

Liberator Harry

In Saint-Donat, on October 20, 1943, a military plane crashed on Montagne Noire on the boundary of the riding of Joliette. Thanks to the hard work of its volunteers, the **Gardiens du Liberator Harry** organization now maintains a trail that leads to the crash site. To commemorate the 75th anniversary of the tragedy, a ceremony was held on September 30th near the cenotaph, dedicated to the 24 Canadian military personnel who lost their lives in the incident, the worst the Royal Canadian Air Force has ever experienced on Canadian soil.



Bridges in history

The **Pont Prud'homme**, initially called the "Pont de l'Armistice," was opened in Brébeuf 100 years ago. Also known as "Pont David," it was re-baptised in 1957 in honour of a local old stock family. Children from the municipal summer camp have helped develop a book on the history of the bridge to celebrate its anniversary.

There are five other covered bridges in Laurentides—Labelle: the Ferme-Rouge twin covered bridges in Kiamika / Saint-Aimé-du-Lac-des-Îles (1903), the La Macaza bridge (1904), the Armand-Lachaine bridge in Chute-Saint-Philippe (1906) and the new covered bridge in La Conception (2003).



Laurentides—Labelle: 43 municipalities established over the years

According to the *Quebec Municipalities Act and amendments resulting from the amalgamations and de-amalgamations during the 2000s.*

Sainte-Lucie-des-Laurentides: 1874	Brébeuf: 1910	Lantier: 1948	Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts: 2002
Notre-Dame-du-Laus: 1876	Val-David: 1921	Lac-Saguay: 1951	Saint-Sauveur: 2002
Arundel: 1878	Val-Morin: 1922	Lac-du-Cerf: 1955	Lac-des-Écorces: 2002:
Lac-Supérieur: 1881	Lac-Saint-Paul: 1922	Nominigüe: 1971	Rivière-Rouge: 2002
La Conception: 1882	Piedmont: 1923	Labelle: 1973	Mont-Laurier: 2003
Amherst: 1887	Barkmere: 1926	Sainte-Anne-du-Lac: 1976	La Macaza: 2006
La Minerve: 1892	Huberdeau: 1926	Saint-Faustin-Lac-Carré: 1996	Saint-Aimé-du-Lac-des-Îles: 2006
Notre-Dame-de-Pontmain: 1894	Mont-Saint-Michel: 1928	Sainte-Adèle: 1997	Lac-Tremblant-Nord: 2006
Kiamika: 1898	Val-des-Lacs: 1932	Ferme-Neuve: 1997	Estérel: 2006
L'Ascension: 1905	Chute-Saint-Philippe: 1940	Mont-Tremblant: 2000	Ivry-sur-le-Lac: 2006
Montcalm: 1907	Sainte-Anne-des-Lacs: 1946	Sainte-Marguerite-du-Lac-Masson: 2001	Source: Ministry of Municipal Affairs of Quebec

One of the purposes of this Newsletter is to enable me to speak with you. By working together, we can advance the interests of Laurentides—Labelle and maximise the impacts of our federal partnership here in the region.

Are you satisfied with my work to date?

- Yes
 No
 I don't know

Thank you for your input. Please note that while I personally read every comment, with the volume of correspondence received it is not always possible to respond individually. Thank you! - David

WHAT DO YOU EXPECT OF YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT ?

Feel free to include attachments.

Out of respect for the past

The signing of the Armistice on **November 11, 1918**, brought an end to the First World War, during which thousands of Canadians made the ultimate sacrifice in the defence of liberty and peace.

For *Remembrance Day*, several commemoration ceremonies were held in Morin-Heights (riding of Argenteuil—La Petite-Nation), as well as in Laurentides—Labelle: at Ste-Agathe Academy; in Nominigüe; in Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts and in Arundel, at the Royal Canadian Legion — Branch 192 Rouge.



A historical force in the region

Historical societies and heritage committees help preserve our collective memory. These organizations provide various types of services: they present exhibitions, lectures and workshops; provide genealogical research assistance; digitize and archive photographs, documents and videos from the past; draft documents and publications; develop heritage trails, organize and cooperate on historical anniversaries and commemorations; gather first-hand accounts that preserve our intangible heritage; and even organize experiences such as *Baladodiscovery* interactive GPS guided tours.

Some societies have permanent public spaces, while others do not. Contact them at the following numbers for more information:

Maison des Arts et du Patrimoine de Notre-Dame-du-Laus Notre-Dame-du-Laus 819-767-2977	Société du patrimoine du bassin inférieur de la rouge et de la chaîne géologique du Mont-Tremblant (SOPABIC) Grand Mont-Tremblant 819-717-4224	Société d'histoire Chute-aux-Iroquois Labelle 819-681-3371, ext. 5 022
Société d'histoire et de généalogie des Hautes-Laurentides Mont-Laurier 819-623-1900		Société d'histoire de La Repousse Saint-Faustin—Lac-Carré Lac-Supérieur 819-688-2774
Comité des gares de Nominigüe Nominigüe 819-278—3384, ext. 240	Blessing of the skiers at Saint-Sauveur church Date unknown <i>Courtesy of the Société d'histoire et de généalogie des Pays-d'en-Haut</i>	Comité du patrimoine de Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts 819-326-4595
Gardiens du Patrimoine Archéologique — Hautes-Laurentides Nominigüe 819-421-2578		Société d'histoire et du patrimoine de Val-David Val-David 819-322-3294
Société d'histoire de Rivière-Rouge Rivière-Rouge 819-430-2350	Village of Saint-Faustin circa 1925 <i>Courtesy of the Société d'histoire de La Repousse</i> Image used for the cover of their 2015 calendar	Société d'histoire de Val-Morin Val-Morin 819-322-3045
Maison de la culture de La Macaza La Macaza 819-278-5364		Société d'histoire et de généalogie des Pays-d'en-Haut MRC des Pays-d'en-Haut 450-744-0182 (Saint-Sauveur)
Le Petit Musée et galerie d'art de La Minerve La Minerve 819-681-3380, ext. 5520	Logjam at Reid bridge, Mont-Laurier — 1927 Fonds Alcide-Boudreault P27 <i>Courtesy of the Société d'histoire et de Généalogie des Hautes-Laurentides</i>	Musée du ski des Laurentides Saint-Sauveur 450-227-2564, poste 222
Comité de la gare de Labelle Labelle 819-686-2422	Société d'histoire de Ste-Marguerite-du-lac-Masson/Estérel Sainte-Marguerite-du-lac-Masson 450-744-3109	

Please note that some municipalities and libraries may have informal heritage committees and that a number of Facebook groups are also devoted to the history and heritage of our community.

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David Graham

Member of Parliament for Laurentides—Labelle

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A WORD FROM DAVID

Dear friends,

For a little more than three years now, every one of my newsletters has touched on a variety of topics of general interest to our community. In spring 2017, for example, we discussed the protection of our lakes and waterways, and, in the following edition, we looked at the local aviation industry. For every newsletter, my team and I have contacted many historical societies, museums and heritage committees in the riding. I want to shine a light on those groups today.

In the 1980s, my father was involved in the *Corporation des Gares des Laurentides* and the *Comité du Patrimoine* in Sainte-Agathe, groups built around saving the Canadian Pacific railway stations along the key railway infrastructure that enabled our region to develop a world-renowned linear park. By their actions, my parents taught me the importance of understanding and preserving our history, and I saw that they were not the only ones who strove to promote our heritage.

We are surrounded by reminders of our history. The signs on heritage trails, the murals, tales and written works teach us about the past and refresh our memory. Hundreds of citizens are involved in all these groups and organizations. I want to acknowledge them, honour their passion and their incredible work and thank them publicly for the effort they make to ensure we never forget.

In the historical societies, municipalities and public libraries and on the web, our archives, tales and written works teach us about the past and refresh our memory. Hundreds of citizens are involved in all these groups and organizations. I want to acknowledge them, honour their passion and their incredible work and thank them publicly for the effort they make to ensure we never forget.



Dozens of historical murals dot the landscape of our communities. These works, many of them by local artists from our community, bear witness to the development of our region and the people who have shaped it. Some municipalities even organize tours with passionate guides like Jocelyne Béland, in Sainte-Adèle.

We live in a time of major transition as progressive changes transform Canadian society. We have legalized marijuana. We have entered into an agreement in principle to replace NAFTA with the USMCA. We have rolled out our anti-pollution plan because we must act now to address climate change. This year, we will have to decide on the future we want to shape for our country, for our region, for every one of us and for future generations. It will be for the historians to say what happened before and after our time.

Best wishes for 2019!

David



WINTER 2018-2019

HERE TO HELP

My team and I are **here for you!** You are always welcome at any of our **three offices**. Feel free to contact us if you have questions or comments on topics such as:

- Canada Child Benefit
- Old Age Security
- Guaranteed Income Supplement
- Citizenship and Immigration
- Employment Insurance
- Canada Revenue Agency
- Any other federal matters or services
- Any community initiatives

OUR TEAM, DEDICATED TO THE COMMUNITY



DAVID GRAHAM, DÉPUTÉ LAURENTIDES — LABELLE

Ce bulletin est également disponible en français

A CONSTITUENCY FULL OF INSPIRING PEOPLE!



Bravo! The Lac-du-Cerf library committee hosted an outstanding international event this past summer, the **Anne Frank exhibition**, which was inspired by excerpts from the diary of this young girl, who died at the age of 15, a victim of the Nazi persecution of the Jews during World War II. We have a duty never to forget.

The **Grande Traite des gosseux, conteux et patenteux** (the great cultural trading post) held annually in Nominique reminds us of the indigenous peoples who lived in this region, about colonization, old traditions and legends, and features many craftspeople and their creations. It is a truly enriching and entertaining event! Hats off to the organizers!



On the grounds of La Macaza town hall on July 1, plaques were unveiled to commemorate the era of the Bomarc missile base in our riding during the Cold War at what is now La Macaza airport. Thanks to **Benoit Thibeault** and his associates for this magnificent project, which was supported by *Canadian Heritage*.



The **Société d'histoire et de généalogie des Hautes-Laurentides** presents a thematic exhibition in Mont-Laurier every summer. The organization contributes to the preservation and promotion of the memory of the Upper Laurentians. The Government of Canada supports this mission with financial assistance from its Canada Summer Job program, which made it possible to recruit *Xavier Coursol* and *Marie-Lou Hénault-Grenier* in 2018.



Dr. Guy Rondeau served the population of Huberdeau for 57 years, assisted, for 46 of them, by **Ms. Céline Tassé**. Patients and friends alike gathered in the spring to wish them a happy and well-deserved retirement.



Le Petit Musée and art gallery of La Minerve was proudly opened in the fall of 2016. Its premises in part of the old Caisse Populaire immerse us once again in our rich local history. Congratulations to **Linda Durand**, the municipal team, volunteers and those who lent artifacts that help preserve our collective memory.

On October 14th, hundreds of people responded to Father André Daoust and the centennial committee's invitation to celebrate the **100th anniversary of Saint-Joseph Catholic church** in Mont-Rolland. Congratulations to everyone involved! Copies of a very interesting book by **Christiane Brault** and **Marie Blanchard** (photo) were offered to participants.



The enthusiastic team from the **Société d'histoire de Val-Morin** exhibits beautiful historical photographs at the town hall, changing them from time to time. The images help provide a clearer picture of the community and encourage citizens who cross paths there to share their memories.

The basement of the **Musée du ski des Laurentides** in Saint-Sauveur houses an incredible inventory of skis from all eras. The ground floor features a permanent exhibition on this recreation and sport for which the Laurentians was and is still renowned. Curator **Nancy Belhumeur** and **Catherine Gauvin**, a student, gave me a tour of the premises in July.



Renowned authority **Colette Légaré** has devoted herself for years to promoting local history and the lives of our ancestors in the Mont-Tremblant area and the lower Rouge River basin. In early 2018, she and associates from **Sopabac** gave an instructive presentation on the history of Gray Rocks, where the region's tourism development began in the early twentieth century.



Claude Dumontier, an avid fan of the history of the P'tit Train du Nord, along with others in the community have gathered together photographs and artifacts at Labelle's railway station and put together a remarkable permanent exhibition. Visitors there are offered the unique experience of a historical virtual tour of the village centre called **Aventura - "La légende des Wakaras."**



KNOWING OUR REGION : Then and now...

As the saying goes, "You have to know where you come from to know where you're going." In the past three years, my father, local historian **Joseph Graham**, has passed on various parts of our regional history via this Newsletter. For this edition, he takes us back to the origins of his interest in history and his desire to transmit that passion. Happy reading!

Memories and a sense of belonging

Growing up Catholic in Val Morin, the saints, martyrs and apostles imbued me with a sense of belonging, of being one of the faithful. Pope John XXIII was going to read a letter from Our Lady of Fatima in 1960, it was going to change the world. We were to be a part of that story. He declined to read it, though, and so other stories crowded in. The Catholic Church began to fade. Still, I hungered for stories that I could feel a part of. I was not alone. Throughout the '60s and '70s a whole generation was looking for their story.

My uncle, Antoine Paré, began to fill my aching need, my hunger. Documenting the family history, he told how my grandfather Alphonse grew up in Franco-Manitoba where his widowed father, Louis Paré, served as a surgeon with the North-West Mounted Police, that he had been born in 1885, the year his father took an arrow at the Battle of Batoche, that his mother had died before he knew her, succumbing to tuberculosis, and that he grew up speaking four Canadian languages, French, English, Ojibwa and Cree. I learned of his unlikely meeting of my grandmother, an Irish Australian who grew up in the Western Australian desert in a waterless mining camp, who received a set of wooden teeth for her 18th birthday, and how, as a couple with five children, they came by train to Val Morin in 1920 and over the next years had four more.

As I was learning the history of the members of my family, the railway that had brought them here was making headlines. It was the mid-1980s and CP Rail was shutting down *Le P'tit Train du Nord*. The line was the spinal cord that tied the whole of the Laurentians together

*Train station at Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts. April, 1970
Photo courtesy of Comité du Patrimoine de Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts*



and was too important to lose. That's when I made some new friends who shared my concern: Yvan Dubois from Val-Morin, Gleason Théberge from Prévost, Terry Turcot and Denise Goulet from Sainte-Agathe, Adrien Grégoire from L'Annonciation and Jacques Brisebois from Mont-Laurier. We asked questions, knocked on doors and demanded answers. Pierre de Bellefeuille, from Canadian Pacific, helped me understand the colossal scope of the company, and I discovered how generous it was with its institutional memory. I wanted to know the whole story.

I learned about Augustin-Norbert Morin who paddled up the North River with a dream – to establish a farming community at the furthest reach of his paddle. I learned of his successor, Father Antoine Labelle, who walked up the First Nations' trails and colonists' paths north of Morin's colony and visited the huge lumber industry properties beyond La Repousse and Grand Brûlé, the farms built to feed the loggers and the raftsmen – the famous pitounes – on the Lièvre and Rouge rivers. I learned of the *Fermes d'en Bas, du Milieu* and *d'en Haut*, farms that subsequently became the parishes of La Conception, L'Annonciation and l'Ascension. I learned that the "bon curé" Father Labelle saw Ste. Agathe's inhabitants suffer through droughts and a flagging market and how he dreamed of a way to tie all these communities together with a railroad that would follow his footsteps north from St. Jerome. We began to circulate the stories, and, as a result of talking, we created organizations to preserve the railway and its stations.

Just as my family's history had been shared with me, our collective history was unfolding before me. I learned how the indigenous peoples had trouble surviving, and how buildings and communities had disappeared forever. I learned how, largely as a result of the railway, skiing and the treatment for tuberculosis arrived in our region at the same time, assuring its prosperity. I came to know the community of which I was a part, where it had come from and its role in a much broader history. I discovered who we are. I learned that you develop this sense of belonging to something bigger than yourself simply by valuing and sharing your experience. I learned how the past shaped the way I belong to the present.

Joseph Graham

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