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Our office will be **CLOSED** for the vacation period. Our next issue will be published on **August 15<sup>th</sup>**.

*Have a great vacation!*

## Sainte-Rose Art Symposium: July 24 - 27

Page 6



Artists with the Corporation Rose-Art joined local elected officials, including Laval city councillors Flavia Alexandra Novac, Claude Larochelle and Louise Lortie, as well as Quebec singer Shirley Théroux, for the launch of the 2025 Sainte-Rose Art Symposium, which runs from July 24-27 in Sainte-Rose. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Newsfirst Multimedia)

## Lyme disease in North Shore



Page 7

## Canada Day in Two Mountains



Pages 8-9



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# Rosemère's H.J. Hemens Library to undergo \$2.5M transformation

**MARIA DIAMANTIS**

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

The Town of Rosemère has announced a major renovation project for its beloved H.J. Hemens Public Library, which will temporarily close from August through November 2026. The extensive upgrades aim to modernize the nearly 50-year-old building, constructed in 1978, and align it with the municipality's 2024–2030 strategic vision of adapting public infrastructure to meet evolving user needs.

With an investment of \$2.5 million, the renovation will involve a complete overhaul of the building's core systems, including heating, air-conditioning, ventilation, plumbing, electrical wiring, insulation, and roofing. The work also includes replacing the flooring and exterior cladding. Officials say these efforts are part of a broader push to "modernize our infrastructure" while enhancing energy efficiency, safety, and user comfort.

"This work will allow us to pursue our commitment to excellence through this iconic community landmark," said Mayor Eric Westram. "The library is a beloved Rosemère institution, where there were 75,000 visits and 150,000 items borrowed last year alone. It plays a central role in Rosemère's cultural and community life. The work will help ensure the building's long-term viability and comply with sustainability standards while still preserving our unique small-town charm. We look

forward to seeing everyone back there in the fall."

To ensure uninterrupted access to library services during the renovation period, the Town will open a satellite library at the Memorial Community Centre, located at 202 Grande-Côte Road. Starting August 4, residents will be able to access the temporary facility through a designated entrance at the rear of the building. The Town has emphasized that the satellite library will not simply be a placeholder but a fully functioning space designed to maintain the library's mission of information access, cultural engagement, and community support.

Available services will include the circulation of books and materials, issuing of citizens' cards, access to periodicals, Wi-Fi, a search station, and digital loans such as ebooks. Patrons will also be able to borrow games and telescopes, make use of workspace and lounge areas, and use printing services. Guided activities will be organized for all age groups, and mobility-impaired residents will continue to benefit from the existing home delivery service.

In anticipation of the temporary closure, the Town is also offering an extended borrowing program. Between July 1 and



August 2, users can check out up to 50 items and retain them for the duration of the closure. While loan periods will depend on the type of material—such as new releases, periodicals, or video games—the relaxed borrowing limits are intended to ease the transition. Once the satellite location opens, regular borrowing policies will be reinstated.

Residents are encouraged to consult the staff at the H.J. Hemens Library for more details on these temporary arrangements. A detailed FAQ and further information can also be found in the library's online catalogue at [biblio.ville.rosemere.qc.ca/renovation](http://biblio.ville.rosemere.qc.ca/renovation).

As the town undertakes this ambitious renovation, it reinforces its vision of a modern, sustainable Rosemère—one where cherished public institutions are not only preserved but made future-ready for generations to come.

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# OPINION & Editorial



## Canada's loyalty to globalism is bleeding our economy dry

*Trump's controversial trade policies are delivering results. Canada keeps playing by global rules and losing*

U.S. President Donald Trump's brash trade agenda, though widely condemned, is delivering short-term economic results for the U.S. It's also revealing the high cost of Canada's blind loyalty to globalism.

While our leaders scold Trump and posture on the world stage, our economy is faltering, especially in sectors like food and farming, which have been sacrificed to international agendas that don't serve Canadian interests.

The uncomfortable truth is that Trump's unapologetic nationalism is working. Canada needs to take note.

Despite near-universal criticism, the U.S. economy is outperforming expectations. The Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta projects 3.8 per cent second-quarter GDP growth.

Inflation remains tame, job creation is ahead of forecasts, and the trade deficit is shrinking fast, cut nearly in half. These results suggest that, at least in the short term, Trump's economic nationalism is doing more than just stirring headlines.

Canada, by contrast, is slipping behind. The economy is contracting, manufacturing is under pressure from shifting U.S. trade priorities, and food inflation is running higher than general inflation. One of our most essential sectors—agriculture and food production—is being squeezed by rising costs, policy burdens and vanishing market access. The contrast with the U.S. is striking and damning.

Worse, Canada had been pushed to the periphery. The Trump administration had paused trade negotiations with Ottawa over Canada's proposed digital services tax. Talks

have since resumed after Ottawa backed away from implementing it, but the episode underscored how little strategic value Washington currently places on its relationship with Canada, especially under a Carney-led government more focused on courting Europe than securing stable access to our largest export market. But Europe, with its own protectionist agricultural policies and slower growth, is no substitute for the scale and proximity of the U.S. market. This drift has real consequences, particularly for Canadian farmers and food producers.

The problem isn't a trade war; it's a global realignment. And while Canada clings to old assumptions, Trump is redrawing the map. He's pulling back from institutions like the World Health Organization, threatening to sever ties with NATO, and defunding UN agencies like the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the global body responsible for coordinating efforts to improve food security and support agricultural development worldwide. The message is blunt: global institutions will no longer enjoy U.S. support without measurable benefit.

To some, this sounds reckless. But it's forcing accountability. A senior FAO official recently admitted that donors are now asking hard questions: why fund these agencies at all? What do they deliver at home? That scrutiny is spreading. Countries are quietly realigning their own policies in response, reconsidering the cost-benefit of multilateralism. It's a shift long in the making and long resisted in Canada.

Nowhere is this resistance more damaging than in agriculture. Canada's food producers

have become casualties of global climate symbolism. The carbon tax, pushed in the name of international leadership, penalizes food producers for feeding people. Policies that should support the food and farming sector instead frame it as a problem. This is globalism at work: a one-size-fits-all policy that punishes the local for the sake of the international.

Trump's rhetoric may be provocative, but his core point stands: national interest matters. Countries have different economic structures, priorities and vulnerabilities.

Pretending that a uniform global policy can serve them all equally is not just naïve, it's harmful. America First may grate on Canadian ears, but it reflects a reality: effective policy begins at home.

Canada doesn't need to mimic Trump. But we do need to wake up. The globalist consensus we've followed for decades is eroding. Multilateralism is no longer a guarantee of prosperity, especially for sectors like food and farming. We must stop anchoring ourselves to frameworks we can't influence and start defining what works for Canadians: secure trade access, competitive food production, and policy that recognizes agriculture not as a liability but as a national asset.

If this moment of disruption spurs us to rethink how we balance international co-operation with domestic priorities, we'll emerge stronger. But if we continue down our current path, governed by symbolism, not strategy, we'll have no one to blame for our decline but ourselves.

Dr. Sylvain Charlebois

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# Community participation shapes future of Rosemère's regional hub

**MARIA DIAMANTIS**

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The Town of Rosemère is advancing plans for the long-term transformation of its Regional Hub, following a wave of civic engagement that saw more than 360 residents and stakeholders participate in a wide-ranging consultation process. The initiative, part of the Special Planning Program (Programme particulier d'urbanisme – PPU), is a key step in defining the development vision for this critical area of the town.

The consultations, held in person and online, revealed a community deeply invested in the evolution of its urban landscape. On June 3, approximately 125 residents attended a town-hosted meeting at Externat Sacré-Coeur. Meanwhile, over 200 others participated through an online survey that closed on June 11. In addition, 35 members of Rosemère's

business community engaged directly with municipal officials to share their perspectives. The results, municipal leaders say, highlight a community eager to shape the direction of future development.

Mayor Eric Westram praised the response, saying it "shows how much Rosemerites care about their town." According to the mayor, the goal is to deliver a planning program that not only reflects the community's aspirations but also aligns with Rosemère's long-term strategy of responsible, sustainable growth. "We will be able to transform this commercially focused area into a sustainability-minded, inclusive multipurpose living environment," he stated. He also emphasized transparency and continued dialogue as key principles guiding the project.

The consultations unearthed a wide range of resident priorities. Chief among them were a desire for a human-scale urban environment that includes high-quality parks and green spaces, an active transportation network that prioritizes pedestrian and cyclist safety, and a

balanced blend of residential, commercial, and service-based functions. Environmental considerations also featured prominently, with strong support for reducing heat islands and adapting local infrastructure to better address climate change.

At the same time, residents expressed concerns about practical challenges—namely traffic management, architectural integration of new developments, and the town's infrastructure capacity. These concerns, the Town assured, are being carefully considered as the planning process moves forward.

With the consultation phase complete, Rosemère's municipal administration will now enter a summer period of analysis. All feedback from citizens and stakeholders will be reviewed, alongside findings from ongoing technical studies related to infrastructure and economic impact. The result will be a draft PPU expected in August, which the Town Council

plans to adopt as a preliminary version.

This draft will be formally presented to the public in September, in line with Quebec's legal requirements for land use planning. A public meeting will allow residents to examine the full document and offer further feedback. Following that, final adoption of the PPU is expected in the fall, after which Rosemère's urban planning by-laws will be amended to align with the new strategy.

The approved plan will serve as a long-term blueprint, guiding the redevelopment of the Regional Hub through 2065. Future projects in the area will be required to adhere strictly to the PPU's directives and will undergo close evaluation to ensure consistency with the town's goals.

For Rosemère, this process marks more than a zoning update—it signals a community-wide effort to chart a path toward sustainable, inclusive, and resident-driven urban development.

## Quebec's 2035 gas vehicle ban, under fire

**MATTHEW DALDALIAN**

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A day after Quebec's environment minister slightly relaxed the province's zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) standard, a prominent think tank says the government isn't going far enough—and should scrap the 2035 ban on gas-powered vehicles entirely.

The Montreal Economic Institute (MEI) responded forcefully this week to Minister Benoît Charette's decision to add some hybrid models to the list of vehicles that count toward emissions reduction targets. Under Quebec's ZEV mandate, adopted in 2016, automakers must meet escalating quotas for low and zero-emission vehicle sales or face fines. The goal is to reach 100 per cent by 2035, effectively ending the sale of new gas-only cars.

### Not meeting target

But MEI policy analyst Gabriel Giguère says the province's incremental changes are merely a stopgap—and an implicit admission the targets are unachievable.

"There's a lack of appetite of the consumer for EVs," said Giguère. While sales were up in 2024, numbers dropped significantly in 2025 when provincial subsidies were paused. "People don't want that much EVs right now."

Giguère believes Quebec's 2026 sales target—32.5% of all new cars—already looks out of reach. According to internal government figures cited by Giguère, even the 2030 target of 85% is unlikely to be met. "The government knows it won't be able to meet its targets," he said.

### Luxury

Giguère argues that Quebec's ZEV policy has

run up against not only economic headwinds but also logistical ones. The cost gap between electric and gas-powered vehicles remains significant, particularly in the popular SUV category. While some of that price difference may be recovered through fuel savings over several years, he noted that not every Quebecer can afford that kind of long-term investment. "Not everybody has that luxury," he said.

In addition, Giguère warned that Quebec's energy supply is already under strain. "Hydro-Québec is not swimming in large surpluses

right now. Quite the contrary," he said. The growing demand from EVs, combined with efforts to electrify commercial and residential infrastructure, could outpace supply and limit future economic development.

### Consumer demand

The MEI has previously argued that policies like the ZEV mandate represent an attempt to "impose" technological change from the top down—rather than letting innovation and consumer demand guide the transition.

"If the adoption of electric vehicles is to be sustainable, it has to be based on innovation, not obligation," Giguère said. "Let the Quebec people decide for themselves what is best for their families."

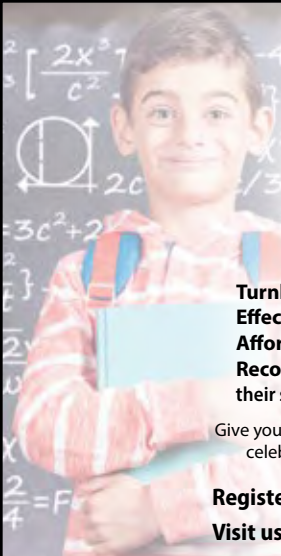
Polls suggest the MEI's position may have public support. A survey conducted by MEI last September found that 68% of Quebecers believe banning the sale of gas-powered vehicles by 2035 is "unrealistic."

Despite the growing skepticism, the mandate remains intact. Asked if he supports any policy alternatives, Giguère emphasized individual choice. "If [a consumer] needs to buy an electric car, there's no problem. If it's a conventional car, there's also no problem," he said. "Right now, it's not the trend. And so the government wants to establish policy that obliges people to buy it. I don't think it's the right policy."

The MEI, which describes itself as an independent, pro-market think tank, continues to call on Quebec and Ottawa to abandon fixed EV quotas.



Gabriel Giguère



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# 29<sup>th</sup> annual Sainte-Rose Art Symposium takes place from July 24 - 27

**Spotlight on the works of 70 artists in one of Quebec's most picturesque settings**

## MARTIN C. BARRY

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter  
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For four days this month, hundreds of appreciators of quality sculpture and art from all over Quebec and parts of eastern Canada will gather in Laval's historic Vieux Sainte Rose for an annual event that many now recognize as one of Quebec's most esteemed outdoor art shows – the Sainte-Rose Art Symposium.

For the second time, the organizers (the Corporation Rose-Art) have persuaded legendary Quebec singer Shirley Théroux to be the official spokesperson for the 2025 Sainte-Rose Art Symposium.

## Art works by Shirley Théroux

Théroux had a string of song hits in Quebec during the 1960s and 1970s and was also a highly popular late-afternoon program host on French-language television. An accomplished painter in addition to her musical talents,

Théroux will have several art works featured in a special segment of the show.

"Music and painting are almost the same," she said in an interview with The Laval News, while comparing the melody of a song to a color with a variety of shades. "A melody is like a wave, with ups and downs," she said. "And so, a color is almost the same when you're painting."

## Popular summer gathering

The Sainte-Rose Art Symposium, a popular summertime gathering of artists for decades, is always a guarantee of enjoyment for thousands of satisfied arts patrons who attend. In addition to Mrs. Théroux's support, the event's honorary president this year is Member of the National Assembly for Sainte-Rose Christopher Skeete.

This year's art exhibition will be taking place from Thursday July 24 to Sunday July 27. Those with a discerning taste for fine sculpture and inspiring visual creation will be arriving from all over Quebec, as well as other parts of eastern Canada, for the 29<sup>th</sup> symposium.



From the left, Laval city councillor for Sainte-Rose Flavia Alexandra Novac, Quebec chanteuse Shirley Théroux and Councillor Novac's daughter during the recent press conference announcing this year's Sainte-Rose Art Symposium. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Newsfirst Multimedia)

## 'A unique occasion'

"Whether you are an amateur of art, a collector or are simply curious, the Sainte-Rose Symposium of painting and art is a unique occasion to discover 80 talented artists and to live an artistic experience in a truly charming setting," Oprina-Felicia Dolea, the president of the Corporation Rose-Art, said during a recent press conference to announce this year's symposium.

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

## Recognized by their peers

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

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

More than 20,000 people are expected to attend. Although most are usually from the Laval and greater Montreal regions, the busy vacation season is also known to bring in visitors from Ontario, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, as well as from the U.S. states of Vermont, New York and New Hampshire.

## A charming setting

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

Lima Church, between Filion and Deslaurier-Hotte streets.

All the events are free. The hours are as follows: Thursday and Saturday, 10 am to 6 pm; Friday, 11 am to 6 pm; Sunday, 10 am to 5 pm. Additional information is available on the website [www.roseart.ca](http://www.roseart.ca). E-mail: [roseart@videotron.ca](mailto:roseart@videotron.ca). Phone: (450) 625-7925.



"The Sainte-Rose Symposium of painting and art is a unique occasion to discover 80 talented artists and to live an artistic experience in a truly charming setting," says Oprina-Felicia Dolea, the president of the Corporation Rose-Art. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Newsfirst Multimedia)

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# Lyme disease rising sharply on the North Shore

## What every resident should know



Blacklegged ticks.

**MARIA DIAMANTIS**

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter for The North Shore News  
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As summer unfolds across the North Shore, so too does a growing threat: Lyme disease. Once a rarity in Quebec, the tick-borne illness is now a pressing public health concern, particularly in regions like Rosemère, Deux-Montagnes, and surrounding Laurentian communities. Fueled by climate change and expanding tick populations, the risk to residents is increasing steadily—and quietly.

The culprits are blacklegged ticks, also known as deer ticks. These tiny arachnids are no bigger than a sesame seed, but they carry a powerful threat in the form of *Borrelia burgdorferi*, the bacterium that causes Lyme disease. Due to milder winters and longer warm seasons, these ticks are now active earlier in the spring and remain dangerous well into the fall. Their habitat, once limited to specific forested areas, is rapidly spreading to suburban parks, backyards, and even schoolyards across the southern part

of the province.

Recent data confirms what many health officials have feared: the number of Lyme disease cases in Quebec is rising sharply. Hundreds of infections are being reported each year, and the trend shows no signs of slowing. Many of these cases are found in areas that had previously been considered low-risk. The Laurentides, Laval, and North Shore municipalities are now very much on the map.

What makes Lyme disease particularly dangerous is its ability to mimic other illnesses. Early symptoms can include fatigue, fever, chills, headache, and muscle aches—vague signs often mistaken for the flu or simple summer fatigue. A telltale circular rash known as erythema migrans, which resembles a bull's eye, may appear, but not in every case. If untreated, Lyme disease can lead to more serious complications, such as neurological problems, joint pain, and heart issues.

Adding to the concern, ticks in Quebec have also begun carrying other pathogens, such as those responsible for anaplasmosis, babesiosis,

and even the rare but severe Powassan virus. These illnesses often present with similarly non-specific symptoms and can lead to misdiagnosis or delayed treatment.

Despite the worrying statistics, prevention remains entirely within reach. Public health experts urge all residents to take simple precautions—especially when spending time in wooded or grassy areas. Dressing in long sleeves and pants, tucking pants into socks, and choosing light-colored clothing to spot ticks more easily can go a long way. Insect repellents containing DEET or picaridin are also effective.

Parents should be particularly vigilant with children, who may be playing in brushy areas without realizing the risk. Upon returning home, it's important to shower as soon as possible and perform a full-body tick check. Ticks prefer warm, hidden areas such as behind the knees, in the armpits, along the hairline, and around the waistband.

If a tick is found attached, it should be removed immediately using fine-tipped tweezers. The tick should be grasped as close to the skin as

possible and pulled out slowly and steadily without twisting. It's advisable to keep the tick in a sealed container and mark the date of the bite in case symptoms develop.

Equally important is outdoor maintenance around the home. Trimming grass short, removing fallen leaves, and creating dry buffer zones between lawns and wooded areas can drastically reduce tick populations. Families with pets should also consult their veterinarians, as dogs and cats can bring ticks indoors.

The fight against Lyme disease in Quebec is no longer confined to rural outposts or back-country hikers. It is now a suburban issue, with direct relevance to residents of Rosemère, Sainte-Marthe-sur-le-Lac, Boisbriand, and the entire Deux-Montagnes region. As awareness grows, so too must our collective response.

The outdoors should remain a source of joy, not fear. With informed precautions and a bit of extra care, residents can continue to enjoy summer safely. Lyme disease may be on the rise—but so too is the knowledge needed to stop it in its tracks.

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# Community spirit carries the 54<sup>th</sup> Canada Day celebration in Deux-Montagnes

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Local Journalism Initiative Reporter  
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Central Park in Deux-Montagnes was packed from morning to night on July 1, as the town hosted the 54<sup>th</sup> edition of its Canada Day festival. Despite bouts of rain and a wave of heat, the atmosphere remained festive, with a steady flow of residents, visitors, and volunteers showing up to celebrate the only official Canada Day event on the North Shore of Montreal.

The all-day program featured a mix of local flair, patriotic celebration, and family-oriented fun. Beginning at 11 a.m., the park filled with inflatable games, train rides, face painting, a circus workshop, and artisan stalls offering everything from hot sauces to handsewn accessories.

## Opening ceremony

Mayor of Deux-Montagnes Denis Martin opened the ceremony by welcoming attendees and recognizing the continued efforts of volunteers who have made the event possible year after year. He emphasized that the Canada Day celebration in Deux-Montagnes is not only long-running, but remains the only one of its kind on the North Shore. Martin expressed



Families made their way between food booths and the main stage area as the afternoon crowd swelled during Deux-Montagnes' Canada Day celebration. Photo taken on July 1, 2025. (Photo: Matthew Daldalian, North Shore News)



Local vendors lined the grassy paths of Central Park with handmade crafts, treats, and accessories for festival-goers to browse under shaded tents on July 1, 2025. (Photo: Matthew Daldalian, North Shore News)



Rodney's Express train rides offered a fun way for kids to tour the park's festivities throughout the day on July 1, 2025. (Photo: Matthew Daldalian, North Shore News)

pride in the community's ability to come together annually to host such a large event.

He then turned his attention to outgoing municipal councillor Michel Mendes, reflecting on Mendes' longstanding involvement with the organizing committee. Martin recalled how Mendes has been a fixture at committee meetings, regularly helping with everything from hot dog stands to pushing for better fireworks funding. Martin thanked him for his unwavering commitment and wished him well as he closes out his twelfth and final year on council.

Before finishing, Martin acknowledged the sudden passing of the mayor of Mirabel, Patrick Charbonneau, describing it as a shock to the region and asking for a moment of silence. He encouraged those gathered to embrace the day's celebrations with joy and appreciation. "It's a sign that we should be enjoying life," he said.



Tom Whitton, president of the Deux-Montagnes Canada Day Committee (right) standing with municipal councillor Michel Mendes (left) on July 1, 2025. (Photo: Matthew Daldalian, North Shore News)

Mendes, who has volunteered on the organizing committee for over a decade, reflected on the spirit of the event. "It's a pleasure. Everybody's laughing, everybody's having a good time," he said. "You're seeing toddlers to

► Continued on page 9

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adolescents to adults— we've got an activity to meet everybody's needs."

### Organizing the event

Shortly after the ceremony, the children's races began, followed by the annual egg toss competition at 2 p.m., just as clouds began to break from the drizzling rain. Over at the municipal pool—open to non-residents for the day—a stream of families sought relief from the muggy weather.

For the organizing team, much of the day's success came from its grassroots foundation. "We're the only ones keeping [Canada Day] alive in this region," said Tom Whitton, president of the Deux-Montagnes Canada Day Committee.

The event's volunteer backbone, however, isn't without its pressures. "Getting volunteers is always a challenge," said Whitton. Despite ongoing difficulties recruiting help, he said the payoff is always worth it. "It feels great," he said, watching the event unfold. "This event will survive."

### Vendors and locals

Alongside the inflatables and train rides, both the local police and fire departments hosted booths on site. Officers and firefighters were seen interacting with families throughout the day—chatting with parents, handing out goodies, and entertaining kids with lighthearted games and equipment demos.

Local vendors like Cynthia Beaudet, a native of Deux-Montagnes, came to sell her handmade wares. "It's the country where I was born, so for me, I always celebrate Canada Day," said Beaudet, founder of Création Koala, who began designing wrist wallets after the birth of her first child.

The artisan market, which ran until 5 p.m., was a welcome addition for those ducking under tents for shade and shelter from scattered showers.

Nancy Audy, a photographer selling prints of her work, was among the vendors engaging



**Cynthia Beaudet, founder of Création Koala, welcomed attendees to her kiosk of wrist wallets and handmade fabric goods on July 1, 2025. (Photo: Matthew Daldalian, North Shore News)**



**Photographer Nancy Audy shared her work with curious passersby on July 1, 2025. (Photo: Matthew Daldalian, North Shore News)**

with attendees. "I wanted to see how it would go, take part in a new event, and meet people from Deux-Montagnes," she said. She noted that visitors were stopping by to ask questions and learn about her work, calling the experience rewarding.

While Audy typically gravitates more toward Quebec's national holidays, she said Canada Day still holds personal meaning. "I'm Canadian, and I share a lot of Canadian values," she said smiling as music echoed through the grounds. "It's a way for me to get involved— especially with everything happening politically with our neighbours to the south."

### Local history

The festival's historical roots run deep in the community. Robert Svendsen, a local programming consultant with the Société des Alcools du Québec (SAQ), said his family has been involved for decades.

Although he's no longer active in organizing, Svendsen said he still feels connected to the celebration. "I did a lot back in the day," he said. "You want to show your pride and be here, it's about representing Canada and the town as well." He added that he planned to wear a red hat



**Local officials and community leaders gathered on stage to kick off the 54<sup>th</sup> edition of Canada Day celebrations in Deux-Montagnes on July 1, 2025. (Photo: Matthew Daldalian, North Shore News)**

eventually, reading 'Canada is not for sale.'

Svendsen also said the political climate in the U.S. had strengthened his commitment to celebrating at home. "We're shopping for Canadian products for sure, do our little bit."

### End of celebration

Throughout the afternoon and evening, the main stage hosted a rotating lineup of bands performing a variety of genres. Attendees lounged on folding chairs or danced on the grass as local acts like Courage played.

Capping off the day's performances was a high-energy tribute show by the band KISSED, who brought the spirit of the 1970s and '80s classic rock band KISS to Deux-Montagnes. Just before 10 p.m., the night sky lit up with a fireworks display presented by the city.

Local officials used the day not only to celebrate but to connect with residents. Linda Lapointe, MP for Rivière-des-Mille-Îles, was seen chatting with attendees. "It's very important to meet people and listen to them, but also to celebrate with them," she said.

Lapointe also commented on the broader context surrounding this year's event. "They are still very worried about what's happening south of the border with the president of the United States," she admitted.

Though the weather was unpredictable, the day held strong— carried by the efforts of a tight-knit community. "Enjoy life," said Mayor Martin at the start of the day.

And for one more year, the city did just that.



**Members of the Deux-Montagnes/Sainte-Marthe-sur-le-Lac fire department showcase their gear and chat with young visitors during the afternoon activities on July 1, 2025. (Photo: Matthew Daldalian, North Shore News)**



**Band Roxic performing on stage at Central Park on July 1, 2025. (Photo: Matthew Daldalian, North Shore News)**

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# Mark Carney's seven priorities

## Setting up a report card on alignment, impact, and perceived progress

DAVID COLETTTO

When Mark Carney became Prime Minister earlier this year, he introduced a new way of governing – one that sought to bring strategic discipline to a sprawling federal government. Instead of issuing dozens of separate mandate letters, Carney delivered a single, unified set of seven national priorities to guide every department and minister in his government.

The signal was clear: Canadians should judge this government not on its talking points or press releases, but on its ability to make meaningful progress on these seven interrelated goals.

In this environment, measuring perception matters more than ever. Clear priorities create clarity for citizens but also accountability. If the public understands what the government says it's doing, they're better equipped to notice when it falls short or reward it when it succeeds.

This report based on a national survey of 1,500 adults conducted by Abacus Data from June 17 to 19, 2025 offers a baseline assessment of how Canadians feel about the Carney government's priorities. It examines three things:

- Are Carney's seven priorities aligned with what Canadians care about?
- Do Canadians think achieving them would make a difference in their lives?
- Do they believe the government has started making real progress?

### Clarity and simplicity in at a noisy moment

Before diving into the results, it's worth reflecting on just how unusual it is for a federal government to distill its goals into a simple, shared list. In a political environment defined by fragmentation and institutional overload, Carney's

seven-priority model stands out for its clarity.

But as any communicator knows, clarity can be a double-edged sword. It builds trust when people see things moving but it can also make inaction more conspicuous.

That's why we're taking this research so seriously. This isn't just another approval tracker. It goes deeper to understand how people are reacting to the things the Carney government is doing. And it shows where expectations are rising, where gaps are emerging, and where the government's coalition may be growing restless.

One of the central questions this research set out to answer is deceptively simple: Are the Prime Minister's priorities also the public's priorities?

Our data shows that, on balance, the Carney government's seven priorities are largely in sync with what Canadians say they want from their federal government. That alignment is strongest on economic and affordability issues but holds across the board.

The chart below outlines the public's ranking of these priorities in terms of importance. Canadians were asked whether each item should be a top priority, lower priority, or not a priority right now.

Here's what stands out:

#### 1. Affordability – continues to lead

- 74% of Canadians say lowering costs and helping people get ahead should be a top priority, and another 16% consider it a lower priority.
- That puts it at 89% total support—a clear signal that cost-of-living remains the dominant issue for most people.
- Among Liberal voters, that number climbs to 91%.

Affordability also leads when you ask Canadians to pick their top three priorities and which would be the most meaningful personally.

Prioritizing affordability is clearly in line with public expectations. The challenge, as discussed earlier, is delivering visible progress on it.

#### 2. Housing and economic unity come next

- 65% say making housing affordable through public-private partnerships and skilled trades should be a top priority, with another 21% calling it a lower priority (86% total).
- 66% say unifying Canada's economy—removing trade barriers and fast-tracking key national projects—should be a top priority, again supported by nearly nine in ten Canadians (84% total).

#### 3. Strong support for sovereignty, fiscal discipline, and partnerships

- 60% say protecting sovereignty through military, border, and law enforcement improvements should be a top priority, with 25% saying it should be a lower one. That's 84% in total, including 87% of Liberal voters.
- 52% say reducing government spending to allow private-sector investment and growth should be a top priority (81% total when adding in "lower priority" responses).
- 56% support forging a new economic and security partnership with the U.S. and allies as a top priority, with 24% saying it should be a lower one (80% total).

These numbers suggest that while the "kitchen table" issues dominate, there remains strong public support for Canada playing a larger strategic and economic role globally, as long as domestic needs are not neglected.

In particular, the spending restraint agenda,

sometimes assumed to be a Conservative talking point, garnered support from 80% of Liberal voters. This suggests that much of the Liberal coalition and a large majority of Canadians today are increasingly concerned with fiscal prudence.

Interestingly, because of how much they have dominated news and opposition coverage, immigration and a trade relationship with the US are least likely to be listed as a priority.

In sum, three-quarters plus believe all seven of this governments' priorities deserve a place on the list making this list well-aligned with the Canadian mindset, right now.

### The coalition that elected the liberals is aligned – but watching closely

Among those who voted Liberal, the rankings were quite similar to the national population. This is important.

It tells us that Carney's priorities reflect the values and expectations of his electoral coalition. But alignment alone is not enough. The people who chose the Liberals over other options are invested in these priorities—perhaps even more so than the general public. They expect delivery. And they're paying attention.

### Do these priorities matter personally?

We also asked Canadians whether achieving each of the seven priorities would be a good or bad thing for them personally.

Unsurprisingly, lowering costs and helping Canadians get ahead again tops the list, with 74% saying it would be good for them, including

► Continued on page 11



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◀ Continued from page 10

49% who say very good. Housing affordability, economic unification, and protecting sovereignty also scored highly—each seen as good for at least 60% of respondents.

But some priorities feel more distant from people's everyday experience. Only 55% say forging new economic and security partnerships with the U.S. and global allies would be good for them personally. And just 49% say the same for immigration reform.

This gap between macro-importance and micro-relevance is one of the biggest communications challenges facing the Carney government. Canadians are not opposed to big-picture ideas—but they will need clear examples to show how addressing these priorities has a tangible impact on their lives.

Alignment isn't the problem. Expectation management might be.

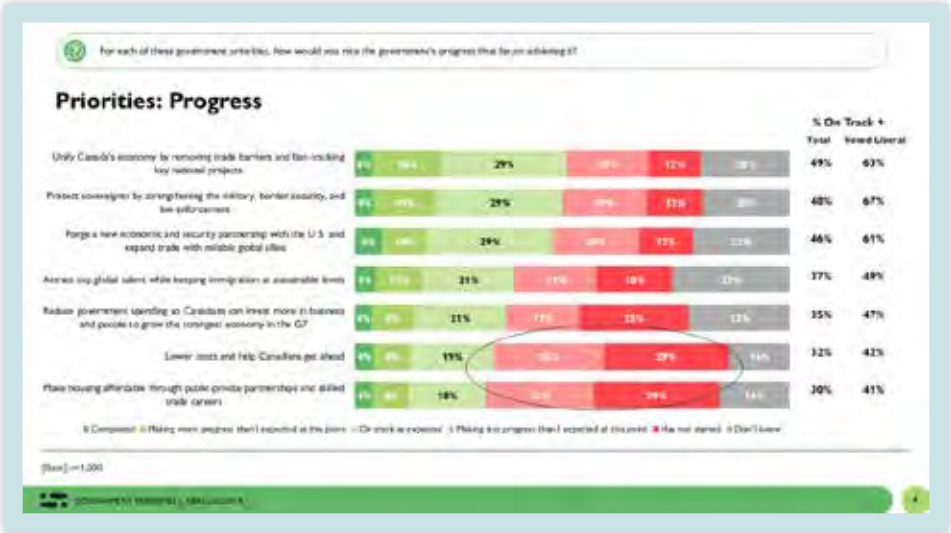
Taken together, these findings show that the Carney government has crafted a list of priorities that broadly reflects the public's own ranking of what matters. The total support (top + lower priority) for each priority ranges from 77% to 89%—a remarkably tight and high band.

The Prime Minister and his team deserve credit for this. This isn't a scattershot list designed to appeal to every niche audience. It's a tight agenda that reflects national concerns, is relatively non-partisan in tone, and importantly makes it easier for Canadians to follow and judge performance. It also helps differentiate Carney from Trudeau, which was essential in his election victory. The more people think Carney's government is like Trudeau's, the less they like it.

But alignment is only part of the puzzle. The government's next test is to ensure that Canadians don't just support the priorities but start to feel progress on the ones they care about most. As the progress data reveals, that's where the greatest vulnerability lies today.

Measuring progress: what Canadians feel matters most

Perhaps the most vital part of this report is our



assessment of perceived progress.

We are not asking people to assess whether a bill has passed the House or whether a regulation has been published in the Canada Gazette. We are measuring how people feel about progress.

And this matters, because in politics, perception often becomes reality. If people don't feel like change is happening, it can damage trust—even if, behind the scenes, the policy machinery is hard at work.

So how does the Carney government fare so far?

Mixed grades on momentum

The results are telling. Canadians were asked whether the government has:

- Completed the priority or made more progress than expected
- Is on track
- Made less progress than expected
- Hasn't started
- Or if they don't know

We have combined the first two options into a single metric – % On Track or Better – to summarize perceived momentum.

The highest-ranked priority on this metric is unifying Canada's economy, with 49% saying the government is on track or ahead of schedule. Similarly, 48% say progress is happening on protecting sovereignty and 46% say so for the U.S./global partnership goal.

These are respectable numbers early in a mandate – and may reflect early speeches, symbolic visits, and signals of intent. Also, worth noting that this research was done just after the G7 but before the House of Commons passed Bill C-5, An Act to enact the Free Trade and Labour Mobility in Canada Act and the Building Canada Act

But the danger signs come into focus with the two most important priorities to voters:

- Only 32% think the government is on track on affordability.
- Just 30% say the same about housing.

Worse still: over half of Canadians believe the government is making less progress than expected or hasn't even started on either of these. For example, 29% say the government has not started making housing more affordable, and another 25% say it's making less progress than expected.

Among Liberal voters, the picture improves modestly – but still shows real risk. Just 42% believe progress is being made on affordability. That's lower than the levels for economic unification, sovereignty, or international partnerships. The same goes for housing, with only 41% of Liberals saying the government is on track.

**Why the progress gap matters**

The gap between priority and progress has

real political implications.

When people care deeply about an issue and don't see movement, it can create frustration, disengagement, or even backlash. The danger is not just that people will say the government is "not delivering," it's that they stop believing it can.

It is worth noting that the two issues with the least amount of movement are the priorities Canadians care most about- and say have the biggest repercussions on their lives.

In this environment, early signs of motion can punch above their weight. A highly visible investment. A strong first set of results. A well-communicated partnership. These can all shift the needle not just because of the substance, but because they begin to change the storyline.

A framework for understanding government effectiveness

The scorecard approach we're using – Priority, Personal Relevance, Perceived Progress – is more than a polling framework. It's a way of assessing the government's ability to align policy with lived experience. And it's the approach we take with the custom work we do with our clients.

The graphic below shows a summary view. The story this tells is simple:

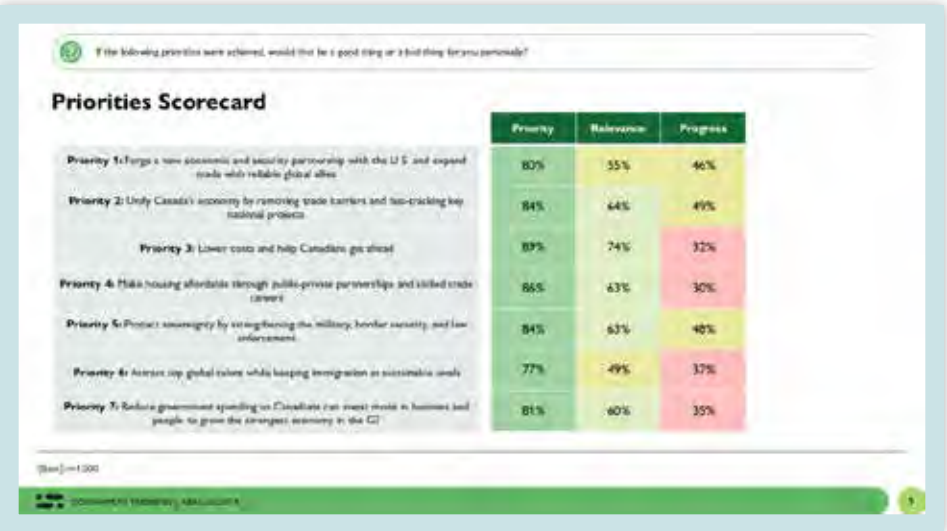
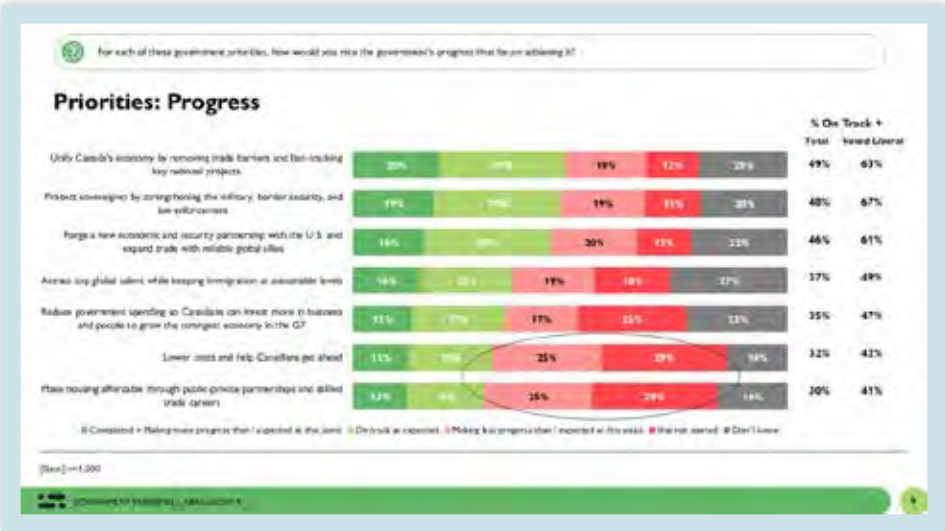
- The top two issues for Canadians are affordability and housing.
- They feel those are where the least progress is being made.
- Unless that changes over the next year, it may impact how the Carney government is judged.

Final thoughts: momentum is the message

Mark Carney's priorities are clear. The public mostly agrees with them. But clarity raises expectations.

If this government is to succeed it must show that the machine of government is delivering on the things people care most about.

And if it wants to hold the coalition that brought it into office, that progress must be felt, not just announced.



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# "La tournée festive" brings regional history to life through free outdoor theatre

**MARIA DIAMANTIS**

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

A vibrant new chapter in regional cultural celebration is unfolding in the MRC of Thérèse-De Blainville as officials announced *La tournée festive*, an original theatrical initiative that blends storytelling, music, and history into a free public performance tour. Presented by the renowned Petit Théâtre du Nord, the open-air production will travel through all seven municipalities of the MRC over two weekends in September: the 6th, 7th, 13th, and 14th.

More than just a show, *La tournée festive* is a collective act of cultural remembrance and civic pride. Developed in close partnership between the MRC's Table action culture et patrimoine, the participating municipalities, and the provincial government, the initiative offers residents an accessible way to reconnect with the rich and complex history of the region. With performances designed to be participatory and informal, audiences of all ages are invited to engage with the artists and the stories being told—creating a space for dialogue, memory, and celebration.

"This production is the result of a remarkable collaboration among the seven cities of our MRC," said Eric Westram, Prefect of the MRC and Mayor of Rosemère. "It reflects our deep commitment to preserving our historical heritage while fostering cultural development. *La*

*tournée festive* will help raise awareness of our territory's past while granting citizens unique access to a high-quality, professional theatrical creation."

The 45-minute play, rich in narrative and musical elements, was commissioned specifically for this initiative. It is the work of Petit Théâtre du Nord, a longstanding theatrical company in the Basses-Laurentides with more than 25 years of experience in creating community-rooted productions. Known for works like *Les Veillées Festives*, the troupe continues its mission of crafting original performances that resonate with local history and identity.

For Mélanie St-Laurent, the company's director, this project is particularly meaningful. "We are honoured by the trust the MRC has placed in us. Our mission has always been to tell stories anchored in our community's reality, and *La tournée festive* embodies that mission fully," she said. "It's a celebration of who we are, where we come from, and how theatre can bring people together in meaningful, joyful ways."

The show is a product of a long-term vision. As Christine Beaudette, Mayor of Boisbriand and president of the Table action culture et patrimoine, explained, the project's roots go back to a 2022 cultural ideation workshop. "From the initial idea of a play about our local history, we built a concept that reimagines how we present our heritage while democratizing access to high-quality professional theatre," she said.



*La tournée festive* also carries significant civic weight. It is supported by the 2024 and 2025–2027 Ententes de développement culturel, with financial backing from both the Quebec government and the MRC. The program reflects a long-standing commitment to make arts and heritage accessible to all citizens, regardless of background or geography.

The provincial government has also shown its support, with Culture and Communications Minister Mathieu Lacombe calling the production "a beautiful fusion of discovery and entertainment." He encouraged the public to attend, noting that the event "helps bring our cultural

heritage to life with pride and celebration."

As part of the region's well-established summer program *Une journée, une ville, un spectacle!*, the tour will breathe theatrical life into local parks and public spaces, transforming familiar places into stages for collective memory. Details regarding venues and times for each performance can be found in the MRC's summer cultural program brochure.

By honouring the past while engaging with the present, *La tournée festive* is more than a performance—it's a declaration that history belongs to everyone, and that art can be the bridge that brings it to life.



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# DIRECT ANSWERS

FROM WAYNE & TAMARA

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**Q** My story is long, but to make it short, I am in the process of grey divorce. My marriage lasted 30 years, with three adult children I adore. To start with, there are many differences between my husband and me, culturewise and educationwise. But I helped him finish his college education while working on my master's and Ph.D. degrees.

I helped him establish his own business. Slowly and with my support the business grew. He became famous here. Four years ago he went to a conference outside the country and came back changed. One day I caught him emailing a girl there and asked him about her. He said, "Don't worry. She is younger than our daughter."

Well, somehow I believed him. I discovered nearly four years ago he married her. I was devastated, so I asked him to leave the house and I asked for a divorce. I can't stand seeing his face. Ever since, my life has changed. I am no longer the woman I used to be. I am still teaching in the university, but I lost that zest for life.

His wife is expecting a baby this summer, and we are not happy about it. My children and I are worried this woman will give us trouble in regard to our business. After all, she didn't marry a man her father's age out of love. I managed to change the ownership of the business to five equal shares. If my ex chooses to give her and her child anything, it has to be his share.

How can I deal with the stigma of divorce? So far I am avoiding socializing as much as possible because I am not looking for sympathy from anyone. I attended some counseling meetings which helped me, but what shall I do when I am alone? I am now 63, and this is terrifying me.

Nadia

**A** Nadia, everything bad thrives in secrecy. Abuse, addiction, torture, betrayal, embezzlement . . . bigamy. You have nothing to hide. Hiding from the world might make people think you did something wrong, when he did. Most people, though, will feel I hope nothing like that happens to me. And for those in a relationship with someone who doesn't love them, it will make them very nervous.

You aren't alone. You will always have your children, and your husband has damaged his relationship with them. The best thing you can do for the sake of your children is finish this off.

There is only one way to live life, and that is to look reality square in the face every day. You have two choices. You can bury these events in your mind, tell social lies to others, and hide out in your home, or you can commit to living each day with passion. If you do the former, you will get nervous tics and twitches, and a tummy that acts up. If you do the latter, you will regain the zest for life you had as a small child newly arrived on the planet.

Divorce is a stigma only to the extent you allow it to be. Another woman might take these events and turn them into a hilarious story she tells at parties. There is no stigma attached to things which are beyond our control, and there is no stigma attached to us from the decisions of another.

So it is time to begin again. All the possibilities of life are before you. You have more financial freedom than most. The only things which can hold you back are between your ears. By all means, if you feel counseling is useful, then find a good counselor.

And never forget one lesson about your husband. You cannot trust him. Deal with him from a position of legal strength. Some people are entitled to the benefit of the doubt. He is not.

Wayne & Tamara

WAYNE & TAMARA MITCHELL are the authors of YOUR OTHER HALF ([www.yourotherhalf.com](http://www.yourotherhalf.com))

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Week of July 13 to 19, 2025

The luckiest signs this week:  
TAURUS, GEMINI AND CANCER



### ARIES

You'll have a serious outlook this week, even though you're on vacation. You'll be thinking about work and big projects rather than fully enjoying your time off. Someone close to you may need your support.



### TAURUS

Summer is flying by! Make the most of your planned activities. You'll have a packed social calendar, and your good friends will invite you out. You'll have memorable and enjoyable experiences.



### GEMINI

Time is precious and you'll have a whirlwind of ideas this week. You'll go on a spontaneous trip and start planning another adventure for later this year. You'll also focus on reaching ambitious personal and professional goals.



### CANCER

Whether you're on vacation or not, you'll find the time to treat yourself. Disconnect and recharge in nature. Set aside your worries about work while you're on vacation to reawaken your zest for life.



### LEO

You could be hit with intense emotions for various reasons this week. If you're dating, you'll know quickly if the other person is being insincere. Your emotional state influences your vitality. Prioritize finding balance and peace of mind.



### VIRGO

You're always busy with work, even during summer. Your keen insights will help you spot opportunities to clinch valuable contracts or partnerships with clients. Try to make time for your partner and family.



### LIBRA

Even while on vacation, you'll frequently check in with work via your smartphone. An unexpected work emergency could cut your vacation short. However, your dedication will impress your boss.



### SCORPIO

You have an inner passion pushing you to express your individuality. If you're single, you'll be bold and stand out. If you're in a relationship, try breaking up your everyday routine. Your home is a peaceful retreat where you can recharge.



### SAGITTARIUS

Despite being on vacation and promising yourself you would relax, you won't be able to disconnect from work. You'll check your messages and complete certain tasks. This will make it hard for you to fully unwind.



### CAPRICORN

Vacation is supposed to be relaxing, but you may choose a destination that keeps you active. Instead, you'll enjoy lively evenings filled with deep conversations and philosophical musings, giving free rein to your innermost reflections.



### AQUARIUS

You'll go on an adventure to break free from your typical routine or the hustle and bustle of everyday life. You'll explore boutiques and treat yourself, which will lift your spirits. You may also receive a financial surprise, like an unexpected windfall or forgotten cash you find in your pocket.



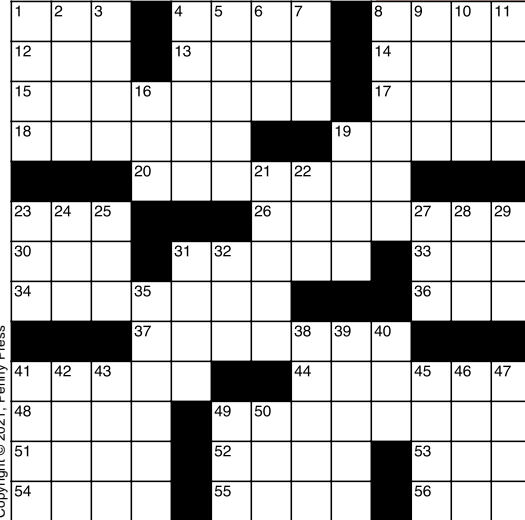
### PISCES

Take the downtime you need before diving back into new activities. If you feel the urge to let go, trust life to guide you. Something will spark your creativity, leading to remarkable artistic inspiration.

# Coffee Break

## CROSSWORDS

PUZZLE NO. 284



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### ACROSS

- Shipboard diary
- Louts
- Upper limbs
- Have property
- Not false
- \_\_\_ camp
- Coast
- Fountain drink
- Self-\_\_\_
- Prettier
- Farm vehicle
- Humor
- Purse
- King beater
- Gives the cold shoulder
- Individual
- Lawmaker
- Fitness center
- Violent windstorm
- Plant again
- Passengers
- Baking appliance

### DOWN

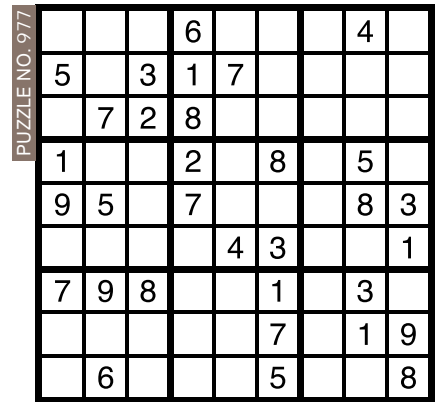
- Mislay
- Has bills
- Small fly
- Different
- Scent
- Cat's coat
- Admit as a visitor
- Ridiculous
- Applaud
- Pie a la \_\_\_
- Big name
- Put in place
- Negative points
- Butter maker
- Standards
- Stack
- Unseat
- Traveler's stop
- Annexes
- Follow instructions
- It came first?
- Dinner check
- "I \_\_\_ a Teenage Werewolf"
- Skating on thin \_\_\_
- Number of bowling frames
- Marsh
- Whichever
- Sapphire
- Pack away
- Neither's mate
- Does penance
- Develop
- Song
- Work by Keats
- Line
- Harmful
- Persuade
- Canal from Albany to Buffalo
- Engagement gift
- Harmonized
- Talk fondly
- Buff

## 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.

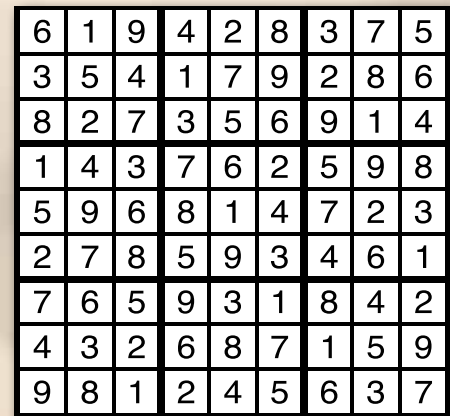


## Last Issue's Answers

### CROSSWORDS



### Sudoku



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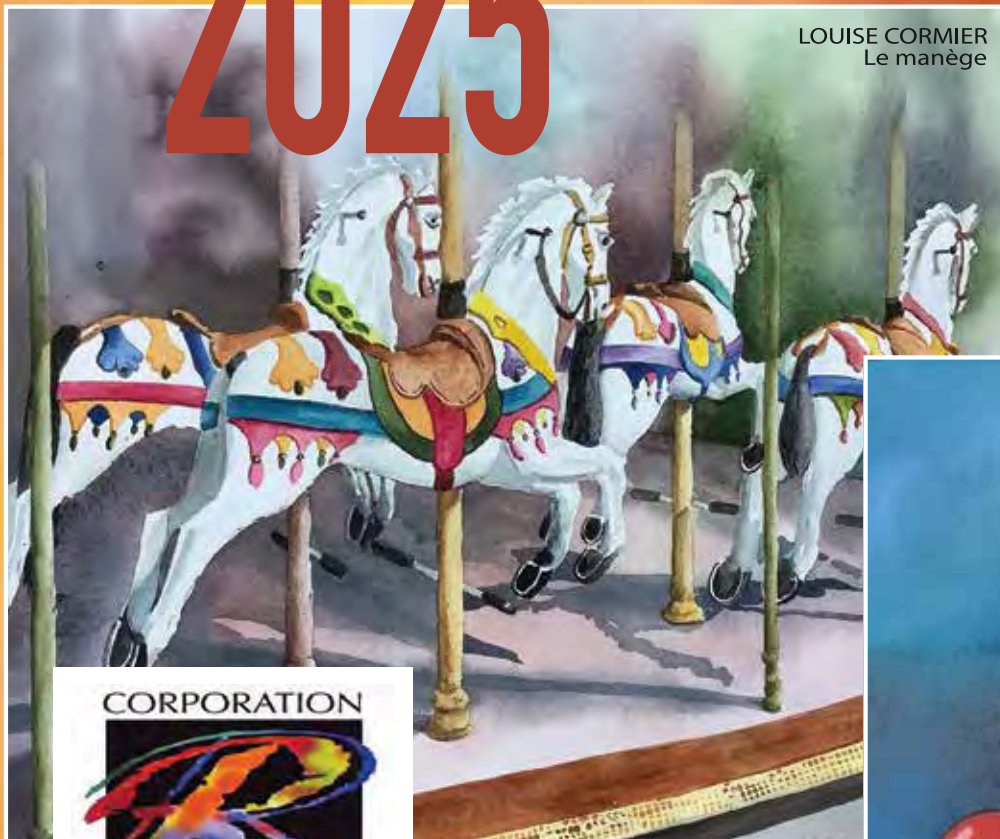
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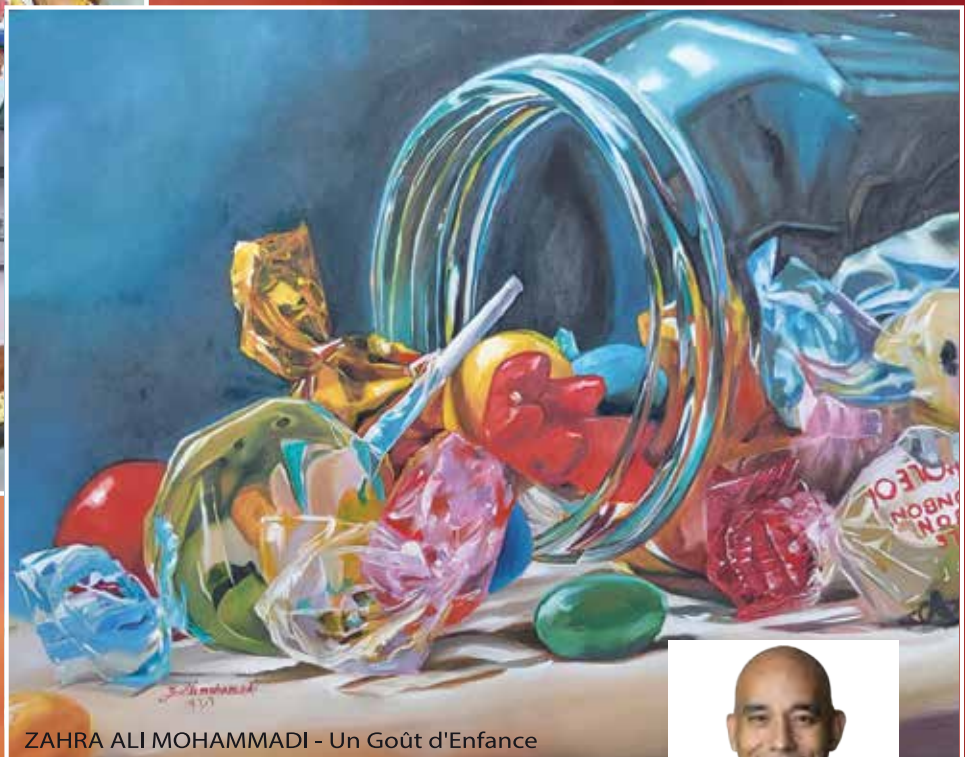
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Friday: 11 AM - 6 PM  
Sunday: 10 AM - 5 PM



Spokesperson  
**Shirley Thérault**



ZAHRA ALI MOHAMMADI - Un Goût d'Enfance

## Exhibitions

'La Vieille Caserne' Gallery: Rose-Art Artists  
Adjoining rooms: Tribute to artist Francine Hétu

Sainte-Rose Art Centre:  
Ground floor: Mrs Shirley Thérault's artworks  
Upstairs: Rose-Art artists' large size exhibition



Honourary president  
**Christopher Skeete**

Member for Sainte-Rose  
Minister for the Economy  
Minister Responsible for the Fight Against Racism  
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