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YEAR IN **PART 3** **REVIEW** **2021**

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Quebec re-opens restaurants dining in time for Valentine's Day



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COVID-19 pandemic - Several flexibilities as of January 31

Following the recommendations of Public Health, Québec Premier François Legault, accompanied by Health and Social Services Minister Christian Dubé and Acting National Director of Public Health Luc Boileau, today announced details of the upcoming flexibilities, which will take place in the first two phases.

Most of these flexibilities will come into force on Monday, January 31. The second phase, the relief of which concerns places of worship and public events (theaters and cinemas, in particular), can begin as of Monday, February 7.

These flexibilities will make it possible to promote a gradual resumption of economic and cultural activities as well as social life. Depending on the evolution of the epidemiological and hospital situation in Quebec, further relaxations could be announced in the coming weeks.

Private gatherings

Occupants of 2 residences, or a maximum of 4 people, will be able to meet inside a private home. It is strongly recommended that people be adequately vaccinated.

Restaurants

Reopening by welcoming the occupants of two residences, or a maximum of 4 people, per table.

Indoor capacity reduced to 50% and respect for a minimum distance of 1 m between tables.

Restaurants will have to stop selling alcohol at 11 p.m. and close at midnight.

Note that bars, taverns and casinos will remain closed for the time being.

Sports and recreation

Indoor civil sports or leisure activities, including classes, will be permitted for persons under 18 years of age:

- Activities limited to 25 people. No matches, competitions, or tournaments;
- Training only.
- Opening of food concessions.
- Ski chalets and snowmobile and quad relays:
- Opening of food courts. 50% capacity and distance of 1 m between tables;
- 50% indoor capacity.

It should be noted that outdoor sports and leisure activities will be allowed without restriction.

Educational settings

- Access to recreation centres for sport-study programs.
- Reopening of training facilities for student athletes.
- Resumption of extracurricular activities (without matches, competitions, tournaments). The vaccination passport will be mandatory for people 13 years of age and older.
- Special indoor activities and places
- Access to recreation centres for sport-study programs.
- Opening of some indoor spaces with 50% of the capacity (including the Biodôme, the Planetarium, aquariums, botanical gardens, insectariums, zoological gardens).

From 7 February

Places of worship

50% of the capacity (maximum of 250 people) *With vaccination passport*

Funeral

Maximum 50 people for funeral ceremonies, condolences and the display of the body or ashes inside. *Without a vaccination passport.*



Public events (including cinemas and theatres)

- Inside: capacity at 50%, or maximum of 500 people;
- Vaccination passport required. No intermission.
- Outside: capacity of 1,000 people;
- Vaccination passport required.

Living environments for seniors

Private Seniors' Residences (RPAs):
A maximum of 4 caregivers per day is allowed,

and it is possible for a resident to receive 2 caregivers at a time.

In the dining room, a caregiver can accompany a resident.

Residential and long-term care centres (CHSLDs) and intermediate resources that welcome seniors:

1 caregiver at a time is allowed, for a maximum number of 2 caregivers per day.

It should be noted that only adequately protected persons can have access to living environments.



on February 5, come play outside with us!

The City of Deux-Montagnes is pleased to invite the public to the very first edition of L'HIVERNALE, which will be held on Saturday, February 5, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., at parc Olympia. This new family event is an invitation to play outside and enjoy the many joys of winter!

On the beautifully illuminated site, several activities will be offered: skating to the sound of music (DJ on site!), lab-yrinth and snow forts, sliding hill, hot chocolate, Sapré Charles Foodtruck (\$), singer by the campfire and much more! Details of the program can be found below.

Important: in order to comply with the government measures in force, the vaccination passport and a valid ID will be required for people aged 13 and over wishing to access the site. Access to the event site is via Guy Street, near the park chalet.

PROGRAMMING | 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Starting at 6 p.m. |

- Skating on the illuminated ice ring (park chalet open, wearing a mask is mandatory)
- Sliding hill (bring your sled!)
- Maze and snow forts to delight the little ones

- Music (DJ on site)
- Snow games, by the Ludusium org.
- Hot chocolate, offered free of charge by IGA Les Marchés Lamoureux and served by the Maison des jeunes de Deux-Montagnes. Bring your reusable cup!
- Sapré Charles foodtruck (\$)

6:30 p.m. | Friendly hockey game between teams of the Lac Deux-Montagnes Minor Hockey Association

7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. | Performances by singer André Thériault around the campfire!

SANITARY MEASURES

- Vaccination passport required and valid ID Card for all persons aged 13 and over wishing to access the site.
- Park chalet: wearing a mask is mandatory at all times. No drink or food.
- Physical distancing between each family bubbles.

On the day of the event, access to the site will be restricted to facilitate the preparation of activities and the pal-ning of the different areas. In advance, the City of Deux-Montagnes thanks the citizens for their understanding.

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OPINION & Editorial

THAT'S WHAT I'M THINKING

Robert Vairo



The Market dives, Dairy Farmers vs Consumers, Free Vitamin D.

A friend of mine who is not familiar with the stock market, much less what the acronyms stand for, like DOW, S&P 500, TSX etc., asked me "what is going on with the markets?" He was aware of something not being right but couldn't quite figure it out. I don't know that much more about it, but was able to sight the usual symptoms of what market investors call a "correction".

I told him, there seems to be a number of reasons. Nothing is wrong with the companies that lost billions in value last week. In many cases these corporations were overpriced. In other words, the value of their stock did not reflect the company's worth, or capitalization. Another reason is the fear of inflation, now real at nearly 5% and the anxiety it will bring, higher interest rates, expected shortly. And investors, institutional and retail, who increased stock value by the billions during the pandemic, are now selling, cashing in. An example is Netflix down 20%, Amazon down 10%, Peloton down 24% (likely because it's reported it would pause production of its hot selling exercise machines). SHOPIFY, CanAada's great e-commerce enterprise was valued at more than the Royal Bank earlier this month. It lost its title as Canada's biggest publicly traded company plunging from a high of \$2189.32 a share a month ago, to a low of approximately \$1100.00 at the TSX (Toronto Stock Exchange) close last Friday. That's a drop of nearly 50%. Will it come back to its glorious highs, like other stocks that have dropped? Likely, in time, because Shopify and other companies that have lost value this month, are doing nothing wrong.

It's the nature of the market, but a very scary event, especially for seniors who use to rely on high pay outs from Canada Savings bonds and GIC's. In the glory days of the 1990's with mortgage rates at 15%, these savings instruments paid out a handsome 16% to 20% interest, with no risk attached. But today, with returns on savings at less than 1%, the stock market is where to invest to stay ahead, if not afloat. So are cryptocurrencies, that are also taking a dive. If they are not into real estate, and revenue properties, to supplement their income (renting and dealing with tenants is not for everyone) then they are left with little choice but to pay a financial advisor to buy them mutual funds. They have often chosen to invest themselves, without the added expense of 'the middle man', through self-directed investment accounts, and other online brokerage and self-management firms, that charge little

or no trade commissions or management fees. No matter who or what investment method is used, last week especially, everyone suffered.

The crash of 2008 took four years to recover. In 2015, it took over a year. So as history has taught us, we will resurface, and see company valuations slowly but surely regain prominence, only sometimes in another economic sector, and in varying periods. After suffering losses, for some it's the end, and never again will they invest in the stock market. Others see it as just another "buying opportunity".

I read something unusual recently. New Zealand criticized Canada and sided with the United States. In fact, the headline in the Financial Post read "New Zealand cheers Canada's loss in the dairy dispute". I did too. Not our loss, but our win. Canada's overly protected dairy farmers, with the "supply management system that has historically used high tariffs on imports to shield the domestic dairy producers from competition" from the U.S. and Europe, results in Canadians paying much, much more for milk, cheese and all other dairy products. Canada circumvented the North American free trade agreement by passing on the quotas to Canadian dairy companies who have little interest in rivalry, at our expense. And our Prime Minister is just fine with that, always in support of the Quebec vote and the powerful Quebec dairy lobby. Finding Canada in the wrong will hopefully lead to more competitive prices for milk and dairy products and help in lowering our atrociously inflated grocery bills.

While the Trudeau liberals say they are "protecting Canadians with more stringent gun laws", that same government is eliminating mandatory minimum sentences for criminals who use guns in the commission of an offence. That makes so much sense, doesn't it? Meanwhile Canada's homicide rate is up 7% from a year ago. (Statistics Canada)

Why are politicians and especially our health officials failing to mention that a strong immune system is also a great fighter against COVID? In Britain, they are giving out vitamin D, free! Seniors are receiving a four-month supply of the vitamin that health officials agree, "optimizing the immune response to mitigate clinical illness for any given viral load". If only our leading medical teams had the wisdom to help out our seniors stuck indoors, with no sunlight, in March of 2020.

Stay healthy. Walk, eat well, keep smiling.

That's what I'm Thinking.

Robert Vairo

robert@newsfirst.ca



#NewsMatters:

The National Assembly Report

By Raquel Fletcher

Premier calls for patience as pressure grows to reopen economy

The journalist was skillful to disguise any hint of desperation in her voice, but the question spoke for itself. "If we did everything right, why are we still in this so deeply?" she asked Premier François Legault at his press conference last Thursday.

Quebec had just announced that it would not be relaxing current health measures in the immediate future because people are still dying.

"It is my duty is to be responsible, to protect the lives of Quebecers, so let's be careful, let's be patient. Think of the staff in our hospitals. We will eventually get out of this together," Legault said.

Why are things so dire?

The premier said he knows how fed-up people are and praised Quebecers for their solidarity. Hence, the burning question: if Quebecers have done everything that has been asked of them over two years of this global health crisis, why then are things still so dire?

The restrictive measures currently in place are imperative to protect Quebec hospitals from breaking apart at the seams as they continue to be over capacity, especially in ICUs.

"I cannot compare really with what's happening in other provinces and states, but we know that right now the situation (in Quebec) is really tight," the

premier said. "We want to be able to continue to treat everybody and not delay important and urgent treatments."

The premier acknowledged, however, the pressure he was under to reopen certain parts of the economy.

Opposition cites "devastating impact"

Liberal Leader Dominique Anglade called for the province to allow children and teens to participate in sports again, citing the "devastating impact" the current situation is having on the mental health of young Quebecers. This plea was echoed again Friday by Quebec Solidaire's Gabriel Nadeau-Dubois during a meeting between the premier and some opposition leaders. Anglade opted out of the meeting after declaring earlier in the week that the CAQ government had lost control of the pandemic.

Quebec is also hearing from bar and restaurant owners who remain closed with no timeline for reopening. To add insult to injury, neighbouring Ontario announced it would allow these establishments to reopen at 50 per cent capacity at the end of the month.

"Please help us!" was how one Montreal bar owner summed up his desperation Friday.

Martin Guimond, the owner of Le Saint-Bock in

downtown Montreal said he is only \$25,000 away from bankruptcy and still has rent and municipal taxes to pay.

Morale at a low

Quebecers' morale is at a low, but the premier tried to remain optimistic, declaring that Quebec has now reached the peak of the fifth wave in terms of the number of hospitalizations and things should be improving soon. Twelve thousand health care workers are still missing from the system, mostly due to being sick with COVID-19 themselves, but Legault hopes many of them will return to work this week.

"So Plan B to reduce services will not be necessary," Legault said, referring to a contingency plan made public earlier in the week in the event hospitalizations continued to rise. "It was responsible to have a Plan B, but I want to be very clear, this Plan B has never been applied."

The province also announced a plan to reach out to the 565,000 unvaccinated adults in the province.

Junior health minister Lionel Carmant will be announcing the details this week. The government is particularly concerned about vulnerable populations, including immigrants who do not speak either French or English, who may have fallen through the cracks.

"We are making an extra effort to give the maximum number of chances to those who did not receive the information," said health minister Christian Dubé.

It's also a last effort to give another chance to the health network to handle this latest wave that can only be fought by once again putting the economy on pause.

Blainville: Commissions and budget

MARIA DIAMANTIS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
For The North-Shore News • info@newsfirst.ca

The municipal council of Blainville elected last November presented its new permanent commissions as well as their mandates and composition.

"Beyond the appointments of elected officials who will sit on the commissions, considerable reflection has been done on our governance and the decision-making process that we want to be both effective and aligned with the orientations and priorities that we have presented to the Blainvilloises and Blainvillois during the election campaign. Our priorities will thus be supported by the administrative apparatus and municipal services thanks to this governance structure. The commissions will be workplaces that will receive mandates directly from the municipal council and that will implement projects in line with our commitments with game plans, deadlines, follow-ups, and ultimately, the achievement of objectives," explained Mayor Liza Poulin.

The commissions will be overseen by the commission for administration, planning and development. In addition to the main commission which will meet on a weekly basis, the other commissions will hold monthly sessions. Each of the commissions will be supported by municipal directors and employees. Their main mandate will be to present the progress of files and make recommendations to the Board in their sectors of activity.

Budget

In a special meeting, the municipal council also adopted the city's operating budget for 2022.

This balanced budget includes a revenue and expenditure forecast of \$113.5 million. It also provides for measures to mitigate the impact of the new 2022-2023-2024 assessment roll, which increases the average value of properties by 18.48%. These valuations are established by an independent firm, based on the sales market.

"We are lowering tax rates and pricing to achieve a slight variation of \$54 in the tax bill for owners of a house with an average value of \$439,400. Without these measures, these same owners would have seen their tax bill increase by \$478. As often as our public finances allow us, we will act to preserve this ability to pay by the residents. This is our commitment," said Mayor Liza Poulin.

Highlights of the 2022 budget

All residential tax rates are revised downwards, which makes it possible to reduce the total of these rates from 0.685 to 0.613 cents per 100 dollars of assessment.

"In addition, the total amount of the tariff is reduced from \$444 to \$335 since the water tariff is now integrated into the residential rate. For owners who do not have a swimming pool, the total amount of the pricing is reduced to \$315," explained the councillor for the district of Alençon, Stéphane Bertrand.

For owners of commercial and industrial buildings and buildings with six or more dwellings, the municipal administration has also decided to lower the tax rates to limit the impact of the new assessment roll.

Regarding public debt, it remains stable "With a ratio of debt to our property wealth which stood at 8.5 billion dollars as of December 31, 2021, we obtain a ratio of 1.88% which is a slight decline despite significant investments that have been made such as the new workshops," added the adviser.

2022-2023-2024 capital plan

In addition to the budget, the municipal council



also adopted the 2022-2023-2024 capital plan which provides for projects with a total value of \$19.6 million, but whose cost is reduced to \$13.5 million thanks to government grants.

"For the WATER component, investments of \$11 million have been granted, including \$8.5 million for the construction of a 2nd Ayothe reservoir which will allow the City to build up a water reserve in the event of a fire. and to supply water to residents during peak hours of consumption," said Henri-Dunant District Councillor Jean-François Pinard.

In the SAFETY component, the Poulin administration is investing \$1.15 million, in particular to replace vehicles and equipment.

In the QUALITY OF LIFE FOR CITIZENS component, a budget envelope of \$1.3 million has been set aside for improvements to municipal buildings and to begin developing the concept plan for Place de la Savoie in the Chambéry district.

"The parks and green spaces development program, in the amount of \$3.6 million, will, among other things, replace the usual bins at the Equestrian Park with semi-buried bins to introduce organic materials, recyclable materials and waste. It will be a great addition to make our public activities more eco-responsible. Also, trails will be developed in the ravines of Fontainebleau, which includes revegetation and planting of trees, once the stabilization work currently underway is completed," said Councillor Jean-François Pinard.

Finally, \$2.6 million will be allocated to road repairs.

Improvement projects in some parks will be announced in the coming weeks.

Environment, forestry, citizen services, youth and others

Mayor Liza Poulin listed other projects that will help improve the quality of life of the population and that will be carried out thanks to the 2022 budget:

Major projects such as a new environmental policy including citizen consultation;

The hiring, in 2022, of a new resource who will report to the Direction générale to ensure an ecological transition in all municipal services;

A winter space at the Equestrian Park and the themed weekends Rendez-vous sous zero in February;

The urban forestry plan with investments totaling \$1.1 million for 2022;

A first economic development policy in collaboration with the business community;

New funds injected into the financial assistance program for entrepreneurship and the revision of admission criteria to help SMEs in the context of the pandemic;

Establishment of two new commissions to

optimize the service provided to citizens and to consult our organizations and associations;

The realization of the youth commission's action plan and the involvement of young people in various city projects;

And finally Improved maintenance of outdoor skating rinks and analysis of options to allow citizens to skate despite bad weather.

"This budget and new governance mark the beginning of our mandate. The year 2022 will be important in terms of consultations, major reflections, and start-ups under the themes of the environment, youth, inclusiveness and services to the population. The budget will also make it possible to launch initiatives that will contribute to the implementation of these themes. We are proud of this very first budget from our new administration," concluded Liza Poulin.

Over 1,114,000 doses administered in the Laurentians



MARIA DIAMANTIS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
For The North-Shore News • info@newsfirst.ca

Over 1,114,000 doses have been administered (as of January 11) in the Laurentians since the start of the vaccination campaign and the operation is progressing at a good pace according to Alain Jutras, director responsible for the COVID-19 vaccination file at the CISSS des Laurentides, during a conference call with regional media Tuesday January 18th

"It is important to check on Clic santé, because we are constantly adding appointments)" added Mr. Jutras. So much so that there is, according to him, "possibility of having an appointment in a nearby site and not too late in the calendar". Other good news, according to Alain Jutras: "We are pampered in the Laurentians, because we recruit vaccination staff every week".

One hypothesis that was put forward on Tuesday was this increase in opening hours could perhaps go through the addition of reinforcements in the coming days. It's still very early to think about that, but, in response to a question, Alain Jutras mentioned the possibility that we could take advantage of a helping hand from the Canadian Armed Forces in the centers of vaccination.

If that were to be the case, it would be in the vaccination centers in the south of the region that this extra help would be given. In fact, Alain Jutras explained that discussions have been going on for some time for the deployment of a contingent for Greater Montreal. If members of the armed forces were to come and lend a hand in the Laurentians, it would be in the vaccination clinics of Saint-Jérôme, Saint-Eustache and Blainville. The possibility of them coming to support the nursing staff must be ruled out. "These are service aids. They have no medical training," concluded Mr. Jutras.



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YEAR IN REVIEW 2021

PART 3

We take a thoughtful look

SEPTEMBER



Fall comes to the North Shore with Deux-Montagnes continuing celebrations. The mayor of Deux-Montagnes, Denis Martin, surrounded by members of the council municipal council, former elected officials of the City and dignitaries, proceeded to the opening of two time capsules, buried under a stone in the foyer of the town hall in December 1981 and then in August 1996. This trip in time was made at a press conference to mark the 100th anniversary of the City of Deux-Montagnes, during which Mayor Martin also completed the closing of the time capsule specially designed for the city's 100th.

The Town of Rosemère announced that it was receiving up to \$150,000 in financial assistance from the Ministère de l'Éducation to rehabilitate the Bouthillier Marsh walkway. The funding was being provided under the Programme de soutien à la mise à niveau et à l'amélioration des sentiers et des sites de pratique d'activités de plein air (PSSPA). The total cost of the project reaches \$500,000.

The advent of the Quebec vaccine passport has obliged the North Shore Municipalities to adjust their activities to require it. Both Rosemère and Deux-Montagnes have new directives for its use.



The Minister of Culture and Communications, Ms. Nathalie Roy, announced that the increase in the amounts allocated to autonomous public libraries (BPA) and centers Regional Public Library Services (CRSBP) is maintained. Financial assistance of over \$ 23.5 million is therefore granted to BPAs for the 2021-2022 period and nearly \$ 24.7 million is allocated to CRSBP for the next 3 years. She made the announcement at the Rosemère public library with the Minister of Finance and Minister of Economy and Innovation, Mr. Eric Girard.

The Minister of Transport and Minister responsible for the Estrie region, Mr. François Bonnardel, and a as well as many other ministers and dignitaries, confirm that the Gédéon-Ouimet bridge, located on Highway 15 and connecting Laval and Boisbriand, will be rebuilt.

This year, the Journées de la culture are celebrating their 25th anniversary. It is by drawing inspiration from the provincial theme Travel in time that the City of Saint-Eustache deploys,

on September 24, 25 and 26, a rich and varied cultural program aimed to please everyone.

Federal elections are over and the political landscape in Canada stays almost the same. In the North Shore the Bloc Québécois retained its majority presence. In Mirabel Jean-Denis Garon from the Bloc was elected with 46% of the vote with the liberal candidate François Loza receiving 24%. In Rivière-des-Mille-Îles, incumbent Bloc Québécois candidate Luc Desilets kept his seat with 41.0 % and Linda Lapointe from the Liberal party came second with 35.0 % Finally, in Thérèse-De Blainville incumbent Louise Chabot won comfortably with a 41% of the vote with liberal Ramez Ayoub receiving 35% of the vote.

OCTOBER



The City of Deux-Montagnes carried out the planting of 100 trees in parks and public spaces in the territory within a week. This planting coincided perfectly with the 100th anniversary of the city and the 10th anniversary of National Tree Day.



In its 18th annual report, under the theme "Children are our priority!", the Directors of Youth Protection showcased their resolute determination to improve what must be improved and highlighted their renewed, unflagging and unshakeable commitment to combat child abuse.

According to polling results for the 2021 Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board elections, incumbent chairman Paolo Galati won the race, outpacing challenger Noemia Onofre de Lima. In the 2021 board elections, the first in a good number of years, voters were called upon to cast votes only for the chairperson position, as all the board commissioners had been acclaimed in September 2020.



The mayor of Saint-Eustache launched, the overhaul of the Cultural Policy of the City of Saint-Eustache. He was accompanied by Ms. Nicole Carignan-Lefebvre and Mr. Raymond Tessier, municipal councillors as well as representatives of the cultural community. This change aims to align with the "Everywhere Culture" policy adopted in 2018 by the Government of Quebec. The Cultural Policy of the

City of Saint-Eustache was accompanied by a five-year action plan including concrete interventions to be carried out in two phases for the coming years.



The winners of the 33rd edition of the Fleurir Deux-Montagnes competition were also announced! At the time, the mayor and councilors from each of the districts hand-delivered local nursery gift certificates to the 17 winners. At the same time, they were able to observe the splendor of the flowery gardens which earned them a place in the prize list.

The returning officer and clerk of the City of Deux-Montagnes, Me Jacques Robichaud, proceeded on Tuesday October 5 to the swearing-in of Mayor Denis Martin and six municipal councillors, all re-elected, for a four-year term. The latter took an oath that they would exercise their functions in accordance with the Cities and Towns Act as well as the Code of ethics and professional conduct of elected municipal officials.

As the cities of the North Shore prepare for creepy nights and clouds of bats one city decided to warm up in an Hola kind of celebration. A few days before October 31, the City of Boisbriand invited citizens to register for the horribly sympathetic family animation, under the theme of the Mexican tradition of the Day of the Dead which was held on October 31, between 5 p.m. and 9 p.m., at the Nature Interpretation Center (480, rue de Chavigny)



The Tigre Géant stores of Sainte-Thérèse and Sainte-Marthe-sur-le-Lac as well as the brand new store in Saint-Eustache joined their sister stores all over Canada in supporting Operation Santa Claus in partnership with the Canadian Forces Morale and Welfare Services (CFMWS) to help deliver care packages to over 2,500 members of the Canadian Armed Forces deployed in Canada and across the world who were unable to be with their families for the holiday season.

NOVEMBER



The City of Saint-Eustache released the results of a petition demanding from the Quebec Ministry of Transport (MTQ) the redevelopment of the crossroads of highway 640 and 25th Avenue in Saint-Eustache. This petition, launched by the City of Saint-

back at last year's news

BY MARIA DIAMANTIS



Eustache, gathered the signatures of nearly 10,000 road users frequenting this busy sector, who thus informed the MTQ of their exasperation at the endemic congestion that is rampant in this strategic crossroads. Citizens who wished could also dial 511 and assert their demands in the face of the crossroads redevelopment file, which has dragged on for more than a decade.



Municipal were done and at the Rosemère curling club where incumbent mayor Eric Westram's Innovaction plus team and supporters had gathered to await them. Right from the beginning, as soon as the first polling station out of the 54 in Rosemère reported it was clear that Westram would hold a solid lead. The final results came down to a win for Eric Westram who got a 54% of the vote compared to Pierre-André Geoffrion who got 44,6 %. All of the candidates of his team were also all elected, some with sizeable majorities like counselor Philip Panet-Raymond that won with a 655-vote difference.

In Sainte-Thérèse, at the end of an intense fight in this electoral evening, Mr. Charron was elected mayor of the city. He succeeds Ms. Sylvie Surprenant who was the mayor since 2009. Another upset came in the city of Boisbriand Christine Beaudette was elected as mayor of Boisbriand succeeding incumbent mayor Marlene Cordato. In Blainville, Liza Poulin, head of the real Blainville party, made history as when she became the first female mayor of Blainville. It was by a strong majority over her rival Florent Gravel of the Mouvement Blainville that Ms. Poulin entered the town hall.



The City of Deux-Montagnes collaborated in the "100 radon screening kits" program of the Coalition Occupy yourself with Radon by providing a screening kit to the first 100 DeuxMontagnais who would register for the program.

Despite the fact Saint-Eustache-based Nova Bus had decided to make Plattsburgh NY the new hub for its future production of electric buses for the U.S. market, the company said investments from the Canadian government are helping to upgrade its manufacturing facilities in Saint-Eustache and Saint-François-du-Lac. The Volvo Group subsidiary, which has become a leading North American transit bus manufacturer, unveiled its new 100 per cent electric, long-range dual charging bus, the LFS_e+, at the New York Public Transit Association conference in New York State's capital, Albany. 17-47 cover

The Integrated Health and Social Services Center (CISSS) des Laurentides announced that 93 community organizations in the region had benefited from an increase in their recurrent funding for their global mission. In fact, following an announcement by the Ministry of Health and Social Services concerning the

increase in the envelope of the Support Program for Community Organizations (PSOC), a recurring sum of \$ 708,856 has been awarded to the Laurentians region in order to support the overall mission of organizations recognized by the PSOC.



Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada David Lametti, on behalf of federal Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Infrastructure and Communities Dominic LeBlanc, and Québec Transport Minister François Bonnardel, announced on Friday November 19, the extension of Autoroute 19 between Laval and Bois-des-Filion. Dignitaries from all three levels of government, including ministers, Members of Parliament, Members of the National Assembly and mayors of municipalities directly or indirectly impacted by the much-awaited and highly-desired highway project were present in large numbers to mark this important historical moment heralding the addition of 10-km to Autoroute 19, also known as Autoroute Papineau, which crosses the Rivière des Prairies the Papineau-Leblanc Bridge.

DECEMBER



The Premier of Quebec, François Legault, congratulated the first child in the 5 to 11 age group to be vaccinated. Young William, 10, was one of the first kids to pull up his sleeve. François Legault thanked and saluted the gesture of the child from Blainville, on the North Shore of Montreal. The latter expressed to the Prime Minister by videoconference that he wanted to be immunized to set an example and to protect his grandparents. The video of the meeting between the Prime Minister and William was broadcast on François Legault's social networks.



The MRC de Thérèse-De Blainville announced the election of Eric Westram, mayor of Rosemère, as its prefect during the ordinary meeting of the council of mayors. The latter therefore

chairs the council of the MRC, which has had a significant growth in recent years thanks to diverse economic development activities, the management of the Regions and the Rurality Fund, the administration of the emergency aid fund to SMEs-Covid-19s and the exercise of new responsibilities in terms of culture, heritage, planning, environment, and territorial and regional development. Also, the warden, Mr. Eric Westram, represents the MRC de Thérèse-De Blainville to the CMM.



The Boisbriand chapter of the Thérèse-De Blainville Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCITB), in collaboration with the City of Boisbriand and the members of the GrandeCôte committee, worked to promote businesses on Chemin de la Grande-Côte with the residents of Boisbriand through a visual identity and tools to promotional encourage traffic.

Deux-Montagnes Mayor Denis Martin was appointed to the Montreal Metropolitan Community (MMC) executive committee on December 9. The committee oversees the administration of the MMC's 82 member municipalities. The eight-member executive committee is chaired by Montreal Mayor Valérie Plante and includes Longueuil Mayor Catherine Fournier and Laval Mayor Stéphane Boyer. Mayor Martin will represent the interests of the North Shore on the committee



La Guilde de courtpointe des DeuxMontagnes presented to Mayor Denis Martin an art wall hanging created in honour of the City of Deux-Montagnes' centennial. The 66" x 55" quilt illustrated, through the art wall hanging, the evolution of the City of Deux-Montagnes through 43 key elements of history. A total of 1,430 hours of work were required to complete the quilt by 20 members of the Quilt Guild! "We have worked with enthusiasm throughout the development and creation of this project. We are proud to have participated in preserving the memory of the City of Deux-Montagnes," said Lorraine Brisson, president of the organization.

The Saint Eustache Police Department announced the implementation of the PIVOT Project (Intervention Project Aiming to better use Witnesses), an innovative initiative of the SPVSE (Service de police de la Ville de SaintEustache) aimed at combating the problem of domestic violence. To this end, the SPVSE proceeded with the hiring of a social worker or a social worker whose specific mandate was to provide a safety net for victims and to work upstream of situations of domestic violence.

Lorraine as 2022 starts

MARIA DIAMANTIS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
For The North-Shore News • info@newsfirst.ca

Budget

As the new year started, the new budget was presented by the administration with Mayor Jean Comtois highlighting certain files that were significant for the year 2021. With regard to public safety and the beautification of the territory, Boulevard De Gaulle has been reconfigured to improve the sharing the road. A new cyclopedestrian route has been set up on the west, north and south sides of the boulevard. On the other hand, several streets in the Ronchamp sector have been repaved and new play structures have been added to the André-Rufiange, Sorbiers and Sapins parks.

The Comtois administration pointed out that the city has been creative in the context of a pandemic, especially in the desire to get citizens moving and entertained. The mayor also reviewed the agreements concluded with the Golf de Lorraine and the Domaine Vert park in Mirabel to allow citizens to practice winter sports there for free. With a balanced budget of \$17,499,443, the fiscal year is down 0.18% compared to the previous year and allows both the



continuity of ongoing projects such as the sports complex, the noise barrier and the seniors' residence. The budget also involves a three-year capital expenditure program which announces investments of \$10,285,000. These amounts will be used to renovate, acquire equipment, and bring various buildings, parks and green spaces up to standard.

In addition, the new three-year roll indicates a variation rate of 18.53%, leading the city to reduce the combined property tax rate. Thus, the increase in the municipal tax bill is limited to 1.5%, below the consumer price index.

Public work of art: call for applications

Sculptors of Lorraine are invited by the city to present their abilities by submitting their application by February 20, 2022 at the latest to imoreau@ville.lorraine.qc.ca and propose a work that harmonizes with the chosen location and evokes seniors. It is expected that the selected sculpture will be installed in the spring of 2022. The selection committee will be made up of representatives of the municipality and a member of the Club Lorr "Aînés", an elected official as well as a person specializing in visual arts with knowledge of public art. Click here to find out how to register and the selection criteria.

"This project fits well with the orientations of our Cultural Policy. The latter aims to develop projects integrating the arts into the environment, to oversee the cultural development of our territory and to make culture accessible to all. It also pursues the objective of creating a sense of belonging to their living environment among the people of Lorraine. The choice of the surroundings of the Cultural Center as the place where to develop this Place des Aînés and install a permanent work of art was self-evident since this building has housed the premises of the Club Lorr "Aînés" for many years. We are excited about this project and are eagerly awaiting applications," said Diane D. Lavallée, municipal councilor responsible for arts and culture.

City of Sainte-Thérèse

Valentine's Day

Giveaway Contest

MARIA DIAMANTIS
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If there's one thing, we all need these days, it's kindness and love! Building on last year's success, the City of Sainte-Thérèse is once again offering the contest A Valentine's Day.

Until February 6, the city invites its residents to send them a message of love addressed to a specific person or to the whole community and they could have the chance to get their hands on a gift basket from the Maison des métiers d'arts 2021, an assortment of chocolates from Fays Terroir chocolaté, a gift certificate redeemable at 425°F restaurant, Jardin Dion, Librairie Ste-Thérèse, and more!

Whether the message is in the form of a poem or sweet words, the important thing is that it is composed by a resident and sent to saint-valentin@sainte-therese.ca. On February 7, ten winning messages will be drawn at random from all the texts received.

"Pull out your finest pen and be creative! What's more, this contest sends a wave of love to Teresian merchants. In addition to the prizes to be won at some of them, I invite you to think about the restaurants and shops of Sainte-Thérèse in anticipation of your next Valentine's Day evening!"

», said Mr. Christian Charron, Mayor of the City of Sainte-Thérèse. To create a great chain of love, the messages received will be shared on the City's website just in time for Valentine's Day. For the more shy, the messages can be broadcast anonymously on request.





DIRECT? ANSWERS

From Wayne & Tamara

The Heart Of The Matter

Q I have male friends who are just friends, but my husband is so insecure about them it is driving me crazy. A year ago Christmas he took our children to visit family out of town. I could not go because of work. While my family was gone, I invited a male friend to go to Christmas Eve service with me. I told my husband, and he had no reaction.

Six months later my spouse complained I was spending too much time with other men. He insisted I have one of the children with me to act as a chaperone. A chaperone for what I do not know, because nothing ever happens. We live in a small town with nosy neighbors who report my comings and goings to my husband. These neighbors must lead such boring and miserable lives they try to make my life as miserable as theirs.

My husband claims I disrespected him by taking a friend to church when he wasn't home. Wouldn't it have been more disrespectful if I had not told him? Nine years ago he had an affair with a woman in our home. I feel he's carrying around guilt about the affair and laying it onto me, which is not fair. I have been in therapy for a year now. My husband has gone to the last two sessions with me. I discovered he married

me because he felt "obligated" since we had sex before marriage. No, I was not pregnant.

In twenty years I have never been unfaithful and I don't plan to be, but I can't go on much longer with my husband not trusting me. This has driven a big wedge between us. My therapist says everyone deserves friends, whether they be male or female. Any advice?

A Sue, the wedge between you was driven nine years ago when your husband brought another woman into your home. Now he says he felt obligated to marry you, which undercuts the very basis of your marriage. True or not, he is saying love isn't the reason for your relationship and never was.

We believe you when you say you don't plan to be unfaithful. At least subconsciously, though, your contact with other men is an exquisitely slow payback for your husband's affair. It is a bit like pricking him with a pin, again and again. There is a word which starts with "d" that you have both been avoiding. It is time to stop skirmishing about superficial issues and discuss the heart of the matter.

Wayne & Tamara

When The Time Is Right

Q I am a 17-year-old male. I have been dating a 16-year-old girl for three months. I am sure we are both totally in love, but I am confused on a few things. First, let me say I know we are too young and too new at the relationship thing to just jump into sex. I realize this.

About a month ago we had a talk. She wondered why we never messed around and feared I didn't find her attractive. I had kissed her on the lips, but I never really kissed her. So I told her the truth. She is beautiful! I wasn't sure we were ready, and I'm clueless about relationships.

I said she could drop some hints, or even take the lead if she wanted. I am not talking sex, just messing around. I know the dangers well, so if something did happen I would know how to be protected. But anyway, why would we need to do that? It should be something we both want and not a "just because" thing. Don't get me wrong. I am ready, I just have no idea how to do it, or what to do even if she lets me.

Will she stop me if she doesn't want to go any farther? I would do nothing to hurt her or degrade her in any way. Why force something that isn't meant to be? That would just ruin it for both of us. We have signed notes "with love," but haven't said the words in

person. I guess I'm confused over her signals. Will the signs be clear-cut and bright as day, or will I have to look deeper than that?

A Chris, the answer is all over your letter. It isn't time yet. We aren't dismissing your feelings, though many adults would dismiss the idea young people are capable of genuine love. Yet these same adults know their children truly love them and other people important in their lives.

Feeling love, falling in love, sharing love doesn't happen on a timetable. You haven't even verbally expressed your feelings to each other. You don't know each other yet on a deep level. You don't yet know her plans, her desires, her moods, her hopes, her dreams. Intimacy takes time. It is not as simple as taking apart an engine. Sex without intimacy is a cheat. It is like being given the answers to a test without having the understanding behind the answers.

You can't hurry what is right. Love will not disappear. It will be there when you are ready. Give yourselves the opportunity to really know each other, and the signs will be clear as day.

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: DirectAnswers@WayneAndTamara.com



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HOROSCOPE

Week of **JANUARY 30 TO FEBRUARY 5, 2022**

The luckiest signs this week:
ARIES, TAURUS AND GEMINI

ARIES
You are surrounded by many good people in your personal and professional life. You'll devote yourself to someone you love. However, you may be taken advantage of.

TAURUS
You'll have a stressful week. However, it'll motivate you to focus on your health or exercise more. You enjoy the finer things in life. Therefore, try boosting your morale by occasionally treating yourself.

GEMINI
Your plans may be delayed due to unforeseen circumstances. At work, space out your meetings to avoid putting more stress on yourself. This is an excellent time to start your own business.

CANCER
Your friends will ask you to go on a spontaneous adventure. Nothing makes you happier than a change of scenery, even if it's just a walk in the park.

LEO
You may be going through an emotional time. Some people don't deserve your friendship and are draining your energy. Demand the respect you deserve.

VIRGO
You may be under a lot of pressure to make an important decision. However, take the time you need to gather all the facts and weigh the pros and cons.

LIBRA
You may find yourself inundated with work. Although you feel stressed, putting in the extra effort now will help you advance your career in the future.

SCORPIO
Although you prefer to keep a low profile, this week you'll be put in the limelight. You'll have to overcome your shyness and acknowledge those cheering you on.

SAGITTARIUS
If your children no longer live with you, you may decide it's time to sell your home to enjoy more freedom. If you're in a new relationship, you may discuss moving in together in the near future.

CAPRICORN
You'll have plenty of engaging conversations this week. At work, you'll expand your client base. Your advice will be well received and could help improve your finances.

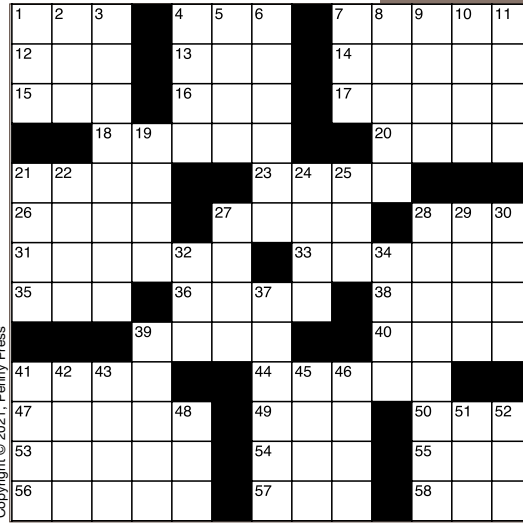
AQUARIUS
Money is a source of stress for many people. Give yourself a break by taking the time to contact an expert and find a suitable solution.

PISCES
This week, you'll feel like you can do anything. You'll be inspired to take on a professional or personal activity that fulfills your innermost desires.

Coffee Break

CROSSWORDS

PUZZLE NO. 110



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ACROSS

- Barnyard male
- On's opposite
- Single printing
- Smallest bill
- Major-league athlete
- Showery
- Pigment
- Roof goo
- Miss ____ ("Dallas" role)
- Sample
- Youngsters
- Mr. Redding
- Elephant hue
- Uncle's wife
- Night light
- Mister
- Government
- Regard highly
- Viper's sound
- Surrounded by
- Pens' contents

DOWN

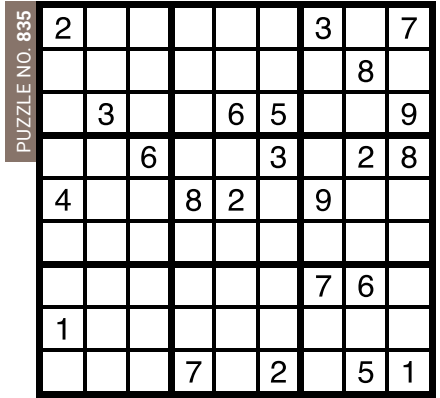
- Reel's partner
- Whatever
- Office gatherings
- Chooses
- Campus group, shortly
- Precede
- Fierce anger
- Like some pretzels
- Farm building
- Individual
- Watches closely
- Wine region
- Skiff movers
- Monday's follower: abbr.
- Path
- Also
- Business note
- Menacing
- Annoys
- Remains
- Travel guide
- Soothing
- Yearned
- Very little bit
- Fills with wonder
- Cab
- Almost round
- Sidelong glance
- Solely
- Hog's haven
- Important time
- Painting, e.g.

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.**

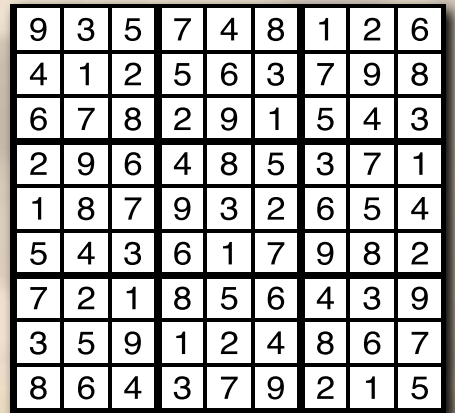


Last Issues' Answers

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Sudoku



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