

# Local News

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## Luc Fortin enters Sherbrooke’s mayoral race

Record Staff



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Former MNA Luc Fortin announced Tuesday that he will enter the mayoral race in Sherbrooke.

Luc Fortin, former MNA for Sherbrooke, who served as Minister of Sports and Recreation, Culture and Communications and Family (2014-2018) announced Tuesday afternoon that he will run for mayor of Sherbrooke.

Fortin said he made the decision to enter the race so that Sherbrooke can regain its momentum, its strong voice and its influence in municipal affairs in Quebec, and to put power back in the hands of those who are accountable to the population.

He will run his campaign under the theme “Let’s bring Sherbrooke together”

“In the last few days, I have felt a huge wave of confidence and love from people from all walks of life asking me to take the plunge into the race,” Fortin commented. “With the experience I have, the knowledge of Sherbrooke’s files and especially the passion for our City, I am sure I am ready for this new challenge,” he said.

## Conservation groups

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grants in order to fund the position. The rest of the organization is made up of volunteers, which is why she wants more funding from all levels of government.

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She tried to implement supervised trails in Rougemont, but the area is mostly privately owned, and these

owners were unwilling to allow people onto their land out of fear of theft, and property damage. It also costs a lot of money to maintain a fully supervised trail.

“We were talking about \$150,000 or more just to implement it and then there is the yearly fees, the costs of having somebody because you cannot rely on somebody to do it without any pay, you cannot rely on that on a regular basis,” said Collette.

When it comes to dealing with environmental protection, it is usually

passed down from the federal level, to the provincial, and then ponied off to municipal governments, who are always handcuffed due to high costs, and nearly non-existent resources, she added.

Collette said that the Nature Conservancy of Canada has also been collecting land for many years to protect the country’s wildlife. However, while she is optimistic about environmental protection, she believes it needs to start with educating the youth population.

“It’s a very long process. It’s the education that will change it. I believe that if we work together like today getting the expertise and trying to make sure that we have concrete actions done that will stay for generations to come, I believe that we can do it,” Collette said.

Kim Marineau, a biologist and vice-president of Éco-corridors laurentiens, noted that privately-owned property, promoters, and residential development all factor into the destruction of natural sites and landmarks in Quebec. And it will impact the fight against climate change.

“If governments don’t say ‘we want to have more conservation in Quebec, in the South of Quebec’, we will lose biodiversity and all of the environmental services that we need as humans; water, air, and everything

that is important for agriculture,” said Marineau.

She believes in the coalition’s power to change the dynamics between conservation groups and governments in the province. They needed to stop taking action separately, she explained, and there was an urgent need for collaboration, especially in Southern Quebec.

There is also prolonged difficulty getting through to the general public. It’s hard for people to comprehend that there could be irreversible damage to the environment in just 10 or 20 years, she continued, and politicians are not moving fast enough to address the issue.

“It will be very difficult because we will lose, we will lose a lot of comfort for everybody. We will need more houses that are smaller, less resources, less possibility with transportation because fuel will be so expensive, so I’m very scared,” said Marineau.

The coalition includes Les Amis de la Montagne, Fondation du Mont-Saint-Bruno, Centre de la Nature du Mont Saint-Hilaire, the Centre d’interprétation du milieu écologique du Haut-Richelieu (CIME), Association du Mont Rougemont, Nature Cantons-de-L’Est, Société de conservation du Mont Brome, Conservation de la nature Canada, and Nature-Action Québec.

## A fond farewell



COURTESY

Mable Hastings (CABMN Executive Director), Susie Galipeault and Debra Harding (CABMN Assistant to the Director) saying good-bye with gifts and well wishes.

By Mable Hastings

The Missisquoi North Volunteer Centre (CABMN) in Mansonville is proudly located upstairs in the CLSC/CIUSSE-CHUS Medical Clinic building. While the CLSC and CAB are two different organizations/services, the two have long complemented each other in serving the health and well-being needs of the public. The CABMN staff has a close kinship with the staff working at the CLSC medical clinic and the relationship is one of support and friendship. On Friday, Sept. 10 the

CLSC in Mansonville said good-bye to receptionist, Susie Galipeault who has taken a job closer to her hometown and will now be working at the GMF (Groupe de Médecine de Famille/Family Medicine) in Sherbrooke where she will assume the position of Administrative Assistant. The CABMN joins the community in wishing Susie the best of luck in the future and in her new job. The Community welcomes the new Administrative Assistant at the Potton CLSC, Laurance Goyette-Giguere who hails from the Montreal area.



MICHAEL BORIERO

Chrystiane Collette, president of the Association du Mont Rougemont