

# BEST EDITORIAL (LOCAL AFFAIRS)

BULLETIN D'AYLMER | VOTRE JOURNAL COMMUNAUTAIRE INDÉPENDANT | LE MERCREDI 7 DÉCEMBRE 2016



**Le chardon enneigé : accentu la beauté hivernale**  
*Snow-capped thistle: highlighting the beauty of the season*

PHOTO: LISA MCCREARY

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## LILY RYAN Bulletin d'Aylmer

Lily Ryan writes of a local landmark at risk of falling prey to bureaucratic incompetence. She does this by evocatively contrasting the appeal of the locale with examples of neglect befalling nearby eyesores. If it ain't broke, don't let town hall touch it. This is a hyper-local issue that only a community newspaper would cover, and Ryan covers it well. It's a well-structured argument, backed with evidence and a call for action.

## Où on reparle de hausses du salaire minimum...

**DIDER PÉRIÉS**

Il y a ceux qui sont pour, il y a ceux qui sont contre. Avec les statistiques publiées la semaine dernière par l'Institut de la statistique du Québec, le sujet revient en force. Les stéréotypes ont bon dos. Combien de fois avez-vous entendu ou proféré des paroles dérangeantes à propos du salaire des fonctionnaires? Cibles faciles, ils font les frais de notre mauvaise humeur et de nos frustrations économiques et sociales. De vrais boucs émissaires. Or les chiffres démentent nos a priori. L'écart entre les fonctionnaires québécois et leurs homologues du secteur privé se sont réduits. On assiste à un rattrapage ces dernières années. Si les fonctionnaires gagnent 14 % de moins, cela est compensé par des avantages sociaux (régimes complémentaires de retraite, congés plus nombreux, temps de travail plus court - 2 h par semaine, oui, oui, pas plus que ça - sécurité de l'emploi - très relative ces dernières années avec les coupes budgétaires). Bien que les enseignants et le personnel de santé, qui ont pas d'équivalents dans le secteur privé, ni les employés des entreprises de moins de 200 salariés (les PME) soient pris en compte, les données sont claires : le niveau de rémunération globale entre public et privé s'équivalent, alors que les fonctionnaires sont de moins en moins bien payés et que leurs « avantages » se réduisent. Mais qui y gagne vraiment?

Par ailleurs, l'écart salarial entre les travailleurs les plus pauvres et les plus riches n'a jamais été aussi grand. Un analyse de la CIBC annonçait il y a peu que les emplois à bas salaire se développaient au pays : 61 % des Québécois gagneraient aujourd'hui moins que la moyenne salariale, contre 58 % il y a 20 ans. Et encore, n'oublions pas que les politiques publiques, en augmentant le salaire minimum, ont amorcé les dégâts. En fait, le problème est plus large.

## Ghosting Aylmer's marina pavilion?

**LILY RYAN**

The Bulletin has just reported Gatinet's plan to demolish the Park des Cèdres pavilion building. This is the building that houses the Resto-Bar Marina, whose lease ends in 2018. It is a three-season restaurant with an enormous patio and ample bathrooms. Aylmer has plenty of beautiful spots, and this one is a treasure. The Ayoub family has managed to provide a comfortable spot to watch the behind sailboat masts in the school for over five years. The problems start with public access to potable water outside the beach pavilion and at the park; both were defective - until they were simply stripped down to the basics and dismantled for two years. As for a playground drinking fountain, it was repaired but removed! At the beach pavilion, the canteen shop has been shuttered for two summers; it was once bustling centre of the beach scene, selling cold water and popicles all summer. Along the eastern side of the beach, outdoor showers. The

editorial

## The great forest giveaway

by Lyle Stewart

Anyone who's flown over the southern stretches of Eeyou Itchee has seen the vast clearcuts. Bare land as far as the horizon, with little lines of trees perhaps two or three thick bordering lakes and rivers. It is devastation on a grand scale.

In Mistissini's territory, east of Lac Albanel, this is especially apparent. University researchers classify the forest in this region, what remains of it, as "very sensitive." It is just to the south of the legal limit for industrial logging. That's because, the researchers say, the slow-growing black spruce takes 150 to 200 years to grow to maturity.

But the Quebec government is preparing to approve massive new cutting zones to the northeast of Lac Albanel, even paying companies to push new logging roads through the region.

The kicker? Quebec receives a royalty of only 39 cents for each harvested tree. Yes, you read that right: less than four dimes for a tree that may have taken two centuries to reach maturity.

This makes little to no economic sense. In fact, Quebec's forestry industry has

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## LYLE STEWART the Nation

Using strong language, Lyle Stewart demonstrates how a provincial decision will impact regional lives and argues effectively that it won't be for the better. For a complex issue, this is no easy task, so Stewart should be commended for his clarity and passion.

Pure 4

THE LOW DOWN IN HULL & BACK NEWS

# Opinion

With marijuana about to be legalized, Leonard discovered that he was out of practice...



ASKING BUSINESS

By David Mantell

## Relax, NIMBY, rails to trails goes back 25 years

These facilities are amenities and improve property values, not the contrary. The myths about negative impacts have long ago been debunked, these active corridors offer many benefits and few problems.

There's a lot of "no energy" no-frustrate communities when and where they should be. It's just, "Don't do it!" Why stop a beautiful, family-friendly active corridor on our common public lands? Because it bothers the NIMBYs? Because it bothers the NIMBYs? So, yet another Châteauguay of a new range, community investment being met with a ready "no" to "no" because "Don't do it!" something really stupid and selfish about this.

The notion of a trail linking the scattered communities along the river is a no-brainer if one puts aside self-interest and

David Mantell  
Châteauguay, QC

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April 27 - May 3, 2016

From the Editor's Desk  
By Nikki Mantell

## Boycott backfire

There are times when "boycott" needs to be called out for what it is - a cheap shot below the belt.

The Quebec Communities Protection Association's (CCPA) call to boycott local businesses that stayed on as trails to Trails opponents is not only a cheap shot below the belt, it is also a backfire. The boycott is not only a cheap shot below the belt, it is also a backfire. The boycott is not only a cheap shot below the belt, it is also a backfire.

See you all at the May 2 release of the book!

A locally owned weekly newspaper without political affiliation serving the Châteauguay area since 1975.

# THE LOW DOWN

TO HULL & BACK NEWS

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## NIKKI MANTELL The Low Down to Hull & Back News

Nikki Mantell is the voice of reason in this editorial urging local bike trail opponents to take a breath before whipping out the big guns. Without taking sides, she argues that premature action is misguided. It's a good example of the community newspaper serving as community conscience. Only a shift of tone that weakens the ending prevents this editorial from being judged higher.

Honourable Mention:  
**WILL NICHOLLS  
THE NATION**