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Developer has 'no plans' for Samuel Holland housing expansion

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After nearly four months of ignored and deflected inquiries with the city and the property owner, the *QCT* has learned a major project to expand the Samuel Holland housing complex in the Saint-Sacrement district is either dead or indefinitely on ice.

The property is currently a fenced-off field adjacent to Holland Elementary School on Ave. Ernest-Gagnon. Snow now covers vegetation that has grown and thickened in the two years since contractors demolished the building that used to be on the site, the former Quebec City RCMP headquarters.

The owner of the field, according to the city's tax rolls, is officially registered as Samuel Holland Holdings Company, with an office listed in Halifax. That company is a division of Toronto-based CAPREIT (Canadian Apartment Properties Real Estate Trust), one of the country's largest rental property landlords.

CAPREIT had acquired the Samuel Holland complex in July 2012 from GE Capital, which had in turn bought the

six-building site from the real estate wing of insurance giant SSQ (now Beneva) in 2007.

According to media reports, in 2002, SSQ had proposed building a 150-unit housing project on the site, incorporating the former Mountie building, but abandoned the plan in the face of objections by occupants of the nearby Holland apartment complex concerned about losing their view.

When CAPREIT took over, it revived the project on Ave. Ernest-Gagnon, submitting a plan in 2017 to the city which exceeded zoning height restrictions. In August 2021, CAPREIT returned with a revised project for 168 units of housing, with a row of two-storey townhouse units along the street and an eight-storey building in the back.

This version, according to an August 2021 report in *Le Soleil*, conformed to local zoning bylaws.

In that *Le Soleil* report, CAPREIT president and CEO Mark Kenney said, "CAPREIT is refining the details of the project design with its team of consultants and expects to submit its construction permit application in early 2022." He estimated the cost of the project as "between \$40 and \$50 million."

In September 2021, demoli-



Image from Cargo Architectes

This 2021 plan for expanding the Samuel Holland complex on Ave. Ernest-Gagnon was developed by Quebec City firm Cargo Architectes.

tion work began on the former RCMP building, which had been abandoned in 1995 and was badly deteriorating. Since then, apart from the installation of a fence around the 2,400 square-metre property, there has been no activity.

Inquiries with the city, beginning in August, revealed that no building permit had been issued for the site and that any inquiry about the status of the project was to be referred to the property owner.

The *QCT* contacted Cargo Architecture, the Quebec City company that had drawn up the plans for the Samuel Holland expansion, and was told they were no longer involved in the project and were not aware of its status.

Numerous calls and emails to CAPREIT officials, including Kenney, received no response.

A receptionist invited the *QCT* to contact the company's investor relations or media service, neither of which responded.

On Nov. 8, CAPREIT executives convened a conference call with reporters to discuss company quarterly results, during which the *QCT*'s request to ask a question was somehow not registered. Afterward, a media relations representative returned a call, apologized for the missed question and promised to look into the Samuel Holland situation.

Two weeks and two more inquiries later, CAPREIT's media team sent a response. It said, "We have no development plans currently for this property, and as such, will not be providing additional comment at this time."

In the absence of more information, official or otherwise,



Photo by Peter Black

The former site of the RCMP building on Ave. Ernest-Gagnon, adjacent to Holland Elementary School, remains vacant as plans for a housing project are suspended.

what happened to the 870 Ernest-Gagnon project in the CAPREIT boardroom between August 2021 and the present is open to speculation.

In the *Le Soleil* interview, Kenney made comments about the obstacles to development, especially zoning regulations slowing down construction projects. "The problem is we need more housing... The desire to build is there, but it takes years and years because it is a municipal responsibility," he said.

He also said real estate developers face rising material costs, such as the increase in land prices, so they must be able to build bigger projects to make their investments profitable.

In an August opinion piece in the *Hill Times*, Kenney

wrote about Canada's housing situation, "The legacies of this era of inaction are many: more burdensome zoning laws, higher development costs, more aggressive and successful 'not in my backyard' (NIMBY) interests and fewer Canadians with access to housing that meets their needs and budgets."

The Ville de Québec had not responded by press time to a request for comment on the icing of the Samuel Holland expansion project.

Including the Samuel Holland complex, CAPREIT has 2,777 units in its Quebec City rental portfolio. Overall the company has \$16.5 billion in assets, including 64,500 rental units in Canada and the Netherlands.

Strike to close schools, CEGEPs next week if no agreement reached

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English and French public schools and CEGEPs around the region will be closed from Dec. 8-14 unless 11th-hour agreements are reached to end two separate strikes.

Teachers in Central Québec School Board (CQSB) schools are represented by the Central Québec Teachers' Association (CQTA), part of the Quebec Provincial Association of Teachers (QPAT), itself a member of the teachers' wing of

the Centrale des syndicats du Québec (CSQ). CEGEP teachers and staff in the Quebec City region are represented by the educational wings of the CSQ and the Confédération des syndicats nationaux (CSN). Both the CSQ and CSN are members of the Front Commun negotiating bloc, along with the Fédération des travailleurs du Québec (FTQ) and the Alliance du personnel professionnel et technique de la santé et des services sociaux (APTS). The Front Commun, which represents a total of more than 420,000 workers, has declared a weeklong strike next week.

Performing arts teacher Tess LeBlanc is a CQTA union representative at Quebec High School. "What this [strike] means is that there's no school. The school will be locked," she said.

LeBlanc said she was aware the closure was an inconvenience for parents. "A lot of [CQTA] members are parents, and they're having to make daycare arrangements and call grandparents to babysit. We know it's a juggle. It's worth it, but that doesn't take away the difficulties."

She said teachers' demands included not only better pay, but smaller class sizes, espe-

cially for the youngest students, more attention paid to class composition ("We can't have 32 kids in a classroom without taking into consideration their diverse needs,") and more support for early-career teachers. According to QPAT, 50 per cent of newly certified teachers leave the profession after five years.

Yves De Repentigny is vice president responsible for CEGEPs at the Fédération des enseignants et enseignantes du Québec (FNEEQ), affiliated with the CSN. Teachers' unions at CEGEP Champlain-St. Lawrence and several local French CEGEPs are FNEEQ affiliates; others are affiliated with the CSQ.

He said the proposed salary increase of 10.3 per cent over five years offered to public



Photo by Cassandra Kerwin from QCT archives

Teachers and staff at CEGEP Champlain-St. Lawrence are shown picketing at the school during a half-day strike in November. Public sector unions have announced plans for a weeklong strike from Dec. 8-14 if an agreement is not reached in the next week.

sector workers is "clearly insufficient" but that CEGEP teachers are also concerned about increased workload, large class sizes and job insecurity for early- and mid-career teachers, which he referred to as "permanent precarity."

The impact of the strikes on the school calendar is yet to be determined. St. Lawrence spokesperson Emma Lawrence said the college will be closed on strike days, except

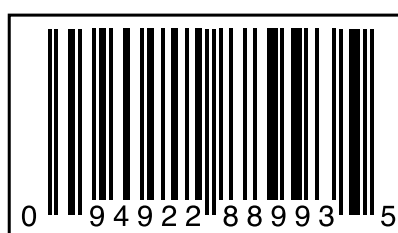
for evening non-credit courses and extracurriculars.

Exams that were meant to take place during strike days are being rescheduled, and the calendar will be extended until Dec. 22.

LeBlanc and De Repentigny said they hoped an agreement would be reached before the holidays, removing the threat of an unlimited general strike in the new year.

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 COMMENTARY

Some bright Quebec stars shed light on the mysteries of space



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Marc Garneau is not known as the most poetic of Canadian astronauts, deep thoughts not being an essential requirement of a naval engineer for flying a space mission. But at a recent speaking engagement at the Morrin Centre, the first Canadian in space mesmerized the audience

with a profound, nearly spiritual reflection on the vastness of the cosmos and humanity's presumption of significance in it.

"From Earth, our perspective goes out to the horizon – 10 or 15 kilometres around. When you see the entire planet, your perspective starts to change. You see that this planet is the cradle of humanity ... there's nowhere else to go, and we have to find a way to get along with each other."

One supposes that's what sets astronauts – and now commercial space travellers – apart from more Earth-bound folk: The unique experience, as the poem goes, of slipping the surly bonds of Earth, and being alone with one's soul and intellect at the doorstep of the unknowable universe.

Garneau, a proud franco-telephone son of Quebec City, made his first of three voyages

into space in 1984, a highlight of the remarkable role Quebecers have played and continue to play in exploring the secrets of the heavens.

There are, of course, Garneau's fellow Quebec astronauts, David Saint-Jacques, who holds the Canadian record of 204 continuous days in space, and Julie Payette, who took part in two space shuttle missions, in 1999 and 2009.

Garneau went on from the astronaut program to become president of the Canadian Space Agency, whose first president in 1989 was physicist Larkin Kerwin of Quebec City, a former rector of Université Laval and head of the National Research Council. Kerwin is credited with naming the famous space Swiss army knife, the Canadarm.

Though, like Kerwin, he never made it into space, one of those remarkable Quebec

space explorers, alas, recently "joined the stars" as his family put it – Quebec astrophysicist and science media "star" Hubert Reeves.

Educated at both Université de Montréal and McGill University, Reeves, who died at 91 in October, authored more than 40 books and countless articles about the mysteries of the universe and Earth's environment.

An adviser to NASA in its early years, Reeves, who, with his white beard looked every inch the wizard professor, was also a serious researcher. He created several TV series to shed light on topics of astronomy and other scientific matters, earning accolades and awards from around the planet.

About his twin passions, he wrote, "Astronomy, by telling us the story of the universe, tells us where we came from, how we came to be here today. Ecology, by making us aware of

the threats to our future, aims to tell us how to stay there."

At the other end of the age spectrum is a remarkable young astrophysicist, Laurie Rousseau-Nepton, who, coincidentally was a recipient of a Hubert Reeves fellowship in 2010. She is also the subject of a newly released five-part National Film Board documentary, called *North Star*, about her life and career.

Rousseau-Nepton, who grew up and looked up at the stars in the Innu community of Mash-teuiatsh in the Saguenay-Lac Saint-Jean region, is described as Canada's first female Indigenous astrophysicist. She was a resident astronomer for six years at the Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope in Hawaii, forming an international group called SIGNALS "designed to investigate massive star formation in numerous galaxies close to the Milky Way."

Currently an associate professor at the Dunlap Institute of the University of Toronto, Rousseau-Nepton, like Reeves, has become a popular communicator of the wonders of the stars, with an added Indigenous touch.

As she says in the documentary, "In the Innu culture and many cultures in Canada, we come from the stars and we also return to the stars – and it's a cycle. For me, it makes sense that I'm doing this. It's something that I've actually learned all of my life: to study where we come from."

Based on these and other individual contributions, Quebec, with the world-class observatory at Mont Mégantic and the Canadian Space Agency in Longueuil, might rightly claim to be the centre of Canada's universe in terms of the study and exploration of space.

Microbrasserie Griendel moving to former Cochon Dingue site in Montcalm

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A popular microbrewery in the Saint-Sauveur district is hopping up to the Upper Town Montcalm district come the spring, taking over the space formerly occupied by the popular restaurant Le Cochon Dingue (now located on Rue Saint-Jean in the Old City).

The owners of Microbrasserie Griendel, faced with various obstacles at its current site at the corner of Rue Saint-Vallier and Rue Des Oblats, sought out another location, and settled on the space on Boul. René-Lévesque near Ave. Cartier.

Martin Parrot, one of Griendel's co-founders, explained the move from Saint-Sauveur, where the resto-pub has been

a neighbourhood fixture for eight years, also involves moving the actual brewing operation to the small town of Saint-Jacques-de-Leeds on the South Shore, where Parrot lives.

The move has been in the works for months, Parrot said. He explained that the restaurant faced the realities of fewer customers in Saint-Sauveur, plus the impact of major roadwork in the coming year. The busy intersection is also not ideal to attract terrasse customers.

The company has bought a building in Saint-Jacques-de-Leeds for the brewery, which will also include a small pub to sample the suds and a modest restaurant menu.

Parrot said the former Cochon Dingue space is ideal for Griendel's expansion, with its large seating areas and its terrace which can accommodate

70 customers.

He said the pub plans to continue activities like quiz nights and featured beer specials that made Griendel a popular spot in Saint-Sauveur.

Parrot's path to ambitious micro-brewer has been an unusual one. After doing a post-graduate degree in humanities at York University in Toronto – specializing in the history and philosophy of witchcraft in England and Scotland – he found himself producing a documentary film about the emergence of the craft brewing business in Quebec.

The film, titled *Brasseurs*, focused on four microbreweries in the province, including La Souche in Limoilou, and was shown in theatres in Quebec City and Montreal. It can be viewed on YouTube with English subtitles.

During the making of the

film, Parrot, who has been a "beer geek" and home brewer for years, said he had already started making plans to open his own microbrewery, which he did in 2015.

"Most of our clientele was in Saint-Sauveur, but I think that a large part of the people will come to see us [in Upper Town] because of the quality of what we were able to offer, both in terms of beer and in terms of dishes, and in terms of activities too," he said.

Griendel will remain open in Saint-Sauveur while the new location is being prepared. Parrot said Griendel will be leasing the former Cochon Dingue premises with plans to eventually purchase the building with "one of the best terraces in the city."

"For us," Parrot said, "it's a stepping stone."

As for the name, Parrot ex-



Photo courtesy of Martin Parrot

Griendel co-founder Martin Parrot samples one of the microbrewery's products at its current location in Saint-Sauveur.

plained, "Griendel is a German name, an ex-monk from the early 18th century. He was a tinkerer and a travelling scientist. We liked the visual of the name, the German reference (casual German beer culture) and the tinkerer bit (we like to try out stuff, both in the brewery and in the kitchen)."

Cochon Dingue, meanwhile, has far from disappeared after leaving Montcalm. There are now six restaurants bearing the catchy name in the Quebec City region, including the newest in Le Concorde Hotel on Grande Allée. The parent company is also making plans to bring the brand to Montreal.

Health reform bill amendment puts bilingual services at risk, advocates say

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Advocates for health-care access in English are alarmed by a proposed amendment to the Coalition Avenir Québec (CAQ) government's health-care reform bill, Bill 15, that would give Santé Québec, the Crown corporation created to manage the health system, the power to remove bilingual status from health-care institutions.

Health Minister Christian Dubé tabled Amendment 111.1 before the health and social services committee of the National Assembly on Nov. 28. It would give the Santé Québec board the power to revoke bilingual status from health facilities which provide less than 50 per cent of their services in English. The board would be

able to request withdrawal of a facility's status after consulting with the provincial and regional health-care access committees and the Office québécois de la langue française (OQLF).

Dubé tabled four language-related "transitional" amendments before the committee, including one that would ensure institutions with bilingual status are recognized as such by Santé Québec, another to prolong the validity of existing regional health-care access plans for anglophones until Santé Québec approves new ones and a third to authorize Santé Québec to communicate with recognized bilingual institutions in English.

The fourth, Amendment 111.1, would create "a process of removal of status" for health facilities that want to remove their own bilingual status obligations, Dubé told committee members.

Liberal health critic André

Fortin raised concerns about the amendment. He wondered aloud how the 50 per cent threshold would be determined, for which Dubé and the civil servants testifying alongside him, lawyer Mathieu Paquin and associate deputy minister Daniel Desharnais, provided no immediate specific answer. Fortin also mentioned that bilingual municipalities where the English-speaking population had fallen below 50 per cent had the opportunity under Bill 96 to vote to keep their bilingual status – an opportunity that doesn't appear to be available to bilingual health facilities under the proposed law. Fortin called on Dubé to create a mechanism where communities could refuse the removal of bilingual status from "their" health facility.

Debate on the amendment was ultimately suspended to give ministry officials more

time to consult with the OQLF and outside experts. He has since said he is open to withdrawing the amendment if it undermines the government's commitment to maintain access to health care in English.

"I do want to reassure the people watching that there won't be any change [to access to services in English]," Dubé said during the committee hearing, which was livestreamed.

Antoine De La Durantaye, a spokesperson for Dubé, maintained that Bill 15 "would have no impact on access to care for English-speaking people. Everything is maintained – access plans and access to interpreters. There will be no change in services offered to anglophones or in the status of their hospitals."

Despite those reassurances, the proposed amendment caused alarm in the English-speaking community. "I'm not

sure where this is going to go, but we are very concerned about it," said Richard Walling, president of the Jeffery Hale – Saint Brigid's advisory committee.

Jeffery Hale – Saint Brigid's is the only designated bilingual health institution in the Quebec City area. Walling said "maybe 10 or 20 per cent" of the combined clientele of Jeffery Hale Hospital and Saint Brigid's Home is anglophone, and the hospital's minor emergency clinic and CLSC serve thousands of people from the surrounding neighbourhoods – mainly francophones. "It all depends on how [the proportion of anglophones] will be applied and assessed. If they count everyone who comes into the minor emergency clinic and CLSC, I have no idea how they'll check that." Walling said he would be watching future developments "as closely as possible."

For Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN) president Eva Ludvig, the debate around Amendment 111.1 reflects wider problems with Bill 15, which Dubé has said he hopes to adopt before Christmas. "Its flaws are numerous and its implications far-reaching; the government appears to be still making it up as it goes along," she said in a statement. "This is part of a very nasty pattern with the CAQ; it seems the only way they feel they can protect and promote French is to restrict or deny the rights and access to services of the English-speaking community here – even when those minority-language rights are guaranteed by law." A QCGN petition against Bill 15, available on the National Assembly website, has gathered over 6,400 signatures.

Cathedral of the Holy Trinity reveals its newly restored organ

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After three years of painstaking work by artisans from Atelier Bellavance, the historic Cathedral of the Holy Trinity (built between 1800 and 1804) will once again be filled with magnificent music, resonating through the pipes of the gallery organ built and installed by the Warren Organ Company in 1882.

Organs need restoration work on a regular basis to keep them sounding their best.

This organ was enlarged by Casavant Frères in 1909 and transformed again in 1959 by the English organ company Hill, Norman & Beard. The work of Atelier Bellavance, which began in 2020 and was completed this year, involved restoring all the mechanical components and the wind system. The harmonization stage then restored each of the organ's 4,000 or so pipes to their former glory.

On the evening of Nov. 25, members of the congregation and musical friends of the cathedral (Dean Christian

Schreiner counted at least 10 organists in the sanctuary) gathered for a cocktail reception before Benjamin Waterhouse gave an inaugural concert he designed to showcase all the facets of the instrument's personality. As Waterhouse explained in the printed program, "It seemed only natural to turn to composers from the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the period when the organ was built – and, of course, to the music of Johann Sebastian Bach, that giant who bequeathed the organ some of its finest pages."

The organist began with two of Bach's gentle chorals before launching into the composer's famous "Tocatta and Fugue in D minor." Waterhouse then played soothing selections by Edward Elgar (1857-1934), including his "Chanson de nuit" and "Chanson de matin" originally composed for piano and violin, followed by the familiar "Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1" which one hears frequently played at graduation ceremonies. Within it, one can hear the melody of the patriotic song "Land of Hope and Glory" whose last



Benjamin Waterhouse, organist and musical director of the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, sits at the console of the newly restored organ in preparation for the concert he gave for its inauguration on Nov. 25.

line is "God, who made thee mighty, make thee mightier yet!" ... just like this magnificent organ.

He continued with a "Prélude, Fugue et Variation" by

César Franck (1822-1890) and another by Marcel Dupré (1886-1971), which Waterhouse described as "an explosion of joy."

Strike to close schools, CEGEPs next week if no agreement reached

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Many participating unions have no strike fund. "We're not happy [to be on strike] and we're depriving ourselves of our salary, but we want to have the conditions that allow us to do our best as teachers," De Repentigny said.

French-language school service centres on strike

Teachers at the main French-language public school service centres in the region are represented by a separate union, the Fédération autonome de l'enseignement (FAE). FAE members began

an unlimited general strike Nov. 23, halting classes in the Centre de services scolaire de la Capitale (CSSC) and Centre de services scolaire des Premières-Seigneuries (CSSPS) service areas. The FAE submitted a counter-offer to Treasury Board president Sonia LeBel

Dec. 1. As of this writing, LeBel hasn't addressed the specifics of the offer. "We're continuing our efforts [to reach an agreement] as soon as possible," she tweeted.

Premier François Legault has publicly pleaded with FAE members to "think of

the children" and end the strike – a gesture that the union denounced as emotional blackmail.

"When the premier told our FAE colleagues, 'Go back to work' – well, yes, but not under any conditions. Invest in the kids, invest in making schools

a better place and improve working conditions, and that will impact the students," LeBlanc said.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR Tramway pause, moose hunt memories

Dear Editor,

Further to "Could tramway pause be beneficial?" (Nov. 23): The second most costly aspect of the project, according to Alain Mercier, ex-director general of the Réseau de transport de la Capitale, corresponds to the doubling of the water and sewer lines all along the path of the tram. The justification given for this decision was to guarantee transit service if ever there was a need to undertake underground repairs. It is this doubling that pushes the pipes towards the sides of

the roadway, which explains a good part of the tree-cutting that is foreseen.

If the pipes are placed right beside one set of rails, it would be possible to undertake repairs by redirecting the railcars for a short distance during the work period on the rail line in the opposite direction. Using electronic controls, it is possible to have alternate movement of the railcars in opposing directions without lowering the quality of transit service. One must remember that the announced peak frequency of the tramway is

every four minutes, which gives ample time to create the necessary separation.

As for eventual repairs to the branch lines of these pipes that service residences on the other side of the tramway, there are now trenchless solutions that would solve the issue.

The third element to examine is the platform that is to be built in the centre of the roadway, at a height of 14 centimetres. The justification provided is that it would be essential for the speed, reliability and regularity of the tramway and that it would inhibit left turns

at the planned non-traversable intersections. This inhibition is supposed to avoid having the tramway sit in the blind spot of drivers wanting to turn left. In reality, the blind spot of a car does not exceed 10 metres in length, while the railcars will be 43 metres long – they will thus be impossible to miss! The speed and regularity will depend a lot on the operation of the traffic signals and not the platform.

On the reverse side of the coin, notably on Boul. René-Lévesque and on Chemin de la Canardière, the platform

creates a significant barrier for the movement of drivers, cyclists and pedestrians. While it is true that level crossings will allow passage at a reduced number of intersections, the platform will nonetheless create many detours, which is particularly detrimental for seniors, visually impaired people and those in wheelchairs – without considering that sidewalks are not well-plowed!

Paul Mackey
Quebec City

Hello Chronicle!

Your Oct. 11 [issue] was great ... I especially enjoyed Peter Black's story of the moose hunt.

My own closest encounter was on the Upper St. Maurice at night. The moose stood his ground, we grazed past him with contact, so – *match nul*.

Rest of that issue commendable.

Frank Corbett
Dollard-des-Ormeaux

MEMORIALS AND THINGS OF FAME

December 2, 1773 – The Quebec Gazette

[London, England] –

Orders are given for shipping off a quantity of goods for America, to distribute amongst the Chiefs of the Indian Tribes in alliance with Great Britain.

December 1, 1873 – The Morning Chronicle

Quebec Skating Club – The favourite rink of this Club has been flooded, and members may expect to have skating in about a week or ten days. Some improvements are being made in the way of new boxes for boots, &c. At the annual meeting of shareholders held the other day, it was decided to charge admission fee[s] on band days to all gentlemen [who are] not members of the Club or Shareholders.

December 7, 1898 – The Quebec Chronicle

Clean Bread

"Bread-Eater" writes to the *Chronicle* suggesting that the Quebec bakers who will undertake to adopt a modern method of delivering bread, will find their efforts much appreciated by the public. He complains of the plan of handling the bread and allowing it to come into contact with the coats of those who deliver it. The point is well taken. Our correspondent suggests that bread should be delivered in paper bags. Certainly that would get over the difficulty, but it is not the only way. In western cities, bread is delivered in baskets to the doors of the customers. It is placed in

the basket and taken from it by means of a handy little shovel, so that personal contact with the staple article of food is obviated. The *Chronicle*, in agreeing with the criticism of the present method of delivering bread in Quebec, does not wish to suggest that in every case it is uncleanly, nor that in the majority of cases it is unwholesome. But it is undeniable that in other cities the method here in vogue has been condemned and superseded. To help the movement for cleaner bread in Quebec, the *Chronicle* will freely announce to the public the name of every enterprising, up-to-date baker who will adopt a modern method of delivering it.

December 8, 1923 – The Quebec Chronicle

Levis Ferry Still On Summer Service

Mr. L.M. Carrier, Assistant Manager of La Traverse de Levis, Ltd., stated yesterday that the summer ferry service between Quebec and Levis had been in operation for a longer period this season than for the last ten years. He said that it was usually found advisable to inaugurate the winter service towards the end of November but this year the question of a change had not yet arisen. The policy of the company, Mr. Carrier stated, would be [to] run the "Levis" and "Lauzon" as long as the weather conditions remained favourable. The public generally much preferred the summer service since it was more convenient and more pleasant than the winter service. A decade ago in the winter of 1913, Mr. Carrier said, the summer service had been maintained until December 13th. ... He thought that possibly the present boats

would continue running until Christmas; if that proved to be the case, he thought a record would be created.

December 1, 1958 – The Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph

Palace Denies Queen Mother Saw Crystal Ball Gazer

London (AP) – The Royal Family issued a formal denial on Sunday that Queen Mother Elizabeth has been regularly visited by a 41-year-old Irishman who reads the future from a crystal ball. A statement from Buckingham Palace issued through the Press Association said: "The press secretary to the Queen wished to inform editors that the story concerning the crystal gazer visiting Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, is untrue." The denial followed a story in the *Sunday Pictorial* saying the 58-year-old Queen Mother was regularly consulting Tipperary-born crystal gazer Tom Corbell.

December 7, 1963 – The Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph

First Section Of Montreal To Quebec Highway Opened

The first section of the Trans-Canada highway between Quebec and Montreal was officially opened yesterday by Roads Minister Bernard Pinard. The 40-mile strip between Notre Dame du Bon Conseil and Ste. Rosalie represents about 10 per cent of the total length of the highway stretching over 389 miles and costing \$400,000,000 – \$150 million more than originally expected. From the signing of the Trans-Canada agreement on Oct. 27, 1960, some 69 contracts valued at

\$132 million have been issued by the provincial government. Spectators at the ribbon cutting ceremonies held at Drummondville, got a first-rate view of the sprawling four-lane highway, which is expected to be completely finished for the 1967 World's Fair.

Later at a reception, Mr. Pinard said the opening of the new section to motorists "is material proof of our unwavering trust in the future." He said it was also indicative of the Quebec government's belief that a main thoroughfare from one boundary to the other will "promote our economy and welfare for all."

"You have before you the preliminary results of a policy applied by our government over the past three years, namely that of creating a network of freeways to cope for years to come with Quebec's industrial, economic and demographic expansion. This particular artery has lately become the main avenue used for trade and industry. Travelling this modern highway will offer to tourists, and prospective investors, a glimpse of the possibilities and opportunities at hand from one end of the province to the other." ... [Mr. Pinard] said in view of the ever-increasing traffic and heavier axle loads using the highways, special attention was given to the foundation and base courses. "As a result, large quantities of unstable soils were removed and replaced by a minimum of granular material, in order to provide a foundation of sufficient resistance."

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

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



COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS HAMPER CAMPAIGN Kildare Christmas Market raises funds for Hamper Campaign

SUBMITTED BY DIANE KAMEEN

Thanks to the participation of many kind and generous people, the Kildare Christmas Market held Nov. 4 at Saint Brigid's Home raised \$1,300 for the Quebec Community Christmas Hamper Campaign, with the tally sure to grow after the second edition held Dec. 5 (total unavailable at press time).

Sales of honey, jewelry, Guild clothing, blankets, recipes, decorations and much more proved very popular. The market was also a wonderful opportunity for residents and their loved ones to socialize. This is one of the many fundraisers taking place in the community to support the campaign. To learn more, visit qchampers.ca and follow the Quebec City Community Christmas Hamper Campaign on Facebook.



William Provencher (centre), community life animator of wellness activities at Saint Brigid's Home, and Saint Brigid's Guild members Jennifer Hobbs-Robert (left), Yan Feng, Linda Boucher and Phyllis Savard sold a variety of handmade items at their table.



These cheery elves – Liv Annabelle, Allie Lemay, Miles Chan, Mireille Cloutier, Hailey Chan and Julianne Lemay – were selling handmade crafts and cookies.

Carolers spread holiday cheer on Avenue Cartier



Photo by Cassandra Kerwin

Carolers Katharina Urbschat, Bobby Fielding and Paul Mackey sing up and down Ave. Cartier on Dec. 2. They plan to return with a larger group on Dec. 16.



Photo by Cassandra Kerwin

Carolers sing at the corner of Boul. René-Lévesque and Ave. Cartier on Dec. 2. Started by a few members of the Quebec Art Company at the height of the pandemic, the annual caroling afternoons have been a holiday tradition since 2020.

Happy Hanukkah!

Hanukkah starts at sundown on Dec. 7 this year, lasting eight days until Dec. 15. Known as the Festival of Lights, it celebrates the miracle of the temple oil lasting eight days after the reconsecration of the Holy Temple that stood atop Jerusalem's Mount Moriah over 2,000 years ago. The lighting of the menorah candles (one more each day) is like the passing on of knowledge: you can give light to others without taking it away from yourself. It's a true gift of giving and sharing Hanukkah's message of the triumph of light over darkness and the freedom to worship.



Photo by Shirley Nadeau

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We will publish all donor names together in January

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

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REVIEW

Literature and sound art meet at fascinating Morrin Centre show

CASSANDRA KERWIN
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As winter moved into Quebec City, some people found warmth and hospitality at the Morrin Centre on Nov. 29. A handful of spectators attended Les Duo Choeur(s), a show dedicated to literature and creative sound art.

"For a bit of context, I am interested in mixed races. I am part Chinese and part Swedish," said Fred Wah, a Vancouverite who started writing in the 1960s. He explained that *Is A Door* was inspired by his time in Mexico, where he

was learning about the mestizo culture, a mix of European and Mexican Indigenous cultures dating from the days of the Spanish empire. "I wrote [a section] after a hurricane tore through the Yucatan," he said. He was also inspired by a bear wanting to break into his outdoor fridge in British Columbia. His second reading was from his latest book, *Music at the Heart of Thinking*, which took him about 30 years to finish and publish.

Next in the spotlight was Kaie Kellough, who was born in Vancouver, raised in Calgary and currently lives in Montreal. Rather than digging through his archives, he chose

to present sections from a book written during the peak of the pandemic lockdown. "It really started with the thought that everything was starting to get really expensive," he said. "Who has the time to think? You have to work all the time, to pursue things that you need and take care of life."

Montrealer Miriane Rouillard gave the audience something different. The classically trained musician found her niche in transforming unnatural sounds into natural sounds and music. Listeners who connect with her pieces find beauty and are transported to a different world, if only for a moment.

After presenting her first piece solo, Rouillard was joined by the other artists who read their own works, an odd combination at first glance that ultimately worked really well. The bone-chilling mixture of animal sounds, human voices and words enthralled listeners. It is something to be experienced live. It entranced the audience. Before spectators knew it, the hour-long show ended.

This evening was a perfect demonstration of the Duo Choeur(s) concept. This show is a series of "lengthy correspondences between poets and audio artists from different locations in Canada," ac-



Photo by Cassandra Kerwin

The Morrin Centre hosted Les Duo Choeur(s) on Nov. 29. Sound artist Miriane Rouillard and author Kaie Kellough performed audio art and read poetry and excerpts of texts.

ording to the Morrin Centre. "This project was driven by the concept of encounters: multi-disciplinary meetings between

poetry and audio art that allow the creation of collages where poetic and audio influences intermingle."

Frima creates Christmas magic at Woodooliparc

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Everything was picture-perfect over the weekend at the *Frima: la magie de Noël* Christmas experience at Woodooliparc, outside Scott, in Beauce. *Frima* – the word comes from *frimas*, meaning frost – lived up to its name, with a light dusting of snow covering the mittens, scarves and tuques lining the clotheslines outside Santa's house. The temperature hovering around zero made for an ideal day to kick off the month of festivities.

Woodooliparc has other themed areas – including *L'Ère des dinosaures* and the travel-themed *Air Woodooli* coming this summer, but *Frima*, which opened seven years ago, was the first. Woodooliparc manager and co-owner Karl Boucher told the *QCT* it attracts an "enormous number of visitors," many of whom come back year after year.

Alevtina Geliashovich was visiting for the first time with her children, Ksenia and Georgy. After a stint in Toronto, Russian-born Geliashovich moved to Cap-Rouge a few years ago, drawn by lower house prices and better quality of life. Two-year-old Georgy was happy to point and gawk at

Santa from behind his mother's legs, but Ksenia, 5, wanted to tell him about the present she wanted the most: a cookie you can decorate with markers.

With a 40-minute line to sit on Santa's knee for a photo, Geliashovich said, "The wait time here is a little bit challenging with kids," but added that the house is decorated so nicely and visitors can pass by Mrs. Claus' (newly renovated) kitchen and eat cookies fresh out of the oven while they wait in the warmth. "I just hope they don't destroy the house," laughed Geliashovich, whose children were busy touching the decorations on the *yiolka* (Christmas tree in Russian). Other than the canteen snacks line in the indoor warm-up "shack," there were no other major lines to contend with as children happily climbed the snowbank slide or pulled up a log seat to listen to an elf-read story or a stage show.

Boucher explained that the North Pole village "happens in the forest" which is lit up with decorations, tiny mushroom houses, elf villages, slides, a post office and surprises down every illuminated path. The stage is in a wintry courtyard with party lanterns and outdoor canteens. Traditional harmonica and fiddle music gets boots tapping and mittens

clapping around the roaring campfires. Boucher said visitors "get to live a sensation that they haven't found anywhere else." He added, "Even those who don't believe in Santa or might be feeling a bit like Scrooge often feel like believing in Santa Claus," when they visit.

Boucher told the story about one recent visitor with a "Humbug!" attitude. "It was a person who didn't like Christmas much, but when he got to the park at the beginning of the evening and he did a tour of Santa's house (complete with a miniature village) he started to cry because he found it so

magical. He told Santa how much the experience brought him back to his childhood memories. It's crazy how many people confide in Santa!"

Boucher said the elves and other Woodooliparc employees are "exceptional, magical" people who enjoy "putting smiles on people's faces." *Frima* has

also been open the past two summers, with the addition of a bubble snow machine to simulate a summer snowstorm, while nature takes care of the real snow in winter. Geliashovich said it's like "a fairytale experience and the perfect place to get into the Christmas spirit."



Photo by Danielle Burns

Five-year-old Ksenia Geliashovich poses for a photo with Santa Claus at *Frima: La magie de Noël*.



Photo by Danielle Burns

Abracadabra is a silly elf magician who sometimes gets his tricks wrong but makes up for it with Christmas spirit!

OBITUARY

Alex John (A.J.) WALLING 1946-2023

Alex John Walling, also known as A.J., (born 1946) was a Canadian sports analyst and broadcaster. He passed away peacefully on Nov. 25, 2023, in Halifax, N.S.

Alex was born in Quebec City. The son of Betram Walling and Yvette Verret, Alex was married to Kathleen Davis for 38 years, until her passing in 2014. He leaves behind his children, Kevin Cory and Christine, as well as his three sisters, Dorothy (David Baker), Ann (Genady Balik) and Helen (Richard Walling) and many dear friends.

Well known for his distinctive voice and opinionated commentary, Alex's career began at the age of 17 in 1965 as a newspaper reporter for the *Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph* in Quebec City. He made the leap to radio in 1972, and then onto TV in 1988 with the MITV television station in Halifax, also contributing as Atlantic sports reporter for TSN for many years. His dedication to music and sports led him to found the Atlantic Media Institute in 1988 and the Queens County Community Radio in 2015. Through his lifelong dedication to sports, Alex covered major sporting events, including the 1972 Summit Series, where he was one of the first to talk to Paul Henderson moments after the historic "goal heard around the world." His final radio broadcast came in spring 2023.

Alex will be deeply missed by his listeners and all those who had the opportunity to know him. His avid curiosity, interest in others, impeccable memory and great sense of humour will live on in the hearts of all of us.

As per Alex's wishes, there will be a private memorial in his honour.

Donations in memory of Alex can be made to the Saint Brigid's Home Foundation in Quebec City (canadahelps.org/en/charities/saint-brigids-home-foundation), a special place that was important to Alex in his early years.



CORRECTIONS

In the article "Vigil held at Holy Trinity for victims of Gaza conflict" (Nov. 8, 2023), the representative of Beth Israel Ohev Sholem Synagogue was misidentified. Board member Debbie Rootman represented

the synagogue.

Due to an editing error, the article "Shannon community breakfast feeds more than 300" (Nov. 29, 2023) implied that organizer Kerry Ann King attended the breakfast.

In fact, CWL volunteers the *QCT* spoke to sent their good wishes to Kerry Ann King, who was recovering at home from a recent injury. Get well soon, Kerry Ann!

We would like to thank the

readers who brought these errors to our attention. The online versions of both stories have been corrected.

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Circus Opus premières a flea circus at Les Gros Becs

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For anyone looking for a distraction for primary school-age kids during the school strike, Les Gros Becs Théâtre has just the thing until Dec 20. *Circus Opus*, a slapstick musical co-production between L'Aubergine and Les P'tits Mélomanes du Dimanche, follows last year's *Circus Opus Symphonique* presented at the Grand Théâtre with the Orchestre symphonique de Québec.

Those who missed the orchestral version can catch this adaptation in Quebec City before Christmas. With a show that appeals to big and small, adults might want to borrow any five-to-10-year-olds in their entourage as an excuse to go.

The *QCT* spoke to L'Aubergine artistic director, stage manager and co-author of *Circus Opus*, Véronika Makdissi-Warren after the Dec. 1 première.

In *Circus Opus*, a quartet (Piccola Orchestra) accompanies the two actors: the big boss Maestro, played by



The *Circus Opus* performers take a bow: actor Bertrand Alain, violinist Sylvain Neault, drummer Olivier Forest, bassist Claudia Gagné, pianist Frédérick Desroches and actor Charles Roberge.

experienced actor Bertrand Alain, and a newcomer, Charles Roberge, who plays the shy but doting sidekick, Presto. Makdissi-Warren cast Roberge, her former student at the Conservatoire d'art dramatique de Québec where she now teaches concepts learned during a career that has taken her around the world.

The physical comedy clowning show has a "vintage" vibe from circus days gone by, borrowing from acts by Buster Keaton and Charlie Chaplin. "That's my inspiration,"

said the director. Notably, the stars of the show are the tiny, invisible-to-the-eye, circus fleas who perform amazing, world record-worthy feats. "I like to create universes. [The imaginary fleas] serve to open kids' imaginations and not give them everything."

The music includes classics such as "Flight of the Bumblebee" by Rimsky-Korsakov, chosen by Maurice Laforest, who had the original story idea. The musicians – a fiddler, contrabassist, pianist and percussionist – sometimes

join in the fun onstage with the actors. "I have the cream of the crop with this quartet. I am very happy with my little duo. Bertrand, the Maestro, is a great actor from Quebec," said the director.

Makdissi-Warren said performers need to be "polyvalent" (versatile) to make a career in live arts, but Quebec City is a good place for it, with a lot of collaboration among actors, musicians, dancers and circus artists, many of whom are locally trained. She said that although Quebec



Presto, played by Charles Roberge (right), holds up one of the Swiffer Sister fleas under the watchful eye of the Maestro (Bertrand Alain) during the première of *Circus Opus*.

City might not have locally arts scene. "It's a little family based TV stars like Montreal, here," she said. there's a "prolific" performing

Christmas Market in Sainte-Catherine-de-la-Jacques-Cartier great fun for gift hunters

LISE LAFOND
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Christmas markets are the place to find unique and handmade gifts that are not found in malls and stores. The festive atmosphere of these markets will surely get you into the holiday spirit.

These markets give the visitors the chance to meet local artists and artisans, who are ready to spend a week or weekend setting up tables and booths to show visitors their treasures and crafts. The *QCT* spoke to some artisans at the Marché de Noël in Sainte-Catherine-de-la-Jacques-Cartier.

Ontario native Teresa Ten-

"Presents are made for the pleasure of who gives them, not the merits of who receives them."
~ Carlos Ruiz Zafón, *The Shadow of the Wind*

Westeneind from Poterie Terre de la Rivière has been creating pottery art for around 20 years. She will be giving pottery lessons in Sainte-Catherine-de-la-Jacques-Cartier this winter.

Sonya Laliberté of Solaly presented her wine charms made with colourful stones and Scrabble letters. She also had many beautiful bracelets made with semi-precious stones; she explained to the visitors the significance of every stone.

Isabelle Drolet from ID Design had some interesting and creative door numbers.

Marie-Ève Naud from Savons Marino had beautifully scented candles in delicate teacups, decorative soap bars and blocking knitwear soap which will surely interest knitters.



Carole Northon sells barley sugar candies at one of the cheerfully decorated outside booths.

Local author Tania Plamondon was present with the fourth and last book of her first series; she plans to start a second that may be translated into English.

She has even started to draw beautiful, unique cards.

Mélia Barde from les Bijoux de Mélia is only 14 and already has her own jewelry company. All her jewelry is handmade, and every piece is unique.

Annick Duclos' Christmas decorations are made with barn wood. They are incredibly beautiful, especially the wooden centrepieces.

Lucy Garneau is an art teacher. She teaches young and old many different techniques using watercolours. She presented her 2023 Christmas cards at her booth.

Cathy Roy from C & C Creations had many different knitted pet animals.

Catherine Bédard had washable placemats and bookmarks

– handy gifts to keep children occupied at the restaurant, during a visit to the doctor's office or while waiting for their supper.

More than 70 booths in two different buildings gave the




Micheline Simard makes unique Christmas decorations featuring Christmas choirs, people decorating Christmas trees and other holiday activities.

visitors time to walk from the Centre Socioculturel Anne Hébert to the Pavillon Desjardins; some booths welcomed visitors outside at Place du Marché.

Many Christmas markets will be open until Dec. 23.

One market worth a visit is the Marché de Noël de Sainte-Foy. It offers a variety of handmade crafts, jewelry and gourmet food products. It is open until Dec. 23 from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

SERVICE GUIDE



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The Wellness Centre at Jeffery Hale promotes the well-being of English-speakers living in the Quebec City region.

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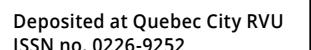
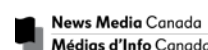
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We acknowledge the support of the Government of Canada.



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).

Until Dec. 14 – Grosse-Île, 1847 (dans les mots de ceux qui l'ont vécu), a play based on the letters of the Irish immigrants who lived on Grosse-Île in 1847, is back at La Bordée theatre for 10 performances. For details and tickets, visit bordee.qc.ca/piece/grosse-ile-1847-reprise.

Until Dec. 23 – The German Christmas Market features festivities and kiosks at five sites in Old Quebec (Place D'Youville, Place de l'Hôtel-de-Ville, Jardins de l'Hôtel-de-Ville, Rue Sainte-Anne and Place-d'Armes). Visit mnaq.ca/en for details.

Until Dec. 24 – The Grand Marché de Noël returns to ExpoCité. Get into the holiday spirit, sample festive food, find the perfect gifts and discover the work of more than 200 local artisans.

Dec. 7 to 10 at 7:30 p.m., and 2 p.m. on Dec. 9 & 10 – Les Grands Ballets present *Casse-Noisette (The Nutcracker)*. Tchaikovsky's beloved Christmas ballet comes to life at the Grand Théâtre, accompanied by the Orchestre symphonique de Québec. For details and tickets, visit grandtheatre.qc.ca.

Saturday, Dec. 9 at 7:30 p.m. – Ensemble Caprice and Ensemble ArtChoral present *Handel's Messiah*, a holiday tradition that has been celebrated around the world for centuries, directed by **Matthias Maute** and featuring soloists **Anna-Sophie Neher** (soprano), **Stéphanie Pothier** (alto), **Emmanuel Hasler** (tenor) and **Marc Boucher** (baritone) at the Palais Montcalm. For details and tickets, visit palaismontcalm.ca.

Sunday, Dec. 10 from 1 to 3 p.m. – Postcards from Quebec – Celebrate our Cultural Diversity at the Morrin Centre. Join us to enjoy music, art, and tea from West Asia, as well as a presentation on Arabic music with **Aziz Daouni**. For details, visit morrin.org.

Sunday, Dec. 10 at 2 p.m. – The Ensemble Vocal Dal Segno, an all-female choir directed by **Guillaume St-Gelais**, presents *Concert de Noël: Gloria in Excelsis* at Église St-François-Xavier, 2180 Boul. Père-Lelièvre. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$10 for teens and free for children 12 and under. For more information, visit dalsegno.ca/prochain-concert.

Sunday, Dec. 10 at 2 p.m. – The Chœur polyphonique de Lévis presents *Noël Royal* at Église Notre-Dame de Lévis, 18 Rue Notre-

Dame, Lévis. Tickets \$25 for adults and teens, free for children 12 and under.

Sunday, Dec. 10 at 3 p.m. – La Schola Cantorum de Québec presents *De l'Angleterre à l'Allemagne, en passant par la France, Chantons Noël!* at Chalmers-Wesley United Church, 78 Rue Ste-Ursule. Tickets (\$25) available at lepointdevente.com/billets/scholacantorumdequebec. \$30 at the door. Free for children 12 and under.

Sunday, Dec. 10 at 5 p.m. – The choir of the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity presents a **Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols**. This contemplative service is based on enduring sacred traditions, familiar carols, and words of comfort, hope and joy. The choir will sing works by Palestrina, Ireland, Tchaikovsky, Praetorius, Rutter and Holst. Admission is free. Donations are most welcome.

Tuesday, Dec. 12 from 5 to 7 p.m. – The Voice of English-speaking Québec, in partnership with the **Literary and Historical Society of Quebec**, is delighted to invite you and your family to our annual **Holiday Happy Hour** at the Morrin Centre. Support a good cause, enjoy a glass, savour a bite and take a moment to wish your colleagues, friends and partners a wonderful holiday season. Admission is free. RSVP by Dec. 5 to info@veq.ca or call (418) 683-2366 ext. 221. All proceeds from the cash bar will go towards the **Community Christmas Hamper Campaign**.

Dec. 14 - 16 – Assembly Hall, a brand-new contemporary dance-theatre creation (in English with French surtitles) by **Kidd Pivot**, choreographer **Crystal Pite's** dance company, will be at Le Diamant on Thursday and Friday at 7:30 p.m., Saturday at 3 p.m. For details and tickets, visit lediamant.ca/fr/programmation/assembly-hall.

Dec. 15 at 7:30 p.m. and Dec 16 at 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. – Hollywood 7, with the **Orchestre symphonique de Québec**, directed by **Jean-Sébastien Vallée**, the choir of the OSQ, prepared by **David Rompré**, with hosts **Veronika Makdissi-Warren** and **Bertand Alain**, will perform classics from *Home Alone*, *Boréal Express*, *Harry Potter*, the sweet madness of *La La Land*, the revolutionary *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, *James Bond* movies and more, at the Grand Théâtre. For details and tickets, visit osq.org.

Saturday, Dec. 16 from noon to 5 p.m.

– Parc Victorin-Beaucage in Vanier (Les Rivières) will vibrate to the rhythm of the holiday season with entertainment, inflatable games and a fireworks display. The same goes for **Trait-Carré** (Charlesbourg). In the afternoon, **Santa Claus** will welcome the children, and in the evening, the torchlight procession will take place. An arch of lights, entertainment, a fireworks show, performances by **Les petits chanteurs de Charlesbourg** and **DJ Millimetrik** will warm things up.

Saturday, Dec. 16 at 8 p.m. – Irving Berlin's White Christmas (the musical), directed by **Zita Bombardier** with musical direction by **Giancarlo Scalia** and arrangements by **Frédéric Desroches** will be presented at the Morrin Centre. This musical holiday tradition for young and old combines music, theatre and dance. Singers and dancers from **La Swing Ambassade and Jazz Band** will vibrate to the sound of the great classics of the holiday season. For more details and tickets, visit lepointdevente.com/tickets/whitechristmas.

Dec. 16 and 17 at 3 p.m. – Nicolas Noël: Le cristal du temps (Santa Claus and the Hourglass) a 60-minute family Christmas concert for children ages three -10 at the Grand Théâtre. Children two and under are admitted free but they must sit on their parents' lap. Santa Claus (Nicolas Noël) accompanied by his friendly elves **Trémaline** and **Pamalin**, tells and sings his wonderful stories in a magical atmosphere. For details and tickets, visit grandtheatre.qc.ca/programmation/nicolas-noel.

Sunday, Dec. 17 from 1 to 3 p.m. – Postcards from Quebec – Celebrate our Cultural Diversity at the Morrin Centre. Join us to enjoy music, dance, and tea from East Asia, as well as a dance show by the **Volent les papillons** troupe. For details, visit morrin.org/en.

Sunday, Dec. 17 at 11 a.m. – Trinity Anglican Church (2687 Chemin des Quatre-Bourgeois) is holding a special **Carol Service** followed by the regular Christmas worship service led by Rev. Lorraine Otto at 11:30 a.m. A time of fellowship with Christmas treats will be held in Colley Hall after the service. All are welcome.

Sunday, Dec. 17 at 11:15 a.m. – Chalmers-Wesley United Church at 78 Rue Ste-Ursule in Old Quebec will hold a service of **Lessons and Carols**, with special music by the choir. All are welcome. There will be social time in the lower hall following the service.

Dec. 17 at 2 p.m. – The Chœur du Vallon presents a **Christmas Concert** dedicated to children of the world. For the occasion, a small children's choir will join 80 adult choristers and musicians to sing popular Christmas songs, at Église Ste-Ursule, 3290 Rue Armand-Hamelin (Ste-Foy). Tickets: adults \$30, students \$20, free for children 12 and under. For more information and reservations, visit choeurduvallon.com.

Sunday, Dec. 17, starting at 10 a.m. – The Course des Pères Noël / Santa Claus Race takes place in the Petit-Champlain district of Quebec City. This six-kilometre race is a fundraiser for the Fondation des Petits bonheurs d'école. For details and to register, visit facebook.com/coursedesperesnoel.

Tuesday, Dec. 19 at 10 a.m. – Brain Power Drop-In is a bi-weekly activity held on the first and third Tuesday of each month for English-speaking adults aged 50 and over who want to keep their brains strong and healthy at the Wellness Centre at Jeffery Hale, 1270 Chemin Sainte-Foy. To participate, contact Anaïs Fortin at afortinmaltais@jhppartners.net or call 581-446-7476. For details, visit wejh.ca/programs-and-activities/well-50-caregivers/brain-power-drop-in.

Wednesday, Dec. 20 at 8 p.m. – Les Rhapsodes, directed by David Rompré, present the *Te Deum* and *Messe de minuit pour Noël* by **Marc-Antoine Charpentier**, featuring soprano **Carole-Anne Roussel**, mezzo-soprano **Luce Vachon**, tenor **Louis-Charles Gagnon** and bass **Maxence Lasserre-Engberts**, accompanied by organist **Marc D'Anjou** and an orchestra ensemble, at the Palais Montcalm. For information and tickets, visit lesrhapsodes.com.

Friday, Dec. 22 at 8 p.m. – Renowned magician and illusionist Luc Langevin presents *Vérités*, which walks the fine line between truth and lies, at the Grand Théâtre. Each fascinating number will lead the viewer to question their own beliefs. What is truth? For details and tickets, visit grandtheatre.qc.ca/programmation/luc-langevin.

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

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

Local First Nations guests of honour at Brussels Christmas market

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Imagine strolling through the streets of Brussels on a chilly December night; the wet stone pavement reflects the street lights and the boutique windows entice holiday shoppers. As you brace yourself against the wind along Boulevard Anspach, the smells and sounds of the annual Christmas market grab your attention. You raise your head, and in front of the traditional small wooden cabins and the Palais de la Bourse, you find a long, five-metre-high cone-shaped tent. You have found Winter Wonders' 2023 guests of honour: delegations from the 11 First Nations of Quebec and the Inuit, and their landmark *shaputuan*.

Winter Wonders has been an international winter festival

and market in Brussels since 2001. Every year, a country or region is selected as "guest of honour." "Quebec and Belgium share a long friendship," explained Adélaïde de Patoul of the major events team for the City of Brussels. "If many Belgians know Quebec or have already visited, few have had the chance to experience its Indigenous cultures."

As guests of honour, delegations representing each of Quebec's 11 First Nations and the Inuit will be present throughout the festival, from Nov. 24 to Dec. 31. Cultural and educational activities will be held several times a week in the *shaputuan*; meanwhile, Indigenous artists and artisans will staff market cabins to sell and promote Indigenous goods.

At night, your ears will probably lead you a few streets away from Place de la Bourse to Grand-Place where the



A large innu *shaputuan* built by Serge Ashini Goupil's team dominates the Brussels Christmas Market. The tent was transported from Quebec and erected with the help of La Cabane à Mario, veterans of the Winter Wonders festival based in Trois-Pistoles. The wooden beams were locally sourced from the Bertrix commune, some 150 kilometres south of Brussels. Most of the materials and items provided will be recycled for different projects in Belgium. The items that decorate the inside of the *shaputuan*, for example, will be donated to the Brussels City Museum.

gothic city hall is enveloped in a light and sound show by Kanien:keha'ka (Mohawk) artist Leilani Shaw. Grand-Place itself is the main area of the festival, and when the show

starts, a dense crowd will likely form to enjoy the view. This year, even the natural Christmas tree standing majestically in the centre of the square is decorated with Indigenous

symbols, a design by Wendat artist Pascal Sioui. Crossing the illuminated facade of City Hall, you would find its inner courtyard transformed into a massive teepee-like structure with its ceiling decorated with figures of loons, wolves and all kinds of wild animals – a work by Anishinaabe artist Frank Polson. On Nov. 24, for the opening ceremony, the Wendat dance troupe Sandokwa, from Wendake, performed traditional dances and songs, accompanied by Inuit throat singers, before some 30,000 people from all over Europe.

Andrew Germain of Indigenous Tourism Quebec has been on site since Nov. 21, with the Inuit, Wendat and Abenaki delegations. He said that the enthusiasm and curiosity of the visitors is palpable. "One of the nicest things we hear – often! – is people who have already been to Quebec and realize

that they had not encountered Indigenous cultures ... and now they want to come back to experience it!"

The delegations play an important educational role, having already had to debunk several myths. Overall, Germain said, visitors have been very open to re-examining their knowledge of the "Indians" and most of the interactions have created opportunities to connect and grow together. For the members of the delegation, this is an opportunity to become familiar with Belgian culture and European mentalities. For Germain, the outreach opportunity between Indigenous nations and French-speaking Europe is unprecedented; over the five weeks of the festival, 3.5 million people are expected to visit the attractions.

SPORTS

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Struggling Remparts no match for Voltigeurs

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After a championship season that saw the team win its third Memorial Cup title, the Quebec Remparts are still trying to adapt to the loss of many veterans.

Even though management and fans knew this would be a rebuilding year for the Remparts, things could not get any worse in Drummondville on Dec. 3, as the team suffered its worst loss of the season.

The Voltigeurs had no pity for the Diables Rouges as they destroyed the visitors 10-3 at

the Centre Marcel-Dionne.

For those looking for positive things to take away from the game, at least the young Remparts were not shut out. Daniel Agostino, Pier-Étienne Cloutier and Antoine Dorion found the back of the Voltigeurs' net.

Rookie goaltender Louis-Antoine Danault started for Quebec but head coach Éric Veilleux pulled the youngster after he allowed three goals on eight shots in 11 minutes and 46 seconds. Veteran Quentin Miller relieved Danault but got no help from his defence and allowed six goals on 17 shots. Danault came back in front of

the net at the start of the third period.

After two periods, Drummondville outshot the Remparts 34-11. By the end of the game, the tally was 43-19.

Marquis-Laflamme burns the Islanders

Twenty-four hours before the debacle in Drummondville, the Remparts hosted the Charlottetown Islanders at the Videotron Centre. The 9,342 fans in attendance witnessed a magnificent comeback by the Remparts.

With Charlottetown leading 5-2 after two periods, the Remparts scored four unanswered

goals in the final 20 minutes to escape with a huge 6-5 victory.

Mikaël Huchette scored with 51 seconds left in the third period to break the 5-5 tie. Forward Zachary Marquis-Laflamme had scored 29 seconds earlier with his third goal of the game. Vsevolod Komarov and Charles Savoie also scored in the final frame.

The Remparts host the Acadie-Bathurst Titan on Dec. 6 and the Moncton Wildcats on Dec. 8. They hit the road to play the Oceanic in Rimouski on Dec. 9 before going north to play the Chicoutimi Saguenéens at the Centre Georges-Vézina on Dec. 13.



Photo courtesy of the Quebec Remparts

Remparts general manager Simon Gagné recently announced that the number 7, worn by his former teammate Éric Chouinard (centre) in the late 1990s, will be retired during a ceremony on March 9. Éric Chouinard wore the number his father Guy (right) also wore with the Remparts in the early 1970s.

St. Lawrence Lions hockey team victorious over Griffons, Jeannois

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The CEGEP Champlain-St. Lawrence Lions hockey team got goals from six different players en route to an easy 6-2 victory over the Collège d'Alma Jeannois on Dec. 3 at the Aréna des Deux-Glaces in Val-Bélair.

Christophe Samson led the way with one goal and two assists. The other goals were scored by Xavier Fauchon, Justin Mongeon, Mathias Loisel, Henri Desbiens and Mathys Lapointe.

Simon Boucher blocked 33 of the 35 shots he faced in front of the Lions' net to earn the victory.

The Lions were surely motivated by their last-second win the night before against the Griffons from Cégep de l'Outaouais.

With the score tied at 5-5, Lions forward Jérémy Belleau scored on a rebound from his own shot, while on his knees, with 5.1 seconds left, giving St. Lawrence a dramatic 6-5 victory over the Griffons. It was Belleau's 16th goal of the season.

Lions head coach Pierre-Cédric Labrie saw his team open the scoring rapidly when Mathis Croteau and Benjamin Chabot gave St. Lawrence a 2-0 lead only 57 seconds into the game.

The Griffons fought back, however, and scored four goals

to take a 4-2 lead after 40 minutes.

The Lions dug deep and took a 5-4 lead with goals from Maverick Delisle, Loïse and Alexis Vézina. The Griffons tied the game with less than six minutes left in the third period before Belleau's goal near the end of the game.

St. Lawrence goaltender Thomas Laferrière started the game but was pulled after giving up four goals on eight shots. Boucher came in relief and steadied the defence with his stellar play.

The Lions are now in third place in the Réseau du sport étudiant du Québec (RSEQ) Division 1 conference with 25 points in 18 games. Although St. Lawrence is tied with Col-

ège d'Alma and Cégep André-Laurendeau, who also have 25 points, those two schools have played two more games than St. Lawrence so far this season.

The final game before the holidays will be played on Dec. 8 when the Lions host their neighbours, the Dynamiques from Cégep de Sainte-Foy. Game time is 7 p.m.

In **basketball**, it was a weekend to forget for both St. Lawrence teams. The Lady Lions could not get past the Northeast Conference leaders, the Cégep de Chicoutimi Cougars, on Dec. 2. Chicoutimi won 77-73.

The men's team is still winless in six games this season after they were crushed 112-48 by the Cégep de Jonquière



Screenshot photo by Luc Lang from SLC Lions YouTube channel

The CEGEP Champlain-St. Lawrence Lions gather around netminder Simon Boucher after a dramatic 6-5 victory over the Griffons from Cégep de l'Outaouais on Dec. 2. The Lions are currently in third place in the RSEQ division 1 standings.

Gaillards, also on Dec. 2.

Both St. Lawrence basketball teams will play their final game before the holidays against the Filons from Cégep

de Thetford on Dec. 8. Tipoff for the women's game is scheduled for 7 p.m. at the Lions' Den with the men's game to follow.

KEY ON SPORTS

Remparts make two key trades



Photo Luc Lang

After the Dec. 3 game against Drummondville, the Quebec Remparts made two trades with the Voltigeurs. The Remparts sent forward Mikael Huchette (photo) for a second and third-round draft pick in the upcoming league's entry draft. Russian defenceman Vsevolod Komarov was traded to the Volts along with an eighth-round draft pick, in exchange for Bulgarian defenceman Nino Tomov, prospect Maverick Rousseau-Hamel, a first-round pick at next year's draft and a second-round pick in 2025.

St. Patrick's High School hockey teams in Kingston for important showcase

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Two of the three hockey teams from St. Patrick's High School were in Kingston, Ont. to take part in an important hockey showcase tournament on Dec. 4 and 5.

The Under 15 (U15) division 1 *Relève* (Next Generation) team and the U18 squad each played three games against other Ontario and Quebec high school clubs.

Hockey showcases give scholastic hockey players an opportunity to demonstrate their skills in front of scouts from junior and collegiate leagues across North America.

St. Patrick's High School has three hockey teams this season, which all play in the Réseau du Sport Étudiant du Québec (RSEQ) at different levels.

Since all the games were played after the *QCT* went to press, the results of the showcase will be available in the Dec. 13 edition.

The U15 division 3 team was in action closer to home on

Dec. 3 in St-Léonard-d'Aston, against the Broncos from École Secondaire La Découverte, conference leaders in the Ligue de Hockey Préparatoire Scolaire (LPHS).

The Irish were no match for the Broncos as they were defeated 6-2. Alexis Lebel, with his 11th goal of the season, and Félix Rodrigue, with his sixth, scored for St. Pat's.

The Fighting Irish are now in sixth place in their division with 46 points.

The U15 Division 1 team is having great success with 11 victories in 13 games. Even though the team is currently fifth in the LPHS standings, they have the third-best winning percentage among the 16 participating schools.

Finally, even though they are ninth in their division, the U18 team is only one point out of eighth place, which would assure them a playoff spot. They have a record of seven victories in 14 games.

The St. Patrick's High School hockey program also rewards players each month for performance on the ice as well as in the classroom.

Félix Côté (U15 division 1), Ludovic Kiopini (U15 division 3) and Gregory Brisson (U18) were named players of the month.

Also of note, Marianne Côté, who plays with the U15 division 3 team, is currently attending the Capitale-Nationale training camp. If Côté is selected, she will represent the region at the upcoming Jeux du Québec in Sherbrooke in March.

