

Rural Newsletter



Centre local de développement

A NEWSLETTER FOR MUNICIPALITIES, LOCAL PARTNERS
AND THE GENERAL PONTIAC POPULATION

Year 1, #4

Fall 2009

As this year ends, a new one begins!

The CLD Rural Team is thrilled to bring you this fall edition of the Rural Newsletter.

With the major part of 2009 behind us, 2010 is fast approaching! Pontiac continued to feel the effects of the economic crisis, but did not rest on its laurels. Several steps were taken, both on the economic and social fronts, and all agree that we are now in a better position compared to last year. A lot is happening in our MRC.

Proof of this vitality is the long-term project Pontiac Vision 2020, a strategic plan leading up to year 2020 to revitalize Pontiac. It has drawn the attention of local residents and other regional actors. Seven meetings were held in 2009 and were well attended, as they provided opportunities for people to voice their opinions and ideas.

During the municipal elections this fall, Pontiac residents showed their willingness to engage in the revival process. With a near 74% participation rate (compared to 39% in Gatineau), we can be proud of having gone out to vote in such large numbers. Elected officials, new and re-elected, will have to listen to their constituents, who obviously want to be heard and understood.

It is safe to say that 2010 will not be a dull year!

Happy Holidays to everyone and we hope that you enjoy this Newsletter.

The Rural Team

Call for projects: Rural Pact

ELIGIBLE PROMOTORS:

- Non-profit registered organizations;
- Municipalities, MRC, municipal bodies;
- Non-financial Cooperative.

ORIENTATIONS FOR 2010-2011:

- Population challenge and youth;
- Economic diversification: forestry, agriculture, tourism, technology;
- Leisure, culture and community life.

ELIGIBLE EXPENSES:

- Wages and fees (new projects);
- Professional fees;
- Capital expenses;
- Software, patents.

Presentation deadline: February 15, 2010

For more information:

Go to our website (www.cldpontiac.qc.ca)
or contact Mélanie Pieschke (see p.4)

Pontiac Vision 2020

On Saturday, October 3, 2009, the Pontiac Vision 2020 Forum drew over 100 individuals at both the forum and workshops.

Several comments were received on orientations and projects that we should take over the next few years. Five workshops were held simultaneously in the afternoon on the following topics: Tourism; Culture, Social and Community; Business and Industry; Forests and Natural Environments; Agriculture and Agri-Food.

A summary of the Pontiac Vision 2020 meetings can be found on the Pontiac MRC website (www.mrcpontiac.qc.ca).

The final action plan, inspired from these orientations and projects, is being developed in conjunction with citizen committees and local stakeholders.

For information: contact Bernhardt Beaudry (see p.4)

Summary:

- RURAL PACT 2010
- NEWS ABOUT ONGOING RURAL PACT PROJECTS
- 2009 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

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Pacte rural
2007-2014

Rural Newsletter

« PONTIAC MRC
HAD A TOTAL OF
4,300 FAMILIES »

Famille et Aînés
Québec

Family Policy in the Pontiac

What do you know about families in the Pontiac?

That is the first question Pontiac MRC and the seven participating municipalities will have to answer in defining the scope of the Family Policy Project.

The municipalities of Bryson, Campbell's Bay, Fort-Coulonge, Mansfield-et-Pontefract, L'Isle-aux-

Allumettes, Shawville and Thorne were tasked with naming a representative to work with the MRC family policy coordinator, Ariann Bouchard, in contacting families to determine their needs as they apply to municipal jurisdictions.

According to data from the latest Statistics Canada Census, Pontiac MRC had a total of 4,300 families.

Information: Ariann Bouchard, 819 648-5689 (132), pfmp2010@hotmail.com

Elected Officials Rural Tour

On November 24, 2009, a group of 39 elected officials and director generals, and a dozen of local stakeholders took part in a MRC Tour, organized by the CLD Rural Team. The purpose of the tour was to provide officials with the opportunity to visit newly opened, developing and lesser known locations. Between locations, several presentations were made inside the bus on topics like Cultural Animation, Family Policy, Rural Pact, Vision 2020, support for challenged municipalities...

The bus left Campbell's Bay and headed for the School of Arts in Portage-du-Fort. After, it traveled to Shawville: municipal library, Café 349, Armstrong Heritage Farm and the future slaughterhouse location.

The bus headed for Otter Lake and stopped at The Barn, a barn hall hosting modern dance performances.

The group went to Ferme Livamia, in Mansfield-et-Pontefract, for a taste of red deer and bison (buffalo). Two presentations were made at this location: one on the Main Streets Program and the other on Québec en Forme.

The day ended with a tour of the Bryson House before heading back to Campbell's Bay.

This Rural Team initiative provided Pontiac officials with the opportunity to discover new locations and learn more about the services provided by the CLD and MRC.

Pontiac Tourism

The mission of the Pontiac Tourism Association is to reach out and support members by promoting their development, activities and tourism with a focus on building and supporting the development of Pontiac as a tourist area.

With Association membership nearing the 30 mark, the 2010 recruitment campaign will soon be launched.

Membership benefits, for entrepreneurs and other players with an interest in tourism, are:

- Getting to know Pontiac tourism actors and entrepreneurs and working along with them;
- Having regional and national representation;
- Getting access to privileged information on tourism and funding sources;
- Networking;
- Having access to advertising and promotion campaigns on a cost-share basis;
- Being promoted through the tourism office and information service locations.

All the association governing boards are public, so you are welcome.

For more information or to become a member, contact the association at:

association@tourisme-pontiac.com
819 683-3241 or 819 648-5422



Some participants of this tour in the exhibition hall of the School of Arts



Tedd Robinson
The Barn
in Otter Lake



New restaurant in Mansfield:
Ferme Livamia, Lac à la Truite rd.



Participants of this tour in front of the George Bryson House

Bouffe Pontiac, county-wide food access

Bouffe Pontiac is an organization that received funds through the Rural Pact in 2009.

The mission of this organization is to offer anyone in need access to healthy food and information that can improve their quality of life. In other words, Bouffe Pontiac is a community support organization. It was officially launched

on June 13, 2006, with the support and contribution of several partners.

The following services are offered by Bouffe Pontiac: emergency food supply, shop-sharing, community kitchen, community garden, coffee meetings, training sessions and workshops and a large media food-drive campaign during the Holiday season.

The target clientele is: people without income, without social security or with low income, unemployed or receiving some form of pension. No reference is necessary to use the services of Bouffe Pontiac, just call us, send an e-mail or drop by our new office at 2 Elsie Street, in Campbell's Bay.

All through the year, and especially during the Holiday season, Bouffe Pontiac accepts money and food donations to ensure the continuity of their services.



To make a donation and/or to become a volunteer, contact: Ellen Boucher (director) or Denise Laroche (worker) 2 Elsie Street, Campbell's Bay - 819 648-2550 - bouffepontiac@yahoo.fr

Fort-Coulonge and Mansfield-et-Pontefract turn on the charm!

On December 4, 5 and 6, local merchants and artists at 2009, signer Isabelle Boulay and host of the television show *La Petite Séduction*, Dany Turcotte, were literally charmed and somewhat "seduced" by the beauty and warmth of both Fort-Coulonge and Mansfield-et-Pontefract. They were brought to visit the Coulonge Chutes, lighted up for them, they crossed the Marchand Bridge in a horse carriage (Ranch RS), they mingled with

the Bryson House Christmas Market and were serenaded in the St-Pierre Church. The pair also celebrated Christmas at the Lynn Theatre with the Dyelle, Mousseau and Romain families, they decorated a classroom at St-Pierre school and were treated to an amazing Christmas story at the Spruceholme Inn, located on Principale street in Fort-Coulonge.

All these places have been seen on television by more than one million viewers. Fort Coulonge and Mansfield-et-Pontefract have managed together to seduce Isabelle Boulay, but also several other people throughout Quebec!

Congratulations to those who worked together in the making and execution of this wonderful show!



Joanne Marion, from Fort-Coulonge, welcomes Isabelle Boulay and Dany Turcotte at a Christmas market set-up for the event at Bryson House

The main organizer: Agathe Vergne (Main Streets Foundation), 819 683-1632, avergne@ciril.qc.ca

The Pontiac Community Development Corporation

The Pontiac Community Development Corporation (PCDC) just received confirmation from the Ministry of Employment and Social Solidarity that it will receive funding for the next three years. Pontiac Community organizations will be able to rely on the PCDC to represent them locally and regionally and to organize certain events.

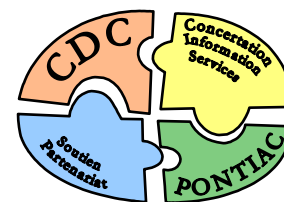
In fact, on October 26, the PCDC in cooperation with

Centraide Outaouais, held a training session on the roles and responsibilities of a board of directors. A dozen community organizations attended the meeting. Moreover, during the year 2010, the Corporation will offer a workshop entitled *Stratégies pour une défense communautaire des droits* through its partnership with the *Commission des droits de la personne et de la jeunesse du Québec*.

The PCDC has successfully completed its Service Agreement with the Cooperative Draveurs Fort-Coulonge and will soon get the funds they have long been waiting for to renovate the arena.

Finally, a new website was created to introduce the Corporation, upcoming activities and the members.

Visit www.cdcpontiac.com



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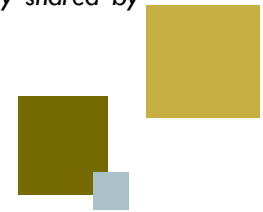
Mission:

Through its development initiatives, the CLD helps to bolster partnerships in the municipal sector, the business community and other areas and gives new impetus to local development.

By assuming this pivotal role in the Pontiac economy, the CLD encourages community empowerment in taking responsibility for development through the dynamic forces available and gives effect to a new model of decision-making authority shared by government and the community.

Mandate:

- Project support
- Multi-Service Outlet for entrepreneurship
- Foster partnerships
- Local development action plan



Visit our website:
www.cldpontiac.qc.ca



This quarterly newsletter is made possible by the Pontiac CLD Rural Team.

Produced by: B. Beaudry

Buy local

During the Holiday Season, we celebrate love and joy, we offer gifts to people we like and we all gather around the table with family and friends for a delicious meal!

We are very fortunate to live in the Pontiac area, with its breathtaking white landscapes, and to have the opportunity to celebrate in such a wonderful place.

Pontiac CLD members would like to wish you a happy Holiday season and remind you that it is important for our economy, and for our spirits, to shop locally.

You will find gifts of all kinds in Pontiac. You can go and have breakfast in a local restaurant, find locally crafted products and taste high-quality local offerings. Yours to enjoy!

Municipal Elections 2009

The municipal elections in Pontiac MRC were quite interesting and particular for three reasons.

1. First, we had a very large number of candidates: 203 individuals competed out of a possible 126 seats. Of these, 34 candidates wanted the position of mayor, out of 18 openings. This shows that there was strong opposition during the elections and a desire for change within municipalities. People were willing to participate and took an interest in municipal affairs.

2. Second, a significant number of new candidates got elected (some without opposition). Nearly half of

the current officials are new, reflecting the population's willingness for change. Note also that 11 of our 18 mayors are newly elected. The MRC mayor's council and the CLD board of directors have several new faces, with new directions and ideas.

3. Finally, almost 75% of Pontiac citizens went out to vote, an example of citizen participation and democracy for Quebec as a whole, and especially to cities. Québec City had a turnout of 48.5%; Montréal was under 40%, as was our neighbour Gatineau, with 39.4%. Pontiac and its citizens can be proud of this exemplary participation rate!

