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Financial Incentives
to attract women
in construction and
other skilled trades**

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**March
International
Women's Day**

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Laval Senior Academy's Hockey Day and Winter Classic



See page 15

Who needs ice when you've got enthusiasm: A group shot of Laval Senior Academy Hockey Day supporters, including LSA students, Canadian Forces soldiers and elected officials.

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Une présentation des statistiques:

« Personnes âgées-anglophones de Laval »
(Présentation en anglais)

**Nouveaux résultats du recensement de 2016
sur la santé, statut socio-économique et
changement de la population**

(PowerPoint français et anglais)

Mercredi, le 28 mars 2018

10h00 à 12h00

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Présentatrice : Joanne Pocock, PhD

Consultante en recherche

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A Presentation on Statistics:

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(French and English PowerPoint)

Wednesday, March 28th, 2018

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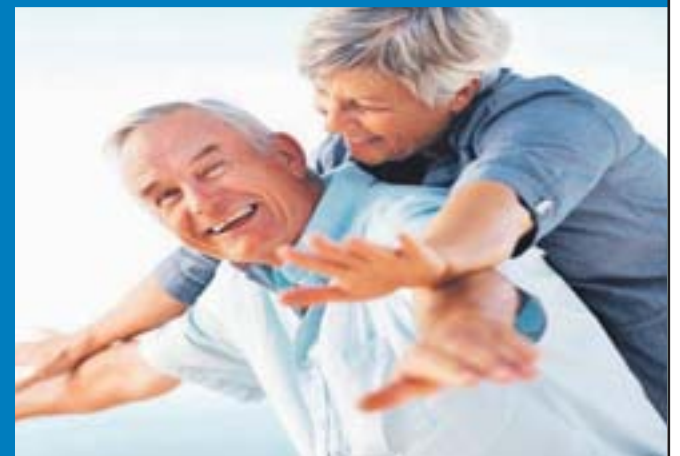
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Laval's mayor reacts to Ottawa's latest budget

Says social housing needs still not being sufficiently dealt with by federal government



(TLN) Laval mayor Marc Demers has reacted favorably to the new budget tabled last week by federal Finance Minister Bill Morneau.

"The City of Laval wholeheartedly welcomes the various measures favoring the equality of men and women," Demers said in a statement.

Reality reflected: Demers

"The government of Canada is thus reacting to the realities that are particularly affecting women and the actions being proposed are concrete means allowing for improvements in the quality of life of all citizens."

Demers also said that the City of Laval appreciates the government's announcement of \$150 million over six years to help train police for the enforcement of new laws concerning marijuana. As well, the government has set aside \$100 million over five years to deal with the opioid crisis.

Pleased with tax cuts

Demers said the city is also pleased with the government's proposal to reduce taxes on small businesses, of which there are

many in Laval, he pointed out. "All measures encouraging the growth of our businesses are welcome," he said.

In terms of social housing, the mayor said the City of Laval has been undergoing demographic population increases as well as economic growth, while a significant proportion of its population is in a low income category with high rents to pay.

Social housing needs

"The city has established at more than 1,300 the number of units of affordable housing needed over the coming five years to answer to the needs," said Demers. "What needs to be known is that the waiting list for this type of housing in 2016 was more than 1,100 families. Beyond the new units, the importance of renovating the existing block of housing is extreme. Unfortunately, the needs being expressed by municipalities were not reflected in the budget."

According to the mayor, the city also took note of the fact that the latest federal budget announced new investments by Ottawa in public transit. "We would like to know more in depth the nature of these investments, which were not spelled out in great detail in the budget documents," said Demers.

Federal Budget 2018

Financial Incentives to attract women in skilled trades careers

CNW-An anecdote about "Joan the plumber" of Algonquin College and the unveiling of new funding tools to boost the entry of women into the trades and construction are examples of how federal budget 2018 could impact the construction industry.

The budget announced the creation of an Apprenticeship Incentive Grant for Women, a Women in Construction Fund and a new pre-apprenticeship program, which are all initiatives that are in line with government's overall focus on gender equality and growth for the Canadian middle class.

During Finance Minister Bill Morneau's budget speech, he said the nation's future success rests on making sure all Canadians have an opportunity to work and that they have the courage "to try new things and forge new paths" like Joan, a student at Algonquin College. Joan returned to school after raising her family, he explained.

"And when she first enrolled in school, she thought she was going to study event planning. But when she got there, she changed her mind, decided she wanted to pursue a trade, and eventually became an apprentice plumber," recalled Morneau.

"Now, Joan didn't start off seeing a future for herself in the trades, and she'll be the first person to tell you that that choice took many by surprise. But she also feels that it's her true calling. It's work that she's good at, and it's work that she wants to do. And she's never looked back."

Budget 2018 noted that few women choose highly skilled trades and those that do "face significant barriers to entry and advancement."

This is why the government has announced it will allocate \$19.9 million over the next five years to pilot an Apprenticeship Incentive Grant for Women. In BuildForce Canada's recent 2018-2027 industry outlook, it reported that women represent approximately 4.1 per cent of Canada's direct construction workforce. In 2018, there are just 50,000 women employed in construction compared to the over one million men in the industry.

Under this grant, women in Red Seal trades will receive \$3,000 for each of their first two years of training (up to \$6,000). This, in combination with the existing Apprenticeship



Completion Grant valued at \$2,000, will result in a combined \$8,000 in support over the course of their training. Nearly 90 per cent of Red Seal trades are eligible for this new grant.

"There is a substantial gender gap in apprenticeship training, with women accounting for only 11 per cent of new registrants in inter-provincially recognized Red Seal skilled trades. This pattern of women's under-participation in higher-paid, male-dominated trades has meant that women are not only comparatively underpaid in the trades sectors, but also wrongly perceived as uninterested in or incapable of pursuing careers in the higher-paid male-dominated fields," budget 2018 read.

The Women in Construction Fund unveiled

in budget 2018 earmarks \$10 million over three years to help "build on existing models that have proven to be effective in attracting women to the trades." The funding will be drawn from Employment and Social Development's Canada existing funds.

According to the budget, these models "provide supports such as mentoring, coaching and tailored supports that help women to progress through their training and find and retain jobs in the trades."

Starting in 2018-19, the government is set to fund a new Pre-Apprenticeship Program to the tune of \$46 million over five years and \$10 million per year thereafter.

"This program will encourage underrepresented groups — including but not limited to women, Indigenous Peoples, newcomers and persons with disabilities — to explore careers in the skilled trades. Working in partnership with provinces, territories, post-secondary institutions, training providers, unions and employers, the Pre-Apprenticeship Program will help Canadians explore the trades, gain work experience, make informed career choices and develop the skills needed to find and keep good, well-paying jobs in the trades," explained budget 2018.

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How do we end emergency room madness?

The simple solution to overcrowding in our hospitals is to allow Canadians to purchase health insurance that covers medically-necessary care

Delirium can result from waiting too long in an emergency room. And the chances of that happening in Canada have never been greater.

The Canadian Institute for Health Information released a report in January that showed the average wait time in an emergency room in 2016-17 was up by 11 per cent. An unacceptable one out of every 10 people had to wait more than 32.6 hours before being admitted.

The outcome of overcrowded emergency rooms?

Greater sickness, suffering and even death. How did the situation get so bad and what can be done about it?

Vanessa Milne, Joshua Tepper and Jeremy Petch asked the same questions in Emergency room overcrowding: causes and cures. In 1990, there were four acute care beds for

every 1,000 Canadians; now, there are only 2.1.

Government budget cuts in the 1990s played a role in creating this situation. Keeping beds open requires paying people to staff them, so one way to cut staff is to reduce beds. The Globe and Mail reported last year that 10 Ontario hospitals run at or above full capacity. And 89 Ontario hospitals had an average occupancy of more than 85 per cent. The Globe reports that "85 per cent [is] the threshold that many experts describe as the ideal for preventing the spread of infection and accommodating unexpected surges of patients."

Not surprisingly, about 13 per cent of patients in acute care beds don't belong there. But there's nowhere else for them to go while they wait for openings in long-term care, respite beds, rehabilitation beds or other supports before they return home.

Unfortunately, increasing the number of available beds isn't the answer.

The Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians (CAEP) argues that this number be reduced to no more than five per cent. CAEP suggests an important way to get there is through financial incentives, such as pay-for-performance initiatives that will encourage innovation and hospital efficiency.

Financial incentives can indeed provide solutions but they can only be fully unleashed when Canada abandons its single-payer public system.

Those who defend the status quo insist that Canada should not be like the United States in its approach to health care. Canada places the cost of drugs, dentistry and optometry fully on the private sector, making it more like the U.S. than any other system.

But Canada also bans private dollars from paying for doctors and hospital care. In that regard, its only peers are North Korea and Cuba.

Observers like David Henderson note that when health care can only be paid for by governments, those same governments ration it because it's the only tool at their disposal to minimize costs. Fewer doctors is an intentional outcome.

The triage system puts those patients in the worst condition at the front of the line, leaving everyone else to wait. The conditions of some of these people further deteriorate while waiting. Many health conditions that could have been solved inexpensively in their early stages now involve drastic and expensive measures. Meanwhile, people lose productivity and leisure as they wait and suffer in pain.

Market forces can alleviate Canada's health-care crisis, including its overcrowded emergency rooms. Henderson suggests that doctors and hospitals be freed to set their prices, that all provinces allow people to purchase private health insurance for "medically necessary" care, and that doctors and hospitals paid by government could also provide care to paying customers.

Janice MacKinnon, a former Saskatchewan finance minister, says some degree of patient co-payment is essential. She asks, "how can we expect patients to opt for more cost-effective medical choices, such as visiting a primary care physician or walk-in clinic rather than an emergency department, when they have no understanding of the comparative costs?"

Patients will *never* opt for less expensive health care choices so long as their out-of-pocket cost is zero. And as long as that remains the case, the system has one guarantee: to keep them waiting.

Lee Harding

The opinions on THIS PAGE reflect the consensus of Editorial Board.

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SCORNED, BOTHERED, AND BEWILDERED

Retired teacher of Laval Senior Academy of Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board mystified by inconsiderate conduct of educational leaders

Graduation Day, honouring a high school's "seniors", is special, including for the flagship school of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board, Laval Senior Academy (LSA).

The day acknowledges fresh-faced graduates, future leaders, and our eventual caretakers, as we celebrate their successes.

Who can argue with this?

But here's the rub surrounding student achievement: Gathered for this last special day of high school, graduates mark their rite of passage in the presence of as many teachers as possible. The problem: Why did organizers of the LSA 2017 Graduation fail to ensure that retired teachers join active teachers, school board administrators, Governing Board members, and invited guests?

What justifies omission of retired teachers who had been instrumental in the development of the young people proudly parading for friends, family, and active teachers? As well, active teachers no longer at LSA were also deprived legitimate participation in this important event.

Who had greater impact on these students - board administrators who never spent a moment with them in the three years they attended LSA, or retired teachers and others who had shared nearly 600 days with them? What disgraceful rudeness and deplorable disrespect!

43 years of service to education, hard to believe I was not invited to the 2017 LSA Graduation, as was also denied presence to other recently retired teachers, and active teachers no longer at LSA.

Justice? Fairness? From the leaders of our educational community?

Insult to injury, polite requests in writing for an explanation from the event organizer - the faculty advisor - was answered by outgoing principal Dena Chronopoulos, that the matter was incoming principal Nathalie Rollin's responsibility. To my knowledge, neither outgoing nor incoming principal of LSA, for unspecified reasons, wanted to direct the event, subsequently compelling the faculty advisor to opt out when the event was left in disarray, much to the dismay of graduates and families.

What's wrong with this picture? Plenty! Which principal was responsible? It seems

neither wanted the task, which according to protocol should have been assumed jointly by both. Shame for abdication of accountability.

I caution taxpayers to be mindful of their educational representatives, for if they can so blatantly fail in the exercise of simple courtesy, how are they managing million-dollar responsibilities at other levels?

This is a graphic illustration of dereliction of duty by educational leaders. It pains me to think that grandparents of graduates could have been denied presence to their grandchildren because they did not live with them.

Protocol dictated that invitations be sent to all who played a major role in the graduates' accomplishments at LSA, including retired teachers.

Expectations are painful - plant expectation, reap disappointment. I did exactly that - planted expectations that 43 years of service, entitled me to an invitation, based on respectful fairness.

Careless disrespect, in an educational environment lacking just that "education" - when people don't practice what they preach. Skills learned in school don't seem to be applied by some educators. For teachers, administrators, or students, good manners are valuable assets in all interactions. Fidelity to students, a permanent point in this retired teacher's moral compass, was broken because the organizers - did not invite me to LSA's 2017 Graduation. Teachers who imparted passion for learning, pointing graduates to future horizons were forgotten.

I, and other teachers, should have been there, happily waving from the shore.

Renata Isopo, retired teacher, Laval Catholic High School, Laurier Senior High School, and Laval Senior Academy of Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board

Two councillors to represent Laval at UMQ Isabella Tassoni and Aline Dib to speak for city at meetings



Saint-Martin city councillor Aline Dib



L-d-R city councillor Isabella Tassoni

(TLN) Laval mayor Marc Demers has announced that two city councillors will henceforth be representing the city on committees at meetings of the Union of Quebec Municipalities (UMQ).

Dib and Tassoni

Saint-Martin city councillor Aline Dib and Laval-des-Rapides city councillor Isabella Tassoni were selected for the task of interfacing with other member municipalities at UMQ meetings.

While Dib will be sitting on the UMQ's Commission for Culture, Leisure and Community Life, Tassoni will be on the UMQ's Commission for Women and Governance.

Representing Laval

"I am very pleased to see that the respective competencies of Mrs. Dib and Mrs. Tassoni have been recognized within the UMQ," said

Mayor Demers. "They are certain to do an impeccable job while positioning Laval and its large projects among those of the major cities in Quebec.

"Our accomplishments could serve as inspiration for the ways things are done elsewhere," added Demers, "while we in Laval will be profiting from the exchanges to add to our expertise."

Laval well represented

Laval is well represented on the UMQ, with Mayor Demers being a member of the governing board, as well as vice-president of the UMQ's caucus for major cities.

The mayor also sits along with Laval city councillor Stéphane Boyer on the UMQ's commission for intelligent cities. In the meantime, Councillor and Laval executive-committee member Sandra Desmeules sits on the UMQ's committee for its annual assizes.

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Support for seniors

With the adoption of the 2018 budget city council voted for a 50% increase in the home support program for seniors aged 65 and over. This announced increase in budget will have immediate effect as it is to be implemented in the year 2018. Regulation L-12573 modified by the members of the executive committee amends by-law L-12221 to reflect this increase.

When the new by-law is adopted by city council Laval's subsidy program for seniors will increase from \$ 100 to \$ 150 per year per eligible person aged 65 or over acting as a tenant, owner or occupant. It will also increase from \$ 200 to \$ 300 per year when the eligible person receives the Guaranteed Income Supplement from the Government of Canada under the Old Age Security Act (RSC, 1995, cO-9).

Second MADA Action Plan

The city of Laval which has been recognized since 2014 as a municipality that is friendly to seniors and gained the (MADA) accreditation has tabled and adopted its report on the achievements of the municipal MADA Action Plan for 2014-2017. This activity was related to the measures taken to achieve this certification.

The report which will be transmitted to Quebec's Ministry of Family will also be made public. Also, the summaries of briefings, consultations and the modes of communication

employed to achieve this end will be released. The members of the executive committee also authorized the submission of an application for financial assistance of \$ 80,000 to Laval's Seniors Secretariat (Secrétariat des aînés) to support the development of the second action plan MADA (2018-2020). The MADA Partners Committee will be given the mandate to act as the steering committee for the development of this action plan.

Initiated in Quebec by the Department of Family and Seniors, the MADA (Municipalité amie des aînés) program recognizes municipalities that adapt their services and structures to the needs of seniors.

Local Investment Fund

The Executive Committee approved the recommendations of the Investment Committee of the Local Investment Fund (FLI) and authorized the payment of a loan of \$ 70,000 to consolidate the start-up of La Boîte maraîchère (The Vegetable Box). The mission of this company is to produce organic fresh quality produce without pesticides or GMO which can be sold in local food markets twelve months a year. To achieve all year-round production the company has designed a system of intensive agricultural production in containers.

Through the Local Investment Fund (FLI) the City of Laval stimulates the growth of local entrepreneurship, to develop promising

economic sectors and emerging markets by providing access to capital for the start-up or growth phase of new businesses.

Assessment of the development plan of the agricultural zone

The members of the executive committee tabled the annual report for the Development Plan of the Agricultural Zone committee (PDZA) for the period ending on December 31st 2017 and the action plans of the Laval Agriculture Development Committee Table (TDAL) for 2018. Activities proposed for 2018 highlight five major orientations and nine priority projects and also include the proposed actions agreed to by the six committees of TDAL, which has a total of 42 members.

Laval is one of the few cities in Quebec where urban life is close to a permanent agricultural zone, which occupies 30% of its territory, or 7,000 hectares. This area is farmed by no less than 121 operations in addition to a network of 53 farm kiosks. Annual revenues of \$ 60 million are derived from the sale of local products. Agriculture is a major component of Laval's economic vitality and is integrated with urban activity in the same way as trade and industry.

On June 13th 2016 Laval unveiled its Agricultural Zone Development Plan (PDZA) to enhance the agricultural area of Laval by promoting the sustainable development of agricultural activities. The work surrounding the

PDZA made it possible to draw up a strategic diagnosis of the agricultural sector in Laval and to identify the orientations and the priority projects for the next 5 years.

Jeux du Québec Laval in 2020 looking for a volunteer to represent Laval on its board of directors

The City of Laval, through its Governance Secretariat, is looking for a person to act as an administrator of the board of directors the 2020 Quebec Games as a representative of the community. The chosen candidate will sit on the Organizing Committee of the Final of the Jeux du Québec. This non-profit organization is responsible for organizing the event.

In addition to duties as an administrator the successful candidate will be responsible for volunteerism and be the acting community spokesperson. Responsibilities include overseeing training, supporting the management in the recruitment process, mobilization and recognition of volunteers. This is a 3-year term.

Full details of this position are available on the Laval website Governance Secretariat page <https://www.laval.ca/Pages/Fr/A-propos/secretariat-gouvernance.aspx>

Those wishing to apply must send their curriculum vitae and cover letter before March 16, 2018 by email.

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Laval recognized for its animal-protection efforts



Pictured above: Dr Jean Gauvin, president of "l'Association des médecins vétérinaires (AMVQ)" Mayor Marc Demers, Sandra Desmeules, city councillor for Concorde-Bois-de-Boulogne, and Patrick Rouillard, AMVQ director.

(TLN) Nearly a year after adopting a new by-law for the protection of pets and other animals, the City of Laval recently was presented with an award by a provincial veterinarians' association recognizing the municipality's efforts to improve conditions for animals.

City's efforts recognized

The Association des médecins vétérinaires du Québec (AMVQ) presented the city with its 2018 Ani-Bon award, which was first created 17 years ago.

"We are very proud of the by-law we passed last March," said Demers. "It is thus a great honor

for us to receive this award, in addition to the fact that Laval is the very first municipality to receive it."

Councillor Sandra Desmeules, who is responsible for animal issues on the executive-committee, was also pleased with the award. "Offering quality animal services with respect to animal rights is at the heart of our administration," she said.

Pet protection measures

Among some of the measures contained in the new animal protection by-law is a clause making it illegal to tie or tether a dog or other pet for more than 12

hours per day, as well as a regulation making it illegal to leave a pet inside a vehicle for more than 10 minutes when the outside temperature is less than -10 degrees Celsius or greater than 20 degrees Celsius.

The by-law also makes it mandatory for animal owners to make sure their pets have access to drinking water as well as food of sufficient quality and quantity, while also obliging them to keep animals in conditions that are sanitary and well-ventilated.

Some overdue recognition

"It was important for us to underscore all the work that has been done by the City of Laval with the adoption of this excellent municipal by-law, which is a precursor for all of Quebec," said AMVQ president Jean Gauvin. "It is to be hoped that this message of respect for human and animal life will be heard everywhere in Quebec and will inspire other municipalities."

Since last Jan. 1, the sterilization of dogs and cats is mandatory in Laval. The city is also taking measures to make microchip implanting of dogs and cats mandatory beginning on Jan. 1 2019.

Laval's new housing code



(TLN) A new housing code that was adopted by Laval city council last September came into effect on March 1. The new regulations set out ways for tenants as well as landlords to safeguard themselves against nuisances and unsanitary conditions.

Intervention required

They also allow the city to intervene and ask for repairs or renovations when a dwelling that isn't necessarily unsanitary needs basic repairs all the same.

One important aspect of the new code requires property owners and pest exterminators to reveal infestations of bed bugs. Tenants are also required to advise owners immediately of any bed bug infestations.

Sanitary housing assured

"The city's new housing code offers to all tenants and all landlords a tool to assure sanitary and secure habitats," says Mayor Marc Demers.

"In addition to legitimizing the interventions of the city in cases of insalubrity, the code allows us to demand repairs or renovations so that dwellings which are lived in are sanitary and secure."

Preventive actions

Among other things, the new housing code forbids property owners or tenants from doing anything that may lead to unsanitary conditions, such as allowing mould to propagate, neglecting the presence of insects or ignoring other types of parasite.

The code also obliges landlords to do basic renovations or repairs on fundamental fixtures in a dwelling, such as the kitchen sink, the toilet, shower or bath, while requiring them to repair the roof, doors or windows.



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Laval's PLQ MNAs hold pre-budget consultation

The budget will be the last the Quebec Liberals table before the provincial election in October

MARTIN C. BARRY

With the Quebec Liberal government's annual budget expected to be tabled in the National Assembly in late March, nearly three dozen representatives of interest groups met last week with the Laval region's six Liberal MNAs to say how they feel the government should be spending Quebec taxpayers' money.

Cuts for small businesses

In an advance peek at the 2018 budget in January, Premier Philippe Couillard told journalists while he was on a trade mission in China that the Liberal government is focusing primarily on cutting taxes for small businesses, although reductions in personal income taxes won't necessarily be in the picture.

The upcoming budget will be the fifth for the Couillard government, which came to power in the spring of 2014 after the short-lived PQ government of Premier Pauline Marois was ousted at the ballot boxes.

The Liberals' spending cuts

It follows on the heels of several annual budgets in which the Quebec Liberals notoriously introduced spending cuts, arguing that the province was verging dangerously close to insolvency and that drastic measures needed to be taken.

The upcoming budget will also be the last one the Quebec Liberals table before the next provincial election scheduled to take place on Oct. 1.

While the sting of the cuts during the Liberals' first two to three years was widely felt, as the 2018 election drew closer the Couillard government said its objectives were met and that remaining budgets wouldn't be as harsh.



From the left, Fabre MNA Monique Sauvé, Vimont MNA Jean Rousselle, Laval-des-Rapides MNA Saul Polo, Mille-Îles MNA Francine Charbonneau, Sainte-Rose MNA Jean Habel and Chomedey MNA Guy Ouellette listen to community group leaders during the Laval PLQ's pre-budget consultation.

Suggestions from CSDL head

Among the various representatives of interest groups attending the gathering at The Palace on Le Corbusier Blvd., was Louise Lortie, president of the council of commissioners at the Commission scolaire de Laval (CSDL).

Among Lortie's requests to the Liberal government was additional funding for the construction of schools, as well as support for the purchase of land for future teaching institutions. While pointing out that the CSDM has a current shortage of staff psychologists, she noted that school board elections are scheduled to take place in the autumn and they will require funding.

School transportation crisis

Michel Galland, president of Laval-based Autobus Galland Ltée which provides a range of bus transportation including school bus services, said his company has had difficulties in recent years making ends meet given the regional structure for transportation services.

While Galland complained of being barely able to make his payroll anymore, the head of another Laval-based bus transport company, Eric Chartrand president of Chartrand Inc., told the Laval Liberal MNAs that the school bus transportation sector is in trouble all over Quebec – but particularly in Laval.

Transit firm head worried

"The work load is increasing, expenses are increasing, but the revenue imposed on us is on the decline," said Chartrand. "We want to do better with our drivers, we want to do better with our employees. We need a budget dedicated to school transport, and principally in Laval. We are truly having difficulties, and as I have said most of these difficulties are in Laval."

Eleni Fakotakis, executive-director of Hellenic Community Social Services of Greater Montreal, said the group sees too many senior citizens who are vulnerable and without support. She suggested that community groups such as hers should increasingly be working in partnership with the regional CISSS agencies in order to help operate day centres for seniors in locations that are conveniently nearby.

Finance restructuring sought

"In view of the fact that there will never be enough financial support for community groups, financing must be restructured in a more egalitarian and rational fashion based on the classification of the community organizations and their overall missions," said Fakotakis, "in order to ensure that financing would be able to address the needs."

Chomedey-based social services provider Agape's executive-director Kevin McLeod spoke about the Laval region's lack of English-language services and programs for the treatment of mental illness. He also pointed out that waiting lists for treatment are currently so long that children have to wait up to a year-and-a-half just to be evaluated. "A year-and-a-half is unacceptable," McLeod said, suggesting the Liberal government keep this situation in mind when formulating the next provincial budget.

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Viau Food Products is doing double duty to accelerate growth

Ottawa awards \$2,100,000 in financial aid to Laval business

(TLN) Angelo Iacono, Member of Parliament for Alfred-Pellan, has announced that a \$2,100,000 repayable contribution has been granted to Laval-based Viau Food Products to help it improve the efficiency of its operations.

"Viau Food Products is a flagship in Quebec's agri-food industry and a highly innovative business that is actively contributing to the economic vitality of Laval and greater Montréal," said Iacono, acting on behalf of the Honourable Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development.

"I am proud of the Government of Canada's support for innovative projects that spell success for entrepreneurs and growth for the Canadian economy," Iacono said.

Viau, a highly innovative family business, is the first to have developed, produced and marketed dry cured pepperoni in Canada, and is the largest producer of this pepperoni. The company is also widely known through its major innovations in the processing of a variety of deli meats.

More than 60 products

As part of its four-year strategic plan, Viau Food Products is improving its productivity and increasing its exports to stimulate growth. The business has launched more than 60 products since 2013 and is focusing on R&D to compete in a highly competitive market.



The company's current project will allow Viau to increase its productivity by investing in state-of-the-art equipment, adding additional line capacity to support its growth and investing in new lines that will help it broaden its product offering. In the end, 125 jobs are expected to be created in Laval (Alfred-Pellan) and the greater Montreal area.

"As Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development, my goal is to help enterprises grow and innovate so that they can become more competitive in the market and create high-quality jobs and wealth for Canadians," said Bains. "That is why we support businesses like Viau Food Products, whose successes benefit the region and the Canadian economy overall."



Our journey to emancipation

A day to be remembered

International Women's Day is held on the eighth of March every year. The origins of this celebration date back to the beginning of the twentieth century, in Europe and the United States, when women were just beginning their fight for equality. This is when women were marching, writing, and hunger striking for better working conditions and for the right to vote.

This event was made official by the United Nations in order to encourage every country around the world to celebrate and honour women's rights. On this day, women's action groups and associations organize gatherings

around the world to demand equality, to improve their status in society, and celebrate progress made.

Equality means men and women are entitled to share responsibilities and obligations as well as the opportunities and fulfilment that are derived from freedom of movement and choice in life and work. Leadership by women ought to be valued in every sector of society. It is essential so that girls and young women from every society, every age group, and every social status can see a future where they can participate fully in the economic and social life of their country and culture.

Four ways to celebrate International Women's Day

Would you like to make a meaningful gesture in honour of International Women's Day? Here are four activity ideas you can do alone, as a family, between friends or at the office this March 8.

1. Organize a talk

Ask an accomplished woman to speak to an audience about her personal or professional journey. Your speaker could come from any number of inspiring backgrounds: she might be a businesswoman, an athlete, a mother, an artist, an activist, a politician or a scientist, for example.

2. Collect funds

Many non-profits do valuable work for women and girls. Choose a local organization and plan a fundraiser to help it finance its operations. Car washes, benefit dinners and bake sales are all tried-and-true options.

3. Educate yourself

Do some research by reading a book or watching a film — documentary or fiction — that focuses on women's issues. Online, the National Film Board of Canada has a whole section dedicated to this type of production.

4. Say thanks

Take advantage of the day to express your

love, admiration and appreciation for the women who play an important role in your life. Send them a message, go visit them or give them a call to remind them how much they mean to you. And why not suggest they do the same?

There are virtually endless possibilities when it comes to ways you can observe International Women's Day. Use your imagination!



Equality means men and women sharing responsibilities and obligations as well as the opportunities and fulfilment that are derived from freedom in life and work.



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Emerging from the shadows Women in politics

Around the world, there are far fewer women than men who are actively involved in politics. Among the countries where women predominate, Rwanda is at the top of the list! Indeed, the radical reworking of electoral and parliamentary processes remains a primary way to promote sexual equality in leadership roles.

It is the case both here and elsewhere that because women still assume most family and household responsibilities, their professional and financial situations are generally weaker.



PHOTO: DIGITAL VISION / THINKSTOCK

Society is an extended family which can only gain from the contribution of women.

That makes it difficult for women wishing to enter politics to build a reputation and a public image. It is difficult to obtain the support of a political party; difficult to access networks and the necessary financing to support their work and electoral campaigns; and difficult to win over voters.

In many areas of the world, gender prejudice adds to the other obstacles that keep women in the minority in the upper levels of many different sectors, such as post-secondary education, business, and senior management. However, in Canada, it is encouraging to see that the role played by women is gradually moving them off the back benches. Influential women lead organizations of all types and occupy key political posts, such as provincial premier. Women are also parliamentary assistants, advisors, managers, and strategists; hopefully, some of them will dare to make the leap to become members of parliament, cabinet ministers, and, one day, prime ministers.

Other women combine discretion and visibility with skill. Some first ladies leave their personal stamp on their country's political history, sometimes going so far as to eclipse the popularity of their famous politician husbands.

The face of politics is more feminine than it would first appear. So our congratulations should go to those who dare to contribute to our society's advancement in this way.

Celebrating women and women's history

Since 1977, International Women's Day has been held annually on March 8. Coordinated by the United Nations, this event is an opportunity to review past battles and achievements, while also looking to the future.

Americans were the first to celebrate women and their contributions to history. In 1909, the Socialist Party of America dedicated February 28 to this cause. The tradition continued for several years before disappearing.

A few years later, Europeans also advocated activities aimed at highlighting the importance of women in society. In 1911, more than a million people emphasized the point by taking part in a public demonstration that was held simultaneously in Austria, Denmark, Germany, and Switzerland.

Since then, the role of women in society has greatly evolved. Starting in 1917, women in different regions across Canada gradually won the right to vote. The American constitution was amended to enfranchise women in 1920.

Since then, many women have occupied key political positions. One only has to think of Hillary Clinton, whose role at the heart of the American government made her one of the most powerful women in the world, or of Angela Merkel, Chancellor of Germany.

However, we still have a long way to go.

Statistics published by the UN remind us that 70 percent of women around the world are subjected to physical or sexual violence at least once in their lives, and that 603 million women live in countries where domestic violence is not considered to be a crime.



PHOTO: PIXLAND / THINKSTOCK

According to the United Nations, some 603 million women live in countries where domestic violence is not considered to be a crime.

On March 8 let's all celebrate International Women's Day 2018



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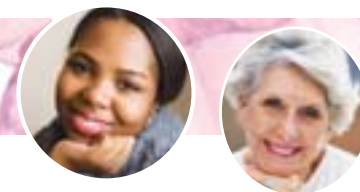
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Women continue to contribute to social, economic, cultural and political achievement. Everyone - men and women - can pledge to take a concrete step to help achieve gender parity more quickly. Each of us can be a leader within our own spheres of influence and commit to take pragmatic action to accelerate gender parity.



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INFERTILITY AND MOTHERHOOD

Conceiving the inconceivable

Motherhood represents an important step in the lives of many women. Sometimes becoming a mother is part of a predetermined personal path. Sometimes it comes as a shock that only subsides with the birth of the child. Sometimes, a woman's dream of starting a family fades when fertility challenges arise.

Medical procedures such as artificial insemination and in vitro fertilization can lend a helping hand to Mother Nature, allowing more women to experience the unique adventure of motherhood. It goes without saying that these techniques are not very romantic, but many

women are ready to forego the frills in order to hold a little one in their arms. Everything else is forgotten as soon as the longed for baby arrives.

The same goes for adoption. Women who have adopted are usually comfortable describing the experience as fulfilling; it is often a matter of shifting one's expectations. Adoption remains a first choice for many women, even among those capable of bearing children, despite the demands of the adoption process. Their desire is to offer a deprived child a stable life and a loving family.

Who said that having a family was like a fairy tale? Just as the swallow makes her nest, it's usually the mother who builds the spirit of a family, one twig at a time. After the miracle of life, comes the miracle of love.

Women Today

In the past, women were often referred to as the weaker sex. They were seen as overly emotional and were confined to their role as mistresses of the home, in charge of the childrearing and housekeeping but excluded from any real decision making. But today, the modern woman occupies many roles, more than could ever be counted on one hand — she is a mother, friend, lover, partner, confidante, employee, boss, colleague, volunteer, and the list goes on. Of course, with all that to manage, it's not all smooth sailing in a woman's world. There are plenty of hurdles to jump every day: reconciling work-life balance; menstruation, pregnancy, nursing, and menopause; pressure to be skinny and free of body hair; competent in running a house; not to mention being there for her loved ones and searching for lost mittens. Yet being a woman also has its share of privileges and small pleasures that shouldn't be forgotten. Here are just a few:

- **Enjoying her femininity and sensuality:** wearing stiletto heels, silky outfits, and sexy underwear; being proud of her curves and knowing how to show them off to advantage.
- **Making the most of her beauty:** trying out new looks with makeup and jewellery; treating herself to manicures and beauty treatments; adorning herself with sequins; and raving over a new shampoo that promises to make her hair even more beautiful, voluminous, and shiny.
- **Playing at being a lady:** having doors opened for her; being carried across the thresh-

old by her husband on her wedding day; sitting on his shoulders to be able to see a live show; curling up lovingly against him on the couch.

• **Expressing her emotions:** being compassionate and not scared to admit her vulnerabilities; crying over a chic flic; dreaming of meeting the Right Guy.

• **Experiencing motherhood:** feeling life stirring within her; breastfeeding, kissing better little bumps and scrapes; and being on the receiving end of tons of unconditional love.




Motherhood, no matter how it comes about, is a richly emotional experience in a woman's life.




Happy Women's Day


We would like to thank all the special women in our lives for their support and love!

Happy Women's Day to you all!





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On March 8th, we are celebrating the current and future Achievements of all Women!

To all Women in Laval, I wish you a Happy International Women's Day!

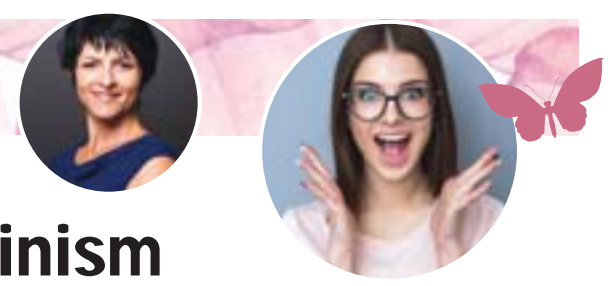
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MEMBER OF ACTION LAVAL

March 8 International Women's Day



Gender equality: a global objective

In 2015, the United Nations (UN) adopted its 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This set of 17 goals aims to transform the world through economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection. Among these 17 goals for a better future is Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

This means that the 193 UN member nations recognize that gender equality is essential to the development of a peaceful, prosperous and sus-

tainable world. The UN argues that the autonomy of women and girls is vital to economic growth and social development and that, conversely, inequality is a universal barrier to progress.

All countries are therefore working to achieve gender equality, whether it's by investing in education, ensuring better access to health care for women and girls, or incentivizing parity on the job market.



INEQUALITY IN NUMBERS

Women and girls in every region of the world continue to experience violence and discrimination.

- In North Africa, women hold less than 20% of salaried positions outside the agricultural sector.
- In sub-Saharan Africa and the South Pacific, girls face considerable hurdles when it comes to enrolling in primary and secondary school.
- On a global scale, women in the workforce earn 24% less on average than men.

Feminism as relevant as ever

Violence against women, workplace discrimination and pay inequality are all still very much part of our social fabric. That's why it's as important as ever to come together and express our feminist values in celebration of International Women's Day, this March 8.

For this occasion, the Canadian government is inviting the population to take steps toward a fair, equalitarian society and to denounce the social and economic inequalities that are still pervasive today.

This year's theme, *Equality Matters*, aims to remind us that the fight isn't over yet.

Systemic gender discrimination, government policies affecting women disproportionately, and widespread sexual violence — as brought to light by the #MeToo movement — are some examples of the barriers against equity and equality that we must overcome as a society.

Why equality?

While equality between women and men is a staple of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* and a value upheld and defended by politicians and citizens alike, there's still room for improvement in many areas. Here are a few statistics from the Government of Canada that illustrate some of these challenges:

- **Women are underrepresented in leadership positions.** In 2016, only 21.6% of board members of Canada's 500 largest companies were women.
- **Women are still largely responsible for caregiving.** Women spend more than twice as many hours per week on unpaid child care (50.1 compared to 24.4 hours) and are almost twice as likely as men to spend 10+ hours a week caring for a senior.
- **Women continue to earn less than men.** Canadian women in full-time positions earn roughly 27% less than their male counterparts.

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Laval Senior Academy's Hockey Day and Winter Classic

Rain and low temperatures stole their ice at 2018 event

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF MARIO LEVESQUE.



MNA Guy Oullette did the ceremonial face-off between LCol. Prohar of Alberta-based 3rd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, and Major Nicolas of the Laval-based 4th Battalion of the Royal 22nd Regiment .

MARTIN C. BARRY

The unpredictable weather that the Laval and Montreal regions have been experiencing in recent years played havoc with Laval Senior Academy's annual Hockey Day event recently.

Scheduled to take place on Feb. 23 and 24, the two-day gathering – which has been highly successful in past years – was reduced this year to just two hockey matches when unseasonably warm temperatures melted the frozen surface on the Chris-Karigiannis and 3rd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry Memorial Rink behind the school on Souvenir Blvd.

Mother Nature stole the ice

"The rain and the temperatures stole our ice," said Daniel Johnson, a special education technician at Laval Senior Academy, who has been the driving force behind the tournament each year. "We had to improvise. We decided to join the weather rather than fight it."

Had Mother Nature cooperated, the schedule on day one would have seen teams from Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board elementary schools play some outdoor ice hockey games, followed by matches of student sledge hockey, followed by an LSA vs. Laurentian Regional High School hockey match.

The schedule on Saturday would have included some Laval minor league hockey games, student ringette, a regular Memorial Cup game involving Canadian Armed Forces soldiers with local police and staff, followed by

a ceremony celebrating Laval Senior Academy Hockey Excellence and Alumni.

Memorial Cup mini-match

However, going with the flow, the participants – including the soldiers from the 3PPCLI who flew in from Alberta as they do every year to take part – played ball hockey in the warm sunshine on a quickly-improvised rink set up in the asphalted area just behind the school, and settled for a short and improvised Memorial Cup match.

Soldiers from the Laval-based 4th Battalion of the Royal 22nd Regiment also helped out with a BBQ. A La Belle Province restaurant operator pitched in with a donation of hot dog and hamburger meat for the grills. Although there was no hockey action on the ice, the LSA students and the military personnel got the chance to renew friendships.

Opportunity to make friends

While the number of spectators was lower than in years past, those who did attend enjoyed the celebration, while helping to promote student leadership and access to community sport. In the Memorial Cup game, soldiers from 3PPCLI in Alberta played the 4R22R battalion stationed in Laval.

The soldiers from 3PPCLI spent the days leading up to Hockey Day with students at the school. Chomedey MNA Guy Oullette helped perform the ceremonial face off. The Laval Police Department's Cst. Jimmy Mourelatos was among those who turned up to show support.



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Community Calendar

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KEY TAGS MAILED OUT AS WAR AMPS MARKS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

The War Amps begins its 2018 key tag mailing to households this week with the theme, "Still Much to Do," as the Association celebrates its 100th anniversary.

Amputee veterans returning from the First World War started The War Amps in 1918 to assist each other in adapting to their new reality as amputees. They then welcomed amputee veterans following the Second World War and established the Key Tag Service to gain meaningful employment and provide a service to the public. The War Amps innovative programs have grown over the past 100 years from assisting war amputees – whom they still serve – to all amputees, including children. But there is "Still Much to Do" to ensure amputees have the artificial limbs they need to lead independent and active lives.

Louis Bourassa, Director of The War Amps CHAMP Program (Quebec), wrote the letter which accompanies this year's key tags. He lost his right leg at the age of four in a lawn mower accident. A member of The War Amps Child Amputee (CHAMP) Program, he later started work with the Association, the war amputees he had come to know while growing up continued to provide advice and support on living with amputation. He says, "It moves me greatly to think of how these remarkable First and Second World War 'amps' enabled me to overcome my amputation, and I have been proud to, in turn, help the younger amputees who have come



after me."

The Key Tag Service continues to employ amputees and people with disabilities and has returned more than 1.5 million sets of lost keys since its inception. Each key tag has a confidentially coded number. If you lose your keys, the finder can call the toll-free number on the back of the tag or place them in any mailbox, and The War Amps will return them to you by courier, free of charge.

The War Amps receives no government grants. With the public's continued support of the Key Tag Service, the Association's programs for amputees will carry on long into the future.

Those who do not receive their key tags in the mail can order them at waramps.ca or call toll-free 514 398-0759.

Direct? Answers

from • Wayne & Tamara



A Dog's Life

Should you love the one that loves you or the one you love?

Four months ago I broke up with my live-in boyfriend of five years. In the past he cheated on me a few times and I felt he may be doing it again. We were also having small financial problems, so I decided to move out and end the relationship.

For a while I felt relieved not having to worry if he would come home and lie. Within those four months I met someone who cares about me and spends time with me. He took me on two nice trips. Along with gifts, he is an open, loving person. He's everything I waited for my ex to become.

The problem is recently I've run into my ex a lot. Yesterday we had lunch together and he asked me to give him another chance. Without me, he realizes, he actually loves me and wants to give our relationship another try. There is so much I feel for him. Being with him seemed right.

My friends and family do not want to hear about it. They do not want me back with him, and they don't want to see me hurt the man I am dating now. I do care about him, but it is a different feeling than the love I have for my ex.

Tomorrow I'm supposed to look at an apartment for me and my new man. He asked me to marry him, but I haven't given him an answer. I'm scared if I leave my new boyfriend and go back to my ex, I will be in the same place I was before.

But part of me feels my ex and I really love each other. If I don't give it one last try, I may regret it for the rest of my life.

Darci

Darci, it used to be said that one year in a dog's life is equal to seven years in a human's life. Now it's said that after a dog fully matures, one dog year equals five human years.

In the same way, living with someone for a year must equal dating them for a longer period of time. It's like dog years. A year of living together must be worth at least three years of dating. If that's the case, you've dated your ex for 15 years.

Many people date a year or two, then get married. You dated him 15 years. What more is there to learn? He wants to give it another try because he remembers the good things that were in it for him when you were together. You should remember every time he cheated and how it made you feel.

You have an unrealistic mental track playing in your head, a track called "I thought he was going to marry me." But you know enough now to skip the wedding and go right to the divorce.

This new man came along too soon. You hadn't decamped from the cheater. You need to tell him, after a five year relationship, you need some time off.

It's sad when we don't get the job we wanted. But we don't get to go to a workplace and act like we work there. It's sad when the person we love doesn't love us, but we don't get to act like they do.

You were with your ex 25 dog years. Was he a good dog—loyal and true? Was he man's best friend? No. He wanted to be every woman's best friend.

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@echowork.com

THE LAVAL news Celebrations

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Triple Pepper-Spray in Home Invasion

Mar 2 - Police are investigating a home invasion in Duvernay that left three people in hospital after being pepper-sprayed during the incident. The trio of unidentified victims were maced at around 1 a.m. at a house located on Montpellier St. They were transported to hospital for decontamination.

Police could not confirm if the three individuals were residents of the house.

Body of Missing Teen Girl Found Behind School

Mar 1 - Police confirmed the lifeless body of 14-year-old Athena Gervais was found Thursday afternoon in a stream behind her school. She'd been missing for three days.

She was last seen leaving her school at lunchtime on Monday, February 26th, and was reported missing after she failed to return to school or home after lunch.

Laval police set up a command centre at the school she attended in Fabreville, École secondaire Poly-Jeunesse, and urged anyone with information about Gervais' whereabouts to come forward and speak confidentially with investigators.

Firefighters participating in the search for the missing teen discovered Gervais' body in the creek behind her school on Thursday, March 1st, at around 4:30 pm. Police had also called in a canine unit and a helicopter to assist with the search.

According to one report, Gervais and some friends allegedly stole cans of the alcoholic energy drink FCKD UP from a nearby dépanneur during that fateful lunchtime. The drink contains 11.9 % alcohol and extremely high amounts of sugar. It was denounced by health experts last fall as a dangerous drink being marketed to adolescents.

A preliminary report from the autopsy confirmed that there were no signs of violence

on the body, and concluded the girl's death was accidental. The exact cause of death was not disclosed. A more detailed autopsy report, expected in the coming days, will reveal whether she consumed any substances and establish the official cause of her death.

Grief counsellors were sent to the Fabreville high-school on Friday to assist students and staff cope with the loss and shock.

Suspicious Fire at Hair Salon

Mar 1 - Laval's arson squad is investigating a suspicious fire that broke out in a hair salon in a strip mall on Boul. Samson early last Thursday.

Firefighters were summoned to the hairdresser's when the fire alarms went off just after 3 a.m. They arrived to find smoke coming from the salon and a small fire burning inside the locale. After quickly putting out the flames, firefighters found traces of a liquid that may have been used to start the fire.

The salon's owners could not be reached

Third Round of Drug Raids Nets Zero Arrests

Feb 22 - Laval police officers were among the task force that carried out a third wave of raids aimed at breaking up a drug trafficking network linked to the Hells Angels. More than 60 police officers from various police services were involved with executing warrants in five municipalities north of Laval.

Eight raids were carried out in residences, warehouses, and a commercial establishment.

Spearheaded by the Sûreté du Québec's anti-organized crime task force, the third wave included members of the Laval and Montreal police services, as well as the RCMP. The raids took place in Mirabel, St-Colomban, St-André-d'Argenteuil, Ascension, and Prévost.

Just as the two previous operations of the same nature, the first on January 24th and the second on February 22nd, the third operation targeting this drug network also yielded no arrests.

Quebec urges Health Canada to review rules around sugary alcoholic drinks

Meanwhile a new sugary alcoholic drink of 14.5% alcohol will be introduced soon in the market

(CTV) Health Canada must review regulations around alcoholic beverages infused with high amounts of sugar following the reported death of a Quebec teenager who had drunk such a product, Quebec's public health minister said Monday.

Some alcoholic products contain so much sugar, young people don't realize how quickly they are becoming intoxicated, Lucie Charlebois said.

"Young people don't feel like they are drinking alcohol because there is so much sugar and there is a lot of alcohol as well," Charlebois said. "Health Canada needs to take a look at that."

In response to the death of Athena Gervais, 14, last week in Laval, the Montreal-area producer of the beverage she reportedly drank before she died announced it was pulling the product from store shelves. Gelo Group, maker of FCKD UP, called on Sunday night for tougher regulations and controls surrounding similar types of drinks, and said it would stop producing the product immediately.

The decision comes after Gervais's body was pulled from a stream near her high school last week. Montreal's La Presse reported the teen

had been drinking stolen cans of FCKD UP.

Laval police are still awaiting results of an autopsy but have already called the death accidental.

The statement from Gelo Group made no reference to the death but co-president Aldo Gelo said the company was taking steps to stop selling the beverage.

Gelo said the company decided to introduce its own brand in 2017 to compete with Four Loko, a sweetened beverage with 11.9% alcohol content produced by a Chicago-based company.

"It was a mistake to enter this category to compete with Four Loko," Gelo said. "In fact, the Four Loko category should not even exist."

Gelo added Four Loko was recently removed from store shelves because it violated Quebec's alcohol laws but said the product is about to return.

Gelo Group's announcement followed one by Quebec-based convenience store chain Couche-Tard, which decided on Friday to pull FCKD UP from its shelves. Couche-Tard said selling the beverage is legal but the chain wanted

to act responsibly.

In a letter, Senator André Pratte called on Health Minister Ginette Petitpas Taylor to look into the health risks of alcoholic energy drinks.

While authorities are trying to piece together the circumstances of Gervais's death, Pratte writes it's not normal for teenagers to buy high-alcohol beverages at a local convenience store at lunch and become so intoxicated that they can't return to class in the afternoon.

The federal government can look at limiting the concentration of alcohol and the size of cans, as well as at new restrictions on the mixture of sugar, caffeine and alcohol, Pratte said.

Health Canada, spokesman Eric Morrissette, said that the Ministry is already working with the government of Quebec to address this issue.

Morrissette added in an email that alcoholic or energizing beverages may be legally sold in Canada and that alcoholic beverages don't need Health Canada approval.

On Saturday, Educ'alcool, a non-profit that encourages moderate drinking, also appealed to Health Canada to further regulate the sale of alcoholic energy drinks.





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Vocational education 'Olympiad' finalists headed

Welding, auto mechanics students competed at EMSB's St. Léonard facility



EMSB auto mechanics student Kevin Quiet, centre of photo next to St. Léonard vocational training centre vice-principal Sulaman Khan, won first place in his category.

MARTIN C. BARRY

Promising young students of auto mechanics and industrial welding who are enrolled in vocational programs at four school boards in the metropolitan region competed on Feb. 15 in the Montreal Regional Skills Olympiads at the English Montreal School Board's training centre on des Grandes Prairies Blvd. in St. Léonard.

Sixteen competitors

The Montreal Regional Skills Olympiads are geared to students under the age of 21.

Eight students from four school boards (the EMSB, Lester B. Pearson School Board, Commission scolaire Marguerite-Bourgeoys and the Commission scolaire de Montréal) competed in the automobile mechanics competition.

As well, eight other students from the EMSB, CSDM, CSMB and the Commission scolaire de la Pointe-de-l'Île) competed in welding.

Competitors aimed high

The competition is for up-and-coming tradespeople, noted Sulaman Khan, vice-principal of the centre. "Ultimately from the regional level of Montreal, they will be going on to the provincial level, and then the Canadian, and eventually the international level. So our students could end up representing Canada on the world stage."

From the EMSB, Kevin Quiet won first place in auto mechanics. Second place in auto mechanics was awarded to Naja Moseley of the Lester B. Pearson School Board, while Jamil Fneiche finished third. They qualified to compete in the 15th annual Quebec Provincial Skills Olympiads which will be held in Montreal on May 3 and 4. The ultimate goal of all those winning top spots at the regional and provincial Skills Olympiads is to compete in the World Skills Competition.

► Continued on page 19



Welding competition participants take a break outside the welding booths during the Montreal Regional Skills Olympiads at the English Montreal School Board's St. Léonard vocational training centre.



The St. Léonard vocational training centre is equipped to teach auto mechanics students with some of the latest technology.

ed to provincials in May



"Our students have the opportunity to learn their trade on state-of-the art equipment, preparing them for the modern workforce," said Sulaman Khan, vice-principal of the EMSB's St. Léonard vocational training centre.



◀ **Continued from page 18**

Winners in welding

Winners in welding at the Montreal Regional Skills Olympiads were: Pierre Olivier Laflamme (first place) of the Commission Scolaire de la Pointe-de-l'Île; Mathieu Letizia-Mineau (second place) also of the Commission Scolaire de la Pointe-de-l'Île; and Chloé St Jean Richard (third place) of the Commission Scolaire de Montréal.

All competitors had already won top rankings in their respective school board competitions. The welding event was supported by internationally recognized corporate sponsors. Lincoln Electric, Walter Technologies and Air Liquide provided more than \$6,000 in awards and gifts to the competitors, with the first place winner receiving a new welding machine from Lincoln Electric.



Generosity of sponsors

Corporate sponsors in the auto mechanics competition were also very generous. DES Canada, Snap-On, G2S Tools and Uniformes Moderna provided mechanics' tool bags along with a variety of tools and electronic scanners to each candidate. At the same time, the list of competition judges included professionals from the automotive repair and industrial welding sectors.

"The participation and support given by these business partners underlines their commitment to vocational education and specifically their partnership with the EMSB welding and automobile mechanics centre," added Khan. "Our students have the opportunity to learn their trade on state-of-the art equipment, preparing them for the modern workforce."

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IN MEMORIAM & OBITUARIES

DEDES, Theodoros 1928 - 2018



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of a very dear husband, father and grandfather on the morning of February 27, 2018. He leaves behind his wife of 57 years Panayota, sons Billy (Nathalie), George (Helen) and grandchildren Anthony, Christopher, Pamela and Theodore. His loving wife and family were by his side through these most difficult times. We are forever grateful to the caregivers Eleni and Christine, Dr. Johnny and the staff at Palliative Care at the Sacré-Coeur Hospital who supported us through his final days.

LIBERATORE, Goffredo "Giovanni"



From Laval, on February 27, 2018, at the age of 89 years passed away Mr. Goffredo "Giovanni" Liberatore, husband of Mrs. Costanza Cicconi Liberatore. In addition to his wife, he will be sadly missed by his children Gabriella (Gérald), Michelina (Guy) and Angelo (Mélanie) as well as his grandchildren David, Vincent, Alicia, Clara and Madrina. He also leaves to mourn his brothers, sisters, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nephews and nieces, and other relatives and friends.

LANDRY, Gabriel 1933 - 2018



It is with sadness that we announce the death of Mr. Gabriel Landry, in Laval, on February 28, 2018. In addition to his wife Michèle Sindon, he will be sadly missed by his children Danielle (Gilles Martin), Marc (Marjolaine Moreau) and Richard (Mireille Lessard), his grandchildren Mylène, Geneviève, Émile, Maxence and Renaude. He also leaves to mourn his sisters Évangéline and Rose-Marie and his brothers-in-law André Sindon (Louise Camirand) and Bernard Sindon (Françoise Fafard), many cousins, cousins, nephews and nieces, relatives and friends. The family wishes to thank the Department of Pneumology at the Cité-de-la-Santé Hospital and the House of Palliative Care in Laval.

POIRIER (NÉE FILIATRAULT), Cécile 1921 - 2018



In Laval, on February 27, 2018, at the age of 96, passed away Mrs. Cécile Filiatrault, beloved wife of the late Marcel Poirier. She leaves to mourn her children Lucie (André), Jean (Claire), Paul (Lyette), André (Lorraine) and Daniel, her twelve grandchildren, her twelve great-grandchildren, her sister Juliette, her beau - Viator brother, as well as several relatives and friends.

GRENIER, André 1945- 2018



It is with sadness that we announce the death, of André Grenier, on February 27, 2018, son of the late François Grenier and the late Françoise Fortier. He is survived by his wife Marie-Paule Turbide, his beloved companion for more than forty-five years. Preceded by his brother Denis, he also leaves to mourn his brothers and sisters, Benoît, Claude, Louise, Michelle, Yves, Guy, Lucie and Gabrielle, their spouses and many relatives and friends.

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IN MEMORIAM & OBITUARIES



DEPALMA, Fedele
1939 - 2018

It is with great sadness that the family announces the passing of Fedele Depalma at the age of 78. He will be sadly missed by his beloved wife Anna Tangorra, his loving children Ralph (Peggy), Frank and Tony (Jinny), his cherished grandchildren Jonathan, Anna, Mathew, Angelika, Jeffery and Dianna, his siblings Graziella, Antonio, Michele, Rita, Domenico and many other relatives and friends.



IANNETTA (BARILE), Angiolina
1936 - 2018

It is with great sadness that the family announces the passing of Angiolina Barile Iannetta at the age 81, beloved wife of the late Giuseppe Iannetta. She will be sadly missed by her loving children Francesco, Filomena (Michele) and Antonio, her cherished grandchildren Melinda, Marco, Hugo, Vanessa and Fabrina, her great-grandchildren Sofia and Luca and many other relatives and friends. In lieu of flowers, donations to The Canadian Lung Association would be appreciated.



TURNER, Ethel (née Lerner)

Peacefully, on Friday, March 2, 2018, in her ninety-fourth year. Devoted wife of the late Saul Turner. Dearest and beloved mother and mother-in-law of Charlene and Fred Burak. Cherished Bubbie Ettie to Joshua and Adam. Predeceased by her dear siblings and their spouses, Rose and Yves Blend, Max and Ruthye Lerner, and Aaron Lerner of Florida. Special sister-in-law of Gertie Lerner of Florida, the late Thelma and the late Sam Hitzig. Ethel will be sadly missed by her family and friends.



CHEVRIER, Manon
1958 - 2018

In St-Eustache, on Thursday, March 1, 2018, at the age of 59, died MANON CHEVRIER wife of Daniel Théoret. Besides her husband, she leaves to mourn many relatives and friends.



PROTEAU, Mary (née Hadgepetrou)
1919 - 2018

Mary passed away peacefully at her nursing home in Montreal on March 1, 2018, at the young age of 98. She was predeceased by her spouse Homer Proteau in 1993. Mary is survived by her daughters Lulu (Frank Kasvis), Kathy (Fernando Martins) and her son John (Lisa Proteau). She left behind five grandchildren, Popi, Joshua, Natalie, Samantha, Nancy and their spouses, and eight great-grandchildren, Zoe, Adrien, Chloe, Hayden, Jadzia, Mason, Madison and Logan. She is also survived by her sister Voula in Canada and her brother Michael in Greece, and many relatives and friends in Canada, United States and Greece.



HADJADJ, Jean
1936 - 2018

We regret to announce the death of Jean Hadjadj at the age of 81 years on the 1st of March 2018.



LACOMBE, Lucienne
1944 - 2018

In St-Eustache, on March 2, 2018, passed away Mrs. Lucienne Lacombe. She is survived by her children Normand (Ginette) and Marie-Josée (Joseph), her brother Jean-Jacques, and other relatives and friends.

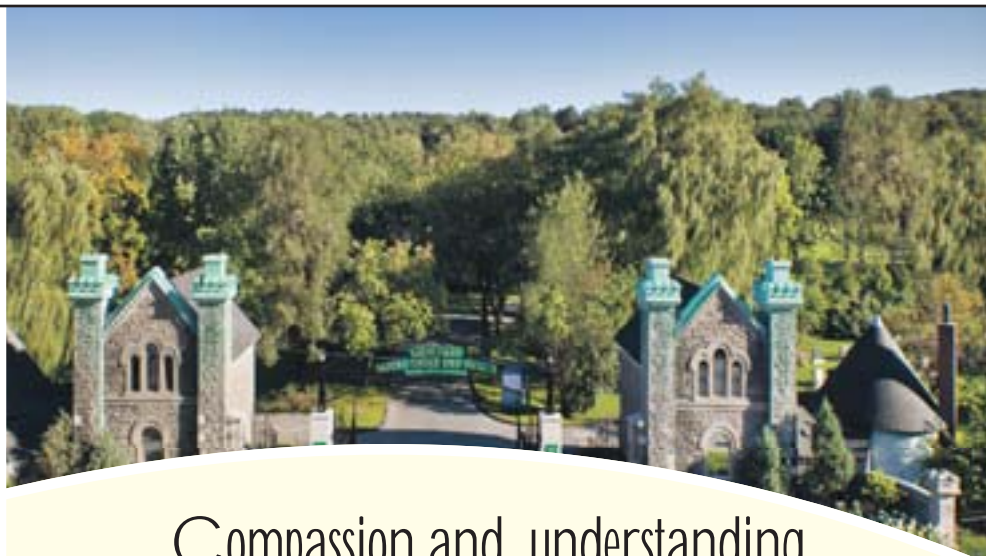


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ANNIHILATION

R | 1 hr 1 min | Adventure, Drama, Fantasy |



A biologist signs up for a dangerous, secret expedition where the laws of nature don't apply.

LOVE, SIMON (Release date 16th of March 2018)

G - 13 | 1 hr 49 min | Comedy, Drama, Romance |



Everyone deserves a great love story. But for Simon it's complicated: no-one knows he's gay and he doesn't know who the anonymous classmate is that he's fallen for on-line. Resolving both issues proves hilarious, scary and life-changing.

DEATH WISH

R | 1h 48min | Action, Crime, Drama |



Dr. Paul Kersey (Bruce Willis) is a surgeon who only sees the aftermath of his city's violence as it's rushed into his ER -until his wife (Elisabeth Shue) and college-age daughter (Camila Morrone) are viciously attacked in their suburban home. With the police overloaded with crimes, Paul, burning for revenge, hunts for his family's assailants to deliver justice.

THE STRANGERS: PREY AT NIGHT

R | 2 hrs 03 min | Horror |



A family staying in a secluded mobile home park for the night are visited by three masked psychopaths, to test their every limit.

RED SPARROW

R | 2h 19min | Mystery, Thriller |



When she suffers a career-ending injury, Dominika Egorova finds herself manipulated into becoming the newest recruit for Sparrow School, a secret intelligence service that trains exceptional young people like her to use their bodies and minds as weapons.

TOMB RAIDER (Release date 16th of March 2018)

G - 13 | 2 hrs 2 min | Action, Adventure |



Lara Croft, the fiercely independent daughter of a missing adventurer, must push herself beyond her limits when she finds herself on the island where her father disappeared.

A WRINKLE IN TIME (Release date 9th of March 2018)

G | 1 hr 48 mins | Adventure, Family, Fantasy |



After the disappearance of her scientist father, three peculiar beings send Meg, her brother, and her friend to space in order to find him.

EVERY DAY

G-13 | 1 hr 37 mins | Drama, Fantasy, Romance |



A shy teenager falls for someone who transforms into another person every day.

YOUR HOROSCOPE

Week of March 11 to 17, 2018

The luckiest signs this week:
TAURUS, GEMINI AND CANCER



ARIES

After a long period of negotiation, you'll finally get the green light from your banker to acquire a property or finance a project that's important to you. Your future will meet, even exceed, your expectations.



TAURUS

You'll probably plan a last-minute getaway with your better half this week. You definitely need to take a few steps back and relax while you reflect upon certain preoccupying situations.



GEMINI

Rethinking your goals the slightest bit should help you achieve your full potential. No matter the stakes, you'll pour your heart and soul into getting what you want, with great success.



CANCER

The thought of getting married may cross your mind this week. At work, try to not let your emotions get in the way of your negotiations.



LEO

At work, you'll receive the green light to attend a short training program that'll open lots of doors for you in a not-too-distant future. Romance-wise, you'll feel the need to shake things up a bit.



VIRGO

You'll be hailed as a hero for saving someone from a sticky situation, even if it's just by lending an attentive ear. The person in question will be eternally grateful.



LIBRA

You'll receive news of a birth in the family. You'll find yourself facing a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to buy a house that's perfectly suited to your needs and your budget.



SCORPIO

You're starting to seriously feel the need to buy a new car. You may be invited along on a journey. At work, you may be asked to negotiate with someone who doesn't speak your language.



SAGITTARIUS

You'll find a solution to the vast majority of your financial troubles. At work, a management position will fall within your reach. If you play your cards right, expect a hefty pay raise and an overall improvement to your quality of life.



CAPRICORN

You'll feel like everything is moving too fast this week. You'll have the urge to shop around and treat yourself to a little luxury. Now's the time to renew your wardrobe and give yourself a makeover.



AQUARIUS

You'll finally succeed in setting aside your fears and diving headfirst into your passions. You'll display incredible creativity this week, which will have you on the right track to creating a masterpiece.

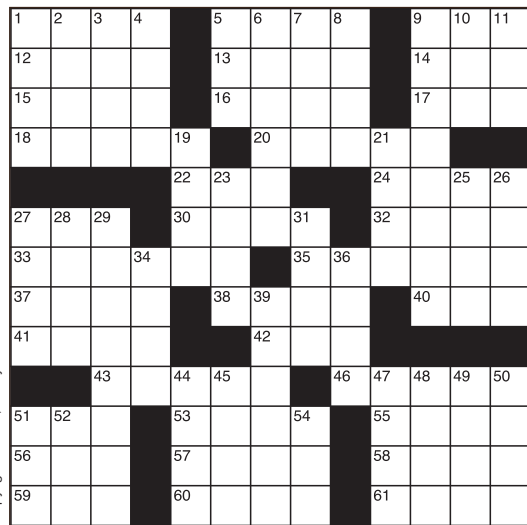


PISCES

You'll be in high demand this week. In your friend circle as well as at work, you're extremely popular. At the office, your client base will grow, or, at the very least, people will refuse to deal with anyone but you.

Coffee break

CROSSWORDS PUZZLE NO. 909



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ACROSS

- Baby bed
- Nest contents
- Total amount
- General's helper
- Hawaiian party
- Con's companion
- Long stick
- Emery board
- First number
- Shorthand, for short
- Cowboy's tool
- Painter's work
- Unit of measurement
- ____-limits (forbidden)
- Florida island group
- Peeve
- Doze
- Broad street
- Brave
- Status

DOWN

- Dipping
- Coffee vessel
- Curly's cohort
- Hardwood trees
- Kingly address
- Sand bar
- Hint for Holmes
- Foot part
- Gambler's concern
- College group
- Wooded
- Matching
- Cried
- Part of speech
- Horri-fy
- Nautical call
- Restaurant list
- Prod
- Crazy bird
- Happy
- Architectural wings
- Chemist's milieu
- Mine output
- Bread grain

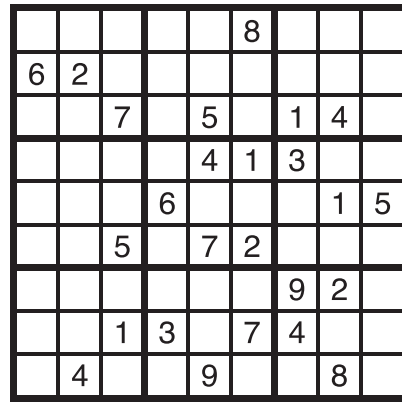
Sudoku

PUZZLE NO. 646

HOW TO PLAY :

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

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

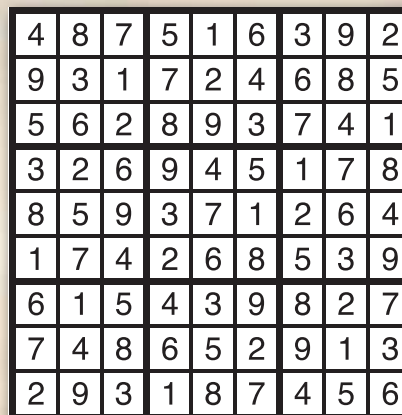


LAST ISSUE'S ANSWERS FOR

CROSSWORDS



Sudoku



JOKES

CHALK ONE UP FOR THE GRANDPARENTS!

An elderly man in Miami calls his son in New York and says, "I hate to ruin your day, but I have to tell you that your mother and I are divorcing."

Forty-five years of misery is enough."

"Pop, what are you talking about?" the son screams. "We can't stand the sight of each other any longer," the old man says.

"We're sick of each other, and I'm sick of talking about this, so you call your sister in Chicago and tell her," and he hangs up.

Frantic, the son calls his sister, who explodes on the phone, "Like heck they're getting divorced," she shouts, "I'll take care of this."

She calls her father immediately and screams at the old man, "You are NOT getting divorced! Don't do a single thing until I get there. I'm calling my brother back, and we'll both be there tomorrow. Until then, don't do a thing, DO YOU HEAR ME?" and hangs up.

The old man hangs up his phone and turns to his wife. "Okay," he says, "They're coming for Passover and paying their own airmiles."



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- X-MODE (OPTIONAL)

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*Representative lease offer applies to 2018 Forester 2.5i (JJ1 X0) with manual transmission. 208 weekly payments of \$84 for a 48-month term and +\$0 in down payment. First weekly payment of \$84 is due at lease inception. The total amount required before the leasing period is \$96.58 (taxes included). The offer does not apply to the model shown. Lease based on a maximum of 20,000 km/year with excess charged at \$0.10/km. Cost of publication at the Register of Personal and Movable Real Rights, freight and preparation and specific duty on new tires are included. Licence, registration (depends on purchaser's particulars) and insurance are extra. Dealer may lease for less. Vehicle shown for illustration purposes only. Offer and technical specifications may change without notice. Offer available on approved credit through Subaru's Financial Services by TCCI. Offer valid until March 31, 2018. Certain conditions apply. 1. EyeSight® is a driver assist system which may not operate optimally under all driving conditions. EyeSight® is not designed as a substitute for due care and attention to the road. The system may not react in every situation. The driver is always responsible for safe and attentive driving. System effectiveness depends on many factors such as vehicle maintenance, weather and road conditions. Finally, even with the advanced technology activated, a driver with good vision who is paying attention will always be the best safety system. See Owner's Manual for complete details on system operation and limitations. Visit your local participating Subaru Retailer for details. 2. To determine crashworthiness, the Insurance Institute of Highway Safety (IIHS) rates vehicles "Good", "Acceptable", "Marginal" or "Poor", based on performance in five tests. To qualify for 2018 Top Safety Pick, a vehicle must earn "Good" ratings in the small overlap front (driver-side), moderate overlap front, side, roof strength and head restraints tests. Vehicles must offer, as optional equipment, an autonomous emergency braking system (Subaru EyeSight®) and earn an "Advanced" or "Superior" rating for front crash prevention. Vehicles must also offer specific headlights that earn an "Acceptable" or "Good" headlight rating. For more details, visit www.iihs.org. 3. IIHS rates models with optional or standard front crash prevention systems as "Superior", "Advanced" or "Basic" based on the availability of autonomous braking (autobrake) and its effectiveness in 12 mph (19 km/h) and 25 mph (40 km/h) tests.