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Laval takes initiative against glyphosates



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THE GLYPHOSATE FILES

GLYPHOSATE:
the HERBICIDE
YOU'RE
EATING that
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CAUSES
CANCER



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DANGERS OF PESTICIDES

HUMANS	ENVIRONMENT	WILDLIFE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LOWERED COGNITIVE PERFORMANCE • LOSS OF SMELL • PARKINSON'S DISEASE • ALZHEIMER'S & DEMENTIA • AUTISM • DAMAGED MOTOR FUNCTION • CANCER 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PERSISTENT CHEMICALS • CONTAMINATION OF AIR, GROUND, & WATER • FIELD RUN OFF • ENDS UP 1,000 MILES AWAY • IMPROPER DISPOSAL • AERIAL SPRAYING • COSTLY OR IMPOSSIBLE TO CLEAN WATER • DAMAGES SOIL 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CREATE MORE TOXIC CHEMICALS ONCE EATEN • DISRUPTS CALCIUM PRODUCTION • BIOMAGNIFICATION • PHYSIOLOGICAL AND BEHAVIORAL CHANGES • MASS EXTINCTION FOR BEES AND BATS • LOWERS POLLINATION • MISTAKEN FOR FOOD

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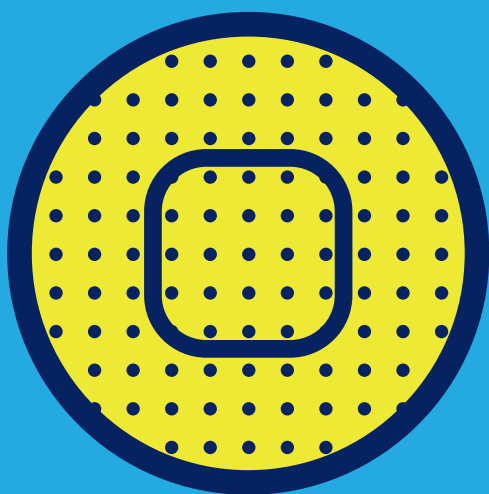
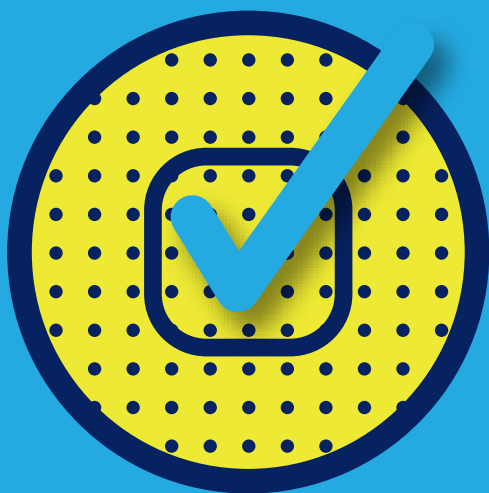


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Vigilance OGM fight against glyphosates

All municipalities should follow Laval's example

(THE LAVAL NEWS) At a time when the federal government no longer seems to be defending the common good in the glyphosate issue, Vigilance OGM activists are calling on the municipal level to take concrete actions to reduce our collective exposure to pesticides. Some 500 flags were symbolically installed in Laval to challenge the mayors, elected and candidates of the next municipal elections to seize the issue on their territory — as the City of Laval was able to do.

Dotted with flags indicating their claims, Bernard Landry Park was the place of an original staging surprising the visiting Lavallois.es. Activists from Vigilance OGM were there to offer their compliments to the City of Laval which, last April, took the step to ban pesticides on its territory, especially those based on glyphosate and neonicotinoids; but especially to invite the rest of Quebec's municipalities to follow suit.

Vigilance OGM is a non-profit organization concerned about what we put on our plates on a daily basis and about the impact of the production methods of genetically modified crops on human and environmental health. Vigilance OGM is working to germinate a GMO-free Quebec.

Unnecessary exposure

Although it accounts for more than 80% of total sales, it is not only people in the agricultural sector who use these products. Institutions, municipalities and even individuals can use it to maintain parks and gardens. However, exposure to these chemicals is not insignificant and studies show their link with the appearance of certain diseases, such as Parkinson's disease, cancers, cognitive disorders and other health problems (INSERM, 2021). Therefore, Vigilance OGM is asking municipalities to legislate to prohibit these uses that unnecessarily expose the population.



Laure Mabileau, Head of Communications at Vigilance OGM: "Today, quebecers are rightly concerned about their exposure to pesticides. Citizens are losing confidence in the authorities, which seem to defend the interests of lobbies more often than the health of the population. For many, the municipal level becomes the last resort to initiate positive change quickly. This is what we are encouraging with the My Pesticide-Free Municipality campaign, which aims to allow any citizen to take charge of this file in their place of residence".



The non-profit organization Vigilance OGM calls on elected municipal officials in Quebec to reduce the use of pesticides by installing some 500 white flags in Bernard-Landry Park in Laval.

A broader movement

Last May, Vigilance OGM launched a call for citizen mobilization to ban the use of pesticides for aesthetic purposes and to improve the analysis of drinking water in Quebec. Two demands are among the 15 listed in the manifesto *Sortir du glyphosate* in order to quickly get Quebec out of its dependence on pesticides. Since then, groups have emerged here and there to claim these issues: some get in touch with their elected representatives while others write open letters or question local candidates in the next elections in order to increase the pressure.

Lost confidence in Health Canada

"I have lost confidence in Health Canada. Since then, I have been involved locally to bring about real changes that limit our exposure to pesticides. I think we should not expose ourselves unnecessarily to pesticides for the maintenance of our parks and gardens, just as I think we should not increase the limits of glyphosate residues on our food," says Chloé Tremblay Cloutier, activist for Vigilance OGM.

Boyer: City of Laval initiative



Quebec has more than 150 municipalities that have regulated the use of pesticides on their territory. In recent months, many municipalities have adopted or announced their intention to reduce the use of pesticides in their territory. This is the case of the City of Laval.

"I want to send a message to the other mayors, mayors and mayoral candidates of other cities in Quebec: make this commitment. On the one hand, it is an environmental issue, to have a healthier living environment, to preserve the fauna, flora and biodiversity. But it is also, above all, a question of human health, of the health

of the population," said Stéphane Boyer, deputy mayor and candidate for mayor of Laval, at the press conference.

According to Stéphane Boyer, this is the first step in getting out of pesticides. Although the deputy mayor does not have a specific plan or deadline, he says he wants to work with farmers to change their practices to reduce or even eliminate their use of pesticides.



Thibault Rehn, coordinator of Vigilance OGM: "It really doesn't make sense that Health Canada is proposing this kind of change. Their primary mission is to prevent and reduce risks to individual health and the environment. Now, it looks like they have a new commercial objective".

"[These products] have made it possible to have higher agricultural yields, to lower the cost of food and to make certain advances. But we are no longer in the sixties, we have come much further. There are new practices that exist, new technologies that exist that allow agriculture to be much healthier with fewer chemicals while maintaining good food quality," he added.

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OPINION & Editorial



You should know, you're on the hook for \$57,000 in government debt

We have to start demanding that politicians start making some tough choices

That's the average amount each Canadian will owe in provincial and federal government debt by the end of the year. It's not just the rich or big corporations that will be mopping up this budget mess if politicians don't take some air out of their bloated budgets.

Politicians are already starting to try that strategy. But if you add up the luxury tax and tax on foreign homeowners in the recent federal budget, and throw in the wealth and excess profits tax the New Democrats are pushing for, Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland's 2021 deficit spending would still burn through that cash in about a month. Ordinary Canadians would be stuck with the bills for the other 11 months.

How staggering the borrowing has become.

"We're adding on more debt in six years than we did in previous 152 years combined," David Rosenberg, a Bay Street veteran, commented, following the 2021 federal budget.

Canada's gross debt makes up 118 per cent of our GDP, which is the fifth highest among 29 industrialized countries examined by the International Monetary Fund. Even if we sold everything we produced in an entire year, we still couldn't pay off that government debt. The debt is now more than \$1 trillion and is increasing by \$424 million every day.

The provinces aren't a bunch of beauty pageant contestants either. Ontario is the most indebted subnational government in the world. Not too long ago Newfoundland and Labrador was worried about its ability "to pay its public service." And Alberta and Saskatchewan recently received credit downgrades.

It's not just the total debt that taxpayers need to be concerned with.

This year, interest charges on federal and provincial debts will cost each Canadian more than \$1,000. That money can't go to health care or to put groceries on the table because it's going to the bond fund managers to service the government debt.

What happens if interest rates rise?

Last year, government interest charges cost Canadians about \$50 billion. The Fraser Institute estimates that deficits in Canada

would increase by another \$17 billion if interest costs return to their 2019 levels. And they aren't the only economists sounding the alarm.

"Are we really going to make this assumption that interest rates are going to stay static for the next 10 or 20 years?" said Rosenberg. "I just find so many people have short memories against what happened in the 1970s into the 1980s, and then all the tough choices and the hardship to get our fiscal situation back into some mode of stability."

Those tough choices included the closing down of 52 hospitals on the prairies after "we left a fiscal situation in Saskatchewan until it was a crisis," according to former finance minister Janice Mackinnon.

That's a crucial lesson. Eventually, politicians will be forced to make tough decisions, and it's better to tackle the debt challenges now before tougher choices are forced on us.

Here's another crucial lesson: the seeds to our debt problem were planted long before COVID-19.

It's important to keep the massively expensive COVID-19 spending temporary so these programs don't become permanent red ink.

But even before COVID-19, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau increased Canada's per person (and inflation adjusted) spending to heights never before seen. Instead of fulfilling his promise to balance the budget in 2019, Trudeau spent more than his predecessors did in any one year during the Second World War, Korean War, or during recessions in the 1980s, 1990s and 2000s.

Rather than taking his foot off the gas pedal, Trudeau is using COVID-19 to increase permanent federal government spending by \$100 billion by 2026.

So how can Canadians shrink that \$57,000 government debt bill?

Governments need to do what families and businesses have done: find ways to save money. Overspending has become habitual, but that doesn't mean it's inevitable. Taxpayers need to send a clear message that it's time for fiscal sanity.

Franco Terrazzano

Federal Director of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation.

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Letters to the Editor

Dear editor,

These days, when I open my newspaper I'm always wondering whether it's the last time I'll get to read my favourite column or get a story about what's happening in our community. Due to years of government inaction and the hostility of big foreign players, Canada's news industry is dying.

So many local newspapers are now only a shadow of what they once were. People have asked me why I subscribe, since you can "get all your news on line". I tell them, no, that is not the case. Even though now there are pages taken from other newspapers, part of the large conglomerates, I feel I would miss so much of what is happening in my area - municipal news, all the vibrant neighborhoods, etc. Keep up the good work.

Here's the thing, though: Canadian storytelling matters. Whether it is on screens or in our newspapers, whether it is about a new initiative to support local businesses or about a new after school program — our stories tell us who we are as a society. So if these stories disappear, so do we.

And that's the crux of my fear. Canadian storytelling is going extinct and the government is simply standing idly by.

An election will be called any day now. I want our candidates to know that my vote comes at a price: if you don't offer substantive solutions to the Canadian news crisis, you can forget about my vote.

I hope my fellow readers, my fellow community members will join me in demanding more from our elected officials.

Sincerely,
A. Grad

Quebec linguistic policies *Task force denounces legislative hearing schedules - announces expanded team*

The Task Force on Linguistic Policy (Task Force) is calling on the Quebec legislature to open up committee hearings on Bill 96. Fifty groups and individuals were privately invited to present before the Education and Culture Committee without public notice. Of these invitees, only three groups are tasked with representing the approximately 1.2 million English-speaking Quebecers will be heard, despite a groundswell of public opposition to Bill 96 and the proposed Constitutional amendment.

"People need to stand up against this show trial, which will seek to legislate against the interests of all Quebecers," said Task Force Chair Colin Standish, "We need to open this up to speak 'truth to power', and to stop these detrimental changes to our Constitution and human rights."

"I am, however, pleased to announce that a half-dozen new members have joined our team as we bring on exceptional individuals dedicated to defeating Bills C-32 and 96," Standish said.

The Task Force is calling on the Government of Quebec and all parties in the legislature to open up the hearings to all interested individuals and groups who want to comment on Bill 96's earth-shattering proposals.

"The invitation only hearings are decidedly one-sided in an attempt to show support for this project," said Marcus Tabachnick, "The CAQ wants the appearance of acceptance of this unconstitutional, small-minded and mean-spirited legislation. It is the equivalent of a kangaroo court."

Ben Huot, Policy Chair and Vice-Chair of the Task Force, has submitted a formal request to the Committee and is lobbying all 15 members to open up the hearings for all Quebecers.

"Sound public policy does not develop in an echo chamber. All voices and opinions need to be brought forward to our legislators. It is a



Marcus Tabachnick

baseline of our democratic system," says Huot.

Please join the Task Force and help us open up the Committee hearings. The Task Force recommends that Quebecers email their MNAs and M. Olivier Champagne, Committee Clerk, at cce@assnat.qc.ca to make it happen.



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2021 Edition of Family Day: a formula adapted to current health measures

Due to the current context and the health measures in force, the City of Laval has decided to revisit its traditional Fête de la famille, which is held annually on the first weekend of September. Thus, in order to avoid any large gathering, a revisited formula will be proposed to Laval residents. From the beginning of August until the end of October, various free activities will replace the usual event, including fun trails, giant games, circassian activities and thematic entertainment in six parks.

"Since its creation in 2000, this important annual event brings together tens of thousands of citizens who celebrate the end of the summer together. After a year in which virtual initiatives were prioritized and the cancellation of the 2020 edition of Family Day, we are excited to finally

offer diversified programming and face-to-face activities. We invite citizens to take advantage of this adapted formula that will please young and old alike! »

— Marc Demers, Mayor of Laval

Fun trails

The playful trails will make the participants live mysterious and magical stories. The activity will be separated into six play stations scattered along the walking route in which participants will have to answer puzzles and take on challenges among trees and greenery. The latter will only have to present themselves at the starting point of each course and download the QR code in order to access the mobile application and the instructions of the game.

From August to the end of September: free and open access play trails will be built at Bernard-Landry Park and the Berge des Baigneurs;

From September to the end of October: a route will be set up at the Nature Centre.

Fun activities with the family

Between August 28 and September 12, fun and family activities will be organized successively in 6 parks on the weekend under the themes of the world "Jura-circus" and giant games. Programming and instructions for accessing these spontaneous activities will be disclosed on the Out program website this summer starting August 25.



The members of the executive committee wish to inform the public of certain decisions taken during the public meeting held on July 28.

Participation in the SAQ Chair – Valorization of glass in materials

The members of the Executive Committee agreed that the City of Laval participate in the SAQ Chair – Valorization of Glass in Materials, of the Université de Sherbrooke, for a total amount of \$100,000 divided over 5 years (2020 to 2024). The objectives of the research are, among others: to continue fundamental studies on the reactivity of glass powder, to develop new types of concretes and pavers, to develop the use of glass powder in structural concrete uses, etc.

Concrete is a highly polluting material for the environment. Glass powder could replace some of the cement contained in

the concrete, making it more resistant and improving its quality. Also, in addition to this second life offered to recycled glass, the greenhouse gases related to the use of concrete would be reduced. As the Engineering Department wishes to modify its technical specifications to include the use of glass in concrete, our participation in this research chair represents a great opportunity for Laval.

\$10,000 Tree Day Grant

The members of the Executive Committee awarded a \$10,000 grant to the Centre intégré de santé et de services sociaux de Laval (IHSSL) for the 14th consecutive year of Tree Day. This amount will contribute in part to the realization of 4 planting projects totalling 57 trees and 199 shrubs in the following institutions: Multidisciplinary Service Centre (Sainte-Rose), CHSLD La Pinière (Saint-Vincent-de-Paul), CLSC Ruisseau-Papineau (Saint-Martin) and the Jewish Rehabilitation Hospital

(Souvenir-Labelle). The plantations will be fully coordinated by the organization CANOPÉE – Le réseau des bois de Laval.

This activity aims to raise awareness of the importance of trees in our ecosystem. Planting makes it possible to contribute to the greening of the landscape, the creation of islands of freshness, better management of rainwater and the fight against heat islands. Since 2008, this program has planted more than 2,037 trees on the grounds of ISSSL institutions.

Executive Committee Meetings

The executive committee meets weekly to make decisions on a variety of issues. It is composed of the president, Mayor Marc Demers, the vice-president, Stéphane Boyer (Duvernay-Pont-Viau) as well as councillors Sandra Desmeules (Concorde-Bois-de-Boulogne), Ray Khalil (Sainte-Dorothée), Virginie Dufour (Sainte-Rose) and two associate members, Nicholas Borne (Laval-les-Îles) and Aline Dib (Saint-Martin).



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Are Glyphosate products harmful to you?

BY KENNETH MCELRATH

Introduced in the 1990s, crops genetically engineered (GE) to withstand exposure to the weed killer glyphosate (Roundup) were a game-changer for agriculture. They saved many farmers money on weed control, slashed greenhouse gas emissions caused by tilling and fossil fuel use, and indirectly boosted crop yields, all of which translated into lower food prices for consumers.

Scientists have differing opinions when answering why or how Roundup is harmful to humans, but consumer lawsuits argue that cancer is a possible outcome.

Where Is Glyphosate Used?

Glyphosate is often used on:

- Fruit and vegetable crops
- Glyphosate-resistant crops like canola, corn, cotton, soybeans, sugar beets, and wheat
- Plantings, lawns, greenhouses, aquatic plants, and forest plantings

Exposure to Glyphosate in your lawn and garden

If you use a weed killer with glyphosate on your lawn or garden, you may be exposed to glyphosate by breathing it in, getting it on your skin, or getting it in your eyes. Your risk goes up if you:

- Eat or smoke after applying it and don't wash your hands first
- Touch plants that are still wet from it

If you're exposed, your eyes, skin, nose, and throat may get irritated. If you get it in your eyes, it could lead to mild irritation or a superficial corneal injury. If you swallow it, you may have increased saliva and burns and pain in your mouth and throat. It can cause nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea.

In some cases, people who intentionally swallowed products with glyphosate have died.

To lower your risk, wash your hands and take off your clothes after you handle one of these products.

Glyphosate in your food

You may also be exposed to glyphosate in your food.

It gets into foods early in the food chain, before raw food is harvested and before it's processed.

You may have heard in recent news that oat-based products like oatmeal, cereal, granola bars, and snack bars have glyphosate.

In one report from California scientists and the World Health Organization, 43 of 45 oat-based products tested had it. Popular breakfast foods like Quaker Old Fashioned Oats and Cheerios and other cereals, had above-average levels.

It's also in grain and bean products like pasta, buckwheat, barley, kidney beans, and chickpeas.

Some foods may surprise you, like avocados, apples, blueberries, cherries, cucumbers, dates, dried peas, garlic, lemons, olives, peanuts, pomegranates, potatoes, rice, spinach, sugarcane, tobacco, tomatoes, and walnuts.

Even though Glyphosate is banned in organic farming, in the World Health Organization report, one-third of organic oat products tested had traces of glyphosate. But they were below levels associated with risk.

Long-Term Health Risks

Short-term exposure to glyphosate isn't something you need to worry much about. Experts say it's less toxic than table salt. But it's long-term risk may be a concern. Scientists are divided on how much risk is involved. Reports show conflicting results. And keep in mind that most studies involve animals, not people:

Cancer. Some studies suggest glyphosate may

be linked to cancer. Others suggest there's no link. It's a controversial topic. The International Agency for Research on Cancer categorizes glyphosate as a probable carcinogen for humans. In 2020, the EPA released a statement that glyphosate does not pose a risk to humans as long as it is used according to directions. They also stated that it is unlikely that it causes cancer in humans.

-Liver and kidney damage.

Glyphosate may affect your kidney and liver. Studies of dairy cows eating a diet of soybeans with high levels of glyphosate had higher risks of liver and kidney damage.

-Reproductive and developmental issues.

The EPA released a statement in 2020 that there was no evidence that glyphosate interfered with the endocrine system or hormones humans.

-Risk for pregnant women and children.

Some scientists are concerned that pregnant women and children may have higher risks because children and developing fetuses may be more susceptible to carcinogens. But the EPA says there's no evidence that glyphosate is a developmental or reproductive toxin, so they don't feel that they are at any higher risk

A probable human carcinogen

Instances of intentional ingestion of glyphosate have reportedly resulted in deaths, although these are a relatively small number of incidences according to the National Pesticide Information Center.

In the long term, scientists are consistently debating the question: "Is Roundup harmful to humans?"

In 2015, the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) classified glyphosate as a probable human carcinogen. Despite this classification, agencies such as the European Food Safety Authority and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have determined that glyphosate is not carcinogenic. In general, scientists agree that there needs to be more research on the issue – including the types of exposure and dosages of glyphosate which lead to cancer.

Part of the issue is being uncertain about how much risk comes from glyphosate and how much is attributed to the other chemicals in formulations such as Roundup.

Is Roundup harmful to humans? According to Vanessa Fitsanakis, a neurotoxicologist from



Vanessa Fitsanakis uses her neurotoxicology expertise to research pesticides' impact on the nervous system. Her career in science has encompassed chemistry, mathematics, social science and neuroscience, but Fitsanakis says that its roots lie in rural Tennessee, where her family has farmed for generations.

Northeast Ohio Medical University, it is very difficult for a toxicologist to test the different ingredients to figure out what's the most toxic, or what's contributing to it." "From a research perspective, I can't tell which component might need to be changed [to reduce possible toxicity] in those formulations because I don't know what some of those components are."

Unfortunately, some evidence suggests that formulated glyphosate is more toxic to cells and animals than glyphosate alone.

"The data are overwhelmingly in agreement that glyphosate by itself is relatively nontoxic," Fitsanakis notes.

Repeated lawsuits

Roundup manufacturer Monsanto and parent company Bayer have faced repeated lawsuits from consumers claiming that they developed non-Hodgkin's lymphoma after using the weed killer for years. Lawyers for these consumers argue that Roundup was misrepresented as safe by the manufacturer despite evidence to the contrary.

Thousands of Roundup cancer lawsuits have so far been filed. Juries have found Roundup to be harmful and have so far rendered three major verdicts against Bayer in the past two years. The first case to go to trial involved a former school district groundskeeper near San Francisco. Suffering from late stage non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL), the jury awarded the plaintiff **\$289 million in damages**. Evidence surfaced in that trial indicating that Monsanto was ghostwriting much of its own research in order to "prove" to regulators that its product was safe. At the same time, the company had plans to discredit the IARC findings.

In March 2019, a federal jury awarded \$5 million in compensatory damages and \$75 million in punitive damages to a man who had been diagnosed with non-Hodgkin lymphoma five years earlier. Weeks later, a separate jury

found in favor of a Livermore, Calif. couple, both of whom were also diagnosed with non-Hodgkin lymphoma. Jurors in that cases awarded a staggering **\$2 billion judgment**, NPR reported.

Although these awards were significantly reduced in accordance with state and federal tort reform laws limiting punitive damages, Bayer is still appealing all three cases. Currently, Bayer is working with mediator Kenneth Feinberg to come up with a settlement – but it has shown no indication that it is willing to modify the product, add a warning or pull it from the market.

A court-appointed mediator said that Bayer AG had made "substantial progress" towards resolving tens of thousands of Roundup cancer claims the company still faces, Insurance Journal reports.

Getting a mediator

The mediator, Kenneth Feinberg, spoke at a San Francisco federal court hearing (conducted via Zoom due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic). U.S. District Judge Vince Chhabria oversees nearly 2,000 unresolved Roundup cases in San Francisco federal court. Other cases were filed in state courts.

Feinberg has previously overseen major compensation programs, including for victims of the Sept. 11 attacks and the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill. "It's just a question of when and how quickly they'll get resolved."

Amid the thousands of Roundup cancer lawsuits, Bayer maintains that Roundup is safe for human use. The company says that it has resolved about 88,500 of about 125,000 claims (both filed and unfiled) and is "fully committed" to reaching a settlement agreement, reports Insurance Journal. Most recently, Bayer has projected the cost of future claims to be about \$2 billion.

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The help line is confidential, bilingual and open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Our female frontline workers will listen to you, reassure you and answer all your questions. They can also help find a temporary shelter for you and your children.

Québec.ca/violenceconjugale

Québec 

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By Martin C. Barry

Three face charges after kidnapping in Laval and police chase

A trio of male suspects, including two adults and a minor, were arrested last week in connection with the armed kidnapping of a 17-year-old Laval resident. The arrests took place in Montreal following a police chase. The suspects are said to have been in possession of a loaded handgun.

Witnesses called police after seeing the victim being accosted in the parking lot of a retail establishment at the intersection of Autoroute 440 and Curé Labelle Blvd in Laval. The assailants allegedly forced the victim to board their car, after which they sped off towards Montreal.

According to an account furnished to media by a spokesperson

for the Laval Police, the LPD dispatched several cruisers at high speed, and the suspect vehicle was located travelling along Autoroute 40. When the driver refused to stop, the Montreal Police took over the pursuit which lasted around five minutes.

Finally stopped near the Jean Talon Market in east-central Montreal, the suspects allegedly attempted to flee on foot, but were apprehended by the police. The victim was found inside the suspect vehicle and was uninjured.

LPD investigators were set to meet with the suspects to try to unravel just what was going on between the suspects and the victim.

Mohamed Jbara and Midwinrick-Rockley Badette, both of whom are over 18, face charges of forcible confinement, possession of a prohibited weapon and assault. A loaded 22-calibre handgun was found by the police in their vehicle.

A third suspect, who cannot be named because he is under the age of 18, also faces charges in youth court as a minor. He is said to have reached his 18th birthday the day after the alleged events. According to the LPD, the suspects are known to the police for past incidents involving the use of violence.

LPD reports a 1% rise in crime in 2020



In its 2020 annual report, the Laval Police Department says the number of criminal incidents in Laval rose by 1 per cent over the previous year, from 14,556 incidents in 2019 to 14,774 in 2020.

According to the report, which was presented to Laval city council in July by police chief Pierre Brochet, the number of car accidents in Laval dropped by one third (33 per cent), which was the best result in five years.

Brochet speculated that the COVID-19 pandemic was responsible for this improvement,

by limiting the number of vehicles on the road last year because fewer people were travelling to the office. The number of traffic-related tickets issued by the LPD also dropped by 6 per cent.

But the pandemic, which forced many people to stay home, may also have encouraged the spread of child pornography. According to the LPD's 2020 report, there was a 45 per cent increase in the number of files of this nature opened by the police.

The hike might also be explained by the fact that the RCMP's National Centre Against the Exploitation of Children on the Internet increased its staff and opened more files of this nature.

In other types of crime, the LPD report said that the number of dossiers opened for fraud rose from 1,000 to 1,241 over a one-year period. Many of these cases involved identity theft and frauds committed on the web or by computer.

The LPD also recorded frauds related to the federal government's emergency COVID-19 assistance subsidies. The number of incidents of conjugal violence in homes in Laval remained relatively stable, with 980 cases in 2020 compared to 988 the year before.

THE LAVAL news

presents

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Dollars & Sense

Q What advice would you have for a retired couple who twice came to the financial aid of their adult son?

The first time he was laid off and unable to make payments. The second time he racked up another bill, could not make payments, and came to us after a court date was announced.

He is married with three children. I would never have thought he would take money and just stop making payments, after making just two.

This situation has totally wrecked our relationship. Now we don't speak or communicate at all. Because we trusted him 100%, the loan was done with no more than a handshake and a promise of regular payments each month.

The money amounts to a little over \$12,000, and we can make it either way. It's more that he has broken his word to us. That hurts more than the money.

I have a feeling he has more bills and the biggest problem is his wife. For some reason, she never warmed up to us. I will put it this way. Several times since they married there have been run-ins, most often because of something taken wrong in a conversation.

But we have never intentionally said or done anything to cause distress or harm. If something could be taken wrong, that's how she takes it.

The last time I spoke to my son, he thought his wife was making monthly \$250.00 payments to us, and I had to inform him it was simply not true. I made him promise to speak with his wife and call me back.

I have not heard from him since. We are far from perfect, but we always try to do what is right. If I ever get to the point when I feel there is nothing to lose, I might take him to small claims court.

I don't believe he is happy about this situation. He twice needed money, and both times we were there for him. He also knows that both times he gave his word to make good on the debt.

I guess he will have to live with that every time he looks in the mirror. Most of all, I hate

not seeing our grandson, and I fear that isn't going to change.

I'm sorry for dumping my troubles on your lap.

Royce

A Royce, an old nursery rhyme says, "Peter Peter Pumpkin Eater had a wife but couldn't keep her."

Your son may have a wife he can't keep because he doesn't have enough money to satisfy her. But he wants to keep her, even to the point of damaging his relationship with you.

He thought she was making payments to you, but she wasn't. Our surmise is that your son is in worse financial shape than you know.

Perhaps his wife's dream of white picket fences must be fulfilled without regard to their income. Perhaps she handles the money in order to conceal things from her husband. Perhaps she causes problems because she is the problem.

Our suggestion is this. Do not go to court. You don't want to alienate your son. Also, don't lend him any more money.

We suspect your son didn't call you back because there was nothing he could say. "We don't have the money. My wife lied to me. I don't know what to do."

But he can't make himself say that. He may be too embarrassed to talk to you because he finds the problem insoluble.

For now, leave the ball in his court. Behave normally. Send the normal birthday cards and gifts. Make customary plans for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Remain open so that he can come to you in every way but financially, and cut your losses at \$12,000. If they go into bankruptcy, they go into bankruptcy.

Some parents lose a son to illness, some to an accident, some to a wife. Growing up it appears you had a good relationship with your son. Now he must grow up a little more and learn to deal with money, and his wife, in a realistic way.

The wisest course is to be open to him, if and when he comes to understand that.

Wayne & Tamara

Wayne & Tamara Mitchell are the authors of *YOUR OTHER HALF* (www.yourotherhalf.com)

Send letters to: Direct Answers, PO 964 Springfield, MO 65801-0964 or email: DirectAnswers@WayneAndTamara.com

THE GLYPHOSATE FILES

Bayer to pull Glyphosate products, from U.S. market

Bayer will no longer sell glyphosate-containing products to U.S. home gardeners, the company announced last Thursday July 29.

The move comes as the company currently faces around 30,000 legal claims from customers who believe use of these products — including the flagship Roundup — caused them to develop cancer.

"Bayer's decision to end U.S. residential sale of Roundup is a historic victory for public health and the environment," Center for Food Safety executive director Andrew Kimbrell said in a statement. "As agricultural, large-scale use of this toxic pesticide continues, our farmworkers remain at risk. It's time for EPA to act and ban glyphosate for all uses."

While the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under former President Donald Trump ruled that the chemical did not pose any risk to human health, the Biden Administration later admitted that the review was flawed and needed to be redone.

Bayer's decision comes in response to the many

lawsuits related to glyphosate that it inherited when it acquired Monsanto in 2018. Juries sided with the plaintiffs in three highly-watched trials before Bayer settled around 95,000 cases in 2020 to the tune of \$10 billion. That settlement, which was one of the largest in U.S. history, allowed Bayer to continue to sell Roundup without any warnings. However, the company still faces further litigation, and said it decided to pull the product from residential use in order to prevent more. More than 90 percent of recent claims come from the residential home and garden market.

"This move is being made exclusively to manage litigation risk and not because of any safety concerns," the company said when it announced its decision.

The products will be replaced with different active ingredients beginning in 2023, following reviews by the EPA and state regulatory bodies. January 2023 was the earliest the change could reasonably be implemented, Bayer Crop Science Division president Liam Condon announced.

Health Canada allows glyphosates

Health Canada is proposing to allow three times the current limit for residue of an insecticide and a fungicide in wild blueberries sold to Canadian consumers.

It's also proposing a seven-fold increase for a fungicide in raspberries.

Two public consultations are underway, one of which ended Tuesday. The other is ongoing until September 28.

Federal officials say there is no health risk.

Lac-Saint-Jean, Que., blueberry farmer and president of the Quebec association of blueberry producers Daniel Gobeil said he was astonished to hear about the proposals.

Producers never asked Health Canada for the increases, he said.

"On the contrary," said Gobeil, in a French-language interview with Radio-Canada. "Our members are increasingly going organic."

Donald Arseneault, executive director of NB Blueberries, said New Brunswick producers did not make the request either.

Arseneault also said most New Brunswick producers sell their berries to Oxford Frozen Foods, which provides producers with a list of acceptable pesticides and herbicides. He said neither of these chemicals are on that list.

Documents on the Health Canada website indicate the federal Pest Management Regulatory Agency has proposed increasing the residue limit for the fungicide metalaxyl in blueberries from three parts per million to 10 parts per million.

For the insecticide sulfoxaflor, it has proposed increasing the limit from 0.7 ppm to 2 ppm.

For raspberries, the metalaxyl limit would increase from 0.2 ppm to 1.5 ppm.

The president of the Quebec Association of Strawberry and Raspberry Producers, David Lemire, was also unaware of the proposed change.

"This is really not a request from Quebec," he said.

"To me, this is incomprehensible."

"We have no interest in increasing that limit," said Lemire, "because it could allow products that don't meet the current standards to enter the local market."

MIT Studies

MIT senior research scientist Stephanie Seneff and independent scientist Anthony Samsel have co-authored a series of papers conjecturing that, based on its chemical makeup, glyphosates could be responsible for increased rates of **obesity, heart disease, dementia, autism, cancer, Parkinson's and other chronic diseases.** "Glyphosates have been in our environment now for forty years, and it's really toxic to humans in an insidious way," says Seneff. "Because it takes time for the toxicity to show up as damage. There's a big gap between your initial exposure and your illness, because it slowly accumulates in your tissues. It's really scary what it does. Glyphosates is insidiously toxic. It's not acutely toxic."



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3 tips for contacting an employee at a company you're interested in



If you want to learn more about a company before you apply for an open position, one option is to reach out to a current employee. Here are three tips to ensure the interaction goes smoothly.

1. Talk to the right person. Make sure you contact someone who's familiar with the role you're interested in, preferably someone with seniority. If you can't get a referral through your friends and former colleagues, use the company's website or LinkedIn to identify the right employee.

2. Avoid being intrusive. Opt to send the

person an email or a message on LinkedIn rather than call them. Introduce yourself and briefly explain why you're reaching out. Conclude with a request to schedule a phone call or meeting. Alternatively, you can use professional events to network.

3. Prepare your questions. Write down what you want to know about the company so you're ready if the person agrees to speak with you. Prioritize three or four questions to avoid taking up too much of their time.

Finally, be sure to remain polite and professional at all times.

4 tips for cold calling your way to a new job

While it might seem like most professional communication happens online these days, making phone calls is still an effective way to look for a job. In fact, doing so allows you to reach out directly to prospective employers and be proactive about pitching your skills and scheduling a meeting.



Here are some tips to keep in mind:

1. Research the company before you call. Among other things, you should try to find the name of a supervisor in the department where you want to work.

2. If you're told that the person isn't available at the moment, ask when would be the best time to reach them rather than leave a message.

3. Prepare a clear and concise statement to introduce yourself and explain the purpose of your call. Ideally, you should rehearse your pitch a few times beforehand.

4. Be kind and respectful to the receptionist who answers your call. Remember to smile when you speak, as this will come across in the tone of your voice.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF CLOSURE OF INVENTORY

Notice is hereby given that, in accordance with the Code civil of Québec, the closure of inventory was made in regard to the succession of **Luis JARDIM**, born on August 9th, 1965 (08-09-1965) during his lifetime domiciled and residing at 5126 Notre-Dame Boulevard, Laval (Quebec) H7W 1V7, died in Montreal on December 30th, 2020 (12-30-2020). This inventory may be consulted by any interested party, at the office of M^{re}. **Dina DIMITRATOS**, Notary, located at 3310 100th Avenue, suite 340, Laval (Quebec) H7T 0J7.

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In Memoriam & Obituaries



3 eco-friendly options for your funeral

Conventional burials and cremations contribute to climate change. If you want your funeral proceedings to match your environmentally conscious lifestyle, here are three green options that might be available to you.

1. AQUAMATION

This process uses water, sodium, potassium and heat to dissolve the body's soft tissues into a sterile, aqueous solution that can be safely returned to the water supply. The remaining bones can then be ground up and placed in an urn. While it's not yet legal in all places, aquamation (also referred to as alkaline hydrolysis or bio-cremation) is gaining in popularity as an environmentally friendly alternative to burials and cremations.

2. HUMUSATION

Also known as human composting, this technique is similar to traditional burials but without the toxic chemicals and wasteful caskets. Instead, the body is buried among wood chips, alfalfa and straw rich in microbes that help speed up decomposition. This process takes about a month and yields fertile soil that can be scattered in forests or gardens. For now, this option is only legal in a few select areas.



3. BIODEGRADABLE URN

A popular green burial option involves placing the deceased person's ashes in a decomposable urn. This can be made of sand and gelatine, cornstarch, recycled paper, coconut shells or other organic materials. In some cases, these burial pods can be placed beneath a sapling to help generate new life after death. Keep in mind that while the urn produces little to no pollution, this option still relies on cremation.

Speak with your family or a funeral director in your community about how you would like your remains to be handled after death.



BOSAÏNT, Marcel
1928 - 2021

It is with sadness that we announce the death of Mr. Marcel Bosaïnt in Laval on July 14, 2021, at the age of 93. He was the son of the late Mr. David Bosaïnt and the late Mrs. Marguerite Doyon. He was the spouse of Mrs. Monique Pilon. He leaves to join those he loved.



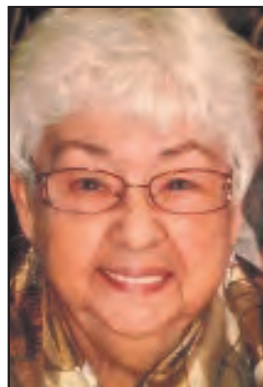
Bessette, Jacqueline
1925 - 2021

In Laval, on July 16, 2021, at the age of 95, passed away Mrs. Jacqueline Bessette, wife of the late Marcel Bessette. She is survived by her daughters Diane (Nicole), Nicole (Claude) and Lyse, her grandsons Geoffroy (Annie), Hugo (Karoline), her great-grandchildren Zach, Théa, Livia and Liam, her brother Maurice Chatelois (Thérèse) as well as relatives and friends.



Jasmin, Marie-Denise
1930 - 2021

In Laval, on Monday July 12, 2021 passed away, at the age of 90 years, MARIE-DENISE JASMIN. She is survived by her brother Meus Jasmin, her children Yvonne Fandal Lominy, Wilson Fandal, Marie Juny Fandal, Margaret Fandal, Jean Denisard Fandal, Dessalines Fandal, Emmanuella Fandal, her grandchildren, her cousins cousins as well as many other relatives and friends. .



Blais, Huguette
1930 - 2021

On Sunday, July 4, 2021, Mrs. Huguette Blais, a devoted and caring mother who dedicated her life to her family, passed away at the age of 91. She is survived by her children Gaëtan, Sylvain, Guylaine (Lafleche), Pascale (Marcel), Maryse (Jean) and Nathalie (Johanne) as well as many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her sisters Louise and Francine (Léopold) as well as her nephews and nieces, other relatives and friends.

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HOROSCOPE

Week of **AUGUST 8 TO 14, 2021**

The luckiest signs this week:
SCORPIO, SAGITTARIUS AND CAPRICORN



ARIES

Your sense of esthetics will reach new heights as you create one masterpiece after another in your day-to-day life. Your patience will pay off for one reason or another, and you'll be able to work some magic in your relationship.



TAURUS

You might spend part of the week at home. If you have young children, you'll have a lot of responsibilities on your plate. A situation at home will require your attention. If you're single, you'll have a surprising encounter.



GEMINI

You'll have a lot of running around to do, and it could take longer than expected. Don't turn down invitations to relax and have fun from friends and family members. You need to let go. Selling your house would be quite profitable.



CANCER

You'll find solutions for financial problems, even small ones. Don't hesitate to consult friends and professionals so you can get all the facts straight. You'll receive fun-ding for a project.



LEO

You'll have a lot going on in the weeks ahead, and time will fly by. You'll put your imagination to good use. At work, a pro-ject will soon be worth its weight in gold. You might need to get some rest to better channel your energy.



VIRGO

Even though time is in short supply, your perseverance and determination will lead you across the finish line. At work, you need to enjoy what you do in order to feel like you belong. Some reflection on the matter is required.



LIBRA

Regardless of any restrictions in your area, there's bound to be an event in which you have to deal with numerous people. Your expansive imagination will allow you to create a masterpiece, much to your amazement.



SCORPIO

Time is in short supply, and you'll have no choice but to remain organized. You'll need to let go of a fair amount of stress afterward. Additionally, it's a good idea to take some time to reconnect with old friends.



SAGITTARIUS

You might want to take a little vacation before the end of the summer. Pay attention to the details involved in a long-term or work-related project. Afterward, you'll let your hair down and have some fun.



CAPRICORN

Emotions will be running high, and you might overreact. Be careful with money, as you'll be tempted to make a few impulse purchases. If you treat yourself, do so in moderation and try to be reasonable.



AQUARIUS

After a promotion, it's a good idea to buy new clothes to match your new position. You'll invest in your image for both personal and professional reasons. You want to look good in any situation.



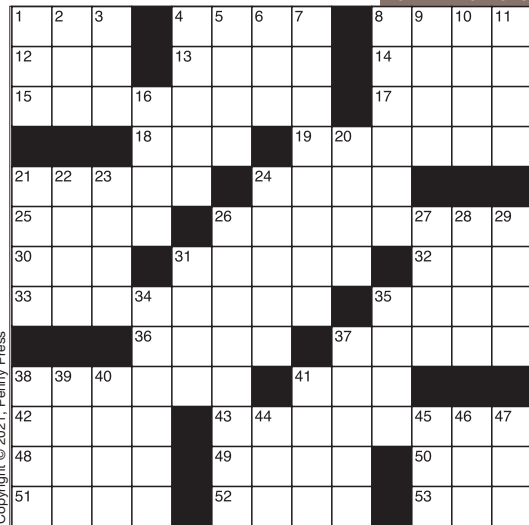
PISCES

You'll find yourself with several fires to put out. You'll be generously rewarded for your efforts though. For example, you might get an impressive promotion. Your love interest will express some form of commitment.

Coffee Break

CROSSWORDS

PUZZLE NO. 1018



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ACROSS

1. Likewise
4. Word of lament
8. Sharp hit
12. Chinese sauce
13. Not early
14. Auto for hire
15. Climbing flower
17. Give out
18. Rules to follow
19. Elegant
21. Nonsupporters
24. Aim
25. Run into
26. Conduct, as business
30. Ruin
31. Get up
32. Hem's partner
33. Decoration
35. Mediocre
36. Auto's path
37. Eye ailments
38. Piles
41. Take legal action

42. Country singer Johnny ____
43. Last
48. Feel a dull pain
49. Public brawl
50. Flight record
51. Lads
52. Evergreen plants
53. Chair support

20. Highway section
21. Bullets, e.g.
22. Far's mate
23. Gull-like bird
24. Pulverize
26. Government funds locale
27. Sailor's greeting
28. Brief follower
29. Duos
31. Berserk
34. Bows
35. Flower stalk
37. Hearts, clubs, etc.
38. Wound cover
39. Tex-Mex treat
40. Pale
41. Stash
44. Fib
45. Everything
46. Finger's opposite
47. Easter ____ hunt

DOWN

1. Beast of burden
2. Pronto!
3. Hue
4. Singing voices
5. Race units
6. Had lunch
7. Shore
8. Swipes
9. Flees
10. Pivot point
11. Compassion
16. Prepare for print

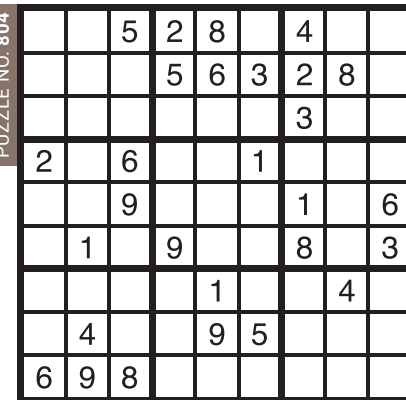
Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY:

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

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

PUZZLE NO. 804

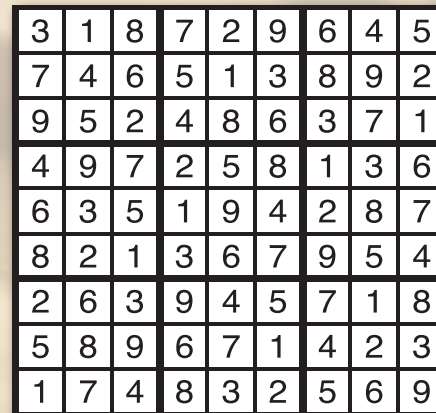


Last Issues' Answers

CROSSWORDS



Sudoku



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