

**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

PANIER DU FERMIER
FRUITS ET LÉGUMES

Our weekly customers save **\$1,700** up to **\$1,700** per year

A value of **\$70+** Only **\$40**

16 TO 20 VARIETIES
MIXED BASKET
FRUITS & VEGGIES

(514) **244-9885**
panierdufermier@gmail.com
panierdufermier.ca



newsfirst
MULTIMEDIA

Vol. 22-14

July 10, 2026

450-978-9999

www.ns-news.com

editor@newsfirst.ca

HAPPY VACATION from the whole team!

Our office will be closed for the vacation period

Our next issue will be published on **August 14th**



Page 9



Deux-Montagnes celebrates Canada Day



The Best Choice
Since 1983

Symposium Ste-Rose 2026

30th edition

July 23 - 26

Thursday & Saturday: 10 AM - 6 PM

Friday: 11 AM - 6 PM

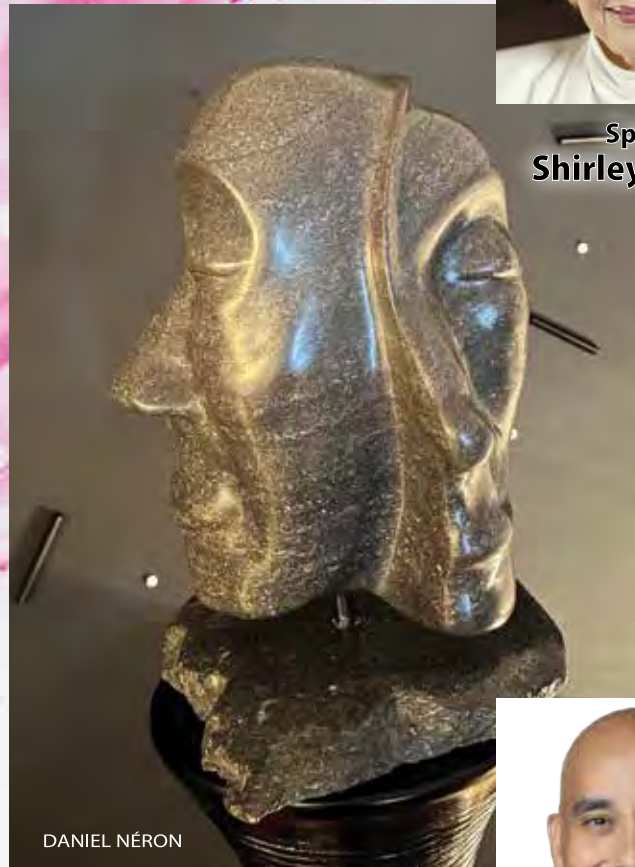
Sunday: 10 AM - 5 PM



Spokesperson
Shirley Théroux



MADONE SIMARD



DANIEL NÉRON



Honourary president
Christopher Skeete
Minister of International Relations
and La Francophonie
Minister responsible for the Fight
Against Racism, relations with
English-Speaking Quebecers,
and the Laval region



Nous célébrons
nos 35 ans

Galerie La Vieille Caserne

216 boul. Ste-Rose
Laval H7L 1L6
450 625-7925
www.roseart.ca
roseart@videotron.ca



CORPORATION ROSE-ART

Exhibitions

'La Vieille Caserne' Gallery: Rose-Art Artists
Adjoining rooms: 'Hommage et Mémoire' exhibition

Sainte-Rose Art Centre:

Ground floor: Mrs Shirley Théroux's artworks
Upstairs: Silent auction to benefit the
Canadian Cancer Society



Hydro-Québec clearing dominates Rosemère council meeting

ALESSANDRO COMMISSO
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
alessandro@newsfirst.ca

Concerns over Hydro-Québec's vegetation clearing along Highway 640 emerged as the dominant issue during Rosemère's regular council meeting on July 6. The meeting agenda included the adoption of the town's Housing Policy 2026-2046, zoning amendments, planning applications and various infrastructure matters, all of which were ultimately approved by council.

Council clarified that while the policy establishes a long-term framework for housing development in Rosemère, individual projects and regulatory changes would continue to follow the appropriate consultation and approval processes. The policy was subsequently adopted by council.

Another file that generated discussion involved a property at 299 Montclair St. The project drew attention from residents as council approved planning measures that would allow the existing home to be demolished and redeveloped. The file was among a number of urban planning items considered throughout the evening.

However, it was the public question period that produced the night's most passionate exchanges.

Citizens severely frustrated

Several residents who live behind Highway 640 appeared before council to express frustration over Hydro-Québec's recent vegetation clearing project behind their homes.

According to residents, the work was carried out as part of Hydro-Québec's ongoing efforts to reduce power outages in Rosemère, a long-standing concern in the community. While homeowners acknowledged the importance of improving the electrical network's reliability, many argued they have seen little benefit while being left to deal with major consequences.

Rebecca Wright and her husband told council that the project dramatically altered the landscape behind their property. They explained that a large vegetated berm and tree line that once separated their backyard from Highway 640 stood roughly 20 feet high and acted as an effective natural barrier from sound and debris.

Following the clearing work, they said the berm now sits at approximately six feet – roughly the height of a standard backyard fence.

Residents acknowledged they were fully aware of the highway's presence when they purchased their homes. What they did not anticipate, they said, was losing the natural screen that had protected them from much of the noise, visual impact and debris associated with the busy roadway.

"They only stopped cutting the trees because I went up to the workers crying," Wright told council.

Now, she says, her property is almost completely exposed.

"My entire backyard is open – where my kids play every day," said Wright. "They can be hit in the head with flying debris. Something needs to be done as soon as possible."

Wright also expressed frustration with what she described as a lack of follow-up after earlier discussions with municipal officials.

"We were told by Elmer van der Vlugt that someone from the city was going to pass by, but no one ever came," she said.

Her concerns were echoed by fellow residents Edith Beaucamp and Pei Ling, who have both found debris in their backyards, including pieces of plastic, branches and metal believed to have originated from the highway. Residents also questioned whether the extensive clearing had achieved its intended purpose, noting that power interruptions have continued in the area despite the loss of the tree line and vegetated berm.

Mayor Marie-Elaine Pitre acknowledged their frustrations while emphasizing the municipality's limited authority over the site.

"We fully understand your anger. I'm a mother myself," said Pitre. "We have no power over what Hydro-Québec has done," she added, referring to the area where the work was carried out. The mayor noted that preliminary research indicates most of the vegetated hill where the clearing occurred is owned by the Ministère des Transports et de la Mobilité Durable (MTQ).

Resident Wright pressed the mayor on what could be done immediately, describing the situation as "very dire."

"Right now I can't do anything because I don't have the information in hand," Pitre responded.

While the mayor expressed sympathy for the resident's concerns, no specific solution or timeline was presented during the exchange. Several residents appeared dissatisfied with the response,



Mayor Marie-Elaine Pitre and her council on July 6.

saying they were looking for concrete measures to address the loss of the natural barrier.

Although Hydro-Québec's vegetation management activities supposedly fall outside of municipal jurisdiction, residents implored council to continue discussions with both Hydro-Québec and the MTQ in search of a resolution.

Deteriorating conditions on Île Ducharme

Resident Marco Parent raised concerns about the condition of land surrounding the bridge that provides access to his area of Île Ducharme in Rosemère.

While Parent made it clear that he has no objection to people fishing near the bridge, he said overgrown trees and vegetation have increasingly obstructed established fishing spots, making the area both less functional and less aesthetically appealing.

Parent expressed concern that this trend is creating potential safety risks, as people venture into less accessible areas that were not intended for public use. He also warned that the increased foot traffic is having an impact on the surrounding environment, with vegetation being trampled and wildlife habitats potentially disturbed.

In addition to the issues surrounding fishing

access, Parent said much of the area's landscaping, including flowers and other vegetation, appears to have been left unmaintained, giving parts of the site an overgrown and neglected appearance. He asked whether the municipality could improve maintenance around the bridge area to preserve its appearance, better protect sensitive natural areas and help keep visitors within designated access zones.

Municipal business

Beyond the public concerns, council worked through a lengthy agenda that included zoning amendments related to generators, heat pumps, saunas and semi-underground containers. Councillors also dealt with matters involving transportation services for seniors, wastewater treatment operations, infrastructure projects and community grants.

Council also tabled a resident-led petition requesting the installation of a speed bump in the Rose-Alma and Hillcrest area, while several residential planning files moved forward through the approval process.

Despite the range of municipal business on the agenda, the concerns surrounding Hydro-Québec's vegetation clearing project clearly resonated most strongly with those in attendance.



Heavy equipment is seen behind Wright's property during Hydro-Québec's vegetation clearing work near Highway 640. (Photo courtesy of Rebecca Wright)



The Highway 640 corridor is clearly visible from Ling's backyard following the removal of trees and brush. (Photo courtesy of Pei Ling)

WE REPLACE YOUR BROKEN DRAIN

FOR A NEW ONE AND SEAL DRIVEWAY

BEFORE

AFTER

We repair:

- Cracks
- Edges of garage entrances and foundations
- Replacement of drains
- Free Drain Camera Test

BEFORE

AFTER

DRAIN CAMERA TEST

36.2 ft
10:15:23 AM 05/15/24

Scellant Propre

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



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
Alessandro Comisso
Dimitris Ilias
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 2026

OPINION & Editorial



Families that play together stay together

A particular kind of contagious-magical-air descends on ile Jésus at end-of-school year; backpacks shelved, alarms silenced, and time, so often rushed-and-rationed, feels open again. For families, summer's arrival isn't just seasonal change, it's an invitation for rediscovering one another, making moments that strengthen family bonds in lasting ways.

In the rhythm-of-modern life, where work schedules, school obligations, and digital distractions pull-and-push families in different directions, it's easy to overlook essential truth - children need time with parents, siblings and extended family. Not just supervision or routine, but meaningful, shared-time-and-place that nurtures emotional and psychological well-being. Summer brings valuable opportunities for parents to slow down, be truly present to their children.

I'm reminded of this through my own experiences with family-and-friends. We often gathered with nephews and friends' children at Centre de la Nature that became for us much more-than-just-a-park. It was where we reconnected, laughed freely, watched children immerse themselves in pure joy.

It was remarkable seeing them running, playing, exploring, with few constraints. We had escaped the hustle-and-bustle of the busy city, as if vacationing-in-our-backyard, moments extending beyond the activities themselves. Sitting together, we told stories, indulging simple pleasures - ice-cream-on-warm-afternoons, delicious poutine, fresh-salads, crispy-fries, burgers better-savoured outdoors; feasts-of-food, companionship and happiness. Most striking? How accessible it all was! Families left fulfilled, often surprised and pleased at how little it cost to create such meaningful memories.

Few places capture summer like Centre de la Nature. For families, it's tradition, spontaneous picnics under shade-of-mature-trees, paddle-boat-rides on calm water, children bouncing freely through-green-spaces, backdrops for memories that endure beyond-the-season. It's where laughter feels louder, time slows down, and connections happen naturally.

Just-as-captivating is the Musée de la Santé Armand Frappier, curiosity-at-work. For children-and-teenagers, learning becomes adventure-rather-than task; for parents, opportunities to engage alongside, asking ques-

tions, exploring exhibits, fostering knowledge, provoking dialogue, strengthening parent-child bonds.

For deeper links with nature, Parc-de-la-Rivière-des-Mille-Îles offers extraordinary escape. Kayaking, listening to rhythmic dips of paddles-in-water, birds overhead, sensing rustle-of-reeds along shorelines, creating calming and invigorating sensory experiences. Families unplug technology, reconnecting with nature and each other. Conversation flows easily, laughter echoes across water, time stretches in plentiful ways.

Bois Papineau, another gem, provides quieter, meditative experiences. Its wooded paths, dappled-with-sunlight, lined with crunching-of-leaves underfoot, encourage reflection. Children wander, imagine, observe, parents rediscover simple joys-of-walking beside them, without urgency or distraction; here creativity blossoms, presence becomes effortless.

Summer also invites families to venture further into beauty that surrounds us. Short drives to Saint-Sauveur reveal a village alive with enthusiasm - terrasses buzzing with energetic talk, scents-of-fresh-pastries drifting from cafés, children's laughter echoing down water-slides, enjoying outdoor activities nestled against the Laurentian backdrop.

Just-a-bit-north, Mont-Tremblant's landscape opens even wider. Gondola rides enthrall with sweeping-views-of-green mountains under endless-blue-skies, lakes shimmering-in-sunlight, coaxing families to wet feet or paddle along quiet shores. The pedestrian village hums: music, colour, movement, create a vibrant atmosphere that also easily relaxes the spirit.

Closer still, Vieux-Montréal offers escape steeped in history and texture. Cobblestone streets gently-vibrate beneath each step, street performers animate public squares, scents of crêpes, roasted nuts, café espresso fill the air. Children gaze at centuries-old-architecture, parents pause to take it in, together. Walks-along-the-Old Port, breezes coming off-the-water and subtle sounds of passing boats become joint wonderment. These outings, grand or simple, remind us that meaningful travel doesn't require distance, only a willingness to show up.

Most of us know that Québec's third largest city is remarkable in providing countless, accessible, often-free recreational services and

activities throughout the four seasons. These enjoyable pursuits are there for the asking, pleasant realities that will most certainly please new families choosing the city as home.

Young families, new to the city or not, who may feel limited in their ability to plan outings or vacations, can avail themselves of lots-of-fun activities at little-or-no-cost to limited budgets, gifts as cost-of-living rises. Enriching activities lie within reach - parks, art-exhibits-and-festivals, cultural spaces, community events, cycling paths, nearby escapes, outdoor movie nights, and local eateries that turn simple outings into memorable experiences.

Indeed, there's plenty at-door-step. With minimal planning, meaningful activities abound: morning-bike-rides along scenic paths, afternoons-at-museums, evenings-at-outdoor-movies, affordable-meals-at-restaurants, spontaneous-day-trips that feel like true getaways. These moments don't require elaborate preparation or significant expense, only intention, perhaps the most important message every summer carries.

Children don't measure happiness by grandeur experiences, but by quality-of-attention. Infectious-laughing, conversations-along-walks, parents fully-engaging in games and activities all build emotional security and lasting memories. In a world that prioritizes productivity and efficiency, choosing to invest time-in-children is a simple and powerful act. For parents, this may require a conscious shift - setting aside distractions, resisting urges-to-multitask, embracing precious moments, recognizing that summer days, while seemingly endless, are fleeting.

Childhood moves quickly, opportunities to build connections don't last forever. Parks, cultural institutions, community spaces, and accessibility are second-to-none, reminding that we don't need to travel far to find joy, learning, togetherness.

As summer unfolds, step outside, explore, and most-importantly, be present. Enjoy what the surroundings offer.

This summer, choose to connect, choose presence, choose-to-make-time, not someday, but now. In the end, the most meaningful destinations aren't just places, they're journeys in pursuit-of-happiness in the company of those who matter most - family.

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

New affordable seniors' housing project breaks ground in Blainville

70-unit development aims to help older adults remain independent while easing pressure on the region's housing shortage

MARIA DIAMANTIS
info@newsfirst.ca

The growing shortage of affordable housing for seniors in Quebec took a step toward relief this week as construction officially began on Manoir Blainville II, a new 70-unit social and affordable housing development designed for independent older adults in Blainville.

The project, valued at more than \$29.6 million, brings together funding from the federal and provincial governments, the City of Blainville and community partners in what officials describe as an important investment in the region's aging population.

The development reflects a broader challenge facing municipalities across Quebec. As the population ages and housing costs continue to rise, many seniors find themselves caught between remaining in homes that no longer meet their needs and searching for affordable alternatives that often do not exist. Projects such as Manoir Blainville II are intended to bridge that gap by providing accessible housing that allows older residents to remain independent while staying connected to their communities.

Funding for the project comes from several levels of government. Nearly \$13.4 million is being provided through Quebec's Affordable Housing Program administered by the Société d'habitation du Québec (SHQ). The funding is supported through the Canada-Quebec agreement under the Housing Accelerator Fund, together with matching investments announced by the Quebec government. The City of Blainville has also committed more than \$4.8 million toward the project, underscoring the municipality's role in addressing local housing needs.

The groundbreaking ceremony brought together representatives from all three levels involved in the initiative, including Quebec Housing Minister Karine Boivin Roy, federal Member of Parliament for Thérèse-De Blainville Madeleine Chenette, Blainville MNA Mario Laframboise, Blainville Mayor Liza Poulin, representatives from the community housing organization Bâtir son quartier, municipal officials and the Manoir Blainville II leadership team.

For Housing Minister Karine Boivin Roy, the project demonstrates the government's commitment to helping seniors remain in environments adapted to their needs for as long as possible. She said increasing the supply of affordable housing for older adults remains a provincial priority and described Manoir Blainville II as the type of initiative Quebec hopes to replicate in communities across the province.

The federal government also highlighted the importance of the investment. In a statement, Housing and Infrastructure Minister Gregor Robertson said developments like Manoir Blainville II move Canada closer to creating communities where everyone has access to safe and affordable housing.

Blainville MNA Mario Laframboise emphasized that the project reflects successful cooperation between governments and community organizations. He said accelerating the



construction of social housing is essential to meeting the needs of seniors while also providing dignity, stability and hope for residents facing housing challenges.

Federal MP Madeleine Chenette described the project as a concrete example of the federal government's commitment to expanding housing options for residents of Blainville. She noted that partnerships between governments are essential if communities are to respond effectively to growing housing demand.

For the City of Blainville, the project represents more than simply adding new apartments. Mayor Liza Poulin said the development will improve the quality of life for dozens of local seniors while demonstrating what can be accomplished when municipal governments, senior governments and community organizations work toward a common objective.

Community housing developer Bâtir son quartier, which is overseeing the project, described the development as a direct response to the growing demand for safe, affordable and accessible housing for seniors. Executive Director Edith Cyr praised the vision of the Manoir Blainville board and said the organization is proud to contribute its expertise in community real estate development to a project rooted in local needs.

The project also includes an important affordability measure for future tenants. Forty-three of the 70 apartments will qualify under Quebec's Rent Supplement Program, allowing eligible residents to pay no more than 25 per cent of their income toward rent. The subsidy will be funded jointly, with 90 per cent provided by the Société d'habitation du Québec and 10 per cent by the City of Blainville.

The initiative arrives at a time when housing affordability continues to dominate public policy discussions throughout Quebec. Municipalities across the province are struggling to meet increasing demand for affordable housing as construction costs rise, vacancy rates remain low and the population over the age of 65 continues to grow.



*Start your life!
Live your dream!*



OUR PROGRAMS

<p>Accounting</p>	<p>Starting a Business</p>
<p>Secretarial and Legal Studies</p>	<p>Sales Representation Professional Sales</p>
<p>Hotel Reception</p>	<p>Professional Cooking</p>
<p>Contemporary Professional Pastry Making</p>	<p>Food & Beverage</p>

REGISTER TODAY 514-381-5440

PIUSCENTRE.COM

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



FOLLOW US ON



Summer heat in the North Shore is "ruff"

ALESSANDRO COMMISSO

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
alessandro@newsfirst.ca

As temperatures climbed into the low-to-mid 30s with humidex, residents across the North Shore have found themselves dealing with more than just a typical summer heatwave. In recent weeks, the region has experienced a combination of intense heat, humidity, severe thunderstorms and damaging winds, forcing many people to adapt their daily routines to increasingly unpredictable weather.

The oppressive humidity has been one of the defining features of this summer's weather across the North Shore. According to data published by The Weather Network, humidity levels in the Blainville area were hovering around 70 per cent during the July 2 storm system. Conditions are expected to become even more uncomfortable this week, with forecasts showing humidity levels reaching 80 per cent and climbing as high as 88 per cent at certain times. Combined with temperatures approaching 34 C and humidex values well into the upper 30s, the moisture-laden air has made outdoor activities significantly more challenging for residents and workers who spend long hours outside.

Walking woes

For one local professional, the weather is more than just a conversation topic. It is a daily challenge.

Jen Jones, a dog walker who works throughout Saint-Eustache, Deux-Montagnes, Sainte-Marthe-sur-le-Lac and Laval West, spends most of her workday outdoors regardless of the conditions. Whether it is blistering heat, heavy humidity or strong winds, Jones and her four-legged clients still need to get outside.

"Basically every walk for me is a sniffari," Jones

explained. "A sniffari is literally letting the dog go wherever they want. Within reason, with safety in mind and all that stuff."

On especially hot days, Jones carefully plans her routes around green spaces and shaded areas.

"I picked [Mila] up at her house, and then we made our way here to the park, and on a day like today, we're probably not going to leave the park," she said. "The park's big enough that we can spend 50 minutes here, depending if it gets too hot."

Shade becomes essential when temperatures soar. Jones avoids pavement whenever possible and says she regularly checks walking surfaces before allowing dogs to cross them. If the pavement is too hot for her hand to remain on it comfortably for seven seconds, she considers it unsafe for a dog's paws.

The heat affects dog owners and walkers just as much as it affects pets. Jones says staying hydrated is critical during long days outside. She carries water, snacks and electrolyte-rich foods to help avoid dehydration, dizziness and fatigue while moving from one client to another.

Like many outdoor workers across the region,



Professional dogwalker Jen Jones giving Mila a sip of water to cool down.

Jones has had to alter her routine repeatedly this summer.

"A lot of the walks I had to shorten," she said. "That is in my policies with my clients. They understand, they know, that if it's too hot, it's too hot. So we'll cut it short."

Extreme heat also changes what Jones brings on her walks. In addition to extra water, she sometimes packs frozen treats made from watermelon or bone broth to help dogs cool down. If conditions force a walk to end early, she keeps puzzles, toys and enrichment activities nearby to ensure the animals still receive valuable mental stimulation.

Blainville hit hard

On July 2, a powerful storm swept across large sections of the North Shore, bringing heavy rain, strong winds and widespread power outages. One of the hardest-hit areas was the Fontainebleau sector of Blainville, where residents awoke the next morning to fallen trees, scattered debris and major cleanup efforts.

Roads were littered with branches; mature trees were uprooted and cleanup crews worked throughout the neighbourhood to restore normal conditions. Some residents spent much of the following day removing debris from their properties, while others dealt with power outages and damaged landscaping.

A recipe for powerful storms

According to Environment and Climate Change Canada meteorologist Simon Legault, the same oppressive conditions that made the heatwave so uncomfortable also helped fuel the violent storms that followed.

"Last week we were in the heat wave. There was a lot of heat, a lot of humidity as well, and those are two ingredients that can help generate very powerful thunderstorms," said Legault.



Damaged tree caused by severe storm on July 2 at the corner of rue Lucien and rue Paul-Albert in Fontainebleau.

He explained that the warm, moisture-filled air mass covering much of southern Quebec created ideal conditions for storm development. Once storms were triggered, some rapidly intensified, producing the damaging winds and heavy rainfall that swept across parts of the province.

Legault also noted that humidity often plays just as important a role as temperature during heat events. High humidity can make heatwaves especially difficult because it prevents the body from cooling efficiently and keeps overnight temperatures elevated.

"We need to plan cities differently," he said. "We need to get greener cities as well so that helps relieve some of the warmer days."

He pointed to tree planting, shaded public spaces, greater access to water and expanded green areas as practical ways municipalities can help residents cope with future heat events.

Similarly, Jones believes local infrastructure could play a greater role in helping residents and their pets stay safe. She points to a lack of public water fountains and insufficient tree cover in some newer neighbourhoods.

"I mean, it just sounds so obvious, but just be smart," she said. "Just, like, a global piece of advice. Obviously, drink water, take breaks, stick to the shade."

As another week of oppressive heat and humidity settles over the North Shore, it is advice many residents may be wise to follow.

FOR SALE

Chomedey: Enjoy the best of both worlds in this stylish two-bedroom, open-concept condo. Located in the heart of the action, this home features a beautiful kitchen designed for both daily life and hosting. Commuting is a breeze with immediate access to major highways and a location just minutes from the Lachapelle Bridge. Best of all, you'll never hunt for a spot with two dedicated parking spaces (one garage, one exterior).

MLS: 23852845

Chomedey: Step into this beautiful family residence, 3 +1 bedrooms, 1 ½ bathrooms, grand kitchen, showcasing an open concept layout and impressive high ceilings. Designed for comfortable and functional family living, this home is ideally located in the heart of a vibrant area near schools, shopping, transportation, and more. With a private backyard and inground pool, in a harmonious community, this property offers an exceptional opportunity you won't want to miss.

MLS: 21585233

SOLD IN 4 DAYS!!

Chomedey: Discover this 1 bedroom, 1 bath, newer construction condo ideally located in the heart of Laval, just steps from groceries, pharmacies, schools, parks, daycares, restaurants, and public transit. The open concept layout features large windows that flood the space with natural light, complemented by quality finishes throughout. This well built concrete and steel structure offers superior soundproofing between floors, two elevators, and a convenient storage locker. Also enjoy access to a cardio gym on the main floor and a stunning rooftop terrace with panoramic views. Easy to visit! Must see!

MLS: 13585109

Laval: Here is your opportunity to become a homeowner in one of Fabreville's most soughtafter neighbourhoods. This charming semi-detached bungalow offers generous living space and has been beautifully maintained by its owners over the years. The property features a total of 3 bedrooms and 1+1 bathrooms. The main floor boasts a bright, openconcept layout that seamlessly connects the kitchen and dining area, complemented by a welcoming living room perfect for relaxing. The basement provides an excellent additional living space with a cozy family room ideal for unwinding or hosting guests.

MLS: 14952293



NEW LISTING

FOR RENT

Cote-des-Neiges: Apartment for 4 ½ for rent. Newly renovated 2 bedroom apartment located in the Cote-des-Neiges/Notre-Dame-de-Grace close to all amenities, shopping, schools and transportation. Included are all stainless-steel appliances, fridge, stove, dishwasher, washer/dryer and cooking fan. Close to all services, restaurants, hospital and pharmacies. Available for July 1st, 2026.

MLS: 19933966



Ste-Dorothée: Experience ultimate convenience in this bright and airy two-bedroom apartment. Located in the vibrant heart of Ste-Dorothée, you're just steps away from shopping, schools, and public transit. Effortless highway access makes commuting a breeze. This must-see unit features windows that flood the space with natural light and includes an exterior parking spot. Easy to visit!

MLS: 13838743



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

EXCELLENT SERVICE | EXCEPTIONAL RESULTS



ROYAL LEPAGE
HUMANIA CENTRE
AGENCE IMMOBILIÈRE 450.682.2121

Step inside Maxime Lacourse's living gallery

ALESSANDRO COMMISSO

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
alessandro@newsfirst.ca

Tucked away on Chemin Principal in St-Joseph-du-Lac, a home-based art studio is quietly gaining a strong reputation. Maxime Lacourse, the artist behind the work, is steadily becoming a recognized name across the North Shore.

Lacourse recently took part in the fifth edition of Rosemère en Arts, held on June 6 and 7, where he was featured as the honoured guest. During the event, he was given a dedicated time slot from 1 to 2:30 p.m. on both Saturday and Sunday to create a live painting in front of attendees. For many visitors, it was an opportunity not only to observe his technique, but to witness how an idea takes shape on canvas.

"I had such a great time doing the Rosemère en Arts event," said Maxime Lacourse. "It's the best way to get people into the hobby, or spark their creativity."

Nostalgia through paint and memory

That philosophy reflects Lacourse's overall approach to art. For him, painting is not just about producing finished works. It is about inviting people into the process and allowing them to connect with creativity in a personal way. His own journey began at an early age and has remained consistent ever since.

"I've been painting and showcasing my work since I was 16 years old," said Lacourse.

Over time, his work has evolved into a distinctive exploration of memory and identity, most notably through the theme of nostalgia. Working primarily in oil, Lacourse builds scenes that feel both familiar and dreamlike, drawing from childhood, collective memory, and Quebec's cultural past.

"I typically work on oil paintings and the theme I've been exposing recently has been the theme of nostalgia," he said.

Rather than presenting nostalgia as something fixed, Lacourse approaches it as something fluid and open to interpretation. His paintings often incorporate archival elements, including photographs of real people, which he transforms into layered compositions. In one piece, he used individuals from St-Joseph-du-Lac, sourced from historical archives from Rose-des-Vent elementary school grounding his imaginative work in real stories.

This connection between reality and imagination is central to his practice. He frequently works with people who provide personal photographs and objects, allowing him to reinterpret their histories into visual narratives. These paintings become more than artistic expressions. They act as living representations of personal and collective memory.

Despite this strong narrative foundation, Lacourse avoids guiding the viewer toward a single meaning. His work is intentionally open-ended, giving space for interpretation.

"When I'm painting, I'm not going to neces-



Maxime Lacourse in his backyard studio.



An example of Lacourse's archival-inspired work, where historical images are transformed into dreamlike scenes.



A waterfall and koi pond, built into a natural rock formation, form the centerpiece of Maxime Lacourse's backyard artistic retreat in St-Joseph-du-Lac.

sarily portray a clear story or a timeline of action on the canvas. I want the viewer to appropriate the story themselves," he said.

Where theatre meets visual art

Another major influence in Lacourse's work is theatre. A long-time passion, it shapes not only the subject matter of his paintings but also how they are constructed. His compositions often resemble stage sets, where objects and figures feel carefully placed, as if part of a scene waiting to unfold.

"I like to paint theatre. I've always been a theatre kid ever since I was young," he said.

This theatrical influence introduces an element of illusion into his work. Like a stage production, where scenery shifts and expectations are challenged, Lacourse's paintings play with perception. Objects appear to suggest a story, but nothing is fully explained. This creates a sense of mystery that invites viewers to engage more deeply.

That same spirit extends beyond the canvas and into Lacourse's home itself. Over the past 25 years, he has transformed his property into an immersive artistic environment that mirrors his work.

Upon arrival, visitors are immediately immersed in his world. While the front door offers a conventional entry, a path to the right leads directly into his gallery. The walls are filled with paintings, portraits, and collected images, each contributing to a layered visual narrative. The space feels less like a display room and more like an extension of his creative mind.

Outside, the experience becomes even more striking. A rock formation that was already present on the property has been transformed into a waterfall, complete with flowing water and koi fish swimming below. Surrounding it are sculptures and decorative objects, many of which have been gathered over time through personal connections.

"Friends of mine have helped me over the years," he said. "For example, this sculpture [Manneken Pis] was found in a scrap yard by a friend of mine and they gave it to me."

The studio itself sits slightly elevated in the backyard, just steps above the gallery. It is here that Lacourse produces most of his work, constantly experimenting with new ideas and techniques. Recently, he has expanded his practice to include more dimensional elements.

"I've been trying to get into making more 3D painting with the goal of collecting a lot of them and exposing them," he said.

His home, much like his art, is never static. It is an evolving space that he continually reshapes, adding and removing elements as his vision changes.

"I'm always putting stuff up, then taking it down and so on and so forth," he said.

Part of the inspiration for this environment comes from travel. Lacourse often reflects on his experiences in Europe, where architecture, history, and atmosphere combine to create a sense of unreality.

"I've wanted to live around theatre décor so I designed my house specifically to evoke those types of emotions," he said.

That feeling of stepping into another world is something he has spent years trying to recreate. Each summer, he opens his space to visitors, welcoming them to experience it firsthand.

"As of July I try my best to get as many people here as possible," he said. "I want them to see everything I've created but more importantly I want to be able to be inspired by it."

In addition to his artistic practice, Lacourse is deeply involved in teaching. At the Centre d'Art d'Argenteuil in Lachute, he offers courses in portraiture and animal portraiture, working with a diverse range of students. Many of his students are adults looking to improve their skills or reconnect with art, while others come seeking inspiration or direction.

"I love teaching students who have never had any sort of art training," he said.

He also works with more experienced artists who are searching for new direction, offering guidance to help them overcome creative blocks. Through his masterclasses, Lacourse demonstrates his techniques before encouraging students to explore their own approach.

"I act as a guide for them to express their emotions through their work," he said.

Through his paintings, his home, and his teaching, Maxime Lacourse has built something that goes beyond a traditional art practice. He has created a fully immersive experience where nostalgia, theatre, and imagination intersect.

In that space, each person can become apart of the story.

500
for
\$1.48
each

including logo with 1 colour

durable and affordable custom PENS

MEDIA-TREK®

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

July 10, 2026 • The North Shore News • 7

SWLSB officials reeling after parents' personal info mistakenly e-mailed

'We understand that many parents are feeling upset,' says board chair Di Sano

MARTIN C. BARRY
marty@newsfirst.ca

Parents of teens enrolled at the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board's Rosemère High School in Rosemère were in a state of shock late last week as news spread about a digital spreadsheet e-mailed to them which contained sensitive personal information – including a list of names with corresponding social insurance numbers. The e-mail, with 2026-27 back-to-school information for parents, came with an attached Excel spreadsheet that also contained several other types of personal information.

Sensitive personal info

When the foul-up was discovered last Thursday by school board officials, they sent a message

by late afternoon warning parents not to open the email, followed by an attempt to recall the e-mail a few minutes later.

"This document contains sensitive personal information, including but not limited to addresses, phone numbers, email addresses and social insurance numbers of all Rosemère High School parents that have a child registered for the 2026-2027 school year," said the message.

"While the distribution was limited to this group, we recognize the seriousness of this incident and the importance of protecting every family's personal information," it stated, while adding, "We sincerely apologize for this situation."

DELETE immediately

"Do not open and immediately DELETE the email received today," the school board wrote,

saying that parents would be asked to sign a document by 4 pm on July 3 confirming they deleted it and did not share the spreadsheet.

The school board said it is "investigating the circumstances" that led to the email being sent.

"On behalf of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board, we wish to offer our sincerest apologies to families of Rosemère High School affected by today's information security breach," chairperson James Di Sano wrote in a statement also sent out.

"We understand that many parents are feeling upset and concerned. This incident is being treated with the utmost seriousness." Di Sano said the breach will be reported to the Commission d'accès à l'information du Québec, "in accordance with our legal obligations."

Credit monitoring needed

"We are committed to being transparent, and to

keeping our community informed as additional information becomes available," wrote Di Sano. "Our focus remains on addressing this matter with the care, accountability and seriousness it deserves."

One digital security expert suggested that close credit monitoring may become a necessity for anyone whose name appeared on the list. Among the risks from such an exposure are identity theft, as well as loans or credit cards fraudulently obtained by perpetrators who could get access to the list.

Although there was no immediate announcement by the SWLSB as to whether it would sponsor credit monitoring, the school board vowed to "implement any additional measures necessary to strengthen our processes and prevent this from happening again."

Three arrested after suspected vehicle arson in Boisbriand commercial district

MARIA DIAMANTIS
info@newsfirst.ca

Three people, including a minor, have been arrested following a suspected vehicle arson in a commercial area of Boisbriand, according to the Régie intermunicipale de police Thérèse-De Blainville (RIPTB).

Police say the incident occurred during the early morning hours of June 21, when emergency services were called to a vehicle fire shortly after 6 a.m. Officers responded quickly and, using information gathered at the scene, were able to identify and locate a vehicle believed to be connected to the incident just minutes later.

The three occupants of the vehicle were arrested without incident.

Following their arrests, all three suspects were interviewed by investigators before being released on promises to appear in court. Police said the individuals must comply with several release conditions while the investigation continues.

Authorities have not disclosed the identities of the suspects or provided details about a possible motive. Because one of those arrested is a minor, additional restrictions apply regarding the release of identifying information.

Investigators also have not indicated whether the suspects were known to the victim or whether additional charges could be laid as the investigation progresses.

Chief Inspector Martin St-Pierre said the swift response by patrol officers played a key role in quickly locating the suspects and securing the scene.

He emphasized that the fire appears to have been a targeted and isolated incident, adding that at no time was public safety in Boisbriand considered to be at risk.

"The rapid intervention of our patrol officers

allowed us to quickly locate the suspects and secure the scene," St-Pierre said in a statement. "Although this event may cause concern, it was a targeted and isolated act. At no time was the safety of Boisbriand residents compromised."

Police say investigators continue to gather evidence and conduct additional investigative steps. The case remains active, and authorities have not ruled out the possibility of further developments.

The RIPTB is asking anyone who may have information related to the incident to contact investigators confidentially at 450-435-2421.

Vehicle arsons are treated as serious criminal offences under the Criminal Code of Canada, particularly when they involve deliberate fire-setting that could endanger people or nearby property. While police believe this incident was specifically targeted, investigators continue working to determine the circumstances surrounding the fire and whether others may have been involved.

For now, police are reassuring residents that there is no indication of an ongoing threat to the broader community while the investigation proceeds.

MEDIA-TREK®

NOW OFFERING TOP BRANDS OF APPAREL!



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





ALESSANDRO COMMISSO

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
alessandro@newsfirst.ca

Under sunny skies and surrounded by a sea of red-and-white flags, families from across the region gathered at Parc Central on July 1 to celebrate Canada Day with a full slate of entertainment, community activities, local businesses and live music, including a headline performance by Quebec rock singer Rosa Laricchiuta. The annual event once again transformed the heart of Deux-Montagnes into a vibrant gathering place where residents of all ages came together to celebrate both their country and their community.

From the moment festivities began, the grounds were filled with activity. Children darted from one attraction to the next while parents settled into lawn chairs, caught up with neighbours and made their way through the various attractions spread throughout the park. The celebration featured something for everyone, from family-friendly activities and entertainment to shopping opportunities and musical performances that continued throughout the day.

One of the most eye-catching attractions on site was a massive inflatable bouncy castle shaped like a giant football player. Standing high above the festival grounds, the colourful inflatable quickly became one of the day's biggest hits, drawing a constant stream of excited children eager to climb, jump and play.

Fun for the whole family

For 36-year-old Isabelle St-Croix, a lifelong Deux-Montagnes resident, seeing children enjoy themselves is part of what makes the annual celebration so special.

"My family and I have been coming here for years," she said while watching her children explore the grounds. "It's super fun."

St-Croix said the event offers the perfect way to kick off summer while spending quality time with family and friends.

"There are millions of things to do, from the bouncy house, the music, the pool – we just love it," she said.

The atmosphere throughout the afternoon reflected those sentiments. Families moved freely between activities while music echoed across the park. Everywhere one looked, children were laughing, running and enjoying the wide variety of attractions available.

Canada Day celebration brings community together in Deux-Montagnes

If there was one area of the festival that rivaled the popularity of the giant inflatable football player, it was the face-painting station.

Throughout much of the day, families lined up patiently for the opportunity to have their children transformed into superheroes, animals, princesses and colourful fantasy characters. At several points during the afternoon, an estimated 50 to 75 people could be seen either standing in line or gathered nearby watching the artists work.

Among the eager youngsters waiting their turn was St-Croix's eldest daughter, Charlotte.

"My oldest daughter, Charlotte, loves to get her face painted," said St-Croix. "She was whining all week to get the chance to do it."

The face-painting area became one of the unofficial gathering spots of the festival. Parents exchanged stories while waiting in line, children showed off their designs, and photographers captured countless smiles as freshly painted youngsters ran off to enjoy the rest of the day's activities.

Beyond the attractions geared toward children, visitors also spent considerable time exploring a vendor lane featuring local businesses, artisans and community organizations. The market-style corridor allowed attendees to browse a diverse selection of products while supporting entrepreneurs from the region.

Handcrafted items, specialty goods and unique local products lined the route, attracting a steady flow of visitors throughout the day. Many attendees stopped to chat with vendors, learn more about local businesses and take-home souvenirs from the celebration.

For St-Croix, supporting local vendors is one of the highlights of the annual event.

"I love supporting these local artists and vendors," she said. "You can't get stuff like this anywhere."

The marketplace contributed to the community-oriented atmosphere that defined the celebration from beginning to end. Rather than simply serving as a venue for activities, the event created opportunities for residents to connect with local businesses and organizations that play an important

role in the region.

Patriotism on full display

The celebration also attracted the attention of local political leaders. Member of Parliament for Rivière-des-Mille-Îles Linda Lapointe could be seen throughout the afternoon greeting residents, shaking hands and stopping to chat with families.

Moving comfortably through the crowds, Lapointe spent time speaking with constituents and participating in the festivities alongside local residents. According to attendees, the MP repeatedly expressed how proud she was to be at the event and how much she loves Canada.

Her presence reinforced what many participants described as one of the central themes of the day: pride in both country and community.

That patriotic sentiment was certainly shared by St-Croix.

"I am deeply grateful to be Canadian, and incredibly proud to call this country home," she said. "My greatest hope is that my children will share that same sense of pride and carry it forward for generations to come."

Throughout the park, that pride was easy to see. Canadian flags adorned strollers, bicycles and backpacks. Children wore Canada-themed clothing while others had red-and-white maple leaves painted on their faces. When residents gathered to recognize Canada's birthday, there was a clear sense that the celebration meant more than just another summer event.

Yet for many attendees, the day was equally about strengthening the social bonds that make a community thrive.

"You know, we're a small town here in Deux-Montagnes," said St-Croix. "It's important for us to come together, laugh, have fun, and be community oriented."

The sense of togetherness was evident everywhere. Neighbours stopped to talk with one another; volunteers worked tirelessly behind the scenes and local organizations contributed to the festive atmosphere. There was a feeling that everyone present was helping create something larger than themselves.

First-timers always welcomed

Among those experiencing the event for the first time was Clovis Fortin of Baie-du-Lac.

"This is my first time coming to the Canada Day celebration and it's a blast," said Clovis Fortin.

Although many attractions were clearly designed with children in mind, Fortin said he was pleasantly surprised by how much there was for adults to enjoy.

"I don't have any kids but it's still fun to go out with my wife and enjoy the festivities."

As afternoon turned into evening, attention increasingly shifted toward the main stage.

Live music had been entertaining festival-goers throughout the day, but many visitors were eagerly awaiting the night's featured performer: Rosa Laricchiuta. The powerful vocalist, known throughout Quebec for her dynamic performances and memorable appearance on La Voix, generated considerable excitement among attendees long before she stepped on stage.

Fortin was among those looking forward to the performance.

"I was actually really excited to see Rosa Laricchiuta perform," he said. "She was one of my favourites on La Voix."

When her performance finally began, Laricchiuta delivered exactly the kind of high-energy show fans had hoped for. Her powerful vocals quickly drew spectators closer to the stage, creating one of the day's largest crowds and turning the celebration into what felt like a major outdoor concert.

The enthusiastic response from the audience demonstrated why Laricchiuta was selected as the event's headliner. Throughout her performance, spectators sang along, danced and cheered, helping create a memorable conclusion to an already successful day.

Watching the activities unfold also brought back memories for Fortin.

Reflecting on interactions with first responders during his childhood, he spoke about the lasting impact community events can have on young people.

"When I was young, a fire truck and a police car visited my school," he recalled. "The officers gave us a demonstration and showed us their vehicles, while the firefighters even let us try on some of their gear. It was an unforgettable experience, and for the longest time I dreamed of becoming a police officer because it inspired me so much."

As darkness approached, families began gathering across the park in anticipation of the evening's finale. Children made one final visit to their favourite attractions while parents settled in to enjoy the final moments of the celebration.

For St-Croix, the event's enduring popularity is no mystery.

"This is one of the best events on the North Shore," she said. "To celebrate our beautiful country, with our family and friends – honestly what's better than that?"





SÉCURITÉ

SPARTAN

SECURITY

A COMPANY YOU CAN TRUST

(514) 289-8585

25 years at your service!

- Burglar
- Fire
- Cameras
- Intercoms

ALARM SYSTEM INSTALLATION + 12 MONTHS MONITORING!



24 HOUR MONITORING

July 10, 2026 • The North Shore News • 9

BIXI expands across the North Shore, bringing bike-sharing to three new communities

MARIA DIAMANTIS
info@newsfirst.ca

Residents of Quebec's North Shore will soon have more options for getting around without relying on a car as BIXI expands its bike-sharing network into Boisbriand, Sainte-Marthe-sur-le-Lac and Sainte-Thérèse, while significantly increasing service in Saint-Eustache.

The expansion marks one of the largest recent additions to BIXI's network outside Montreal and reflects growing municipal efforts to promote active transportation and improve connections between neighbouring communities and public transit.

In total, the project adds 20 new stations and 108 bicycles, half of which are electric. The stations have been strategically located near residential neighbourhoods, commercial areas, parks, municipal facilities, activity centres and major public transit hubs, making it easier for residents to combine cycling with train and bus travel.

Saint-Eustache, where BIXI launched last year, is also seeing a major expansion. The city is adding eight new stations and 74 bicycles, bringing its total network to 16 stations with 154 bicycles, following strong public demand during its first season.

BIXI Board Chair Sylvia Morin said the expansion strengthens both the size and connectivity of the regional network. Because the system operates without geographic zones, subscribers can use the same membership throughout the entire BIXI network, making travel between municipalities easier.

She said the growing popularity of bike-sharing demonstrates that more Quebecers are incor-



porating the service into their daily routines and expressed the organization's ambition to eventually make BIXI available in communities across the province.

Each municipality highlighted different benefits of joining the regional network.

To celebrate the launch, BIXI and the four municipalities organized a 20-kilometre inter-municipal cycling relay linking Sainte-Thérèse,

Boisbriand, Saint-Eustache and Sainte-Marthe-sur-le-Lac. Thirty-seven participants, including municipal representatives, cycled portions of the route to symbolize the growing regional connectivity.

The North Shore expansion forms part of BIXI's broader provincial growth strategy. With the addition of the three new municipalities, BIXI now serves 17 cities across Quebec,

operating more than 13,000 bicycles, including 3,500 electric bikes, distributed among over 1,100 stations.

For North Shore residents, the expansion represents more than additional bike stations. It signals increasing regional cooperation aimed at reducing dependence on automobiles, improving connections to public transit and giving residents more sustainable options for everyday travel.

SAVE MONEY

Print your personal cheques with us with confidence!

Full Banking Security Features

160
cheques
for
\$64

450-978-0070

info@mediatrek.ca

mediatrek.ca

MEDIA-TREK®

Communications - Promotions - Marketing

Quebec's fastest-growing municipalities press for a new deal with the province

MARIA DIAMANTIS
info@newsfirst.ca

As Greater Montreal continues to expand, the pressure on local governments is mounting. Roads are becoming busier, infrastructure is aging, housing developments are accelerating, and municipalities are being asked to do more with limited financial flexibility. That reality took centre stage last week as elected officials from the MRC de Thérèse-De Blainville met with senior members of the Quebec government in what both sides described as a frank discussion about the region's future.

Held on June 25 in Sainte-Thérèse, the working meeting brought together Municipal Affairs Minister Samuel Poulin, Finance Minister Éric Girard, Blainville MNA Mario Laframboise, Argenteuil MNA and parliamentary assistant Agnès Grondin, along with regional municipal leaders headed by MRC Prefect and Blainville Mayor Liza Poulin. Their goal was not simply to discuss policy but to draw attention to the growing gap between municipal responsibilities and the resources available to meet them.

The issues raised during the meeting extend well beyond the North Shore. They reflect challenges facing municipalities throughout Quebec as communities attempt to accommodate population growth while adapting to changing provincial regulations and increasing climate pressures.

Among the most pressing concerns was the financing of drinking water and wastewater infrastructure. Municipal leaders argued that new provincial land-use planning requirements and obligations established through the Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal (CMM) are forcing municipalities to undertake expensive upgrades that local taxpayers alone cannot reasonably absorb. With infrastructure projects often costing tens or even hundreds of millions of dollars, municipal officials are seeking stronger financial participation from Quebec.

Another major concern involved what officials described as "double compliance." Municipal Regional County Governments (MRCs) in the Montreal metropolitan area must satisfy planning requirements imposed by both the provincial government and the CMM. Local leaders say these overlapping approval processes create unnecessary administrative delays, increase costs, and slow the implementation of housing, infrastructure and economic development projects. Simplifying those procedures, they argue, would allow municipalities to respond more efficiently to community needs.

The discussion also focused on the division of responsibilities between Quebec and municipalities when legal disputes arise. Municipal officials are calling for clearer rules regarding accountability, particularly in situations where local governments are required to implement provincial directives but remain exposed to litigation and financial risk. They believe greater clarity would improve decision-making and reduce uncertainty for municipalities managing increasingly complex projects.



Transportation emerged as another key priority. Like many rapidly growing suburban regions, Thérèse-De Blainville faces increasing congestion as more residents commute throughout the Greater Montreal area. Municipal leaders argued that achieving sustainable mobility requires more than expanding transit services—it requires predictable, long-term funding and governance structures capable of supporting regional transportation networks over decades rather than annual budget cycles.

Climate resilience also featured prominently in the discussions. Municipal officials asked Quebec to strengthen support for projects that protect natural environments while helping communities adapt to more frequent extreme weather events. They specifically highlighted the need to renew and expand the Trame verte et bleue program, which finances green corridors, wetlands, natural habitats and flood mitigation initiatives. Local governments increasingly view these investments not as environmental luxuries but as essential public infrastructure that reduces future costs associated with flooding, heat waves and storm damage.

For MRC Prefect Liza Poulin, the meeting underscored the importance of maintaining an ongoing dialogue between Quebec and local governments.

She emphasized that municipalities are the first level of government to respond to residents' daily needs and therefore possess the strongest understanding of local realities. Successfully addressing future challenges, she argued, will require a genuine partnership built on trust, flexibility and a shared long-term vision.

Rosemère Mayor and Deputy Prefect Marie-Elaine Pitre noted that the concerns raised extend far beyond a single region. Issues involving growth management, transportation, infrastructure and land-use planning are common across metropolitan municipalities, making collaborative solutions increasingly important as urban areas continue to expand.

Meanwhile, MRC Director General and Clerk-Treasurer Kamal El-Batal stressed that provincial programs must provide greater flexibility if municipalities are to respond effectively to the unique realities of individual communities. He argued that practical, adaptable government programs would ultimately deliver better outcomes for citizens than rigid, one-size-fits-all approaches.

The MRC has indicated it will continue advocating for these priorities as Quebec develops future policies affecting municipal governance and regional development.

While the meeting produced no immediate policy announcements, it highlighted a broader conversation taking place across the province: how Quebec should balance provincial oversight

with municipal autonomy as communities face growing infrastructure demands, climate adaptation, housing pressures and transportation challenges. For residents, the outcome of those discussions will ultimately shape everything from water systems and public transit to housing development and the taxes required to pay for them.

Thinking of **selling** or **downsizing**?

I can help!

**FREE
EVALUATION
WITH NO
OBLIGATION**



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

EXCELLENT SERVICE | EXCEPTIONAL RESULTS



ROYAL LEPAGE
HUMANIA CENTRE


AGENCE IMMOBILIÈRE 450.682.2121

For all your
printing and
promo needs



MEDIA-TREK

 **mediatrek.ca**

 **(450) 978-0070**

 **info@mediatrek.ca**

'Uncertainty' hangs over Canada's economy with non- renewal of CUSMA with U.S. *Canada-U.S. business relationships have weakened during trade war, CFIB says*

MARTIN C. BARRY
marty@newsfirst.ca

As CUSMA negotiations move into a new phase after the U.S. government's failure to renew the trade agreement with Canada, the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) is calling on Prime Minister Mark Carney's Liberal government to ensure small business priorities remain front and centre.

On July 1, when the Trump administration decided it would require annual reviews of the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement instead of renewing it in its current form, minister responsible for Canada-U.S. Trade Dominic LeBlanc issued a statement after a meeting with U.S. and Mexico counterparts.

Global economic uncertainty

"In this meeting, I reaffirmed Canada's unwavering support for the CUSMA and its renewal," said LeBlanc.

"Canada approaches these discussions from a position of strength and with the goal of preserving and strengthening one of the most successful trading relationships in the world," he continued. "At a time of global economic uncertainty, Canada is a stable, reliable and trusted partner."

Small business owners in Canada "are frustrated" with the uncertainty, said Dan Kelly, president of the CFIB, Canada's largest association of small and medium-sized businesses with 103,000 members across the country.

He said the ongoing uncertainty around tariffs and trade has delayed real decisions on investment and growth, while adding that "protecting Canada's existing CUSMA exemptions must remain government's top priority."

"While Canada's continued tariff-free CUSMA access has helped enormously," said Kelly, "small businesses are facing several major pain-points, including sectoral tariffs on steel and aluminum and challenges for small volume exporters in demonstrating CUSMA compliance."

Most SMEs want best deal possible

According to the CFIB, two-thirds (64 per cent) of small businesses in Canada support taking the time needed to secure the best possible terms for renewed or renegotiated CUSMA, compared to only 16 per cent who would prefer a quicker but potentially less favourable agreement.

The CFIB maintains that Canada-U.S. business relationships have weakened significantly during the trade war, with 75 per cent of SMEs saying the tariff fight has strained their relationships with U.S. partners or clients in April 2026, up sharply from 49 per cent in March 2025. Only 40 per cent of small firms now view the U.S. as a reliable trading partner.

As a result, nearly half (48 per cent) of Canada's SMEs trading with the U.S. have shifted to non-U.S. suppliers or customers. Among those, nearly three-quarters are pivoting to domestic markets. Beyond Canada, Asia (40 per cent) and EU countries (39 per cent) are the top alternatives though high shipping costs, border delays and complex custom procedures limit broader trade diversification.

No replacement for U.S. market

"While business owners are doing what they can to diversify their trade, we're never going to

be able to entirely replace the 340-million-person market that exists right along our border," said Kelly. "That's why it's so important to get this right and get a deal that business owners are confident will hold for years to come."

As talks continue, according to Kelly, negotiators should seek out areas where there is common ground for improvement, including making CUSMA more accessible to small business owners, streamlining customs rules at the border and clarifying rules of origin.

"As negotiators look ahead to the next version of the agreement, they need to understand it's not an easy process for small businesses to navigate," said Corinne Pohlmann, CFIB executive vice-president of advocacy. "Unclear rules of origin, and high compliance and administrative costs mean some small firms are forced to weigh paying tariffs instead of using CUSMA."

"We can do better," she continued. "Ottawa must ensure that small business voices are included in trade negotiations and secure a deal that is clear, accessible and works for businesses of every size."

Uncertainty hangs over businesses

In an interview with Newsfirst Multimedia, a spokesperson for the CFIB explained what the fallout might be for Canada's small and medium-size businesses in light of the non-renewal of CUSMA.

"I think the main concern on our end is that it just continues the ongoing uncertainty that has plagued small business owners since the trade war started," he said. All the same, he said there is some solace to be found in the July 1 deadline coming and going without great fanfare.

"Between the news and what the President was saying, maybe it was a little bit of cause of concern for the public. But knowing that CUSMA remains in place and that the deal doesn't just end on its own and there's a whole annual process to go through, I think that provides a little bit of certainty amidst the uncertainty."

"But the main thing as negotiations go forward and we continue in this uncertain situation, we don't know what's going to happen with the deal, we don't know what changes are going to be made," he added.

"And for small business owners across the country, that means they're going to continue to delay investment decisions, hiring decisions, business decisions until the ground becomes a little bit more stable."



**"Small business owners are frustrated,"
says CFIB president Dan Kelly.**



DIRECT ANSWERS

FROM WAYNE & TAMARA

INVISIBLE WOMAN

Q My boyfriend and I plan on buying a home together. He has been divorced 12 years and has four adult children, two boys from his first marriage and two girls from the second. They grew up together on weekends with their father and his second wife.

He and his first wife hate each other. He gets along with his two daughters and now, after a period of estrangement, with his older son. Recently he has not had contact with his younger son. I am concerned. This young man is a college grad but more of a mama's boy and in the past into drugs.

My boyfriend loves all his children and misses them terribly when they're not in his life. I have known him as a friend for 10 years, dated him for six, but the children have not met me.

When he dated and lived with another woman, she verbally mistreated the children. She never incorporated his family photos in their house, and all pictures were of her family only. I am sure the children noticed this the few times they were invited over.

My boyfriend is so proud to show me pictures of his children, and he tells me everything about them. I feel as if I already know each and every one of them. I want them to know I love their dad, and I open my arms to each of them as if they were my own.

I would like to invite his children often to our new home and get them into a more family-oriented relationship with their dad. I plan on making a wall with all our family photos. I would also like to have everyone for a long weekend at our home, or take a trip to a dude ranch or someplace fun. Would this be a good idea?

How should I go about bringing this once close family back together as a new family unit? What would be the best way to help my boyfriend get closer to his younger son?

Twyla

A Twyla, if you saw a man running down the street, what should you do? Do you think it might make a difference why he was running? Heck, yes.

If the police were chasing him because he assaulted a woman, you might lob something in his path to slow him down. If a large dog was chasing him, you might grab a shovel to hold the dog at bay. And if he was running for his health, you probably would do nothing at all.

Each of your boyfriend's children has a story, and if they told you their version of growing up, you might swear they weren't talking about the same family. It's fantastic to welcome them with open arms, but what looks to you like a once idyllic family may not have been so idyllic.

Start slow. You dated their father six years and these young adults don't know who you are. That shows a level of family disconnection. And your boyfriend's younger son? It doesn't sound as if he is on a spiritual journey. More likely he is running from what he comes from.

So first let the children know you exist. The grander event you make this, the grander the chance for a catastrophe. Don't go from zero to 60 with people you never met. Some family members don't mesh, and when they grow up and have their own personality, they may not enjoy each other's company.

It might be best to meet the children one at a time or on neutral territory, like a restaurant. They have an idea how they want their own lives to go. Don't be sad or surprised if you can't pull them together. But keep the door always open. Let them feel your warmth and your welcome. You can't resurrect the past, but you can create something new.

Wayne & Tamara

LOW ROAD

Q I have been dating my girlfriend a year. We dated a couple of months while she was still living with her previous long-term ex. Officially she was cheating, however, I figured our association was a stepping-stone out of what she called "a difficult relationship."

I recently learned she cheated on him several times over many years. I recoiled at this. She explained the latest of these episodes was eight years ago. This casts doubt on my belief she could be faithful to me. Should I pull the plug before I get in too deep, or

give her the benefit of the doubt and proceed with caution?

Barry

A Barry, the last time she cheated wasn't eight years ago. It was a few months ago. With you. How can you give your heart cautiously? Why don't you realize momentum may keep you with her when your worst fears are realized.

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

THE LAVAL
news

THE NORTH SHORE
News

Nouvelles
PARC-EXTENSION
News

Call 450 978.9999

Payment:



AVIS PUBLIC – Jour, heure et lieu des séances ordinaires du conseil des commissaires et du comité exécutif de la Commission scolaire Sir-Wilfrid-Laurier pour l'année scolaire 2026-2027

AVIS PUBLIC est par la présente donné que le règlement n° BL2000-CA-05 : *Jour, heure et lieu des séances ordinaires du conseil des commissaires de la Commission scolaire Sir-Wilfrid-Laurier* ET le règlement n° BL2008-CA-15 : *Jour, heure et lieu des séances ordinaires du comité exécutif de la Commission scolaire Sir-Wilfrid-Laurier* ont été adoptées à la séance ordinaire du conseil des commissaires de la Commission scolaire Sir-Wilfrid-Laurier tenue le 25 juin 2026.

Ces règlements entrent en vigueur le jour de la publication du présent avis public et sont disponibles sur le site Web de la commission scolaire.

Fait à Rosemère (Québec)

2 juillet 2026

M^e Anna Sollazzo, secrétaire générale

PUBLIC NOTICE – Day, Time and Place of Regular Meetings of the Council of Commissioners and the Executive Committee of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board for the 2026-2027 School Year

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that by-law no. BL2000-CA-05: *Day, Time and Place of Regular Meetings of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board* AND by-law no. BL2008-CA-15: *Day, Time and Place of Regular Meetings of the Executive Committee of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board* were adopted at its regular meeting held on June 25, 2026.

These by-laws come into force upon the publication of this notice and are available on the website of the school board.

Given at Rosemère (Québec)

July 2, 2026

M^e Anna Sollazzo, Secretary General

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)



Saint-Eustache blood drive collects 395 donations, highlighting strong community support

MARIA DIAMANTIS
info@newsfirst.ca

Despite extreme summer heat and a new venue, hundreds of residents rolled up their sleeves last week to help replenish Quebec's blood supply during Saint-Eustache's annual municipal blood drive.

The City of Saint-Eustache announced that its 51st Employee Blood Drive, held on June 30 at École secondaire des Patriotes, collected 395 blood donations. Of those donors, 273 were Saint-Eustache residents, demonstrating strong local participation in an initiative that has become a longstanding community tradition.

The event also welcomed 52 first-time donors, an encouraging sign for Héma-Québec as it works to maintain a stable blood supply across the province. New donors play a critical role in ensuring long-term sustainability, as blood products are needed daily for surgeries, cancer treatments, trauma care and patients living with chronic illnesses.

Municipal employees were also well represented. Fifty employees from 15 different municipal departments participated in the blood drive, reflecting broad support within City Hall for the annual campaign.

Municipal Councillor Isabelle Lefebvre, who oversees the initiative, thanked residents for their continued commitment despite the challenging conditions.

She said she was encouraged to see such a strong turnout even though the event was held during a heat wave and at a new location.

Mayor Marc Lamarre also participated,



making his 34th blood donation during the event. He described the annual campaign as a cause that is especially meaningful to him and encouraged even more residents to take part next year.

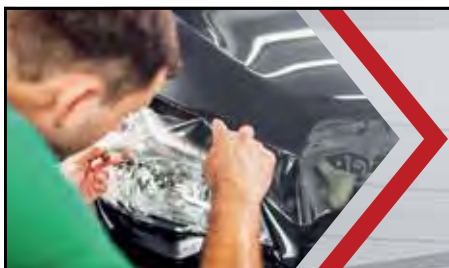
Lamarre invited people to consider donating with family members, friends or coworkers, noting that every donation has the potential to save lives.

The City also recognized the work of the organizing committee, made up of elected officials, former elected representatives and community volunteers, along with the many volunteers, donors, partners and Héma-Québec staff who contributed to the success of this year's campaign.

Community blood drives remain an important part of Quebec's healthcare system. Because

blood cannot be manufactured, hospitals rely entirely on voluntary donations to meet the ongoing needs of patients throughout the province.

The City of Saint-Eustache has confirmed that its annual blood drive will return in the summer of 2027, continuing a tradition that has now reached more than half a century of community participation.



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

A2 AUTO

HOROSCOPE

Week of **JULY 12 TO 18, 2026**

The luckiest signs this week:
LIBRA, SCORPIO AND SAGITTARIUS



ARIES

Although you prefer the comfort of your own bubble, you'll find yourself rushing here and there, responding to countless requests. Your family will need your presence, and you'll be unable to resist the urge to spontaneously offer your support and availability.



TAURUS

If you must address a crowd, prepare carefully—this isn't the time to improvise! At the same time, your gentle words will help ease tensions and resolve misunderstandings around you.



GEMINI

Choose your words carefully around certain people. Listen attentively and respond with tact to avoid unnecessary conflict. Also, keep an eye on your finances. An unexpected expense could disrupt your budget.



CANCER

Bursting with energy, you'll need to eat a healthy diet, take your vitamins and get enough sleep to support a healthy lifestyle. Your mind will overflow with ideas, but they may feel jumbled. Stay focused to turn your dreams into reality.



LEO

You tend to give too much of yourself to others, at the risk of seriously exhausting yourself. You'll be there for your loved ones when they need you, but you must learn to pace yourself to protect your energy.



VIRGO

Big responsibilities, some lacking clear direction, will land on your shoulders this week. Even at home, sharing tasks could prove challenging. Your patience and understanding will help you make your everyday life run more smoothly.



LIBRA

A professional transition could open the door to new training opportunities. Accepting this challenge could lead to a more prestigious and fulfilling role—one that aligns perfectly with your ambitions.



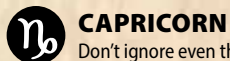
SCORPIO

Now is the ideal time to plan a getaway, explore a change of scenery and break free from your routine. Learning or refreshing a foreign language could also prove beneficial if you're planning to go abroad.



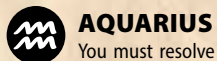
SAGITTARIUS

Emotions will be raw this week, demanding self-care and making you want to withdraw. Fortunately, your friends will support you, listen to you and cheer you up when you need it.



CAPRICORN

Don't ignore even the slightest bit of physical discomfort. Consult a health professional if needed. Trust your intuition to create a calm, protective atmosphere that encourages harmony at work and at home.



AQUARIUS

You must resolve urgent or unclear work matters before going on vacation. If you'll be swimming, make sure you're aware of the small risk of infection. If you're single, meeting new people could prove particularly enjoyable this week.



PISCES

Give yourself permission to enjoy movies, plays and other artistic performances. An opportunity to step into the spotlight may also arise, giving you the chance to share your talents and express your creative side.

Coffee Break

CROSSWORD

GRID N° 308

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12				13				14			
15				16				17			
	18		19	20				21			
22	23		24	25							
26			27					28	29	30	31
32							33	34			
35								36			
	37	38	39	40				41			
42	43	44					45	46			
47				48			49	50	51	52	
53				54				55			
56				57				58			

Copyright © 2026, Penny Press

ACROSS

- Bungle
- Night fliers
- Talented
- To the ocean
- Browning or Millay
- Be deceptive
- Schoolroom item
- Roman wear
- Wayside stopping place
- Bowling number
- Watered down
- Take to the slopes
- Pearl maker
- Request
- Present
- Heavy
- Boulevard
- Convey orally
- List of names
- Consequence
- Graceful tree

- Friendly
- Slip up
- Gorilla or orangutan
- Put away
- Over
- 22nd letter
- Cassette
- Flower urn
- At wit's _____
- Winter snow slider
- What _____ is new?

DOWN

- Ticked off
- Operate
- Celebration
- Synthetic
- Elect
- Forest
- Lawful
- No longer fresh
- Touched ground
- Cone-producing
- tree
- Watch over
- Musical tone
- Impulses
- River deposit
- Leg joint
- Desire
- Ran in neutral
- Inside
- Oil
- Semester
- Semicircle
- Ballot
- Boxers' weapons
- Attraction
- Run away to marry
- Primitive dwelling
- Cafe sign
- Rex or Lou
- Rant and _____
- Join in marriage
- Curvy turn
- Very small

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.

GRID N° 1001

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

LAST ISSUE'S ANSWERS

CROSSWORD

B	E	R	T	H	A	C	T	H	O	W
A	W	A	R	E	L	O	U	A	X	E
R	E	T	I	E	L	A	B	E	L	E
			B	L	O	W	S	T	O	N
L	I	K	E	F	E	T	C	H		
I	O	N	A	F	T	H	I	F	I	S
S	T	E	A	L	A	C	U	T	E	
P	A	W	N	S	C	O	P	M	E	T
			G	O	U	R	D	H	E	M
E	D	G	E	N	E	E	D	Y		
R	E	A	L	I	Z	E	R	E	P	A
A	L	P	T	I	P	U	N	I	T	E
S	I	S	S	P	Y	M	A	T	E	S

Sudoku

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



SAVE MONEY

Print your cheques with us with confidence

MEDIA-TREK®

Communications - Promotions - Marketing

info@mediatrek.ca | mediatrek.ca

Call us for more information 450-978-0070

July 10, 2026 • The North Shore News • 15

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

Amazing prices!

200 for \$84

400 for \$134

600 for \$164

Full Banking Security Features



BASKET OF *Fruits and Vegetables*

16 to 20 VARIETIES

THURSDAYS (PICKUP OR DELIVERY) & SATURDAYS (DELIVERY)

\$4.99 DELIVERY FEE

*Fresh products!
Nice variety!
Excellent value!*

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

Our weekly
customers
save
\$1,700
up to
per year

(514) 244-9885
panierdufermier@gmail.com



BIG BASKET (\$40)

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Yellow Cherries (bag) | 9. Black Plums (4) |
| 2. Green Grapes | 10. Limes (2) |
| 3. Strawberries | 11. Radishes |
| 4. Spinach | 12. Bananas (4) |
| 5. Broccoli | 13. Mushrooms |
| 6. Pineapple | 14. Mini Cucumbers (pack) |
| 7. Potatoes (5 lb bag) | 15. Tomatoes (3) |
| 8. Clementines (5) | 16. Lettuce |
| | 17. Garlic |

SMALL BASKET (\$22)

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Strawberries | 6. Zucchini (2) |
| 2. Spinach | 7. Green Beans |
| 3. Bananas | 8. Yellow Bell Pepper |
| 4. Romaine Hearts | 9. Mushrooms |
| 5. Grape Tomatoes | 10. Sweet Corn (2) |
| | 11. Onions (3-4) |

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

