

BEST ENVIRONMENTAL STORY

ANASTASIA PHILOPOULOS

The Low Down to Hull & Back News

This was easily the most readable and engaging story of all the entries. Great lead, a strong secondary source and an element of controversy make this the clear winner.

PETER VARGA

Nunatsiq News

Short sentences, short paragraphs, plenty of good direct quotes, and a topic of prime importance make this a strong runner-up. The reporter covers the story from every possible angle.

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\$50K train-killer study never existed
 By Anastasia Philopoulos
 Like a mirage on a hot day, the alleged Ministry of Transport (MTQ) study that essentially made the Wakefield steam train appear dead on wheels has now mysteriously disappeared.
 But that's the thing about mirages; they never existed to begin with.
 According to Stéphanie Vallée, the minister responsible for the Outaouais, the previous provincial government not only ordered the file on the steam train closed in March just days before calling a provincial election, but no real analysis of soil stabilization ever occurred.
 In recent months, details about the Wakefield steam train and its future have been murky at best. In a recent interview with Le Droit, Vallée explained that the PQ government suggested to la Compagnie des chemins de fer de l'Outaouais (CCFO) that a study on soil stabilization would happen when, in reality, nothing was ever produced.
 Ironically, it was Le Droit that first published the story back in May about an MTQ study that put a \$50 million price tag on fixing the soil - this was presumably leaked information. Vallée has since confirmed that \$50 million was never an official estimate.
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'Nature-loving' group leaves behind enviro mess
 By Anastasia Philopoulos
 David Falls recalls his carefree childhood in the wild foothills of the Petits Lacs region with bittersweet memory. His father would take him fishing in the pristine lakes, teach him about hunting, and show him hidden trails.
 But after his father's death in 2006, Falls was left behind to watch the place they loved so dearly decline steadily. "Overnight, the place turned into a dumpsite. It's heartbreaking."
 Once an absolutely stunning piece of crown land, with untouched lakes and dense forests, today parts of the Petits Lacs region are covered with trash.
 Falls and his family have been cottaging in the area bordering Lac Sinclair for over 40 years. At one point, a non-profit fishing and camping outfit occupied the area. The Association Sportive des Petits Lacs disbanded around 2010, leaving behind an array of garbage and old equipment.
 According to Falls, four of the five lakes originally under management by the association have been affected by past and present dumping. Lac Brin-de-seine (or Lac Sawdust, as locals call it), Lac Chanty, Lac Kileen, and Lac Rochon.
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Car thief flees, gets covered in bees
 By Joel Balsam
 Theft, a car chase, and a run-in with the police all lay at the end of an extremely bizarre date for a 41-year-old Lakeshore woman. She met the driver of a Mini on Friday night and took him up on an offer to visit his cottage in Maniwaki. The man even let her take her 15-year-old son and a friend along.
 But here's the thing about the driver: he was a car thief. He was caught on Friday night and took him up on an offer to visit his cottage in Maniwaki. The man even let her take her 15-year-old son and a friend along.
 Quebec City: Nobody's perfect. When the driver and three passengers were passing through Masham on Hwy 396 at around 2:30 p.m. as part of a

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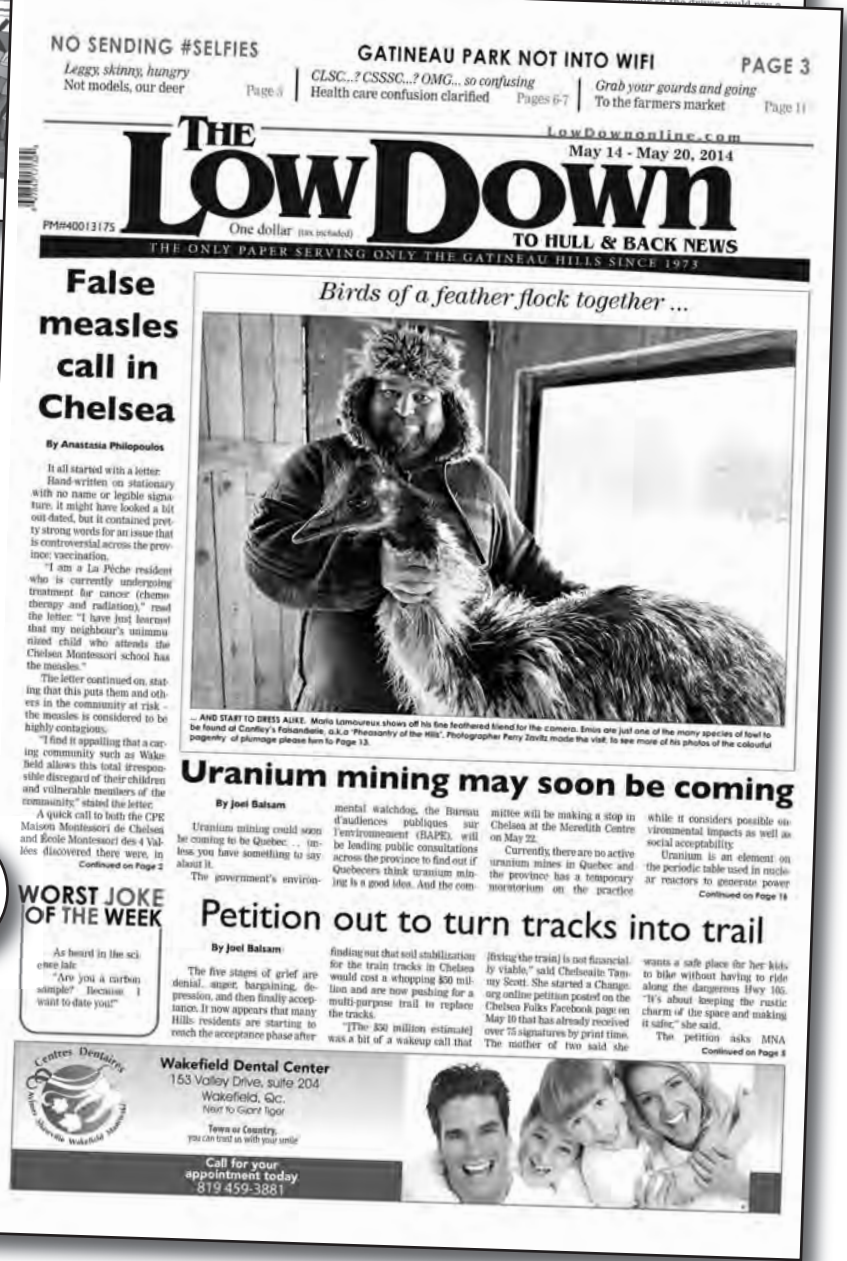


Garbage piling up in Nunavut
 Very little waste "truly leaves the territory"
 OF Nunavut's 25 far-flung communities, only one - the City of Iglood - is tax-based, which allows it to generate revenue for its own capital projects, including garbage dumps.
 Others, with populations ranging from a few hundred to 2,700 compared to Iglood's population of nearly 8,000, are left to rely on CGS.
 The department's community infrastructure division, according to the CGS website, is "primarily responsible for the successful implementation of Federal infrastructure funding program."
 "Putting together these solid waste projects isn't cheap. It's financially onerous," Lars said.
 Roy Green, the deputy minister of the department, confirmed this month that facilities across the territory are in need of upgrades or replacement.
 "We recognize that this is going to take a huge investment from both levels of government to replace these facilities," he told mayors of the Baffin region March 5, at their annual mayors' forum in Iglood.
 Solid waste facility projects must follow requirements set out in municipal water licenses, which govern sewage and wastewater treatment.
 Green said funding for water treatment facilities and sewage is covered by a gas tax surcharge.
 But the lack of access to landing and high transportation costs stand in the way of such plans.

Rainbow flag flap
 Inuit weigh in - 17

All deaths examined
 Coroner clarifies suicide probe - 9

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False measles call in Chelsea
 By Anastasia Philopoulos
 It all started with a letter. Hand-written on stationery with no name or legible signature, it might have looked a bit out-of-date, but it contained pretty strong words for an issue that is controversial across the province: vaccination.
 "I am a La Pêche resident who is currently undergoing treatment for cancer (chemotherapy and radiation)," read the letter. "I have just learned that my neighbor's unimmunized child who attends the Chelsea Montessori school has the measles."
 The letter continued on, stating that this puts them and others in the community at risk - "the measles is considered to be highly contagious."
 "I find it appalling that a caring community such as Wakefield allows this total irresponsible disregard of their children and vulnerable members of the community," stated the letter.
 A quick call to both the CPE Maison Montessori de Chelsea and École Montessori des Vallées discovered there were, in fact, no children in the school.
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Uranium mining may soon be coming
 By Joel Balsam
 Uranium mining could soon be coming to the Quebec. You love something to say about it.
 The government's environmental watchdog, the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement (BAPE), will be leading public consultations across the province to find out if Quebecers think uranium mining is a good idea. And the committee will be making a stop in Chelsea at the Meredith Centre on May 22.
 Currently, there are no active uranium mines in Quebec and the province has a temporary moratorium on the practice while it considers possible environmental impacts as well as social acceptability.
 Uranium is an element on the periodic table used in nuclear reactors to generate power.
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Petition out to turn tracks into trail
 By Joel Balsam
 The five stages of grief are denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and then finally acceptance. It now appears that many Hills residents are starting to reach the acceptance phase after finding out that soil stabilization for the train tracks in Chelsea would cost a whopping \$50 million and are now pushing for a multi-purpose trail to replace the tracks.
 "The \$50 million estimate was a bit of a wakeup call that [fixing the train] is not financially viable," said Chantal Tammy Scott. She started a Change.org online petition posted on the Chelsea Folks Facebook page on May 18 that has already received over 75 signatures by print time. The mother of two said she wants a safe place for her kids to bike without having to ride along the dangerous Hwy 166. "It's about keeping the rustic charm of the space and making it safer," she said.
 The petition asks MNA
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HONOURABLE MENTIONS: CARMEN MARIE FABIO

Your Local Journal

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