

Festive Fête nationale celebrations bring Quebecers together

CASSANDRA KERWIN
CASSANDRA@QCTONLINE.COM

After over a year of physical distancing and virtual gatherings, this year's Fête nationale celebrations were special, as Quebecers embraced the opportunity to get together with friends and family. The theme for the 187th edition of the celebrations drew on this: "Vivre Le Québec Tissé Serré." (Living in a Tight-Knit Quebec).

Organizers in cities, towns and villages across the province created their own neighbourhood celebrations, while the Mouvement national des Québécoises et des Québécois (MNQ) offered a hybrid version of the traditional main concert; there were no spectators for the big show held at the Manoir Richelieu in the Charlevoix region, but it was shown on four major French-language TV networks and streamed live online.

Excited to finally party with friends and families at home

or in local parks, Quebecers celebrated their culture, language and history on June 23 and 24. For the occasion, over 460 official celebrations were organized throughout the province, with blue and white *Fleur-de-lis* flags flying. Some communities organized small concerts and fireworks displays, working within public health regulations. "Everyone has a common desire these days to be festive: sing, dance and scream our ... hope for a strongly linked Quebec. If song is the language of the spirit, let us be the poets of today and tomorrow," said Thérèse David, president of the MNQ, in a press release.

The Grand spectacle de la Fête nationale was the main event of the celebrations. Over 30 artists performed, including Charlotte Cardin, Damien Robitaille and Coeur de Pirate; some performed on site while others submitted videos from across the province.

By the next day, as reviews started rolling in, the MNQ announced that they were



Fleur-de-lis flags fly in the wind in Place Royale.

more than satisfied with the hybrid show. However, the eyes of many Quebecers were turned elsewhere on the big night. An estimated 2.5 million Quebecers and 5.2 million Canadians watched Game 6 of the Stanley Cup semifinal series between the Montreal Canadiens and the Vegas Golden Knights. The

Canadiens booked their ticket to the Stanley Cup finals for the first time in 28 years, with a 3-2 Game 6 win on home ice in overtime. As fireworks went off across the province and thousands of fans partied in front of the Bell Centre, a full moon even shed a bit of extra light on the festivities.



The normally multicoloured umbrellas in this urban art piece covering Rue du Cul-de-Sac in Place Royale were changed to blue and white just in time for *La Saint-Jean*!

Presenting the Quebec High School class of 2021



QHS Graduating Class of 2020-2021: Kalen Abbott, Alicia Allain, Aurélie Aziz, Christine Baker, Melinda Ballok, Emma Barnard, Althéa Beck, Mathis Bérubé, Jaymie Bisson, Maeva Boutin-Kelly, Hailey Chum, Mégan Cloutier, Vu Nguyen Khang Dao, Laura Demers, Alexanne Desbiens, Rosie Dumoulin, Bela Faulds, Jacob Fiset, Juliette Ford, Charles Frégeau, Jacob Gingras, Noémie Girardin, Miya Gittens, Maude Gosselin-Thiboutot, Hugo Kingsborough, Derek Laforest, Lucas Lambert, Amélia Larouche Maltais, Cassandra Lauder, Sarah Lavallée, Zak Lefrançois, Marianne Légaré, Alexandre Lessard, Anna Lévesque, Ken Lin (not in photo), Didi Luis Lavertue, Quang Vinh Mai, Jonathan Martin, Adam Mathauser, Bronwen May, Sarah McCoubrey, Jason McIntosh-Fernandez de Bulnes, Shelby Meehan, Dylan Morin, Jacob Ouellet, Alexandre Perron, Nguyen Anh Khoa Pham, Abigail Pilote, Emerik Prévost, Iida Annika Riikonen,* Jacob Rodrigue, Kane Rogerson, Nikki Rourke, Presley Rourke, Benjamin Roy, Olivier Royer, Dylan Bradley Sheridan, Édouard Thériault, Frédérique Thibault, Xavier Trahan, Catherine Vallée, Aditya Narain Vashishth, Rebecca Welker* and Amy Wright.

*International exchange students, not in photo
(See story on page 2)



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COMMENTARY

Seems most Canadians seek the joy (and expense) of home ownership

PETER BLACK
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER
PETERBLACK@QCTONLINE.COM

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish someone special a very happy 100th birthday – our house. OK, our house is not actually a person, but after living with each other through many ups and downs for 30 years, it just feels like this stack of brick and wood is a cherished member of the family.

Just as our family has grown and evolved, our house has changed a lot over the years, but it is essentially the same character as when we moved in on a sweltering June day. We were lucky to find the house, having a rushed amount of time in the dead of winter to

hunt down a place to live in a city we barely knew.

When moving day came, we were surprised by the size of the backyard, with lilacs in full bloom. When the realtor got us a hurried visit, we had paid little attention to the patch of snow in the back of the house.

A small grove of those lilacs soon got dug up to make way for a patio, during the excavation of which we unearthed pieces of some old foundation. Those chunks of ancient cement were a bit of a portal to the history of the house, which, for example, old maps indicate is situated on the northern extremity of General Wolfe's thin red line for the Battle of the Plains of Abraham. We joked that we had discovered Wolfe's latrine.

Down the lane, a neighbour found a cannonball in his garden.

We learned that the dip in the property line with our neighbours at the back was for the turnabout of the old horsedrawn tramway line, and, incredibly, the stables are still there on the other lane, now converted into a swanky garage.

Our front entrance is actually on the side of the house, which confirms that when the house was built, the surroundings were pretty much suburban countryside and when you opened the front door you saw a field. Now you see an apartment building.

The city is still such a village that we are friends with the nephew of the gen-

tleman who built the house. He happened to be a cement contractor, so the foundation is like a fortress. He also erected towers of concrete to block the windows of the apartment block next door. They were demolished on our watch. Long story.

So we celebrate and reflect upon the house that has been our home sweet home for so long at a time when, paradoxically, it seems home ownership has never been more accessible for many Canadians, nor more unattainable for so many others.

Here's a stunning fact from the number crunchers at real estate giant Royal LePage: As of February this year, 48 per cent of Canadians aged 25 to 35 said they own their own

home. Of those, 25 per cent bought their digs – house, condo, hut, whatever – during the pandemic.

Of those in that demographic who do not yet own (read: make mortgage payments on) their own home, 84 per cent say it is their goal, and of those, 68 per cent say they plan to do so in the next five years.

Royal LePage boss Phil Soper had a simple explanation for the buying spree: "Mortgage rates fell to historically low levels and competition for entry-level housing lessened. Many investors sought to divest of property as traditional renter groups such as foreign students, new immigrants and short-term renters disappeared behind closed borders."

Contrast that bouncy viewpoint with some less rosy facts. For example, the Canadian Real Estate Association reports that as of March of this year, the average sale price of a house in Canada has soared 32 per cent over last year.

That reality, though it's bound to readjust in time, has led to a certain sense of surrender among wannabe homeowners, with an RBC survey finding fully one-third of folks between 18 and 40 believing they'll never have a home of their own.

So, we count ourselves fortunate to have lived so long with our friend, our house, as expensive and demanding as home ownership can be, now, then or in the future.

Presenting the Quebec High School class of 2021

SHIRLEY NADEAU
SHIRLEY@QCTONLINE.COM

The Quebec High School graduation ceremony took place virtually this year for the second year in a row, with the event recorded and watched online by graduates' relatives and friends. Only students, teachers and staff were present as the class of 2021 received their diplomas and awards for all their efforts over the past year.

"This year ended as it started; parents and families invited us into their homes and we invited them into our classrooms," said principal Warren Thomson. "With an amazing amount of trust, teamwork and

collaboration, the class of 2021 accomplished an incredible feat. I am confident that they are well prepared to take on the future challenges this uncertain world will throw at us. They proved that they can adapt to change and now I am certain they will be the ones pushing for it in the future, for the better."

AWARD WINNERS:

- **Catherine Vallée** (Valedictorian): Matheson Cup, Montminy Wolfe Science Mathematics Award, Proficiency in French Mother Tongue, The Fry Shield

- **Jacob Rodrigue** (Salutatorian): Janice and Steve Pound Award, Montminy Wolfe

Social Science Award, CEGEP Champlain-St. Lawrence Scholarship for academic achievement in English

- **Charles Frégeau**: Donald Harriet Memorial Award, School Volunteer Award, Citadel Youth Volunteer Award, Reunion '88 Award, Mrs. Pearl Treggett-Weller Memorial Prize for Proficiency in Contemporary World

- **Didi Luis Lavertue**: Dean Norman Memorial Prize for Proficiency in Cultural, Social and Technical Mathematics, Proficiency in Psychology

- **Alicia Allain**: Couture-Juhasz Student Ambassador Award, ABCD Award, Donald Simons Award

- **Emma Barnard**: Proficiency in English, Proficiency in History of Contemporary Music, Mrs. Pearl Treggett-Weller Memorial Prize for achievement in Visual Art, Award for outstanding contribution to Creative Writing

- **Kane Rogerson**: The Sanheim Award for artistic ability in Music Option, Father Alexis D.R. Arul Memorial Prize

- **Nguyen Anh Khoa Pham**: Jerry Trzeciak Award for Proficiency in Physics, Proficiency in Chemistry

- **Aditya Narain Vashishth**: Triple Credit Stuart Dunn Memorial Prize, Proficiency in Science Mathematics

- **Hailey Chum**: Vasili Arkhipov Award, St. John's Lodge No. 3 Ancient, Free & Accepted Masons Jean-Luc Dutil Award

- **Rosie Dumoulin**: St. John's Lodge No. 3 Ancient, Free & Accepted Masons Queen's Diamond Jubilee Award

- **Althéa Beck**: St. John's Lodge No. 3 Ancient, Free & Accepted Masons Alfie Cooper Award

- **Derek Laforest**: Most Improved in Science Mathematics, Kennedy Award

- **Laura Demers**: Most Improved in English

- **Sarah McCoubrey**: Most Improved in French Second Language Enriched

- **Jacob Gingras**: Proficiency in Woodworking

- **Melinda Ballok**: Proficiency in Fitness

- **Christine Baker**: David E. Blinco Bursary

- **Edouard Theriault**: Nelson Shield

- **Bronwen May**: Nelson Shield

- **Zak Lefrançois**: Brock Award

- **Emerik Prévost, Benjamin Roy and Ken Lin**: Eastern Québec Learning Centre Vocational Training Bursary

- **Jaymie Bisson**: Rosenhek Award

- **Hugo Kingsborough**: Student Council Executive of Quebec High School Award

MESSAGE FOR READERS

Dear QCT readers, Yes, I'm really going to do it this time!

I have been writing and editing articles and assigning journalists to cover various events for the *Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph* since the summer of 2010. I believe my first published

article appeared in May of that year. Then I sent a letter to the editor/owner of the paper at that time, complaining about the quality of the editing of articles ... and the rest is history.

When I hit a "significant birthday" in 2016, I briefly retired, but my replacement landed a full-time job elsewhere, and I have stayed on the job for a further five years. Another "significant" birthday

is about to roll around next month, and I'm really going to do it this time! Well, at least the copy editing and assignment part of the job.

QCT journalist and assistant copy editor Ruby Pratkanis

and I currently are in a period of transition as I move toward "semi-retirement" at the end of June when she will be taking over as the QCT's assignment editor and head copy editor. I will stick around as a journalist, however, and will fill in for Ruby when she takes some vacation time this summer.

I'm not leaving the good ship QCT forever – not quite yet anyway. I'm just taking a back seat so I can relax and enjoy the cruise. You will still see occasional articles by me in these pages.

Shirley Nadeau
Journalist



Photo courtesy of Normand Brassard

It has been such a joy to be a part of the QCT team for the past 11 years, but it's time for me to step back from the editing and assigning.



Photo by Shirley Nadeau

My 2016 retirement party cake was beautiful, but the pastry chef was apparently in need of a good copy editor! It reads "Happy Retirement Shirely!"

Wishing a Happy "Semi-Retirement" to Shirley Nadeau From the entire QCT team

Dearest Shirley, Thank you for your tireless dedication to our beloved paper. Your sharp eyes, clear judgment and concise writing ability have helped ensure the paper's success for the past 11 years.

You genuinely care about the community we serve, you take pride in your work and your depth of knowl-

edge and experience in all things local has been the paper's backbone for over a decade.

We wish you all the best as you embark on "semi-retirement" and look forward to reading all about your next adventures!

Sincerely,
Stacie and Ray Stanton
For the QCT team

Naval Museum of Québec now open for a new season

CHARLES ANDRÉ NADEAU
CANADEAU@QCTONLINE.COM

As the coronavirus tide gradually ebbs, cultural venues are gradually reopening. The Naval Museum of Québec (NMQ), which has been closed for the past year, reopened its doors on June 23 for the summer season.

Members of the media, former employees and a few museum donors were invited to the event. Members of the Naval Reserve National Band presented an outdoor concert.

The Naval Museum of Québec, located at 170 Rue Dalhousie, faces the St. Lawrence River in the Old Port of Québec, between the Agora and Louise Basin, at the end of the Achille-Pettigrew building. The museum began operations



Photo credit: ST M. Villeneuve-Last

Cdr. Yanick Bisson, commanding officer of Naval Reserve Headquarters, Capt. Étienne Landry, deputy commander of Naval Reserve of Canada, museum director Vincent O'Neill and CPO1 Frédéric Torres prepare to cut the ribbon and welcome visitors to the reopened Naval Museum of Québec.

in 1995 in a hangar originally erected for the 1984 Tall Ships Regatta. It was later renovated to accommodate the Naval Reserve unit HMCS Montcalm and the Naval Fleet School.

The museum opening ceremony provided the opportunity for the museum community to say farewell to André Kirouac, who recently retired as the museum's curator after 24

years. During his tenure, the museum won many awards and gained a reputation on the national and world scenes. Capt. (Navy) Étienne Landry, deputy commander of the Naval Reserve of Canada, presented Kirouac with a commemorative medallion and a plaque as a token of appreciation. Cdr. Yanick Bisson, commanding officer of the Naval Reserve Headquarters, presented him with a framed letter from Prime Minister Justin Trudeau expressing his thanks for Kirouac's long career in the federal civil service.

The new museum director, Vincent O'Neill, holds a master's degree in museology from the Université de Montréal and has worked over the past 15 years with the Mont-Royal Fusiliers and the Fort Saint-Jean museums.

Unlike most military museums, which emphasize the history of the various units that they represent, the NMQ highlights the human aspect of participation in war. The current exhibit is entitled *Heirs of Wars*. It was created with the collaboration of descendants of men and women who served at sea or in naval stations during the Second World War. Three of the displays honour members of the local English-speaking community: Robert Spence, born in Dublin; Germaine Perry, originally from Cap-des-Rosiers near Gaspé; and Timothy Dunn, of the Dunn family of Sainte-Pétronille on Île d'Orléans.

The museum collection includes over 5,000 objects, a similar number of books and nearly 200 archival groups. Re-

searchers have located many notable artifacts which were thought to have disappeared, including the Victory Torch used in 1941 to stimulate the sale of war bonds in Canada. It had been abandoned in the basement of Chartwell, Winston Churchill's mansion in Kent, England. They have also recovered the sword of Lieutenant Frédéric Rolette, a hero of the War of 1812, which had been given to him by the citizens of Quebec in recognition of his bravery. It was found in Trois-Rivières in the home of one of his descendants and is now on display at the museum.

The NMQ is open Wednesday to Sunday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and admission is free. For more information, visit the museum's Facebook page.

MEMORIALS AND THINGS OF FAME

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

June 28, 1821 – The Quebec Gazette

School Master Wanted

Circumstances having occurred which make it necessary to advertise again for a School-Master for the Parish of Mal-bye [*sic*] ... He must be a person of irreproachable moral character; must be able to teach grammatically; a knowledge of the English will be an additional recommendation; he must also write a good hand, and be qualified to teach arithmetic, at least including Fractions, and if further it will be preferred.

June 30, 1871 – The Morning Chronicle

Kamouraska

In calling attention on Saturday last to some of the watering-places of the Lower St. Lawrence, we inadvertently omitted to mention the pretty, picturesque village of Kamouraska, the first point of proximity to the centres of civilization. ... [It] claims pre-eminence for good seathing, enjoyed upon a safe, clear, sandy shelving beach, twice in the 24 hours, covered with

limpid water whose average temperature is some 10 to 20 degrees less cold than that at Murray Bay. A well planked footpath, some four miles in length, enables pedestrians at all times to indulge in a delightful walk, free alike from dust and mud – is clean and orderly, inhabitants civil and obliging, rents low, fish and game abundant, air pure and invigorating, drives and promenades beautiful and various, lamb and butter unsurpassed – yet moderate in price.



Photo courtesy of Andrew Caddell

The LeMesurier family and friends enjoy a swim on the rocks at Kamouraska, summer 1910.

June 30, 1896 – The Quebec Morning Chronicle

Welcome Wheelmen!! Big Bicycling Brigade Expected

Still the visitors keep pouring in from East and West, but the greatest invasion of the city will take place tonight and tomorrow. ... That the coming race Meet will be a record-breaker socially there is no doubt. ... Never before have such large numbers of entries been taken at a race Meet in Canada, and few race Meets have been better attended from outside places before. The principal thing that now remains for the Quebec people to do is to turn out to all events in as strong numbers as possible and so boom things. ... One of the principal events of the Meet comes off tomorrow morning at 9:15, when the Hill Climbing Contest starts from near the Richelieu wharf, going up Mountain Hill and finishing in front of the Chateau Frontenac. Last year a Quebecer, Mr. Edmond Laliberté, won the Hill Climbing Contest at Dundas Hill, Ontario, breaking the world's record, and this year he and a number of other Quebecers will uphold the honour of the Ancient Capital.

Note from Lorie: From the July 9, 1896 edition of the Quebec Morning Chronicle: "It is well known that Mr. Edmond Laliberté protested the hill climbing contest ... claiming that he had been knocked off his wheel by the crowd. Now, Oct. Devarennés, who won the race, [offers] to race him again for a trophy to be paid for by the two co-jointly."

June 27, 1921 – The Quebec Chronicle

City is Now Without Police or Fire Protection Both Police Force and Fire Brigade Walk out on Strike

The Quebec public yesterday morning were amazed to know that the police and firemen of the City had gone out on strike at midnight Saturday, and had left the lives and property of the citizens without protection. The news was sprung upon the people as they were on their way to and from their respective church services ... and the general expression of opinion was in condemnation of the walk out. The strike was not only a surprise to the general public, but to the Mayor and Aldermen of the City. ... Mayor Samson and the Aldermen, who were very indignant over the action of the men, discussed the situation until after 10 o'clock.

June 30, 1961 – The Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph

Milkman Delivers Cow On Request

Mrs. John Weir, whose household uses nine quarts of milk every other day, left this note for her milkman the other day "At the rate we drink milk it would probably be better to leave us a cow instead of our regular order." That is just what he did. Mrs. Weir got a cow delivered by milkman John Trojahn. "What can I do with a cow?" she asked, looking around her yard. Mrs. Weir caught the Holstein surveying her flower beds and decided she'd rather have the nine quarts delivered "the easy way." She told the dairyman to take the cow away. He did.

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

QCGN/ACS survey explores language and belonging in Quebec

PRESS RELEASE

Results from a survey conducted by Léger Marketing for the Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN) and the Association for Canadian Studies (ACS) in May reveal that attachment to one's language community is equally important to Quebec's English and French speakers. Beyond that, differences persist in the degree to which French and English speakers feel attached to Quebec and to Canada.

"Over the past two decades that I have been surveying on this there has been little or no change in the sense of belonging of Quebec's majority and minority communities to Quebec and Canada," said ACS president Jack Jedwab, who oversaw the survey. "But the addition to the survey of linguistic community and municipal or regional attachments helps us to better understand the connection between English speakers [and] Quebec. This

attachment is clearly less pronounced compared with their connection to the community as well as their respective municipalities and regions."

The poll, which measures the degree of importance that Quebec's majority and minority language groups give to key markers of identity, indicates that the vast majority of both English- and French-speaking Quebecers say they are very attached or somewhat attached to their linguistic community. For anglophones, 59 per cent respond that they are very attached while 30.1 per cent say they are somewhat attached to Quebec's English-speaking minority community. For francophones, 58.5 per cent respond that they are very attached and 34.7 per cent say they are somewhat attached to the French-speaking community.

The vast majority of anglophone Quebecers (84 per cent) say they are very attached (41 per cent) or somewhat attached (43 per

cent) to their city, town, or region. An even greater majority of francophone Quebecers (86 per cent) say they are very attached (40.4 per cent) or somewhat attached (45.6 per cent) to their city, town or region.

Some 80 per cent of English-speaking Quebecers report they are very attached to Canada and only one-third (33.1 per cent) say they are very attached to Quebec. Less than one-third (27.1 per cent) of French speakers say they are very attached to Canada while two-thirds (66.8 per cent) say they are very attached to Quebec. Two out of three Quebecers (66.7 per cent) whose mother tongue is neither French nor English are very attached to Canada and only one-third (34 per cent) say they are very attached to Quebec. The poll sampled 1,501 Quebecers, 18 years of age or older, including 573 Quebecers speaking primary languages other than French. Full results can be found at qcgn.ca.

Visit us online!

WWW.QCTONLINE.COM

A.S. Johnson Memorial High School graduating class of 2020-2021

SUBMITTED BY NATASHA SCOTT,
STAFF OF A.S. JOHNSON
MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL

A simple ceremony was held at A.S. Johnson Memorial High School in Thetford Mines to celebrate the completion of the students' high school years.

The ceremony was recorded, but not livestreamed. Parents and other family members watched the graduates walk down the red carpet outside in front of the school. Elementary and high school students, who occupy the same building, and staff members were also outside, clapping and cheering as the graduates strode down the red carpet. All was done following public health protocols.



We wish to congratulate all of our students and hope to see them return for a visit and share their adventures with us.

The A.S. Johnson Memorial High School class of 2021 proudly pose for their official photo: (back row) Xavier Descheneaux, Mychele Wright, Brandon Hogan, Zachary Bouffard, Rodrigue Muntu, Zhoé Jane Sheridan, Kayla Houley, Andrew Jacques and Élodie Veilleux-Greene; (front row) Julia Castonguay, Christelle Donahue Bouffard, Jessica Raby, Jennicka Alelojo, Catherine Thivierge and Kayla Gagné.



Class of 2021 students Bryan Poulin, Tommy Hogan, Loïc Gravel, Peter Melanson and Jennifer Hallée, who studied and worked toward different diplomas in separate classrooms within their own "bubble" all year, posed for a separate grad photo.

OPINION

Bravo to the class of 2021!

PAULINE KERR
PAULINE@QCTONLINE.COM

Graduation this year is different for many young Quebecers.

The pandemic means a cautious approach to ceremonies is still in order, with some schools opting for smaller gatherings.

By the time life has returned to some form of pre-pandemic normal, many members of the classes of 2020 and 2021 will have departed for higher levels of education or employment opportunities far away. Life goes on despite COVID. Celebrations postponed from a year ago will not be the same.

Milestone celebrations are like fresh fruit – they come

with a "best before" date. After a while, no matter how nice they still look, the taste and texture are gone.

Whether our grads attend ceremonies or not, every member of the class of 2021 will have interesting tales to tell, and a special kind of resilience developed by slogging through the great COVID-19 pandemic of 2020-2021, sometimes attending class in person, sometimes from home, shifting from one to the other at a moment's notice. While standard school clothing degenerated from brand-name styles to pyjamas and hoodies, students worked incredibly hard for those diplomas and degrees.

With team sports mostly

banned, the family dog became their jogging buddy, the local hiking trails their recreation centre. Playing hopscotch with their little sister became the most exciting activity of the day (even if she did cheat).

Sometimes the classroom – the kitchen table – was also their parents' office. They helped Mom and Dad learn to Zoom, and in doing so, figured out their parents were kind of important people. Their parents got a mind-boggling introduction to high school subject matter. Both will miss the closeness that developed over mid-morning coffee breaks at that table/office/classroom.

College and university

students left their newfound freedom and returned home to complete their courses as best they could. Some put career plans on hold, and some had their hopes of earning a major sports scholarship dashed.

Many students at every level discovered a determination they never knew they had, that will benefit them throughout their lives. COVID-19 was not easy on them. Those of us long past our own school days should try to imagine how we would have coped had we been told we could not visit with anyone outside our immediate families for months at a time, while the pandemic raged.

We would have been overwhelmed. Members of the class of 2021 probably were,

too, but to their credit, they coped magnificently.

A certain "I can get through anything" attitude has developed in our COVID grads. It goes beyond confidence; there is an element of toughness, a bit of a swagger, and it looks good on them.

The class of 2021 includes the kids who brightened our day with their humour and quick wits at the drive-through window, the young entrepreneurs who started online businesses, the bloggers, the dogwalkers and the ones who made snow angels outside a local nursing home.

It includes the kids who never thought they could complete an entire school

year from home, but did it anyway.

It also includes the kids who survived dark days when the combination of fear and boredom got the better of them, when frustration over attending class remotely built and the grim reality of living through a pandemic hit with full force. Some of them needed a bit of extra help with that, and they had the courage to go after it.

Words cannot take the place of the graduation ceremonies our young people missed out on, but we must say them anyway – bravo, congratulations, thumbs-up, virtual elbow bump, three cheers and way to go, class of 2021! You did it!

Congratulations to the Dollard-des-Ormeaux School class of 2021

SHIRLEY NADEAU
SHIRLEY@QCTONLINE.COM

Graduation ceremony was held at Dollard-des-Ormeaux School in Shannon on June 23. The ceremony was recorded, but fortunately, due to the school's small class size, parents were still able to attend while respecting public health guidelines.

The following students graduated from DDO this year. Here is a list of names and awards presented:

- **Mikaël St-Germain:** (Valedictorian) All Around Student Meritas, Mathematics and Science Award
- **Stella Roberge:** (Salutatorian), Base Commander's Cup for Leadership
- **Virginie Gagnon:** King Kiley Memorial Scholarship for Perseverance, French Second Language Award

- **Kayla Guénette-Cardinal:** Most Consistent Effort, English Award
- **Florence Legault:** Maurice C. Drew Memorial Scholarship
- **Michaël Roy:** Most Improved Academically
- **Nathan Landry:** Artistic Award
- **Mélyna Dubé:** Virtual Participation Prize
- **Gabriel Vallée:** Overcoming Obstacles and Conquering Challenges Award
- **Olivier Chevarie:** graduated with honours
- **Anthony Roy:** graduated with honours
- **Richard Cadieux**
- **Ethan Lacerte**
- **Ariane Mathieu**
- **Ian McEwen**
- **Tristan Michaud**
- **Vanessa Smienk**
- **Alexis Vanderhoven**

Alexandre Brisson

Richard Cadieux

Océane Carroll

Olivier Chevarie

Mélyna Dubé

Virginie Gagnon

Olivier Garand

Kayla Guénette-Cardinal

Ethan Lacerte

Nathan Landry

Nathan Légaré

Florence Legault

Ariane Mathieu

Ian McEwen

Tristan Michaud

Stella Roberge

Gabriel Rouillard

Anthony Roy

Michaël Roy

Vanessa Smienk

Mikaël St-Germain

Olivier St-Hilaire

Gabriel Vallée

Alexis Vanderhoven

École Dollard-des-Ormeaux School

Class of 2021

St. Patrick's High School honours graduates

SHIRLEY NADEAU
SHIRLEY@QCTONLINE.COM

The following message was posted on the St. Patrick's High School Facebook page in honour of the class of 2021: "From all the SPSHS Staff, Governing Board, Alumni and Irish Community, we would like to congratulate you for everything you have accomplished this year and throughout all your years at St. Pat's. Graduation is a unique experience, a moment to celebrate your hard work and your achievements. You deserve to be celebrated. We are proud of you. Take time to remember your firsts and lasts, and to thank your friends, your teachers and your family. Take time to look forward and trust in yourselves. Wishing you all the best. Congratulations."

Award winners are listed below. The complete list of graduates will be published on the QCT website.

Graduation Awards: Class of 2021

- **Olivier Boulay:** Valedictorian Trophy, Sister Mildred Wallace Trophy, Brother George Trophy, Walter Munro Trophy & Award, Brother Walter Trophy
- **Julianna Letellier:** Salutatorian Trophy, Teresa F.

- Whealan Trophy, Robert Brochu Trophy, Fleming Motto Award, Rosalind Franklin Award
- **Gabrielle Simard:** Governor General's Academic Medal (class of 2020)
- **Antonio Diaz:** Michael Yaremko Trophy, Father Bill Steacy Trophy
- **Emilie Drolet:** Father Bill Steacy Trophy, Irish Heritage Quebec Award
- **Megan Brown:** Citadel Foundation High School Volunteer Award
- **Anthony Breton:** Desmond O'Neill Award
- **Jessica White:** S.M. Manek Award
- **Nathan S. Laviolette:** Phil Delaney Memorial Music Award
- **Zoe Bowles:** Leonard School Alumnae Award, Ray Barry Memorial Award
- **Rowan Bernier:** CQSC Parents Committee Award
- **Elisabeth Huot:** Central Québec Administrators Award
- **Philip Richard:** William J. McNamara Award, St. Patrick's Parish Award
- **Natalya Poulin:** Rosalind Franklin Award
- **Jade Marier-Bonhomme:** St. Patrick's Parish Award
- **Jacob Nantel and Elodie Rodrigue:** Principal's Award
- **Rita Ineza Nganyira:** Bruce Phillips Memorial Bursary



St. Patrick's High School organized Graduation Day activities which included a school walkthrough, an aerial "IRISH" photo, the graduation ceremony and a luncheon to honour the class of 2021.

Note: Where more than two students have received the same award or scholarship, the award is listed first, then the names.

- **Governing Board Award:** Louis Marie de Montfort Nganyira, Noémie Cloutier, Kelly Comeau, Jacob Nantel, Victoria Fleury Wright, Anne-Sophie Cloutier
- **St. Patrick's High School Staff Award:** Roxanne

Letourneau, Jake Surette, Julianna Letellier, Jade Marier-Bonhomme, Rita Ineza Nganyira, Louis Marie de Montfort Nganyira, Elodie Rodrigue, Megan Brown, Emma Cantin, Cassandra Lemieux, Gabriel Beauregard, Sean Rhéaume, Madisson Cusson, Sharlie Rondeau, Marc-Antoine Thibault, Laurie Côté Fortin, Maxim Salvas, Romy Laflamme, Laurie Anne

Vaillancourt, Jen-Hsun Poon

- **School Letter:** Olivier Boulay, Julianna Letellier, Nicolas Shone
- **Masonic Foundation of Quebec Award** (on behalf of St. John's Lodge No. 3): Louis Marie de Montfort Nganyira, Stacy Morissette, Kayla Bisson
- **Student Council Award:** Nathaniel Caron, Megan Brown, Antonio Diaz, Emma

Lavoie, Rowan Bernier

- **Eastern Québec Learning Centre Scholarships:** Vivianne Dubuc, Marie Eve Beaulieu, Vincent Labine, Liam Walker, Sean Rhéaume, Joey Baril, Xavier Fortin, Jacob Proulx, Samuel Baller-Lafrenière, Sarah Naud, Matis Langlois, Emile Genois, Maxime Salvas, Charles Rosignol, Alyssia Courchesne, Stacy Morissette

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Artists' arches link Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples

CASSANDRA KERWIN
CASSANDRA@QCTONLINE.COM

Huron-Wendat artist Ludovic Boney's sculpture *Les Arches d'entente* was officially unveiled at the Musée de la Civilisation de Québec (MCQ) on June 21, National Indigenous Peoples Day. The piece symbolizes the evolution of the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples and the work that still needs to be done.

Boney found inspiration from the traditional long-houses of the Huron-Wendat people and from the iconic car shelters that spring up throughout the Quebec City region every winter. "By merging these two cultures in the recognizable form of arches, it symbolizes agreement," he said. "I wanted it to be an invitation to gather and to discuss. [...] We share traditions and culture inside our longhouses." The 18 aluminium arches reach a

maximum height of nine metres and go from white to gradient shades of blue with the tallest and last one in yellow.

"Today, National Indigenous Peoples Day, the unveiling of *Les Arches d'entente* highlights our relationships with the 11 First Nations in Quebec, including the Huron-Wendat Nation, for 33 years now. We continue to learn from our relationship and strengthen our bond with the utmost respect," said Stéphan La Roche, CEO of the museum. "Reconciliation is only possible if all sides are willing to share public spaces and to understand one another. As a museum, we have a big role to play."

In 2018 as the MCQ celebrated its 30th anniversary, it announced plans to incorporate more Indigenous art, such as Boney's piece, in *This Is Our Story*, its permanent exhibit on contemporary Indigenous culture.

Huron-Wendat Grand

Chief Rémy Vincent also spoke about the importance of reconciliation, especially in light of the fact that unmarked graves of children around residential schools in Canada continue to come to light. "I notice daily the hard work of the Huron-Wendat artists and artisans. This art piece allows the Huron-Wendat people to shine. To occupy such a prestigious place inside the MCQ is impressive and noteworthy," he said. "Hopefully, this work of art will invite visitors to discover our heritage and our people, as well those of other First Nations."

To conclude the event, Huron-Wendat musician and singer Keyara Gros-Louis performed a traditional song followed by one of her own compositions.

Wendake musician Keyara Gros-Louis performed a traditional Huron-Wendat song and one of her own compositions in honour of National Indigenous Peoples Day and the unveiling of *Les Arches d'entente*, in the background.



Huron-Wendat artist Ludovic Boney unveiled his piece *Les Arches d'entente* alongside museum CEO Stéphan La Roche on National Indigenous Peoples Day, June 21.



Photo by Cassandra Kerwin

Photo by Cassandra Kerwin



Les Arches d'entente by Huron-Wendat artist Ludovic Boney is now permanently installed in the great hall of the Musée de la Civilisation de Québec.

Photo by Cassandra Kerwin

New public square honours Huron-Wendat Nation

ADAPTED FROM A PRESS RELEASE
BY QCT STAFF

On June 21, National Indigenous Peoples Day, the Ville de Québec officially opened the Place de la Nation-Huron-Wendat, on land belonging to City Hall adjacent to Côte de la Fabrique. This new public square reinforces the unique links of friendship and fraternity that exist between the Ville de Québec and the Huron-Wendat Nation.

"Over the past few years, we have worked together to highlight the historic ties that define us," Mayor Régis Labeaume said. "By naming a spot situated in the heart of the city after the Huron-Wendat Nation, we are showing the importance that

these ties and the nation hold for us."

"A public square to commemorate our privileged relationship is a signal of the historic alliance that unites our nation and the Ville de Québec," said Grand Chief Rémy Vincent of the Huron-Wendat Nation. "Every visitor can now see the importance of that alliance, which will hopefully continue for a very long time. The city has always been, and will be, a chosen partner of the Huron-Wendat Nation." A plaque in honour of this centuries-old alliance has been installed in the square.

Coun. Alicia Despins, member of the executive committee responsible for culture, technoculture and major events, added that

the space was already home to a major work of art by Huron-Wendat artist Ludovic Boney. At 23 metres high, "*Codex Populi* is the tallest public work of art in the city! This is the perfect space to honour the [Huron-Wendat] community which is dear to us," Despins said.

Situated at a frequently visited intersection in the heart of the Old City, the area has been recently rejuvenated. In alignment with the redesign of the Jardins de l'Hôtel-de-Ville, the Place de la Nation-Huron-Wendat is designed to facilitate person-to-person connections. There will be seating on the site all summer, allowing residents and tourists to use the space to relax in a welcoming environment.



Local artist Ludovic Boney created a sculpture filled with details that make every angle unique. To see all the sculpture's nuances, it's best to have a telescopic camera lens, binoculars or a telescope.

People enjoy lunch next to the *Codex Populi*, a sculpture by Huron-Wendat artist Ludovic Boney. On June 21, National Indigenous Peoples Day, city officials unveiled a plaque marking the site where the sculpture stands as the Place de la Nation-Huron-Wendat.

Photo by Cassandra Kerwin

Photo by Cassandra Kerwin

Former Grande Allée beauty school getting major makeover

PETER BLACK
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER
PETERBLACK@QCTONLINE.COM

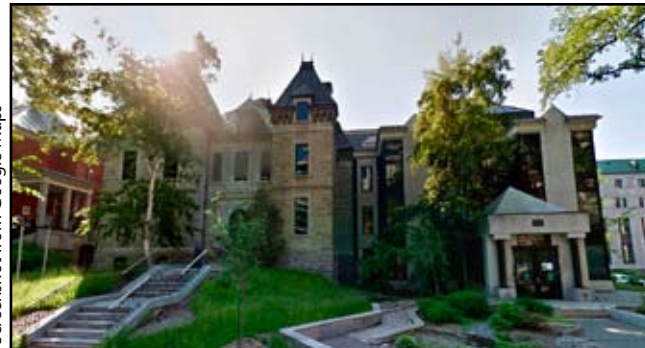
The former Lise Watier beauty institute on Grande Allée is getting a major makeover. In fact, the newer extension on the stately former mansion went under the wrecking ball last week to make way for a residential tower.

The property is situated next to the large building housing offices of the Ministry of Culture and Communications. Behind it, on Avenue Wilfrid-Laurier, are Martello Tower #2 and a distinctive little white house that had been a target for demolition a few years ago.

The condo rental project has gone through several changes following public hearings and the city's planning process, with the developer initially requesting a zoning change to permit a 25-metre-tall building with 41 housing units. The existing limit on a building in the zone was 13 metres, or four floors.

The city eventually agreed to a 20-metre maximum height, or six floors, with a total of 34 units. The building would essentially wrap around the original chateau-like stone house, which was built in the early 1900s.

The Lise Watier Institute, which occupied the original



This photo of the former Lise Watier Institute shows the modern extension (on the right) before it was demolished last week.

house for many years, added the modern structure in 1990, essentially doubling the surface area of the building. When the beauty school closed following Lise Watier's departure in 2013 from the cosmetics company

she created, the property was owned by the Industrial Alliance insurance company until it was sold to the developer.

The project promoter is Appartements Urbains, owned by Martin De Rico, which is developing the project



This image shows the future six-storey rental condo building to be called Le 333 Grande Allée.

for Montreal investors. The company website says Le 333 Grande Allée, as the building will be called, will have four two-storey townhouses and

units varying in size from 500 to 1,800 square feet. The \$10-million project is expected to be completed in summer 2022.

Screenshot from Google Maps

Image from Appartements Urbains

SPORTS

SPORTS

Remparts load up with 16 new players at QMJHL draft

LUC LANG
LUC.LANG@QCTONLINE.COM

It was graduation day for midget hockey players in Quebec and the Maritimes as the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League (QMJHL) held its annual entry draft on June 25 and 26.

The first pick of the draft belonged to the Sherbrooke Phoenix. They selected centre Ethan Gauthier from the Magog Cantonniers of the Quebec Midget AAA Hockey League.

The Quebec Remparts, who traded their two first-round picks to the Rimouski

Océanic earlier last week, waited for the second round to make their first selection. They chose Mathieu Wener, a 5-foot-8 defenceman from the Riverains of Collège Charles-Lemoyne (Campus Ville de Sainte-Catherine).

General manager Patrick Roy traded up to select goaltender Mathys Fernandez, from the Phénix of Collège Esther-Blondin (Lachenaie). Fernandez is the son of former NHL goaltender Manny Fernandez, who played 325 games with the Dallas Stars, Minnesota Wild and Boston Bruins.

After selecting 14 players in the QMJHL draft, the Remparts participated in the American draft, where they picked two players.

With the 11th pick of the first round, Quebec selected centre Cam Russo from the Neponset Valley River Rats (Massachusetts). In the second round, the Remparts selected Jonathan Lanza from the Boston Jr. Eagles.

More trades

In the days leading up to the draft, the Remparts made several trades to fill spots left open by the departure of

many players.

Roy traded Félix Bédard and two draft picks to Chicoutimi for defenceman Louis Crevier. He later obtained Christophe Farmer from Chicoutimi for a third-round pick.

Veteran Cole Cormier was dealt to the Gatineau Olympiques for former Lévis Chevaliers player Pier-Olivier Roy. The Remparts also acquired veteran goaltender Fabio Iacobo from Victoriaville for a second round pick in 2022.



Louis Crevier (24), seen here in the 2021 playoffs against Quebec, will be wearing the red and black Remparts jersey after general manager Patrick Roy acquired the tall defenceman in a trade.

Équipe Québec holding on to first place in the Frontier League

LUC LANG
LUC.LANG@QCTONLINE.COM

Patrick Scalabrini, the manager of Équipe Québec, is pulling all the right strings; his travelling Quebecers, who still haven't played a home game this season, are holding onto first place in the Frontier League's Atlantic division.

The team finished the last week with a record of four wins and two losses after playing the Lake Erie Crushers and the New Jersey Jackals.

In Avon, Ohio, Équipe Québec got off on the wrong foot against Lake Erie, losing the opening game 3-1 on June 22. The loss was the fourth in a row for the Fleurdelysée. However, the next day, June

23, veteran Gift Ngoepe hit his first home run of the season, with the bases loaded, and Équipe Québec scored five times in the first inning to cruise to a 5-0 victory over the Crushers.

Finally, on June 24, as Quebecers back home celebrated Fête nationale, Équipe Québec scored three runs in the 10th inning and won their final game against the Crushers, 10-8.

The team travelled to Little Falls, N. J., to face the Jackals for another three-game series.

The first game on June 25 was an offensive battle; David Glaude and catcher Ruben Castro had three RBIs each to lead Équipe Québec to a 10-7 victory. It was the team's fourth win in a row.

However, that winning streak ended on June 27, when the Jackals scored three runs in the first

inning, two in the third, two in the sixth and three in the seventh to seal a 10-3 victory.

As of June 28, after 29 games this season, Équipe Québec had a record of 15 wins and 14 losses. They hold a two-game lead over the New York Boulders, who have played two fewer games.

Équipe Québec and the Boulders are currently playing a three-game series that began June 29. The team will then go to Troy, N.Y., and face the Tri-City ValleyCats for the first time this season. The first game will be on July 2, and the team will leave Troy on July 4.

After a day off on July 5, Équipe Québec will be back in Augusta, N.J., to face the Sussex County Miners. The Miners have won all three games against the Fleurdelysée so far this season.



Gift Ngoepe is all smiles after hitting a grand slam as his first home run of the season. Manager Patrick Scalabrini congratulates the South African player as he heads for home plate.

Charlesbourg scores big in second inning in opening win over Quebec

LUC LANG
LUC.LANG@QCTONLINE.COM

The Charlesbourg Alouettes scored seven runs in the second

inning off Québec Diamants starting pitcher Thomas Couture to win the opening game of the season 9-5 on June 25 at Stade Canac.

The game marked the opening of the 75th season for the Ligue de Baseball Junior Élite du Québec (LBJEQ).

Two Québec Capitales alumni made their managerial debuts for the Alouettes and the Diamants: Josué Peley for Charlesbourg and Karl Gélinas for Québec.

Couture allowed four hits and seven earned runs in one-and-one-third innings and was credited with the loss. In that fateful second inning, Couture walked three batters and gave up a single and a triple, along with a wild pitch that drove in one run. During his short stint on the mound, Couture made 54 pitches. Anthony Fortin, who relieved Couture in the second inning, made 65 pitches in four-and-one-third innings.

For Charlesbourg, Thomas Drouin, Rafaël Boutin and Jean-Nicolas Lebrun had two RBIs each.

Alouettes relief pitcher Gabriel Boucher was credited with the win after replacing starter Charles-Antoine Pépin in the fourth inning.

The Alouettes will play their home games at Stade Canac until the new turf is ready at Parc Henri-Casault. They will be back in action on July 1 when they host the Saguenay Voyageurs for a doubleheader. The first game starts at 4 p.m. while the first pitch of the second game will be at 7 p.m. Saguenay will then host the Alouettes July 7 in

Jonquière.

The Diamants, after playing a home-and-home series against the Trois-Rivières Aigles this week (June 28 and 29), will be back at Stade Canac for two games against the Alouettes on July 2 and 3. Two days later, the Voyageurs will be in town to face the Diamants.



Work is continuing at Parc Henri-Casault, home of the Charlesbourg Alouettes. While city employees install a new field, the Alouettes will play home games at Stade Canac.

SERVICE GUIDE

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The Wellness Centre in the Jeffery Hale Pavilion promotes the well-being of English-speakers living in the Quebec City region
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Snowbirds, fighter jets and helicopters fly over Quebec City

CASSANDRA KERWIN
CASSANDRA@QCTONLINE.COM

Rain or shine, the Bagotville International Air Show (known by its French acronym SAIB) attracts crowds along its flight path. On June 26, despite the rain, people lined the banks of the St. Lawrence River for this biennial event.

“This is an aerial parade and not an aerobatic air show,” explained Cpl. Sandra Bordeleau in a video released on SAIBagotville.com. “Over certain cities, the planes do a three-minute loop before continuing on their parade. Each plane follows five minutes later. The show lasts about 75 minutes.” She continued, “Many people ask where the best places are to view the show: along the waterways and in cities.” For safety reasons, air shows are often done over uninhabited areas such as open water.

Crowds of physically distanced plane watchers formed on Dufferin Terrace, Place des Canotiers and the Promenade

Champlain in Quebec City, and on Quai Paquet in Lévis. Everyone had their eyes on the sky as early as 9:30 a.m. searching for the first planes: the Snowbirds. They came from the west, flying in formation, and flew by twice. This year, they had only enough fuel for a 90-minute parade route, which didn’t allow for the usual 15-minute aerobatics show, according to Capt. Gabriel Ferris, public affairs officer for the Snowbirds.

Spectators enjoyed seeing the CF-188 Hornet fighter jets fly in formations of four, then three. These fighter jets have a top speed of Mach 1.8 (1.8 times the speed of sound or 2,223 km/h). “We can’t [go that fast] over cities because we break windows and harm people. We always want to go faster, but we can’t,” said Col. Normand Gagné, president of SAIB 21 and commander of the 3e Escadre at CFB Bagotville. Gagné said the planes slowed down to about 800 feet per second (around 878 km/h) to fly safely over inhabited areas.



A CH-146 Griffon helicopter closed the Bagotville Air Show over Quebec City. This one, painted red and yellow, is used for search and rescue missions in collaboration with the Sûreté du Québec and local police departments.

The show continued with the largest planes of the fleet: the CC-150 Polaris, the CC-177 Globemaster III, the CP-140 Aurora and the CC-130J Hercules. These enormous planes are often used as transports.

The biggest one, the Globe-master, can carry three CH-146 Griffon helicopters. Their sheer size always impresses spectators.

The air show ended with CH-146 Griffon helicopters,



The CC-177 Globemaster III flies over Quebec City, passing the Samuel de Champlain monument. This huge transport plane is so big that three Griffon helicopters can fit inside its cargo hold.

some in iconic camouflage green and some in the red and yellow of the RCAF Search and Rescue Squadron. As heavier rain began to fall, the crowds dispersed 75 minutes after the show started.

According to Gagné, the next show will be during the Fête nationale weekend of 2023 and could include a new plane, yet to be revealed. For more information, visit saibagotville.com.

SNACS book sale at QHS draws hundreds

PETER BLACK
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER
PETERBLACK@QCTONLINE.COM

Hundreds of book lovers found bargains galore at the book sale at Quebec High School (QHS) this past weekend. It was held in support of the Jeffery Hale Partners (JHP) SNACS Entrepreneurs program and as a fundraiser for a QHS student humanitarian trip to Costa Rica.

As of early in the third and final day of the sale, organizers reported the event had exceeded expectations,

with more than 400 shoppers spending more than \$8,000. Books were priced at \$3 each.

The COVID-19 situation compelled sale organizers to improvise. The sale has been held at Eastern Québec Learning Centre (EQLC) for many years, but because of health measures, organizers arranged an online book sale with supplies of books stored at QHS.

Last year, a sale took place over five days at QHS at the end of June under strict pandemic health measures.

JHP executive director

Richard Walling said it’s likely there will be another book sale at the usual time in the fall, again at QHS, because that’s where the books are now stored. He said the sale may return to EQLC eventually.

Walling said “the student body makes a real difference” when the sale is at QHS, as students pitch in to help take on the massive job of sorting and placing books for sale on tables in the school gym.



Helping sort and place thousands of books are volunteers Linda Weseloh (second from left), Ed Sweeney (centre in black shirt), Richard Walling (in striped shirt), Claire Quenneville (with arm on box) and Nectaria Skokos (far right). The others are student volunteers involved in the QHS Costa Rica humanitarian trip project.

OPEN LETTER

Prime Minister, we need action on Islamophobia and racism

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau: As mayors of cities in which the two deadliest Islamophobic acts in Canadian history occurred, we wish to commend your government, and all members of Parliament, for voting unanimously in favour of convening an Emergency National Action Summit on Islamophobia.

The push for such a summit originated from the London Muslim Mosque. This mosque was attended by the Afzaal family – a family that lost four members when they were killed on June 6 in a horrific terrorist attack while out for an evening walk in their neighbourhood in London, Ont. This event occurred just four years after a separate terrorist attack inside a mosque in Quebec City that saw six members of the local Muslim

community killed and five others injured.

As a result of these and countless other vile Islamophobic incidents, both subtle and overt, the need for urgent action is undeniable. First and foremost, the voices of people representing Muslim communities from across Canada must be heard. Their experiences are vital and their voices essential. In addition, representatives of Canadian municipalities can support this process, committing to doing the work required to eradicate the scourge of Islamophobia across the country.

We share your determination and commitment to combating all forms of hatred and commend your government for convening a separate summit on anti-Semitism. It is our hope that this summit,

along with the Emergency National Action Summit on Islamophobia, will serve as a catalyst for measurable action in support of other racialized communities across our country. Prime Minister, we stand shoulder to shoulder with members of our local communities and with all Canadians who seek a safer, more equitable and compassionate Canada. We look forward to playing an active role in this work, while ensuring those who have been most directly impacted are provided ample consideration and space to lead.

Kind regards,
Ed Holder, Mayor of
London, Ontario
Régis Labeaume, Mayor
of Quebec City

Chronicle-Telegraph

(Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph Corporation Inc.)

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Canada



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Community Calendar of Events



Imagine Picasso is spending the summer at the **Quebec City Convention Centre** from **June 16 to Sept. 6**. Spectators will view more than 200 of the artist's paintings projected in a constantly changing format on floor-to-ceiling screens. Order your tickets at imagine-picasso.com.

June 17 to July 4 - The Festival Jazz en juin (et juillet) **de Québec** is back! More than 100 Quebec musicians will charm music lovers with 16 concerts at the Impérial Bell, Studio TELUS (Grand Théâtre) and the Salle Archemuse or via livestream. The event is twinned with the *Québec ville animée* project organized by the Ville de Québec. Twenty-one groups and some 60 musicians will offer impromptu performances in 21 parks and iconic places in the city. For details and tickets, visit festivalquebecjazzenjuin.com.

Discover the 11 Indigenous nations living in Quebec at the **KWE! Meet with Indigenous Peoples festival** from **June 18 to July 4**. An outdoor exhibit at Place Jean-Béliveau will bring to life the sights and sounds of Indigenous communities and territories. Livestreamed concerts and craft demonstrations will also be featured on the festival's Facebook and YouTube pages. Visit kwequebec.com/en for more information.

July 1 - Celebrate Canada Day! Visit feteducanadaquebec.ca for details.

On **Saturday, July 3**, there will be a special concert at **Chalmers-Wesley United Church** to celebrate the **Fête de la Ville de Québec** with organist **Jean Côté** giving two performances, at **12:30 and 2 p.m.** The church is open to visitors daily from **June 22 to Sept. 12**, from **10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**, **Sundays from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.** following worship services.

Wednesday, July 7 at 12 p.m. - Musical Wednesdays concert at **Chalmers-Wesley United Church**, 78 rue Ste-Ursule in Old Quebec, featuring **Samuel Croteau** (piano) and **Antoine Trépanier** (recorder and bassoon). All concerts up to Sept. 1 are free although donations are most welcome. Two gift certificates from the **Café-Bistro L'Omelette** (Café de Paris) will be drawn at the end of each concert. For more details, visit chalmerswesley.org.

Voice of English-speaking Québec (VEQ) offers **Out and About** activities for English speakers 50 and older with free transportation. Take the opportunity to get out, socialize and bond with others. Weekly outings include shopping trips, nature visits, excursions to Île d'Orléans, visits to museums, ice cream parlour trips and more! Activities and the number of spaces available are based on current public health measures. Visit veq.ca/our-community/upcoming-events for details. To offer suggestions or to register, contact Maria Hoyt at 418-683-2366 ext. 224 or maria.hoyt@veq.ca.

The **Library of the Literary and Historical Society of Québec**, located in the **Morrin Centre**, 44 Chaussée des Écos-sais in Old Quebec, is now open. Members in good standing will now be able to come to the library to browse the stacks and select books to check out. Although the library is open for borrowing books, the space is not yet open as a reading room. For the moment, only three members will be able to visit at a time. Reservations are required. To reserve your time slot and learn more about the protocols, visit morrin.org/en/explore-the-library. If you have difficulty reserving your time slot online, call 418-694-9147, ext. 228.

The **Domaine Forget du Charlevoix** in Sainte-Irénée, halfway between Baie-Saint-Paul and La Malbaie, presents many free concerts by students of the International Music and Dance Academy, and outdoor activities such as yoga in the sculpture garden and movies at dusk. Concerts in the Grand Hall feature well-known singers and musicians such as Les Violons du Roy, Gregory Charles and Marc Hervieux. For information and reservations visit domaineforget.com, call 1-888-336-7438, 418-452-3535 or visit the Domaine Forget de Charlevoix Facebook page.

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).*

Skeete, Joly address language law reform “anxiety”

RUBY PRATKA
RUBY@QCTONLINE.COM

Federal minister of official languages Mélanie Joly and MNA Christopher Skeete, parliamentary assistant to Premier François Legault for relations with English-speaking Quebecers, are trying to reassure members of the English-speaking community concerned about recently tabled language legislation.

Skeete and Joly spoke on June 22 during a conference organized by the Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN) entitled “Our Place in Quebec and Canada.”

Joly authored Bill C-32, a sweeping reform of the federal Official Languages Act (OLA). The QCGN has expressed concerns that the bill would “territorialize language rights,” keeping protections in place for most official language minority communities while allowing Quebec to encroach on protections for anglophones. Some elements of the bill have been interpreted as a concession to the Legault government, which tabled its

own language legislation, Bill 96, this spring.

“Nothing in [Bill C-32] is removing protections from any official language minority community, including Quebec’s English-speaking community,” said Joly. “We fundamentally disagree with the idea that Quebec has sole jurisdiction over language rights on its territory. Federal agencies, Crown corporations and former Crown corporations such as Air Canada will continue to provide service in both official languages.” She added that the law would reinforce language equity by giving the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages the power to order federally regulated businesses to comply with the OLA.

“If you’re used to going to your bank and receiving services in English, that will continue,” she added.

The QCGN has expressed objections to Bill 96, stating that the bill “creates a rights-free zone” in the name of the protection of French and places tough compliance obligations on small businesses and on some court litigants.

It’s rare for federal elected officials to publicly express an opinion about provincial legislation, and while Joly didn’t do so, she said she had “many questions” about the law and planned to “engage with our Quebec counterparts” to seek answers. Joly acknowledged that both bills were a “source of anxiety” for the English-speaking community.

Skeete also addressed this anxiety, noting, “I recognize that for the English-speaking community, [debate around language rights] is reminiscent of a time when things were very difficult, and I’m not insensitive to that.”

“What makes Quebec special is that we do speak French and we do have a different culture; French as a common language brings us together,” said Skeete, addressing a provision in Bill 96 that would establish French as Quebec’s common language. “That has nothing to do with whether we speak English among ourselves or in the streets. Language shouldn’t be a zero-sum game; we’re trying to enshrine the rights of the

English-speaking community while protecting French.” He compared French to a struggling student in need of extra help: “We need to give it a little more [protection], both inside and outside Quebec, to keep it viable.” He added that anglophones’ established rights to health care and justice in their own language wouldn’t be encroached upon.

A QCGN analysis of the bill was less reassuring, finding that increased paperwork translation burdens on English-speaking litigants could reduce access to justice in English and that the confidentiality of English-language medical records could be put at risk if the Office québécois de la langue française, which would have increased search powers, searched a private clinic. Skeete countered that the legislation “has nothing to do with your rights as an individual.”

Skeete also mentioned that anglophones would have a right to access French courses under the law. “If we can increase people’s level of French fluency, we can close the employment

gap between francophones and anglophones, and also move the needle on [anglophone representation in] the civil service,” he said.

Skeete’s analysis, in which he made a parallel between French in Quebec and in Louisiana, gave rise to many skeptical comments in the videoconference chat window. Neither elected official took questions, although Community Economic Development and Employability Corporation CEO John Buck spoke to the concerns of many when, while introducing Skeete, he raised concerns about the legislation: “On the eve of two major language reforms, it’s important to reiterate that the English-speaking community fully supports measures to protect and promote French



Federal minister of official languages Mélanie Joly authored Bill C-32.

in Quebec and across Canada. However, our support for the French language in no way [represents] acquiescence to any act to ignore, reduce or limit the viability of our community. While the English language is not threatened, the English[-speaking] community in Quebec is.”

SNACS book sale at QHS draws hundreds

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

Organizing the sale also requires many adult volunteers. Nectaria Skokos of JHP said at least 10 volunteers from the community have been working with the dozen or so student volunteers, who are raising money for a humanitarian visit to Costa Rica in 2022.

The SNACS program has run the book sale since 2018, when the Quebec City Women’s Club passed the torch for the popular event

after many years of organizing it.

Through its entrepreneurs program, SNACS – Special Needs Activities and Community Services – offers on-the-job training opportunities and employment to young adults with disabilities in order to “help them develop their life skills and social and vocational abilities, while also providing the community with quality services,” according to the program website.

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