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Vol. 21-04

February 21, 2025

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The Blainville municipal council supports academic perseverance



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Frustration grows among Rosemère citizens over council decisions

DYLAN ADAMS LEMAÇON
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Tensions ran high at Rosemère's latest municipal council meeting as frustrated citizens voiced their concerns over a range of issues, from rising commercial taxes to the ongoing \$276 million lawsuit related to the former golf course. Mayor Eric Westram and the council faced repeated criticism, with many residents expressing dissatisfaction with the lack of transparency and clarity in the town's decision-making.

A confusing start to the meeting

Mayor Westram opened the meeting by acknowledging School Perseverance Day, with council members wearing green to mark the occasion. However, the tone quickly shifted during the first question period, as residents wasted no time addressing their grievances.

Richard Fee was the first to step up, asking about an evaluation related to his property. He wanted to know what the Urban Planning Advisory Committee (CCU) had recommended to the council regarding his home. The response was that he would need to submit a formal access-to-information request to find out—an answer that didn't sit well with him or others in attendance.

"It's a little strange that we pay the CCU for evaluations on our homes but then we don't have direct access to the information gained from those evaluations once the CCU was done with their work," Fee said, voicing his



Residents sit with crossed arms as the monthly council meeting begins, foreshadowing the anger that would be showcased soon after. (Photo: Dylan Adams Lemaçon)

frustration.

Sophie Cardinal, a familiar face from previous meetings, immediately chimed in, questioning why a homeowner needed to go through a formal request to obtain information about their own property.

Concerns over the golf course lawsuit and city spending

Cardinal returned to the microphone later

Another citizen shifted the conversation toward commercial tax increases, highlighting how some small businesses in town are seeing hikes as high as 15%. This resident, who had also spoken at the previous meeting about a long-standing sign on his property that the city ordered him to remove, challenged the mayor's attempt to compare Rosemère's tax rates to those of nearby cities.

"I own buildings in those cities, and it's nowhere near the same rise in taxes," he said, dismissing the mayor's argument outright.

By this point, it was clear that tensions between the citizens and the council were only growing. Many in attendance felt the town's financial priorities were inconsistent and lacked clear justification.

Calls for change and leadership criticism

During the second question period, frustrations boiled over as resident Daniel Robinson stepped up and called for drastic action. He accused the council of being ineffective, constantly divided, and incapable of making clear decisions.

"You guys never get along! How can anything get done when you can't agree on anything?" Robinson exclaimed.

He went further, suggesting that the town needed an early election to establish stronger leadership.

"We are paying for decisions which you guys can't even agree on!" he said.

His criticism resonated with others, particularly regarding investments in infrastructure such as bike paths. Some residents argued that the existing paths are barely used and questioned why additional millions were being allocated to new ones.

As tensions escalated, multiple citizens voiced their frustrations—even from their seats, despite not being at the microphone. The meeting veered close to chaos before resident Louise Allard stepped up, urging everyone to keep the discussion respectful.

A growing divide

By the time the meeting wrapped up, the atmosphere remained tense. Many citizens left with the sense that their concerns had not been adequately addressed. The disconnect between the town's decision-makers and its residents seems to be widening, with no clear resolution in sight.

With municipal elections still months away, it seems as if many of the people of Rosemère are growing increasingly impatient, demanding leadership that listens—and more importantly, responds—with transparency and action.



Resident Sophie Cardinal takes the stand during the question period. She has shown her displeasure with the council several times. (Photo: Dylan Adams Lemaçon)

to demand answers about the ongoing lawsuit regarding the golf course land, a topic that has remained a major point of contention in Rosemère. She wanted to know what legal fees the town was expecting to pay as they prepared their defense.

The mayor responded that the council is aware of the situation's gravity and is prioritizing it accordingly. However, his response did little to ease concerns.

"It's gonna be us that pays for that," Cardinal said, exasperated over the potential financial burden on taxpayers if the town loses the case.



Resident Daniel Robinson was outraged at the council as he pleaded for their immediate dissolution. (Photo: Dylan Adams Lemaçon)

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Call 8-1-1 before going to hospital emergency, Santé Québec advises



Public health agency warns of pending flu season peak across the province

MARTIN C. BARRY
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Santé Québec, the agency that now oversees public health services all over the province, is advising patients and caregivers that with influenza rates up and the winter flu season almost peaking, turning up at a hospital's emergency department isn't necessarily the best course of action to take when there are other alternatives.

Challenging situation

According to Santé Québec, close to half the visits made by patients to emergency departments between February 4 and 10



Robin Marie Coleman, Santé Québec's assistant vice-president for access to health services, says calling 8-1-1 is often the best course of action to take before heading to a hospital emergency department.



Dr. Luc Boileau, director of public health for the province, said last week that flu activity in Quebec is elevated and we could be seeing the worst flu season of the past decade.

were by people whose needs were not in fact of an emergency nature.

"It is a challenge," Robin Marie Coleman, Santé Québec's assistant vice-president for access to health services, conceded regarding the misconceptions during a video conference call with journalists last Friday.

Long wait times

"This is definitely something we're trying to work on," she added, while agreeing with a journalist that wait times for some of the agency's services, such as the 8-1-1 medical triage phone central for non-urgent health issues, can be long, although less so in comparison to hospital emergency department wait times. "Sometimes the wait times are long," she said. "But to put

it in perspective, with the long wait times sometimes in the emergency rooms, it's better and healthier for people to stay at home if they have non-urgent care, and wait in order to be re-directed to a clinic directly with an appointment, rather than expose themselves in an emergency room when it's not an emergency situation."

Sometimes the best option

According to Coleman, 70 per cent of those patients who turned up at emergency departments in early February had family doctors, while others may have had other options available to them. In cases like these, she continued, "the best option is to stay safely at home if it's a non-emergency situation and be directly directed to the right service."

But at the same time, she acknowledged that the province's hospital emergency departments remain inadequate to handle the burden with which they are currently tasked. "We need to improve the different services, and first-line services, and make things much easier for people," she said.

Worst season in a decade

Late last week, the level of flu activity in Quebec was elevated, said Dr. Luc Boileau, director of public health for the province. He said Santé Québec was following the situation closely, since the province could in fact be facing one of its worst flu seasons in the last 10 years.

He said that in other Canadian provinces, like Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia, the presence of influenza had been notably higher this year. "We expect the peak soon to be reached, or that it soon will be," he continued.

According to Dr. Boileau, it's never too late to be vaccinated against influenza, and that it is recommended especially for persons regarded as vulnerable, which includes those with compromised immunity and the elderly.

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Publishers:

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Layout: MEDIA TREK

Distribution: DIFFUMAG

Printing: TC. TRANSCONTINENTAL

Project funded in part by
Canada

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ISSN number : 1923-0648

Annual subscription : \$97³⁸ tax incl. • Per copy : \$1

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OPINION & Editorial



Arctic energy and mineral race heats up *Nations scramble for Arctic oil, gas and minerals amid rising global demand*

“Go West, young man, go West... and grow up with the country” is a phrase attributed to Horace Greeley from the New York Daily Tribune back in 1865.

In 2025, the phrase might be updated to “Go North, young man, go North” as optimism rises about the potential of oil and gas and critical minerals in the Arctic.

Optimism about the size of the prize of Arctic hydrocarbons rose in 2012 when the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) assessed that the Arctic holds an estimated 13 per cent (90 billion barrels) of the world's undiscovered conventional oil resources and 30 per cent of its undiscovered conventional natural gas resources. The EIA has estimated that the Arctic may hold most of the world's remaining untapped oil and gas reserves.

Although the argument that U.S. shale production is peaking is questionable, the fact that production has grown more slowly in recent years (according to the EIA) is making the challenging but ample reserves in Alaska more attractive. More urgently, the Arctic could also be a vital supplier of critical minerals and the race for those minerals is “heating up the Arctic.”

The Arctic Economic Council's latest “Arctic Mining Report 2024” states that 31 of the 34 materials identified as essential for technologies like renewable energy installations and electric vehicle batteries are found in the Arctic, with Greenland having one of the world's largest deposits of nickel and cobalt, while Alaska has one of the largest zinc mines globally.

U.S. President Donald Trump's Jan. 20 executive order, “Unleashing Alaska's Extraordinary Resource Potential,” reversed U.S. President Joe Biden's previous policies, reopened vast areas for drilling and mining, and expedited permits for projects, stoking enthusiasm for

development. Discussions of the challenges, geopolitical elements like tariffs, development costs, and project plans have begun.

I had the chance to catch up with Heather Exner-Pirot, a senior fellow at the Macdonald-Laurier Institute and expert on transitioning from ambition to reality and scaling up investment in Canada's North. Exner-Pirot recognizes the geopolitical motivations behind Arctic development, including energy transition, defence and supply chains that are overly dependent on China.

“Trump is talking about Greenland for its critical minerals,” Exner-Pirot said. “Canada's talking about critical minerals and critical mineral alliances. That's positive. I'm definitely in favour of developing the region. But the flip side of that is the economic drivers. Commodity prices have not matched the rhetoric. Investment is still very difficult. Climate change doesn't make it cheaper. In many ways, it is more expensive because things like ice roads are more difficult to build because we have melting permafrost. The rhetoric and the reality are still far apart.”

The upside is that development would benefit communities and the Canadian military as much as resource companies. Infrastructure may be expensive, but sharing the burden for things like fibre-optic communications connecting to a mine could also benefit communities or a NORAD site. Ultimately, according to Exner-Pirot, every territory will have favourite projects.

I also spoke with Katie Kachur, VP of Government Relations West at the Canadian Propane Association, who further described the complications of Arctic development.

“The biggest challenge in Arctic energy development lies in balancing the unique

energy needs of rural, remote, and Indigenous communities with the broader goals of reliability, affordability, and low emissions,” Kachur said. “Unlike urban centers, these communities often face limited access to traditional energy infrastructure and depend on solutions tailored to their geography, climate, and cultural priorities. (They need) an approach emphasizing energy choice—offering diverse and flexible energy options that meet these unique needs.”

A growing trend in Arctic energy development mirrors efforts across Canada—direct engagement with Indigenous and remote communities to understand their energy needs and co-develop solutions. Policies emphasizing energy diversity, equitable access, and Indigenous ownership are gaining traction.

In Northern Canada, regulatory processes are under review as provinces and territories push for resource development. Streamlining regulations remains a key theme in 2025, driven in part by former Trump's push to fast-track federal permits, attract American investment and shorten approval timelines for major energy projects.

One of the largest projects is the \$44-billion Alaska LNG project, which aims to develop natural gas resources on Alaska's North Slope and transport them via a 1,300-kilometre pipeline to a proposed liquefied natural gas (LNG) plant. New York-based Glenfarne and the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation are leading the initiative, which has attracted interest from Japanese trading giant Mitsui, a major LNG investor.

Given the high costs of Arctic infrastructure, Canadian stakeholders could look to this project for insights on funding strategies and development approaches in extreme conditions.

Maureen McCall

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Economic watch committee relaunched to strengthen business resilience in Thérèse-De Blainville

MARIA DIAMANTIS

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The Thérèse-De Blainville Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCITB) has announced the relaunch of the Economic Watch Committee for the MRC of Thérèse-De Blainville. First introduced in 2020 to address economic challenges brought on by the COVID-19 crisis, the committee is being reinstated as businesses continue to face uncertainty, particularly due to ongoing fluctuations in Canada-U.S. trade relations. Its first meeting will take place virtually on February 20.

With this initiative, CCITB aims to foster a continuous dialogue between regional economic and political stakeholders. The committee will monitor developments closely, share strategic information, and relay upcoming government measures that may impact businesses in the area. By creating a space for collaboration and information exchange, the

committee intends to provide local entrepreneurs with the tools they need to navigate a shifting economic landscape.

Luc Landry, President of CCITB, highlighted the importance of collective action in these uncertain times, emphasizing that the strength of the region lies in its unity. "We are fortunate to be part of a business community that is engaged and proactive. This committee is a powerful tool that will help us navigate economic challenges together by fostering effective communication and collaboration."

The Economic Watch Committee will be led by CCITB and bring together key decision-makers, including provincial and federal representatives, mayors and municipal officials, Services Québec, Investissement Québec, Export Development Canada (EDC), the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC), the MRC of Thérèse-De Blainville, and Laurentides International. Their collective expertise will ensure that businesses in the region receive accurate information, timely support, and access to the best available



resources.

To further assist local entrepreneurs, CCITB has also launched a dedicated webpage providing businesses with essential tools and insights on how to adapt to economic fluctuations between Canada and the United States. The Chamber has also intensified its outreach efforts by sending a weekly newsletter to over 5,500 members of the business community, keeping them informed about the latest economic trends and developments.

Gina Bergeron-Fafard, Executive Director of CCITB, underscored the overwhelming response from regional stakeholders, saying, "The enthusiastic response from our partners proves how essential this committee is. Every key stakeholder is committed to ensuring that businesses in our region have access to the best information and resources to succeed in

a constantly evolving economy."

As the largest business network in the Laurentians, CCITB represents over 1,200 members and plays a pivotal role in supporting regional businesses through networking opportunities, training programs, resource-sharing initiatives, and large-scale economic projects. The Chamber oversees various business networks in Blainville, Boisbriand, Rosemère, Sainte-Anne-des-Plaines, and Sainte-Thérèse and is affiliated with the Fédération des chambres de commerce du Québec (FCCQ).

With the relaunch of the Economic Watch Committee, CCITB is reaffirming its commitment to ensuring that local businesses have the support, knowledge, and strategic partnerships necessary to weather economic challenges and seize new opportunities.

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Saint-Eustache hospital opens new nuclear medicine pavilion

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The Centre intégré de santé et de services sociaux (CISSS) des Laurentides officially inaugurated its new nuclear medicine pavilion at the Saint-Eustache Hospital on January 22, marking a significant milestone for healthcare in the region. The event was attended by Benoit Charette, Member of the National Assembly for Deux-Montagnes and Minister of the Environment, the Fight Against Climate Change, Wildlife, and Parks, as well as Pierre G. Mayer, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Fondation Hôpital Saint-Eustache.

Prior to this development, the only hospital in the Laurentides region equipped with nuclear medicine services was Saint-Jérôme Hospital. The addition of this cutting-edge facility at Saint-Eustache Hospital expands the overall diagnostic capacity in the Laurentides while providing closer and more accessible care to residents of the Basses-Laurentides. Nuclear medicine examinations play a crucial role in diagnosing a wide range of conditions, including those affecting the cardiovascular, endocrine, circulatory, skeletal, digestive, urinary, nervous, and respiratory systems. The technology is also instrumental in detecting infections and various diseases with a high level of precision.

The new pavilion is the result of a \$36 million investment from the Ministry of Health and Social Services and CISSS des Laurentides. Additionally, the Fondation Hôpital Saint-Eustache contributed \$1 million in donations to procure state-of-the-art medical equipment. This expansion will add over 4,000 nuclear medicine examinations annually to the CISSS des Laurentides' service offerings.

Government and health officials celebrate a major milestone

Benoit Charette emphasized the significance of the initiative, stating, "Modernizing our healthcare network is a priority for our government. The inauguration of this nuclear medicine pavilion in Saint-Eustache represents

a major advancement, significantly increasing the number of available examinations while reducing wait times. This is a testament to our commitment to providing accessible and safe care, as well as an optimal work environment for healthcare professionals. I extend my sincere gratitude to all the teams who contributed to making this project a reality."

Julie Delaney, President and CEO of CISSS des Laurentides, echoed these sentiments, highlighting the positive impact on local healthcare: "I am thrilled to see our efforts to enhance local services bearing fruit. With this new, state-of-the-art facility, we hope to attract top medical talent to the Laurentides. I sincerely thank all our teams, the Ministry of Health and Social Services, and the Fondation Hôpital Saint-Eustache for their outstanding work."

A milestone for the Fondation Hôpital Saint-Eustache

The Fondation Hôpital Saint-Eustache has played a pivotal role in the realization of this project. Pierre G. Mayer expressed the organization's pride in its contribution: "Our foundation is incredibly proud to have supported the creation of this new nuclear medicine center. Improving local healthcare services for the residents of the Basses-Laurentides is at the core of our mission. For nearly 39 years, we have worked tirelessly to raise millions of dollars to equip Saint-Eustache Hospital with cutting-edge medical technology. As part of this initiative, the foundation acquired a gamma camera and the Hermès computer system to operate it. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, residents will no longer need to travel outside their region for specialized medical care. This achievement would not have been possible without their support!"

The inauguration of the nuclear medicine pavilion at Saint-Eustache Hospital marks a significant leap forward in regional healthcare. With enhanced diagnostic capabilities, reduced wait times, and state-of-the-art technology, this new facility promises to improve patient care and medical expertise in the Laurentides for years to come.



From left to right: Benoit Charette, Member of the National Assembly for Deux-Montagnes and Minister of the Environment, the Fight Against Climate Change, Wildlife, and Parks; Julie Delaney, President and CEO of CISSS des Laurentides; Pierre G. Mayer, President of the Fondation Hôpital Saint-Eustache; Marie-Josée Lafontaine, Director of Multidisciplinary Services, Teaching, and Research at CISSS des Laurentides; and Lyne Des Trois Maisons, Executive Director of the Fondation Hôpital Saint-Eustache.

Saint-Eustache hospital expands diagnostic services with second CT scanner

MARIA DIAMANTIS

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Saint-Eustache Hospital has introduced a second CT scanner to its medical imaging department, a move expected to enhance diagnostic services and reduce wait times for patients in the Lower Laurentians. The project, led by the Centre intégré de santé et de services sociaux (CISSS) des Laurentides, received support from the provincial government, with local MNA Benoit Charette highlighting its role in modernizing healthcare infrastructure.

The additional scanner aims to address increasing demand in the region, where population growth has placed added pressure on medical resources. According to CISSS des Laurentides, the hospital currently performs approximately 30,000 scans per year, a number projected to rise to 50,000 with the new equipment. CT scanners are used for various medical purposes, including detecting neurological and spinal conditions, assessing injuries, identifying diseases in early stages, and monitoring responses to treatments such as chemotherapy and radiotherapy.

The total investment for the project, which includes construction and equipment costs, is reported to be \$6.55 million. The scanner has been in operation since December 2, 2024.

Julie Delaney, President and CEO of CISSS des Laurentides, stated that the addition of the scanner will help reduce waiting lists and improve access to local healthcare services.

Benoit Charette, MNA for Deux-Montagnes and Minister of the Environment, the Fight Against Climate Change, Wildlife, and Parks, said the investment aligns with the government's efforts to equip hospitals with modern medical technology.

The hospital's expansion of imaging services follows broader provincial initiatives aimed at improving healthcare access across Quebec. It remains to be seen how the addition of the scanner will impact wait times and overall patient care in the region.



From left to right: Julie Delaney, President and CEO of CISSS des Laurentides; Marie-Josée Lafontaine, Director of Multidisciplinary Services, Education, and Research at CISSS des Laurentides; and Benoit Charette, MNA for Deux-Montagnes and Minister of the Environment, the Fight Against Climate Change, Wildlife, and Parks.



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Blainville mayor announces renewal of scholarships and awards for graduating students



Ari Fridman-Sadykova surrounded by his teacher Caroline Léveillé (left), Councillor Marie-Claude Perron, and Sara Blanchard, special education teacher.

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Blainville's mayor, Liza Poulin, took advantage of the "Jeudi PerséVERT" event to announce the return of scholarships and awards presented

by the city to graduating students in Grade 6 and Secondary 5. The initiative aims to recognize and reward students' efforts in achieving

academic success.

"Last year, nine schools serving Blainville students participated in this initiative. Recognizing the hard work of these young people is essential and plays a crucial role in their success. A pat on the back can mean a lot in their academic journey, and I am very happy to renew this initiative this year. I encourage all elementary and secondary schools in Blainville to take part," said Mayor Poulin.

Selection of Graduating Students

The city's Department of Recreation, Culture, Library, and Community Life, in collaboration with the Centre de services scolaire des Mille-Îles, is currently reaching out to public schools serving Blainville.

As part of the program, each participating elementary and secondary school will select one graduating student based on their efforts throughout the school year.

Grade 6 students selected will receive gift certificates redeemable at local Blainville businesses chosen by the city's youth council, including: O-Volt, Munchiz, Canadian Tire, La Jouetterie and Mr. Puffs.

Meanwhile, selected Secondary 5 students will be awarded a \$250 scholarship from the City of Blainville. These prizes will be presented at ceremonies or school-organized events at the end of the academic year.

With this initiative, Blainville continues its commitment to supporting student perseverance and academic success in the community.

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THE CROOKED PATH

Q My boyfriend and I have only been dating 10 days, and I already want to end the relationship. It's not like he's psycho or anything. Actually he's really nice to me, but there are no sparks! I just know he's not the one for me, so why waste my time on something that won't last?

When we kiss he is overly aggressive, and I have to wipe the spit off my face! It's so gross. My problem is my sister is dating his older brother, and they would be mad if I broke his heart. Also, I love his whole family and don't want them to hate me for hurting him.

It seems cruel to break up with him so soon. Should I try to get him to break up with me? Dating is really complicated, but I know this is not working. Please, please, please help me!

Rhonda

A Rhonda, we have a German friend who has been divorced

many years. After telling us about the constant conflict in her marriage, she said, "The first time he called, my mother answered the phone. I said, 'Mom, tell him I'm not home.' But my mother made me come to the phone, and I ended up married to him."

Because she didn't follow her instincts, she didn't marry the right man. There is no rule which says the first one who dates you gets you. The rule says, as soon as you know it's not right, you end it. We get many letters from people who married someone they didn't even like.

There is a time to honor good manners, politeness, and the wishes of others, and there is a time to ignore all three. There is a price to be paid for following what others want. A character in an Ursula K. Le Guin novel makes a remark which can serve as wise advice. "I have given my love to what is worthy of love. Is that not the kingdom and the unperishing spring?"

Wayne

JACK AND JILL

Q I have been best friends with Penny since high school. A few years later I became good friends with Jack. A year after this Penny and Jack began dating. I moved across the country and maintained both friendships through phone calls. However when I returned home, things changed.

I was suddenly single, and Jack professed he'd had feelings for me since we met. One night we went out together, and he got drunk. When I took him home, he groped me. I would have let it slide, considering his condition. But after getting him inside his apartment, he pulled me down on his bed. I immediately left, but kept the information to myself, not wanting to make waves.

We stopped spending time together. I cannot be friends with a man who will so easily cheat on his girlfriend. This week, while visiting Penny, she asked why I don't speak to her boyfriend anymore. Apparently Jack told her I have thrown

our friendship away, and Penny is upset. I don't know what to tell her. She is considering marrying this man but telling the truth may lose her friendship.

Hailey

A Hailey, sometimes you can't win for losing, but when you have to lose, it's better to lose with the truth. Talk to Penny. Tell her three things. One, why you have to tell her what you are telling her. Two, what occurred with Jack. Three, why you didn't want to tell her.

Why must you tell? Because Jack is complaining to Penny without telling her why you are giving him the cold shoulder. Jack is lying to Penny because he wants to use her to get to you.

Penny may not believe you, and Jack will continue to lie. You cannot control their actions, but you can act to protect yourself. What do you know. It's unsafe to be alone with Jack.

Tamara

WAYNE & TAMARA MITCHELL are the authors of YOUR OTHER HALF (www.yourotherhalf.com)

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The Ville de Deux-Montagnes Fire Department

has formally recognized Charlie Godin, a 12-year-old resident, for her quick thinking and responsible actions during a fire that broke out in her home on January 2, 2024.

Deux-Montagnes honours 12-year-old Charlie Godin for heroic actions during house fire

A brave and decisive response

When the fire started, Charlie immediately took charge of the situation, ensuring the safe evacuation of her siblings and identifying the fire extinguisher for her mother, who was able to use it to contain the flames before they spread further. Her ability to remain calm and take the right steps in an emergency situation helped prevent further danger.

In recognition of her poise and decisive actions, Fire Prevention Officer Ludovick Roberge presented Charlie with a Certificate of Bravery on January 24, 2024. This award highlights the importance of individual actions in fire safety and acknowledges how Charlie's response played a crucial role in protecting her family.

A community recognition

The Ville de Deux-Montagnes Fire Department commended Charlie for demonstrating exemplary fire safety instincts, reinforcing the value of awareness and preparedness in emergency situations. Fire safety experts

emphasize that knowing what to do in a fire can make a critical difference, and Charlie's response serves as an inspiring example for others.

Her recognition also brings attention to the importance of fire prevention education, which helps children and families understand the necessary steps to take in case of an emergency. Fire officials encourage families to discuss fire evacuation plans, ensure smoke alarms are functioning properly, and familiarize everyone in the household with basic safety procedures.

A well-deserved honour

Charlie Godin's actions reflect remarkable presence of mind and a strong instinct for safety. By making the right decisions under pressure, she helped protect her loved ones and contributed to containing the fire.

The Ville de Deux-Montagnes and its Fire Department have rightfully celebrated Charlie's courage and sense of responsibility, recognizing that her quick thinking helped prevent a potentially more serious situation.



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HOROSCOPE

Week of FEBRUARY 23 TO MARCH 1

The luckiest signs this week:
ARIES, TAURUS AND GEMINI

ARIES
Before diving into a big project, take a moment to unwind and have some fun. Celebrate your promotion in good company. Embrace new challenges with open arms!

TAURUS
The idea of embarking on a journey or adventure will ignite your sense of wonder. You'll be able to free up the time and resources needed for a well-deserved vacation that promises a refreshing change of scenery and an escape from everyday life.

GEMINI
A disturbance is looming on the horizon. It will be the perfect opportunity to make some changes in your life and bring back your smile. Embracing change is the first step toward finding harmony in your life.

CANCER
Finding balance in your personal and professional life will require some give and take. After finalizing deals with potential clients or partners, get ready for exciting progress and positive outcomes.

LEO
This week is all about work. If you're on the lookout for a new job, you're likely to come across one that not only challenges you but also promises great prospects for your career growth.

VIRGO
If you're feeling dissatisfied at work, you'll make significant changes. This will help you secure a position that aligns with your dreams. You may find yourself in a management position or starting your own business.

LIBRA
Your home and family relationships need your attention. Once you've overcome these obstacles, you'll be able to pave the way for stronger and more harmonious connections with your loved ones and your significant other.

SCORPIO
Getting a new electronic device can be exciting, but it can also bring up a lot of questions. You may make multiple trips to the store to get all the information you need and ensure you're completely satisfied with your new purchase.

SAGITTARIUS
Embrace life with passion and excitement! You may receive a large sum of money, allowing you to indulge in some luxury. You'll go on a trip or participate in an activity that will impress everyone around you!

CAPRICORN
It's essential to take a break before diving into a big new project. Step away from your daily routine to help break up the monotony. You'll find inner peace by speaking your mind.

AQUARIUS
You may be easily distracted this week, which could be a sign of fatigue. After you've taken a break and rested up, your creativity will shine, and everyone will be amazed by the masterpiece you create.

PISCES
At work, various matters will require your immediate attention. This will be the perfect opportunity to level up your organizational skills, which will boost your productivity and lower your stress levels.

Coffee Break

CROSSWORDS

PUZZLE NO. 274

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | | | | 13 | | | 14 | | | |
| 15 | | | | 16 | | | 17 | | | |
| 18 | | | | 19 | | 20 | | | | |
| | | 21 | 22 | 23 | | 24 | | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | | 31 | | 32 | | | | |
| 33 | | | 34 | | | 35 | | 36 | | |
| 37 | | 38 | | 39 | | | | 40 | | |
| 41 | | | | 42 | | 43 | | | | |
| | | 44 | 45 | | | 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 | |
| 50 | 51 | 52 | | 53 | | 54 | | | | |
| 56 | | | | 57 | | 58 | | | | |
| 59 | | | | 60 | | 61 | | | | |

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ACROSS

- Pupil site
- Catch a glimpse of
- Cigar end
- ___ and rave
- Have being
- Days of ___
- High flier
- London brew
- Fix
- Not busy
- Complainer
- 18-wheeler
- Scattered
- New York player
- Sucker
- Pond scum
- Jug handle
- Navajo or Sioux
- Can material
- ___ diver
- Pave
- Farm pen

DOWN

- Part of a foot
- Large vase
- Direction left of north
- Fourposter
- Rebel against
- Affirm
- Stop, to Dobbin
- Landed property
- Hurt
- Damage
- Festive party
- Comics
- Lunch period
- Give forth
- Infant's sound
- Disclaim
- By any chance
- Untidiness
- Fairy-tale villain
- To ___ his own
- Hill insect
- Actual
- Sea Scrolls
- Outlaw
- Word of warning
- Approached
- Bothers
- Epic
- Train track
- Roof projection
- ___ thin air
- Dog's hounder
- Simmers
- House surroundings
- Took a load off
- Which person?
- Rain, e.g.
- Pig
- Time measure
- "___ Town"
- Sign
- Fate

Sudoku

PUZZLE NO. 967

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 5 | 6 | | | | |
| | | | | | 5 | | | |
| | 8 | 2 | | | | | | 3 |
| 4 | | | | 2 | | | | |
| | 7 | | | | | | | 8 |
| | 9 | | | | 4 | 5 | 1 | |
| | 1 | | | 9 | | | | 4 |
| | | 1 | | | 6 | | | |
| 6 | 3 | | | 4 | | | 9 | |

HOW TO PLAY:

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

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

Last Issue's Answers

CROSSWORDS

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | D | D | | W | H | O | A | | C | A | V | E |
| W | O | E | | H | A | I | R | | A | L | A | S |
| E | E | L | | I | D | L | E | | D | E | N | S |
| D | R | I | F | T | | | A | T | E | | | |
| | | | R | E | B | S | | I | T | E | M | S |
| A | C | H | E | | L | O | R | E | | Y | E | A |
| C | H | E | E | S | E | B | U | R | G | E | R | S |
| E | A | R | | O | W | E | D | | A | D | E | S |
| D | R | E | S | | R | E | A | P | | | | |
| | | | T | O | M | | | G | E | N | T | S |
| A | B | L | Y | | I | N | T | O | | E | R | A |
| R | A | I | L | | N | O | U | N | | A | I | L |
| M | A | T | E | | E | D | G | Y | | T | O | T |

Sudoku

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 3 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 8 |
| 7 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 1 | 9 |
| 1 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 2 |
| 6 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 7 |
| 8 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 4 |
| 4 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 6 |
| 9 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 3 |
| 2 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 1 |
| 3 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 5 |



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- Cantaloupe (Honduras)
- Broccoli (Mexico or California)
- Green Beans (Mexico)
- Mini Sweet Peppers (bag) (Mexico)
- Spinach (California or Mexico)
- Zucchini (2-3) (Mexico)
- Grapefruit (small) (Mexico)
- Bananas (4) (Guatemala)
- Clementines (5-8) (Morocco)
- Pears (3) (Portugal)
- Avocados (2) (Colombia)
- Iceberg Lettuce (California)
- Tomatoes (Mexico or Canada)
- Mini Onions (9-14) (Canada)
- Cucumber (Canada)
- (Organic) Cauliflower (Mexico or California)

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