

Federal support for local business projects!



At **Uniboard Mont-Laurier**, a major investment project valued at more than \$17 million will develop a system to recover heat and redirect it to fibre drying. This new process will significantly reduce the company's CO₂ emissions and increase the plant's production capacity. The project, supported by the federal and provincial governments, is helping to maintain the 100 jobs at the Mont-Laurier MDF manufacturing plant. The most significant federal contributions are from *Natural Resources Canada* and *Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions*.



As part of a national call for projects, the herbalist business **La Clé des champs** was selected as a recipient of the *Women in Entrepreneurship Fund*, which is part of the federal Women Entrepreneurship Strategy. Company founder and CEO Marie Provost and her team were delighted. This certified organic garden in Val-David is a place of discovery and learning, with some 150 medicinal plants grown on site and available to visitors in a variety of health products and teas.

Palmex International in Saint-Sauveur manufactures and distributes synthetic palm leaves for tropical-style roofs. Exporting around the world—to more than 60 countries—has its challenges, and Executive Director Pierre Fortier and his team can count on the support of *Export Development Canada* and the *National Research Council Canada*, among others. The company employs 15 people locally.



Annie Gaudet and her team at **Couleur Café** in Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts are innovators in the coffee-by-the-cup market. They will soon launch a product that meets the highest standards of quality and sustainable development. *Canada Economic Development* and other partners are supporting her project.



Comments

My job in Ottawa is to make sure that the people of Laurentides—Labelle are heard and that we address the issues affecting us here.

In the next few years, which of these issues do you want to see prioritized?

- Environment and the fight against climate change
- Economic development — employability
- Cellular communications and Internet access
- Strengthening federal partnership
- Enhancement of social programs (Child Benefit / Guaranteed Income Supplement / Other)

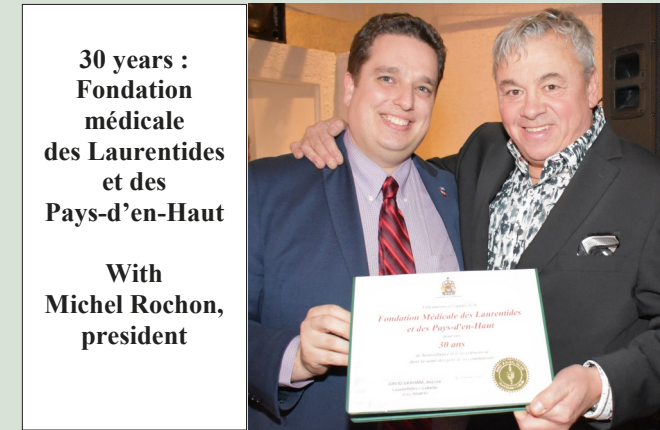
Feel free to include attachments

Thank you for your input. Please note that while I personally read every comment, with the volume of correspondence received it is not always possible to respond individually. Thank you! - David

Celebrations throughout the riding!



Happy **125th anniversary** to the community of *Notre-Dame-de-Pontmain*! Many activities are on the agenda for the 2019 festivities. On February 9, mayors from the past 50 years were honoured: Jacques Campbell (represented here by his daughter Danièle), Marcel Grenier, Hubert Gougeon, Lyz Beaulieu and Francine Laroche. Also pictured are France Paquette of the organizing committee, dressed as a period widow, and Colin Campbell (recreation manager). Political involvement is really all about the community.! Thank you!



30 years : Fondation médicale des Laurentides et des Pays-d'en-Haut

With **Michel Rochon, president**



Our warmest birthday wishes to Maria Luchsinger-Neukon !

Born April 7, 1919

Among the celebrations in 2019...

- Municipality of Notre-Dame-de-Pontmain: 125 years** — **La Macaza covered bridge: 115 years**
- Maria Luchsinger-Neukom (Sainte-Anne-du-Lac): 100 years**
- Caisse Desjardins de la Vallée des Pays-d'en-Haut : 100 years**
- Chambre de commerce du Grand Sainte-Agathe: 85 years**
- Croisières Alouette — cruise boat (Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts): 75 years**
- Champ de tir de Sainte-Agathe — shooting range: 65 years**
- Mont-Habitant (Saint-Sauveur): 60 years**
- Chorale Ô Chœur du Nord—choir: 45 years**
- Figure skating Club Sainte-Agathe: 45 years**
- Association de protection de l'environnement des Hautes-Laurentides: 30 years**
- Fish and hunting association of Labelle: 40 years**
- Fondation médicale des Laurentides et des Pays-d'en-Haut: 30 years**
- Plein-Air Sainte-Adèle: 30 years**
- Laiterie des Trois Vallées—dairy: 25 years**
- Journal Tremblant Express : 25 years**
- Amyot Gélinas S.E.N.C.: 25 years**
- Maison de la Famille du Nord (Mont-Tremblant) : 25 years**
- L'Envolée RASM (alternative mental health resource): 25 years**
- Super trucker fest of Ferme-Neuve : 25 years**
- COBALI (Comité du bassin versant de la rivière du Lièvre) — Lievre river Watershed Committee: 15 years**
- Café l'Entre-Gens (Sainte-Adèle): 25 years**
- L'Antre'Aidant (Saint-Sauveur): 10 years**
- SOPABIC historical society (Mont-Tremblant): 20 years**
- Gala d'excellence, Chambre de commerce et de tourisme de la Vallée de Saint-Sauveur: 10 years**
- Watershed keeper groups Rouge, Petite Nation and Saumon rivers : 10 years**
- Royal Canadian Sea Cadets #312-Oriole; Notre-Dame-du-Laus: 10 years**

Do you know of any significant anniversaries in the region? Let us know!



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A WORD FROM DAVID

Dear friends,

There have been two principal objectives to my time in office: see what Canada can do for the Laurentians, and to show how the Laurentians is a leader across Canada.

I was born at the Sainte-Agathe hospital and grew up in neighbouring Sainte-Lucie. My parents, grandparents and great-grandparents on both side were closely connected to the Laurentians. This is my home and I am very proud to be from here. We are a community that comes together, works together, and finds solutions.

We are the first community in the history of Canada to have a universal public Internet access project categorised and funded by the federal government as infrastructure, for all residences in Antoine-Labelle. We are the number one tourist region outside of the big cities in Quebec. We have innovative companies that are active internationally. Many of our fellow citizens are doing us proud all over the world in sports and in cultural activities.

But for a generation, we had federal representatives whose principal objective was to show that the federal government could not work, could not be a part of our region, that Canada was a fundamentally bad idea.

Over the past four years, in partnership with people working in the provincial government, in the three MRCs of our territory, in each of our 43 municipalities and especially with you, we have demonstrated that we are, in fact, stronger working together than we are working against each other. We have managed to bring major, serious, real Internet access solutions to communities in every MRC in Laurentides—Labelle. The struggle of an entire generation culminated in the creation of a sports centre in Pays-d'en-Haut. We have helped lift thousands of children in the region out of poverty and maximized programs to support seniors. And while the solutions are not always easy, we continue to work and make progress on critical issues: protecting our lakes and rivers and doing everything we can to combat climate change so as to preserve and protect our environment.

We can realistically say that this federal partnership has brought more to our region than we have seen in decades. We must work together to protect our social fabric. We have a duty to do so, in order to keep it healthy for future generations. We are stronger when we work together. Laurentides—Labelle is proof of this!



On March 15, the Government of Canada confirmed its financial support for the "Villa Cartier" project in Rivière-Rouge. The first project in the region to receive a contribution from new National Housing Strategy's Co-Investment Fund, this future social housing development will provide a home for at least 38 seniors. This is another fine example of collaboration, cooperation and partnership between the governments of Canada and Quebec, the City of Rivière-Rouge, Desjardins, the Résidences Côte Cartier management, and community members, including Justine Lacoste, the dedicated Chair of the Board of Directors of Appartements du quartier Rivière-Rouge.



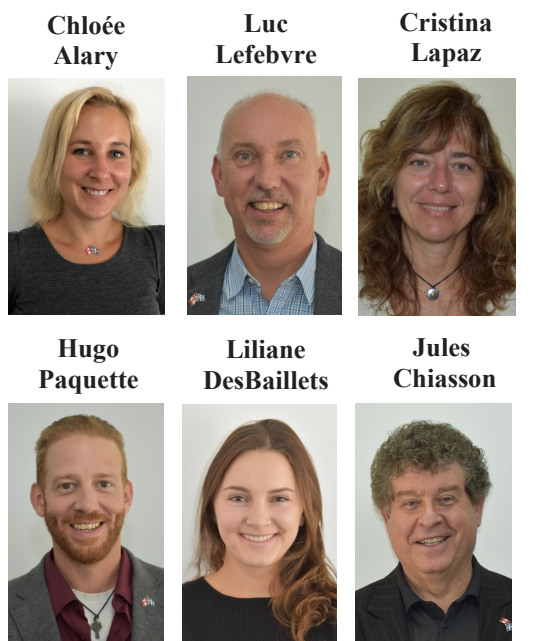
JUNE, 2019

HERE TO HELP

My team and I are **here for you!** You are always welcome at any of our **three offices**. Feel free to contact us if you have questions or comments on topics such as:

- Canada Child Benefit
- Old Age Security
- Guaranteed Income Supplement
- Citizenship and Immigration
- Employment Insurance
- Canada Revenue Agency
- Any other federal matters or services

OUR TEAM, DEDICATED TO THE COMMUNITY



DAVID GRAHAM, DÉPUTÉ
LAURENTIDES — LABELLE

Ce bulletin est également disponible en français

A RIDING FULL OF INSPIRING PEOPLE!



The tradition of the **Mayor's Breakfast** continues in L'Ascension. On March 31, at the Maison des jeunes, Luc St-Denis was accompanied by many volunteers as they served dozens of meals for the benefit of community organizations.



Café Coup de Coeur in Sainte-Agathe is run by caring people, including President Rolande Fontaine. It helps to break isolation by providing coffee, low-cost meals, a warm welcome and workshops that promote friendship.



At the Féerie d'hiver in Sainte-Marguerite-du-Lac-Masson in February, a happy team from the **Blizard Snowmobile Club** raised funds through the sale of hot dogs. Volunteering is at the heart of our regional vitality!



During spring break, enthusiastic **Soupe et compagnie** volunteers hosted a community dinner in Sainte-Anne-des-Lacs. Coordinator Yolande Fortin, Mayor Monique Monette-Laroche and all the participants were delighted with the wonderful multigenerational participation.



For many enthusiasts, ATVing is an all-season activity. This is true for the 400 participants at the **Club quad Hautes-Laurentides** weekend jamboree in February. Congratulations to Roger Charbonneau, President (right) and his team! Also pictured are Dany Gagnon, General Manager of the Fédération club Quad du Québec and Daniel Bourdon, Mayor of Mont-Laurier.



Since 2003, the **Vallée de la Rouge Curling Club** has brought together dozens of players at the Rivière-Rouge Arena to practice this discipline that demands precision, balance and physical fitness. Thank you to President François Robitaille, as well as Jean-Guy Desjardins and Julie Migneault, who looks after junior players, for my introductory session. And the passion has been passed on to Claire Poirier and Charles-Edmond Poirier, junior players.



Local female hockey players have created an all-female league, **Les Palettes Roses**. Last March, young girls, teenagers and adults played friendly games in Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts, with benefits going principally to La Colombe women's day centre. Pictured: league players/organizers Nathalie Ménard, Lisa Hays and Renée-Claude Gélinas.



As part of National Volunteer Week, the management of the **Centre d'Action Bénévole Laurentides** held appreciation luncheon on April 12 in Val-Morin. Pictured: dedicated board members Dominique Chartrand (executive director), Francine Schoeb (president), Johanne Chaput, Renée Girard, Pierrette Mongeon and Jean-Jacques Tremblay.



There is no age limit when it comes to community involvement and teamwork. Congratulations to all the students, teachers, parents and volunteers at **du Méandre school** in Rivière-Rouge for organizing the spaghetti dinner on April 6 in Nomingue. The funds raised will help Secondary 3 students pay for a spring trip to New York City.

Partnership for the vitality of our seniors!

Over the past four years, 50 projects in the riding of Laurentides-Labelle have been supported by the **New Horizons for Seniors Program**. Interest in this program is increasing, as is the number of projects funded in our region. A total of \$820,956 in federal financial support has been provided for projects to develop meeting places and workshops, acquire indoor and outdoor recreational or leisure equipment, establish community kitchens or purchase equipment for various activities. This program is available to organizations for projects led or inspired by seniors, promoting their vitality, volunteer involvement and social inclusion. The maximum contribution is \$25,000 per year, per organization.



This year, 16 organizations are receiving funding from the federal partnership to carry out inspiring projects. These include the **Club des Bons Vivants de Mont-Tremblant**, to buy a sound system and projection system for their new activity centre, and the **Cercle des fermières de Lac-des-Écorces**, for the purchase of weaving equipment and the creation of intergenerational workshops.



Good news! Given the popularity of *New Horizons for Seniors* and the positive impact it is having on communities, the government recently announced, in Budget 2019, an increase in funding for the program over the next five years. This means support for even more projects.

2019-2020 call for projects

Notice to all interested organizations! The program is open only for a few weeks, ordinarily at this time of the year. Please contact our office for more details. Act now!

KNOWING OUR REGION : from the past to the present...

There is an adage that goes: "You have to know where you come from to know where you're going." In recent years, my father, local historian **Joseph Graham**, has presented different elements of our regional history through this newsletter. For this edition, he takes us back to another century, when people's biggest fears were disease, fire and the wrath of the clergy. Enjoy!

Consecration by Fire and Faith

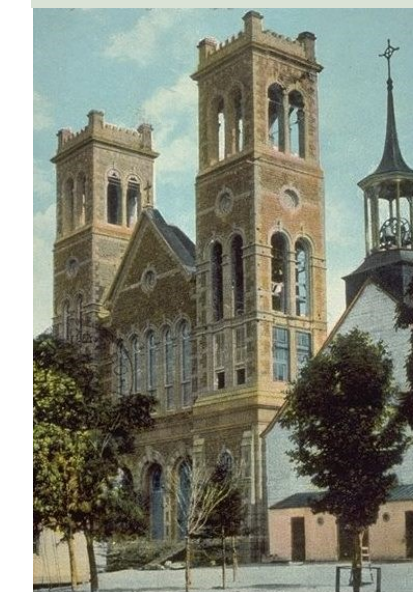
The summer of 1907 promised great things for Sainte-Agathe. After four years of planning and hard work, the new stone church, modelled on Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, was to be inaugurated. Mgr. J. Thomas Duhamel, Archbishop of Ottawa, who had long conspired with Curé Antoine Labelle to create a new diocese in the Laurentians, would come personally to consecrate the church. The parish had raised \$75,000, the price of a hospital, to finance the construction, and the event was set for August 22. Nothing could dampen the excitement.

Spring weather has always been unpredictable. Wednesday June 12 started off cold and gusty. Joseph Saint-Louis decided to keep the gasoline heater going in his barbershop on Rue Principale in Sainte-Agathe. The warmth might draw people in for a haircut.

The wind became violent after lunch and it blew the fire back down the chimney. Within minutes, the whole building was engulfed in flames, fed by the explosion of gasoline from the stove. It licked its way out of the building and the wind carried it south-east, away from the lake. By the time the volunteer firemen arrived on the scene, it was working its way along both sides of the street. Four buildings had already been lost as the fire raged towards the old wooden church, right next to the new one. Around four o'clock, Archbishop Duhamel arrived from a pastoral visit along with the parish priest. Seeing the state of affairs, they joined the women and children in the old church to lead them in prayer, asking God to intervene. Mayor H. A. Bélisle, having less faith, used the modern telegraph to send an emergency message to Saint-Jérôme.

The old wooden church (built in 1865), to the right of the new stone church, inaugurated in 1907.

Photo courtesy of: Comité du patrimoine de Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts



Commandeering the railway, the Saint-Jérôme fire brigade set a new record, making the trip in only 53 minutes, ready to fight the blaze. But according to contemporary accounts, the priests, women and children praying in the wooden church had the problem in hand. As the flames approached the church, the winds turned around, driving the fire

north-west towards the lake, taking 20 more houses with it. Their prayers had been answered; God had intervened. By the time the Saint-Jérôme brigade arrived, all they had left to do was help finish putting out the embers. Dr. Edmond Grignon, who recorded the incidents surrounding this devastating fire, makes no mention of casualties, although there must have been at least some injuries. He, like other parishioners, was not going to let the huge, black scar between the church and the lake dampen down enthusiasm for the consecration of the new church.



In addition to the prayers, solid reinforcements arrived by train...

Photo courtesy of: Comité du patrimoine de Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts

God played a big role in those times and the good doctor could write of His intervention with complete conviction, never questioning the wind that blew the fire across town and back. I can't help but wonder, if I had been standing there after the 1907 fire, would I have believed that the archbishop's prayers had induced God to redirect the wind?

The archbishop returned to consecrate the new church on August 22, along with the priests of almost every parish between Saint-Jérôme and Aylmer. The whole town, right down to the youngest children, dressed all in their finery, were waiting at the station from long before the train arrived. It was a sunny August day, perfect weather for such a grand event.

Nearly 112 years later, the lake's wind continues to blow softly and the sun shines brightly on this monument that reminds us of the bond that was once very strong between the Laurentians and its beliefs.

Joseph Graham



Another fire destroyed more than 80 buildings in downtown Sainte-Agathe, in 1923, leaving the stone church standing.

Photo courtesy of: Comité du patrimoine de Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts

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