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Saint-Eustache celebrates cultural diversity

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

In the spirit of inclusive and respectful living together, the City of Saint-Eustache unveiled its brand-new program of intercultural Discovery, aiming to open the door to diversity, to include and mobilize cultural communities, to create moments of exchange, and this, through various activities in an environment accessible to all.

“We are really very proud to present this new unifying project, the first part of which consists of offering Eustachians many multicultural workshops taking place at the Guy-Bélisle library, throughout the year. Musical, artistic, culinary workshops and much more will please the whole family and will offer many opportunities for sharing that will create lasting bonds,” said Pierre Charron, mayor of Saint-Eustache,

Activities with a multicultural flavor

In addition to various workshops of all kinds, meetings with authors will also be offered, in particular with the novelist of Congolese origin Blaise Ndala and the writer of Lebanese origin Alain Farah, in order to promote different cultures through literature. A rally will also be offered throughout the summer, with the starting point being on the Rivière-du-Chêne promenade, through which participants will learn more about different cultures and traditions around the world.

An intercultural festival, next July 2 and 3

In addition to the annual activities, the



Ms. Mélanie Lesage, development officer at the Community Animation Service, Ms. Nicole Carignan-Lefebvre, municipal councillor, Mr. Pierre Charron, mayor, Mr. Raymond Tessier, municipal councillor, Mr. Alain Marginean, coordinating president at ABL immigration, Ms. Lucie Martineau, development agent at ABL immigration, Ms. Sophie Tessier, director of the Arts and Culture Department, Ms. Fannie Leclerc, development agent at the Library Department.

Découvertes interculturelles will take the form of a festival, which will bring together a host of free activities accessible to all, allowing discovery, networking between cultures, learning, inclusion, meeting, sharing, and living together. Throughout the weekend, participants will be able to enjoy a variety of fun activities in all four corners of Vieux-Saint-Eustache. On the

program: show by Marco Calliari and Mamselle Ruiz, artisan kiosks, tea tasting and Indian ink workshop, participatory djamboola, big Dance around the world, gourmet kiosk with Bouchées Brésil, and much more.

This event is the result of a collaboration between the City, SODSEE and the Corporation des fêtes de Saint-Eustache. ABL immigration

is also involved in the organizing committee, in addition to hosting a booth during the public market to promote its various services. This event is made possible thanks to a grant from the Ministry of Culture and Communications, as part of the Culture and Inclusion program.



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Deux-Montagnes celebrates Canada Day

The only official Canada Day celebration in the North Shore

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

As one more Canada birthday approaches, the mayor of Deux-Montagnes and the organizing committee announced on June 13th, 2022, the festivities program for the 1st of July. This is going to be the 51st edition of Canada day in the beautiful town and a break finally from the restrictions of the pandemic. Deux Montagnes is also the only North Shore city to host an official Canada Day celebration.

The Mayor of Deux-Montagnes, Mr. Denis Martin, and the President of the Canada Day Committee for MRC Deux-Montagnes, Mr. Tom Whitton have invited the entire MRC population to gather in large numbers on Friday, at Central Park in Deux-Montagnes. Mr. Whitton in an interview with NSN explained that for the first time there was going to be no parade this year since the organizing committee wanted everyone, volunteers, and attendees, to gather at the park.

“It is an honor for the City of Deux-Montagnes to be a partner for Canada Day. After two years of the pandemic. The desire to gather around our common values is more evident than ever. I salute the commitment of the organizing committee for putting together festivities which will allow for the entire population of the MRC, from young to old alike, to come celebrate here which collectively gives us pride in being Canadian,” declared Mr. Denis Martin, Mayor of Deux-Montagnes.

At the press conference Tom Whitton, emphasized that all the population has gone through difficult moments since Spring 2020.

“A return to our traditional, open-air celebration at Central Park is an important step towards a return to a normal life.”

The festivities

At noon, an opening ceremony will take place, with the signing of the national anthem, “O Canada” in the presence of dignitaries and this year’s Honorary President, Mr. Albert Allen.

The day will continue with many family activities: face-painting, train rides, horseshoes tournament, bingo, inflatables and a circus workshop offered by les Forains Abyssaux. New this year, a Zumba Class (presented by Sélection Retraite Deux-Montagnes) and an obstacle course race organized by Équilibre au Carré. Also, from 9:30am-4pm, the group “Véhicules Antiques des Patriotes de Saint-Eustache” will provide access to many of their vintage vehicles for fans of these fabulous machines.

Live music featuring artists from the region will be presented from 3pm to midnight. The headlining band is “Journey to the Grand Illusion”, a special tribute to Journey and Styx. The city promises a grand finale with a spectacular fireworks display, presented by the City of Deux-Montagnes, which will fill the sky at 10pm.

Albert Allen, a true love story

At the press conference Whitton emphasized the importance of volunteers contributing to the well-being of a community. He lamented the fact however that the pool of people willing to offer their time is dwindling. “We need to find inspirations to show us the way and set the examples for the generations of today and tomorrow. The Canada Day Committee always seeks to accomplish this in recognizing

community members as our honorary president.” For 2022, the Committee has chosen someone who, according to it, personifies this dedication, and who at his age, still offers his precious time today to the community. The Canada Day Committee therefore announced as its honorary president for the 2022 Canada Day celebrations, Mr. Albert Allen.

Mr. Allen grew up in Montreal and began his career working as an electrician, eventually becoming a draftsman. He married Sandy Potts in 1965, a love story which continued right up to Sandy’s passing in 2016. Albert and Sandy moved to Deux-Montagnes in 1978, purchasing their house on 16th Avenue from Albert’s parents, a home where Albert continues to live in today.

According to the committee it is hard to disassociate Albert from Sandy when one talks about their volunteering. For 30+ years, whether it was helping seniors at Manoir St-Eustache, offering food for Meals on Wheels, supporting the various Lions Club activities, or helping celebrate Canada Day, Albert and Sandy were always there to give their time and make our community better.

Albert and Sandy continued their volunteerism well beyond Albert’s retirement in 2002. After Sandy’s passing in 2016, Albert continued this legacy by offering his culinary skills for Meals on Wheels. And Albert currently teaches a wood-carving class pro-bono.

Mr. Allen who was called to speak during the press conference was visibly emotional about the honor. Mr. Whitton said that he will certainly be seen at the Canada Day kitchen this year. “Albert has always been a do-ers, and



Honorary president for the 2022 Canada Day celebrations, Mr. Albert Allen, and the President of the Canada Day Committee for MRC Deux-Montagnes, Mr. Tom Whitton



The President of the Canada Day Committee for MRC Deux-Montagnes, Mr. Tom Whitton announces the program of the Canada Day festivities in Deux-Montagnes

PUBLIC NOTICE

English-language school board by-election: authorized candidates

In accordance with section 206.16 of the *Act respecting school elections to elect certain members of the boards of directors of English-language school service centres*, the Chief Electoral Officer informs the public that the following candidates have been authorized to solicit and collect contributions, to incur election expenses and to take out loans in accordance with the provisions of the Act, for the English-language school by-election which will be held on the territory of the **Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board on June 12, 2022**. After polling day, authorized candidates may only solicit and collect contributions for the purpose of paying the debts arising from their election expenses.

LAST NAME, First name	Date of authorization
CÔTÉ, Josée	2022-05-05
BARRASSO, Barbara	2022-05-08

For more information, you can call the following toll-free number: 1-888-ELECTION (1-888-353-2846).



Publishers:

George Bakoyannis
George S. Guzman

General Director:

George Bakoyannis

VP Sales & Marketing:

George S. Guzman
sales@newsfirst.ca

Graphic Design:

Lareine Zakhour
Elena Molter
Thomas Bakoyannis

Advertising Consultants:

Peter Stavropoulos
peter@newsfirst.ca

Jean Paul Chamberland

Editorial Staff:

Martin C. Barry
Maria Diamantis
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OPINION & Editorial



Understanding Universal Health Care Reform Options: Cost- Sharing for Patients

Comprehensive measures of performance indicate that Canada routinely lags behind its international peers on key metrics of how its health-care system performs—despite ranking amongst the most expensive universal health-care systems in the developed world. It is, therefore, unsurprising that a growing proportion of Canadians seem open to the possibility of fundamental reform of health care in Canada. However, major hurdles exist as a result of faulty perceptions about how other countries with universal health-care insurance coverage provide and finance their health-care systems.

This study—the third in the series, Understanding Universal Health Care Reform Options—documents the presence of mechanisms for cost-sharing by patients in 28 universal health-care systems; and evaluates the feasibility and desirability of introducing similar policies in Canada.

Patients in Canada are currently fully covered for the costs of insured medical services; that is, patients are not directly billed for any portion of their care. Economic theory suggests that the distorting effects of such first-dollar insurance coverage can lead to excess demand for medical care accompanied by loss of social welfare. In Canada, the rationing of services through long wait times is one such by-product of excess demand. Economic theory also offers a set of tools to mitigate the magnitude of this social-welfare loss through cost-sharing mechanisms. These include deductibles—an amount up to which individuals are exposed to the full cost of treatment, after which insurance covers expenses; co-insurance payments—a

certain percentage of the cost of each unit of treatment that is to be borne by the individual; and co-payments—a fixed amount paid by the patient per unit of treatment.

This study finds that the vast majority of universal health-care systems around the world (22 of 28) expect patients to share in either the cost of outpatient primary care, outpatient specialist care, or acute inpatient care (though the latter is relatively less common) via deductibles (rarely), co-insurance charges, and co-payments. Notably, 8 of the 10 top-performing high-income universal health-care countries have some form of cost-sharing arrangement. These include Australia, Belgium, France, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, and Switzerland. In contrast, Canada is one of a small minority of only 6 countries (of the 28 examined in this report) that either entirely eschew cost-sharing by patients or do not generally expect patients to share in the cost of treatment (except for specific situations and purely private options) for core medical services within their standard universal health-care framework.

The wide-spread adoption of cost-sharing is unsurprising given its theoretical ability to reduce—or temper—the demand for unnecessary health-care services. This theory is supported by a wealth of empirical studies that broadly confirm that cost-sharing mechanisms can reduce the use of ambulatory care without necessarily resulting in adverse consequences for the population. However, because the tempering effect of cost-sharing payments extends to both essential and non-essential

care, and because such reductions in medical care can have a disproportionate impact on vulnerable groups, it is important to provide these vulnerable populations with appropriate protection. Particular care should be taken to avoid large deductibles for mental health care and essential pharmaceuticals. This conforms with the approach taken by the 8 successful universal health-care countries identified in this report, which employ generous safety nets, set annual caps on out-of-pocket spending, and ensure exemptions for at-risk populations.

Cost-sharing mechanisms should not, however, be looked at as a blunt tool for overall cost-savings in the short run. Rather, if designed correctly, cost-sharing mechanisms can serve as a tool to encourage the appropriate use of medical services and reduce the magnitude of rationing as a result of excess demand. There is some support for this in the correlation coefficients calculated in this study, which suggest countries that employ cost-sharing mechanisms may have shorter wait times for elective treatment.

The findings of this study suggest that Canada should consider reform that would allow provinces to experiment with, and design, a system that requires patients to share directly in the cost of medical care while protecting vulnerable populations in order to reduce social-welfare loss. Unfortunately, cost-sharing mechanisms for medically necessary care are explicitly prohibited by the Canada Health Act and financial penalties will be imposed on provinces found in violation.

Bacchus Barua



#NewsMatters:

The National
Assembly Report

By Raquel Fletcher

MarieChantal Chassé's short-lived political career was not an easy one: the former environment minister, relegated to the backbenches early on in the CAQ's mandate was publicly ridiculed for her apparent lack of confidence when speaking with the media.

In an emotional and moving speech last week in the house, she said goodbye to her colleagues and her constituents. She is one of more than a dozen women MNAs who have announced they will not be seeking re-election, a number of whom after only serving one term. Politics is, after all, a nasty business.

However, Chassé's final address was surprisingly positive: "I began this adventure with courage, with audacity and with a lot, a lot of enthusiasm. And I found myself at that moment with the file of the utmost importance for humanity... For my children, I couldn't say no," she said.

When things did not go as planned, she explained, she got back up, also for her children, three daughters, and set out to rebuild her credibility one person at a time.

"I also got up again for women because I want them to believe that we can be daring, that we can take leaps in the dark, take leaps ahead, that we can trip, get up and end up stronger through it all," she said, before delivering her powerful clincher:

"I hope with all my heart that my journey will not deter other women from daring to make these leaps... We are often hesitant, perfectionist, we are never good enough. I say to women, I have a responsibility to say to

you: 'Go, girl, go!' Prove to me, girls, that the fact that I got up again inspires you, dares you to take chances — that my journey helps you to believe even more in yourselves."

It was an eloquent message addressed to those women who might just feel compelled to take that baton Chassé is passing on to them, if not for her party than for one of the opposition parties gearing up for the upcoming fall election.

While all bets are on François Legault and the CAQ forming another strong majority government, there's no end of issues to be debated which might draw in new candidates ready to take that leap of faith into the world of politics.

Legault, who is running on his track record overall, will have a much tougher time convincing Anglophones his track record with them is worth voting for. Bill 96, scrapping the Dawson College expansion, and refusing to participate in an English language debate have created strong divisions between his party and English-speaking Quebecers. Still, as he did in 2018, the premier is asking them to "join us."

"My message to anglophones is still the same," he said at his end of session press conference last Friday. "But we have to all agree that it's important to protect French in Quebec."

"People are extremely frustrated, but not only the Anglophones, people in general," said Liberal Leader Dominique Anglade at her end of session press conference, also on Friday. "We have to stop dividing ourselves because what's ahead of us is going to be also a tough period in terms of the economy."

Anglade is also trying to get back into the good graces of her Anglophone base after her party proposed an amendment to Bill 96, which will now require students attending English CEGEPs to take more classes in

French. Anglade has recognized on more than one occasion that this unpopular amendment was a mistake, but if elected, she said it won't be repealed.

For Quebec Solidaire, the ballot box question will be the rising cost of living.

"We are in the middle of the worst inflation crisis in 30 years," said QS co-spokesperson Gabriel Nadeau-Dubois. "François Legault's \$500 has already been spent a long time ago."

He continued: "The CAQ has become the party of François Legault's obsessions: Louisiana, immigration. I think Quebecers have other priorities."

Although he has been heavily criticized for his comments that Quebec could become the next Louisiana if it didn't do more to protect the French language, the premier is sticking to his position.

"It might shock some people to say that Quebec wants more powers when it comes to immigration to protect French, but I'm a more or less straight forward guy who doesn't beat around the bush. So I think it's a question of saying clearly to Quebecers where we stand," he explained.

Despite the CAQ's recruiting two high-profile former sovereigntist candidates (Bernard Drainville and Caroline St-Hilaire), the Parti Quebecois still isn't convinced a nationalist approach is the best bet for Quebec.

"It's crystal clear that, no matter how many CAQ representatives there will be in this house after the next election, it will not change the fact that Ottawa will not say yes to things that, according to the Premier, are vital to the survival of our nation," said PQ Leader St-Pierre Plamondon.

Independence is "the reason of our existence" he said and he plans to campaign on that point "with all the energy possible."



Thanks for
everything,
Dad

Do you have a wonderful dad? Do you tell him often enough how much you love him and how lucky you are to have him? Take advantage of Father's Day to let him know, in person or in a letter, thanking him for everything he's done — and still does — for you.



If you're not sure where to start, here are a few ideas that may speak to your relationship:

- Thank him for attending your dance performances, piano re-

citals, hockey games or volleyball tournaments

- Thank him for driving you to medical appointments, extra-curricular activities and your friends' houses
- Thank him for reassuring you when you're scared or worried
- Thank him for listening to your joys, disappointments and dreams
- Thank him for supporting you in difficult times and encouraging you every step of the way
- Thank him for giving you sound advice on important decisions, like buying your first car

Finally, thank your dad for the great childhood memories, family holidays, funny stories and dad jokes. Above all, tell him you love him for being there for you and for being himself.

4 amazing dads from movies



Father's Day is just around the corner. A great way to celebrate the occasion is by watching a movie with your dad. Here are four that feature fantastic fathers.

1. LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL

Guido Orefice is an optimistic, cheerful man. When he and his family are interned in a Nazi concentration camp, Guido turns the experience into a game to spare his young son the cruel truth.

2. THE INCREDIBLES

Bob Parr, also known as Mr. Incredible, is a loving and proud father of three. What's more, he considers being a supportive and involved dad just as important as fighting crime.

3. THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS

After his wife abandons them, Chris Gardner must raise his son alone. Based on a true story, this father does everything in his power to ensure his child's well-being, even when they're forced to live on the street.

4. ANT-MAN

Several Marvel movies are known for their problematic father figures, but Scott Lang is an exception. Even after he becomes Ant-Man, this dad's number-one priority is his daughter, Cassie.

There are countless admirable fathers portrayed on the big screen. Who's your top pick?



HAPPY
Father's Day



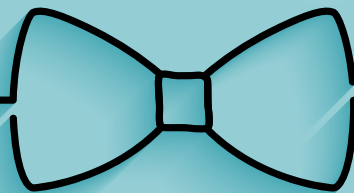
Rosemère Town Council wishes a memorable day to all the fathers who constantly make sure their children are happy.

May these moments with your family bring you love and comfort.



THE NORTH SHORE
News
would like
to wish all fathers

a very happy
Father's Day





WHY THIS COMMUNITY
NEWSPAPER MATTERS:

Local businesses get post-pandemic **lift** from community papers

BY RUBY IRENE PRATKA

For small businesses around the country, the first abrupt lockdown of the COVID-19 pandemic came as an existential shock. Restaurants had to shutter their dining rooms, and thousands – nearly 3,700 across Quebec at last count – closed for good. The hasty closures had a crippling effect on advertising, forcing many publications to cut costs – and, in turn, content. ➔

➔ Offering free advertising at such a difficult time may seem counterintuitive, especially for a new publication. However, that's exactly what *The 1019 Report*, a bi-weekly newspaper launched in May 2020 in Vaudreuil-Soulanges, decided to do.

"When local restaurants had to do take-out, we offered them three months of free advertising to get their phone numbers out there," said Brenda O'Farrell, editor-in-chief of *The 1019 Report* and a former *Montreal Gazette* news editor. "Normally, the local pizza place doesn't need to make an extra effort to put their phone number out there, but at this time, they did."

O'Farrell says the promotion didn't necessarily give rise to long-term paid advertising. That was not the point. It did, however, help establish the paper as a publication that had the community's interests at heart. "In a crisis, if your house is on fire, I want to be the neighbour who runs over and says, 'I can aim my garden hose at your roof,'" O'Farrell said.

“The situation shook everyone up, but it made us think about the importance of local media. People understand it now and realize we'd be lesser without it.”

~ NIKKI MANTELL, THE LOW DOWN

The feature, dubbed *Take Care, Take Action and Take Out*, won a Quebec Community Newspaper Association Award for best community newspaper promotion.

The Low Down to Hull and Back News, in Wakefield, also turned its attention to supporting small businesses during the pandemic, even as it faced its own challenges due to lost advertising.

"We thought we were going to go under," recalled *Low Down* publisher Nikki Mantell.

In spring 2020, Mantell and her colleagues launched the *Low Down* business directory, titled *Shop Local, Folks!* They offered free 100-word advertising slots to dozens of local businesses in the *Low Down*'s print edition and created a "distilled version" on the paper's website.

For Mantell, like O'Farrell, the goal of the campaign was not to pick up new paid advertisers, although the paper did add a few.

"We're a small semi-rural paper; the restaurants and boutiques are part of what makes our community great. People want to know about them and they need to get the word out," said Mantell, who calls the relationship between community newspapers and advertisers "symbiotic." She cites a recent reader survey indicating that 84 per cent of *Low Down* readers had patronized a local business after seeing an ad in the paper. "When you advertise in a local paper, you invest in the community, and the eyes that see your ad are people who pay to read about their community," Mantell said.

Steve Bonspiel is the editor and publisher of the *Eastern Door*, a community newspaper serving the Mohawk community of Kahnawake, south of Montreal. Like Mantell, he empathizes with local entrepreneurs who nearly lost their businesses early in the pandemic, because he also had to steer the paper through a rough patch. Throughout December 2020, he allowed local businesses and entre-

preneurs to place free full-colour ads in the print edition. "We're a community of 8,000 people and everyone wants to start a business," Bonspiel said. "It can start with someone selling baked goods out of their house ... the businesses we supported were a little more established

“It can start with someone selling baked goods out of their house...the businesses we supported were a little more established than that, but not much. They don't have a marketing or promotional budget, and we wanted to give them a boost.”

~ STEVE BONSPIEL, THE EASTERN DOOR



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than that, but not much. They don't have a marketing or promotional budget, and we wanted to give them a boost." One of his goals is to find sponsors that would enable the *Eastern Door* to run the special section year round.

He hopes the next generation of Mohawk entrepreneurs are inspired by seeing their neighbours' beadwork or home cooking enterprises mentioned in the paper, even in a small ad. "It shows that if you're starting out with an idea, on your kitchen table, you can be whatever you set your mind to. If you have a little bit of help from community media, who knows what else could happen."

He believes that on Mohawk territory, community media plays a key role in fostering the local economy. "We can't just rely on tobacco and big business. We have to kindle that entrepreneurial spark at the beginning," he said.

The *Eastern Door* and the *Low Down* were also recognized by the Quebec Community Newspapers Association for their promotional campaigns.

Mantell tips her hat to local businesses that, early in the pandemic, proactively bought hundreds of dollars of advertising, or donated T-shirts for the paper to sell as a spontaneous fundraiser. "The pandemic was terrifying for all of us at first ... but we were really touched by the support," she said. "The situation shook everyone up, but it made us think about the importance of local media. People understand it now and realize we'd be lesser without it."

Saint-Eustache as a nurturing city

An ever-developing agricultural innovation zone

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

The Mayor of Saint-Eustache, Mr. Pierre Charron, and the Chairman of the Economic Development Commission, City Councillor Patrice Paquette, announced the implementation of a project to establish an agricultural innovation zone, with, as a first step, the conclusion of an agreement with Collège Lionel-Groulx, with a view to providing theoretical and practical agricultural programs in Saint-Eustache.

The agricultural innovation zone is a unique project that is being rolled out in three phases. First with the establishment of a farm school,

to train the next generation to face the challenges of tomorrow's agriculture. Then, with the creation of a park dedicated to intensive organic farming, where young up-and-comers will be able to occupy twenty lots in this 7 million square foot space, to exploit this business model. And finally, in the last phase, with the creation of an agricultural incubator, which will allow young farmers, who will be supported by professionals in the field, to make their new business a viable business model. "After years of careful planning, everything is now aligned so that this extremely innovative project can unfold, further enhancing the agricultural sector and positioning Saint-Eustache as one of the most inspiring models of new agriculture," said the mayor.



Mr. Christian Bellemare, General Manager of the City of Saint-Eustache, Mr. Michel Louis Beauchamp, General Manager of Lionel-Groulx College, Mr. Pierre Charron, Mayor of Saint-Eustache, Ms. Michèle Labelle, City Councillor, Vice-president of the Economic Development Commission, Mr. Patrice Paquette, municipal councillor, president of the Economic Development Commission.

A first Ukrainian family welcomed to Sainte-Thérèse

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

In an effort to accommodate as many Ukrainian families as possible the different cities in the North Shore are ramping up their efforts to host refugees from the Russian invasion.

On June 3, the City of Sainte-Thérèse received Mrs. Zhanna Bokhinska at city hall, a mother who left Ukraine with her two children to find refuge in Sainte-Thérèse. During this meeting, the mayor officially welcomed the family and gave a citizen's card to each member so that they can access the activities of the municipality.

"The City of Sainte-Thérèse wanted to warmly welcome this resilient family. We are committed to providing them with all the necessary assistance to facilitate their integration. Leaving one's native country without a return date is a terribly heartbreaking choice. During our meeting, Ms. Bokhinska mentioned having noticed several similarities between Sainte-Thérèse and her hometown. We are therefore delighted to offer this mother and her two children a familiar place where they can find peace and quiet," said the mayor of Sainte-Thérèse, Mr. Christian Charron.

Due to the armed conflicts ravaging Ukraine, the family, made up of two children aged 6 and 15, and their mother, had to flee the city of Lviv in order to take refuge in Canada. Established in Sainte-Thérèse since April 20, the family members receive help from Mr.

Pascal Tanguay, volunteer citizen who accompanies them in their integration process, Mr. Mattia Potenza, manager of the Le 15 Lesage residence who accommodates the family in one of the establishment's lodgings, and Mrs. Marjorie Regimbeau, development agent for the organization ABL Immigration which provides reception and integration support as well as offering front-line and referral services to autonomous immigrants and, eventually, to refugees. Part of its mandate is to raise awareness of the contribution of immigration and interculturalism and to promote actions allowing intercultural and international openness in the Lower Laurentians.

The towns of the MRC of Thérèse-De Blainville have created an aid fund to facilitate the reception of Ukrainian families arriving on the territory.



A first agreement with Collège Lionel-Groulx

It was in the presence of Mr. Michel Louis Beauchamp, General Manager of Collège Lionel-Groulx, that elected officials from the city announced that college education programs in agriculture are being set up for the very first time in Saint-Eustache. These programs will eventually welcome a cohort of some 45 students per year. Under the agreement reached with the City of Saint-Eustache, the College will set up a farm-school, where the theoretical and practical teaching of its programs will be provided, on the adjacent agricultural land extending the Nature Park, for which a lease with option to purchase has been signed. This is a land that the City has worked in recent years to improve, in order to make it suitable for organic farming. Eventually, when the Lionel-Groulx College has obtained the necessary authorizations from the Quebec Ministry of Education (MEQ) and the Commission for the Protection of Agricultural Lands of Quebec (CPTAQ), this farm school will be established there permanently.

Conditions met for the establishment of the Agricultural Innovation Park

For emerging farmers, for whom the possibility of cultivating a plot of land near major centers has become practically an unattainable

goal, the agricultural Innovation Park will offer about twenty plots to establish small ecological farms, where intensive organic farming will be practiced continuously. It is estimated that these farms will eventually be able to feed some 4,000 families. "This project has only economic, social and environmental advantages," said Patrice Paquette, adding that the Agricultural Innovation Park will thus contribute concretely to food self-sufficiency, in addition to ensuring harmonious coexistence between agricultural and non-agricultural uses of the territory and to allow local consumption and marketing. "Since the Vieux-Saint-Eustache public market will be a showcase of choice for the organic products of these new farmers, this will also necessarily reduce GHG emissions related to the transport of foodstuffs.", he added.

The Agricultural Innovation Park will be formed from different lots that the City wishes to acquire. To this end, the municipal council recently adopted a resolution to issue property tax notices on some forty lots, which will be distributed according to the natural or agricultural potential they offer. Many these lots will make it possible to perpetuate the Nature Park, while some others, specific to agriculture, will come to constitute the Agricultural Innovation Park. "All these acquisitions can be made without any impact on the municipal debt, thanks to the income generated, among other things, by the resale of the Autodrome as well as by the Economic Development Fund." said mayor Pierre Charron.

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FROM WAYNE & TAMARA

FRIENDS TO LOVERS

Q I have a male friend with whom I share everything except physical interaction. In 15 years there has been no sex, no kissing, no intimacies. We share a rare and true platonic love.

We talk about everything, including sex, ex-lovers, money, religion, politics, needs, wants, and hurtful experiences. Or we sit and work on a project for hours without talking at all. We laugh at ourselves and each other, and both think the other is strong and intelligent.

This friendship was uncomfortable for our spouses when we were married, but it did not play a part in either divorce. We are known and accepted by all family members, including children from our previous marriages. However, some of our friends and family do not like to be around us because, "Everyone else is invisible when you two are together."

We often email each other at the same time, or he will page me when I am thinking of him. It is permissible within our relationship to sign paperwork for each other, such as charging tickets or approving carpentry work. He is renovating a house and consults me on everything from wall color to wall placement.

Now, please don't think it is all rainbows and lollipops. We disagree (rarely, but it happens). We aggravate each other, but when getting on each other's nerves, we say so. Neither of us is involved with anyone else, and neither of us is looking.

This has been the way of our relationship for 15 years. Now, in the past two months, there has been a reserve between us that was never there before. It is something we have not spoken about. We now go to great lengths to avoid touching, even accidentally. Six months ago an accidental bump would have gone unnoticed. Now it brings mutterings of apologies and careful body placements.

I have never seen him totally naked, but thought nothing of him answering the door in a towel fresh from the shower. I'd barge right

in, make some coffee, and comment he better start eating, he was losing too much weight. Now, I'd still barge in and make coffee, but I would not have the composure to maintain inane chatter. In 15 years, I doubt he noticed that I have breasts, but he did the other day.

Which brings us to the problem. The relationship is still intact, but there is an added dimension I cannot grasp. Surely at our age, late forties, it is not some post-adolescent sexual awareness. Is it possible, or advisable, for platonic friends to add a physical dimension to their relationship?

Marla

A Marla, usually when a man and a woman are friends, it's because one or both don't see the other as someone they would date. Then, after being friends, one party decides to turn the friendship into an intimate relationship. When they write us, the question is, "How can I do this?"

Our initial thought is they want to know how to approach the other person. As we continue reading, we learn they have already asked and been rebuffed. You can hear the desperation in the letter. Nearly always they claim they don't want to ruin the friendship, but that is exactly what they are doing.

None of those red flags are in your letter. What is missing in those letters is a sense of connection, the sort of connection your friends and family see. We scoured your letter for negatives. We looked for contradictions, mixed messages, and hidden agendas. We can't find any.

Who knows why the door was closed for so long. Maybe neither of you was ready. Love doesn't come on command. It comes when it comes. For whatever reason, it seems the door has now opened. We are not fortune-tellers. We cannot tell you what will happen, but when a door opens for you, you walk in.

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

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A Blainville celebration

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

The City of Blainville is presenting the 35th edition of Blainville en fête in its full format on Saturday, August 20 at the Equestrian Park. Blainville citizens will be able to celebrate once more after 2 years of pandemic restrictions. They will be able to see Corneille and his guests : Renee Wilkin, Dashny Jules, Jonas Tomalty, as well as Julien Charbonneau and Sarah-Maude Desgagné from the most recent version of Star Académie.

Family fun

The Blainville en fête festivities will begin at 10 a.m. with inflatable games, face painting for children and various fun activities. Starting at 11 a.m., Atchoum will present his show on the secondary stage. Véronique has been interested in comedy and music since a young age. Véronique Gagné embodies Atchoum full time and travels across Quebec, accompanied by her rock musicians. Atchoum is also known for its songbooks, its video capsules, its program Tordus broadcast on the Web and on TV, its five albums and its four films, its nominations at the ADISQ gala, its association with the Parc Mille Lieux from the hill, and more. She will be followed by Bill Bestiole at 2 p.m.

Starting at 7:30 p.m., the winners of the Blainville en chansons will perform on the main stage. It will be a great opportunity to discover the fabulous talents of the region.

New for the 35th

To mark the 35th anniversary of Blainville en fête, the traditional fireworks will be accompanied this year by a show of 100 luminous drones for about ten minutes. This is a show conceptualized especially for the City of Blainville. Drone fireworks are the new craze worldwide with exceptional capabilities in delivering sky messages that fireworks cannot! Blainville en fête is able to support these activities because of the support of generous partners who make it possible, year after year, to carry out an event of this magnitude: Stables, Desjardins Caisse de l'Envolée, CIME FM, Groupe JCL, IGA Extra Famille Girard, as well as many other collaborators.



Sonia St-Pierre of Stables, Liza Poulin; Mayor of Blainville, Nicole Ruel; municipal councillor, Christian Paradis of Desjardins Caisse de l'Envolée, Pierre-Marc Langlois and Christian Asselin of the JCL group, Jean-François Pinard; municipal councillor and Maya Bon of CIME FM



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HOROSCOPE

Week of JUNE 19 TO 25, 2022

The luckiest signs this week:
TAURUS, GEMINI AND CANCER



ARIES

In your love life, a new flame will declare their commitment to you. You may also consider the idea of living together or starting a family. You'll be very imaginative this week.



TAURUS

It's time to spoil yourself. You'll be influenced by your friends to go shopping. Make sure you take time to pamper yourself; you deserve to have a good time.



GEMINI

Whether you're single or in a relationship, someone at work will make romantic advances that leave an impression on you. You may also feel some pressure from those around you.



CANCER

The summer holidays are just around the corner. You'll plan a trip for you and your family. Don't forget to bring a GPS or an old map if you're driving because you may not have any cell service.



LEO

You'll be impressed by your children's grades in school and won't be able to refuse any of their requests. You should expect a family member to ask you for the moon, or at least for something beyond your understanding.



VIRGO

If you're questioning your romantic relationship, you'll speak your mind to set the record straight. This honesty will allow you to deepen your love and take the next step forward together.



LIBRA

You're thinking about starting your own business, which will eventually pay off. Although discreet and reserved, your soul mate will make themselves known. Be patient with your significant other, especially if they're not very graceful.



SCORPIO

You must develop your self-esteem to make your way in the world. This applies to your professional, romantic and personal spheres of life. It's equally important to respect yourself.



SAGITTARIUS

The night before a big move, you'll be pressed for time. Fortunately, you'll manage to be efficient and arrange your agenda to avoid delays, scheduling conflicts and other inconveniences.



CAPRICORN

You'll have to drive your young children to and from their friend's houses during the summer holidays. You'll get a loan or negotiate a reasonable price for a major purchase.



AQUARIUS

If your relationship lacks affection, you'll be eager to raise the subject with your partner and set the record straight. This openness will help improve your relationship.



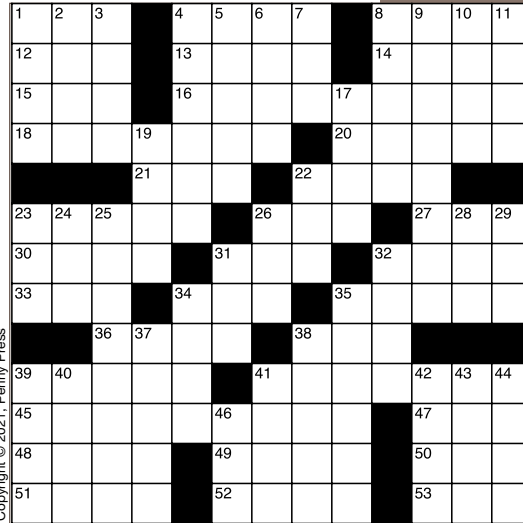
PISCES

You'll have a take-charge attitude with your employer or significant other. You'll take matters into your own hands to gain respect in all areas of your life.

Coffee Break

CROSSWORDS

PUZZLE NO. 127



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ACROSS

1. Cut
4. Healthy resorts
8. Begone!
12. Period in history
13. Speak
14. City vehicle
15. Lingerie item
16. Up for grabs
18. Pays up
20. Was sick
21. Timeworn
22. Desperate
23. Patches of grass
26. Obstacle
27. Raven's call
30. Proves human
31. Focal point
32. Fictional work
33. Wow!
34. Trendy
35. ___ over (studied)
36. Exchange
38. Guy's date

DOWN

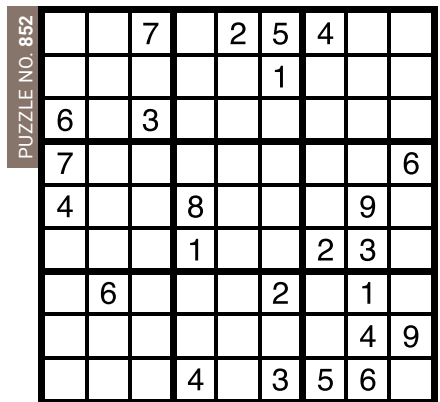
1. Hunting dogs, for short
2. Grimm heavy
3. Bog product
4. Sheds
5. Surfaced
6. Word of woe
7. ___ lodge
8. Part of a flight
9. San Francisco attraction: 2 wds.
10. Wheel rod
11. Knotted
17. Cave
19. Coal measures
22. Speck
23. Relay section
24. "Bells ___ Ringing"
25. Grappled
26. Unopened flower
28. Strong brew
29. Join together
31. Bunny's motion
32. Informed
34. Created
35. Colorful march
37. Fuses
38. Heredity factors
39. Slender woodwind
40. Chess piece
41. Travel permit
42. Minute amount
43. Fried potato snack
44. Sound quality
46. Massage

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.**

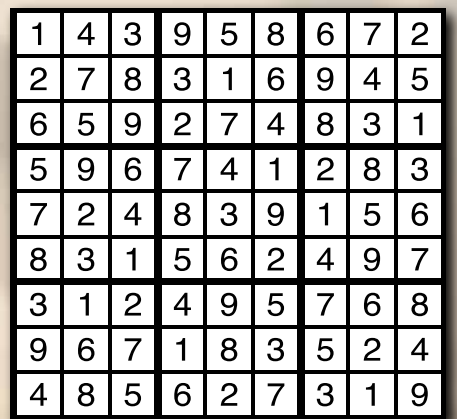


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Last Issues' Answers

Sudoku





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