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Julian Alaphilippe wins the 14th Grand Prix Cycliste de Québec

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The seventh time was the charm for French cyclist Julian Alaphilippe. On Sept. 12, in front of a packed crowd, after five hours of hard pedalling around hilly Quebec City, he won the 14th UCI Grand Prix Cycliste de Québec (GPCQ).

For this edition, GPCQ organisers changed the race course due to construction on Boul. Laurier and to create some novelty. The race course had two more laps to compensate for the shorter lap length. Rather than starting and finishing on Grande Allée, this year, the start-finish line was on the Plains of Abraham behind the Voltigeurs de Québec Armoury (Manège Militaire). From there, cyclists biked 216 kilometres, or 18 laps, around the 12-km loop through the Plains of Abraham, Montcalm, Upper Town and Lower Town.

The final two km of each lap were the most challenging as cyclists attacked the steep incline of Côte de la Montagne and Rue du Fort, followed by a steady ascent of Rue Saint-Louis and Avenue George-VI to the start-finish line.

For the first half of the race, four leaders separated themselves from the peloton, leaving a gap of up to eight minutes. In the second half, about two hours later, the race began to take a toll on these leaders. The gap lessened, and other cyclists made their moves. The main peloton split into smaller ones. Then, on the last lap, one cyclist stopped for an unknown reason, creating a sudden blockage at the base of Côte de la Montagne. Cyclists lost their momentum; Quebec cyclist Hugo Houle even crashed into a wall.

Frenchman Julian Alaphilippe, cycling for team Tudor, was accustomed to this section of the course. He stuck to his race plan and made his move on the final stretch of the last lap of his seventh GPCQ race. He dug deep to sprint up the infamous last two km to the finish line. He pedalled past the four-time winner of the GPCQ, winner of the 2024 Grand Prix Cycliste de Montréal and reigning champion of the Tour de France, Tadej Pogačar of Slovenia (Team UAE) and 2024 GPCQ champion Michael Matthews of Australia, who was looking for his fourth title and ninth podium. They placed 29th and ninth, respectively, after failing to catch up to Alaphilippe, who raised his arms in triumph over the finish line.



Photo by Cassandra Kerwin

Grand Prix Cycliste de Québec organisers redesigned the race course, which included a section down Avenue Cartier and around Montcalm to add length to the route.



Photo by Cassandra Kerwin

French cyclist Julian Alaphilippe won his first Grand Prix Cycliste de Québec on his seventh attempt. He beat the reigning champion of the Tour de France and 2024 winner of the GPCM, Tadej Pogačar, and the 2024 GPCQ champion, Michael Matthews.



Photo by Cassandra Kerwin

And they're off! The 160 cyclists launched from the starting line to take on the 216 kilometres or 18 laps of the 14th Grand Prix Cycliste de Québec.

"It's going to take me a little time to take it in. This is truly a special victory for me because it's a race I've always imagined I'd win. This is my first World Tour victory since my stage win at the Giro [d'Italia] last year. I'm very proud. My team did a great job, and I owe them a lot," said Alaphilippe. "The team's instructions were to stay focused and fight for victory. My sports director ordered [me] to save as much energy as possible for the final lap. It wasn't easy for me to stay in the front group and not really collaborate, but in the end, that's perhaps what gave me the energy to get going in the final kilometres, where I gave it my all."

Throughout the race, especially on challenging stretches, cyclists feed off the crowd's energy. They were present in large numbers and loudly cheered on the leaders, the cyclists hanging on to the rear of the peloton and even the stragglers behind the broom car. They cheered louder for the four Canadian racers: Houle (Israel-Premier Tech [IPT]) was the country's top representative with a 44th-place finish, Guillaume Boivin (IPT) finished 62nd, and Félix Bouchard (Team Canada) and Michael Leonard (Ineos Grenadiers) failed to finish. Despite his result, Bouchard was all smiles after cycling faster than two of his UCI World Tour rivals for nearly 180 kilometres.

Gaza protest doesn't disrupt race

Contrary to popular belief, the Israel-Premier Tech team is not funded by the State of Israel, but rather by the Quebec City-born real-estate giant, philanthropist and cycling booster Sylvan Adams, who has lived in Israel since 2015.

However, about a dozen protesters arrived at the start-finish line of the GPCQ to show their opposition to the presence of an Israeli team in the race and to capture global attention. A pro-Palestinian group protested against IPT's inclusion and accused Mayor Bruno Marchand of failing to denounce Israel's actions in Gaza.

The GPCQ is one of two major annual men's cycling road races in the province which attract a field of elite international competitors. Traditionally, the GPCQ takes place on a Friday and the Grand Prix Cycliste de Montréal (GPCM) the following Sunday, giving the 160 cyclists and their teams a day to rest and travel between events. American Brandon McNulty (UAE) won the GPCM on Sept. 14. Pogačar (UAE) finished second. Houle (IPT) was the top Canadian and finished 194th.

For full results, visit gpcqm.ca/en/gp-quebec/#results.



Photo by Cassandra Kerwin

Minutes after winning the 14th GPCQ, Julian Alaphilippe stands surrounded by photographers, spectators, officials, cyclists and his team.

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COMMENTARY

Thank 'Bob the Job' Bourassa for Quebec's hydro-power might



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Last week, Prime Minister Mark Carney announced the first five major nation-building projects he hopes the Major Projects Office will approve in a maximum of two years.

All five, from the Contrecoeur container terminal expansion near Montreal to the liquefied natural gas plant expansion in Kitimat, B.C., are already well-advanced in the planning and approval stages.

A list of five other projects, including a huge port expansion at Churchill, Man., and the Pathways Plus carbon capture and pipeline project in Alberta, are further back in development, but much more than just pipe dreams.

The Alto high speed rail project between Quebec City and Toronto, on the other hand, could be, to borrow from Gordon Lightfoot's nation-building railway masterwork, hearing the "hammers ring" in a matter of four years and be completed sometime in the 2040s.

The Canadian Pacific Railway, the topic of Lightfoot's epic "Canadian Railroad Trilogy," was built, without any environmental scrutiny, basic labour standards or Indigenous partnership, through mostly virgin wilderness, stretching from Ontario to B.C., in about four years, from 1881 to 1885.

In modern times, the infrastructure project of a similar scale and engineering complexity would be the hydro-power installations in Quebec's James Bay region.

Many people living in the south of this immense land have taken a passenger rail trip on all or a portion of the CPR line, but scant few have actually laid eyes on the king of the Canadian mega-projects, the James Bay dams, spillways and turbines.

More than half a century after work began on the construction road bulldozed through the wilderness to the first La Grande River site, Quebecers largely take for granted the incredibly immense electricity grid that is the underpinning of the province's economy.

In a particularly problematic bit of political "what if," one wonders where Quebec's prowess in hydro-power would be were it not for the vision and persistence of one man, Premier Robert Bourassa.

We're not exactly sure why or when Bourassa became passionate about Quebec's hydro-power potential. But, being an economist and also politically astute – not to mention ambitious – Bourassa became a disciple and salesman for hydroelectric development when it was a rather farfetched notion.

His hydro-power vision helped him win the Quebec Liberal Party leadership and the election in 1970, and a year into his tenure, he announced the "project of the century."

Bourassa still had to convince skeptics of the wisdom of hydro-power from the remote north versus the growing popularity of nuclear power. The Parti Québécois was a big proponent of the nuclear option, and under the party's first government, commissioned the now-mothballed Gentilly 2 plant.

There's a story of how Bourassa got support for hydro power from an unexpected source. In October 1971, Alexei N. Kosygin, second in command of the Soviet Union, visited Bourassa in Montreal, and complained that the Soviets had to go all-in on nuclear plants because the country did not have the same kind of mighty rivers as Quebec.

The staggering engineering complexity of the project was probably the least of the challenges Hydro-Québec faced in building the James Bay power facility.

The James Bay Cree and Inuit, flexing their political muscles for the first time, and supported by the federal government, forced the Bourassa government to make a deal, the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, that became the foundation of rather successful Indigenous infrastructure and economic development.

The labour troubles were nightmarish, with repeated strikes, violence and sabotage hampering the project.

Still, the persistence of "Bob the Job" paid off. The PQ booted him from power in 1976, and soon embraced the wisdom of cheap electricity from the remote north. On Oct. 27, 1979, the PQ, hoping to steal some thunder for the referendum campaign, held a big event for the inauguration of the LG-2 damsite. Bourassa was invited, but given a seat in the 11th row of the workers' area.

But, as recounted in L. Ian MacDonald's *From Bourassa to Bourassa: Wilderness to Restoration*, "by then Bourassa had stolen the show, simply by turning up at the press room that morning and in the [workers'] cafeteria at noon" where he had received a rapturous ovation.

"Bourassa's dream comes true," blazed the headline in *The Gazette*. That LG-2 facility now bears his name.

Bourassa's dream would continue, as it turned out, with the triumph of further James Bay projects in Quebec's north. That day of redemption in 1979 also revived Bourassa's political dream. Six years later he was premier once again.

QG Vieux-Québec grocery store complex nearing approval

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A major project that would see a grocery store located within the walls of Old Quebec is a step closer to approval more than seven years after it was first proposed.

The QG Vieux-Québec plan would be built along Côte du Palais, at a site called Îlot Charlevoix, for Rue Charlevoix, which would be the project's northern border.

The lot, situated behind the former Bank of Montreal building on Rue Saint-Jean, which will be incorporated in the complex, is now vacant. The city had purchased it in 2017 and called for proposals for a mixed development, with the intention of having a grocery store in the Old City.

The city accepted the proposal from Capwood, a local developer which built a complex on Route de l'Église in Ste-Foy called District Gourmet that opened in 2021.

QG Vieux-Québec, as the project is called, would be a five-storey building with 36 condos of different size, with access to a gym, rooftop terrasse and reception room. Underground parking would be included.

The ground floor would have a grocery store and a food court offering, according to the Capwood website, "fresh products from the bakery, pastry shop, butcher shop and cheese shop."

There would also be "a stables museum, testifying to the region's rich equine history."

Capwood director general Denis Epoh laid out the vision of the project at a Sept. 8 public consultation session organized by the city, which was represented by Cap-aux-Diamants Coun. Mélissa Coulombe-Leduc and other city officials.

At the session, according to media reports, several local restaurateurs questioned the amount of space allocated in the first floor retail area for dining customers compared to the actual grocery section.



Image from Capwood

This architect's image shows the QG Vieux-Québec project viewed from the corner of Rue Saint-Jean and Côte du Palais.



Photo by Peter Black

A large grocery store will be on the ground floor of the QG Vieux-Québec complex.

Arnaud Marchand, co-owner of Chez Boulay, a high-end restaurant around the corner from the proposed project, told *Le Soleil*, "The plans show a much more defined restaurant area than the grocery store. The grocery store's footprint even includes elevators and hallways. The counters integrate the food service area. We'll end up with 75 per cent of the area devoted to the food service wing."

In the details of the city's presentation of the project, it says "on the ground floor, the floor area occupied by the grocery store (main use) must be greater than that occupied by the restaurant (associated use)."

Capwood's Epoh said, "I understand the neighbourhood's expectations. I've had a lot of hassle, I could have given up. I've already invested $15 million and I'm building an attraction." The overall project cost is estimated at some $80 million.

The neighbourhood council for the Old City, members of which attended the public consultation, stated in a resolution it supported the project because "the current offering of grocery services or food counters in Old Quebec is almost non-existent and that the quality of life of residents and the tourist experience of visitors are affected."

However, it tacked on a condition of its support, saying the food counter component of the grocery area should not offer table service or have a liquor licence. The recommendation could be problematic in that restaurant licences normally include table service and permission to sell alcohol.

Coulombe-Leduc said the La Cité-Limoilou borough council would debate the issue but no decision would be made before the municipal elections on Nov. 2.

In the meantime, the city is expected to approve by early October a series of zoning regulation changes to make way for the project. Once that's done, construction would take three years for occupation in 2028.

Hamad adds former mayoral hopeful Moisan to team

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Sam Hamad's campaign has one more candidate and the mayoral race has one less, with Leadership Québec adding Daniel Moisan to the team as its standard-bearer in the Montcalm–Saint-Sacrément district.

Moisan is described on the Leadership Québec website as "a marketing entrepreneur and multidisciplinary artist who has worked in business and culture for over 35 years." He will face incumbent Coun. Catherine Vallières-Roland, who won the seat for Bruno Marchand's Québec Forte et Fière (QFF) by a 16-point margin.

Moisan had entered the race for mayor in June, declaring on social media: "Politicians see themselves as people who rule, much more than people who serve the citizens."

He appears to be opposed to the tramway project, saying it "won't solve traffic.

"My big dream," he said, "if there's one project I care about, would be for public transit to cost users $1 a day."

Hamad, a former provincial Liberal cabinet minister and MNA for Louis-Hébert, added two more candidates in recent days, but as of this writing, Leadership Québec still lacks four to complete a slate for the 21 council seats.

The other recruits are Hugo Langlois in Vanier-Duberger (an open seat with the exit of Alicia Despins of Québec d'Abord), and Vicky Lépine, running in Cap-aux-Diamants against QFF incumbent Coun. Mélissa Coulombe-Leduc, a member of Marchand's executive committee.

Langlois is a well-known media personality and son of former Beauport mayor and Quebec City councillor Jacques Langlois. He came a respectable second in the April federal election, running for the Conservatives in Beauport-Limoilou.

Lépine is a founding member of the Mouvement Saint-Jean Baptiste and a member of her neighbourhood council. Her party bio says she "has more than 20 years of experience in human resources management and public administration."

She was involved in a controversial incident at a February city council meeting; when making a long preamble to a question, she raised her arm repeatedly in a gesture that Marchand called a "Nazi salute." He subsequently withdrew the comment and apologized to Lépine.

As of this writing, of the seven parties running for Quebec City Hall registered with Elections Quebec, only QFF and Transition Québec have fielded a full slate of candidates.

The municipal election campaign across Quebec officially kicks off Sept. 19.



Photo courtesy of Leadership Québec

Daniel Moisan, briefly an independent mayoral candidate, is now running for Leadership Québec in Montcalm–Saint-Sacrément.

Legault's new cabinet lineup to use 'shock treatment' ahead of 2026 election

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Premier François Legault presented his new cabinet lineup on Sept. 10, keeping stalwart ministers Eric Girard in finance, Christian Dubé in health, Simon Jolin-Barrette in justice, Jean-François Roberge in immigration, language and secularism and Christine Fréchette in economy, innovation and energy.

Since his Coalition Avenir Québec came to power in 2018, Legault said, "The world has changed profoundly," naming the COVID pandemic, "the explosion in the cost of living, the explosion of immigration and the return of a hyper-protectionist Donald Trump."

He did not mention polls, such as the Qc125 poll aggregation, suggesting the Parti Québécois would win the 2026 election with 77 seats and his CAQ would not win even one seat in the National Assembly.

François Bonnardel, first elected as an Action démocratique du Québec MNA in 2007 and named transport minister, then public safety minister in the Legault government, was dropped from the lineup.

Ian Lafrenière, a 28-year veteran of the Montreal police, adds public safety to his First Nations and Inuit relations portfolio, with a mandate to crack down on crime in all forms, from organized crime to violence against women and cybercrime.

Legault said he has been consulting with Quebecers to develop his new plan, but he did not mention a Pallas Data poll that found 77 per cent of Quebecers have an unfavourable view of the premier.

Legault moved 16 ministers to new posts and added five newcomers, replacing the five ministers no longer in his cabinet. He also combined departments and added responsibilities for ministers, including himself.

Pierre Dufour, MNA for Abitibi-Est and minister of forestry, wildlife and parks in the CAQ's first mandate, called on the premier to name one of the three CAQ MNAs in the Abitibi-Témiscamingue region to cabinet.

Legault's response was to eject Dufour, now an independent MNA, from the CAQ caucus. The premier did name a minister responsible for the Abitibi-Témiscamigue region – taking on that position himself, in addition to his role as premier.

The most significant change was moving former deputy premier Geneviève Guilbault from transport – with responsibility for the $1.1-billion imbroglio known in the media as the SAAQclic fiasco – to municipal affairs.

SAAQclic was the Société d'assurance automobile du Québec's wildly over-budget and failed online services platform. After her testimony at Judge Denis Gallant's public inquiry on SAAQclic, Guilbault reportedly asked Legault for a new portfolio.

Wearing a radiant white pants suit, in contrast with the mostly dark suits of her male colleagues, Guilbault took the oath to become municipal affairs minister.

Guilbault was replaced in transport by Jonatan Julien, whose infrastructure portfolio goes to Benoit Charette, formerly environment minister.

Bernard Drainville, a former journalist turned Parti Québécois minister, has been in the hot seat as education minister with budget cuts and a chaotic process of filling teaching positions days before the new school term begins.

Drainville becomes environment minister.

Legault said Drainville's job will be to end "the interminable delays" in approving development projects, cleaning up "all these [environmental] rules and authorization delays."

Drainville, elected in 2022 as MNA for Lévis, is a leading proponent of a third bridge linking Quebec City and Lévis. Rejecting environmental objections to the project, he said in that campaign, "*Lâchez-moi avec les GES!*" (Lay off with the greenhouse gases!)

Asked how he would reconcile the environmental impact with the new highway crossing he still supports, he urged reporters to "give the runner a chance."

The education portfolio goes to Sonia LeBel, who managed Quebec's government spending as Treasury Board president.

France-Élaine Duranceau, whose reign as housing minister was judged chaotic, will head the treasury board. In addition Legault has tasked her with administering "shock treatment" to deal with Quebec's bureaucracy, which he called a "straitjacket."

Departing from his prepared remarks, Legault turned to Duranceau, saying, "We will not call her Cruella."

Sonia Bélanger, previously family minister responsible for Quebec's daycare system, becomes housing minister. The new family minister is Kateri Champagne-Jourdain, who was employment minister.

That position goes to Pascale Déry, who was higher education minister. The higher education portfolio is now held by Martine Biron, who was international relations and Francophonie minister, with responsibility for the status of women.

Christopher Skeete, the sole anglophone in the Legault cabinet, takes on international relations, the Francophonie and relations with English-speaking Quebecers, retaining his role fighting racism and responsibility for Laval.

Skeete was the only minister taking his oath of office in both French and English. Finance Minister Eric Girard was previously responsible for relations with English speakers. In a brief interview Skeete said his role is to build bridges with Quebec anglophones.

"I want to go on building those bridges," he said.

Caroline Proulx, who was tourism minister, now is minister of seniors and associate health minister, with responsibility for the status of women.

Cabinet newcomer Amélie Dionne was named tourism minister.

The other newcomers are Donald Martel in agriculture, Montmorency MNA Jean-François Simard in natural resources and forestry (also minister responsible for the Capitale-Nationale region), Éric Girard – not to be confused with Finance Minister Eric Girard – minister of regional economic development in his Saguenay-Lac St-Jean region, and Samuel Poulin, minister of youth and small business.



Screenshot by Kevin Dougherty

Treasury Board president France-Élaine Duranceau and newly appointed Environment Minister Bernard Drainville were among those chosen by Premier François Legault to trim bureaucracy and speed up development.

MEMORIALS AND THINGS OF FAME

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

September 21, 1775 – *The Quebec Gazette*

A Proclamation

Whereas great mischiefs and inconveniences may and are likely to ensue from permitting strangers, who may be in the interest of the [Revolutionary] Rebels, to resort to the Town of Quebec, and by that means obtaining and conveying to them intelligence which may prove highly prejudicial to His Majesty's Service:

I do hereby strictly order and command all persons, not settled inhabitants of this place, who ... shall come into the Town of Quebec, either to repair themselves immediately, or to signify to one of the Conservators of the Peace ... their names and place of abode, together with the occasion of their coming into Town, upon pain of being considered and treated as Spies if they remain therein for the space of two hours without repairing themselves, or giving notice as aforesaid.

I do likewise strictly order all Tavern-keepers, Keepers of Public-Houses, and all persons who shall receive any stranger or strangers after the publication of this Proclamation, to report the name, place of abode, &c. of all such, in like manner, to someone or other of the persons aforementioned, within two hours after the coming of such a stranger, or strangers, upon the like pain and peril as herein before expressed. **By order of His Excellency the Governor, H.T. Cramahe**

September 15, 1825 – *The Quebec Gazette*

Advice to Dealers in Lumber and Raftsmen

Those who may wish to prevent their rafts from being wrecked by the strong easterly gales in the autumn, are requested to stop at Crescent Cove, where they will be completely sheltered from the easterly storms. There is a house there now building for the accommodation of raftsmen and others. **Robert McMillan, culler**

September 21, 1855 – *The Morning Chronicle*

Re-annexation of Canada to France

We give insertion below to an article from the *Paris (France) Union* ... Some readers have heard that Mr. J. G. Barthe, once an M.P.P. ... has been writing and publishing a book in Paris, [titled], "*Le Canada Reconquis Par La France*," (Canada reconquered by France), which book has caused a sensation ... The plan propounded by Mr. Barthe, and introduced by him with all the acrimony and bitterness of a vengeful mind, is that England should cede Canada to France in exchange ... for some of the foreign possessions of the former empire. The capital fallacy of the subjoined article is found in the assumption that Canada is *still French,* ... nothing can be more remote from the truth. ... It required a man of the immense vanity of Mr. Barthe to enunciate so absurd and insolent an idea.

September 17, 1900 – *The Quebec Chronicle*

Folks Who Write Complaints

A very distinguished member of the London colony of "folks who write complaints" arrived in Quebec yesterday in the person of Mrs. Alec Tweedie. Mrs. Tweedie, who came over on the Corinthian, is the authoress of *A Girl's Ride in Ireland, A Winter Jaunt in Norway, Through Finland in Carts*, and other works, and she is a very enthusiastic and constant globe trotter. ... The *Ladies' World*, in a recent number, prints an appreciative notice of this brainy and resourceful woman, form which the following is an extract: "Mrs. Alec Tweedie must be quite the most delightful person possible to take in to dinner, for she had seen so much, has done so much, and had so many enthusiasms and hobbies that it is difficult to start a conversation on any topic with which she will not be exceptionally acquainted. She is a great traveller, choosing spots where the average tourist never sets foot, and oft times starting forth at a time of the year when most people love to sit over the fireside of a town house. She has written several books, painted numerous pictures, have been very successful as an amateur photographer, is deeply interested in agriculture, is an energetic bicyclist, and embroidress of no mean skill, and all this in the space of a few years, on might say, for Mrs. Tweedie is just in a woman's prime of life, full of energy, and a most attractive figure, with her masses of black hair, which she wears simply parted in the middle and coiled in thick plaits at the back of her head." Mrs. Tweedie will remain in the city for a few days and goes from here to Ottawa and thence to Mexico and to gather materials for a new work of travel.

Note from Lorie: *Ethel Brilliana Tweedie (1862-1940) was a prolific English author, travel writer, biographer, historian, editor, journalist, photographer and illustrator. As a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, she donated many artifacts obtained during her travels to the British Museum. (Source – LibriVox)*

September 6, 1955 – *The Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph*

What Gives on Sports
By Louis Fusk

In their efforts to build up a formidable and crowd-pleasing team, the Quebec Aces have created a precedent. They have become the first professional hockey team to sign a coloured player. To Stan Maxwell goes the honour of becoming the first [Black Canadian] to play pro hockey. It's a parallel of the case of Jackie Robinson, who blazed the trail in major league baseball. Maxwell will centre Aces newly formed "Kid Line." ... Maxwell, born at Truro, Nova Scotia ... played in the Quebec Junior "A" Hockey League last year.

September 19, 1970 – *The Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph*

Bourassa's Stab At PQ Justified
By Lloyd Harriet, *QCT* Parliamentary Reporter

Premier [Robert] Bourassa's attack against the Parti Quebecois at the recent Liberal Party meeting in Montreal clearly indicates the government is peeved over the systematic obstruction of national assembly work by a minority of separatists. ... It is no secret that [PQ leader] Rene Levesque, defeated in the April 29 provincial election, is masterminding separatist opposition in the assembly.

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

The 14th Quebec City Film Festival celebrates women in film

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As the cool air breezes into Quebec City, there is nothing like settling in for a good movie. From Sept. 10 to 14, the 14th Quebec City Film Festival (QCFF) presented another list of intriguing, moving and captivating movies, all under the theme of Women Ignite the Screen.

This year, the festival opened with an exclusive red carpet cocktail event for the première of *Mille secrets mille dangers* (*Lovely Days* in its English adaptation), directed by Philippe Falardeau, based on the autobiographical novel of the same name by Alain Farah. Tickets sold out quickly. Even the parents of the author attended, to watch actors portraying them on the silver screen for the first time. Through the partnership of Farah and Falardeau, the audience watched the story of the unfolding of a wedding between a Lebanese-Egyptian and a Quebecer: a family reunion between divorced parents, a man dealing with anxiety attacks without succumbing to his addiction, and other family drama. This movie had the audience laughing, cheering and falling in love with the story. If you missed this screening, you'll have plenty of other chances to see the film – it will be in cinemas throughout Quebec as of Sept. 19.

"I feel like there's something super festive about this event, the fact that we're welcomed like this by the festival, that we're doing this in Quebec City," said Farah. "Quebec City is an important city in our lives because, at the beginning, my father entered the public service, and for three years when I was young, we travelled back and forth here because he spent the week here. So seeing my parents tonight in Quebec City, there's a lot of magic in the air."

Family is a central point to Farah's story, and Falardeau kept that storyline and feeling in his movie. "What I find wonderful about Alain's world and these communities is that there's a lot of tension, but there's a lot of love," said Falardeau.



Photo by Cassandra Kerwin

The cast and crew of *Anna Kiri*, one of the films competing for the 14th QCFF Feature Film Award, attend the première at Le Diamant on Sept 12.



Photo by Cassandra Kerwin

From Sept. 10 to 14, Le Diamant presented numerous movies of the 14th QCFF, like *The Swedish Torpedo*, which tells the story of Sally Bauer, the first Scandinavian to swim across the English Channel. Following the movie, Université Laval professor Guylaine Demers and two-time cross-country skiing Olympian Cendrine Browne discussed women in sports.

The QCFF had three more cocktail events, to launch the films *Anna Kiri* and *La mort n'existe pas* and to mark the closing ceremony. *Anna Kiri* tells the story of a young woman who decides to leave her past behind for a better life, yet her past finds her and almost ruins her future. This Quebec thriller captivates the audience, retelling an old story with a fresh perspective and setting. *La mort n'existe pas* (Death Does Not Exist) follows a young activist who is haunted by fallen comrades. While most viewers can't relate to the characters' experience of cheating death at gunpoint, they relate to the characters and their struggles and choices. The movies will be released on Sept. 26 and Oct. 1, respectively.

All three movies were candidates for the 14th QCFF Feature Film Award. The festival also held a short film competition with nominees projected onto the giant screen in Place D'Youville throughout the weekend. Results had yet to be released when this article was written early Monday morning.

Besides cocktails and competitions, festival-goers could enjoy a packed schedule, including outdoor movies in Place D'Youville, a masterclass at Le Diamant and a range of films at Cinéma Beaumont, MNBAQ and Parc de l'Esplanade. "I had a lot of fun this year. I really like the improv movie segment at Place D'Youville," said Sandra Gagnon. "I loved *The Swedish Torpedo*, the movie about the first Scandinavian to swim the English Channel. It reminded me of *Nyad* with Annette Bening and Jodie Foster. One [festival tradition] that I miss is the ciné-concert at Palais Montcalm. It is such a wonderful experience to watch a movie with live musicians."

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Does voter apathy undermine support for elected school boards? Let's take a closer look

Dear Editor,

Does voter apathy undermine the importance of elected school boards?

The question itself, as well as the thoughts and information provided by Peter Black in this [past] week's Commentary *(see article in Sept. 10 edition)* are certainly worth reflecting seriously upon.

The government of Québec terminated elected school boards in the French-language school system in February of 2020. Elections in the French boards had very low participation rates, and as such, not many citizens fought to keep the electoral system. Today, these same citizens wonder why they have no word at the table – in fact, there is no table. The so-called "*conseils d'administration*" have no real power, and the director general is directly accountable to the minister. With all due respect to directors general, it's not a good thing to bite the hand that feeds you and can remove you at any time.

The nine English-language school boards [in the province] have been fighting for years against the idea of abolishing school boards. Elected officials, be they acclaimed or voted in, are men and women that you can call upon when you feel that there is reason to question school authorities. They can be reached, they can listen and they can solicit meetings with the school board's administration, as well as with government officials. Again, a DG would be ill advised to even question ministerial authority – retirement might come very rapidly.

In my mind, acclamation simply means that the people who represent us are doing a fine job and can be counted on. The future of our children should not depend on political rivalry and the sometimes mean campaigns that ensue.

Yes, there can be differing viewpoints and the consequential need to choose the best person. But please do not underestimate the value of those men and women who take up the challenge to fight for all of our children. Let us not confuse apathy with confidence.

Thank you, Peter Black, for bringing this issue to your readers, and thank you for reminding them that without dedicated and elected school commissioners, New Liverpool Elementary School as well as the new 21st-century high school for the Greater Quebec Metropolitan Area might still be interesting ideas!

Stephen Burke*
Quebec City

**The writer served as chair of the Council of Commissioners of the Central Québec School Board from 2009 to 2024.*



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Gallant commission suspends hearings to study 'colossal' document release

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Judge Denis Gallant agreed at the Sept. 10 hearings of his public inquiry into the SAAQclic fiasco to suspend testimony to allow commission staff to sift through 700 gigabytes of new evidence.

"I am very concerned about the delays," Gallant told chief prosecutor Simon Tremblay. "Very."

When the commission was created in March, it was given a Sept. 30 deadline to report. Swamped with evidence in the complex case of the failed modernization of the Société d'assurance automobile du Québec (SAAQ), the commission was granted an extension to mid-December.

At the end of testimony on Sept. 10, Tremblay told Gallant that the SAAQ had released to the commission 700 gigabytes of documents it had previously withheld on the grounds of attorney-client privilege.

Tremblay said the commission had sought the data earlier, but the SAAQ said it could not on the grounds that attorney-client confidentiality barred its release.

As well, UPAC, Quebec's permanent anti-corruption police squad, has been investigating what happened with SAAQclic, raiding the SAAQ's Quebec City head office on June 18, but like the commission, UPAC was not allowed full access.

Days before he was to testify at the commission on Sept. 2, Premier François Legault called on the SAAQ to release the documents to UPAC.

Tremblay told Gallant that the SAAQ has also made the documents available to the commission.

'We thank them," Tremblay said, explaining that the "email boxes of several potential witnesses have fully been handed over.

"Our prosecutors, our lawyers, our analysts and investigators who prepare the questioning of witnesses, want to gain knowledge of this new mass of information for their preparations," he said.

Tremblay requested that the planned hearings for the rest of the week be suspended to wade through this "colossal" amount of information, and Gallant accepted, agreeing hearings would resume Sept. 15.

Tremblay added that in discussions with the SAAQ, the public sector company agreed to point out to the commission what is new and asked that some information be redacted.

During the hearings, the commission often displays SAAQ documents on screens, seeking explanations from witnesses.

The commission has yet to hear key witnesses such as Nathalie Tremblay, who was SAAQ CEO when the original contract for SAAQclic was signed in 2017, and Karl Malenfant, who was the SAAQ vice president in charge of the project, Tremblay noted.

La Presse, through an access to information request, learned that UPAC was focused on four people in an investigation of alleged abuse of confidence, fraud and forgery.



Screenshot by Kevin Dougherty

Judge Denis Gallant has agreed to suspend testimony to allow commission staff to study new documents, but expressed concern about the amount of time the public inquiry is taking.

QUEBEC CITY FILM FESTIVAL

Women take the mic at QCFF film production masterclass

CASSANDRA KERWIN
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As part of the Quebec City Film Festival, on Sept. 11 in the Foyer Desjardins at Le Diamant, three extraordinary women, Kim McCraw, Élaine Hébert and Sonia Despars, were invited to give a masterclass on women as producers of Quebec cinema.

When most people watch movies in a theatre, they read the names of producers and executive producers without really knowing what the job entails. So what does a movie producer do? According to Google's AI, "a movie producer is responsible for the overall development, management and completion of a film project, acting as the 'CEO of production.' Their job spans the entire filmmaking process, from finding a story and securing the financing to assembling the creative and production teams, overseeing budgets and schedules, and handling the final distribution and marketing of the film. They blend creative, technical and business skills to transform a story into a successful and viable movie."

Despite change coming in leaps and bounds in recent decades, the movie industry continues to be mostly a man's world, with women making up 27 per cent of producers of the 250 top-grossing films of 2024, according to *Variety*. In Canada, the number drops to 12.6 per cent according to Statistics Canada. As confirmed by McCraw, Hébert and Despars, women receive lower budgets for their films, and they have trouble accessing financing. In Quebec, the movie industry is highly reliant on government funding.

"We want to be recognized for our work. We are conscious that it is the final product that matters and not our gender," said Despars, who produced *Le petit et le vieux*, the movie that opened the 2024 QCFF. "I am happy that measures exist to encourage women's production teams. We deserve to have access to a budget as big as those given to men."

"If the producer did not get their financing, they have to wait another year before applying for the financing. This news often frustrates directors and their writers [who] have already spent years pushing their movie into production," said Hébert, who has been a producer in Montreal at the production company micro_scope since 2005 and produced numerous short films and documentaries. "When we do receive the financing, we put it into the movie: paying directors, actors, craft, crew, sets and everything else. The producer does not start getting paid until the movie goes into production."

Listening to her answers, it appears that producers take a gamble on a movie's success. Pre-pandemic, much of the return on investment was made at the box office, followed by a second return with Blu-ray, DVD and (earlier) VHS cassette sales. Now, the movie industry must rely on box office sales and streaming services, which are also releasing their own productions. Instead of paying an admission fee each time they see a film at the theatre, people pay a monthly fee for an unlimited number of views of any production available on a specific streaming service. For this reason, studios like Paramount and Disney have their own services to present TV series and films. Quebecers and Canadians have Illico, Bell Media, ici.tou.tv and CBC Gem for locally produced content.

"It is important to note that when we decide to make a movie, we are in the project for a minimum of five years," said McCraw, film producer and cofounder of micro_scope. "We have to fall in love with the story and choose the right people to work with. We also have to think about our future audience." For whom are they making the movies? Rural Quebec audiences, Montrealers or international film lovers? Many Quebec movies have done well internationally: *Le Déclin de l'empire américain, The Grand Seduction, Monsieur Lazhar, C.R.A.Z.Y., Mommy* and *Incendies* are just a few examples.



Photo by Cassandra Kerwin

In honour of the 14th Quebec City Film Festival's theme, "Women ignite the screen," general director Hugo Latulippe hosted a panel discussion with producers Kim McCraw, Élaine Hébert and Sonia Despars, to discuss the Quebec movie industry. This panel discussion took place at Le Diamant on Sept. 11.

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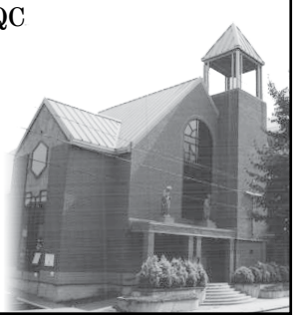
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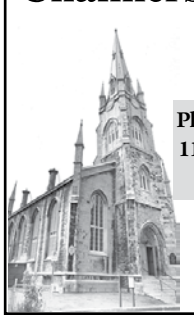
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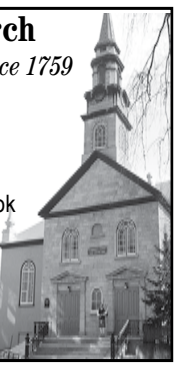


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Festive funeral procession says goodbye to 30-year-old puppet company

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A festive funeral procession was held on Sept. 14 to wave goodbye to over 100 puppets from the adult marionette theatre company, Pupulus Mordicus, that is closing the curtains for the last time. The puppet company's artistic director and founder, Pierre Robitaille, delivered a message announcing the closure alongside Martin Genest on the Carrefour international de théâtre website.

The puppets did much of the talking for Robitaille, explaining, "We don't have any more money; so these two nutters decided to close, but we don't want to close!" Radio-Canada reported that the company did not receive funding from the Conseil des arts et des Lettres du Québec (CALQ) for the first time in 30 years, forcing the closure.

But the puppets refused to go out without a party, inviting artists, writers, actors, musicians and the general public to participate in a satirical funeral procession never to be forgotten. The ceremony started on the front steps of the former Église Saint-Esprit – now the École de Cirque – with actor Bertrand Alain playing the role of the officiating priest with a sermon and a good dose of humour. At the head of the parade was an actual hearse (with a mourning widow dressed in black), surrounded by puppets of human and animal form as well as otherworldly angels and demons. Puppeteers and regular folks playing puppeteers strolled their marionettes towards Église Saint-Charles de Limoilou, less than a kilometre away, to finish the ceremony at the Machine de Cirque training centre. The procession was a joyful celebration of these incredible creatures and a unique and fitting farewell to the long-standing creative contribution from Pupulus Mordicus.



Photo by Danielle Burns

Some puppets take on a human likeness, while others such as the red octopus-bird are otherworldly.

Community gathers for suicide prevention march in Quebec City

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About 70 people joined the Centre de prévention du suicide de Québec (CPSQ) on the evening of Sept. 10 for a walk marking World Suicide Prevention Day at Parc de l'Anse-à-Cartier in Limoilou.

CPSQ trainer Sabrina Tremblay-Duchesne told the *QCT* that in six years, she had never seen so many people gathered for the annual event. "It shows us the community is present, engaged and willing to stand together," she said.

For Mathieu, a participant who asked that his last name not be used, the walk was about honouring a family member lost to suicide and reminding others that caring for oneself is an act of care for others. "It's like they tell you on an airplane: you have to put on your own mask first," he said. "If we don't take care of ourselves, we can't be there for the people who need us."

The event started at the service pavilion of the park in Limoilou and gave participants space to remember those lost, support survivors and families and highlight available resources. CPSQ trainer Alexandra Loranger underscored the urgency. "In the province of Quebec, three people take their lives every day. That's more than 1,000 every year," she said. "Here in Quebec City alone, we lose one person a week. These are not just numbers; these are lives, families, communities forever changed."

For many, the evening was as much about solidarity as awareness. "Your presence, numerous and engaged, touches us deeply," CPSQ director Linda Poirier said, thanking the crowd for walking in support of hope, compassion and prevention.

After the walk, participants gathered for refreshments donated by a local business. "We'd like to thank Tim Hortons on Bouvier for providing refreshments and snacks for everyone tonight," said Guy Haude, head of partnerships and civic activities.

The CPSQ, which has worked in close collaboration with Jeffery Hale Community Partners for many years , emphasized that suicide prevention is a collective responsibility. Services are available 24/7 in English and French. Anyone can call 1-866-277-3553 (1-866-APPELLE), text 535353 or use the live chat at suicide.ca to speak with a trained counsellor.

"Because every step counts, we walk together to move forward in prevention," Poirier told the *QCT*. The evening closed on a note of compassion, with community members standing side by side, united in remembrance and in hope.



Photo by Sarah Elworthy

Leaders and team members of the Centre de prévention du suicide de Québec gathered at their kiosk during the CPSQ march. From left, trainer Alexandra Loranger, Guy Haude (head of partnerships and civic activities), Alexe Lafaille (co-ordinator with the general management), Lynda Poirier (executive director of the centre and foundation) and Pierre-Yves Dubois (president of the board of directors) welcomed participants and shared resources.

Latin vibes light up Place Jean-Béliveau for first Festival Qué-Latino

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The inaugural Festival Qué-Latino brought a burst of colour, rhythm and community spirit to Place Jean-Béliveau Sept. 12-13. Music, dance and food created a lively showcase of Latin American culture.

Organizers faced a challenge: planning a festival of this scale in just two months. Volunteer Sabrina D.K. (who preferred her full name not be used) from Quebec City explained that the short timeline demanded constant improvisation. "Normally we would have a year or two to prepare. This time, costs, vendors and even participants were changing at the last minute. But in a sense, that's what created the magic, building as we went forward," she said. Despite the hurdles, turnout exceeded expectations. "Hundreds, possibly thousands came, especially on Saturday. It was a beautiful day filled with sunshine, music and dance."

Friday's opening featured dance workshops led by local schools Bailalma, IMPERIO and Volendi, encouraging festival-goers of all ages to try salsa, bachata and kizomba. That evening, singer-songwriter and former hockey player Étienne Drapeau, also the festival spokesperson, blended Québécois and Latin influences in the headline performance.

Saturday expanded into a full family day. El Barrio, the festival's dedicated family zone, offered children's activities like face painting and caricature drawings, artisan kiosks and interactive workshops featuring dance and drumming. On the main stage, performers ranged from Cuban artist Beatriz to reggaeton singer Acea El Erifa, while dance troupes YohMexico and Samba Québec added folkloric and Brazilian flair.

Among the final acts was high-energy troupe SAMAJAM. Before taking the stage, percussionist Sergio Barrenechea told the *QCT* he was eager to connect with the crowd. "The energy so far has been very vibrant. We expect to bring the audience into the performance: it's about music, joy and participation."

In addition to the performances, the festival also provided visibility for community organizations. Casa Latino-Américaine, which has been active in Quebec City for 40 years, was among those represented. President Cecilia Valdesenito described the group's mission as twofold: helping Latin American immigrants integrate into Quebec society, and sharing Latin culture with Quebecers. "Through music, dance, art or poetry, we don't just present art at face value. We look at the social, political and cultural context behind it. That's how we discover each other and build relationships," she said.

For many, the festival's lasting impression was its diversity. Crowds mingled across cultures, enjoying food, music and dance together – a promising sign for what organizers hope will become a new annual tradition in Quebec City.



Photo by Sarah Elworthy

Dancers from Yoh Mexico lit up the stage at the inaugural Festival Qué-Latino with vibrant traditional outfits and high-energy performances, celebrating the richness of Mexican culture.

Locally shot English-language miniseries comes to Bell Fibe TV

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Detective story, comedy or musical? That's the question of identifying the new miniseries *Break a Leg*, which was written, directed and produced entirely in Quebec City by Michael Bourguignon.

"It all started with my appearance in Bell Fibe's documentary, *Angles*, about Quebec City's anglo community, and the eventual call from Jason Levy, a Bell Fibe producer who had a vision about a musical murder mystery, asked me to pitch him an idea and became a key collaborator in what would eventually become *Break a Leg*," he told the *QCT*.

One day, about three years ago, Bourguignon got a call from Levy, suggesting he make a musical featuring local Quebec City talent and asking for a pitch. "I got to work and came up with what's now called *Break a Leg*. It's about a local diva, who is being considered for a major role on Broadway. She's on the cusp of making it big, making her dreams come true, but suddenly, there's an accident onstage, and she is injured. Was it really an accident? An Italian detective arrives to try to solve the crime, and everyone is a suspect." Bourguignon said he put a lot of "illusions" into the tale.

"Jason [Levy] was so personally invested in this project that I spent several days at his home in Montreal, editing the raw footage together on his own time, and he then spent several months composing the background music," Bourguignon added. "On the surface, *Break a Leg* is a musical murder mystery with a bunch of silly gags, puns, cultural references and what I think are really powerful songs. But it's ultimately a meditation on the importance of connecting with your inner child as a way of making peace with yourself and the world around you."

Bourguignon was born in Ottawa, lived in Gatineau until he turned 10, then moved to New Brunswick. Since 2008 he has lived and worked in Quebec City, and played many roles in Quebec Art Company productions. Nowadays he is an independent stage actor, director and educator.

"I grew up watching Bugs Bunny. No matter what I do in my life, as an actor, as a teacher, as a human being, as a father, I always ask myself, what would Bugs Bunny do? He was always my inspiration," Bourguignon said. That is why the viewer can find a nod to Bugs Bunny here and there in the miniseries. "And there are nods to Monty Python and different things that I find funny. Even though it's a murder mystery, it's kind of a comedy as well. But beyond that, within the story, there's a very strong element of childhood trauma," added Bourguignon, who plays a surgeon in the series.

Bourguignon met the *QCT* in College Hall at the Morrin Centre, where a lot of scenes of *Break a Leg* were shot. Some hospital scenes were shot at Saint Brigid's Home. The biggest challenge was to find a place to film the onstage accident. Jacqui Johnson, who plays the leading role of the Diva, had previous experience as a silk performer, and she recommended Machine de Cirque in Limoilou. The production team shot the entire miniseries over five days in August 2024.

"I'm proud of myself for having done it, and I hope to do more. I hope it does lead to something," Bourguignon said.

Watch *Break a Leg* starting now on Bell Fibe TV1 and on the Fibe TV app.

With files from QCT *staff*



Photo by JM Bluteau

The main cast of *Break a Leg* is made up of (left to right): Paul Saxton, Amanda Kusler, writer/director/producer Michael Bourguignon, Renaud Boulanger Lévesque, Jacqui Johnson, Julian Dawson, Sofia Buijs and Ladd Johnson. The musical mystery miniseries is streaming now on Bell Fibe TV1 and the Fibe TV app.

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).

Wednesday, Sept. 17 at 1:30 p.m. – Lifelong Learning activities kick off the fall season with a visit to the ***Titanic*** exhibit at the Musée de la Civilisation on Rue Dalhousie. Transportation provided from the Eastern Québec Learning Centre, 3005 Rue William-Stuart. The cost is $15 per person, which includes both the tour and transport. All participants must have an active LLL membership ($20 for the year) to take part in this activity. Spots are limited to 21 people, so register early by emailing Catherine at info@qcrc.org or calling 418-681-1258.

Sept. 18 to Nov. 15 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. – The Morrin Centre, as part of Quebec City's program to mark the 40th anniversary of Old Quebec's designation as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, offers a series of talks ("**On the Cobblestones**") and other activities related to the history of our heritage site and the events that have taken place at and around 44 Chaussée des Écossais throughout the years. For more details and to register for this free event series, visit morrin.org/en/on-the-cobblestones.

Thursday, Sept. 18 at 7:30 p.m. — The Orchestre Symphonique de Québec directed by **Clemens Schuldt,** presents *Une nuit à l'Opéra* with violinist **Kerson Leong**, who will perform works by Wagner, Chausson, Sarasate and Strauss. For details and tickets, visit osq.org/concerts/kerson-leong-carmen-et-chevalier.

Saturday, Sept. 20, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. – The VEQ Fall Fest takes place at Quebec High School. This annual free, family-friendly event brings together community organizations, local businesses, cultural groups, and performers for a day of discovery, connection, and entertainment. Enjoy live performances, children's activities, interactive booths, and much more, while celebrating the vibrant English-speaking community of the greater Québec City region. For details, visit veq.ca/event/fall-fest-2025.

Wednesday, Sept. 24 at 1:30 p.m. – Lifelong Learning aims to "**Set the Record Straight**" at the Eastern Québec Learning Centre, 2nd floor. Michelle Osbourne and Catherine Hawker will explain how LLL is growing and changing. Light refreshments will be served. To register, email Catherine at info@qcrc.org, or call 418-681-1258. Space is limited.

Sept. 24 at 8 p.m. and Sept. 25 at 10:30 a.m. — The Orchestre Symphonique de Québec, directed by **Clemens Schuldt**, presents **Mahler's monumental 5th Symphony**, featuring pianist **Alexandre Tharaud**. For details and tickets, visit osq.org/concerts/la-monumentale-5e-de-mahler.

Thursday, Sept. 25 at 7 p.m. – As part of the **40th anniversary of Old Quebec's** designation as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, the **Morrin Centre** will present a talk in English by **Donald Fyson** about the **Fortification, Prison, College, Library: the Many-Layered Past of the Morrin Centre Site, 1712-2002.** Admission is free, but you are advised to reserve your seat in advance. For details, visit morrin.org/en/event/on-the-cobblestones-02.

Until Sept. 26 – Wendake en Musique concerts take place on **Friday and Saturday** evenings at the Wendake amphitheatre, 100 Boul. Bastien, with homages to Elton John, Metallica, Black Sabbath, Journey, Supertramp and AC/DC. For details and tickets, visit lacapitaledurock.com or the Amphitheatre Wendake Facebook page.

Sunday, Sept. 28 at 7:30 p.m. –*La Belle au bois dormant / Sleeping Beauty* by Ballet Jörgen takes place at the Grand Théâtre. Aurora, a bewitched young woman who sleeps for a hundred years, is awakened by a kiss from her prince. A tale of nature and love that will inspire young and old alike. For details and tickets, visit grandtheatre.qc.ca/programmation.

Until Sept. 28 – A variety of outdoor summer concerts take place at the **Agora du Port de Québec**. For details, visit agora.portquebec.ca/programmation.

Thursday, Oct. 2 at 7 p.m. – Three Canadian English-language poets will read from their works at the Morrin Centre. **Shane Neilson** will read from *The Reign*, a modern fairy tale about a romance between an intellectually disabled older man and a deer, and *What to feel, how to feel*, a book of lyric essays about fathering a non-neurotypical child while being non-neurotypical. **Geoff Cook** will read from his acclaimed translations of German romanticists as well as his ruggedly lyrical explorations of rural life in *Afterwords*. **Jim Johnstone** will read from *The King of Terrors*, a book of poetry that considers fear, cancer and beauty.

Oct. 2 and 3 at 7 p.m. and Oct. 4 at 2:30 p.m. — The Orchestre Symphonique de Québec, directed by **Evan Mitchell**, and **CinéConcerts** present ***Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*** (in English with French subtitles). For details and tickets, visit osq.org/concerts/harry-potter-and-the-chamber-of-secrets-en-concert.

Monday, Oct. 6 at 7:30 p.m. - Poetry Soirée at the Morrin Centre. The Morrin Centre holds open-mic poetry soirées the first Monday of every month, from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Library. Come to read your poetry or come to listen! These soirées are drop-in events. If you arrive after the event starts, please ring the doorbell. Email library@morrin.org with any questions.

Thursday, Oct. 9 at 7:30 p.m. – Bryan Adams and the Sheepdogs bring the **"Roll with the Punches"** tour to the Videotron Centre. For details and tickets, visit stubhub.ca/bryan-adams-tickets/category/3369.

Oct. 9-13 – The 34th edition of **Rendez-vous ès TRAD** celebrates traditional Québécois music, dance, storytelling, songs and handicrafts with activities for all ages and interests at the Domaine Maizerets – including dance workshops in French and English! To see the full program, visit cvpv.net/rendez-vous.

*The **Wellness Centre at Jeffery Hale** promotes the personal and collective well-being of English speakers in the Quebec City region by offering a range of health promotion programs. Learn more by visiting their website at wejh.ca/about-us.*

*Visit the **Voice of English-speaking Québec** website (veq.ca) for information about events in English for all ages.*

*Visit the **Morrin Centre** website (morrin.org) for information about more literary, artistic and educational activities for everyone.*

***Lifelong Learning** is a peer learning program that provides English-speaking adults over the age of 50 with opportunities for idea exchange, peer learning and active participation with discussion groups, workshops, computer skills, multicultural topics, food, and more! For details, visit lifelonglearningquebec.org.*

British cartoonist Tom Gauld to visit Quebec City this week

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It has been five years since Tom Gauld visited Quebec City, but his next visit is going to be very soon – the cartoonist, illustrator and writer will participate in several activities in local libraries:

On Sept. 20 at 2 p.m. at the Gabrielle-Roy Library, the author will be present at the immersive exhibition *Tom à Québec*. This exhibition, featuring Gauld's comics and fantastic works, will be also open in two more libraries – Monique-Corriveau and Paul-Aimé-Paiement – until Jan. 21, 2026.

On Sept. 20, at 7:30 p.m. at the Maison de la littérature, Gauld will give a public talk about his latest book, *Physics for Cats*.

On Sept. 21 at 10:30 a.m. at the Petite scène at the Gabrielle-Roy Library, Gauld will give a bilingual reading of his children's book *The Little Wooden Robot and the Log Princess (Le petit robot de bois et la princesse-bûchette)*, which has been translated into more than 20 languages.

On Sept. 21 from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Upper Town branch of Librairie Pantoute (1100 rue Saint-Jean), Gauld will take part in a book-signing session.

Gauld is a professional artist based in London, known around the world for his humour, unique style and collaboration with *The Guardian, The New Yorker* and *New Scientist*.

Here are six interesting facts and tips from the artist, which he shared in an interview with the *QCT*:

About the story behind *The Little Wooden Robot and the Log Princess:*

"I have two daughters and when they were small, I used to tell them bedtime stories. We used to call my younger daughter Iris the log – she slept through everything, so that was her nickname – and I made up this story about a princess who turns into a log when she sleeps."

About *Physics for Cats:*

"It's a collection of the weekly cartoons about science that I make for *New Scientist* magazine in the UK. For about eight years now, I've been making a cartoon every week, and this is a collection of the best and most recent. This is a second book of science cartoons and it contains 160 pages. I'd never studied science; I've kind of always been an enthusiast and a fan, and I like reading about science, and I like science fiction stories, so it was something which interested me."

About creating every week with deadlines:

"I find it very helpful for my creative ideas to have a deadline, so I like working on weekly cartoons. It's fun just exploring the world of science, which I'm not educated in at all, but am interested in. The reason I like deadlines [is that] it stops you from becoming obsessive about your work and overthinking it."

About his creative process:

"For my process for making the cartoons, the things which really help, I find, are to take a walk and, while I'm walking, to think about ideas just abstractly. Then usually I like to find a cafe and sit down with my sketchbook and drink some coffee (two flat whites), and I like the noise and hubbub of things going on around me, and then I'll just draw in my sketchbook until either I've got an idea which feels interesting or I've run out of coffee."

About his style and sense of humour:

"Sometimes the way I think of a cartoon is to think what would be the most wrong thing to happen here, or what is the least expected thing for a scientist to do, or how can I put together an incredibly weird thing, like extraterrestrial aliens with a really ordinary thing, like Christmas cards. For me, putting two unexpected things together is one of the ways I make humour. My cartooning is a language for jokes, so I don't really want anything in the cartoon which is distracting you from the joke or the idea. I try and keep it as simple as possible."

About advice for aspiring cartoonists and illustrators:

"My advice is: get a sketchbook and draw in it whenever you can. Don't think you ever have to show it to anyone, and don't think the sketchbook itself has to be a work of art. I intentionally write shopping lists in my sketchbooks, I write notes of people's phone numbers, because I don't want it to become a precious work of art of its own. It has to be your place to practise and to learn. You've got to make a lot of bad work before it gets good."

LEGION REPORT

History enthusiasts strive to reenact the great battles of Quebec City

SUBMITTED BY JEAN GERVAIS, BRANCH 265, ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

Hundreds of participants worked hard to recreate the atmosphere that must have prevailed among French, British and American troops during the Seven Years' War and the occupation of Quebec City, as the reenactment event, which grows in popularity every year, resumed on the Plains of Abraham from Sept. 6-7.

Pierre Lalonde, a retired military veteran from Quebec City, is a reenactment enthusiast. He and his comrades have been putting in countless hours to revive the Béarn regiment, which came to New France in 1755 to help French troops.

Over the years and through promotions, Lalonde became the commander of this group, which sometimes involves up to 400 participants in reenactments held in Quebec and also in the United States, notably at Fort Niagara and Fort William Henry.

According to him, the best thing about this hobby is the camaraderie among reenactors who share the same passion. "If you're a history buff, I suggest it to everyone. There's no better way to relive our past than this." The recent reenactment held in Quebec City served as a reminder of the siege of Quebec.

According to Stéphane Roy of the National Battlefields Commission, this event has become a can't-miss gathering and an educational tool with immense potential. This event is a great idea, especially considering its roots in a heritage site that has a lot of history.



Photo by Alcide Maillet courtesy of Branch 265

Veteran Pierre Lalonde leads his troops into battle at the head of the Béarn Regiment.

SPORTS SPORTS SPORTS

Capitales, Boomers meet in league final for second time in four years

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The Québec Capitales scored six runs in the bottom of the third inning to erase a 5-0 deficit en route to a 10-5 win over the Tri-City ValleyCats to take the best-of-five conference final in four games, on Sept. 13 at Stade Canac.

The victory sends the Capitales to their fourth consecutive Frontier League championship. The three-time and defending Frontier League Cup champions are now playing the Schaumburg Boomers for the league title for the second time in four years. Quebec won the 2022 championship in four games against Schaumburg.

Games one and two were played at Stade Canac on Sept. 16 and 17 *(scores not available at press time)*, with games three, four and five (if necessary) scheduled from Sept. 19 to 21 in Schaumburg.

Against Tri-City, the Capitales split the first two games on the road. On Sept. 9, Ruben Castro and Jesmuel Valentin each hit a solo home run to lead Québec to a 4-2 victory.

In game two the following evening, the score was tied 6-6 in the bottom of the ninth inning when reliever Émile Boies saw his first pitch to Oscar Campos hit over the outfield wall to give Tri-City a 7-6 victory and tie the best-of-five series 1-1.

Game three was played before a sellout crowd of 4,297 at Stade Canac on Sept. 12.

The ValleyCats pitchers gave up 11 walks to the Capitales hitters, while allowing 16 hits, and Quebec took a 2-1 lead in the series with a crushing 17-2 victory. Manager Patrick Scalabrini saw his players build a comfortable 8-2 lead after five innings; the Caps then scored a total of nine runs in the seventh and eighth innings.



Photo by Luc Lang

Anthony Quirion is sprayed with champagne after the Québec Capitales win the Atlantic Conference final over the Tri-City ValleyCats in four games, on Sept. 13. Quirion hit a three-run home run that gave the Caps the lead for good in game four, echoing his heroics in last year's playoffs.



Photo by Luc Lang

Patrick Scalabrini and Justin Gideon are all smiles after the Capitales qualify for a fourth straight Frontier League Championship series, defeating the Tri-City ValleyCats 10-5 on Sept. 13.

Before another sellout crowd, starting pitcher Ruben Ramirez made his first start of the season. Ramirez started strong, striking out the first batter he faced. However, the ValleyCats chased Ramirez off the mound after he allowed a solo home run and a double in the top of the third inning. Boies came in to stop the bleeding and didn't give up any runs in one and a third innings.

In the bottom of the third inning, Kyle Crowl hit a bases-loaded double, scoring Québec's first two runs. After a sacrifice fly from Marc-André Lebreux to score a third run, and a walk to Justin Gideon, Anthony Quirion hit the first pitch he saw over the left-field wall, giving Québec a 6-5 lead which they never gave up.

Carabins down Laval 38-28 in RSEQ football action

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The Université Laval Rouge et Or football team lost their first meeting of the season against their rivals from Université de Montréal (UdeM). The Carabins came out on top 38-28 on Sept. 12 at the CEPSUM in Montreal.

The Carabins are now 3-0 atop the standings of the Réseau du sport étudiant du Québec (RSEQ) conference, while Laval is now 2-1 in second place.

The two powerhouse teams will lock horns again on Oct. 19 at Stade Telus.

After Montreal took a 14-0 lead with one touchdown, two defence safeties and a field goal, Laval finally got on the board with a rouge (one point) on a Felipe Forteza punt.

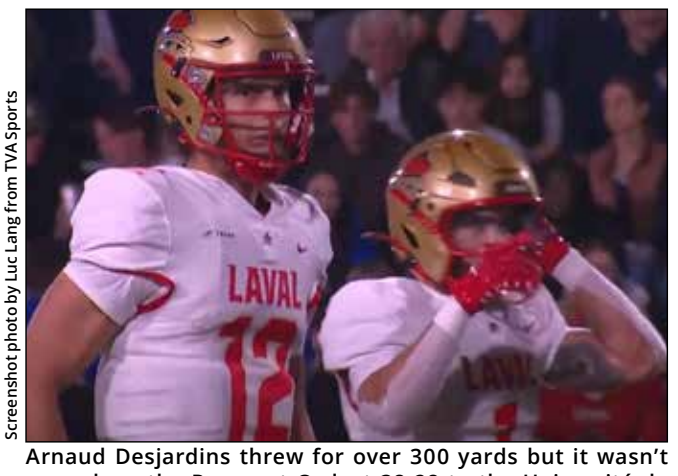
Montreal added a touchdown to take a 21-1 lead, much to the delight of the 5,100 fans in attendance.

Laval's veteran quarterback Arnaud Desjardins threw two touchdown passes to Isaac Gaillardetz (13 yards) and Olivier Cool (40 yards) to cut the lead to 21-15 with less than five minutes to play in the first half. However, the Carabins added a touchdown with eight seconds left in the second quarter and headed to the locker room with a 28-15 lead.

Montreal scored a field goal and a touchdown to increase their lead to 38-15. In the dying minutes, Laval scored a defensive safety and added a touchdown thanks to a Desjardins pass to Nathan Carignan. The two-point conversion was good, but Laval still trailed 38-25. Forteza added a 27-yard field goal on the last play of the game to complete the scoring.

Despite the loss, Desjardins had a solid performance, completing 33 of his 45 passes for 309 yards, three touchdown passes and one interception. On the ground, Cool once again rushed for over 100 yards (107 on six carries).

Laval will next play the Concordia Stingers in Montreal on Sept. 20 at 1 p.m.



Screenshot photo by Luc Lang from TVA Sports

Arnaud Desjardins threw for over 300 yards but it wasn't enough as the Rouge et Or lost 38-28 to the Université de Montréal Carabins on Sept. 12.

Fighting Irish seniors lose on the road

In the RSEQ Québec–Chaudière-Appalaches high school conference, the St. Patrick's High School senior team lost 21-2 to the Commandeurs from École Secondaire Pointe-Lévy on Sept. 12.

Their next game will be on Sept. 20 against Polyvalente de Thetford on the Cégep de Thetford campus. Kickoff is scheduled for 3 p.m.

Remparts to open 2025-26 season on the road in Sherbrooke

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The Quebec Remparts open their 2025-26 regular season in the Quebec Maritimes Junior Hockey League (QMJHL) when they visit the Sherbrooke Phénix on Sept. 19.

Puck drop is scheduled for 7 p.m. at the Palais des Sports Léopold-Drolet.

The new edition of the Diables Rouges will be without the services of four veterans, who are at various NHL training camps. They are goaltender Louis-Antoine Denault (Florida Panthers) and forwards Andreas Straka (Vegas Golden Knights), Antoine Dorion (St. Louis Blues) and Nathan Quinn (Philadelphia Flyers).

The Remparts play their first home game of the season at the Videotron Centre on Sept. 21 against the Chicoutimi Saguenéens. The faceoff is set for 3 p.m.

The team will then head to the Abitibi region for three games, including back-to-back meetings with the Rouyn-Noranda Huskies on Sept. 25 and 26.

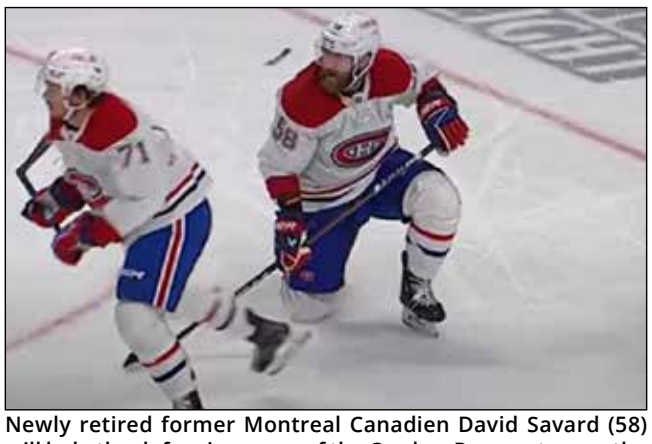
Head coach Éric Veilleux, who is starting his third season behind the bench, will rely on the former QMJHL number one draft pick, Maddox Dagenais, to take charge of the offence.

Meanwhile, the team announced that former NHL defencemen Paul Boutilier and David Savard will assist the team's defence corps for the upcoming seasons.

The newly retired Savard spent his career with the Columbus Blue Jackets, Tampa Bay Lightning and Montreal Canadiens.

As for Boutilier, a native of Nova Scotia, he was a first round draft choice of the New York Islanders, after playing his junior career with the Sherbrooke Castors of the QMJHL.

Boutilier played with the Boston Bruins, Minnesota North Stars, New York Rangers and Winnipeg Jets before finishing his career in Europe.



Screenshot photo by Luc Lang from Sportsnet

Newly retired former Montreal Canadien David Savard (58) will help the defensive corps of the Quebec Remparts over the next few seasons, along with his associate, also a former NHL defenceman, Paul Boutilier.

Lions 1-1 after first two games

In division one RSEQ hockey, the CEGEP Champlain-St. Lawrence Lions opened their 2025-26 season with a resounding 7-3 victory over Cégep de Sainte-Foy at the Aréna des Deux-Glaces in Val-Bélair on Sept. 12.

Émile Houle and Étienne Dupéré scored two goals each while Théo Gravel scored one goal and added three assists.

However, two days later, the Lions lost 4-3 to the Patriotes from Cégep de Saint-Laurent in Montreal. Malcolm Dumont scored two goals for the Lions.

The Lions will visit Cégep de Thetford on Sept. 20 before playing the Filons in Val-Bélair the next day at 1:30 p.m.

EYE ON SPORTS

Canada to meet New Zealand at Women's Rugby World Cup



Screenshot photo by Luc Lang from RWC 2025

Karen Paquin (left) of Quebec City is mauled by her Canadian teammates after scoring a try in Canada's 46-5 win over Australia in the quarterfinal game of the 2025 Women's Rugby World Cup on Sept. 13, in Bristol, England. Quebec City's Fabiola Forteza also scored a try in the game. Canada will play New Zealand on Sept 19 at 2 p.m. Eastern time in the semifinal, broadcast on TSN and RDS. The gold medal game will be played on Sept. 27 before 82,000 fans at a sold-out Allianz Stadium in London, England.