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Sept. 15 - Sept. 21, 2021

TO HULL & BACK NEWS

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Chelsea lowers dock fee

By Hunter Cresswell

Some Chelsea residents who spoke up during a recent council meeting weren't happy with the dock bylaw, but the council that represents them passed it anyway.

During the Sept. 7 council meeting question period, residents brought forward their concerns about the dock fees being too high, community or road association docks being converted into general public docks, impact of public docks on nearby residents, and people unable to take part in the online meeting to share their input.

Multiple residents suggested pushing off this decision until after the coming municipal election this fall.

"We went from – right at the beginning – nothing's going to change; that's what you said at our Farm Point community meeting," Penny Allen told Mayor Caryl Green, "to ... it's going to be \$200 per permit and now we're up to \$500. So I can't believe at this point, you're not willing to listen to what your people have to say."

Another Farm Point resident said he went door to door in Farm Point asking his senior neighbours about the dock bylaw. He said some said they couldn't access Zoom council meetings to make their voices heard despite having concerns about the bylaw.

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Mother of a job



Why plant a tree when you can build one? Land artist Marc Walter and a group of over 50 volunteers spent 10 days – from Aug. 31 until Sept. 10 – building Walter's seven-metre tall sculpture 'La Grande Nouricière' or 'Mother of All,' carefully weaving branches and twine into a giant tree-stump to stand watch over the more than 20,000 saplings planted during the past few years in the field behind Eco Echo near Wakefield. To see the full sculpture turn to page 13.

Stuart Benson photo

Climate crisis debated

By Stuart Benson

The old debate over whether climate change is real and if so, whether or not it's caused by human activity was nowhere to be seen on Sept. 13, as Pontiac riding candidates from the five major parties debated, in both French and English, the climate emergency, as well as the environment.

Hosted by the Friends of the Gatineau River and the La Pêche Coalition for a Green New Deal, the Liberal, Conservative, Green, NDP, and Bloc Québécois candidates were all in agreement on the seriousness of the climate crisis, leaving very little

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No back-up

Wakefield Hospital nursing staff stretched thin, overnight shifts left unstaffed

By Stuart Benson

Nurses at the Wakefield Hospital are sounding the alarm that the situation is becoming increasingly more uncertain, resulting in no nursing assistants being on the floor overnight in the long-term-care (LTC) unit for the second time this year.

Wakefield's Ned Ellis was

already in bed on Sept. 5 when he received a phone call just after 10 p.m. from a woman who told him she was calling all of the family members of patients currently residing in the LTC to inform them that there was no "préposé," or night attendant, on the floor for the overnight shift.

Ellis said he doesn't know who the woman was or under

whose authority she was calling, but to be safe, he called a private caretaker he had hired to go check on his 80-year-old sister in the LTC at the hospital and who suffers from severe Alzheimers.

According to CISSSO, a single night attendant is assigned to the overnight shift. The public agency responsible for

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WORST JOKE OF THE WEEK

Q: When is the best time to go to the dentist?
A: Tooth hurty

This totally original joke was submitted by Dave McNorgan through his friend of 50 years, Lac-des-Loups resident Vincent Greason. Greason describes McNorgan as a 67-year-old who acts like he is 6. McNorgan is a published author but said having his worst joke appear in these hallowed pages would be the "highlight" of his career.

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From the Grassroots - Climate and Justice

Code Red for Humanity Reflection, part 3

By Ilse Turnsen

There were moments of high drama hoisting huge segments of inter-woven cedar branches on top of one another. Hours of patient work tying thousands of knots at the intersections made the structure strong enough to endure — every knot mattered.

Fifty community volunteers joined land artist Marc Walter in creating La Grande Nourricière (The-Mother-of-All). I arrived on the morning of Aug. 31 to a circle of cedar branch poles; when I left on Sept. 9, a rooted mother tree stump rose magnificently in the field. Her soul reaches out to the drifting clouds and her roots reach down into the earth, reminding us that we are of this place: deeply connected to earth, water, air, forests, ecological cycles, and to one another. She will not allow our children to fear for their future.

La Grande Nourricière celebrates the effort to preserve 100 Acre Wood (an ACRE project) and the planting of 20,000 trees (Tree Canada) on Eco Echo land near Wakefield. The La Pêche Global Forest Initiative organized the volunteers and reminds us that planting trees and reforestation (preserving mature forests) are crucial natural solutions in mitigating global



Nathalie Coutou, owner of Kehwa Native Art Boutique in Wakefield, performed a traditional smudging ceremony Sept. 10 for the attendants including Wakefield resident Marjolijn Thie. The ceremony is meant to cleanse the body and soul of negative thoughts about a person or place.

warming caused by carbon emissions.

I personally spent many meditative hours tying knots. Others took on the daunting, engineering feats of putting huge segments together with minimal equipment. Patience, endurance, ingenuity, skill-sharing, cooperation, and mutual care and respect characterized the entire process. Each contribution was honoured; no contribution was trivialized. These are the resources we can apply to

climate action, which embraces social justice as an integral part of how we live. Every volunteer I spoke to acknowledged pride and joy in what had been accomplished. This is the sustainable, renewable energy which powers community projects. Funding the arts and creating jobs, which contribute to ecological protection and regeneration, build personal and community economic resilience. This is not a dewy-eyed dream; it takes hard work, sacrifice, and a willingness to take on a challenge together.

The cedar branches were harvested ethically. Biodegradable twine and wool were used. La Grande Nourricière was created out of what was on hand. Solving climate and equity crisis issues does not depend on investing billions of dollars while maintaining current consumption patterns. Local collaborative solutions, seemingly “small gestures” [according to] Marc Walters] can put carefully and generously allocated interjurisdictional funding to good use. Nathalie Coutou (Khewa) inspires us to honour one another and Indigenous traditions and rights in

the work we do. This makes us stronger: The inclusive, well-planned leadership and

Stuart Benson photo

coordination demonstrated by Marc and Christopher Minnes resulted in a dynamic, successful “epic” community project.

At the reception on Sept. 10, La Pêche Mayor Guillaume Lamoureux said the sculpture represented participation at every level: personal, community, and governmental. The La Pêche council has unanimously passed the mandate to become partners in climate protection with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. This will entail a local climate action plan. La Grande Nourricière serves as our inspiration for getting involved in a grassroots response to the climate crisis. We’ve got what it takes! (Vote!)

Ilse Turnsen is from Wakefield and a member of the La Pêche Coalition for a Green New Deal.



Nathalie Coutou spoke to the crowd of volunteers and community members at the ceremony to unveil the finished structure, addressing the importance of Indigenous traditions and rights in the fight to preserve the environment and fight climate change.

Stuart Benson photo



Over 50 residents of Wakefield and Chelsea were in attendance for the unveiling of Marc Walter’s a seven-metre tall sculpture in the shape of a giant tree stump made from harvested cedar branches and twine. The sculpture is expected to remain there for around three years, after which it will return to nature.

Stuart Benson photo

Centraide Outaouais Campaign Launch

Thursday, September 16

Launch at 8:10 a.m. live on 104.7, WOW, Vibe, CHIP and CHGA and on Centraide Outaouais's Facebook page

With Jean-Rock Beaudoin, Campaign Chair
Hosted by professional magician Daniel Coutu

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