

LAURENT ROBILLARD-CARDINAL

The West Quebec Post

Robillard-Cardinal's story provides a crisp introduction, alerting readers to E.coli levels of 4440 CFU/100 ml in Brewery Creek. This is followed up with great context of the decade-long struggle to revive the Creek. Well done.

CARMEN MARIE FABIO & JOHN JANTAK

Your Local Journal

This is a clear, engaging story about the fight to stop the development of a private lake in Vaudreuil-Dorion. Great photos add to the importance and feel of the story.

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Ottawa Riverkeeper concerned: Testing reveals "disturbing levels of E. coli" in Hull's Brewery Creek



Ottawa Riverkeeper Meredith Brown reports that the high level of E. coli found by recent testing in Hull's Brewery Creek indicates contamination by raw sewage, and a threat to human health.

Laurent Robillard-Cardinal
Recent testing has revealed poor water quality in Brewery Creek. "The water in Brewery Creek is being polluted by untreated sewage spilling into the creek through combined sewers," confirmed Meredith Brown, Executive Director for the Ottawa Riverkeeper. "What's critical at this point is to first, find the origin of all of the discharges; second, develop a plan for solving the problem; and third, implement that plan as quickly as possible."
Over the summer, the Ottawa Riverkeeper with the help of their Riverwatch citizens group, The Friends of Brewery Creek, conducted a Bioblitz and tested Brewery Creek's water. While they encountered a healthy diversity of plants, fish and birds, including both rare and endangered species such as the butter-borer - they also discovered a disturbingly high level of E. coli bacteria in Brewery Creek, which encircles the island of Hull.
Tests conducted by the Ottawa Riverkeeper between June and September 2013 revealed that Brewery Creek contains extremely high levels of E. coli bacteria, a subgroup of fecal coliforms in the arm of the Ottawa River. Fecal coliforms bacteria are generally found in the intestines of many humans; however, a high level of them in water can indicate the presence of pathogens, which can cause serious illness. "According to Health Canada's Guidelines for Recreational Water Quality, water with E. coli counts greater than 400 CFU (colony forming units) per 100 mL is deemed polluted and unsafe. Ottawa Riverkeeper water-testing results revealed E. coli levels as high as 4440 CFU per 100 mL sample," indicated Alexandra Brett, Director of Communications for the Ottawa Riverkeeper.
NEW HIRING FOR QUEBEC OPERATIONS
The tests were a warning for Adèle Michon, the new Director of Quebec Operations for the Ottawa Riverkeeper. "On the one hand we have people talking about creating parking land on the banks of the creek, improving the cycling and walking access, and possibly even using the creek for paddle sports. On the other hand, our water quality results show that the creek is seriously polluted," she said. "Before we begin to consider various recreational uses for the creek, we need to clean it up. With municipal elections in November, this is great time for citizens to get involved. They have a right to clear answers from candidates on what they'll do to ensure this arm of the Ottawa River is cleaned up."

PHOTO: ALEXANDRA CAMPEAU

continued on page 8

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Resident Gerry Sly has vowed to vocally protest attempts to drain and fill Vaudreuil-Dorion's Lac Chérie, a move that he says will bring thousands of trucks carting fill to the quiet residential community, as well as devastate local fauna.

Lac Chérie water pump stops working as environment ministry prepares to intervene

John Jantak and Carmen Marie Fabio
Your Local Journal
The Quebec environment was expected to intervene to stop development of a private lake in Vaudreuil-Dorion's Lac Chérie, a move that he says will bring thousands of trucks carting fill to the quiet residential community, as well as devastate local fauna.

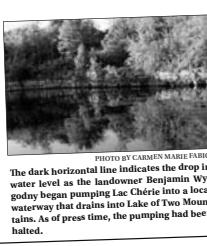
mentality uniqueness.
"We knew it was private property when we came here," said resident Gerry Sly who moved to his home right near the lake a year ago, "but they originally said they were going to build around the lake, not fill it in."
Pilon told *Your Local Journal* as of press time yesterday afternoon about the planned intervention. He added that water was no longer being drained because the pump had become clogged with silt and stopped working. Residents noticed the pump adjacent on Monday morning and alerted city officials who were considering ap-

plying for a court injunction to shut off the pump. Wygodny, a developer, started to fill the lake in mid-August for a proposed residential property development.
That's when the fight to save Lac Chérie began in earnest after residents spotted dump trucks entering the property and filling the lake with landfill.
The Quebec environment ministry was notified and quickly intervened, ordering the dumping to stop until an environmental impact assessment is completed to determine whether the lake actually conforms to provincial guidelines established to protect and preserve wetlands.
Almost three weeks later on September 3, several residents who live near Lac Chérie appealed to council and Mayor Guy Pilon to take some sort of action to protect the lake from development. He empathized with the residents saying he would prefer to have the lake preserved, but because it's on private property, the city has few options available.

Continued on page 18

Treasure hunt
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www.ville.saint-lazare.qc.ca/en/chasseauxtresors

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The dark horizontal line indicates the drop in water level as the landowner Benjamin Wygodny began pumping Lac Chérie into a local waterway that drains into Lake de Two Moun-

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THE EQUITY
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Raising awareness
CORY WILSON
Equity Editor
CALUMET ISLAND July 5, 2013
On a very warm Friday evening, a sea of bodies draped in pink jerseys filled the soccer field in Calumet Island for a game. The athletes sporting the jerseys were soccer players from the Association du Soccer du Pontiac (ASP).
All of the players here today are from Bryson and Calumet Island. "Between the two municipalities there were 77 soccer players this season, from ages four to 18." All of the players were the same colour jerseys in order to raise awareness for breast cancer.
ASP members provided all of the uniforms for their players this year. The backs of their pink jerseys bore the ribbon logo that represents breast cancer awareness.
Sixteen-year-old Justin Chabot from Calumet Island hand drew the logo on the back of every jersey in exchange for a \$2 donation for each jersey.
According to Chabot, he has raised over \$130 to date that will be going to the Cure Foundation, which focuses on breast cancer research.

Discussing amalgamation
CORY WILSON
Equity Editor
BRISTOL July 6, 2013
Amalgamation is still a hot topic in Pontiac and on Saturday morning the conversation continued with a presentation of the amalgamation at Bristol.
Director General (DG) for the MRC Pontiac René Bertrand led the presentation.
"I want to make it clear that amalgamation is not happening here today," said Bertrand.
He went on to highlight the process that led to where Pontiac stands today regarding amalgamation. Bertrand said that from 2006 to 2009 public consultations were held to establish a strategic development plan for Pontiac.
"They guide amalgamation indicated that over and above the various development sectors that showcase potential for development, there was an overwhelming need to review our governance," said Bertrand.
He went on to explain that the MRC council of mayors passed a pre-feasibility study to evaluate all 15 municipalities within Pontiac.
The DG said that this was done in order to obtain an external opinion on the current structure and propose solutions to "move that we have received the results from the pre-feasibility study, we are at the stage of validating the recommendations with the various groups in the territory (business, i.e., farmers, etc.," said Bertrand, elected officials, citizens, elected officials, etc.).
The presentation in Bristol on Saturday was the first of four consultations regarding amalgamation that are scheduled for the month of July.
"After the July consultations, all of the results will be presented to the council of mayors in August where they will debate and propose a final scenario to the 15 municipalities for their review," said Bertrand.

Storm causes outages
CORY WILSON
Equity Editor
PONTIAC June 24, 2013
On June 24, the Outaouais region was hit with a storm that left many homes without power. The agency of the storm made it so that many homes were left without power until the morning hours of June 25.
The athletes sporting the jerseys were soccer players from the Association du Soccer du Pontiac (ASP).
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Low water leaves resident wondering
ANDREA CRANFIELD
Equity Editor
BRISTOL July 10, 2013
With so much rain, water levels have been very high in most places in Pontiac, this summer and flooding has occurred in several municipalities.
So when Robert Prud'homme of Bristol hand drew the logo on the back of every jersey in exchange for a \$2 donation for each jersey.
According to Chabot, he has raised over \$130 to date that will be going to the Cure Foundation, which focuses on breast cancer research.

Valu-mart used in fraud
ANDREA CRANFIELD
Equity Editor
PONTIAC July 10, 2013
Recently workers from a marketing firm called Performance Promotions have been calling local business owners in the area trying to sell advertising on behalf of Valu-mart in Shawville. Valu-mart employee Jason Dumouchel said the store is not trying to sell advertising, it's a fraud.
"All of these business owners have been contacted by people advertising on a type of a white board or a calendar board advertising," said Dumouchel. "They've been telling the store business that you store Valu-mart will be bringing the store business to you store. We don't have anything to do with it, we haven't authorized that."
Business owners who were contacted by Performance Promotions were called Dumouchel to ask about the promotion. When they called, Dumouchel said there it was a fraud but she is worried that some people may have brought into the store.
"I don't know who all has been approached," said Dumouchel.

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ANDREA CRANFIELD

The Equity

Excellent writing and vivid quotes make this a great story about perceived low water levels in the Chats Falls Lake area, which just ends a little flat with there being likely nothing wrong.

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