

BETTER NEWS PAPERS COMPETITION

46TH ANNUAL AWARDS



QCNA
QUEBEC
COMMUNITY
NEWSPAPERS
ASSOCIATION

JUNE 12, 2026

1

The Equity

Sophie Kuijper Dickson, Dave Moore

Judge Comment: Really nice to see the reader engagement on this page. The editorial is good but needs to get to the point faster. Great layout. Good job overall!

2

The Low Down to Hull & Back News

Trevor Greenway, Luc Alain

Judge Comment: Some powerful writing on tough subjects in both the editor's and contributor's columns. The cartoon brings balance to that intensity. Very nice!

Page 6 - THE LOW DOWN TO HULL AND BACK NEWS

Opinion

Valley Voices BY GARY MARTIN

Calming nerves after flood feature

Thanks to the Low Down for the Feb. 5 article, "Quebec flood maps to grow by 40 per cent". We in the Hills need to be more aware of homes, flooding and insurance. It's a difficult and complex subject, and it concerns our homes — the most important place on the planet for many of us. I study flooding in Canada and abroad. I'm hoping to clarify some of the information in the article and calm some nerves.

First, as Trevor Greenway, the writer of the article pointed out, both the federal and Quebec governments are updating flood maps to incorporate climate projections. It's possible that lines will change and flood zones will increase. But for the spokesperson for the provincial Environment Ministry to suggest that flood zones will grow by 40 per cent is irresponsible. At this point there's no way to tell if or how maps will differ from each municipality's existing flood maps. It's important to note that municipalities are pretty good at understanding local geography and climate trends and keeping new houses out of risky zones. In some areas flood zones may actually shrink. You'd never know it from all the snow this winter, but some of the models have spring flooding decreasing in our region.

Building codes already specify many measures to keep water out and are in the process of being updated to protect houses further. It's a democratic, multi-stakeholder process, which means it's aggravating and time consuming.

I can apply caution to statements from IBC's [Insurance Bureau of Canada] Craig Stewart (who, by the way, is an advisor for our research). As the article states, the insurance industry is partnering with the Canadian government in efforts to deal with the resilience of Canadian homes in the face of the growing threat of storms. I can understand why Mr. Stewart is getting impatient with the feds: it's a hugely complicated and expensive task to create new maps and also new government-backed insurance for high-risk properties, as well as better infrastructure and a new model for funding flood recovery — all of which are in the works. Climate change is forcing us to row in the same direction, which is tough on our sited and constitutionally hobbled — and now proposed — political system. But the fact is that governments and insurers want to protect mortgages and prevent people from losing equity in their homes.

I need to clarify another misinterpretation in the article. Building codes dictate building construction. Municipal urbanism and building permit offices dictate where houses can or cannot be built. Building codes already specify many measures to keep water out and are in the process of being updated to protect houses further. It's a democratic, multi-stakeholder process, which means it's aggravating and time consuming. As I said above, municipalities do their best to keep new houses out of flood zones.

Finally, the article refers to a case where a homeowner way up on a hill received what sounds like a form letter from his insurer stating that the cost of insurance for overland flooding was going to balloon. Insurers are getting swamped with flooding claims and concerned about business risk. My point: don't guess about your coverage, learn about your risk(s) and ask if you're covered because it's better to be safe than sorry.

Gary Martin is a Wakefield resident and researches and consults on climate change adaptation.

From the Editor's Desk

BY TREVOR GREENWAY
Editor in Chief

BREAKING DOWN TABOOS AROUND SUICIDE

We need to talk about suicides. Some readers may be surprised or uncomfortable to see our front page this week: photos of three local men who have tragically taken their own lives, with the headline, "Is there anything we can do?"

Some would question why a local newspaper would publish such a heavy story in such a bold way — an entire front page dedicated to suicides with heartbreaking interviews from loved ones who are left to pick up the pieces.

Why? Because we have a looming crisis. Recent suicide stats from the province show an alarming trend that young men are three times more likely to take their own lives than their female counterparts — and it's even more troubling locally.

The starting point is removing the taboo around suicides.

In the Outaouais, the suicide rate is above the provincial average of 10 people per 100,000; for us, it's around 15.3 per 100,000. Tragically, 345 Outaouais residents have died by suicide since 2017. But these aren't just numbers. They are people — people known and loved as sons and daughters, neighbours, nephews and friends. Among these 345 people are locals like talented artist Patrick Thompson, village contractor and loving father Jay Dubois and gifted chef Declan Thomas, who was a personal friend of this editor. In a small community, suicide touches all of us.

The Low Down spent close to two years going through reports, speaking with families of loved ones who have taken their own lives and carefully crafting a sensitive article with the hope that it could help help open the discussion about a previously taboo subject, help grieving families feel supported and help encourage more people who are struggling to reach out for support. It's a hard topic to talk about, we know. Our original front page featured five local men who have taken their own lives in as many years, and we spoke with all the families to make sure they were on board with having their loved ones' photos and stories on our front page. Two let us know that reliving those emotions would be too much, and we removed them from the story. While the other three families' pain is no less, they agreed it was important their stories were told in an impactful way and encouraged us to continue reporting on this topic.

We aren't experts, and we don't have all the answers, but what we have found in our reporting is that young men these days are feeling lost in society and potentially at risk. The starting point is removing the taboo around suicides. The aim of the article is not to shock our readers but to break down the stigmas around mental illness, so those who are struggling will feel empowered to ask for help.

This story hits close to home for many of us, including this writer, who has had his own mental health struggles. Besides talking to loved ones about my fears, I've used this column to open up about anxiety and depression. This issue cannot and should not stay hidden in the shadows, I can say with first hand knowledge that talking about it was a starting point that helped me a lot.

We hope this article will start the conversation and may become someone's starting point.

Feb. 19 - Feb. 25, 2025

The Low Down
A locally owned weekly newspaper serving the Outaouais since 1873.

OUR DEDICATED STAFF:

PUBLISHER
Nikki Mantell
nmantell@lowdownonline.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Trevor Greenway
editor@lowdownonline.com

REPORTER
Simon Hopkins
simon@lowdownonline.com

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT REPORTER
Phil Jenkins
phil@philjenkins.ca

GENERAL MANAGER
Heather Hopewell
general@lowdownonline.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS & CLASSIFIEDS
Heather Goldik
classifieds@lowdownonline.com

ADVERTISING SALES DIRECTOR
Aden Seaton
sales@lowdownonline.com

MARKETING DIRECTOR
Jessica Valentini
jessica@lowdownonline.com

ART DIRECTOR
Susan Williams
design@lowdownonline.com

COPY EDITOR
Matt Harrison

MEMBER OF THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF NEWSREGISTRATION

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CONTACT US:
813 Riverside Drive
Wakefield, QC J0X 2P0
818-459-2222
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Editorial

Money talks

Letters

Am I a martian?

Recycling bottles, cans & plastic drums

A critique of government priorities

Open Letter to MP Chate

Clarification

From our readers

Twinn' in the wild

Out standing in his field

Short-sighted economists

EDITORIAL NUNAVUT 00.50¢

Third shooting underlines need for change in Nunavut

KRG, families and public push for changes to policing in wake of 3rd police shooting in 8 months

Something has to change in Nunavut. There's growing concern after the third fatal shooting by police in Nunavut in the past eight months.

That's why Nunavimmiut should support the recent initiatives to get answers and to consider different ways of policing.

On July 17, a person died in Inukjuak after a while responding to a call during which they were approached by someone with a "bladed weapon."

In May, Mark R. Amannak was fatally shot by police in Kangiqsualujuaq when they were trying to apprehend a man in a tent. After using pepper spray to get him to exit, he came at police with a "bladed weapon" and was then fatally shot.

And last November in Salluit, Joshua Papiagutak died and his twin brother Gamed Papiagutak was injured when they were shot by police responding to a report of an impaired driver.

Few official details are known about the shootings. Quebec's police watchdog, the Bureau des enquetes independantes, which looks into incidents where members of the public die or are seriously injured during contact with police, investigated the Salluit shooting and is investigating the other two.

That office is responsible for recommending whether criminal charges should be laid against officers involved in those incidents.

Desperate to end the string of deaths, families of two victims, the Kativik Regional Government and the general public have been calling for changes.

After the first incident in November, there were protests against Nunavut police in half of the region's communities.

This week, family members of Papiagutak and Amannak called for a meeting with Quebec Premier Francois Legault, saying the criminal justice system in Nunavut is failing Nunavimmiut.

And in the wake of the recent third shooting last week, the Kativik Regional Government launched an audit of Nunavut Police Service practices and policies.

In the coming months, there will be dozens of questions. The big question is, will any of the officers face criminal charges in the shootings?

But there are others: Would less-lethal options, such as stun guns, lead to fewer deaths? Would more money from the Quebec government improve the criminal justice system the province established for Nunavut?

Is a change in leadership at the Nunavut Police Service in order? Can the Nunavut Police Service even be trusted to serve the region anymore? Or should it be replaced with a police force that doesn't have such a troubled history?

Three deaths in less than a year is disturbingly high in a region with such a small population. The frequency of police-shooting deaths appears to be about 40 times higher in Nunavut than in the rest of Quebec.

In the past 10 years, there have been 16 deaths in Nunavut with its population of 14,000, compared to 250 in all of Quebec which has a population of nine million.

Obviously, policing in Nunavut isn't working the way it should. It can't continue. Big changes are needed to restore public confidence in policing and to make Nunavimmiut feel safer around those responsible to serve and protect.

Protester Suzy Kaiki stands in front of the Kativik Regional Government office in November 2024, calling for Nunavut institutions to stand in solidarity with the communities against police brutality. Since a fatal shooting by police of a man in Salluit in November, there have been two more deaths of people in Nunavut who were shot by police. (File photo by Cedric Gallant)

Protester Suzy Kaiki stands in front of the Kativik Regional Government office in November 2024, calling for Nunavut institutions to stand in solidarity with the communities against police brutality. Since a fatal shooting by police of a man in Salluit in November, there have been two more deaths of people in Nunavut who were shot by police. (File photo by Cedric Gallant)

LETTERS NUNAVUT 00.50¢

Letter | Redefining Arctic security begins with our health

True security comes from healthy, resilient communities, not from military hardware, writer says

When most people think of Arctic security, they imagine military patrols, surveillance systems and geopolitical tensions.

But as discussed at the recent Arctic Sovereignty and Security Summit in Iqaluit, this narrow framing misses the most fundamental truth: health is Arctic security.

For nearly two decades, Qulliqartit Health Research Centre has worked to strengthen the well-being of Nunavimmiut. What we've learned is that security for our communities does not begin at national borders — it begins at home in safe housing, strong families, clean water, food sovereignty, and care systems grounded in Inuit values.

The real threats to security in the North are chronic underinvestment in health infrastructure, colonial service systems, and structural/systemic inequities. These issues are urgent and persistent. How do families feed their children? How do we care for elders now and into the future? Where are the homes, clinics, and culturally safe supports needed for thriving communities?

Our understanding of security includes human security — including housing, health care, food, cultural continuity, and protection from violence and discrimination. It also means recognizing relational security: the strength of kinship, intergenerational caregiving, and cultural knowledge transmission.

At Qulliqartit, we work alongside youth, elders, and communities to elevate Inuit-led approaches to health and research. These are not just programs — they are living examples of self-determination and sovereignty. They challenge the notion that northern communities are passive recipients of southern expertise.

Security that ignores the well-being of Nunavimmiut only protects someone else's interests. Our Canadian Rangers cannot serve effectively without health infrastructure. Our youth cannot become tomorrow's leaders if they are navigating food insecurity and housing crises. Our economies cannot grow if basic community needs go unmet.

Furthermore, much of the work that ensures community well-being is carried out by women — caring for youth, facilitating healing, delivering front-line programs and providing health care. Yet these voices are often invisible in traditional security discussions.

There's a critical question from security studies that applies here: "Whose security are we talking about?"

If the answer doesn't include communities, women, children, and elders, then we need to rethink our approach.

In the Arctic, true security is built not with military hardware — but with healthy resilient communities — safe homes, strong families, and systems rooted in our values and ways of life.

Dr. Gwen K. Healey Akasok, PhD, was born and raised in Iqaluit, where she continues to live, work and raise her family. She is the co-founder of the Qulliqartit Health Research Centre and has served as its executive and scientific director for the past 19 years.

Dozens of people in Iqloilik pack Atagutaluk Elementary School for a community event, the screening of the movie *Wang Husbands*, in this file photo from Jan. 12. Resilient communities are the heart of Arctic security more than military hardware is, letter writer Gwen Healey Akasok says. (Photo courtesy of Zacharias Kuski)

3

Nunatsiq News

Judge Comment: A tough situation is outlined on this page with sensitivity and thoughtfulness. Terrific guest column. Good stuff!

Competition Comments: Overall, this category featured strong contributions and, in many cases, efforts to tackle deep-seated community issues. Exactly what a good editorial page should.

Judge: Mary Baxter

News

Behind the scenes at Cultural Arts Center

MARCUS BANKUTI
The Eastern Door
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

It might feel like the project just broke ground, but Kahnawake's Cultural Arts Center (KCAC) is well on its way to becoming a reality.



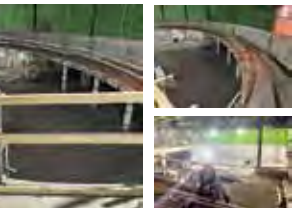
Project manager Louise John Diabo took The Eastern Door on a tour of the new building, along with MCK portfolio chief Melanie Morrison and technician Trina C. Diabo.

Kahnawake's Akwiranoron Stacey, owner of Rakwatawas Carpentry, is proud to be working on the new language and cultural centre as a subcontractor.

Envisioned as a jewel of the community — a meeting place, a hub of tourism, arts, and Kahnawake's culture — Kahnawake's multipurpose building that some of Kahnawake's best-loved institutions will soon call home.

The site will host the Kanien'kehá:ka Onkwawé:na Raastiohka Language and Cultural Center (KOR), the Turtle Island Theatre, Kahnawake Tourism, and even Tóta Ma's Café. "We're looking at this as being the future area where people can come have a coffee, watch a show in the theatre, go to the museum, learn language, all of those things to make it the hub of the community," said project manager Louise John Diabo.

Noting the speed of progress, Diabo pointed out that Gyprock is already going up this week. "Three days made a big difference," Diabo said. "It's very inspiring to see it coming to fruition," said Mohawk Council of Kahnawake (MCK) portfolio chief Melanie Morrison, who joined for the tour. "Seeing the walls, the Gyprock up, you can now envision what it's actually going to be, and to be here when it was wide open to now, it's a fantastic feeling that this is going to be completed."



This spiral ramp will be part of a state-of-the-art museum, giving Kahnawake the facility it needs to repair and display precious artifacts.

These are the hookups for the future location of Tóta Ma's Café.

These are the hookups for the future location of Tóta Ma's Café.



Project manager Louise John Diabo points out the wood installation on the ceiling, a prominent feature of the mockups.

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The Eastern Door

Judge Comment: This feature page combines a well-written and important feature story -- a 'behind the scenes' story of the construction of the Kahnawake Cultural Art Center with quality pictures of the work-in-progress. This project is a major contribution to the community and the story with pictures allows the readers to measure the advancement of the site. Congratulations to the winner!



Nunatsiaq News

Cedric Gallant

Judge Comment: Nunatsiaq News is always beautifully put together, with impactful stories and quality pictures.

EDUCATION NUNAVIK

Nunavik youths get hands-on look at negotiating a treaty

Close to 40 young people join 3-day simulation event to learn negotiation tactics, public speaking and leadership skills

Cedric Gallant
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter



Nivi Snowball, a participant at the Nunavik treaty simulation in Inukjuak last month, speaks to others taking part.

To develop future generations' leadership and negotiation skills, close to 40 youths gathered in Inukjuak last month to perform a three-day Nunavik treaty simulation.

"Oh my God, was it ever fun," said Janice Parsons, president of the Qaujittu Youth Council, in a phone interview.

From Jan. 28 to Jan. 29, participants from across the region met at the Inukjuak community centre and shared knowledge with elders, some of whom were part of the Northern Quebec Inuit Association that first signed the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement 50 years ago.

The agreement, signed in 1975, established the legal rights of Inuit and the Cree Nation in northern Quebec.

The event was organized by Qaujittu Youth Council, Makivik Corp. and the Gordon Foundation, a charitable organization dedicated to empowering Canada's North.

It was an exercise to gather information and a better understanding of the agreement and to learn negotiation tactics.

"A lot of it was really preparing the youth to start negotiating with Makivik and Quebec (in the future)," said Parsons.

"It was a success; the youth were very involved, engaged, and willing to learn. It really looked like an actual negotiating table with the government."

"The whole entire time during their negotiation simulation, I was in tears," she said.

Parsons participated the first time in a simulation held in Kuujuaq in 2022. Although that event was more spontaneous, she said.

"The importance of learning how to negotiate in preparation for our youth to thrive in advocacy and leadership," she said.

Inukjuak Mayor Peter Inukpuk, who was a signatory to the agreement 50 years ago, was at the event to listen and talk with participants.

"We were able to listen directly from original signatories, their experience, their struggles, their sacrifices," Parsons said.

"The youth learned that there were not many options for those original signatories."

Parsons said she would like to see Nunavik treaty simulations held about every two years to help young people learn about self-governance, self-determination, leadership and what is happening in the region.

Of the nearly 40 participants, just under 20 were from Nunavik Sivutit.

"I dream to see higher numbers because this is our future as youth — our children's future," she said.

A breakdown of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement was given to participants of a treaty simulation last month, increasing their knowledge of Nunavik.

(Photo courtesy of Qaujittu Youth Council) Inukjuak Youth Council members and elders at the Nunavik treaty simulation.

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The 1019 Report

Adam Starkey, Madeleine Langlois

Judge Comment: This category required the newspaper to combine pictures with a feature story. While the story lacks in this case, I do appreciate the Fall colour scheme and the quality pictures.



Judge: Lucie Laumonier

SPORTS - NATIONAL BANK OPEN TENNIS

MORE SPORTS ONLINE AT TRES.SUBURBAN.COM



VICTORIA MBOKO



VICTORIA MBOKO

Serving up a dozen days of superb tennis experiences

By Mark Lidbetter, The Suburban

The 2025 National Bank Open presented by Rogers enjoyed a dozen great days for tennis fans at Stade IGA. From the opening serve to the Cinderella finish for Canada's Victoria Mboko, the NBO 2025 was serving nothing but aces to all those in attendance. With so many sold out sessions and the new format of 12 days of tennis saw the open set a new attendance record of 287,329 spectators. That eclipsed the previous record established last summer. Stade IGA was designated as the Tennis Playground, which included plenty for fans to do in the Fan Zone. Spectators got to try their hand at seeing how fast a serve they could serve up, how accurate a shot they could take and even see if they had the stuff to be a line judge. Fans were treated to matches featuring the top talents of the Women's Tennis Association (WTA), got to cheer on hometown heroine Gene Bouchard, who enjoyed an exciting curtain call as she called it a career. American Coco Gauff made a successful return to doubles play with her first-time partner fellow American McCartney Kessler. In their first appearance as a pair, the duo best No. 3 seeds Taylor Townsend and Zhang Shuai 6-4 1-6 13-11 in the final.



COCO GAUFF



PHILIPPE SERAFINOTI THE SUBURBAN



GENE BOUCHARD



PHILIPPE SERAFINOTI THE SUBURBAN



The Suburban

Mark Lidbetter, Stephen Balena

Judge Comment: Such a great set of sport pages with a wide variety of events covered, starting off with an up-and-coming tennis superstar to minor baseball. Fantastic, wide variety of photos and really good, solid writing.



The Low Down to Hull & Back News

Trevor Greenway, Madeline Kerr, Simon Hopkins

Judge Comment: A good solid set of sports pages starting off with a fantastic design on the front page with a very good story. It is unfortunate that there is an advertisement on that front page... but the set of pages tells you all you need to know about skiing in the area.

Page 14 - THE LOW DOWN TO HULL AND BACK NEWS Dec. 3 - Dec. 9, 2025

Low Down on Skiing in the Hills

Ski your Buns Off

FREERIDING AND LOVING IT

At 43, Rupert dad takes on the best skiers, on the best mountains

BY TREVOR GREENWAY editor@lowdownonline.com

of renowned slopes - all without missing time at home with his family. The Rupert father and husband has been able to do something that most dads can't - continue to compete at the highest level of freeride skiing - a form of skiing that involves skiing on natural, unmarked terrain. He recalls the first time he took his wife and newborn

Photo courtesy of Ron Pass @ Palisades Tahoe / Jeff Engbrechtson

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

Chronicle-Telegraph

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2025, 20th year, No. 37

Québec

Julian Alaphilippe wins the 14th Grand Prix Cycliste de Québec

Cassandra Kerwin

The normal time was the chance for French cyclist Julian Alaphilippe, the 33-year-old, to win the 14th Grand Prix Cycliste de Québec (GPQ) on Wednesday. He won the race by a margin of 10 seconds over second-place finisher, American cyclist Michael Matthews. Alaphilippe, who has won the GPQ twice before, was leading the race for much of the day. He crossed the finish line at the Stade de Québec, where he was greeted by a cheering crowd. Alaphilippe's victory was a significant achievement, as he had never won the GPQ before. He is now the only cyclist to have won the GPQ in both 2019 and 2025. Alaphilippe's win was a testament to his skill and endurance. He had a strong lead for much of the race, and he was able to hold off a strong challenge from Matthews in the final kilometers. Alaphilippe's victory was a surprise to many, as Matthews was considered the favorite to win. Alaphilippe's win was a great achievement for him, and it was a great day for the city of Québec. The race was a great success, and it was a great day for everyone involved.

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Québec Chronicle-Telegraph

Cassandra Kerwin, Mike Tonkin

Judge Comment: Very good photos and story, good quotes and all placed on the front page which is fantastic.

Competition Comments: Overall, it was a good set of eight entries in the A5 category. Sports writing and photos often get overlooked, but the top three entries in this category should make sports fans and non-sports fans alike take notice.

Judge: Kevin McBain



1 *The Equity*

Judge Comment: Very unique use of the printed product. Community-driven contest. Encouraged readers to drop off ballot at their booth at the fair as well as a digital subscription offer. I've never seen a print execution like this before. Well done.

2 *The Low Down to Hull & Back News*
Jessica Valentini

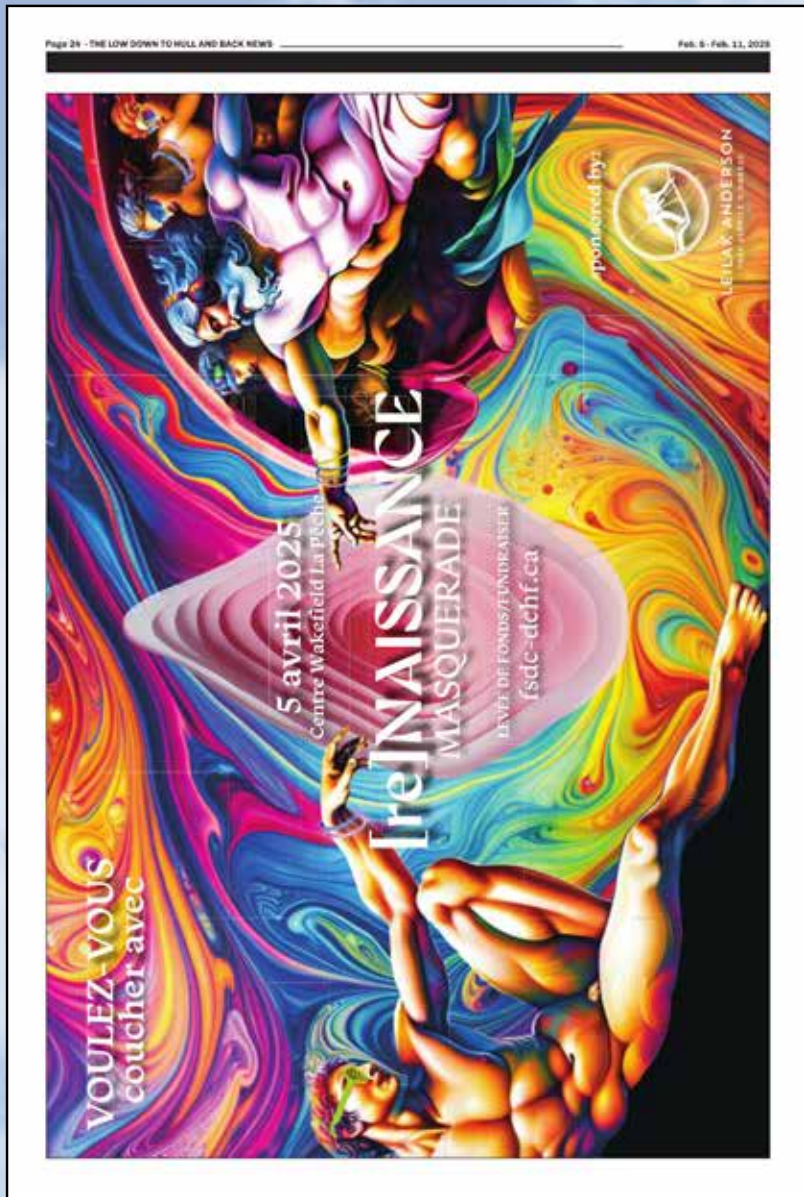
Judge Comment: Great work with an ongoing contest, utilizing print, website and email subscribers. Doubled sponsor revenue for second year. Ticks a lot of boxes. Nice job.

3 *The Eastern Door*

Judge Comment: Great promotion to celebrate their team's first championship. Great use of the printed product, directing readers to find all of the Hunters. Nice use of social media to promote the contest. Great work.

Competition Comments: The three finalists all had very unique contests/promotions. What really stood out was the community focus of each of the winners. Each had excellent print executions and digital tie-ins. Really great work by everyone. Congratulations to the winners.

Judge: Curtis Armstrong

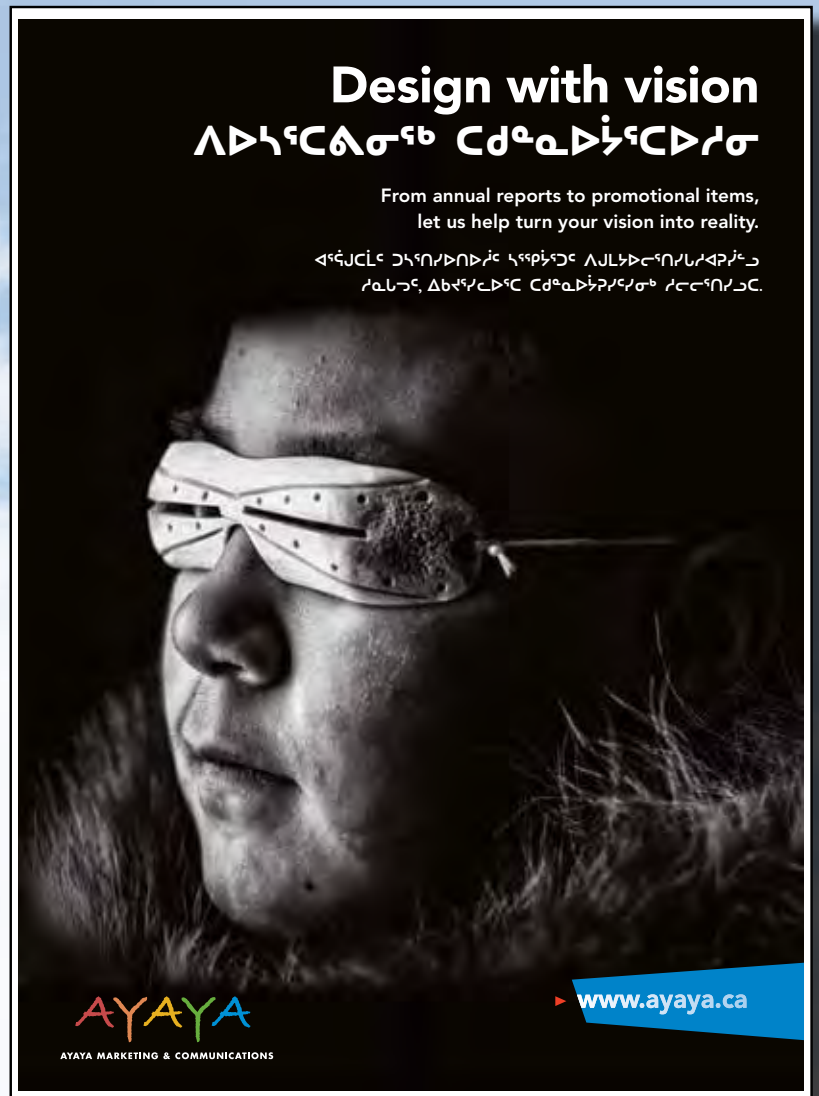


1 *The Low Down to Hull & Back News*
Susan Williams

Judge Comment: Great take on a classic piece of art. Excellent use of colour. I feel the designer really hit the nail on the head.

2 *Nunatsiaq News*
Krista Klassen

Judge Comment: Great concept and execution. Messaging is clean and to the point. Well done.

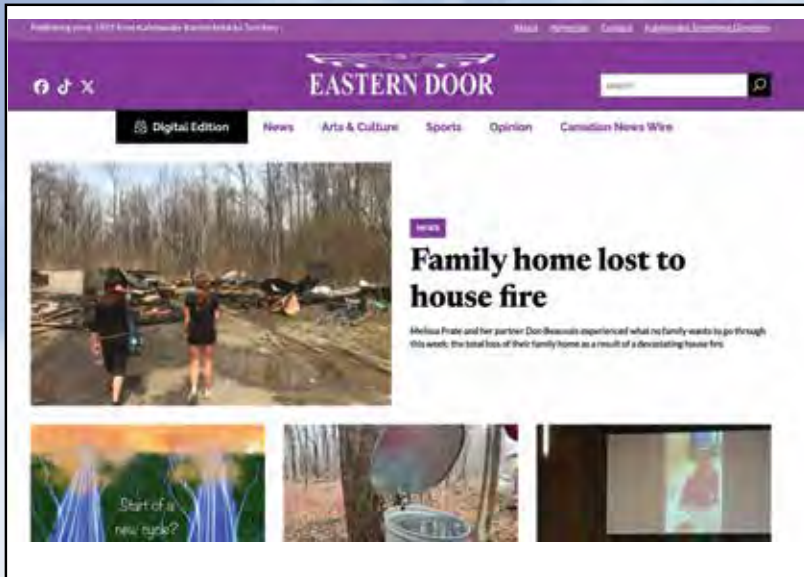


3 *The Suburban*
Stephen Balena

Judge Comment: Very clean design. Ad has an emotional pull. Good use of white space, despite the size of the ad unit.



Competition Comments: All three winners were neck-in-neck. Really well done by all. I look forward to judging this category again next year.
Judge: George Brown



The Eastern Door

Judge Comment: Crisp and clean, easy to use. I like that you can easily see the top stories by heading to the home page for news, sports, opinion and features. The clean design allows the ads to stand out, giving the advertiser a better bang for their buck. The stories featured are extremely relevant to the community. Again, one day story dump should be avoided. Use scheduling options to roll out the edition's news daily, drawing more traffic. Love the "more information here" feeds in the story, however make sure the stories are related somehow.



Nunatsiaq News

Judge Comment: Clear, clean look. Masthead should be larger. Ad in news copy should be labelled as advertising overtop of it. Headline should reflect the photo – Saqijug celebrates move to new Puvirnituq office – but it doesn't appear to be a celebration – perhaps Saqijug moves into new Puvirnituq office. Relevant links to related stories in bodies of other stories – good. Updating daily – with corrections to stories with issues – good.



The Low Down to Hull & Back News

Judge Comment: Lovely, easy to use design with sharp writing and the information the community needs makes this website stand out. It's clear The Lowdown has a wonderful commitment to entertainment news. Well-done pages showing upcoming entertainment opportunities. The website photos are not that strong and the photo of the Feb 23 main story on the front page stood out because it was REALLY BIG and it may be a style choice, but I would have made it a bit smaller so more of the text could be seen. Well written story however. As with other websites The Lowdown has a number of dropdowns and some are not well used. The environment page latest post was one year ago, even though I saw columns/opinion which could have been tagged as environment and made it onto the page. Make sure you tag appropriate stories to get them on that page. Also the sports dropdown has only one sports story from this year.

Competition Comments: Congratulations to The Eastern Door, Nunatsiaq News and The Low Down for fine local news websites. Crisp and clean, easy to navigate make it easy to find what you need. Each of the websites in the category had its own "voice" with different styles of writing, which is fine, but make sure you're using good journalistic practices and clear concise writing. Also, many of the websites clearly had a story "dump" on the day the newspaper came out. Instead, try scheduling news stories for each day of the week during your peak readership times. Remember, while some people will be both newspaper and website readers, some are just online. They won't take the time to read everything if you dump everything at once. They will read a little something each day.

Judge: Heather Wright

News

Anonymous account targets local women

EVE CABLE THE EASTERN DOOR

Women from Kahnawake, Akwesasne, and Kanestake may be victims of a disturbing campaign of sexual harassment...



COURTESY MOLLY SKY

To her horror, the account on X featured numerous posts of women from Kahnawake, Akwesasne, and Kanestake...

There were people who are now of age, but someone I know from high school saw there and I could tell personally that the photo was from middle school...

Nicholas said she instantly recognized many of the women, and alleges that some of the photos posted were of minors.

Blue and Molly went to the Peacekeepers' station to file a report after the incident, and they have to have eyes behind their head, is he going to kill them?

Joseph Soze Montour was arrested after using a pellet gun on protesters outside his home and threatening violence - he has not been charged in connection to the social media posts of women in the community.

As a result of the outrage, though not in association with any social media posts, on the afternoon of August 7, the Peacekeepers arrested Joseph Soze Montour at his residence on North Creek Road...

His arrest saw Peacekeepers tactically enter the residence and perform a high-risk arrest, and he was formally charged with two counts of assault with a weapon...

Blue Sky and her mother, Molly Sky, were part of a group of four in attendance when Montour first exited his house...

Both Blue and Molly were hit by the pellet gun, which left three community members being widely shared online as potential suspects for perpetrators of the crime.

avoid violence. In a similar vein, a recent post on the Peacekeepers social media page stated that "Vigilante justice WILL NOT be tolerated..."

"I think it's very important that people can come out and discuss these things that happen and hold the people that have done these things to account."

"Our supports are open to anyone who is feeling the emotional impact of these events, regardless of whether they have been personally targeted..."

"I think it's very important that people can come out and discuss these things that happen and hold the people that have done these things to account."

"I think it's very important that people can come out and discuss these things that happen and hold the people that have done these things to account."

"I think it's very important that people can come out and discuss these things that happen and hold the people that have done these things to account."

ing to safer environments both online and offline. This includes reporting harmful or non-consensual content to the appropriate platforms or authorities...

For community members who have either made or are thinking about making a report with the Peacekeepers, help is also available in navigating the legal aspects of the situation.

He said that those who have discovered that their pictures were featured on the account will likely face a range of emotions, and it's important that community members give themselves grace as they process what has happened.

"They're traumatized, seeing this type of behaviour has a really big impact on people. It can lead to post-traumatic stress disorder, they might feel embarrassed and not want to be in public or be seen," he said.

To access support from Paton and his team, victims are advised to contact 514-623-9521 for intake, and support from KSCS can be accessed by reaching out to their intake line at 450-632-6880.

Nicholas said that she's been touched to see so many community members stand by her and fellow survivors, and equally found strength in supporting other women who are in the same situation as her.



The Eastern Door Eve Cable

Judge Comment: Good reporting about an incident that is of concern to many in the community and the reporter did a great job following up.



The Low Down to Hull & Back News Simon Hopkins

Judge Comment: Excellent follow up of an alarming incident in an attempt to get answers.

THE EASTERN DOOR • Vol. 34 No. 33 • August 15, 2025 • www.easterndoor.com

Advertisement for 'The Low Down' newspaper, featuring a photo of a woman and text about a 700-voice letter-writing campaign.

Advertisement for 'The Eastern Door' newspaper, featuring the title and contact information.

Council sued for \$220 million

MARCUS BANKUTI THE EASTERN DOOR LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Magie Palace is seeking an unprecedented \$220.57 million in damages from the Mohawk Council of Kahnawake (MCK) and grand chief Cody Diabo...



While the loss of revenue is substantial, a confidential plan that had been in place to expand the facility, which is expected to be completed in 2024...

The bulk of the eye-witness damages claim - a whopping \$155 million of the total - stems from the collapse of this plan, known as the Kahnawake Entertainment Luxury Complex...

The lawsuit notes that Magie Palace and Playground Poker had been permitted to introduce EGDs over "strong public opposition," contingent on royalties.

"This course of action is not one we take lightly - it is truly a last resort," said Myiow and Alfred in a written statement, claiming they have spent a year trying to engage the MCK in constructive dialogue...

The plaintiffs portray this as a regulatory Catch-22 because the KGC will not hold a hearing for Magie Palace due to the lack of a royalty agreement...

The move against Magie Palace last March was a reversal for the Council, which had initially praised the gaming operation's "swift actions" in the wake of a bombshell report in La Presse in fall 2023...

Magie Palace's royalties from 2019 until its closure in spring 2024 amounted to \$12 million. With this updated legal ac-

tion, Magie Palace has now put a financial figure on its claims that the MCK acted irresponsibly and prejudicially in shutting it down.

"This legal action is directed at a small group of individuals within the MCK who acted unilaterally, undermining the traditions and values that bind the community together..."

"The facility's license to operate lucrative electronic gaming devices (EGDs) was suspended by the Kahnawake Gaming Commission (KGC) in March 2024 and then revoked altogether after Council terminated its royalty agreement..."

"The filing refers to evidence that two unnamed Mohawk Council of Kahnawake chiefs hold direct financial interests in Playground Poker, but that it seems only one recused himself from decisions on Magie Palace..."

"The lawsuit was disclosed to community members who attended Wednesday night's community meeting. The Eastern Door continues to be barred from covering these meetings pending the completion of a protocol that was proposed several months ago..."



The Eastern Door Marcus Bankuti

Judge Comment: Interesting report about an important lawsuit for the community.

Advertisement for 'Sharing Our Stories' in Kanien'kéha, featuring a photo of a group of people and text about sharing stories and history.

Judge: Jason Magder

News

Aged out and left behind

EVE CABLE
The Eastern Door

It's the little things that sting the most for Lily Ieronawakon Deer. Small, day-to-day magenta of knowledge that she doesn't have, like knowing whether or not to paint the rust on her car.

"There's still a lot of things I don't know," Deer said. From the age of four to 14, Deer was in the child welfare system, moving back and forth between a series of foster homes in Kahnawake, Kanestake, and northwestern Ontario. She was never in one place for long, attending eight different schools throughout those formative years.

Now 30 and living in Kahnawake, Deer is still healing from the trauma she experienced growing up in the child welfare system. It's been a lot to come to terms with, but what's hurt especially badly has been the slow, creeping feeling that even now she's been "left behind" by the very programs that were implemented to help adults who grew up in the system.

For many, the child "welfare" system is a continuation of the ongoing project of colonization, the latest in a dark history book that includes chapters like residential schools, Indian day schools, the Sixties Scoop, and now what has become known as the Millennium Scoop. The legacy of foster care and adoption for many Okwewonwe has been about ripping families apart and leaving parents and children without the tools they need to repair the harm the system has caused.

In 2022, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) acknowledged that, and made ordering orders for large-scale changes within the Canadian child welfare system, part of a case brought forward by the First Nations Child and Family Care Society. One of those orders included that Canada would fund, at actual cost, post-majority care for youth aging out and young adults who had formerly been in the child welfare system.

The program kicks in as a youth approaches the age of majority and can be until a youth's 26th birthday. The age of majority refers to the age at which a youth officially ages out of the system in most places, including Quebec, this is at age 18.

The services, which are known as post-majority support services (PMS), became immediately available to youth in the spring of that year, and youth who were past the age of majority but still under the age of 26 were also able to access support, even if they'd been out of the system for some time.

The program seemed like a step in the right direction. Finally, something to fill the gap that was too often overlooked when young people were abruptly cut off from the child welfare system at the age of majority, a program that



Lily Ieronawakon Deer was just four years old when she was put in her first foster placement.

could support youth with the big things like financial support and housing, but also the less obvious stuff, like applying for bank accounts, and having a network of responsible older adults to call with basic questions about the logistics of the real world.

The only problem? Those questions and needs don't go away when a youth turns 26. Deer, who had just turned 27 when PMS came into effect, those same needs now.

"I've had to admit it, I am jealous of the youth who are aging out now," said Deer. Deer said that it's less to do with feeling resentment for youth aging out of care today, and more to do with an unshakable feeling that people like her have been left behind, not just in terms of financial support, but also in terms of simple life advice and mentorship.

"It's help with navigating getting your medicare card, your driver's licence, IDs, and you just need help to have those life skills," Deer said. Settlement agreements, like the historic \$2.4 billion deal that was approved in federal court in 2023, recognize chronic underfunding but fail to address the trauma and abuse faced by children who went through the welfare system, and though long-term reform aims to make changes to how and why children enter the system, there's still a lack of support and services for people like Deer, who don't qualify for PMS. While settlements are important, there's no replacement for the support that Deer should've received, and badly needed, when she was starting her adult life.

"I just didn't have that," she said.

PMS in Kahnawake
In Kahnawake, PMS is handled by Kahnawake, Shaktia/Takshas Community Services (KSCS), which manages

form those networks. The goal in tracking those needs is to foster independence, with youth able to rely on support networks that they have been empowered to build and be a part of, rather than providing services with no resources for fostering interpersonal community connections.

"The whole concept is creating independence, not dependency," said Hemlock. PMS facilitated by KSCS also helps youth connect with other potential services within their system, such as psychological services, traditional support services, or addiction counsellors.

Youth have participated in activities like spearfishing in Tyendinaga and taken trips to Toronto, and the program has strong ties with Nova Career Centre in Chateauguay, where many youth have participated in vocational trainings.

Whatever the extra help they need is, we try to create a circle for them of support," Hemlock said. "The role is creating that network of support for them."

When the program came into place in 2022, Hemlock said an effort was made to reach out to youth who had previously aged out of care, but who were below age 26, to make them aware of what the program could offer them.

But youth who were 26 or older in 2022 aren't eligible to access the program. "If you're a youth that's in that age bubble where you missed the program in its entirety, you might be missing those supports," said Hemlock.

He said that while there's no resource available at KSCS for all the gaps that remain for youth that can't access the services.

"You might have to research, or to have somebody help you find these things. That might be the missing piece of the puzzle, for them to have a support system to know where to look for those things," Hemlock said.

Emerging adolescence
For Deer, figuring out what support she needs and how to access it has been a major hurdle to face in adulthood. At times, it's felt like everybody else had some kind of guidebook for how to be an adult, one that she wasn't allowed to read.

To her, it felt unfair that she wasn't included in the PMS program. Twenty-six felt like an arbitrary age for services to be cut off, and in some ways, it is.

In that report, Segalowitz described a growing consensus in the neuroscience community that the brain is not fully developed at the age of 18, and that there is instead a time period known as "emerging adolescence" wherein the brain develops to maturity.

Emerging adolescence typically refers to the period from 18 to 25 years old, and Segalowitz identified the average age at which brain development in a healthy adult nears completion as being around 25 years old - meaning that there are many brains that develop sooner, and many that develop later.

There's lots of factors that might mean someone's brain develops faster or slower. One major factor is trauma - trauma causes stress, and it's well documented in the scientific world that stress can negatively impact brain development. Going through the child welfare system puts individuals at immense risk for experiencing compounded trauma, which has the harms they experience before, during, and after going through the system leading to overwhelming stress.

These kids have been put through very high-risk, high-impact situations. We cannot possibly say who's going to be affected and who's not, because there's such individual differences, but they're going to be more at risk," Segalowitz told *The Eastern Door*.

Deer has vivid memories of the trauma she experienced during her time in the child welfare system, which she has invested precious time and money in working through as an adult.

"I would literally call kids out of the system, and I was going to walk there on my own," she said. "I would call places from the time I was nine years old, because no-one else would. And it's tiring."

A mature brain is at peak performance for emotional self-regulation and complex cognitive functions, including in terms of risk-taking - adolescents and young adults whose brains have not yet fully developed may be more likely to make poor judgment calls, or engage themselves in more dangerous behaviours.

Youth who have experienced high-risk developmental situations, like the trauma of being in care, are more likely to be in the "strange group" whose brain might still be developing well into their late twenties.

It would be reasonable, then, for services like PMS to compensate for that potentially delayed development and "fill the gap" caused by the trauma they've experienced.

"If they're more at risk, then we should be applying some method or addressing that risk," Segalowitz said.

According to Segalowitz, Continued on page 4



The Eastern Door
Eve Cable

Judge Comment: This story hits hard. You did an amazing job digging into the gaps in the system, and the quotes you gathered make it all feel very real. It takes a lot of work to investigate a topic this deeply and write it this clearly. Really well done. This article was also nominated for COMMUNITY WRITTEN FEATURE category at the CAJ Awards (Canadian Association of Journalists) in 2026.



The Equity
K.C. Jordan

Judge Comment: I loved reading this. You took a decades-long career and turned it into a deeply personal story about fighting for what matters. The writing flows perfectly, and you really captured his true impact on the town. Great job



What Larry Perry leaves behind
By K.C. Jordan



Sue Hamilton believed everybody could 'create a great day'

Sue Hamilton believed everybody could "create a great day".

Letters, The Pontiac region needs a new warden, Pray anytime, The Way We Were, MEET THE CANDIDATES, Gavran's, Quesen, Hurty's, Shawville, J&A Bowers Motel Restaurant, J&A Bowers, Mansfield, La Gare Waltham Station.



The Equity
Sophie Kujiper Dickson

Judge Comment: This is a beautifully-written piece. You kept my attention from start to finish. It's clear you really understood your subject and knew exactly how to share her incredible life with the reader. Well done.

Judge: Jeff Hamilton

FEATURE NUNAVUT

'Will you marry me?' was not the question ... Part 1

Ann Hanson explores the Inuit tradition of arranged marriages

This is the first in a three-part series by Ann Hanson exploring the Inuit tradition of arranged marriages, which was still practised in some parts of the North until the late 1970s. See next week's edition for part 2.

As a little girl, I remember one of my aunts calling and screaming for help as she was being dragged out of our house...

No one helped. We weren't allowed to. I was frightened, because we seldom saw adults cry - only when someone died.

This was not a normal night. My aunt was being dragged out by her new husband. This was the way to start a new life in a traditional arranged marriage.

Traditional marriage was arranged by parents and grandparents-to-be even before the baby was born, according to some interviews I've conducted over the years while working for the Canadian Broadcasting Corp., doing Inuktitut programming.

Leah Nutaraq, who was a constant contributor on Inuit traditions, once talked about this subject and said when a woman was pregnant, she would say, "If this is a boy, he will marry the girl my girlfriend had a few months ago."

This often became a reality and sometimes not. The other method was when the young man was able to hunt, build a shelter, when he became knowledgeable on weather conditions, ice conditions, when he could feed his family, share his harvest with the village, run a dog team, it meant he was ready for a wife.

That was the time to look for a girl who was skilled in skin- or pel- preparations, making life-saving garments, preparing foods and food preservations. Looks didn't matter.

When a girl was found in the same village or some other village, the young man's mother or father wrote a letter to the girl's parents asking them if they would agree to have their daughter marry their son.

Then there was a big life-changing discussion with the parents, the grandparents... but not the boy. The boy didn't have any say in this matter. It was all up to the parents and grandparents.

The same with the girl. She had no say whatsoever in the matter. It was kept in secret until the boy came to get the girl.

This was further confirmed by elder Aimo Mapaluk during our interview here in Igloolik. Not all traditional marriages were done this way.



Aimo Mapaluk, an elder living in Igloolik, says he is familiar with the Inuit tradition of arranged marriages. His own father and stepmother were married in the manner many Inuit were, according to an old tradition. (Photo by Jeff Pelletier)

There were a few exceptions. One was Mapaluk's. During our interview, Mapaluk said he knows the arranged marriage tradition very well, both from hearing old stories from the distant past and during his growing-up years with his stepmother Attuat and father Sappa.

Prior to having their daughters marry a complete stranger or some casual acquaintance, the mother got busy making a new tent - sealskins in the past, and canvas in recent years - gathering her clothing and kamiks and packing them for a trip.

This was done all in secret without telling the daughter. Mapaluk remembered that some couples separated because they could not get along for several reasons.

With a soft voice, Mapaluk ruefully expressed that "some men were abusive, and when the leader in the village knew about this, he separated the couple."

Mapaluk personally experienced this with his stepmother Attuat. One of her husbands had been abusive, before Attuat married Aimo's father, Sappa. Attuat solved her abusive relationship with her own strong traits. She got tired of being abused and thought to herself, "I am tired of being abused. I must make a plan."

The next time her husband was beating her, she fought back and pinned him down and told him, "Next time you abuse me, I am going to use the axe and I will not let you free until you agree to have peace with me."

Her husband stopped beating her and made peace with her. Mapaluk fondly remembers his stepmother being intelligent and very strong, physically and mentally. She was also a very good hunter. Attuat went through five husbands during her long life.

Continued in Part 2 of 'Will you marry me?' see next issue ... Ann Hanson was the founding editor of Inuktitut newspaper in 1973, which became Nunatsiaq News in 1976. She was the third commissioner of Nunavut. She now lives in Apsu.

Mapaluk, an elder living in Igloolik, said he knows of young girls being tied up with ropes when they struggled too much. The girl's arms and legs were tied up, she was carried to the sled, and then tied onto the sled. This was equally frightening for the young man.

Mapaluk explained that the young man was obeying his parents' wishes out of respect and fear. This is called *inussat* in Inuktitut, a deep respect that compels young Inuit to do what they are told - *inussat* for his parents and her parents.

With time and patience, the young couple got used to each other and were calmer. They got to be friends and eventually love each other deeply for life.

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1 Nunatsiaq News Ann Hanson

Judge Comment: This was an incredibly powerful and emotional series that looked at the history of Inuit tradition of arranged marriages that continued up until the 1970s. In the three-part series, Ann Hanson mixes personal reflections and interviews to produce a captivating series from start to finish. It provides the reader with historical background on a mostly forgotten topic and casts it back into the public eye. It raises difficult memories, but allows for it to be discussed by the community and understand the role it played several decades ago.

2 The Eastern Door Marcus Bankuti

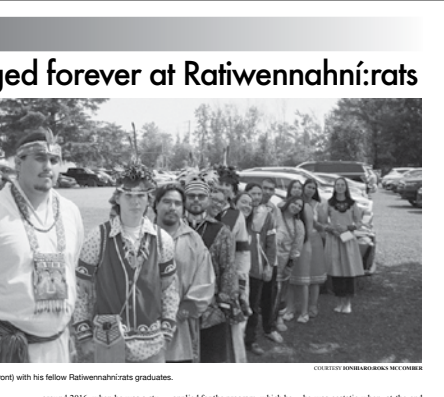
Judge Comment: Almost every election has a bit of drama. Candidates are vying for a select number of seats and often have a differing viewpoint on how the community should be run in the coming years. The 2025 election in Kanesatake took that drama to a new level. What seemed to be going mostly normal saw the election cancelled because of numerous issues, policy confusion, candidates made invalid, community meetings, governance questions, a trip to federal court and finally, a court decision that gave some clarity and stability. Through the months-long process, Marcus Bankuti wrote several in-depth articles to keep the community informed and navigated what was obviously a confusing and drawn-out saga that impacted Kanesatake.

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Tihothano Zack Diabo (front) with his fellow Ratiwennahnirats graduates. COURTESY: INDIANAROUNDNEWS.COM

Recent Ratiwennahnirats graduates, Tihothano Zack Diabo says that his cohort of learners isn't just special, they're like "lightning in a bottle." "The whole program was us hanging out every day, and we all took something away from it, every single day," he said. "It was like our nice little piece of paradise."

Diabo is one of 13 new graduates of the Kanien'kéha Language and Cultural Center (KCC) two-year Kanien'kéha Ratiwennahnirats Adult Immersion Program, and while his graduation means that his time in the program is over, he says his language learning journey has only just begun.

"I'm starting to speak for myself of the Longhouse and stuff, I can't believe it," he said. "All of it is crazy." Diabo's graduation from Ratiwennahnirats marks the fulfillment of a promise made several years ago to the late Melvin Diabo, who had taught Tihothano some basics of Kanien'kéha in

around 2016, when he was a student at Howard S. Billings High School. "I had promised him one day I would learn, but I forgot about it for years," Tihothano said. "After graduating in 2020, Tihothano planned to go to CE-GEP, but the day before classes decided it was the wrong path to go down. Instead, he found himself learning welding at NOVA Career Centre, where there were several other students from Kanesatake. Having grown up outside of the community, Tihothano said that he sometimes felt on the edge of understanding his own culture, and being around fellow Kanesatake kids led to more conversations about language and culture."

Around the same time, a conversation with his cousin, Jordan Stacey, made him more aware of gaps in his knowledge. "He was asking 'Do you guys even know the Five Nations in the Confederacy?'" Tihothano said. "I actually said 'Ojibwe' and he said 'No, but I'm impressed you even know them, and I sort of realized just how much I didn't know about absolutely anything.' Encouraged by Stacey,

applied for the program, which he didn't even know the name of just a few short years ago. When he got in, he knew it was doing the right thing, keeping his promise to Melvin from all those years ago as well as a new promise, this time to himself, to connect more deeply with his language and culture. "He took things seriously, writing in his application that he wasn't there to make friends, he was just there to study, and for the first couple of months he kept up that attitude, until a 'rude awakening' one night, when his classmates called him out during an after-class hangout. "They kind of... on me like a pack of wolves and the next Monday at school, I just changed. I started being nicer and I started making friends," he said. "I wasn't going to make any friends, but by the end they'd even become like a second family."

There were highs and lows throughout the program, including times when Tihothano took home tests with lower scores than he was striving for, and moments where he couldn't find the words in Kanien'kéha to express what he was thinking in English. Still, he persevered. And when he didn't believe in himself, his classmates lifted him up. "Early on, one of my classmates who already knew the teacher looked at me and said 'That guy is going to become a speaker by the end of this course,' and I remember thinking 'Oh, I didn't realize someone had that much faith in me,'" he said. With encouragement from his peers, Tihothano thrived, and

News Changed forever at Ratiwennahnirats



Tihothano Zack Diabo (front) with his fellow Ratiwennahnirats graduates. COURTESY: INDIANAROUNDNEWS.COM

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he was ecstatic when, at the end of the course, he received a grade-affirming his speaking level. He said it's a moment he could never even dream of just two short years ago, and credits the Ratiwennahnirats program with changing his life for the better. "I feel like a whole new person, I can't even relate to how I thought back then. I have a whole different mindset in the language. I'm thinking properly, and I'm talking to a lot of elders who weren't me up too," he said. Speaking with elders has been a highlight of learning for Tihothano, who also works at the Kater Memorial Hospital Centre. "I've noticed how happy they get when I'm at the hospital because there's some speakers there and when I spent that extra time with them on weekends, it kept me in that language mode," he said. "When you talk to a new person in Kanien'kéha, it flips a switch, all of a sudden they start following your stories and asking you you, it's just so different."

Nowadays, Tihothano spends his free time listening intently to recordings he's collected on USB sticks, trading ones he's learned made out for new sounds from fellow learners. He's planning to keep up connections with his found family from Ratiwennahnirats and pursue more learning opportunities in the future. "I'm so obsessive about it now, it's only up for me with the language, there's no going back down," he said.

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THE EASTERN DOOR THE PINES Reporter A weekly section dedicated to Kanesatake in The Eastern Door! Send us your news tips, share your stories, celebrate your community! CONNECTING WITH ALL OUR RELATIONS, TODAY AND TOMORROW

'Pressure conference' demands June election

MARCUS BANKUTI THE EASTERN DOOR LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER The Mohawk Council of Kanesatake (MCK) is steadfast in its summer election plans, even as calls grow louder for a June election date to be respected. A flurry of posts on social media accusing Council of ignoring the Custom Electoral Code have not been quelled by its confirmation of an August 2 election date, the first Saturday following four full years in office for the chiefs. Leading the charge has been Amanda Simon, who was MCK's former certified lands manager until her resignation last year, blaming a dysfunctional culture, accountability, and leadership that follows its own rules, not one that twists them behind closed doors," said Simon at Tuesday's event, hosted by a handful of community members. This characterization has been rejected by Council members, who argue a June 14 date would constitute an early election. At issue are two clauses that seem to contradict one another. On the one hand, clause 12.22 indicates that elections shall be held the second Saturday of June, except in the case of an early election. In 2025, that equates to June 14, meaning a callout for a chief electoral officer would have needed to go out by March 22, 12 weeks earlier. But the code also defines a Council term as four years long in clause 8.1, with an extension in the case of early elections, and

that date doesn't arrive until July 31, the 2021 Council elections were held late, on July 31, 2021, with the COVID-19 pandemic mainly cited as the justification at the time. The MCK communication announcing an August 2 election date said this will follow a dissolution of Council on July 31, exactly four years following the previous election. Simon has rejected in her calls for action. According to the MCK, legal counsel advised that the four-year term took precedence over the June date given an absence of explicit protocol for late elections in the code, a conclusion Simon has rejected in her calls for action. "It's not the role of the legal council to act as judge and jury to reinterpret the code or to decide that one clause takes precedence over another," Simon said. "These clauses are not in conflict."

"Take it to court and we'll meet you there," he said. "I'm sure the courts will want to hear us on an emergency basis. I'm confident this Council is going to walk away with a favorable decision that we did the right thing, and we did follow code." MCK chief Brian Etienne and Amy Beauvais both said they believe clause 12.22, "Election Day shall be on the second Saturday of June, as set by the Mohawk Council, unless an early general election is held pursuant to sub-para. 8.2, or a by-election is held," shouldn't be read in isolation, as 8.2 refers to 12.22. Clause 8.1 dictates a four-year term unless 8.2 applies. Clause 8.2 reads, "Where the Mohawk Council of Kanesatake was elected pursuant to an early general election, the term of office is extended to the next Election Day set out in para. 12.22, unless another early election is called." Etienne said Council first sought legal guidance on the length of the mandate to gain a better understanding of their mandate to enact the Kanesatake Law-Making Process and pursue community laws. He said he believes the emphasis on the June date flows from a biased interpretation of the code," he said. "I have nothing to

Continued on page 10

The Eastern Door Eve Cable Judge Comment: Language is a defining aspect of any culture and identity. Throughout Canada's history, Indigenous languages were targeted and attempts were made to erase the important heritage that comes with it. In a seven-part series, Eve Cable profiles seven graduates of the Kanien'kéha Ratiwennahnirats Adult Immersion Program as they learn the Kanien'kéha language. Each of these profiles showcase why learning the language was important for them. The articles highlight the individuals struggles, perseverance and ultimately why the Kanien'kéha language was important for them all. As Cable wrote in her submission, it can be an archive for individuals and the community to look back as the language is revitalized. This was a unique and beautifully-produced series.

Competition Comments: This category had a wide variety of features that were well reported and covered interesting topics. It was an incredibly difficult category to judge because of the fascinating topics. The communities these newspapers cover should feel fortunate to have such high-quality journalism they can rely on each week. Judge: Greg Colgan

Low Down on Real Estate and More
At Home in the Hills



'A piece of history' for sale up the line

The Brennan's Hill Hotel was built in 1901 and has been owned by a member of the Monette family since 1911. The current owners Billy Monette and Tara Shippers didn't want to be in the photo, telling the Low Down, "If anyone doesn't know what we look like, they can come and see us." Photo: Madeline Kerr

BY MADELINE KERR
madeline@lowdownonline.com

"We aren't just selling a building or a business," a misty-eyed Tara Shippers recently told the Low Down, seated in the bar of the 134-year-old Brennan's Hill Hotel. "This place is an institution, it's a piece of history...it has an energy all its own." Shippers and her partner Billy Monette have decided, after much personal back-and-forth, to sell their establishment commonly known as The Hill, which has been in the Monette family for four generations.

husband François died in 1968. Billy, now 70, bought the business in 1981 and has been running it ever since. But he's been behind the bar even longer than that. "I was slinging beers even as a kid," he said laughing. Now, he said, he serves the grandchildren of some of his former customers. In the 1970s and 80s The Hill was still operating as a hotel and hosted live music every weekend. This was the heyday for country pubs in the Gatineau Hills, Monette said, and locals came out in droves to dance, drink and socialize.

Between 1971 and 1974, the mainstay act at The Hill was country music legend and long-time host of CBC's "On the Road Again", Wayne Rostad. Rostad told the Low Down that he started his songwriting career while living in a cabin in Brennan's Hill and playing three times a week for a packed house at The Hill. Rostad said that in those days, "it was standing room only on Friday and Saturday nights. "Every family from every farm and every town nearby would be out on the dance floor. Parents would leave the kids in the car and come in to tamarack down. People would take off their boots and dance in their wool socks. The sweat would just be pouring off everyone, even in the winter time.

"Playing there was magical... it was a joy," he added. Rostad said that during his three years playing regularly at The Hill he felt "adopted" by the Monette family. He said that "the Monette way" means looking out for everyone in the community and lending a hand whenever possible. He added, "Billy extols the virtues of the Monette family. It's sweet and kind and good to all."

"There's a lot of changes being implemented," Shippers said, referring to both changes in technology and new rules for establishments that serve alcohol. She added that she sees a "cultural shift going on. Drinking has almost become the new smoking." During COVID lockdowns when the couple were forced to close The Hill for nearly two years, they said they got a taste of what life would be like without a business to run. "I thought, 'I could get used to this,'" said Monette, adding, "This isn't an old man's game." "This place is a life commitment. I joke that sometimes it's a business to run."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

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Volkswagen de l'Outaouais

1 The Low Down to Hull & Back News
Madeline Kerr

Judge Comment: Too often, writers overuse quotations turning what could be a tight and interesting story into a bloated mess. However, Madeline Kerr gives readers a master class on when to quote and when to paraphrase, all while ensuring that the subjects' unique voices leap off the page. The story of The Hill is fascinating in its own right, but by expertly capturing the voices of the owners and their conversation, Kerr tells the reader more about the place and the people behind it than would a hundred less deftly written articles. Fantastic job.

2 Townships Sun
Ross Murray

Judge Comment: Ross Murray tells the story of a newish bookstore owner reflecting on her first few years in the business. The relaxed writing style makes it seem more like a chat with a friend rather than a dry recitation of the triumphs and challenges of running a shop. Great use of quotes from the owner gives the reader a good sense of what to expect should they decide to go book shopping in Lennoxville.

BOOKSTORE VIBES

Three Years of Running Black Cat Books

by Ross Murray

We tend to have romantic notions about bookstores – a place of imagination, escape, wisdom, and, yes, romance itself. Certainly, that aspect spoke to Anne-Marie Bailey when she thought about purchasing Black Cat Books in Lennoxville.

"It's like stories and possibilities and other worlds, and I think that appeals to me, the escapism part of books and reading," she says, sitting on the porch of her kaleidoscope of a store.

But at the end of the day, a bookstore is a business, and that has been the steepest learning curve for Anne-Marie, who felt when she purchased Black Cat three years ago this past October that she was not the most suitable person to do so.

"I've never worked in a bookstore. I don't have any training in library science. I'm not a writer. I didn't study English. I didn't go to university," she says. "All I really have going for me is a passion for books."

She was also interested in doing something different. Anne-Marie had been working at Lennoxville & District Community Aid next door to Black Cat for several years but had been looking for other opportunities, including maybe working at the bookstore. When it instead came up for sale, Anne-Marie made inquiries but assumed someone more experienced would step up. But there were no takers, so Anne-Marie took the plunge.

With a vocational accounting course in hand and some basic business knowledge, Anne-Marie began training under the store's owner of 25 years, Janice LaDuke.

"If I'd had to start from scratch, I don't think I would be doing as well today," says Anne-Marie, though making an actual living from the store, she says, is "questionable."

local authors, and there is a cozy chair in a central position suitable for lazy reading. But the back two thirds of the store contain an ever-rotating selection of pre-loved books. Contrary to popular belief, Black Cat doesn't purchase used books. Instead, most are donated (sometimes dumped on the doorstep), and Anne-Marie has the task of deciding what to keep.

"I just go through and see what looks interesting, what's in good condition," she says. "The non-fiction is a lot more challenging because you need to make sure it's not too old and no longer relevant. I end up doing a lot of, well, I wouldn't even say it's research, but just looking things up." And sometimes, she says, it's just "vibes."

There's a vibe to bookstores themselves. Generally, people feel good that they exist. That might be even more the case for Black Cat, which is the Eastern Townships' only dedicated English bookstore east of Lake Memphremagog. (There are French books too.) While Anne-Marie feels a certain sense of responsibility in this regard, she doesn't let it weigh on her. It's a business, she says, and the challenge is less legacy than trying to anticipate what customers want – so she can sell some books and continue (trying) to make a living.

Black Cat does, however, try to support local authors by stocking their books and holding readings. "It's about building community and having a place for people," says Anne-Marie.

But again, like the bookstore itself, people are often more happy with the idea of readings than actually attending them.

"I did a lot of author events in the first year, and it was a challenge to schedule authors and do the publicity, and I didn't find them to be well attended, so it discouraged me," she says. "I want to support local authors, and I don't think everything has to be a money generator, but if nobody's coming, is it worth the effort?"

This year, Anne-Marie has started holding events again. Over Thanksgiving weekend, Black Cat hosted Townships writers Rebecca Papucaru and Tanya Bellehumeur-Allard. About 17 people attended – a big turnout for such a tiny space.

"Almost too many, really!" Anne-Marie reported.

Social media is one way to promote these events, and Anne-Marie maintains active Facebook and Instagram accounts, where she posts recent acquisitions and engages followers with "Watcha Reading Wednesday."

It's new mixed with the old. And despite technology, people still want to read physical books, says Anne-Marie. "I recently had somebody looking for a cookbook, saying that she doesn't like getting the recipes online because they're full of ads, or you click on something and it jumps to another page. I just want the book, I just want the



Complicating matters is that much of space in the tiny shop's labyrinth of shelves is given over to used books. New books are up front, including a section dedicated to

Paging Dr. Green Thumb: Green Joÿ takes over Northbud facility in Venosta



Master grower Martin Herlihy walks among the 840 mature cannabis plants that will be ready to harvest – and smoke – in about two weeks. Photo: Trevor Greenway

BY TREVOR GREENWAY
Local Journalism Initiative

Recreational cannabis users in the Hills can now buy local pot – 22 different strains of indica, sativa and hybrids – that are grown in Venosta.

Green Joÿ Cannabis has taken over the former site of Northbud, the giant cannabis grow facility off Hwy 105 in Venosta north of Lennoxville. Although 80 per cent of Green Joÿ's business is still producing medical-grade cannabis that is shipped overseas, recreational users can now purchase Green Joÿ's commercial products at the SQDC in Quebec and weed shops across Ontario.

"That's when I cut my teeth into the cultivation side," said St-Arnaud. Yablonsky said he was pushed to start Green Joÿ when he saw his clients suffering from cancer regain their appetites, rediscover happiness and find joy in everyday life. "One of them had cancer, so obviously the cannabis gave them an appetite. Honestly, just the happiness despite their condition – that's really something that was clear in terms of the effect that [the cannabis] had," said St-Arnaud. "We can go down the list of benefits, but really it comes down to their quality of life, [which] has improved and their happiness and joy; just overall, [their] joy has returned."

Yablonsky said that the company purchased the former Northbud facility after Green Joÿ outgrew its other facility in L'Ange-Gardien. According to Green Joÿ, the company currently exports about 1,000 kilograms of cannabis per year and they are eyeing a major expansion. A portion of the facility to increase their output to over 4,000 kilograms per year. With both facilities – L'Ange-Gardien and Venosta – the company will export roughly 8,000 kilograms of cannabis in 2025.

"We've outgrown our internal capacity," added Yablonsky. "And so when we came and saw this facility, and we walked through the doors, we just saw the opportunity here for growth. There's a process for [expansion] and as we move to that increased capacity, we'll be upgrading our licence."

The move to Venosta has allowed the company to hire more workers – about 25 so far – and many of them are local, other living in Lennoxville or Wakefield.

The move has also shortened the workers' commutes. One worker told the Low Down she spent nine years driving from Lennoxville to Ottawa for work. She now has a less than 10-minute commute.

The staffers are passionate industry advocates who spent much of their careers running farms, studying agriculture or growing weed for years on the black market, before cannabis was legal in Canada.

The Low Down got a tour of the facility and spoke with master grower Martin Herlihy, who used to run Wakefield's Cafe Molo years ago. We walked through a large room full of 840 mature cannabis plants, their leafy buds ready to harvest in about two-weeks time. The room had a yellow tinge from the warm grow lights and its large green plants stretched on as far as the eye could see. Herlihy said that it's hard to determine how much each plant will produce but the entire room and its 840 plants will produce between 50 and 70 kilograms of cannabis.

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3 The Low Down to Hull & Back News
Trevor Greenway

Judge Comment: Trevor Greenway's well-written story of a growing local business weaves together both the expansion with the stories of the employees themselves. That mix ensures the piece has a good balance between a straight ahead business story and a feature.

Judge: Gordon Cameron

THE Low Down
TO HULL & BACK NEWS

LOWDOWNONLINE.COM THE ONLY PAPER SERVING ONLY THE GATINEAU HILLS SINCE 1973 MAY 28 - JUNE 3, 2025

PAGES 12-13: What's the Buzz for June? LD events calendar

PAGE 3: Spa suit: Le Nordik vs. Chelsea over water issues

PAGE 5: Notoh Rd's bronze medal: For worst road in QC

PAGE 8: Seniors' home crunch: Region short 140 long-term beds

Masham senior was 'victim of abuse'

'MAJOR SHORTCOMINGS' AT VILLA DES BRISES

BY TREVOR GREENWAY
Local Journalism Initiative

Aliee Maisonneuve wasn't given a bath for over two weeks while under the care of nurses at the Villa des Brises long-term care home in Gatineau, a report by Quebec's complaint commission suggests.

Quebec's Commissioner for Complaints and Quality of Services found that the Masham senior, who died April 14, 2024, two days after being found unresponsive in her long-term care room in Gatineau, was the victim of "physical and organizational abuse through negligence" by staff at the care home and the CISSS de l'Outaouais home support (SAD) clinical team.

Before she was taken to the Hull Hospital, witnesses reported hearing her scream throughout the night - screams that went unanswered. She was then found unconscious and



FIT FOR A KING

King Charles III (right) couldn't wait to get his hands on a falafel made by Ahmad Altaoui, a Syrian refugee who was sponsored by Wakefield for Refugees in 2018. In fact, it was one of the Royal Family's first stops in Ottawa, May 28, as His Majesty, along with Queen Camilla, Prime Minister Mark Carney and his wife, Diana Fox Carney, made their way to Lansdowne Park for some food, refreshments and a game of road hockey. Some Hills hockey players had the honour of showing his majesty the ropes, as Masham's Journey Halfhide, 11, and Chelsea's Harper Totten, 12, were selected to play in the friendly game. King Charles and Queen Camilla officially opened Parliament this week in Ottawa. Photo courtesy Ahmad Altaoui

Turtle Taxi worth the friendly fare

Hard-shelled land dwellers vulnerable

BY KENDALL KNOWLTON
Contributing writer

Screech! You just ran over a turtle or found one injured - now what?

Don't just leave it there. Call the Taxi Carapace.

The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) re-announced May 29 a program that helps injured turtles. It's encouraging the public to call when they find an injured turtle and/or become a volunteer.

The Taxi Carapace is a volunteer-based transportation service for turtles in Quebec that safely and quickly transports them to the Centre de réhabilitation des tortues du Québec (CRTQ), an organization that helps turtle conservation and has been around since 2018. It is located at the Centre d'exploration du Parc de la Rivière-des-Mille-Îles in Laval.

Those who run over or find injured turtles are encouraged to call Taxi Carapace and stay with the creature until help

WORST JOKE OF THE WEEK: Q: Bigfoot frequently gets confused for a Sasquatch. Yeti never complains. Thanks to Jeffery Ferguson for this fantastic dad joke.

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1 The Low Down to Hull & Back News
Trevor Greenway

Judge Comment: Excellent journalism and in-depth work on a critical story to the community.

2 The Eastern Door
Marcus Bankuti

Judge Comment: A well-explained story that probed all aspects of a controversial and difficult subject.

THE PINES Reporter

A weekly section dedicated to Kanehsatake in The Eastern Door!

Send us your news tips, share your stories, celebrate your community!

CONNECTING WITH ALL OUR RELATIONS, TODAY AND TOMORROW

Former land manager under investigation

MARCUS BANKUTI
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE
REVIEWER

The former Mohawk Council of Kanehsatake (MCK) land manager, who has positioned herself as the candidate of ethics and transparency in the stalled MCK elections, has come under fire after an anonymous letter detailed allegations that she abused her office for personal gain.

The Eastern Door has learned that a criminal complaint pertaining to practices at the MCK Lands Office under her tenure is expected to be submitted by Sureté du Québec (SQ) investigators to the office of the director of criminal and penal prosecutions (DPCP), which will analyze the case and consider whether charges will be filed.

"I'm committed to the territory and I'm going to do my best for everyone," Pike told reporters after the ceremony.

Of the 157 RCMP officers working in Nunavut, only four are Inuit.

Pike said he wants to improve local recruitment and representation. He plans to build on the work

up an allegation that Simon orchestrated a rigged auction in April 2023.

Simon has publicly dismissed the letter as baseless, pivoting to what she characterized as a breach of personal information entrusted to the land office.

"Obviously it's an inside job where somebody has access to the mailing list, and it's obvious somebody had access to emails," Simon told *The Eastern Door*.

"I'm not participating in a smear campaign where I did absolutely nothing wrong, and if their only aim is to get me off the ballot, I wish them luck."

She emphasized in a statement, as she did publicly, that all agreements she entered into were with willing sellers.

However, Simon seemingly admitted in a call with *The Eastern Door* to the letter's central revelation that, as certified land manager, she apparently facilitated a private auction for two pairs of lots on Kanehsatake Mohawk Territory in Oka Village, then owned by Eric Nelson, and used knowledge of these bids to acquire the properties for herself.

Asked who was informed to be able to participate, Simon said it was "the regular suspects of who can afford that kind of land."

In a written comment to *The Eastern Door* in the days following this interview, Simon continued to argue that nothing untoward was done.

"The allegation that I manipulated bids in land sales is patently false. The bidding process for the so-called 'Indian village' lots was not administered by me - it was called and run by the property owner, Eric Nelson. I had no authority over that process. To mischaracterize those sales as misconduct is both misleading and defamatory," she wrote.

Emails included in the anonymous letter demonstrate that Deborah Rennie and Russell Denis bid a combined \$135,000 for the lots - \$115,000 for one set and \$20,000 for the other - in an email addressed to Amanda Simon, with Simon's assistant at the time, Paige O'Brien, and incumbent portfolio chief Brant Etienne in copy.

Simon subsequently sent an email requesting that her matching bid be accepted. This email appears to be sent in a reply to Rennie with the same people in copy and then forwarded to Nelson, the properties' owner at the time.

Simon objected to a premise in one of *The Eastern Door's* questions in the call that if she were conducting an auction by virtue of her job, that her purchase was, owing to her knowledge of the bids, secured at the best possible price.

"It wasn't the best possible price," she interjected. "If you want to talk to anybody, I paid very good money for that, and I doubt anybody in this community would have been able to do the same."

Challenged about whether using the information in the auction would not be a conflict of interest in acquiring lands privately, she said, "I didn't think so. It wasn't my intention at the time."

She repeatedly denied that this situation represented a conflict of interest.

"It was done on the up and up. There's absolutely no conflict of interest at all. At the end of the day, it's between the seller and the buyers," she said.

She later said, "If I had wanted to buy those lands outright from the very beginning, even before putting it on auction, I would have done that. The only thing that I was doing was proving to the guy that I was giving him a really, really good price."

Simon subsequently sent an email requesting that her matching bid be accepted. This email appears to be sent in a reply to Rennie with the same people in copy and then forwarded to Nelson, the properties' owner at the time.

Simon is among those in the community named most frequently on parcel abstract reports. While some of the lots she has possessed, as she pointed out in a restrained public response, were passed down by family, there were other transactions that

occurred while Simon was land manager.

The acquisition of lands, of course, is not illegal. However, aggressive land purchasing and questions about whether her office was used inappropriately to advance her own family's holdings have raised concerns in Kanehsatake, where virtually every issue can be boiled down to the land and its scarcity after hundreds of years of colonial land theft.

"I started looking to purchase a lot to build a house on (over a decade ago) because we have access to a subsidy to help out," said a single parent, who spoke on condition of anonymity and will be referred to by the pseudonym of Alex.

Alex said they occasionally inquired about the availability of land to Simon. "During that time, it was always told that there was no land for sale," Alex said.

"They moved their family around to multiple residences within the postal code that is shared by Kanehsatake and Oka. Having to move four times is extremely taxing and stressful and anxiety-inducing," Alex said.

"Being a single parent, and my children are younger, I had to hire movers. It was super expensive." Eventually, Alex made the hard choice to give up on settling on the territory. When their kids

Continued on page 9

Northern Barbie debuts in Iqaluit

Looking back at 2025's biggest stories

Aggu elects MTA Edward Attagutluk

NUNATSIQAQ NEWS

Nunavut's new top cop prioritizes Inuit recruitment



RCMP Chief Supt. Kent Pike takes charge of V division, where only 4 of 157 officers are Inuit

Jeff Pelletier
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Transparency, Inuit recruitment and officers' well-being are some of the issues Chief Supt. Kent Pike prioritized Dec. 10 as he took command of the Nunavut RCMP.

Pike was welcomed as the 10th commanding officer of the RCMP's V Division in a ceremony held inside an Iqaluit airport hangar.

The approximately hour-long event was a sea of scarlet, with officers wearing their traditional red serge uniforms. They presented a display of RCMP traditional drills to celebrate Pike in his new role, as about 40 invited guests looked on.

"I'm committed to the territory and I'm going to do my best for everyone," Pike told reporters after the ceremony.

Of the 157 RCMP officers working in Nunavut, only four are Inuit.

Pike said he wants to improve local recruitment and representation. He plans to build on the work

Nunavik police chief faces scrutiny over racist remarks

Jean-François Bernier vows to be accountable and lists building trust among top priorities

Dominique Gené
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

With racist comments from his past resurfacing, Nunavik's newly appointed police chief says he's committed to proving himself as an accountable leader.

"I was a young constable and I made a mistake," Jean-François Bernier said in an interview Dec. 12. "I don't shy away from it. I took full responsibility."

In 2002, Bernier called a detained individual the N-word and initiated the man's arrest while working as a police officer in Quebec City. Only Bernier's colleague Dominic Lambert was present when he

made the comment.

The remarks were deemed unjustified, in a police ethics committee ruling from Feb. 3, 2006. The committee investigated complaints against officers. Its ruling said racist speech from police cannot be tolerated and that comments like the one Bernier made undermine public trust.

At the time, Bernier's counsel argued the comments were not evidence of racism and compared them to casual swearing or blasphemy.

Bernier also explained to the committee that he spoke out of frustration and repeated provocation by the detainee, including threats and offensive comments.

That same man was detained naked, which the committee also found unacceptable.

Bernier and his colleague each received a four-day suspension without pay for abusing their authority. Bernier also got a reprimand for the racist comments, as a result of the 2006 ruling.

His appointment last month to head the Nunavik Police Service came after weeks of interviews and discussions about his career and leadership, said Denis Abbott, spokesperson for Kativik Regional Government.

"Mr. Bernier presented as a knowledgeable and engaging leader with considerable

red serge uniforms. They presented a display of RCMP traditional drills to celebrate Pike in his new role, as about 40 invited guests looked on.

"I'm committed to the territory and I'm going to do my best for everyone," Pike told reporters after the ceremony.

Of the 157 RCMP officers working in Nunavut, only four are Inuit.

Pike said he wants to improve local recruitment and representation. He plans to build on the work

Continued on page 4

Competition Comments: I was impressed with all the entries. This category was difficult to judge because of the quality of all the articles. Thank you to those who submitted their work and for continuing to do important journalism.

Judge: David Pugliese

THE EQUITY
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PONTIAC PAIR SLIDE INTO CANADA GAMES

Quyon man missing in Ottawa River

Warden Toller not seeking re-election

Violent storm leaves thousands powerless

1 The Equity
K.C. Jordan

Judge Comment: A great story about friendship and perseverance. It was well written and well told, bringing the reader behind the scenes of two close friends and their respective journey in softball

2 The Low Down to Hull & Back News
Trevor Greenway

Judge Comment: A very unique profile about an athlete taking his sport by storm at the surprising age of 40. Really strong writing, as the writer takes you into the busy life of an adventure skier.

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Low Down on Skiing in the Hills

Ski your Buns Off

FREERIDING AND LOVING IT

At 43, Rupert dad takes on the best skiers, on the best mountains

BY TREVOR GREENWAY
editor@lowdownonline.com

If you had told Nick Steers as a teenager that at 43 he would be skiing the tops of some of the world's highest mountains against some of the world's top skiers - all with his wife and daughter in tow - he would have laughed in your face.

But today Steers isn't laughing. He's smiling - a grateful car-to-car expression that captures his gratitude for the things he's been able to accomplish in his thrilling career: skiing against the best and across the globe - five continents, scores of renowned slopes - all without missing time at home with his family.

The Rupert father and husband has been able to do something that most dads can't - continue to compete at the highest level of freeride skiing - a form of skiing that involves skiing on natural, un groomed and unmarked terrain.

He recalls the first time he took his wife and newborn

SLASH THAT POW: Rupert resident, dad, husband and freeride skier Nick Steers slashes some powder at Palisades Tahoe in California for a photo shoot with local legendary skier turned photographer Jeff Engerbreton. The event was the Iron Pass "Crew Camp," a week-long event for sponsored riders to show off the mountain. Photo courtesy of Iron Pass & Palisades Tahoe/ Jeff Engerbreton

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

SPORTS MORE SPORTS ONLINE AT TRESUBURBAN.COM

Alan Maislin keeps on trucking on the ice

By Mark Lidbetter
The Suburban

Alan Maislin's love of hockey keeps him trucking on the ice, just as his family's iconic Maislin Trucks (now Maisliners) keeps trucking on the roadways of North America. Maislin's commitment to the game has resulted in the soon to be 80-year-old to be inducted into the 80's Plus Hockey Hall of Fame this past May. The induction was more than a ceremony, it was a testament to Maislin's enduring love for hockey, family, and the pleasant surprises that come with age. Maislin was caught totally off guard as he never even knew such a Hall of Fame existed.

For years, he played in the local league with his sons, occasionally sharing the ice with his grandchildren. Hockey was simply a thread connecting generations. "I come in on Monday to play with my kids," Alan Maislin said. "It's a great sport, it's a great, great sport, and I love it, and I've been very privileged to be able to play. Now what's exciting is I play with my kids, and I have the ability many nights to play with my grandchildren. Last week, I was partners on defence with my grandson, so he's 20 and I'm 80."

It was his sons JJ and Michael who put their father forward for consideration. "When we heard about the Hall, we knew we had to nominate him," JJ Maislin said.

When Maislin arrived at the season's end party, he had no hint of what awaited him. Entering the restaurant, he was greeted by his wife, daughters-in-law, and grandchildren all gathered knowing why they were there. "Ceez, my boys must have organized this," Maislin recounted. "Isn't that nice?"

looks to improve his skills. Later this summer Maislin and a group of long-time friends will head to Niagara Falls for hockey school and a game against Buffalo Sabres alumni members. "I belong to a business group, and in the business group, we're a bunch of guys that like to play hockey," he said. "Each year we visit two NHL cities and we play two games in those NHL cities. We all realized that once you stop playing youth hockey you never again practice or get better. We decided to start a hockey school, and we've been all over the world. Number one, we want to get in shape. Number two, we want to continue to learn how to play better. It's not bad at 80 to get out there and learn how to play the game."

Playing against the Sabres alumni team is very apropos for Maislin because in his HOF hockey card Maislin sports a Buffalo Sabres sweater, and with good reason as he headed a group that attempted to buy the franchise in 2004.

Just what keeps Maislin taking to the ice? "The first thing is, you got to stay in shape," he said. "I don't go on the ice unless I'm in shape. You've got to stay in shape to be the best of your ability and enjoy the game. It's fun and for me, it's a privilege to be old and get to play with my kids and grandkids."

Prior to the induction ceremony in Ottawa, a special game took place, featuring the new Hall of Fame members. The arena was packed with family and friends cheering on the aged athletes with a chorus of "Go, grandpa, go." The entire event was more than an honour for Maislin, it was a chance to be competitive again, to lace up his skates and play the game he loved, with family and friends in attendance.

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AVIS PUBLICS / PUBLIC NOTICES

Ville de Côte Saint-Luc City of Cotesaintluc.org

AVIS PUBLIC

CALENDRIER 2026

DES SÉANCES MENSUELLES DU CONSEIL

Avis Public est par les présentes donné par la sousignée, Greffière, que lors de sa séance ordinaire tenue le lundi 14 juillet 2025, le Conseil municipal de Côte Saint-Luc a adopté le calendrier de ses séances ordinaires mensuelles pour l'année 2026, comme suit :

19 janvier	13 juillet
16 février	10 août
16 mars	14 septembre
20 avril	5 octobre
11 mai	9 novembre
15 juin	14 décembre

Les séances se tiendront à la salle du conseil, à l'Hôtel de ville, situé au 5501, boulevard Cavendish à 2000.

DONNÉ À Côte Saint-Luc, ce 23^{ème} jour de juillet 2025
M^{re} Pascale Tanguy
Greffière

Pour plus d'information, veuillez communiquer avec Florine Agoghnhoue à 514 485-6800 poste 1704 ou : info@cotestluc.org

AVIS PUBLICS / PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given by the Undersigned, City Clerk, that at its Regular Sitting held on Monday, July 14, 2025, the Côte Saint-Luc City Council adopted the calendar for its Regular Monthly Meetings for 2026, as follows:

January 19 th	July 13 th
February 16 th	August 10 th
March 16 th	September 14 th
April 20 th	October 5 th
May 11 th	November 9 th
June 15 th	December 14 th

Sittings will be held at 8:00 P.M. in the council chamber at the City Hall located at 5501, Cavendish Boulevard.

GIVEN AT Côte Saint-Luc, this 23rd day of July 2025
M^{rs} Pascale Tanguy
City Clerk

For further information, please contact Florine Agoghnhoue at (514) 485-6800 ext. 1704 or at: info@cotestluc.org

3 The Suburban
Mark Lidbetter

Judge Comment: A wonderful piece about the love of hockey and one man's drive to beat the odds, playing well past his prime. Strong storytelling and an interesting read.

Judge: Jeff Hamilton

**Constipated?
Maybe the
solution is
a group**



The Low Down to Hull & Back News
Madeline Kerr, Simon Hopkins, Trevor Greenway,
Matt Harrison, Nikki Mantell

Judge Comment: Extremely creative.

- Village cat needs some scratch
- Hills wake up to shake up
- What a load of croc
- Kaz dad raises stink over smelly wedding



Québec Chronicle-Telegraph
Danielle Burns, Ruby Pratka, Luc Lang

Judge Comment: Some terrific choices.

- Lights-out looms for Avenue Cartier lampshades amid arts funding crunch
- Fall of patriarchy is favorite season for World March of Women
- Club de Curling Jacques-Cartier still rocks after 100 years
- Snowstorms shadow 65th Quebec Pee-Wee Hockey Tournament

**Waterbomber
pilot gives the
scoop on
California fires**



Nunatsiaq News
Corey Larocque, Arty Sarkisian, Gord Howard,
Randi Beers, Jeff Pelletier

Judge Comment: Great work!

- Belgian 'dude' faces polar bears, heat and rough terrain in 34,000-km trek
- In search of a plan B: What if Nunavut mining goes 'uh-oh'
- Polar bear fans, Trump foes boost Qikiqtarjuaq tourism
- GN inflates giant colon to encourage cancer screening

**'Curvy and
stoic' polar bear
licence plates
return**

Judge: Patti Sonntag

Special needs program pioneer retires after 40 years



Shawville RA picnic benches get community make-over



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1 The Equity
K.C. Jordan

Judge Comment: The writer shows a very good eye for the telling detail that brings a story alive and offers several perspectives on the person profiled. Well written, with a strong narrative thread and careful attention to basics like grammar and spelling.

2 Nunatsiaq News
Arty Sarkisian

Judge Comment: Nice writing touches and a good balance between program details and giving a sense of the students' personal journeys. Well done.

Ontario, territories agree to remove trade barriers

Premiers sign memorandum of understanding at Council of the Federation meeting in Ontario

Ontario and the three territories agree that "if a good or service that is deemed safe for sale or use for some Canadians, it should be considered safe for all Canadians," the agreement said, adding that "strive to eliminate unnecessary costs for workers and businesses operating across provincial and territorial borders. The memorandum, which the news release said is not legally binding, comes a month after the federal government passed Bill C-5 which included the Free Trade and Labour Mobility in Canada Act.

Ontario, Nunavut, Yukon and N.W.T. will also try to align some of their technical safety laws and "strive to eliminate unnecessary costs for workers and businesses operating across provincial and territorial borders. The memorandum, which the news release said is not legally binding, comes a month after the federal government passed Bill C-5 which included the Free Trade and Labour Mobility in Canada Act.



Nunavut Premier P.J. Akeagook, left, and Ontario Premier Doug Ford sign a memorandum of understanding agreeing to collaborate in removing internal trade barriers. (Photo courtesy of the Nunavut premier's office)

Students get a 'taster' of what it's like to do wind turbine work

Students who signed up for a week-long trip to Gaspé as part of a two-week course to learn how to be a wind turbine technician.

When Timiust Kittosuk walked into a wind turbine blade factory in Gaspé, Que., last month, he could smell a mix of gas and nail polish remove. A few employees in white protective overalls were working with fiberglass, a material made of glass threads and hardened liquid plastic that's one of the main building components of wind turbine blades.

usage in the community of 1,010 people. It's expected to be completed by late fall or early winter. The corporation is looking for locals, like Kittosuk, to provide maintenance for the turbine. The two-week course was just a "taster," said Jess Paddister, strategy and operations manager at Nunavut Nukkiqsaattit Corp., and funded by Qikiqtani Inuit Association's Qikiqtani Skills and Training for Employment Partnership with funding from the federal government's Skills and Partnership Fund.



Sanikiluaq students and mentors celebrate Nunavut Day during a two-week course in Gaspé, Que. (Photo courtesy of Nunavut Nukkiqsaattit Corp.)



Sanikiluaq students take part in a two-week wind turbine technician course at Collège d'enseignement général et professionnel, the General and Vocational College, in Gaspé, Que., last month. (Photo courtesy of Nunavut Nukkiqsaattit Corp.)

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NUNATSIAQ NEWS

February 21, 2025

Ottawa students get chance to learn Inuktitut

Sam Apellee sits in an Ottawa Technical Secondary School classroom, watching as language specialist Nina Kuppapq carefully lights a soapstone quill after filling it with olive oil and cotton. Kuppapq addresses the group of five students seated before her, describing how the quill is historically a crucial source of light and warmth in Inuit households.



Jaimee Dohy, left, Indigenous graduation coach at Ottawa Technical Secondary School and Ginnifer Menominee, the Indigenous Ottawa-Carleton District School Board, stand in a smoking room of the secondary school where the first-ever Inuktitut course in Ontario was launched Feb. 3. (Photo by Nehaa Bimal)

Report offers look inside group home where 2 residents died

Authorities still won't say what happened

with specialized medical needs, run by Pinak-sirvik Corp. since 2004. A 12-year-old resident of the home died Jan. 6, 2024, and a 19-year-old resident died Oct. 17, 2023, after they were hospitalized, along with a third resident. It's not clear when the residents were hospitalized, but the deaths were reported to the hospitalization of another.

with specialized medical needs, run by Pinak-sirvik Corp. since 2004. A 12-year-old resident of the home died Jan. 6, 2024, and a 19-year-old resident died Oct. 17, 2023, after they were hospitalized, along with a third resident. It's not clear when the residents were hospitalized, but the deaths were reported to the hospitalization of another.

3 Nunatsiaq News
Nehaa Bimal

Judge Comment: Well done, with a nice lede and a good sense of what students are getting out of this course. Carefully written and well edited.

BUSINESS NUNAVUT 2025

Mint and berries: Inside Gjoa Haven's greenhouse

Nehaa Bimal

Canadian Space Agency, National Research Council Canada, and local technicians from Gjoa Haven. The farm uses three air-grown trays to replicate the humidity of a greenhouse. Fresh basil, strawberries and cherry tomatoes are grown in stacked rows under LED lights at Nauvik — "the growing place," in Inuktitut — an off-grid greenhouse powered mostly by wind and solar energy.

Working at the greenhouse on June 10, manager Betty Kogvik looked over the fresh produce she'd prepared for the team's snack and said: "If only I had ranch dip, I'd have all the fixings for a great salad."

For Kogvik, who has been working at Nauvik since it opened in 2019, the facility is more than a workplace — it's a vital source of fresh food in one of Canada's most remote regions.

Nauvik is a community-led project operated in partnership with the Arctic Research Foundation, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, the



From left, Betty Kogvik, Mark Ukkatata (front), Brett Tristram, John O'Brien, David Le (B), Peter and Lucy Ann Osgood are part of the team running Nauvik, an indoor farm in Gjoa Haven, using solar and wind power, the group grows fresh produce year-round in retrofitted shipping containers to help improve local food security. (Photo by Caroline Mullany)

confirmed expansion plans, noting the organization currently has 18 similar labs deployed across the Arctic.

"The Nauvik project was always meant to be replicable in other communities, and we are actively working to make it as efficient as possible so we can achieve this goal," Paul said in an email.

Costs for the mobile labs vary depending on design and power needs, ranging from about \$80,000 for a basic unit connected to the power grid to roughly \$200,000 for a fully independent lab with wind turbines, solar panels and battery storage.

For now, the team in Gjoa Haven continues to nurture its unique Arctic garden, working toward growing more plants native to King William Island.

At the request of a local elder, they've even started growing dandelions for medicinal use, which Kogvik is looking forward to learning more about.



Nunatsiaq News Nehaa Bimal

Judge Comment: A fascinating look at indoor farming in a remote area, this is an inspiring story about a community coming together to farm in some of the most unlikely circumstances.

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The Equity Emma McGrath

Judge Comment: This is a powerful explainer that examines how global machinations have an effect on the local level. The sensitive addition of local farming voices makes this piece especially important.

News

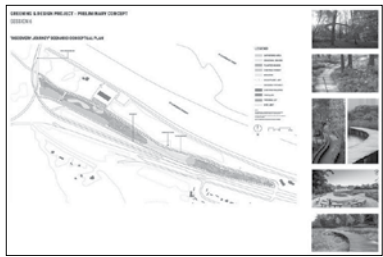
New phase for greening project

RAVEN KAISTU SHIO EDWARDS BROWN

After years of planning and public input, the greening and design project is entering its final stage on the way to bringing to life a long-anticipated vision for the greenspace between the Mercer Bridge and Highway 132 and the Old Malone service road.

The initiative, led by Plant Consulting & Communications, originates from the Jacques Cartier and Champlain Bridges Incorporated (JCCBI) sustainable development strategy, which supports environmental and social improvements around bridge infrastructure.

According to Maris Jacobs, project coordinator for Plant, phase three marks the beginning of the design phase, when ideas collected through consultation finally start to take shape.



Plans for the Greening and Design Project are moving forward as phase three begins, turning community ideas into a revitalized greenspace near the Mercer Bridge.

"Phase three is what we're calling the design phase. So, we're a post-community consultation, and all the information we have gathered since we started again is being created on paper, digitally, being put into place in phase three," she explained.

"We're basically putting things into motion so that they're no longer just ideas. They're the ideas that are kind of coming to life."

The project's final design, known as the Hybrid Scenario, combines two earlier concepts that emerged during community consultation and working group

sessions held between 2023 and 2025. The plan integrates greening, public art, water features, and traffic flow to create a multifunctional, sustainable public space.

"We were referring to it as a hybrid scenario because that was a presentation on a design that merged the two ideas that were from previous consultation phases," she said. "So, we're now referring to it as the final design we landed on and what all of the feedback pointed to."

Phase three focuses on refining that design: selecting vegetation strategies, and beginning the artwork procurement process.

"Now that we're in the design phase, it's time to start talking about refinement and strategy determining the types of vegetation that will go in the space, the elevation of the space, and the art that's going to be included," Jacobs said.

"Part of phase three is about the procurement process. We know that the community was interested in including artwork in the space, so that's going to entail calls to artists, determining dimensions, materials, and all of those final details."

Plant expects visible progress to begin next year.

"The earliest (on-site work) would probably be next fall or end of summer 2026," Jacobs said. "Our work in this phase is really going to be to provide updates on the project and find the project's certain milestones, when there are completed renderings available, when the procurement process starts, and when work-on-site begins."

While formal consultation has ended, Plant will continue engaging the community through information kiosks and regular updates. The first public kiosk will be held November 4 at the Services Complex from 12 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Beyond beautification, the project aims to restore and preserve natural ecosystems while offering a safe, accessible greenspace for residents.

"This phase will help determine whether we focus on a restoration approach, an accessible approach, or a reforestation approach," said Jacobs.

"What's going to be the one strategy for the greenspace, to make sure that all of those things are working together to promote biodiversity, to have the foliage be self-sustaining, not just have a stream there because it looks nice, or bushes here because they look nice, but to have the space take care of itself, feed itself over time, so that the community can access it briefly and use it as an educational opportunity. Or just for a leisure opportunity, but that even if nobody is in there, using it all year round, it still serves a purpose of improving that environment."

Jacobs emphasized that open communication remains a priority as the project moves forward.

"If anybody has any questions, you don't have to wait for the kiosks," she said. "We're here anytime people want to ask questions or get a little more information about the project."

Moose seized in Listuguj territory

EVE CABLE

A group of local harvesters say moose needs to be done to ensure local hunters are fully aware of regulations in other territories, after two of their moose were seized in Matane earlier this month.

"The whole ordeal could have been avoided," said Shoshanah Jacobs, one of the Kahnawake harvesters involved in the incident.

The group were harvesting in Matane, on the Gaspé Peninsula, earlier this month, which is considered part of Listuguj territory. They had their harvest seized after game wardens received reports of blood leaking from a vehicle. The wardens ultimately took the moose, cutting the lock of a trailer to retrieve one, and removing the other from a truck bed.

The Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government (LMG) has specific guidelines for Indigenous harvesters who are not from the territory, including the requirement for those individuals to obtain a letter of authority from the LMG.

There are a number of additional requirements for harvesters, including carrying that letter with them at all times, not harvesting at night for safety reasons, only harvesting one

moose for the year, and registering all harvested moose with the Mi'gmaq Rangers.

Harvesters must also comply with applicable provincial safety regulations, follow provincial regulations concerning firearms, and be accompanied by a Listuguj community member at all times.

"The LMG emphasizes that it's important for a Listuguj community member to be there during the harvest to ensure necessary protocols of paying respect are followed after a moose is killed.

For the LMG regulations, those who don't comply may have their authority letter revoked and their harvest seized.

Jacobs said that he and the group didn't meet those requirements because they simply didn't know about them. He said that it's a serious issue that various Indigenous communities don't have strong understanding of other nation's practices, and that more needs to be done to educate harvesters.

"I think the Mohawk Council of Kahnawake (MCK) should do a better job to fight for our right to hunt and be better connected with other communities, so that nothing like that happens again," he said. "It's been more than two weeks, and they still haven't made any effort to inform other community members that go to Matane."

MCK chief David Diabo said community members need to be thorough when preparing to harvest in other communities, and should be cooperative with game wardens, who he said have a responsibility to ensure regulations are being followed.

"The game wardens did their job," Diabo said. "MCK doesn't condone the seizure of any kind of subsistence harvesting, he said that it's important to respect the territory of other nations, and emphasized that it can be dangerous to hunt on other territories without following the proper procedures."

"It's traditional territory but it's not our traditional territory. It's Mi'gmaq territory," Diabo said. "They're doing this for harvesters' safety. It's an emergency management issue. If you're in there and you get caught in a storm, or somebody gets shot accidentally, or you fall down, break a leg, get hurt, they need to know you're there." Diabo said. "Ultimately, it's the warden's job to answer their questions."

Diabo said that the situation was complicated by the members of the group failing to cooperate with the wardens and refusing to answer their questions.

Jacobs characterized the incident as stressful for the group, lasting almost three hours.

"The MCK should've properly informed all the community hunters about this policy and written permission form. They failed to do so, and they put the blame on us for this incident," Jacobs said. "It just sucks, we kind of look like the bad guys in this story, but it's not our fault."

No members of the group were arrested, but they were not permitted to retrieve the moose after the seizure. Diabo said he's been in contact with Sylvain Marois, of Quebec's Ministry of Natural Resources and Forests, since the incident, who was supportive of Onkwéwe:we hunting rights, and said that it's important to ensure everyone is informed about other community's regulations going forward.

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THE EQUITY
 The Voice of the People of Quebec
 Wednesday July 9, 2025 Volume 145 Issue No. 22

Trump's beef with Canada's dairy: an explainer

CRUISING INTO CANADA DAY

Municipalities making moves on compost conundrum

Lightning blasts through walls, explodes lamp in Shawville home



The Eastern Door Eve Cable

Judge Comment: This important piece about harvesters caught up in regulatory issues does a nice job explaining the situation and recommending solutions.

Competition Comments: Entries this year were strong, and these three rose to the top. The diversity of topics is well illustrated by the winners, each of which treated questions of agriculture in Quebec in different and sensitive ways. Bravo to all the entrants. Judge: Magda Konieczna

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Gatineau city council
 Return from summer recess to packed agenda and concerned residents

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1 Aylmer Bulletin
 Tashi Farmilo

Judge Comment: The writing felt exciting and spicy, which is a feat for covering a city council meeting. A lot was conveyed - it was dense with information, but also with energy. This bit of colour made me lol: "You're my favourite."

2 The Eastern Door
 Eve Cable

Judge Comment: An excellently organized, clear read that addresses all the issues. The topic is complex, covering decades, but as a reader from outside Quebec, I learned everything I would want to know. I feel satisfied and informed.

THE EASTERN DOOR
 KAHNAWAKE MOHAWK TERRITORY • www.easterndoor.com

Vol. 34 No. 37 Friday, September 12, 2025 \$2.00

Akwesasne land claim over?

EVE CABLE
 THE EASTERN DOOR

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe (SRMT) has reached an agreement with a New York governor that could spell the end of a decades-long land grievance - but many who have been following the case say that the deal symbolizes a loss of sovereignty in Akwesasne and beyond.

"Ultimately this is wrong, this is weakness where there needs to be strength," said Isaac White, a community member from Akwesasne.

White was formerly a reporter for the now defunct Indian Time, which shuttered its doors in 2024 after more than 40 years of news coverage in Akwesasne.

This land claim is about the same age as the newspaper, and Indian Time provided coverage of negotiations throughout the decades, with White staying up to date on the topic since leaving the paper.

"The willingness to fight for what is ours isn't completely gone. People might get the impression that all of us have just accepted this, but there's a lot of us who haven't."

The announcement from New York governor Kathy Hochul came last Friday, following news last December that the SRMT had signed a final settlement agreement to put the claim to bed, with the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) signing on in January.

Both the SRMT and the MCA are elected entities that govern in Akwesasne, with the MCA serving the Canadian side of the territory and the SRMT governing in the portion that lands in the United States - the Mohawk lands that we historically lost. However, the settlement provides us the opportunity to add, restore, and acquire lands," the SRMT said.

"Getting our land back has been a goal of ours and our ancestors - we would not be here without the perseverance and courage from everyone who worked on the claim and negotiations since 1982."

The land claim itself has origins in the late 1700s when the Treaty with the Seven Nations of Canada was signed, making a cession of certain lands to the State of New York and the restoration of certain lands for "St. Regis Indians."

In 1982, a lawsuit was officially filed by what is now known as the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) who argued that New York had illegally purchased the land, and that Akwesasne were the rightful owners of it based on the treaty.

A few years later, the MCA joined the SRMT and the MNCC to create a tri-council, who were to fight for the suit together.

Since the withdrawal of the MNCC, traditional governance is no longer included in the agreement.

According to the statement from governor Hochul's office, the final agreement restores over 14,000 acres of disputed land to Akwesasne, and includes a \$70 million payout from the New York Power Authority (NYPA) to be paid over 35 years. The NYPA will also provide low-cost electricity to the SRMT, and the state will waive tuition and mandatory fees for Akwesasneborn at any state university or community college.

SRMT members applying to Cornell or Alfred universities will receive reduced tuition equivalent to the resident tuition rate for state universities.

The agreement also includes details about access to land, with the SRMT officially permitted to access Croil, Long Sault, and Barnhart islands for hunting, fishing, trapping, and gathering with "certain limited restrictions," including hunting standards that will be "equal to, or more stringent than, regulations for licensed hunters in New York state."

The state will also "establish a process for Akwesasne Mohawks to convert certain parcels to Indian Land should the right conditions be met."

Historian and scholar Gerald Taiaiake Alfred, who is from Kahnawake, said he's concerned about several aspects of the agreement, including the reference to "the right conditions" mentioned in regards to future land claims.

"It's totally vague. What are these conditions?" he said. "The fact that there's no laid out committed-to process is somewhat worrying in terms of whether or not we're going to get what we need."

Continued on page 5

CHRISTMAS THE EASTERN DOOR
 KAHNAWAKE MOHAWK TERRITORY • www.easterndoor.com

Vol. 34 No. 49 Friday, December 5, 2025 \$2.00

Tackling traffic woes in town

OLIVIER CADOTTE
 THE EASTERN DOOR

As the ongoing issue of traffic caused by construction in Chateaugay continues to cause friction, a few members of the community have decided to take matters into their own hands, a feat that has caused some concern for the Peacekeepers and the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCK).

Wednesday morning, a post made on the What's Happening in Kahnawake Facebook page did nothing to alleviate those concerns, as it declared that "All entrances to the village area of Kahnawake will be closed to non-residents from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m."

The MCK responded to the message via press release, stating that it was unofficial and not binding.

MCK grand chief Cody Diabo returned early from the Assembly of First Nations summit in Ottawa to oversee the situation.

"What I would ask for is just collaboration, at the end of the day, and working together and communicating. We can't just take individual actions," said Diabo.

He said that while he commended the community members who had made efforts to help the community, efforts might be better served discussing as a community and finding ideas for long-term solutions than residents taking matters into their own hands.

Aaron Delaronde, who has been standing with a few others at the intersection near Karonohianohaha Tsi Ionterihwainahkwa for almost two weeks during the evening rush-hour period, decided to take action when traffic had backed up in the area so much that it was making his every day life worse.

"On Monday, I couldn't even get out of my own driveway. The traffic went back as far as the eye could see," said Delaronde, who was interviewed during his shift checking traffic on Wednesday afternoon.

"What I was not going to do was to stop traffic, but I was going to help them move through."

The potential danger created by the sheer number of drivers was exacerbated by some of the unsafe behaviours he would see happen - speeding, traffic violations, and more.

"They weren't even stopping at the stop sign. They were rolling through, going through that one as well," said Delaronde, pointing to the stop signs on the Old Malone Highway and the Old Chateaugay Road.

On Wednesday, Diabo went to the corner where the stops were being done to see what was going on with his own eyes.

What he found was that, in fact, on Monday of the sort people had worried about following the online post had been implemented. Instead, the checks being made by a few community members for almost two weeks were continuing as they had been, letting locals through and asking non-locals if they were heading to Kahnawake or just passing through.

Diabo was glad to see that those checking where drivers were going were wearing reflective clothing to be seen, and that everything was happening peacefully.

The Kahnawake Peacekeepers have also been supervising the checks, with a police vehicle parked at the school to make sure everything goes okay.

Diabo spoke with Delaronde, as well as Timmy Sakawemahaw Montour, another community member who has been helping out with traffic checks.

Diabo came away hopeful that they could communicate better, and even advanced the idea of a more official way of making these stops, which could include trained flagmen from local contractors, like on highway construction sites, instead of residents in reflective jackets, so as to not put more burden on the Peacekeepers.

Delaronde said that he was glad to have the Peacekeepers supervise their stops, and that his intention was to help them, not work in spite of them.

"The Peacekeepers, they can't be everywhere, right?" said Delaronde.

He said that a few days in, he recognizes most of the cars and drivers that he has let through before, either local residents or non-locals who work in town. He simply waves them through or gives them a thumbs up, and sometimes chats with them.

The rest, he flags down, with a sign of the hand, and asks that they lower their window. He then asked the simple question: "where are you headed tonight?"

For non-locals that, for example, may be going to see a loved one, doing a job for someone, or visiting a business; they get let through.

The rest are asked to turn around and do a U-turn around the large cone installed between the lanes of the street that Delaronde stands by.

He said that a large number of Kahnawake kechro'non have been vocally supportive when driving through, and most interactions with non-locals have gone well.

Most, but not all.

"Whatever you do, there's a few people that complain. But, the positives far outweigh the negatives," said Delaronde.

There was one scary incident Tuesday, shared online by community member Joeshtanien Goodleaf.

While crossing at the crosswalk with her daughter, a driver, seemingly frustrated at having to wait to be checked, sped around the line and through the stop sign, while berating the community member doing the traffic check, she wrote in her post.

No one was hurt, but it showed that something much worse could have happened.

That potential of serious incidents involving people who may not be trained or sanctioned to deal with them has caused the concern for the MCK and the Peacekeepers.

"We don't want the situation to escalate. You know, civilians don't have the kind of training that we do, de-escalation and just dealing with people in general," said Kyle Zachary, spokesperson for the Kahnawake Peacekeepers.

He said that the Peacekeepers are currently monitoring the situation but have not disallowed the stops as of now.

The Peacekeepers have been placing themselves at certain points where traffic is potentially coming into Kahnawake, redirecting traffic on their end as well. Because of that, Zachary said that

Continued on page 3

3 The Eastern Door
 Olivier Cadotte

Judge Comment: This is really good. It's comprehensive and well-written. I like that the reporter got different perspectives of the story from multiple sources, including Facebook posts, which are an important part of most Indigenous communities. The end result is that the situation is very clear, and I as a reader am satisfied.

Competition Comments: I was thoroughly impressed with the high quality of the submissions. In the end, out of 24 applications, I had five with a score of 9. Out of these, I chose the top three.

Judge: Eden Fineday



1 Iori:wase Greg Horn

Judge Comment: Very nice spot news photo. The firemen in the foreground adds a touch to the size of the fire.

INSIDE... MCK gets bill rolling on Highway 207 reconstruction PAGE 5 Three Kahanawake hockey squads win EHL championships PAGE 9 KORLCC kicks off busy Cultural Awareness Month schedule PAGE 15

IORI:WASE

MOHAWK COUNCIL OF KAHNAWAKE RELEASES 2025-26 BUDGET

Greg Horn gregorhorn@nnews.com

Fire destroys home in village



The Mohawk Council of Kahanawake released its 2025-26 budget, with revenues totaling \$140 million. The 2025-26 budget of \$133,952,872 is up from last year's budget of \$114,947,384. The total expenses for 2025-26 is \$127,326,199, up from \$101,698,320 from 2024-25.

So that's what kind of really

Members of the Kahanawake Fire Brigade battling against a fire at a home across from the KSCS White House last Thursday night. For more see story on page 2.

Advertisement for a restaurant: BREAKFAST | LUNCH | FINE DINING MONDAY to SUNDAY • 7am to 9pm

2 Nunatsiaq News Jeff Pelletier

Judge Comment: I like the expressions on the face of the policemen. The timing was very good.



Nunatsiaq News logo and header information.

Nunavut's new top cop prioritizes Inuit recruitment
RCMP Chief Supt. Kent Pike takes charge of V division, where only 4 of 157 officers are Inuit

Nunavik police chief faces scrutiny over racist remarks
Jean-François Bernier vows to be accountable and lists building trust among top priorities

3 Nunatsiaq News Arty Sarkisian

Judge Comment: Different angle to show the important people in a small plane. The numbers of cell phones in the foreground is interesting.



PHOTO QUALITY
Premier P.J. Akeeagok, far right, and Northern Affairs Minister Gary Anandassingere, far left, pose for photographers following takeoff on board a Kenn Borek Air plane on Wednesday. They were flying over the Kuglulik River, to see the site chosen as a potential location for a future hydroelectric plant to service Inuvik, and the flyover allowed officials to view it.

Nunavik police seize \$73,000 worth of cocaine in drug bust
Three charged with possession and trafficking of cocaine, 5 others receive summonses to attend court

Canada's 'A' grade
The report card for the country's economy is 'A' grade, according to the OECD.

Competition Comments: The top three photos stand out. Judge: Bernard Brault



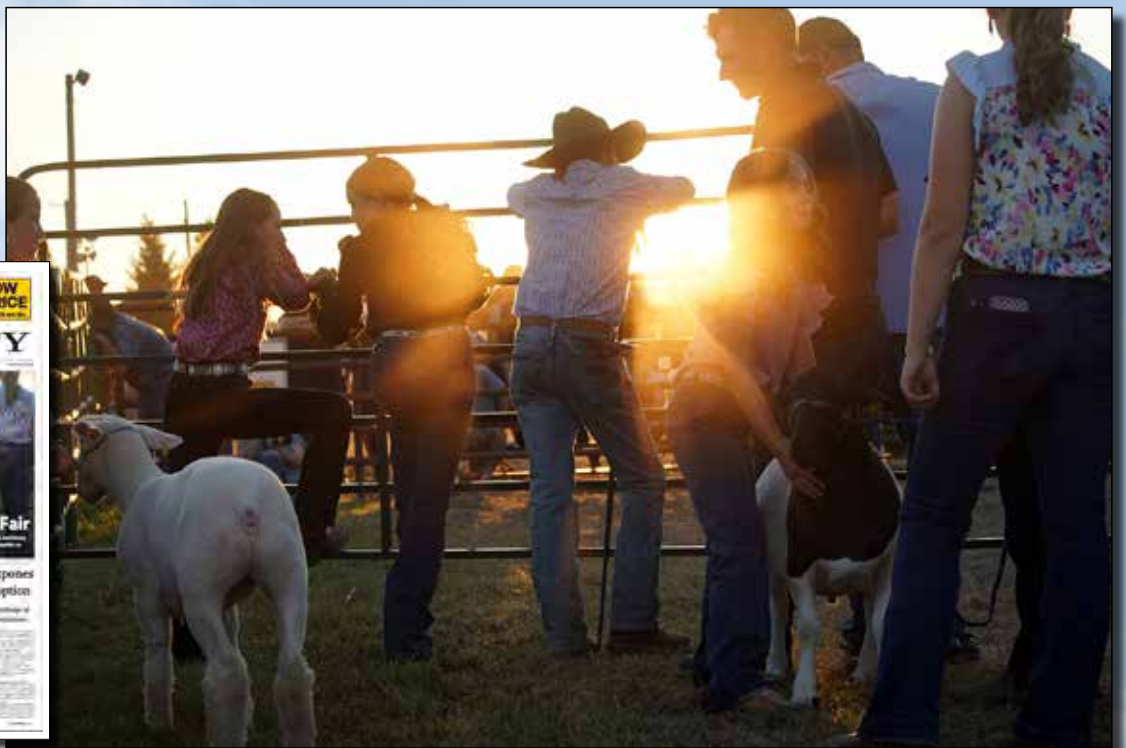
The Low Down to Hull & Back News
Simon Hopkins

Judge Comment: One can taste the flying mud in this photo. Also, nice touch to keep the flying mud in the masthead.



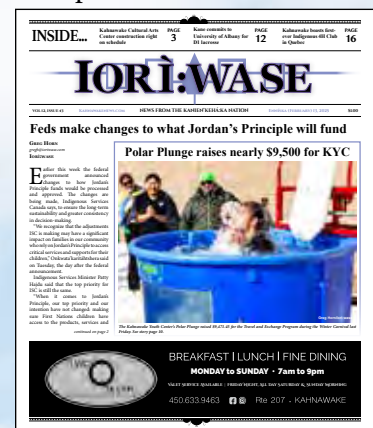
The Equity
Sophie Kuijper Dickson

A nice moody photo that illustrates the final day of the country fair.



Iori:wase
Greg Horn

Judge Comment: The viewer can feel the cold water underlined by the spectators in the background in their winter parkas.



Judge: Paul Chiasson



The Suburban
Philippe Serafino

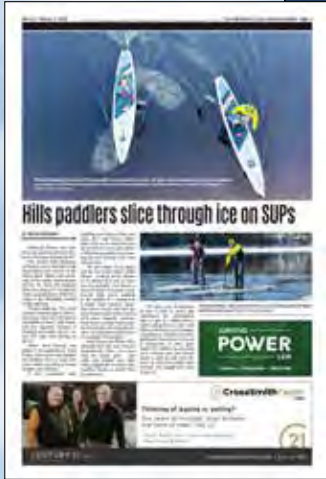


Judge Comment: First place stood out. Lots of emotion in this photo. Nice background also.



The Low Down to Hull & Back News
Trevor Greenway

Judge Comment: I like the angle to that. The water was still cold. Nice framing also.



The Low Down to Hull & Back News
Simon Hopkins

Judge Comment: Good clean action. The timing was very good.



Competition Comments: The first place stood out easily. Not all the photos were good enough to enter the Contest.
Judge: Bernard Brault

LEST WE FORGET

Photos by: Martin Akwiranoron Loft, Special to The Eastern Door



Remembrance Day in Kahnawake

RAVEN KATSI'SHIO EDWARDS BROWN The Eastern Door

Under a grey November sky, the sound of drums echoed through the streets, flags waved gently in the breeze, footsteps marched, and quiet reflection filled the streets of Kahnawake on Saturday as community members gathered for the annual Remembrance Day parade. Veterans, families, and youth walked side by side to pay tribute to those who served and to those who continue to carry the spirit of service within the community.



Community honours veterans at annual Remembrance Day parade. Community members are seen following in the footsteps of their fallen veterans and acknowledging their long-lasting presence in the community.

This sentiment was echoed by Mohawk Council of Kahnawake Chief Ryan Montour, who reflected on the day's events. "We salute our service members in the morning with a nice big breakfast or the community donated by KSCS (Kahnawake Shakotis takehnas Community Services) and The Rail. Then we have the cemetery ceremony, followed by the marching ceremony to the cenotaph, and afterwards, a great meal." Montour, who has participated in every parade for decades, reflected on the day, marching alongside fellow veterans. "There's a lot of pride and honour in participating. It's one day that we get to remember, and I'm glad that a lot of people are showing up. I think it speaks volumes." He also described the important 10 a.m. ceremony. "We march to the cemetery and give veterans a last post. Then we get ready for the big parade to the community-wide ceremonies. The place where veterans have fallen or are laid to rest for the last time, it's important that we go there to honour them." Among the marchers was retired veteran Gerald Allard, who served from 1982 to 1985. For him, the parade is a deeply personal moment. "To feel young again, marching in a parade alongside other soldiers, Marines, and sailors, is an important experience," Allard said. "But more importantly, it's about honouring those who sacrificed a lot in their lives, protecting our land." Looking ahead, Deer expressed optimism for the future of the parade. "Next year I'm doing this again. I'm going to look forward to it. Next year we'll build on what we did the last two years. The last two years have been phenomenal." The Remembrance Day parade remains a powerful expression of community spirit in Kahnawake. Montour emphasized the continuity of this tradition. "We have the largest veteran population, over 300 veterans in our history. It shows the warrior spirit we have in all of us."



The Eastern Door

Martin Akwiranoron Loft

Judge Comment: The photographer's use of black and white underscored the solemnity of the event. The written portion gave context and the number of pictures were just enough to tell the story. However, most of the pictures are "informational." None was particularly creative (use of lines, tones, light, etc. to create something spectacular). Neither were there any pictures that captured emotions.



The Equity

K.C. Jordan, Emma McGrath, Sophie Kuijper Dickson, Dave Moore, Breanna Adams

Judge Comment: There's a good selection of images and a very nice variety that tells the reader very much about the event. There's creative use of compositional elements to create really pictorial images (the sunset, for example). There are a couple of nice captures of emotions and a few good peak moment captures. But a photo essay isn't just a collection of pictures on a page and in this case, there are just WAY too many. The result is that some very good images don't get the play they deserve and are so small, they get lost in the mix or end up being badly cropped. Something written, to put the visual elements into context, would've pushed this to first place for me.



Québec Chronicle-Telegraph

Oksana Mukhina

Judge Comment: There's a good variety of images to tell the story and there's one good peak moment capture. However, more images would've helped to make the story more complete. Sometimes it isn't possible to do, which is why some stories just don't work as photo essays.



Competition Comments: There were a couple of good attempts, but I found that, overall, the quality of the entries in this category was weak. In most entries, there are a few very good single pictures, but it takes more than just a collection of images on a page to create a photo essay.

Judge: Phil Carpenter



The Equity
Dave Moore

Judge Comment: A very well executed photo of a praying mantis who seems to want to communicate with the viewer



The Low Down to Hull & Back News
Trevor Greenway

Judge Comment: A nice portrait that describes the volunteer work being done.



Québec Chronicle-Telegraph
Cassandra Kerwin

Judge Comment: The viewer can feel the cold weather in this photo.

Judge: Paul Chiasson



1 Townships Sun
Robert Donachie

Judge Comment: Perfectly captures the new work environment during the Covid pandemic. Very clean photograph with work-from-home elements (desk etc) alone in a yard/field. The winter setting adds to the feel and mood. Composition and exposure are on point. Great idea! and brrrrr haha

2 Townships Sun
Claude Dufresne

Judge Comment: Lots to see in this photograph, the performer in the foreground and the enthralled audience in the background. Good eye to put the performer against the trees so they're easy to spot. Also, the photographer picked a good viewpoint to include all the elements needed for a strong photograph.



3 The Eastern Door
Kahsennóktha George

Judge Comment: A timely confluence of strangers helping to spread the message of Red Dress Day. This photograph illustrates what can be achieved when like minds meet. Having a camera on hand is so important to capture these random and spontaneous moments!

Judge: Fred Lum



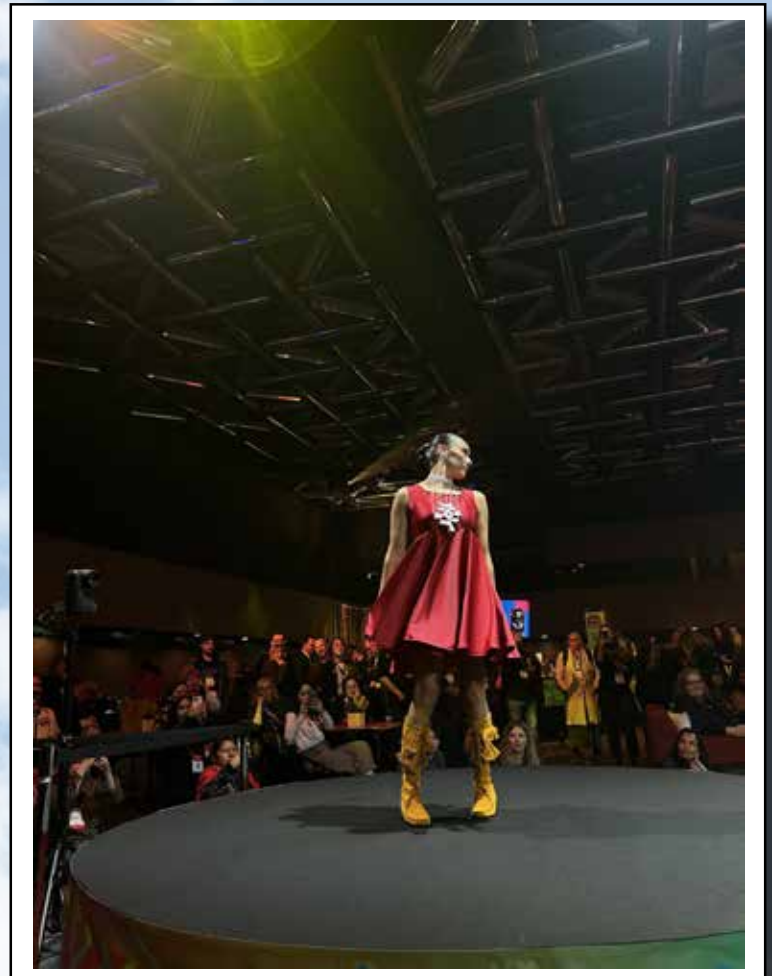
The Gleaner
Sarah Rennie

Judge Comment: The challenge with capturing images of fireworks is to incorporate a foreground that adds interest and helps tell a story. The photographer did well here to give the viewer a sense of being in the crowd during this display.



The Eastern Door
Eve Cable

Judge Comment: This image is made interesting not just by the subject matter but also by the looks on the faces and the reactions of the spectators in the crowd behind the subject. I also like that the photographer chose to capture the frame loosely and to include some of the flare from the stage lighting above.



The Low Down to Hull & Back News
Trevor Greenway

Judge Comment: Stage performances can be tricky for technical reasons (lighting) and rely heavily on the performances themselves. The photographer did well to choose a brief moment where the artist's hair was bouncing and it helps to give the image some energy.



Competition Comments: Arts and Entertainment photography is an opportunity for photographers to explore their creativity. Subjects seldom need to be captured tight and often stage lighting can act as an element to be incorporated into the "artistic" nature of the final image. Beyond good technical execution, the photographers of the winning images here chose a good moment, incorporated interesting light, or simply framed their subjects well using elements in the environment available to them. Photographs may be easily elevated by thinking beyond the obvious and Arts & Entertainment photography is the perfect genre to explore this.

Judge: Peter Power



The 1019 Report

Frederic Serre

Judge Comment: I must say, this is the cartoon that got me to chuckle out loud. I really like that it works up to a punchline.



The Suburban

Anthony Bonaparte

Judge Comment: I like that this has a political edge, but that it also has beavers that make me smile. Political yet funny.



The Eastern Door

Megan Kanerahtenha:wi Whyte

Judge Comment: Certainly the one that pulled on my heartstrings the most. But at the same time, seems a little too obvious.

Judge: Paul Gott

2025 SUMMER REGISTRATION

PROGRAMS U4-U19 REGISTER BY APRIL 31ST

www.soccerdescollines.com



The Low Down to Hull & Back News
Jessica Valentini

Judge Comment: Looks like a fun league to join



The Eastern Door
Dana Marquis

Judge Comment: Clean and simple. Soothing colours. Complementary type styles. The headline could be bigger. I suspect many readers would prefer to read the street address in newspaper ad than to look for the business on Google Maps. QR might work.

READY TO JOIN A CLASS?

Check out all the options and sign up easily at www.lotusandsage.ca

Yoga • Herbalism • Sound • Meditation

Find us on GoogleMaps Open Tuesday to Friday from Noon to 5 p.m.



Laval News
Lareine Zakhour

Judge Comment: Clean and simple banner ad on a busy page. Good use of colour, with good copy flow. The problem when asking a question in the ad headline is if the answer is no, the reader moves one.

Thinking of **selling** or **downsizing**? I can help!

EXCELLENT SERVICE | EXCEPTIONAL RESULTS

ROYAL LEPAGE
HUMANIA CENTRE
AGENCE IMMOBILIERE 450.682.2121

FREE EVALUATION WITH NO OBLIGATION

VOULA KOTTARIDIS | (514) 993-5010 | AGENTVK@GMAIL.COM

Competition Comments: Social media has forced community newspapers to change the look of print advertising and the way information is conveyed to readers. Advertisers want greater reach than what they can get through print alone, and they want assurances their ads are seen and effective. This requires more colorful, clean and simple ads that immediately catch the reader's eye and stand out from news, photos and other ads on the page, whether in print or online. The best ads in this category did this with lively design. Close scoring among these entries (in both categories Small and Large Advertising Creations). Every newspaper should celebrate their design team and have entries in this category.

Congratulations to these newspapers and their designers.

Judge: George Brown

The winner of Best Overall Newspaper for 2025 is..... Nunatsiaq News!

NUNATSIAQ NEWS

Collage of newspaper front pages from Nunatsiaq News. Visible headlines include: "Naujaat seamstress would sew 'every day' if she could", "Defeated MLA reflects on culture's role in election", "Frosty' the rhinoceros found in Devon Island", "Marchers call for end to police brutality in Nunavik", "Critics say people go hungry as Nutrition North review goes on", and "James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement Commemorating 50 Years".

Commemorative graphic for the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement 50th anniversary. It features a large red "50" with a map of the region inside the zero. Text includes: "JAMES BAY AND NORTHERN QUEBEC AGREEMENT COMMEMORATING 50 YEARS", "JBNQA 1975-2025", and "Looking Back. Moving Forward. >NUNATSIAQ NEWS".

PAUL DUMONT-FRENETTE OUTSTANDING JOURNALISM AWARD

The Paul Dumont-Frenette Outstanding Journalism Award is QCNA's top individual writing award. It was established in memory of the first QCNA (then AQREM) executive secretary, Paul Dumont-Frenette. It was originally named the Paul Dumont-Frenette Award and was renamed the Paul Dumont-Frenette Outstanding Journalism Award in 2016. This award is given to the journalist who has shown the best overall performance in the year as determined by judges in reviewing all entries.



Trevor Greenway
The Low Down to Hull & Back News

The Lindsay Crysler Outstanding Achievement Award is one of QCNA's most prestigious honours because it pays tribute to individuals who set the highest standard of excellence which in turn raises the profile of community newspapers. The award is named after Lindsay Crysler, a former dean of journalism at Concordia University who was instrumental in raising the bar for journalists within QCNA, and for recognizing the high impact of community journalism. In the early 1980s, it was Lindsay, and then-editorial services coordinator Judith Taylor, who judged all entries in the QCNA Better Newspapers Competition. Lindsay encouraged his journalism students to do a stint, or forge a career, in a community newspaper so they can truly appreciate the impact of what they write. QCNA wanted to recognize his long-standing contribution, thereby creating the Lindsay Crysler Award, first presented at the QCNA gala in 1994 and renamed the Lindsay Crysler Outstanding Achievement Award in 2016. It was Lindsay's wish that the award be presented to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the community newspaper industry in general or whose work in a community newspaper has made an extraordinary contribution to the community.

We are very proud to present the 2026 Lindsay Crysler Award to Lynne Lavery.

Submitted by Fred Ryan

Our four-newspaper group, which today covers the entire region of the Outaouais in West Quebec, began with nothing in 1987. Launched in Fort Coulonge, The Pontiac Journal, MRC Pontiac's first and only bilingual, free, delivered-to-every-address newspaper was launched with funds borrowed from family, friends, a sympathetic banker and a local printer, both in Pembroke, Ontario. This "little newspaper" soon grew via the purchase of the West Quebec Post and the Aylmer Bulletin, covering the Quebec market opposite Ottawa. This was a family undertaking, and by 2013 my daughters helped me retire by buying the three papers on terms the papers could afford. One daughter, later to be president of QCNA, soon launched the Gatineau Bulletin, effectively sewing up the West Quebec market and information-hungry population (well educated, many civil servants, etc). This territory includes Chichester to Fort-Coulonge and Shawville, in the Ottawa Valley, Wakefield and Chelsea, down to Aylmer and Gatineau.

Crucial to this growth was Lynne Lavery, my now wife, and a guiding hand within our family. "Crucial" is no exaggeration -- Lynne has been key.

She did not come from a media background, but was educated in design (fashions & fabrics at Ryerson in Toronto) and in the operation of small business. She had bought out her partners in a local woollens co-op, the Pontiac WoolWorks, in Shawville. Our relationship began as I tried to sell her advertising!

When her woollens and gift shop closed, Lynne joined the newspapers as our office manager in Aylmer. Taking after her father, an established Chartered Accountant, Lynne enrolled in a CCGA business accounting program and studied nights. By day she ran the general operations of the newspapers and by night she learned the inside & outs of finan-

cial statements, federal and provincial taxes, employment remittances, QST & GST reporting, audits, and related skills -- invaluable skills for our management team. Following this, she took a French language-for-business course and became fully bilingual, especially in accounting and government matters. Lynne handled negotiations successfully (in French) with an aggressive Revenu Quebec agent, a M. Fecteau, reaching a settlement which did not kill our newspapers. Likewise she has dealt with the Office de la langue française' "language police" numerous times. She remains a voracious reader to this day.

Over the first ten years she led our team in getting several new publications off the ground: TelePontiac, our big-print, bilingual phone book, replacing six or seven Bell books into one, and growing to be a major source of our advertising revenue. She took over the responsibility of our new full-colour cottagers' magazine, Vie de Chalet / West Quebec Cottage Living, again, a strong revenue source. She initiated a valuable working relationship with the region's one community radio station, CHIP-FM, and led the launch of several important events, Pontiac Readers' Choice Awards, in which Pontiac readers (20,000) nominate and then vote on their favourite businesses. It is hard to quantify the value this annual event in terms of advertising revenue and good-will generated across the business community; she leads this annual awards ceremony, the largest annual business event in the Pontiac.

Ms Lavery was also instrumental in building a strong partnership with the fledgling Chamber of Commerce here, which has also become invaluable for the business community. She continues to participate in their major meetings and networking events, representing our four newspapers.

During all this, the Outaouais was served by several French-language newspapers, one from a significant chain -- but



all have been unable to compete and have gone out of business, despite the economic strengths of this region, the home to many Ottawa civil servants and agencies.

Safe to say, Lynne has held and shone in virtually every part of our business. She is a hands-on manager, sympathetic and knowledgeable. At present she is focussed on sales, given the challenge newspapers face with the digital and on-line upheaval in our industry. She conducts bi-weekly sales meetings, monitors the client lists of each rep, and keeps the Journal's stable of sales reps happy -- and prosperous. She hires new reps, and has taken over territories when a rep moves on, and trains replacement staffers. In fact she is one of our best sales people in terms of sales and relationship building with the clients in her present territory.

Her university training in design has paid off in her ability to design ads, do page lay-out, and proof-read -- all of which she still participates in for each issue of the Journal. I do not think there is any position in our newspapers which she has not fulfilled -- and with honours! Since our coverage is such a large area, she is often out taking photos,

covering stories and interviewing. Her stories have been nominated for QCNA awards. She still proof-reads every page, byline and headline today. She oversees circulation, and handled our response to the recent Canada Post strikes.

COMMUNITY - BUILDING

Lynne has built a personal reputation in the 18 communities we cover. From her early years with her two daughters, she was instrumental in the Shawville Figure Skating Club (and is now doing this for three of our grand-children); she has participated in the Terry Fox Run and Cancer Walk fundraisers for years. (She is a cancer survivor, as is one of her daughters). And she's proud to use her business acumen for several volunteer organizations, serving as treasurer in almost every one. She's a prime mover in the Pontiac Bursaries Fund, which distributes over \$40,000 every year to local students going on to post-secondary studies. The importance of her personal involvement with our Pontiac Readers' Choice Awards is obvious since the "Winners" award logo is proudly posted by so many local businesses -- plus farms, teachers, medical staffers and many others!

Lynne is a sympathetic but no-nonsense manager and since she has developed her capacities in every role, she can show new employees the best example -- from tight writing, to photo-composition, headline-writing, and proof-reading.

In 2014 she announced she would like to retire. Filling shoes as comprehensive as Lynne's is no small task. Twelve years later, that will be a reality, which indicates the incredible contribution she's made to our newspapers -- and to the entire community.

I know Professor Crysler, and feel confident he would be very proud to welcome her to this great stable of newspaper-heroes his award symbolizes.

OUTSTANDING PHOTOJOURNALISM AWARD

Created in 2001, the Outstanding Photojournalism Award is presented to the individual who has shown the best overall performance in photojournalism in the year as determined by judges in reviewing all entries.

This year, we have a tie! The winners are:



Trevor Greenway

The Low Down to Hull & Back News



Dave Moore

The Equity



A BRAVE INITIATIVE THAT BECAME AN INSTITUTION

By Sharon McCully

SPEC, the Gaspésie's only English-language newspaper and a founding member of QCNA, (formerly the Association of Quebec Regional English Media), AQREM, celebrated its 50th anniversary May 15, 2026.

To truly appreciate the miracle of SPEC, time-travel back 50 years to an era that pre-dated current technology, iphones, computers and digital photography - all of which would have facilitated transmission of information to the region's 8500 English-speakers dispersed in tiny pockets along a 400-kilometer stretch of coastline.

Instead, the only source of English-language information for Gaspésians came from CBC radio in neighbouring New Brunswick. It was the 1970s and Quebec was entering a period of political unrest that would have serious and direct consequences for English-speaking Quebecers.

Enter the "Founding Four" visionaries: Lyndon Bechervaise, a teacher and school board administrator, Gary Briand, an academic who successfully lobbied to establish an English-language Cégep in Gaspé, Donald Miller, an educator and artist with deep roots in the community and Bernard (Bernie) St. Laurent who went on to become CBC Quebec's senior political analyst and host of C'est La Vie. These four decided it was time for the community to have its own newspaper to unite the English community, with its shared Loyalist history and strong sense of community, in common purpose.

The challenge of publishing and distributing a newspaper over a vast territory in the absence of technology, would seem insurmountable to most. The nearest printer was more than 300 kilometres away. Yet every Tuesday, summer and blustery winter, a driver stopped by the SPEC office in New Carlisle, picked up the large flat box of page layouts for the week's edition, drove it three hours to a printer in neighbouring New Brunswick, waited for it to be printed and returned with hot-off-the press copies of the weekly newspaper for distribution. The following morning, office manager Sharon Farrell, who shepherded the newspaper through good times and difficult times for 38 years,

put the coffee pot on and a group of volunteers gathered in the office to affix labels on the 2000 copies of SPEC that would be distributed later that day to post offices and newsstands from one end of the coast to the other. Once a week, every week, for decades.

Its name, aptly chosen to reflect its mandate, is a formula for any newspaper to cover the four pillars of a community: Social, Political Economic, Cultural – SPEC.

The impact of having a weekly newspaper, focused on issues and concerns of the Gaspé's English-speaking community, cannot be overstated. The newspaper served as a vehicle to mobilize the community around critical issues like the preservation of English-language school boards, the right to English-language health care, the extension of CBC English radio services via the Quebec Regional network, the importance of rail service between Montreal and Gaspé where so many Gaspésians had to go for cancer treatments and other health care.

It provided a forum for discussion and debate on issues affecting the community. It gave collective voice to those who often went unheard. The newspaper provided space to volunteer groups, that are the heartbeat of any community to promote their services and activities. It also provided an opportunity to celebrate the heroes who inspire the community, and to remind Gaspésians of their identity, their rich heritage and shared contribution to the evolution of the Gaspé.

The newspaper became ground zero for many projects to launch and for fundraisers to succeed.

What remains remarkable about SPEC after 50 years is the resilience and perseverance of the volunteers on the board of directors who manage the paper and who continue to give their time freely to meet new challenges and to provide support to the small staff who are determined to keep publishing this newspaper, deemed so vital to the community, despite all odds.

The 'Can Do' attitude of the first founders remains intact, a source of pride and a testament to all Gaspésians who have supported the newspaper for 50 years through subscriptions and advertising.



Two of SPEC's founding fathers: Lyndon Bechervaise and Gary Briand at SPEC's 40th anniversary



Three former reporter editors of SPEC: Stéphane Giroux, Sharon McCully and Cynthia Dow



ADEN SEATON

The Low Down to Hull & Back News

As submitted by Nikki Mantell

“I got hooked on the Low Down in 2008, the day I moved to Chelsea and picked up a copy at the Freshmart. Over a decade later, I was looking for a career change, and while reading the classified section, I stumbled across a job advertisement for an advertising sales director. It’s as if I got struck by lightning; I felt a literal surge of electricity and knew instantly that this was MY job. I bounce around the Hills, chatting with our amazing advertisers, learning about their businesses, their families, and together we get the word out to the whole community about whatever projects they have underway.”

These are our sales director’s own words that we published in a feature for the LD’s 50th anniversary in 2023. Do you feel the infectious energy of someone who is genuinely stoked to sell advertising for the local paper? Yeah, you do. This is Aden Seaton. She is the walking definition of positive energy; she is the salesperson who makes it her mission to take the best possible care of her clients to help their business thrive. She wakes up thinking about what’s best for their business and has trouble falling asleep at night if she thinks she hasn’t tended to an important detail. Sales, especially in a small community, aren’t about having a “killer instinct”; they are about building relationships, practising good listening skills and helping the client achieve their goals and boost their business. As the Low Down’s sole dedicated ad sales person, Aden is the “mother bear” of our paper: going out and hunting down sales while simultaneously protecting and nurturing both her clients and the newspaper.

Aden is whip-smart, organized, professional and can think outside the box – she’s come up with numerous creative ways to help the client, and the Low Down. Sometimes it’s finding the most gentle language possible to tell a client that their AI-generated ad is super creepy and needs a redesign (which she’ll offer to do in-house). Another time, she came up with a win-win solution when planning a charity’s ad campaign: Aden’s idea was to double the charity’s requested ad space by donating half in return for a tax receipt.

These are some of the things that make her such an effective salesperson: last year she brought the Low Down’s print advertising sales up 8 per cent and more than doubled digital ad revenue, when, as we all know, advertising sales are ever more challenging.

Unlike some salespeople who tend to put themselves first, Aden is always looking for ways to boost the Low Down and the people who work here. She helped the publisher come up with ways to restructure during COVID; she took on all the catering arrangements for a recent client appreciation event, she spent many hours helping launch the paper’s arms-length non profit the Friends of the Low Down; if she goes on vacation she pre-writes all her emails to clients so the publisher doesn’t have to when she fills in for her; she regularly brings in homemade treats for the staff and she can be counted to pitch whenever the team’s in a jam. Aden always has the newspaper’s best interest at heart. The Low Down’s “mother bear” of sales most certainly deserves the Joan Durnin Salesperson award.

The QCNA is proud to present the Joan Durnin Outstanding Salesperson award to Aden Seaton.

MEET THE JUDGES



Ryan MacDonald

Ryan MacDonald is a senior editor at The Globe and Mail, where he has held editorial positions since 2007. He leads a team of award-winning journalists focused on energy and natural resource issues that are critical to the Canadian economy.



Rita Legault

Before serving as Director of Communications for the Quebec Community Groups Network for 15 years, Rita Legault spent more than two decades as a community newspaper reporter, working at The Sherbrooke Record. She also freelanced extensively for The Montreal Gazette and various other publications. A three-time recipient of the Paul Dumont-Frenette Award, Legault has earned numerous QCNA and CCNA awards across categories such as news, environmental writing, enterprise reporting, and investigative journalism.



David Pugliese

David Pugliese has been a journalist since 1982. He currently works for the Ottawa Citizen Newspaper. Pugliese has won three National Newspaper Awards for his reporting and three awards from the Canadian Association of Journalists. He is

the author of two books on military affairs. In 2020 Pugliese won the Spencer Moore Award for Lifetime Achievement from the Canadian Committee for World Press Freedom.



Greg Colgan

Greg Colgan is the editor of the Rocky Mountain Outlook, based in Banff and Canmore, Alberta. He has been a journalist for more than 15 years in both Alberta and Ontario. He has covered sports, municipal and provincial politics, arts and entertainment, labour, housing and development and many other topics. His journalism has been recognized both provincially and nationally.



Kevin McBain

My name is Kevin McBain, currently the owner/editor/reporter for the South Shore Bulletin (celebrating its 150th year), located on the South Shore of Nova Scotia. I have been involved in the newspaper industry since the mid-1990s starting in the mailroom and working my way up to ad design, then sports reporting, general news reporting and now

publisher, in newspapers in Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia. I have always loved being involved in sports as a player, coach, follower, reporter and photographer and really enjoyed this opportunity to be a part of judging the sports pages for the QCNA.



Bernard Brault

Reconnu pour ses photos de sports, Bernard Brault débute sa carrière en 1976 au journal Le Courrier du Sud sur la rive-sud de Montréal. Par la suite, il a collaboré à plusieurs magazines ainsi qu’aux agences de presse, UPC et Reuters. Pendant plus de 37 ans, il a été photographe pour l’un des plus grands quotidiens français d’Amérique :

La Presse. Redevenu photographe à la pige depuis plus de quatre ans. Récipiendaire de la médaille de l’ordre du Canada en 2022 pour l’ensemble de sa carrière. Bernard Brault est l’un des photographes de presse les plus connus et reconnus au Canada.



Peter Power

Peter Power is an award-winning Canadian photojournalist and visual storyteller with more than 30 years of experience covering national and international news for The Toronto Star and The Globe and Mail. His work focuses on human-centered documentary photography, trust-based storytelling, and images that bring clarity and impact to complex issues.

Peter is currently an independent photographer and videographer specializing in visual storytelling for organizations, editorial clients, and community-focused institutions.

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George Brown

George has been award-winning reporter/photographer, editor, publisher, and newspaper owner for more than 40 years with career-building stops at the Sylvan Lake News, Wetaskiwin Times Advertiser, Devon Dispatch News/Beaumont News, and Ponoka News in Alberta, and the Melville Advance in Saskatchewan.

His editorials leave no politician unskewed. He has won awards for his editorials in Alberta and Saskatchewan, nationally and internationally.

George has been a member of the International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors (ISWNE) and is a featured speaker on the topic of writing editorials that matter, and the importance of strong journalism in building communities



Eden Fineday

Eden Fineday is a nêhiyaw (Cree) journalist from Sweetgrass First Nation in Treaty 6 territory and the publisher of IndigiNews, an award-winning Indigenous-led newsroom. She is the CEO and co-founder of tâpwêwin media, a national Indigenous media charity that became the home of IndigiNews

in 2025. She's also a co-founder of the Indigenous Media Association of Canada, a national association for Indigenous journalists and broadcasters.



Magda Konieczna

Magda Konieczna is an associate professor of journalism at Concordia University. She is also the founder of Documenters Canada, which trains and pays community members to document public meetings.



Gordon Cameron

Gordon Cameron is the executive director of the Ontario Community Newspapers association and the general manager of the Canadian Media Protective Association. He spent over two decades as an award-winning editor and columnist for community newspapers in Hamilton, Toronto and rural Alberta.

He is also a past president of OCNA and the International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors.



Mary Baxter

Mary Baxter, is a PhD candidate in The Department of History at Western University in London, Ontario and an award-winning journalist and editor. She specializes in the history of the Great Lakes region and in issues to do with agriculture, rural affairs, the environment, energy and southwestern Ontario.



Lucie Laumonier

Lucie Laumonier is a journalist, historian and journalism professor at Concordia University. When she is not teaching, writing, or doing research, she works in the podcast industry.



Heather Wright

Heather Wright is a journalist who owns and operates the award-winning newspapers The Independent of Petrolia and Central Lambton and The Herald serving Thamesville, Dresden and Bothwell in Ontario. She is a vocal proponent of quality local journalism and strong community newspapers.



Patti Sonntag

Patti Sonntag is an award-winning Parliament Hill reporter whose investigations have transformed legislation across Canada. Throughout her career, she has earned more than 30 honours, many for collaborative investigations she has led. After a decade as managing editor in The New York Times'

News Services division, where she directed content for more than 60 news feeds serving 1,100 media companies globally, Sonntag returned to Montreal in 2018. As founder of the Institute for Investigative Journalism, she spearheaded influential national collaborative investigations including "Tainted Water," "The Price of Oil," and "Clean Water, Broken Promises." Her work has appeared in leading Canadian publications including the Toronto Star, National Post, The Globe and Mail, Le Devoir and more.



Janis Cleugh

Janis Cleugh is a multimedia reporter, copy editor and paginator with the Tri-City News, in Coquitlam, BC. Last year, she was awarded with the King Charles III Coronation Medal for her service to the community and country through local journalism. She is also a community newspaper judge for competitions in Ontario, Saskatchewan

and Alberta, as well as for the CCNA. Janis is a proud member of Editors Canada, and is a certified proof-reader with the organization. You can read some of her stories on Instagram @janiscleughwrites.



Jason Magder

Jason Magder is the civic affairs and transportation reporter for the Montreal Gazette. He has worked there since 2007 after getting his start in community newspapers as a reporter and sports editor.



George Abraham

George Abraham is founder and publisher of New Canadian Media that offers an immigrant perspective on Canadian current affairs.



Peter Menzies

Peter Menzies is a past publisher and editor-in-chief of the Calgary Herald, a former vice chair of the CRTC and a National Newspaper Award winner.



Paul Chiasson

Paul Chiasson was hired in 1977 full time at Le Droit daily newspaper in Ottawa, covering local news as well as federal and provincial politics.

During 41 years with The Canadian Press, he covered 12 Olympic Games, various G7, G20, Francophonie, Commonwealth, NATO, Asia-Pacific summits, coverage at the White House, the Kremlin, l'Élysée, 10 Downing etc. and various foreign trips with the Prime Minister, federal and provincial election campaigns, referendums, Polytechnique, the Oka crisis, the student strike, the pandemic, 19 World Figure Skating Championships and many other national and international skating competitions. World and Canadian hockey, swimming, track and field, gymnastics, skiing championships, over 25 Grey Cups, Stanley Cup finals, World Series, major news events in Montreal, Canada and around the world and the list goes on.



Jeff Hamilton

Jeff Hamilton is an award-winning investigative and sports journalist based in Winnipeg, where he reports for the Winnipeg Free Press. Hamilton's impactful investigative reporting has earned him the Don McGillivray Award and the Canadian Association of Journalists Written News Award, and he is a two-time finalist for the presti-

gious Michener Award for public service journalism. Hamilton currently serves as the President of the Football Reporters of Canada and is an active member of the Professional Hockey Writers Association.



Phil Carpenter

Phil Carpenter is a Montreal-based journalist with over three decades of experience. He now works as a reporter/VJ for Global News, Montreal, covering a multitude of local and national issues. Before that he spent more than a decade as a photojournalist at The Montreal Gazette, where his work encompassed a

diverse range of news and social topics. His work has taken him across the globe. He recently reported from Jamaica on hurricane relief efforts and the effects of climate change and extreme weather on farmers. Phil was also among the first journalists on the ground in Haiti following the tragic 2010 earthquake. He then covered political upheavals in the country a year later. In Rwanda, he documented stories of Genocide survivors. Notably, he covered Barack Obama's first inauguration as US president. Phil's professional journey has been deeply rooted in the value of education. He taught journalism at Concordia University for over a decade, contributing significantly to creating the Graduate Diploma in Visual Journalism program. He also participated in a month-long teaching initiative in Rwanda alongside fellow Canadian journalists. Phil additionally has served as a judge for various photography categories in the National Newspaper Awards, an esteemed Canadian journalism competition. As a journalist, Phil is committed to documenting history and exploring the human condition to foster critical thought, debate, and dialogue. He views journalism as a profound calling and approaches his role with a strong sense of responsibility. Currently, he is engaged in a multi-year project to explore Canadian multiculturalism by documenting the rich tapestry of cultural traditions across the country.



Curtis Armstrong

Curtis Armstrong is the publisher of the Western Wheel in Okotoks and the Cochrane Eagle. Previously, he was a publisher in British Columbia, as well as throughout central and southwestern Ontario.



Fred Lum

Fred Lum is a Globe and Mail staff photojournalist based in Toronto. Over four decades with the paper, Fred has covered a huge and diverse range of photo assignments. A shot of Toronto Blue Jays outfielder Jose Bautista's legendary bat flip during the 2015 American League Division Series earned Fred a National

Newspaper award. When he's not working, Fred can usually be found at his off-grid cabin or volunteering at Gallery 44 Centre for Contemporary Photography, an artist-run centre in Toronto.



Paul Gott

Paul Gott is a Senior Lecturer in the Journalism Department at Concordia University where he teaches various courses in broadcast and digital journalism. Before joining academia he worked for two decades in television news, including producing the six o'clock news for both Global

and the CBC. He has also written for and published a variety of publications. Paul is also the singer/guitarist for Punk band Ripcordz and runs the Punk Canada music collective.



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The management and employees of Hebdo-Litho would like to congratulate all of this year's winners.

As proud partners in their success we wish long life to these newspapers, which contribute to the vitality and dynamism of their respective communities.



8695, rue du Creusot, Saint-Léonard, Quebec, H1P 2A8
514.955.5959 - jallan@hebdo-litho.com