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Anglophone communities have uncertain place in proposed history museum

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If all goes according to the Coalition Avenir Québec government's plans, Quebec City will be home to a third major museum as early as 2026.

The Musée National de l'Histoire du Québec is expected to open in spring 2026 at the Camille-Roy Pavilion of the Séminaire du Québec, near the Basilica-Cathedral Notre-Dame-de-Québec in the Old City. Premier François Legault made the announcement on April 25 in Quebec City alongside culture minister Mathieu Lacombe, minister responsible for the Capitale-Nationale region Jonatan Julien, several local MNAs, Quebec City Mayor Bruno Marchand and Musée de la Civilisation CEO Stéphane La Roche.

"I'm very proud to announce the creation of the first museum entirely dedicated to the history of the Quebec nation," Legault said. "Quebec City is naturally the place for it ... because Quebec City is where it all started." He went on to wax lyrical about the "improbable" survival of the first French settlers and the francophone nation they gave rise to, and the "Indigenous peoples who were here before us and helped

us through the years."

"We had to fight for it," Legault said, mentioning the Patriote rebellion; the 1838 Durham Report, which recommended the assimilation of francophones into Canada's English-speaking majority; and the survival of French-speaking Quebec amid "a sea of English" in North America. "The fact we still speak French here is an exploit," he said. "It's important to share that with our young people."

He said the state-of-the-art, interactive, child-friendly museum would trace 400 years of history through "great people and great events," share the stories of eminent artists, athletes, statespeople and businesspeople and show off the "grandeur of our land" and collective victories such as the creation of Hydro-Québec.

"My objective is that when Quebecers come to see the museum, they'll say, 'I'm so proud to be a Quebecer,'" he said. "This museum will show us that we can dream big. I'm proud to be a Quebecer and what I want with this museum is for Quebecers to be even prouder."

The museum is widely understood to be a scaled-down version of the CAQ's Espaces Bleus project, which envisioned a museum of Quebec history, culture and identity in each region of the province,

and was ultimately shelved due to ballooning cost estimates.

Legault read a long list of Quebec public figures, living and dead, who he expected the museum to honour, including singers Céline Dion, Robert Charlebois, Gilles Vigneault and Jean-Pierre Ferland; authors Michel Tremblay and Dany Laferrière; and sports legends Maurice Richard, Jean Béliveau, Marie-Philip Poulin and Mickaël Kingsbury. Laferrière and sprinter Bruny Surin, both born in Haiti, were the only immigrants mentioned, and no anglophones or Indigenous people mentioned by name. When pressed by CBC reporter Cathy Senay, Legault said, "I could see a place for someone like Leonard Cohen."

The Ministry of Culture and Communications (MCC) could not provide a full list of organizations that had been consulted for the project by press time, but MCC spokesperson Catherine Vien-Labeaume said a yet-to-be-established "scientific committee" would ensure a diversity of perspectives, including First Nations and English speakers. As of this writing, the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network and the Quebec English-speaking Communities Research Network (Quescren) said they had not been approached. The Huron-Wendat Nation and the Musée Huron-Wendat



Photo courtesy of François Legault via Facebook

Premier François Legault (centre) said the new Musée National de l'Histoire du Québec – Quebec's fourth national museum with the Musée de la Civilisation, the Musée National des Beaux-Arts and the Musée d'Art Contemporain – would instill a sense of pride in young Quebecers. He explained the proposed project alongside Culture Minister Mathieu Lacombe (left) and minister responsible for the Capitale-Nationale region Jonatan Julien.

had not been consulted either, according to Huron-Wendat Nation spokesperson Rose-Marie Ayotte.

"I look forward to seeing how the new museum explores what a Quebecer is, how it explores that idea of *nous*," said Quescren research associate and historian Lorraine O'Donnell. "I'd love to see a process where anglophones and other cultural communities are consulted. We'd be very interested to help develop quality content."

O'Donnell and Guy Rodgers, a filmmaker and advocate for anglophone arts and culture who has consulted for Mon-

treal history museum Pointe-à-Callière, both said they hoped the museum would incorporate anglophone history and avoid perpetuating the stereotype of anglophones as elitist and out of touch with the francophone majority. "Our communities are very diverse in terms of socioeconomic and regional background," O'Donnell said. "The stereotype that equates anglophones [with] an economic elite in Montreal is part of the story, but it isn't the whole story. I'd love to see a nuanced picture."

"The CAQ launched this [Espaces Bleus] idea a few years ago, and it turned out to

be a big boondoggle, so they scrapped it. This history museum is a way of saving face and centralizing it," said Rodgers, who explored the rich and varied history of English-speaking communities in Quebec in the documentary *What We Choose to Remember*. "You do want people to feel proud of their history, but is the vision of history that's going to be presented positive and inclusive, or will it be resentful? A good history museum would make everyone feel welcome, but anything put together under this government is not likely to do that."

Library strike set to continue after staff reject proposal

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The strike affecting Quebec City's public library system is set to enter its ninth week after unionized staff narrowly voted down a proposed collective agreement. Members of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union (UFCWU, more widely known by its French acronym TUAC) local 501, which represents about 200 collections, billing and related staff at the city's 26

public libraries, rejected the proposal, 52 per cent to 48 per cent. Turnout was estimated at 73 per cent.

Employees have been on strike since March 1. Their main demands include more flexible scheduling, higher pay for entry-level staff and pay equivalent to Ville de Québec staff doing similar jobs.

The agreement that was voted down last week was the third attempt to resolve the dispute. A previous agreement negotiated through a conciliator from the Quebec Ministry of Labour was rejected by the Ville de Québec, which fi-

nances the library system through the nonprofit Institut Canadien de Québec (ICQ).

The parties are not allowed to speak publicly about the details of a rejected agreement. "The specific reasons people vote yes or no are their business [but] from what we've heard, the fact that there was very little movement on pay parity compared to the first proposal and the fact that the first proposal was rejected by the city have led to a lack of trust" between the employees and the ICQ, TUAC spokesperson Roxane Larouche told the *QCT*. The fact that the ICQ



Photo by Cassandra Kerwin from QCT archives

Staff at the 26 public libraries in Quebec City have been on strike since March 1, calling for better wages and improved scheduling practices.

must validate any proposed agreement with the city before approving it also complicates matters. "Ninety-nine per cent of the time, we don't have to deal with that," Larouche said.

She said she expected negotiations to resume over the next week. In the meantime,

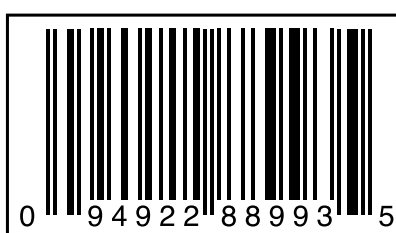
picket lines will return to the steps of city libraries. Larouche said morale has been high on the picket line so far "although such a close vote might make it hard for some people," and strikers benefit from the union's nationwide strike fund.

ICQ spokesperson Mélisa Imedjdouben said in a brief statement that the ICQ was "deeply disappointed" at the lack of a resolution to the strike. "The offer presented to unionized staff took into account the concerns expressed in terms of salaries and work-

ing conditions, while keeping in mind the need to ensure responsible management of public funds," she said.

Twenty-three of the city's 26 libraries will remain closed until further notice. The other three – the Monique-Corriveau Library in Sainte-Foy, the Étienne-Parent Library in Beauport and the Gabrielle-Roy Library in Saint-Roch – are operating on a reduced schedule, open only on Thursdays and Fridays from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from noon to 5 p.m.

Label /



COMMENTARY

Quebecers getting to know what's in PSPP's heart and head



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The Parti Québécois has had six elected leaders since the sovereigntist party was created in October 1968. Its founder, René Lévesque, was never actually elected leader, but as the head of the larger group that merged with another group to form the PQ, he automatically

assumed the leadership.

One leader since then has been acclaimed – Lucien Bouchard, in 1995, after then-premier Jacques Parizeau resigned abruptly in the wake of the failed sovereignty referendum of the same year.

This group of leaders can be broken down generally into two categories: heart or head, emotion or reason. Some fit more neatly into one category or the other.

Take the founder, for example. Lévesque knew instinctively that the path to sovereignty lay with an emotional appeal to Quebecers fed up with a federation that showed little respect towards the francophone majority. Little concerned was he with the nuts and bolts of how sovereignty-association with Canada might work. When he was preparing to bolt the Liberal Party, his then friend and future political foe Robert Bourassa cautioned him, “You don’t seem to realize that

political independence goes with monetary independence. Quebec cannot be sovereign and pay the bill with Canadian dollars.”

To which Lévesque replied, “Monetary system, economic system, all this is plumbing. One doesn’t worry about plumbing when one fights for the destiny of a people.” Heart.

By contrast, Jacques Parizeau, though a bit of a lefty radical in his youth, was a technocrat through and through. Prior to joining the PQ in 1969, he had been a senior civil servant instrumental in setting up much of the infrastructure underpinning the Quiet Revolution – the nationalization of Hydro-Québec and creation of the Caisse de dépôt et placement being two examples.

His pompous demeanour and trademark three-piece banker suits were not exactly the package to connect with the little people. Still, he had the good timing to take over

the PQ as the Meech Lake Accord was unraveling and about to rev up the masses with the potent brew of humiliation and resentment.

A few thousand votes more on the Yes side in the 1995 referendum and Parizeau could well have been the perfect *péquist* premier to negotiate Quebec’s exit from Canada. All head.

Then, amongst the group of five PQ leaders to win an election – Lévesque the only one to win two, 1976 and 1981 – there is Lucien Bouchard, who, history concedes, nearly single-handedly brought the Yes side to the brink of victory.

That Bouchard was all heart, a mesmerizing, emotional speaker who felt first hand the bitter failure and betrayal of Meech. Once winning the 1998 election, however, with the referendum heat cooled, he was the Quebec leader forced to bring in hotly contested austerity measures.

The only other PQ leader to win an election was Pauline Marois, who cashed in on fatigue with the long reign of Liberal Jean Charest. She won a minority in 2012 but lost two years later to new Liberal leader Philippe Couillard. She wasn’t around long enough to determine how much heart she had – obviously not enough to stay in power, let alone win a referendum.

Other PQ elected leaders – Pierre-Marc Johnson, Bernard Landry, André Boisclair, Pierre Karl Péladeau (!) and Jean-François Lisée – sorry to say, are asterisks in the party’s saga, which, frankly, seemed to be nearing an end with the three seats won in the 2022 general election under new leader Paul St-Pierre Plamondon (PSPP).

So what about PSPP? Heart or head?

He is so high in the polls he is convinced he sees the promised land. But does that

make his heart soar like a hawk? Hardly, based on the 1960s-style bitterness- and resentment-spewing speech he gave to a PQ gathering in Drummondville on April 14.

His Durham Report vision of a Canada deliberately plotting to “weaken and erase” the Quebec people, to “crush those who refuse to assimilate,” had commentators rethinking the glowing praise they have been heaping on the separatist golden boy since the party won a surprise victory in a Quebec City byelection last year.

Then, last week, in a National Assembly exchange with Premier François Legault, PSPP mimed slitting his wrists when the premier asked him if he would join the CAQ if the PQ leader’s proposed third referendum failed.

Heart or head? Hard to tell. But folks are sure getting to know more about the real PSPP.

Government hints Mont Sainte-Anne’s future could be decided soon

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With another season ended at the Mont Sainte-Anne ski resort, there are signs the Quebec government is preparing to act to find a new operator and upgrade the deteriorating attraction.

Jonatan Julien, the minister of infrastructure and minister responsible for the capital region, said a deal regarding the future of the ski hill, currently in the hands of Alberta-based Resorts of the Canadian Rockies (RCR), “is certainly possible” before the start of the next season.

Julien made the comments at an April 23 parliamentary committee meeting to discuss budget credits for the capital region. Responding to questioning by Liberal interim leader Marc Tanguay, Julien said the file “is progressing very well, quite honestly ... We are having very, very important

discussions.” He did not specify with whom.

Whatever deal the government may be working on, a tight deadline looms, according to Les Amis de Mont Sainte-Anne, the group that’s been pushing for new ownership to revamp the facility.

Group president Yvon Charest told the *QCT*, “If you don’t have a new manager for the mountain by July 1, it’s going to be impossible to make the infrastructure improvement in time for the Canada Winter Games that will be happening in February 2027.”

Charest said the Coalition Avenir Québec government needs to change its strategy of trying to negotiate with RCR, which has already rejected private offers to purchase the ski station. He said the government “does not want to play tough with RCR” because it is afraid the owner will walk away and stick Quebec with the ownership and onus to invest millions in new facilities.

Charest said there is an ideal option available with the interest expressed in Mont

Sainte-Anne by Christian Mars, founder of the French-Swiss management company e-Liberty, which last year signed a 33-year lease to operate the Mont Grand-Fonds ski hill in the Charlevoix and plans to invest some \$45 million to develop the site.

Mars, through his Compagnie des montagnes de ski du Québec, has offered to invest \$100 million in Mont Sainte-Anne, topped up by another \$20 million from local investors, Charest said.

In a recent interview with the *Journal de Québec*, Mars deplored the deteriorating condition of Mont Sainte-Anne. “It’s true that in Europe, a station in this state is closed immediately. We don’t let it run. It is not possible. There is a level of security that is not sufficient.”

The safety factor may give the Quebec government an opening to seek expropriation of Mont Sainte-Anne, Charest said, noting ski lifts on the mountain are more than 35 years old and operating well under capacity. Serious acci-

dents on the lifts have occurred in recent years.

The public interest factor also needs to be considered, Charest said, with the upcoming Canada Winter Games in Quebec City in need of a downhill ski event venue up to current standards.

Mars said he met with Industry Minister Pierre Fitzgibbon at Mont Grand-Fonds in March. “He was able to see that we were doing what we are committed to. We are operators and we have shown that what we say, we do.”

Mars said, “The solution lies with the government. Our plan is known to the premier’s office, Mr. Fitzgibbon and Investissement Québec.”

Charest said RCR may have more incentive now to divest itself of Mont Sainte-Anne having recently lost control of the eastern part of the mountain in a court case brought by the Quebec government’s SEPAQ outdoors facilities agency.

The loss of revenue from that on top of the bleak ski season just finished may add up to retaining the resort not



Prospective Mont Sainte-Anne operator Christian Mars shows off the gondola lift he’d like to see on Quebec slopes.

being worth the cost to RCR, he explained.

Charest said, “The way I see it is that it would be quite wise for the government to move

right now because of public interest, and I’m sure that if the government wants to do so you would have a happy community.”

Geddy Lee and *Star Wars*: FEQ and Grand Theatre partner for eclectic program

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Eclectic might be an understatement to describe the set of six events at the Grand Theatre announced as part of Festival d’Été programming.

On July 13, for example, there’s an afternoon session with Geddy Lee, founder and bassist of the iconic Canadian band Rush, talking about his autobiography, *My Effin’ Life*.

In the evening, rock talk switches to movie music, with

Star Wars: A New Hope in concert, featuring the score of the epic 1977 George Lucas classic performed by Montreal’s FILM-harmonique Orchestra.

Though its repertoire does not include film music as its name suggests, The Cinematic Orchestra, a U.K.-based jazz band, is known for its “impressive and enigmatic live performances,” a FEQ press release stated. The group plays on the evening of July 7.

Also slated for Grand Theatre shows are Cajun favourite Zachary Richard (July 5), French-Swiss jazz trumpeter Éric Truffaz (July 4), and popu-

lar Quebec pianist Marianne Trudel opening for American jazz pianist Natalie Tenenbaum (July 12).

FEQ content director Louis Bellavance said the festival decided to pursue some acts that are not well-suited to an outdoor setting, an idea that’s been brewing with FEQ for several years.

“Instead of letting go of some of these amazing artists we were interested in,” the partnership with the Grand Theatre presented a way to do it, Bellavance said.

“It’s not for everyone to go to an outdoor festival and be



Geddy Lee of prog-rock legends Rush will discuss his autobiography at a FEQ event at the Grand Theatre on July 13.

standing up on a hill. There’s something very comforting about being part of Festival d’Été, but being inside and buying your seat and knowing where you’re going to be,” he added.

Bellavance said booking prog-rock legend Geddy Lee took considerable persuasion given he had already wrapped his book tour. He finally agreed, “because he wanted to connect with his Quebec fans.”

Tickets for individual shows are on sale through the FEQ website at prices ranging from \$42.50 to \$79.

Gaza war creates divisions in local Jewish community

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For members of Quebec City's small Jewish community, services at the city's only synagogue have long provided a "safe space" transcending the barriers of language, politics and ideology. Then came the terrorist attacks of Oct. 7, 2023 in Israel, where over 1,100 people were killed and more than 200 taken hostage, and the subsequent war in Gaza, where an estimated 30,000 Palestinians have

been killed and hundreds of thousands injured or displaced.

Now, a Quebec City father says his family has been excluded from two recent events at Congrégation Beth Israel Ohev Sholem (CBIOS) because of his and his partner's outspoken advocacy in favour of a ceasefire in Gaza.

Université Laval chemistry professor Jesse Greener told the *QCT* he and his family were told they were not welcome at a children's event earlier this spring and a Passover celebration this past week. He and his partner, left-wing journalist and author Nora Loreto, have sent a *mise en demeure*

through their lawyer, well-known Montreal-based human rights attorney Julius Grey, asking for a formal apology and a written promise to "cease all forms of discrimination based on political convictions."

"On April 5, we were told that because of the protest [calling for a ceasefire in Gaza], certain members wouldn't want to [attend an event] with us. The synagogue has never been a place to discuss politics ... even after Oct. 7, we thought there would be people there who would not agree with us, but we weren't planning to talk about it," he said. "I guess things have changed, because we're getting a message that

people don't want to be around us."

CBIOS vice president Debbie Rootman disputes Greener's account, saying the family was only asked not to attend one event, a Passover celebration on April 23, and they turned down an invitation to a separate celebration at her home. However, she acknowledged that the Gaza war has created divisions within the synagogue and the wider Jewish community. "This political issue of the Israel and Hamas conflict divided many families and friends," she said in a brief email exchange with the *QCT*. "It is very emotional and [there's] a lot of ignorance

and propaganda." No one from CBIOS was available to comment further at press time.

A lost opportunity

Greener said he was disappointed that his two elementary-school-aged children seemed to have lost a chance to connect with their culture. "My family was affected by the Second World War; they were refugees who were resettled in Canada after losing most of their family in the Holocaust. It's part of my children's heritage.

"Passover talks about social justice, and we want that for the kids – we want to explain Jewish faith and culture, and

talk about slavery, dispossession and war, and break that down with the kids," he added.

Greener said he believed the ongoing war "was not about Jews vs. Arabs or Jews vs. Palestinians, but about the colonial state of Israel doing colonial things." He said people within his own family don't all have the same stance on the war, but are still on speaking terms. "It's hard, because it is such a tripwire ... but it doesn't have to be a red line. Just because we're not partisan Israel supporters doesn't mean we should be divided as a community."



MENTAL HEALTH WEEK Pathfinder Network launches, empowering community support

SUBMITTED BY VERITY JORDAN,
WE MIND MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM CO-ORDINATOR

In honour of Mental Health Week 2024, the Wellness Centre at Jeffery Hale is launching its Pathfinder Network, an initiative that empowers community members to provide support to others in need. This initiative is made possible thanks to funding from the Public Health Agency of Canada and the Community Health and Social Services Network (CHSSN).

Not everyone is aware of the support services and resources that are available in the Greater Quebec City region, particularly members of the English-speaking community. The Wellness Centre aims to

bridge this gap through free online comprehensive Pathfinder training courses. It aims to equip people with the skills and knowledge to identify warning signs of deteriorating health and well-being and guide others toward appropriate assistance while reducing the stigma surrounding declining health.

"At the Wellness Centre at Jeffery Hale, we strongly believe in the power of community support," said Annabelle Cloutier, director of wellness programs. "The Pathfinder Network provides an opportunity for concerned neighbours, caring friends and engaged community members to actively contribute to the well-being of others."

The Pathfinder training courses are free, self-paced and offered in English. Participants will receive a Pathfinder

Toolkit upon completing the two mandatory training courses: Introduction to the Pathfinder Network and General Health and Well-being. There is also a course to recognize signs of accelerated aging in seniors, created in partnership with La Fondation AGES, as well as a course tailored for youth aged 12 to 17 by Jack.org.

"This initiative is open to anyone from the English-speaking community who is passionate about supporting others," said Verity Jordan, co-ordinator of the WE Mind Mental Health program. "We invite you to join us in helping promote a culture of positive health and well-being in our community, enhancing its vitality and strengthening a sense of belonging among its members."

The Wellness Centre is also organizing a range of

community activities during Mental Health Week, May 6-12, including a mindfulness workshop with a psychologist, a Pilates session and an online talk for youth by youth about mental health given by speakers from Jack.org. Our community partners are also fully on board. The Morrin Centre library will feature a book display on mental health all week, Lifelong Learning will hold a meditation and mindfulness session, and a chill-out gathering will take place at Parc Victoria hosted by Voice of English-speaking Québec (VEQ). Details are available on our website (wejh.ca), Facebook (Wellness Centre at Jeffery Hale) and Instagram (@wejh.ca). You are also welcome to contact Verity Jordan, program co-ordinator, by email (vjordan@jhparkers.net) or by phone (418 684 5333, ext.

11932).

About the Wellness Centre at Jeffery Hale

The Wellness Centre at Jeffery Hale promotes the personal and shared well-being of English speakers in the Quebec City region by offering a range of health promotion programs. The Wellness Centre aims to provide its clientele with quality services and continue developing programs and activities adapted to meet the health and social services needs of the English-speaking community.

The Wellness Centre, managed by Jeffery Hale Community Partners, is able to provide its range of activities thanks to a close collaboration with VEQ and Jeffery Hale – Saint Brigid's, a public health and social services establishment.

About Jeffery Hale Community Partners

Jeffery Hale Community Partners (JH Partners) is a community-based charitable organization whose mission is to better the health and wellness of the English-speaking community of the Greater Quebec City (Capitale-Nationale) region, including Portneuf and Charlevoix, with a focus on those most at risk.

JH Partners plays a leadership role in the community by helping to ensure that the region's English-speaking population is a priority when it comes to organizing health and social services. JH Partners is a catalyst for innovative outreach approaches to help improve community members' quality of life.



MEMORIALS AND THINGS OF FAME

May 5, 1774 – The Quebec Gazette

To be sold at the Printing-Office

(Now kept in the Upper Part of Mr. De Lanaudiere's house next to the Seminary, behind the Cathedral Church)

Writing paper of different sorts, quills, sealing-wax, wafers, ink-powder, parchment, sand-boxes, pencil cases with pencils, brass, leather and paper ink-cases, ivory-knives and folders, Barlow's pen-knives, pounce and pounce-boxes, playing cards, and blank books of different kinds, ruled and plain.

Also Bibles, testaments, Prayer-books, Primers and Horn-books for children; French and English dictionaries and grammars; Father's young man's companion, with some other books on Arithmetic. ... Bills of exchange, bills of lading, bonds, Powers of Attorney, apprentices' indentures, and articles for shipping seamen.

Note from Lorie: A pounce box contained a powdered gum that fixed ink to paper and wafers were used to seal letters. Hornbooks, often taking the shape of primers for learning the alphabet, were made of ivory, wood, leather and sometimes metal. Developed before the advent of moveable type printing (circa 1450-1455), hornbooks were used to teach children letters, numbers, arithmetic, poetry and Bible verses. (Source – Columbia Encyclopedia)

May 1, 1874 – The Morning Chronicle

A Damaging Runaway – Yesterday morning a horse belonging to a butcher named Fortin got restive on the Upper Town Market, and after plunging about for a while, kicked his left foreleg over the shaft. ... He started away and dashed down the square, right into the window of Mr. Seifert's European Bazaar. He smashed through the fine plate glass, scattering the magnificent jewelry and articles *de vertu* so lavishly displayed, knocking over the Turf Club Cup, and playing the mischief generally. Here he became still, and was extricated without difficulty, but not before he had inflicted considerable injury upon his neck and shoulders from the broken plate glass. Mr. Seifert's window stock has suffered

not a little from the rude intrusion of this equine.

May 3, 1899 – The Quebec Chronicle and Gazette

The Numidian Arrives

The Allan Liner *Numidian* arrived in port yesterday morning about 11 o'clock. She brought 538 steerage passengers, representing no less than 17 nationalities; Galatians, Finns, Hungarians, Parthians, Medes and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, besides English, Irish, and Scotch. There were two parties from England, one of 11 Catholic young men in charge of the Rev. Father St. John, bound from Mackinac, and another of 24 children from the Church of England Waifs and Strays Society, in charge of Mrs. Francis, and bound for the Society's establishment at Niagara-on-the-Lake. The rest were booked to various Canadian and American points.

May 1, 1959 – The Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph

Fernandel – Hates Shaking Hands But Loves To Pay Income Tax

Famed French comedian-actor Fernandel hates shaking hands but oddly enough, enjoys paying all the income tax he possibly can. In Quebec for an hour-long personal appearance at the Capitol Theatre tonight, Fernandel was interviewed in his suite at the Chateau Frontenac this morning. The Quebec stopover, first in eleven years, is part of a whirlwind North American tour. Next Monday he will appear in Montreal and Tuesday in New York. Early next week, he will sail for France and Germany where he will get acquainted with a cow – his partner in his next movie role. ...

"I love the public. If I did not, I wouldn't be an actor." He said, "But having to shake all those hands when I am tired after a show, is not my favourite way of spending an evening." ... In his next film, which will start being filmed in Munich, Germany, May 25, Fernandel will play the role of a French prisoner of war who escapes from a camp in Germany, steals a cow from a nearby farm and returns to France dragging the animal along. The cow is his disguise and protection against the pursuing Germans.

... His adventures during this unique escape are a mixture of sidesplitting comedy and heart-warming drama.

Fernandel loves paying taxes. "The more I pay, the more I like it," he claimed. This bizarre statement came in the middle of a discussion when everyone present was more or less vehement against the existence of taxation. "The more I earn, the more I pay, so, naturally, I would like to pay even more than I do now," Fernandel said. A child prodigy who first climbed the stage at the age of seven, he is today one of the most popular and well-off entertainers in the world. In his 49 years in show business, he covered almost everything from vaudeville (French style) to tragedy, drama and comedy.

Note from Lorie: Fernand-Joseph-Désiré Contandin (1903-1971), known as Fernandel, was a French comedian whose visual trademarks were comic facial contortions and a wide, toothy grin. After a brief career in banking, Fernandel became a music-hall singer in Nice, France, toured in a vaudeville show, and was a pantomime comedian in Parisian music-hall revues. His appearance in *Le Blanc et le noir* (1930; *White and Black*) initiated a 40-year motion-picture career that included more than 100 films. Reportedly, Fernand was so attentive to his wife that his mother-in-law referred to him as "Fernand d'elle" – a name he adopted for the stage. (Source – Encyclopedia Britannica, frenchfilms.org)

May 1, 1964 – The Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph

West Of "The Wall" Speeches

While East Berliners viewed an army parade, less than a mile away thousands of West Berliners listened to May Day speeches by Chancellor Ludwig Erhard and West Berlin Mayor Willy Brandt in front of the Reichstag, the old Parliament building today. A sign in front of the building reads: Unity, Peace and Freedom.

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

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

MNBAQ opens new exhibit of etchings by Rembrandt

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The Musée national des Beaux-Arts du Québec (MNBAQ) was abuzz with activity on April 24 as it opened the doors to its latest exhibit of works by Rembrandt van Rijn, the great master of the Dutch Golden Age, featuring 80 etchings from the Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen in Rotterdam displayed in an unforgettable intimate experience.

MNBAQ director general Jean-Luc Murray introduced Peter van der Coelen, curator of prints and drawings at the Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, who took members of the media on a guided tour of the exhibit, along with MNBAQ exhibitions curator

André Gilbert, who took the time to translate for van der Coelen, whose English was better than his French. The Dutch curator did very well, however, later in the day when he read his text in French during his presentation on the exhibit in the auditorium of the museum.

Rembrandt contributed to the flourishing of baroque art in Europe and is recognized for his highly personal treatment of *chiaroscuro*, which uses light and darkness for depth, and his very modern humanism. He achieved notoriety during his lifetime (1606-1669) through his engraved works, which were much more extensively spread throughout Europe than his paintings and drawings. He produced some 300 engravings between 1625 and 1665.

Most of the works on display at the MNBAQ are etchings, made with a complex technique in which the image is etched on a copper plate using an acid. One section of the exhibit explains the intricacy of the artist's process.

The exhibit includes portraits and self-portraits, religious and mythological scenes, genre scenes, landscapes, nudes and study sheets. His religious prints display unique, truly spectacular interpretations of stories from the Bible.

Among them, *Christ Blessing the Children and Healing the Sick* (circa 1648), is one of the most celebrated prints of all time. It displays great virtuosity with extremely varied strokes and subtle light effects. Also known as *The Hundred Guilder Print* (a fortune in

those days), it reached an unrivalled price on the art market during Rembrandt's lifetime.

A selection of 15 works from the MNBAQ collection are exhibited along with the Rembrandt prints to highlight the works of Quebec artists who have drawn inspiration from Dutch art from the Golden Age. These works are presented on black panels, separate from the white walls devoted to Rembrandt's engravings.

By downloading a free bilingual MNBAQ audioguide, visitors can discover Rembrandt's creative genius as they view the works on display and take a fascinating voyage into the heart of the artist's life.

The exhibit will be open until Sept. 2. For more details, visit mnbaq.org/en/exhibition/rembrandt.



Jean-Luc Murray, general director of the Musée national des Beaux-Arts de Québec, spoke at the media opening of the Rembrandt exhibit on April 24.

REVIEW

What The Heck says farewell to longtime co-ordinator Dominic Fournier

CASSANDRA KERWIN
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CEGEP Champlain-St. Lawrence became a rock 'n' roll venue on April 26 and 27 as families and friends filled the Amphitheatre for two concerts by the school rock band, What The Heck.

The concert opened with "Lady Marmalade" from the 2001 movie *Moulin Rouge*. Were the singers Pink, Lil' Kim, Mya and Christina Aguilera? They were bandleader Thara Bastien, Lydia Kananiro, Nita Jing Lefebvre and Lara Imreh Bellavance.

After this hit, the band went right into "Locked Out of Heaven" by Bruno Mars and "Doo Wop" by Lauryn Hill. They continued with hits from their parents' generation and earlier – "Love Shack" by the B-52s, "Ain't No Mountain High Enough" by Marvin Gaye and Tammi Terrell and "Way Down We Go/Rolling in the Deep" by Kaleo. Judging by the crowd's reaction, parents loved this section.

The first half closed with "Dream On" by Aerosmith – almost as good as the original – and "Where Eagles Dare" by the Misfits. The band returned after intermission with "Holdin' Out for a Hero" by Donnie

Tyler, "Smooth Criminal" by Michael Jackson and "Movin' Out" by Billy Joel, to the audience's delight.

Halfway through the second set, St. Lawrence teacher Dominic Fournier took centre stage for his farewell performance as band co-ordinator. Along with What The Heck alumni, he performed "Limelight" and "Tom Sawyer" by his favourite band, Rush. He even brought his 1981 copy of *Moving Pictures*.

The concert ended with the hits "Goodbye Yellow Brick Road" by Elton John, "Misery Business" by Paramore, "Barracuda" by Heart and "Message in a Bottle" by the Police. The students wonderfully performed

hit after hit throughout the concert, but the sound from the instruments tended to overpower the vocalists. The performers' stage presence improved as the show progressed.

For Fournier, this concert was special because it concluded a 16-year run for him as band co-ordinator; he will continue teaching at St. Lawrence. "Like I tell all graduat-

ing band members, I am now a lifetime honorary member," he said. "I might have said it in the past, but now it is true; I am passing the baton to someone else. I am not sure who at the moment. I would like to recruit an alumnus." Further details are expected by next semester.

"It has been a fantastic 16 years. Each year, they take it up another notch. Each year,

they want to do a little more," said Fournier. "I taught them everything I know. Every group is great and different and they learn from each other. It is amazing to watch them grow over two years." While the band gains new members every September, it loses some every May, with the core remaining somewhat the same for a typical two-year CEGEP course.



CEGEP Champlain St. Lawrence student rock band What The Heck performed hit after hit on April 26 and 27.

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REVUEW

Tess LeBlanc's farewell production at QHS a charming romp

CASSANDRA KERWIN
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The stage version of the Oscar-winning family film *Shrek* took audiences on a fantastic journey at Quebec High School (QHS). On April 26 and 27, the Performing Arts Concentration students presented *Shrek The Musical Jr.* This was multitalented performing arts teacher Tess LeBlanc's final production after 17-odd years.

Minutes before curtains opened in the gymnasium, the atmosphere was set with swamp sounds: birds, frogs and crickets. Then, it was time to meet the ogres. This storyline strays a bit from that of the 2001 movie, thanks to the Broadway rewrite by David Lindsay-Abaire and music by Jeanine Tesori. The audience learns how Shrek came to live alone in the swamp – his parents evicted him at seven, the same age as Princess Fiona was when her parents locked her in the tower. Other scenes were performed out of order, without disrupting the storyline,



The cast celebrates Shrek and Fiona's wedding at the end of *Shrek The Musical Jr.* performed by the Quebec High School Performing Arts Concentration.

adding an intriguing thread to the musical.

From the opening act to the closing music sequence, QHS students showed they know how to put on a musical. Aisha Gilbert became Shrek, giving him an authentic touch. The audience adored Emilie Evans as Donkey, just as lovably annoying as in the movie. The outstanding Sofia Buijs completed the trio as Princess Fiona. The incredible ensemble cast enhanced their performances: Sophie Demers as Lord Farquaad, Revah Sambaraju as Gingy the Gingerbread Man and Emma Russell-Parent as the Dragon. All the musical

sequences captivated the audience, including "Welcome to Duloc" and the final farewell dance sequence to Neil Diamond's "I'm a Believer."

To bring this production to the next level, Tess LeBlanc and set designers Gordon Evans and Stéphane Tremblay opted for strategically minimal props. Images projected onto a giant screen led audience members and the characters through Far Far Away Land: the swamp, fields, Duloc, the tower and forests. A table with sheets and a pillow became Fiona's bed, a stick horse for Lord Farquaad's mount and an outhouse for the swamp.

Before members of the cast left the stage after a standing ovation, they acknowledged the work of the crew, especially LeBlanc, the director, choreographer, costume designer and publicist. Her biography was printed on the back of the program. Originally from Moncton, N.B., she performed across Canada, the United States and France before establishing herself in Quebec City where she found her place at QHS. Through her skills, talent, charisma and leadership, she put on hit after hit with the Performing Arts Concentration: *The Murder Club*, *The Little Mermaid*, *The Cat in*

the Hat, *Game of Tiaras* and *Shrek The Musical Jr.* After listening to the well-deserved praise, LeBlanc was moved and even shed a few tears. It was a wonderful way to end the eve-

ning and her long run. She will continue teaching at QHS, but plans to pass the Performing Arts Concentration baton to her colleague Cynthia Gagnon.



Shrek (Aisha Gilbert) and Princess Fiona (Sofia Buijs) decide to get married.



Lord Farquaad (Sophie Demers) happily meets Princess Fiona (Sofia Buijs). Lord Farquaad wants to marry a princess to become king, while Princess Fiona believes Lord Farquaad is her true love, and their kiss will end her curse. Will this union be the answer to their problems? QHS students earned a standing ovation for their production of *Shrek The Musical Jr.* on April 26 and 27.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

As stipulated in the Education Act (CQLR c I-13-3), notice is hereby given that at the regular meeting of the Council of Commissioners on June 12, 2024, at 7 p.m., by videoconference and, exceptionally, at the New Liverpool Elementary School, 1575, chemin du Sault, Lévis (Québec) G6W 2M2, the Central Québec School Board will present for adoption the **By-law concerning the day, time and place of the regular meetings** of the Council of Commissioners for the 2024-2025 school year.

This draft By-law may be consulted, on request, during office hours at the office of the Secretary General, 2046, chemin Saint-Louis, Québec, Québec, G1T 1P4. To schedule an appointment, please send your request by email to sec.gen@cqsbc.qc.ca.

Given in Québec on May 1, 2024.

M^e Vincent Laliberté
Secretary General

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Fashionable Fleurs de Villes on display at Place Ste-Foy



Photo by Sarah Elworthy

Guests snap pictures of a floral mannequin created by Kyoto Flowers, one of 15 floral mannequins by Quebec florists, inspired by portraits of iconic women from the collections of the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec (MNBAQ) on display at the Fleurs de Villes exhibit at Place Ste-Foy from April 17-21. This mannequin by Kyoto Flowers was inspired by the portrait of Mme Adrien Duranleau, née Madeleine B., by Simone Dénéchaud. For more details, visit fleursdevilles.com/event-page/quebec-city-artiste-2024.



Photo by Sarah Elworthy

A young spectator admires a mannequin created by Madame Alice fleuriste and Côte fleur côté couleur. The work was inspired by the painting *Portrait de femme rousse*, attributed to Joseph-Adolphe Rho, in the MNBAQ collection.



Photo by Sarah Elworthy

This magnificent mannequin dressed in flowers designed by Boutique WenDIY was inspired by *Jeune Fille au chapeau bleu (La Breloque)*, by William Brymner, from the modern art collection (1900-1950) at the MNBAQ.

OBITUARIES



Michael Joseph Anthony SAVILLE
1954-2023

Michael Joseph Anthony Saville passed away on Dec. 8, 2023, at the age of 69.

Michael suffered from heart and lung disease. He passed peacefully while surrounded by his loving family. He was the beloved husband of Elizabeth (Kirkwood) for 48 years and the loving father of Samantha (Olias), Ryan Heather (Brian), Adam (Jonna), Laura (Scott) and Cathleen (Jason). He was the proud Grampy to 13 grandchildren. Michael will be missed by his siblings, Rosemary (Wayne), Francis (Angela), Kevin (Karen) and Miriam (Ed).

Michael attended St. Patrick's High School in Quebec City. He and his wife Elizabeth attended St. Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia, where they married in their senior year. Following graduation, Mike accepted a position with CIBC Atlantic region in Moncton, N.B.

This was the start of a 40-year career that took Michael and family to all four Atlantic provinces. Mike would joke that his children were the souvenirs, with each child born in a different city and province. Our family settled in the Greater Toronto Area, where Michael worked as assistant general manager, small business credit Canada.

Michael was a family man, and involved with the Burlington Civitan Club. He enjoyed being of service to his community.

Our thanks to the staff at Joseph Brant Hospital ICU for their excellent care of Michael.

As per Michael's wishes, cremation has taken place.

A funeral Mass will be held Saturday, June 22 at 10 a.m. at St. Gabriel's Parish, Burlington, Ont. There will be a livestream available for friends and family who wish to join us remotely.

Celebration of Life to follow at Smith's Funeral Home, 3353 Guelph Line, Burlington. Burial at 2 p.m. at Burlington Memorial Gardens.



Keith BURGESS
July 29, 1947 – April 20, 2024

I am sorry to announce that on April 20, my husband Keith passed into eternity. He died peacefully at home, as he wished. In addition to his wife, Katherine, he has left our children Alec Murphy (Jenn) in Halifax, Rob Burgess in Quebec, Vanessa Burgess (Shawn Daigle) in Labrador and Lori Underhay (Dennis) in Edmonton. He has also left our grandchildren Kandace (Eric Irakoze), Gaetan, Kaegan, Logan, Jesika, Liam and Kariss, and great-grandchildren Aleia Jesseau and his little buddy Aurora Irakoze, as well as his brother Gary (Janet), sisters Gwen (Wayne Hiscock) and Cairine (Wayne Thistle), brother-in-law David Skinner (Susan) and sisters-in-law Deborah March, Megan Skinner and Bobbi Zahra. In addition, he had a number of cousins, nieces and nephews, all of whom he loved.

I wish to thank the Palliative Care team at the Jeffrey Hale Wellness Centre for their support over the last months, especially his nurse, Louise Fortin, who did everything she could to make Keith's last days comfortable.

There are many other people I would like to thank – too many to name here. Please know that I am grateful for all of you.

As Keith wanted, cremation has already taken place, and a celebration of his life will be held at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Quebec City on August 31. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Canadian Cancer Society, the Canadian Heart and Stroke Foundation, or to St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Quebec City.

FUNERAL NOTICE

Brian SKIDMORE

Brian Skidmore died on April 26, 2024, at Saint Brigid's Home in Quebec City. A funeral service will take place at Chalmers-Wesley United Church, 78 Rue Sainte-Ursule in Old Quebec, on Saturday, May 11, at 11 a.m. A full obituary will appear in the May 8 edition of the *QCT*.



William Alfred (Bill) HADDEN
(1932-2024)

On April 15, 2024, William Alfred (Bill) Hadden joined his wife (Mary Ellen) in heaven at the age of 91.

Bill was born in Quebec City in 1932 and is predeceased by his parents Lauretta May DeBoo and William John Hadden. Quebec City was Bill's home for 91 years.

He was an accomplished mechanic and fleet management superintendent, having served 38 years for Alex Coulombe Ltd (Pepsi). Bill was active with the company's retirement association, providing humour and singing songs on the bus to different events. He was also proud to serve on the Quebec fleet safety board (SST Québec) promoting road safety. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He was greatly appreciated by many for his wisdom and always ready to give a hand to anyone when needed. He could repair, fix or build anything that needed to be done. Bill loved the outdoors: snowmobiling, sailing on Miss Behave, motorcycling and fishing. He also enjoyed playing dominoes, and in his later years, participating in a bowling league.

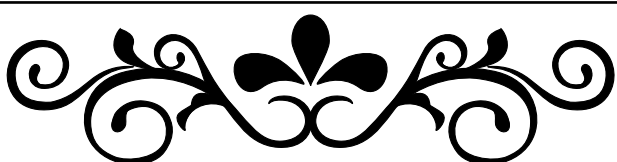
Bill was predeceased by his wife Mary Ellen Berryman of Donnacona and will be greatly missed by his five children, Deborah (David Rourke), Jeff (Michele Whalen), Dan (Anna Clairmont), Tina (Robert Pouliot), and Barbara (Ghislain Tessier); his seven grandchildren, Melissa, Sarah, Cynthia, Steven, Amanda, Samantha and Eric; and his seven great-grandchildren, Marie-Ellen, William, Laura, Savannah, Joey, Anika and Emir.

Bill took great joy to share laughs, dance the jitterbug with his sister Joan, joke and tell stories with family and friends. Bill is predeceased by his sisters Vera (Howard Hicks) and Joan (Jules Fiset), and his brother John, known as Jack (Pierrette Plourde).

We want to thank the personnel of Saint Brigid's Home for their great care.

The immediate family will hold a private celebration of life at a date to be determined.

Bill will be laid to rest with his late wife Mary Ellen at Mount Hermon Cemetery in Quebec City.





Community Calendar of Events

May 2 to 4 – Six French trampolinists of **Le Plus petit cirque du monde** defy gravity at Le Diamant as they present *Esquive*. Shows on Thursday and Friday at 7:30 p.m., Saturday at 3 p.m. For more details and tickets, visit lediamant.ca/en/programming/esquive.

May 2 to 5 – **Cultures en ville: A festival of food and urban agriculture** will take over Rue Saint-Jean from Rue d'Auteuil to the Côte du Palais. Meet farmers and restaurateurs, taste their products on the giant terrasse and enjoy an urban farming mini-market, exhibits, concerts, street performances, open-air dance parties, face painting and other activities for young children. Get a free basil plant while supplies last! Hours vary. Visit culturesenville.ca to learn more.

NEW DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED – **Roméo Dallaire** will speak about his latest book, *The Peace*, in conversation with the *QCT*'s **Peter Black** at La Maison Anglaise in Place de La Cité. This book talk, originally scheduled for May 3, has been postponed until further notice.

Saturday, May 4 at 7 p.m. – “Hello Spring!” square dance with caller **James Allan** and fiddler to be announced. Calls are in English. The dance will take place at Heritage Kinnear's Mills, 400 rue Lowry, Kinnear's Mills. Tickets \$10 cash at the door, kids admitted free. All swing!

Saturday, May 4 at 7:30 p.m. – Grammy Award-winning jazz duo **Eliane Elias** (voice and piano) and **Marc Johnson** (bass) perform at the Palais Montcalm. For details and tickets visit palaismontcalm.ca/concert-spectacle-quebec/eliane-elias-marc-johnson-4-mai-2024.

May 4 & 5 – **Chamber Music Festival** at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity. Students of the **Conservatoire de musique de Québec** perform throughout the weekend. Free admission. Donations welcome. For details, visit conservatoire.gouv.qc.ca/en.

Sunday, May 5 at 3 p.m. – **La Schola Cantorum** choir presents *Danse et romance!* romantic German and French songs by Schubert, Hahn, Berlioz, Fauré and Brahms' famous *Liebeslieder*, Opus 52, with pianists **Rosemarie Duval-Laplante** and **Jean-Michel Dubé** at Chalmers-Wesley Church. For details and tickets, visit lepointdevente.com/tickets/212240506001.

Monday, May 6 at 7:30 p.m. – **The Club Musical de Québec** presents the **Quatuor Brentano** string quartet with bassist **Joseph Conyers** and pianist **Jonathan Biss** who will perform works by Beethoven and Schubert at the Palais Montcalm. For more details and tickets, visit clubmusicaldequebec.com.

Monday, May 6 at 8 p.m. – American country-pop guitarist **Steven Cade** presents his *Giving Guitars* concert at the Théâtre Capitol at Place D'Youville. Profits from the concert will be donated to the Maurice-Tanguay Foundation. For details and tickets, visit theatre-capitol.com/fr/spectacles/giving-guitars-tour-2024.

Saturday, May 11 at 1:30 p.m. – **The Morrin Centre** is holding a symposium on *The History of Emily Montague* by Frances Brooke. Speakers include **Donald Fyson**, **Linda M. Morra** and **Peter Sabor**. The event will also feature theatrical readings and music. This activity is in celebration of **Brooke's 300th birthday** as well as the **LHSQ's 200th anniversary**. It is in partnership with the English literature program in the Département de littérature, théâtre et cinéma at Université Laval and with CEGEP Champlain-St. Lawrence. For more details and to register, visit morrin.org.

May 11, 14, 16 at 7:30 p.m., and May 18 at 2 p.m. – **Opéra de Québec** presents *La Chauve-Souris* by **Johann Strauss II** at the Grand Théâtre, in French with French surtitles. A *chauve-souris* or “bald mouse” is a “bat” in English and a *fledermaus* or “flying mouse” in German. This opera is considered Strauss' masterpiece and most popular Viennese operetta. For more details and tickets, visit operadequebec.com.

Until May 12 – **Generations: The Sobey Family and Canadian Art** at the Musée national des Beaux-Arts du Québec. This new exhibit focuses on 150 works by renowned artists owned by three generations of the Sobey family. For details, visit mnbqa.org/en/exhibition/generations-1305.

Thursday, May 16 at 7:30 p.m. – **Irish Heritage Quebec** meets in McMahon Hall, of St. Patrick's Church, 1145 de Salaberry. **William Moss** will give a presentation titled *Where are the Irish? Ask an archaeologist!* Chief archaeologist for the Ville de Québec for over 30 years and past president of the International Society for Historical Archaeology, Moss previously worked for Parks Canada and the Ministry of Cultural Affairs and lectured at Université Laval. Refreshments will be served and parking stubs for Îlot St-Patrick will be validated. For more information call IHQ at 418-704-3404 or visit irishheritagequebec.net.

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

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

Second Spring Flower Festival blooms at Domaine Maizerets

DANIELLE BURNS
DANIELLE@QCTONLINE.COM

“Quebec is so grey [at this time of the year] and there's no reason for it,” said the president and founder of Verdir la Ville, Myriam Cadoret, who organized the second edition of the Festival Printemps en Fleur (Spring Flower Festival) at the main building of the Domaine Maizerets on April 21. “There are so many plants that are in bloom now and people don't really know them.”

Cadoret said while gardening is very popular in England and Europe, the culture isn't as strong here, but some passionate people are trying to change

that. Cadoret told the *QCT* the goal is to help people discover plants that are in bloom at this time of year. Most garden centres get their flowers from the United States and they are summer blooms by the time they arrive in Quebec, she said. “It's very difficult to find spring plants. You have to go to very small and specialized garden centres. I've been a gardener for over 10 years but it took me years to find those specific plants” – crocuses, bulbs, hellebores and very hardy alpine plants that bloom early.

About a dozen exhibitors had tables set up with perennials, air plants and more for sale with free expert gardening advice. A handful of talks on everything from mushrooms

to pollinators took place in the upstairs conference room, providing “a little bit of everything” for everyone, said Cadoret, a florist. She explained that flowers are very important to encourage biodiversity and help feed bees and other pollinators, who are hungry at this time of the year with not even a dandelion flowering.

Cadoret's partner Jonathan Denis-Vincent also gave a talk about a new trend in gardening – stumpery, with branches, trunks and stumps as decorative focal points in a garden. The stumps are also rich in moisture and nutrients that lend themselves to growing mushrooms and plants like ferns.

Among the horticultural

societies and vendors selling plants and seeds – including some unique carnivorous plants – a husband and wife team came as exhibitors from Richmond, Que. in the Eastern Townships. Jasmine Lamontagne started Succulentes Québec with her husband shortly after they were married in 2019. Lamontagne said her husband made her bouquet for the wedding, including succulents such as Black Prince, which has a dark green colour that eventually darkens with age. Lamontagne said succulents are great because “you can leave them alone when you go on vacation,” since they don't like to be overwatered. Cadoret said there are plants for all types of personalities.

While this *QCT* journalist admits to being a lazy gardener, Cadoret said the late Laidback Gardener (Larry Hodgson) was very important in her gardening education. “We're so lucky since he lived in Quebec City and had a daily blog post. What's great is all the information is really specific to fit for Quebec City.” Mathieu Hodgson has continued his father's legacy since his death in October 2022.

The first sign of spring in late March or early April in Cadoret's garden is the appearance of a snowbunting crocus, a white flower with a gold heart. She describes other flowers that bloom early, like snowdrops – a little delicate drop of white that opens downwards. “In Europe there

are some societies that are crazy about those flowers, because they bloom so early,” said Cadoret. Hellebores also prepare their buds in the fall, so when the snow melts they just need a bit of warmth and sun. “You need to look it up. It's absolutely gorgeous! They come in all kinds of colours; the flowers are really big and the plant is so easy to care for,” she exclaimed.

A few of Cadoret's favourite things in the spring are to smell the warm air, check new growth in her garden and meet her neighbours, who always come around for a chat. “Gardening is such a great way to build social connections with our neighbours. It's a very easy way to start talking casually,” she said.



Photo by Danielle Burns

Myriam Cadoret, president and founder of Verdir la Ville, organizes the Festival Printemps en Fleur (Spring Flower Festival) at Domaine Maizerets. Here she holds a grape hyacinth that blooms for practically the entire month of May.



Photo by Danielle Burns

Succulentes Québec co-owner Jasmine Lamontagne holds up a gorgeous display including the euphorbia – a coral branching succulent that matches the colour of her sweater.



Photo by Danielle Burns

The carnivorous *Drosera* plant, also known as a sundew, uses sticky appendages on its leaves to trap live insects.

SPORTS

SPORTS

SPORTS

Sixteen players from the 2023 championship team return to the Capitales

LUC LANG
LUC@QCTONLINE.COM

“What? Me, worry?” The famous *MAD* magazine slogan can easily be applied to the manager of the Québec Capitales, Patrick Scalabrini, who spoke at the team’s season launch on April 25 at the Salon de Jeux de Québec.

Scalabrini confirmed that at least 16 of the 23 players who won the Frontier League championship last season have announced their return to the Capitales lineup.

The latest to confirm his return is the league’s best relief pitcher, closer Frank Moscatello. The native of Rocky Point, N.Y., had an earned run average of 1.86 in 48.1 innings pitched in relief last season.

Another returning player is first baseman Juremi Profar. Profar was traded in the off-season to Lake Erie, but the trade was cancelled and he enthusiastically said yes to a return to Quebec.

Training camp began April 28 at Parc Henri-Casault in Charlesbourg, while the inflated dome is still in place at Stade Canac. Scalabrini

said he wants to have more local players involved with the team and confirmed that seven Quebecers have been invited to camp.

Steamed or grilled?

Enjoying a hot dog or two during a game is a time-honoured tradition for many baseball fans. In the past few seasons, the Capitales have only sold grilled hot dogs at Stade Canac, leaving fans of the steamed version without their favourite choice. Team vice-president Charles Demers announced that fans of both steamed and grilled hot dogs

will now be able to buy them at two different locations at the stadium during games.

The Capitales, who are celebrating their 25th season in 2024, will honour the club’s first owner this summer. On July 19, Miles Wolff will be celebrated by the team he started back in 1999. Wolff will also inaugurate the Wall of Excellence inside Stade Canac.

Many players who wore Capitales pinstripes over the years will also be present in 2024 to commemorate the team’s 25 seasons.

For the record, Scalabrini is a fan of grilled hot dogs;



Québec Capitales vice-president Charles Demers, president Michel Laplante and manager Patrick Scalabrini are joined by the team’s mascot Capi at the season launch on April 25.

Demers is on team *steamé* Laplante is still trying to find and team president Michel his favourite.

Capitales a highlight of the city for 25 years

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The success of the Québec Capitales baseball team is not only reflected on the diamond but also in the city’s economy, since the team’s arrival in 1999.

When Miles Wolff started the franchise in a city that had been without professional baseball since the 1970s, he had a long-term vision.

“When the team almost folded after ... 10 years in the city, Miles was never worried,” said Capitales president Michel Laplante at the team’s season launch, held at the Salon de Jeux on April 25. “Miles always

said to look at the long term, and you know, he was right.”

Fifty per cent of the tickets to the Capitales’ games this season are already sold – a change from those years when everyone in the front office was calling every season ticket holder individually, to renew their tickets when the team was having financial difficulties. This year, the team had to say no to fans who wanted to buy season tickets for 2024. “With our success late last season, where folks [tried to buy] their tickets at the last minute and were told the game was sold out, the fans are buying their way to the games earlier this year, to make sure that they can get into Stade Canac

for a ballgame,” explained Laplante. The former pitcher and manager of the Capitales told a sad story about a family who drove all the way from Saguenay to attend a game, but when they arrived, it was sold out and they couldn’t get in.

The Capitales’ success on the field has led more local businesses to get involved. This year, Groupe Richer (specialized in landscaping) is joining the team. They are taking charge of renovating the terrace on the third-base side at Stade Canac.

Twenty-five years after the first “Play Ball!” was heard in Quebec City, the team is a mainstay in the city and a tourist attraction for baseball fans

throughout North America.

The team will bring its share of baseball fans to the city in mid-July when the Caps host the 31st Frontier League All-Star Game. The owners of the 11 teams that play in the United States will be in town. The Capitales will take this opportunity to show their American counterparts the attractions of *La Vieille Capitale*, and potentially woo more teams to join the league.

“Many cities that used to have a minor league team affiliated with a Major League Baseball club are looking at the Frontier League to fill the void left when they lost their team,” Laplante told reporters.

The team’s vice-president,



With the picture of Miles Wolff, the Capitales’ first owner, in the background, team president Michel Laplante explains the difficulties the team overcame through the years before finding success on and off the field, at the team’s season launch on April 25.

Charles Demers, also announced the club is maintaining its low prices at the concession stands, and will

reduce the prices for alcohol-free beer, popcorn, slushies and bottled water.

St. Pat’s senior girls third at provincial basketball championship

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The basketball program at St. Patrick’s High School has all the reasons in the world to be proud.

The senior girls team, already champions of the Québec-Chaudière-Appalaches conference of the Réseau du sport étudiant du Québec (RSEQ) added a bronze medal at the provincial level to their 2024 accomplishments.

The Fighting Irish senior

girls were in Carleton-sur-Mer for the RSEQ division 3 championship along with 15 other teams on April 13 and 14.

St. Patrick’s started the tournament by winning their first game 101-21 against Polyvalente des Baies (Baie-Comeau).

In their second game of the day, the Fighting Irish gave all they had and won 37-31 against École Secondaire Dalbé-Viau (Lachine).

They advanced to the semifinals, where they faced Collège Regina Assumpta (Montreal).

The Montreal team outscored the Fighting Irish 62-46 and relegated them to the third-place game.

The Fighting Irish seniors defeated Polyvalente Saint-Joseph (Mont-Laurier) 50-37 in their final game of the season to win the bronze medal.

It was a well-earned medal for the team, which finished the regular season in the Québec-Chaudière-Appalaches conference with a record of 11 victories and two losses for first place in their division.

They followed with two vic-

tories in two games in the playoffs to win the regional championship banner and earned a trip to the provincial championship for the first time since 1989.

Now that the high school basketball season is over, attention will shift to the rugby season, which runs until mid-May.

The St. Patrick’s High School sports gala, a celebration of the success of the school’s student-athletes, will be held May 2 at 6 p.m. at the Salle Jean-Paul Tardif.



The St. Patrick’s High senior girls’ basketball team added a bronze medal at the provincial championship to go with their regional title won earlier in the month.

TRIBUTE Hockey Night in Canada’s Bob Cole was one of a kind: ‘Oh Baby!’

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On April 25, hockey fans were saddened to hear the passing of longtime play-by-play announcer Bob Cole at the age of 90.

Cole was part of CBC’s *Hockey Night in Canada* for more than five decades before he retired at age 85 in 2019.

Born in St. John’s, N.L., Cole was seduced by the voice of then hockey broadcaster Foster Hewitt. He would listen to Hewitt’s broadcasts of the Toronto Maple Leafs games on the radio and imagine himself doing the play-by-play.

In the late 1960s, Cole au-

ditioned for *Hockey Night in Canada*. Hewitt, his idol, listened to Cole’s play-by-play and was impressed.

Cole first started calling hockey games on CBC Radio before moving to television in 1973. He continued to call NHL games until 2019. His last broadcast was a game between two Original Six teams, the Toronto Maple Leafs and the Montreal Canadiens, at the Bell Centre. For the record, the Habs won 6-5 in a shootout, and Canadiens rookie Ryan Poehling scored a hat trick in his first NHL game. “Oh, baby!” Cole’s trademark call through the years, was heard for the final time in that game.

Many remember Hewitt’s call on Paul Henderson’s goal to win the 1972 Summit Series against the Soviet Union, but we forget that Cole also called the game for CBC Radio.

Personally, my first memory of Bob Cole’s play-by-play was in January 1976. The Soviet Red Army team, including stars like goaltender Vladislav Tretiak and forward Valeri Kharlamov, toured the NHL for a series of exhibition games.

After they tied the Montreal Canadiens 3-3 on New Year’s Eve in 1975, in what many considered the best game ever played, the Red Army played the defending Stanley Cup champions, the Philadelphia

Flyers. Known at that time as the Broad Street Bullies, the Flyers got very physical with the Soviet players. When Flyers defenceman Ed Van Impe sent Kharlamov flying with a hard check, the Soviets decided to leave the ice. That’s when Cole exclaimed, “They’re going home! They’re going home!” The Red Army team eventually returned (after the NHL’s Clarence Campbell told them they wouldn’t be paid for the series if they didn’t) and lost the game 4-1. (The beauty of YouTube is that fans can listen to clips from these games, with the original calls.)

Besides his love for hockey, Cole was an excellent curler;



Bob Cole, seen here in 2019 at Scotiabank Arena in Toronto, was a familiar voice on *Hockey Night in Canada* for over 50 years. Cole died April 25 at the age of 90, in St. John’s, N.L.

he served as Team Newfoundland’s skip in two Canadian championships in the 1970s. He was also the quiz master on the CBC game show *Reach for the Top*.

Cole’s legacy will live on forever in the hearts of Canadian hockey fans. Oh, baby, it sure will.