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Deux-Montagnes' Central Park was a crowded place to be this past Canada Day. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, North Shore News)



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DISO

70 artists at work in the Old Sainte-Rose

Exhibitions

'La Vieille Caserne' Gallery: Rose-Art Artists Adjoining rooms: Tribute to Claire Gauthier Sainte-Rose Art Centre: Ground floor: Small size exhibition Upstairs: Rose-Art artists' large size exhibition Honourary president CHRISTOPHER SKEETE MP for Sainte-Rose Minister for the Economy Minister Responsible for the

ANCETRES

BO

Fight Against Racism Minister Responsible for the Laval Region



In front of La Vieille Caserne' Gallery and Art Centre 216 boul. Ste-Rose, Laval www.roseart.ca corp@roseart.ca F corporation roseart





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North Shore celebrates a memorable Canada Day in Deux-Montagnes

Thousands gathered in Central Park to mark the country's 157th birthday

MARTIN C. BARRY martv@newsfirst.ca

Though the days are gone when Canada Day meant an exciting parade up the middle of Chemin d'Oka in Deux-Montagnes, the country's birthday was still celebrated this past July 1 in the city's Central Park.

There, thousands of people from all over the Deux-Montagnes MRC as well as elsewhere on the North Shore gathered for an all-day celebration of Canadian patriotism and values on the country's 157th birthday.

After a couple of years when the Covid pandemic forced event cancellations in Deux-Montagnes on Canada Day, and then last year when torrential rain closed things down altogether, this year's 53rd annual Canada Day was a long-awaited indulgence for many Deux-Montagnes residents.

A big day in Deux-Montagnes

Still, according to Canada Day organizing committee president Tom Whitton, it would have been hard to beat Canada Day 2022, when a record 10,000 people gathered in Central Park. And yet, before noon on July 1 this year, the park was already crowded with moms, dads, kids and other family members, all eager to have a good time while celebrating their countrv's birthday.

Special guests this year were Canadian figure skating partners Loucas Éthier and Kelly Ann Laurin, who served as honorary event co-presidents. Éthier, 24, and Laurin, 18, have been skating together for the past six years. Both being from the Laurentian region, they train at École Excellence Rosemère and have been members of Canada's figure skating team since 2022, representing the country at international figure skating events.



Among the dignitaries on hand to open Deux-Montagnes' Canada Day celebration were Rivière des Mille-Îles MP Linda Lapointe, Canada Day committee president Tom Whitton, Mayor Denis Martin, Canadian figure skating champs Loucas Éthier and Kelly Ann Laurin, and Deux-Montagnes MNA Benoit Charette. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, North Shore News)



The kiddie train remains one of the most popular attractions for children on Canada Day in Deux-Montagnes. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, North Shore News)



Members of the Royal Canadian Legion's Branch 185 were among the honored guests during Canada Day celebrations held in Central Park in the City of Deux-Montagnes on July 1. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, North Shore News)

Fun and games for all

There was something for everyone, from inflatable games for children, to face painting and mini-train rides, as well as children's races and an egg-toss contest.

For older residents of Deux-Montagnes keen on traditional pastimes, there were horseshoe toss championships, bean bag toss tournaments, even bingo with a lively numbers caller. This year, the organizers decided to invite

back local artisans who offered a range of their locally handcrafted wares.

The Canada Day stage hosted rock and roll performers through the day, with a closing performance in the evening by ROCKOLOGY, a band that performed classic English and French rock music from the 1970s and 1980s. The day came to a fitting close around 10 pm with a superb display of fireworks glistening off the Lake of Two Mountains and lighting up the North Shore sky.

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> **Publishers:** George Bakoyannis George S. Guzmas

General Director: George Bakoyannis

VP Sales & Marketing: George S. Guzmas sales@newsfirst.ca

Graphic Design: Lareine Zakhour Elena Molter Thomas Bakoyannis

Advertising: Jean Paul Chamberland

> **Editorial Staff:** Martin C. Barry Maria Diamantis

Renata Isopo

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OPINION & Editorial

How alarmist influencers are distorting the climate debate

Influencers fueling climate panic with their extremist rhetoric are a danger to science-based public policy

 ${
m T}$ oronto Globe and Mail columnist Gary Mason recently penned a column titled The country is on fire. Pierre Poilievre doesn't care. Columnists often don't choose their headlines, but this one was drawn directly from Mason's assertion about "the planet burning up."

The Frontier Centre for Public Policy recently released my study on Canada's looming threat of eco-extremism. It reveals how a distorted intellectual foundation on climate change fosters public fear and anxiety. Mason employed a familiar tactic: seizing on extreme weather incidents, like the recent forest fire near Fort McMurray, Alberta, and attributing them to climate change.

The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the leading authority on climate science, presents a nuanced and tentative view. In her well-researched book Inconvenient Doubts, Joanne Marcotte outlines three key points about IPCC reports:

- They include varying degrees of confidence and probabilities, rarely mentioned by the media:
- Some statements refer to specific regions but are often generalized globally; and
- An extreme weather event becomes a disaster only if a region cannot respond effectively. Instead of providing nuance, Mason directly links the forest fire to climate change, calling it the "new normal." This reckless use of catastrophic language mirrors that of ideologues. The severity

and intensity of heat waves attributed to climate change and their regional impacts are still being debated. Describing the earth as "burning" or "on fire" is unscientific and misleading.

Journalists, often lacking scientific training, adopt alarmist language from their surroundings. Politicians eager to push climate policies resort to extreme rhetoric to generate urgency, while environmentalists abandon measured scientific language to build support and raise funds. Alarmism is so prevalent that prominent scientists criticize politicians and others for their language. Climate scientist Judith Curry, in her book Climate Uncertainty and Risk: Rethinking our Response, expresses concern about the current state of the debate. Scientists avoid terms like "burning planet" for good reason - it's ideological and activist language.

Just Stop Oil, a British extremist group, demands a halt to new fossil fuel licensing and production, using their bodies to block roads and bridges. The group claims that new fossil fuel extraction "will kill our children and condemn humanity to oblivion" and that human-induced climate change "will destroy human civilization unless emergency action is taken." This rhetoric is far removed from scientific reality.

Thankfully, this group doesn't operate in Canada, though groups like Extinction Rebellion, which engage in extreme acts like gluing themselves to objects, do. In 2022,

anarchists motivated by "decolonization" rhetoric and extreme hatred towards the energy industry attacked a pipeline worksite in B.C. Extremist groups in Canada and abroad are normalizing attacks on energy infrastructure based on distorted beliefs. "World on fire" rhetoric fuels this extremism.

Mason also weaponizes the virtue of caring, suggesting that because Poilievre doesn't endorse certain policies, he doesn't care about the planet. This ignores the complexity of the debate. No one can read minds to know Poilievre's true feelings.

Lastly, Mason erroneously links carbon taxes to combating climate change. One cannot confidently claim that higher carbon taxes would have prevented or mitigated the effects of this forest fire. Alarmist rhetoric not only distorts public policy debates but also harms the public. My report on eco-extremism highlights the

growing climate change anxiety among young people constantly exposed to unscientific alarmist language that is causing them to grow up in fear. Some young families are tragically even foregoing having children.

A fearful society – especially one driven by unfounded beliefs – is dangerous. Manipulators can exploit fearful people to support unnecessary and harmful policies. Influential voices must think carefully before they write, lest they contribute to this misguided discourse.

Joseph Quesnel

ANGRY? FRUSTRATED? ANNOYED? You've got a Send a letter to place to vent!

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4

Pablo Rodriguez says he stands by Justin Trudeau

PM's Quebec lieutenant pitches Liberal successes – after Toronto by-election loss

MARTIN C. BARRY

marty@newsfirst.ca

A few days after the Trudeau Liberals' humiliating by-election defeat in the "safe" Liberal stronghold of Toronto-St. Paul, Pablo Rodriguez, the Prime Minister's lieutenant for Quebec, was talking apologetically on the phone – long before he even got around to the actual purpose of the call.

The by-election impact

"I totally get what happened on Monday," said Pablo Rodriguez, the Member of Parliament for the Montreal riding of Honoré-Mercier.

"I mean, it's been rough for us," he told *Newsfirst Multimedia*. "But then again, it's not a general election, it's a by-election where people pass messages. And I think we understood very clearly that people are not happy with our stuff, that they feel the pain of the increased cost of life and all of that.

Undoing the damage

"But at the same time, when they're going to come into an election and make the final button when you change the government, that's a different thing, right? Because in a by-election, you send a message, and in an election, you choose your government. So, these are two different things."

While the ostensible purpose of the call was to remind us of the Liberals' more noteworthy accomplishments, the timing – coming virtually right after the by-election fiasco – left little doubt that the gears had been turning during recent Liberal caucus meetings in Ottawa, where the operative phrase undoubtedly was damage control.

Pre-election year pitch

Thus Rodriguez, who is currently Minister of Transport in the Trudeau cabinet, went on to list the Liberal government's most significant achievements (this being a pre-election year, mind you, with the next official election date not expected before late next year – if the government hangs on to the end with crucial NDP support).

Among the accomplishments: Nationwide programs aimed at combating child poverty; massive investments in new and moderately-priced as well as low-income housing projects; the Canada Dental Care Plan (albeit largely at the insistence of the NDP, as a condition for their ongoing political support); and the Canadian Pharmacare Plan, initially covering medications for diabetes and contraception.

"I think we have a pretty good *bilan*," said the bilingual Rodriguez, using an interchangeable Québécois term that roughly translates to a balance sheet.

No election until late 2025

Regarding the ongoing viability of the Trudeau government's arrangement with the NDP, and whether it will last until the next scheduled election, Rodriguez said he felt confident there would be no election before October 2025.

"One of the most important things that Canada needs these days is stability," he said. "Stability, because the world – not just the country – is going through a tough situation, with the economic crisis that followed the pandemic, the cost of living that has increased, and the impact of climate change."

"You can feel it through the wildfires and through the droughts. So, I think we need a stable government to lead the country during this period. And this deal with the NDP is offering that kind of stability."

Dealing with the deficit

In the Trudeau government's 2024 budget tabled in April by Liberal Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland, the federal deficit was projected to be \$39.8 billion in 2024-25, and \$38.9 billion in 2025-26, after which it would decline to \$20 billion by 2028-29.

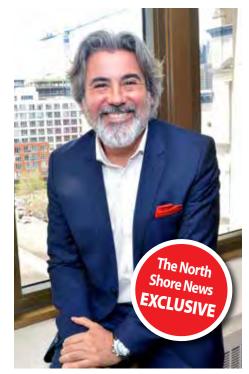
When asked how the Liberals plan to pay for the massive amount of debt they have accumulated while in office for nearly a decade, Rodriguez noted that the official opposition Conservatives are demanding immediate spending reductions, without however specifying what they would cut.

"So, what we're saying, of course, is that we're going to reduce and put an end to the deficit, but not put at risk the people that need it the most, not have people really suffering, because the role of the government is to be there for those that need us," said Rodriguez.

Still on side with Trudeau

Several days prior to the interview with Rodriguez, former Ottawa-area Liberal MP Catherine McKenna became the first ex-Trudeau cabinet minister to go on record stating she felt it was time for the Liberals to seek a new leader – although she also expressed support for Justin Trudeau's accomplishments.

Rodriguez insisted he still strongly supports Justin Trudeau, noting that the Liberal prime minister "led us to three victories in the last three



elections – which is huge, right? ... and he has the strength and the energy to keep fighting. So, he will decide on what he wants to do. But I will follow him."

Finally, Rodriguez, who was first elected in 2004, confirmed that he has already made up his mind to seek a seventh term as the MP for Honoré-Mercier. (He lost once, in 2011, to the NDP, when the party surged during the so-called Orange Crush.)



Celebrating Rosemère in Bloom

Nurturing community and the environment

MARIA DIAMANTIS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter for The North Shore News info@newsfirst.ca

The Town of Rosemère is excited to celebrate the 35th anniversary of Rosemère in Bloom with a series of events on July 14, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. This year's festivities will include a Gardening Bazaar and a community-wide Secret Gardens Tour, both promising a day full of activities and exploration, fostering environmental awareness and community engagement.

Gardening bazaar: a hub for sustainability and creativity

The Gardening Bazaar at Hamilton House will offer a variety of activities suitable for all ages. Attendees can shop for plants, tree saplings, second-hand gardening tools, accessories, planters, and antiques. This year's bazaar will also feature reasonably priced holiday decorations and furniture, providing an opportunity to repurpose donated items and support a charitable cause. Donations for the bazaar will be accepted at the Ecocentre until July 13.

Visitors are encouraged to bring a picnic lunch to enjoy on the grounds of Hamilton House. They can explore the theme gardens and take a leisurely walk along the boardwalk at the Bouthillier Marsh. Local artists will display their work, and live music will enhance the festive atmosphere, making it a delightful celebration of art and nature. This event promotes sustainable practices by encouraging the reuse and repurposing of items, thus reducing waste and fostering a culture of sustainability.

Secret gardens tour: discovering hidden gems and green spaces

The Secret Gardens Tour offers a rare chance to visit some of Rosemère's most beautiful private gardens. For \$10, participants will receive a map outlining the tour locations. Tickets can be purchased on the day of the event at Hamilton House, located at 106 Grande-Côte Road. The tour is self-guided, allowing visitors to explore at their own pace.



This tour not only showcases the beauty of private gardens but also inspires residents to cultivate their green spaces, promoting biodiversity and enhancing the town's overall aesthetic appeal. It highlights the importance of green spaces in urban environments, contributing to better air quality, mental well-being, and a stronger sense of community.

All proceeds from the tour and the Gardening Bazaar will benefit Les Petits Plaisirs, a respite care organization, thus reinforcing the community's commitment to social responsibility and support for local charitable causes.



Photography contest: celebrating local talent and natural beauty

In addition to the events on July 14, Rosemère in Bloom includes a photography contest. Residents are invited to submit their best photos of their gardens by August 30. There are multiple categories and nearly 25 prizes available. Details about the contest can be found on the Rosemère in Bloom page on the Town's website. Winners will be announced at an awards ceremony in the fall.

This contest encourages residents to engage with their natural surroundings creatively, fostering a deeper appreciation for the environment. It also provides a platform for local photographers to showcase their talents, further strengthening community bonds.

A message from Mayor Eric Westram

Mayor Eric Westram encouraged all residents to participate in the festivities: "I invite all Rosemerites to join us on July 14. They're bound to make some great finds at the bazaar and succumb to the charms of the Hamilton House gardens. During the Secret Gardens Tour, they'll discover how talented our amateur gardeners are at creating spaces that are truly original. And local shutterbugs are encouraged to enter our photo contest. There's no doubt about it: we owe our status as a 'Community in Bloom' to the green thumb and the imagination of our residents."



Sainte-Rose Art Symposium takes place from July 25 - 28

Works by 70 artists to be showcased in one of Quebec's most historic settings

MARTIN C. BARRY marty@newsfirst.ca

marty@newsfirst.ca

While the dates may vary a little from year to year, there's one thing about the Sainte-Rose Art Symposium you can always count on.

This popular summertime gathering of artists always guarantees four days of enjoyment of the visual arts for thousands of satisfied patrons.

The 28th symposium

This year, the Corporation Rose-Art's art exhibition is taking place from Thursday July 25 to Sunday July 28. Those with a discerning taste for fine sculpture and inspiring visual creation will be arriving from all over Quebec, as well as other parts of eastern Canada, for the 28th symposium.

Many visitors will be purchasing works produced by the 70 participating artists, who express themselves in styles ranging from traditional and impressionistic to modern and abstract.

The event's honorary president this year is Member of the National Assembly for Sainte-Rose Christopher Skeete. "Art nourishes the soul," he said during a recent press conference at the Vieille Caserne art gallery on Sainte-Rose Blvd. where the 2024 lineup of artists was revealed.

Home to great artists

As always, the symposium will be taking place alongside the Rivière des Mille-Îles in the charming and historic Laval neighbourhood known as Vieux Sainte-Rose. The village is renowned as the birthplace of internationally-acclaimed Québécois painter Marc-Aurèle Fortin. Saint-Rose was also at one time the home of landscape painter Clarence Gagnon. Both influenced generations of artists.

After winning a range of awards for excellence over nearly three decades, the organizing committee, led by Corporation Rose-Art president Oprina-Félicia Dolea, continues to uphold the standards that have established the Sainte-Rose Art Symposium's reputation for excellence in art circles across eastern Canada.

Archeological exhibition

As an added bonus at this year's symposium, archeologists who've been working in the past few years on archeological excavations on the grounds of the historic Sainte-Rose-de-Lima Church have agreed to set up a display of some of the artifacts from past centuries which were recovered. According to sources, they include antique household objects as well as religious items.

The organizers have received some significant recognitions for their efforts. In 2019, the Laval Chamber of Commerce and Industry presented the organizers with a Dunamis award for helping to promote tourism in Laval. They were also a finalist for a second Dunamis in 2020 and 2022, as a sustainable organization or enterprise.

Guests from all over

More than 20,000 people are expected to

Beware of offers of private loans on fraudulent websites

The Autorité des marchés financiers ("AMF") is warning Quebeckers about fraudulent websites that offer private loans with attractive interest rates.

The scam is always the same:

- The victims apply for a loan from a fraudulent website
- The criminals require certain fees to be paid to "open a file", "pay professional fees" or "pay an insurer in order to secure the loan"
- The victims are asked to send the fees by Interac transfer to various e-mail addresses, including personal ones
- After paying the fees, the victims never receive the loan funds

Identity theft

Websites used by criminals include:

- paolofolco-courtier.ca
- landry-courtier.com
- courtiercanada.ca courtier-canada.com
- courtier-canada.com
 tremblay-solutions.ca
- sirois-finance.ca

Some fraudulent websites are counterfeit sites

that use the names of actual representatives and/or firms registered with the AMF, which can cause confusion. For example:

- Paolo Folco has been registered in mortgage brokerage since February 1, 2013 and in insurance of persons since August 19, 2014
 Bruno Landry Courtier Assurance-crédit inc. has been registered in commercial-lines
- damage insurance since March 6, 2003 Tremblay Solutions Financières inc. has been registered in insurance of persons
- since February 5, 2009 The AMF wishes to emphasize that none of the duly registered representatives and firms listed above solicits or advertises to the public

on the aforementioned fraudulent websites. Furthermore, no firm by the name of "Paolofolco-courtier", "Courtier Canada", "Landry Courtier", or "Sirois Finances" is registered with the AMF.

The AMF also wishes to emphasize that the offering of private loans is not regulated by the AMF. For an individual or firm to offer private loans, it must be registered with the Office de la protection du consommateur.



Artists belonging to the Corporation Rose-Art joined local elected officials, including Sainte-Rose MNA Christopher Skeete, and Laval city councillors Flavia Alexandra Novac and Louise Lortie, for the launch of the 2024 Sainte-Rose Art Symposium, which runs from July 25-28. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Newsfirst Multimedia)

attend. Although most are usually from the Laval and greater Montreal regions, the busy vacation season is also known to bring in visitors from Ontario, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, as well as from the U.S. states of Vermont, New York and New Hampshire.

Tourism has been growing by leaps and bounds in Laval over the past few years, as travellers from all over Canada and the U.S. begin to rediscover hidden treasures such as the Symposium de Sainte-Rose, in an upsurge of interest in travel since the end of the Covid pandemic.

Some of the best times to go

The Symposium will be taking place along a stretch of the main street in downtown Sainte-Rose, next to La Vieille Caserne (216 Ste-Rose Blvd.), a stone's throw from Sainte-Rose-de-Lima Church, between Filion and Deslaurier-Hotte streets.

All the events are free. The hours are as follows: Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 10 am to 6 pm; Sunday, 10 am to 5 pm. Additional information is available on the website www.roseart.ca. E-mail: roseart@videotron.ca. Phone: (450) 625-7925.



July 12, 2024 • The North Shore News •

CFIB issues recommendations as Canada reviews Temporary Foreign Worker program

Country's agri-businesses want streamlined processes, small business lobby group says

MARTIN C. BARRY marty@newsfirst.ca

As the Trudeau government looks to overhaul its Temporary Foreign Worker (TFW) program, most agri-businesses say they are in favour of multi-employer work permits as an option, enabling employers to share foreign workers, according to new research undertaken by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB).

Foreign worker 'poaching'

However, cautions the CFIB, the majority of agribusiness owners don't support sectoral and/ or regional work permits, whether it's under the current or a new program structure, where a third party would recruit and dispatch a pool of foreign workers, as they fear such permits could facilitate employee poaching and thus hinder retention.

"While government is reviewing its TFW program, it needs to consider the practical needs of agri-businesses and the future of Canada's food security," said Juliette Nicolaÿ, a CFIB policy analyst. "Farmers are already struggling with chronic staffing shortages and when they turn to foreign labour, it's only as a last resort because they can't find anyone locally," she added. "That's concerning given Canada's ageing population and a perceived lack of interest among Canadian workers in a career in agriculture."

TFW hiring in Quebec

CFIB research found that three in 10 Canadian agri-businesses hired foreign workers in 2023. The reliance on foreign workers was even more pronounced in certain regions, such as Quebec (51%), and in agriculture sub-sectors characterized by labor intensive tasks, such as the fruits, vegetable and horticultural specialties (64%).

According to Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC), among employers who hired TFWs, 92% said foreign workers helped them meet demand for their products or services, while 89% said that TFWs helped them stay in business.

CFIB maintains that there are many misconceptions around the TFW program, for example that TFWs aren't paid sufficient wages or they're mistreated by their employers.

Debunking TFW myths

In fact, the federation says, most (85%) TFWs are paid the same wage as Canadian full-time residents or citizens, and only 3.5% are paid less. They also note that the federal government conducts regular inspections to ensure health and safety of foreign workers, with 94% of employers inspected found to be compliant on 26 different criteria.

"While there may be isolated bad actors that should not be tolerated, agri-businesses highly value foreign workers, and they take time and effort to bring TFWs to Canada," said Francesca Basta, a CFIB research analyst.

"They cover costs that go beyond wages like housing, transport and health care. It is also common for farmers to have the same TFWs come back year after year. Some also sponsor foreign workers to become permanent residents."

CFIB's suggestions

To improve the TFW program's efficiency, the CFIB recommends that the federal government should consider:

• Reducing red tape associated with hiring

Lorraine achieves budget surplus of \$840,846 for 2023

MARIA DIAMANTIS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter for The North Shore News info@newsfirst.ca

During the municipal council meeting, Mayor Jean Comtois presented the financial highlights of the City of Lorraine for the year 2023. The city ended the fiscal year with a surplus of \$840,846. This positive financial outcome is attributed to careful and rigorous management of public finances, alongside effective fund management, which helped the city maintain a strong financial position despite fluctuating interest rates, a slowdown in the real estate market, and economic uncertainties.

Public awareness campaigns aimed at optimizing waste sorting and changing practices have proven beneficial for both the environment and public funds. The surplus in 2023 is the result of several factors, including savings from the purchase of potable water and a reduction in the volume of waste sent to landfills, leading to higher grant revenues. Additionally, higher-than-expected revenues were generated from high interest rates and property transfer duties.

"At all times, we strive for solid financial stability while continuing to invest in projects that benefit our community and maximize grant applications to finance these projects. Quality of life, safety, and service to our population remain at the heart of our concerns. Lorraine is attractive, and its quality of life is highly valued. We work diligently to maintain our enviable status and attract families to settle here," stated Mayor Jean Comtois.

Investments for the community

In 2023, several key projects were undertaken to improve the territory, access to services, and environmental preservation. These included the installation of signage and the securing of pedestrian paths near three primary schools, as well as snow removal from trails to promote safe and active transportation. Other achievements include the development of an outdoor space near the library, the renovation of tennis courts, and the construction of four pickleball courts at Lorraine Park, along with the organization of new family events.

Significant infrastructure work was also carried out, such as replacing water and sewer pipes on Avenue de Metz and developing street infrastructure in phase 2 of the Châteaux de Brisach estate. New horticultural arrangements were implemented in several public places, and environmental awareness activities were conducted to encourage citizen involvement and promote biodiversity.

Looking towards a promising future

The municipal council focuses on quality of life, safety, and service to the population while ensur-

TFWs, notably streamlining the Labour

Market Impact Assessment (LMIA) process;

Allowing for the sharing or transferring

foreign workers as an option (e.g., multi-em-

Indexing the housing deduction to inflation

- it is currently \$30, which does not reflect

Allowing employers to match the wages

offered by another employer with an LMIA

in the same area to strengthen retention

and curtail poaching. Provisions under the

Employer Compliance Regime currently

Reimbursing the employer for the costs

associated with the administration and

enforcement of the compliance inspection,

And introduce a mechanism to compensate

initial costs covered by the employer whose

employee has been poached and stream-

The CFIB's full mitigating agricultural labour

shortages report, Harvesting a solution: Temporary Foreign Workers (TFWs), can be

should the LMIA not be issued;

lining access to new TFWs.

found on the CFIB's website.

ployer work permit);

real housing prices;

limit this:

ing healthy and sustainable public finances for the well-being of the entire community. In this context, the council plans to continue its efforts to secure funding for the polydome, a major sports and recreational infrastructure project at Lorraine Park, submitted under the Financial Assistance Program for Recreational, Sports, and Outdoor Infrastructure (PAFIRSPA).





By Any Other Name

I hope you can find the time to seriously consider my problem. I was debating not mentioning my age because you may think, she's just a kid. Maybe so, but I'm going through the same thing adults are.

I am 16. I've always been a strong believer in God and abstinence. I've always had the loud voice of conscience in my head. I get good grades, and I've always believed there is no such thing as love in high school.

Things are different now. I met this guy, a "redneck." I never felt a sense of belonging as strong as the one I feel when I'm with him. We met awhile ago at a nearby river, then he returned to his home in another city. Later I heard someone in a big black truck was stopping by, but I was never home to see who it was.

One day I was home. The truck pulled up, and he asked me to go fishing with him. I won't go into huge details, but I had a lot of fun and a couple of beers. Neither of us wanted the label of boyfriend and girlfriend so we didn't use it. He has taken something from me that I cannot take back, however I don't regret the decision I made.

He may be coming back in a few months, but he will for sure when he graduates in December and works as a mechanic. He is 17; he wants kids when he is 18 or 19. I am a very grounded person. Family and schooling are important to me, but I would consider moving in with him and not going to college.

I don't need someone to sound like my mom and preach to me. I need someone to step into my shoes and understand what I am thinking and feeling. I think I love him. I don't know for sure he feels the same way. He doesn't like opening up much, and even if he did, how will I know it's the truth?

He's not perfect. I have forgiven him way too many times for things as small as not calling when he said he would, to things as big as full-blown cheating. But really is it cheating without the label? I need some good advice. I hope you're up to this one.

Haley

Haley, when Benjamin Franklin was 17, he sailed from Boston to Philadelphia. His passage didn't include meals so vegetarian, brought his own provi-

Ben, a vegetarian, brought his own provisions. When the ship became becalmed, everyone ran out of food. Other passengers threw a line over the side and caught cod.

Ben's vegetarian morals prevented him from eating fish, but his hunger drew him to the side of a cook gutting a cod. Inside the cod were smaller fish. Ben changed his mind. If you can eat one another, he reasoned, then I can eat you. Later Ben observed how convenient a faculty reason is, since it enables us to make or find a reason for anything we have a mind to do.

Husband and wife, mother and child, best friends, and neighbors are all established relationships. You are having sex with a young man who doesn't even call you his girlfriend. How would you label that?

You've found a reason to give up college for a man you cannot trust. Perhaps you think he's good-looking, or you think bad boys are hot, or you don't think you deserve better. His justification may be something you can't even imagine. He could think she's not my girlfriend so I don't owe her anything, not even respect.

Many women desire to make any man they are intimate with "the one," in spite of all evidence to the contrary. It is a pattern which repeats itself again and again. Ben Franklin's reason for discarding his beliefs was hunger. What's yours?

Wayne & Tamara

WAYNE & TAMARA MITCHELL are the authors of YOUR OTHER HALF (<u>www.yourotherhalf.com</u>) Send letters to: Direct Answers, PO 964 Springfield, MO 65801-0964 or email: *GetInTouch@WayneAndTamara.com* <u>WAYNEANDTAMARA.COM</u>



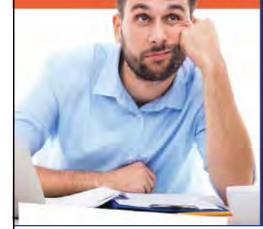
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> Saint-Eustache (Pasta Deliziosa!) 148, 25e Av. J7P 2V2

Mascouche (Eco-Boutique un Monde à vie) 160 Mnt Masson, J7K 3B5

Sainte-Anne-des-Plaines (Dubeau Vrac) 196 Boulevard Ste Anne J5N 3P2

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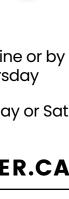


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HOROSCOPE

Week of JULY 14 TO 20, 2024

The luckiest signs this week: **CAPRICORN, AQUARIUS AND PISCES**

ARIES

This is an excellent week to consider taking a holiday or changing your environment. Learning a new language could be a good idea, especially if you plan to travel or relocate.

TAURUS

If intense emotions arise, you may feel like isolating yourself. However, your friends will be there to support you and cheer you up.

GEMINI

If you feel unwell, talk to your doctor immediately. Your intuitive nature will help you create a harmonious atmosphere around you. Your protective and nurturing attitude will help improve workplace morale.

CANCER \mathbb{S}

At work, you must handle urgent or confusing situations before the holidays. Be careful while swimming so you don't catch an infection. If you're single, now's a great time to meet new people.

LEO

Spoil yourself by going to the movies or enjoying other forms of entertainment. You could find yourself in the limelight in one way or another. Use your creativity to showcase your talents.

VIRGO 116

You might have to travel frequently this week despite your love for staying home. Your family will ask for your help, and you won't be able to refuse them.

LIBRA

Ω

If you have a public speaking event, you must thoroughly prepare. Improvisation won't cut it. Use tact and diplomacy to resolve conflict.

SCORPIO

Be careful while interacting with certain people. Use tact and sensitivity to avoid misunderstandings. Be prepared for unexpected expenses.

SAGITTARIUS

You might need to take vitamins to maintain your energy levels. Your ideas may seem confusing at first, but staying focused will help bring them to life.

CAPRICORN

You tend to spend all your energy trying to do everything. Many people will need your help this week, and you'll devote yourself to them even if it exhausts you.

AQUARIUS

You'll be given important responsibilities. It's crucial to clarify roles to avoid confusion, even at home. Be patient with those close to you as you manage these challenges.

PISCES

If you're considering a career change, this is the perfect week to take a training course. Don't let this opportunity pass you by. It could help you land your dream job.



CROSSWORDS PUZZLE NO. 177

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			1
15			16						17			
			18				19	20				1
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ACROSS 1. Fore's partner 4. Did the backstroke 8. Cut short 12.Deer's mother 13.Roman wear 14.Ocean surge 15.Sailor 17.Gape	44.Cereal grass 46.Frosted 47.Pungent salad ro 52.Kind of rug 53.Contended 54.Acorn tree 55.ZIP numbers 56.Alternatively 57.Meddle
18.Decorative vase	
19.More wealthy	DOWN
21.Little bits	 Newspaper items
24.Drop	Friend or?
25.Quick	3. Pekoe
27.Most uptight	Sheriff's badge
31.Ventilate	5. Frayed
32.Wear away	Grow older
34.Cat's foot	Left the singles s
35.Diamondback	8 and bonds
37.Horned beast	9. Near
39.Danger	10.Loiter
40.Tennis points	11. Look searchingly
41.First-class	16.Blend

44.Cereal grass 46.Frosted 47.Pungent salad roots 52.Kind of rug 53.Contended 54.Acorn tree 55.ZIP numbers 56.Alternatively 57.Meddle DOWN

1. Newspaper items 2. Friend or 3. Pekoe 4. Sheriff's badge 5. Frayed 6. Grow older 7. Left the singles scene

24.Long-legged bird 26.Unger of "The Odd Couple" 28.Heroic tale 29.Mentally healthy 30.Deuces 33.Set aside 36.Plod 38.Bonnets 41.Type of brakes 42.Canyon sound 43.Spearhead 44.Keats wrote them 45.Military staff member 48.Hurt 49.Jump 50.Cauliflower

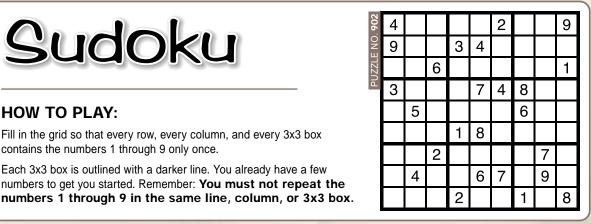
20.Private

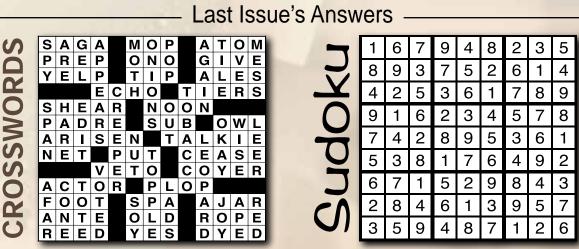
23.Grime

21.Ski lift: hyph.

22.Opera show-stopper



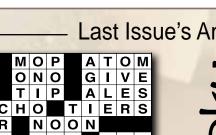






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contains the numbers 1 through 9 only once.

Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box

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

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