

'Eternal asshole of La Peche'
Edelweiss disses light industry Page 3

Chelsea's two faces
Long-awaited PPU unveiled Page 7

A man of few words...
Family remembers 'Burnie' Page 20

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TO HULL & BACK NEWS

THE ONLY PAPER SERVING ONLY THE GATINEAU HILLS SINCE 1973

Steam train washed out for 2012

Soil stabilization could run costs up to \$7M, report says

By Lucy Scholey

and the Hull-Chelsea-Wakefield Steam Train won't be chugging next summer.

That's the news coming down

It will cost \$7 million to repair the road bed washouts,

the track from Louise Boudrias, president of the Compagnie du chemin de fer de l'Outaouais (CCFO), the company that owns the railway tracks. She's uncertain about the train's distant future. "We're meeting with our financial partners to analyze that, to determine the interest

and decide on the next steps," she told reporters at the Hull station Sept. 20. "It's likely that the train will stay off tracks for the 2012 season."

Heavy rainfalls washed out the tracks in the Cote d'un Mille area of Chelsea last June. The damage stopped the train trips

for the rest of 2011. Most of the \$7 million for repairs would be spent on soil stabilization and building new roadways. There are about 12 spots at the Cote d'un Mille that need varying repair work, ranging from \$25,000 to \$3 million, said Boudrias.

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Double double... and make it snappy

Wakefield Tim Hortons likely to be followed by chain of franchises

By Trevor Greenway

said spring 2012 will be "busy" for his development firm.

"With the new highway coming in, I think there will be lots of interested businesses," he told the Low Down.

Poulin said his company has been "working on things" with other business people who find the Wakefield area appealing and said he hopes to add another building to the small shopping complex in order to offer more professional services.

The owners of Cafe Molo, the main coffee shop in Wakefield, won't be surprised if a "Timmys" is established at the top of the hill, because they "knew it was coming."

They aren't too worried either, as they believe their loyal customers will keep coming through their Riverside Drive doors.

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It's only a matter of time before a double-double hit of franchise restaurants set up shop in the Gatineau Hills.

If everything goes according to plan, Wakefield could have a Tim Hortons drive-thru in line next summer.

"If anything is going to happen, it's going to be quick," said developer Jean-Pierre Poulin of ALJA Real Estate, a notable player behind the Giant Tiger development. "We have been talking with (Tim Hortons) for the past three years and there has been some interest, but nothing is finalized."

If a deal is reached, a Tim Hortons restaurant, complete with a drive-thru will be built beside the Subway outlet at the top of Valley Drive, but Poulin isn't stopping at just a coffee shop. He

Fire in the hole...



A Hwy 5 labourer with Couillard Construction drills some dynamite holes in a rock ridge across from Morrison's Quarry in Chelsea. The entire hill, along with several other large rock outcrops, will be completely blown up to make way for the highway extension to Wakefield. See pages 14-15 for a complete lowdown on what is happening to our Hills. Trevor Greenway photo

Anybody who's anybody on scene for W'field Mill's Eco River Lodge grand opening

By Lucy Scholey

Nestled in the hill leading to the MacLaren Cemetery, with its all-glass front wall, contemporary design and a long checklist of green features, the new Eco River Lodge looks nothing like its physical neighbour, the historic Wakefield Mill.

But for Mill owners Bob Mill-

ing and Lynn Berthiaume, their \$3 million Mill expansion is the "yin" to the "yang" in the hotel and spa.

"It had to be completely different from the Mill," said Milling, during the new hotel's official grand opening Sept. 18.

More than 500 people crowded the Wakefield Mill grounds to tour the 10,000-square-foot River

Lodge.

"Anybody who's anybody" was there, you might say, including local artists, business owners, MRC des Collines mayors, Gatineau MNA Stephanie Vallee and Pontiac MP Mathieu Ravi-gnat, who also helped celebrate the Mill's 10-year anniversary as a hotel and spa.

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WORST JOKE OF THE WEEK

My neighbor was bit by a stray rabid dog. I went to see how he was and found him writing frantically on a piece of paper.

I told him rabies could be cured and he didn't have to worry about a will.

He said, "Will? What will? I'm making a list of the people I want to bite."



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