

THE SUBURBAN WEST ISLAND

The editorial page is beautifully designed, clean layout with all the desired elements - good editorial cartoon, high impact photo, letters to the editor and an important editorial well written. Nice job.

THE EQUITY

The page contains a lot of important messages, including an editorial on missing Aboriginal women that should create outrage. Letters to the editor, photo contribute to an informative page. A cleaner layout will increase the impact and readability of the page.

EDITORIALS

The Suburban

QUÉBEC'S LARGEST ENGLISH WEEKLY NEWSPAPER
ESTABLISHED 1963 - VOL. 41, NO. 8XIII

D-Day: 70 Years After What we owe

*"Tho' much is taken, much abides,
One equal temper of heroic hearts yet strong in will
To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield."*

- Alfred, Lord Tennyson

Friday we will remember. We should remember every day. And everyday act with the character and valor of those heroes who stormed the beaches of Normandy.

Friday, June 6th, will be the seventieth anniversary of D-Day. We commemorate the unparalleled heroism of human beings facing inhuman elements to begin the destruction of the most devastating evil in human history and the vanquishing of civilization's most obscene enemy. But the remembrance must also be personal.

We must remember the faces of that greatest of generations. Faces smeared by mud and blood. Faces with deep, brooding eyes that witnessed such horrors in the longest day. Faces set with bold, grim resolve to finish the task. Despite all the shame and drudgery around us today, greatness can still be witnessed now and then. And not just in the veterans. That greatness has lessons for us today.

What Tom Brokaw called "the greatest generation" taught us this: it can never be only about rhetoric. It's not just about words. It's about action. What put the "great" into that generation was a connection to the struggles for redemption of all people, and the courage to serve and sacrifice to help realize that change. The prouding of those heroes took on the anvil of history produced the steel that is the spirit of legend. We have an obligation to honor that legend and live up to that legacy every day and in every way.

There remain obstacles to storm today that hold us loyal to that purpose. The beaches of injustice. The cliffs of oppression. The marshes of apathy. We must be standard bearers of compassion and conscience. That would be the living proof that the sacrifices of 70 years ago were not wasted. Everyday courage born of the belief that what is important in life is not what everybody can do for themselves, but what together we can do for the progress of



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Access to Information releases release of 1977 Justice advisory to Trudeau on Bill 101

The letter is effectively an open challenge to Access to Information. It concerns a complaint I made to ATIP about a decision by the Department of Justice to not make public a study it had ordered of Bill 101 in 1977. The investigator at ATIP, Jeffrey Vachon, has given me till next Friday to give him my reasons why he should reverse his decision to support the DoJ and exempt the study from being made public. ATIP and DoJ claim sections 14 and 23 of the Act support their decision. The file number is 213-01365.

In the fall of 1977, Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau, told a press conference on the Parti Québécois' new language law that he was waiting for a Department of Justice study on its constitutionality before making any statements on how his government would respond. The law in its original form contained severe restrictions on enrollment in the English public school system. If certain of these were relaxed others remain and enrollment has declined over 60% in the four decades since the law's adoption. Access to Information (ATIP) has refused to make the 1977 Department of Justice study public, though the study informed the Trudeau government's decision not to intervene. And for that reason alone, the study should be made public.

ATIP has claimed two sections of the Information Act prevent it from releasing the study. How making the study public would violate solicitor-client privilege is hard to see since the Government was the client. The other section, however, is at least relevant to a disclosure such as releasing the one here. And ATIP is saying that granting a request for information can be denied if the disclosure contains information "which could reasonably be expected to be injurious to the conduct of the Government of Canada of federal-provincial affairs..." There is, of course, a higher interest than the corporate interests of a State and that is the public interest. And this would seem to supersede the danger of any possible injury to federal-provincial relations.

After telling reporters in 1977 that his government would not intervene and enforce constitutional protections provided under federal law, Mr. Trudeau then said that any problems with the new Parti Québécois language law, Bill 101, would be resolved democratically. In this case, it meant that any amendments to the new law would be decided by the majority in Quebec in whose interests this law had been adopted. And, indeed, this is what has happened. But democracy is more than just a process of quantification. It also has a certain character and important qualitative aspects. But these comprised not part of the sense of the word used by Mr. Trudeau.

Releasing the 1977 federal study of Bill 101 would be instructive not only insofar as it would shed light on how the study informed the federal decision to do nothing, but also why ATIP believes disclosing the six-page Department of Justice analysis would be injurious to federal-provincial affairs. What, indeed, are in the two totally redacted pages and the other remaining four exempted pages that would override the public interest?

SEE MORE LETTERS NEXT PAGE



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nothing more than inelegant self-absorption in our many public officials play politics at the edges near dark. Let us resolve to change. Let us resolve to look at the heroes of Normandy and let us absorb the spirit of the do better.



Photo: Ken Cedeno

Forum • Editorial

Salle du conseil vide à Aylmer prouve l'échec du plan de communications de Gatineau

En temps normal, les Aylmerois remplissent à craquer la salle du conseil municipal de Gatineau qui, cette année, le conseil tient ses réunions dans les anciens locaux. Cette année, le conseil est venu à Aylmer le 23 septembre (normalement, c'est au printemps). Pour la première fois dans l'histoire récente, les résidents n'avaient pas le moindre qu'à poser. Au lieu d'être rempli à capacité, avec des gens debout, cette fois-ci seulement un quart de la salle était remplie et on trouvait principalement des gens du milieu politique et des journalistes.

Vacant council room in Aylmer is a testament to the failure of Gatineau's communications plan

Normally Aylmerites pack the Aylmer service centre council room. Once a year, council holds meetings in the old city. This year Gatineau council came to Aylmer September 23 (normally it is in the spring). For the first time in recent history, there was not a single question from residents. The room, rather than the usual standing-room only, was only a quarter full, and mostly attended by the political class and journalists.

100 Years Ago

Local news: [Text about a fire in the city center, mentioning the fire department's response and the damage done to the buildings.]

75 Years Ago

Local news: [Text about a local business opening, mentioning the location and the services offered.]

25 Years Ago

Local news: [Text about a political event, mentioning the speaker and the audience.]

15 Years Ago

Local news: [Text about a local incident, mentioning the location and the outcome.]

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Marking a passing

As last Tuesday's dedication of a public bench to the memory of Richard Filion and Maxine Aitchison, Richard's father Maxine came forward to speak. Maxine's involvement in vision he stated in a public inquiry into why so many of these women were found dead... he never found at all. Prime Minister Stephen Harper considers. Harper's vision, but should not be thought of as part of a broader "sociological phenomenon."

Conduct unclear

In 2012, a Québec newspaper (journal) published an article about the conduct of a judge in a case involving a woman who had been sexually abused by a priest. The article contained several errors and inaccuracies that were pointed out by the judge himself.

We saw you at the Fair!

The Shawville Fair was once again a phenomenal success. The numerous gate keepers, ticket sellers, food servers, grounds managers, equipment owners, event planners and other administrators, we owe you all a great big thank you. You made our Fair truly the greatest show on earth.

Letters to the editor

Dear Editor, I read with interest your article about the conduct of a judge in a case involving a woman who had been sexually abused by a priest. The article contained several errors and inaccuracies that were pointed out by the judge himself.

Packing up

My family and I are moving to a new home in a different area. We have packed up our belongings and are ready to start our new life in our new home.

The Way We Were

Compiled by Bonnie Chevrier
25 Years Ago: [Text about a local event that took place 25 years ago.]
15 Years Ago: [Text about a local incident that occurred 15 years ago.]

The Parents' Voice: Celebrating Grandparents Day

My grandpa is a funny, old man who is always cracking jokes. He has a heart as big as the sun and is always making time for everyone. Grandparents Day is a special day to honor these wonderful people who have given so much love and wisdom to their families.

25 Years Ago

Local news: [Text about a local event that took place 25 years ago.]

15 Years Ago

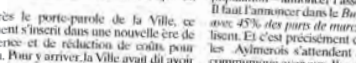
Local news: [Text about a local incident that occurred 15 years ago.]

75 Years Ago

Local news: [Text about a local business opening that took place 75 years ago.]

BULLETIN D'AYLMER

So much for government's reliance on social media to keep the public informed about what their government leaders are doing. Public notices belong in printed newspapers - period. Thanks for calling them out on this.



Judge: Michelle Rea, Executive Director, New York Press Association, Cohoes, NY • Number of entries in the Best Editorial Page category: 5