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# Elected officials join students for 'Next GEN' Assembly of Leaders

## SWLSB and EMSB team up to help form the next generation of leaders



**MARTIN C. BARRY**  
marty@newsfirst.ca

Secondary school student leaders from the Laval, North Shore, Laurentian and Montreal regions were joined remotely by local federal and provincial elected officials at John F. Kennedy High School in Montreal on April 28 for the first annual Next GEN Assembly of Leaders, a leadership-building conference considered to be unique.

The students participating in the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board's Secondary Student Leadership Certificate program were from Laval Junior Academy and Laval Senior Academy in Laval, from Lake of Two Mountains High School in Deux-Montagnes and from Ste. Agathe Academy in the Laurentians.

### Building connections

The English Montreal School Board students were all from John F. Kennedy High School in the Montreal borough of Villeray/St-Michel/Parc Extension.

According to Daniel Johnson, a spiritual animator with the SWLSB, who worked with Rocco Speranza, his counterpart at the English Montreal School Board to organize the event, the idea was simple: Connect young people with Canadian and Quebec leaders to discuss issues facing the country and province.

"We wanted the students to work in diverse groups on complex issues," Johnson said in an interview with Newsfirst Multimedia, adding that the event is believed to have been the first of its kind across Canada.

### Learning from the leaders

He said the students' objective was to learn from their Senator, Member of Parliament or Member of the National Assembly and offer solutions to issues that their politicians relayed to them. Johnson said the student leaders worked hard as they were confronted with ideas and problems that they had never had the opportunity to explore before.

"It's ideal for our students to see government leadership in the process, even though the voice of the students is also important," said Speranza. "For the youths to be able to work with the government leaders who make decisions about things like education or health was a good thing for them to see how the process works and that their voices are valued."

### Heard from MNAs and MPs

From the Senate of Canada, Senator Tony Loffreda spoke to the students remotely about the Senate Inquiry on Immigration.

Vimy MP Annie Koutrakis (who is Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport) spoke on Transportation issues. Alfred-Pellan MP Angelo Iacono spoke about High Frequency Rail service. Saint-Laurent MP Emmanuela Lambropoulos talked about the Notion of Gender Based Violence. And Saint-Léonard-Saint-Michel MP Patricia Lattanzio addressed the Gun Violence issue.

Among the members of the Quebec National Assembly, Viateur MNA Frantz Benjamin talked about Education. Mille-Îles MNA Francine Charbonneau talked about Bill 9 (a piece of legislation that proposes replacing Quebec's National Student Ombudsman).

Chomedey MNA Guy Ouellette talked about



From the left, Next GEN program facilitator Vicky Kaliozakis, student participant Angelo Varuzza and student participant Alejandro Gutierrez. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Newsfirst)

issues involving end-of-life care. Nina Segalowitz, an elder and leader within the Montreal Indigenous community, delivered the keynote address. She also spent time working with the student leaders as they grappled with the topic of gender-based violence.

### Interacting with leaders

By the end of the day, the students were ready to deliver their feedback and they formulated ideas and responses directly to the political leaders. "Through interactions like these, we can build more compassionate communities and a better country for all," Johnson said, estimating the valuable lessons in leadership the students learned during the day.

He said the conference was unlike any other concept ever applied to develop leadership skills in students. "Because the students are working directly with the politicians on real issues and

offering real solutions, this is something that usually isn't done at this type of conference. This is tactile work where students have a voice and they have a seat at the table."

### 'Young but not powerless'

Several students we spoke to said they were already inclined to take on student leadership challenges, such as participating on student council or taking part in organized sports. But the Next GEN Assembly of Leaders was yet another option to develop their leadership skills, they said.

"We are young but we are not powerless," said Kassylia Bourque of Lake of Two Mountains High School. Alejandro Gutierrez, a grade eight student at Laval Junior Academy, said he came away impressed by Vimy MP Annie Koutrakis' message. "She was amazing and had a lot of things to say," he said, noting that she seemed very knowledgeable of her dossiers.



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# OPINION & Editorial

## Preston Manning brings clarity to our lockdown misery

Preston Manning already occupies a place of honour in our history books as the father of modern conservatism. His accomplishments are too numerous to recount in this short article, and his articles, essays and books are many.

With his many accomplishments and at his stage in life, one would think Preston would choose an easier path than to once again become embroiled in the fraught subject of pandemic politics.

But not so. Manning has again seen a need for his talents and rejoined the fray.

The Frontier Centre for Public Policy is honoured to present Manning's latest offering in what he calls a fictionalized story. It's about everything that has happened to this country since the COVID-19 virus first made it to Canadian shores.

We've experienced it all – the panic, fear and misinformation – all followed by a disastrously exaggerated (and highly political) government response. That exaggerated response – lockdowns – might go down in history as the single biggest mistake in public policy in human history.

We're only beginning to understand how big that mistake was. The huge economic costs are still unclear. How much of the alarming economic events now unfolding – uncontrolled inflation, supply chain chaos, looming recession, even war – are directly related to lockdown policies is still unclear.

And we're starting to see how deep the cost and societal division that excessive government regulation, government-decreed unemployment, forced economic dependence, and the unnecessary stoking of fear will have on us, our children and our grandchildren for decades to come.

But at least most of the world has managed to move on past these incredibly divisive – and just plain dumb – policies, like excessive regulation and vaccine mandates.

But not Canada.

We seem to be stuck in a time warp. I had occasion to enter a federal building the other day. While Manitoba has been free of the worst of features of the made-up lockdown world – useless paper masks, gallons of hand sanitizer and the like – not so the federal government. Entering the

building, one might as well have been in North Korea. There were lines on the floor telling us where to stand. A masked civil servant is employed only to squirt goop on your hands and ask if you had a cough and bars further entry until your hands are sufficiently doused with chemicals.

That's also the scene at airports where unvaccinated people can't even travel to another part of Canada – even if their relative is dying in another province. The whole thing is surreal.

We would do it without objection if it had anything to do with science, but it doesn't. It's all about politics. Our prime minister told us so.

When vaccine mandates were first proposed, Justin Trudeau said emphatically, "We're not a country that makes vaccinations mandatory." He was speaking the truth then. He knew how divisive such mandates would be. He knew that one part of the population would inevitably be set against the other and that deep division and a fractured society would be the long-lasting result.

But he did it anyway. The science didn't change, but politics entered the picture. And the rest is history. We now live in that fractured society.

Good people are fired from their jobs for not accepting a vaccination that doesn't stop transmission. Good people are prevented from travelling or even going into a bar without a vaccination certificate that has nothing to do with who gets or doesn't get sick with an ever-changing virus that will be with us forever. And good people are jailed and persecuted for honking horns and disrupting traffic.

That's the Canada we now live in, a Canada where half the population now regards civil liberties as a right-wing plot.

But I'm getting carried away. Let's let Manning tell his story. I hope you like it as much as I did.

Oh, and not to spoil the plot, but this is far more than just a story. Preston Manning has stepped up to the plate with a plan to get us out of our political pandemic prison.

And to ensure that we never find ourselves in one in the future.

**Brian Giesbrecht, retired judge**



## **#NewsMatters:**

The National  
Assembly Report

By Raquel Fletcher

## For those still holding out hope that Quebec will not adopt Bill 96, time is running out

For the Coalition Avenir Quebec, the government is writing the next chapters of history with Bill 96. According to the minister, this reform is a modern iteration of Bill 101, adopted in 1977, and will ensure a balance between the collective rights of the Quebec nation and the rights and freedoms of the individual. The "legislative mechanisms" in the bill, the minister said, alluding to, among other things, the use of the notwithstanding clause, allows for the "justified, legitimate and necessary" protection of the French language.

At least, that is one way to look at it. The Liberal Party has decided to vote against Bill 96. Following Jolin-Barrette's final speech, Liberal house leader André Fortin began his own by explaining why he did not see eye with the minister.

"I love the French language," he started. "It's my mother tongue. It's the language my mother taught me, that which her mother taught her. It's the language my grandfather learned when he immigrated to Canada after a difficult childhood during a war ... in Indonesia."

Fortin stressed that his grandfather chose to learn French and was not forced to learn the language because the government denied him access to services in another language. The reference alludes to an article in Bill 96 which would deny access to services in English for immigrants who have resided in Quebec longer than six months, just one of the aspects of the reform the Liberal Party sees as heavy-handedness on the part of the government.

"He learnt it," Fortin continued, "because he fell in love with a young girl from Masham. He learned the French language out of love. (And) he learned it out of respect for his neigh-

bours, for his friends, and so he could be fully involved in the lives of his children."

According to Fortin Bill 96 would not foster this kind of love for French because it is too divisive. "I'm against this bill because it creates two classes of Quebecers: historic anglophones and everybody else. I'm against this bill because it does not foster unity," Fortin said in English.

He continued by saying it denies rights to certain Quebecers, both anglophones and francophones. The law, if adopted as is, would allow searches to be conducted of businesses without warrants.

It would also complicate access to higher education. Fortin told the National Assembly that he, himself, chose to study at the University of Ottawa, where he completed his first year of studies in French, while improving his English to the point he could take a full course load in English by his third year.

"That only increased my pride in being Quebecois," he said, adding that francophones who go to St. Lawrence, Heritage or Marianopolis, do not set foot in an "assimilation machine."

"They make the choice to go there to improve their English, like a lot of my colleagues have," he said, calling out CAQ MNA's who also studied at English post-secondary institutions in order to improve their English.

Fortin continued to speak to other concerns about how the new law would impact new immigrants, First Nations and small businesses, but the Liberal MNA was cut short because of time. Final speeches and the ultimate adoption of Bill 96 is expected to happen the week of May 23rd when the National Assembly reconvenes following the Victoria Day long weekend.



# Emergency rooms still overflowing in the Laurentians

## CEO thanks the organization's managers

**MARIA DIAMANTIS**  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter  
For The North-Shore News • info@newsfirst.ca

It is a problem that was exacerbated by the pandemic, but nevertheless brewing for many years.

Overflowing ERs in the Laurentians. The CISSS des Laurentides reminded us of it by once more asking in the beginning of May to avoid emergency rooms in the event of non-emergency health problems.

According to their announcement, due to the high occupancy rates in the region's emergency rooms, the Integrated Health Center and social services (CISSS) of the Laurentians asked, once more, the population with non-emergency health problems to opt for other solutions than going to the emergency room. People whose situation is not critical were invited to evaluate the various possible alternatives.

The following options should always be considered, according to the CISSS des Laurentides;

- Call 811 Info-Santé to speak to a nurse;
- Consult a family doctor;
- See a doctor at a walk-in clinic at rvsq.gouv.qc.ca;
- See a doctor in a pediatric clinic if the child meets the access criteria;
- Consult a pharmacist.

The CISSS des Laurentides assures the population that urgent cases will be taken care of quickly throughout the region. A person in a critical and unstable situation should not hesitate to go to the emergency room, where essential care will be offered.

At the same time the organization as part of the annual day for managers in the health and social services network, which was held on May 18, highlighted the high quality of the work of its some 500 managers, particularly in the context of COVID-19.

The management of the CISSS wished in particular to highlight their hard work without counting their hours, especially over the past two years, to support the teams of employees for whom a week of recognition will also be created next June.

In order to deal with the health crisis and maintain a quality service offer to the population of the Laurentians, it is not without sacrifice in their personal lives that the managers have invested time, and put their skills and talents to good use every day so that all patients receive the services to which they are entitled.

"On behalf of our entire organization, I would like to thank our managers for having helped make a difference on a daily basis throughout the pandemic. Both in the clinical sectors and in the support sectors, our management team was able to stay the course on new priorities,



and all this, in a context where the way of doing things had to be modified on several occasions", said Ms. Rosemonde Landry, President and CEO of the CISSS des Laurentides.

The CISSS des Laurentides brings together

hospitals, CLSCs, residential centres, protection and rehabilitation centers for young people with adjustment difficulties, rehabilitation centers for intellectual disabilities and autism spectrum disorders, physical disability rehabilitation centers and addiction rehabilitation centres.

# Horticultural day at Deux-Montagnes

## The city reinforces sound environmental practices

**MARIA DIAMANTIS**  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter  
For The North-Shore News • info@newsfirst.ca

One more city that is assisting its green-thumbs to beautify their gardens is Deux-Montagnes. The municipality's Horticultural Day is back this spring in its traditional format at the municipal garage. On Saturday, May 28, 2022, between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m., the citizens of Deux-Montagnes are invited to come and get various plants free of charge in order to undertake their gardening project.

Upon presentation of proof of residence, Deux-Montagnais can choose two plants of various herbs and one plant of annual flowers free of charge. Some 500 tree shoots will also be distributed, donated by the Ministry of Forests, Wildlife and Parks as part of Tree and Forest Month.

Beyond the distribution of plants, the Horticultural Day also offers the opportunity to obtain sound horticultural advice and to meet certain collaborators who have urban agriculture and the environment at heart, such as the artisans of the Incredible Edibles project. Mayor Denis Martin and the municipal councilors will of course be there, happy to seize this opportunity to converse with the citizens of Deux-Montagnes.

In addition, a sale of snacks and hot dogs will be held for the benefit of the Maison des jeunes. The 5th Groupe Scout de Deux-Montagnes, involved in a volunteer basis for the smooth running of the event, and will also be collecting donations on site.

For a 13th consecutive year, the Horticultural Day activity greatly benefits from the participa-

tion of the Caisse Desjardins Saint-Eustache-Deux-Montagnes, which has agreed to act as the main partner.

### Ban on open fires

Moreover, the city of Deux-Montagnes is enforcing the decision of banning open air fires (Firepits etc.). This ban on open fires in or near the forest came into effect on May 7, on the territory of Deux-Montagnes. Under the municipal by-law 1668, this decision by the Government of Quebec, taken in collaboration with the Société de protection des forêts contre le feu (SOPFEU), entails a ban on the use of an outdoor fireplace in Deux-Montagnes, even if it is equipped with a spark arrester. This ban must be respected until SOPFEU lifts the ban in effect in the MRC of Deux-Montagnes. Only propane or natural gas fireplaces are permitted during this period. Everyone's cooperation is essential to ensure that the ban on open fires in the forest is respected. This measure is intended to limit the risk of forest fires.



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# CSA astronaut David Saint-Jacques says he 'never came back from space'

*Tells Montreal planetarium audience lunar tourism is coming, but not telescopes on the moon*



**MARTIN C. BARRY**  
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What was the most startling thing Canadian Space Agency astronaut David Saint-Jacques ever saw while on a mission?

For Saint-Jacques, who served as a flight engineer on the International Space Station in 2018 and 2019, the most striking recollection was the first time he saw Earth from space.

"Your mind is not ready for that," he told a gathering of children and parents on May 7 during a presentation on Canada's role in lunar exploration at the Rio Tinto Alcan Planetarium during its AstroFest.

## Stunned by earth view

"You think you are, because you see it on posters all the time. But the blue of the atmosphere, in the middle of the darkness the pure blackness of space. It really took me like, I don't know, two weeks maybe for my mind to accept that I was looking at the whole world."

Although Saint-Jacques has a professional background in medicine and engineering, he said something in the back of his mind kept kicking in to give him doubts that what he was seeing was real.

"It must be in some studio, I don't know where this is, it doesn't make sense, this cannot be, this cannot be true," he recalled thinking half-seriously, while imagining that some special effects wizardry had been used to deceive him.

"I knew, because I was an engineer, what I was

looking at. But it took weeks before it could sink in. That was very odd. And now, that sight: When I close my eyes that's what I see.

## A sight he can't forget

"It cannot leave me and I know that I'm still there. You know, I never came back from space. Guess what? We are in space. Are we in Montreal? In Quebec? In Canada? In North America? On Earth? We're in space. All of the above. Space is around us."

According to a biography from the CSA, David Saint-Jacques was born on Jan. 6, 1970, in Quebec City and raised in Saint-Lambert on Montreal's South Shore. He is married and has three children and is a lifelong mountaineer, cyclist, skier, rower and avid sailor.

Saint-Jacques was selected in May 2009 by the Canadian Space Agency (CSA) and moved to Houston, Texas to be one of 14 members of the 20<sup>th</sup> NASA astronaut class.

## Extensive space experience

In May 2016, the Canadian government announced that Saint-Jacques had been assigned to Expedition 58/59. From August 2016 to December 2018, he trained in Canada, Russia, the United States, Europe and Japan, where he honed his skills and knowledge on the ISS, the Soyuz spacecraft, and a variety of mission-specific tasks.

On December 3 2018, he flew to the International Space Station for a 204-day mission, the longest Canadian space mission to date. Between December 3, 2018, and June 24, 2019, he circled the globe 3,264 times and covered a distance of 139,096,495 kilometres.

During his mission, Saint-Jacques conducted Canadian and international science experiments and technology demonstrations, and supported critical operations and maintenance activities. He became the fourth CSA astronaut to conduct

a spacewalk and the first CSA astronaut to use Canadarm2 to catch a visiting spacecraft.

## Lunar tourism coming

Among other things that came up during Saint-Jacques' planetarium presentation on the role Canada will be playing in future space missions was the question of whether "lunar tourism" could soon become a viable thing.

"I mean, people will go see the moon up close, yes," said Saint-Jacques, answering a question from a web-connected participant who was in Calgary.

"Live on the moon? I don't know about that. I think it will be a kind of a very austere place for while, like our base in Antarctica. We've been there for decades in Antarctica. And some people go over there – as tourists you can go there. But that's another step. But there will be tourists going near the moon. I think that will happen pretty soon."

## Telescopes on the moon

Another interesting question that came up was why celestial observation telescopes have never been set up on the moon, in spite of six NASA lunar missions which succeeded in landing astronauts on the moon. According to Saint-Jacques, there were plans at one point to station telescopes on the moon.

However, "it's just not a very good place to put telescopes," he added. "You'd think it's good because there's no atmosphere, so there's no shimmering. But it's like one solid rock that's constantly vibrating because it's being hit by meteorites, so there's like a hum."

"It's like standing next to a highway," he continued. "And because of that, there's always a layer of dust floating everywhere. So, it's not a good place to put telescopes for that reason. But you could have telescopes in orbit around the moon."



CSA Astronaut David Saint-Jacques went on a mission to the International Space Station (pictured) in 2018 and 2019. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Newsfirst Multimedia)

# Rosemère announces well-managed finances

*2021 Financial Statements released*

**MARIA DIAMANTIS**  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter  
For The North-Shore News • info@newsfirst.ca

During its public meeting of May 9, 2022, the city of Rosemère tabled its financial statements for the year ended on December 31st, 2021. A surplus of \$1,752,700 was produced with the majority (77%) of it was generated from transfer taxes, which generated additional revenue of \$1,344,200 in connection with the exceptionally strong real estate market during the year. The balance of the surplus is justified by an increase in grants received of \$197,400 and a

net saving in operating expenses and allocations of \$211,100, representing 0.6% of the budget.

"The allocation of financial resources is always done in a very rigorous manner. Our efforts to ensure responsible management of public funds contribute to these positive results and are an ongoing priority. The financial report was audited by the accounting firm BCGO and an unreserved audit report was issued," said Eric Westram, Mayor of Rosemère.

## Operating Revenues and Expenses

The Town's operating revenues in 2021 were \$34.2 million, 74% of which comes from taxes and fees. 57% of property tax revenue

is generated from the residential sector and serviced vacant lots, compared to 43% from the commercial sector.

In terms of operating expenses (\$32.4 million), Environmental Hygiene accounts for the largest share of expenses at 23%, followed closely by Public Safety at 17% and Transportation and Roads at 16%.

## Investments to improve the community environment

According to the city's press release, the year 2021 will have seen investments in the living environment of Rosemère residents. Among other things, investments in the infrastructure rehabilitation (sewer and water) amounted to

\$2.4 million. Streets and sidewalks also benefited from investments in the order of \$2.1 million. Rosemère also invested \$1.4 million in parks and playgrounds to promote healthy lifestyles. In total, \$11 million has been invested in 2021 to improve the quality of life of the citizens.

"As of December 31, 2021, the debt attributable to all citizens stood at \$29.4M. This is a relatively stable debt despite the cumulative investment of \$27.8M since 2018 thanks to the creation of a financial reserve for infrastructure, the implementation of a new special tax for infrastructure and by optimizing sources of financing from third parties and grants," added Eric Westram.



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# Trucking's 'heroes of the highway' wage a valiant fight human trafficking

## Canadian trucking firm Day & Ross renews \$100K commitment to train drivers



MARTIN C. BARRY  
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Day & Ross, one of Canada's oldest and largest trucking companies, has decided to extend a partnership with a non-profit organization that provides training to truck drivers so they know how to identify and combat human trafficking.

As those who have occasion to travel the trans-Canada highway system may be aware, Day & Ross' trucks are a constant presence along the long ribbons of highways and autoroutes throughout the country.

### Warning signs

As this places Day & Ross's drivers in a position to be the eyes and ears on Canada's highways, the Hartland NB-based company believes that by training its drivers on what to watch for and by seeing the warning signs, they could be in a position to provide badly-needed assistance to those in need when it becomes a necessity.

Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery where people are bought and sold for forced labour or sex work. Although the problem is often overlooked, experts report that it is actually happening in Canada every day.

Victims of human trafficking are often targeted at truck stops and on highways. Day & Ross says that with the help of the non-profit Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT), reports from drivers have led to both arrests and victim recoveries across North America.

### \$100k donation to cause

For the second year in a row, Day & Ross is donating \$100,000 to sponsor the organization. The sponsorship will not only be providing TAT with the funds to help educate drivers on identifying human trafficking scenarios, but will also allow them to harness the power of a large trucking fleet for an excellent cause.

The two organizations are working in tandem to provide the

training, resources and information the truckers will need to report suspicious activity. For the first time ever, the TAT mobile exhibit is coming to Canada and to the Day & Ross main terminal hub to help educate their employees.

Featuring a theatre station and actual artifacts from trafficking cases, the TAT mobile exhibit helps tell the stories of victims and showcases the important role drivers play in combating human trafficking. All Day & Ross employees and drivers across Canada and the US will have access to the online TAT training.

### Many victims are minors

Human trafficking has become a concern around the globe, and Canada is no exception. The U.S.-based National Human Trafficking Hotline (NHTH) reports that in the last five years, more than 41 per cent of the cases truckers have reported to them involved victims who are minors.

According to Statistics Canada, "there are various forms of human trafficking, including trafficking for forced labour, for the purpose of exploitative begging or for organ removal; however, trafficking for sexual exploitation is the most detected." Day & Ross says its teams are trained to identify and report these incidents.

### Trying to make a difference

"Truckers are the eyes and ears of our nation's highways and are in a unique position to make a difference," says Doug Tingley, Day & Ross's Chief Operating Officer in Canada.

"With our drivers travelling from coast to coast, they're able to make a difference in every province and every town along their route. To date, there are over 1.2 million truckers trained by Truckers Against Trafficking, making a significant difference in the fight against human trafficking."

### Began hauling potatoes

With more than 8,000 employees, drivers and owner operators across Canada and the US today, Day & Ross got its start in 1950 by hauling potatoes out of New Brunswick. Today, the company's key services include Less Than Truckload (LTL) and



"Truckers are the eyes and ears of our nation's highways and are in a unique position to make a difference," says Day & Ross COO Doug Tingley.

Full Truckload (FTL), as well as cross-border transportation, logistics, dedicated fleets, and residential delivery.

The company offers a diversified portfolio of freight and delivery solutions to top companies across North America. For more than a decade, Day & Ross has also been consistently recognized as one of Canada's best managed companies and has been named a top company for women to work for in the transportation sector for the past four years.

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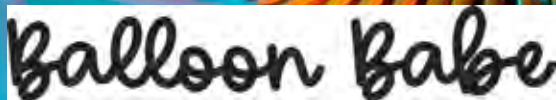
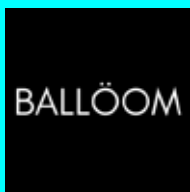
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# Thérèse-De Blainville PD as active as ever

**MARIA DIAMANTIS**  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter  
For The North-Shore News • info@newsfirst.ca

The first half of May, our local police department has been very active. Police officers from the Régie intermunicipale de police Thérèse-De Blainville are currently investigating the circumstances surrounding shots that were fired at a residence in Rosemère on May 11th. The events occurred on Tuesday, May 10, around 11:30 p.m. A call was made to the 9-1-1 central, concerning possible shots fired at a residence. It is important to mention that no one was injured during the event. The

police met with several witnesses from the area and examined the scene, assisted by the Sûreté du Québec, in order to establish the circumstances surrounding this event. On Monday, May 9, between 9 p.m. and 9:30 p.m., two drivers received a statement of offense for excessive speeding. The culprits were caught by the police speeding at 114 and 118 km/h in a 60 km/h zone on Labelle Boulevard in Rosemère. In this case, the fine and the demerit points are doubled. In addition, there is an immediate suspension of the driver's license for a period of 7 days. The RIPTB is present on the road and reminds the population to respect the indicated speed.



On May 11th at École Terre Soleil, RIPTB police officers were present in the morning to make motorists aware of the safety of students on walks, bicycles or scooters. The RIPTB stated that it is important to respect the drop-off areas in order to facilitate movement around schools.

# Deployment of mixed psychosocial and local police intervention teams in the Laurentians region

**MARIA DIAMANTIS**  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter  
For The North-Shore News • info@newsfirst.ca

Quebec City, May 6, 2022 / The Minister for Health and Social Services, Lionel Carmant, accompanied by the Member of Parliament for Saint-Jérôme, Youri Chassin, the deployment of mixed psychosocial and local police intervention teams in the Laurentians region. An amount of \$516,400 was granted to support the deployment of these practices which generally consist of combining a psychosocial intervention with a police intervention. This project aims to ensure an appropriate response to people going through a crisis situation and to limit hospitalizations, court proceedings or the use of specialized resources when this is not necessary. For the implementation and consolidation of mixed practices of psychosocial and local police interventions in Quebec, the investments of the Ministry of Health and Social Services and the Ministry of Public Security will be \$42.7 million and \$14 million respectively for a total of \$57.2 million. The RIPTB is involved in the deployment of mixed psychosocial and local police intervention teams in the Laurentians region and since 2021, a specialized CISSS intervention team has been working inside the offices of the police department in order to support the police during daily interventions in matters of mental



“Experiments with mixed practices of psychosocial and local police interventions have demonstrated their effectiveness, and we are proud to be able to support the deployment of such teams in the Laurentians region” said Lionel Carmant.

health, homelessness, drug addiction, and to ensure adequate follow-ups with those affected. “This measure aims to better respond to both public safety issues and the health and social services needs of people in crisis or vulnerable situations facing various psychosocial difficulties. This is an innovative action put forward in our mental health action plan 2022-2026” said Lionel Carmant, Minister for Health and Social Services.

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From Wayne & Tamara

## Up In The Air

**Q** I am a 21-year-old college senior looking forward to graduation in four months, pursuing a career and possibly my first love. So here's the question...

I've been in love with my first boyfriend, with whom I shared my first time, since I was 15. I knew I cared about him then, but I thought it was puppy love. Although the relationship didn't last long, we dated again sophomore year of college and began "hooking up" again five months ago. We both dated other people in the interim. I'm beginning to realize I am really in love and thinking about a future with him. The problem is we go to school four hours away from each other. I'm 21, he's 23. We also feel we deserve to "have fun" our last semester at college. The big problem is neither of us knows where we'll end up after graduation. Plus, I'm not sure he knows how very much in love with him I am. I'm scared he'll find somebody else if I don't tell him. But I'm also not sure how he'll take it if I do. He doesn't show his emotions much. Am I insane in thinking everything will work out if I tell him? We've talked about it, and he's never felt so "comfortable" with anyone before, but I'm not sure how he feels about a future with me. I think he feels the same or we wouldn't keep going back to each other. Either way, I don't want to scare him away by confessing my love and my hopes for a future, but I need to tell him how I feel!

Kira

**A** Kira, when we read your letter, we wondered what it was really about. Is it about nothing ventured, nothing gained? Is it about the power of first love? Or is it about something else?

Though we often tell people to be brave (ask the girl for a date, go for that job you want) we don't think that's your main

issue. Though the "first time" can leave an indelible mark, we don't think that's the issue either.

Look, you two are hooking up and "having fun" with multiple partners. By definition, that's not love. You say he's comfortable with you, but we'd bet he's comfortable with every woman he hooks up with. Comfortable enough to be having casual sex with them.

Near the end of the movie Up in the Air, a young woman is shown interviewing for a job in San Francisco. This will be her second job after college. When the interviewer asks why she took her first job, a dead-end job in Omaha, she answers candidly. "I followed a boy."

That's what your letter is about. "I graduate in four months; I don't know what job I'll have; I don't know where I'll be. Everything is unsettled and I'm scared."

You are moving on to a completely different stage of life, and of course you are scared.

But this man doesn't love you enough to say, "I'm not comfortable with you hooking up with other men." You don't love him enough to say, "I'm not comfortable with you hooking up with other women." Sex with no strings attached is the opposite of a genuine relationship.

But at 21 with a college degree, all the possibilities of life are open to you. Don't think about marriage and forever with a hookup.

Go on! Get your new life. Hightail it to your college placement office and schedule job interviews. Explore all the possibilities. Embrace this challenge. Above all, don't become that young woman who has to explain a blunder in her life by saying, "I followed a boy."

Wayne & Tamara

Wayne & Tamara Mitchell are the authors of YOUR OTHER HALF (www.yourotherhalf.com)  
Send letters to: Direct Answers, PO 964 Springfield, MO 65801-0964 or email: DirectAnswers@WayneAndTamara.com

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# The MRC Thérèse-De Blainville declares its solidarity with the Ukrainians

**MARIA DIAMANTIS**  
 Local Journalism Initiative Reporter  
 For The North-Shore News • [info@newsfirst.ca](mailto:info@newsfirst.ca)

During their meeting on March 23, the members of the council of mayors of the MRC de Thérèse-De Blainville unanimously adopted a resolution to declare their solidarity with the Ukrainian people.

In addition to its expression of sympathy for the people of Ukraine who are going through great suffering, the MRC condemns in the strongest terms the illegitimate invasion of Ukraine by Russia, which began more than two months ago.

Likewise, in its statement, the MRC opposes any form of repression of civilians and peoples anywhere in the world. Through its resolution, the MRC officially joins its voice to that of the Fédération québécoise des municipalités, which launched a mobilization call to the 1,020-member local and regional municipalities.

On the ground, the MRC intends to contribute to the collective and humanitarian effort by providing assistance to the Ukrainian refugees who will be welcomed on its territory.

## Creation of a common fund for the MRC for victims of Ukraine

"We are all saddened by the horrors of this war in Ukraine and the humanitarian crisis that is forcing millions of people to leave their country. The atrocities that Russia is inflicting on this neighboring people are unspeakable. Even if this armed conflict seems insoluble to us at the

moment, we can act locally to make a difference. This is why, on March 23, by adopting our declaration of solidarity with the Ukrainian people, our council and the constituent cities of the MRC proposed to create a common trust fund, administered by the MRC, to come to the aid of the disaster victims from Ukraine who will arrive on our territory. We wish to express our gratitude in advance to the municipalities of our MRC who will mobilize to contribute to this fund," declared Eric Westram, prefect of the MRC and mayor of Rosemère.

In addition, the MRC will be able to count on its partner ABL immigration to facilitate the reception and harmonious integration of Ukrainian refugees on its territory. According to the 2016 Statistics Canada census, more than 42,000 people of Ukrainian origin live in Quebec. This number will certainly increase by the expected arrival of many Ukrainian refugees.

Citizens who wish to participate in the solidarity effort for Ukrainians Citizens and want to volunteer or contribute to the efforts to welcome Ukrainians arriving in Quebec, can donate essential goods, by contacting the Quebec section from the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) website at [uccmontreal.ca](http://uccmontreal.ca). The Ukrainian Canadian Congress will take care of the distribution of goods and redirect offers of volunteering or housing as needed.

Citizens can also donate money to the Relief Fund set up by the Canadian Red Cross to help people affected by the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine: [redcross.ca](http://redcross.ca)





# HOROSCOPE

Week of **MAY 22 TO 28, 2022**

The luckiest signs this week:  
**TAURUS, GEMINI AND CANCER**



## ARIES

You'll discover a diet or treatment that improves your quality of life. This change will allow you to fulfill one of your dreams. You may suddenly fall ill, which will force you to take better care of yourself.



## TAURUS

Married life and an active social life aren't always compatible. You may have to compromise in this regard. You may also have to rearrange your priorities between pleasure and responsibility.



## GEMINI

You'll be inspired to re-decorate or renovate your home. Fortunately, your friends will happily offer a helping hand, which will strengthen your relationship.



## CANCER

It's time to start planning your summer holidays. You'll book a fun acti-vity or arrange a pilgrimage that dee-pens your spirituality.



## LEO

You may be very emotional for a few days. Fortunately, you won't let it get you down and will manage to make people laugh and lighten the mood at work.



## VIRGO

You'll be in an excellent position to close an important deal. Your cunning will allow you and your team members to move ahead.



## LIBRA

A colleague will unexpectedly be ab-sent from work. You'll be given their duties as well as your own, which may put you a little behind. Fortuna-tely, you'll be promoted as a result.



## SCORPIO

You'll be congratulated and applau-ded for a significant achievement. Your significant other will be attentive to your needs and suggest a pro-ject for you to work on together.



## SAGITTARIUS

You'll spend a lot of time with demanding young children. You may also have to drive them around. If you try to have fun with them, their reaction might surprise you.



## CAPRICORN

Pay attention to instructions, so you avoid doing the same job twice at work. There may be some confusion regarding communication, so double-check the details.



## AQUARIUS

As you calculate your budget, you'll realize you can afford to undertake a project that's close to your heart. You must sort out the details in your relationship to regain harmony.



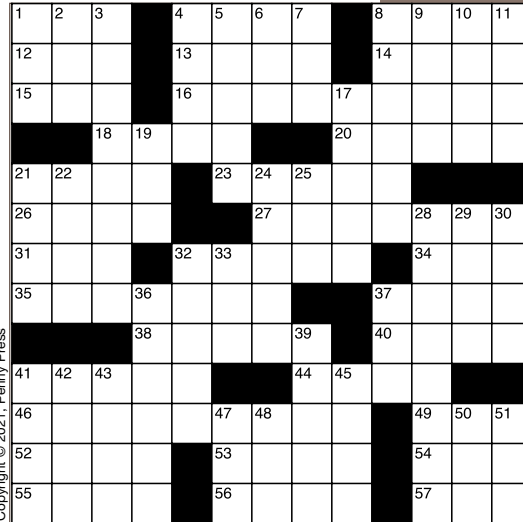
## PISCES

You'll be highly motivated this week. It's important to take the time to negotiate with people before making a decision that affects them. You'll get a pay raise at work.

# Coffee Break

## CROSSWORDS

PUZZLE NO. 125



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### ACROSS

1. Birthday number
4. Walking rhythm
8. Some vipers
12. Cured salmon
13. Female singer
14. Dog's pest
15. Prune
16. Tacky
18. Impolite look
20. Extinct birds
21. Scram!
23. Craze
26. Shredded
27. Like some popcorn
31. Sight in a Tarzan flick
32. Dazes
34. Dead \_\_\_\_ Scrolls
35. Marks down
37. Examine
38. Window components
40. Listen!
41. More strange
44. Ship bottom

### DOWN

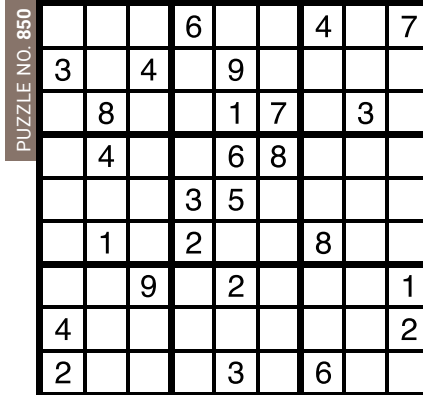
1. Every
2. Moo \_\_\_\_ gai pan
3. Searched
4. Entry
5. Siren
6. " \_\_\_\_ Not Unusual"
7. Kindergartner
8. Cruising
9. Snow vehicle
10. Mexican coin
11. Back talk
17. Corrects copy
19. Timespan
21. Heavenly body
22. Famed diamond
24. Mistreat
25. Convent denizen
28. Intensify
29. Behind
30. Tug
32. Unnerve
33. "The \_\_\_\_ Commandments"
36. Flips over
37. That lady
39. Pelts
41. Fairy-tale giant
42. Combat of honor
43. Radio knob
45. Hens' output
47. Puncturing tool
48. Ms. Zadora
50. Term of respect
51. The girl

# Sudoku

## HOW TO PLAY:

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 only once.

Each 3x3 box is outlined with a darker line. You already have a few numbers to get you started. Remember: **You must not repeat the numbers 1 through 9 in the same line, column, or 3x3 box.**

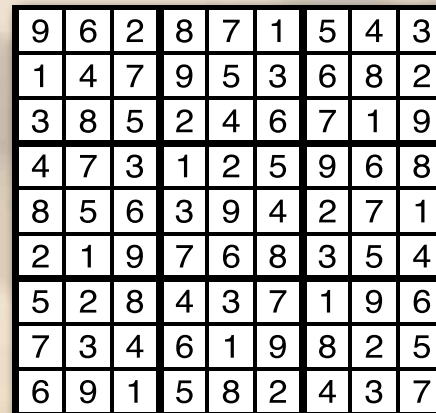


## Last Issues' Answers

## CROSSWORDS



## Sudoku



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