the demolition, removal of tanks and decontamination of the site before it's handed over to the city.

The same would need to be done for the Petro-Canada station at the corner of Avenue Belvédère and René-Lévesque, also destined to be acquired by the city. An employee at the station told the *QCT* the station might be closed by the end of winter. The land is owned by

Montreal-based real estate giant Iberville Developments. An employee at the company's office said there would be no comment on the state of negotiations.

The city has acquired other small parcels along René-Lévesque, as published in a list of city hall decisions last week. A 49.5 square-metre piece at the intersection of Avenue Holland cost \$85,500; a 21.3 square-metre piece at Avenue Ernest-Gagnon went for \$77,300; and 7.8 square metres at Avenue Cartier brought the owner \$13,900.

In another tramway development last week, Coun. Claude Villeneuve, head of Québec d'abord (QCDAB) and leader of the official opposition at city hall, announced at the regular council meeting that he was stepping down from the tramway implementation committee to be free to speak his mind.

Villeneuve, who is now leader of the party of former mayor Régis Labeaume, the main force

behind the tramway project, gave the example of a recent meeting where Mayor Bruno Marchand had discussed the increased cost of the project.

"I knew about it and I [couldn't] question him, I [couldn't] bring a critical point, I [couldn't] question the mayor's management," Villeneuve told reporters before the council meeting.

Fellow QCDAB councillor Alicia Despina explained to the *QCT* that Villeneuve's "resignation from the tramway implementation committee should not be interpreted as a rupture of Québec d'abord with this project. Rather, it can be explained by the [official] opposition members' desire to set a healthy distance from the current management of the tramway."

Despina, the councillor for Vanier-Dubergier and a former member of the executive committee in the Labeaume administration, said, "This move became necessary to assure Québec City citizens that

this essential project would be subject to an expected vigilance to ensure its transparency and sound management."

At that same meeting, the mayor came under fire from Despina for "promising the moon" during last year's election campaign. "Bruno

Marchand made a lot of promises without making sure they were realistic. It is unfortunate because when we generate high expectations and we are unable to deliver them, it fuels cynicism and disillusionment toward politicians," she said.

Safe or scary?



Cartoon by Patrick LaMontagne

STREET VIEWS

The story behind Rue des Ardennes

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The name of this street recalls the Ardennes Offensive, also known as the Battle of the Bulge, the last major German offensive campaign against the Allied forces on the Western Front toward the end of the Second World War in Europe.

The phrase "Battle of the Bulge" was coined at the time by journalists to describe the bulge in German front lines on wartime news maps, and it became the most widely used name for the battle.

The clash between the two sides lasted for more than a month, from Dec. 16, 1944 to Jan. 25, 1945. It was launched through the densely forested Ardennes region, with rough terrain, rolling hills and ridges, primarily in Belgium and Lux-



Rue des Ardennes is in the Saint-Sauveur district of the La Cité-Limoilou borough of Quebec City. It runs between Rue de la Jonquière and Avenue Lesage. The entrance to Cimetière Saint-Sauveur can be seen on the left.

embourg.

The Battle of the Bulge remains among the most important battles of the Second World War, as it marked the last major offensive attempted by the Axis Powers on the Western front. The German losses were such that they prohibited the *Wehr-*

macht – all the armed forces of land, sea and air – from any further major operations. After their defeat, Germany retreated for the remainder of the war.

The Allied forces consisted mainly of Americans, led by General George Patton, with almost 112,000 British

forces led by Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery, known as "Monty."

From among the Americans' peak strength of 610,000 troops, there were 89,000 casualties, including about 19,000 killed. The "Bulge" was the largest and bloodiest single battle



Members of the U.S. 117th Infantry Regiment, 30th Infantry Division, move past a destroyed American tank on their march to capture the town of St-Vith at the close of the Battle of the Bulge. St-Vith was largely destroyed during the ground battle and subsequent air attack. American forces retook the town on Jan. 23, 1945.

fought by the United States in the Second World War and the third-deadliest campaign in American history.

British prime minister Winston Churchill, addressing the House of Commons following the Battle of the Bulge,

said, "This is undoubtedly the greatest American battle of the war, and will, I believe, be regarded as an ever-famous American victory."

Sources: *Ville de Québec toponymie*; *Wikipedia*

MEMORIALS AND THINGS OF FAME

October 30, 1822 – The Quebec Gazette

Notice

The celebrated Mr. Godeau from Paris (who has met with such great approbation in Montreal) respectfully informs the public of Quebec that he purposes [*sic*] exhibiting three times this week at the theatre his unrivalled feats in the slack and tight rope for one week only. No pains will be spared to render his entertainment satisfactory.

Walking on a tightrope requires excellent balance, nerves of steel, nimble feet and a sturdy pair of specially made shoes, as this photo demonstrates.



October 30, 1872 – The Morning Chronicle

The Horse Disease

The horse epidemic is undoubtedly in our midst, and it is evident that the troubles which have befallen other cities in this line, will be the lot of Quebec ere long. Yesterday ... over four hundred cases were reported. The fine dry weather, however, has prevented any of the more serious symptoms of epizootic influenza from presenting themselves, and the animals now under treatment have not the same exhausted and forlorn appearance as has been noted in other cities.

October 27, 1897 – The Quebec Morning Chronicle

Canadian Fruit in England

Reports received yesterday of the latest shipments of fruit made by direction of the Minister of Agriculture show that they arrived in Great Britain in satisfactory condition. Of the 636 cases shipped in good condition, with the exception of the grapes, which were fairly sound, but inclined to drop from the stems. The report on the 786 boxes of fruit by the "Hurons" to London, says that the fruit arrived in good condition. ... The pears were in fine condition, the Crawford peach a little soft, the tomatoes in fine condition, the objection to the tomatoes being that they were too large. A medium size variety takes better in the British market.

October 31, 1922 – The Quebec Chronicle

John H. Roberts Is Summoned To Bar Of House

John H. Roberts, editor of "The Axe," a Montreal Weekly publication, will be brought before the bar of the Legislative Assembly of Quebec ... to answer to a charge of "violating the honour of the Legislature". On a motion by the Premier, Hon. L.A. Taschereau, ... the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly was instructed yesterday afternoon, to issue a warrant for the arrest of John H. Roberts ... And bring him before the Legislative Assembly at 4 o'clock in the afternoon on November 2.

[An] article which appeared in *The Axe* dealt at great length with one of the most sensational crimes in the criminal annals of the Province of Quebec. The body of Blanche Garneau, a young Quebec girl, was found about two years ago, in a clump of bushes in one of the public parks in the city of Quebec. The girl had been criminally assaulted and murdered. After several months' investigation by the Quebec City detective, the Provincial police and private detectives whose services had been cured [*sic*] by the Provincial government, two men were finally arrested and charged with the crime. They were tried but acquitted.

October 31, 1962 – The Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph

Fleur de Lys Group Makes New Plea For Late Closing

The Quebec Progressive Merchants Association this morning continued its campaign for evening shopping hours by presenting Mayor Wilfrid Hamel with a brief containing figures to show that Quebecers do want night shopping. ...

The brief was presented by Sydney Lazarovitz, lawyer and spokesman for the association. ...

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

(1962 cont.)

"Our survey proves that 74 percent of shoppers want the opportunity to shop at night," Mr. Lazarovitz said. "Only 10 per cent are against it, 15 percent undecided or indifferent and one per cent gave qualified approval," he added. Almost half the shoppers in a typical week at the Place Laurier Shopping Centre, shop there in the evening regularly, while another 36 per cent shop there occasionally, he said. ... "Why should some merchants and the public suffer because a handful of big store operators do not want stores to remain open at night?" he asked. ... The mayor assured Mr. Lazarovitz he has not taken sides in the issue and that the association's brief would be carefully studied.

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

Busy times ahead for Grand Marché

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As the leaves turn slowly from green to yellow, orange and red, the Grand Marché de Québec is gearing up for fall. Pumpkins, apples and squash are appearing at its dozens of produce stands along with Halloween decorations, and market director Steve Ross is already thinking ahead to Christmas, and to ways to make the market a true year-round gathering place for residents and tourists.

Ross acknowledged that the market's big move in 2019 from its former location on the St. Lawrence River in Vieux-Port (the vast property is now an urban farm) to the less touristy ExpoCité, followed less than a year later by pandemic restrictions, has had an impact on traffic. "We're at a crucial moment where we're reconnecting with consumers," he said, adding that the pandemic seems to have increased interest in home cooking and cooking with local products. He said the market was also gradually becoming more of a tourist destination. "If you don't know it's there, you're not going to just walk in," he

acknowledged. "But more and more people are putting it on their itinerary."

The Grand Marché is overseen by the Coopérative des horticulteurs de Québec. Ross was named director general in June 2022, the third person to hold the job since the move to ExpoCité. He said he wants the market to become a "family destination and a foodie destination ... where people have the reflex to go not just to go shopping but to spend time together, to get a coffee or take a walk in the park." He also wants to build the market's reputation as an event venue, citing the Petite Marché de Corée, a Korean cultural festival held earlier this summer, as well as the KWE! Meet with Indigenous Peoples festival and MondoKarnaval, both of which used the Grand Marché and Place Jean-Béliveau as festival hubs. "We want people to discover the world through the market ... and then come back. Quebecers are open and curious, especially about food, and we want to reflect that."

Ross also plans to continue two recent Grand Marché traditions this fall – the Soupe Populaire, a massive distribution of soup made from market vegetables that would otherwise go to waste

and sold to support Moisson Québec, held on Oct. 22 this year (*see article on page 6*) and production of house-made cider from apples donated by market vendors and Limoilou residents.

In the short term, Ross is enthusiastic about the coming months, although the labour shortage and inflation continue to cause difficulties for vendors. In the long term, he may have to deal with competition from an unexpected source – the newly re-elected Coalition Avenir Québec government. In September, the CAQ announced plans to rebuild a version of the Marché Champlain, a historic Lower Town market demolished in 1910, on the site of the Quebec City-Lévis ferry terminal, less than 1.5 kilometres from the former Marché du Vieux-Port.

"We learned about [the Marché Champlain proposal] at the same time as everyone else," he said. "We want to be at the table so we don't end up competing with the new market – if they want to complement what we offer, there are some possibilities there. We're interested in talking about it, but we don't want to re-create something that already exists – the city moved the old market for a reason."

Legault names new 30-member cabinet

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On Oct. 20, the 30 MNAs appointed to Premier François Legault's cabinet gathered in the upper chamber of the National Assembly – known as the Salon Rouge, where the Legislative Council sat until its abolition in 1968 – to be sworn in to their ministerial posts. Lt. Gov. J. Michel Doyon gave a brief address on the privileges and responsibilities of serving in Cabinet before the ministers were individually sworn in.

Geneviève Guilbault, MNA for the Quebec City riding of Louis-Hébert, retained her title as deputy premier and was appointed minister of transport. Former transport minister François Bonnardel will replace her as public safety minister.

Éric Girard was named minister of finance and minister responsible for relations with English-speaking Quebecers – a move which

many community groups and analysts saw as positive. “This appointment is a major first step in ensuring the concerns of English-speaking Quebecers are heard,” Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN) president Eva Ludvig said in a statement. “[Girard] is someone who is open to our community and the world ... we hope [he] will take the time to connect with our community and help build bridges with other ministers and ministries, so that our community can further engage with our government on the issues that matter to English-speaking Quebecers.”

Outgoing economy and innovation minister Pierre Fitzgibbon had the energy ministry, the ministry of regional economic development and the Montreal area added to his already large portfolio. As expected, Health Minister Christian Dubé and Treasury Board Minister Sonia Lebel remained in their posts; Simon Jolin-Barrette was also reconfirmed as justice minis-

ter. Other ministers who kept their previous jobs included Environment Minister Benoit Charette, Tourism Minister Caroline Proulx, Labour Minister Jean Boulet, Agriculture Minister André Lamontagne, Cybersecurity Minister Éric Caire and Minister responsible for Relations with First Nations and Inuit Ian Lafrenière.

Promotions included that of Christopher Skeete, the former parliamentary secretary responsible for relations with English-speaking Quebecers, who was named associate economy minister and minister responsible for the fight against racism, and former associate health minister Lionel Carmant, who is now minister of social services. (Incidentally, Skeete was the only minister who swore his oath in French and English.)

The immigration portfolio went to Montérégie MNA Christine Fréchette, who notably stepped down from a high-profile position in former Parti Québécois leader Jean-François Lisée's

office because she couldn't support the PQ's controversial Charter of Values. One of the architects of that charter, former PQ minister Bernard Drainville, will sit alongside Fréchette in Cabinet; he was named minister of education and minister responsible for the Chaudière-Appalaches region. Drainville's predecessor as education minister, Jean-François Roberge, was appointed minister responsible for the French language, Canadian relations, access to information and state secularism.

Charlesbourg MNA Jonatan Julien replaced Guilbault as minister responsible for the Capitale-Nationale region. He will also take over the infrastructure file amid ongoing discussions between different levels of government and private stakeholders about the “third link” between Quebec City and Lévis, the Quebec City tramway and the Quebec Bridge.

Other notable appointments included Kateri

Champagne Jourdain, the first Innu MNA and the first Indigenous woman elected to the National Assembly, as minister of employment and minister responsible for the Côte-Nord; Mathieu Lacombe as culture minister; newcomer and former real estate broker France Élane Duranceau as minister for housing; and former Olympic speedskater and outgoing minister for the status of women Isabelle Charest as minister for sports, recreation and the outdoors. Sonia Bélanger replaced the retiring Marguerite Blais as minister for seniors and Chantal Rouleau will head a new ministry of social solidarity and community action.

In an address after the announcement, Legault said the health and education systems would be top priorities for the new government, and announced the creation of a “green transition committee” composed of himself, Fitzgibbon, Charette, Girard, Lafrenière and Hydro-Québec CEO Sophie Brochu. He also



Éric Girard was named minister of finance and minister responsible for relations with English-speaking Quebecers when Premier François Legault announced his new cabinet on Oct. 20.

extended an olive branch of sorts to English-speaking Quebecers and immigrants. “Our goal is not to take away your rights to services [in English]; our goal is to protect French, which is an asset to all of us – let's work together on what unites us,” he said, adding that immigration was “a solution, not a problem.”

Maison des sciences launches fundraising campaign

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The Fondation du Musée de la Civilisation (MCQ) launched a fundraising campaign for the development of the Maison des sciences on Oct. 20. This new space will offer young Quebecers a place to learn, discover and innovate scientifically.

As a starting point, renowned actor and philanthropist Roland Lepage donated \$1 million, which was supplemented by \$1.5 million from the museum's foundation. Through this campaign, the foundation hopes to at least double this sum to raise a total of \$5 million over the next five years.

“All my life, I've devoted myself to creating contact with culture, mainly among young people. It is because I know how essential this is, and because the future of the world

depends on the transmission of knowledge, that I want to see this project become a reality,” said Lepage.

The funding will allow the sixth floor of the Séminaire de Québec to be transformed into the Maison des sciences. The museum will house artifacts including a 19th-century Wimshurst machine which generates static electricity, an 18th-century Menant pocket sundial and historical photos and notes chronicling scientific discoveries. After exploring the museum, young people will have the opportunity to learn and innovate in onsite workshops and laboratories.

Considering that this project is meant for younger generations and those to come, it was important for the foundation to get feedback from young people. A handful of students from École Marguerite-Bourgeoys

and Collège François-de-Laval attended the launch on Oct. 20 at the Salle des Promotions, two floors below the future Maison des sciences.

They listened to Marie-Pier Trépanier, a recent mechanical engineering graduate from Université Laval, speak during a panel discussion. She said that women remain the minority in the sciences, the inspiration behind her group Génie uElles.

La Maison des sciences is aimed at elementary and high school students. By offering them the right tools in the workshops and laboratories and allowing them to learn more about history and science, the foundation is hoping to narrow the gender gap in university science programs.

Mathilde Ouellet, a Grade 6 student at École Marguerite-Bourgeoys, also spoke during

the panel discussion. She mentioned that if she could interview any scientist dead or alive, she would talk to Rosalind Franklin, one of the co-discoverers of DNA. In 1962, James Watson, Francis Crick and Maurice Wilkins were awarded a Nobel Prize for the discovery of DNA; Franklin's prior work formed the foundation for theirs.

A successful fundraising campaign by the Fondation du Musée de la Civilisation will allow this project to inspire future scientists. Young Quebecers like Ouellet and her classmates will be able to learn from the lectures and artifacts in the Maison des Sciences. From there, they will be able to apply their newfound knowledge and inspiration in the lab and workshop sections. The Maison des sciences is expected to open in June 2024.



Photo by Cassandra Kerwin

Mathilde Ouellet, a Grade 6 student at École Marguerite-Bourgeoys, spoke during the panel discussion at the fundraising campaign launch for the Maison des sciences. She said she was curious to learn about the laws of physics and inspired by Rosalind Franklin, one of the co-discoverers of DNA.

City to explore future of Église Saint-Jean-Baptiste

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Église Saint-Jean-Baptiste, which towers above the Upper Town neighbourhood of the same name, has been closed to the public since it held its last mass in 2015. In the intervening years, community groups and municipal political parties have proposed various uses for it – a centre for French-Canadian genealogy, a school for stained-glass artisans and a community centre, to name a few. None of the proposals has gained much traction. However, that

may change now that Mayor Bruno Marchand's administration has announced plans to explore the possibility of turning it into a multidisciplinary community space.

On Oct. 20, the Ville de Québec announced it had mandated the Institut canadien de Québec (ICQ) to commission Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton to conduct a pre-feasibility study with a view to eventually creating “a dynamic and inspiring community gathering place for residents and tourists.”

“The difference now is that the city is taking the lead. This new approach is the continuation of the [work] carried out in 2021 by the ICQ, which

aimed to identify the different uses that could be made of the church, on the basis of a consultation of community stakeholders,” said Mélissa Coulombe-Leduc, city councillor for the area and member of the executive committee responsible for heritage. “We want to specify its potential uses ... and also to assess whether independent income can be generated from these uses and to what extent.”

She said the church had “exceptional heritage value” and also served as a gathering place, hosting a soup kitchen, Alcoholics Anonymous meetings and neighbourhood council meetings, among others. The gap it left in that

regard hasn't been filled – the Saint-Jean-Baptiste neighbourhood council now meets in Montcalm.

A city statement said the space, provisionally named Le Carrefour Saint-Jean-Baptiste, could potentially be used for artist residencies and exhibits, as a multipurpose room, as a hub for community organizations and as a 350-seat performance space with an “experiential show” and an exhibit dedicated to the church's giant Casavant organ. The site may also feature “indoor and outdoor relaxation areas with shops and markets.”

The cost of the study is estimated at just over \$106,000;

\$85,000 of that amount will come from provincial funding provided to the Ville de Québec and the rest will be provided by the ICQ. Coulombe-Leduc said she hopes the study, expected to be released next year, will allow the city to find funding partners to acquire and refurbish the building. The building is currently being evaluated to get an idea of anticipated repair costs.

Calls to the Paroisse Saint-Jean-Baptiste, which still owns the church, were not returned. In September, André Bernier, the director general of the parish, told the *QCT* that the church, which costs hundreds of thousands of dollars a year to maintain, would “fall into ruin”



Photo by Shirley Nadeau from QCT archives

Église Saint-Jean-Baptiste, where mass was last celebrated in 2015, may find a new lease on life as a community arts space.

if another use wasn't found for it. “We're open to any feasible project,” he said at the time.

Irish Heritage Quebec speakers connect past and present

SHIRLEY NADEAU
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On the second Monday evening of every month, some 30 or more people gather in McMahon Hall of St. Patrick's Church on Avenue De Salaberry for a meeting of Irish Heritage Quebec (IHQ), which was founded in 1973 by Marianna O'Gallagher and several members of the Irish community of Quebec City. During their meetings, members of IHQ or invited guests give talks or presentations on topics of interest to the group.

On Sept. 12, David A. Wilson, a professor at the University of Toronto and St. Michael's College and author of *Canadian Spy Story: Irish Revolutionaries and the Secret Police*, gave

a scholarly presentation on Canadian Fenians, underlining their presence in Quebec City.

Originally from Ireland, Wilson studied at York University in England and Queen's University in Kingston, Ont., where he earned his PhD in history. After a period at the Institute of Irish Studies at Queen's University in Belfast, he returned to Canada and prepared and presented radio documentaries with CBC's *Ideas* series. While doing that, he applied for a position in the University of Toronto's history department, where he taught for three years before moving to the Celtic Studies program at St. Michael's College. Since 2013, he has also been the general editor of the *Diction-*

ary of Canadian Biography.

At the most recent IHQ meeting, held on Oct. 10, Irish-born Darragh Murphy and Sean Bannon were interviewed by IHQ board member Joe Lonergan about their experiences as Irish immigrants living and working in Quebec City as well as the success of their masonry business.

Murphy, president and founder of Maçonnerie Murphy Inc., received his diploma as a mason from the City and Guilds of London Institute. Bannon, vice-president of Maçonnerie Murphy Inc. studied at Université Laval. Both of them moved to the city as a result of marrying women from Quebec whom they met in Ireland or England. Lively tales of their experiences as

masons in Quebec City greatly entertained the audience. Founded in 2009, Maçonnerie Murphy has put its stamp on the restoration of landmarks such as the Musée national des Beaux-Arts du Québec, the facade of the former St. Patrick's Church on Rue McMahon and the Château Saint-Louis apartment building on Grande Allée, making it one of the most highly respected companies in the area.

For information about upcoming IHQ meetings, call 418-704-3404 or visit irishheritagequebec.net.



Photo by Shirley Nadeau

During the Oct. 10 meeting of Irish Heritage Quebec, Joe Lonergan (centre) chatted with Darragh Murphy (left), founder and president of Maçonnerie Murphy, and Sean Bannon (right), vice president of the company.



Working together to identify and meet the challenges of Aging in Community

SUBMITTED BY RICHARD WALLING, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF JEFFERY HALE COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND MEMBER OF THE WORKING GROUP FOR THE AGING IN COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

Did you know that there are three organizations in our community that regularly put their heads together to develop ways to better meet the complex health and social services needs of English-speaking seniors in our region? Jeffery Hale Community Partners (JH Partners) and effery Hale – Saint Brigid's (JHSB), along with Voice of English-speaking Québec (VEQ) are currently exploring how we can work together to help seniors stay in their homes as they age.

Representing both the community and public sectors, each of our three dynamic or-

ganizations brings its unique strengths and resources to the table in the working group for a new shared initiative called Aging in Community. The underlying principles guiding our collectivity are drawn from the World Health Organization (WHO) definition of healthy aging.

The WHO defines healthy aging as the process of developing and maintaining the functional ability that enables well-being in older age. This includes a person's ability to meet their basic needs; to learn, grow and make decisions, to be mobile; to build and maintain relationships and to contribute to society.

Several factors make it challenging for seniors to grow older at home, including increased social isolation and difficulty in accessing human resources to help with the tasks of daily living,

both indoors and outdoors around the home. These factors, while present before the COVID-19 pandemic, have been magnified by it. Therefore, this Aging in Community initiative could not be more timely.

To adapt existing services and build additional services to support seniors in our community as they age, the Aging in Community working group plans to distribute a survey among seniors and their caregivers. Our hope is to better understand the challenges currently faced by older adults and the types of services that they would need to feel secure and comfortable in their home in the years to come.

We are hoping to conduct the first survey by the end of January 2023. What's more, we would like to be able to survey you once a year so that



Photo by Adrian Gianville courtesy of Jeffery Hale Community Partners

Richard Walling (centre) is shown at VEQ Fall Fest 2022, flanked by a dynamic and caring team of employees from the community Wellness Centre. Located in the Jeffery Hale pavilion, the Wellness Centre is co-managed by the same three organizations involved in the Aging in Community initiative, namely JH Partners, JHSB and VEQ.

we can identify your evolving needs as you age.

If you are aged 55 and over and are interested in being part of the survey group, either for yourself or on behalf of someone you are caring for,

please contact JH Partners at info@jhparkers.net or by phone at 418-684-5333, ext. 11835.

If you have any questions or would like more information about this initiative or

any of our services, please reach out to us using the above information, or visit our respective websites: wejh.ca, veq.ca and jhsb.ca.

REVIEW

Opéra de Québec sets *Don Pasquale* in the 1960s

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Although the original opera was composed by Gaetano Donizetti in the mid-1800s, Jean-Sébastien Ouellette, the stage director of the Opéra de Québec production of *Don Pasquale*, places it in the summer of 1967, the Summer of Love and Expo '67. In the opening scene, a circa 1960 Mustang convertible is driven onstage by Ernesto and his friends. The electric-powered vehicle reappears onstage in several ensuing scenes.

The three-act opera recounts the misadventures of Don Pasquale (portrayed by Olivier Déjean from France), a miserly, elderly confirmed bachelor, who almost dies of a heart attack while mowing the lawn in front of his bungalow during the overture (prelude to the real action).

His nephew and heir Ernesto (Patrick Kabongo, a French singer originally from Congo) wants to marry Norina, a lovely but penniless young widow magnificently portrayed by Belgian singer Anne-Catherine Gillet.

Don Pasquale is having none of it and resolves to take a wife, produce an heir and disinherit his nephew. He tells Dr. Malatesta (Hugo Laporte, from Quebec), who takes the young couple's side and cooks up a scheme to fool the Don, with the help of his cousin (Michel Desbiens, also from Quebec) who portrays a notary who "ties the knot."

Norina is enlisted to play the bride, who will be the doctor's imaginary sister Sofronia and Don Pasquale's demure dream girl. Ernesto, unaware of what's going on, believes his love is lost, while Pasquale's supposedly demure and obedi-

ent bride steps away from the altar transformed into a pushy "shrew" with very expensive tastes. The Don has no one to blame but himself – the joke, it turns out, is on him. But all's well that ends well. Eventually, all are reconciled, and the moral of the story – not to marry in old age – is revealed in a playful quartet (*La morale di tutto questo* – "The moral of all this"). Pasquale is relieved to be rid of his horrible "wife" and Ernesto and Norina drive off into the sunset.

The opera reflects the traditions of opera buffa, with stock characters derived from commedia dell'arte. Ouellette sets the action in a 1960s fantasy world that fits Giovanni Ruffini's libretto and its themes like a glove, with Norina's character a reflection of the women's liberation movement of the day.

The ingenious set design by



Photo by Shirley Nadeau

The cast of *Don Pasquale* takes a bow at the end of the production. Holding hands in the front row are Jean-Sébastien Ouellette (stage director), Michel Desbiens (the notary), Olivier Déjean (Don Pasquale), Laurent Campellone (music director), Anne-Catherine Gillet (Norina), Patrick Kabongo (Ernesto) and Hugo Laporte (Dr. Malatesta). Behind them are the members of the Opéra de Québec chorus. Members of the Orchestre symphonique de Québec can be seen in the orchestra pit just below the front of the stage.

Michel Baker features images of a bungalow, a hospital, Dr. Malatesta's office, a train station, passing scenery (as the Mustang "drives" across the stage) and a wooded area around Don Pasquale's home projected on the back of a large screen that is lowered

and raised in front of the solid walls of the house/hospital/train station. Members of the Opéra de Québec chorus portray neighbours, hospital staff, workmen and maids.

Don Pasquale is presented at the Grand Théâtre in the original Italian with French

surtitles, accompanied by the Orchestre symphonique de Québec, with musical direction by Laurent Campellone. There are two more productions on Oct. 27 at 7:30 p.m. and Oct. 29 at 2 p.m. For tickets, visit operadequebec.com.

REVIEW

Quebec City fans say 'Merci beaucoup, Michael Bubl !'

SHIRLEY NADEAU
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Fans of Michael Bubl  were bubbling over with excitement as they waited for the Canadian crooner to arrive on the enormous stage and runway set up in the Videotron Centre on Oct. 19.

As the countdown projected onto the giant curtain surrounding the main stage got closer to zero and the lights gradually dimmed, the anticipation mounted even higher ... which, coincidentally, is the name of the world tour Bubl  is currently on to support the launch of his 11th studio album, *Higher* (2022).

The tour, which began on Aug. 8 in Duluth, Georgia, is scheduled to conclude in Dublin, Ireland, on May 14, 2023. According to Bubl 's website, the tour includes 95 concerts in 25 countries in North and South America, Australia and Europe. Bubl  was in Montreal on Oct. 18



Photo by Shirley Nadeau

Canadian crooner Michael Bubl  played to a packed audience at the Videotron Centre on Oct. 19 during his *Higher* world tour.

and performed in Halifax and Moncton on Oct. 21 and 22.

Bubl 's fans in Quebec City welcomed him with open arms as he strode onto the stage amid a burst of pyrotechnics, singing "Feeling Good" and "Haven't Met You Yet." He was accompanied by

an orchestra of 34 musicians, including lots of strings and brass, plus drums, piano and three backup singers.

Large screens set up around the stage allowed those sitting in remote seats up in "the gods" to see him better. Those fortunate enough to have seats beside

the runway actually got to touch Bubl  as he reached out to them.

His set list included many hits he had written or collaborated on – "Home," "Everything," "Hold On" and "It's a Beautiful Day" – plus a medley of Elvis Presley songs including "Fever," "One Night," "All Shook Up" and "Can't Help Falling in Love." He even imitated the King by mopping his brow with small towels and tossing them into the crowd. In 2015 Bubl  was featured, along with the Italian trio Il Volo, on the *If I Can Dream* album with

archival vocal recordings of Presley, accompanied by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

The seemingly indefatigable Bubl  (the concert lasted two and a half hours) sang a total of 20 songs before he launched into four encores – "Save the Last Dance for Me," "How Sweet It Is (To Be Loved by You)," "Cry Me a River" and "Always On My Mind." Before the last song, he removed his jacket to reveal a Quebec Nordiques hockey sweater, which made the crowd go wilder than ever!

Some 20,000 fans floated home on a cloud of music, although it did take some time for everyone to get out of the building and the parking lot.

To learn more about Bubl 's tour and the *Higher* album, visit michaelbuble.com.

OBITUARY

Shirley Mary McConomy COUGHLIN (1929-2022)



Mom passed away peacefully at Saint Brigid's Home in Quebec City on Oct. 16, 2022, just a few weeks shy of her 93rd birthday.

She is predeceased by her husband James Kenneth Coughlin (d. 2000) and her son Steven Coughlin (d. 1989).

She will be missed by her daughters Deborah Ross and Joanne Coughlin (Richard Irving) as well as her three grandchildren Ian Ross (Eve Robson), Alex Ross (Sarah Williams) and Jessica Trites (Adrian Sykora); her six beautiful great-grandchildren; her sister Brenda Benson and her two brothers Kenneth (Buddy) and Terry McConomy.

A small graveside service will be held at St. Patrick's Cemetery at a later date.

The family wishes to acknowledge the excellent, loving care provided throughout her time at Saint Brigid's Home by the fourth floor care team.

Donations to the Jeffery Hale-Saint Brigid's Friends Foundation, (2109 -1270 Chemin Ste-Foy, Quebec City, QC, G1S 2M4; Tel. 418-684-2260) would be appreciated.

OBITUARY

Graham REYNOLDS (1931-2022)

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Graham Reynolds, at home in Quebec City on Oct. 2, 2022. He was the son of the late Isabel Frances Woodford and the late Frank Henry Reynolds. He was a resident of Quebec City since immigrating to Canada from England in 1961.



The family will receive condolences on Sunday, Oct. 30, 2022 at 1 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, 31 Rue des Jardins, Quebec City, G1R 4L6.

The funeral service will follow at 2 p.m. There will be a reception at the Cathedral following the ceremony.

He will be sadly missed by his daughters Jo Bishop (Steve Lloyd, the late David Bishop) and Nancy Reynolds (the late Eric Timmons); his grandchildren Nick Bishop (Melissa Bunn), Michelle Lee (Mike Lee) and Katrine Timmons; and his great-grandchildren William Bishop, Hugh Bishop and Lucy Lee as well as many cousins in England.

His family would like to express special thanks to staff and palliative care workers at Jeffery Hale Hospital. Donations in his honour can be made to The Seamen's Club (418-692-3376, maisonumarin@live.ca).

For information:
Harmonia
Phone: 418 681-9797



To send a personalized sympathy message:
info@harmonia.ca
Please indicate the name of the deceased and your message will be forwarded via email to the family as soon as possible.

Fresh vegetable soups raise funds for Moisson Qu bec

CASSANDRA KERWIN
CASSANDRA@QCTONLINE.COM

Many shoppers who walk through the doors of the Grand March  de Qu bec come to purchase the freshest fruits and vegetables from local farmers. Some came for only one reason on Oct. 22: the annual Soupe populaire sale. As autumn leaves change colours, they know it's time to stock up on soup.

"For years, the March  du Vieux-Port de Qu bec sold one-litre jars of soup made with fresh vegetables. We have continued that tradition here at the Grand March  de Qu bec since last year," said Marie-Michelle Beaudoin, manager of communications at the Grand March  de Qu bec.

"This year, L gumier Marcoux donated all the vegetables for the three soups: Potage Cr cy (carrot soup), Potage Parmentier (potato and leek soup) and Soupe des R coltes (vegetable soup)," said Beaudoin. "Under the supervision of the chefs from the Myc lium



Photo by Cassandra Kerwin

Two teams of eight volunteer chefs make 1,000 litres of soup: Potage Cr cy (carrot soup), Potage Parmentier (potato and leek soup) and Potage des R coltes (vegetable soup) for the annual Soupe populaire sale at the Grand March  de Qu bec.

and La Table des Chefs professional kitchens here, it took two teams of eight volunteer chefs over two days to make the total 1,000 litres of soups.

"On the third day, we sold the soups starting at 10 a.m. opening, and within two to three hours, we were sold out. We sell the soups at \$8/litre with all proceeds going to Moisson Qu bec," she said. Within the first hour, the Potage Cr cy was already the best seller. "It is a beautiful orange colour

like many of the autumn leaves outside," Beaudoin observed. The distinctive colours of each soup echo the fall colours: green grass and red and orange leaves.

"I buy at least two of each soup to get us and my aging parents through the winter," said Caroline Desbiens. "It is a tradition that started with my mother when I was a teenager, and now I'm here with my daughter."

Quebec City is ready for spooky season

A lovely pumpkin couple brought their nursery to the City Hall Halloween Gardens.



Photo by Cassandra Kerwin

Chronicle-Telegraph

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Community Calendar of Events

Register **now** for activities at the YWCA on Avenue Holland! There are lots of activities for women and children, a huge swimming pool, a residence for women and children in need and an ÉcoBoutique which offers great bargains on gently used clothing. For details, visit ywcaquebec.qc.ca.

Oct. 1 to Nov. 6 – Halloween Folk Art and Legends in the Joan of Arc Garden of the Plains of Abraham. Folk artist **Patrick Lavallée** has created 16 large works of art for the garden, each depicting the legends of the illustrious park. Each sculpture is paired with text and videos to explain the legends and the artist's process. As the sun sets, the garden is bathed in orange light in the spirit of the season. Free outdoor exhibit.

Oct. 11 to Dec. 6 – Picture This photography workshops at the Morrin Centre with professional photographer **Jacques Gaines** every second Tuesday evening. Subjects covered include Photography Fundamentals, Photography Composition, Computer Photo-Editing (the essentials and fun techniques), and Photography - Find Your Style. For details and to register, visit morrin.org/picturethis.

Oct. 20 to April 23 – EVERGON: Théâtre de l'Intime. The Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec presents a retrospective of Canadian photographer **Evergon** that assembles more than 230 of his works. Enter the comical, carnal universe of the artist, who, in a career spanning 50 years, has humorously revisited genres such as portraits, landscapes and nudes, producing bold, moving and occasionally irreverent imagery. For details, visit mnbaq.org.

Oct. 25 and 27 at 7:30 p.m. and Oct. 29 at 2 p.m. – Opéra de Québec presents Donizetti's *Don Pasquale* at the Grand Théâtre. For details and tickets, visit operadequebec.com/en and see article on page 5.

Oct. 25 to Nov. 18 at 7:30 p.m. (Nov. 12 and 19 at 4:30 p.m.) – Le Théâtre La Bordée presents *Grosse-Île, 1847 (dans les mots de ceux qui l'ont vécu)*. Creator Émile Proulx-Cloutier offers a historical documentary play (in French) that tells the tragedy of the men and women who faced the unknown. The unique approach of the production will immerse the audience in this still too little-known chapter in the history of Québec. For details and tickets, visit bordée.qc.ca.

Wednesday, Oct. 26 at 7:30 p.m. – Société de Guitare de Québec presents flamenco guitarist **Grisha Goryachev**, the first of a series of concerts at the Palais Montcalm (Salle D'Youville). For details and tickets, visit guitarequebec.com/billetterie.

Saturday, Oct. 29 at 2, 5 and 8 p.m. – Morrin Centre Members' Day: an exclusive day filled with activities and delights to highlight the contributions of Morrin Centre members to Québec City's English-language cultural centre. **Pumpkin carving** is on the agenda at 2 p.m. The ever-popular **beer tasting (sold-out)** at 5 p.m. and a film screening (*Beetlejuice*) at 8 p.m. Wear a Halloween costume (there will be prizes!). Free for Morrin Centre members **only**. You must reserve in advance for each activity at morrin.org/en/event/journee-des-membres-2022.

Oct. 29 and 30 – Celebrate Halloween and discover unique, spooky and spiritual gifts offered by more than 40 artisans at the **Marché de l'Étrange** at the Grand Marché. A card reader will also be on site to do readings for the curious and intrigued.

Nov. 2 and 3 at 8 p.m. – The Orchestre symphonique de Québec directed by **Jean-Marie Zeitouni**, soloists **Tracy Dahl** (soprano), **Benjamin Butterfield** (tenor), **James Westman** (baritone), the **Choeur de l'OSQ** and **La Maîtrise des Petits Chanteurs de Québec** present Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*, preceded by Prokofiev's symphonique suite *L'amour des trois oranges*, at the Grand Théâtre de Québec. For details and tickets, visit osq.org/concerts/carmina-burana.

Thursday, Nov. 3 at 7 p.m. – Poetry Soirée at the Morrin Centre. Join poets from Québec City, Lévis and further afield for an evening of poetry at the Morrin Centre. The soirée will celebrate and showcase poetry by members of the poetry group **The Strong Threads** as well as some participants from the Society Pages Poetry Contest. The evening will also feature the inauguration of the poetry display case in the Library. Each month, the case will display a different poem written by a Strong Threads member or Society Pages Poetry Contest winner or finalist. Unable to make it in person? This activity will be offered in a hybrid form so you can join from the comfort of your own home too! To register, visit morrin.org/en/event/poetry-soiree.

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).

Nov. 3, 4 and 5 at 7 p.m. – Morrin Centre Live at Murphy's Pub. Be part of the audience during the recording of a TV show and live recording of a new album by **Randall Spear** at Murphy's Pub on Rue Saint-Jean. It will include the appearance of a special guest from the community at every show that will be filmed in front of a live audience in the intimate, acoustic spirit of the coffee house scene of the late '50s. This project aims to bring back the cultural activity in the Old City and to explore the connection between the English and French cultures through the common languages of music and history. Register online via Randall Spear's Facebook page. Tickets \$22.05. Until Oct. 26, Morrin Centre members have access to an exclusive \$5 discount – check your email for the promo code!

Sunday, Nov. 6 at 3 p.m. – Rendez-vous classiques PIANO et Co. featuring pianist **Samuel Blanchette-Gagnon**; the third of a series of five concerts at L'Arquemuse, 160 Rue Saint-Joseph Est. Tickets are \$30 for adults, \$20 for students under 30, free for children under 15. Contact rendezvousclassiques@arquemuse.com or call 418-525-6873 for more information

Sunday, Nov. 6 at 3 p.m. – Jordi Savall and Hespèrion XXI present a foray into the splendour of the Renaissance era, a key musical era for the emergence of the viola da gamba and the viol consort, at the Palais Montcalm. For more details and tickets, visit palaismontcalm.ca.

Monday, Nov. 7 at 10 a.m. – Lifelong Learning group meets at the Québec City Reading Council, Room 201 of the Eastern Québec Learning Centre, 3005 Rue William-Stuart. LLL member **Mamie Stewart** will give a presentation about her trips to 10 western U.S. states and national parks in 2021. This event is open to all adults aged 50 and older in the Québec City area. To register, email Catherine at info@lifelonglearningquebec.org or call 418-681-1258. Space is limited.

Wednesday, Nov. 9 at 5:30 p.m. – Literary Feast at the Morrin Centre featuring keynote speaker **Michael J. Audain**, an active supporter of the visual arts and the driving force behind the Espace Riopelle slated to open at the MNBAQ in 2026; and honorary president for the evening, **Grégoire Baillargeon**, co-head, BMO Capital Markets. For details, visit morrin.org/en/event/2022-literary-feast.

PINION

Celebrating the ghosts of Halloweens past

PAULINE KERR
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There is something about Halloween that goes much deeper than small children dressed as princesses and comic book heroes, collecting candy from smiling neighbours.

Despite central heating, warm coats and an ample supply of food, we sense a certain ... disquiet ... as the sun grows weaker. There is a chill in the air; although we know spring will return, that feeling hints at a time when our ancestors were not too sure it would, and considered the possibility the vicious bite of winter would never end.

For many, it did not. In northern Europe, where our Halloween customs

originated, winter was a season of hunger and death. Disease was rampant and spread quickly in crowded, smoky huts. Food stored for times of scarcity could rot, and supplies often failed to outlast the snow.

Hunger affected others besides humans – animal predators such as wolves, made brave by starvation and darkness, ventured dangerously close to settlements.

People lit bonfires to represent the sun in all its warmth and power, or perhaps to ward off the spirits of darkness, and carried lanterns carved from discarded turnips. They might have offered sacrifices and prayers to ancient deities, and at the very least, have taken solace in the company of

others gathered near the fires for one last time before winter set in with a vengeance.

While elders performed rituals according to their religious beliefs, be it the Gaelic festival Samhain, early Christian All Hallow's Eve or some earlier predecessor of both, one can easily imagine what the kids were up to. As young folk have always tended to do, they would have poked fun at what scared them.

A combination of youthful bravado and possibly some home-brewed liquid courage would have led them to laugh at the way the candle flames transformed leafless trees into contorted monsters. They might have donned costumes or at least disguised themselves to avoid parental

"From ghoulties and ghosties, long-leggedy beasties and things that go bump in the night, Good Lord deliver us!" – old Scottish prayer

wrath, played pranks on each other and their elders (no doubt blaming the mayhem on ghosts), told scary stories in the hope of making someone screech in terror, and perhaps made off with the cakes and liquid refreshments left on doorsteps for visiting spirits.

In other words, very little has changed over the years.

Today's trick-or-treaters dress as characters from modern myths and legends – Harry Potter and friends, Disney princesses, Batman

and pirates. Older kids might run amok with toilet paper, while their younger siblings collect enough candy to keep them on a sugar high for weeks. Suburban hedges and flower gardens sprout flocks of plastic bats, garlands of fake spider webs and armies of inflatable ghosts.

On some local street, a couple of kids will persuade themselves they really did see an otherworldly demon, and they will arrive home, eyes wide, faces pale and hearts pounding. Some adult dressed up like Beetlejuice to hand out candy will get

so carried away with spooky sound effects and animated decorations that the trick-or-treaters will be secretly glad Dad insisted on coming along with them. Some basement horror film marathon will end with 10 kids piled into one bed and every light in the house turned on.

And perhaps some ancient spirit of Halloweens long past will smile in ghoulish glee as it darts among the wisps of mist and rustling leaves, dancing in the eerie shadows of moonlit tree branches, enjoying, watching ...

Happy Halloween!

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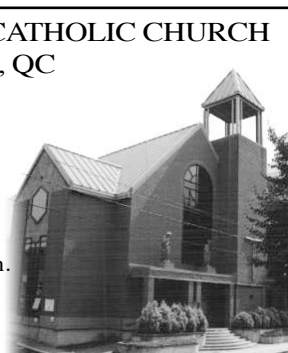
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Soccer Québec working toward Quebec City CPL franchise

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It is a baby step that feels more like a giant leap for soccer in the province. Soccer Québec is negotiating with local businesspeople to get a Canadian Premier League (CPL) franchise in the city in the near future.

The provincial organization, along with the Association régionale de soccer de Québec (ARSQ), commissioned a survey from Léger Marketing which showed that 64 per cent of respondents were in favour of having a team in Quebec City.

Mathieu Chamberland, director general of Soccer Québec, told the *QCT* the numbers are there but a lot of work still needs to be done.

"Yes, there is interest in professional soccer in the city, and with more than 30 players from the province playing in the CPL, I think Quebec [City] would be a natural fit," said Chamberland, a Quebec City native. "We are having discussions with local business partners; there is still a lot of work to be done before going to the CPL with our project."

One of those hurdles is finding a stadium to play in. Even though Stade TELUS at Université Laval would be ideal, the CPL doesn't want any football lines on the field. Teams in Hamilton and Ottawa play in the same stadiums as local Canadian Football League teams, but the football lines are washed

away for soccer.

"The stadium is one of the many things we have to get done in our project," Chamberland told the *QCT*.

The ARSQ has 25,000 members and is the largest regional soccer association in the province. The survey showed that 96 per cent of members are in favour of a CPL franchise in Quebec City.

Along with Chamberland, the group is composed of Soccer Québec president Pierre Marchand; Soccer Québec board member Jean Gandubert; ARSQ director general Philippe Bernard; Samir Ghrib, head coach of the Université Laval Rouge et Or men's soccer team and sports

director of Royal Beauport; and Frank Pons, director of the Observatoire international en management du sport at Université Laval.

The group can also count on the experience of former minister Richard Legendre, who was involved with the Montreal Impact (now CF Montréal) as executive vice-president of the team and of Stade Saputo, and Stéphane Banfi, a former advisor to the Impact.

Chamberland acknowledged that Legendre's presence is a big help for the franchise. "His experience in redoing the Stade Uniprix (formerly the Stade Jarry tennis centre) and with the Impact is a huge help for our group."



Photo courtesy of Sportcom via Twitter

Mathieu Chamberland, director general of Soccer Québec, hopes the city eventually gets a franchise in the Canadian Premier League.

Founded in 2019, the CPL has teams in Halifax, Ottawa, North York, Hamilton, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Calgary and

Victoria. A Vancouver team will join the league as the ninth franchise in 2023.

Quebec City players suit up for Canada at Rugby World Cup

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Canada's women's rugby team has qualified for the quarterfinals at the Rugby World Cup with a 29-14 victory over the United States, in the final game of the group stage on Oct. 23 in Auckland, New Zealand.

Ranked third before the World Cup, Canada, who also beat 12th-ranked Japan (41-5) and fifth-ranked Italy (22-12) earlier in the tournament, will head into the playoffs as the second seed, behind only England.

In their quarterfinal match, Canada will once

again play the United States, who qualified as the seventh-seeded team. The game will be played on Oct. 29 at 11:30 p.m. and will be televised by TSN and RDS.

The World Cup final is scheduled for Nov. 12 at 1:30 a.m. Eastern time.

Canada's head coach is Kevin Rouet, the former head coach of the Université Laval women's rugby team.

Rouet, who led the Rouge et Or to its only national title in 2019 and to a third-place finish at the 2021 U Sports championship, took over head coaching duties in the spring of 2022. By

all accounts, the team has responded positively.

Rouet was also head coach of the strong Club de Rugby de Québec (CRQ) women's team before taking the same job with Rugby Canada.

Along with Rouet, three other members of the CRQ are also in New Zealand.

Veteran Karen Paquin, who won bronze in rugby sevens at the 2016 Olympic games in Rio de Janeiro, is back with the team. She was part of the starting lineup for two of Canada's three pool games.

Fabiola Forteza was in

Canada's starting lineup for the first two games against Japan and Italy.

Finally, former Rouge et Or player Justine Pelletier, a native of Rivière-du-Loup who now plays professionally in Bordeaux, France, was a starter in Canada's victory over the United States.



Photo courtesy of Rugby Canada/Chris Wilson

Karen Paquin of Quebec City is one of three members of the Club de Rugby de Québec playing for Canada at the Rugby World Cup in New Zealand.

Laval rugby women head to Victoria as RSEQ champions

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The Université Laval Rouge et Or women's rugby team is heading to the U Sports national championship, after defeating the University of Ottawa Gee-Gees 13-11 in the Réseau du sport étudiant du Québec (RSEQ) championship game on Oct. 22 at Stade TELUS.

The Rouge et Or trailed 11-10 deep into the second half when Alexina Tardif-Samson kicked a 20-yard penalty kick in the last minutes of the game to give Laval the lead, with the defence doing its job to hold onto the victory.

The Rouge et Or, bronze medallists in 2021 and national champions in 2019, will return to the U Sports championship for a third consecutive year.

The soccer teams also completed their regular seasons this weekend by playing the Citadins from Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM).

While the Rouge et Or women tied the Citadins 0-0, the men's team qualified for the playoffs with a 2-0 victory over UQAM.

According to the RSEQ website, the Rouge et Or men play the Carabins from Université de Montréal on Oct. 28. The women host the McGill Univer-

sity Redbirds the same day.

In football, the Rouge et Or did not play last weekend, but the Université de Sherbrooke Vert et Or surprised the Carabins with a 12-5 victory, assuring Université Laval of the regular season championship and home field advantage throughout the RSEQ playoffs. The football team will conclude its regular season on Oct. 29 against the Concordia University Stingers.

St. Lawrence Lions

At the CEGEP level, the Champlain-St. Lawrence Lady Lions were in action on the soccer pitch.

St. Lawrence won a crucial elimination game 7-0 against Collège d'Alma. That victory assured the Lady Lions a spot in the quarterfinals that afternoon against the Titans from Cégep Limoilou.

It was a hard-fought battle, scoreless after 90 minutes of play and 30 minutes of overtime. However, Limoilou came out on top 4-2 in the penalty shootout, eliminating the Lady Lions.

In hockey, the Lions went winless this past week, losing



Photo from the Champlain-St. Lawrence Lions Facebook page

The Champlain-St. Lawrence Lady Lions lost their Northeast Conference quarterfinal game 0-0 (4-2 on penalty kicks) against the Titans from Cégep Limoilou.

at home 5-4 against Collège Lionel-Groulx on Oct. 21 and 4-2 against the CEGEP Champlain-Lennoxville Cougars on Oct. 23.

This weekend, the Lions play in the RSEQ showcase tournament in Sherbrooke, with the other 11 teams of the conference division 1. St. Lawrence will play the Nordiques from Lionel-Groulx on Oct. 29 and the Boomerang from Cégep André-Laurendeau on Oct. 30.

Finally, the volleyball team started its season with a two

sets to one victory against Cégep de Charlevoix on Oct. 22. Prior to their victory, the team lost three times, two

sets to nil, against Cégep Garneau, Limoilou and Beauce-Appalaches.

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