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# "I'm always pushing the limit of what's possible"

Says multi-talented Laval artist Chris Giannini

RENATA ISOPO

Christopher James Giannini grew up in a traditional Italian-Canadian family surrounded by music from a very young age, with home-grown Italian melodies weaving through that atmosphere.

He would listen to his father's vinyls - Bee Gees, Paul Anka, Stevie Wonder, Michael Jackson among others. A rambunctious kid, Chris would run around the house, strumming his red toy guitar singing his favorite songs, gifted with an instinctive sense of rhythm and passion to match.

No wallflower, he often performed for family and friends on a makeshift stage his father built for him and his brother, laying the foundation for love of music. Later, at Laval Catholic High School, he entertained full houses as mad scientist "Professor Cheesewhiz" in the school's renowned annual Blue and Gold production. Shortly after, at 19, swept away by inspiration, he bought his first guitar. Self-taught, he learned mainly by ear, with the help of YouTube tutorials.

In Cinema and Communications at Dawson College, his passion for music was ever-present in classes, song-writing, piano-playing, and best of all - spontaneously impromptu performances in the atrium. Heart-breaking, pop rock-n-roll and smooth crooning constitute this musical and lyrical phenomenon.

First discovered on Battle of the Bands, he was then signed by record label and recorded his first track "If It's Me". Released in Quebec in 2010, it scored over 30,000 downloads on iTunes Canada, with TV appearances on Musique Plus/Much, Affaires des Stars, TVA Salut Bonjour, and CTV-Canada iTunes song of the week. Invited by Gregory Charles of Laval's International Mondial Choral Festival, he joined Aerosmith, and Sarah McLachlan & LMFAO on stage.

With rapidly evolving technical knowledge and growing love for filmmaking, he dove into cinematography. An entrepreneur at the tender age of 20, he created Dekade Productions, a multi-media production company.

The love story of Lavaller Chris Giannini's life lies between music and acting. But there's trouble in musical paradise when opportunity knocks to make his wildest career dreams come true - no contracts, no negotiations, no lawyers,



Chris Giannini shooting on location in Hollywood

and, above all, nothing about the great taboo, money.

However, there's an artistic manifesto embedded in Chris which he delivers and embodies - the passion of super song-writer instrumentalist. His singing is dominant, his performance fascinating. He doesn't so much deliver a single feeling on cue as command the screen and gradually unfold a complex range of emotion, in pursuit of self-expression in sharing space of performance in inherently collaborative art forms with other reinvigorating artistic collaborators.

Recently, TLN spoke with this talented Montreal-born, Laval-raised singer, writer, videographer, and actor at his beautiful ultra-modern downtown Laval pad. The visit prompted an intimate look into his extraordinary life and career. Articulately charismatic, he spared no enthusiasm answering a few questions.

**How would you describe yourself and your multi-talents?**

"I'm a photographer, singer, song-writer, videographer, aspiring actor, working, documenting, and playing through a camera, always pushing the limit of what's possible. I don't always achieve it, but the reward is in the trying, and when I do achieve it, there's an enormous

depth of satisfaction and gratification that comes with it.

"I love experiences working on everything from singing to film sets, and live events to studio and location photography, videography, using various techniques and genres. The possibilities are endless as long as you work hard and remain grounded in pleasing the people who've entrusted you with the precious episodes of their lives. It makes you both proud and humble to be able to serve in this very special way."

**What do you say when people ask you what you do for work?**

"I say I work with love and light. I'm lucky to work with these raw materials every day. I shoot in photojournalistic style with a traditional touch and love to capture the true beautiful moments.

Having traveled extensively bringing his many talents far and wide, he is highly requested in the United States, particularly San Francisco, Hollywood, and Miami to shoot weddings.

"We offer creative edits and documentary style edits of a client's main events. Storytelling is important, music is intertwined with natural audio to emphasize the emotional highlights of the day. And, I may also be the singer at the event which completes the artistic package.



Chris Giannini passionately singing solo at a concert

The end result is a unique creation, and that's what the customer wants which I offer," he said proudly and with a wide smile.

**"What makes you stand out from others?"**

"Our love for capturing each couple's unique story drives us to create not just a wedding video but a work of art. We push the limits of our craft and combine narrative film, documentary, and music video style to craft a video that is truly unique.

"The great thing about my life is the wide variety of stories and clients" - he answered when asked about the greatest thrill he experiences in his work. "For me, collaboration has always been an integral part of turning out an excellent product. I strive to continuously expand story-telling and camera work to create memorable mementos in ever-changing environments.

"I'm always pushing the limit of what's possible"

## Laval's Sushi Palace fined for \$110,000 provincial tax evasion

(TLN) Revenu Québec, Quebec's tax collection ministry, has announced that the owners of Laval-based Sushi Palace have been sentenced to pay \$110,000 in fines after being convicted of infractions against the province's tax laws.

According to Revenu Québec, Kam Sing Chung and Patrick Wong were found guilty last September at the Laval courthouse and were given up to 12 months to pay the fine. While Chung was fined \$65,000, Wong was fined a total of \$45,000.

The two admitted to authorities that between January 2010 and September 2016 they manipulated cash registers at the Laval Sushi Palace in order to avoid paying sales tax to Revenu Québec. Among other things, the two failed to maintain proper cash register records with a special module, according to Revenu Québec.

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# Fayçal El-Khoury running again for Liberals in Laval-Les Îles

## Incumbent MP to seek second term in October 2019 election

MARTIN C. BARRY

Approaching the end of his first term after more than three years in office, Laval-Les Îles Liberal MP Fayçal El-Khoury received a virtually unanimous motion of approval recently to represent the Liberal Party of Canada once again in the October 2019 federal election.

### Seeks four more years

Among the more than 200 people attending an investiture event for El-Khoury at the Château Royal on Dec. 20 were Vimy Liberal MP Eva Nassif, Chomedey MNA Guy Ouellette, Dorval-Lachine-LaSalle Liberal MP Anju Dhillon, Laval city councillor for Renaud Aram Elagoz and Quebec Liberal MNA for Laval-des-Rapides Saul Polo.

If anything, the last three and a half years during which El-Khoury has represented Laval-Les Îles for the Liberals have demonstrated his ability to unify and maintain a balance in a riding where there had sometimes been turbulent relations between Liberals in the not so distant past.

### 'Always listening,' said president

While former Liberal MP Raymonde Folco served five terms before leaving politics in 2011, her time in office was marred by fighting between factions within the Laval-Les Îles riding association and the defection of riding association members.

Current riding association president Viken Afarian praised El-Khoury as an MP who "is always listening to his constituents and always listening to the people from the many communities who are among us this evening and always available to help these people. I think it is rare to see this amount of devotion in someone."

### Committed to serve

Addressing the large crowd, El-Khoury said, "Nearly four years ago to the day, Liberal activists were choosing me to be the official candidate for the Liberal Party of Canada in Laval-Les Îles. And so I made the commitment to serve and defend the citizens of our riding with loyalty, integrity and efficiency. I present myself this evening humbly, but with a feeling of having accomplished something and with some pride.

"I know that in politics the work is never finished," he continued. "But I also know that since 2015 we have put the situation in Canada back in order; eliminated all the obstructions that the Conservative government had placed in the way of the development of the country; rebuilt the confidence of Canadians towards their federal government, while creating more motives to present with pride our Canadian passport everywhere in the world."

## STL announces now on winter schedule

(TLN) Beginning on Jan. 5, the Société de transport de Laval's winter schedule comes into effect. In all, more than 30 additional trips have been added in order to increase the frequency of buses on busy routes.

### Faster service

Bus No. 42 which goes along de la Concorde Blvd. will now pass by every 15 minutes all day long. The No. 48 has also been given 15-minute intervals during peak service in the morning.

On Notre-Dame and Saint-Martin boulevards, additions to service have also been made on the No. 46 in order to run buses every 30 minutes. As well, bus trips have been added during rush hours on the 26, 61, 65, 76 and 144 lines.

### Express to St-François

In order to respond to requests by residents

### A lot accomplished

El-Khoury said he was proud that in just three years the Liberal government had managed "to do more work than any other government in the recent history of the country," he said. He noted that in October 2015, when Canadians last went to the election polls, the Conservative government was leaving behind an unemployment rate of 7.6 per cent.

"Remember this number," added El-Khoury, referring to the Liberal government's employment rate figures. "Canada created more than 800,000 jobs in three years and the unemployment rate is at 5.3 per cent; in Quebec as in Canada; the lowest rate in forty years. This is what we call a full employment economy. It is another reason for my pride."

### Some accomplishments

El-Khoury gave examples of accomplishments by the Liberal government since 2015. They included: More than 60,000 paid student traineeships in the domains of science, technology, engineering, cybersecurity and artificial intelligence; The transfer to Quebec of more than \$1 billion for training of workers for new technologies; 100,000 homes in Quebec and 360 municipalities and villages that are now connected to high-speed Internet; More than 40,000 computers which were distributed to schools and non-profit organizations located in isolated areas, to improve digital literacy; And the creation of 25 new research chairs in aerospace, optical and clean energy sectors in universities and learning centres.

### Trade improvements

At the same time, he also pointed out that the Liberal government improved global trade for Canadian businesses by negotiating and concluding business partnerships with the U.S., Mexico, Israel, the Asian Pacific countries and Europe. In addition, he noted that trade agreement negotiations were also launched with China, Brasil, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay.

El-Khoury noted that under the leadership of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, the Liberal government re-established the age at which Canadians become eligible to receive old age security payments and income supplements as 65 years (after the Conservatives previously raised it to 67).

"We will have the opportunity to state our accomplishments at the beginning of the campaign," he said, alluding to the campaign period leading towards election day next Oct. 1. "I wish only to say to you, simply and with humility, that none of this could have happened without you and your support. Millions of voters had confidence in us, just as they did here in Laval-Les Îles."

of St-François, a departure during the evening has been added to the new 942 express bus line, starting from the Montmorency Terminus.

Regardless of the weather conditions, STL bus service is maintained 7 days out of 7, 365 days a year. When there are difficult weather conditions, users should plan ahead, taking into account longer waits than usual.

### Info available

Up to date info from the STL is available on social media. The STL's client contact centre can also be reached at 450 688-6520 for information on the state of the bus network.

A handy hint: Text the number of your bus stop to 511785 and you'll get back the schedules for the next buses in real time. It's the ideal tool for making travel plans on the STL.



Among the guests attending the investiture for incumbent Laval-Les Îles Liberal MP Fayçal El-Khoury (second from left) were former Laval city councillor and executive Vice Chairman, Jocelyne Guertin (far left), El-Khoury's wife Georgette, and Chomedey MNA Guy Ouellette.

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## Coming soon: cannabis candies

*Health Canada offers a framework for the sale of edible cannabis products before the October 2019 launch. Will we be ready?*

You think October 2018 was complicated, wait until edible cannabis products are legalized by October 2019.

It's just a matter of time before the edible market represents the majority of the cannabis market in Canada. A study released last year suggested that 93 per cent of consumers supporting Ottawa's legalization plans would try a cannabis-infused food product. Curiosity will drive many Canadians to try edibles.

If the United States is a valid example, sales will likely explode over the next decade. A recent report says cannabis edibles sales in the U.S. reached \$1.4 billion over the last 12 months. That suggests sales could exceed \$4.1 billion by 2022, and cannabis is not even legalized federally in the United States, just in some states.

Canada must be ready, and so far Health Canada appears to be on the ball when it comes to edibles. Yet a lot of work lies ahead.

Given how ill-prepared Health Canada was for the initial legalization of cannabis, the federal agency deserves credit for getting prepared so quickly on edibles. The plan was released just days before the holidays. Canadians now have 60 days to comment on Health Canada's 195-page regulatory framework on marketing edibles, extracts and topical applications.

Despite the intricacies of the project, Ottawa still aims to make them legal no later than October 2019.

The framework offers no major surprises, although Health Canada clearly used the U.S. as a case study. Nightmarish scenarios of cannabis-infused gummy bears and other candy-like products being sold are already on our national regulator's radar. Health Canada's vigilance is quite apparent.

Health Canada recommends plain, child-resistant packaging and restricting the ingredients that can be used. It also wants to limit edibles to 10 milligrams of THC per package – that's considered the

typical single dose. These basic requirements protect children and ensure the industry is less prone to making undesirable products.

Canada's cannabis market is still very immature. This conservative and comprehensive approach, then, is intended to protect vulnerable populations.

But there are some gaps. For example, it's not clear where the line is between child-like products and candies for adults. Regulations need to be crystal clear. Proposed amendments suggest edibles shouldn't appeal to children but adults do eat chocolate and candy. Distinctions can easily be made between gummy bears and sophisticated candies that you find in specialty shops. However, there's a massive grey zone between the two.

Health Canada's plan also addresses traceability of products. California retailers must take training on track-and-trace. The system was created to certify how cannabis waste is identified, weighed and tracked

while on licensed premises, and how it's disposed of.

However, waste management is hardly mentioned in the Health Canada document, even though many reports of pets and children accidentally ingesting cannabis have already been filed. Health Canada doesn't appear to address this issue at all in relation to edible products, although it obviously should.

The Health Canada framework's other major gap is on training – the document offers little insight. In Oregon, on the other hand, state training for cannabis industry workers is mandatory. They're trained to handle cannabis items, produce and propagate cannabis, and on how to use cannabis as a food ingredient.

Several questions also remain for the food service industry. Regulatory oversight will come when the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) gets involved. Americans are still struggling with this, looking for regulatory bodies to oversee the cannabis industry. We have CFIA in Canada, but it will be interesting to see how our food agency handles this given its limited resources.

Some Canadians still feel uneasy about cannabis and sound risk mitigation practices are crucial. The human body is not designed to inhale drugs and Health Canada knows it.

The plan presented by Health Canada will likely be well received by the industry. The beverage sector, for example, is pursuing creative products, both alcoholic and non-alcoholic. And we should expect research and development on snacking and other types of food products in the spring.

However, provinces and cities have their own agendas, which creates challenges for planning and strategizing. Nonetheless, we're in for an interesting year of cannabis-related developments leading to October.

Sylvain Charlebois

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# Your tax bill could change in 2019.

## Here's what to expect...

CNW- A whole host of federal tax changes come into effect in the new year. Some will hit your paycheque, others your bills — and if you're a small business owner, there are a few changes coming for which you've likely been preparing for months.

From low-income subsidies to passive cash taxation to the carbon tax, the rules are set to shift

### Significant changes to tax rules

Starting in January, Canadians' Canada Pension Plan contributions increase from 4.95 per cent to 5.1 per cent on earnings between \$3,500 and \$57,400. It's the first of five years of graduated increases running until 2023, when the rate will reach 5.95 per cent.

The increases are going to pay for what eventually will be an enhanced CPP. The Quebec Pension Plan will see similar changes.

"You can think of it as a cost right now, but you're actually going to be contributing toward an enhanced Canada Pension Plan benefit over time, ultimately leading to a higher amount of pensionable earnings," said Jamie Golombek, managing director of tax and estate planning with CIBC.

"So you're actually going to get something in return for that extra contribution."

CRA deploys new weapons against tax evasion: Freezing assets, seizing property

Partially offsetting that increased CPP contribution on your paycheque will be a drop in Employment Insurance premiums, from \$1.66 to \$1.62 per \$100 of insurable earnings.

2019 also will be the first tax year when low income workers can qualify for a more generous Canada Workers Benefit, a program intended to help the working poor stay employed.

The maximum benefit will increase by between \$300 and \$400, based on whether the applicant is single or part of a family. That brings the maximum benefits to \$1,355 for a single person or \$2,335 for a single parent or couple, depending on personal incomes.

However, as 2019 is the eligibility year, low income workers will have to wait until 2020 to get the boosted benefit.

Experts say more than half of Canadians who live in poverty are working.

"Gone is this idea, I hope ... that people live in poverty because they just need to find a job, they need to pull up their boot straps and get off their couch," said Michele Bliss of the non-profit advocacy group Canada Without Poverty. "That idea is so antiquated."

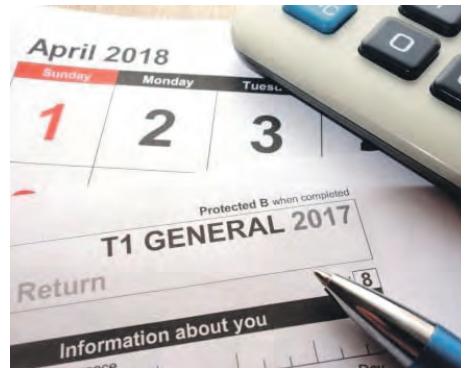
### Small business tax changes

One of the big news stories of the past year and half has been the changes the federal government is making to small business taxes. The most controversial change affects the rules on how much passive income an incorporated small business can hold.

Passive income is money earned in interest on funds that sit idle within an incorporated business, without being reinvested or used to cover operating expenses. As of January 1, business owners can generate up to \$50,000 in passive income before they start to lose access to the advantageous small business tax rate.

Small businesses pay a relatively low tax rate — currently 10 per cent — on the first \$500,000 of business earnings. But starting in January, if those businesses hold in excess of the new limit on passive income, some of that first half-million in earnings will be subjected to the much higher

The federal government's goal is to encourage business owners to reinvest their passive



earnings into their businesses, or into hiring more people, rather than sitting on the cash.

"I think a lot of small businesses are still unaware that some of the changes are coming," said Dan Kelly, president of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business.

"In fact, that's one of my biggest worries. I think a lot of firms are sitting ducks for the Canada Revenue Agency."

However, the small business tax rate is going down from 10 to 9 per cent in 2019 — a move long promised by the Liberal government, one that many saw as an attempt to placate a small business community angered by the passive income changes.

"But the passive investment increases are going to eclipse any reduction in taxes that a small business might feel," said Kelly.

Still, the federal government estimates the average small business — one that has eligible business income of \$107,000 — will keep an extra \$1,600 per year after the cut.

And for some *really* small businesses — especially those with no passive income to worry about — that tax cut will be very welcome.

### Higher prices at the pump

Possibly the most politically charged tax change coming in 2019 is Ottawa's new carbon pricing system. In jurisdictions that don't have carbon pricing mechanisms of their own, Ottawa will levy a tax on fossil fuels of \$20 per tonne of greenhouse gas emissions starting in the new year, rising by \$10 each year to \$50 a tonne by 2022.

Emissions over set limits from large, industrial emitters in provinces without carbon pricing systems will fall under the federal governments carbon pricing rules starting in January. For consumers, the cost of fossil fuels and the services they support will start going up in April.

The government estimates that, once the carbon tax is in place in the provinces where it will be imposed, the cost of a litre of gasoline will go up 4.42 cents, natural gas will go up 3.91 cents per cubic metre and propane will go up 3.10 cents a litre.

People in those provinces will get direct rebates to offset the increased costs. The amount will vary based on the province and the number of people in the household.

### Other tax and price changes coming:

- Postage stamp prices are set to increase.
- \$1.05 for a single domestic letter mail stamp
- \$1.27 for a U.S. letter mail stamp
- \$2.56 for an international stamp
- Many personal income tax credit and benefit amounts are being indexed to inflation:
- The basic personal amount rises to \$12,069
- The annual contribution limit to tax-free savings accounts will increase to \$6,000 from \$5,500



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# 2018: The Year in REVIEW

## Last year's uncertainties continue to haunt us in 2019

Quebec elected a CAQ government and Laval council was turbulent in 2018 by Martin C. Barry

Although some people are predicting that 2019 will be a year of ongoing turbulence much like last year, others are looking back upon 2018 as a period they'd perhaps rather choose to forget. As investment markets continue to be volatile, last year's uncertainties are haunting us still.

### JANUARY

You might get some idea of the kind of year it was just for those working in Canada's community newspaper industry. In January 2018, the Laval News published a full-page ad at the front of its Jan. 10 edition. In it, representatives from three of the country's newspaper associations pleaded with the federal government to take action against forces threatening the industry's survival.

"The urgency of action is very real and the status quo is not an option since community media are about to be unable to serve their French and English-speaking minorities," wrote the presidents of the Association de la presse francophone (APF), the Alliance des radios communautaires du Canada (ARCC) and the Quebec Community Newspapers Association (QCNA).

Although 2018 wasn't exactly a year to write home about, in retrospect it was nothing like 1998, the year two decades ago that many Laval residents still remember for the massive ice storm that swept eastern Canada that January. On the 20th anniversary of the calamity, the Laval News featured several articles on an event remembered as the "Ice Storm of the Century."

"One person in Laval is dead, six were injured

and thousands were left without electricity and heat in what was most certainly the worst ice storm to ever hit the province of Quebec," wrote former Laval News journalist Peter Karahalios in an article that was first published in early 1998 in the Chomedey News (the former name of the Laval News).

The editorial in the Laval News' Jan. 10 edition focused on the frustration felt and expressed by concertgoers who had been left literally "out in the cold" at Laval's Place Bell because of organizational foulups. "It is totally unacceptable that the arena authorities did not foresee the situation that was endured on January 6th, by thousands of concert goers," wrote Laval News co-publisher George S. Guzman. "Surely it does not help Laval's image. In a \$200 million project we would expect much better administration."

With Action Laval no longer the official opposition at Laval city hall since the November 2017 municipal elections, the party's lone member on city council, Chomedey councillor Aglaia Revelakis, was asked by the Laval News about the future of the party as well as her own plans. "We are looking forward to a great year and are continuing to do the great work that we were elected for at city hall," Revelakis said in an interview published in TLN's Jan. 24 issue.

The same issue also featured an investigative article on shortcomings in the city's snow removal service in areas of Chomedey, such as on Bennett St. "We've been living here for 28 years and we've never had a problem like this," complained Andreas Pantelis. Six days after a recent snowfall, residents on Bennett St. were still waiting for snow on both sides of their street to be cleared away.

### FEBRUARY

The front page of the Laval News' Feb. 7 issue drew attention to the case of a Laval family that had recently been awarded a \$700,000 settlement from the RCMP after the federal police force wrongfully charged family members with breaching Canada's new "anti-slavery" laws.

The case against Nichan Manoukian and his wife Manoudshag Saryboyajian dated back to January 2006 when officers from the RCMP, the Canada Border Services Agency as well as from the Laval Police Department raided their home. They were absolved of human trafficking and exploitation charges, which had been pressed by a domestic who formerly worked for the family.

Chomedey MNA Guy Ouellette, whose arrest by the province's anti-corruption unit (UPAC) stunned Quebecers a few months before, testified during a court hearing for corruption charges against former Liberal cabinet minister Nathalie Normandeau that he never disclosed any information about UPAC's work to the media.

When asked in court if he thought UPAC head Robert Lafrenière was "the right man for the job," Ouellette said the workplace relations at UPAC could certainly be improved. Lafrenière has since then resigned from his post.

The Feb. 7 issue also featured an in-depth profile of Parti Laval leader Michel Trottier, who effectively became head of the opposition at Laval city hall following the November 2017 municipal elections. Well known in Fabreville, which is a stronghold of Parti Laval support and where Michel Trottier was a community organizer and fitness promoter for years, Trottier became one of the rising players in Laval city council in 2013 when he was elected as one of two independents.

The Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation's 2018 annual gala fundraiser earned \$39,280 for educational equipment, programs and resources at schools and training centres across the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board's territory. The

ever-popular fundraising event was held at the Embassy Plaza in Laval.

Hundreds of families from all over the Montreal region converged on the Berge des Baigneurs in Laval's Vieux Saint Rose neighbourhood for day three of Laval en Blanc, an enthusiastic celebration of winter. Who would have thought there was so much fun to be had during this dismal time of the year? For many parents, fun in the cold and snow was a discovery in itself.

In an interview published in our Feb. 21 issue, Senator Leo Housakos took Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to task for drawing a comparison between the experiences of immigrants to Canada and pro-Islamic ISIS militants returning to Canada after participating in terrorism abroad.

Sen. Housakos described Prime Minister Trudeau as being "all over the map with some of his mis-speaks." However, with regards to Trudeau's comparison between immigrants and ISIS, he said a few people in Montreal's Greek community "expressed their complete hurt feelings on this issue to me – and legitimately so," added Housakos.

Set to retire from politics in June when he would be stepping down as MP for the riding of Outremont, former NDP leader (and former Chomedey MNA) Tom Mulcair told the Laval News he was feeling confident about his future on the faculty of one of the country's leading universities and as the head of an environmental group that organizes Earth Day in Quebec.

"I can say that I'm in a very good place in my career right now," said Mulcair. Mulcair said he underwent a period of feeling disenchanted following the election. "You feel a great deal of disappointment that the great ideas we had put forward are not going to come to pass," he said.

### MARCH

As reported in the Laval News' March 7 issue, the unpredictable weather that the Laval and Montreal regions were experiencing in recent years played havoc with Laval Senior Academy's annual Hockey Day event.

The two-day gathering – which was highly successful in past years – was reduced last year to just two hockey matches. Unseasonably warm temperatures had 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.

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 a few weeks before with the Laval region's six Liberal MNAs to say how they feel the government should be spending Quebec taxpayers' money.

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).

In the meantime, Laval mayor Marc Demers reacted favorably to a new budget tabled by federal Finance Minister Bill Morneau. "The City of Laval wholeheartedly welcomes the various measures favoring the equality of men and women," Demers said the city was also pleased with the government's proposal to reduce taxes on small businesses. "All measures encouraging the growth of our businesses are welcome," he said.

During Laval city council's March 13 public meeting, Mayor Marc Demers announced a new council by-law to modify existing regulations in order to increase a subsidy from \$100 to \$150 paid by the city annually to senior citizens 65 years and older who rent or own their home. The

subsidy rises from \$200 to \$300 per year when the recipient is already receiving the federal guaranteed revenue supplement in accordance with the social security act.

Councillors Isabella Tassoni (Laval-desRapides) and Aglaia Revelakis (Chomedey) tabled a report on work they were assigned to carry out with regard to gender equality in the city. Revelakis said that she and Tassoni, along with Councillor Virginie Dufour, would be helping to form a committee that will lead towards the creation of a new consultative council on women's issues.

Also in March, the City of Laval said it was putting into place an action plan in anticipation of the spring melt following the winter season. The city said it was adopting a new approach for the systematic delivery of sand bags in a pre-determined impact zone. The city said would be delivering sand bags a week before any flooding would be expected to happen.

During an International Women's Day gathering held at Vimy Liberal MP Eva Nassif's constituency office on March 8, she encouraged everyone to participate in celebrations for this important date. This year's theme, #MyFeminism, was in recognition of the positive role that feminism plays in Canada and in countries worldwide.

As part of the Laval News' ongoing commitment to providing in-depth political coverage, the paper's March 21 issue featured a full-length interview with then-federal Heritage Minister Mélanie Joly, who was facing criticism over a decision to exempt Netflix from Canadian content regulations. Joly has since been re-assigned portfolios as Minister of Tourism, Official Languages and La Francophonie.

### APRIL

During an official launch for Laval Autism Month – which takes place each year in April – The Société de l'Autisme de Laval announced that the 2018 co-chairs would be Alexandre Poirier-Charlebois, author of a book on his experiences with Asperger's Syndrome, and Guy Picard, general manager of the Société de Transport de Laval (STL).

Alexandre Poirier-Charlebois, who attends Université du Québec à Montréal, wrote *Ma vie avec l'Asperger*. The STL's Guy Picard said it was a great honor to be chosen as the co-chair for Autism Month in Laval.

During a recent special meeting of Laval city council, city officials confirmed that major investments would 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 would be taking place at Val-Martin, Pie-X and Athena's Shield with support amounting to \$4,389,714.

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 (reported in our April 4 issue) about the experiences of two women who've become well-known in municipal politics in Laval and Montreal over the past few years.

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. The second speaker, AhuntsicCartierville Borough Mayor Émilie Thuillier, said politics was first and foremost a personal choice, although at one point it started to conflict with her family life.

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# 2018: The Year in REVIEW

## Continued from page 6

The Laval News' April 4 issue also reported on the Montreal Hellenic community's annual Greek Independence Day gala and festivities which took place in late March. Hundreds of patriotic Greek Montrealers had gathered at the Hellenic Community Centre in Côte des Neiges. 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, and Greek Consul General in Montreal Nicolas Sigalas.

Senator Leo Housakos was back in the news in our April 18 issue. In a p. 2 interview article, the Conservative member of the Upper Chamber maintained that the Liberal government was pressuring the Senate to speed up their debate on the marijuana legalization law because the government's proposed legislation "doesn't stand up to the most basic of scrutiny," he said.

Insisting that he's more interested in the province's economy, its level of debt as well as education and health care, Quebec Premier Philippe Couillard gave every indication during a gathering in Montreal with multicultural communities that he was willing to debate hot issues like immigration and religious symbols with the CAQ and the PQ before a general election in October.

"If they want to go on debating that sort of thing that's fine," said the Premier. "But as for us, we will be talking about public finances, the economy, health, education and the debt." Despite this, the Liberals lost the election and Couillard is no longer Premier.

## MAY

With Quebecers preparing to go to the polls on October 1, the province's Liberal government announced a potential enticement for Laval-area voters with the release of preliminary details for the long-awaited Autoroute 19 extension project.

The announcement, which was made by Premier Philippe Couillard with Laval's six Liberal MNAs on hand as well as Laval mayor Marc Demers and several members of city council, took place from a small green space in northern Laval near the spot where Route 335 (the future A-19) juts out across the Rivière des Mille Îles to the North Shore and Bois-des-Filion.

The May 2 issue of the Laval News reported on the Forum on Mobility and Public Transport, which was held in Laval recently. It ended with an agreement between 19 participating municipalities that they will work together to develop an integrated public transit system in the Laval/North Shore area to reduce traffic and improve the quality of life for the region's approximately one-million residents.

But how much did Laval's Forum on Mobility and Public Transport end up costing? According to Mayor Marc Demers himself, the bill for the event, which was attended by several hundred representatives from municipal, provincial and federal governments, could run as high as \$300,000. However, the City of Laval was asking the mayors of the 18 other participating municipalities to chip in to help defray the cost.

The May 2 issue also reported that around 80 members of the Hellenic Board of Trade of Metropolitan Montreal and their guests gathered at the 40 Westt Steakhouse on Montreal's West Island in April to recognize the contributions of the board's founders and past presidents.

The founders and past presidents were presented by current HBOT president John Charalampopoulos with plaques attesting to their service. "Our organization is as great as it is because of the people behind it," he said in an interview with the Laval News.

The front page of the May 16 issue of the Laval News drew attention to an investigative piece on p. 2 about a Laval limousine service operator who claimed the City of Laval wasn't equitable in its enforcement of local parking rules. According

to an ombudsman's office report on the situation, a neighbour filed a complaint about parked limousines and city inspectors responded by enforcing a by-law that forbids parking of large vehicles.

A ranking member of Premier Philippe Couillard's cabinet acknowledged during a speech delivered in Laval during an investiture meeting for incumbent Laval-des-Rapides Liberal MNA Saul Polo that the Quebec Liberals face a potentially difficult struggle leading towards the October provincial election.

"The elections that are coming will not be an easy battle," Economy, Science and Innovation Minister Dominique Anglade told the more than 150 supporters who came out to École de l'Arc-en-ciel on Meunier St. on May 12. Alluding to surveys that came out showing the Coalition Avenir Québec ahead in the polls and the Liberals behind, Anglade remained upbeat. "Remember that we are ready, that we are determined to win the next election," she said.

As reported in our May 30 issue, Chomedey-based Agape social services took a courageous leap forward in their ongoing determination to see that members of Laval's English-speaking community are provided with adequate service in their own language. Agape held a grand opening for their new Laval English-speaking Seniors' Wellness Center. It's located on the third floor at 3860 Notre Dame just east of Curé Labelle Blvd.

## JUNE

Following a non-confidence vote in May in which Mayor Marc Demers received just 57 per cent support from the Mouvement Lavallois membership, there was more bad news for the mayor less than a week into June when he was confronted by a revolt by city councillors that reduced his party to minority status.

The June 5 city council meeting was nothing less than a meltdown for Demers and the Mouvement Lavallois. Former executive-com-

mittee vice-president David De Cotis – who had been the number two man on council as well as founder of the Mouvement Lavallois – emerged as the leader of a dissident faction of ML councillors.

While maintaining that the City of Laval isn't facing an imminent opioid abuse crisis, officials responsible for public safety decided to make a well-known antidote medication widely available as a treatment for opioid overdoses.

The Laval Police held a media briefing on June 4 at their headquarters in conjunction with Urgences-Santé to explain the deployment of 64 kits containing naloxone, which can be used to reverse the deadly side effects of fentanyl overdoses. The action was being taken as the powerful painkilling opioid fentanyl increasingly makes headlines.

While it may seem a bit of a cliché, the fact was you couldn't have asked for a weekend better – in terms of weather at least – than the three days when the City of Laval's 13th annual Firemen's Festival took place. On June 2 and 3, the Centropolis was the place to be for a range of activities – the most exciting of which was the arrival of nearly two dozen antique fire trucks on Saturday morning.

In her 2018 report on the City of Laval's overall performance, auditor-general Véronique Boily said the absence of a specific policy to oversee the municipality's inventory of goods, tools and equipment "is hindering the consistency of management, while periodic inventories "are not providing reliable information on the quantities held and their value."

On June 20 during a tribute evening held at the Islemere Golf Club on Bord de l'Eau Rd. in Laval-sur-le-Lac, Fabre Liberal MNA Monique Sauvé thanked several outstanding citizens, while also presenting each with a National

## Continued on page 8



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# 2018: The Year in REVIEW

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Assembly Medal along with a personalized parchment telling their story. The recipients were: Jeanne Tremblay, Peter Papadakis, Madeleine Allard, Marcelin Cantin, Patricia Lapraino, Tinel Timu, Jeanne Cazabon, Labib Farajallah, Gilberte Roy and the Brisebois family.

If the business of running a municipality was taking place a little slower than usual at Laval city hall lately, the good news was that city council hasn't broken down completely and the elected officials are at least getting something done – despite their differences. The 21-member body, which by now included more than half who were dissidents, met for a special city council meeting on June 20, which was convened to deal with unfinished business from a session that had started the day before.

Agape took in a significant number of Nigerian Christian refugees fleeing persecution last year, according to a report of Agape's activities tabled at their annual general meeting this month. According to Agape secretary-treasurer Elizabeth McLeod, between October and December 2017 Agape received 446 refugee status claimants, all of whom were cared for by Agape.

## JULY

The July 11 issue of the Laval News reported that the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Foundation's 2018 Lobster Fest, which took place at the Château Royal in June, raised \$32,268 for educational equipment and materials for students at SWLSB learning centres and schools in the coming year.

"The Sir Wilfrid Foundation is an important partner of the school board and we are proud to contribute in the achievement of its mission," SWLF president Christian Fréchette said in the opening address. "Since its creation, close to \$800,000 has been given to the schools and centres of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board. We are getting very close to our goal of \$1 million."

The searing heat wave that descended on the Montreal region during Canada Day weekend wasn't enough to keep thousands of people with Greek roots from all over Quebec from returning to their cultural origins when the Laval Greek Orthodox community held its Hellenic Summer Festival at Holy Cross Church in Chomedey.

As reported in our July 11 issue, Kathleen Weil, the Quebec Liberal Minister Responsible for Relations with English-Speaking Quebecers, met English-speaking senior citizens from Chomedey on June 27 when she visited the Agape Seniors' Wellness Center on Notre Dame Blvd.

"The issues that you face are of particular interest to me," said Weil, who was introduced by Chomedey MNA Guy Ouellette. Vimy Liberal MP Eva Nassif was also on hand to provide a federal perspective on some of the issues.

Weil said her secretariat has been receiving quite a bit of feedback lately on certain issues, including the lack of English documentation for English-speaking seniors and gaps in English

communications in the health and social services sector. She said Laval is one of 16 regions where an access plan for health and social services for the English-speaking community will be implemented in the future.

A team of federal and provincial elected officials from the Laval region defeated a team of elected officials from the City of Laval by a score of 6 - 4 in a soccer match played on the grounds behind the CSDL's Centre de formation Compétences 2000 as part of the Laval International Soccer Cup. The city team was led by Mayor Marc Demers and included city councillors David De Cotis, Paolo Galati (and his daughter), Isabella Tassoni, Sandra El-Hélou, Aline Dib (and her daughter), Sandra Desmeules, Virginie Dufour, Ray Khalil and Éric Morasse.

On July 8, first responders were called to a dépanneur in Chomedey after a car crashed into the store's front window. The incident occurred around 6 p.m. For reasons that were unknown at the time, the driver of the grey 4-door Honda Civic failed to stop in the allotted parking spot and ended up smashing into one of the floor-to-ceiling front windows of the Couche-Tard located at 2520 Boul. Curé- Labelle.

## AUGUST

During a pre-election campaign stop in Laval to lend support to Sainte-Rose Liberal MNA Jean Habel, Quebec Finance Minister Carlos Leitão sounded a warning about the potential impact on the province's English-speaking community from the Coalition Avenir Québec's plans to abolish school boards, while changing how Quebec collects school taxes.

"He's playing a dangerous game because he's pitting regions against other regions," said Leitão, while maintaining that the school tax issue is complex. CAQ leader François Legault had raised the issue of school taxes during recent visits to Laval, while reminding Laval residents that they pay higher school taxes than is often the case in other regions.

The Laval News' Aug. 15 issue featured a lengthy article based on an interview with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of Trudeau's first being elected the MP for the central Montreal riding of Papineau.

In the course of the interview, Trudeau reminisced on his decision to enter politics, while also answering questions on a number of current issues facing the country, including Canada's processing of immigrants and refugees, and the country's gun control policies in the aftermath of mass shooting incidents in Toronto and in Fredericton NB.

After coming to Laval on Aug. 2 to explain the Quebec Liberal government's controversial health and social service reforms of the past four years, Health Minister Gaétan Barrette found himself before an audience consisting mostly of labour union activists critical of the government's management.

The gathering, organized by the Quebec Liberal Party's political issues commission for the Laval region, took place in the auditorium of Laval Junior Academy on Daniel Johnson

Blvd. While attendance at the meeting was sparse, most of the questions following Barrette's presentation were overwhelmingly from the unionists who made up at least two-thirds of the audience.

During a visit to Laval also on Aug. 2 to bolster local Coalition Avenir Québec candidates running in the Oct. 1 provincial election, party leader François Legault pledged the CAQ's longterm support for a Concorde Blvd. East prenatal and maternity services centre, where the management claims the incumbent Liberals turned down their appeal for financial help.

"As you may know, our team from Laval sounded the alarm on the question of financing for prenatal services in Laval," Legault said during a press conference held at Mieux-Naître Laval. "This is a file that has dragged on too long."

In the Laval News' Aug. 29 issue, restaurant and store owners along Daniel Johnson Blvd. in the downtown area complained that a lengthy program of road improvements by the city was literally driving them out of business.

"We didn't get a warning – we didn't receive any indication of how long this would last," said Peter Chiotis, who operates the Casa Grecque restaurant at the corner of Daniel Johnson and St. Martin Blvd. More than year before, another nearby restaurant operator also complained that the incessant road work was killing business.

With the Coalition Avenir Québec leading in the polls and the incumbent Liberals following closely in second spot, the distant third-place Parti Québécois were still hoping – despite the odds – to reclaim seats they once held in Laval when Quebecers head to the ballot boxes on Oct. 1.

PQ leader Jean-François Lisée and the party's deputy-leader Véronique Hivon arrived in Laval aboard their campaign bus on Aug. 24, a day after the campaign opened. They addressed more than 100 devoted PQ followers at the Entraide community centre in Laval's Pont-Viau district.

## SEPTEMBER

The ongoing factional dispute on Laval city council involving standing committee and governing board appointments saw city councillor and former executive-committee second-in-command David De Cotis undergo a virtual meltdown during the Sept. 4 council session.

Among other things, De Cotis told Mayor Marc Demers, "You're a liar" and "A liar is what you are," in response to the mayor's explanations of why De Cotis was removed and replaced as president of the Société de transport de Laval (STL). De Cotis continued in this vein until council speaker Christiane Yoakim was ready to signal two Laval Police officers that De Cotis should be removed. He gradually contained himself and finally went silent.

Saint-Martin city councillor Aline Dib announced during this month that, following a short period when she sat as an independent councillor and after careful reflection, she decided to accept an invitation from Mayor Marc Demers to return to the Mouvement Lavallois.

"The last few weeks were difficult, but they allowed me to reflect on my role and responsibilities as a city councillor," said Dib, adding that mediation initiated by the mayor led to some interesting talks.

The Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board announced the appointment of Gaëlle Absolonne as the SWLSB's new Director General effective Sept. 10. Ms. Absolonne's nomination was confirmed by a unanimous decision of the Council of Commissioners at a recent Special Council meeting.

According to a statement from the SWLSB, Ms. Absolonne brings over 22 years of experience in the education milieu at many levels. Beginning her career as a teacher, she has also occupied leadership positions in the elementary, secondary, and adult education/vocational training sectors.

Federal Infrastructure and Communities Minister François-Philippe Champagne had mud on his boots when he arrived for an interview with Newsfirst Multimedia at the federal cabinet's Montreal offices in Old Montreal. But there was good reason. He had just completed an inspection at the site of the massive new span currently being built across the St. Lawrence River to replace the aging Champlain Bridge.

A lawyer and international trade specialist, Champagne was also, among other things, a senior legal counsel for the multinational industrial equipment manufacturer ABB Group, before being appointed Minister of International Trade last year. He received his current portfolio from Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on July 18.

Even though summer wouldn't be officially over until the middle of September, it came to an unofficial close in Laval on Labour Day weekend when the City of Laval held the Fête de la Famille at the Centre de la Nature. Laval's annual "family day" celebration devoted to moms, dads and kids was covered in the Laval News' Sept. 12 issue.

The second Terry Fox Run for cancer research held in Laval since 2004 raised nearly \$5,000 for the cause. "The 2018 Terry Fox Run Day Laval held this past Sunday Sept. 16 in Parc des Prairies was a great day and a great success," said the event's chief organizer Jeffrey Marshall.

People from Laval and from all over were invited to walk or run at the family oriented non-competitive event. While many schools in Laval hold Terry Fox Runs for their students, this was one of the first Terry Fox Runs to be held in Laval in nearly 15 years.

## OCTOBER

Who takes responsibility for stray cats in Chomedey? This was one of the issues that came up during a district meeting held by city councillor Aglaia Revelakis at Centre de Sablon and reported in the Laval News' Oct. 10 issue.

Revelakis pointed out that beginning in January 2019, it will be mandatory for all dogs and cats in Laval to be "microchipped" with a miniature implant that contains information identifying the owner. She also revealed that according to the City of Laval's latest animal

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# Quebec's towns and cities are seeking 1% of sales tax revenues

*'The CAQ made commitments during the electoral campaign,' says UMQ president*

MARTIN C. BARRY

With the new year now underway, the Union of Quebec Municipalities is hoping to negotiate a new agreement with the newly-elected Coalition Avenir Québec government, while reaching a better understanding with Quebec on the role of municipalities in welcoming refugees and immigrants, says UMQ president Alexandre Cusson.

## Agreement expiring

"Our fiscal agreement with Quebec is expiring on Dec. 31, 2019," Cusson, who is also mayor of the City of Drummondville, said in an interview with Newsfirst Multimedia.

According to Cusson, the province's municipalities want a new agreement to be reached by next September at the latest so as to be able to calculate their 2020 budgets which normally are tabled by municipal councils in December.

## Improvements sought

With a new government in place, and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs being led by CAQ MNA for Chicoutimi Andrée Laforest, Cusson is optimistic Premier François Legault will follow through on commitments made during last year's election campaign to improve conditions for the province's municipalities.

"The CAQ made commitments during the electoral campaign, among other things for the transfer of one point from the TVQ towards the municipalities," Cusson said. "At the start this is something that's on the table. It's also something that the UMQ has been asking for nearly 20 years now.

## Meeting key people

"We've already had several meetings with Premier Legault, as well as meetings with several ministers since they took office," Cusson added. "And so, without being in negotiations formally speaking, we are nonetheless setting the table for what is to come.

"We have been meeting key people. We have been getting the message out about important municipal issues. We have been deciding what topics should be prioritized in the coming years. And the feedback we are getting is very positive and leading us to feel optimistic."

## The 1% transfer

According to Cusson, obtaining the 1 per cent TVQ transfer would make fiscal management more efficient for the province's municipalities. "It would allow towns and cities to benefit from the province's economic growth," he said, noting that currently the municipalities depend primarily on revenues from residential and commercial property taxes to pay for operations and infrastructure.

"There are limits to how much we can do. We are among the municipalities in Canada where revenue is mostly linked to property tax. Up to 70 per cent, when the average is around 40 to 45 per cent." Cusson said he is confident Premier Legault will live up to his pledges and take measures to ease the burden for Quebec's municipalities.

## Legault's commitment

"He made the commitment to transfer to us 1 per cent of the TVQ," he said, noting that

Legault repeated the commitment as recently as the UMQ's annual general meeting in Gatineau last September. "And he as well as several of his ministers recalled the commitment since the elections. For us, the principle has been accepted and agreed on. Now what's left is to determine how it is going to happen – when and how the sums are going to be shared between the municipalities."

On another issue potentially affecting the province's municipalities, Cusson acknowledged that the UMQ could also be seeking additional support from the Quebec government to assist with the increasing numbers of immigrants and refugees who are arriving and settling in Quebec's towns and cities.

## Immigrants and refugees

"Effectively the towns and cities are working very hard at the level of immigration," he said, adding that rising immigration is helping to resolve the province's ongoing labour shortage. "What we have noticed over the past few years is that the support in terms of quality resources for when these people first arrive was lacking."

While pointing out that the UMQ always resisted becoming involved in the debate over acceptable numbers of refugees and immigrants entering Quebec, Cusson continued:

"When Mr. Legault has said that we must do better with those we are taking in, we hear this is with great satisfaction. "We should emphasize this in all regions throughout Quebec. In 2019 this will be an important issue and we will be speaking about this with the government."



Union des Municipalités du Québec president **Alexandre Cusson**, who is also the mayor of Drummondville, hopes to negotiate a 1% return from the provincial sales tax to Quebec's municipalities before next Dec. 31 when the current UMQ/Quebec fiscal agreement expires.

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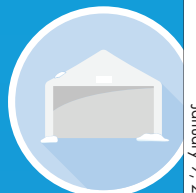
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# BACK TO SCHOOL

## Young Canadians should consider a career in skilled trades



Despite a diminishing supply of skilled trades workers, fewer young people than ever are pursuing these occupations in Canada. There remains a stigma around so-called blue-collar jobs, and young people are frequently unaware that professions in the trades can in fact be highly lucrative and rewarding. Skilled workers are in demand, and unlike many other types of employment, these jobs cannot be sent offshore. While no sector is impervious to economic downswings, many trade workers enjoy job security even during periods of great turmoil.

### UNIVERSITY VS. TRADE SCHOOL

A streamlined path into a trade often involves completing a vocational program at a trade

school. Unlike university programs, which require all students to take a variety of complementary (and often unrelated) classes, vocational programs focus entirely on preparing pupils for the reality of their chosen professions. In comparison to the four years it takes to complete an undergraduate degree, trade programs can either be two-year associate degrees or even shorter certificate programs. This means trade school students can enter the workforce well ahead of their university-educated peers, and are also far more likely to find employment in a position related to their studies.

### A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR SKILLED TRADES WORKERS

With an anticipated shortage of skilled workers looming on the horizon, young people who are proactive today have an excellent chance at finding themselves in high-earning, secure positions tomorrow. And thanks to government funding and incentives like the Apprentice Incentive Grant (AIG) and the Apprenticeship Completion Grant (ACG) — which can cover up to \$4,000 for tuition, books, travel and tools — trade schools are now as affordable as they are practical.

## Language classes: a world of possibilities

Learning a new language opens the door to a world of possibilities. Even though some people master a second language out of curiosity or pleasure, it is a real necessity for many others.

Did you know that around 6,000 languages are spoken around the globe? Out of that total, about 50 are used by approximately 60 percent of the world's population. Mandarin tops the list as the language spoken by the greatest number of people. English, Spanish, and French are the main languages spoken in Canada and the U.S. Arabic, German, Portuguese, Russian, Italian, and Hindi are just a few of the other

popular languages spoken in North America.

Why learn another language? There are many answers to this question. Some people do it in preparation for travelling, or so they can converse with someone they've met, or to better qualify for a job. In the era of multiculturalism and globalization, being able to express yourself clearly and communicate your ideas in several languages is an enormous advantage. During a job interview, for example, having more than one language can set apart a candidate.

*Learning a new language is a challenge that is well worth the effort.*



Look for a course that will teach you basic structural language skills (spelling, pronunciation, conjugation, grammar), as well as conversational skills. For example, it is fun to learn that the French equivalent of the expression “when pigs fly” is *quand les poules auront des dents*, which, when literally translated, means “when chickens have teeth”!

Of course, mastering another language requires patience and perseverance; after all, Rome wasn't built in a day. Fortunately, language classes are specifically designed to allow everyone to learn at their own pace. So, sign up, and you'll discover the world. Et pourquoi pas?



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## Career choices: try not to worry

By the time they graduate from high school, your teenagers are expected to have made certain choices about their future careers. What do they want to do in life? If you feel your children are undecided or unmotivated, or if they refuse to talk about it, don't be discouraged just yet. There are many different ways you can help your children through this process.

First of all, take every possible opportunity to discuss their interests and skills. Listen without judging and criticizing. Go ahead and tell them you could picture them doing this or that profession, but don't pressure them. The important thing is to keep your teenagers thinking about the future. Encourage them to see a career counsellor so they can explore their natural talents and learn about the different programs of study open to them.

Remember that it's never too late to decide on a career. In fact, more and more students are choosing their professions after they reach adulthood and after trying various jobs. Through all their explorations, young people discover their own identity, assimilate all kinds of knowledge and accumulate valuable life experience.

Your children's career paths may be very different from yours. Keep in mind that it's not uncommon to change careers once, twice or even more often nowadays. In short, be patient when helping your teenagers in their career choices. And remember, they need their parents' support, even if they don't show it openly.

*Encourage your teenagers to find out about various study programs without putting any pressure on them.*



# BACK TO SCHOOL

## A day planner is a student's best friend

With your homework, team practices, exams, appointments, activities and birthdays, a well-organized planner is essential for keeping your life organized. Which kind of planner should you choose? How can you get the most out of it? Here's what you should know.

A planner is a daily, weekly or monthly calendar book that helps you manage your time. Some people prefer planners that have a separate page for every day, while others want to be able to see the week or the month at a glance. And although electronic calendars suit a lot of people, many still rely on printed planners. They come in a variety of colours, styles and sizes, ranging from pocket format to regular or desktop-sized. Some formats are also referred to as agendas or organizers. Whichever type of planner you prefer, the important thing is that you use it every day. Always take it with you to class, to work and back home. Get in the habit of jotting down the due dates for assignments and specific instructions to remember.

Tip: use different coloured markers to highlight each event. For example, you can highlight everything that's related to your school work in yellow, all your personal activities in blue and time for rest and relaxation in green. This helps

you balance your schedule without stress and without forgetting anything.

A tidy, legible and regularly updated planner will quickly become your best friend. In fact, it won't be long before you can no longer get through your day without it.

*Keep your planner handy in class so you can note due dates and other important information.*



## Four tips for group project success



There's no denying that group projects aren't always smooth sailing. Between scheduling conflicts and different personality traits, seeing a project through to completion as a team can seem near impossible. In fact, so much so that many students prefer working alone than collaborating with their peers! So, how does one survive when group work is mandatory?

### 1. PICK YOUR TEAMMATES WISELY.

If your teacher gives you the freedom to form your own groups, take the time to carefully consider your ties and affinities with other students in your class. Who are you comfortable working with? What are your preferences in relation to the work assigned? Do your skill-sets complement each other's? Do you have enough free time in common to work on the task at hand?

### 2. DIVVY UP THE WORK, BUT REMAIN FLEXIBLE.

Even if you've diligently divided the work equally between team members, keep in mind that responsibilities may need to be redistributed along the way according to students' strengths and availabilities. Always keep an open mind and try to make fair changes whenever possible.

### 3. PLAN MEETINGS ACCORDINGLY.

Once the group has been formed, determine a point of rendezvous and, if possible, schedule several dates and times to meet well in advance. Together, figure out an efficient structure for group meetings and keep proceedings well organized; for example, maintain a day-to-day agenda and have a summary of tasks, both outstanding and completed, on hand.

### 4. FIND A SOLUTION WHEN MISUNDERSTANDINGS ARISE.

If someone's actions are affecting the group's ability to work cohesively, don't wait for the situation to escalate before taking action! The best strategy is to speak to the person concerned. Take a positive approach and calmly express your concerns in order to find the best possible solution for the whole team's benefit.



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# 2018: The Year in REVIEW

◀ Continued from page 8

control regulations, anyone who feeds a stray cat or dog will be regarded as its owner.

In a rowdy victory speech following the Oct. 1 provincial election, premier-designate François Legault said voters had finally set aside the divisive battle over sovereignty that has consumed provincial politics for the last 50 years.

"Today, we have made history," he said. "There are many Quebecers who have demonstrated that it is possible to have yesterday's adversaries work together, to work for the Quebec of tomorrow, together."

The election also saw major losses for the pro-independence Parti Québécois at the hands of another emerging Superpro-independence party, Québec Solidaire. The PQ's leader, Jean-François Lisée, resigned after losing his seat.

A feeling of victory filled the air at the Notre Dame Blvd. campaign headquarters of incumbent Chomedey MNA Guy Ouellette on provincial election night last Oct. 1 – even though it also rang hollow.

Although Ouellette himself easily won re-election as expected, the Quebec Liberal Party's losses most everywhere else in Quebec were historic in their proportion. Since election night, events turned in such a way that Ouellette

is no longer a Liberal and will be representing the people of Chomedey as an independent member of the National Assembly.

Christopher Skeete, the Coalition Avenir Québec's candidate in Sainte-Rose, became the only CAQ candidate from Laval's six ridings to be elected. For Skeete, number three was a charm, since he ran unsuccessfully in two previous provincial elections. The Laval News had the opportunity to sit down for an interview with the newly-elected Skeete. In it, he praised the CAQ for its controversial stance for dealing with the public display of religious symbols.

Later in the month, Skeete, who was appointed head of the new CAQ provincial government's Secretariat for relations with English-speaking Quebecers, said the CAQ's decision to continue the position created by the Liberals was "good news" for Anglo Quebecers.

"I think what it shows is that the CAQ is not really anything to be afraid of and that we really are the change that we said we would be," he said in an interview with the Laval News. Asked about his responsibilities, Skeete said, "Basically I'll be overseeing the work that'll be going on there. But mostly I'll be representing the Premier."

With Halloween less than a week away, last year's celebration of all things spooky and fit for trick or treating promised to be an especially horrifying one along Jean-Paul-Sartre St. in

Laval's Fabreville district. At 3410 Jean-Paul-Sartre to be precise, members of the Schwartz family would be carrying on a longstanding Halloween tradition on Oct. 31 when their garage and driveway storm shelter were to be transformed into one of the most elaborate and labyrinthine haunted houses in the Montreal region.

## NOVEMBER

For a tenth consecutive year, members of the Laval Police Department unveiled their canine squad calendar at police headquarters, with sales going towards the Fondation Martin-Matte. While the calendar has become a tradition with the people of Laval after a decade, this was the fifth year that Laval Police chief Pierre Brochet took part in the launch.

All the same, the calendar has proven to be a great success, he admitted, noting that he receives calls from people from as far as Quebec's Gaspésie region, asking if they can purchase a copy. Those attending the release event also paid homage to Cst. Éric Lavoie, an LPD dog handler who died from head injuries in the line of duty more than a decade ago following an auto accident.

As the Laval News projected on Oct. 24, the posts of Chairperson and two commissioners were officially filled at that evening's regular Council of Commissioners meeting by a vote of the seven remaining council members. Hardly a surprise to the sparse audience of board officials and a handful of interested parties in, Paolo Galati snapped up the Chair in a secret ballot that cast former commissioner Ailsa Pehi aside.

Laval mayor Marc Demers, who was recovering in November following a cancer diagnosis, was challenging elected officials all over Quebec to emulate him and throw their support behind the 2018 Bowwember campaign to draw attention to the fight against prostate cancer.

Demers and other prominent Procure supporters gathered at an Old Montreal hotel on Oct. 31 to mark the fifth year Procure is holding its campaign whose symbol is a stylish bow tie. The campaign hopes to raise \$500,000 this year.

"It is with a great deal of emotion that I decided to join you this year, even if it has been four years since the City of Laval supports Procure through our city council," said Demers, noting that he was diagnosed last April with prostate cancer and underwent therapy for it.

If one thing became clear during a public consultation held at Église Saint-Martin in Chomedey on Laval's parking policies (and covered in the Nov. 7 issue of the Laval News), it's that an overwhelming majority of people want the city to abandon its wintertime policy requiring car owners to park on alternate sides of streets to accommodate snow removal.

"Alternate parking has got to go – it should never have been there in the first place," said longtime resident Nick Furfaro. "Second, is that the city should rethink its whole cycling situation. Because I think that too much importance has been given to having the cycling paths, in comparison with how many people actually use them."

Royal Canadian Legion members from Branch 251 have been out selling Remembrance Day poppies for several weeks now in preparation for Canada's annual Remembrance Day on Nov. 11. Legion members and supporters, including Air Cadet program participants from Laval, held an official launch for the campaign at branch headquarters on Curé Labelle Blvd.

When friends and supporters of the Action Laval municipal party gathered at the Palace convention centre for their annual brunch one Sunday morning this month, they held a double celebration. Not only was it the fifth anniversary of the founding of the party, but it was also the fifth consecutive year for Aglaia Revelakis as the Action Laval city councillor for the district of Chomedey.

## DECEMBER

Residential as well as non-residential property owners in Laval will be paying 1.8 per cent more in taxes in 2019, according to the city's latest annual budget which was released to the media this month at Laval city hall.

The Demers administration's sixth budget since first being elected in 2013 allocated funding for \$875.3 million in expenses over the coming year. This compared to \$836.3 million in operating expenses and a 1.4 per cent tax increase for 2018.

Parental freedom of choice in what schools children attend was up front at the November 28, 2018 Council of Commissioners meeting of Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board (SWLSB). Theresa Andrusko, representing 189 parents whose support she exhibited in a signed petition, asked SWLSB to respect the right of parents to send their children to schools other than Laval Junior Academy/Laval Senior Academy.

"These schools are too big," Andrusko stated, echoing a major concern of many that these schools have had problems since an imposed cost-cutting merger converted four manageable schools into two conglomerates much more difficult to administer.

In an interview with Newsfirst Multimedia, federal Transport Minister Marc Garneau – who was the first Canadian in space – appeared to be sold on the idea of sending Canadian astronauts to the moon as part of a NASA mission.

Despite an initially lukewarm response by at least one federal cabinet minister to an invitation by the head of the U.S. space agency for Canada to send astronauts to the moon, Garneau suggested Ottawa is taking an offer made by NASA quite seriously. He said that "if it goes ahead," Canada's involvement in the project would be supported financially by the federal government.

For newly-elected Coalition Avenir Québec MNA for Sainte-Rose Christopher Skeete, a recent visit to the Agape English-Speaking Senior Wellness Centre was also a return to the neighbourhood where he was born and grew up.

"I was born and raised in Chomedey," Skeete told a large crowd of supporters of the centre on Notre Dame Blvd. who gathered there on Nov. 26 to welcome Skeete who was making his first official visit since the Oct. 1 provincial election. He was accompanied by Chomedey MNA Guy Ouellette.

During a rally held at the Palace congress centre by local Conservatives to announce two Laval-area candidates in the 2019 federal election, one name in particular seemed to come up more often than any other – Liberal Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's.

The Bloc Québécois from the political landscape, and the uncertain future of the NDP, the evening's guest of honour, Conservative leader Andrew Scheer, predicted that the 2019 election will be a duel between Scheer's Conservatives and Justin Trudeau's Liberals.

"The next election will be a clear choice between Justin Trudeau and his Liberal team or the Conservative Party under my leadership," said Scheer. "And I am confident that Quebecers and Canadians will welcome that choice and will choose the Conservative Party to form the next government."

A Mobile Soup Kitchen outreach program to "extend a hand" to less fortunate families and homeless individuals in certain areas of Laval this winter was launched by Vimy Liberal MP Eva Nassif in conjunction with the Constituency Youth Council (CYC) in her riding.

Called "Extend a hand to the less fortunate," the project was specifically designed to help address poverty and homelessness problems in Laval, Nassif and representatives of the CYC said during a launch held at her riding office on Dec. 7.

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## Police Search for Victims of Dog-Breeder-cum-Sexual-Predator-Pimp



Jan 4 – Laval police have joined efforts with other police forces across the country in an

attempt to seek out other potential victims of sexual assault committed by Kalib James Rahi.

Arrested by Toronto police on November 30, 2018, Rahi, 31, has been charged in connection with the alleged sexual assaults, trafficking and extortion of two Ontario women, both in their early 20s.

Police allege that Rahi, a former Laval resident, forced two women to work in the sex trade and that he sexually assaulted them on multiple occasions.

He allegedly based much of his operations through a dog-breeding business in Laval in 2016 and 2017. He is suspected of sexually assaulting and photographing women, posting advertisements online selling the women's sexual services, and forcing his victims at gunpoint to have sex with clients for money.

Rahi faces 21 charges in total, including sexual assault, trafficking in persons, using an imitation firearm while committing an indictable offence, advertising another person's sexual services, and possession of proceeds of crime.

Police believe at least two other victims exist; one in British Columbia and another in Quebec

or Ontario. Any person with information is urged to contact Toronto police at +1 (416) 808-7474, +1 (416) 222-8477, [www.222tips.com](http://www.222tips.com). Alternatively, victims can contact Laval police at 450-662-INFO (4636) or 911.

## Bystanders Witness Officer Head-butting Suspect

Jan 1 – Police officers around the province are defending the actions of one of their officers who was caught on camera appearing to head-butt a suspect during an arrest.

Last Friday afternoon, bystanders filmed a Laval police officer engaged in a physical altercation with a man near the scene of a robbery. In the videos, which were posted on Instagram, the officer appears to head-butt the man before he punches and knees him. Eventually, the police officer handcuffs the suspect who is seen lying on the ground.

## Holiday Driver Leaves Roadblock, Causes Tame Police Chase

Dec 31 – It began as a simple holiday police

roadblock near Boul. St-Martin in Chomedey on the penultimate night of 2018, until one motorist caused an unexpected police pursuit that ended in downtown Montreal and required the intervention of 3 police forces.

After being pulled over by Laval police for a spot check at around 1:50 a.m., the female driver decided to just drive away.

Laval officers followed her onto Boul. St-Martin, and SQ officers joined the procession on Autoroute 15 heading south into Montreal.

The chase, which never involved high speeds, continued southward through the city in a tame and controlled manner.

The pursuit ended shortly after Montreal police squad cars joined in the operation. The suspect's vehicle finally came to a stop at the corner of Viger Ave. and Robert Bourassa Blvd. at about 2:50 a.m.

The vehicle driven by the suspect, a white SUV, suffered some minor damage. No injuries were reported.

# 2019 CALENDAR

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# Collège Montmorency becomes Jeux du Québec partner

*Will be a major supporter of 2020 Games being held in Laval*



(TLN) With less than 19 months before the opening of the 2020 Jeux du Québec finals in Laval, Collège Montmorency has announced it will be a major partner of the event after signing an agreement with the committee organizing the event.

"During the summer of 1991, Collège Montmorency was the hotspot for the 27<sup>th</sup> finals which were a great success," said Hervé Pilon, director-general of the college. "And so it's only natural for the college to be taking part in the 55<sup>th</sup> finals of the Jeux du Québec – Laval 2020, while re-experiencing these exceptional moments."

## A great partnership

Marc DeBlois, director-general of the organizing committee, was delighted by the

college's decision to partner up. "A partner with the stature of the college is paramount to the success of an event of this magnitude," he said. "We couldn't be happier to be able to count on it among the institutions from Laval that are committed to the cause of young athletes."

During the 10 days when the finals will be taking place (Jul. 31 to Aug. 8 next year), nearly 3,500 athletes will be able to benefit from first-class sports infrastructure. With its central location and proximity to a nearby Metro station, Collège Montmorency will contribute to memorable experiences for the young athletes.

Athletes will be housed, entertained and will be receiving meals of the highest quality within the walls of Collège Montmorency. The Games' administrative headquarters will also be found at Collège Montmorency.

# Direct? Answers

*from • Wayne & Tamara*

## Pity Party

My boyfriend and I have been dating for a couple of years. He's my best friend and I love him. However, recently I've been putting a strain on our relationship because I'm envious of his successes and his skills.

As far as he's concerned, there's no reason for me to be jealous of him. We're both broke 20-somethings in a similar place in life, so usually we can find comfort in commiserating with each other.

But I'm jealous of his knack for making friends, I'm jealous that he likes his job and I hate mine, and I'm jealous of his enthusiasm for so many things in life. Sometimes when he talks about having fun with his coworkers or being praised for something, I feel so jealous I want to cry. I feel pathetic in comparison.

I don't want him to stop telling me good things in his life. Really, when I'm not upset, I'm proud of him and I want the world to recognize how great he is. Besides, I feel he should be able to tell his own girlfriend about things that make him happy.

I don't always get jealous, but when I do, I get mean and resentful. It makes both of us feel awful. I know this is my own problem, not his, but how do I stop being eaten up with envy? And how can I ask for his support in a constructive way when I'm feeling down about myself, without making it a competition between us?

Peggy

*Peggy, great. You've taken the first step. We praise you for that. You recognize this is your problem and that is the truth, because you would be this way with anyone.*

*Where you go off track is asking for his support when you feel down about yourself. You don't need to be coddled. You need to focus on, what am I doing to change this? What is envy? He has this and this and this, and I don't. I will see what someone else has, and instead of doing something about it, I will feel sorry for myself. That is why we say envy is the easy way out.*

*First, act as if you have the power to change. Because you do. Acting powerless will make you powerless and acting miserable will*



*make you miserable.*

*Second, identify your problems. What concrete, observable, action steps do you need to take to change. You can't say people don't do this all the time. What's a trend? This guy has a cool haircut. I'm going to get my hair cut like that. Those people dress like this. I will get an outfit like that, too.*

*Are you doing anything to improve your work situation? It's not fun to be a broke 20-something, but can you get a better job? Or can you decide to be the best employee until you get that better job? Becoming a high performer will make you feel better about yourself, even in a job you don't like and want to leave.*

*Observe how your boyfriend (and others) make friends. Can you use them as your example? Can you see what you might be doing wrong? Imitate others in the things you admire.*

*Your logical mind and your kind heart want to share in his successes and happiness, but your lower self is trying to drag up this parasitic, relationship-killing envy. Envy is like a dog that won't stop digging holes in your backyard. Accomplishment and personal change are the only things that will stop it.*

*In asking for his support, you ask to make him complicit in whiny feelings. He cannot comply because then you will feel you have a right to those feelings.*

*Over and over we tell people the only person they have power to change is themselves. You have a choice. Be with him and change yourself, or find someone to be miserable with.*

Wayne & Tamara

Wayne & Tamara Mitchell are the authors of

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# IN MEMORIAM & OBITUARIES

## CROSS, Douglas 1947 - 2018



In loving memory of Douglas Cross, born March 5th 1947. Passed away December 24th in Laval, at the age of 71. Beloved son of the late Harold Cross and the late Agnes Keough. He will be missed by his daughters Karen and Priscilla, his brother and sisters Richard Cross, Linda Maxwell (David Maxwell), Maureen Dawe (Ted Dawe), Doreen Verge (Barry Verge). He will always be remembered by his grandchildren Marie-Pier, Alexandra, Brandon, Amy, his dear friend Anne Huet and all his other family and friends. A donation to the Heart and stroke foundation of Canada can be made in his memory.

## MELANÇON GAUVREAU, Cécile 1932 - 2018



In Laval, on December 31, 2018, at the age of 86, passed away Mrs. Cécile Melançon Gauvreau, beloved wife of the late Mr. Gilles Gauvreau. She will be sadly missed by her children Guy (Céline Beaulieu), Michel, Lise (Pierre Perreault), Jean-François (Kerry Ann Morton), André and his little angel Martin, his grandchildren Julie, Lucie, Alexandre and Marie-Pier, her great-grandchildren Rosalie and Alexis, her sister-in-law Lise Melançon Bellemare, her nephews and nieces, as well as several relatives and friends, especially her friend Mireille.

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## GOUGEON, Michel 1944 - 2018



In Laval, on January 2, 2019, at the age of 74 years, passed away Mr. Michel Gougeon, son of the late Gaétan Gougeon and Marthe Blanchard, residing in Sainte-Thérèse. He is survived by his children Marc-Antoine (Marie-Lyne) and Jules (Marjolaine), his grandsons Louis, Elliott and Victor, as well as many other relatives and friends.

## ST-JEAN, Nicole 1957 - 2018



In Laval, on January 2, 2019, at the age of 61, Mrs. Nicole St-Jean, beloved wife of Mr. Patrick Sterl, passed away. She will be sadly missed by her mother, Mrs. Therese Beausoleil, her daughter Natacha and her son Yuri, her sisters; Danielle, Carole, Colette, Linda, Micheline and their spouse, as well as many relatives and friends.

## DESCHAMBAULT, Réal 1952 - 2018



At the *Cité-de-la-Santé* Hospital, Laval, on December 30, 2018, at the age of 66, passed away Mr. Réal Deschambault, a businessman living in Terrebonne and husband of Mrs. Ginette Prud'homme. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his children Mélanie (Martin) and Dominic (Martine), his grandchildren Jérémy, Marika and Raphaël, his brothers and sisters, brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, nephews and nieces, as well as several other relatives and friends,

## MARIETTE, Allaire 1927 - 2018



In Laval, passed away, on January 5, 2019, at the age of 91, Mrs. Mariette Allaire, beloved wife of the late Mr. Romeo Emond. She will be sadly missed by her children Jean (Jacqueline) and Denise, her grandchildren, her great-grandchildren, her brothers Armand and Denis, her sister Marie-Rose, her nephews and nieces, and many other relatives and friends.

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# IN MEMORIAM & OBITUARIES



**BÉRUBÉ, Jacques**  
1956 - 2018

On December 21, 2018, at the age of 62 years, passed away Mr. Jacques Bérubé husband of Mrs. France Blondin. He is survived by his son Mathieu (Emma), his daughter Karine and his grandchildren; Liam and Inara, as well as his brothers, sisters, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law and many relatives and friends.



**BÉDARD KOURI, Lisette**  
1952 - 2018

In Laval, on December 31, 2018, at the age of 66, Mrs. Lisette Bédard Kouri, beloved wife of Mr. James Kouri, passed away. In addition to her husband, she is survived by her daughter Josée, her son-in-law Max, her sisters Nicole (André), Denise (Michel), Johanne (Pierre) and Sylvie (André), her brother Guy, her nephews and nieces, as well as several relatives and friends.



**BIRON, Jeanne D'arc**  
1942 - 2018

In Montreal, passed away January 2, 2019, at the age of 76 years, Mrs. Jeanne D'arc Biron, native of Trois-Rivières, beloved wife of Mr. Gilles Dunberry. In addition to her husband, she is survived by her children Valérie (Olivier Picard) and Alexandre (Patricia Roy), her grandchildren Béatrice, Dorothée, Hubert, Étienne and Charles-Antoine, her brothers and sisters Manon, Célien, Julien, Solange and Yvon (Ghislaine Tremblay), his brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, his nephews and nieces, as well as many relatives and friends.



**WILSON, George John**  
1929 - 2018

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Mr. George John Wilson on January 4th 2019, at the age of 89. Beloved husband for 65 years of Mrs. Joyce Wilson, cherished father of George, Steve, Brent (Johanne) and Beverly, devoted grandfather of Melanie (Philippe) and Amy (Jean-François). He will also be deeply missed by other relatives and friends. The family would like to extend their gratitude to the doctors and nurses in the ICU at St-Mary's Hospital for their wonderful support and care.



**SAMOISSETTE, André**  
1946 - 2018

At the Cité de la Santé in Laval, on January 1, 2019, at the age of 72, passed away surrounded by his family, Dr. André Samoisette. He is survived by his wife: Thérèse Léger Samoisette, his children: François (Julie), Isabelle, Ian (Geneviève), his grandchildren whom he loved so much: Jonathan, Rose and Camille, his sister Monique (Normand), his sister-in-law Henriette (Jacques), his nephews Eric, Jean-François (Cathie), Olivier (Lenka), his niece Virginie (Lentz), his old accomplice Robert as well as several relatives and friends.



**DUBREUIL, Diane**  
1948 - 2018

In Terrebonne, passed away December 26, 2018, at the age of 70, Mrs. Diane Dubreuil. She is survived by her sisters Louise (Jocelyn Bernier), Danielle (Denis Allard), Carole (Jack Ouimet) and her brother Robert (Manon Dupuis), her nephews and nieces Maud, Yanik, Jonathan, Amelie, Laurianne, Carolanne and their spouses, relatives and friends.



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**ESCAPE ROOM**

PG-13 | 1h 39min | Horror



Six strangers find themselves in circumstances beyond their control, and must use their wits to survive.

**SECOND ACT**

G | 1h 45min | Comedy



A big box store worker reinvents her life and her life-story and shows Madison Avenue what street smarts can do.

**COMING SOON**

**A DOG'S WAY HOME**

1h 35min | Family



When Bella becomes separated from Lucas, she soon finds herself on an epic, 400-mile journey to reunite with her beloved owner.

**GLASS**

2h 12min | Thriller



Security guard David Dunn uses his supernatural abilities to track Kevin Wendell Crumb, a disturbed man who has twenty-four personalities.

**HOLMES AND WATSON**

G | 1h 30min | Comedy



A humorous take on Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's classic mysteries featuring Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson.

**MORTAL ENGINES**

G | 2h 09min | Fantasy/Sci-Fi



Many years after the "Sixty Minute War," cities survive a now desolate Earth by moving around on giant wheels attacking and devouring smaller towns to replenish their resources.

**ON THE BASIS OF SEX**

2h 00min | Drama



The story of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, her struggles for equal rights and what she had to overcome in order to become a U.S. Supreme Court Justice.

**SERENITY**

1h 46min | Drama



Baker Dill is a fishing boat captain who leads tours off of the tranquil enclave of Plymouth Island. His peaceful life is soon shattered when his ex-wife Karen tracks him down.

# YOUR HOROSCOPE

Week of January 13 to 19, 2019

The luckiest signs this week:  
CANCER, LEO AND VIRGO



**ARIES**  
There will be many unexpected events this week. At work, you'll be trusted with a task that will require you to juggle large sums of money. Your salary will also see a boost.



**TAURUS**  
You'll want to eliminate all of your negative feelings by getting into shape. You'll get rid of lots of nervous energy by going to the gym.



**GEMINI**  
If you've been worried about your career path, you'll finally see which direction it should take. You'll also find the solution to a health problem you've been struggling with for a long time.



**CANCER**  
At work, you'll be overwhelmed by a large number of clients. At home, there are many social events to manage and everyone counts on you to organize them.



**LEO**  
Well rested, you'll be able to tackle work situations with renewed vigour, which will result in a promotion. You'll be offered your boss' job but you may decide to start your own business instead.



**VIRGO**  
Instead of fighting a losing battle, you'll escape to a sunny destination and relax. This is a wise choice that will be lots of fun. You'll come return home with a clear head.



**LIBRA**  
You'll be extra sensitive this week and have the feeling that everything is working against you. Life is sending you the message that you need to make a change.



**SCORPIO**  
You'll have to weigh the pros and cons of a situation quickly in order to make an important decision. There will also be an occasion to dress up, such as an important work dinner.



**SAGITTARIUS**  
There will be lots of work this week but make sure you don't neglect any of the small details. You'll redouble your efforts after a conversation reveals some important information.



**CAPRICORN**  
An accomplishment will put you in the spotlight. You haven't always been comfortable being the centre of attention but you'll overcome your shyness.



**AQUARIUS**  
You'll start looking for a new house, or think about renovating or redecorating the one you currently have. Your family will take a lot of your energy this week.

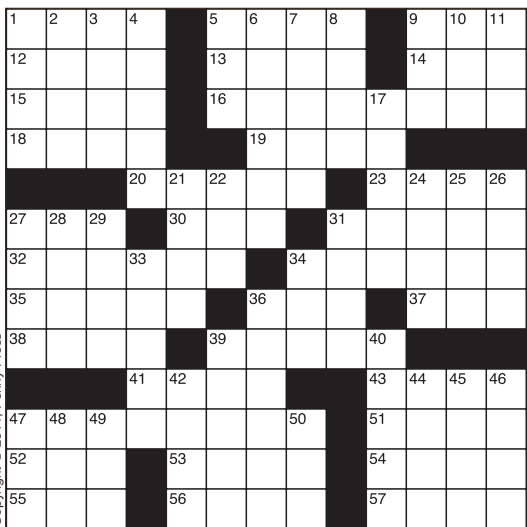


**PISCES**  
You won't bite your tongue this week, especially if someone wants you to stay quiet. Being outspoken will help get you out of a financial bind and may even bring in some extra cash.

# Coffee break

## CROSSWORDS

PUZZLE NO. 952



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### ACROSS

1. Munitions
5. Wise birds
9. This lady
12. Beep
13. Cry
14. Feline foot
15. Bloodhound's trail
16. Plot a course for
18. Predinner reading
19. Actor Sean
20. Travel by car
23. Track shape
27. Possesses
30. Game piece
31. Grin

### DOWN

32. Damage
34. Celebration
35. Buffet
36. Equipment
37. Geologic age
38. Lodges
39. Renegade
41. Exude
43. Citrus coolers
47. Aversion
51. Suitor
52. Air hero
53. Bank (on)
54. Choice word
55. But
56. Leg part
57. Was dishonest
1. Part of a molecule
2. Took the bus
3. Night light
4. Play a lute
5. "On My \_\_\_\_"
6. Gun, e.g.
7. Pry bar
8. Whirl
9. Sauna locale
10. Bonnet
11. Fleecy mama
17. Elf
21. Overlook
22. Road material
24. Clamp
25. Choir singer
26. Without fat
27. Phonograph
28. Hymn ending
29. Reach
31. Locale
33. Valuable
34. Untruth
36. Teapot
39. Elevated
40. Insignia
42. Grade
44. Pastrami seller
45. Leisure
46. Brought to court
47. Week part
48. Polar sight
49. Determine
50. Needle hole

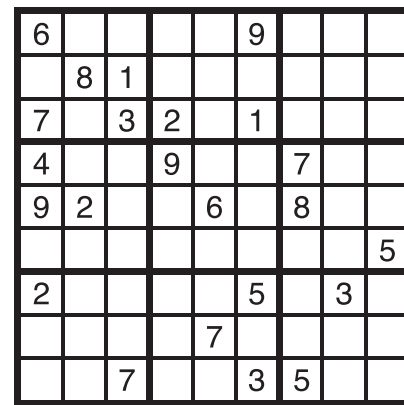
# Sudoku

PUZZLE NO. 678

### 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.**

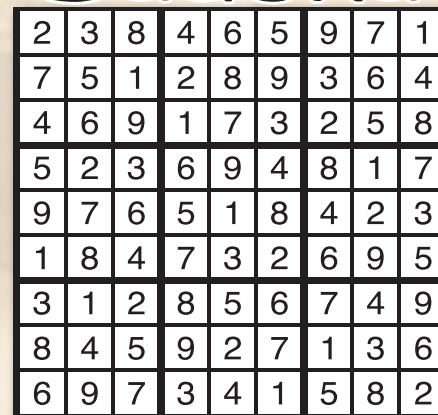


## CROSSWORDS



LAST ISSUE'S ANSWERS

## Sudoku



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