

**PROFESSIONAL AUTO BODY
REPAIR & PAINTING**

Insurance Work Accepted • All Work
Guaranteed • Expert Color Matching
• Factory Genuine Parts • Import Car
Specialists • Major & Minor Repairs

A2 AUTO



514 476-4565
1385, Boul. des Laurentides
Local 103 Vimont, Laval

THE NORTH SHORE News

Blainville, Boisbriand, Bois-des-Filion, Deux-Montagnes, Lorraine, Rosemère,
Pointe-Calumet, Sainte-Marthe-sur-le-Lac, Sainte-Thérèse, Saint-Eustache

**ONGOING
REGISTRATION**

SHADD

Health & Business Centre

Choose Shadd.
Choose Success.



514-484-0485
1000 Old Orchard Avenue
Located near Vendôme metro & train station
shadd.com/admissions

newsfirst
MULTIMEDIA

Vol. 21-13

June 27, 2025

450-978-9999

www.ns-news.com

editor@newsfirst.ca

Mikaël Kingsbury: The pride of Deux-Montagnes



Page 6

Deux-Montagnes city council



Page 8

Pablo Rodriguez: Quebec Liberal leader



Page 7

Airport travel tips



Page 9



The Best Choice
Since 1983

Page 6



Curtains rise on civic identity in La Tournée Festive

MARIA DIAMANTIS

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

The MRC de Thérèse-De Blainville has officially unveiled La Tournée Festive, a free outdoor theatre event designed to celebrate the region's rich heritage and strengthen civic pride. Developed in collaboration with the Petit Théâtre du Nord and backed by all seven municipalities of the MRC, the production will tour local communities on the weekends of September 6–7 and 13–14.

Blending historical storytelling with community engagement, the project seeks not only to entertain but also to reinforce the shared identity and civic belonging of residents across the region.

Theatre as a tool for community connection

At the heart of La Tournée Festive is a 45-minute participatory theatre experience built around stories and songs inspired by the

region's past. Audiences are invited to interact with the performers, fostering dialogue between generations and reinforcing the social fabric of each municipality.

"This project goes beyond artistic creation—it is an investment in civic awareness and collective memory," said Éric Westram, Prefect of the MRC and Mayor of Rosemère. "By reconnecting residents with their local history, we strengthen their connection to place and to each other."

The production is supported through Quebec's Ententes de développement culturel, and was made possible through funding from both the provincial government and the MRC. Minister of Culture and Communications Mathieu Lacombe praised the initiative as a vibrant example of how culture can deepen a community's sense of pride and cohesion.

A regional effort with cultural reach

The project reflects a rare level of coordination among the seven municipalities of the MRC,

and is the product of joint efforts by the MRC's Table action culture et patrimoine. The Petit Théâtre du Nord, a well-regarded company with more than 25 years of experience, was tasked with bringing the idea to life. Known for its ability to animate historical themes in accessible ways, the theatre company brings a human, community-first approach to the performances.

"Our goal is to create theatre that lives in the hearts of our communities," said Mélanie St-Laurent, Executive Director of Petit Théâtre du Nord. "With La Tournée Festive, we're not just telling stories—we're building bridges between people and their heritage."

Strengthening civic belonging through art

Beyond its artistic merits, La Tournée Festive is a powerful civic gesture, using cultural expression to engage residents in the region's democratic and social evolution. As citizens come together to hear stories about the formation and transformation of their communities, the performances become a mirror—both reflecting and shaping a shared sense of who they are.

Christine Beaudette, Chair of the Table action

culture et patrimoine and Mayor of Boisbriand, emphasized this point. "By revisiting our past through theatre, we're helping citizens rediscover their place in the civic story of Thérèse-De Blainville. This is culture with a purpose—strengthening our democratic community."

Culture for everyone

The event also democratizes access to high-quality theatre, taking professional performances directly into public spaces and eliminating financial and logistical barriers. Whether residents are long-time locals or new arrivals, the performances offer an invitation to belong, participate, and take pride in a shared cultural journey.

La Tournée Festive will be part of the MRC's summer cultural calendar under the banner One Day, One Town, One Show!. Detailed information on performance locations and schedules can be found in the official summer programming brochure distributed by the MRC de Thérèse-De Blainville.

Through its inclusive spirit, historical lens, and community reach, La Tournée Festive stands as a model of how culture can nurture civic identity—one story, one audience, and one town at a time.

FOR SALE

Chomedey: Beautiful ground floor condo, open concept with private entrance and garage. Offering 1 huge master, 1 bath with shower and tub. Rented semi-furnished with fridge, stove, dishwasher, washer, dryer. Close to highways and schools.



OPEN HOUSE

June 29 @ 2-4

Address: 2131 Av Albert-Murphy, Chomedey, Laval (Le Carrefour)

FOR RENT

Ville St-Laurent: Great location. Offering 3+1 bedrooms 2 baths, kitchen and separate dining area. Possibility of intergenerational. Double garage. Quick occupancy.



Ste-Rose: Cottage for rent, situated in a nice quiet area. Offering 3 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths. Inground pool, exterior parking. Quick occupancy. Call me for more details.



Laval des Rapides: Large bright unit situated close to all amenities and steps away from shopping, coffee shops and metro Montmorency. Open concept, living room, kitchen, oak floors, and freshly painted. Inclusions in unit: fridge, stove, microwave washer and dryer balcony with space for barbecue and one car parking. Close to all highways. Call me for an appointment.



VOULA KOTTARIDIS
(514) 993-5010
AGENTVK@GMAIL.COM

EXCELLENT SERVICE | EXCEPTIONAL RESULTS



ROYAL LEPAGE

HUMANIA CENTRE

AGENCE IMMOBILIÈRE 450.682.2121

Golden book ceremony celebrates Rosemère's standout citizens



Mayor Westram stands alongside community members who've signed the town's Golden Book inside Rosemère Library on June 19, 2025. (Photo: Matthew Daldalian, Newsfirst Multimedia)

MATTHEW DALDALIAN

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
matt.newsfirst@gmail.com

Rosemère honoured community members at a Golden Book signing last week at the Rosemère Library, a tradition that aims to celebrate local excellence while preserving it in the town's collective memory.

Held alongside similar events throughout the year, the Golden Book signing event gathers a range of individuals whose accomplishments—from sports and business to the arts—have brought what Mayor Eric Westram called “added value” to Rosemère.

Building community

“It’s important when you want to build as a community, you have to reflect on its history,” said Westram. “And part of the history is that book that they’ve signed. It leaves also a legacy for the ones that will come after.”

This year’s ceremony recognized a diverse group of residents, including standout athletes in women’s hockey and gymnastics, as well as accomplished figures from the business sector who had earned recognition at both provincial and national levels.

According to Mayor Westram, the event was not only about celebration—it was a chance to highlight the contributions of those shaping the community’s identity.

Young athlete

Among the honorees was Anne-Laurence Dutil, a young athlete who plays women’s hockey for the Laurentides-Lanaudière Étoiles team. Dutil said it was her first time taking part in such a signing event. “I feel very good, I feel happy,” she said. “I really worked hard this year. It shows us that we’re capable and that we can keep going.”

The hockey player described the experience of juggling both school and hockey, noting that her schedule allows her to study until noon before

heading into training for the rest of the afternoon. “The program really helps you with school so you can get through it,” she said.

The balance, Dutil said, is made easier thanks to a program tailored for student-athletes, allowing her to succeed in both areas.

Dutil, who grew up in Toronto and has lived in the area for the past five years, credited her community for helping her pursue her goals. “They’ve been amazing,” she said.

Having started playing at the age of three, Dutil said her dream has always been to go as far as she can in hockey. “It was my dream since I started playing. I started playing at 3, watching my brothers play. It’s always been in my head,” she said.

Her motivation comes down to a simple mantra: ‘Never give up.’

Local entrepreneur

Local entrepreneur Jo Circé, franchise owner of Pacini restaurants in St-Jérôme, Rosemère, and Marché Central, was also among those recognized. Being honoured by Rosemère marked a special milestone in a lifelong journey through the restaurant industry. “It makes me emotional. It’s a nice mark of recognition,” he said.

Circé said he has been in the restaurant business for 37 years. Working his way up from humble beginnings, starting as a dishwasher, he gradually moved into kitchen roles and discovered a passion for the business.

Over the years, his work allowed him to travel, connect with people, and eventually run his own Pacini franchises. For him, being recognized by the community was an unexpected but deeply meaningful honour. “It’s extraordinary. I never expected this recognition,” he said.

Mayor Westram said the event is part of an ongoing effort to acknowledge the people who make a meaningful impact on community life.

“To recognize good people in your community, it is something that you must do, and again, it reflects on the quality of the kind of citizens that we have,” Westram said.



Start your life!
Live your dream!



OUR PROGRAMS



REGISTER TODAY 514-381-5440

PIUSCENTRE.COM

9955, Papineau Ave., Montreal, QC H2B 1Z9



FOLLOW US ON





Publishers:

George Bakoyannis
George S. Guzman

General Director:

George Bakoyannis

VP Sales & Marketing:

George S. Guzman
sales@newsfirst.ca

Graphic Design:

Lareine Zakhour
Elena Molter
Thomas Bakoyannis

Advertising:

George S. Guzman

Editorial Staff:

Martin C. Barry
Matthew Daldalian
Dylan Adams Lemaçon
Maria Diamantis
Renata Isopo

The views, opinions and positions expressed by columnists and contributors are the author's alone. They do not inherently or expressly reflect the views, opinions and/or positions of our publication

Layout: MEDIA TREK

Distribution: DIFFUMAG

Printing: TC. TRANSCONTINENTAL

Project funded in part by
Canada

Member of **QCNA** Quebec Community Newspapers Association & Canadian Community Newspapers Association

National Representation:
RS RÉSEAU SÉLECT
info@reseuselect.ca

ISSN number : 1923-0648

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

Publishers' Liability for Error: The publishers shall not be liable for slight changes or typographical errors that do not lessen the value of an advertisement. The publishers' liability for other errors or omissions in connection with any advertisement is strictly limited to publication of the advertisement in any subsequent issues or the refund of any monies paid for the advertisement. Articles published reflect writers' opinions, but not necessarily the opinion of this newspaper.

ENTIRE CONTENTS COPYRIGHT 2025

OPINION & Editorial



Cuts in public education: looking at both sides

Canadian singer-songwriter Joni Mitchell gave the world a lesson in what it takes to be fully human, speaking volumes about love needing to be looked at from Both Sides, Now revealing the uncertainty that comes with love, regardless of who's involved in the act of loving and living.

Tears and fears and feeling proud, To say I love you right out loud, Dreams and schemes and circus crowds, I've looked at life from both sides now, from Up and down and still somehow, It's life's illusions I recall, I really don't know life at all.

Foreshadowing the latest rupture of Quebec society, pitting the Minister of Education, against the armed forces of public education, there is failure on both sides to cooperate in defense and advancement of the quality of public education whose roots were planted by the Parent Report of 1964's seminal re-alignment of the system that reduced 1500 Catholic school boards to a manageable 55, across La Belle Province. To this were added nine Protestant school boards. These major recommendations, implemented soon after, were only two of 500 contained in the report. Thus, public education was taken out of the hands of Catholic and Protestant Committees and handed over to the newly-created Ministry of Education.

Now, more than 60 years later, after subsequent restructuring in 1998, through abolition of denominational boards, replaced by linguistic entities, it appears that in many people's minds a further divide is now compromising the much-needed cooperative relationship between Quebec's two historical communities,

whose schools are currently managed by French Service Centers and English School Boards. This is an erosion of public education bordering on violation of the rights of taxpayers and stakeholders who are entitled to a unified system of public education, delivered in French, English, and both.

As seen by one side, the roaring flames of public education are about to be snuffed out by the water cannons flowing from Premier Legault's CAQ Ivory Tower, upon which sits a powerful force in Education, Minister Bernard Drainville.

On this side of the divide, the nine English School Boards are decrying the reality of having to absorb 10% (\$51 million) of the recent imposition of \$510 Million for all public education, this in addition to the 4% imposed in March of this year. As funding tightens, and student academic needs persist, our school systems will need to wring every bit of value for students from the limited dollars they have. Meanwhile, leaner budgets will invite intense community and employee pressure on where and how to trim the costs.

Our school systems will need more than a governance structure that amounts to going through the motions, is the general mind-set of the English School Boards, while although it is believed that the French Service Centers are of the same opinion, they do not have the latitude to publicly speak out against the massive cuts.

On the other side, Minister Drainville's office defended the budget plan, saying it marks a slowdown in spending growth, not cuts. The education budget has grown by 58 per cent since the CAQ took power in 2018, reaching

\$23.5 billion, said Antoine de la Durantaye, a spokesperson for the minister. "The number of teachers and support staff has grown two to three times faster than student enrolment," he said. "We can't continue at this pace indefinitely — we must set targets." Quebec says this year's education budget grew by \$1.1 billion compared to last year, and staffing levels are expected to rise by two per cent to 152,500 full-time equivalents. "This is not about cuts, but about a slower rate of budget growth," de la Durantaye said. While acknowledging the transition may require tough choices, he said the minister is confident school officials will preserve direct services to students.

Consequently, more than ever, we need school boards resolute in their commitment to keeping budget discussions focused on what's best for students, and to stop protecting 'bureaucrats' positions.

Sadly, a majority of Quebec's nine English school boards is inundated with a bloated bureaucracy; the figures announced in their Organization Charts don't lie.

School board administrators always claim that their boards are underfunded, in part because, according to them, provincial funding is falling below the rate of inflation.

In the meantime, we want readers to know that at the time we went to press we had not received any statements from chairman James Di Sano concerning the budget cuts, which will amount to \$12 million for Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board. We believe that we will receive them in due time for our next edition of July 9, 2025.

Renata Isopo

ANGRY? FRUSTRATED? ANNOYED?

You've got a place to vent!

Send a letter to
the editor and get
your opinion heard
loud and clear.



editor@newsfirst.ca

Happy Canada Day

4 reasons to celebrate this beautiful country

On July 1, the people of Canada come together from coast to coast to celebrate in style with live events, entertainment, large gatherings, fireworks and parades. Living in a nation filled with wonders and treasures, as well as passionate and inspiring people, Canadians have every reason to be proud of their country. Here are some examples of what makes Canada special.

1. STUNNING NATURE

As the second-largest country in the world, Canada boasts breathtaking landscapes from Cape Breton to Vancouver Island, including the Bay of Fundy, the Saguenay Fjord, Niagara Falls and the Rocky Mountains, to name just a few. Of course, you can't forget about the stunning Northern Lights!

2. DECORATED ATHLETES

Canada is a powerhouse of sports, especially in hockey, with remarkable victories in the 4 Nations Face-Off and a record for the highest number of wins among goalkeepers. Legendary Canadian goalies like Martin Brodeur, Marc-André

Fleury, Patrick Roy, Roberto Luong and Ed Belfour dominate the top five.

Canada's athletic achievements extend beyond hockey. Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir are the most decorated figure skaters in Olympic history. Clara Hughes has excelled in both speed skating and cycling. You can't mention notable Canadian athletes without honouring the enduring legacy of marathon runner Terry Fox.

3. DELICIOUS FOOD

From poutine, butter tarts, Nanaimo bars and pastries shaped like a beaver's tail to lobster rolls, Caesars, Montreal smoked meat sandwiches and even peanut butter, Canadians know how to indulge in delicious treats.

4. REVOLUTIONARY INVENTIONS

Many familiar inventions, including the telephone, sonar, insulin, the snowmobile, the walkie-talkie, IMAX technology, the electric wheelchair, the pacemaker, the goalkeeper's mask and the garbage bag, stem from Canadian ingenuity.

Cheers to Canada!



Canada Day your way

This year, Canada Day falls on Wednesday, July 1. There are plenty of ways you can join in, whether you're alone or with your family. Here are a few of our favourite Canada Day activities:

- **Go to the park.** Has your town planned a day-long event around the park bandstand with live entertainment and fun-fair games? Round up your sun hat, lawn chair and a cooler of drinks and go join the festivities. If there's nothing official happening, the next town over most likely has something going on. Why not take a drive over and see?
- **Join a parade.** Ah, the hottest days of summer. You can finally put on those white summer slacks and red t-shirt and wave the maple leaf flag. See if your town's putting on a kids' red-and-white bicycle-decorating contest and offer to help out. If not, maybe you're just the person to start the tradition.
- **Host a supper.** After a lively day down at the park who wants to end things at home alone? Invite a few friends or neighbours over to keep the celebration going. You may want to offer the hotdogs or hamburgers and invite your

guests to bring the salads and red-and-white desserts. It'll be a sweet Canada Day that everyone remembers.

- **Set up a fireworks viewing.** You can all make your way back to the park for the fireworks, or why not hold on to your guests right up until fireworks time by tempting them with hot drinks and cozy blankets for their legs. Sit back and watch from where you are. What a spectacular end to a great day.

Round up your picnic stuff and head down to the park for the Canada Day festivities.



The members of the municipal council of the City of Deux-Montagnes wish everyone a

HAPPY CANADA DAY!

ON JULY 1ST, COME CELEBRATE AT

PARC CENTRAL!

celebrationcanada-mrcdm.ca



Happy Canada Day!

May this day bring us together in joy, conviviality and the values of living together that unite us.

 ROSEMÈRE



The pride of Deux-Montagnes: Mikaël Kingsbury named knight of the National Order of Quebec

MARIA DIAMANTIS

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

Deux-Montagnes just gained another reason to beam with pride.

Mikaël Kingsbury, the world's most decorated moguls skier — and hometown hero of this tight-knit Laurentian suburb — has been named a *chevalier* of the Ordre national du Québec, the province's highest distinction. The announcement, made this week by Premier François Legault, formally crowns a career that already sparkles with Olympic glory, world records, and unmatched dominance on snow-covered slopes.

But for residents of Deux-Montagnes, Kingsbury's new title is more than just a ceremonial ribbon — it's a celebration of a local boy who dared to dream big and stuck the landing.

The King of Moguls

Nicknamed "The King of the Moguls," Kingsbury has built a resume so stacked it reads like a ski enthusiast's fantasy. With three Olympic medals (gold in 2018 and silvers in 2014 and 2022), nine world championship titles, and a jaw-dropping 99 World Cup victories under his belt, the 32-year-old isn't just the best in his sport — he's rewritten its history.

He holds the record for the most consecutive wins in World Cup history (13), earning him a well-deserved spot in the Guinness Book of World Records. And for the past thirteen seasons, he has clinched the overall World Cup title, hoisting the crystal globe a staggering 29 times by the end of the 2025 season. In 2018, he was named Canada's Athlete of the Year, taking home the Northern Star Award — a first for a freestyle skier.

Small town, big dreams

While his name echoes on podiums from PyeongChang to Oslo, Kingsbury still belongs to Deux-Montagnes in spirit — and in heart. This peaceful community of just over 18,000 has watched his rise from precocious ski prodigy to global sensation with unwavering support. His parents, teachers, and neighbours have long known what the world is only now fully acknowledging: Mikaël Kingsbury is in a league of his own.

And yet, beneath the Olympic hardware and globe-trotting fame, he remains rooted. Kingsbury has always spoken with affection for his hometown — crediting its support, simplicity, and slopes nearby for shaping both the athlete and the man.

A knighthood for a legend

Being named a *chevalier* of the Ordre national du Québec isn't just about medals — it's about impact. Reserved for those who have elevated the province through excellence, this recognition reflects the kind of legacy Kingsbury has

carved: one of discipline, humility, and absolute mastery of his craft.

It also puts him in the company of luminaries across all fields — artists, scientists, humanitarians — who have left their mark on Quebec society. That a moguls skier from a small town now shares this honour is a powerful reminder that greatness knows no borders.

What's next?

While he's hinted at future Olympic runs and more podiums to come, Kingsbury's influence already transcends sport. He's become a role model for young athletes across Canada, a walking example of what's possible with talent, tenacity, and relentless self-belief. Whether he's blazing down a mountain or speaking at youth events, Kingsbury continues to inspire.

And now, with this knighthood, his legacy gets a new shine — not just as an athlete, but as a national treasure.

So as Deux-Montagnes raises a collective toast to its favorite son, it's clear: Mikaël Kingsbury is no longer just the King of the Moguls.

He's now officially Quebec's knight on skis.



A2 AUTO

Professional Auto Body Repair & Painting

Insurance Work Accepted
All Work Guaranteed
Expert Color Matching
Factory Genuine Parts
Import Car Specialists
Major & Minor Repairs

514 476-4565

1385, Boul. des
Laurentides, Local 103
Vimont, Laval



Mikaël Kingsbury and François Legault.

Pablo Rodriguez elected Quebec Liberal leader

MARTIN C. BARRY

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
marty@newsfirst.ca

Rodriguez won the race after two rounds of voting with 52.3 per cent support from party members at the June 9-14 leadership convention in Quebec City. His only other close contender was Charles Milliard who finished with 47.7 per cent support.

In his victory speech, Rodriguez talked about his background as an Argentina-born political refugee who arrived in Canada at age eight. His father was a human rights lawyer whose defense of political dissidents made him the target of one of South America's most brutal regimes.

A Trudeau gov't vet

Rodriguez was first elected to the House of Commons in 2004, representing the Honoré-Mercier riding in Montreal. As a senior member of former prime minister Justin Trudeau's government, he held various ministerial

positions in cabinet, including Heritage and Transport.

He left cabinet and began sitting in the House as an Independent MP in September 2024, after announcing he would be entering provincial politics and becoming a contender for the Quebec Liberal Party's leadership.

Address convention attendees on June 14, Rodriguez called the new role the "honour of a lifetime," while saying it was the beginning of new era for the Quebec Liberals and all of Quebec.

"We need to look toward the future, to build tomorrow's Quebec for our children and grandchildren," he told journalists.

Won't run until Oct. 2026

Pablo Rodriguez has said that his intention is to wait until the 2026 election to run for a National Assembly seat, rather than running in a by-election sooner. But he still plans to put in appearances periodically as PLQ leader at the Quebec National Assembly building to



give press conferences.

The effect of new leadership at the PLQ was already being felt within days of Rodriguez's victory. A Pallas Data poll conducted shortly afterwards showed a rise in voting intentions for the provincial Liberals at the expense of the currently governing Coalition Avenir Québec.

However, the Parti Québécois (PQ) was still leading with 31 per cent of voter intentions even though the Liberals under Rodriguez were not far behind at 26 per cent. The CAQ was in third place at just 15 per cent.

The previous Pallas Data poll, published in March 2025, put the Liberals at 22 per cent.

A polarized election?

Some political observers have noted that Pablo Rodriguez's leadership of the Quebec Liberals may create a polarized political environment leading into next year's election. They suggest his longtime association with federalism will contrast strongly with the separatist doctrine of the Parti Québécois, which currently leads the polls in Quebec voters' intentions.

Positive results from Rosemère's public consultation on regional hub planning

NEWSFIRST MULTIMEDIA

info@newsfirst.ca

The Town of Rosemère has announced encouraging outcomes from the public consultation process regarding the special planning program (PPU) for Rosemère's Regional Hub. Over 360 survey responses were collected, reflecting a high level of civic and stakeholder engagement in shaping the future of this strategic area.

The consultation process saw significant participation across various formats. Nearly 125 residents attended the in-person consultation on June 3 at Externat Sacré-Cœur, over 200 residents contributed to the online consultation until June 11, and around 35 business community representatives shared their insights during meetings with Town personnel.

A rich exchange of ideas and perspectives

Mayor Eric Westram expressed his appreciation

for the community's involvement: "This response shows how much Rosemerites care about their town. Their input will help us develop a PPU that aligns with our community's aspirations and our 'Naturally Responsible' strategic plan. We aim to transform this commercially focused area into a sustainable, inclusive multipurpose living environment where our cherished quality of life can thrive. The Town is committed to maintaining transparent dialogue throughout the process."

The consultations have generated promising ideas for the future PPU, focusing on:

- Creating a holistic, inclusive, and human-scale living environment
- Ensuring high-quality parks and green spaces
- Developing a safe and interconnected active transportation network
- Fostering a harmonious mix of residential, commercial, and service-oriented uses
- Preserving and promoting Rosemère's unique characteristics

- Reducing heat islands and adapting to climate change

Residents also raised valid concerns about traffic, infrastructure capacity, and the architectural integration of future developments, which will be considered in drafting the PPU.

Next steps in the process

Based on the initial consultation results, Rosemère's Town Council will proceed with the following milestones:

- Summer 2025: Analysis and Integration of Feedback The Town's team will review all contributions from residents and stakeholders and incorporate them into a draft PPU. The public consultation report will be released in the coming weeks. Additionally, results from ongoing technical studies on infrastructure capacity and economic impact will be integrated into the land use planning process.
- August 2025: Adoption of the Draft

PPU Town Council will adopt a preliminary version of the PPU, reflecting the aspirations expressed during consultations and considering the priorities of the MRC de Thérèse-De Blainville and the Quebec government.

- September 2025: Formal Public Consultation A public consultation meeting will be held to present the draft PPU, allowing residents to familiarize themselves with the document's contents.
- Fall 2025: Adoption of the PPU After considering feedback from the formal consultation, Town Council will officially adopt the PPU. Subsequently, urban planning by-laws will be amended to comply with the new PPU.
- 2026 and Beyond: Implementation The adopted PPU will serve as a blueprint for redeveloping the Regional Hub over a 40-year timeline. Future developments will need to align with the PPU's priorities and goals and undergo thorough scrutiny.



\$244^{ea}
Fast Delivery!
Volume pricing available

Taxes extra. Prices are for PDF files. Format based on specifications. Graphic design not included but very affordable. Minimum order \$100. Delivery charges may apply.

Place your order today!

RETRACTABLE BANNERS

The lightweight pull up banner comes with a lightweight swivel foot unit, 3 piece interlocking pole, carrying bag and a 1 sided 33"x79" vinyl banner installed.

mediatrek.ca
info@mediatrek.ca

MEDIA-TREK
Communications - Promotions - Marketing

Call us for more information 450.978.0070



Deux-Montagnes council highlights

Sound finances, REM update, and community concerns addressed

Deux Montagnes residents listen to the council as they laugh about a joke made by Mayor Denis Martin regarding the STM protests in Montreal. (Photo: Dylan Adams Lemaçon, Newsfirst Multimedia)

DYLAN ADAMS LEMAÇON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
dylan@newsfirst.ca

The City of Deux-Montagnes held its regular monthly council meeting this Wednesday at City Hall on chemin d'Oka. Presided over by Mayor Denis Martin, the evening covered a full agenda, with a focus on financial transparency, infrastructure priorities, and updates on the long-anticipated REM light rail system.

City posts \$1.3M surplus in 2024

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the 2024 financial report by city treasurer Julie Guindon. Citizens in the gallery applauded after hearing that Deux-Montagnes ended the

fiscal year with a \$1.3 million surplus, outperforming its initial expenditure budget of \$30.42 million, finishing the year at approximately \$30.53 million.

Mayor Martin praised the city's "rigorous and responsible" financial management, noting that while costs—especially infrastructure—continue to rise, the city is strategically investing where most needed. For example, road repairs sometimes require full underground rebuilds rather than simple patches, prompting the city to reallocate budgets toward more impactful projects.

The surplus was primarily attributed to stronger-than-expected real estate transfer taxes (+\$900,000) and additional provincial subsidies (+\$225,000). The city now holds

\$4 million in uncommitted operating surplus, and \$3.5 million in reserves for future projects like water services, flood protection, and public transit infrastructure.

Key investments in 2024 and priorities for 2025

In 2024, the city invested nearly \$13.9 million, including:

- \$9M – Retention basin and dike
- \$1.64M – Street repairs
- \$1.16M – Park improvements
- \$780K – Sound barrier phase 1
- \$840K – Vehicle purchases
- \$330K – Public works and leisure equipment

Looking ahead to 2025, Deux-Montagnes plans to complete the Centennial Park project, phase 2 of the sound barrier, major library renovations, stormwater infrastructure upgrades, and more street rehabilitation.

REM update: optimism for October opening

During the reading of the order of the day, the council gave an update on the Réseau express métropolitain (REM) station. Mayor Martin said about the REM that, "for now, they're optimistic" that the Deux-Montagnes REM stop will open as scheduled in October 2025.

When asked by a resident, Mr. Turgeon, about costs related to the REM, the mayor noted that a new agreement was recently signed that is more favorable to the city compared to previous versions.

Elections, staffing changes, and labour agreements

With municipal elections coming in November, council approved salaries for electoral staff. Other notable decisions included the hiring of Martin Racine as assistant city clerk, and ratifying the new 2024–2028 collective agreement with the city's blue-collar union (CUPE Local 985). Mayor Martin called it a "win-win for all parties" and jokingly offered to send their negotiators to resolve the STM strike in Montreal.

Disciplinary actions were issued for two employees, and several staffing confirmations and hirings were also finalized.

Citizens raise concerns on safety and transit

During the public question period, Gina Parente expressed concern about an abandoned building where she's seen suspicious activity. The council responded that although they can't immediately demolish it, they will ensure it's more securely barricaded.

Andrew Brown, another resident, asked about adding bicycle parking at the town hall, highlighting the city's own efforts to promote sustainable transport. The council responded positively, acknowledging the idea's value.

From healthy finances to steady REM progress and citizen engagement, the June 2025 Deux-Montagnes council meeting reflected a city preparing responsibly for growth while addressing the day-to-day concerns of its residents.

DRAIN REPAIR



**CRACKS
POT HOLES**

**EDGES OF GARAGE ENTRANCES AND FOUNDATIONS
REPLACEMENT OF DRAINS**



Call Natale for a
FREE ESTIMATE
(514) 777-3774



Treasurer Julie Guindon presents the city's 2024 financial report. (Photo: Dylan Adams Lemaçon, Newsfirst Multimedia)

Montréal-Trudeau International Airport: Summer season travel tips and mitigation measures

NEWSFIRST MULTIMEDIA | info@newsfirst.ca

With significant passenger traffic at YUL Montréal-Trudeau International Airport and many summer destinations awaiting travellers, ADM Aéroports de Montréal and its community partners are expecting a busy summer at YUL.

ADM would like to remind travellers of some important tips to help them start their holiday on the right foot by preparing properly for their journey through the airport.

Mitigation measures implemented by ADM for the summer season

To offer users alternatives and avoid feeling puzzled when travelling to YUL, several mitigation measures implemented last summer

to facilitate access to YUL are back again this year:

The West Express drop-off zone, located in the P4 multi-level parking lot, offers an additional option to drop off a loved one in preparation for their departure. It is served by a frequent shuttle service, and access to the terminal takes less than 5 minutes.

The East Express drop-off zone is back near Highway 520 and Côte-de-Liesse. It also offers a free shuttle service every five minutes, with a five-minute journey time.

Express drop-off points are free and open 7 days a week, between 1 p.m. and 8 p.m., during peak periods.

A 40-minute free parking period is also being

offered for most parking lots on the YUL site until the end of the summer season. This measure aims to limit circular vehicle movements on the site.

The various options available to users to help them plan their journeys to and from the airport can also be found on the ADM website.

For passengers leaving: Getting ready

Check the status and schedule of your flight before you go to the airport by visiting the ADM website or by contacting your airline.

Check the current occupancy of our available parking lots and reserve your parking space to ensure a spot during your trip and to take advantage of various promotions.

Plan your movements and take the time to check road conditions and traffic by consulting Québec 511 before heading to the airport.

Find out about the various public transportation options available in your area to get to the airport.

Carefully pack your carry-on baggage to make it easier to pass through security.

Check with your airline to determine the allowable size of your carry-on baggage and the maximum weight of your checked baggage.

Arrive early

Arrive at the airport 3 hours prior to departure, regardless of your destination, to complete the airport pre-boarding process.

Once you have completed your check-in, immediately go through security. You will then be able to explore and enjoy YUL's retail offerings and family activities in the restricted area.

To take advantage of expedited airport procedures, make use of complimentary services offered at YUL:

Mobile Passport Control (flights to the U.S.), an application that allows you to submit your

passport information and customs declaration in advance. This saves you time and gives you access to a priority line at the airport.

YUL Express (all flights departing from YUL), an online booking platform that provides a schedule for security checkpoints as well as a priority line.

Enhanced Passenger Processing (flights to the United States), a new biometric initiative provided by United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP) that is now available only to US citizens. It allows them to use facial recognition technology to speed up the border process when returning home.

For passengers returning home

Simplify your arrival in Canada by completing your Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) Customs' Advance Declaration, up to 72 hours prior to your arrival in Canada using ArriveCAN. The use of this application reduces the processing time for travellers in the border control area.

To avoid waiting, you can pay for your parking online on your mobile device, 15 minutes before you leave the airport. Simply scan the QR code on your parking ticket and follow the instructions.

Picking up passengers

Make sure that the passenger you are meeting has arrived and completed arrival procedures before heading to the arrivals level pick-up area, which is very busy. If they haven't arrived yet, use the CellParc waiting lots. You can stay there for up to 2 hours free of charge.

To make it easier to locate passengers, the pick-up area is divided into 5 loading areas: A, B, C, D and E. Pay attention and arrange a precise meeting point.

To find the most convenient drop-off option based on traffic forecasts for the airport area.



CUSTOM BEER MUGS

Your brand at your customer's table

Thick glass

Matte

High quality dye

MEDIA-TREK®

mediatrek.ca | (450) 978-0070 | info@mediatrek.ca

microwave
safe





Saint-Eustache screenwriter Kosta Kondilopoulos brings true-crime edge to new film Mob Cops

Screenwriter Kosta Kondilopoulos sitting at a cafe after discussing his latest film, Mob Cops on June 4, 2025. (Photo: Matthew Daldalian, Newsfirst Multimedia)

MATTHEW DALDALIAN
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
matt.newsfirst@gmail.com

North Shore screenwriter Kosta Kondilopoulos, a longtime Laval resident now based in Saint-Eustache, is back with another gritty crime story—Mob Cops, a feature inspired by the real-life scandal of two NYPD officers who moonlighted for the mob.

His beginning

Kondilopoulos's path to screenwriting wasn't linear. Originally focused on graphic design, he kept writing on the side. Eventually, he would enter an international screenwriting competition where he advanced to the quarterfinals—a milestone that gave him the confidence to keep going.

Later, during the pandemic, acquaintance and director Danny A. Abeckaser reached out with a film idea. Kondilopoulos ran with it, wrote the screenplay, and the film was made. That collaboration marked the start of an ongoing creative partnership that continues to this day.

Mob Cops, directed by Abeckaser and starring Jeremy Luke and Bo Dietl, hit the small screen in April and marked the latest collaboration between Kondilopoulos and the L.A.-based director.

"This one was interesting to write because everything that happened in there pretty much happened," Kondilopoulos said.

The story...

The story behind Mob Cops is drawn from the notorious case of two former police detectives convicted in the 2000s of carrying out murders and leaking intelligence for two crime families. While names and certain details were changed, the screenwriter made sure the core timeline stayed intact.

"When you start researching these stories, every article you read, every video you watch—the beats kind of stick out," he explained. "I always write a timeline, and anything that sticks out, clear waypoints in the story, I put them down."

To pack the complex real-life events into a watchable runtime, Kondilopoulos introduced a layered voiceover structure that shifts between characters—a choice that keeps the narrative moving and injects personality.

"It starts off with a cop telling his side of the story, and then it cuts to another character taking over the voiceover, and then again," Kondilopoulos said. It kind of adds a little bit of a fun play to it."

Kondilopoulos's fingerprints are most visible in the film's dialogue—an element he uses to inject humanity into even the darkest characters. "There's like comedy, kind of within the seriousness," he said. "In real life, there's jokes. Even bad guys joke around, and it makes them more human."

That balance—between levity and darkness—helps Mob Cops deliver both character and pace.

And for Kondilopoulos, pace is key. "Number one, I want people to be entertained," he said. "I want them to not feel like they wasted an hour and a half."

Beyond just entertaining viewers, he hopes the film sparks curiosity—ideally leaving people wondering, "Did that really happen?" and feeling compelled to look up the real events afterward.

Writing the script

Though Mob Cops is based on real events, its tone and rhythm are shaped by Kondilopoulos's love for thrillers and classic mob films. He draws inspiration from directors like Scorsese and gravitates toward stories that blend tension, violence, and unexpected twists. He said that influence shows in the way he writes morally complex characters and injects humanity into even the grittiest scenes.

Working from Montreal, Kondilopoulos keeps a strict writing routine, waking up early each morning to put in several hours before the day begins. While he outlines each script carefully, he says the story often takes on a life of its own as he writes.

Much of Mob Cops' success will hinge on its performances, and Kondilopoulos points to lead actor Jeremy Luke as a standout. "He really transformed and created a character in this one," he said. "He put on a fat suit, grew the mustache—he really stuck to his character."

Luke, who had previously worked with

Kondilopoulos on Inside Man, was filming in Montreal when the writer suggested him for the lead. "He ran with it. He meditated, did his research, made a tape... and Danny had another guy lined up but once he saw the tape, he went with Jeremy."

Bo Dietl, a former NYPD detective playing a key supporting role, also impressed. Kondilopoulos said the performance was layered, and to him, inspired from his former life, which added to its authenticity.

For Kondilopoulos, Mob Cops continues a working rhythm with Abeckaser that began during the pandemic and has now spanned several films.

"I try to bring my love of the movies that I like into it," Kondilopoulos said. "Even within the limits—I try to find ways to make it mine."

Future projects

Following the release of Mob Cops, Kondilopoulos has several projects in the pipeline. One of his upcoming films, The Perfect Gamble, starring David Arquette and Daniella Pick Tarantino is currently in production. He's also working on a new short film and continues to develop original feature scripts at his own pace.

While much of his recent work has been based on real events, he's interested in exploring new genres, including supernatural thrillers, and plans to take more creative risks with future personal projects.

Mob Cops is available now on Amazon Prime.

Beyond reports: Quebec's youth protection leaders call for collective action to safeguard children

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

In their 22nd annual report, Quebec's Directors

of Youth Protection (DPJ), who also serve as provincial directors (DPJ-DP), are issuing a clear and urgent call: child protection must extend beyond official reports and become a shared, societal mission.

Presented under the banner "Au-delà d'un signalement: protéger les enfants collectivement" ("Beyond a Report: Protecting Children Collectively"), this year's report urges Quebecers to look past the act of filing reports

of suspected abuse or neglect and focus instead on building a web of care around all children.

► Continued on page 11

MEDIA-TREK®

NOW OFFERING TOP BRANDS OF APPAREL!

mediatrek.ca | (450) 978-0070 | info@mediatrek.ca



The directors emphasized that the wellbeing of young people is not solely a matter for social workers or youth protection services—it is a collective responsibility requiring the active participation of families, communities, and institutions at every level.

The report echoes findings from the 2021 Special Commission on the Rights of Children and Youth Protection, which called for a more compassionate and proactive approach to children's welfare. It highlights that parents, as primary caregivers, must be supported by extended family, friends, neighbours, schools, childcare professionals, and community organizations. Youth protection services, the report stresses, should be a last resort, stepping in only when the child's safety or development can no longer be assured by these surrounding supports.

Escalating reports, declining retentions

The data tells a nuanced story. Over the past 25 years, the number of child welfare reports filed in Quebec has risen dramatically—seen by the directors as a sign that society is more alert

to children's needs. However, fewer of these reports are resulting in formal interventions.

In 2024–2025, Quebec's youth protection services received 141,622 reports, involving over 105,000 children—a 5% increase over the previous year. But fewer than a third of these reports (29.3%) were retained for further evaluation, representing just over 35,000 children.

This declining retention rate suggests that while many families face real and complex challenges, not all situations require the involvement of the DPJ. “This reinforces the idea that broader social networks—community services, schools, and informal support systems—must be activated before the situation reaches a crisis point,” the report implies.

In the Laurentides region, the report shows a similar trend. Youth protection services there handled 15,482 reports, up from 14,332 the previous year. Of those, 4,580 were retained—also an increase—though the retention rate fell slightly to 29.58%, compared to 30.6% a year earlier.

Focus on family and prevention

Even among children under DPJ protection, most remain within familiar settings. Provincially, 45.8% of children receiving services stayed with their families, while 19.7% were placed with significant third parties such as

extended family or close family friends.

This focus on preserving a child's connection to their community is echoed at the regional level. In the Laurentides, over 52% of youth protection cases continued to reside in the family home, reinforcing a guiding principle of the system: intervention should support, not replace, the child's natural environment when safely possible.

Adolescent services under the Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA) also saw a notable increase. In the Laurentides, 920 teenagers received such services, up from 776 the previous year. Province-wide, that number reached 10,095, marking a 7.4% increase year over year.

A call to act before the crisis

Despite the growing number of reports, the directors insist that early intervention—and ideally, prevention—must be the future of youth protection in Quebec. This means creating a culture where teachers, neighbours, daycare workers, and even passersby see themselves as active participants in a child's life and development.

“We all depend on each other when it comes to the wellbeing of children and families,” the directors write in the summary. They stress that protecting a child begins with paying attention: noticing signs of stress, listening without



Mrs. Marie-Noëlle Granger, director of youth protection.

judgment, and offering help long before a DPJ file is opened.

As Quebec's child welfare system grapples with rising demands and limited resources, the 2024–2025 annual report serves as a reminder that government agencies alone cannot carry the weight of childhood safety. The path forward, they argue, lies in rekindling communal responsibility—one conversation, one kind gesture, and one child at a time.

City of Lorraine unveils playful yet serious road safety campaign



MARIA DIAMANTIS

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

The City of Lorraine has launched a new road safety awareness campaign titled “Ici, on roule au ralenti!” (“Here, We Drive Slowly!”), encouraging motorists to slow down and drive responsibly throughout the community. Featuring the image of a smiling snail as its emblem, the initiative blends lighthearted visuals with a serious public safety message aimed at reducing speeding and fostering a safer environment for all road users.

The campaign comes as part of Lorraine's broader commitment to preserving the city's peaceful and secure atmosphere. According to municipal officials, the initiative is designed not

only to address concerns around speeding but also to promote a culture of respect and shared responsibility on the roads.

“We wanted to deliver this message in a way that educates without blaming,” said Mayor Jean Comtois in a statement. “This is about promoting long-lasting, responsible habits by appealing to the community's sense of cooperation.”

A collective effort involving local institutions

Developed in collaboration with the three elementary schools of Lorraine and the Thérèse-De Blainville Intermunicipal Police Board, the campaign reflects a coordinated, localized approach to traffic safety. This partnership allowed the city to identify specific

concerns and tailor a communication strategy with concrete, community-driven actions.

Patrick Archambault, municipal councillor and public safety delegate, emphasized the campaign's focus on protecting vulnerable populations. “This initiative is about safeguarding our children, our seniors, and everyone who travels by foot or by bike. Speed limits are everyone's responsibility, and road safety is a shared duty,” he said.

Visual support and community engagement

To help residents visibly support the campaign, illustrated yard signs bearing the snail mascot will be available free of charge at several municipal locations, including city hall, the local library, the cultural and recreation services office, and the public works garage. These signs are intended for placement on private property, adhering to city guidelines.

The Thérèse-De Blainville Police Board has also endorsed the initiative. “Prudent driving saves lives,” said Chief Inspector Karine Desautniers.

“Awareness campaigns like this one are key to building a lasting culture of caution on our roads.”

Giant snails make their way to the streets

In one of the campaign's more eye-catching components, oversized, colourful snail sculptures will be installed in various parts of Lorraine. Designed to be both whimsical and thought-provoking, the snails aim to draw drivers' attention and spark discussion about speed and safety in residential areas.

Residents are invited to find the snails, snap photos, and share them on social media using the hashtag #OnRouleAuRalenti, turning the campaign into an interactive experience that blends art, civic pride, and public safety.

By combining positive messaging, strong community partnerships, and creative outreach, Lorraine's road safety campaign seeks to slow traffic and spark conversation—all while keeping a smile on residents' faces.

500
for
\$1³⁴
each



durable and affordable **custom PENS**



MEDIA-TREK®

mediatrek.ca | (450) 978-0070 | info@mediatrek.ca

For all your
printing and
promo needs



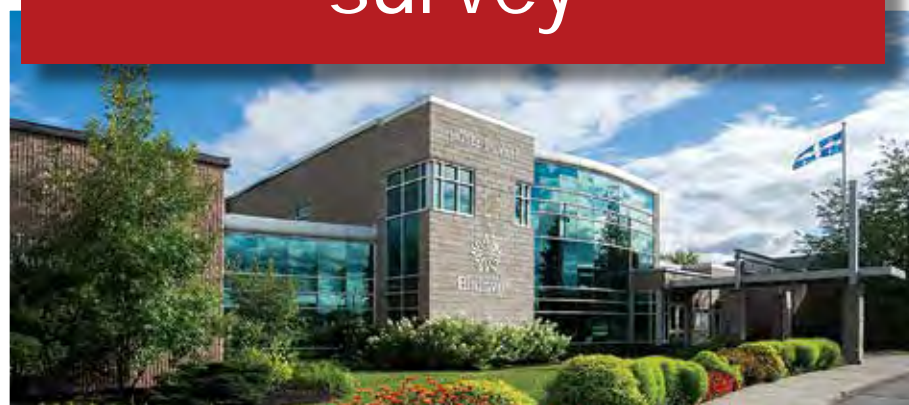
MEDIA-TREK®

🌐 **mediatrek.ca**

☎ **(450) 978-0070**

✉ **info@mediatrek.ca**

Blainville residents give City Hall a standing ovation in latest satisfaction survey



MARIA DIAMANTIS

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

If municipal satisfaction were an Olympic sport, Blainville might just be bringing home the gold. A recent web survey conducted between January 29 and February 17, 2025, has revealed just how much this North Shore city is impressing its residents — and, frankly, leaving many other municipalities in its rearview mirror.

Out of 554 respondents, a resounding majority expressed high levels of satisfaction with both the communication tools and municipal services provided by the City of Blainville. And these aren't just warm fuzzy feelings — they're numbers that outperform the provincial benchmark known as the Léger Standard, which aggregates data from Quebec cities with populations between 50,000 and 99,999.

Blainville: where good news travels fast (and often)

As far as communications go, 81% of respondents said they were satisfied with how the City keeps them in the loop. The average satisfaction score came in at 7.4 out of 10, beating the Léger average of 6.9. Seventy-five percent said they feel well-informed, and 62% thought the frequency of communications was just right — not too much, not too little. Goldilocks would be proud.

Municipal services that shine (and shovel)

Across nearly every service area, Blainville either met or exceeded expectations — and in most cases, crushed the provincial norms. From the cleanliness of neighbourhoods (8.5 vs. 7.3) to snow removal on sidewalks (8.2 vs. 6.7), residents aren't just surviving winter — they're praising how well the City helps them navigate it. Garbage day, often a municipal Achilles' heel, is instead a high point in Blainville: organic waste collection scored 8.5 out of 10, while recycling pickup earned an even more impressive 8.6.

Safety first, and a close second

Blainville's public safety services are also winning public approval. Fire protection wowed residents with a score of 8.8 — over a full point higher than the Léger benchmark of 7.7. The

local police service and overall neighbourhood safety both scored 8.3 and 8.4, respectively, suggesting that residents feel not only protected but genuinely at ease in their communities.

A cultural and recreational playground

And it's not just about garbage and snow. Blainville's community life is also hitting high notes. The municipal library earned an astounding 9.1, suggesting it might be the best-loved building in town. The city's sports and leisure programs garnered an 8.5, while its bike paths — increasingly a measure of a town's quality of life — rated 8.4, beating the Léger average of 7. Even public transit, often a pain point in suburban settings, came in at a respectable 6.9 compared to a 6 across similar cities.

Civic pride on display

Mayor Liza Poulin was quick to acknowledge the survey as more than just a report card — for her, it's a reflection of civic engagement and a vibrant community. "These excellent results testify to a dynamic living environment, a diverse range of activities, and a clear commitment by the City to inform, consult, and involve its population," she said.

Meanwhile, Chantal Gauvreau, the City's director general, took a moment to give credit where it's due — to the municipal team working behind the scenes. "I'm extremely proud of these results, which reflect the collective work of our entire team, dedicated every day to delivering quality services," she stated.

A city that's listening — and delivering

While municipal surveys often reveal tepid or mixed feedback, Blainville's results tell a different story — one of consistency, reliability, and a commitment to continuous improvement. Yes, not everything is perfect (public transit still has room to grow), but the overall picture is clear: Blainville isn't just checking boxes. It's setting the bar.

So if you're wondering what happens when a municipality communicates with its residents and follows through on promises, look no further than Blainville — a town that's not just talking the talk but shoveling the sidewalks, collecting the compost, and keeping its citizens happy along the way.



DIRECT ANSWERS

FROM WAYNE & TAMARA

THINK FOR YOURSELF

Q I go out with a nice lady 15 years my senior. Everyone tells me I'm not on the right track! We like each other. Lots of the time she mentions she is too old for me. I'm 70 and she's 85. She looks younger than I, but they all know her age. What am I to do?

We lost our spouses five years ago, and we still enjoy life together. I have lots of friends my age who want me to take them out, but I ignore their pleas. As time rolls on I'm starting to feel lost and empty inside about this. Any ideas?

Robert

A Robert, at what point do you get to say, "This is my life. I'm going to do what makes me happy."

When is the book going to be about you, if it isn't in the last chapters? All of our lives, from the time we are born, we find more than enough people wanting us to sacrifice something for them.

Your "friends" aren't interested in you as a person. They are thinking, if he doesn't marry

her, he will marry one of us. Your point is you don't love one of them, but their point is they get to rule over you. Because they are not happy for you, there is no genuine relationship with them.

Age doesn't bring wisdom to everyone. Some people are just as mean-spirited and controlling in retirement as they were when they were younger.

The only time we should sacrifice is when it is not asked for and when it is given out of love. That prevents us from feeling like a martyr or feeling like we sacrificed something. When the gift giver gives without being puffed up, or making another feel beholden, that's a good gift.

Seeing the effect of the gift is all we should ask for. You know you are giving too much when it feels like giving money to a crack addict. That's the lost and empty feeling you have now. You've been asked to sacrifice your life by others who want to manipulate you for their own gain.

Wayne & Tamara

BIRDS OF A FEATHER

Q I'm 19 and currently single. I haven't dated that many men in my life. Going away to college was like being thrust face first into the dating world, and even now, at the end of my freshman year, I still feel lost.

I've been on a lot of dates, but finally found this guy who seems to be different. Male, age 22, was engaged two years ago. He's been through a series of relationships since then and a number of sex partners. He is also involved in drugs (pot and mushrooms). He is currently being treated for a sexually transmitted disease, which he may or may not have.

This male, despite his shortcomings, has won me over in a short amount of time to think he's different from others. He is caring, sweet, intelligent, and we seem to have a lot of the same interests. My only worry is that with all my inexperience I will end up getting way over my

head. Also, I don't think I am comfortable with the fact he smokes pot.

We've only known each other two weeks, but we've already spent hours and hours talking. What should I do? My heart tells me one thing, and my head tells me another.

Anna

A Anna, some people have a problem setting their sights too high, but you've set yours too low. Asking for a knight in shining armor may be too much, but that doesn't mean you have to settle for Prince Charming's stable boy.

None of his problems are something an inexperienced dater needs. Until you get your bearings in college, stay with others who are more like yourself: clean slates with all the possibilities of life before them.

Wayne & Tamara

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

Send letters to: Direct Answers, PO 964 Springfield, MO 65801-0964

or email: GetInTouch@WayneAndTamara.com

WAYNEANDTAMARA.COM



Doggie Daycare

- Boarding/Home Environment
- No cages
- Interacts with our family and pets

Julie's Pet Sitting Services

Will walk your dog or take care of your animals in your home while you are away.

(*Price may vary on location and pet)

Call Julie Laver
450.491.7637

CLASSIFIEDS • NOTICES • JOBS

News THE NORTH SHORE PARC-EXTENSION THE LAVAL news Call 450 978.9999 Payment:   

Is Your Ad Design Company Shutting Down?



NO WORRIES.
Don't miss a beat.

You can have seamless **uninterrupted service** for all your print and web ads, all of your marketing and promotional materials and even page design set-up and running within a few hours. And your ads will look terrific, guaranteed!

- Prices well below what you've been paying elsewhere. Save money!
- Same day service on most ads if submitted in the morning.
- No charge for changes and corrections.
- No charge for stock photos.

MEDIA-TREK

Our 20th year serving more than 315 newspapers and magazines each week.

You're in good hands.

Meeting deadlines and exceeding expectations is our business!

mediatrek.ca

(450) 978-0070 | info@mediatrek.ca

304-3860 boul. Notre-Dame, Laval, QC H7V 1S1

Your message travels farther with us.

ADVERTISE WITH US.

THE NORTH SHORE News

450-978-9999



WE BUY GOLD AND DIAMONDS

450-681-1363

- For over 38 years -

Before selling elsewhere, come see us!

Mon. to Wed. - 10am to 5:30pm
Thurs. and Fri. - 10am to 7:00pm
Saturday - Closed
Sunday - Closed

achatorlaval.ca

Same address since 1989

1799, boul. Curé-Labelle,
Chomedey (North of St-Martin)



Canada is one of the least AI literate nations in the world, new research shows

Canada ranked fourth lowest in AI literacy and training among 47 countries, a joint study by KPMG International and the University of Melbourne reveals

NEWSFIRST MULTIMEDIA | info@newsfirst.ca

Canadians have among the lowest levels of training, literacy and trust in artificial intelligence systems in the world, new research from KPMG International and the University of Melbourne shows.

Trust, attitudes and use of artificial intelligence: A global study 2025 is the most comprehensive global study into the public's trust, use and attitudes towards AI. The study surveyed over 48,000 people in 30 advanced economies and 17 emerging economies, including 1,025 people in Canada.

The study found Canada ranked 44th in AI training and literacy out of all 47 countries, and 28th among the 30 advanced economies, as defined by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). When it comes to trust in AI systems, Canada ranked 42nd out of 47 countries and 25th out of 30 advanced economies.

The findings underscore the need for increased investments in education, training and regulation to build Canadians' trust in AI and use it as a strategic tool to help solve the country's productivity crisis, says Benjie Thomas, CEO

and Senior Partner of KPMG in Canada.

"Canada's economy is facing multiple pressures – U.S. tariffs are upending global trade systems, geopolitical shifts are increasing operational risks, while technology advances at lightning speed. Now is the time for our organizations, institutions and governments to act boldly to boost prosperity and advance our competitive position – AI offers us a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to do that," says Mr. Thomas.

"Low literacy in AI is holding Canadians back from trusting the technology, and that's a major barrier to adoption. The more Canadians know about AI, the more likely they are to trust it and use it. We need to get Canadians and Canadian organizations excited about using AI because it can help boost our productivity and create a more competitive and dynamic economy," Mr. Thomas adds.

Low AI literacy

The survey focused on three key areas: AI training, knowledge and efficacy. Less than one

quarter (24 per cent) of Canadian respondents said they have received AI training, compared to 39 per cent globally.

"The ability to use AI effectively and knowledgeably is becoming a critical skill in today's economy. AI will re-shape the future of nearly every organization, so it's imperative for Canadian institutions to prioritize AI training and education at all levels – in schools and in the workplace," Mr. Thomas says.

Fewer than four in 10 (38 per cent) Canadians said they have moderate or high knowledge of AI, compared to 52 per cent globally. AI knowledge includes whether respondents feel informed about how AI is used, whether they understand when AI is being used, and whether they feel they have the skills necessary to use AI. When respondents were asked to self-report their level of AI efficacy – that is, how skillfully they could use, communicate with or evaluate responses generated by AI – only 47 per cent of Canadians said they can use AI effectively, versus 60 per cent globally.

"AI training and education is necessary for all Canadians. With more education, we will all be able to use AI more confidently and safely, and adoption will grow. When AI adoption grows, innovation and productivity growth will follow," says Stephanie Terrill, Canadian Managing Partner for Digital and Transformation at KPMG in Canada.

Public trust in AI is lacking

Low AI literacy undermines trust in AI systems. According to the survey, only 34 per cent of Canadians are willing to trust information from AI, compared to 46 per cent globally, while only half of Canadians approve or accept the use of AI, compared to 72 per cent globally.

Nearly half (46 per cent) of Canadians believe the risks of AI outweigh the benefits, compared to 32 per cent globally, even though fewer Canadians (39 per cent) have experienced or observed negative outcomes from using AI than their global peers (43 per cent).

Among the negative outcomes Canadians are most concerned about: 87 per cent of Canadians expressed moderate or high concern about cybersecurity risk, even though only 32 per cent said they have personally observed or experienced cyber breaches. Loss of privacy or intellectual property is also a major concern, with 86 per cent of Canadians expressing moderate or high concern about it, but only 38 per cent have experienced it.

"Canadians are understandably concerned about the potential risks of AI but being overly risk averse can stifle innovation and hold us back from being competitive. There are governance mechanisms and frameworks that can boost transparency and security in AI systems, but public and private sector leaders must commit to adopting them – with engagement and buy-in from Canadians. That will help build public trust in AI and by extension, higher adoption," Ms. Terrill says.

Key highlights:

- 46 per cent of Canadians believe the risks

of AI outweigh the benefits (32 per cent globally)

- 22 per cent believe the risks and benefits are balanced (26 per cent globally)
- 32 per cent believe the benefits outweigh the risks (42 per cent globally)
- 51 per cent of Canadians feel optimistic about AI, compared to 69 per cent globally
- 68 per cent are worried about AI (61 per cent globally)
- 39 per cent are excited about AI (60 per cent globally)

AI Regulation

To help foster more trust in AI, Canadians want stronger governance, regulation and assurance mechanisms built into AI systems.

Three quarters of Canadians said they want AI regulation, compared to 70 per cent globally. Currently, Canada does not have a federal regulatory framework in place. As an interim measure, the federal government established a Voluntary Code of Conduct on the Responsible Development and Management of Advanced Generative AI Systems, which sets voluntary commitments that organizations can agree to abide by to demonstrate responsible development and management of generative AI systems.

Nearly three quarters (73 per cent) of Canadians agree that governments or existing regulators should regulate AI, and 73 per cent agree with international AI laws. Seven in 10 (72 per cent) said they'd like to see co-regulation by industry, government and existing regulators.

Nearly nine in 10 (89 per cent) Canadians agreed there should be laws to prevent the spread of AI-generated misinformation, while 87 per cent agreed news and social media companies need to ensure people can detect when content is AI-generated.

Over eight in 10 (83 per cent) Canadians said they would be more willing to trust AI systems with assurances such as: mechanisms for human intervention to override or correct AI-generated output; having the right to opt out of personal data being used to train AI models; accountability if something goes wrong; monitoring for accuracy and reliability; adhering to proper standards, governance and regulation; and assurance from a third party.

"Canadians want assurances that AI systems are safe, secure and reliable. Governments, businesses, academic and non-profit institutions must work together with Canadians to advance AI responsibly and ethically, while prioritizing innovation and productivity first and foremost. We need transformational leadership and collaboration," Ms. Terrill says.

Canadians have the most confidence in universities and research institutions to develop and use AI in the best interests of the public, with nearly 8 in 10 (79 per cent) expressing moderate or high confidence in those institutions. By contrast, only 51 per cent expressed the same confidence in commercial organizations, and only 53 per cent in big technology companies.



SÉCURITÉ SPARTAN SECURITY

25 years at your service!

(514) 289-8585

**ALARM SYSTEM INSTALLATION
+ 12 MONTHS MONITORING!**

**A COMPANY
YOU CAN TRUST**

- Burglar
- Fire
- Cameras
- Intercoms

24 HOUR MONITORING



HOROSCOPE

Week of June 29 to July 5, 2025

The luckiest signs this week:
SCORPIO, SAGITTARIUS AND CAPRICORN



ARIES

This week, work and finances may often cause concern and do little to lower tensions in your already complicated romantic relationship. However, addressing certain issues may ease your worries.



TAURUS

Cleaning may feel like a major chore that you want to keep putting off. At work, confidently sharing your innovative ideas could prove very lucrative.



GEMINI

You'll spend time beautifying your home, which will enhance your living space. You'll feel the urge to keep up with the latest technology by adding sophisticated connected gadgets to your home.



CANCER

You may find it hard to curb your impulsiveness this week. At work, you'll quickly climb the corporate ladder. Be prepared for the significant responsibilities that come with your arrival at the top.



LEO

You'll need to create a budget for your family life and upcoming projects. Your vacation is just around the corner. Make sure everything is organized so you can relax and fully enjoy every moment.



VIRGO

If you're generous by nature, don't hesitate to reach out to friends and family who need your support. Just remember to prioritize your well-being to avoid exhausting yourself in the process.



LIBRA

Whether you're on vacation or not, let your mind wander in the comfort of your own home. What better way to escape reality than by diving into a great book or binge-watching a captivating TV series.



SCORPIO

You'll feel the sudden need to gather all your friends to celebrate the start of summer. On the job, prepare for a busy week with demanding clients. Expect a constant flow of people who may be difficult to please.



SAGITTARIUS

Choosing high-quality materials when renovating your home is not a luxury, but a smart investment for your future. If you're in a new relationship, you'll take the first step toward building a new life together.



CAPRICORN

You'll forge lasting friendships during your travels, at conferences, in training sessions or through group therapy. These encounters will help you create meaningful connections and allow you to release pent-up emotions.



AQUARIUS

In your relationship, mere gestures of affection won't suffice as proof of love. Your partner must inspire you to chase your dreams and create romantic moments with you.



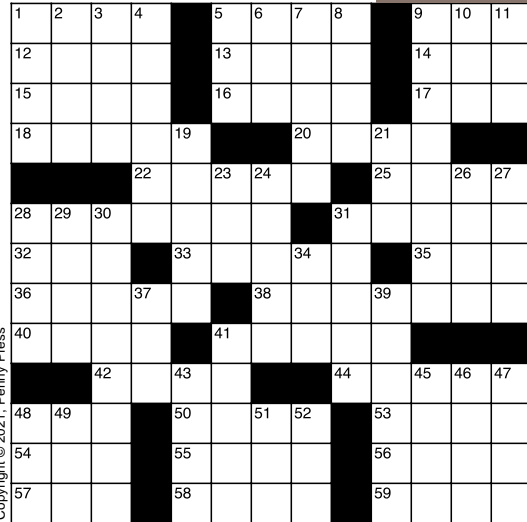
PISCES

Your vacation is almost here. Don't stay home! Whether you're with family or friends, take the time to balance your chakras and find inner peace within your environment.

Coffee Break

CROSSWORDS

PUZZLE NO. 283



Copyright © 2021, Penny Press

ACROSS

- Bathing-suit tops
- White House staffer
- Boring instrument
- Every individual
- Trickle
- Feathery stole
- In any way
- Teamster's rig
- Soak
- Bowler's button
- Bouncing sound
- Slender traces
- Other
- Summer quencher: 2 wds.
- Nearer the facts
- Prom wear
- Fastener
- Road covering
- Rub out
- Girdles
- Notation
- Yell

DOWN

- Twirler's need
- Five-and-____-cent store
- Dunces
- Choir wear
- Very small
- Broad expanse
- Frosty's material
- Advanced in years
- Changed the color of
- Observes
- Milwaukee product
- Acclaim
- Expert fliers
- Clever
- Classified notices
- Outrage
- Small coins
- Long heroic poem
- Definite

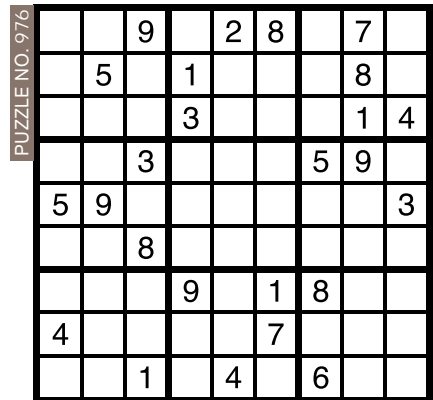
- Seek the love of
- Lick at
- Book name
- "Tell ____ About It"
- Neptune's domain
- Cloth emblem
- Chair
- Missteps
- Thing
- Preserve
- Inspected
- Ache
- Murmur fondly
- Turf unit
- Thin
- Exhausted
- Weight
- Actor Danza
- Certain woodwind
- "Broadcast ____"
- Pair
- Moray, e.g.
- Cost
- Heavy-hearted

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.

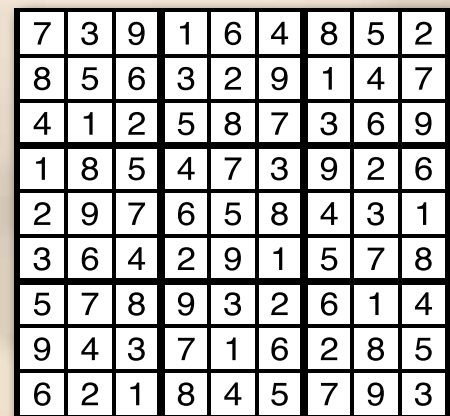


Last Issue's Answers

CROSSWORDS



Sudoku



SAVE MONEY

Print your cheques with us with confidence

We print all kinds of cheques:
Business, Canada or USA
Fast delivery!

Amazing prices!
200 for \$84
400 for \$134
600 for \$164

MEDIA-TREK
Communications - Promotions - Marketing

info@mediatrek.ca | mediatrek.ca

Call us for more information **450-978-0070**

Full Banking Security Features



BASKET OF *Fruits and Vegetables*

16 to 20 VARIETIES

THURSDAY ONLY from 10am to 7pm

In-Store with no reservations needed!

Fresh of the day at amazing prices!

Reserve yours today!



A value of
\$70+
at the supermarket
You pay only
\$40

*Fresh products!
Nice variety!
Excellent value!*

THIS WEEK'S BASKET:

FRUITS

- Cherries
- Apricots (6-7)
- Raspberries
- Pineapple
- Strawberries
- Cantaloupe
- Limes (2)
- Yellow Peaches (3)
- Tomatoes (2)

VEGETABLES



- Potatoes (~3lbs)
- Cauliflower
- Romaine Hearts (3)
- Bell Peppers (Bag)
- Corn on the Cob (3)
- Garlic scapes
- Radishes
- Mini Cucumbers (6)
- Fresh Red Onions (3)
- Eggplant

Our weekly
customers

save
\$1,700
up to
per year

(514) 244-9885
panierdufermier@gmail.com

VISIT OUR FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM PAGE!

  **@PANIERDUFERMIER**

Sainte-Marthe-sur-le-Lac
(Bocaux & co.)

2949 Boul. des Promenades
Local 105, J0N 1P0

Saint-Eustache
(Pasta Deliziosa!)

148, 25e Av.
J7P 2V2

Mascouche
(Eco-Boutique
un Monde à vie)

160 Mnt Masson, J7K 3B5

Sainte-Anne-des-Plaines
(Dubeau Vrac)

196 Boulevard Ste Anne
J5N 3P2

2 EASY STEPS:

1

Book your basket online or by phone
from Monday to Thursday

2

Pickup Thursday, Friday or Saturday.
Delivery available

PANIERDUFERMIER.CA

