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Marchers denounce excessive use of force by police

RUBY PRATKA
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER
RUBY@QCTONLINE.COM

More than 150 people marched through the streets of Old Quebec on Dec. 4 to call for an end to racial profiling and police brutality after a series of disturbing videos surfaced over the previous week.

In the early hours of Nov. 27 outside Le Dagobert, a Grande Allée nightclub popular with young people, Pacifique Niyokwizera, 18, and an unidentified young Black woman were dragged through the snow by officers of the Service de police de la Ville de Québec (SPVQ). In a video seen by the *QCT*, Niyokwizera, on his back in the snow, seems to offer little resistance as an officer punches him several times.

Niyokwizera's lawyer, Fernando Belton, said police arrested his client, threw away his phone and released him in another part of the city, leaving him to find his own way home, which Belton called "a classic intimidation tactic."



About 150 people, some of whom came from as far away as Ottawa, marched from the National Assembly through Old Quebec to City Hall. Their signs read "Black Lives Matter," "No to racial profiling" and "Yes to a humane civic police service."

Both Belton and SPVQ spokesperson Sandra Dion acknowledged that the exact timeline of events leading up to the arrest is unclear. "All we know is that there was an altercation inside the club close to closing time; the police say they were called and the club's owner says they were not," said Belton. Five SPVQ officers were

suspended following the incident. The SPVQ launched an internal investigation and the provincial police ethics commissioner's office and the Bureau des enquêtes indépendantes are also investigating. Niyokwizera, according to his lawyer, suffered a concussion as a result of the arrest. No charges had been filed as of this writing.

"This [use of force] may be legitimate, depending on what happened before and after [the events shown in the video], but it can't be routine," SPVQ chief Denis Turcotte told reporters on Dec. 2. "It's very worrisome, which is why I've opened an investigation."

Dion, the police spokesperson, said the in-



Julia Zaldua said she fears for her sons' safety as young Latino men growing up in Quebec City. "Whatever happened before, nothing justifies this brutality," her sign says.

ternal investigation would be "impartial" and run by a dedicated department within the force; Belton, for his part, said he had "serious reservations about the police investigating itself."

"Profiling exists every-

where in North America," he added. "It's a question of unconscious biases, not necessarily racist intentions on the part of individual officers."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Bonhomme announces the return of Winter Carnival



CASSANDRA KERWIN
CASSANDRA@QCTONLINE.COM

The snow falling on Quebec City has brought a flurry of excitement about the return of the Winter Carnival.

From Feb. 4 to 13, 2022, the city will be transformed into a giant winter playground for the 68th edition of the iconic winter festival.

Carnival-goers will discover Bonhomme's Ice Palace in the Zone Loto-Québec at Place de l'Assemblée-Nationale. The Bonhomme effigy, available in participating Couche-Tard stores for \$15 until Jan. 15 and for \$25 thereafter, will be needed to access the site. Bonhomme's 2022 ice palace was inspired by the grand windows of California villas, according to

Carnival programming director Alexis Ferland. "People can walk through every room of [Bonhomme's] home, and maybe even find his toothbrush," Ferland said.

The Carnival will kick off on Feb. 4 at 7 p.m. just outside the palace on the Loto-Québec stage, with the Hip-Hop Evening featuring Souldia, Zach Zoya, Naya Ali and Calamine. A week later, the program continues at 7 p.m. with the Electro Frette Evening with DJs CastNowski, Tony Romera and Bassjacks and a closing performance by the legendary Juno-nominated singer and DJ Missstress Barbara. The nearby SAQ bistro will be open to serve thirsty dancers.

Just up the road on Grande Allée, Place George-V will become Jos' Camp, complete

with the popular axe-throwing space, the logging obstacle course, the hockey shootout and the Trad Dance Revolution virtual reality game. People who enjoy solving puzzles and riddles can test their skills in A Forest Tale, an adventure quest game developed in partnership with Défi-Évasion. Those seeking a thrill can zip down the ice slides across the street in Parc de la Francophonie.

Like many major events last winter, the 67th Winter Carnival was scaled down due to public health restrictions. While organizers of last year's carnival managed to conserve many iconic elements, one thing was missed: the parade. For many, the Winter Carnival is incomplete without the night parade. The team behind the carnival came up with a plan to



Quebec Winter Carnival programming director Alexis Ferland, Quebec tourism minister Caroline Proulx, Bonhomme Carnaval, Mayor Bruno Marchand and general director Mélanie Raymond announced the program for the 68th Winter Carnival on Dec. 1.

revive a version of the parade this year while respecting public health measures: four stations on Grande Allée, each with its own illuminated float. The public can even climb aboard them for memorable photos.

The Scotiabank Snow Route with its 100 snow and ice sculptures will also return. People will be able to find the sculptures scattered in neighbourhoods around the city by using a mobile app.

Adventurous carnival-goers have the option of swimming in the Jacques-Cartier River on Feb. 5 or taking part in the St-Hubert Snow Bath on Feb. 13 at Jos' Camp. Those who prefer to

stay dry can always participate in the Marto Shovel-Sled Race on Feb. 6 at Bonhomme's Ice Palace or run the 1.5- or 11-kilometre Snowy Owl Challenge in Parc national de la Jacques-Cartier on Feb. 12. Registration is required for these events.

For more information on the 2022 Quebec Winter Carnival, visit carnaval.qc.ca.



Label /



COMMENTARY

'Some chicken! Some neck!': How the world changed in December 1941

PETER BLACK
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER
PETERBLACK@QCTONLINE.COM

In what has become a pandemic big book reading challenge, your scribe has assigned himself the mission of reading all six volumes of Winston Churchill's history of the Second World War.

Plowing through the third volume, *The Grand Alliance*, one can make a couple of observations. First, to paraphrase Churchill, war is indeed fought on the beaches, in the fields and in the hills, but it is also fought with memorandums, meetings and stenographers.

The volume of correspondence Churchill dictated during the course of the war is astounding, as is the mountain of material he had to digest from commanders, diplomats and

foreign leaders. In the latter regard, Churchill's back-and-forth correspondence with then-U.S. president Franklin Roosevelt is truly fascinating reading.

Addressing himself to FDR as "Former Naval Person," Churchill beseeched the president for help as the Nazis rained hell from the air on British cities, dockyards and factories in what was known as the Blitz. The Brits braced themselves for what seemed to be an inevitable invasion of their island – called Operation Sea Lion – by the massive German military machine.

Another thing the reader might conclude midway through Volume 3, if he or she knew nothing about the final outcome, is that Merrye Olde England was bound to end up a Nazi vassal state, as had France, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia,

Greece and a score of other countries.

By mid-1941, the British war command, especially the Royal Air Force, had managed to fend off the worst of Nazi air bombardment, but was being worn down by what Churchill described as his greatest fear, the relentless attacks by German submarines prowling the Atlantic Ocean. In the three months alone leading up to May 1941, Nazi U-boats sank 142 warships and cargo vessels loaded with vital materials, with, of course, a massive loss of human life.

Churchill, by the way, gives full credit to the Royal Canadian Navy for its role in providing protection from U-boat assault for convoys out of Halifax and St. John's, Newfoundland.

By May, with the Axis powers threatening to take control of the entire Mediterranean and

Middle East, Churchill had dropped much of the niceties in his letters to Roosevelt. "If all Europe, the greater part of Asia and Africa, became, either by conquest or agreement under duress, a part of the Axis system, a war maintained by the British Isles, United States, Canada and Australasia against this mighty agglomeration would be a hard, long and bleak proposition," he wrote.

"The one decisive counterweight," to this looming catastrophe, Churchill told Roosevelt, would be "if the United States were immediately to range itself with us as a belligerent Power."

As it turned out, the actions of hostile powers, not Churchill's pleading, finally compelled America to take up arms. Hitler launched his attack on the Soviet Union in June 1941,

thereby opening an eastern front that inevitably weakened the western one and increased the probability of an Allied reconquest of Europe, through France and Italy.

Then, 80 years ago this week, Japan attacked the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbour, Hawaii, and the wavering Americans were finally drawn into total war. "No American will think it wrong of me," Churchill writes, "if I proclaim that to have the United States at our side was to me the greatest joy."

Within two weeks, Churchill was at the White House conferring with Roosevelt. He touchingly describes wheeling the president around, "thinking of Sir Walter Raleigh spreading his cloak before Queen Elizabeth." The two most powerful democratic leaders of the 20th century visited each other as

they worked, "by need or habit," in their respective bedrooms.

From Washington, Churchill travelled by night train to Ottawa, where, in a thundering speech to Parliament on Dec. 30, 1941, he delivered one of his most famous lines. Referring to the capitulating generals of the Vichy government in France saying the Nazis would wring England's neck like a chicken in three weeks, Churchill growled: "Some chicken! Some neck!"

Churchill writes about the Ottawa speech: "Even while I spoke in confident tones, I could feel in anticipation the lashes which were soon to score our naked flesh ... Many dark and weary months of defeat and loss must be endured before the light would come again."

Much of which is documented – literally – in the remaining three volumes.

Club Med opens in Charlevoix with many jobs unfilled

PETER BLACK
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER
PETERBLACK@QCTONLINE.COM

There are still plenty of jobs available at Canada's first Club Med resort, about an hour east of Quebec City, at the foot of Le Massif de Charlevoix in Petite-Rivière-Saint-François.

The \$120-million luxurious but family-friendly destination opened its doors officially last week at a ceremony with dignitaries in attendance ranging

from Premier François Legault to Club Med president Henri Giscard d'Estaing.

Club Med Québec Charlevoix is the only year-round mountain resort of the 70-plus properties the France-based, Chinese-owned company operates. Club Med plans to open a similar concept resort in Utah in 2024. The company's only other resort in North America is in Florida.

The driving force in attracting Club Med to a mountain in Quebec was Daniel Gauthier, co-founder of Cirque du Soleil,

which got its start in Baie-Saint-Paul. Gauthier bought Le Massif in 2002 with the dream of turning the mountain into a world-class destination.

Gauthier, having established his own Massif de Charlevoix hotel and leisure complex, announced the Club Med deal for a 300-room resort in 2017. Since then, the project, situated further east on the mountain slope, has faced concerns from environmentalists about its impact and construction delays because of the pandemic.

Then came the challenge of staffing the resort at a time when Quebec and the rest of Canada are enduring a critical shortage of workers, particularly in the service sector.

"The situation is extremely difficult," Tourisme Charlevoix president Mitchell Dion told the *QCT* last week. "We're one of the industries that's having the

most trouble finding resources. It's been completely crazy since the summer, with lots of people coming from everywhere, so businesses had to adapt. It's continuing this winter, of course."

Dion said local tourism officials' major fear, that Club Med would suck up employees from existing outfits, has not materialized. "We haven't really noticed that by having Club Med it's removed many employees. The concept of stealing employees was already there before Club Med arrived."

Dion noted that a big employer like Club Med "puts additional pressure" on a region that only has about 30,000 year-round residents.

Fully staffed, Club Med would employ 350 workers. Of the approximately 90 per cent already hired, company officials say about 40 per cent come from outside the Charlevoix region.



The new Club Med Québec Charlevoix opened last week and started welcoming visitors to the 300-room resort.

The familiar GO (*gentils organisateurs*) positions, 150 of them, were filled quickly in the summer, Club Med officials say.

As of this writing, 39 positions were on offer at the Charlevoix resort, several of which were advertised in English. Some of the jobs require fluency in "at least two languages," one of which, presumably, would be French.

The vacant positions cover a wide range of fields, including child care workers, bar and kitchen staff, housekeepers, ski technicians and lifeguards.

As of last week, Club Med officials say more than 19,000 reservations have been made for the coming months. The annual capacity of the resort is about 50,000 bookings.

Wondering how you can help Santa?

SUBMITTED BY DIANE KAMEEN,
COMMUNICATIONS ADVISOR,
JEFFERY HALE COMMUNITY
PARTNERS / WELLNESS
CENTRE

The Community Christmas Hamper Campaign could still use a couple of volunteers for its calling team, as well as a few more drivers to help deliver some goodness (boxes of groceries) on Delivery Day, Dec. 18.

Drivers must have a

valid driver's licence and bring a helper who can lift at least 25 pounds. The driver and his or her helper *must* be from the same household. Both will also need to send their proof of vaccination in advance by email to Nectaria Skokos at nskokos@jhparkers.net.

If you are interested, you can register by visiting qchampers.ca/#volunteer or using our BetterImpact volunteer platform at tinyurl.com/ye25f2xy.



The Community Christmas Hamper Campaign, especially Santa and his little helpers, are glad to be back home at the Eastern Québec Learning Centre this year. His sleigh is awfully full, however, and he would welcome some help with the deliveries.

HELP DELIVER SOME GOODNESS

Objective: \$50,000



Raised to date: \$17,493

Once again this year, there can be no food collection due to the pandemic. Your monetary donations are greatly appreciated! Please give online to this 26th annual campaign by visiting qchampers.ca or mail your cheque to the Community Christmas Hamper Campaign, 2000-1270, chemin Sainte-Foy, Québec QC G1S 2M4. Questions? Please call 418 684-5333, ext. 11835.

We will publish all donor names together in January

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

STREET VIEWS

The story behind Rue Couillard

SHIRLEY NADEAU
SHIRLEY@QCTONLINE.COM

This street in Old Quebec is named in honour of Guillaume Couillard de l'Espinau (1588-1663) and crosses what was once his property.

Originally from Saint-Malo, France, Couillard arrived in Quebec in 1613, at the age of 25. At the time, he was a carpenter, sailor and caulker for the Compagnie des Cent-Associés. He was one of the first immigrants to permanently settle in the colony.

On Aug. 26, 1621, in the presence of Samuel de Champlain, he married Guillemette Hébert, the daughter of Louis Hébert and Marie Rollet, at Église Notre-Dame de Québec. It is the first marriage recorded on the parish registers of the church. The couple would eventually have 10 children.

After his father-in-law died in 1627, Couillard took over the farming of his lands, having

inherited, through his wife, half of Hébert's estate. In the same year, Champlain granted to Couillard "100 acres of land to clear and seed," which bordered the St. Charles River. He is said to have been the first person in Quebec to use a plough to turn the soil, in the spring of 1628.

By 1632, Couillard had nearly 20 acres under cultivation, and by 1639 he owned a flour mill. The same year, although Couillard could neither read nor write, Governor Huault de Montmagny appointed him a "clerk responsible for inspecting the sown lands and the food of the settlers of Quebec."

In December 1654, Couillard was ennobled by King Louis IV in recognition of his "services rendered to the country of Canada." He was now Sieur de l'Espinau.

Guillaume Couillard died in his house on March 4, 1663 and was buried the next day in



Screenshot from Google Maps

Rue Couillard is a narrow, one-way street in the Latin Quarter of Old Quebec. It runs from the bottom of Côte de la Fabrique, where it becomes Rue Saint-Jean, to Rue Sainte-Famille.

the chapel of the Hôtel-Dieu, in recognition of the gifts he had made to that institution.

Three years after Couillard's death, his wife sold their house and a good part of the surrounding land to Bishop

François de Laval for the establishment of the Séminaire de Québec. The site of the house is marked by a cairn in an inside courtyard of the seminary.

Couillard's numerous descendants include Philippe

Couillard, who served as premier of Quebec from 2014 to 2018.

(Sources: *Ville de Québec toponymie*, *Wikipedia* and *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*)



Photo by Shirley Nadeau

This statue of Guillaume Couillard stands at the base of a monument to his father-in-law, Louis Hébert, in Montmorency Park facing Rue des Remparts. Couillard married Guillemette Hébert, the daughter of Hébert and Marie Rollet, in 1621.

MEMORIALS AND THINGS OF FAME

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

December 10, 1821 – The Quebec Gazette

The Weather

At the close of last week there was no snow on the ground about Montreal or ice in the river. Gentlemen who have lately arrived from that city say there was some snow on the ground at Berthier, but from Three Rivers, the sleighing was good.

December 7, 1871 – The Morning Chronicle

One Person's Loss is some other Party's Gain – Mr. F. Boscovitz being unable to leave by Tuesday's train, in consequence of the severity of the weather and the impossibility of the steamer *Arctic* to cross, he is compelled to postpone his next recital in Montreal. ... As there is every appearance of this severe weather continuing, he intends to stop in Quebec this week and give another, and the last, of his popular piano-forte recitals on Saturday evening next.

December 7, 1896 – The Quebec Morning Chronicle

The New French Newspaper

The first number of *L'Avant Garde*, the new French morning newspaper established in this city, was issued on Saturday morning from the office of *L'Evenement*, where it is printed. ... There will be some surprise for the public when they find amongst the list of those concerned in the establishment and permanence of the new Conservative organ, the names, not only of leading members of that party, but also of some prominent citizens who have been hitherto known as Liberals, but who are participating in the new exodus from the ranks of the party due to the manner in which they have been betrayed by their party leaders. ... *L'Avant Garde* promises to be a warm ally of the Conservative party in the coming electoral contest.

December 10, 1921 – The Quebec Chronicle

A New England Murder Is Agitating Fifteen Nations

"Save Sacco and Vanzetti!" Most of the countries of Europe and South America, even Mexico, it is said, are better acquainted with this slogan than is America, where it originated. Within a few weeks a Massachusetts court will decide whether the two Italians convicted of murder shall have a new trial, and in the meantime bomb outrages, boycotts of American goods, and general strikes throughout the world will emphasize the international Communist conviction that the men are being railroaded to death, not because of what they did, but because of what they thought.

Thus far, bombs have been sent to the American Ambassador in Paris and to the American Consul-General in Lisbon. American representatives in Havana, Peru, Buenos Aires and Juarez, Mexico have been warned that their own deaths will follow the execution of the two Italian Communists.

Note from Lorie: Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti were co-defendants in a controversial murder trial in Massachusetts, U.S. (1921–27), that resulted in their executions. Opinion has remained divided on whether Sacco and Vanzetti were guilty as charged or whether they were innocent victims of a prejudiced legal system and a mishandled trial. Some writers have claimed that Sacco was guilty but that Vanzetti was innocent. Many historians believe, however, that the two men should have been granted a second trial.

On the 50th anniversary of their deaths, in 1977, the governor of Massachusetts, Michael S. Dukakis, issued a proclamation stating that Sacco and Vanzetti had not been treated justly and that no stigma should be associated with their names. (Source – Encyclopedia Britannica)

One of many protests to save Sacco and Vanzetti was held in London, England in 1921.



Image via Wikimedia Commons, public domain

December 7, 1956 – The Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph

Council Approves Resolution For Water-Front Boulevard

The City Council, at its first regular meeting of the 1956-59 term, yesterday adopted fifteen resolutions, chief among which was one concerning the construction of a 60-foot wide boulevard along the site of Champlain Street. The resolution, which was adopted in principle Tuesday by the administrative committee, asks the federal government to participate in large measure in the construction of the new boulevard along the Quebec waterfront on the site of the Canadian National Railways right of way. This is one of the biggest projects planned by the new municipal administration during the next three years.

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

RECYC-QUÉBEC and Protégez-Vous team up to prolong life of appliances

ADAPTED FROM A PRESS RELEASE
BY RUBY PRATKA
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER
RUBY@QCTONLINE.COM

How can we take care of the appliances we use in a way that prolongs their lifespan? RECYC-QUÉBEC and *Protégez-Vous* have teamed up to provide a set of tools that will answer this question and more.

A free interactive map of Quebec businesses specializing in appliance and air conditioner repair is available to guide consumers in their purchasing decisions and in taking care of their appliances. The guidebook *100 Trucs pour faire durer vos appareils domestiques* (in French; \$6.95 with a discount for *Protégez-Vous* subscribers) and a reparability rating incorporated into the *Protégez-Vous* testing system are also available to assist consumers.

Can you rinse a hot pan in cold water? How should you maintain a refrigerator to give it the longest possible lifespan? Is there a repair shop nearby for your toaster,

washing machine or drier? Is your broken appliance repairable? Those are just a few of the everyday questions that the guide intends to answer.

According to the most recent behavioural study by RECYC-QUÉBEC, conducted in 2021, nearly eight out of 10 respondents try to have their appliances repaired before replacing them. Thanks to this interactive map, this will now be easier. "Knowing that the products you buy are repairable, being able to identify repair shops near you and learning tips to prolong the lives of your appliances are all things you can do to take concrete action, buy smarter and move toward a waste-free Quebec," said Sonia Gagné, CEO of RECYC-QUÉBEC. "This is what our partnership with *Protégez-Vous* provides."

"Traditionally, *Protégez-Vous* was known for conducting performance tests on consumer products," explained Clémence Lamarche, head of testing at *Protégez-Vous*. "However, we've observed that people don't only want high-per-

forming appliances; they want appliances that are long-lasting, repairable and have a minimum impact on the environment. Through reliability surveys, reparability scores and social responsibility audits, we are putting in place more thorough evaluations that will respond better to the needs of today's and tomorrow's consumers."

The partnership between these two organizations, which has led to the development of the first reparability rating system in Quebec, allows consumers to base purchasing decisions on new criteria; namely, which appliances are the most reliable and the easiest to repair. Products including barbecue grills, espresso machines and vacuum cleaners have already been evaluated based on this rating system; others, such as washing machines, stoves and refrigerators, will be evaluated over the next few months.

To discover the free, interactive map of repair shops (in French), visit protegez-vous.ca/electromenagers/carte-interactive-des-reparateurs.

QHS students serve up cupfuls of talent at the Coffeehouse

CASSANDRA KERWIN
CASSANDRA@QCTONLINE.COM

On the evening of Dec. 3, Quebec High School (QHS) hosted the annual Music Concentration Coffeehouse.

After listening to instructions given by Meadow Groulx and Alexis Ouellet, members of the QHS Improv Team, the audience settled in for a two-hour show filled with 16 acts. The duo only returned at the end of the show, leaving some gaps between acts. Fortunately, the show itself, despite a few technical glitches, was more than enough to entertain the crowd.

The show opened with Tommy Fequet dropping in live from Calgary through a video link. He introduced his pre-recorded cover of "Writing on the Wall" by Sam Smith. Dressed in black tie, he performed in front of the stunning backdrop of the snow-covered Rocky Mountains.

Nathan Lajoie on drums accompanied Benjamin Rouleau on electric guitar for a cover of "Enter Sandman" by Metallica. Halfway through the impressive performance, Rouleau realized the connected pedal was unplugged. His quick thinking and charming personality kept the crowd entertained and he continued the song. A few



With the Rockies in the background, Tommy Fequet performed a cover of "Writing on the Wall" by Sam Smith.

acts later, he returned for a solo performance on acoustic guitar of "Say You Won't Let Go" by James Arthur. Not only can he play, but he can sing.

There are also plenty of actors at QHS. A group of six students make up the Improv Team. For the first of two acts, they had to do skits on two themes: "Brutally Honest" and "Short Temper." For the former, they stuck with a couples therapy session, while for the latter, they went with many brief scenes. For the second segment, "Equilibrium," they had to redo the same scene in different settings: a marriage proposal as a reality television episode, a western,

a musical and a fancy dinner. No matter what they did, they had the audience laughing and cheering.

The show continued with more musical performances, including a Taiwanese song sung and performed on guitar by Ung Yu Lin. Next, Nicolas Arsenault, dressed as the legendary Freddie Mercury, with guitarists Félix Turner-Dufour and Dalio Lemieux, gave the performance of the evening with a cover of "We Will Rock You" by Queen. The crowd stomped their feet and clapped their hands to the beat. Arsenault is a funny performer who has a lot of talent and stage presence.

The show ended with a

stunning performance from singer Jade Renaud and guitarist Cedric Edgeley, who did covers of "Yellow" by Coldplay and "Closer" by The Chainsmokers.

Half of the proceeds of the evening went to the Quebec City Community Christmas Hamper Campaign, and the other half went to fund performing arts and music programs and activities at QHS. The proceeds from the raffle supported a student group planning a humanitarian trip to Costa Rica.

Cedric Edgeley and Jade Renaud closed the Coffeehouse with "Yellow" by Coldplay and "Closer" by The Chainsmokers.



The QHS Improv Team kept the crowd laughing with their skits during the 2021 Music Concentration Coffeehouse.



SLC business students finish second at the Coupe Paillé

CASSANDRA KERWIN
CASSANDRA@QCTONLINE.COM

On Nov. 19 and 20, three CEGEP Champlain-St. Lawrence (SLC) third-year students Thomas Delisle, Thomas Simoneau and Samuel Barbeau finished second in the accounting division at the second Coupe Paillé, a marketing and financing competition for CEGEP students, held in Berthierville.

After a successful first edition in 2020 in the Lanaudière region, Cégep régional de

Lanaudière (CRdL) in Joliette, in partnership with GM Paillé, a car dealership in Berthierville, opened the competition up to 11 CEGEPs around the province that offer administrative and technical programs. In total, GM Paillé offered \$20,000 in prize money.

This year, 150 participants competed to solve complex case studies in accounting or marketing, based on real-life examples. After being placed in isolation without internet access, each of the 31 teams had three hours to find a solu-

tion and present it to the jury.

Following the competition, organizers, participants and teachers attended a gala hosted by comedian Jérémie Larouche.

CRdL Terrebonne and CRdL Joliette respectively won the marketing and accounting competitions, each receiving a \$6,000 prize.

Delisle, Simoneau and Barbeau from St. Lawrence finished second in the accounting competition, which included a \$3,000 prize. In addition, Simoneau was named the best



Samuel Barbeau, Thomas Simoneau and Thomas Delisle placed second in the accounting division at the Coupe Paillé, a provincewide business competition for CEGEP students. They also won a \$3,000 cash prize.

orator of the accounting competition and won a top-of-the-line iPad and keyboard. The SLC marketing team, composed of Christophe Lalande, Noah Gorman and Justin McNicoll-Tardif, gave an excellent performance, but did not make it past the first round.

Delisle, Simoneau and Barbeau say they were friends first and teammates second. Their friendship, along with their part-time jobs in accounting firms and their positive attitudes, gave them the tools to blow away the competition.

"I knew I could be in isolation for hours on end with these two guys. I also know

they [would] think of things that I would not even consider and bring so much to the table. We knew teaming together would give us a leg up in the competition," said Simoneau. "We spent the night before the competition looking up all the translated terms, learning them and memorizing them. This was our major disadvantage. In the end, we did very well."

"We didn't expect anything from this competition, which helped us a lot," said Delisle. "In preparation for the competition, we worked on different strategies that involve car dealerships, because the main

sponsor is a car dealership. When we got our case concerning an empty dealership parking lot, we presented a go-kart centre as a temporary solution and as a great investment in future drivers and car owners."

"Because we were the third to last team to present our solution, we didn't really know where we stood among our competitors," said Barbeau. "It came as a surprise that we came in second, and we couldn't be happier. This was our first competition and we will do more. It was such a fun experience."

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Getting vaccinated is the best way to protect us all.

The Lost Fingers decorate Christmas tunes with exotic world music

PETER BLACK
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER
PETERBLACK@QCTONLINE.COM

Whether they've been naughty or nice, Christmas has been good to Quebec City's inimitable gypsy jazz band, The Lost Fingers. In turn, the Fingers have been very good for Christmas music, with two holiday-themed recordings sparkling among the blizzard of holiday music.

Christmas Caravan, released in 2016, and *Coconut Christmas*, which came a year later, feature a total of 25 songs – the number is deliberate – offering new and exotic twists on many old favourites, some original compositions and a few treats pulled from the musical Christmas stocking.

The Fingers also have a third Christmas album of instrumental versions of songs chosen from the two albums that have vocals.

The Lost Fingers will be performing a selection of those songs as part of the *Live dans ton salon* (livedanstonsalon.com) virtual concert series. The show debuts on Dec. 10 and will be avail-

able for viewing until Jan. 9. Tickets are \$20.

Byron Mikaloff, the British Columbia transplant who put the Fingers together in 2006, said virtual shows, many for private companies, "have kept the band alive" during the pandemic, although he "misses the heat" of live audiences. Virtual shows, he told the *QCT* last week, are expensive to organize and require much more co-ordination, "particularly since we [the four members of the band] live in different cities."

It's also been a challenge for the sartorially distinctive band. "The look is a huge part of The Lost Fingers. We like to offer people a visual experience. We work so hard on that as well as the music. When you try to do costume changes in different cities, it's insane," he said.

The pandemic-forced reduction in the number of live concerts the band normally does gave individual Fingers the opportunity to pursue other endeavours. "We all have kids, mouths to feed," Mikaloff said.

Guitarist François Rioux, for example, completed his doctorate in music and took a teaching position at Uni-

versité Laval. Mikaloff found work operating heavy equipment like backend loaders and snowplows. "I really like it. I've always liked Tonkas and things like that, since I was a kid," he said, adding that he's written songs while in the cab of the machines. "I wrote one called 'Lunar Rover' where I imagined I was on the moon with one of these things."

Another change in the Mikaloff household is his wife Isabelle Roy's new job as a Quebec City councillor following her win in the November election.

There's been a significant change in the band as well. Singer Valérie Amyot, a former finalist in the *La Voix* singing competition, had to leave the band in 2019 for health reasons. Her replacement is Rosalie Roberge, who Mikaloff says has "*je ne sais quoi*" with "this really cool aura when she steps on stage."

Mikaloff said Roberge, who performs on The Lost Fingers' most recent album *VS. Lost in the 90s* – an update on the band's album *Lost in the 80s* – brings a different style to the songs on the two Christmas albums, both of



Photo courtesy of The Lost Fingers

The Lost Fingers are, from left, Byron Mikaloff, Rosalie Roberge, Alex Morissette and François Rioux.

which were recorded before Amyot's departure.

Mikaloff said he's pleased with the new composition of the foursome, which also includes bassist Alex Morissette.

The title song from *Coconut Christmas* has gotten a little unexpected exposure, Mikaloff said. He was contacted by the research team for the 2020 Netflix movie *Operation Christmas Drop*, which takes place partly on the Pacific island of Guam.

One of the team, seeking

tropically themed Christmas music for the movie, Googled "coconut Christmas" on a whim, and up popped The Lost Fingers' tune of the same name. Contact was made and a deal inked, and "Coconut Christmas," Mikaloff notes, now "gets 20 seconds [on the soundtrack] before a song from CeeLo Green."

What makes the Lost Fingers' approach to holiday music unique in an annual flood of Christmas tunes is the focus on the infinite possibilities of world music,

which provide an entirely new perspective on overworked classics.

"World music has always existed, but I think it's like everything in music; it's pretty much been done," said Mikaloff. "Now it's how you mix it up, and I think there's the door to world music and mixing cultures that's going to give you new sounds – at least that's my vision, and I think our Christmas albums are a good example of what could be done."

Caroline Monnet's *Debouttes!* to be displayed at UNESCO in Paris

CASSANDRA KERWIN
CASSANDRA@QCTONLINE.COM

A collage in honour of Indigenous women by a local Quebec City artist will soon be displayed at the UNESCO World Heritage Centre in Paris. *Debouttes!* by multidisciplinary artist Caroline Monnet will soon cross the Atlantic. Its arrival will mark the 15th anniversary of the agreement between the government of Quebec and the government of Canada on UNESCO.

The large (3-metre x 1-metre) work of art was unveiled on Dec. 1 at the Musée de la Civilisation. "This decision is motivated by the evocation, in the work of Caroline Monnet, of the universal values that UNESCO, Quebec and Canada convey through education, science

and culture," said Hélène Drainville, assistant deputy minister of African, Francophonie and multilateral affairs at the Quebec ministry of Francophonie and international relations. "It also highlights the remarkable contribution of Indigenous peoples to the diversity of cultural expressions, at the dawn of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (2022-2032)."

"It is an honour to be included in the prestigious UNESCO collection as an artist, but it is all the more important that through this work, the struggles of Indigenous women are recognized beyond our own borders," said Monnet, an artist with French and Anishinaabe roots who was born in Inuvik, N.W.T., and raised in the



Photo by Cassandra Kerwin

Debouttes!, a collage by local artist Caroline Monnet, will be on display at the UNESCO World Heritage Centre in Paris.

Outaouais region. "For me, it is highly symbolic. I created *Debouttes!* a few days after the sudden, tragic and highly publicized death of Joyce Echaquan. It pays tribute to her and all women who, despite being often forgotten and cast aside, continue to mobilize and work hard for future generations. I wanted to bring colours to images that are too often in black and white. The women I chose to integrate into my piece are standing tall and proud with their fists in the air."

As Michel Bonsaint, the Quebec government representative to the permanent delegation of Canada at UNESCO, explained, "*Debouttes!* was immediately accepted as part of this prestigious exhibit because it represents the values of UNESCO, Quebec and Canada. "*Debout*' (stand up) is a strong term in French. '*Se tenir debout*' is even stronger.



Photo by Cassandra Kerwin

Hélène Drainville, assistant deputy minister of African, Francophonie and multilateral affairs at the Quebec ministry of Francophonie and international relations, artist Caroline Monnet, Minister of Culture Nathalie Roy, director general of the Musée National des Beaux-arts du Québec Jean-Luc Murray and Stéphan La Roche, CEO of the Musée de la Civilisation, were present at the unveiling of *Debouttes!*

'*Se tenir deboutte*' in Quebec French reaches our deepest pride and our aspirations. '*Debouttes*' in the feminine plural form is something very Québécois; it speaks loudly and shows that these women and their culture are not

ready to back down."

In 2021, Quebec celebrated the 15th anniversary of the Agreement between the government of Quebec and the government of Canada relating to UNESCO, and consequently, of its formal

presence within the permanent delegation of Canada to UNESCO. Officially signed on May 5, 2006, it is the sole agreement of its kind in Canada or UNESCO, and gives Quebec a unique position in international affairs.



Photo by Cassandra Kerwin

On Dec. 1 at the Musée de la Civilisation, Caroline Monnet unveiled her collage, *Debouttes!* to be displayed at the UNESCO World Heritage Centre in Paris.

MNBAQ honours artist Jean-Paul Riopelle with new pavilion

SHIRLEY NADEAU
SHIRLEY@QCTONLINE.COM

As the 100th anniversary of the birth of Jean-Paul Riopelle (1923-2002), one of Quebec's most renowned artists, approaches, Premier François Legault and Minister of Culture and Communications Nathalie Roy recently announced a \$20-million government investment for the creation of Espace Riopelle, a signature building dedicated to the artist which will be integrated into the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec (MNBAQ).

During a press conference at the museum on Dec. 2, Legault said, "The creation of Espace Riopelle is a way of making the immense works Riopelle bequeathed to us accessible to all. ... His works are a reflection of our culture and our identity, the soul of our people."

The complex will be built on the site of the current central

pavilion, between the Gérard-Morisset and Charles-Baillairgé pavilions, overlooking the Plains of Abraham and the St. Lawrence River.

The new pavilion, to be inaugurated in 2025, will permanently house the world's largest public collection of Riopelle's works. Estimated at a total value of \$143 million, the project is the result of a unique partnership.

The Jean-Paul Riopelle Foundation will match the government's \$20 million with another \$20 million for the construction of the building and donate 60 works by Riopelle valued at more than \$100 million. Thus, the four founding families of the foundation, represented by Michael J. Audain, France Chretien Desmarais and André Desmarais, Pierre Lassonde and Yseult Riopelle, the artist's daughter, will substantially enrich the collection of the MNBAQ.

The Fondation du Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec will contribute an additional \$2.5 million to the project to highlight the flagship work of the museum's Riopelle collection, *Hommage à Rosa Luxemburg*, which is currently on view in the corridor connecting the Pierre-Lassonde pavilion to the central pavilion. The 40-metre-long triptych was created by Riopelle in his studio on Île-aux-Oies after learning of the death in Paris of his former companion, the American artist Joan Mitchell (1926-1992). It is the largest work of art ever created by Riopelle, and the largest ever acquired by the museum.

An architectural competition will take place in 2022 to determine the pavilion's design, and construction is slated to begin in the summer of 2023, coinciding with celebrations of the 100th anniversary of Riopelle's birth.



Photo by Shirley Nadeau

Premier François Legault (far left) announced the government's investment in the building of the Espace Riopelle, a new pavilion of the MNBAQ that will house the world's largest collection of the artist's works. Seated at the table are MNBAQ board chairperson Christiane Germain; Michael J. Audain, chair of the board and founding member of the Riopelle Foundation; Nathalie Roy, minister of culture and communications; and Pierre Lassonde, founding member of the Riopelle Foundation. Some of Riopelle's works are displayed behind them.

Swings, lights and fire pits offer interactive fun at Place Jean-Béliveau

CASSANDRA KERWIN
CASSANDRA@QCTONLINE.COM

As temperatures keep dropping, people can warm up at Place Jean-Béliveau during the second edition of the outdoor exhibit *Plein les yeux et les oreilles* until Jan. 9. Two of the three installations will keep visitors warm if they move.

Recent snow and cold temperatures have transformed Place Jean-Béliveau into a giant ice rink on which groundskeepers quickly sprinkled gravel, not completely eliminating the risk of slips and falls. Despite the ice, visitors of all ages are drawn to the area. After last year's edition of *Plein les yeux et les oreilles* attracted over 65,000 visitors, it is no surprise to see people heading to the area after completing their shopping at the Grand Marché de Québec or getting their COVID-19 booster shot at ExpoCité.

The tall, colourful illuminated posts are quite an attraction, especially for children. *Roseaux* changes colours and produces sounds when people tap and jump on the base. It was created by UDO Design and Serge Maheu and put together by IToMn.

A series of red cabin frames, with a red bench swing hanging in each one, creates a partial wall on two of the four sides of the space. There is room for two adults on each swing. *Mi Casa, Your Casa 2.0* by Esrawe+Cadena was inspired by the *mercados* (public markets) of Mexico, and the size and colours of the frames evoke the warm and welcoming atmosphere of a family home.

Before continuing with their day, people can relax in



Photo by Cassandra Kerwin

A father shows a child how this multicoloured illuminated pole, part of the *Roseaux* installation, works through motion sensors.

blue Adirondack chairs next to propane fire pits. There's something here to please everyone.

The third installation, *Sonic Runway*, consists of an illuminated corridor pulsating at the speed of sound, and will be accessible from Feb. 12 to Mar. 13, 2022. According to an ExpoCité press

release, a fourth installation may appear later this winter, weather permitting – a 320-metre illuminated path through the wooded area.

The site operates from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. from Sunday to Wednesday and from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Thursday to Saturday. For more information, visit expocite.com.



These tall, multicoloured illuminated posts with handles intrigue visitors to Place Jean-Béliveau and the Grand Marché de Québec. Sounds and lights are activated when people jump and dance on their bases. *Roseaux* is popular with people looking to jump around a little to fend off the winter chill.



Photo by Cassandra Kerwin

This row of large red frames, each with a swing bench, invites the public to participate in this display. With each swing, the power of the base light increases. *Mi Casa, Your Casa 2.0* will continue until Jan. 9, 2022.



Photo by Cassandra Kerwin

People of all ages enjoy the swing sets of *Mi Casa, Your Casa 2.0*, which is part of the *Plein les yeux et les oreilles* exhibit.



Photo by Cassandra Kerwin

REVIEWS

David Jacques tells the story of 12 guitars

SHIRLEY NADEAU
SHIRLEY@QCTONLINE.COM

Guitarist David Jacques and five members of Les Violons du Roy welcomed some 50 people to an intimate concert in the Salle D'Youville of the Palais Montcalm on Dec. 1. This was the first concert given in this room for almost two years, pointed out Laurent Patenaude, co-executive director and artistic director of the orchestra.

As members of the audience took their places at the small tables for two and enjoyed a glass of wine, they could see that the stage was set with a dozen of Jacques' impressive collection of over 100 historical guitars.

Jacques said he bought his first guitar when he was only 17 years old so he could play Beatles songs. He thought it

was an old guitar at the time (it was made in 1963), whereas the oldest guitar he now owns was made in 1665.

He played solo and was accompanied by violinists Michelle Seto and Véronique Vychytil, violist Annie Morrier, cellist Benoit Loiselle and bassist Raphaël McNabney.

Jacques gave the history of each guitar and where and how he acquired it. The oldest was a baroque guitar built by Alexandre Voboam in Paris in 1665. The "youngest" was a mere 49 years old, built by Daniel Friederich, also in Paris, in 1972. The others dated back to the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries, all made in European cities.

One particularly strange-looking instrument turned out to be a *guitare théorbée*, a mixture of a guitar and a long-necked theorbo, a type

of lute.

Jacques and the other musicians presented a concert with music composed by Gaspar Sanz, Luigi Boccherini, Santiago de Murcia, Niccolò Paganini, Juan Antonio de Vargas y Guzmán, Fernando Sor, Julian Arcas, Francisco Tárrega and Manuel Panella Moreno; a concerto for lute, violins and bass by Antonio Vivaldi; a sonata by Ludwig Van Beethoven; and three contemporary pieces by Claude Gagnon, including the charming "Hello Cello" with cellist Loiselle accompanying Jacques.

Originally from Saint-Georges-de-Beauce, Jacques holds a PhD in early music performance (guitar and lute) from Université de Montréal. He began his classical guitar studies at Cégep de Sainte-Foy before continuing at Université



David Jacques (right) demonstrated the versatility of 12 of his many guitars, accompanied by five members of Les Violons du Roy – Michelle Seto, Véronique Vychytil, Annie Morrier, Benoit Loiselle and Raphaël McNabney.

Laval and at the Conservatoire de musique de Québec. He is currently professor of classical guitar at the university and the CEGEP.

He has collaborated on more than 50 recordings and has given more than 4,000 concerts

in more than 40 countries on five continents.

In addition to his performances with Les Violons du Roy, he has been a guest artist with the Orchestre symphonique de Québec, the Orchestre Métropolitain, I Musici, the

Moscow Pocket Symphony, the Moscow Hermitage Orchestra and the Mercury Orchestra of Houston.

To learn more about Jacques and his remarkable guitar collection, visit his website at david-jacques.com.

The OSQ sets the stage for Christmas

SHIRLEY NADEAU
SHIRLEY@QCTONLINE.COM

The Orchestre symphonique de Québec, directed by guest conductor Gordon Gerrard, definitely put the audience in the mood for Christmas at the Grand Théâtre on Dec. 2.

The first half of the *En attendant Noël* concert featured Tchaikovsky's colossal Piano concerto No. 1, performed by Canadian pianist Jon Kimura Parker. For an encore, Parker hung a Christmas stocking on the side of the grand piano "for tips," he said, and played "The Christmas Song" ("Chestnuts roasting on an open fire").

The concert continued after intermission with a "Polonaise" from Rimsky-Korsakov's *La veille de Noël*; Johann Strauss II's celebrated *Emperor Waltz*, traditionally played by the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra on New Year's Day; and six extracts from Tchaikovsky's colourful *Nutcracker Suite*.

The evening ended with Leroy Anderson's cheerful *A Christmas Festival*, comprising eight popular English Christmas songs, to which Gerrard invited the audience to sing along. Members of the orchestra and the conductor wore their finest Santa hats, complete with pompoms, for the occasion.



Director Gordon Gerrard and the musicians of the Orchestre symphonique de Québec wished the 1,500 people at the Grand Théâtre a very Merry Christmas at the end of their *En attendant Noël* concert.

Oriental music captivates audiences at the Arque muse

CASSANDRA KERWIN
CASSANDRA@QCTONLINE.COM

The Orchestre de Musique Orientale de Québec (OMOQ) gave an outstanding performance at the Arque muse in Saint-Roch on Dec. 1 to close the *De l'Orient à l'Occident* concert series.

The musicians performed selections of music from Egypt, Turkey, Tuscany and Catalonia that delighted the audience.

The 16 OMOQ musicians wore elegant navy blue garments with gold trim, inspired by Islamic traditions.



Liette Remon was one of five violinists of the Orchestre de Musique Orientale de Québec.



The Orchestre de Musique Orientale de Québec transported spectators from cold Quebec City to the warm banks of the Nile River and to the colourful markets of Turkey with their music.

Audience members were taken on a musical voyage from freezing Quebec City to the banks of the Nile River as the OMOQ opened with "Dhikrayati." Chaker Ben Abdelaziz astounded spectators with his ability to conduct the orchestra while not missing a note on his violin.

The audience was next taken across the Mediterra-

nean Sea to Turkey as Sameh Argoubi, accompanied by the OMOQ, sang "Uskhadar." The voyage continued with music from throughout the Middle East. The upbeat tempo of the musical selections had spectators joining in with rhythmic clapping. The climax of the evening featured Mohamed Yengui's deep voice as he sang "Kaddouka al Mayyas."

The orchestra was formed in the spring of 2021. Pierre Langevin, clarinetist and artistic director of Productions Strada, approached Tunisian violinist, lutist and music teacher Abdelaziz to form the group. After six months of organization and rehearsals, the orchestra of 16 musicians gave their first concerts in October.

For Abdelaziz, music breaks



Singer Sameh Argoubi made spectators believe that they were no longer in cold Quebec City but in warm Cairo.

cultural barriers and invites people from everywhere to meet peacefully and joyfully and share cultural traditions, as was the case with this concert.



Community Calendar of Events



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

Nov. 24 to Dec. 23 - The German Christmas Market is at the City Hall Gardens, Place d'Armes and Place D'Youville and along Rue Sainte-Anne. **Kaléidoscopes** will be set up on the same sites from Dec. 27 to Jan. 2. For details, visit noelallemandquebec.com/en.

Dec. 8 and 9 at 7:30 p.m. - Les Violons du Roy presents Handel's *Messiah* directed by **Jonathan Cohen**, with soloists **Joëlle Harvey** (soprano), **Allyson McHardy**, (mezzo-soprano), **Andrew Staples** (tenor), **Neal Davies** (baritone-bass) and **La Chapelle de Québec choir** at the Palais Montcalm. For information and tickets, visit palaismontcalm.ca.

Friday, Dec. 10 at 7 p.m. - Enjoy Christmas Music and Carols by Candlelight at Trinity Church, 2687 Chemin des Quatre-Bourgeois (Ste-Foy).

Friday, Dec. 10 at 8 p.m. - The Lost Fingers present *Christmas Caravan*. The event is taking place in Chambly, east of Montreal, but you can watch the webcast in your living room any time between Dec. 10 and Jan. 9. Visit livedanstonsalon.com/concert/the-lost-fingers for details, and see article on page 6.

Saturday, Dec. 11 at 11 a.m. - Il était une fois ... Noël, a family matinée at St. Michael's Church, 1800 Chemin Saint-Louis (Sillery). Enjoy listening to your favourite Christmas carols sung by eight choristers while you sip hot chocolate.

Reserve your spot at zitabombardiertouret.com/events/il-etait-une-fois-noel-3.

Dec. 13 and 14 at 8 p.m. - Montreal's Constantino Ensemble, in partnership with the Corsican choir **A Filetta**, presents its latest creation *Clair-obscur*, an exotic blend of Persian art music and Corsican polyphonic singing, at the Grand Théâtre. For more information and tickets, visit grandtheatre.qc.ca/programmation/constantino-a-filetta.

Tuesday, Dec. 14 at 8 p.m. - Bilingual Comedy Night (Soirée d'humour bilingue) at Pub Saint-Patrick on Rue Saint-Jean presented by **Bill Black** and **Michael Bourguignon**. This stand-up comedy show will feature 10 comedians in an open-mic style, performing five-minute sets. Tickets (\$10) are available at the door or online at lepointdevente.com/tickets/soireedhumourbilingue. For more information, see the Facebook event page.

Thursday, Dec. 16 at 2:30 p.m. - Tempêtes et Passions Concert de Noël at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, 31 Rue des Jardins in Old Quebec. For more information and to reserve tickets, visit tempetesetpassions.com.

Saturday, Dec. 18 at 3 p.m. - Les Rhapsodes choir presents *Noëls d'hier, noëls d'aujourd'hui* at the Palais Montcalm. The choristers, under the direction of **David Rompré**, will be accompanied by harpist **Antoine Mallette**.

Chénier. For information and tickets, visit lesrhapsodes.com or call the Palais Montcalm ticket office at 418-641-6040.

Dec. 18 to Feb. 13 - Below the Ice with Mario Cyr, an immersive photo and video presentation, will allow visitors to discover a mysterious and almost inaccessible place, the Canadian Arctic. It will be projected on giant screens at the Centre des Congrès de Québec. For more information and tickets, visit souslesglaces.com.

Sunday, Dec. 19 at 3 p.m. - Let the Glenn Miller Orchestra put you "in the mood" for Christmas at the Salle Albert-Rousseau, 2410 Chemin Sainte-Foy. For information and tickets, visit sallealbertrousseau.com.

Wednesday, Dec. 23 at 6 p.m. - The 5th annual Chemin de Noël concert will be broadcast live online by Radio-Canada. This concert is inspired by the *Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols* which is held annually in the chapel of King's College in Cambridge, England. The music will be broadcast live on ICI Musique classique and Radio-Canada OHdio, and rebroadcast on ICI Première (106.3 FM) on Dec. 24 at 10 p.m. All donations will be given to La Boussole, an organization, which offers services to relatives and friends of people with mental illness.



Falling down the rabbit hole at Les Gros Becs



DANIELLE BURNS
DANIELLE@QCTONLINE.COM

After a 55-minute sold-out production of *Alice aux Pays des Merveilles* (Alice in Wonderland) in the new (temporary) Les Gros Becs Théâtre at Place Fleur de Lys, the *QCT* interviewed Alice and her veteran castmate Humpty Dumpty. Alice – Jeanne Plourde – is originally from Quebec City; Humpty Dumpty – Gabriel De Santis-Caron – is from Montreal and has been with Tout à Trac theatre company since the beginning of *Alice aux Pays des Merveilles* in 2008, touring internationally in French and English.

After participating in over 400 shows, De Santis-Caron has played many of the characters on stage, apart from Alice, but he isn't bored. He says he finds it "relaxing" to play Humpty Dumpty, who gets the biggest laughs in the show.

De Santis-Caron isn't immune to forgetting his lines, however. Plourde is the third Alice in 13 years, and he says working with a "new" Alice can throw the other actors off their rhythm. "Because of the different energies [of each Alice], even if the words are the same, you really need to recreate the way you answer back. That's

the funny part with theatre; it's not like once you've done it once, it's done. Humpty Dumpty is like the breaking point for the show. When it starts, people are trying to adapt and figure out what is going on and what exact world we are going to." He added, "It's also a good school for an actor, because I cannot be louder than [the kids in the audience], so I have to play with their energy a lot."

Plourde, the new kid on the block, is thrilled to be playing the role of Alice, since she was a big fan of both the movie and the book when she was a child. After she graduated from the École Supérieure de Théâtre de l'Université du Québec à Montréal in June 2021, a teacher suggested she audition for the role of Alice after the previous Alice left for another touring production.

Plourde immediately connected to Alice and got the part. Rehearsals took place over the summer and touring started in Quebec in September as soon as public health restrictions were relaxed. In a short bob wig with bangs, the 23-year-old actress makes a believable youngster, which is great for a five-to-10-year-old target audience. However, Plourde thinks the timelessness of Lewis Carroll's story appeals



Photo by Danielle Burns

Jeanne Plourde plays the lead role of Alice in Tout à Trac's production of *Alice au pays des merveilles*.

to all ages, and sends a "reminder to everyone to keep a young heart and always be creative and dream."

De Santis-Caron added that since everyone in the audience already knows the famous story, "we surf on what they know and what we can

surprise them with." Director Hugo Bélanger has been flexible with the story, adapting and choosing elements from the first book, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, and the second book, *Through the Looking-Glass*, and interesting characters like Sam



Photo by Danielle Burns

James Anderson stands with his father Ian Anderson in the lobby of the Gros Becs theatre, where children were invited to read or colour Alice in Wonderland pictures before the start of the play. James is in Grade 2 at Holland Elementary School and said the White Rabbit who lost his gloves was his favourite character.

the Snark Hunter from one of Carroll's poems to create a shorter play that would appeal to a young audience, De Santis-Caron explained. Many of the main characters – the tardy White Rabbit with his funny, bad French accent, the smiling Cheshire Cat, the

heartless Queen of Hearts and the Mad Hatter – appear in puppet form (but often with a human head).

If you wish to fall down this curious rabbit hole, visit lesgrosbecs.qc.ca and get tickets before the last performance on Dec. 19.

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Saturday at 4 p.m.

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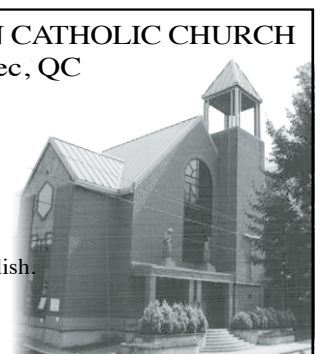
Weekdays at 11:30 a.m.

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Mayor must ask hard questions in response to police videos

SUBMITTED BY FRANÇOIS MARCHAND, TRANSLATED BY QCT STAFF

Mayor Bruno Marchand's reaction to the recent videos of police interventions in Quebec City bars has been rapid and sincere. Four investigations connected to these events are being undertaken.

The mayor has said that police chief Denis Turcotte has his full confidence, and that it's important to maintain "a Great Wall of China" between politicians and the management of the police service.

The question is, should

the mayor intervene in the affairs of his city's police force?

Article 52 of the Cities and Towns Act is clear. The mayor is the head of the city administration and holds the right of surveillance, investigation and control over all the departments of the municipality and their employees, with the exception of the auditor general. It should be noted that this power is conferred specifically on the mayor, and not on the city council.

If the mayor's role is not to intervene in an investigation, should he intervene in the management of the

police service itself, and in the work of the police chief? The answer to this question is clearly yes.

The Code of Ethics of Quebec Police Officers defines the norms and obligations regulating the conduct of police officers in the exercise of their duties. Officers, according to this code, must behave in a way that preserves the public trust and respect that their functions require.

They must not act or speak in a way that insults people on the basis of their race, colour or sexual orientation. They must avoid any form of abuse of authority in

their interactions with the public. They must not employ a level of force greater than necessary to accomplish what they are ordered or allowed to do.

According to the same ethics code, if a police chief witnesses, or is informed of, the presumed commission of an act that goes against the code of ethics, he or she must inform the affected citizen(s) in writing of their rights under the Police Act, and address a copy of the notice to the police ethics commissioner.

I don't doubt the good faith of the mayor of Quebec City. However, it is important

that the investigations don't address only the videos that have recently come to light, but also the management of the police department and the role of its chief.

The mayor is within his rights to pose the following questions: Are police officers supervised in the exercise of their functions? Do they have the necessary training, notably in ethics and in behaviour? Is the problem isolated or generalized? Is there a problem within the culture of the organization?

It is important that these questions are addressed to re-establish trust between citizens and the police, and

reassure citizens of the good work being done by the vast majority of police officers, who must respond quickly to complex and difficult situations.

The mayor not only has the power to intervene; he has the obligation. It's up to him to show transparency.

François Marchand has more than 30 years of experience in the sphere of municipal politics. He holds master's degrees in municipal law and in land management and regional development. He served as a city councillor in Quebec City from 1985 to 1989.

Marchers denounce excessive use of force by police

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

At the march, members of the Black and Latino communities expressed fear that their own children wouldn't be treated fairly in interactions with the police. "I'm the father of a four-year-old, and I can imagine him going through something like this in 14 or 15 years," commented Quebec City resident Justin Djindimadji, originally from Chad.

"Minorities are targeted in this city," added Julia Zaldua, a Colombian-born mother of teens. "During curfew, I was scared that my kids would be mistreated by police if they were on their way home five minutes late. When police look at my kids, they see foreigners, even though they were born here. I left my country because of brutality and impunity; I want the police to protect my kids."

In the week following

Niyokwizera's arrest, three other videos of forceful arrests involving SPVQ officers came to light. The most recent was filmed at Le Portofino, an Italian restaurant in Old Quebec, a few hours before the incident at Le Dagobert. These videos show the arrests of white people.

"Profiling by police concerns all of us; it affects Black people, the Latino community, Indigenous people, Asians and white people," said Mbaï-Hadji Mbaïre-

way, a co-organizer of the march. "We don't want to pit racialized people against non-racialized people, and we don't want to demonize all police officers; it's a question of organizational culture. We need to recognize profiling and combat it." Mbaïreway called for an independent inquiry into Niyokwizera's arrest.

Under the administration of previous mayor Régis Labeaume, a citywide diversity plan was developed. It

included efforts to improve diversity within the SPVQ, which has no Black officers and very few from minority communities. "I know there is training that has been started already, but I don't have all the details yet," said Coun. David Weiser, member of the executive committee responsible for relations with cultural communities. "We are working to put together a proposal to make sure citizens know we aren't taking the situation lightly; we want everyone to feel safe."

Weiser said he hopes to see community groups and

representatives of all levels of government working together to ensure that residents feel safe. "I saw a quote recently from [philosopher] Jean-Jacques Rousseau: 'Patience is a bitter tree that bears sweet fruit.' We do need to act fast, but doing things well is more important than doing them quickly." He called on anyone who believes they have been a victim of racial profiling or excessive force by police to come forward: "People need to not be afraid to speak up."



Supporting local businesses is more important than ever this holiday



PAULINE KERR
PAULINE@QCTONLINE.COM

The number of days left to finish Christmas shopping is dwindling at a speed that puts Santa's magic reindeer to shame.

Shopping close to home is a win for everyone at the best of times, and this year, as we emerge from nearly two years of a pandemic, it is more important than ever.

Owners of small businesses who have been holding on by a thread are depending on the next few weeks to erase a lot of red ink.

Local retailers will take community interests into consideration, and often

put in orders with specific customers in mind. It is easier to exchange gifts in the wrong size or colour at a local shop, and friendlier.

Many of us have enjoyed the experience of buying gifts at small shops when we go on vacation – gifts that are treasured by those fortunate enough to receive them.

Perhaps we could try being tourists in our own fabulous city – plan a shopping expedition that includes lunch at a delightful restaurant and a visit to an art gallery or market we have been wanting to see. We might top off the day by driving around to admire holiday lights and enjoying a drink of hot chocolate or apple cider – no need to worry about a long drive through those pretty snowflakes sparkling in the headlights.

Of course, we are probably also short of time, making shopping locally a Christmas gift to ourselves. Picking up an item on our

lunch break gives us the opportunity to enjoy the best part of holiday shopping – chatting with friends in our favourite local stores.

The truth is, our local retailers are the people we go to when our service club is holding a fundraiser, or when a sports team needs a place to sell 50/50 raffle tickets. Their kids play with our kids. They coach minor sports, contribute to the church rummage sale and are always eager to pitch in when there is a community event.

We want them to succeed; they are our neighbours, an integral part of our community.

Just as we look to them for support, they look to us. COVID-19 has been hard on everyone, whether we are teens who are trying to get dreams of college or a sports scholarship back on track, health-care heroes who looked after the community in the most desperate of times, workers finally returning to full-time employment or small

business owners whose post-pandemic Christmas wishes centre on stores full of happy customers.

Should you pick up the items on your list at a multinational online store or at the lovely little shop around the corner? The choice is easy.

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2600 boulevard Laurier, bureau 202 (Place de la Cité) Québec, QC G1V 4T3

Tel.: 418-650-1764

Fax: 418-650-5172

reception@qctonline.com

www.qctonline.com

- EDITOR & PUBLISHER - Stacie Stanton
- GENERAL MANAGER - Taylor Ireland
- ADMINISTRATION & ADVERTISING - Zach Shoub, zach@qctonline.com
- CIRCULATION - Arianne Halpin, circulation@qctonline.com
- ASSIGNMENT EDITOR - Ruby Pratka
- COPY EDITORS - Pauline Kerr & Shirley Nadeau
- JOURNALISTS - Peter Black, Danielle Burns, Pauline Kerr, Cassandra Kerwin, Lise Lafond, Luc Lang, Charles André Nadeau, Shirley Nadeau, Lorie Pierce, Ruby Pratka
- PHOTOGRAPHER - Jonathan Letellier-Black
- GRAPHIC DESIGN - Cheryl Stabinski

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Team Canada U20 selection camp opens with no Quebec Remparts

LUC LANG
LUCLANG@QCTONLINE.COM

Hockey Canada unveiled the names of the 35 players who were invited to take part in its national men's U20 selection camp on Dec. 1. Although the list included eight players from the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League (QMJHL), no players from the Quebec Remparts were invited to the camp in Calgary.

The player most likely to be invited was Zachary Bolduc, a first-round draft pick by the St. Louis Blues of the National Hockey League. For Bolduc, not receiving an invitation was a slap in the face. The Trois-Rivières native has 11 goals and 14 assists so far this season for a total of 25 points in 24 games.

The national junior team will start their training camp on Dec. 9 and will play a series of games against U Sports all-

stars on Dec. 11 and 12. The team contains quite a bit of local talent; Mavrik Bourque of Plessisville (Shawinigan Cataractes), Joshua Roy of Lévis (Sherbrooke Phoenix) and William Dufour of Quebec City (Saint John Sea Dogs), were among the 35 players invited to Calgary.

Remparts week

The Remparts were back home on Dec. 2 after a four-game road trip, with a rare Thursday night game at the Videotron Centre.

However, the Sherbrooke Phoenix, the top team in the QMJHL as of this writing, weren't so welcoming as they edged the Remparts 3-1. After a pair of goals from Xavier Parent of the Phoenix in the first period, Nathan Gaucher brought the Remparts to within a goal in the second frame, but Joshua Roy scored a late empty-net goal to secure

the victory for the visitors.

Two nights later, Quebec hosted the Drummondville Voltigeurs. For the occasion, the Remparts wore their blue jerseys from the 1980s, as part of the 25th anniversary of the return of the Diables Rouges.

With the score tied 1-1 after overtime, the teams went to a shootout. Drummondville goalie Francesco Lapenna (the first star of the game) and Fabio Iacobo of the Remparts both stopped the first three shots they faced. Finally, Viljami Marjala beat Lapenna and Iacobo stopped Justin Côté, and Quebec squeezed out a 2-1 victory.

Quebec defeated the Halifax Mooseheads 3-2 on Dec. 5. The game was scoreless after two periods. Early in the third, Halifax took a 1-0 lead, but the Remparts answered with three straight goals of their own, courtesy of

Evan Nause, Théo Rochette and Gaucher.

Halifax scored a second time with 49 seconds left in the third period, but Iacobo shut the Mooseheads down in front of the Remparts net as the clock ticked down for the victory.

The Remparts host the Rouyn-Noranda Huskies on Dec. 10 before going to Baie-Comeau two days later to play the Drakkar.

Defenceman Louis Crevier was named the Remparts' student-athlete of the month for November. Rousseau was named the goalie of the month in the QMJHL.

Remparts defenceman Louis Crevier, the second star of the Dec. 4 game against Drummondville, was named the Remparts' student-athlete of the month for November.



Photo courtesy QMJHL/Jonathan Roy

SLC Lions hockey team finishes 2021 on a winning note

LUC LANG
LUCLANG@QCTONLINE.COM

After hovering around the .500 mark all season, the CEGEP Champlain-St. Lawrence (SLC) Lions hockey team ended the 2021 portion of the season on a high note by downing the Cégep Sorel-Tracy Rebelles 7-4 on Dec. 5 at the Aréna des Deux Glaces in Val-Bélair.

The Lions came out of their den and attacked the Rebelles with four goals on 21 shots in the first period. Félix-Antoine Brisson got things going for St. Lawrence by scoring 39 seconds into the game. Olivier Roy, Mathieu Martel and Alex Pelletier also scored in the first period, forcing Sorel-Tracy to replace starting goaltender Anthony Breton with Félix Bernier for

the second period.

SLC did not stop there, taking a 7-0 lead when Félix-Antoine Houle, Brisson with his second of the game, and Éloïc Gilbert found the back of the net.

The Rebelles did make a game of it, scoring twice before the end of the second period and two more times in the third against Lions goalie Benjamin Catellier, who was making his first start since October.

The previous night in Lennoxville, the Lions avenged their disastrous home loss in October when they edged the CEGEP Champlain-Lennoxville Cougars 5-4 in overtime.

Houle completed a play from defenceman Mathieu Martel to score the game winner 18 seconds into the

overtime period. It was Houle's second goal of the game.

Brisson, Roy and François-Xavier Bédard also lit up the red light for the Lions.

St. Lawrence goalie Charles-Antoine Julien was once again solid in net, blocking 36 of the 40 shots he faced, including 19 of 21 in the second period.

The Lions go into the Christmas holidays with a record of 13 wins, 11 losses and one overtime loss for 27 points.

SLC will be back on the ice Jan. 7 when they host the Nordiques from Collège Lionel-Groulx (Sainte-Thérèse).

Lady Lions off to purr-fect start

In basketball, the SLC Lady Lions have continued their winning ways.

On Dec. 3, they easily handled the Cégep Limoilou Titans, 75-53. With the win, the Lady Lions top the Northeast Conference of the Réseau du sport étudiant du Québec with a perfect record of five wins in five games.

The men's team has not started the season with the same momentum. They lost 97-56 to the Titans on Dec. 3. The Lions are in seventh place in Division 2 of the Northeast Conference.

Both SLC basketball teams will play their final games at home before the holidays on Dec. 10. At 6:30 p.m. the Lady Lions face the Cougars from Cégep de Chicoutimi. The men play the Cégep de Jonquières Gaillards at 8:30 p.m.



Photo by Luc Lang

Lions captain Olivier Roy scored two goals and added an assist in his team's two games last weekend.

Capitales eager to start next season as 2022 schedule is released

LUC LANG
LUCLANG@QCTONLINE.COM

The Frontier League recently released its 2022 schedule, and according to Québec Capitales president Michel Laplante, it's one of the best calendars his team has ever had.

Starting on May 12, 2022, the Frontier League's 16 teams will play a total of 768 games. The season concludes on Sept. 4.

The Capitales are scheduled to play 51 games at home at Stade Canac in Limoilou, starting on May 24, when they host the Gateway Grizzlies from Sauget, Ill.

Of those 51 games, 33 will be played in July or August. General manager Charles Demers is not worried about the packed summer schedule.

"With all these games in July and August, sure, it represents quite a challenge, but we are very excited with this, and our staff will be ready," said Demers.

The league has 15 teams, including the Trois-Rivières Aigles and the newly created Ottawa Titans. To balance this year's schedule, the league created the Frontier Greys, a team without a home stadium that will travel across the league's 15 cities.

The Capitales have also planned many new surprises for fans for the upcoming season. With the renovations at Stade Canac completed, the team anticipates that the new technology used to enhance the fan experience at the ballpark will surely be popular with ticket

CALENDRIER 2022

DIVISION MID-OUEST

- EVN OTTERS D'EVANSVILLE
- FLO YALL'S DE FLORENCE
- GAT GRIZZLIES DE GATEWAY
- JOL SLAMMERS DE JOLIET
- LE CRUSHERS DE LAKE ERIE
- SCH BOOMERS DE SCHAUMBURG
- WC THUNDERBOLTS DE WINDY CITY
- WSH WILD THINGS DE WASHINGTON

DIVISION CAN-AM

- FG GREYS DE LA FRONTIER
- NJ JACKALS DU NEW JERSEY
- QC CAPITALES DE QUEBEC
- NY BOULIERS DE NEW YORK
- OTT TITANS D'OTTAWA
- SC MINERS DE SUSSEX COUNTY
- TC VALLEYCATS DE TRI-CITY
- TR AIGLES DE TROIS-RIVIERES

MAI 05

DIM	LUN	MAR	MER	JEU	VEN	SAM
CAMP	CAMP	CAMP	CAMP	CAMP	CAMP	CAMP
CAMP	CAMP	CAMP	CAMP	WC	WC	
WC		JOL	JOL	JOL	EVN	EVN
EVN		GAT	GAT	GAT	FLO	FLO
FLO		FG				

JUIN 06

DIM	LUN	MAR	MER	JEU	VEN	SAM
			FG	FG	NJ	NJ
			FG	FG	TC	TC
			NY	NY	NY	SC
			NY	NY	NY	NJ
			NY	NY	NY	NJ
			NJ	SC	SC	

JUILLET 07

DIM	LUN	MAR	MER	JEU	VEN	SAM
				TR	TR	
			TC	TC	NY	NY
			FG	FG	OTT	OTT
			FG	FG	OTT	OTT
			OTT		SCH	SCH
			OTT		WSH	WSH
			LE	LE	WSH	WSH

AOÛT/SEPT 08/09

DIM	LUN	MAR	MER	JEU	VEN	SAM
			NJ	NJ	TR	TR
			TC	TC	TC	OTT
			TR	TR	TR	OTT
			TR	TR	TR	OTT
			TR	TR	SC	SC
			NJ	NJ	NJ	OTT
			NJ	NJ	OTT	OTT

■ DOMICILE
■ ÉTRANGER

buyers. The team will continue with a wide range of game night

promotions. The Capitales will start the

season with nine road games, beginning on May 13 against

the Windy City Thunderbolts in Crestwood, Ill.

Western Mustangs capture their eighth Vanier Cup with 27-21 win

LUC LANG
LUCLANG@QCTONLINE.COM

The University of Western Ontario Mustangs defeated the University of Saskatchewan Huskies 27-21 on Dec. 4 to win the Vanier Cup in front of 5,605 brave fans at Stade Telus at Université Laval.

Griffin Campbell caught two touchdown passes for the top-ranked Mustangs, including one on the last play of the third quarter, to lead his team to its eighth national title in school history.

Saskatchewan running back Adam Machart, a first team All-Canadian, was held to only 78 yards on 16 rushes by the Western defence. Western head coach Greg Marshall, who has said Machart is one of the best running backs in Canada, gave credit to his defensive coaches, who prepared their players for the Huskies' rushing attack. "Our defen-

sive line did a wonderful job against one heck of an offensive line," he said.

Western's Trey Humes returned the opening kickoff for 33 yards to give the Mustangs a good field position at their own 40-yard line. Just under three minutes later, he ran in from 25 yards for the first touchdown of the game.

The Huskies had to wait until their third possession to get on the scoreboard, when David Solie kicked a 26-yard field goal to reduce Western's early lead to 7-3.

Saskatchewan took the lead with 9:57 left in the first half when Daniel Perry caught a 22-yard touchdown pass. The Huskies missed the extra point but still led 9-7.

Brian Garrity kicked a 23-yard field goal late in the second quarter to put Western ahead 10-9. Solie restored the Huskies' lead before the half with a 24-yard field goal. Saskatchewan led 12-10 at

halftime, but the Mustangs rebounded after the break. Campbell caught an Evan Hillock pass for a 50-yard touchdown early in the second half to give Western a lead it wouldn't relinquish.

Hillock, who was named game MVP after completing 18 of 29 passes for 274 yards, also connected with Campbell on a 17-yard touchdown catch on the last play of the third quarter.

Garrity kicked a 37-yard field goal in the fourth quarter to put Western ahead 27-14.

Josh Ewanchyna scored on a one-yard run with 32 seconds left to give the No. 2 Huskies some faint hope, but the Mustangs recovered an onside kick attempt and ran out the clock.

Marshall beamed when he talked about the character of his team. "The fact that we got a season in, got a Vanier Cup game in, and that we are



Photo courtesy of Yan Doublet, Université Laval

Western head coach Greg Marshall sits between Antonio Valvano (29) and Justin Nickson (11) for the team picture after winning the Vanier Cup 27-21 over the Saskatchewan Huskies on Dec. 4 at Stade Telus.

the champions after going through the pandemic, speaks to the resiliency of our team," he told reporters.

Saskatchewan head coach Scott Flory was happy with

the way his team played in the first half. "There were a couple of missed opportunities in the third quarter and we couldn't find our traction at the end of the third

quarter. That led to big plays by Western," he said.

Western's Daniel Valente Jr., was named defensive player of the game.

56th Vanier Cup through the lens of Luc Lang

PHOTOS BY LUC LANG
LUCLANG@QCTONLINE.COM



The University of Saskatchewan Huskies take to the field before the start of the 56th Vanier Cup.



Western and Saskatchewan battled hard on the frozen turf at Stade Telus. The temperature was -11 when the game started.



A University of Western Ontario cheerleader leads the Mustangs onto the field prior to the kickoff.



David Solie of the University of Saskatchewan Huskies kicks off the 56th Vanier Cup.



Western quarterback Evan Hillock has the smile of an MVP after receiving the award for leading the Mustangs to victory.



Saskatchewan team captain Adam Machart, an All-Canadian first team all-star, shakes hands with Western captain and Quebec City native Nicolas Thériault after the Mustangs won the coin toss.

Western head coach Greg Marshall had trouble keeping a straight face at a postgame press conference after his players won the university's eighth Vanier Cup.

