

# Village Nordik returns with trout for all



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One of the wonders of winter is ice. Ice normally creates a challenge for fishing, but not at the Village Nordik at Louise Basin. Until March 10, residents and visitors can catch their own trout there for dinner.

Since 2017, the Village Nordik has organized ice fishing in the Old Port. Louise Basin is an ideal fishing spot, featuring a controlled outdoor fishing environment thanks to the lock leading to the St. Lawrence River. Here, Village Nordik staff drill holes in the four-inch-thick (or more) ice. On the nearby jetty, fishers and passersby can warm up by firepits while savouring hot

chocolate, coffee and churros.

To access the site, it is best to reserve a timeslot in advance on the Village Nordik website ([villagenordikportquebec.ca/en](http://villagenordikportquebec.ca/en)) although walk-ins are welcome if space is available. There are three package deals: mini fisher (free with adult), little fisher (\$14 with adult), adult fisher (\$22) and a family package (\$56). Whatever the package, there is a limit of three fish per person. Any extra fish caught can either be given to a neighbouring group or the guides, because the fish will quickly freeze to death once they are pulled out of the water. All equipment – chairs, buckets, rods, lines, bait and scoops – is included and provided on site.

The site is open on weekends (weather permitting): Friday



Photo by Cassandra Kerwin

Families have fun at the Village Nordik. It's ice fishing season at Louise Basin until March 10.

from 1 to 4 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., excluding the lunch break. Dress warmly for the weather.

"We can easily accommodate up to 150 or 200 people per

time slot, in the morning and afternoon, on the site," said Marianne Boilard, communications manager for Village Nordik at the Port of Quebec. On opening weekend, the site was packed with fishers, espe-



Photo by Cassandra Kerwin

Véga Paré, 10 (second from left) and her father, Martin (third from left) celebrate their catch at the Village Nordik in the company of two guides.

cially after the Ice Canoe Race on Feb. 4. "We stock [Louise Basin with] a good quantity of fish every week. The goal of Village Nordik is to make it accessible for families and visitors," Bollard said.

"In Quebec City, we stop at

nothing to embrace our northernness. Here, winter is part of our identity. We are very proud to be a city with so many winter activities for families, young and old," said Mayor Bruno Marchand.

## French 'in decline' in Quebec City, *Journal de Québec* finds

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The same week that Premier François Legault declared it was unfortunate that young francophones find it "cool" to use English words, a report in *Le Journal de Québec* decried the increase in complaints of English use by businesses in Quebec City.

Under the headline, "French in decline in Quebec [City]. French increasingly mistreat-

ed in Quebec [City]" (*Recul du français à Québec. Le français de plus en plus malmené à Québec*), the paper reports that complaints to the Office québécois de la langue française (OQLF) about business services in French have increased from 56 in 2021 to 67 in 2023.

Complaints about English commercial signage jumped from 63 to 104 in the same period. A chart in the report showed the increase was the largest proportionally in the province. For example, complaints about commercial signage in Montreal only in-

creased from 662 to 677 in the last two years.

The report does not give specific examples of complaints made to the OQLF, but the newspaper went out and found its own. The story contains pictures of two shops in Old Quebec, one with a Bonhomme Carnaval emblem in the window along with a small sign saying "Come in. We're Open."

The other is from Fucklamode, a well-known clothing store on Rue du Petit-Champlain, which has a small sign saying "Closed." No French equivalent sign is depicted in the photo.

Under Bill 96, the language law crackdown, businesses with a storefront in Quebec will have until April 2025 to ensure that French is "markedly predominant" over any other language.

*Le Journal* also investigated selected retail businesses in its quest for violations of language laws. The reporter visited the Dollarama in Place de la Cité and found an employee stocking shelves who could not reply in French. A French-speaking employee intervened.

At the McDonald's restaurant on Rue Bouvier, which the reporter visited at 11:30 p.m.,

no employee at the counter was able to express themselves in French.

There was no answer at the restaurant when the *QCT* called for comment.

Dollarama spokesperson Lyla Radmanovich told the *Journal*, "French is a second language for some of our employees, and Dollarama encourages these employees in their efforts to improve their knowledge of the French language."

The *QCT* was unable to reach Radmanovich directly for comment. The French-speaking manager of the Dollarama

refused to comment on the *Journal* report.

The *Journal* quotes Maxime Laporte, president of Mouvement Québec français: "The status and vitality of our national language are regressing, as are the fundamental linguistic rights of Quebecers, including in the Capitale-Nationale region. I think businesses, including businesses that operate in the tourism sector, have an interest in being proud to display themselves in French and to show themselves to be franco-responsible."

## MEMORIALS AND THINGS OF FAME

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### February 10, 1774 – *The Quebec Gazette*

#### To Be Sold

A very well situate[d] farm, about four miles from Montreal, upon the Upper Road to Lachine. There is on said farm a neat convenient House, completely finished for a Gentleman's family; also an orchard and very good garden, ice-house, dairy, granary, &c. An undoubted title will be given for the same.

### February 14, 1874 – *The Morning Chronicle*

#### Fruits of Rapid Driving

The Treasurer of the Findlay Asylum acknowledges with thanks the receipt of \$10, being the amount awarded to the "Informant" in two cases of driving on the St. Foy Road, at a rate faster than an ordinary trot. ... The total amount of the fines is \$20, and the other half goes to the Treasurer of the Province. ... [It] is a most dangerous practice, and no one who gives the matter any consideration, and who regards the safety more especially of the fair sex and of children, and who is unwilling to infringe on the rights of others, will indulge in it. What is more likely to cause a 'runaway' than trying the speed of horses on the public roads, to say nothing of the terror caused to weak women and children who know not which way to run to get out of the way of horses driven rapidly, though they may be under the control of their drivers. It is therefore with great pleasure that we learn that it is the intention of the authorities to punish severely all infringements of the law prohibiting fast driving.

### February 15, 1899 – *The Quebec Chronicle and Gazette*

#### Woman's Field of Labour

#### The Work Done by the Woman's Christian Temperance Union

The seventeenth annual report of the Quebec W.C.T.U. has been secured by the Chronicle ... and is as follows: ...

We have held twenty-one business meetings and twenty-eight prayer meetings. ... Lectures were delivered by Professor John A. Nicolls ... [including] an illustrated lecture entitled "Life of Napoleon" in April. ... Miss Cote, a missionary from Barmah [*sic*], gave a sketch of her work both as a doctor and W.C.T.U. worker. The plebiscite followed close on this and the few volunteers ... [distributed] literature in factories, at church doors, in fact broadcast over 40,000 leaflets. ... When the voting day was ended, we knew what we feared was true, Quebec Province stood alone against prohibition. Although defeated here, we shall not cease our efforts but keeping always at it.

*Note from Lorie: By 1919, nearly 90 per cent of municipalities in Quebec – close to 1,150 cities and towns – were considered "dry," as prohibition reigned. In Trois-Rivières and Quebec City, alcohol was banned, but in Montreal and Hull, citizens were free to purchase and consume it. (Source – SAQ)*

### February 16, 1924 – *The Quebec Chronicle*

#### Moose Visits Residents of Lake St. Joseph

A few days ago Miss Lily White, Lake St. Joseph, was advised by telephone that there was a moose on the Riviere aux Pins Road, and to watch for it. ... The next morning, [the moose] was discovered ... in

the vicinity of the White residence. It walked several times to and from the lake to the house. ... From there it passed into the wood and, returning, was met by Lionel Bollard, who started to follow the animal which, however, resented this move and charged at him. The boy took refuge by climbing a tree, from which he called to his brothers for assistance. The moose, hearing voices, made off into the woods, where it spent the night at the back of Treffe Bollard's stable.

### February 14, 1959 – *The Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph*

#### Anti-polio Shots Not Yet General

Before this year gets any farther along, I want you and your entire family to get your anti-polio vaccinations, unless you have already done so. Sure, it's still cold outside and the warm weather polio season may seem like a long way off. But it will be here before you realize it. Besides, you can't wait until the very last minute to get your inoculations and expect them to give you adequate protection. It has been almost four years since the vaccination program was begun. You would think by this time certainly everyone would be protected from polio and all its heartaches. Yet under 44,100,000 Americans under the age of 40 have failed to take advantage of the vaccine which is available to everyone. ... Now this is an alarming number of people. ... Why have they not been inoculated? ... How will these people be able to live with themselves should a member of the family be stricken with paralytic polio this year? The national polio season begins in June and reaches a peak in August.

### February 15, 1964 – *The Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph*

#### Thanks Received From Mrs. Kennedy

Ottawa (CP) – Prime Minister Pearson made public Friday a letter he received from Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy expressing appreciation for Canadian messages of sympathy on the death last November of President John F. Kennedy. Following is the text of the letter:

"I have been touched and my burden has been eased by the expressions of sympathy from our Canadian neighbors in this time of sadness for myself and my children. Your own speech to the Canadian people, eulogies in your Parliament, and commemorative services held throughout your land demonstrated that you held my husband to be one of your own. I cannot thank each one of the thousands of Canadians who called at our embassy and consulates or telephoned to express their sense of sorrow. I can only thank you, personally, and through your kind offices, thank all of Canada for the help so freely given to sustain me in my loss."

*Editor's note: Articles from the archives are reproduced with the original vocabulary, spelling and punctuation. Explanatory notes may be added.*

