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# THE REVIEW

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## World threshing record in St-Albert, \$100,000 for breast cancer research



It was a sea of pink, amidst the tractors and threshing machines in St-Albert on the weekend. Organizers started working on this Guinness World Record weekend/fundraiser about two years ago. The record for the largest number of threshing machines operating at the same time is now held by this event, when 243 machines qualified for the record-breaking success. There were 3,415 people wearing pink who formed this breast cancer awareness pink ribbon, but not enough to break the existing world record. PHOTOS: JAMES MORGAN

### Organizer hopes the record will hold for years to come



**JAMES MORGAN**  
Review contributor

**ST-ALBERT** – The Guinness World Record for the largest number of threshing machines operating at the same time is back in St-Albert, and \$100,000 was raised for the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation.

Sunday's record-setting event was the highlight of the Guinness World Records weekend that aimed to bring back the threshing title first captured in 2015 that was later captured by a group of threshers in Manitoba in 2016.

The 2019 Guinness weekend was the result of a lot of organizing by François Latour, who assembled a committee and more than 2,000 volunteers over nearly two years.

The Manitoba record was set with 139 threshing machines. There were 250 on site in St-Albert and 243 of those qualified by functioning properly for the complete five minutes needed in order to qualify.

Throughout the field, there was a constant roar from tractors, belts, and wheels while farmers from all over Ontario and Québec forked grain into the machines.

A few minutes after the big test, Guinness Adjudicator Michael Empric, who had travelled from New York City to judge the event, announced that St-Albert had taken the title.

Empric travels all over the United States and Canada judging events where people are attempting to set new Guinness records.

When asked about the sometimes-unusual events he goes to, Empric said "Nothing is strange to me anymore."

"This is not unusual, but it is unusual to see so much farm equipment running at once," he said about the threshing frenzy in St-Albert.

Latour was beaming on stage when the result was announced, but it was also emotional because of his personal connection to breast cancer. His wife Suzanne succumbed to the disease four years ago.

But Latour hopes St-Albert will hold the threshing record for a long time to come.

"I hope I put the bar high enough!" he said.

Latour's sister Juliette Forgues was with her brother through every step of the planning, organizing, and staging the Guinness weekend.

"She's my left hand and my right arm," said Latour.

La Nation Mayor François St-Amour congratulated the organizers and said Latour is the sort of person who puts his whole heart into whatever he gets involved with.

Unfortunately, an attempt to set a second Guinness Record in St-Albert was unsuccessful on Sunday.

Organizers had been hoping to assemble a crowd of 8,264 people wearing pink to form the world's largest breast cancer awareness ribbon. However, there were just 3,415 people in the crowd.

Latour did not seem upset though. "We've got the threshing machines and we've got the \$100,000!" he shouted to a cheering crowd, referring to the new Guinness threshing record and the money raised for the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation.

## MTO knew Highway 417 concrete had deficiencies from the beginning

**JAMES MORGAN**  
Review contributor

On the surface, it looks like any other highway construction project, but there is more to it.

This summer, the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO) is replacing the concrete pavement on the westbound lanes of Highway 417 from approximately seven kilometres east of Highway 34 to five kilometres west of Highway 34. That's the reason why the ramp from southbound Highway 34 to westbound Highway 417 is closed, and why Highway 417 is temporarily one lane in each direction between Highway 34 and County Road 23A/McCrimmon Road.

According to MTO spokespersons Brandy Duhaime and Bronte Walker-Moores, the typical lifespan

for a concrete highway in Ontario is 28 years before major rehabilitation is required. However, this section of highway is being replaced just 15 years after it was installed.

Duhaime explained that deficiencies in the concrete were identified when it was being poured in 2004, and that has likely contributed to deterioration which has happened more rapidly, relative to other concrete highways.

The concrete has deteriorated due to freezing and thawing within the pavement joints. The construction company that poured the concrete did some repairs over the years, but the warranty expired in 2017. The MTO decided that it would be more cost-effective to completely replace the affected section rather than

make more isolated repairs.

Duhaime explained that because the warranty expired in 2017, the contractor that did the work in 2004 has no responsibility for the current replacement work. The 2004 project, which included grading, drainage, granular base, concrete, structural, and some electrical work, cost \$29.3 million. The current project, which includes improvements that have already been made to the Highway 34 interchange, is costing the MTO \$20.35 million.

According to Walker-Moores, the ministry was not satisfied with the work done by the contractor when it was completed in 2004.

Continued on page 2.

### Fair weekend!

All roads will lead to the Vankleek Hill Fair this weekend. The fun starts on Thursday, August 15 and continues through to Sunday, August 18. Stop by The Review on Thursday, August 14 from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. for free popcorn before and during the Vankleek Hill Fair parade! Donations to the Vankleek Hill Sports Club are appreciated! Find out more about the fair and read about some of the demo derby drivers in this issue. Visit [www.vankleekhillfair.ca](http://www.vankleekhillfair.ca) for more info!

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