

BEST INVESTIGATIVE OR IN-DEPTH REPORTING

Many great entries. Honourable mention: Amy German (We didn't stop the fire) for a story that got to the bottom of a key question for people living north of the 51st.

THE EASTERN DOOR
 Celebrating 20 years
 KAHNAWAKE MOHAWK TERRITORY • www.easterndoor.com
 Friday, January 11, 2013 \$2.00

THIS WEEK

Gas tax trial 18 years in the making
 DANIEL J. ROWE
 THE EASTERN DOOR

Witnesses testified on excise taxes, traffic patterns, black lists, and exemption rules in a gas tax trial 18 years in the making this week.

The ultimate verdict could change the nature of tax exemption for First Nations people across the country.

On issue is tax exemption for gas retailers in Kahnawake. A group of 11 local gas retailers representing 14 gas stations is taking the governments of Canada and Quebec to court over taxes billed and collected in Kahnawake.

The refrain from the group represented by BCF Avocats d'Affaires is similar to that in 1993-94 which took the governments to court.

Merchants want worked-in taxes eliminated from wholesalers, and GST/PST assessments for non-Native patrons stopped.

The group's council made up of Timothee R. Huot, Angela Markakis and Boriana Christov, filed for a postponement while an appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada is processed.

The appeal comes after a May 23 incidental motion was refused by sitting judge Louis Crete. The motion argues that Kahnawake's unique location as a transit hub for the region creates a situation where charging different amounts for Native and non-Native clients is unfair.

The St. Lawrence Seaway, as well as highways 132, 134 and now 30, were constructed by the crown and run through the territory, and the demands placed on gas merchants to filter customers based on Native status is unreasonable, Huot suggested.

Council appealed Crete's judgment on December 4 to the Supreme Court of Canada, and asked Monday for a postponement until a decision is made.

Bouncing Owirá's
 As 2012 wraps up, we look back at the newborn babies our community added to a growing roster.
 Page 13, 14, 15

Day 32 of hunger strike
 THE EASTERN DOOR visited Theresa Spence last week and the Attawapiskat chief was in a good mood despite the hardships.
 Pages 5, 6, 9

Education issue 2013
 A meeting has been called for Monday to discuss important issues on education, but two Mohawk Council chiefs are not happy.
 Page 5

Putting music to the cause
 The Idle No More movement is gaining more steam each day and local Timothy Armstrong added his name to the list as he penned a song aimed at Stephen Harper.
 Page 12

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DANIEL ROWE The Eastern Door

All the angles were expertly covered in this comprehensive coverage of an important local issue.

BETHANN MERKLE Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph

This series stood out because it not only looked at scientific study but also painted a picture of the researchers behind the science.

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THE EASTERN DOOR
 Celebrating 21 years
 KAHNAWAKE MOHAWK TERRITORY • www.easterndoor.com
 Friday, August 9, 2013 \$2.00

THIS WEEK

A new heart for Baby Trace
 STEVE BONSPIEL
 THE EASTERN DOOR

Two years is a long time to wait for anything, and the agonizing journey to find a new heart for Baby Trace Beauvais took a serious toll on him and his family. But it's almost over.

The little guy, who is now two-and-a-half, was diagnosed early on with Aortic Stenosis. He has not been able to sleep in his own bed in almost a year, after he was hospitalized at St. Justine's Hospital last summer due to a severe case of pulmonary hypertension and a weakening heart.

The wait for a new ticker and the delay in Trace's return home could not be predicted in terms of time, doctors told the family. It could have been many years before a match was found, and it would take various factors for him to come home.

First, a slightly older child with a strong heart would have to meet his or her untimely death: a sad prospect to help a sick child in need.

Second, it would have to match: size being the most important factor.

And third, his body would have to learn to live with the new organ and adapt to a new life, while undergoing rigorous tests for weeks if not months to ensure it works.

"There's a lot of pressure on his lungs, which contributes to all the problems with his heart and how everything works," said Trace's Ita Kristin Whyte.

As a result Trace was hooked up to an ECMO (Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation) machine. The machine delivers oxygen by "extracorporeal" measures, by mechanical bypass outside of the body.

"It alleviates that pressure," she said.

Kristin got the call she was desperately praying for shopping for groceries at Super C in St. Constant last Thursday around 4:30 p.m.

"His doctor asked if I was ready, I said 'for what?' She said 'it's here, I said 'what's here?' She said 'we got the heart!'"

"I almost dropped my phone and the jar of pasta I was holding. I didn't know what to think.

Everything froze for a moment and I was in a lot of shock."

There was still a little bit of time to get to the hospital. Kristin was told by the doctor on the other end of the line, and she could finish her grocery shopping. The operation that would change Baby Trace's life was about to begin in mere hours.

Her seven-year-old son Archer was tagging along at the supermarket and his face filled with joy when he was told his little brother would be getting a heart.

Continued on page 7

STOP TESTAN
 NEW SIGNALIZATION
 Stop, in the name of the tunnel!
 A new stop sign was erected at one of the busiest entry points into the community, and more safety measures are being planned.
 Page 4

Road woes
 Just when you thought it was over, another week has been added to the 'bitz' of Mercier Bridge work.
 Page 5

Remembering the Two Row
 A contingent, including Kahnawake paddlers, arrived today in New York City to mark 400 years of the Two Row Wampum Treaty.
 Page 5

How well do you eat?
 A month-long project aims to better "food security" in the community, and promote healthy ways of looking at food.
 Page 10

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STEVE BONSPIEL The Eastern Door

Took reader behind the scenes to tell the medical and human story behind a heart transplant. Heartwarming and heartbreaking.

Up close and personal with a researcher, Part I: Conserving Quebec's caribou

BETHANN G. MERKLE
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Caribou are a totem animal, symbolizing vitality, freedom, and heritage for hunters, nature lovers, governments, scientists and people around the world. Quebec is home to nearly a million of the subspecies *Rangifer tarandus caribou* which range across more than one million square kilometres (400,000 square miles) of northern Quebec. The QCT recently spoke with Université Laval researchers about the ecological importance of caribou, the

science informing provincial management decisions, and the challenges involved in conducting research in a bilingual environment.

Researcher Chrystel Losier describes her work on the lesser-known, forest-dwelling woodland caribou. She explains, "There are the migratory caribou - they migrate twice a year in huge groups - those are the ones you see on TV. The other kind, the woodland caribou that I am studying, do not migrate; they live in boreal forests."

Losier's study carries on the work of earlier studies, and is directed by Dr. Daniel Fortin, who is the NSERC-Université Laval Industrial Research Chair of Silviculture and Wildlife. Despite being less known, woodland caribou are of great interest to biologists, logging companies, governments and others for one fundamental reason.

Losier stated soberly, "We study their survival because almost all the populations of woodland caribou are dramatically declining. One of the reasons for this, we think, is logging - cutting down forests means habitat loss, and building roads causes habitat fragmentation."

She continued, "Because woodland caribou are designated an endangered species, there is a recovery plan. In the plan, logging companies are legally obligated to leave blocks of old-growth forest uncut, each block having an area of between 100 and 250 square kilometres. There are no restrictions regarding the shape, though, so the companies leave uncut blocks that are often just narrow strips of forest along the edges of cut areas."

Losier explained why this matters: "We know that wolves often use edge habitat to hunt, so perhaps the logging companies are creating a more dangerous habitat for woodland caribou, rather than protecting their habitat. If this turns out to be true, our research could contribute to changing the restrictions



Losier enthused, "One of the really cool things about caribou is that they are the only cervid (animal with antlers) species where the females have antlers." Here, she stands next to a female caribou skull, harvested last year by her partner.

[i.e., disturbances caused by humans] on woodland caribou populations."

This question interests Losier because it is tied to how human beings use Quebec's natural resources. She said, "Anthropogenic disturbances - mining, agriculture, logging, etc. - are not going away. These activities support the way we live. So the question is, how can we continue these activities in a way that minimizes their negative impact on wildlife?" She paused, then finished,

"That's my main interest in these questions, and in research in general. How can we protect species while maintaining a viable level of human activity?"

Part II in this series will appear next week. Woodland caribou not out of the woods will feature another Université Laval researcher whose work has contributed to recent provincial decisions to reduce caribou-hunting quotas significantly for the next two hunting seasons.

Honourable Mention: AMY GERMAN, the Nation

Judge: Andy Riga, Reporter, The Gazette, Montreal, QC • Number of entries in the Best Investigative or In-Depth Reporting category: 14