



Regional Association of
West Quebecers



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Our local pioneers!

A podcast on the collaboration between francophones and anglophones in the Outaouais and their contributions to Quebec society, from yesterday to today.

Fort-Coulonge/Pontiac, March 17th, 2022 – A podcast highlighting the little-known stories of Quebec’s pioneers has been produced through the collaboration of the Regional Association of West Quebecers (RAWQ) and Pontiac Community Radio CHIP 101.9. Accompanied by a local historian and descendants of Philemon and Alonzo Wright, the host, Jacob Lavigne, travels back to the 19th century to rediscover the characters who helped shape the Outaouais. Experienced writer and journalist Linda Sparks proposed the project with the goal of helping people see the jewels of the region and all the efforts that have been made and are still underway to build and develop Outaouais communities.

Why ?

Since anglophone and francophone communities coexist in the Outaouais, working together to serve them both was the original idea behind the collaboration between the RAWQ, whose mission is to serve and support the English-speaking community in the Outaouais and CHIP 101.9, a French-licensed radio station whose mission is to entertain and inform listeners about what is happening here in Pontiac, the Outaouais, Quebec and elsewhere in the world.

"This project is an example of what can be done between our two communities and that makes the Outaouais such a special place in Quebec. This is a concrete project that highlights the partnerships between the two communities, while offering a new service to the English-speaking community in the region," said David Gillespie, Vice-President of CHIP 101.9’s Board and Treasurer of the RAWQ.

During the discussions, which are spread over 4 episodes available in both French and English, the listener will be able to learn more about the historical figures who founded Gatineau, Hull, Aylmer, and the Pontiac, such as Nicholas Sparks or Charles Symmes. The topics covered in these podcasts are varied and entertaining, from the forestry industry to marriage to legal disputes and the accidental death of Hannah Symmes in the attic of the Symmes Inn.

"The RAWQ is happy to have the opportunity to work with CHIP FM and to explore the rich history of our area using both official languages," Gillespie added. "We wanted to increase awareness of the contribution of English-speakers to the development of the Outaouais and this project allowed us to explore four historical figures. This podcast has allowed us to share their history to a wider audience and we hope we will be able to continue."

- Jeanne Nivischiuk of RAWQ

Building on this partnership, there will likely be new episodes in the future that will deal with other historical figures of the Outaouais or events that have shaped the region. A second series of podcasts is expected to launch next fall.

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Jeanne Nivischiuk

ed@westquebecers.ca