



David Graham

Fall 2017



Member of Parliament for Laurentides—Labelle

FROM HERE, FOR HERE

www.davidgraham.ca

david.graham@parl.gc.ca

1-844-750-1650

Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts

80-A, Norbert-Morin blvd J8C 2V8
Phone: 819-326-4724
Fax: 819-326-2008

Mont-Laurier

424, du Pont Street J9L 2R7
Phone: 819-440-3091
Fax: 819-440-3095

Ottawa

672, Confederation Building
House of Commons K1A 0A6
Phone: 613-992-2289
Fax: 613-992-6864

/daviddebgraham

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AT YOUR SERVICE

My team and I are here for you! You are always welcome at one of our **three offices**. Do not hesitate to contact us, to send us your questions or comments about :

- **Guaranteed Income Supplement**
- **Citizenship and Immigration**
- **Employment Insurance**
- **The Canada Pension Plan**
- **Canada Child Benefit**
- **Any other federal file or service**
- **Any community initiatives**

See you soon!

IN THE RIDING

Toward a first recreational centre in Pays-d'en-Haut

The MRC des Pays-d'en-Haut does not have an indoor arena or pool. On July 20, the federal and provincial governments together announced a joint subsidy through the small communities fund of \$21.6 million to build an arena and pool behind the A.-N. Morin secondary school in Sainte-Adèle, in cooperation with the *Commission Scolaire des Laurentides*.

A postal code for Lac-du-Cerf

For many years, the town of Lac-du-Cerf has been asking Canada Post for their own postal code, separate from the one it shares with Notre-Dame-de-Pontmain. We presented the case to the Canada Post Ombudsman's office and Lac-du-Cerf will get its own postal code in November.

Canada Child Benefit

Children are entitled to an equality of opportunity. This is the main reason for the Canada Child Benefit, which was put in place in the summer of 2016 and provides 90% of families with bigger payments than they had before. More than 9,000 families with more than 16,000 children benefit in our riding, representing over \$5 million per month in tax-free benefits to our families.

A WORD FROM DAVID

Dear friends,

As the little bit of summer we managed to eke out of this cool, wet season wraps up in a flurry of corn on the cob, I am headed to Ottawa to take back to my colleagues in Parliament the many things I have learned from talking to you over the last few months. I want to thank you for the overwhelming response to our last newsletter, which focused on Eurasian watermilfoil, and waterway management more generally. Since we sent it, my whole team has learned even more about this important file and our work on protecting our lakes and waterways continues, without hampering the tourism industry that keeps us going.

I have also had the opportunity to tour many of the 158 projects that benefitted from our Canada Summer Jobs program this year. One of our biggest challenges in this region is ensuring opportunities for youth. The recently released 2016 Census shows that our population continues to age, and this guides the priorities of my team of people from here, working for here.



The Mont-Tremblant Regional Aviators Association (AARMT) puts on a Youth in Flight event every September in Mont-Tremblant to introduce children 8 to 14 years old to the world of aviation, with the help of volunteer pilots like David, seen here boarding his passengers in an Aéroloisirs (La Macaza) rental plane. A similar event started this year at PLMG Aviation in Sainte-Anne-du-Lac.

But in this issue, I also want to be a little more light-hearted.

As we explore the Laurentians' role in Canada's history in the context of the 150th anniversary of Confederation, let's take a moment to reflect on the contribution that aviation has made as described in this issue's history column and local map.

The Laurentians have been an important centre of innovation and nation-building for Canada as a whole throughout the past century and a half. Aside from our rich athletic heritage, our deep-rooted implication in the forestry industry, and our healthy contribution to the medical sector

– think of the large number of tuberculosis sanitariums and other rest-cure establishments more than a century ago – the Laurentians is also a high-flying region in the history of aviation as part of the development of our critical tourism industry.

While seaplanes can legally, and do often, land pretty much anywhere a pilot decides is safe, many businesses register specific waterways as aerodromes for commercial purposes, or to ensure their presence on navigational maps. In our riding, there are well over 200 aircraft registered along with 15 aerodromes. There are five with runways for airplanes, including La Macaza/Mont-Tremblant International, five for helicopters, and five seaplane bases. We also have one small aircraft manufacturer and several aviation charter companies, an aircraft mechanic company, and a flying school.

While aviation is important to our region's success, past and future, it still sparks some discussion. For example, the only public airport in the riding is the city-owned one in Mont-Laurier. It is in dire need of a new runway, one of a long list of infrastructure needs in the region. In the centre of the riding, people are concerned about a private tiny airfield for ultralight aircraft planned for Saint-Faustin-Lac-Carré. In the south, the community of Sainte-Anne-des-Lacs has a complaint about noise coming from a parachute-jumping school just outside the riding.

Being a large, rural region, we have a need to innovate. It is not surprising, then, that Canada's first air carrier was born in Saint-Jovite nearly a century ago. As we face tremendous demographic and economic challenges in the region, I have no doubt that the Laurentians' long history of innovation will sustain our track record of leadership for generations to come.



Tapane Aviation manufactures several types of seaplanes in Mont-Saint-Michel. This Levitation 4 is seen here in Sainte-Anne-du-Lac in August, 2015.

David

A TEAM DEDICATED TO THE COMMUNITY

Hugo Paquette Chloée Alary Luc Lefebvre Cristina Lapaz Jules Chiasson Su Lim Lee



DAVID GRAHAM, DÉPUTÉ
LAURENTIDES — LABELLE

Ce bulletin est également disponible en français

CANADA 150 IN LAURENTIDES—LABELLE



CANADA 150

To celebrate the 150th anniversary of Confederation, the Canadian government created the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program (CIP 150), beginning in 2015, with a second phase in 2016. A total of \$64.2 million was reserved for Quebec through the Canada Economic Development Corporation for Quebec Regions (DEC). From this, Laurentides—Labelle received \$1,858,269 in financing for 14 projects relating to public parks, wharves, and community centres.

As a result, Canada has been a major financial partner in improvements to the *Le P'tit Train du Nord* linear park, the *Parc de la Montagne du Diable*, the *Parc du Réservoir Kiamika*, the *Parc Régional du Poisson-Blanc*, the *Centre Touristique et Éducatif des Laurentides*, the Lac-des-Écorces baseball diamond, the Labelle, La Macaza, Saine-Anne-des-Lacs, Notre-Dame-du-Laus, and Kiamika community centres, wharves in Barkmere and Lac-Tremblant-Nord, and the arena in Mont-Tremblant. This program was very popular and the quality of project applications across our riding gave these great results.



Canada 150 Fund: thanks to federal support, dozens of kids participated in a project to paint a mural showing their vision of Canada. The mural will be permanently installed in Mont-Tremblant.

A CONSTITUENCY FULL OF INSPIRING PEOPLE !

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



A delegation from Sainte-Lucie-des-Laurentides, David's hometown, visited Parliament in August. David was honoured to receive them and to join them for their visit and respond to the many questions asked by the 57 interested participants.



Supported by the town of Montcalm, a dynamic seniors' committee (MADA) proposed a new trail next to the community centre, a project which was supported by the federal *New Horizons for Seniors Program*.



Hundreds of families and people in need receive food aid from **La Samaritaine** in Mont-Tremblant. Thank you to the volunteers, staff and clients who work together on this mission!



The **Lac-Saguay Golden Age Club** plays an important role in the vitality of the local community thanks to the active involvement of seniors. In the past few years, the club has upgraded their community hall under the old church to benefit the community with funding from the federal *New Horizons for Seniors Program*.

The *Fondation Médicale des Laurentides et des Pays-d'en-Haut* improves and supports the health and well-being of the population through the acquisition and modernisation of medical equipment.

A part of their financing comes from their thrift shop, **Les Trésors de la Fondation**, in the old Fatima church in Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts, thanks to the work of people such as the staff in this photo.



Surpassing oneself for a cause: the motivation for Stéphanie Charest who, with the support of Michel Bélanger and the volunteers of **Castors des Pays-d'en-Haut**, is raising funds to participate in the *Me for You* race of the *Foundation of Stars* who do research on childhood diseases to help our kids grow up healthy.



Every day, **hundreds of municipal employees** work hard for the 43 municipalities in the riding. On June 10th, Piedmont said thank you to *Gilbert Aubin* for his 50 years of service as the town's Director General. We wish him a great retirement.



Thank you to all those who help and support organisations like **Le Prisme** in Mont-Laurier in the service of disabled children and their fulfillment.



The participation of volunteers is essential to the success of our communities.

At the Lantier village festival, *Joanne Lamarre* and *Roxanne Boyer* were on hand to receive residents and visitors coming to have fun.

KNOWING OUR REGION: *The Laurentians Take Flight*

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!

The First Air Carrier in Canada

Did you know that our riding has always been in the forefront of rural aviation and boasts the first commercial air carrier in Canada? Two men, Hervé Saint-Martin and Tom Wheeler, started Laurentian Air Services in the early 1920s.

In February 1922, Saint-Martin was the first pilot to complete a winter flight to James Bay. His plane was an *Avro 504K* with an open cockpit. He was one of the best pilots of his time and together he and Wheeler organised a service that carried tourists to hunting and fishing lodges within reach of Lac Ouimet in Saint-Jovite.



CF-AQB, Hervé Saint-Martin's Junkers W.33f is seen in front of Gray Rocks hotel in the 1930s.
Photo: Société du patrimoine SOPABIC.

Saint-Martin had served in the air force in Europe and Wheeler served in the U.S. Army Air Corps but the Armistice ending the war was signed before his active duty.

Wheeler had acquired the *Avro 504K* in 1921, and they subsequently purchased a *Curtiss JN-4* biplane. It was not designed for water, so Saint-Martin reconditioned a *Curtiss Seagull* to reach destinations on lakes. The *Curtis Seagull* was a flying boat first manufactured in 1919. The hull was made from mahogany plywood veneer over a wood frame. It was just shy of 29 feet (8.8m) in length and had a wingspan of 50 feet (15m). It could accommodate three people and cruised at 60 mph (100 km/h) over the treetops. Its brown stained hull and open deck topped with a pusher engine (prop facing the stern) gave it the look and even the feel of a boat rather than a plane.



Laurentian Air Services became Air Gray Rocks.
Photo: Société du patrimoine SOPABIC.

From this auspicious beginning, Laurentian Air Services morphed into Gray Rocks Air Service, acquired a fleet of bush planes and eventually registered as Wheeler Airlines.

Ever the aviator, Saint-Martin went on to monitoring flights over the St. Lawrence, spying out bootleggers over the Gulf from an air base in Rimouski and pioneering airmail with Canadian Airways. Operating Saint-Martin Air Services out of Lac Saint-Jean, he had only one phobia: he had to be the pilot and would not accept to be a passenger. In 1939, filming a herd of caribou while leaving the controls to his student co-pilot, he died when the student lost control of the plane.



Wheeler Airlines Douglas C-47 Skytrain, CF-IQF; photographed by George Trussel at Montreal's Dorval Airport on November 4, 1957.
Photo used with permission

Stuart Graham (no relation to David), Saint-Martin's close friend, recovered the film and used it to establish the facts that had led to the crash. Graham was Canada's first bush pilot. In June 1919, he delivered a *Curtiss HS-2L Flying Boat, La Vigilance*, from Halifax to Lac-à-la-Tortue near Grand-Mère. He, his wife Madge, and the mechanic, Bill Kahre, touched down to great fanfare at towns across Eastern Canada en route to Grand-Mère. They sat single-file but Madge had strung a clothesline to send messages back and forth between them. They spent their next year monitoring fires, experimenting with aerial photography using an Eastman K1 aerial camera and flying two prospectors into the bush. Like many of the early pilots, they moved on to other adventures the next year and Laurentian Air Services took over their interests.



Consolidated PB5A Canso #9837, Canadian registration CF-DFB, served with Wheeler Airlines in St-Jovite from 1965 to 1970. It is now on display in Botwood, Newfoundland after serving as a firefighting aircraft for the Newfoundland & Labrador government.
Photo: David Graham

By 1946, Laurentian Air Services had become Wheeler Airlines and flew *DC-3s*, *DC-4s*, *Curtiss C-46s* and *Canso* amphibious aircraft. It was one of the largest bush operators in Canada, was a supplier to the construction of the DEW Line and had flights that crossed the Atlantic. The airline became a part of Nordair in 1964, which in turn eventually became part of Air Canada.

The role of aviation in the Laurentians is still very much with us to this day.

Joseph Graham

Background image: Lac-Ouimet and Wheeler Field seen from the air. Photo: Guislain Baudelet

OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR YOUTH!

During his summer tour of the riding, David had the pleasure of meeting many of the students hired through the Canada Summer Jobs 2017 program. He spoke to many motivated youth, curious to learn and proud to work at home to increase their sense of belonging in our region.

This summer, thanks to a federal investment in excess of \$540,000 in Laurentides—labelle, 158 organisations, municipalities, and businesses were able to offer 201 jobs within the Canada Summer Jobs program.

Thank you to all the employers who, with or without this program, have confidence in and share their know-how with the youth of our region by offering this enriching experience. And **thank you** to all the students and dynamic youth for their participation in the success and vitality of our region!



At the Régie Intermunicipale des Déchets de la Rouge, Claudie, Élizabeth, Laurence and Mikellane traveled the region going door-to-door to raise awareness about the correct ways to sort domestic waste.



Experience gained with youth and clients of the **Maison de la famille du Nord** in Mont-Tremblant is enriching and rewarding, motivating us for the future, as attested by Rose and Audrey.



The **Ste-Agathe-des-Monts sailing school** counts on many students during the summer like Antoine to pass on their passion for sailing and the water.



Clients and residents of **L'Échelon des Pays-d'en-Haut** benefitted from the professionalism of Jade.



The **Youth Services Cooperative** in Mont-Laurier, a Zone-Emploi project for adolescents, in the spirit of enterprise and cooperation, is coached by Laurie-Anne and Gabrielle.

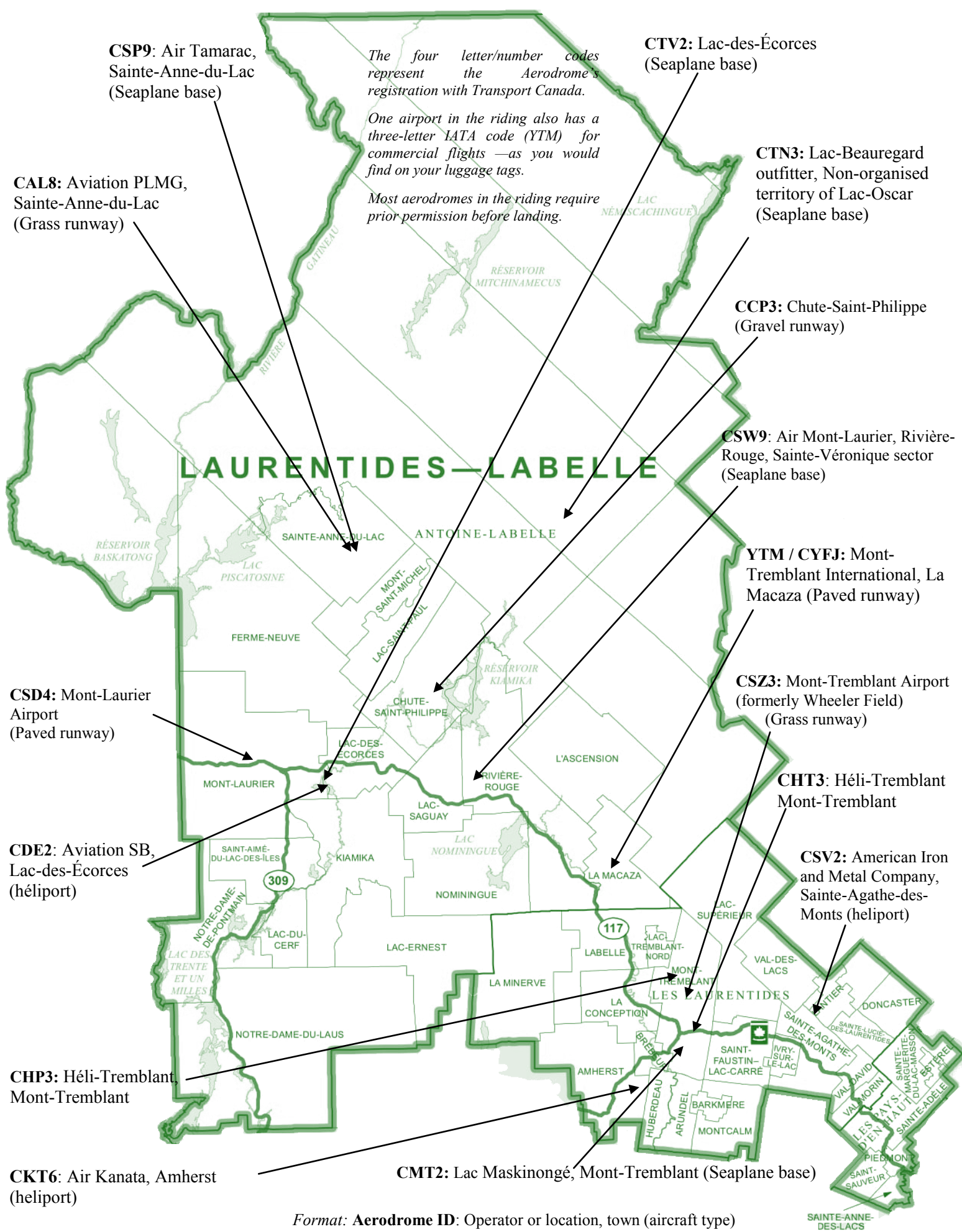
SERVICE CANADA AND LOCAL PASSPORT SERVICE

Service Canada offers numerous services in their locations in Mont-Laurier (431 de la Madone) and Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts (118-B rue Principale). These offices have recently added passport service to the services provided, including both dropping off the application and picking up the completed passport when it is ready. Note that this is only for regular, and not urgent, requests.

Service Canada also has two itinerant offices, one in Notre-Dame-du-Laus at the town library (4 de l'Église), and one in Rivière-Rouge, also at the town library (230 de l'Annonciation South), which offer limited and occasional services one or two days per month.



AERODROMES IN THE RIDING



2016 CENSUS: PERMANENT RESIDENTS IN OUR MUNICIPALITIES

MRC Antoine-Labelle	35243
Chute-Saint-Philippe	942
Ferme-Neuve	2706
Kiamika	757
L'Ascension	791
La Macaza	1150
Lac-des-Écorces	2734
Lac-du-Cerf	435
Lac-Saguay	459
Lac-Saint-Paul	481
Mont-Laurier	14116
Mont-Saint-Michel	503
Nominingue	2137
Notre-Dame-de-Pontmain	782
Notre-Dame-du-Laus	1558
Rivière-Rouge	4322
Saint-Aimé-du-Lac-des-Îles	790
Sainte-Anne-du-Lac	575
MRC des Laurentides	45902
Amherst	1484
Arundel	563
Barkmere	58
Brébeuf	976
Huberdeau	868
Ivry-sur-le-Lac	387
La Conception	1337
La Minerve	1205
Labelle	2477
Lac-Supérieur	1888
Lac-Tremblant-Nord	42
Lantier	834
Montcalm	628
Mont-Tremblant	9646
Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts	10223
Sainte-Lucie-des-Laurentides	1256
Saint-Faustin—Lac-Carré	3499
Val-David	4917
Val-des-Lacs	744
Val-Morin	2870
MRC les Pays-d'en-Haut*	41877
Estérel	196
Piedmont	2950
Sainte-Adèle	12919
Sainte-Anne-des-Lacs	3611
Sainte-Marguerite-du-Lac-Masson	2763
Saint-Sauveur	10231

* Includes residents of Saint-Adolphe-d'Howard, Morin-Heights, Lac-des-Seize-Îles, and Wentworth-North, which are not in Laurentides-Labelle

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Town: _____
 Postal Code: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____

What information would you like to see in future editions? Do you have particular historical topics about our region that you would like to learn about?

General comments:

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

No stamp required

DAVID GRAHAM, MP
672 Confederation Building
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

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:

David Graham, MP