



# Rosemère Town Council November meeting highlights local projects, finance, and community recognition

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The Rosemère City Council gathered for its regular monthly meeting on November 11, 2024, at the Town Hall, where Mayor Eric Westram and council members reviewed a full agenda, covering urban planning, finance, public works, and community projects. The meeting opened on a reflective note, with Mayor Westram honouring the significance of Remembrance Day.

# A moment for remembrance and community spirit

Opening the session, Mayor Westram delivered remarks commemorating Remembrance Day, urging attendees to honour the past while looking toward the future. "It's not only a time to commemorate the past but also a call to the future," he stated. This was followed by a solemn moment of silence in memory of those who served and sacrificed.

The mayor also highlighted Rosemère's recent win of the Gardien de l'eau 2024 award this past week at the Flamb'Eau Gala which took place in Saint-Joseph-du-Lac. The prize, symbolized by a drop-shaped trophy, recognizes the town's excellence in water conservation efforts, reflecting the council's ongoing commitment to sustainable resource management.

# Zoning, development, and a question of housing

After Mayor Westram's remarks, the meeting turned to the order of the day, with discussions on various urban planning items. A notable part of the question period centered around a resident's inquiry regarding housing development. The resident, who has repeatedly applied to build mini homes on land that she bought, voiced frustration over the city's refusals. She expressed that smaller homes were more appropriate for the location, situated near a school bus parking lot, but noted that the city continued to push for a single larger home.

City Council has previously upheld zoning preferences in areas like these, favoring singlefamily homes on larger lots, though the resident argued that demand for smaller housing units is present. Despite her consultation with professionals who confirmed her rights to pursue the project, the council remained firm on its stance for this property.



A frustrated resident voices her displeasure with the council as she deals with the city's constant refusal of approving one of her housing projects. (Photo: Dylan Adams Lemaçon, The North Shore News)

#### **Urban and financial approvals**

Throughout the session, council members presented and approved a series of plans, bylaws, and budget allocations that had been set in advance. Council member Stéphanie Nantel led approvals for signage on several local business properties along Boulevard Labelle, including Chez Ferg and Dormez Vous. Councillor René Villeneuve reviewed regulatory updates and bylaws, ensuring alignment with Rosemère's broader urban and financial strategies.

Villeneuve also outlined the council's financial authorizations. All financial points were approved, including a \$6.77 million bond issue and the adoption of the 2025 budget for the Régie intermunicipale de police Thérèse-De Blainville, which provides policing services to Rosemère and surrounding communities.

# Public works and development projects move forward

Councillor Philip Panet-Raymond took the floor to discuss updates on infrastructure and public works, with several projects approved unanimously. Noteworthy points included the upcoming refurbishment of streets, pump station improvements, and the renewal of recycling contracts to enhance waste management services.

Panet-Raymond's approvals also included a sustainable water use report, highlighting Rosemère's progress in water-saving initiatives, a fitting follow-up to the Gardien de l'eau award.

#### Community services: support for the local library

Councillor Roseanna Cirino presented the



Rosemère Mayor Eric Westram speaks about the Gardien de L'eau award trophy in front of him, which the city earned earlier this week at the Flamb'Eau Gala in recognition of its outstanding water conservation efforts. (Photo: Dylan Adams Lemaçon, The North Shore News)

council's agenda on community services, with approvals for November sponsorships and donations. Among the items was an authorization for the Rosemère Library to sell deaccessioned books to residents for \$2 each, encouraging local readership and extending the life of old books.

#### A quiet meeting

As the council wrapped up its agenda, only a small handful of residents remained in attendance, and just one had posed a question during the entirety of the meeting. Despite the light public participation, the council concluded its work with a series of important approvals aimed at balancing development, fiscal responsibility, and environmental stewardship for the town of Rosemère.

# **Rosemère honoured for water conservation at COBAMIL Gala**

#### MARIA DIAMANTIS

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The Town of Rosemère was recognized with the *Gardien de l'EAU* award during the 5th annual Gala Flamb'EAU, hosted by the Conseil des bassins versants des Mille-Îles (COBAMIL) on November 7. The event celebrated efforts by municipalities and organizations in the Mille-Îles river watershed to address pressing water-related challenges and align with COBAMIL's water master plan (Plan directeur de l'eau).

# Rosemère's focus on regional collaboration

The *Gardien de l'EAU* award acknowledges Rosemère's sustained efforts in water conservation, particularly its "Let's work together to save water" campaign. The campaign, undertaken with the municipalities of Lorraine and Bois-des-Filion, aims to reduce contamination, encourage responsible water use, and safeguard local wetlands. These wetlands, essential for filtering water and mitigating flood risks, play a crucial role in the region's environmental health.

Mayor Eric Westram spoke about the recognition and the challenges of managing water resources in a waterfront community. "As a town situated along the Mille-Îles River, we are uniquely aware of water's dual role as a vital resource and a potential threat, especially during extreme weather events. This award highlights the importance of our work and the need to continue engaging our residents and neighboring communities in water preservation," he said.

Rosemère's efforts have included public awareness campaigns and practical measures aimed at reducing wasteful water use, which are in line with COBAMIL's objectives. This is not the first time Rosemère has been acknowledged; the town was named a *Porteur de Flamb'EAU* in 2022 for its early strides in tackling water contamination.

#### COBAMIL and the importance of collective action

The Gala Flamb'EAU also serves as a platform to connect stakeholders working to protect the region's water resources. COBAMIL Director Danielle Tremblay highlighted the collective nature of these efforts. "The strength of our region's water conservation lies in collaboration. Municipalities like Rosemère set an example, but the real impact comes from combining these efforts across the watershed."

#### A call to action

Rosemère's recognition is a testament to the progress made but also serves as a reminder of the ongoing challenges. As pressures from urbanization and climate change grow, initiatives like those celebrated at the Gala Flamb'EAU will be critical to ensuring the long-term sustainability of the region's water resources.





# Leadership torch passes on to James Di Sano at Laurier School Board

#### **RENATA ISOPO**

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"Today, we stand on the brink of change. Recent events have cast a shadow over our board, challenging our values. But make no mistake—our resolve has never been stronger. This moment calls for courage, accountability, equity, and a renewed commitment to our mission."

With these words, former commissioner James Di Sano launched Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board on paths of renewal, resurgence, reform and change in his new role of Board Chairman, elected November 3, 2024 and sworn into office this past week as family, friends, and the 12-member Council of Commissioners looked on approvingly.



Chairman James Di Sano sealing the deal with Director-General Russell Copeman. (Photo: Martin Alarie)

Russell Copeman, SWLSB Director-General, officiated for Chairman Di Sano and the 12 commissioners, seven of whom were acclaimed, two elected, and three designated as parent-representatives. He congratulated the Council, acknowledging the importance of its work towards moving forward to new chapters of school-board-governance.

In his address to Council, to on-line observers, and audience present, Di Sano underscored a need for action and transformation, in view of concerns emerging from recent controversial incidents revolving around the outgoing administration, pledging to confront the challenges head-on.

#### Listening, learning, leading

"We will not shy away from issues that demand attention. I am committed to leading a board that listens, learns, and leads by example. This is the dawn of a new chapter for Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board, defined by integrity, resilience, equity, and deep dedication to students."

The Board, Di Sano emphasized, is more than the sum of its challenges. In his view, it's a community rooted in strength-and-resilience, driven by passionate educators, dedication of parents, and the promise made to each child. "This administration is here to serve with honesty, uphold democratic values, advance equity, and protect our students' right to quality English education." To parents, staff, students, and supporters, he promised positive change toward a stronger future, pointing to better days are ahead. "Together, we will turn this moment into a move-

ment for excellence, integrity, and inclusivity. "As we embark on this path, remember we do not walk alone. We are supported by a community that values education, by parents who dream of a better future for their children, by teachers dedicated to igniting young minds, and by students who look to us for guidance and inspiration. This is a new generation and a new page for much needed change. While we may not always agree on how to move forward, we must be committed to moving forward."

Adding to his acknowledgement of what lies ahead, Di Sano spared no energy in thanking everyone for their trust. "I do not take this responsibility lightly. I'll do my best for everyone. To my supporters, I am so very grateful. To those who challenge me, I'll do all I can to hear their voices and address their concerns."

#### Road map to change

Regarding his take on some immediate needs that must be addressed, Di Sano outlined a road



The Council of Commissioners ready to meet the new challenges. (Photo: Martin Alarie)

map to the next three months. "In the first 100 days of service, I will study, analyze, and assess the structure that currently handcuffs the delivery of the best education possible for children whose families depend on us for good governance.

"Our school board and other English-schoolboards are top heavy in administrative numbers and cost. I will seek advice from educational experts who will contribute to new structures where human resources redundancy is abolished and responsibilities are streamlined to where they will make the delivery of education substantially more cost-effective.

"The Board will implement a Policy for Substitute Teachers possessing Bachelor's degrees who have been providing many years of loyal, professional service to students, often under difficult circumstances. This mandatory policy for all schools, will ensure fairness and eliminate questionable practices brought to our attention by substitute teachers."

Revealing that he's learned of families in Laurier Board territory home-schooling their children, for many reasons - pedagogical, religious, or health challenges, Di Sano specified that he's personally concerned about this development. "I am committed to enhancing and improving relations with these families so that we can provide quality services to home-schoolers in cooperative efforts to do what's best for the children involved and for all stakeholders, especially taxpayers."

Gladly accepting the mantle of leadership, Chairman Di Sano proposed an action plan of stronger learning foundations and solid frameworks that will promote educational success, self-confidence, and high-self-esteem for all students, in an environment of transparent and accountable financial practices.

#### Honour, humour, and humility

Former SWLSB principal Cliff Buckland told TLN that he attended the ceremony in honour of "this new generation - one which will bring important changes, new-and-better ways of doing things at the Board."

In concluding light moments, TLN tested the Chairman's knowledge and sense of humour."Mr. Chairman, would you know who's the youngest active Chairperson in Québec and Canada?" Response, "I hope I am." Correct! "Can you tell us what size is the SWLSB territory in comparison to Canadian provinces?" Pausing with effect, he answered "I didn't know that, thanks for telling me," when told, it's Prince Edward Island. Ah yes, humility and humour are fine qualities in a leader.



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The Town of Lorraine, nestled in the heart of Quebec, has unveiled its new triennial property assessment roll, a critical tool influencing the calculation of municipal property taxes. This update, effective in 2025, reflects changes in property values and provides insight into the relationship between property assessments and municipal tax bills.

# How Lorraine's new property assessment roll shapes your 2025 tax bill

# Key components of the triennial assessment

The triennial property assessment serves as the foundation for calculating municipal taxes. However, the amount on annual tax bills also depends on budgetary decisions made by the municipal council and the costs of essential services, such as water consumption and waste management.

To mitigate the impact of rising property values, Lorraine's municipal council will adjust the tax rate to account for the average increase in property values. Properties that see value increases above the average for their category may experience a higher tax increase, while those with below-average increases might see their taxes reduced.

In Lorraine, residential properties dominate, comprising 98.53% of the total property value. This means the town's tax burden falls almost entirely on homeowners.

#### **Requesting a review**

To address concerns about the new assessments, Lorraine has partnered with its finance and treasury department and the appraisal firm LBP Évaluateurs to provide support to property owners. Key details about the review process include:

**Timeline**: Property owners can submit a request for review until April 30, 2025.

**Evaluation Process**: Reviewed properties will

undergo a detailed re-assessment, with results communicated by September 1, 2025.

**Fees**: A fee, based on the property's value, will apply for review requests. This amount is specified on the assessment notice and adheres to regulation 198.

#### What's next for property owners?

Property owners in Lorraine will receive their updated property assessment notices in February 2025, alongside their annual tax bill.

To better understand the role of municipal assessments, residents are encouraged to explore resources provided by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MAMH), including the explanatory video What is Municipal Assessment?





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# **OPINION** Editorial

# Laurier Board Chairperson Di Sano ready to lead and serve

He wasn't on the ballot just because he wanted to be elected, James Di Sano clearly declared following his recent election as Chairperson of Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board (SWLSB). "I was on the ballot because I really wanted to make a difference."

James Di Sano is now at the helm of Québec's third largest of the nine English boards that are carrying the load for the preservation of what they say is the constitutional right of school boards to manage the English-language schools of the territories they serve.

For SWLSB, the territory is about as large as Prince Edward Island, stretching from the Rivière des Prairies to Mont-Laurier.

James Di Sano, at 27-years-of-age, sworn into office November 13, 2024, becomes one of the youngest, if not the youngest, active Chairpersons elected in Québec and Canada. A proactive youth, he was one of the two youngest members of the SWLSB Council of Commissioners for six years, learning-on-thejob, serving on multiple committees, rare action at such a young age.

The way Di Sano tells it, in the spring he felt a calling from the community to offer to lead the way towards serving all public education stake-holders in the Laval, Lanaudière, Laurentides regions. He now finds himself with a four-year mandate to see the school board through the need for what he calls deep reflection, significant reform, and uplifting renewal.

The election of a young person to such a high level of local democratic leadership begs the question of what makes a great leader, and why competent younger leaders are more crucial now than ever. Can Di Sano set the stage for what is to come and how he will steer the school board into new and progressive direction?

In his remarkable journey that captured hearts and minds of peers and community, Di Sano has shown that he is dynamic and passionate; at just 27, he has already demonstrated exceptional abilities to inspire and lead, proving that age is no barrier to meaningful impact. His election should inspire every young person in Laval,

You've got a

place to vent!

the province, the country, solidifying youth empowerment toward enhancing education and promoting good governance, causes he has championed as commissioner of SWLSB. His win signifies what's to come in the next generation.

This incoming generation must represent the voices of students and stakeholders clamoring to influence policies that will address their needs. It's a chance to drive inclusion, meaningful youth participation, and tailored interventions in search of better strategies - opportunities for personal growth, leadership development, and challenging young men and women to lead.

Dedication to serving students and community and willingness to connect with and mobilize peers and colleagues are qualities brought to SWLSB by this new leadership.

But lest they get ahead of themselves, they must be aware that adversity comes upon all leaders as they may stumble, suffer family tragedies, face off-the-rails employment challenges - crucible moments that make some people fall apart, never to recover. But there are others who work like hell to put themselves back together, stronger than ever.

Perhaps it would benefit the community's young leaders to balance idealism with realism. Some people are willing to put in years of hard work to make good things happen. Chairperson Di Sano devoted six years as commissioner at the school board, participating extensively in-and-out of that arena, an inspiration to others for willing to gut it out. Some of the rough times of those years equipped him to confront the challenges of rising to leadership, as he continues to face biases and dismissive attitudes towards him because of age. Many young people, with the potential to contribute meaningfully to making things better, fail to do it because they are oblivious of this capacity to effect change. Thus, as a successful role model, young DiSano will undoubtedly make more young people aware of their potential for leadership and their capacity for contributing to positive change.

Resilience and determination earned Di Sano, respect and admiration of all who witnessed his rise to leadership. Looking ahead, he now must put-in-motion several key initiatives alongside the Director General and the members of Council of Commissioners.

No doubt the key priorities are to enforce platforms and policies of benefit to students, teachers, community, to share knowledge and experiences, and deliver on his promises to advocate for SWLSB's many communities.

Stepping into his new role, Di Sano carries the hopes and dreams of countless young people who see in him a reflection of their own potential, the powerful reminder that with passion, perseverance, and clear vision, young people can become leaders in transforming their communities and the world around them.

It's important that the older generation can lend real, critical support to younger generations to prepare them for what's coming – sharpening them, and forming alliances. It appears that young Di Sano is fortunate enough and appreciative to have that support. The younger generations ought to run the show; and manage organizations, including the SWLSB Chairmanship. But older generations can bring wisdom and experience to the table. So, there's much to be said for multi-generational alliances.

Di Sano seems to understand that successful leadership rests heavily on the reality that the person doing the leading is actually putting some personal needs at risk, engaging in forms of sacrifice based on willingness to serve. If you're in the public arena, you're subject to withering criticism from left and right. Getting into the arena comes with a price, but a price worth paying.

Self-described as short-term-pessimist but long-term-optimist, Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board Chairman James Di Sano is aware of the challenge which he welcomes wholeheartedly, ready to serve.

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# **ANGRY? FRUSTRATED? ANNOYED?**

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# Locals honoured at Rosemère's Golden Book signing ceremony



Brothers Ahmed and Amadou Traoré proudly display their hard earned medals, showcasing their success at recent karate tournaments. (Photo: Dylan Adams Lemaçon, North Shore News)

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On Thursday, November 7, members of the Rosemère community gathered at the Municipal Library's atrium for a special evening celebrating local accomplishments, both in athletics and community service. At the center of the evening was the Golden Book signing ceremony, a tradition that serves as a living record of Rosemère's distinguished residents. With friends, family, and members of the municipal council in attendance, the honourees signed their names alongside other notable figures, joining a legacy of Rosemère pride.

The ceremony, which began at 6:30 p.m., was previously held at Town Hall but has found a more vibrant home at the library. Municipal Councillor René Villeneuve noted the venue change has allowed the event to flourish, remarking that the library setting creates "a more vibrant environment" for an evening dedicated to celebrating local achievements.

# Honouring those who serve the community

The event kicked off with remarks from the night's Deputy Mayor Roseanna Cirino, who was present in place of Mayor Eric Westram. "We are here to celebrate your accomplishments as well as your passion," Cirino began, emphasizing the evening's purpose of recognizing the dedication of both athletes and community volunteers. "We are proud of your exploits," she added, applauding the accomplishments of each honouree while also extending gratitude to the parents and coaches who supported them.

The first honouree to sign the Golden Book was Carole Gingras, a volunteer who has worked tirelessly to support Rosemère's senior citizens. Described by Cirino as "this woman with a heart of gold," Gingras has played a pivotal role in organizing activities for a community organization with hundreds of members, many of whom are over 65. Through her volunteer work, Gingras has provided opportunities for Rosemère's seniors to stay active and maintain good mental health. Though she has received previous recognition, Gingras remains humble, dedicating countless hours without expectation of praise or reward. Gingras's signing was met with warm applause as she took photos with council members, who commended her ongoing dedication to the community.

#### **Celebrating youth athletes**

Following Gingras's signing, the ceremony



Arielle Bonin signs her name to the Golden Boo, commemorating her remarkable achievements in fencing. (Photo: Dylan Adams Lemaçon, North Shore News)

turned to three outstanding young athletes, each of whom had achieved notable success in their respective sports. The first of these was 13-year-old fencer Arielle Bonin. A talented student at Polyvalente St-Thérèse, Bonin's achievements include a silver medal at the Jeux du Québec and team gold medals in women's sabre. Alongside her athletic talents, Bonin is an academic standout who aspires to pursue a career in law.

Next to be honoured was 13-year-old karate champion Amadou Traoré, who recently competed in the Championnat canadien de Koshiki in Sherbrooke, where he claimed an impressive array of medals: two golds, one silver, and a bronze in various events. Traoré's dedication is evident both in his sport and in his academic goals—he dreams of becoming a doctor one day. In addition to karate, Traoré also plays soccer, showcasing his versatility and commitment to both team and individual sports.

Amadou's older brother, Ahmed Traoré, also signed the Golden Book in recognition of his achievements. At 15, Ahmed has competed in multiple international karate competitions, claiming a remarkable five gold medals in combat, along with additional gold and silver medals in kata. He studies in Laval and has aspirations of becoming a civil engineer, a goal he approaches with the same dedication he brings to his training. Known for his teamwork and collaborative spirit, Ahmed balances his athletic and academic pursuits with a love for basketball and video games.

# A tradition of civic pride and collective memory

As the honourees gathered for a group photo with council members, Deputy Mayor Cirino spoke about the importance of the Golden Book, explaining how represents a record of the personalities who have come to Rosemère as well as the outstanding commitment of residents who have distinguished themselves in a particular field of activity through a significant achievement. The Golden Book not only celebrates past accomplishments but also serves as an inspiration for future generations, marking these milestones as symbols of pride for the town.

This event marks the second volume of the Golden Book, with the first now filled with signatures and preserved as a historical record. The new volume carries on the legacy, and each signing represents another chapter in Rosemère's story.



# Progress on the retention basin and stormwater pumping station at Central Park

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The City of Deux-Montagnes continues to make significant strides in enhancing its infrastructure to address the growing challenges of climate change. The retention basin at Central Park and the accompanying stormwater pumping station are vital elements of this effort. With construction well underway, both projects are expected to be operational by December 20, 2024, marking a transformative step forward for the community.

OPEN HOUSE

# A comprehensive solution to stormwater management

The stormwater pumping station, located near the lake on 13th Avenue, began construction in June 2024. Built by Pronex at a cost of \$5.5 million—largely funded by the governments of Quebec and Canada—this facility will eliminate reliance on environmentally unsustainable practices. When lake levels rise, and natural drainage is no longer sufficient, submersible pumps will redirect stormwater back to the lake without overburdening the sanitary sewer system. This improvement reduces costs, conserves resour-





ces, and prevents sewer backups, protecting both public health and local ecosystems.

The open-air retention basin, designed to resemble a pond, complements the pumping station. Situated on the soccer fields near Central Park's play modules, it will regulate stormwater flow by temporarily storing excess water, alleviating pressure on the drainage network. Once complete, the park will feature upgraded soccer fields, ensuring minimal disruption to recreational activities.

# A model for sustainable infrastructure

Constructed by Duroking at a cost of \$7.2 million, also subsidized by federal and provincial governments, the retention basin goes beyond functionality to integrate aesthetic and community-focused elements. A pedestrian path, belvederes, a water jet fountain with recirculation, and an aeration system will enhance the area while preventing unpleasant odors. A small island connected by a footbridge will add charm, making the basin a welcoming space for relaxation and nature appreciation.

#### **Civic importance**

These projects are more than just infrastructure—they represent a forward-thinking response to climate change and urban development challenges. By investing in robust stormwater management, Deux-Montagnes protects its residents from flooding while fostering sustainability. The basin, pumping station, and levee together form a resilient system capable of withstanding extreme weather conditions. Moreover, the thoughtful integration of recreational amenities ensures that Central Park remains a vibrant hub for the community. These projects underline the city's commitment to balancing practicality, environmental stewardship, and quality of life for its citizens.

### Sunday, November 24 @ 2-4

#### 805 Rue Malraux Cross street Maisonneuve

Nestled on a spacious corner lot, this charming 2+1 bedrooms, 2 bath bungalow boasts an inviting open concept design that seamlessly blends modern living. As you step inside, you'll be greeted by a bright and airy living space, perfect for both relaxation and entertaining. The corner lot provides extra privacy and a larger yard, perfect for outdoor activities and gardening. The wrap-around porch offers a cozy spot to enjoy your morning coffee. With its open concept design and prime corner lot location, it offers the perfect blend of comfort, style, and functionality. Close to all schools, shopping and more.

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# Blainville honours exceptional citizens in a memorable celebration

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On November 14th, the City of Blainville held an inspiring evening to celebrate the remarkable contributions of its residents during the Gala of the *Ordre du mérite blainvillois* and the induction of new members into its Sports Hall of Fame. The event showcased the extraordinary spirit of community engagement and athletic excellence that defines Blainville.

Since 1987, Blainville has been honouring citizens whose dedication and actions have left an indelible mark on the community. This year, Mayor Liza Poulin expressed her gratitude to the local organizations that nominate these exceptional individuals, praising their unwavering commitment and contributions to the city's vibrant life.

The highlight of the evening was the recogni-

tion of Suzanne Poirier-Lemieux, who received the title of *Membre émérite*, the highest distinction of the *Ordre du mérite blainvillois*. Known for her financial acumen and leadership, Poirier-Lemieux has supported numerous organizations, from cultural groups to community associations, inspiring trust and fostering a sense of security wherever she volunteers.

Other honourees included individuals who have tirelessly worked to improve the lives of those around them. Alain Boudreault, a driving force behind activities for seniors as president of the Club de l'âge d'or Le Blainvillois, was celebrated for his creativity and teamwork. Céline Morency, devoted to breaking social isolation among seniors and supporting adults with intellectual disabilities, exemplifies compassion in action. Meanwhile, Bertrand Painchaud's innovative contributions to the Blainville Petanque Association, including the creation of specialized software, underline the importance of technical skills in community development.

The gala also honoured Léo-Paul Bourré for his decades of service as the cook for *Dîners de l'amitié*, where his meticulous preparation and kindness brought comfort to many. Additionally, the *Palme d'or* was awarded to Entreprises Pierre Richer for its outstanding corporate engagement, highlighting its involvement in initiatives such as the Fondation Martin-Matte and Blainville's successful bid to host the Quebec Games.

The Sports Hall of Fame welcomed three new members, each representing the pinnacle of athletic achievement and dedication. Claire Parenteau, an occupational therapist, was recognized for creating a hockey program tailored for children with autism, making the sport accessible in the Laurentians and Lanaudière. Raphaëlle Gauthier, an artistic swimmer and 2024 Olympian, was celebrated



for her multiple podium finishes at provincial and national competitions. Lastly, Gabriel Séguin, a paratennis athlete whose resilience has led to international success, including medals at the Pan American Games and the Canadian Championships, serves as an inspiration for all.

This gala was more than an evening of awards—it was a testament to the power of commitment, collaboration, and the extraordinary potential of community spirit. Blainville once again demonstrated that its true strength lies in the dedication and passion of its people, making it a city to admire and emulate.

# Canadian land border crossings will no longer be open 24 hours



(NEWSFIRST) - On Monday, November 18, The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) announced that it intends to adjust hours of service at 35 land ports of entry across Canada as of 12:01 am (local time) on January 6, 2025.

The announcement, determined in collaboration with the United States, will enhance overall security for both countries. It will allow the CBSA to use its resources more efficiently by deploying officers at busier ports of entry. This will support the CBSA's ability to process travellers and goods as well as to manage enforcement activities.

The U.S. is also adjusting service hours at many

of its ports of entry. This alignment will also

nuary These adjustments are based on an analysis of operational pressures, peak periods, and services required at the ports of entry, to minimize the impacts on border communities. Almost all

of these ports of entry are processing an average of two or less cars or commercial trucks per hour during the hours that will no longer be in operation, and travellers have an alternative border crossing option within a 100 km radius. Here are the border crossings whose hours of operation will be modified for travellers as of lanuary 6, 2025:

allow both countries to return inadmissible

travellers and goods to the other country, which

is more difficult when one side of the border is

closed while the other remains open.

## **WIII no longer be open 24 nours in Quebec** Travellers planning to enter Canada by land could bump their noses at a closed door as early as January 6, 2025

#### Chartierville

Currently open to travellers from 8 a.m. to midnight, 7 days a week New schedule for passengers: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., 7 days a week

#### Clarenceville

Currently open to travellers from **8 a.m. to 8 p.m.**, 7 days a week New schedule for passengers: **8 a.m. to 4 p.m.**, 7 days a week

#### Frelighsburg

Currently **open 24 hours** for travellers, 7 days a week New schedule for passengers: **8 a.m. to 8 p.m.**, 7 days a week

#### Herdman

Currently **open 24 hours** for travellers, 7 days a week New schedule for travellers: **6 a.m. to 6 p.m.**, 7 days a week

#### Hereford Road

Currently **open 24 hours** for travellers, 7 days a week New schedule for passengers: **8 a.m. to 8 p.m.**, 7 days a week

#### Highwater

Currently **open 24 hours** for travellers, 7 days a week New schedule for passengers: **8 a.m. to 8 p.m.**, 7 days a week

Lacolle Route 221 Currently open 24 hours for travellers, 7 days a week New schedule for passengers: 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., 7 days a week

#### Lacolle Route 223

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# Canada Post strike creates uncertainty for small business before holidays, CFIB says

Nearly 80% of small enterprises rely on Canada Post to do business, according to federation

MARTIN C. BARRY marty@newsfirst.ca

Nearly a week into the Canada Post strike, the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) says it is disappointed by the work stoppage's impact on small businesses and it is urging Canada Post and the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) to quickly come to an agreement to avoid further disruption as the country heads into the holiday shopping season.

According to CFIB spokesperson Dariya Baiguzhiyeva, three quarters of Canada's small firms say they stand to be negatively affected by the work stoppage, particularly with challenges to cash flow due to delayed invoices and cheques



(NEWSFIRST) - Passengers needing assistance now have access to a bilingual resource, across 16 airports nationwide, to help guide them through the security screening process.

and higher cost delivery alternatives.

#### Small business suffering

The CFIB is urging Canada Post and the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) to quickly come to an agreement.

"While many Canadians may not depend on Canada Post as much as they once did, small businesses often rely on the postal system to ship goods, send marketing materials to consumers, send invoices and receive payments from suppliers and business customers," the CFIB said in a statement.

"With the critical holiday shopping season around the corner and limited alternatives in many parts of Canada, avoiding a postal disruption is important," the federation said.

#### They depend on Canada Post

According to a recent CFIB Flash Survey (Impact of Work Stoppages), a strong majority (79%) of small businesses rely on Canada Post services to do business.

Three quarters (75%) of small firms said they will be negatively affected by a work stoppage, particularly with challenges to cash flow due to delayed invoices and cheques and higher cost delivery alternatives.

The federation points out that small firms depend on a reliable postal service, and they need mail and parcel delivery service provided by Canada Post to remain fully operational.

"We're asking both parties to negotiate in good faith and reach a quick resolution for the sake of Canadian small businesses and consumers,"



 ${\sf CFIB} spokes person, {\sf Dariya} {\sf Baiguzhiyeva}.$ 

the CFIB statement continued.

#### **Back-to-work legislation**

"And as the federal government has ignored almost every attempt by Canada Post to deal with its unwieldy cost structures, CFIB will call on government to use all its powers (including binding arbitration or back-to-work legislation) to keep the postal system working if negotiations are unsuccessful."

In the online survey, which has been active since November 13, the number of respondents was 1,461. The CFIB says that for comparison purposes, a probability sample with the same number of respondents would have a margin of error of at most +/- 2.6%, 19 times out of 20.

# New customer service role at CATSA checkpoints

Introduced by the Canadian Air Transport Security Authority (CATSA) in July 2024, this new position enhances the client experience by ensuring passengers receive barrier-free services at security screening checkpoints.

Primarily located in the queuing area leading to the checkpoint, Facilitators can be easily recognized by their blue vests with "Need Help/Besoin d'Aide" on the back along with the CATSA logo. They are focused on assisting passengers who need additional help navigating the screening process and act as a complement to existing airport services and those of air carriers.

Created as part of new Airport Screening Services Agreements, which came into effect in April this year, this position aligns with CATSA's Strategic Plan 2024-2029, specifically the Pillar focused on *Elevating the client experience*. By enhancing support for passengers, this role demonstrates CATSA's commitment to delivering high-quality service and improving the overall checkpoint experience for passengers. "We have already received very positive feedback on the new position from passengers, airport partners and checkpoint staff," said Nada Semaan, CATSA's CEO. "These Facilitators are proving to be a valuable resource, ensuring that passengers who need assistance experience a barrier-free, accessible screening process across 16 of Canada's busiest airports."

CATSA remains dedicated to security, innovation, and making the passenger experience better for everyone.

# The CRA has zero tolerance for fraud

(NEWSFIRST) - Whether it be a threat from external bad actors, or taxpayers willfully submitting fraudulent returns, the CRA is standing on guard.

#### Protecting taxpayer accounts

In today's increasingly digital world, safeguarding sensitive information against constantly evolving threats is critical for every organization, including the CRA. The protection of taxpayer information remains one of our highest priorities. Recognizing that even with our robust security controls, we, like many large organizations, are not immune to privacy breaches, and we recognize the worry and frustration this can cause for those affected.

The CRA has a wide array of security measures to protect the personal information of Canadians, and to shutdown would-be fraudsters. That said, bad actors are continually evolving their tactics and so we must be vigilant in adapting to stay one step ahead.

In fact, since 2020, the CRA has implemented

numerous security measures, technologies, processes and controls to ensure the security of taxpayer information including multi-factor authentication throughout CRA login services, and proactively revoking user IDs and passwords that may have been obtained by unauthorized third parties through external sources.

We have been successful in protecting hundreds of thousands of fraudulent attempts to gain access to personal and business taxpayer accounts.

When we suspect an account is the target of an external threat actor, we take swift and immediate precautionary measures on the taxpayers account such as locking it to prevent transactions, conducting in-depth reviews, and contacting the individuals. The CRA formally notifies the affected individuals and provides credit protection, where warranted, at no cost to them.

Taxpayers who are confirmed victims of identity theft are not held responsible for any money paid out to scammers nor penalties or interest related to fraudulent claims. The CRA has processes in place to report all material privacy breaches to Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat (TBS) and the Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada (OPC).

The CRA is prevented from commenting on taxpayer information obtained from compromised third parties, due to privacy protections found in the Income Tax Act.

#### Fraudulent tax returns

The vast majority of Canadians are honest, law abiding taxpayers. As such, Canada's tax system is based on voluntary compliance and self-assessment. Individual taxpayers are responsible for ensuring the information they report on their tax returns is accurate.

Unfortunately, there are those few who believe they are above the rules of society. For that reason, the CRA has strong safeguards in place to catch this small percentage of fraudsters who willfully submit false claims in order to steal funds from the collective purse. Safeguards include automated and manual checks, as well as cooperation with financial institutions, to flag suspicious returns and participants in illegal tax schemes before funds are distributed.

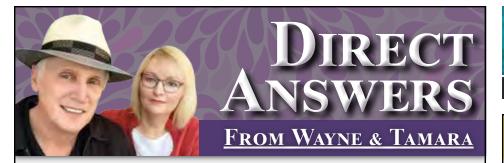
The CRA does not publicly discuss tax schemes utilized by bad actors, to avoid inspiring other would-be fraudsters from following suit.

Taxpayers who claim false expenses, credits or rebates from the government are subject to serious consequences. They are liable not only for corrections to their tax returns and payment of the full amount of tax owing, but also to penalties and interest. They may also face criminal prosecution.

In rare cases where fraudulent funds are paid out, we take every available enforcement action to return the funds to the Crown and hold the offending parties accountable. This includes criminal investigations that could be referred to the RCMP.

Once convicted, tax evaders can face penalties, court fines, and jail time — in addition to having to pay the taxes they tried to evade, plus interest.





## **NOT SEAWORTHY**

hoping.

I have a question that may be something I alone can answer, but perhaps you can assist. Here's

I love my boyfriend. He is a wonderful man, with a great heart and soul. No one else could care for me as deeply as he does. We've been together three years, and although marriage has been brought up in passing, we've never discussed it at length. It's reached the point I feel if I am not going to marry him, I should let him go.

He hasn't pressured me, asked about forever, or anything of that nature. But I know if I said today "let's get married," that would be all I needed to say. We have a good give-and-take relationship, but I still wonder. Would it work, would I be happy, would we end up like so many others in a dreadful relationship 20 years down the road?

I look at other men and think what my life might be like if I were with them and consider "trying them out" so to speak. I go back and forth on this and don't know if it's just my young age, 23, the fact that by nature I am indecisive, or if I am, as another of your reader's wrote, only 99% in love with him.

I don't want to wait until there's a big white dress in my closet to realize I'm on the wrong path. Addie

Addie, we use the word "love" in this context. Love is what you feel for the one you want to be

with for the rest of your life. That word in relationship to anyone else is not love. For example, I love him but he's hitting on my sister, or I love him but I can picture myself with other men, or I love him but anything else... That's not love. It's desperation, wish, hope, desire, innate need, or even a craving to be abused. But it's not love.

How do we know you don't love him? You are already predicting the relationship's demise. You are leaving yourself an out. You've left the hatch on the submarine open. If you marry, expect to hear the rushing of water, the bonging of the alarm, and the cry to abandon ship. Some research has looked at who fares better in relationships: people who follow their gut feelings, or people who weigh pros and cons. That research tilts in favor of the gut feeling people. They are more likely to stay in a relationship which lasts. Why is that true? You have an emotional stake in your gut. The "reasons" for staying with someone are head stuff. Head stuff can change, and head stuff doesn't involve you personally.

Another way of saying this is Occam's razor. The simplest answer is usually best. There are no extra parts to go wrong. The complicated answer has failure built into it.

Wayne & Tamara

### **Epilogue**

you are just wonderful!

I appreciate your candid and prompt response. It confirms what I believed to be true. Although I feel pain and sadness for what I have to do, your response gave me the last bit of a push I needed to actually do it. Thank you very much,

Addie



Addie, your feeling of relief proves this is the right decision. Like all good people, you do

not want to hurt someone else. But just as a doctor often must inflict pain in order to cure a problem, so you must inflict pain in ending this relationship. The greater injustice would be to do nothing.

Doing what you must doesn't make you a bad person. It makes you a mature person. Some days we get to dance all night. Other days we have to scrub floors. The test in life is that we do the appropriate thing, whether it is easy and pleasurable or not.

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* WAYNEAND TAMARA.COM



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## HOROSCOPE

#### Week of NOVEMBER 24 TO 30, 2024

The luckiest signs this week: SCORPIO, SAGITTARIUS AND CAPRICORN

### P ARIES

Finding the balance with different aspects of your life can be challenging. However, making a few small adjustments will change everything. When it comes to your health, make sure you get enough sleep to strengthen your immune system.

#### TAURUS

You may toy with the idea of starting your own business. You'll start to pursue new professional goals and meet new people, which could lead to valuable collaborations in the future.

#### GEMINI

 $\overset{\circ}{\phantom{\circ}}$ 

You'll be in the spotlight this week, whether in front of an audience or on social media. Success is on the horizon! Expect to be recognized and applauded for something.

#### CANCER

Cleaning your home will help free your mind and eliminate confusion. You may need to assert yourself in a specific situation to maintain control.

### A You n

You may receive criticism this week or deal with people who beat around the bush. Be patient and diplomatic to clarify any confusion that arises. Your perseverance will pay off.

## You may

You may come into a large sum of money, whether through an insurance claim or inheritance. Be tactful in situations where patience may be running thin.

#### LIBRA

 $\mathbf{O}$ 

Positively channel your extra energy by engaging in physical activity. This will keep your spirits up. Having an outlet is essential for your overall wellbeing.

#### SCORPIO Your head wi

Your head will be full of ideas and worries. You may start thinking about a new career path, and opportunities will present themselves. Be open to opportunities for change.

#### SAGITTARIUS

At work, you may have to serve a crowd or participate in a large event. It can benefit your career and finances, but you must be prepared to handle challenging requests.

#### CAPRICORN

This time of year sees some businesses facing a period of change. Despite your worries, this situation could work out well for you. You'll move forward while others may leave.

#### AQUARIUS

You'll be inspired to go on a spontaneous adventure. Pressing matters at home may require your attention. Get ready to spend money on a trip or home improvements.

#### PISCES

Opposing points of view and unexpected changes may come up. It's important to be patient and determine the best course of action once the situation settles down.

# Coffee Break

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Sudoku

contains the numbers 1 through 9 only once.

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

HOW TO PLAY:

ACROSS	50.0
<ol> <li>Piercing tools</li> </ol>	51.0
5. Sandal or clog	55.0
9. Cleopatra's snake	56.5
12.Breakfast, e.g.	57.E
13.Chime	58.T
14.Cold-weather ailment	59.k
15.Cafe handout	60.0
16.Share of expenses	61.N
17.Walking on	
18.Met offering	DO
20.A la	1. E
22.Characteristics	2. E
26.Covers	3. E
30.Bit of news	4. 0
34.Skunk feature	5. L
35.That thing's	6. E
36.Dreadful	7. C
37. Abominable Snowman	8. N
38.Cooking container	9. A
40.Audio system	10.1
42.Complain	11
45.Wool material	19.E

#### Cast off Granny Own Sick Edging Fied, as a race Kind of shirt Give support to Midterm, for one WN Bullets, to a GI Blubber Bowling path Garble Luxury hotel Egg producer Cookie grain Make a choice A long way off Narrow cut \_ and simple 19.Devoured

21.Stage whisper 23.Pay increase 24.Center of worship 25.Edition 26.Timid 27.Song of praise 28.Commandment word 29.Crunchy 31.Peak 32.Notable time 33."Three \_\_\_\_ \_ in a tub" 39. Field bed 41.Ninth's follower 42.Coarse sand 43.Enrage 44.Doing nothing 46.Hone 47.Roof part 48.Dusks 49.Auto imperfection 52.Exist 53.None 54.Band equipment

7

4

3

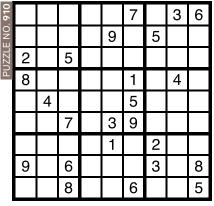
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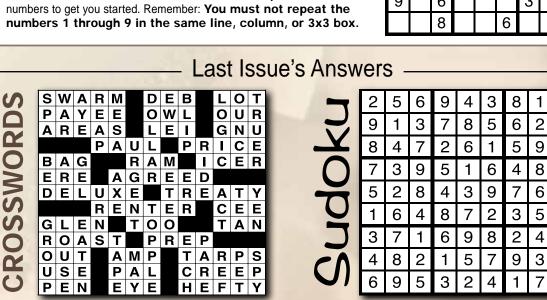
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6







# Time for a new generation at IGA extra Famille Daigle

It is with great excitement that Supermarchés IGA extra Famille Daigle are taking a new turn with the transfer of the business to a new generation.

The family business, under the IGA banner since 1994, is pleased to announce that Luc and Robert Daigle have decided to begin a gradual retirement and make way for a new trio of owners who will be committed to continuing to grow the business and, above all, to continuing the family tradition that began more than 40 years ago.

"We embarked on the agri-food adventure with our father more than 40 years ago. Over the years, our father has been able to pass on his passion for food to us, and it is with great pride that we completed the transfer of our business to the third generation last June. An important step in the evolution of a business, it was essential for its sustainability to have an experienced, dedicated successor, reflecting the distinctive family culture of IGA Daigle," emphasize Luc and Robert Daigle.

It is in respect of traditions that Jonathan Bouchard, Julien Daigle and Charles Gingras have agreed to continue this beautiful family story with the passion and energy that have always distinguished the Daigle family. "What a privilege to take up the torch of the business and continue the family tradition! We have long been at the forefront of the family's activities. Our entire team shares the same values as our predecessors and it is in a spirit of continuity that we will be at the post to serve customers and ensure excellence in service and products," affirm Charles Gingras, Julien Daigle and Jonathan Bouchard, merchant owners.

#### An innovative spirit as sharp as ever

An innovative and visionary spirit, these are two qualities that have always distinguished the Daigle family. It is this vision transmitted by Jacques Daigle, founder, that has laid the foundations for the success of the IGA extra Famille Daigle located in Sainte-Thérèse and Boisbriand.

Now that the second generation has passed the torch, the third will maintain the commitment to serving their valued customers well and will ensure the continued growth of the family business that employs more than 500 people.







Luc Daigle, Julien Daigle, Charles Gingras, Robert Daigle, and Jonathan Bouchard.

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