

SAINT LAURENT HIGH SCHOOL LAUNCHES CANADA'S FIRST ONLINE HIGH SCHOOL RADIO STATION.

SAINT LAURENT, QC. October 10 – LaurenHill Academy, Quebec's top-rated high school, is about to launch Canada's first ever online high school radio station. Under the stewardship of history teacher Louis Bilodeau, this project is 10 years in the making.

They started with second-hand equipment, old microphones, reel-to-reel tape recorders, and whatever went to air was broadcast over the school's PA system. The sound was horrible, says Bilodeau. But the dream was always to broadcast online. And that dream is about to come true.

"It's a way to make the students themselves a means of expression, and to give them a voice of their own," says Mr. Bilodeau. A propos words, since the station is to be called LHA Radio: The Voice. It's mostly student-driven, with some contributions from Mr. Bilodeau both on and off the air. He hopes other teachers in other disciplines will get involved since, in his view, broadcasting encompasses everything the students have picked up along the way, both in and outside of school.

Radio has been a part of Bilodeau's life going back to high school. He was a community broadcaster before he answered the call to teach. "When you have a passion," he says, "you like to share it." It took some effort, but his team managed to convince detractors that this was an idea worth pursuing. "Without the students," says Bilodeau, "I would not be able to do anything."

Broadcasts will include a travel show, The Nerd Herd 2.0, focusing on government, politics, sport, science, and technology, and The Anglais-French Show. The latter will feature news, information, and music in both official languages, to "help the listener see the connection between the languages," according to the student proposal. It's all about breaking down barriers.

Production assistance will be provided through a partnership with The Web Sports Media Network, which will also give the students access to thousands of listeners all over North America. The network will have also be able to provide access to local professional sports teams through a student reporter program. Some sports reports will be provided by the Web Sports Media Network during lunch hour and after school broadcasts.

LHA Radio: The Voice officially launches November 1, beginning at noon.

For interviews, photos, or access to the radio station, contact:

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