

THE LowDown

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TO HULL & BACK NEWS

THE ONLY PAPER SERVING ONLY THE GATINEAU HILLS SINCE 1973

Home invasion turns violent

By Ben Bulmer

A violent home invasion left a 52-year-old Masham man hospitalized following an assault on the evening of Apr. 8. Marcel Tasse was tied up and severely beaten in his home at the Domaine des Bons Vivants campsite in Masham. MRC des Collines Police spokesperson Martin Fournel said Tasse tried to fight off the three individuals who later fled, taking Tasse's pick-up truck. The attack happened at around 9:20 p.m., with a 911 call coming through at 10:20 p.m. Tasse managed to free himself to call emergency services and was taken to the Wakefield Hospital with non-life threatening injuries. Fournel said police do not think the motive was theft, although they hadn't ruled this out. Fournel said Tasse did not know any of his attackers. Sûreté Du Québec police dogs were called in and an extensive search of the grounds was conducted.

The suspects are described as: white, French-speaking male, around 55 years old, 1.75

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Don't bug out... Dig in.



Two billion people around the world consume insects on the regular, says Laura Shine. Could bugs take centre-stage on our plates in the not-so-distant future? Turn to page 12 for our story on one Chelseaite's take on this growing foreign food trend. Photo Tess Allen

La Pêche gets its own trail trial

By Ben Bulmer

If you thought Chelsea was the only place in the Hills with trail issues, think again. La Pêche has its own trail tribulations, leaving a lot more unanswered questions

than there are answers.

La Pêche council committed \$70,000 in this year's budget to complete the final section of the Trans Canada Trail in La Pêche, a roughly four-kilometre section that will run on the west side of the Gatineau River from where

the Farrelton bridge meets Hwy 105 to the border with the Municipality of Low, passing through three privately owned properties.

Carolyn Kelly and her husband, Mark Boyd, farm at 1810 Hwy 105 and are unhappy with

the lack of information they've received as to exactly where the trail will go through their land. Kelly's parents live in the house on the site, while Kelly and Boyd use the land for farming.

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WORST JOKE OF THE WEEK

Question: Who did Noah hire to build his boat?

Answer: An arkitekt.

Famed architect bringing vision to W'field

By Tess Allen

Every time Christopher Minnes walks into Gatineau's Canadian Museum of History, he is "lifted up and inspired" by the building's unique composition.

Minnes hopes to achieve that same breathtaking quality in Wakefield by partnering with world-renowned Aboriginal architect Douglas Cardinal, who will be the key planner for his proposed Ferme Minnes Farm Eco Echo housing development.

"To find someone of Douglas Cardinal's calibre and intuition is a great privilege for Wakefield," said Minnes of the man who is known internationally for his architectural innovation, which focuses on sustainability, green buildings, and ecologically

designed community planning. It's a philosophy Cardinal fully intends to bring to Wakefield.

"I've always been preoccupied by designing sustainable buildings that work in

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Douglas Cardinal bagged for Eco Echo



One of Douglas Cardinal's most celebrated works is Gatineau's Canadian Museum of History. Chris Minnes of Ferme Minnes Farm hopes to bring Cardinal's unique vision to the proposed Minnes residential development just south of Valley Drive. Photo courtesy of Creative Commons

harmony with the environment," Cardinal told The Low Down. "We want to do it the way it should be done. Let's be concerned about the beauty of the land, its contours and assets...So we can develop a healthy house in an environment where people can connect with each other and nature."

While some of Cardinal's most iconic works include the Canadian Museum of History,

the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C., and the Alberta Government Services Building in Ponoka, AB, he now pours much of his energy into the Douglas Cardinal Housing Corporation, a collaboration between Cardinal and the Aboriginal finance company, The Usand Group. The company works with Aboriginal communities to provide environmentally and sustainably sen-

sitive housing solutions that consider Aboriginal needs and interests.

Cardinal's approach turned out to coincide perfectly with Minnes's vision for the proposed Minnes residential development just south of Valley Drive. The project, pending municipal approval, will allow for an "environmentally responsible and liveable community of residents" that will be adjacent to the existing 40-acre non-profit Outaouais Environmental Campus (Eco Echo), which is at the heart of the 160-acre property. The develop-

ment is being billed as a "farm centred residential community...including proximity services, recreation parks, a network of trails and bike paths, and protected green space."

"Doug's sensibility is very attuned to the way the land wants to be used, to the carrying capacity of the land, the respect of what is there," said Minnes. "How nice that we've been able to attract someone of his calibre to really leave a lasting gift to our community and inspire other communities to think differently about preserving the land while becoming an asset and a resource to a shared landscape."

Cardinal's vision for the space includes houses designed with energy-efficient cross laminated timber built in clusters to foster a greater sense of community among residents.

"Why not create a cluster where families can enjoy having their children play together...but have enough space so that you create a really nice natural environment?" said Cardinal. "If you cluster the houses into little communities, then you have more open space that can be used for trees and gardens and orchards."

Cardinal, along with the Ferme Minnes Farm's team and developers Versant Riverside, will present the plans for the development at an informal public consultation on Earth Day, April 22, from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at Centre Wakefield La Pêche.

Tied up and beaten at home



Fifty-two-year-old Masham resident Marcel Tasse was beaten in a violent home invasion on April 8. Photo courtesy of Facebook

metres in height and weighing 73 kg; white, French-speaking male, 20 to 25 years old, 1.65 metres in height and weighing 59 kg; a third man was involved but police can not provide a physical description. Police are appealing for details about the stolen pick-up truck, a black, 2004 Ford F-150 with a box. The vehicle has a cracked windshield, lateral tinted windows, and some damage on the left rear end. It is licensed in Quebec with the plate number E74 HSN.

Police are also appealing to anyone who may have seen a man hitchhiking on Hwy 366 West at around 11 p.m. on Apr. 8 who was looking for a ride to Ottawa. He is described as a French-speaking white male, around 1.67 metres in height, and has blue eyes and a grey or white moustache. He was wearing a green coat with fur on the hood and green pants.

Anyone with information is asked to call 819-459-9911.

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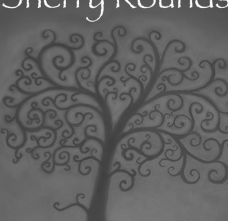
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