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LAVAL AUTISM MONTH OFFICIAL LAUNCHED
CO-CHAIR BY ALEXANDRE POIRIER-CHARLEBOIS, AUTHOR AND GUY PICARD, GENERAL MANAGER OF THE SOCIÉTÉ DE TRANSPORT DE LAVAL (STL).

See Page 2

LAVAL HONOURS GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY Pages 9-11



Laval, Mayor Marc Demers accompagnies with councillors Aline Dib, Aglaia Revelakis, Bill Karydogiannis, and Paolo Galati placed a commemorative wreath at the cenotaph.



Quebec Liberal MNAs Jean Habel, Monique Sauvé, Gerry Sklavounos and Guy Ouellette placed a commemorative wreath at the cenotaph.



The Canadian Government was represented by Liberal MPs Emmanuela Lambropoulos and Laval-Les Îles MP Fayçal El-Khoury who placed a wreath at the cenotaph.



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Supporters hope to stir awareness of ASDs during 'Autism Month'

Autism spectrum disorders now affect 1.4 per cent of Quebec's population

MARTIN C. BARRY

During an official launch last week for Laval Autism Month – which takes place throughout April – The Société de l'Autisme de Laval announced that this year's co-chairs will be Alexandre Poirier-Charlebois, author of a book on his experiences as someone with Asperger's Syndrome, and Guy Picard, general manager of the Société de Transport de Laval (STL).

Big turnout for launch

A press conference held on March 26 at the Embassy Plaza for the launch drew a large number of community group leaders and other officials with an interest or stake in seeing that those afflicted with autism spectrum disorders receive the attention they deserve during this month of special events.

"The important thing for everybody here today is what can we do for people with ASDs [autism spectrum disorders]," said Germain Lafrenière, executive-director of the Société de l'autisme de des troubles envahissants du développement de Laval, which is coordinating organization for the month.

Guest author has Asperger's

Alexandre Poirier-Charlebois, who attends Université du Québec à Montréal, wrote *Ma vie avec l'Asperger*. He said he is currently working on a second book. He also is a frequent speaker at elementary and high schools on autism spectrum disorders. As well, he has been critical of the Quebec educational system's failure to adapt to the needs of persons with autism.

The STL's Guy Picard said it was a great honor to be chosen as the co-chair for Autism Month in Laval. "The STL is front and centre when it comes to the activities of Laval's citizens," he said. "It's written in our mission statement that our job is to improve the quality of life of people



in Laval. So, being here today is only natural."

Rousselle learned about it

Vimont MNA Jean Rousselle said he came to understand the impact of autism through one of this office employees who has an autistic child. "When you're not affected by it, you just don't understand what it's all about," he said, while maintaining that a certain amount of responsibility for understanding falls upon employers.

"We must facilitate help for parents like these who live day after day with autism spectrum disorders. For example, they can sometimes need special daycares and things like that. I know, because of the employee who tells me about it, which is how I've come to know it. But this is why I am appealing to employers to also think about it: Try to make it a little easier parents and families like these and perhaps try to do things a little differently to accommodate them."

'Very sensitive,' says Borne

The message that Laval city councillor for the district of Laval-Les Îles Nicholas Borne said he wanted to get across was that those affected by an autism spectrum disorder contribute to the

well-being of our society. Borne said he'd had the privilege of knowing several persons like this since one of his nephews was diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder.

"So generally, even if such persons have had this diagnosis and experience certain difficulties interacting or having relationships with others, they are nonetheless, just like my nephew, very sensitive people who are very conscious of the differences between us. And they can sometimes feel slighted by certain ways they get looked at or how they're spoken to. But just like each of us, those afflicted with autism spectrum disorders want to be accepted and we do everything to achieve that."

City of Laval has made efforts

Councillor Borne pointed out that the City of Laval over the past five years or so has taken special measures to accommodate families and persons who are impacted by autism. "While the diagnosis of autism spectrum disorders is steadily growing, we consider it essential to inform the population," he said. "That's why Autism Month exists – to support and inform and to learn about our differences."

Gary Stoopler, director of programs for the

intellectually challenged at CISSS de Laval, pointed out that autism affects around 1.4 per cent of the population of Quebec. While maintaining that Autism Month is a time to raise awareness, he added that it's also useful to alter many people's preconceptions "which are the principal obstacle to integrating persons with an autism spectrum disorder into the community."

Autism events all month

While praising all the groups in Laval that share a common mission of improving life for those with autism, Stoopler said everyone stands to benefit from their work by gaining a better understanding of autism spectrum disorders. The events in Laval for Autism Month include a number of lectures (in French), given by experts in the domain.

As well, on April 27 at the Château Royal beginning at 5 pm, the organizers will be holding a special gathering, *Cocktail en Bleu*. There is a \$15 admission charge for some of the lectures, while tickets for the cocktail event are \$50. As well, a number of other organizations and groups, including the STL, are sponsoring events in April to raise awareness of autism.

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Mayor Marc Demers pleased with Quebec's 2018 budget

Preferential lanes on A-15 and funds for STL garage in budget

(TLN) Mayor Marc Demers reacted favourably last week to Quebec Finance Minister Carlos Leitão's 2018 provincial budget which contained measures favourable to the City of Laval.

According to the mayor, the announced addition of reserved public transit lanes on Autoroute 15, as well as additional investments towards the extension of Autoroute 19, are steps in the right direction, although he said more efforts will be needed to take care of traffic problems in Laval and on the North Shore.

Traffic concerns

"We will be meeting on April 23 to discuss the means that would allow us to better deal with the current traffic situation, but also the traffic situation that is bound to develop in the coming decades because of the economic and demographic growth of

the municipalities taking part in the Forum," said Demers. "We are taking stock of the today's announcements, although we will stay on guard as to their being carried out in the years to come."

The mayor was pleased by the announcement of funding by the government for the construction of a new garage for STL buses. He was also happy to hear about fund transfers amounting to \$60 million by Quebec over two years to municipalities that need to make adjustments in their policies so as to take into account the legalization of cannabis.

Social housing and families

"These investments are more than welcome, considering that just for training and the cost of new equipment we estimate \$1.5 million will be necessary," he said. The mayor was also pleased

to see that sums were in the budget to assist families, including funding for social housing, for additional measures to deal with conjugal and sexual violence, as well as for assistance for senior citizens and for children.

As well, Mayor Demers expressed satisfaction with the fact the government included measures to encourage the development of small and medium-size businesses and enterprises in the 2018 budget. "Since the economic fabric of Laval is made up essentially of SMEs, we are pleased to see that Quebec deployed measures encouraging their competitiveness by gradually reducing from 8 per cent to 4 per cent the income tax for businesses in the services and construction sectors," he said.

Laval moving ahead with 292 new units of social housing

\$4.39 million allotted for Val-Martin, Pie-X and Athena's Shield projects

(TLN) During a special meeting of Laval city council on March 27, city officials confirmed that major investments will be made towards building 292 new units of community and social housing in Laval as part of a provincial AccèsLogis subsidy program.

Through the program, whose financing is shared equally by the City of Laval and the Société d'habitation du Québec, AccèsLogis projects will be taking place at Val-Martin, Pie-X and Athena's Shield with the additional support of \$4,389,714.

Words into action

"We believe in social housing and we are taking the means to allow our citizens to access quality affordable housing in a neighbourhood that's nice," said Mayor Marc Demers. "Our housing policy which was unveiled in June 2017 is aimed at positioning us as a leader in this matter. These investments concretize our aim which is to encourage social inclusion and

the overall well-being of everyone in Laval."

The following social housing projects in Laval are moving ahead:

1. Val-Martin Project

Number of units: 233

Financial support: \$3,607,129

Description: Construction of community and social housing for families with low and moderate incomes, as well as a municipal community centre. The revitalization of this area of Chomedey is part of some urban development projects by the city identified in the main urban plan.

2. Pie-X Project

Number of units: 42

Financial support: \$546,254

Description: Construction of housing aimed at allowing persons with low or moderate incomes to access housing at a

reasonable price.

3. Athena's Shield Project


Number of units: 17

Financial support: \$236,331

Description: Construction of housing aimed at a clientele with particular needs, with special services available for them.

According to Councillor Nicholas Borne, who is president of the Laval Municipal Housing Office as well as the city council committee responsible for social housing, nearly a quarter of families in Laval live in housing that is not affordable in comparison to the amount of revenue available to them.

"Our goal is to make sure there is enough clean and safe housing for these families, while encouraging diversity," he said. "We remain set on this goal, inspired by our regional policy for social development, so that a the greatest number of residents are able to live in these units of housing."



Notice of meeting
2018 Annual General Meeting

To members of Caisse Desjardins de Chomedey
You are hereby convened to the Annual General Meeting (AGM) for fiscal year 2017, which will take place:

Date: April 17, 2018 **Time:** 7:00 p.m.

Location: Caisse Desjardins de Chomedey – 3075, boul. Cartier Ouest, Laval (QC) H7V 1J4

At the Meeting, members will receive the Caisse's annual report and the Board of Supervision report. They will decide on the distribution of annual surplus earnings; decide on the interest payable on permanent shares and on surplus shares; vote on the payment of member dividends from the reserve; elect members to the Board of Directors and the Board of Supervision; and address any other items on the agenda. There will be two question periods, one directed to the Board of Directors and another to the Board of Supervision.

Amendments to the caisse internal bylaws
Members will be asked to vote on an amendment to Article 6.3 of the caisse internal bylaws concerning the number of full members having to sign a notice of nomination.

Amendments to the bylaws will take effect on the date they're adopted. Members can ask the caisse for a copy or summary of the proposed amendments.

Elections
Please note there are two (2) positions to fill on the Board of Directors and one (1) position to fill on the Board of Supervision.

Any physical person who is a full member of the Caisse shall be considered eligible, as long as that person has been a member for at least 90 days before the Meeting and is not ineligible under the terms of the *Act respecting financial services cooperatives* and that they do not hold a position that is incompatible with the Desjardins Group Code of Professional Conduct. All candidates must consent, in writing, to a security check and a credit check and should begin to develop the knowledge and skills required to carry out the duties required of an officer. Nominations may not be submitted to the Annual General Meeting unless written notice, signed by 5 members and countersigned by the candidate, has been submitted prior to the closing of the Caisse on April 6, 2018 - 3 p.m.

Nomination forms are available from the Caisse.

All members of the Caisse are cordially invited to attend and participate in this Annual General Meeting.
Please confirm your attendance to Marieve Rémillard: marieve.e.remillard@desjardins.com, 450-688-0900, ext. 7449243

Signed on March 14, 2018 Michel Gariepy, Secretary



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Opinion & Editorial



Bill C-59's overreach allows security to trump freedom

Bill C-59, Canada's new spy legislation, threatens the freedom of expression, the right to life, liberty and the security of the person

One-time Prime Minister John Diefenbaker said, "We must vigilantly stand on guard within our own borders for human rights and fundamental freedoms which are our proud heritage. ... We cannot take for granted the continuance and maintenance of those rights and freedoms."

But critics warn that Bill C-59, Canada's new spy legislation, threatens the freedom of expression, the right to life, liberty and the security of the person, and the right to be secure from unreasonable search or seizure.

Bill C-59 ("An act respecting national security matters," according to the official literature) is the Trudeau government's response to the much-maligned Bill C-51, which was enacted after the Parliament

Hill shooting. The former legislation gave new powers to Canadian spy agencies with inadequate protections of privacy and democratic oversight. The new legislation purports to address these problems, but experts suggest it's even worse.

In December, academics at the Citizens Lab and the Canadian Interest Policy and Public Internet Clinic (CIPPIC) at the University of Toronto issued their alarming analysis of C-59. The authors warn: "From mass dissemination of false information, to impersonation, leaking foreign documents in order to influence political and legal outcomes, disabling account or network access, large-scale denial of service attacks, and interference with the electricity grid, the possibilities for the types of activities contemplated in (Bill

C-59) are limited only by the imagination."

The report says the documents leaked by U.S. National Security Agency whistleblower Edward Snowden in 2013 showed experts that Canada's Communications Security Establishment (CSE) was already spying far more than previously known.

Such non-targeted mass surveillance was seen by many to affront international law and our Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Bill C-59 seems an effort to legitimize this activity by putting it more explicitly into law, then pushes the bounds even further.

The report explains, "A foreign intelligence authorization allows the CSE to engage in any otherwise unlawful activity, 'despite any other act of Parliament or of any foreign state,'" subject to Subsection 25(2) of the CSE Act. In Paragraph 27(2)

(e), the new act allows the CSE to engage in "any other activity that is reasonable in the circumstances and reasonably necessary in aid of any other activity, or class of activity, authorized by the authorization." In other words, the CSE can ignore any law it likes if it deems it best.

What then of oversight?

C-59 creates a National Security and Intelligence Review Agency to review and investigate the activities of the CSE and the Canadian Security Intelligence Service. It would also create an intelligence commissioner to provide independent and quasi-judicial oversight over these agencies.

Unfortunately, the commissioner doesn't need to be consulted or approve any use of the new cyber operations. They need only the approval of the ministers of Defence and Foreign Affairs.

The bill is in its early stages and can still be revised. To this end, the CIPPIC report has 54 recommendations to improve the bill and make it more charter-compliant. Proposed changes place a stronger leash on the CSE by strengthening the intelligence commissioner's role and authority, clarifying terms of the legislation, and narrowing the scope of the proposed spying powers.

Advocates such as OpenMedia are collecting names on a petition that calls on the government to accept the report's recommendations.

Unjust legislation can't be allowed in the name of security. As former prime minister Pierre Trudeau said, "I recognize that in some cases it's more important to have freedom and justice than to have peace." Hopefully, the government will recognize this principle and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms that Trudeau created.

Lee Harding

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

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Charbonneau: Quebec Liberal government planning five years ahead in budget

\$16 billion extra set aside for long range public investments

TLN) The Laval region's six Quebec MNAs say the Liberal government's latest budget contains a number of measures that stand to improve the quality of life of the residents of Laval, while also encouraging economic and financial stability throughout the province.

Health and education

The government's 2018 budget makes provision for the next five years, setting aside \$16 billion in additional funding for the province's long range investments as set out in the Quebec Economic Plan. Among other things, that plan includes greater investment in health and education.



"The March 2018 Quebec Economic Plan contains numerous measures which improve the quality of life of the citizens of our region while supporting the development of our businesses and our economy," said Mille-Îles Liberal MNA Francine Charbonneau, who is Minister Responsible for the Region of Laval.

'Impressive progress'

"The progress made over the past few years is impressive and today we have a solid base on which to build a modern and prosperous Quebec for the benefit of our children and grand-children in all the regions of Quebec,"

she added.

"Over the last few years, we took our responsibilities by putting the house in order and by creating a financial and economic environment that allowed Quebec to record its strongest economic growth in nearly 20 years," said Finance Minister Carlos Leitão. "Quebecers are the first to benefit from this financial and economic improvement."

Reducing the debt

The Liberal government says it intends to make major investments in public services and infrastructures, while working to reduce the burden of its debt. According to the government, the province's economy is running at full strength, with a Gross Domestic Product that went from 1.4 per cent in 2016 to 3 per cent in 2017 – the largest gain in two decades.

At the same time, employment grew and over the past four years 222,600 jobs were created in Quebec, says the government. The Liberal government says it remains committed to creating an additional 250,000 jobs over the next five years, ahead of schedule. In the meantime, the unemployment rate in Quebec (6.1 per cent) is lower than the average for the rest of Canada (6.3 per cent).

Cutting debt service costs

According to the government, the currently excellent state of the economy suggests the time is ripe to work on reducing Quebec's overall debt with payments of \$2 billion per year over the next five years, using the province's Fonds des générations. This reduction, says the government, will correspondingly cut costs for servicing the debt by \$1 billion over five years. At the same time, the government intends to keep paying into the Generations Fund.

The government says it will be making mayor investments in education and health. Among other things, they plan on spending \$16 billion in the public education and higher education sectors on new classrooms, new gymnasiums and sports facilities, and \$19 billion in the public health and social services sectors, allowing for the modernization of health infrastructure.

Tax credits in budget

The 2018 budget allots funding for families, including refundable tax credits for children's

daycare services, a non refundable tax credit on the purchase of a new home. There are also tax credits for caregivers to senior citizens.

In addition, the government is focusing on sustainable mobility in the latest budget, with

three major transit projects receiving \$13.5 billion in support: the Montreal region's REM train, the extension of the Metro's blue line in Montreal, and development of electrified public transit in Quebec City.

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Integrated Urban Revitalization (RUI)

The City of Laval has awarded a grant of \$ 189,000 to Laval's En-Droit, the Youth Advisory Bureau and the Chomedey Local Development Committee. The three consultation partners will be adequately funded to ensure the continuity of the integrated urban revitalization (RUI) projects in the Pont-Viau, Place Saint-Martin / Domaine Renaud and Chomedey sectors for the period between April 1st and December 31st 2018.

Last year February of 2017 the City of Laval concluded an agreement with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Land Occupancy (MAMOT) under the budget of the Funds for Initiatives and Outreach of the metropolitan area (FIRM) for a two-year period ending March 31st 2018. In November of 2017 the City of Laval submitted a new application for funding under the FIRM for the renewal of the agreement for another three years. The response from MAMOT is expected in the fall of 2018 therefore the subsidy granted by Laval will prevent an interruption of the services arranged by the three revitalization project partners.

Fight against Asian carp

The City of Laval will invest \$ 11,000 to join the Alliance of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities. This group of American and Canadian cities is particularly interested in the protection of aquatic ecosystems and the fight against invasive species, including Asian carp. The latter was accidentally introduced into some US rivers in the 1970s, and now accounts for 90% of animal biomass in the natural lakes and waterways. This has resulted in a significant loss of local biodiversity. If nothing is done, this fish could seriously harm the aquatic ecosystem of Laval and even replace local popular fish such as bass, pike, or shad. In order to prevent this invasion, the Alliance is working with the various participants to establish a separation system between the Mississippi River, where Asian carp is present, and the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence basin.

\$ 20,000 to the Laval Literary Society

The members of the executive committee approved a grant of \$ 20,000 for the Société littéraire de Laval (Laval literary

society) for its operating budget for the year 2018. This support is granted to the organization as part of the annual financial assistance program in culture.

ArtHist network, delegated programmer

The City will again entrust Réseau ArtHist with a mandate for the artistic programming of certain events planned for 2018 and will compensate them with a sum of \$218,326.05 (taxes included). The agreement concerns programming at the Center de la nature funded with \$174,486.07, Les Virees Patrimoniales receiving the amount of \$25,984.36 and programming for the Semaine lavalloise des Aînés (Seniors Week) with a grant of \$17,855.62

Funding for Laval's science museums

Laval Mayor Marc Demers hailed the injection of \$ 1.325M by the Quebec government as one-time financial assistance to three of Laval's four science museums.

"We must recognize the government's effort and willingness to provide one-off transition assistance for scientific museology. It is a specific niche where the museum institutions of Laval meet. I thank the Ministers Dominique Anglade and Marie Montpetit for their action in a vision of shared responsibility between their respective departments and which, thus, gives its importance to the museum niche in which Laval has specialized. It was time to assume that scientific museology is a cornerstone for the knowledge society," said Mayor Marc Demers.

Raising the importance of encouraging scientific museology, the mayor recalled that this investment consolidates the activities of these institutions whose influence is metropolitan, or even national. "These are scientific museums that must be a source of pride for the people of Laval and all of Quebec, if we consider that these metropolitan facilities have a reputation that, for the Cosmodôme for example, exceeds our borders," said the Mayor of Laval.

The distribution of sums and the amounts awarded include; Cosmodôme - Space Camp Canada \$ 650,000, Armand-Frappier Museum \$ 450,000 and Eco-Nature - Rivière-des-Mille-Îles Park \$ 225,000 for a total of \$ 1,325,000

"These amounts come at the right time to support the work

of our teams who, through their dedication and professionalism, participate in the daily development of the scientific culture. Our museum institutions are lighthouses that develop a critical spirit worthy of the 21st century and allows the people of Laval especially the youth to cultivate a thirst for the sciences," said Aram Elagoz, District Councilor Renaud and responsible for museums Laval scientists.

Laval's cultural rendezvous for toddlers

Laval Petits bonheurs festival program has arrived. The ninth edition will be held from May 4th to 13th 2018 and will take place in several neighborhoods. The goal of this cultural happening is to introduce toddlers often for the first time to the arts.

The Petits bonheurs festival is a collection of scheduled shows and creative workshops that run over a dozen days in diverse neighborhoods including Chomedey, Pont-Viau, Renaud-Coursol, Laval-des-Rapides, Laval West and Saint Francois. A program of more than 80 activities is chosen with care and sensitivity to provide a rich encounter with the arts for children from 0 to 6 years old. Theater, puppets, music, African dance, painting, interactive shows are just some of the examples of the activities awaiting families with young children. A copy of the complete program can be viewed on line at <https://www.laval.ca/maisondesarts/Documents/brochure-petits-bonheurs.pdf>

Summer 2018 municipal day camps

The City will offer young Lavalers summer day camps which will operate from June 25th to August 17th 2018 in all neighborhoods. Eight themes will be explored over the summer of 2018 to entertain youngsters.

The summer activities brochure will be sent out the week of March 20th through the elementary schools' correspondence email address (at the discretion of each school). For schools or families who do not have an email address, a copy of the brochure will be put in your child's backpack. Registration will begin on April 11 2018 at noon and will continue until the end of the day camps in August. Go to www.inscriptions.laval.ca. For new registration please create your family file online before April 11th 2018.

HAPPY EASTER

Easter, the greatest feast of the Orthodox Church, is an opportunity to show appreciation and gratitude for all the blessings we enjoy. As you gather together to celebrate this holiday, I would like to join with my City Council colleagues to wish all of you a very joyful time.

Marc Demers
Mayor of Laval



Laval delegation attends Montreal retail sector summit

(TLN) Retailers and sales representatives from Laval took part in HOP, the retail industry summit, which took place in Montreal March 20 and 21. Among the Laval businesses which took part were Shan, Oberson and Quillicot Bicycles and several other companies.

"Our presence at the most important retail sector event in Quebec, along with the six Laval retailers accompanying us, was essential," said Laval's deputy mayor David De Cotis.

The following businesses also took part: Amal (modern as well as traditional Moroccan clothing design); Colobar (paint and household décor); ABCD Laine (woolens retailer); Institut Anca (candles, perfumes and cosmetics); Studio Équilibra (prostheses and custom bras); Loubier (handbags and wallets); Boutique Yolande Rivest (women's wear); and Ayacoana (organic hair care products).

Quebec allots \$3.2 billion for Laval infrastructure over 10 years

Autoroute 19 extension project among the various projects

(TLN) The provincial government has announced that nearly \$3.2 billion will be spent from 2018 to 2028 on public infrastructures in the Laval region as part of the Quebec Infrastructure Program.

According to the government, the investments are in response to needs in the region, including the extension of Autoroute 19 from the A-440 in Laval to the A-640 in Bois-des-Filion, the implementation of a rapid service bus along the Pie IX axis, and the resurfacing of the Pie IX bridge between Montreal and Laval.

Creating employment

"I am delighted by the contribution by the government to the economic development of our region," said Mille-Îles Liberal MNA Francine Charbonneau, who is Minister Responsible for the Laval Region in the cabinet of Premier Philippe Couillard.

"These investments in infrastructure encourage the creation of employment and contribute to the enrichment of our communities. This is excellent news for us all. These modern infrastructures which are adapted to our needs offer us a better quality of life and more time to be spent with our families."

Laval companies make valuable contacts with potential U.S. clients

Could become suppliers to automotive industry in N. and S. Carolina



Photo: From the left, Bonnet Huor, commissioner for international affairs at the City of Laval's economic development department, Stéphane Cloutier, executive vice-president of Odotrack, Josée Bordeleau, scientific director at MFSTek, Michael Messina also of Odotrack, Juli M. Creek, consultant, (behind Juli) Luc Lusignan, executive vice-president at Vulcain, Cathy Imbriglio, president Imbritech, Carl Wray, president Augusta Economic Development Authority, Deke Copenhaver, consultant Augusta Economic Development Authority, and James C. Rogers, consultant.

(TLN) The City of Laval's economic development department says a mission undertaken in the southeast United States by four local businesses involved in automobiles and specialized vehicles from March 11 - 16 has proven to be successful.

Valuable contacts

According to the city, the businesses made some 40 contacts with companies that included E-Z-Go (Textron), Kubota, Stabilus, BMW, Michelin and Proterra. The companies are said to have been interested in doing business and the Laval firms are waiting to hear whether they become regular suppliers.

The southeast U.S. is known to be a region that is a key component for the automobile industry and special truck sector. North and South Carolina alone have between them nearly 400 businesses in this sector. Laval's economic development department focused on the region for the economic mission for this reason.

A global outlook

"The economic growth and the prosperity of Laval go hand in hand with the globalization of businesses," said Mayor Marc Demers. "This mission was profitable for our suppliers of products and services, as they were able to

profit from important customers with orders from the special vehicles sector to develop this market which has great potential."

The Laval companies that took part in the mission were Creaform Ingénierie, a company specialized in 3D engineering solutions; Imbritech Industries, which machines steel, plastic and bronze parts for the paper, aviation, hydroelectric and transportation industries; MFSTek, which manufactures and globally exports ready-to-use chemical additives and custom industrial chemical formulations; and Odotrack, which furnishes solutions for tracking fleets of vehicles.



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Women gather for first anniversary of 'Equal Voice' Quebec

Politics impacts women in office – including their family life

MARTIN C. BARRY

Members of the Quebec chapter of Equal Voice, a national organization that encourages women to run for elected office, heard during a gathering in Pont-Viau on March 22 about the experiences of two women in particular who've become well-known in municipal politics in Laval and Montreal over the past few years.

Issues brought forth

It was the first anniversary of Equal Voice's Quebec chapter. Two of the evening's scheduled speakers – Manitoba NDP MP Niki Ashton and Eva Nassif, Liberal MP for the Laval riding of Vimy – were unable to make it because of House of Commons business that obliged them to be in Ottawa.

Among the issues affecting women politicians that were discussed by a panel during the gathering were maternity leave, conflicts between work obligations and personal responsibilities, and the fact that female elected representatives often don't have access to the same benefits as their counterparts working in other professions.

Changing the system

"These are common problems," former Ahuntsic Liberal MP Eleni Bakopanos, who sits on the national board of Equal Voice as treasurer, said in an interview with the Laval News. "How does one change the system to accommodate family responsibilities? This is one of the issues we're tackling."

While Bakopanos said that during her years in office, her husband made many sacrifices (such as turning down work promotions and not travelling in order to accommodate her



From the left, former Westmount city councillor Theodora Samiotis, Equal Voice Quebec secretary Evelyne Henry, national board secretary Eleni Bakopanos, Quebec chapter chair Jacinthe Gagnon, former Laval Centre Bloc Québécois MP Madeleine Dalphond-Guiral, Ahuntsic-Cartierville Borough Mayor Emilie Thuillier, Laval city councillor and executive-committee member Virginie Dufour and Laval city councillor for Chomedey Aglaia Revelakis.

demanding hours as an MP), she also acknowledged that "you cannot take maternity leave as an elected person. Let's be clear. It's a choice you've made and once you're elected it's not a 9-to-5 job. It's public service."

Virginie Dufour's experience

Addressing the 18 or so women at the gathering, Laval city councillor for Sainte-Rose (and executive-committee member) Virginie

Dufour recounted the beginning of her career in municipal politics around 2009, when the Mouvement Lavallois was still in its infancy and four years away from being elected to its first term in office.

That year, according to Dufour, she campaigned while pregnant, although neither she nor the ML succeeded in capturing the voters' imaginations. By 2013 when it was time for another municipal election, she finally won, as did the ML which gained the overwhelming majority of council seats. By this time, Dufour had two small children to care for, although her husband at the time provided a lot of support.

Received spouse's support

While she eagerly accepted her appointment to the executive-committee, Dufour said she was unprepared for the demands of the position and found herself working lengthy hours that she had never before imagined. "Without my partner it would have been disastrous," she said.

Although she acknowledged her husband's support, she said that at one point she felt a strong need to refocus attention on her family. "Unfortunately, it turned out not to be enough," Dufour said, "and we separated around a year-and-a-half ago and for around a year it's been shared custody." In 2017, she waged another election campaign, finding it easier this time

around to arrange her life without having to "feel guilty" each time her civic duties drew her away.

"I think that women generally – and I get this impression when I speak with other women – have this sense of guilt, which we really shouldn't have," she said, noting that during election campaigns she never ran into a male candidate who felt guilty about not being at home with his family.

Impact on Thuillier's life

The second featured speaker, Ahuntsic-Cartierville Borough Mayor Émilie Thuillier, who was first elected to Montreal City Council in 2009, said politics was first and foremost a choice she made, although at one point over the past nine years it started to conflict with her family life. Eventually, she admitted, it opened a rift between herself and her spouse.

"It's hard to find someone who shares the same enthusiasm as one's self for political life," she said. At the same time, she pointed out that for the first time in the City of Montreal's 375-year history, 10 of the city's 19 borough mayors are women, while 53 of the 103 city councillors are also women. "It's important but not something to be taken for granted," she added.

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Equal Voice Quebec chapter president Jacinthe Gagnon, front right, leads discussions, with Eleni Bakopanos (front left), Ahuntsic-Cartierville Borough Mayor Émilie Thuillier and Laval city councillor for Sainte-Rose Virginie Dufour, during Equal Voice Quebec's first anniversary gathering in Pont-Viau on March 22.

Greeks gather for Independence Day dinner gala

Quebec Finance Minister Carlos Leitão named Parade Marshall

PHOTOS: Martin C. Barry - Newsfirst



Pictured above among the dignitaries present at the Greek Independence Day gala: Chomedey city councillor Aglaia Revelakis, Chomedey Liberal MNA Guy Ouellette, Hellenic Congress of Quebec President John Theodosopoulos, Hellenic Community Present Nicholas Pagonis, Quebec Minister of Culture and Communications H  l  ne David, Consul General for Greece in Montreal Nicolas Sigalas, Treasury Board Minister Pierre Arcand, Laurier-Dorion MNA Gerry Sklavounos, HCGM VP Andy Crilis and Roxboro/Pierrefonds Borough Mayor Dimitrios Beis.

MARTIN C. BARRY

Hundreds of patriotic Greek Montrealers gathered at the Hellenic Community Centre in C  te des Neiges on the evening of Friday March 23 to celebrate the annual Greek Independence Day with a gala dinner.

Greeks trace their modern-era quest for independence back to 1821 when the Greek War of Independence against the Ottoman Empire began and continued for more than a decade.

Among the dignitaries seated at the head table were RBC executive Tony Loffreda who was Philhellene of the Year, Hellene of the Year Justine Frangouli-Argyris, Greek Consul General in Montreal Nicolas Sigalas, Villeray/St-Michel/Parc Extension Borough Mayor Giuliana Fumagalli, Park Ex city councillor Mary Deros and Laval city councillor for Chomedey Aglaia Revelakis.

Many dignitaries

Also among the dignitaries were Liberal MPs Emmanuela Lambropoulos and Laval-Les   les

MP Fay  al El-Khoury, Saint-Laurent Borough Mayor Alan DeSousa, Roxboro/Pierrefonds Borough Mayor Dimitrios Beis, C  te des Neiges/NDG Borough Mayor Sue Montgomery, Laurier-Dorion MNA Gerry Sklavounos, Chomedey MNA Guy Ouellette, Senator Leo Housakos and Hellenic Community of Greater Montreal president Nicholas T. Pagonis.

Quebec Treasury Board Minister Pierre Arcand as well as Minister of Culture and Communications H  l  ne David also turned up, although they left early due to other commitments. Two special guests were the mayor and deputy-mayor of the island municipality of Samos in Greece, respectively Michaelis Angelopoulos and M. A. Kalantzis. Quebec Finance Minister Carlos Leit  o was named as the official Marshall for the 2018 Greek Independence Day parade along Jean Talon St. in Park Ex the following Sunday.

Hellene and Philhellene

Well known in the Canadian Greek community for her many years as a journalist, writer and

news correspondent, Justine Frangouli-Argyris was born on the Greek island of Lefkada and first arrived in Montreal in 1989. For his part, Loffreda said "I am very emotional and touched by this honour."

In a keynote address, HCGM president Pagonis touched upon the controversial issue

of the use of the name Macedonia by the former Yugoslav region. "They are trying to present themselves as being the descendants of the ancient Macedonians," Pagonis said in an interview afterwards. "This is something we do not accept. The ancient Macedonians spoke Greek and continue to be Greek."



Pictured above from left to right: Consul General for Greece in Montreal Nicolas Sigalas, Laval-Les   les Liberal MP Fay  al El-Khoury, Chomedey Liberal MNA Guy Ouellette, and Laurier-Dorion Liberal MNA Gerry Sklavounos.



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City and Laval officials commemorate Greek Independence Day



MARTIN C. BARRY

Elected officials from the federal, provincial and municipal levels of government in the Laval region gathered at the war cenotaph near Laval city hall on Saturday March 24 to pay their respects along with residents of Hellenic ancestry to the early 19th century Greeks who valiantly fought so that the modern day Greek Republic could be independent and free.

Guests from Greece

Immediately before the ceremony, many of those attending were invited into Laval city hall where Mayor Marc Demers welcomed members of a delegation from Samos, Greece

– including the island city's mayor Michalis Angelopoulos, – to sign the City of Laval's "golden book" (photo above) which is opened when special guests visit.

Right after the signing of the "golden book" the Greek Flag was raised outside Laval's city hall (photo at right) to honour Greek Independence Day.

To honour those who gave their lives so that Greece would be free, Greeks from Laval and from all over the Montreal region go each year to the cenotaph outside Laval city hall to deposit commemorative wreaths and to spend a moment in silent contemplation. Among those depositing commemorative wreaths



at the base of the monument were Consul General for Greece in Montreal Nicolas Sigalas, Liberal MPs Fayçal El-Khoury and Emmanuela Lambropoulos, Quebec Liberal MNAs Gerry Sklavounos, Guy Ouellette, Jean Habel and Monique Sauvé, and Laval Mayor Marc Demers with councillors Aline Dib, Aglaia Revelakis, Vasilios Karidogiannis and Paolo Galati.

As well, wreaths were left by officials from the City of Montreal, including Villeray/St-Michel/Parc Extension Borough Mayor Giuliana Fumagalli with Councillor Mary Deros, Hellenic Community of Quebec president John Theodosopoulos, Hellenic Community of Greater Montreal president Nicholas Pagonis

and Greek Canadian armed forces veterans.

A very historic date

On March 25, 1821 in what was then Ottoman-dominated Greece, Bishop Germanos of the metropolis of Patras blessed a Greek flag and proclaimed an uprising by the Greeks against the occupying Ottomans. The event marked the beginning of the Greek Revolution which continued until 1832 when the Republic of Greece was proclaimed and was recognized by the world's major nations.

In the Montreal region, Laval has the highest concentration of residents of Greek heritage.

HAPPY EASTER TO ALL LAVAL CITIZENS



MARC DEMERS
Mayor of Laval

DAVID DE COTIS, Saint-Bruno | **CHRISTIANE YOAKIM**, Val-des-Arbres | **DANIEL HÉBERT**, Marigot
ALINE DIB, Saint-Martin | **ARAM EL AGOZ**, Renaud | **ÉRIC MORASSE**, Saint-François | **SANDRA EL-HELOU**,
 Souvenir-Labelle | **STÉPHANE BOYER**, Duvernay-Pont-Viau | **NICHOLAS BORNE**, Laval-les-Îles
JOCELYNE FRÉDÉRIC-GAUTHIER, Auteuil | **MICHEL POISSANT**, Vimont | **VASILIOS KARIDOGIANNIS**,
 L'Abord-à-Plouffe | **PAOLO GALATI**, Saint-Vincent-de-Paul | **VIRGINIE DUFOUR**, Sainte-Rose
SANDRA DESMEULES, Concorde-Bois-de-Boulogne | **YANNICK LANGLOIS**, L'Orée-des-bois | **RAY KHALIL**,
 Sainte-Dorothée | **ISABELLA TASSONI**, Laval-des-Rapides | **GILBERT DUMAS**, Marc-Aurèle-Fortin

**MOUVEMENT LAVALLOIS
ÉQUIPE MARC DEMERS**

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, present at the Greek Independence parade

The grand marshal of this year's parade was Quebec Finance Minister Carlos Leitão



PHOTO: PMO ADAM SCOTT

MARTIN C. BARRY

Thousands of people from many cultural backgrounds – but primarily Greeks – lined the sidewalks of Jean-Talon St. in Park Extension on Sunday March 25 for the year's biggest celebration by Greater Montreal's Hellenic community – the Greek Independence Day Parade.

Parade Marshall Leitão

This year's parade Grand Marshall, Quebec Finance Minister Carlos Leitão, led the dignitaries westward on Jean Talon St. up to Athena Park at the corner of Bloomfield Ave. where they climbed the stairs onto an outdoor stage to review the marchers passing by.

"I'm very honoured to have been given this invitation," Leitão told Newsfirst Multimedia. Among those joining Leitão on the reviewing stand was the country's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who was Parade Marshall in last year's Greek Independence Day Parade.

Great day for a parade

Born and bred in Park Extension, Laurier-Dorion MNA Gerry Sklavounos has participated in dozens of Greek Independence Day parades and he wasn't about to skip this year's. "It's a beautiful day for the parade," he said.

"It's great to see so many Greeks out with so many important dignitaries, such as our Prime Minister, our senator from Ottawa and members of the provincial parliament. Even though it's a little bit cold, our Greek hearts are keeping everybody very warm."

Important for Greeks: Lambropoulos

Emmanuela Lambropoulos, the Liberal MP for the riding of Saint-Laurent, shared her thoughts on Greece's Independence Day. "I think it's one of the most important days for Greeks because it allows us to be who we are today," she said. "On this day in 1821, we began our revolution and some very brave heroes stood up for their people to allow us to enjoy the freedom that we have today."

The Ambassador of Greece in Canada, Dimitris Azemopoulos, was participating in his first Greek Independence Day Parade in Montreal, although not his first in Canada since he'd previously taken in part in the parade in Toronto where he was Consul General for five years. "It gives me such an extraordinary feeling to see so many thousands of Greeks here celebrating the national day of Greece," he said.

'A great day for Greece'

Greece's Consul General in Montreal, Nicolas Sigalas, was in fine form when asked for his impressions of this year's parade



in Montreal. "It's a great day for Greece, a great day for the Greek community in Canada and for everybody else as well," he said. "A beautiful day that carries a message about freedom and independence for the world."

Hellenic Community of Greater Montreal president Nicholas Pagonis said it's one of the rare days in Montreal when so many people have the opportunity to gather for the purpose of celebrating the triumph of freedom and democracy. "We are celebrating the principles of democracy, liberty, human dignity and human rights," he said.



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YOUR HOROSCOPE

Week of April 8 to 14, 2018

The luckiest signs this week:
TAURUS, GEMINI, CANCER

ARIES
You'll definitely be surrounded by lots of people this week. Your friends will invite you to all sorts of goings-on, each more action-packed than the last. Someone might try to get you to lose your cool.

TAURUS
Whether at work or at home, expect to have a lot of responsibilities end up on your shoulders this week. You'll need to rethink your priorities and stop procrastinating if you want to get everything done.

GEMINI
You may find yourself spontaneously planning a magnificent voyage. You'll get in touch with your spiritual side, and this will put you on the path to greater well-being.

CANCER
You'll go through the whole gamut of emotions this week. Your family and friends will be there to help you navigate a complicated situation on the home front. Things should clear up quickly.

LEO
It's always easier to get along with people with whom you aren't involved emotionally. You may need to go a bit heavier on the discipline with your kids, who know exactly how to push your buttons.

VIRGO
You'll have a lot of little details to straighten out. At work, there's a significant promotion waiting for you just around the corner, but you'll need to work on your negotiation skills to get the most out of what you're offered.

LIBRA
If you're single, expect love to come knocking at your door. It may even be an old friend. On the financial front, a considerable amount of cold hard cash will fall out of the sky.

SCORPIO
Your plans to move out of your current area will start to take shape. You'll put the needs of your family before your own, even if your schedule for the next few days is already jam-packed.

SAGITTARIUS
You'll feel compelled to treat yourself to a new car. Be reasonable: you wouldn't want to put too much of a strain on your finances. Give yourself a few days to think about it, and the urge may disappear on its own.

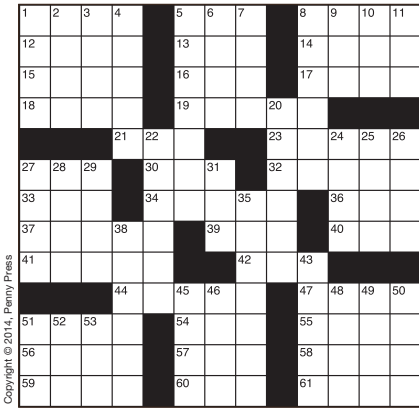
CAPRICORN
You'll be feeling unusually emotional this week. To restore harmony in your relationship, dedicate some time to a heart-to-heart conversation. This will help you get to know each other better.

AQUARIUS
You're overflowing with vitality and feel ready to tackle all kinds of problems. Various situations have had you considerably worried for a while, and you'll be happy to put them behind you.

PISCES
You'll be more and more worried about a minor health problem. By taking the situation seriously, you'll succeed in obtaining all the care you need, and you should be feeling better in no time.

Coffee break

CROSSWORDS PUZZLE NO. 911



ACROSS

- Molt
- Shoulder enhancer
- Parcel
- Volcanic fluid
- High card
- Disguise
- Cookie cooker
- Goblet edge
- Store sign
- Look after
- Embrace
- Agreeable response
- Unpolished
- Couple
- Swab
- Piece of prose
- Acorn's parent
- Make holy
- Shade tree
- Royal headwear
- Drama part
- Family room

DOWN

- Shelley poem
- Half of twenty
- Magic word
- Set sail
- Spent
- Strong wind
- Chapel song
- Preschoolers
- Sob
- Fine
- Pod vegetable
- Planned
- Begrudge
- Daddies
- Partly closed
- Package sealer
- Critical
- Poker-game starter
- Confusion
- 100%
- Pigeon's comment
- Towel marking

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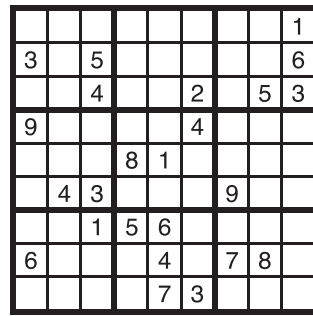
Sudoku

PUZZLE NO. 648

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.**

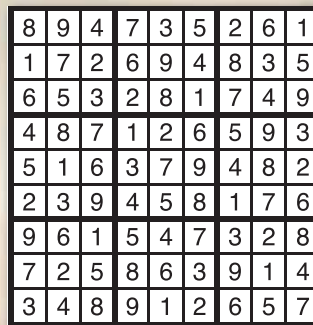


CROSSWORDS



LAST ISSUE'S ANSWERS FOR

Sudoku



JOKES

CHICKEN RUN

A man had trouble getting his neighbor to keep his chickens fenced in. The neighbor kept saying chickens were noble creatures, and they had the right to go where they wanted. The man had no luck keeping the chickens out of his flower beds. He tried everything.

Two weeks later, a visiting friend noticed the flower beds were doing great! They were blooming and beautiful. So the friend asked, "How did you make your neighbor keep his hens in his own yard?"

"One night I hid half a dozen eggs under a bush by my flower bed, and the next day I let my neighbor see me gather them. I wasn't bothered after that."

SPEEDING TICKET

A cop pulls over a lady for speeding and gives her a ticket saying, "That's \$150 and two points."

"Two points? What do I do with the points?" she asks. "Well," says the cop, "when you get twelve, you get a bike!"

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Youth Stabbed in Laval

April 2 - Police received a call at 11 p.m. alerting them to a violent incident that left an unidentified youth with multiple stab wounds. The 17-year-old victim was sitting in a car in a parking lot of a dépanneur at the intersection of Boul. Lévesque and 77th Ave. in Chomedey. He had several serious stab wounds to the chest. He was taken to hospital but his life was not considered in danger.

The adolescent is known to police and is not co-operating with investigators.

Man Plummets 7 Storeys to his Death Trying to Flee Police Raid

March 30 - The BEI has been called in to investigate the death of a man who fell from his 7th floor balcony during a police operation last week.

The incident occurred after police made a dynamic entry into a seventh-floor apartment during a planned drug raid. A 36-year-old man

in the apartment rushed out to the balcony, tossed something to a neighbour's balcony before attempting unsuccessfully to make the leap across to another 7th floor balcony. He fell to the ground, and was pronounced dead shortly after. Ten investigators from the BEI were dispatched to the scene.

Driver of Fatal Car Crash Arrested

March 29 - Laval police arrested a 21-year-old man involved in a fatal car crash that occurred last May on Boul. des Laurentides.

Following a 10-month investigation of the deadly crash, officers arrested Simon Lefebvre last Wednesday. Police allege he was the driver responsible for the high-speed collision that killed the passenger in the suspect's vehicle and seriously injured the driver of the other car.

Lefebvre faces charges of impaired driving, dangerous driving causing death and criminal negligence.

Arson Suspected at Chomedey Vape Shop

March 27 - Laval police are investigating a suspected case of arson at a Chomedey Vape Shop on Boul. Curé-Labelle. Emergency services were dispatched to the scene of an early morning fire after a 911 call was placed at 4:47 a.m. by a passer-by who noticed smoke and flames coming from the shop.

Four fire trucks were deployed and they rolled up to the burning locale minutes later.

The Laval arson investigators were called in to take over the case after firefighters discovered a broken window at the premises that had been smashed before their arrival.

No injuries were reported. Police have not identified any suspects yet.

Fire Roasts Ste-Rose Resto

March 23 - A fire broke out early Friday morning at Restaurant Chez AlexSim, located on Curé-Labelle in Sainte-Rose. A passer-by

noticed smoke coming from the building and alerted 911 at 2:12 a.m.

Firefighters arrived on the scene within 5 minutes. They observed flames coming from the first floor at the back of the building. According to Laval fire department, the fire started in the kitchen. The intense heat caused damage to both the first and second floors, which also suffered some water damage.

The blaze was extinguished by 3:15 a.m. Twenty-three firefighters were involved in the dousing effort. No one was in the restaurant at the time of the fire, and no injuries were reported.

Damages are estimated at \$150,000 for the building, as well as \$175,000 to equipment, inventory, and supplies.

Firefighters were unable to determine the cause of the fire, so the case was transferred to Laval's arson investigators.

Beware: Fraudsters pose as Canada Revenue Agency in tax season text message scam

One of the trickiest types of fraud to detect revolves around tax matters. Scam artists are known to present to business owners as the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA).

Many people feel their heart skip a beat when they see or hear the words "Canada Revenue Agency," so this gives fraudsters an opening to prey on this sensitivity.

Recently, there has been an increase in telephone scams where the caller claims to be from the CRA but is not — these calls are fraudulent and could result in identity / financial theft.

Tips so you'll know if it's really the CRA

Tax season is just around the corner! At this time of year, it's possible that the CRA will contact you by phone for legitimate tax reasons — here's what you should know:

The CRA may: validate your identity by asking for certain personal information (e.g., your full name, date of birth, your address and, in the case of a business, details about your account).

The CRA will not: ask for information about your passport, health card, or driver's license.

The CRA may: email you a link to a CRA

webpage, form, or publication in response to your telephone enquiry.

The CRA will not: email you a link requesting you fill in an online form with personal financial information.

The CRA may: send you a notice of assessment or re-assessment by mail or notify you by email when it is available to view in My Account, My Business Account, or Represent a Client.

The CRA will not: send you a link to your refund by email or text message.

The CRA may: ask for financial information

such as the name of your bank and its location.

The CRA will not: set up an in-person meeting in a public place to take payment.

The CRA may: request payment for a tax debt through any of the CRA's payment options.

The CRA will not: demand immediate payment by prepaid credit card.

The CRA may: take legal action to recover the money you owe if you refuse to pay your debt.

The CRA will not: threaten you with immediate arrest or prison sentence.

If you get harassed contact the police.

Stella Artois recalls bottled beer sold in Canada for possible broken glass

Canadian dates range from Feb. 20, 2018, to Sept. 26, 2018.

CBC- Stella Artois says it's recalling beer packaged in 330 millilitre glass bottles as a safety precaution.

The company says some bottles have a flaw that may cause a small piece of glass to break off and possibly fall into the beer.

Stella Artois said the bottles were manufactured by one of its many suppliers, which wasn't identified. The company says it is recalling less than one per cent of all bottled beer it sells in North America every year, and the number of impacted bottles is likely to be a fraction of that one per cent.

"The safety of our consumers is our top priority," brand vice-president Christina Choi said. "While the number of potentially affected glass bottles is very small, we are recalling these Stella Artois packages as a precautionary measure.

The recall applies to packages of six, 12, 18 and 24 bottles of Stella Artois and "Best of Belgium" multi-packs sold in the U.S. and Canada. The recalls also apply to Stella Artois Legere six and 12 packs sold in the United States.

The affected packages have codes 49, 52, or 55 and best-before dates ranging from Feb. 13, 2018, to Feb. 2, 2019. The Canadian dates range from Feb. 20, 2018, to Sept. 26, 2018.

Besides advising consumers to return packages covered by the warning for a reimbursement, the company is working with distributors and retailers to remove packages that could be affected.

The recall doesn't affect other Stella Artois packaging formats, such as cans or draft or bottles with any other production codes.

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Community Calendar

Send your announcements of events two weeks prior to editor@the-news.ca

2018						
January	February	March	April	May	June	July
1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2	2	2
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5	5	5	5	5	5	5
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29	29	29	29	29	29	29
30	30	30	30	30	30	30
31	31	31	31	31	31	31

City grants \$21,180 subsidy to Mieux-Naitre in Laval

Quebec should support prenatal services organization, says mayor



From the left, seen here with several parents and grandparents with their loved ones, Souvenir-Labelle city councillor and executive-committee associate-member Sandra El-Helou, councillor and executive-committee member Sandra Desmeules, Mayor Marc Demers, Angèle Trudeau, president of MNL, Lysane Grégoire, executive-director of MNL, Sainte-Rose councillor and executive-committee member Virginie Dufour and Laval-des-Rapides city councillor Isabella Tassoni.

(TLN) On March 23, the City of Laval's executive-committee granted a subsidy of \$21,180 to Mieux-Naitre in Laval, a non-profit organization that provides prenatal services to expectant mothers and parents.

A need in Laval

Since there are already 18 prenatal services centres in various areas of Quebec, Mayor Marc Demers wondered why there have been none until up to now in Laval, "a region where the birth rate is the highest in Quebec," he said.

"This financial support will allow Mieux-Naitre in Laval to pursue its representations to decision-makers in order to obtain recurring support that is equitable for Laval's families, while assuring the continuation of a service that is essential," said the mayor.

'A right,' says Desmeules

Since 2012, Mieux-Naitre in Laval has been offering services to appreciative young families in Laval. There are approximately 4,000 births annually in Laval.

"Every day, women and their partners who are expecting a child or who hope to start a family in Laval have every right to receive prenatal services just as everyone else in Quebec can," said Laval executive-committee member Sandra Desmeules, the city councillor for the district of Bois-de-Boulogne.

Essential support

"We are not about to allow the comforting light represented by Mieux-Naitre in Laval to go out. It is therefore essential that we offer to this organization the support to allow it to obtain recurring and equitable financial assistance so that it can pursue its mission."

In October 2017, Laval city council passed a resolution asking the Quebec government to provide recurring financial support to Mieux-Naitre in Laval comparable to the support received by other prenatal centres elsewhere in Quebec. With the latest subsidy, the City of Laval has given the organization \$60,000, although Laval is still waiting for the government to step in with its own support.

Direct? Answers from • Wayne & Tamara Wrongly Accused



I am in a difficult situation with my ex. We broke up nine months ago but remained in touch, talking or texting, hanging out now and then, and becoming intimate a few times. I ended things to focus on myself and my health. After two years I realized I was still closed off from him. I was curious about others as he was only my second real relationship in my mid-20s.

It was a tough breakup because he considered me his first real love. We built a good friendship, so it was difficult to cut all contact. I also think I selfishly tried to keep the door open while potentially wanting something else.

My ex was reliable and kind. I simply had doubts I couldn't move past. I thought ending it was the most fair option for both of us in an unfair situation.

Nine months after the breakup a friend of four years asked me out. I agreed. He told me of his feelings while I was still with my ex, but I chose to stay, so my friend never acted on his feelings. I will be honest and say it did affect me because I wondered what it would be like to be with him.

However I did love my ex and did not want to leave him under those circumstances, so I never pursued this other person and we remained platonic. Now my ex is upset, hurt and angry because he suspects something was going on with this other man when he and I were together.

My ex doesn't believe I ever loved or cared about him. Our relationship is basically invalidated in his eyes. I know I shouldn't care, but I can't help but feel guilty. I understand why my ex feels as he does. It feels like I am always the one hurting him, which is hard for me to face.

The idea of dating someone else, especially a longtime friend, is scary but I want to try.

How can I let go of the guilt I feel for hurting someone else?

Margot

Margot, Voltaire said, "History is the lie commonly agreed upon." Your ex is rewriting the history of your relationship, and he wants you to agree to the lie. His revisionist history proves your decision to end it was right.

You moved him from boyfriend to boy friend. You two were together in an attempt to find love. On your end, it failed. Your only mistake was having casual sex with him instead of making a clean break. That sent you into an iffy zone that has no future.

Now he is using that to rewrite the kind of person you are and to suggest you were doing what you were not. He's telling you what he thinks of you: you are a cheat.

Someone who still loved you would not believe that of you. They may be sad, they may wonder where they went wrong, or they may wonder if it was just not to be. But they wouldn't go to, "I'm going to tear her down."

He's trying to turn the tables on you, and he will succeed only if you feel guilty for breaking up with him. Leave him with his hate and vitriol and false history. When we are with the wrong one, of course we think of others. That's the true history of your relationship.

Wrong is worse than none. Wrong isn't wrong just because it is wrong. It is wrong because it also robs us of right.

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

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IN MEMORIAM & OBITUARIES

CHARBACHI (TACHIJI), Angèle 1946 - 2018



On Monday, March 26, 2018, ANGÈLE TACHIJI, beloved wife of the late Simon Charbachi passed away at the age of 71. She will be sadly missed by her children Abboud, Sophie (Nino), Antoine (Serena), Dani (Carmen), Paul (Sophie) and Noëlle (Berthier), her grandchildren Nour, Jad, Clara, Chloé, Nicolas, Michel, Noah-Simon and Samuel, his sisters Jeannette (late Ibrahim) and Chamiram (Paul), his sister-in-law Alice (Zaki), his brothers-in-law Georges (late Georgette) and Manuel (late Farida), as well as several nephews and nieces, relatives and friends.

DUBOIS, Maurice 1939-2018



On March 27, 2018, surrounded by his family, Mr. Maurice Dubois, husband of Hélène Dugal, passed away at the age of 78. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his children: Daniel (Nathalie) and Dominique, his grandchildren: Mariylse and Ariane, his many brothers and sisters, brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, as well as many other relatives and friends.

APOSTOLOPOULOS, Sotirios 1928-2018



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Mr. Sotirios Apostolopoulos, March 26, 2018, at the age of 89. Beloved husband for 38 years of the late Theodora Karambela. He will be deeply missed by his niece Sofia Calafatis as well as other relatives and friends.

BARBE, Gérard 1928 - 2018



On March 25, 2018, in Laval, passed away Mr Gérard Barbe, at the age of 89. Beloved husband of Murielle Trépanier Barbe. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his children, Guy (Suzanne Lauzon), Ginette (Yvon Haeck) and Roseline (François Hurteau), his 10 grandchildren; the late Guillaume, Karina, Mylène and Gabriel Barbe, Hugo and Jonathan Haeck, Jean-Nicolas, Marie-Pascale, Stephanie and David Hurteau, his 12 great-grandchildren, his brothers and sisters, brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law as well as many relatives and friends.

ALLARD (BEAUCHAMP), DANIELLE 1954-2018



In Laval, on March 24, 2018 at the age of 63 Mrs. Danielle Beauchamp. Mr. Serge Allard's wife. Besides her husband, she leaves to mourn her children: Frédéric (Julie), Karine, her grandchildren: Olivier, Thomas, Magalie, her brother Jean-Guy (Denise), her sister: Ginette (Michel), nephews, nieces as well as many other relatives and friends.

HÉBERT, Christian 1974 - 2018



In Laval on March 24, 2018, Hébert Christian died at the age of 43. He is survived by his mother Louise Drapeau (Pierre Bertrand), his sister Nathalie Hébert and his brother Daniel Hébert. He also leaves to mourn his godchild Mickael Hébert Néron and his niece Alicia May Hébert (David Labelle), their daughter Cassiopée Labelle, his great friend Jean-François Hébert.

DION, LAURENCE 1937-2018



In Bois-des-Filion, on March 24, 2018, at the age of 81, passed away Mrs. Laurence Dion, beloved wife of the late Claude Lacasse, She leaves to mourn her children Lucie (Denis), Louise (Pierre), Roger (Chantale), Robert (Alice) and Stéphane (Louise), as well as her grandchildren, great-grandchildren, her brothers, sisters, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nephews and nieces, and other relatives and friends.

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IN MEMORIAM & OBITUARIES



BRUNET, Rhéal
1947-2018

In Saint-Eustache, on March 24, 2018, at the age of 70, Mr Rhéal Brunet passed away. Husband of Mrs. Rose-Ange Faucher. In addition to his wife, he leaves to mourn his children: Dominique (Jean-Claude), Emmanuelle (Jonathan), his grandchildren: Samuel, Shanelle, Tommy, Alexis, his brother, his sisters, brothers-in-law, sister-in-law, nephews, nieces and many other relatives and friends.



LAMÈRE, Richard
1948 - 2018

In Laval, passed away on March 23, 2018, Lamère Richard at the age of 69 years, beloved husband of Mrs Suzanne Lacas. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his only daughter Sylvie, his son-in-law Florent Lavoie and his son Thierry, his adored granddaughter Eloise and many other relatives and friends.



MORIN, Marcel
1945-2018

From Laval, at the age of 72, Mr Marcel Morin passed away. Beloved husband of Mrs Nicole Fiset. In addition to his wife, he also leaves to mourn his children Ghislain (Lyne), Cynthia (Jean-Sebastien), Julie (Babak), Christina (Jean) and Dominick: his grandchildren Samuel, Christophe, Marjan, Kiyan, Amélie, Nolan and Nathan, as well as other relatives and friends.



SAFADI, Samir 'Sam'
1937 - 2018

After a long illness against which he fought with courage, he died on March 24. In addition to his wife Agnès, he is survived by his children Gabriel, Joëlle and Daniel (Meetu Rakheja), his granddaughter Alexa, his sister, his brother and his friends.



LEGAL, André
1937-2018

In Laval on March 24, 2018, Mr. André Legal passed away at the age of 80. He is survived by his spouse Claire Lessard, his sons Jean (Suzie Fréchette) and Robert (Manon Thibault) and his grandchildren Jean-Philippe, Geneviève, Julie and Francis.



LAMPRON, DIANE
1951-2018

From Bois-Des-Filion, at the age of 67, passed away Mrs. Diane Lampron spouse Mr. Francis Berlinguette. In addition to her husband, she is survived by her daughter Marilyn (Alexandre), her grandson Charles. She also leaves to mourn her brothers and sisters: Fleurette, Maurice, Louis (Marie-Claude), Gerald (Carmelle), Robert (France) and Richard, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nephews and niece and other relatives and friends.

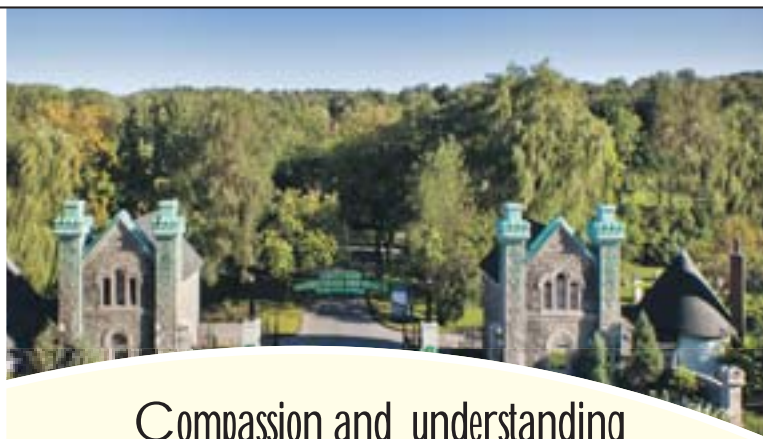


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MARCHE CENTRAL 16	MARCHE CENTRAL 16				

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EN VERSION FRANÇAISE AUX			EN VERSION ANGLAISE AUX		
SAINTE-THERESE 8	TERRASSE 14	JACQUES-CARTIER 16	DEB BOUVIER 8	SPHEROTECH 14	LACORDAIRE 16
DEB BOUVIER 14	LACORDAIRE 16	POINT-VIAU 16	LACORDAIRE 16	TACHÉREAU 16	MARCHE CENTRAL 16
MARCHE CENTRAL 16	MARCHE CENTRAL 16				

READY PLAYER ONE

PG-13 | 2h 20min | Action, Adventure, Sci-Fi



When the creator of a virtual reality world called the OASIS dies, he releases a video in which he challenges all OASIS users to find his Easter Egg, which will give the finder his fortune. Wade Watts finds the first clue and starts a race for the Egg.

MIDNIGHT SUN

G - 13 | 1 hr 31 min | Drama, Romance



A 17-year-old sheltered since childhood and confined to her house during the day by a rare disease that makes even the smallest amount of sunlight deadly. Fate intervenes when she meets Charlie and they embark on a summer romance.

PACIFIC RIM UPRISING

PG-13 | 1h 51min | Action, Adventure, Sci-Fi



Jake Pentecost, son of Stacker Pentecost, reunites with Mako Mori to lead a new generation of Jaeger pilots, including rival Lambert and 15-year-old hacker Amara, against a new Kaiju threat.

ACRIMONY

R | 2h | Thriller



A faithful wife (Taraji P. Henson) tired of standing by her devious husband (Lyrq Bent) is enraged when it becomes clear she has been betrayed.

BLOCKERS

R | 1h 42min | Comedy | (Release date April 6th, 2018)



Three parents try to stop their daughters from having sex on Prom night.

TOMB RAIDER

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 QUIET PLACE (Release date April 6th, 2018)

PG-13 | 1h 30min | Drama, Horror, Thriller



A family is forced to adapt a lifestyle where they live in silence and are full of caution at every act they commit, as they try to remain hidden in sight and sound from intelligently vicious creatures that have begun to override Earth.

UNSAFE

R | 1h 37min | Horror, Thriller



A young woman is involuntarily committed to a mental institution, where she is confronted by her greatest fear-but is it real or a product of her delusion?



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Do water heaters require regular maintenance?

Just got a brand new water heater? To maximize its lifespan, follow these maintenance tips.

If your tap water is particularly hard, ferrous or calcareous, it's important that you fully empty your hot water tank once every year. To find out how to proceed, refer to the owner's manual. However, if your water heater is combustion-powered, call a professional to do the work. Regular drainage will prevent sediment buildup at the bottom of the tank, which can

If you have an old water heater that's never been maintained, refrain from draining it; this could damage the appliance.

damage the appliance. Buildup in a sealed combustion heater is especially hard on your energy bill, as this particular type of appliance heats water from the bottom. It doesn't take much accumulated residue to hinder heat transfer and reduce the water heater's efficiency.

Finally, periodically check on the state of your water heater's sacrificial anode (the component that protects the exterior from corrosion) and make sure that the safety gasket is still perfectly watertight to avoid unpleasant surprises.



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Experiencing some drain-related drama? Camera inspection is a safe and effective way to assess the state of your foundation drain. Here's how it works: a camera is inserted inside the drain and records all visible details, allowing a professional to precisely determine the origin of the problem. This makes it

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