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169 SEATS

8 565 147 VOTES



43.7%

144 SEATS

8 089 420 VOTES



41.3%

22 SEATS

1 233 004 VOTES



6.3%

7 SEATS

1 237 446 VOTES



6.3%

1 SEAT

244 963 VOTES

1.2%


0 SEATS

139 103 VOTES

0.7%

RIVIÈRE-DES-MILLE-ÎLES
59,779 VOTES REPORTING


See page 3



CANDIDATE	PARTY	VOTES	%
Linda Lapointe	LIB	27,218	45.5
Luc Desilets*	BQ	19,669	32.9
Elia Lopez	CON	10,398	17.4
Joseph Hakizimana	NDP	1,270	2.1
Alec Ware	GRN	734	1.2
David Santamaria Quiceno	PPC	306	0.5
Michel Genois	IND	184	0.3


* incumbent

THÉRÈSE-DE BLAINVILLE
64,141 VOTES REPORTING



CANDIDATE	PARTY	VOTES	%
Madeleine Chenette	LIB	29,368	45.8
Marie-Noëlle Closson-Duquette	BQ	20,706	32.3
Julie Bergeron	CON	12,044	18.8
Michel Lacroix	NDP	1,579	2.5
Chantal Lavoie	PPC	444	0.7

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Battle for Blainville's forests ends in court: Stablex expansion clears critical hurdle

MARIA DIAMANTIS

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The forests and wetlands of Blainville, once seen as an untouchable green sanctuary north of Montreal, are set to be transformed after Quebec's Court of Appeal dealt a final blow to the city's fight to preserve them.

In a decision handed down Wednesday 16th of April, the province's highest court rejected Blainville's urgent request to block the government's expropriation of municipal land—land that will soon serve as the site of a massive hazardous-waste expansion by U.S.-based industrial giant, Stablex.

The ruling marks the latest—and perhaps most decisive—chapter in a fierce tug-of-war between environmental stewardship and industrial necessity.

Blainville officials had spent months sounding the alarm about the potential destruction of nearly 70 hectares of precious habitat—nine hectares of fragile wetlands and another 58 hectares of dense woodland. Yet the Court of Appeal, echoing earlier findings from Quebec's Superior Court, found that the “balance of convenience” tipped in favour of Stablex's urgent needs.

With the company's existing landfill facilities nearly at capacity, judges agreed that halting the project would trigger a looming environmental crisis of a different sort: the inability to manage hazardous waste generated across Quebec.

“The evidence demonstrates that the need to proceed is immediate,” the Court wrote, adding that failing to construct the sixth landfill cell would bring its own serious ecological and public health risks.

Stablex's industrial complex currently consists of a treatment plant and five engineered cells designed to safely contain toxic waste. The sixth cell, now greenlit for construction, is critical to the company's operations—and tree-clearing has already begun even as legal battles continued.

City leaders and environmental advocates had

pinned their hopes on the courts intervening, especially after the Legault government's controversial passage of Bill 93 in March. The legislation, rammed through the National Assembly by the governing CAQ, authorized the land seizure through expedited procedures. The bill was passed with 61 votes to 31, with the opposition parties united in protest.

Throughout the political and legal showdown, Blainville proposed an alternative solution: relocating the landfill extension to a nearby site 300 meters from residential areas. But Stablex and the provincial government refused, citing both proximity to homes and higher costs. The alternative land, laden with clay deposits Stablex had already stored there, would have inflated construction costs by an additional \$100 million, pushing the total project price from \$150 million to \$250 million.

Adding another layer of controversy, both the original and proposed sites fall under the Montreal Metropolitan Community's (MMC) interim conservation protections, owing to their environmental significance. Nevertheless, Stablex argued that without swift expansion, its Quebec operations—and the broader hazardous waste system—would suffer severe interruptions.

In the aftermath of the ruling, both Blainville and the MMC issued cautious statements, indicating they were reviewing the decision with their legal counsel. However, short of a political intervention or last-ditch legal manoeuvre, the battle appears all but lost.

“This is a classic case of choosing the lesser of two environmental evils,” said a source close to the case. “Stablex continuing operations is critical—but the cost is losing a significant natural habitat.”

As bulldozers begin to push further into Blainville's woodlands this spring, the broader debate is unlikely to fade. In a province that prides itself on its environmental leadership, the Stablex case raises uncomfortable questions about how far Quebec is willing to go when industrial necessity collides with conservation ideals.



Linda Lapointe regains her riding

(NEWSFIRST) - Linda Lapointe's recent electoral victory marks a significant moment in Canadian politics, particularly for the Rivière-des-Mille-Îles riding in Quebec. After a dynamic campaign, Lapointe reclaimed her seat as a Member of Parliament (MP) for the Liberal Party of Canada, a position she previously held from 2015 to 2019. Her return to Parliament underscores her resilience and the trust her constituents have placed in her leadership.

Lapointe's political journey has been anything but linear. She first entered the political arena as a member of the Action démocratique du Québec (ADQ), serving in the National Assembly of Quebec for the Groulx riding from 2007 to 2008. Despite setbacks in subsequent elections, her determination never wavered. In 2015, she transitioned to federal politics, winning the Rivière-des-Mille-Îles seat as a Liberal MP. However, she lost the seat in 2019 to Bloc Québécois candidate Luc Desilets.

Fast forward to 2025, and Lapointe has staged a remarkable comeback. Her campaign focused on key issues such as economic development, healthcare, and climate change—topics that resonate deeply with her constituents. Her ability to connect with voters on a personal level, combined with her extensive experience in both provincial and federal politics, played a crucial role in her victory.

Lapointe's win is also a testament to the Liberal Party's broader strategy in Quebec. The party has been working to regain ground in the province, emphasizing policies that align with Quebecers' values and priorities. Lapointe's victory in Rivière-des-Mille-Îles serves as a microcosm of this effort, highlighting the importance of strong, community-focused candidates in achieving electoral



success.

This victory is not just a personal achievement for Lapointe but also a significant moment for the Rivière-des-Mille-Îles riding. Her return to Parliament brings a renewed focus on local issues and a promise to advocate for her constituents at the federal level. As she takes on this new chapter in her political career, all eyes will be on how she delivers on her campaign promises

and navigates the complexities of federal governance.

Linda Lapointe's story is one of perseverance, adaptability, and a deep commitment to public service. Her journey serves as an inspiration, not just to her constituents but to anyone facing challenges in their professional or personal lives. With her return to Parliament, Lapointe is poised to make a meaningful impact, both in her riding and on the national stage.

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OPINION & Editorial



A new direction for Canada following country's 2025 election

As virtually all politicians and electoral candidates know from experience, nothing beats going door-to-door during an election campaign – no matter how time-consuming and exhausting it might be.

Not only does it offer an opportunity to touch base and get your message out to decided and undecided voters. It also allows incumbent and novice candidates alike to gain a sense of what's actually happening on the ground, and what possibly to expect long before the ballot counting has been completed.

It seemed fairly clear during the month-long campaign for Canada's 2025 general election that the Liberals were edging significantly ahead of the Conservatives – much to Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre's dismay.

While Poilievre had every good reason to believe, as late as last January, that he'd easily be waltzing into power because of former PM Justin Trudeau's overwhelming unpopularity – as well as Trudeau's headstrong determination to lead the Liberals to what would have been almost certain defeat – Mark Carney's arrival completely changed the scenario and stole the wind out of Poilievre's sails.

If the Conservatives made one error – being an overall reflection of their tendency throughout the campaign – it may have been to dwell too long on issues that typically appeal to the emotions – such as violent crime and elaborate punishments – rather than economic problems – which were the Liberal focus for the most part during the campaign.

While Canadians and Quebecers are as preoccupied by crime (including violent criminal acts, but increasingly also fraud and online scams) as they were a decade ago when the Conservatives were last in power, it's clear that in this election their minds were on threats of an economic type coming from Donald Trump and the U.S.

Carney and the Liberals returned to this theme again and again. But, in the meantime in the closing days of the campaign, Poilievre – like a hockey coach who'd pulled the goalie in a last desperate bid – ratcheted up his tough-on-crime rhetoric in the apparent hopes this might offer a better chance of jarring undecided voters into supporting the Conservatives.

As well, around the half-way mark in the campaign, Poilievre announced that a Conservative government would be "giving judges back the power to sentence multiple murderers to consecutive prison sentences without parole eligibility beyond 25 years."

Canada has indeed experienced up to 10 mass murders in a little more than a decade. They include the 2017 Quebec City mosque shooting in which six people were murdered, the 2018 Toronto van attack in which 11 were mowed down and killed, and now the Vancouver Filipino street festival car attack with nine fatalities.

The fact that the last of these took place just a day before Canadians went to the polls may have led more than a few voters to support the hardline tough-on-crime views promoted by

the Conservatives.

In the run-up to election day, and another example of Poilievre's style of politics, he pledged to have the country's MPs sit over the summer holidays until they would pass three key pieces of legislation.

But what real impact could a measure like this have, except as a raw emotional appeal to Canadian voters so teed off at government that seeing their MPs punished by being virtually held hostage in the House of Commons with a symbolic gun to their heads would be enough to secure votes for the Conservatives?

If anything, it's the type of political blackmail – the equivalent of holding democracy hostage – one would previously have imagined only Donald Trump stooping to. But it was Poilievre threatening to use such a juvenile tactic.

Describing Mark Carney in an opinion piece in *The New York Times* last Sunday, technology journalist David Wallace-Wells said Carney "may emerge from this month's elections as the new face of global liberalism," with Carney having previously "declared the eight-decade-old economic order – on which the modern American empire was built – simply 'over.'"

If that is so, then Canada stands to play an increasingly significant role in the emerging new order, beginning with the willingness of our leaders to stand up to Trump and the U.S. in defiance to the belligerent threats that are certain to continue while Trump remains in office.

– Martin C. Barry –

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editor@newsfirst.ca

Deux-Montagnes celebrates major milestone in flood prevention and green space development

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The City of Deux-Montagnes has reached a significant milestone in its infrastructure modernization efforts, announcing that the new stormwater pumping station and rainwater retention basin at Central Park are now fully operational. This achievement represents not only a leap forward in flood prevention and environmental stewardship but also a meaningful enhancement of community spaces for residents.

A vital shield against flooding

Until recently, Deux-Montagnes faced a chronic challenge during periods of heavy rainfall and elevated lake levels: the stormwater system could not always evacuate rainwater naturally into the lake by gravity alone. In these situations, the city was forced to divert rainwater into the sanitary sewer network — a stopgap measure that carried the risk of sewer backups and overflows.

The newly constructed stormwater pumping station transforms this reality. Equipped with three powerful submersible pumps, each capable of moving 1,200 litres of water per second, the station automatically activates when lake levels rise too high for gravity drainage. By efficiently redirecting rainwater into the lake, it safeguards homes, streets, and essential services



from water damage and environmental strain. Importantly, residents living nearby can rest easy: the pumping station is designed with the community in mind. Its fully underground pumps operate silently and without odors, as they handle only rainwater.



But this is more than just functional infrastructure. The City of Deux-Montagnes has integrated thoughtful landscaping into the project, transforming the basin into a welcoming urban oasis. By summer, the area will feature pedestrian trails encircling the water, scenic lookout points (belvédères), and a charming island accessible by footbridge. Two elegant water fountains and a sophisticated recirculation system with aerators will not only enhance the site's beauty but also maintain water quality, preventing unpleasant odors.

Urban furniture will be installed throughout the park to encourage relaxation and recreation, making the space a true gathering place for residents of all ages.

Investing in the future

This dual infrastructure project reflects a broader commitment by the City of Deux-Montagnes to sustainable urban development and proactive climate resilience. As extreme weather events become increasingly common, municipalities across Quebec are being called upon to rethink how they manage water resources, protect communities, and enhance quality of life.


In Deux-Montagnes, the new stormwater station and retention basin are tangible proof of this forward-thinking approach — offering not just protection from future storms, but a greener, healthier, and more vibrant community.

Residents are invited to explore the new facilities once landscaping is completed later this spring, and to take pride in a city that is investing boldly and wisely in its collective future.


A new jewel in the heart of the city

Complementing the technical innovation is the newly created open-air retention basin — a picturesque addition to Central Park that does more than just manage stormwater. The basin, which resembles a natural pond, temporarily stores excess rainwater during major storms, helping to relieve pressure on the municipal sewer system and prevent localized flooding.

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Lorraine's green giveaway: citizens invited to embrace sustainability this May

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

As part of its ongoing commitment to environmental stewardship, the City of Lorraine is rolling out a series of eco-friendly initiatives this May, encouraging residents to take an active role in protecting and enhancing their community's natural beauty.

Starting May 8 at 1:00 PM, residents are invited to the municipal garage to pick up free compost. This nutrient-rich material, ideal for gardens and lawns, is available on a first-come, first-served basis while supplies last. Citizens are encouraged to bring their own shovels and containers, with a maximum collection limit of 120 litres—approximately the volume of a standard brown compost bin. Proof of residency may be requested on-site to ensure the program benefits local households. No registration is necessary.

This free compost program is not merely a giveaway; it's a critical step in closing the loop of organic waste management. By turning food scraps and yard clippings into valuable soil amendment, Lorraine is empowering its citizens to help reduce landfill contributions, improve soil health, and foster a greener urban environment.

In addition, during the Month of the Tree, the Ministry of the Environment and the Fight Against Climate Change, in collaboration with Table Forêt Laurentides, will offer free tree saplings to Lorraine residents. Although the



exact date of arrival for the saplings is still pending, citizens are urged to stay tuned to municipal updates to claim their free tree. Planting even one tree is a small yet powerful act of civic responsibility, contributing to cleaner air, enhanced biodiversity, and a legacy

of sustainability for future generations.

For those with a green thumb or a passion for fresh produce, Lorraine is also offering free vegetable plant trays. Registration opens Monday, May 5 at 9:00 AM, and will continue

until supplies run out. Limited to one tray per address, these ready-to-plant vegetables aim to encourage home gardening, promote food self-sufficiency, and strengthen community ties through a shared commitment to local agriculture. Distribution will commence on Friday, May 9, carried out by members of the municipal council—a gesture that underscores the leadership's personal investment in building a resilient, self-reliant community. In case of absence, trays will be left safely at the recipient's doorstep.

Each of these initiatives underscores an important civic message: environmental protection is not the task of governments alone—it thrives on community involvement. By offering compost, trees, and garden plants free of charge, Lorraine is giving its citizens the tools to make a tangible difference, transforming everyday spaces into flourishing ecosystems.

In a time when climate challenges are at the forefront of global conversation, Lorraine's programs offer a hopeful reminder that real change often begins at home—with a handful of compost, a newly planted tree, or the first sprout of a vegetable seedling.

Residents are encouraged to participate enthusiastically, not only for personal benefit but for the lasting health and beauty of Lorraine itself.

For more information, residents are advised to monitor official city communications in the coming days.

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Happy Mother's Day!



Three **unique** Mother's Day gift ideas

Mother's Day is fast approaching, so it's time to start thinking about how you'll celebrate. Here are a few ideas that are sure to put a smile on her face.

1. A PROFESSIONAL PHOTO SHOOT

Is your mom the type of woman who's never satisfied with the way she looks? Treat her to a session with a professional photographer! This way, she can finally have a picture of herself she likes.

Does your mom hate every single picture of herself? Schedule a session with a professional photographer for Mother's Day!

Don't worry: an experienced photographer will know exactly how to find the perfect angle to immortalize Mom's unique beauty. If you want to make her feel even more confident, book an appointment with a professional stylist right before the shoot.

2. A TREE

If you're looking for a gift for your nature-loving mom, have her choose a beautiful tree that she can plant wherever she pleases.

If she lives in an apartment, have her choose a smaller tree that she can keep indoors. Ideally, she should pick one that

doesn't require too much maintenance. She'll surely be moved by your special gift and out-of-the-box thinking.

3. A PERSONALIZED TRINKET

There are all sorts of different companies out there that let you personalize clothing, pillows, cups, puzzles, jewellery, calendars, aprons — virtually any other item you can think of!

You could engrave, embroider or print whatever you like on the gift you want to give your mother. Think about using a special image, an inspiring quote or simply her name. This thoughtful present is guaranteed to make Mom smile.

Prepare a surprise Mother's Day **breakfast in bed**

Do you want to spoil the mother of your children with a mouth-watering surprise this Mother's Day? You can never go wrong with breakfast in bed to mark this most meaningful of occasions! Treat the love of your life to a blissful morning between the sheets with

pancakes, bacon and eggs or an assortment of fresh fruit. There's nothing she'll appreciate more than a morning spent in bed enjoying a tasty meal prepared with her family's love and care.

If your kids are more likely to cook up a mess than a breakfast dish, ask them to

draw a picture to decorate Mom's breakfast tray instead. For some added fun, have them collect all of the pillows around the house to ensure their mother dines in absolute comfort. Finally, top the presentation off with her favourite flower, a sweet note or an uplifting family photo, and watch her melt with joy!





Happy Mother's Day!


Rosemère Town Council members wish a

happy Mother's Day to all biological and adoptive Moms and Moms-at-heart.

May this day bring you sweet and grateful moments.








Liberal

LINDA LAPOINTE

RIVIÈRE-DES-MILLE-ÎLES

Liberal

Best wishes to all mothers on the occasion of Mother's Day



The Quebec resale market remains robust in the first quarter despite unprecedented uncertainty

(NEWSFIRST) - The Quebec Professional Association of Real Estate Brokers (QPAREB) has just released its residential real estate market statistics for the province of Quebec, based on the real estate brokers' Centris provincial database.

Province-wide residential sales totalled 24,070 in the first quarter of 2025, a relatively strong increase of 14 per cent compared to the same period last year. Transactional activity was thus 13 per cent higher than the first-quarter average, since Centris began compiling data in 2000.

"There was a steady growth in residential sales across the province in the first quarter. The market's strength defied the sharp rise in economic uncertainty stemming from the dramatic shift in trade and diplomatic relations with the United States. It's interesting to note that despite the historic drop in Quebec consumer confidence during this period, confidence in making a major purchase—such as a property—barely declined. This is, above all, a reflection of the renewed confidence of buyers in real estate as a safe haven in the Quebec market," points out Charles Brant, QPAREB Market Analysis Director.

"Prices continued to rise rapidly in all property categories across the province, notably for small income properties in a context of lower interest rates. Half of all provincial single-family home sales in the first quarter were concluded above \$485,000, a 13 per cent increase in the median price. This situation is the result of an overall downward trend in the number of active listings, particularly in the Quebec City market,

leading to conditions of overheating reminiscent of the pandemic period. At the same time, we are seeing a growing market imbalance in favour of sellers in other CMAs and urban areas, including some resort markets. Against this backdrop of uncertainty, the situation needs to be closely monitored, as it could also reflect a certain reluctance on the part of homeowners to put their property on the market."

Quarterly highlights for the province

Sales

Sales by property category rose from between 13 per cent to 19 per cent from the first quarter of 2024 to the first quarter of 2025. Plexes posted the largest increase at 19 per cent to reach 2,076 transactions. Condominiums followed with solid 15 per cent growth for a total of 6,492 sales, while single-family home sales rose by 13 per cent, with 15,444 transactions recorded.

Among the Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs), Drummondville stood out with a 33 per cent surge in sales, growing twice as fast as the second- and third-place CMAs: Montreal (+15 per cent) and Gatineau (+14 per cent). In the Trois-Rivières, Quebec City and Sherbrooke CMAs, transactional activity grew at a more moderate pace, posting respective increases of 10 per cent, 5 per cent, and 4 per cent. However, the Saguenay CMA posted a 3 per cent decline in sales.

Transactional activity was particularly robust in eight urban centres: Joliette (+38 per cent), Sorel-Tracy (+38 per cent), Rawdon (+39 per cent), Matane (+41 per cent), Rivière-du-Loup (+44 per cent), Alma (+45 per cent), Salaberry-de-Valleyfield (+52 per cent), and Victoriaville (+53 per cent). Other markets also performed well, including Saint-Georges (+24 per cent), Lachute (+24 per cent), Thetford Mines (+22 per cent), and Cowansville (+21 per cent).

Modest gains were recorded in markets such as Mont-Tremblant (+4 per cent), La Tuque (+4 per cent), and Charlevoix (+3 per cent), while declines between 1 per cent and 26 per cent were observed in seven other markets, most notably in Baie-Comeau (-26 per cent), Shawinigan (-13 per cent), and Rouyn-Noranda (-12 per cent).

Active listings

The number of properties available for sale in the province decreased during the first three months of the year compared to the same period in 2024. Active listings dropped to a total of 34,479 properties, down by 4 per cent. Inventory continued to trend below the historical average for this time of year, with 48,355 fewer listings than usual (-29 per cent).

Median prices

In the 2025 first quarter, the provincial median price for single-family homes reached \$485,000, up 10 per cent compared to the same period last year.

For condominiums, the median price climbed to \$390,000, marking a 7 per cent increase compared to the same period last year.

The median price for small income properties reached \$625,000, a much sharper increase than the other two categories, jumping by 20 per cent between the first quarters of 2024 and 2025.

The real estate market remained very tight across the province, with a resurgence of overheating in certain regions where the significant imbalance between sales and new listings persists—and even appears to be worsening—leading to more and more cases of overbidding. This situation affects all CMAs, but is especially pronounced in Quebec City, and, to a lesser extent, in Trois-Rivières and the Saguenay. In this context, median price growth is accelerating, effectively cancelling out the positive impact of lower interest rates on homeownership.

Market conditions

Across the province, the number of months required to sell the inventory of residential properties on the market in the first quarter of 2025 remained at levels that favoured sellers, as they continued to drop compared to the same period last year. As a result, the number of months required to sell the inventory, all categories combined, fell to 4.6 months. For first quarters between 2000 and 2024, it took an average of 8 months to clear the inventory.

► Continued on page 10



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DEEP IN THE HEART...

Q I went on a trip to Texas with my three children and a girlfriend. Looking back now, I should not have taken my friend. She is a drama queen to the max. We were staying with my dad, and the reason for the trip was to meet my sister I didn't know about until two years ago.

Mom and dad split when I was two, and he was never part of my life. We have a fairly tense relationship as he doesn't know how to be a dad. As a child my mother told me horrible things about him. My girlfriend added to the stress by sitting my dad down and giving him advice.

One night my dad made margaritas. My friend had three and was toast. He offered to show her his collection of prize classic vehicles he's restored. These cars are his pride and joy, and he shows them off every chance he gets. An hour or so later he headed to bed, and my girlfriend gave him a hard time about it.

She said, "What if I run out of margaritas?" He said, "Well then, come wake me up, and I'll make you more." She took this as a come-on and decided he was trying to hook up with her. Neither my sister nor I saw this as a come-on, but my girlfriend wouldn't let it rest. She brought it up continually for the rest of the week.

As the week came to a close, I was soaking in every last moment with my sister. Six days just wasn't enough to make up for 23 years. My friend barged into our conversation, talking nonstop about a relative's marital problems. Next morning she asked if we could swing by someone's house for a quick goodbye before our 16-hour drive home.

Her quick goodbye turned into 45 minutes. My 3-year-old was screaming bloody murder, and I was exhausted. Four hours into the trip I let loose. I told her she was rude. I said she was mighty full of herself to think every guy

wants her. I also told her I was never going to wear the pair of short shorts she bought me for my birthday.

I know words are like toothpaste, and once you squeeze it out it doesn't go back in. So I wrote her an apology. I said in some ways you are still that chubby little girl who has low self-esteem. Despite what you feel inside you are a beautiful woman with the heart the size of all those Texas egos.

I said you are Mother Teresa in some ways. I say in some ways because I'm sure Mother Teresa would never break out a permanent marker in a bar bathroom and write on someone's naked fat butt like you did, but the truth is I miss you.

I haven't heard back, and it's been three months.

Bonnie

A Bonnie, if this woman and a stranger were on the bank of a river and you fell in, we'd bet on the stranger to jump in and save you. Your friend might say, "I can't imagine Bonnie wants me to jump in and get this outfit wet."

People have a hard time accepting they have friends who are not friends, just as people have a hard time admitting they married the wrong person. But both can be true. You offered to make up with her. That is enough.

Somehow you have lost the definition of the word "friend." A friend is someone you can count on, someone you can tell your deepest secrets to and they will never tell. Cicero said we may as well take the sun out of the sky as take the friendship out of life. A friend, he said, is a second self. But his words apply to true friends, not drama queens.

Wayne & Tamara

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

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Selling times

During the first quarter of 2025, the average selling time fell very slightly in all three property categories. For the first time in 25 years, all three market categories posted the same drop of 2 days compared to the same quarter of the previous year. Average selling times were 62 days for

single-family homes, 60 days for condominiums, and 81 days for small income properties.

Quarterly highlights for the regions

Montreal CMA

Residential sales reached 11,847 transactions in the first quarter of 2025, marking a 15 per

cent increase compared to the same period last year. This level of activity is comparable to the historical average for a first quarter.

Active listings in the Montreal metropolitan area experienced a moderate 3 per cent decline compared to the equivalent quarter in 2024, mainly due to a significant drop in plex listings (-16 per cent), and to a lesser extent, single-family homes (-7 per cent). Condominium listings, however, rose slightly by 4 per cent. The

number of months required to sell the inventory (all categories combined) marginally dropped to 4.5 months.

The growth in median prices in the different property categories was similar between the first quarters of 2024 and 2025. The median price for single-family homes increased by 8 per cent to \$600,500, condominiums rose by 6 per cent to \$420,000, and the median price for plexes grew by 7 per cent to \$800,000.

"Everyone Counts 2025": Major operation to survey homelessness across the Laurentians

MARIA DIAMANTIS

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

In an unprecedented regional effort, the Laurentians have joined the rest of Quebec in conducting a sweeping survey to better understand homelessness in their communities.

From April 14 to April 22, the Centre intégré de santé et de services sociaux (CISSS) des Laurentides led "Everyone Counts 2025," a massive operation aimed at gathering data on the region's homeless population. Mirroring similar efforts province-wide, the initiative seeks to shed light on the evolving realities of homelessness—and ultimately shape services that are more attuned to the needs of those living without stable shelter.

In the Laurentians, the operation unfolded

through a series of five welcoming events staged in different communities, including Saint-Eustache, Saint-Jérôme, Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts, and Mont-Laurier. At these hubs, participants were offered warm meals and drinks, creating safe, accessible spaces where they could be counted and heard.

These "attractive events" were just one piece of a broader effort that also included neighborhood outreach, targeted site visits, and collaborations with local organizations. By combining multiple strategies, the CISSS des Laurentides worked to capture the most accurate snapshot possible of visible homelessness over a single night—an essential metric for understanding the depth and scope of the crisis.

Such an undertaking required enormous manpower. Nearly 75 volunteers and more than 25 staff members from the CISSS itself lent their

time and energy to the project. Partnerships with community organizations, municipalities, and service agencies were also crucial in ensuring the operation's success.

Julie Delaney, President and CEO of the CISSS des Laurentides, expressed heartfelt gratitude to everyone who made the initiative possible.

"It was together, with compassion and solidarity, that we succeeded in carrying out this critical exercise," Delaney said. "I sincerely thank the organizing committee for their outstanding work, our dedicated employees who rallied to the cause, the volunteers who gave their time so generously, and our partners from every sector. Each contribution made a real difference."

The data gathered through "Everyone Counts 2025" will now be analyzed and compiled. Official results are expected to be released by Quebec's Ministry of Health and Social Services

over the coming months.

Meanwhile, efforts to support individuals experiencing homelessness continue. To learn more about the initiatives in place across the Laurentians or to access available resources, residents are encouraged to visit the "Homelessness" section of the santelaurentides.gouv.qc.ca website.



Reconstruction of Bélair Island Bridge continues

Full reopening expected by summer 2025



MARIA DIAMANTIS

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

The Ministry of Transport and Sustainable Mobility has announced the next phase of major reconstruction work on the Bélair Island Bridge (Route 117) in Rosemère, set to restart

on April 28.

This crucial project, aimed at modernizing the bridge infrastructure and improving active transportation links, will enter a critical stage with the assembly of prefabricated bridge sections, paving of the roadway, and the construction of a new multi-use path on the bridge's eastern side. According to the Ministry, work is scheduled to continue through the summer, with a full reopening of the bridge and the Mille-Îles River waterway expected by season's end.

Once completed, the new Bélair Island Bridge will feature two lanes of traffic in each direction, as well as a safe, fully connected multi-use path designed to accommodate cyclists and pedestrians. This active transportation link will tie directly into Rosemère's municipal network, offering residents a safer, greener way to travel across the river.

Until the work is finished:

Northbound traffic on Route 117 (Boulevard Labelle) across the Bélair Island Bridge remains

closed, with a detour directing vehicles to share the southbound lanes—one lane open in each direction.

Speed limits through the construction zone remain reduced to 50 km/h to ensure the safety of both workers and drivers.

Navigation on the Mille-Îles River under the Bélair Island Bridge is currently prohibited; however, boaters can still navigate using the nearby Marius-Dufresne Bridge.

As with all major infrastructure projects, the timeline is subject to change depending on weather conditions or unforeseen operational challenges.

The Ministry extended its thanks to residents, commuters, and boaters for their continued patience and cooperation. Drivers are reminded that respecting posted signage and reduced speed limits is crucial for everyone's safety.

For any questions or comments, the public is invited to contact the Ministry by dialing 511 or visiting their website.

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HOROSCOPE

Week of May 4 to 10, 2025

The luckiest signs this week:
LIBRA, SCORPIO AND SAGITTARIUS



ARIES

You may find it hard to communicate with others this week. However, an increase in income on the horizon will ease your financial worries. In your love life, small gestures and thoughtful actions will boost your happiness.



TAURUS

The pollen in the air may cause you some discomfort. Focus on eating a balanced diet to alleviate these symptoms and other disorders like stress-related heartburn.



GEMINI

You'll be given happy news from your family this week, like a birth or a move. You may consider putting your home up for sale, especially if your kids have long flown the nest.



CANCER

You'll be motivated by injustice in all its forms, and you'll take action to rectify any unfair situation. In your love life, prioritize affection to maintain a balanced, healthy relationship.



LEO

Let your friends lead you on a fun shopping trip. This adventure will be enjoyable and beneficial. Also, make sure to treat yourself to moments of relaxation and self-care that will boost your sense of well-being and vitality.



VIRGO

You'll dive into a major project and start to see real results. You'll be tasked with resolving conflict, either on or off the job. A romantic getaway is on the horizon.



LIBRA

For the sake of your health, you must take time to relax. Embrace a mindset of letting go before diving into new activities. Try to re-evaluate how you manage your time.



SCORPIO

Expand your customer base and grow your social media contacts to boost your sales. You'll take the lead in organizing a meeting that will bring together people you admire and respect.



SAGITTARIUS

You'll take the initiative on a major personal or professional project. You'll find the financial resources you need to purchase property or start your own business.



CAPRICORN

Dedicate time to planning your next vacation. This is also a good time to enhance your professional skills through training. Your career will thrive!



AQUARIUS

Use this time for introspection. Reflect on what ignites your passion and what doesn't, weighing the pros and cons. You'll make the right choices to promote your personal growth.



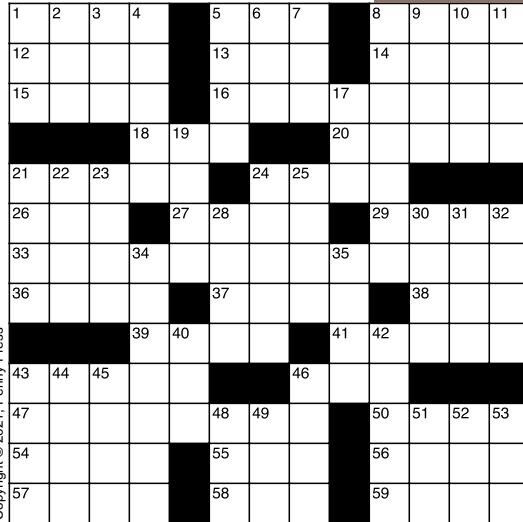
PISCES

At work, your go-getter attitude and keen attention to detail will help you come up with practical solutions to unexpected challenges. Conversations with your romantic partner may revolve around commitment and the depth of your feelings.

Coffee Break

CROSSWORDS

PUZZLE NO. 279



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ACROSS

- Lather
- Pig's home
- Long stick
- Lazy
- Sheep's ma
- On the road
- Borscht vegetable
- Solid
- Behind
- Desert stops
- Silent
- Takes on
- Coffee server
- "God's Little ____"
- Bits of granola
- Face the music: 3 wds.
- Before long
- Consumes
- Hot beverage
- Civil rules
- Black
- Border

DOWN

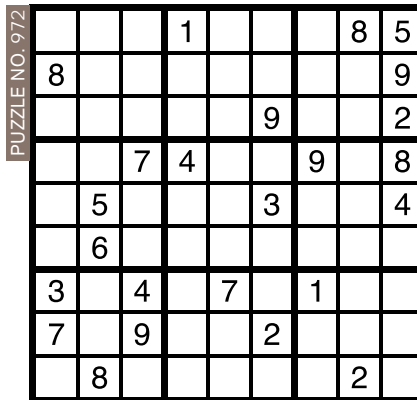
- Tall tale
- Lyric verse
- Beerlike brew
- Copper or nickel
- Denomination
- Tango requirement
- Urge
- Umbrella
- Is beholden to
- Tardy
- Spots
- New England cape
- Authority
- Attendance
- Street entertainer
- Mother's sister
- "____ House" (song)
- Small lump
- Court dividers
- Moistened
- Messy fellow
- Smooth
- Long sandwiches
- Larry, Curly, and Moe
- "____ the Woods"
- Vicinity
- Amount unpaid
- ____ the fat
- Choir voice
- MTV watcher, e.g.
- Don't go
- Signs up
- Patron
- Zoo attraction
- Explosives
- Reach
- Actual
- Tenant's concern
- Cheeky
- Immediately
- Stage prompt
- Not well
- Cow's call
- Recede, as the tide

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY:

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

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

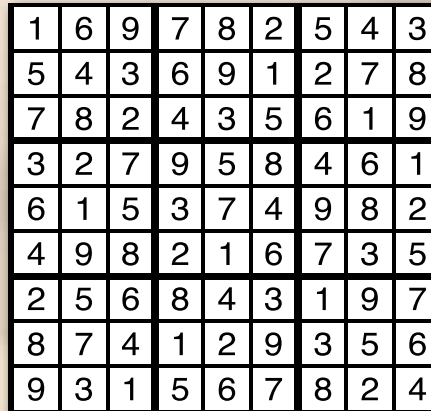


Last Issue's Answers

CROSSWORDS



Sudoku



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- Broccoli (Mexico)
- Honeydew Melon
(Guatemala)
- Peppers (bag of 3) (Canada)
- Organic Sweet Potatoes
(3) (Mexico)
- Organic Cob Corn (3)
(Mexico)
- Garlic (Spain)
- Iceberg Lettuce (Mex/Cali)
- Avocados (2) (Mexico)
- Tomatoes (Canada)
- Yellow Onions (2lbs)
(Canada)
- Mini Cucumbers (6)
(Canada)
- Bananas (4) (Costa Rica)
- Clementines (6-7) (Morocco)
- Mango (Peru)
- Kiwis (3) (Greece)

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