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HAPPY LABOUR DAY! Pages 12-13




Page 3

Debby aftermath



82 per cent of the debris caused by the Tropical Storm Debby was gathered up during the cleanup at over 7,000 Laval addresses.

A&W Curé Labelle goes all out for Multiple Sclerosis



August 22 was a special day at A&W Curé Labelle. As the day was dedicated to raising funds and awareness for MS (Multiple Sclerosis), \$2 were donated automatically to the cause for each order of Teen Burgers. On another note, management at the fast-food restaurant said they'd been running a related donation campaign for MS for the last month, and we were able to collect almost \$4,000 as an overall donation.

"This was an activity done by the majority of A&W's as part of the partnership we have with MS," an A&W Curé Labelle management spokesman said. "This initiative means a lot to our team," they added.

Page 14

E-scooter safety



A Laval police officer rides one of the for-rent e-scooters available in Laval during a safety information day held in the parking lot outside Carrefour Laval last Saturday. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)

Pages 9-11

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Tropical Storm Debby aftermath

More than 7,000 Laval addresses visited during ongoing cleanup



MARTIN C. BARRY

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After gathering up 82 per cent of the debris left behind in Laval following Tropical Storm Debby, the city is keeping cleanup crews on hand to make sure the job is done properly.

According to the city, intervention teams were going around a second time earlier this week on streets that were most impacted by flooding in order to collect any materials which may have been put out on the curb since the first pickup. "Since August 12, our teams have accom-

plished a gigantic task, collecting more than 1,350 tons of debris over 82 per cent of Laval's territory," said Mayor Stéphane Boyer.

"We understand to what extent these times have been difficult for the people impacted, and you can rest assured that the City of Laval is at your side," he added. "For each home affected, that is a whole year of trash which must be picked up, and we will not abandon our efforts as long as they are necessary."

Patrick Taillefer, director of the Laval Fire Dept. who is also responsible for overseeing emergency measures, said staff has been at work

on the cleanup since the beginning. Faced with the magnitude of the mess, he said the operation went into overdrive late last week.

"Our main strike force, consisting of nearly 250 personnel and around 60 vehicles, will continue to make their way through the streets of the city to help conclude this second major operation," he said. "Our staff, some of whom have also been impacted personally, are united and are sparing no efforts. The affected citizens can count on our support."

Summary of waste pickups

- More than 2,200 streets covered, for 82 per cent of Laval's territory
- Nearly 7,089 addresses visited
- 3,350 tons of debris collected

Large waste items pickup

Regular waste collections of large items are taking place as scheduled. However, only items which normally are accepted will be picked up. Discarded furniture and demolition debris from water damage will be picked up during a special collection. The city is asking residents who didn't suffer storm and water damage to hold off throwing out items until next month.

Écocentres

The City of Laval's Écocentres can be an excellent option for those with the means to take discarded items and materials there on their own for disposal. Given the exceptional circumstances, the city has authorized staff



to accept a larger than usual amount of waste from residents and additional staff are there to serve you.

Some restrictions loosened

The city says it is allowing winter car shelters to be used on a temporary basis to cover furniture and other items retrieved from flooded homes, so long as they are being used for that specific purpose.

At the same time, the city is reminding homeowners that a permit is not needed for regular maintenance and remedial repair work carried out in flooded homes to restore them to order. However, permits must be obtained for larger renovation projects from the City of Laval's urban planning department.

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OPINION & Editorial



Students scarred by COVID-19 policies may never catch up

We need to start addressing the severe "COVID hangover" that is endangering the future of an entire generation of students

Students are facing a brutal "COVID hangover" that continues to wreak havoc on their education and mental health. The pandemic didn't just disrupt classrooms temporarily – it left deep, lasting scars that have yet to heal. As grades plummeted, parents were left bewildered, teachers overwhelmed, and students struggling with shattered confidence and resilience. The impact stretches far beyond the classroom, and society, is paying the price.

The rapid shift to remote learning in early 2020 was a shock to the system. Schools closed almost overnight, forcing students and educators into virtual classrooms with little preparation. For students, this meant a sudden need for self-discipline and the ability to manage learning without the structure of a physical classroom. The challenges were immense, especially for those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

The pandemic also exacerbated existing inequalities, exposing the harsh reality of the digital divide. Students from low-income families and rural areas faced limited access to the technology needed for online education, widening the gap in educational access and quality. This wasn't just a temporary setback – these disparities created long-lasting educational gaps that will take years to close.

Teachers, too, faced unprecedented challenges. Many had little to no experience with digital platforms and had to rapidly adjust their teaching methods. The lack of in-person interaction made it nearly impossible to gauge student understanding, provide real-time feedback, or maintain engagement. Add to this the blurring

of personal and professional boundaries, and it's no surprise that teacher burnout skyrocketed.

The damage to student learning has been profound, particularly for younger students. Studies show significant learning loss in core subjects like math and reading. But the impact goes beyond academics – students' social and emotional development has been severely affected. The isolation, anxiety, and uncertainty of the pandemic led to widespread mental health issues, which further hindered academic performance and deepened the overall decline in student well-being.

As schools gradually returned to in-person learning, the long-term consequences of the pandemic became more apparent. Learning losses won't recover quickly, especially for those already struggling. The gap between high- and low-achieving students has widened, raising serious concerns about the effectiveness of online education. Addressing these disparities must be a top priority for educators and policymakers.

To make matters worse, schools lowered achievement standards and inflated grades to account for the disruptions in learning. Remote instruction made it difficult for teachers to accurately assess student performance, resulting in grades that often didn't reflect the student's actual understanding. This has led to confusion and frustration among parents and students alike.

The toll of the COVID-19 policies on students' mental health has been severe. The isolation of remote learning weakened their confidence

and resilience, leaving many struggling to stay motivated. This has resulted in low self-esteem, poor academic performance, and increased behavioural issues. The absence of consistent, in-person learning has left lasting effects on students' social and emotional development, making it harder for them to cope with stress and challenges. Mental health support and rethinking traditional education models are crucial if we hope to prepare students for a post-pandemic world.

Addressing these widespread issues requires more than just patchwork solutions. Continuous monitoring of both cognitive and emotional progress is essential. Educators, parents, unions, and government must collaborate closely to rebuild an education system that meets students' needs as they recover from the pandemic. While Alberta has taken some steps with new achievement measures, far more is needed to create a truly intelligent and responsive education system.

COVID-19 has left an indelible mark on an entire generation of students, and its effects will ripple through society for years to come. The lack of resilience among recent graduates is already affecting universities and employers. Society must confront the serious "COVID hangover" that threatens the future of these students. Reform is urgently needed, and it must be a shared responsibility across all levels of the education system if we are to prevent a lost generation.

Dr. Perry Kinkaide

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Laval and Hydro-Québec working on corridor near Autoroute 13

The City of Laval and Hydro-Québec say they are working together on a project to create a biodiversity corridor on an electricity right-of-way currently used by the public power company.

As such, the city will be receiving a \$593,798 subsidy from the electricity company to create a linear park where a variety of new plants and vegetation will be planted. The park will also have a multifunctional path when completed.

"This agreement with Hydro-Québec marks a decisive turning point in the implementation of the Trame verte et bleue in Laval," said Mayor Stéphane Boyer, referring to an intermunicipal program that encourages the development of a network of biodiverse outdoor parks and spaces.

"By transforming our electrical corridors into places of biodiversity, we are beautifying not only our urban landscape, but we are also active contributing to the preservation of our

ecosystem," he said. "This is an initiative that will benefit the population of Laval as much as the local fauna and flora."

"At Hydro-Québec we believe firmly that cooperation with municipalities is essential to improve the quality of life of citizens," said Alain Paquette, a Hydro-Québec spokesman in charge of the dossier for the company. "We see an opportunity to allow citizens to benefit from the reliability of new electrical installations, with the implementation of this initiative, to encourage sustainable mobility as well as access to a vast, enriching and biodiverse green space."

The area where the path is to be located is situated between Autoroute 440 and the Rivière des Prairies, east of Autoroute 13. It covers an area of roughly 50 hectares over 5.4 kilometres, subdivided into mixed, natural and recreational segments.

As an initial symbolic gesture, the City of Laval



Alexandre Warnet, the Laval city councillor for Laval-des-Rapides, who is also responsible for environmental issues on the executive-committee, is seen here with Alain Paquette of Hydro-Québec and Laval mayor Stéphane Boyer. (Photo: Courtesy of City of Laval)

last week inaugurated a new biodiverse halt at Binet Park in the middle of the new corridor. The city plans to plant a diverse selection of vegetation that will encourage pollination

and the presence of birds. There will also be a small wooden terrace, and some trails linking the corridor to a nearby school and the neighbourhood.

Mayor Boyer shares his thoughts on Storm Debby aftermath

Earlier this week, Laval mayor Stéphane Boyer summarized the city's efforts to conduct a massive clean up in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Debby.

"The clean up operations continue," he said.

"Saturday night we went to 290 streets cleaned, and 1517 families helped. Our employees work up to 12 hours every day. A huge task considering that all the neighborhoods of Laval have been affected by floods. There would be the

equivalent of 4 years of trash to pick up...

"In person or on social media, you shared with me your concerns about this disaster," Boyer continued. "Certain financial impact, but also lost memories, work-related stress, uncertainty

about the future. But all around the city, I've also seen neighbors who help each other and employees who are proud to be able to help. There's still a lot of work to be done, but we're not giving up as long as the work is not done!"



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Hundreds celebrate at annual Chomedey Neighbourhood Party

Games, healthy snacks and entertainment added up to fun for everybody

MARTIN C. BARRY

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Following a fiasco like the one in 2023 when the Chomedey Neighbourhood Party was suddenly cancelled after being completely rained out, the organizers got a lucky break this year.

New venue this year

Not only did the rain hold off for most of the day on Saturday August 17, but the venue for the Fête de quartier de Chomedey (as it is otherwise known) was different.

It shifted from the relatively small Parc Pie-X in central Chomedey, where it was staged in recent years, to the much larger Parc Berthiaume-du Tremblay in l'Abord-à-Plouffe, a stone's throw from the Rivière des Prairies.

As it was, hundreds of residents of Chomedey and adjoining districts got a chance to meet their neighbors while enjoying a day of games and fun.

Something for everyone

Many moms, dads, children and grandparents enjoyed a day that was vastly better than last year for late summer weather. They enjoyed musical entertainment and there were organized events for the kids. And as is the case each year, the Fête de Quartier promoted healthy living habits.

Among the many things to see and do were drumming and dancing, as well as information booths sponsored by a variety of community organizations.

Among the groups were Espace pour la vie Montréal, Clinique dentaire communautaire pour enfants, Scama, Éducation des adultes



Members of Groupe Terrato, a percussion ensemble, performed during this year's Chomedey Neighbourhood Party in Parc Berthiaume-du Tremblay on Saturday Aug. 17. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)

Laval, Agape, the Maison des jeunes at the Centre communautaire Val-Martin, Maison des enfants le Dauphin, Bibliothèques de Laval and Centre du Sablon.

MP and city councillors

The elected officials who came out during the afternoon to touch base with their constituents included Vimy Member of Parliament Annie Koutrakis, as well as Laval city councillor for Saint-Martin Aline Dib and l'Abord-à-Plouffe city councillor Vasilios Karidogiannis.



Laval city councillors Vasilios Karidogiannis (l'Abord-à-Plouffe), Councillor Aline Dib (Saint-Martin) stopped by for a while, talking to Natalina Pace of Agape among other things. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)



Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News

"This is the opportunity that I enjoy the most – to be here and touch base with the organizations and people who do the real work on the ground," Koutrakis said in an interview with *The Laval News*.

"All the organizations that participate in this Fête de quartier are either in my riding or a colleague's riding," she added. "And to see them actively contributing to the community is something that for me is priceless."

First time in l'Abord

Karidogiannis was pleased that the organizers chose to stage the day at a park in his district. "It's the first time they're doing it in l'Abord-à-Plouffe," he said, noting that Parc Berthiaume-du Tremblay had just recently finished undergoing an extensive refurbishment.

"The setup is amazing," he continued. "The space is great, the vibe is new and different, the weather is holding out and we're getting to meet all the organizations from the area which is very important. Everything's great."

Councillor Dib marvelled at the growing cultural diversity to be seen in Laval's neighbourhoods. "This is an event that brings out the best in everybody," she said.

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Laval's auditor-general tables performance findings on city for 2023

It's France Lessard's first report since stepping into the position last January

MARTIN C. BARRY
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In her first report as the City of Laval's auditor-general since assuming office last January, France Lessard says the city's management of its organic waste program



The City of Laval's auditor-general, France Lessard, recently tabled her first report in Laval city council, after stepping into the position at the beginning of this year. (Photo: Courtesy of City of Laval)

could do with some improvement, taking into account discrepancies she found when comparing data produced by Laval to data from the Montreal Metropolitan Community (CMM).

Bad news, good news

In the report, which was presented to Laval city council on August 13, Lessard said she found differences in what Laval reported regarding its organic waste collection, and what was reported by the metropolitan community, although there were also more positive things.

"Some progress has been made in the residential sector, [but] supplementary efforts are necessary to improve the collection and processing of organic materials in the industrial, commercial and institutional sectors, as well as construction, renovation and demolition," she said.

Seeks improvements

She said additional efforts would also be necessary to better inform and provide assistance to service users, most notably for the implementation of an organic waste collection at multi-unit residences. In 2022, according to Lessard's report, 279,197 tonnes of residual materials on Laval's territory were picked up, representing 625 kilos per resident.

In another finding, Lessard said that the city's supply and service division is not making optimal use of agreements for group purchases.

"Opportunities to save are being missed because of a lack of supervision and proactive communication in the existing agreements," she said. "What's more, the absence of clear directives for the personnel and limited use of follow-up tools are contributing to an underuse of the agreements."

Compliance improving

According to Lessard, the city's compliance to recommendations by the auditor-general in past years rose to 86 per cent by 2019, from 67 per cent the previous year. However, she added that only 61 per cent of recommendations were fully implemented, suggesting that little has changed in the way the city administration follows up on the auditor-general's recommendations.

For the years ahead, Lessard identified a number of issues she said she intends to focus on, including municipal taxation, mobility, cybersecurity, access to social housing and homelessness, as well as the impact of climate change on flooding and excessive heat in densely urbanized areas.

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GET READY FOR SCHOOL

Fabre MNA donates 50 school bags to two local schools

Families are having difficulties making ends meet, says Alice Abou-Khalil

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For a second year, Fabre Member of the National Assembly Alice Abou-Khalil has donated dozens of school backpacks to children attending two primary education institutions in her riding: École Pierre-Laporte and École Fleur-de-Vie.

In all, Abou-Khalil and her constituency office staff dropped off 25 backpacks last week at each school.

"We've found that there are many families here that are having difficulties providing school supplies for their children for back-to-school," she said.

"As elected officials, we see it as our duty to see that our schools and the community get the support they need. This helps get the school year off to a good start for the children and the parents, many of whom often are working two jobs to provide adequately for their families."



Left, École Pierre-Laporte school principal Simon Guilbault and Fabre Member of the National Assembly Alice Abou-Khalil are seen here last week with 25 of the 50 backpacks she donated to two Laval-area schools for children to use during the upcoming school year. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)



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Of course, online studies might not offer the same valuable resources as the in-person training programs do. Being in a



different environment can cause distractions, classmates are harder to reach, and teachers can't necessarily provide you with personalized help.

Both trainings have their pros and cons. In the end, choosing which type of training you want depends on your specific needs and priorities.

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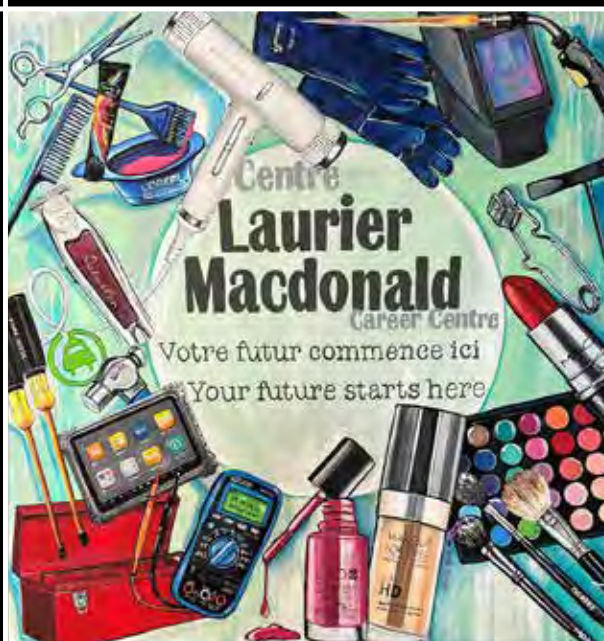
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GET READY FOR SCHOOL



Four tips to help you choose a trade

If you look through the program offerings provided by trade schools, you'll quickly realize that there are dozens upon dozens of possible vocations you might pursue. Here are some tips to guide you as you explore your options.

1. LOOK TO YOUR HOBBIES FOR INSPIRATION

For many, the answer can be found in things they already love to do. Like to sew your own clothes? A fashion-related trade like pattern making or sewing machine operation might be a good fit. Or, if you already spend your weekends tinkering



under the hood of an old hot rod, a career as an automotive technician could very well be appropriate. Examine your hobbies, interests and skills for inspiration.

2. CONSIDER YOUR PREFERENCES AND AVERSIONS

Do you prefer routine or variety? Do you like to work alone, or do you prefer being part of a team? Are you comfortable with dirt and noise? How do you feel about heights? Depending on your likes and dislikes, certain trades may be more or less suited to your personality.

3. Determine market demand in your area

If you're planning on living in a particular locale, try to find out which industries are thriving in that area. Though the demand for skilled trade workers in Canada is high overall, individual communities have a greater or lesser need for specific skill-sets.

4. RESEARCH

The more informed you are, the better equipped you'll be to choose a trade that's well suited to your unique needs and desires. Consider pay scale, opportunities for advancement and daily duties performed for each of the vocations that pique your interest. Use the internet and your local library to gather information. Speaking to people who are currently employed in the trades you're looking into is another valuable way to glean real-life facts about the job.

Green skilled trades

Working with your hands every day has always been an honest way to earn a living, but when that work contributes to practices that protect the environment, it's downright honourable. Green trades are an up-and-coming field, and demand for workers is expected to rise in the coming years. Some eco-friendly trade jobs can be accessed via specific training, while others require a combination of more traditional trade skills and a hefty dose of ingenuity.

WIND TURBINE TECHNICIAN

Canada has the seventh largest fleet of wind turbines in the world, and while wind energy comprises only four per cent of the total national energy production, the demand is expected to grow. Wind turbine technicians are responsible for all aspects of repairing and maintaining wind turbines, including inspecting, cleaning, calibrating and correcting any malfunctions. A number of trade schools offer vocational programs for those interested in pursuing this green trade.

SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC TECHNICIAN

While the solar power industry isn't growing quite as quickly as the wind energy sector, it's still on the rise. By 2025, five per cent of Canada's energy is expected to be harvested from solar power. Solar photovoltaic techs install, maintain and repair solar panels at both a residential and commercial level. These workers are

often electricians who've taken additional training courses.

GREEN ROOF INSTALLER

Green roof initiatives are increasing in popularity in urban centres across the country. These rooftop gardens improve air quality, moderate the urban heat island effect and provide habitats for wildlife. In addition, they can substantially increase a building's energy efficiency. Green roof installation can become a specialization for roofing contractors, construction workers and landscapers.



Green skilled trades are on the rise in Canada.



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HAPPY LABOUR DAY!

Labour Day: a short history

North Americans celebrate Labour Day on the first Monday of September. This is a public holiday that traditionally marks the return to school for all types of students after their summer vacations. While labour disputes between millionaire athletes and millionaire owners dominate the headlines these days, history offers a completely different perspective on an era where workers had to fight hard to limit their workdays to less than twelve hours a day!

In honour of the workers movement, Labour Day was introduced in Canada in 1872, a year when marches and gatherings were held in Ottawa and Toronto. In Europe, the festivities of May Day have been combined with Labour Day celebrations since 1889. This spring festival was celebrated for some time in Canada, but the desire for a long weekend at the end of the summer led Parliament to proclaim the fall Labour Day in 1894.

The first Labour Day in the United States was celebrated on September 5, 1882, in New York. An initiative of the Central Labor Union, the idea was quickly adopted by other union organizations and, in 1885, was celebrated in many industrial centres. New York City granted the first official recognition of this day by municipal ordinances in 1885 and 1886, and they were integrated into the laws of New York State shortly thereafter.

Today, Labour Day no longer has any particular political significance.

The first Labour Day in the United States was celebrated on September



HAPPY LABOUR DAY

September 2nd

Your municipal councillors of the City of Laval

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HAPPY LABOUR DAY!

Looking forward to Labour Day

The meaning behind some parts of our history tends to fade from our collective memory over time. This is certainly the case for Labour Day, a holiday that has taken on a whole new significance through the years. One thing remains the same, however: Canadians continue to welcome this long weekend with open arms!

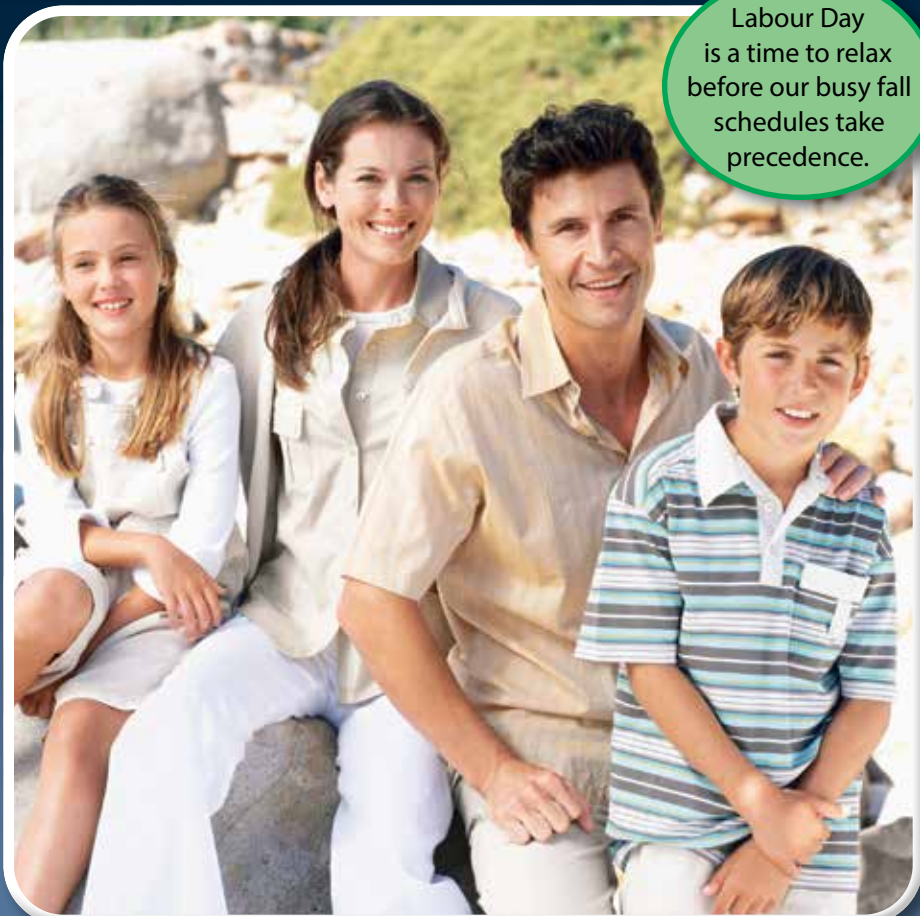
Nowadays, Labour Day signals the end of summer activities and the beginning of a new school year, and it is a time to relax before our busy fall schedules take precedence. Even though there is still a feeling of summer in the air, we become more aware that the days are getting shorter and we notice that the harvest season is around the corner, bringing fall scents like hay and wet fallen leaves.

Labour Day is a time of change in many different ways, and it provides a wonderful opportunity to roam the countryside, stocking up on fresh-

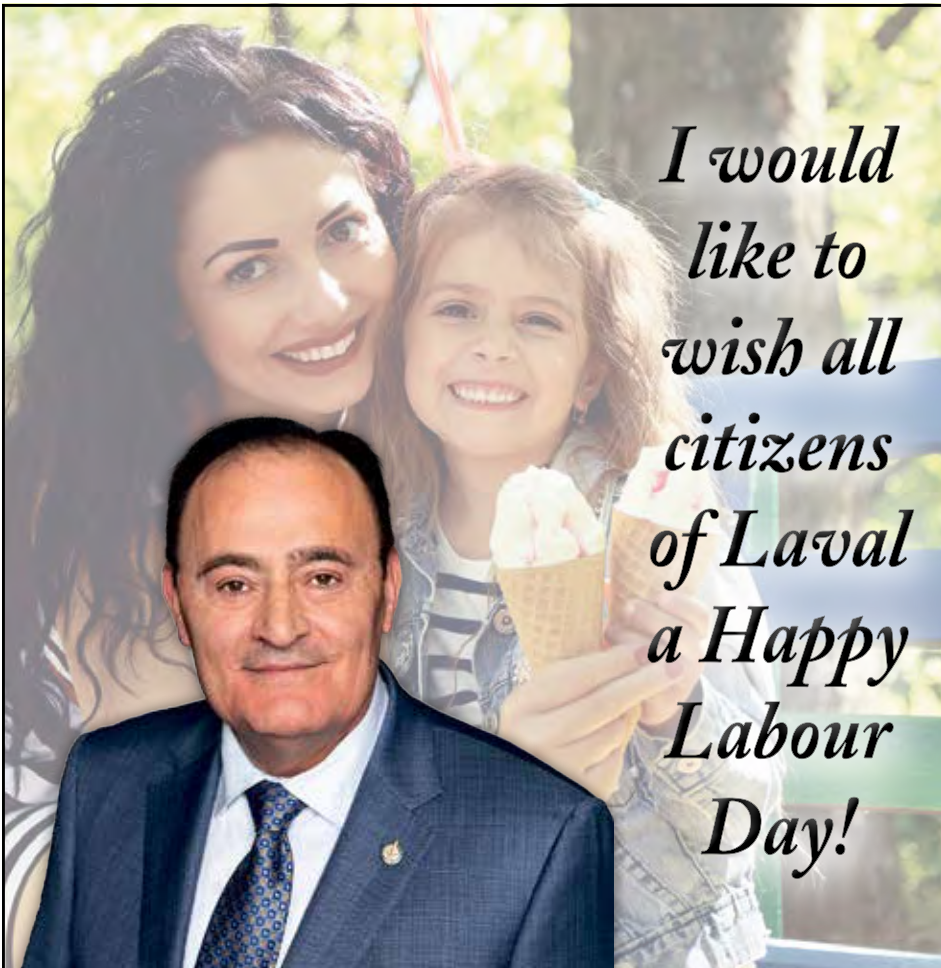
ly-picked vegetables or biting into crispy apples. It is a favourite time of year for outdoor enthusiasts of all kinds, with some people taking advantage of this three-day weekend to travel even further afield, exploring new areas of the country.

Yet there is a great deal of meaning behind this special event, which we all celebrate on the first Monday of September. It should also be a time to remember the origins of Labour Day, to remember that, without the efforts and sacrifices of the labour movement to improve working conditions during the 1880s and '90s, this holiday would not exist.

That vast mobilization of the labour force, born in big cities such as Toronto, Ottawa, and Montreal, grew to encompass the entire Canadian working class and became the holiday that we know today.



Labour Day is a time to relax before our busy fall schedules take precedence.



I would like to wish all citizens of Laval a Happy Labour Day!

FAYÇAL

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MP FOR LAVAL-LES ÎLES

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Happy Labour Day!

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Laval Police racing to inform the public on safe 'e-scooter' use

'We know they're going to be here to stay,' LPD official says of growing mobility trend

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



Electric scooters are currently being made available to rent in Laval at a number of public locations, including this one next to Parc Frégault in northern Saint-Martin district. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)

With electric scooters quickly becoming an ever-more common sight on Laval's streets, officers from the Laval Police Dept. held a safety and information session in the parking lot outside the Carrefour Laval mall last Saturday in conjunction with the firms that are currently renting out e-scooters in Laval in public locations.

According to Cst. Simon Morrisette, an LPD veteran who oversees the force's road safety and prevention unit, the LPD is taking proactive action to clarify the conditions for the safe and legal operation of e-scooters on the city's roads and streets.

Making e-scooter use safe

"Our job right now is to promote the secure way of using them," he said, adding that the LPD also wants to get the message out about the highway safety code rules that apply to e-scooters.

Since last year when the city first allowed and began promoting the use of rented e-scooters, the number of scooters available at rental stations in Laval has doubled, according to Morrisette.

"Because they're a new type of mobility, which is also an active one, we know they're going to be here to stay," he said. "So, we want to be sure that everybody, before they start using them, are aware of the risks and the responsible ways of using them."

\$100+ tickets for violators

As it now stands, said Morrisette, e-scooters are defined within the Quebec highway safety code. That being said, those who ride them but



Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News

who fail to abide by the rules risk receiving \$100 tickets (plus administration fees) from the police for moving violations.

Perhaps the most important of these is failure to wear a helmet while operating an e-scooter.

Other e-scooters rules: The minimum age to operate one is 14 years; the electric motor cannot exceed 500 watts power; wheels must be at least 19 centimetres in diameter; it is forbidden for more than one person to travel aboard an e-scooter; and operating an e-scooter on sidewalks is strictly forbidden.

E-scooter sobriety test

As Morrisette pointed out, e-scooter promot-

ers Bird and Lime have incorporated a number of technical features in their vehicles (and the apps used to lease them), which are designed to detect when someone who is impaired by alcohol or drugs is trying to take one out on the road.

E-scooters are just one of a growing range of new mobility devices which have come rapidly onto the market in recent years – often through relatively lax internet-retailing – leaving governments and road safety regulators playing a game of catch-up to adapt laws to the new technology.

But for the time being, the LPD is focusing on making e-scooter use safer for the growing number of users.

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LFD responds to minor blaze in Chomedey



On Aug. 26 shortly after 1 am, firefighting personnel from the Laval Fire Dept. contended with a relatively minor blaze at a home on Guénette St. in Chomedey.

According to a report posted by the Association des Pompiers de Laval on social media, smoke was seen by firefighters coming out of the one-story house as soon as they arrived.

A code 10-07 was called in, meaning the firefighters' intervention was necessary.

LFD firefighter Abelly retires after 34 years

The Association des Pompiers de Laval, which is the union representing the City of Laval's firefighters, paid homage on their social media feed recently to a veteran fireman who recently retired.

Firefighter Jean-Philippe Abelly took his retirement on Aug. 11, having accumulated an impressive 34 years of service with the LFD.

The APL wished him a happy and restful retirement and so does *The Laval News*.



Trucks can now use all lanes on Papineau Bridge



Since late last week, trucks have been allowed to use all the lanes on the Papineau Bridge which links Laval to Montreal Island via Autoroute 19.

Truckers were restricted to using only some lanes in each direction on the busy bridge since last May 17 as special repairs were being carried out on the structure. According to Transports Québec, the work done on the bridge since then has strengthened the bridge's concrete platform with steel plates and other additions. However, the ministry cautions that some more work will be necessary to finish the job in September, although it will require work taking place only at night.

Notre Dame/Curé Labelle re-opens after inspection



A ground collapse, rather than an issue involving broken sewer or aqueduct pipes, was the reason why the intersection of Curé Labelle and Notre Dame boulevards was closed to traffic for two days last week, according to Vasilios Karidogiannis, the Laval city councillor for the district of l'Abord-à-Plouffe. Notre Dame/Curé Labelle is one of the most heavily-trafficked intersections in the City of Laval.

In recent years, it has undergone several major makeovers, necessitating extended closure, as the City of Laval replaced subterranean sewer infrastructure, partly in response to past flooding in the area.

On his Facebook page last week, Karidogiannis wrote:

"A slope of the road was observed on Curé-Labelle Boulevard at the intersection with Notre-Dame Boulevard. For safety reasons, traffic has been closed at this location and the engineering department has carried out an analysis of the situation early this morning.

"We can already confirm this is not a sewerage or aqueduct issue," added Karidogiannis. He confirmed to *The Laval News* that the work has all been completed to the City of Laval public works department's satisfaction.



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Things to do **IN SEPTEMBER**

Looking for something to do? Here are some upcoming events happening in the Laval area.

FÊTE DE LA FAMILLE

Outdoor activity



Sunday, September 1
10 AM - 6 PM

Centre de la nature
901 Avenue du Parc, H7E 2T7

Many family activities, including shows, entertainment, strolling characters, inflatable games, face painting & more.

Free

SPECTACLES PETITE ENFANCE

Children's show



Saturday, September 7
10 AM, 2 PM

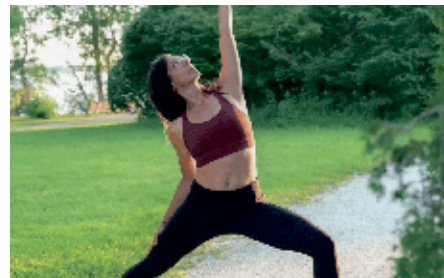
Parc Ringuet
4749 Boulevard Arthur-Sauvé, H7R 5P8

Le hérisson, a storytelling and percussive dance show, for ages 3 and over.

Free

AVENTURE ZEN

Meditation, yoga and rabaska



Sunday, September 15
9 AM - 12 PM

Parc de la Rivière-des-Mille-Îles
345 Boulevard Sainte-Rose, H7L 1M7

Unique experience combining rabaska, meditation, and outdoor yoga.

\$60

FESTIVAL DES FLEURS

Farm activity



August 24 - September 22, 2024
Sat: 9 AM - 8 PM / Sun: 9 AM - 6 PM

Ferme Marineau
4356 Boulevard Dagenais O, H7R 1L5

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FESTIVAL MOSAÏQUE

Gospel choir



Saturday, September 28
8 PM - 9:30 PM

Théâtre Marcellin-Champagnat
1275 Avenue du Collège, H7C 1W8

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STATION CULTURELLE MOMO

Culture



August 1 - September 29, 2024
Programming schedule: laval.ca

Place Claude-Léveillée
1500 Rue Jacques-Tétreault, H7N 0A7

The new cultural event of the fall season in Laval.

Free

FESTIVAL D'AUTOMNE

Farm activity



September 1 - October 27, 2024
9 AM - 6 PM

Ferme Forget
7901 Av. Marcel-Villeneuve, H7A 0H9

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FROM WAYNE & TAMARA

MISADVENTURE

Q I am a male, 32, in a relationship with a nice girl for five years. Over the last half year we've discussed whether we are meant to be life mates, and we've even gone through counseling to solve some nagging issues. At this stage, though I love her dearly, I'm not feeling passion or convinced we are soul mates.

I was just back home visiting family. As I checked out at the local organic grocery store, the cashier and I agreed we looked familiar. In a brief exchange at the register we realized we went to school together. Later that day I remembered my huge crush on the girl who sat behind me.

She was so different than the other girls I knew, a brilliant combination of kindheartedness, intelligence, beauty and coolness. Even at that age she had direction and purpose in life. Anybody who knew her had the sense she was going to do good in this world someday.

That premonition was dead-on accurate. After finishing college she spent a few years in the Peace Corps and is now finishing nursing school. I tell you this to demonstrate what a tremendously gifted and kind person she is. That night I was flooded with emotions, remembering my big crush and falling in love with the idea of who she had become.

Next morning these emotions ruled every second of my being. Despite butterflies in my stomach and nervous adrenaline, I went back to the grocer. I said I was fascinated to hear more of her life and offered to buy her a cup of tea. She gave me her number, and we agreed to meet.

Unbeknownst to her, I postponed my departure on her account. I called hoping to see her that evening, but she said she'd got her days mixed-up and promised to visit her fiancé's parents. I don't believe she made the story up, but I was crushed. On the phone I was dumbstruck and couldn't find another time before my departure.

My life has been plagued by personal and

family misfortune, and I thought this chance meeting was no mere accident. It was fate. I thought finally in life I was catching a break and something great was about to happen.

Would it be appropriate to send her a letter? I want to tell her how remarkable she is, how amazing she is to help mankind, and, of course, how I had and have a crush on her. But then what purpose would it serve? Is it fair to disrupt her engagement considering I haven't seen her in 15 years? Or do I have an obligation to my own fate to connect with her?

Adam

A Adam, there are two ways of interpreting what happened. Let's call them the Tolkien theory and the law of parsimony. The Tolkien theory, named for the author of "The Lord of the Rings," suggests a mystical union of time and space brought you and your former classmate together. A thousand things came into play for this to happen, and like Frodo, you are now on a heroic quest upon which much depends.

The law of parsimony, however, suggests the simplest explanation is usually correct. Your former classmate crossed your path to show you what you didn't learn in counseling. You don't want to be with your girlfriend.

While we don't exclude the possibility of the miraculous, we're inclined to go with the obvious. When a cop pulls you over for speeding in a school zone, it doesn't mean you're supposed to become a policeman. It means you're not supposed to endanger schoolchildren.

You haven't dated this woman, slept with her, met her family or lived with her quirks. You cannot think "I'll straighten out my life if I get to have her." But you should think "I need to end sexual contact with my girlfriend and stop telling her 'I love you.'"

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

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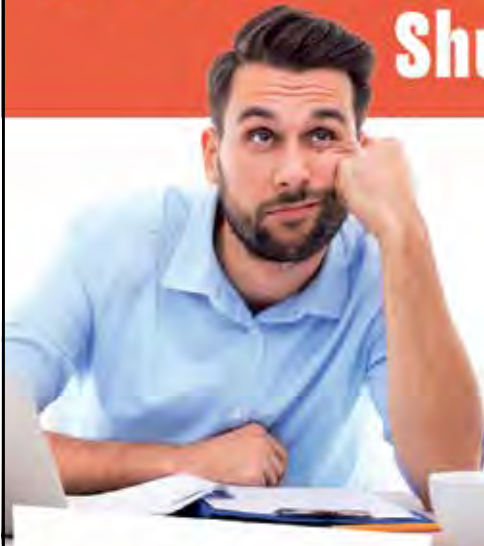
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KIDS' CORNER

Learn. Play. Be amazed!

What's poetry?

Have you heard of poetry but aren't sure what it is? It's a literary genre - a writing style - that's been around for centuries.

CLASSICAL

In school, you learn about poems that must rhyme (e.g., river, liver; game, fame; red, said) and have a specific structure. The poem's paragraphs, called stanzas, have a set length. So do the phrases, or lines, and the syllable pattern, which is called the meter. Writing a poem that follows these rules may seem complicated at first. However, it gets easier with practice.

MODERN

Over time, people have decided to experiment with the rules of poetry. As a result, it has become a writing form where freedom is accepted and encouraged. You can see the creative ways people play with words in song lyrics, advertisements, performances and works of art.

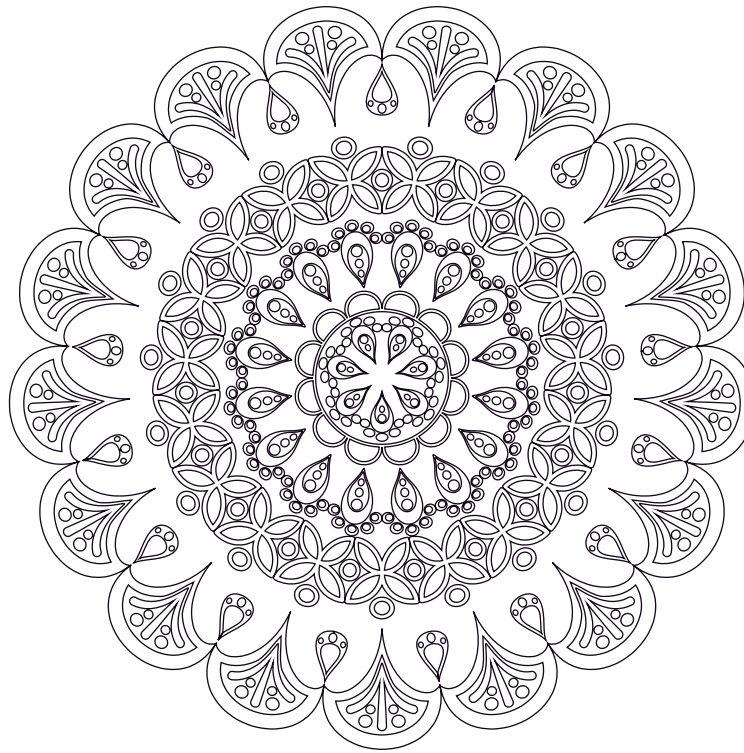
FREESTYLE

Writing a poem involves making images and emotions out of words. For example, you could write about your cat:

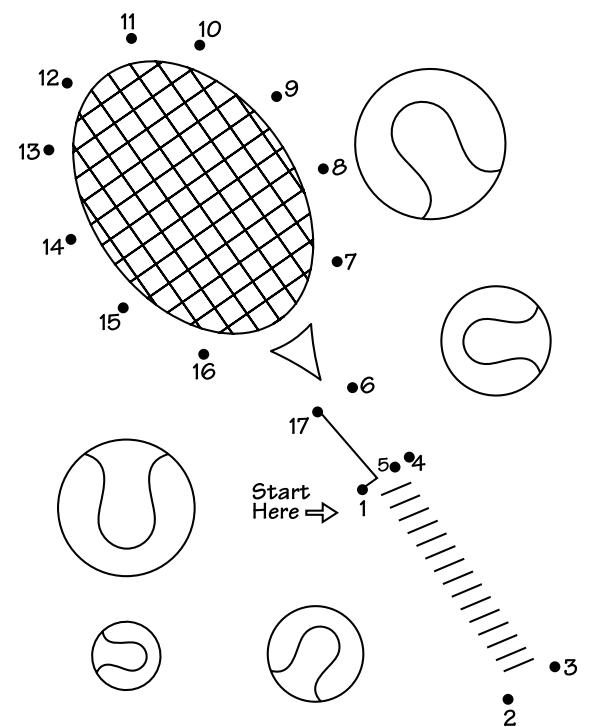
*On her sky-blue cushion
Mittens purrs so loudly
It sounds like a truck engine*

As you can see, anything is possible! The only limits are those of your imagination. Do you want to read some poetry for inspiration? Go to the library or bookstore with your parents and look for poetry books for children. Happy reading!

Make a mandala



DOT TO DOT



Are you going through a difficult time? Write a poem to express your emotions; it may help you feel better.



10 tips for being a good friend

Cultivating long-lasting friendships takes time and commitment. Here are a few simple tips to help you make friends.

1. Pay attention and listen to them when they tell you something
2. Share with them
3. Keep their secrets
4. Periodically call or video chat them
5. Never talk behind their back
6. Support and encourage them if they're going through a tough time
7. Console them if they're sad
8. Invite them to spend time with you

9. Celebrate important events with them like their birthday and holidays
10. Apologize if you hurt their feelings

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Week of SEPTEMBER 1 TO 7, 2024

The luckiest signs this week:
SCORPIO, SAGITTARIUS AND CAPRICORN

- 
ARIES
 You'll have a lot of work and urgent details to sort out at home and work this week. Don't hesitate to ask your family for help. They'll be happy to lend a hand!
- 
TAURUS
 Well-meaning friends might invite you to exercise regularly to stay in shape over winter. This will help you feel good about yourself and stay healthy.
- 
GEMINI
 This week, you'll devote your time to your home and family. You'll decorate your space how you like and be happy with the results. The New Moon will bring action into your life.
- 
CANCER
 You'll be on the go this week or play taxi driver for your nearest and dearest, which will take some time. You'll also spend time talking on the phone and being active on social media. You'll be curious and easy to talk to.
- 
LEO
 A mountain of files awaits you at work. This will cause some stress but bring in much-needed extra income, so you may need to double-check some invoices.
- 
VIRGO
 Your friends will want to go shopping with you. Although you'll suggest various activities, you may end up going on an adventure on your own. You could play a sport or do another fun activity.
- 
LIBRA
 Take a step back to relax and gain a better perspective. This will help you determine how to make your personal or professional life more interesting.
- 
SCORPIO
 Your friends may ask you to join them for a relaxing weekend retreat, or your partner could take you on a romantic getaway. Either way, you'll have fun in a rejuvenating atmosphere.
- 
SAGITTARIUS
 You might be given new responsibilities at work, requiring a few extra hours to complete your projects. However, this could lead to better job opportunities in the future.
- 
CAPRICORN
 A training course suggested by your boss will open doors to a more promising future, with possible advancement after graduation. A celebratory trip is in the cards. Lots of fun ahead!
- 
AQUARIUS
 September is a time for new beginnings — a new school year for students and a return to work for others. Take this opportunity to think about what you want to do with your life and start working toward it.
- 
PISCES
 You'll be responsible for organizing a big event despite feeling uncomfortable in crowds. This will show you that stepping outside your comfort zone can help you succeed and accomplish your goals.

Coffee Break

CROSSWORDS

PUZZLE NO. 179

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13				14			
15			16				17			
18			19				20			
			21				22			
23	24	25			26			27	28	29
30				31				32		
33			34				35			
			36	37			38			
39	40				41			42	43	44
45					46				47	
48					49				50	
51					52				53	

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- ACROSS**
- Saucepan
 - Manhandle
 - Celebrity
 - Wood chopper
 - And
 - Be sympathetic
 - Ballpoint, e.g.
 - Mementos
 - Responds
 - Fold
 - Rustic shelter
 - Modernize
 - Bird's noise
 - Failure
 - Oath
 - Mom's sister
 - Dense mist
 - Slangy assent
 - Through
 - Derby, e.g.
 - Catch ___ winks
 - Unlatch
 - Often-dried fruit
- DOWN**
- Mama's spouse
 - Farm animals
 - Perfect scores
 - Cosmetics
 - Observant
 - Employs
 - Sever
 - Burn with hot water
 - Gain control: 2 wds.
 - Domain
 - Relax
 - More skilled
 - Tropical fruits
 - Applaud
 - Bitter anger
 - Scoundrel
 - Important times
 - Quiche, e.g.
 - Terminations
 - Sensed
 - Depressed
 - Hastened
 - Hone
 - Floor covering
 - Beret, e.g.
 - Tinge
 - Registered
 - Speck
 - Type of bran
 - Common question
 - Loyal admirer
 - Type of exercise
 - Thyme, e.g.
 - Best
 - Pares
 - Deadly
 - Feel pain
 - "Since You've ___ Gone"
 - Naked
 - Nibbles
 - Opera feature
 - Garden starter
 - Game official, for short

Sudoku

PUZZLE NO. 904

8				4				
					2	6		
7	6					3		
3			9		6	5		1
				1	5			2
		1	7	2		9		6
		3						
2					8			
1						2	4	

HOW TO PLAY:

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

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

Last Issue's Answers

CROSSWORDS

S	O	P	S		A	S	S		S	C	A	M			
E	V	I	L		I	N	N		T	A	C	O			
M	E	N	U		D	U	O		U	S	E	D			
I	N	T	R	O		B	U	R	N	T					
					P	A	S	T	E		A	N	D		
A	M	B	L	E	D				A	N	N	I	E		
S	I	R	E	N	S			A	P	I	E	C	E		
P	L	A	T	E				W	I	L	T	E	D		
S	K	I			R	A	V	E	N						
					D	I	S	C	O		G	U	S	T	O
S	H	I	N			R	I	P			R	O	A	D	
H	U	N	K			I	C	E			G	I	L	D	
E	G	G	S			D	E	W			E	L	L	S	

Sudoku

1	7	4	5	8	9	6	2	3
9	5	2	3	7	6	1	4	8
8	6	3	1	2	4	9	5	7
3	9	8	6	1	5	2	7	4
2	1	7	8	4	3	5	9	6
5	4	6	7	9	2	3	8	1
7	8	9	2	3	1	4	6	5
6	2	1	4	5	8	7	3	9
4	3	5	9	6	7	8	1	2



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