



David Graham

Fall 2016

Member of Parliament for Laurentides—Labelle

FROM HERE, FOR HERE



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IN SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

MORE THAN 700 FILES PROCESSED SO FAR

Since our two constituency offices opened back in January, my amazing team has taken on more than 700 files, both for individual citizens and for representatives from local organizations.

Citizens come to us principally for help on files relating to the Canada Child Benefit, the Guaranteed Income Supplement, immigration, and employment insurance. We have dedicated contacts within the government to help us find answers.

Organizations come to us for assistance or to share community projects. We research funding sources for them and, at my request, our team is on the constant look-out for federal programs that could address local needs. Generally speaking, these programs do not fund the operation of organizations; they are designed to help with specific projects.

Popular recurring federal programs include New Horizons for seniors (projects dedicated to or led by senior citizens) and Canada Summer Jobs (for hiring students for the summer season). In 2016, federal investment in our riding passed \$650,000 from these two programs alone.

WE ARE AT YOUR SERVICE!

A WORD FROM DAVID

Dear friends,

Thank you for the tremendous feedback to my previous newsletter. I take great pride in representing a riding with such a strong sense of community and so many people who care deeply about it. Your responses help me explain the realities of our region to my colleagues in Parliament.

I have said on many occasions that the two most important issues in this riding are Internet and mobile phone access, and the protection of our lakes from destructive invasive species such as Eurasian watermilfoil, and from boats whose performance is not well matched to the lakes they operate on. These issues are moving forward slowly but surely, and are only part of a much larger set of files you have asked me to work on.

It is no secret that, aside from a growing tech sector in the south and forestry and agriculture in the north, tourism is the engine for much of the region's economy. Proper Internet access and cellphone service and the health of our lakes are important issues to deal with to ensure the continued survival of this crucial industry, as is working for improvements to our employment insurance system and the infrastructure required to gain access to our region. Highway 15, as someone in Sainte-Adèle put it to me recently, helped us open up the region, but it is now choking us, with serious traffic congestion. So what is our long term solution? The answer remains to be worked out and your participation, by sending me your thoughts, comments, and ideas, will help us get there.



The railway right of way that Curé Labelle created became the linear park Le P'tit Train du Nord. On September 2nd, the federal government announced a \$500,000 subsidy to support regional efforts to repair the park, treasured by the local population and by tourists from around the world.

This year, 2016, is the 125th anniversary of the death of Curé Labelle, whose vision brought the railway to and through the region, laying the way for the community we know today. While the rails were tragically ripped out between 1987 and 1989, we continue to prosper from his vision through the wildly popular linear park, which receives an estimated 1.4 million visitors per year. While I believe bringing rail back to our region in some form at some point in the future is going to be necessary to open up access to both our tourism and non-tourism industries, it will have to be done in a way that protects the jewel that is our bicycle path.

Curé Labelle's vision of the railroad was as our means of communication, and a way to bring people north to settle the region. I believe that, for us, Internet access is the new rail, and that we must again follow Curé Labelle's vision by using the latest technology to open up the north. It is in this spirit that I am working hard to find ways to bring real, modern, high speed Internet to the region. I ask for your help by sharing with me the reality of your communications situation as well as its impact on your life. Thank you to those who have already done so. I also ask for your patience as we look for solutions to a problem successive governments have promised to solve for nearly two decades. Curé Labelle, after all, did not live to see the first train make it as far as Sainte-Agathe, yet his vision brought it all the way to Mont-Laurier.

David

As we approach the major celebrations of Canada's 150th birthday in 2017, we have begun celebrating with significant investments in our region.

At the beginning of September, as part of the Canada 150 Infrastructure Program (PIC150), I was proud to join the MRCs of Laurentides, Antoine-Labelle, Pays-d'en-Haut and Rivière-du-Nord in announcing \$1 million of immediate new funding to improve the linear park, with \$500,000 each from the federal government and from the combined MRCs.

I chose the town of Labelle for this announcement for its historical significance.

A TEAM DEDICATED TO THE COMMUNITY

Hugo Paquette

Chloée Alary

Luc Lefebvre

Cristina Lapaz

Dominic Chartrand



DAVID GRAHAM, DÉPUTÉ LAURENTIDES — LABELLE

Ce bulletin est également disponible en français



For the Lac-des-Isles Lake Protection Association, Sarah-Anne Godard (second from left) and Laurie Lamoureux-Samson were hired as awareness agents. On the right, Francine Naud (secretary) and Danielle Joly (president) of the association.

JOBS FOR 181 STUDENTS IN 2016

This summer, the federal government funded 181 student summer jobs in Laurentides—Labelle, compared with 72 last year. In all, the envelope totalled \$514,000, shared among 141 local organizations. Many of these organizations have indicated that this financial support was critical to carrying out their summer activities.

I am proud that we have chosen to invest in our youth in order to support their academic studies and offer them enriching work experience that results in direct economic and social benefit. This gives our region one more tool to keep our youth involved in Laurentides—Labelle. We will continue to help our youth find work and get the best possible start in their careers by enabling them to develop competencies useful for their entire lives.

A CONSTITUENCY FULL OF INSPIRING PEOPLE!

You know about inspiring people and projects in the community.
Share your admiration!
Tell us about them!



In order to prepare for their Remembrance Day ceremony, Secondary 5 students from Sainte-Agathe Academy visited the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa. It is always a privilege for me to have these conversations with our youth and I salute their initiative in honouring those who fought for our country.



The Cadet movement instills interest in the aviation and aerospace sector for 12-18 year-olds, promotes physical aptitude, and contributes to the development of responsible citizens. On June 18th, the 739 Vallée de la Lièvre Air Cadet Squadron held their annual ceremony. Bravo to all the cadets and thank you to the adults that accompany them!



For the past several months, the community of Saint-Sauveur and Father Ronald Labonté have been working to sponsor a Syrian refugee family. On August 28th, there was a fundraising corn roast and barbecue at Georges-Filion Park. What a wonderful example of solidarity, welcoming, and humanity!



The forest is a central part of our local and national economy. At the nursery in Chute-Saint-Philippe, workers at the Upper Laurentians Forestry Cooperative produce some four million conifer seedlings per year to plant in Quebec's forests.



Our villages thrive because of the contribution of dedicated citizens. In Brébeuf, Jean-Guy Gauthier and Diane Perreault were hard at work for the Activities Committee summer corn roast.

Community gardens are growing in popularity across the region, such including this one behind the town hall in Rivière-Rouge, under the guidance of Denis Bazinet and his son Jean-François, with coordination provided by Paulette Valiquette, Louise Guérin, and Cynthia Desjardins.



What camaraderie and vitality in our seniors' clubs! At Lac-des-Écorces, the directors and volunteers of the Val-Barrette Golden Age Club enthusiastically organize summer activities at the old parish hall.



The volunteer Pays-d'en-Haut Entraide helps people who are losing their autonomy break their isolation. Thank you to those who give of themselves for this cause!



← Our lakes and rivers are a treasure we need to protect. The directors of the umbrella group of associations for the protection of lakes and waterways in the Upper Laurentians (RAPHL) are hard at work. On August 20th, the president, Louis Internoscia, and his group held their 6th annual forum at Lac-Saguay with the assistance of subject-matter experts and affected waterfront residents.

KNOWING OUR REGION: CURÉ LABELLE AND THE IMPORTANCE OF INFRASTRUCTURE

There is an old adage that goes: *we need to know where we come from to know where we are going*. I love my country and am passionate about discovering the origins of places and the people who made them. So I invited my father, local historian **Joseph Graham**, to tell us a bit about the history of our region. Over the next few years you will receive many more of this type of communications and as often as possible I will include a section on our history. If you have any historical subjects that you would like to learn more about, let us know! Enjoy the read!



In 2016, the region commemorated Curé Labelle and his work on the 125th anniversary of his death. The Upper Laurentian History Society of Mont-Laurier and Nominique's Historical Mass presented the play Labelle—the Legends of the North, including this presentation in Chute-Saint-Philippe on the 24th of September. In the photo with me are Mayor Normand St-Amour and actor Claude Boisvert, in the role of Curé Labelle.

François-Xavier Antoine Labelle, curé of the Parish of Saint-Jérôme from 1868 to 1891, was first and foremost a community builder. Having received minimal training to become a priest, he was more concerned for his flock than for their eternal souls and, in his early days as parish priest at Saint-Bernard-de-Lacolle, he distinguished himself with his ability to blow a large bugle, promising to be at the head of the militia if the Fenians—the Irish nationalists of the time—dared to cross the border from the US during his watch. They didn't.

Once transferred to Saint-Jérôme, he saw the need for infrastructure and encouraged support for the politicians who could do something about it. His call for a rail link with Montreal fell on deaf ears until, during the firewood crisis of the winter of 1871-72, he organized a 'bee' to collect firewood and distribute it among the poor in Montreal. It saved the workforce of the city from a dangerously cold winter and Montreal finally listened to his call for a train to come as far as Saint-Jérôme.

But his vision was greater. He saw the need to build a transportation infrastructure across the entire Cantons du Nord, up through Saint-Sauveur, Sainte-Agathe, Mont-Tremblant, all the way to Mont-Laurier – and then on through the northern route to Winnipeg. In order to achieve his goal, he became Quebec's Assistant Commissioner of Agriculture and Colonization, a role that caused him problems within the Church hierarchy.



This archival photo is a conversation piece. There is no consensus on its authenticity or its origin. The image shows Curé Labelle met by a family of colonists with a mock-up of a church and a train. If you have any details... Photo courtesy Luc Lefebvre

the northern route to Winnipeg. In order to achieve his goal, he became Quebec's Assistant Commissioner of Agriculture and Colonization, a role that caused him



Among the last passenger trains, this chartered train came to Labelle in 1978 and was greeted by more than 1,200 people under the theme Curé Labelle: 100 years later. Photo courtesy Pierre Dumontier.

A gentle man, well over 6 feet tall and weighing more than 300 pounds, he and his equally large companion Narcisse Ménard traversed our region on foot and by canoe more than 45 times. When these two big men spoke of Labelle's great dream, people were loath to challenge them, and long before the railroad reached Sainte-Agathe the rail had become a symbol of hope for the small communities that had been established earlier. Ernest Piché's family once farmed on the shores of Lac Brûlé in Sainte-Agathe and, as a boy, he learned from his grandfather Nazaire that before the railroad was built a farmer could burn



In memory of the King of the North and his mission, Ferme-Neuve artist Clément Desrosiers built this work entitled The Septentrion that we can see at his art studio.

the trees on his land and carry the ash to sell for making potash, sometimes travelling as far as Saint-Jérôme. With the few dollars he earned, he could buy essential tools. Labelle saw the potential for shipping products to market as a game-changer but no-one really foresaw what would happen with proper infrastructure in place. With the train came thousands upon thousands of visitors, summer tourist activities and eventually skiing.

Curé Labelle, remembered today as the apostle of colonization and the King of the North, died on January 4, 1891, in a hotel in Quebec City, after learning that the Church obliged him to withdraw from his role as Assistant Commissioner.

- Joseph Graham

YOUR OPINION MATTERS

Thank you for the many responses to our last mailing. Your answers help us define or confirm the priorities on which we work.

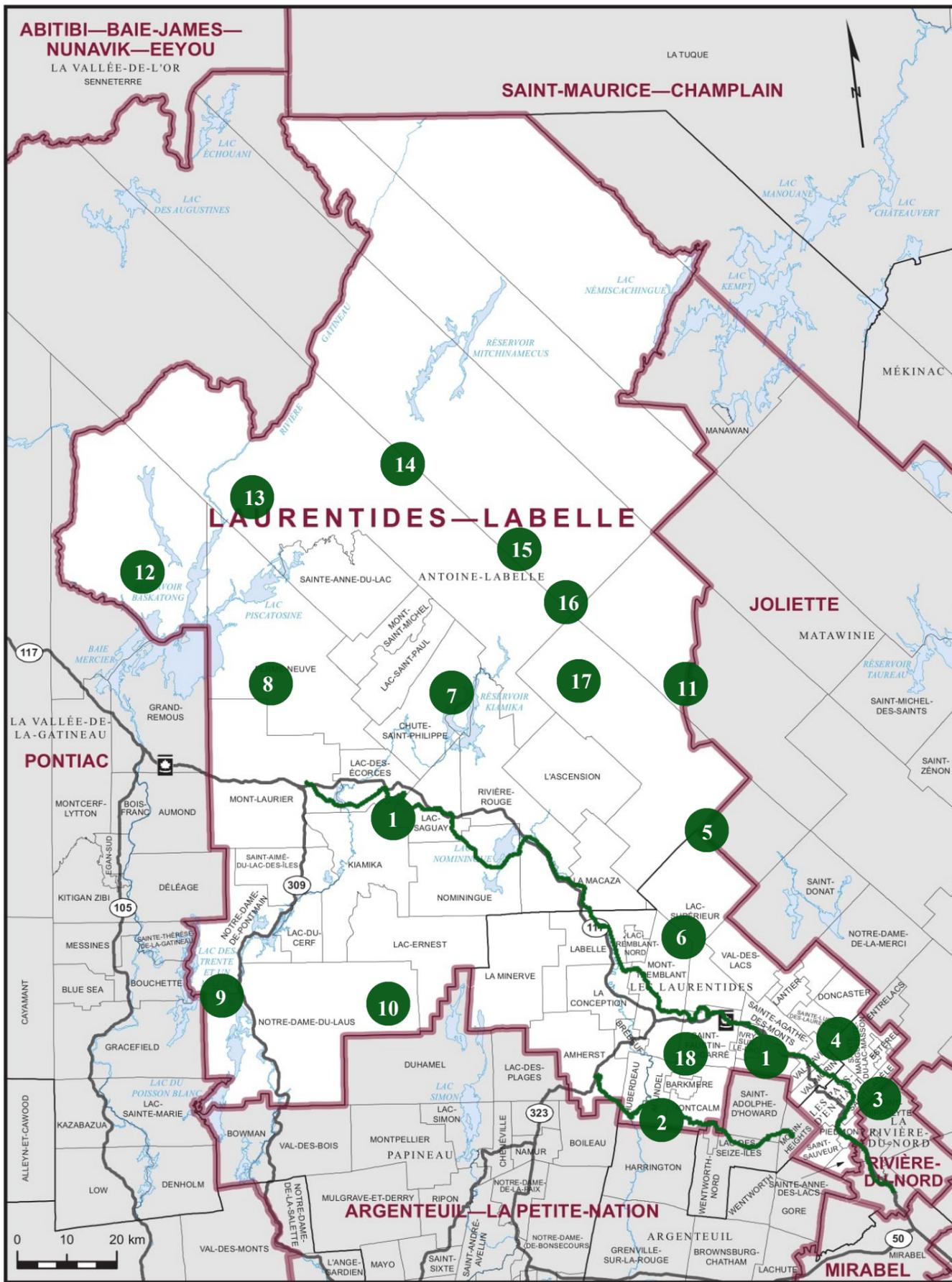
Curé Labelle opened the Laurentians to development and prosperity with his railway when crossing the region was done by canoe, on horseback, or on foot. One hundred and twenty-five years later, we are facing new transportation challenges. While bearing in mind that road transportation falls within provincial and municipal jurisdiction, the federal government can, when possible, be a partner. With that in mind, what do you see as our principal long-term solutions relating to regional transportation?

- The expansion of Highway 117 to four lanes from Labelle to Mont-Laurier
- Adding lanes to Highway 15
- Bringing the train back north of Saint-Jerome without affecting the linear park
- Expanding our public transit infrastructure
- Promoting carpooling, and more ecological options
- Dealing with our telecommunications problems to relieve pressure on our infrastructure

Do you have other suggestions?

Don't hesitate to use the comments section on the back to share your ideas!

Brief results of our survey from the Summer 2016 newsletter
52% of those who responded to the question on **high speed Internet** find service inadequate or non-existent.
14% find the service fast, affordable, and reliable.
46.5% of those who responded to the question on **electoral reform** prefer the current system or a preferential model, while **37.2%** would like to see a partially or completely proportional system.
43% would like to see **voting become mandatory**.



LAURENTIDES—LABELLE A riding's demonyms...

We often speak of the size of our riding, but we speak less about... how to describe the people that live in its four corners! A demonym is the term used to describe the inhabitants of a place.

- Amherst (*undefined*)
- Arundel (*Arundelite*)
- Barkmere (*Bark Laker*)
- Brébeuf (*Brégeois, oise*)
- Chute-Saint-Philippe (*undefined*)
- Estérel (*Estérellois, oise*)
- Ferme Neuve (*Fermeneuvien, ienne*)
- Huberdeau (*Huberdois, oise*)
- Ivry-sur-le-Lac (*Ivryen, enne*)
- Kiamika (*Kiamikois, oise*)
- La Conception (*Conceptionnois, oise*)
- La Macaza (*Macazien, ienne*)
- La Minerve (*Minervois, oise*)
- Labelle (*Labellois, oise*)
- Lac-des-Écorces (*Écorçois, oise*)
- Lac-du-Cerf (*Cervoais, oise*)
- Lac-Saguay (*Lac-Saguayen, enne*)
- Lac-Saint-Paul (*Paulacquois, oise*)
- Lac-Supérieur (*Supérois, oise*)
- Lac-Tremblant-Nord
(*Nord-Tremblantais, oise*)
- Lantier (*Lantiérois, oise*)
- L'Ascension (*L'Ascensois, oise*)
- Montcalm (*undefined*)
- Mont-Laurier (*Lauriermontois, oise*)
- Mont-Saint-Michel (*Michelmontois, oise*)
- Mont-Tremblant (*Tremblantais, oise*)
- Nominungue (*Nominungois, oise*)
- Notre-Dame-de-Pontmain (*undefined*)
- Notre-Dame-du-Laus (*Lausois, oise*)
- Piedmont (*Piedmontais, aise*)
- Rivière-Rouge (*Riverougeois, oise*)
- Saint-Aimé-du-Lac-des-Îles
(*Aimélois, oise*)
- Saint-Anne-du-Lac (*Tapanois, oise*)
- Sainte-Anne-des-Lacs (*Annelacois, oise*)
- Sainte-Adèle (*Adélois, oise*)
- Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts (*Agathois, oise*)
- Sainte-Lucie-des-Laurentides
(*Lucilois, oise*)
- Sainte-Marguerite-du-Lac-Masson
(*Massonais, aise*)
- Saint-Faustin—Lac-Carré
(*Faustilacois, oise*)
- Saint-Sauveur (*Sauverois, oise*)
- Val-David (*Val-Davidois, oise*)
- Val-des-Lacs (*Vallacquois, oise*)
- Val-Morin (*Valmorinois, oise*)

Do you have interesting facts about our region? Please send them to us!

Main source:
The MAMROT municipal directory

A RIDING OF FLORA, FAUNA, PARKS, AND NATURE

- | | |
|--|---|
| (1) The Linnear Park <i>le P'tit Train du Nord</i> | (10) Papineau-Labelle Nature Reserve |
| (2) The Aerobic Corridor | (11) Rouge-Matawin Nature Reserve |
| (3) Rivière de Doncaster Regional Park | (12) ZEC Petawaga |
| (4) Val-David-Val-Morin Regional Park | (13) ZEC Lesueur |
| (5) Mont-Tremblant Provincial Park | (14) ZEC Mitchinamecus |
| (6) Domaine Saint-Bernard | (15) ZEC Normandie |
| (7) Kiamika Regional Park | (16) ZEC Mazana |
| (8) Montagne de Diable Regional Park | (17) ZEC Maison-de-Pierre |
| (9) Poisson-Blanc Regional Park | (18) Centre Éducatif et Touristique des Laurentides |

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 Postal Code: _____
 Phone: (____) _____ - _____
 E-mail: _____

Comments

No stamp required

Events or activities happening

Date: _____
 Place: _____
 Time: _____
 Details: _____

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In order to protect the confidentiality of your responses, you may also put this response card in an envelope without a stamp or address, marked simply:

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