

David Graham

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FROM HERE, FOR HERE



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No stamp is needed to send mail to any federal Member of Parliament

AT YOUR SERVICE

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

There are many ways we can help:

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

We are also available to help citizens connect with the government, support **community initiatives**, and celebrate special anniversaries and civic acts or honorable mentions.

See you soon!

Passport services in Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts

Service Canada in Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts (118 Principale Street East) is now a "receiving agent" for passports, providing easier access to passport services in the region in person, although the service offered is not for urgent requests or exceptional cases.

Tax season

Your tax filing deadline is **April 30th**.

Benefits such as the *Canada Child Benefit* and the *Guaranteed Income Supplement* as well as **tax credits** are calculated based on your tax return. Even if you did not make any money in the past year, you should still file your tax return.

We can help connect you to local organisations that assist citizens of modest means with filing their taxes.

A WORD FROM DAVID

Dear Friends,

As we mark the 150th anniversary of Canada's confederation this year, I want to take a moment to look back into the history of our region and ask an important question: *how have the Laurentians influenced Canada's history?* While we celebrate Canada's role here, I believe there is just as much to celebrate in our role in Canada.

Mont-Tremblant resident Erik Guay's recent world-championship win in the Super-G alpine ski race in Saint-Moritz is an achievement to be celebrated, being the first Canadian to bring home this title. Erik is the most recent of an impressive list of victorious athletes that represent our region, including others such as Jasey-Jay Anderson, Mélanie Turgeon, Peter Duncan, Lucille Wheeler and my grandmother Pat Paré, who was a world-class ski champion in the 1940s.

And who can forget Emile Cochand, who became our first professional ski teacher in 1911, and Norwegian native Herman Smith-Johannsen, dubbed "Jackrabbit" by the Cree in 1903. Associated with the Maple Leaf Trail, which he mapped and named, he was an icon promoting cross-country skiing until his death in 1987 at 111 years of age. He is one of the best-known promoters of skiing on the continent, something anyone who has used the Linear Park or any of the thousands of kilometres of ski trails in the Laurentians will no doubt appreciate.

So strong is our influence in skiing that the Laurentian Ski Museum lists over 100 people in their *Hall of Fame*. It is thus fitting that the Canadian Ski Museum would like to complement our local community's recognition of our skiing heritage as the institution seeks to move to Mont-Tremblant.

When it comes to culture, several artists from the Laurentians have brought our region wider recognition. Francine Ouellette, who resides in Saint-Aimé-du-Lac-des-Îles and wrote famous novels such as *Au nom du père et du fils*, *Le Sorcier*, and the *Feu* series, is an excellent example, and the words of *Le plus beau voyage* (1972) by songwriter Claude Gauthier, a native of Lac-Saguy, are the origin of the slogan of the MRC of Antoine-Labelle: ***I am of lakes and rivers.***

On the international stage, Bobby Bazini, the singer from Mont-Laurier, has been performing for nearly 10 years and has sold millions of albums in over 40 countries. Since his victory at *La Voix* (2015), his brother Kevin Bazinet has become an authentic and charismatic ambassador for our region. One of the best-known citizens of Ferme-Neuve, Yoan Garneau, winner of *La Voix* (2014), is bringing country music to the rest of the country.

Former Sainte-Adèle mayor and journalist Claude-Henri Grignon, author of the legendary TV program *Les Belles Histoires des Pays-d'en-Haut*, and member of the Order of Canada (1969), is recognised to this day by many Quebeckers as one of our pre-eminent novelists. Like him, many local politicians have had a strong influence on our country. This is the subject of this issue's history column on the next page.

Our region is also renowned for many other reasons: our lumber, our landscapes present in numerous movies, our outfitters, our recreational trails, our multitude of sporting events and our many festivals. If the past is any indication, our future is very promising. I know that the Laurentians' influence in our country will only increase over the next 150 years and that we will continue to be able to be proud of our role within Canada.

David

DAVID GRAHAM, DÉPUTÉ
LAURENTIDES — LABELLE

Ce bulletin est également disponible en français



A TEAM DEDICATED TO THE COMMUNITY

**Cristina Lapaz - David Graham - Chloée Alary -
Hugo Paquette - Rebecca Matar - Luc Lefebvre**



MANITOU FESTIVAL : Celebrating Aboriginal Cultures

From July 14th to 16th, as part of Canada's 150th anniversary, Domaine Saint-Bernard in Mont-Tremblant, in partnership with DestiNATIONS, will celebrate the legacy of the indigenous peoples of Canada. These festivities, supported by the federal government to the tune of \$78,350, aim to promote the richness and diversity of our indigenous cultures. The program will include a large outdoor concert, musical performances, dance, traditional artistic practices, workshops, conferences, and animation.

Marie-Josée Parent, executive director of DestiNATIONS; Amelia Puddifer, executive director of Domaine Saint-Bernard; David Graham, MP for Laurentides—Labelle; Guy Vincent, president of the Domaine Saint-Bernard Trust; and François Marcoux, Mont-Tremblant city councillor.

A CONSTITUENCY FULL OF INSPIRING PEOPLE!

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



Image courtesy of Tornade Jeunesse

In the region, Mont-Tremblant's Tornade Jeunesse youth centre (photo), as well as youth centres in Sainte-Adèle and Mont-Laurier, and the Méandre School Foundation in Rivière-Rouge, partnered with Operation Red Nose in November and December. I had the pleasure of accompanying other volunteers for full shifts in all four zones. Three cheers for the dedicated organizers and volunteers, for the support of the partners, and the wisdom of those who used the service!

Always a pleasure to welcome visitors to Parliament. A group from Habitations Antoine-Labelle of Mont-Laurier came to Ottawa in October. Thank you to Mrs. Nicole Constantineau who organised this visit.



Les Dames de cœur held a fundraiser at the Val-des-Lacs skating rink on February 4th to raise funds for Relay for Life. They embody the gift of self and hope in the fight against cancer. Hats off to all those who are involved in the 2017 edition of the Relay for Life in our riding in:

Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts (May 26th)
Lac-des-Écorces (June 2nd)
Mont-Tremblant (June 9th)



The Laurentians have 22 snowmobile clubs that maintain more than 2,500 km of trails. The contribution of hundreds of volunteers is essential to their success. At Club Amico de Notre-Dame-du-Laus, Mr. Attilio Somma is passionately involved. He led the drive for federal help in the purchase of this new snow grooming machine.



What a great example of collective solidarity during the United Way Gatineau-Labelle-Hautes-Laurentides Community Lunches programme. The enthusiasm of the volunteers cannot be overstated, as seen here in Nominigüe on February 5th.



The Polyvalente-des-Monts has its student parliament, chaired by school Prime Minister Alexandre Milette-Gagnon and coached by Réjean Bondu. Youth engagement is paramount to the future health of our democracy. Congratulations to the new generation for their active involvement!



Thank you to the volunteers of Saint-Vincent-de-Paul in Mont-Laurier for your dedication to the less fortunate in our community!

KNOWING OUR REGION *OR* HOW THE LAURENTIANS HELPED DEFINE CANADA

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 the election of 1841, our riding was part of two large ridings: *Township of Ottawa* in what is now *Antoine-Labelle* and *Laurentides*, and *Terrebonne* in what is now *Pays-d'en-Haut*. Governor Charles Poulett Thomson established the Terrebonne riding polling station outside of the town of New Glasgow, known today as Sainte-Sophie. If he could unite the two colonies of Upper and Lower Canada and stop representative government, he had been promised a baronetcy. He was cherry-picking his supporters to fill the first House of Assembly in the United Province of Canada. He did not want Louis-Hippolyte Lafontaine, who had made it clear that the Assembly had to be bilingual.

In those days there were no secret ballots and the elections happened over an extended period across the country. Lafontaine, a *Patriote* who had represented Terrebonne from 1830, had partnered with Robert Baldwin of York (Toronto), intent on capturing a majority in the election and thereby control of the Assembly, which would force the governor to name Lafontaine's choice of cabinet.

On that March night in 1841, though, as Lafontaine and his supporters trudged through the deep snow to the remote polling booth, he saw the game. A large group of English rowdies were baiting the voters. His people prepared for a battle. It had already happened in three locations around Montreal and three others in Canada West. Suddenly the military would appear, shooting. People had been killed and there was no justice before the court, stacked as it was by the same governor.



Augustin-Norbert Morin
photo: J.E. Livernois

To avoid more needless deaths, Lafontaine publicly withdrew his candidacy in Terrebonne and calmed his supporters. They left without voting and without a fight, but they cheered when they learned that Governor Thomson had fallen from his horse and had died in agony with lock-jaw long before the election was over.

Robert Baldwin's father stepped down from York riding # 4 in favour of Lafontaine, who had the opportunity to return the favour when Baldwin was blocked in his turn. In the next election, Baldwin won in Rimouski. It took until 1848 for their centre coalition to control the Assembly, and Louis-Hippolyte Lafontaine then became the first prime minister of the United Canadas.

Lafontaine was not the only high-profile politician associated with our riding. Augustin-Norbert Morin, creator of the newspaper *La Minerve*, founded *les Cantons du Nord*, what we today call the Laurentians. He represented the riding of Bellechasse as Lafontaine's right-hand man, co-wrote our civil code and succeeded Lafontaine as prime minister. He is commemorated in place names across the region such as the high school bearing his name in Sainte-Adèle, the town in turn named for his wife, and the towns of Val-Morin and Morin-Heights.

Henri Bourassa, founder of *Le Devoir*, represented the riding of Labelle for the Liberals in 1896, becoming the youngest Member of Parliament in his day. Louis-Athanase David represented Terrebonne in Quebec for six consecutive terms. He was the creator of a literary and science prize that became *Le Prix David*, which in turn became part of *Le Prix du Québec*, and the small town of Belisle's Mill changed its name to Val-David in his honour, a town which retains a rich cultural heritage.

Lest we forget, Wilfrid Laurier of St. Lin battled the power of the Catholic Church and became one of our greatest prime ministers. He is commemorated in the naming of Mont-Laurier, our largest town.

- Joseph Graham



SIR LOUIS H. LAFONTAINE.

Image: William Notman

SUGGEST A DESERVING CITIZEN



CANADA 150

As part of the 150th anniversary celebrations of Confederation, each Member of Parliament will be able to recognise the contribution of members of the local community to the development of our country. In each of the constituencies of Canada, **20 Sesquicentennial Medals** will be awarded. These medals are inspired by the Canada 150 logo, as pictured on the left, and will be engraved on a piece of the roof of the Parliament Building, which is currently under renovation.

Of the 103,587 citizens who reside in Laurentides-Labelle, **who do you think should receive this medal and why?** You can use the space on the back of this card to answer the question.

My team and I will study all the recommendations you make. We will announce the recipients later this year.

Results of the last consultation (sent fall 2016) in brief:

- 71.0% believe that highways 15 and 117 need to be expanded
- 48.4% believe that the train should return to the region
- 41.9% want to see improvements to public transit
- 33.9% say that Internet access infrastructure is paramount
- 29.0% want to increase car-pooling or other more environmental solutions (often suggested, for example, adding a network of charging stations for electric vehicles)

Note: To ensure that the nomination you send is considered, please provide your complete contact information. Self-nominations will not be accepted, and nominators are encouraged not to inform those whom they have nominated.

