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Laval's new mayor and 21 city councillors are officially sworn in

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Guy Ouellette awards National Assembly Medal to **Demetris J. Yantsulis**



Fabre MNA awards National Assembly Medal to devoted environmentalist **Réjean Gravel**

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François Legault says he's ready 'for another four years'

Incumbent Premier addresses CAQ faithful, while courting Quebec's rural regions



MARTIN C. BARRY
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For The Laval News
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Quebec Premier François Legault all but confirmed at the conclusion of the Coalition Avenir Québec's general council meeting in Trois Rivières last Sunday what most observers had assumed already without knowing for certain.

Legault was hinting around two years into his first mandate which started in October 2018 that he felt the work he'd started a decade ago when he founded the CAQ was done and that he might be stepping away to make room for another leader.

'Ready for another four years'

However, finishing his speech to the CAQ membership just before the end of the two-day Covid-restricted gathering held as a warmup for the provincial election next year, Legault said, "I finish by saying that I need you the activists."

"Together, we have already made a lot of changes, but have still many changes to make. And so, I think, I have the impression that we are going to need another mandate. It wouldn't be great, it seems to me in any case, to break the momentum. As far as I'm concerned, I'm ready to go for another four years. Do you feel like getting on board with me?"

If the CAQ's gathering was an indicator of what the party has in store leading towards the October 2022 election, Quebecers can expect the party will be repeating the strategy that got them elected in 2018 – an intense focus on the province's rural regions where their electoral

support is strong, with less attention paid to the major urban centres where they have thinner support.

Little focus on Montreal region

Throughout Legault's closing speech summing up the party's accomplishments while offering a glimpse of the future, scant reference was made to Quebec's largest urban centres – including the greater Montreal region. And even then, it was only while referring to the "inter-dependence" of the urban centres with the regions in helping to develop and build up the overall economy of Quebec.

Whether the Premier was consciously trying to emulate the late Canadian Prime Minister Sir Wilfrid Laurier who famously said, "Let me tell you, my fellow countrymen, that all the signs point this way, that the 20th century shall be the century of Canada and Canadian development," Legault confidently proclaimed:

"The 21st century will be the century of the green economy, and the 21st century will be the century of Quebec." Similarly, and invoking the regional theme again, Legault said later, "My dream, as I was saying earlier, is that the 21st century becomes the century of the regions of Quebec."

Legault's economic nationalism

The word "nationalism" loomed at some points during Legault's speech, although mostly in an economic rather than cultural or political context. The Premier said he was proud of how Quebecers went all out to purchase Quebec-made products so as to encourage the local economy during the pandemic.

"We're going to continue – the idea is to replace other products, including products



made in China with products made in Quebec," he said, pronouncing the part about China in English.

"Sure, we won't be able to replace all the products. But there are some where we are able to be competitive." Regarding the province's agricultural output, Legault observed, "When you look at what we eat, there's just 50 per cent that comes from Quebec."

Hi-speed Internet for regions

A significant part of the focus over the week-end (dealing again with the province's regions) was a CAQ government plan to make high-speed Internet service available in all isolated and far-flung sectors of Quebec before the government's mandate ends late next year.

On the issue of employment, Legault again invoked the regions, noting that there are regions of Quebec where unemployment persists in spite of a shortage of workers reported by business owners. "The best way to enrich Quebec is to enrich all the regions," he said, while also emphasizing that job re-orientation and retraining will be made available in the regions.

Perhaps more ominously in terms of what a second CAQ mandate could mean, the Premier suggested that the province's universal health care system could undergo a major "decentralization" comparable to the one that saw Francophone school boards abolished and converted into educational service centres during the CAQ government's first term.

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© Photo LPF - Left to right : Pierre Bélanger, General Manager of LPF; Marisa Amato-Denis, Political Attaché of the MNA for Laval-des-Rapides; Sylvain Fontaine, President of LPF; Sandra Desmeules, City Councillor for Concorde-Bois-de-Boulogne; Marc Demers, outgoing Mayor of Laval; Angelo Iacono, MP for Alfred-Pellan; Anne Lachance, sister of a resident; Guy Bibeau, Director of ID-ASD and PD programs, (CISSS Laval).

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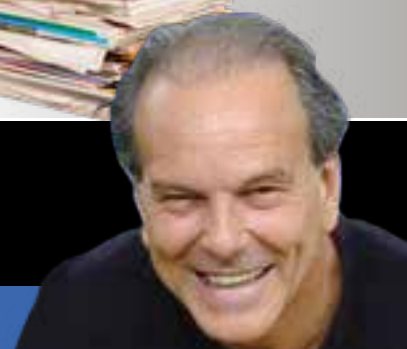
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OPINION & Editorial



THAT'S WHAT I'M THINKING

Robert Vairo

Stop the Grandiose Promises on Climate Change.

Don't kid yourself. Smiling Joe Biden is no friend of Canada. Other than Trump, he's the first U.S. President not to visit Canada after his election. He is the first President to reach out to Australia, instead of Canada to form a security alliance. He is intervening in Canada's Enbridge number 5 pipeline that runs through Michigan and provides heating and gas to Quebec and Ontario, but only because had that pipeline closed, the state would have to get its propane and other gases elsewhere at a much higher cost, and Joe Biden cannot afford to lose more support, especially from such a vital state like Michigan. It doesn't matter to him what would have happened to Canadian provinces.

Buy U.S. policy completely disregards its largest trading partner, Canada, supplier of water, gas, and oil at less than wholesale prices to our neighbour. Canada to Joe Biden is just another Mexico.

And sadly, not a peep from Canada's opposition parties. The NDP is in bed with the Liberals so it's not expected to voice concern, but the Conservatives have not complained about American policy. There has been no outcry over the absurd rise in the cost of groceries due to inflation, expected to reach 5%, in part due to our Prime Minister's "gargantuan and furious spending" over the last year, and no one has voiced concern over the delay in reconvening parliament. Frankly we are devoid of representation. Especially with a new government that was elected with support from fewer than one in three Canadians.

And so, the three amigos are having a sit down in Washington this week. Whatever Joe wants to discuss, Trudeau must not cave in, like he did at the ludicrous and hypocritical COP26 (26th meeting of the Conference of the Parties) in Glasgow Scotland.

Canada sent more delegates than any other country. It included "277 bureaucrats, not including the prime minister's official photographer, official videographer and lead speechwriter, 17 press secretaries and communications directors" with the Canadian aircraft parked next to hundreds from other countries, plus over 100 private jets, and thousands of vehicles in each leader's motorcades. A fine example by world leaders to help curb carbon emissions.

Mr. Trudeau saw fit to make his contribution on the world stage, by boastfully announcing a cap on Canada's oil and gas emissions in a way that would decimate an already beaten and battered Alberta economy, where almost 20% of our GDP is generated. I am stunned that not one of our political leaders complained. Even Conservative Erin O'Toole was only mildly critical, actually gutless.

Why the oil and gas industry? Why not cap Canada's aerospace empire, "one of the biggest growths of global emissions", which happens to be centered in Trudeau's priority electoral province, Quebec? Nor did our Prime Minister single out friendly British Columbia, where the Port of Vancouver is the largest exporter of thermal coal in North America. No, just Canada's gas and oil industry.

Why berate what is so vital to Canada instead of striking a positive note and sighting true Canadian advancements in the climate change debate.

Trudeau could have boasted about Canada's outstanding technological achievements in capturing carbon dioxide. Alberta has two commercial-scale projects reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2.76 million tonnes each year. We have a phenomenal, and growing carbon capture industry, in fact Canada is a leader in carbon capture, utilization and storage.

Like him or hate him, Stephen Harper, has a realistic view, citing political will is not the issue at the COP26 Climate Summit. Harper says that wind mills and sun power cannot yet deliver the power to electrical grids to allow us to operate as we do today. Says Harper "the technological developments simply have not occurred yet, or suffer from resource deficiency". He is right on.

And how about some transparency and accountability from COP26, when billions are donated to countries for the environment, as there were with the Paris Accord, but are often diverted to other sources. Some have called it 'kleptocrat corruption'. None of these leaders has addressed that.

It's easy and popular to shout about the need to reduce carbon emissions, and promise reaching zero carbon emission by 2050. What the rich world does, matters little. We all know that countries like India, the third largest world polluter, will not be able to afford this kind of radical turn around. China, the largest polluter in the world, where 60% of its energy is still produced by coal, did not even attend the Summit. So, let's be realistic about carbon emissions and stop with these grandiose promises.

The Financial Post suggests accelerating "investment into R&D of cheaper, low-CO2 energy, from fusion and fission, solar, wind and batteries to second generation biofuels" and many other brilliant ideas will follow. Strong government incentives to extract lithium from depleted oil and gas reservoirs, and harness geothermal energy.

Wouldn't this be cheaper, and achieve giant step results, rather than carbon taxes that increase every year, adding to the cost of everything.

The reality is, the end result will bring breakthroughs for new and greener energy, without the flowery empty promises, and the brutal cost to all taxpayers.

That's what I'm Thinking.
Robert Vairo
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Consultative committee for seniors seeking members

The City of Laval says its consultative committee on senior citizens' issues is currently looking for people living in Laval with an interest in seniors' problems who would like to become committee members.

The consultative committee on seniors' issues studies questions having to do with a vast array of facets that affect senior citizens on Laval's territory.

Once chosen, the members of the committee will be representative of the diversity among senior citizens in Laval. Their duties will include:

- Watching over needs of Laval's senior citizens;
- Developing knowledge of the municipal issues involving this segment of the population;
- Raising awareness of the issues, while coming up with solutions the municipality can apply;

If you would like to become involved in the community, the City of Laval's Secretariat for Governance is seeking individuals who are committed, available, motivated and representative of diversity among Laval's seniors.

Additional information on how to apply is available on the City of Laval's web site.

STL and bus drivers agreed to call off last Monday's strike



The Société de transport de Laval (STL) and the FTQ/Canadian Union of Public Employees local representing 625 STL bus drivers reached an agreement last week, resulting in a planned one-day strike last Monday being called off.

Despite this, two more strike days are still being called for on Nov. 26 and Nov. 27, which are a Friday and a Saturday. Nonetheless, essential services will be provided, as they were on the first strike day Nov. 3.

In the meantime, another hearing between the two parties was scheduled to determine the level of essential services to be given by the drivers on the upcoming strike days.

"There is no settlement soon, but the discussions are still underway," said union local president Patrick Lafleur. That said, STL management isn't happy with how things are going.

"STL management continues to deplore the decision by the Union to hold strike days, imposing very tight schedules on the clientele, while talks are still underway," they said in a statement.

At issue during the negotiations are salaries, working hours and bus schedules during off-peak hours.



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Guy Ouellette awards National Assembly Medal to Demetris J. Yantsulis

Chomedey MNA pays homage to Montreal Greek community's 'senior statesman'



MARTIN C. BARRY
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
For The Laval News
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For more than just a few generations of Hellenic Montrealers, Demetris J. Yantsulis has been a voice of reason they would often seek out when a reliable view on global affairs or Greek, Canadian or Quebec politics and history was needed.

Lifetime of involvement



Over the past 40 years and more, Demetris Yantsulis's many articles and newspaper columns in Canadian Greek language publications have been regarded as one of the benchmarks among Hellenics wishing to gain a better understanding and perspective on a wide range of issues impacting Canada, Quebec and Greece.

At the same time, Yantsulis was a dedicated board member, volunteer or a supporter for many Hellenic organizations, including AHEPA Montreal, the Hellenic Community of Greater Montreal, the Socrates-Demosthenes Schools and the Greek community Boy Scouts movement.

An esteemed elder statesman

On Nov. 3, Chomedey MNA Guy Ouellette paid homage in the Quebec National Assembly to the 86-year-old Demetris Yantsulis for all his years of service to Greeks in Laval and throughout the greater Montreal region.

In addition to the spoken tribute, Ouellette would later also present the National Assembly Medal to Yantsulis, who without a doubt is one of the local Hellenic community's most esteemed elder statesmen.

"I would like to pay tribute to an exceptional man, Mr. Demetris Yantsulis, to whom I am

giving the National Assembly Medal in order to emphasize his volunteer contributions to committees in the Hellenic as well Quebec communities," said Ouellette.

Has had many recognitions

"For almost four decades, he has made a very significant contribution towards the Greek community, their schools and scout involvement, as well as for the Red Cross and Salvation Army and the Daughters of Penelope.

"He has received a great number of recognitions and honorary certificates of merit so far, as well as the medal from the National Ethnic Press and Media Council of Canada Man of the Year 2000, for lifetime achievement and community heritage in Canada," Ouellette continued. "He was also honored last Saturday at the 90th

anniversary of the founding of the Montreal AHEPA for his leadership as president for 77-78, a special tribute for a special man as part of the 200th anniversary of Greek independence. Thank you, Mr. Yantsulis."

Honored by the recognition

In an interview with Newsfirst Multimedia, Yantsulis said he was "honored to receive this award of recognition. The purpose was to give me this award in recognition of my achievements and contributions to the Quebec social community as part of the 200th anniversary of Greek independence. So, this is what is behind awarding me this recognition from the Quebec parliament."

It's been more than 50 years since Demetris Yantsulis arrived in Canada and Quebec from

the Macedonia region of Greece. During the half-century since his arrival, he made contributions not only to the Greek community, but, as Ouellette acknowledged, also to Quebec culture and society as a whole.

Other honors and awards

Among other functions, he served as president of a committee that organized the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Hellenic community in Quebec and in Montreal. As well, he was honored by the Hellenic Community of Greater Montreal (HCGM) as the 2009 Hellenic of the Year.

In addition, the Hellenic Ladies Benevolent Society awarded Demetris Yantsulis a recogni-

► Continued on page 13

STL news November 2021



Drivers' strike announced for November 26 and 27, 2021

If you need to take the bus on those days, be sure to check the schedule before leaving:

- online at STLaval.ca/strike
- by phone at 450-688-6520

STL management is sorry for the inconvenience the drivers' strike may cause. Management is determined to carry on with the mediation process to promptly negotiate a deal to the satisfaction of both parties.



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Mayor Boyer, opposition collaboratively over next



The five Action Laval city councillors sworn in last Saturday.
(Photo: Martin C. Barry, Newsfirst Multimedia)



MARTIN C. BARRY
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Laval's new mayor vowed to work with all the city's elected officials, regardless of their political affiliation, during a swearing-in ceremony for the new city council held at the municipality's interim-meeting chamber on Saint Martin Blvd. West in the downtown core last Saturday afternoon.

A subdued ceremony

While the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic meant greatly limiting attendance to the officials and a few of their relatives and friends, a video feed of the event was broadcast live over the Internet for other Laval residents.

However, the usual pageantry seen at such ceremonies in the past also had to be curtailed due the fact Laval City Hall on Souvenir Rd. is currently closed for a four-year-long renovation and refurbishment project.

"Often in politics, people who are running are wished good luck," Stéphane Boyer, who led the incumbent Mouvement lavallois administration to re-election with 14 out of 21 seats, said in a short speech.

'About democracy,' said Boyer

"But becoming a municipal councillor isn't luck, it's work. All of you here have worked arduously for months – some of you for years – to get where you are today. You fully deserve it. And so, I would like to wish you sincere congratulations. Politics rises well above our role as individuals. It's well above our being elected. It's a question of maintaining a healthy democracy.

"When we talk of justice, humanity, respect, these are all important as they safeguard institutions, so that today we have a very good quality of life compared to many other areas of the world," Boyer added. "So, what I would hope

today for at least the next four years is that we should remember the commitment we have just finished making, for ourselves as much as for the citizens."

'New beginning,' said Revelakis

For newly-elected Action Laval city councillors, the swearing-in was the culmination of many years of efforts. "Today marks the beginning of a new chapter for everybody in Laval, and I think that we all have to collaborate for the benefit of the people in our districts," re-elected Action Laval city councillor for Chomedey Aglaia Revelakis said in an interview with the Laval News.

"Eight years of hard work and I'm glad to be here," said Archie Cifelli, the new city councillor for Laval's Val-des-Arbres district. Isabelle Piché, who won Saint-François for Action Laval while defeating the district's incumbent Mouvement lavallois councillor Éric Morasse, is the spouse of Saint-Bruno city councillor David De Cotis.

A bit of trivia: She and De Cotis were the co-founders of the Mouvement lavallois back in the days when the Vaillancourt administration hadn't yet fallen out of favour and there was no opposition to speak of at Laval city hall.

Several renewed mandates

Although De Cotis at one time sat as vice-president of the Demers administration's executive-committee, he gave up the position and eventually defected to Action Laval, complaining that Demers had abandoned the democratic and transparent values of the Mouvement lavallois.

This will be the third mandate won by Action Laval St-Vincent-de-Paul city councillor Paolo Galati. "I'm really happy and proud that I continue to have the confidence of the citizens of my district," he said. "It's an honor for me to be able to continue my role as city councillor, to help revitalize the east of Laval."

pledge to work t four years



Saint-Bruno city councillor David De Cotis (seated) is seen here as he prepared to sign official documents following his swearing-in.
(Photo: Martin C. Barry, Newsfirst Multimedia)



Laval's newly-elected mayor Stéphane Boyer spoke following the swearing-in ceremony at Laval's interim city council meeting chamber on Saint-Martin Blvd. last Saturday.
(Photo: Martin C. Barry, Newsfirst Multimedia)



Laval city councillor for L'Abord-à-Plouffe Vasilios Karidogiannis is seen here as he prepares to sign a document following his swearing-in.
(Photo: Martin C. Barry, Newsfirst Multimedia)



Chomedey city councillor Aglaia Revelakis (right foreground) is seen here while being administered the oath of office by chief city clerk Valérie Tremblay last Saturday.
(Photo: Martin C. Barry, Newsfirst Multimedia)



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La Maison *Le Prélude* de Laval

up for \$100,000 prize in iA Financial Group's 2021 National Children-Assistance Contest

RENATA ISOPO
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
For The Laval News • renata@newsfirst.ca

La Maison Le Prélude in Laval is one of the twelve finalist charities of the fifth edition of iA Financial Group's great philanthropic Contest. The foundation has the chance to win a large donation of \$100,000 to support a project related to the well-being and health of children 0 to 18 years old.

The children of abused mothers experience a variety of issues and suffer the consequences. With a donation of \$100,000, Maison Le Prélude wants to create a companion guide, in several languages, in order to promote the safety of these children and reduce the impacts of domestic violence on them.

The public has until November 30th to vote, at donations-contest.ia.ca/community, for the charities and projects they consider the most meritorious. The winners will be unveiled during the week of December 6th.

Front-line response

Le Prélude offers essential front-line services in the Laval community, in both French and English. They also accommodate women speaking other languages. The assistance program also assists hearing-impaired women. Under the seal of confidentiality, la Maison offers women and their children, who are victims of domestic violence, safe shelter, support and accompaniment services, whether the violence is psychological, verbal, relational, economic, physical, or sexual.

They have a total capacity of 18 people, women aged 18 and over, with or without children, for short-term stays (under 3 months). To meet these needs, La Maison Le Prélude offers its services for free, 24/7 through phone support, safe shelter, external services by appointment, and second-step family apartments (low-cost confidential housing for women with children who have stayed in a shelter).

Marie-Eve Valade, clinic supervisor (intervention), told TLN that La Maison Le Prélude would like to create a multi-lingual guide to help women (victims) and their children to find concrete solutions to help them move on.

They also work with the "youth sector" for unemployed individuals who are experiencing serious difficulty.

"It's the first time that La Maison Le Prélude participates in this contest," stated Marie-Eve. "We're hoping for assistance from the community with their votes. Please show your support, with your vote, as soon as you can, at donations-contest.ia.ca/community, as the contest ends November 30th," she added, by way of earnest invitation to the people of Laval for their positive involvement in Prélude's community mission.

iA Financial Group steps in

More determined than ever to support Canadian communities, iA Financial Group kicked off the fifth edition of its major philanthropic contest. From September 15 to October 15, 2021, charities whose mission includes, among other things, supporting the health and welfare of children (0 to 18 years of age) were invited to answer the question, "What would you do with a donation of \$100,000?"

A total of \$500,000 in donations will be shared by charities that make the most inspiring submissions. The contest is intended for Canadian charities that aim to help children directly, that have an assistance to children facet of their mission, or that have a project to help children.

"As a father of four, the cause we chose to support this year is near and dear to my heart. Children are our future and they too have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. iA Financial Group is very proud to help Canadian charities that contribute in various and amazing ways to the welfare of the young people in our society," stated Denis Ricard, President and CEO of iA Financial Group.

New this year, the charities that enter the contest will be grouped into four major regions: (Western Canada, Ontario, Québec, and the North/Atlantic Canada) in order to guarantee an even fairer distribution of donations across the country.

Cast your ballot

At the end of the contest period ending October 15, a jury picked three projects from

each region that was presented to the public on November 4. The public has until November 30, 2021 to vote at donations-contest.ia.ca/ community, for the most inspiring submissions. The winners will be unveiled during the week of December 6th.

A major donation of \$100,000 will be made to the charity in each region that receives the most votes. The remaining finalists will each receive a donation of \$10,000. iA Financial Group's 7,500 employees will also vote on their favourite charities, which will each receive a special donation of \$20,000.

The first edition of the contest was held in celebration of iA Financial Group's 125th anniversary in 2017. Since then, the company has held an annual contest, with a new theme every year, to ensure the company helps as many charities as possible. For the 2020 contest, iA Financial Group donated a total of \$400,000 to charities across the country working in the health, education and social services sectors.





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Saturday 8:00 am to 1:00 pm



Émilie Allard, missing, sought by Laval Police

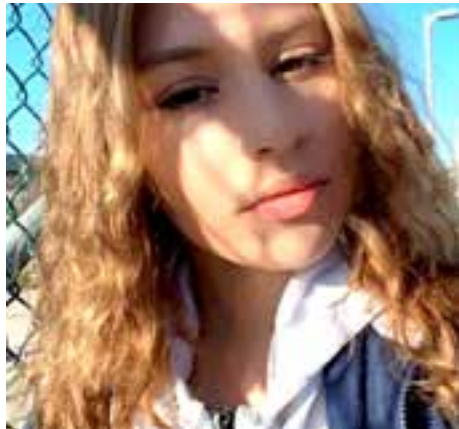
The Laval Police are looking for 15-year-old Émilie Allard. On November 7, she left her home and had not been seen since. Her relatives fear for her safety. She could be on the territory of Montreal.

Description

Young woman with a fair complexion, speaks French; Measures 1 m 65 (5'3") and weighs 59 kg (130 lb); Brown hair, brown eyes; Distinctive signs: she wears orthodontic braces;

Anyone who has information about Émilie Allard can call the LPD's Info-Line at 450-662-INFO (4636) or call 911 and refer to file LVL 211107-068.

Photo: Émilie Allard is missing and being sought by the Laval Police.



LPD takes part in Quebec-wide child-born crackdown

The Sûreté du Québec (SQ) arrested 26 people last week suspected of being connected with a province-wide child pornography ring.

The suspects, ages 33 to 75, were taken into custody between Nov. 9 and Nov. 11.

The operation was part of a major investigation that took place in regions across Quebec, including Laval, Abitibi-Témiscamingue, Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean, Quebec City, Lanaudière, Gaspésie, Montérégie, Estrie, Centre-du-Québec, Montreal and Outaouais.

Quebec provincial police said the arrested suspects appeared in the courthouses nearest to their homes to face charges of possession,

distribution and access to child pornography.

Police also conducted searches of the suspects' homes and seized computer equipment for analysis.

The efforts involved cooperation between the SQ, as well as the municipal forces of Laval, Montreal, Quebec City, Longueuil and Gatineau, as part of a task force created on Oct. 1 to identify and arrest producers and distributors of child pornography across Quebec.

Anyone who feels they have information about a situation involving sexual exploitation of children on the internet is invited to contact the police online.

Laval Police seeking gifts for needy children

The LPD is calling upon the generosity of all Laval residents by inviting them to donate Christmas gifts to needy children during the LPD's second annual Sharing Tree (Arbre du partage) event.

If you go to LPD headquarters on Chomedey Blvd., you'll be able to choose a label card indicating gift choices (minimum amount \$30) for children chosen ahead of time in local schools whose families are having financial problems.

The gift must then be placed in a special gift bag and returned to the police headquarters building by Dec. 12 at the latest. Volunteer police officers will then proceed with the distribution of the gifts to the needy children on Dec. 18. Your generosity could help make a needy child happy this Christmas.



Popular 'K-9 Calendar' now available for 2022



The Laval Police Department announced last week that their beloved annual Dog Handlers' Calendar for the benefit of the Martin Matte Foundation is now on sale.

Available for the low price of just \$5 per copy, the calendar helps to finance leisure and respite activities for persons who are living with the long-term effects of head trauma.

"We are proud to launch today the latest edition of our Dog Handlers' Calendar today," said Laval Police Chief Pierre Brochet.

"For more than a decade, the members of the dog squadron have been devoting themselves to offering a better future to victims of head trauma and their families. We invite the population to get themselves one, while making a

difference for all those who are in need."

The LPD has been involved with the cause since the death of master dog handler Éric Lavoie, who succumbed to a head trauma. He was injured during a road accident while out answering an emergency call.

Every day, ten Quebecers lose their autonomy following a head trauma. At least half of them are the result of road accidents." Sales of the 2021 calendar resulted in \$26,857.08 being gathered for the foundation.

To date, the LPD has donated \$505,542 over the past 12 years. The new 2022 calendars are available at the LPD's eastern offices (3225, boulevard Saint-Martin Est), at neighbourhood stations, as well as at LPD headquarters (2911, boulevard Chomedey).

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Fabre MNA awards National Assembly Medal to devoted environmentalist

Réjean Gravel has been a driving force in preserving the Boisé Sainte-Dorothée



MARTIN C. BARRY
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
For The Laval News
marty@newsfirst.ca

Prior to an annual cleanup conducted by volunteers at the Boisé Sainte-Dorothée in western Laval last Saturday, Fabre Liberal MNA Monique Sauvé presented a leader of the movement to preserve the forested area with one of Quebec's highest recognitions for public service – the Quebec National Assembly Medal.

Located in a decreed permanent agricultural zone in Laval's Sainte-Dorothée sector, the Sainte-Dorothée woods takes up an area estimated to be around one-twelfth of the City of Laval's territory. Réjean Gravel has worked tirelessly for decades to see that the woods were preserved for future generations of Laval residents.

Popular for outings

The forested area, which can be accessed from an entrance with parking at the northern end

of Mont-Laval St., is managed by two groups: CANOPÉE and the Association pour la protection du Boisé Sainte-Dorothée.

The woods are an increasingly popular destination for people from all over Laval seeking to commune with nature while staying close to home. Gravel was a founding member of the APBSD in 2003 and president of its board of directors from 2011 to 2019.

Active environmentalist

Gravel was a founder and board member of CANOPÉE, which has simultaneously been promoting the preservation of other forested areas in Laval. In addition, he has sat on the City of Laval's consultative committee for the environment since 2018 and is well-known in Laval and throughout the Montreal region as a commentator and critic of government environmental policies. Gravel was also the recipient in 2015 of a Hestia award from the City of Laval for his long-time community involvement.

"It is my privilege to bestow the Medal of the National Assembly of Québec to Réjean Gravel, a true ambassador of the Sainte-Dorothée Woods (boisé Sainte-Dorothée)," Sauvé said



In addition to the medal, Sauvé also presented Gravel with a gift: a copy of a painting created by Quebec artist Marc Aurèle Fortin.
(Photo: Martin C. Barry, Newsfirst Multimedia)

during an informal presentation ceremony held on the edge of the woods.

Nature and wildlife preserve

"Through his tremendous involvement, he succeeded in improving the every day life of hundreds of families of my riding by the protec-

tion of our environment, and so for many years," she added.

In an interview with the Laval News, Philippe Cadieux, vice-president of the APBSD, noted that the Boisée Sainte-Dorothée is one of a few very large wooded areas in Laval and that the diversity of its flora and fauna make it a unique spot to watch and observe nature. "These woods are even larger than Mount Royal Park," added Louise Auclair, secretary of the organization's board.

A concerted effort

CANOPÉE was founded in 2017 by a group of mostly Laval residents from various volunteer groups dedicated to the preservation of natural areas in Laval, including the APBSD. Since then, the members of the CANOPÉE network have been working towards the protection, conservation and improvement of forested areas and woods across Laval so that they can be enjoyed by everyone.

In addition to the medal, Sauvé also presented Gravel with a gift: a copy of a painting created by Quebec artist Marc Aurèle Fortin, who was born in Laval's Sainte-Rose village where he painted some of his most important works. The vividly colourful foliage seen in the painting was very much like the autumn leaves on the trees in the Boisé Sainte-Dorothée last Saturday.

Who gets the Medals

According to a description on the Quebec National Assembly website, the National Assembly Medal is awarded by the Members of the Assembly:

- To people of their choice who are deserving of recognition, or
- As an official gift to Members of other parliaments, elected officials or other public figures during parliamentary missions outside Quebec or protocol receptions at the Parliament Building.

Medal Characteristics

Composition: bronze, lacquered antique finish;
Reverse: effigy of Jean-Antoine Panet, the first Speaker of the House of Assembly of Lower Canada (before 1968, the President of the Assembly was called the Speaker). The effigy reproduces part of the painting, *The Language Debate*, by Charles Huot, that hangs in the National Assembly Chamber of the Parliament Building. A miniature replica of the Medal of the National Assembly is also sold at the National Assembly gift shop.

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◀ Continued from page 7

tion for his many years of efforts assisting Greeks in Montreal. The society, which celebrates its 100th anniversary next year, is mandated to help those in need within the Hellenic community in the Greater Montreal region.

Was a co-founder of NBG (Canada)

Although now retired, Demetris Yantsulis became well-known among thousands of Canadian Greeks for his long-time association with the National Bank of Greece (Canada), whose Canadian operations were acquired by Scotiabank in 2005.

A few years after arriving in Canada, he was a co-founder of the National Bank of Greece's operations in Canada. For many years thereafter,

he was the National Bank of Greece (Canada)'s chief operating officer (COO), placing him effectively in charge of all NBG's operations in Quebec and across Canada, which included nearly a dozen branches.

Still active in retirement

In spite of his retirement, Yantsulis remains active in the community. Among his current functions, he is chairman of public relations for AHEPA in Canada and Quebec, and he is also responsible for public relations for Newsfirst Multimedia's Greek language publication, Ta Nea.

As well, he served for four years as president of the Pan-Macedonian Association of Canada. "I think I am well-known to all Quebec Greek community organizations, which I supported for the last 53 years greatly," said Yantsulis, assessing his work over those many years.



DIRECT?

ANSWERS

From **Wayne & Tamara**

Changing Sleds

Last night my boyfriend of three years dropped a bombshell on me. He is concerned about how comfortable we have become. He expressed doubts about our relationship and where it is going.

I'm only 29 and he is 31. We have been living together for a year, and recently our sex life slowed down to maybe once a week. I too noticed this. Lately I have been the one to initiate lovemaking, which I chalked up to his busy schedule.

I've also gained some weight and was not feeling comfortable in my own body. I do not walk around the house or sleep in the most flattering clothes. My boyfriend basically said he has not been attracted to me lately, which is why he stopped initiating.

He said he is afraid it's only going to get worse. He wondered if he should have dated more before he settled down, which crushed me.

I am well aware that we have come to a plateau in our relationship, but I saw this as a minor issue. I can honestly say I was happy and saw us moving into the future. Lately, I've been getting to the gym more often to feel more attractive, and I thought things could change.

I thought he was happy and comfortable too. That doesn't seem to be the case.

Although he agreed to work on the relationship and possibly get some counseling, it's for his own emotional issues and about letting his guard down after his last relationship.

I appreciate his honesty in not letting this go on any longer, but like I said, I am crushed. I want to work on the relationship, but I don't know if I can get over his revelations and my hurt feelings.

I thought he was attracted to my whole person, not just my body.

Harper

Harper, it sounds like your boyfriend is saying it's him, not you. He regrets not dating more and he feels the need for therapy to get over a past relationship.

You'd like to make the issue about a few pounds, because that is something you can work on. It also allows you to blame him. "He's shallow, and it is all about looks." But you don't mention anything he said directly about weight.

Two-person bobsledding is a dangerous sport. The sport requires teamwork all the way down. It's all physics and Newton's laws of motion. Once the run starts, the sled keeps going until it either crashes or passes the finish line. If it crashes, people get hurt.

The safest way to stop the bobsled is at the top of the run, and that is where the two of you are.

Your boyfriend has pulled back, trying to create a little space to make it less painful. It appears he's a nice guy, though maybe a little weak. He should probably be more direct because what he's trying to say is, "I am not going down the hill with you."

Though he conceded to your idea of working on the relationship, he said counseling would serve a different purpose for him. And at 31, saying he hasn't dated enough sounds lame. It sounds more like, "I've now come to the knowledge I'm not in love."

In a way, counseling in dating can be an interference with the dating process. Often it is used as a tool by the one who wants to continue against the one who wants to stop.

He's not a mean guy and he doesn't want to hurt you, but he is saying this is not for me. You are almost all the way there, too. The idea of a future together has been spoiled. So spoiled you don't think you can get over it.

As we said, two-person bobsledding is a dangerous sport. It takes teamwork all the way down.

Wayne & Tamara

Wayne & Tamara Mitchell are the authors of **YOUR OTHER HALF** (www.yourotherhalf.com) • Send letters to: Direct Answers, PO 964 Springfield, MO 65801-0964 or email: DirectAnswers@echowork.com

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Losing a loved one can be an overwhelming ordeal. Nevertheless, the deceased's family typically must oversee a variety of administrative tasks and make numerous decisions to organize the funeral service. To ensure your loved ones don't have to deal with these burdens while grieving your passing, make the necessary after-life arrangements without delay.

There are two contracts you'll need to sign off on: one for the funeral arrangements and one for the burial.

The former specifies the services that will be afforded upon your death, which may include cremation, embalming and a ceremony. This document also outlines the purchase of associated items such as the coffin, urn, monument and/or flowers.

The burial contract, on the other hand, has to do with the purchase and maintenance of your final resting place.

This may pertain to a cemetery plot, a mausoleum or a space in a columbarium.

Advantages

When you pre-arrange your funeral, you ensure that your after-life services will unfold according to your personal preferences and beliefs. Additionally, you'll be doing your loved ones a kindness by preventing them from undertaking on such a trying task at a time when they're already grieving.

Making pre-arrangements for your funeral also has many financial benefits. For example, given that you'll pay for all goods and services at their current price, and that no additional amounts can be charged after your death (even if your coffin costs twice as much by then), you'll avoid the costs associated with inflation.

For all of the above reasons, making pre-arrangements for your funeral is the wise and compassionate thing to do.



AMANATIDIS Nikolaos
1934 - 2021

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Mr. Nikolaos Amanatidis, on 3 November 2021, at the age of 87. Devoted husband for sixty-two years to Kiriaki (née Danielidis). Beloved father of Lazaros, Maria Soumela, and Petros. Loving father-in-law of Popy and Denise, grandfather of Kyriaki, Maria, and Zoë Kiriaki, and great-grandfather of Andreas, Niko, Iakovo, and Despina. He will be verily missed by his brother, sisters-and-brothers-in-law, nieces and nephews, godchildren, extended family, friends, and business associates.



PELLETIER Monique
1953 - 2021

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of Monique Pelletier, who passed away on November 4, 2021, at the age of 68.

She is survived by her brothers Michel, André, Jacques and Jean, her sisters-in-law, her nephews, her nieces, their spouses, their children, her cousins, their spouses, their children, and her neighbours.



HÉNAULT Jean-Claude
1945 - 2021

In Laval, on Thursday, October 28, 2021 passed away, at the age of 76, JEAN-CLAUDE HÉNAULT, spouse of Diane Lacelle. Besides his wife, he is survived by his son Mathieu (Marie-Hélène) and the late Marie-Claude, his daughters-in-law Mélanie Champagne (Luc) and Geneviève Champagne (Mark), his grandchildren Jérémy (Marjorie), Nicolas, Victor, Gabrielle and Jack.



HUOT Alberte
1939 - 2021

In Laval, on October 30, 2021, passed away at the age of 82 Mrs. Alberte Huot.

She is survived by her children Alain Daoust (Chantal Raby), Dominique Daoust (François Charbonneau), Manon Daoust (Erick Guy), her grandchildren Émie, Samuel, Émanuelle, Maude, Gabriel, Virgine, Mégane, her great-grandchildren Théodore, Edouard, Amani, her Micheline sisters, Madeleine, other relatives and friends.

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Week of **NOVEMBER 14 TO 20, 2021**

The luckiest signs this week:
VIRGO, LIBRA AND SCORPIO



ARIES

You'll be a chatterbox this week, but luckily there will always be someone around who wants to talk. At work, you'll expand your clientele considerably, and you might even make some new friends.



TAURUS

You'll find some money tucked away, perhaps in the pocket of an old ski jacket that you forgot about last year. In your love life, you need to communicate more openly, if only to receive the affection you desire.



GEMINI

You'll start to plan various events that you need to attend in the near future. If you're feeling a heavy emotional weight on your shoulders, some self-reflection would probably do you good.



CANCER

Silence can often be worth more than words. You have an extraordinary well of creativity to draw upon. The comfort you feel at home will allow you to create a work of art or open yourself up to a spiritual practice.



LEO

Some friendships don't deserve your attention, so you may need to clean up your social circle. You'll take a liking to some of your colleagues as you collaborate on a project and take on a leadership role.



VIRGO

It's normal to want to celebrate after accomplishing a feat or completing a major project. That's why you won't hesitate to join in on any festivities organized by your co-workers or loved ones.



LIBRA

You need to have fun, and procrastination is in the air. Remember that relaxation is necessary at times. Afterward, you'll be able to move forward with more determination and avoid any kind of delays or distractions.



SCORPIO

If your family is scattered across the country, you'll start to plan a wonderful holiday tour to visit everyone. Alternatively, you'll consider going on vacation with your loved ones.



SAGITTARIUS

You're a master in the art of negotiation. At work or elsewhere, you'll successfully reach an agreement on the financing for a project. You might find yourself afraid to disappoint those around you.



CAPRICORN

You'll have a successful week, especially if you work in sales. You'll see an increase in customers to the point where management will have no choice but to promote you. You'll also be good at managing the little details.



AQUARIUS

At work, it's important to have a put-together look so you can present yourself in the best light. Being able to joke around will also be well received by your superiors. In love, passion leads to commitment.



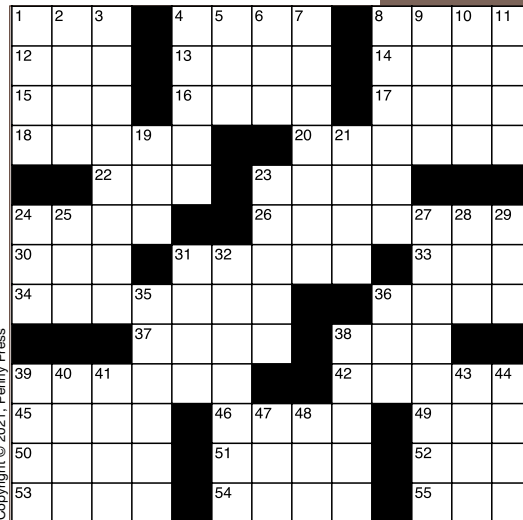
PISCES

You'll have a few small family matters to take care of. Don't hesitate to talk openly about them, as silence can increase the risk of miscommunication at home. You may have to work late into the evening this week.

Coffee Break

CROSSWORDS

PUZZLE NO. 103



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ACROSS

1. Snaky curve
4. Lead actor
8. As well
12. Dove's cry
13. Contend (with)
14. Lived
15. Deli purchase
16. Great Barrier ____
17. Speed competition
18. "Carmen," e.g.
20. Explodes
22. "____ Sawyer"
23. Riding whip
24. Hot and dry
26. Furnaces
30. Jamaican product
31. Sobbed
33. As of now
34. Bent down
36. Tariff
37. Flower receptacle
38. Favorite

39. Spicy sausage
42. Uprisings
45. Cattle stick
46. Large truck
49. Mine shipment
50. Skin affliction
51. Wood source
52. Monkey suit
53. Cast off, as skin
54. Hourglass filler
55. Yo!

19. Lightning ____
21. Path
23. Scold
24. Flood boat
25. Trot
27. Upper canine
28. Accelerate in neutral
29. Swine home
31. Closemouthed person
32. Withstands
35. Avoided
36. Flower garland
38. Used a crowbar
39. Luxury hotels
40. Curve
41. Only
43. Factual
44. Alluring
47. Age of note
48. "Of Mice and ____"

DOWN

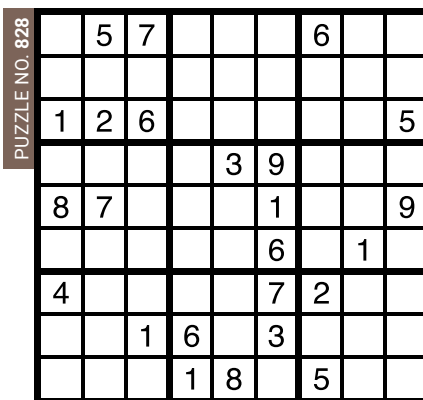
- Repeat
2. Bath bar
 3. At a future date
 4. Vamoose
 5. Foot end
 6. Monkey's cousin
 7. Hockey official
 8. Sudden
 9. Dancer's jump
 10. Religious faction
 11. Small numbers

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY:

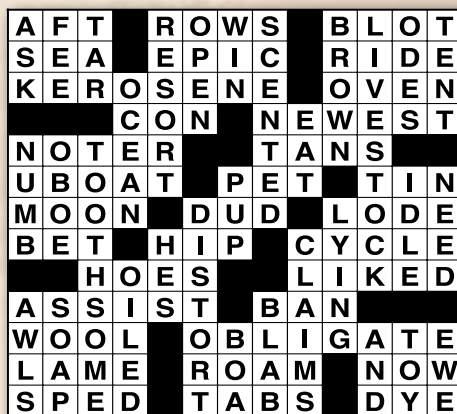
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 only once.

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.**

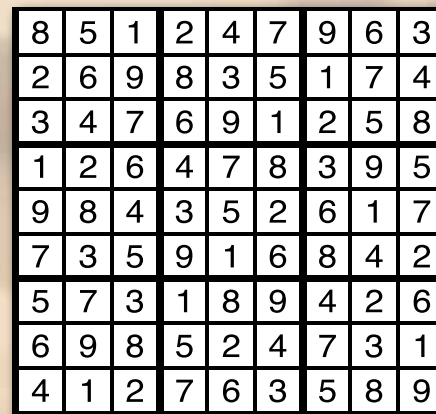


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Sudoku



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Love seat	\$1 175	Sale	\$795
Chair	\$875	Sale	\$595

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