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SIR-WILFRID-LAURIE
 R SCHOOL BOARD



Di Sano ready for new role

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Honouring former Canadian Armed Forces soldiers

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New library in Saint-François



Officials with the City of Laval, as well as from the provincial and federal governments are seen on a walkway at the new Espace citoyen des Confluents in Saint-François beneath the sculpture created by Ludovic Boney. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)

Remembrance Day parade



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Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News

A trumpeter plays The Last Post during the City of Laval's Remembrance Day commemoration on Nov. 9.

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Leadership torch passes on to James Di Sano at Laurier School Board

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“Today, we stand on the brink of change. Recent events have cast a shadow over our board, challenging our values. But make no mistake—our resolve has never been stronger. This moment calls for courage, accountability, equity, and a renewed commitment to our mission.”

With these words, former commissioner James Di Sano launched Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board on paths of renewal, resurgence, reform and change in his new role of Board Chairman, elected November 3, 2024 and sworn into office this past week as family, friends, and the 12-member Council of Commissioners looked on approvingly.



Chairman James Di Sano sealing the deal with Director-General Russell Copeman. (Photo Martin Alarie)

Russell Copeman, SWLSB Director-General, officiated for Chairman Di Sano and the 12 commissioners, seven of whom were acclaimed, two elected, and three designated as parent-representatives. He congratulated the Council, acknowledging the importance of its work towards moving forward to new chapters of school-board-governance.

In his address to Council, to on-line observers, and audience present, Di Sano underscored a need for action and transformation, in view of concerns emerging from recent controversial incidents revolving around the outgoing administration, pledging to confront the challenges head-on.

Listening, learning, leading

“We will not shy away from issues that demand attention. I am committed to leading a board that listens, learns, and leads by example. This is the dawn of a new chapter for Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board, defined by integrity, resilience, equity, and deep dedication to students.”

The Board, Di Sano emphasized, is more than the sum of its challenges. In his view, it's a community rooted in strength-and-resilience, driven by passionate educators, dedication of parents, and the promise made to each child. “This administration is here to serve with honesty, uphold democratic values, advance equity, and protect our students' right to quality English education.”

To parents, staff, students, and supporters, he promised positive change toward a stronger future, pointing to better days ahead. “Together, we will turn this moment into a movement for excellence, integrity, and inclusivity.”

“As we embark on this path, remember we do not walk alone. We are supported by a community that values education, by parents who dream of a better future for their children, by teachers dedicated to igniting young minds, and by students who look to us for guidance and inspiration. This is a new generation and a new page for much needed change. While we may not always agree on how to move forward, we must be committed to moving forward.”

Adding to his acknowledgement of what lies ahead, Di Sano spared no energy in thanking everyone for their trust. “I do not take this responsibility lightly. I'll do my best for everyone. To my supporters, I am so very grateful. To those who challenge me, I'll do all I can to hear their voices and address their concerns.”

Road map to change

Regarding his take on some immediate needs that must be addressed, Di Sano outlined a road map to the next three months. “In the first 100 days of service, I will study, analyze, and assess the structure that currently handcuffs the delivery of the best education possible for children whose families depend on us for good governance.

“Our school board and other English-school-boards are top heavy in administrative numbers and cost. I will seek advice from educational experts who will contribute to new structures where human resources redundancy is abolished and responsibilities are streamlined to where they will make the delivery of education substantially more cost-effective.

“The Board will implement a Policy for Substitute Teachers possessing Bachelor's degrees who have been providing many years of loyal, professional service to students, often under difficult circumstances. This mandatory policy for all schools, will ensure fairness and eliminate questionable practices brought to our attention by substitute teachers.”

Revealing that he's learned of families in Laurier Board territory home-schooling their children, for many reasons - pedagogical, religious, or health challenges, Di Sano specified that he's personally concerned about this development. “I am committed to enhancing and improving relations with these families so that we can provide quality services to home-schoolers in cooperative efforts to do what's best for the children involved and for all stakeholders, especially taxpayers.”

Gladly accepting the mantle of leadership, Chairman Di Sano proposed an action plan of stronger learning foundations and solid frameworks that will promote educational success, self-confidence, and high-self-esteem for all students, in an environment of transparent and accountable financial practices.

Honour, humour, and humility

Former SWLSB principal Cliff Buckland told TLN that he attended the ceremony in honour of “this new generation - one which will bring



The Council of Commissioners ready to meet the new challenges. (Photo Martin Alarie)

important changes, new-and-better ways of doing things at the Board.”

In concluding light moments, TLN tested the Chairman's knowledge and sense of humour.”Mr. Chairman, would you know who's the youngest active Chairperson in Québec and Canada?”

Response, “I hope I am.” Correct! “Can you tell us what size is the SWLSB territory in comparison to Canadian provinces?” Pausing with effect, he answered “I didn't know that, thanks for telling me,” when told, it's Prince Edward Island. Ah yes, humility and humour are fine qualities in a leader.



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OPINION & Editorial



Laurier Board Chairperson Di Sano ready to lead and serve

He wasn't on the ballot just because he wanted to be elected, James Di Sano clearly declared following his recent election as Chairperson of Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board (SWLSB). "I was on the ballot because I really wanted to make a difference."

James Di Sano is now at the helm of Québec's third largest of the nine English boards that are carrying the load for the preservation of what they say is the constitutional right of school boards to manage the English-language schools of the territories they serve.

For SWLSB, the territory is about as large as Prince Edward Island, stretching from the Rivière des Prairies to Mont-Laurier.

James Di Sano, at 27-years-of-age, sworn into office November 13, 2024, becomes one of the youngest, if not the youngest, active Chairpersons elected in Québec and Canada. A proactive youth, he was one of the two youngest members of the SWLSB Council of Commissioners for six years, learning-on-the-job, serving on multiple committees, rare action at such a young age.

The way Di Sano tells it, in the spring he felt a calling from the community to offer to lead the way towards serving all public education stakeholders in the Laval, Lanaudière, Laurentides regions. He now finds himself with a four-year mandate to see the school board through the need for what he calls deep reflection, significant reform, and uplifting renewal.

The election of a young person to such a high level of local democratic leadership begs the question of what makes a great leader, and why competent younger leaders are more crucial now than ever. Can Di Sano set the stage for what is to come and how he will steer the school board into new and progressive direction?

In his remarkable journey that captured hearts and minds of peers and community, Di Sano has shown that he is dynamic and passionate; at just 27, he has already demonstrated exceptional abilities to inspire and lead, proving that age is no barrier to meaningful impact. His election should inspire every young person in Laval,

the province, the country, solidifying youth empowerment toward enhancing education and promoting good governance, causes he has championed as commissioner of SWLSB. His win signifies what's to come in the next generation.

This incoming generation must represent the voices of students and stakeholders clamoring to influence policies that will address their needs. It's a chance to drive inclusion, meaningful youth participation, and tailored interventions in search of better strategies - opportunities for personal growth, leadership development, and challenging young men and women to lead.

Dedication to serving students and community and willingness to connect with and mobilize peers and colleagues are qualities brought to SWLSB by this new leadership.

But lest they get ahead of themselves, they must be aware that adversity comes upon all leaders as they may stumble, suffer family tragedies, face off-the-rails employment challenges - crucible moments that make some people fall apart, never to recover. But there are others who work like hell to put themselves back together, stronger than ever.

Perhaps it would benefit the community's young leaders to balance idealism with realism. Some people are willing to put in years of hard work to make good things happen. Chairperson Di Sano devoted six years as commissioner at the school board, participating extensively in-and-out of that arena, an inspiration to others for willing to gut it out. Some of the rough times of those years equipped him to confront the challenges of rising to leadership, as he continues to face biases and dismissive attitudes towards him because of age. Many young people, with the potential to contribute meaningfully to making things better, fail to do it because they are oblivious of this capacity to effect change. Thus, as a successful role model, young DiSano will undoubtedly make more young people aware of their potential for leadership and their capacity for contributing to positive change.

Resilience and determination earned Di Sano, respect and admiration of all who witnessed his rise to leadership. Looking ahead, he now must put-in-motion several key initiatives alongside the Director General and the members of Council of Commissioners.

No doubt the key priorities are to enforce platforms and policies of benefit to students, teachers, community, to share knowledge and experiences, and deliver on his promises to advocate for SWLSB's many communities.

Stepping into his new role, Di Sano carries the hopes and dreams of countless young people who see in him a reflection of their own potential, the powerful reminder that with passion, perseverance, and clear vision, young people can become leaders in transforming their communities and the world around them.

It's important that the older generation can lend real, critical support to younger generations to prepare them for what's coming - sharpening them, and forming alliances. It appears that young Di Sano is fortunate enough and appreciative to have that support. The younger generations ought to run the show; and manage organizations, including the SWLSB Chairmanship. But older generations can bring wisdom and experience to the table. So, there's much to be said for multi-generational alliances.

Di Sano seems to understand that successful leadership rests heavily on the reality that the person doing the leading is actually putting some personal needs at risk, engaging in forms of sacrifice based on willingness to serve. If you're in the public arena, you're subject to withering criticism from left and right. Getting into the arena comes with a price, but a price worth paying.

Self-described as short-term-pessimist but long-term-optimist, Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board Chairman James Di Sano is aware of the challenge which he welcomes wholeheartedly, ready to serve.

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Laval hikes spending for water and floods in 2025-2027 PTI budget

‘The goal is to reduce the risks for our citizens,’ says Mayor Stéphane Boyer

In tabling their latest triennial investment plan (PTI) for the years 2025-2027, officials with the City of Laval emphasized that they remain aware of the impact of climate change, while saying they plan to vigilantly make sure that taxpayer’ money is spent in a targeted and appropriate fashion.

\$1.72 billion PTI budget

According to a summary of the PTI issued by the city late last week, Laval will spend \$1.72 billion on capital works investment projects over the next three years, with \$100 million set aside for



projects to deal specifically with flood water management issues. “We are presenting a plan that is responsible, to better be able to face the future,” said Mayor Stéphane Boyer, alluding to the major floods that assailed Laval earlier this year.

“We lived it: the climate disruptions have a real cost for our citizens, but also for the municipal administration. It is for that reason that we are substantially accelerating our investments in prevention and resilience from floods, with an envelope of an additional \$100 million.

Current and future needs

“Even if it is impossible to protect ourselves from all the consequences from natural catastrophes, the goal is to accelerate the works allowing for the reduction of risks linked to overflowing sewers and floods. This follows an increase in investments in the repair and maintenance of our infrastructures since 2021. The goal is to reduce the risks for our citizens.”

He said the City of Laval’s PTI 2025-2027 investment budget was planned following a rigorous analysis of current as well as future needs, along with a vision of future development that was “realistic and lucid,” Boyer added.

The mayor said that the city’s plan is to pursue major projects now underway, without taking on any new ones, “to allow us to allot a growing amount of our investments to the maintenance

of our streets and our water management networks.”

Some of the measures

Among the Boyer administration’s targeted plans for better water management and flood control:

- Fast-tracking sewer and waterworks rehabilitation, while prioritizing more vulnerable sectors of the city;
- Adding more power generators to pumping stations;
- Construction of more flood-control dikes
- Construction of more retention basins, drainage ponds, “sponge” streets, and rain drainage gardens;
- Reduction of the impact of floods on riversides, by stabilizing 9 km along the edge of the Rivière des Mille-Îles;

Other PTI projects

The overall three-year PTI budget will be spent in segments of \$594 million in 2025, \$611 million in 2026 and \$510 in 2027. Apart from water management and flood protection, the budget will also be spent on the following:

- \$85.9 million for reconstruction of streets and sidewalks;
- \$54.5 million for the purchase of lands;
- \$50.5 million for maintenance of parks and public spaces;
- \$38.1 to support and improve sustainable modes of transportation.

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Laval-des-Rapides MNA Haytayan named president of CAQ's Laval caucus

She will represent the caucus at public consultations and events

MARTIN C. BARRY

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Since the beginning of this month, the Coalition Avenir Québec's four-member Laval-area caucus has had a new president: Laval-des-Rapides MNA Céline Haytayan.



Haytayan takes over a role most recently filled by Vimont CAQ MNA Valérie Schmalz.

Will help support Skeete

Traditionally, members of the Quebec National Assembly from Laval form a caucus, based on their party allegiance, to better coordinate local efforts.

The CAQ currently holds four of Laval's six National Assembly seats (Sainte-Rose, Fabre,

Vimont and Laval-des-Rapides), while the Liberals (who used to dominate the region) have two (Chomedey and Mille-Îles).

According to a statement issued by Mathieu Machabée, a political attaché at Haytayan's constituency office, Haytayan's role will include providing strong support to Sainte-Rose MNA Christopher Skeete, who is delegated Minister for the Economy and minister responsible for the Laval region in the Legault cabinet, as well as to regional attaché Dominique Talbot.

'To answer the needs'

"It's noteworthy that madam Haytayan will be called upon to represent the caucus during consultations and public events," said the statement.

"As she is up to date on numerous dossiers since her election in October 2022, the new president is anxious to deal along with her colleagues on regional priorities, while coordinating governmental actions with one goal in mind: to answer the needs of the citizens of Laval."

Skeete said, "The nomination of madam Céline Haytayan as president of the caucus of MNAs from Laval is excellent news for our region. Her leadership and her devotion towards all men and women in Laval will be major assets to ensure efficient representation of local issues."

A large and dynamic region

"I am greatly pleased to be working with her in order to continue to answer to the needs of our citizens, while pushing forward regional projects," he added.

"I am very taken up with the idea of presiding the caucus of CAQ MNAs from Laval," Haytayan responded. "We represent a large and dynamic region where there are many projects, lots of talent and expertise."

"I have agreed with my energetic colleagues to revalidate our priorities while encouraging even more exchanges with local decision-makers from all domains in order to continue to improve the lives of everyone in Laval," said Haytayan.

Planned shutdown of the City of Laval's computer systems on November 23 and 24

The City of Laval will carry out a planned shutdown of its computer systems on the weekend of November 23 and 24, 2024, making several of its digital services temporarily inaccessible. This operation will make it possible to carry out maintenance work to improve and secure the City's technological infrastructure.

During this period, the majority of the digital services offered by the City will be interrupted. These include:

- the citizen portal My File;
 - the permit payment platform;
 - payment services for statements of offence.
- Laval residents will have to anticipate their online procedures and, if necessary, use:
- municipal counters in person;
 - customer service by phone at 311.

The City's technical teams will do everything possible to completely restore digital services from 25 November. The City of Laval thanks its residents for their understanding and collaboration.



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Laval unveils new agricultural zone development strategy for 2024-2030

City hopes to strike a proper balance between farming and urban growth



Officials from the City of Laval, the provincial government and local agricultural producers gathered at the Château Taillefer Lafon in Laval-Ouest to unveil the city's new PDZA 2024-2030 agri-zone policy. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)

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With a history closely connected to farming for hundreds of years – although urban development now takes up 70 per cent of Laval's territory – the city is hoping to strike a reasonable balance between the two with a new agricultural zone development policy to be implemented over the next five years.

Safeguarding farmlands

The new policy, known within Laval's urban planning department as PDZA 2024-2030, was formally launched at a splashy media event held appropriately at the campus of one of Laval's remaining agri-businesses: the Château Taillefer Lafon cidery/winery on Montée Champagne between Sainte-Dorothée and Laval-Ouest.

The plan was also tabled and approved by Laval city council three days earlier. Laval has some of the richest agricultural land in eastern Canada and it is still renowned for its market gardening.

You have only to take a Sunday afternoon drive during the summer or autumn around areas such as Laval-Ouest, the vast Saint-François district or Sainte-Dorothée to see the vegetable stalls and just how present farming still is on Laval's territory.

▶ Continued on page 9






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Farming versus development

But over the past 60 years since the City of Laval's creation from a patchwork of rural towns and villages, the amount of farmland used for cultivation purposes has been steadily eroded by an ongoing stream of urbanization.

Although this may be far more lucrative in the short term for landowners – who pocket lump sums from developers while often giving up their ancestral land heritage – and the city, who earn a lot more in tax revenue on properties after they are developed – for some it's a policy that's more short-sighted in the long run.

From time to time in Laval city council, amidst the regular complaints from home owners and businesses, representatives of the ever-diminishing number of farmers still working in



Thirty per cent of Laval's territory remains rural and agricultural and the city says it wants to keep it that way. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)

Laval turn up to complain about how they feel squeezed out of the picture. Hopefully, PDZA 2024-1030 will be the answer.

Rejuvenating local farming

According to a summary of the new plan issued by the city, the goal is to make agriculture a sustainable (i.e. self-supporting) activity, while identifying related projects and orientations for the next five years. In all, 30 per cent of Laval's territory (7,000 hectares) is still used for farming and the city wants to keep it that way – partly by strengthening farming's local economic importance.

In addition to its still considerable economic impact, what remains of farming in Laval is also seen as a fundamental part of the overall strategy for providing food security in the greater Montreal region.

The city notes that in spite of agriculture's diminished importance in Laval's development scheme, there are still 119 farms left operating, which employ 1,500 people. More significantly, farming in Laval is worth \$92 million in revenue annually.

'An essential element,' Boyer says

Another apparent aim of the new policy, according to a statement issued by Mayor Stéphane Boyer, is to bring agricultural lands which have been inactive for years or even decades back into cultivation so they can serve a sustainably useful purpose.

"Agriculture is an essential element in the identity of Laval, and PDZA 2024-2030 will be putting flesh on this vision," Mayor Boyer said in the statement.

Key elements of PDZA 2024-2030 include:

- **Improved access to farmland** through the consolidation and recultivation of agricultural fields in order to expand the amount of available farming space in Laval.

- **Encouraging local agriculture and agrotourism**, by promoting local production and consumption of farm products along with the economic development of local agricultural enterprises.
- **Development of diversified and innovative agricultural businesses**, including those that produce using sheltered and enclosed cultivation methods, which (according to the city) is a sector in full expansion and in which Laval is a leader on a national scale.

A suburban dilemma

Among suburban Canadian municipalities, the City of Laval is by no means unique in having had to develop a policy to strike a balance between its earlier rural roots and rapidly accelerated urban growth, while existing on the fringe of a major metropolis.

In Ontario, the City of Mississauga, which was once a relatively small and largely rural suburb of Toronto, grew exponentially since the late 1960s from 107,000 to more than 720,000 inhabitants now.

Like their counterparts in Laval (pop. 443,000 and growing), officials with the City of Mississauga decided to implement an Urban Agricultural Strategy to increase access to healthy food, diversify food sources and build community relationships.

City of Mississauga's plan

The strategy includes actions such as:

- Encouraging urban agriculture
- Removing barriers to urban agriculture
- Enabling urban agriculture

As well, the Regional Municipality of Peel (which includes Mississauga) decided to implement policies that support agriculture, including:

- Protecting agricultural land
- Supporting the agri-food network
- Enhancing support for urban agriculture



According to Laval mayor Stéphane Boyer, "agriculture is an essential element in the identity of Laval." (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)

Laval Unveils

A Cultural Centre for the Community

A New Cultural Facility

New Wave of Culture in Laval

Downtown Laval is continuing its major transformation, with a flagship project that will become a hub of knowledge for the entire population and a pillar for the art community.

These new facilities, which will include a modern central library and a centre for professional artistic creation, will be built in the Montmorency sector, close to the metro and bus routes as well as to educational and cultural institutions. It is scheduled to open in 2027.



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A place for knowledge and creativity

The central library, with its collection of 200,000 documents, will be a place for sharing knowledge. It will also feature a 200-seat auditorium and video game zones, in addition to a toy and games library as well as digital and technological creation spaces accessible to all Laval residents. Alongside it, the centre for professional artistic creation, managed by the Regroupement d'organismes culturels et d'artistes lavallois (ROCAL), will offer multi-purpose creative studios, artist residencies and exhibition space.



A vision for Laval's future

This project is part of a greater transformation of the downtown area, designed to create a connected, resilient and future-oriented living environment. With the support of government partners, notably the *Ministère de la Culture et des Communications* and the *Ministère de l'Environnement*, Ville de Laval is making its ambitious vision of sustainable, cultural development a reality.

The new cultural facilities symbolize the vibrancy and vitality of a rapidly expanding city, where culture and innovation combine to build a greener, more creative and more inclusive future.

Canadian land border crossings will no longer be

open 24 hours in Quebec

Travellers planning to enter Canada by land could bump their noses at a closed door as early as January 6, 2025



(NEWSFIRST) - On Monday, November 18, The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) announced that it intends to adjust hours of service at 35 land ports of entry across Canada as of 12:01 am (local time) on January 6, 2025.

The announcement, determined in collaboration with the United States, will enhance overall security for both countries. It will allow the CBSA to use its resources more efficiently by deploying officers at busier ports of entry. This will support the CBSA's ability to process travellers and goods as well as to manage enforcement activities.

The U.S. is also adjusting service hours at many of its ports of entry. This alignment will also

allow both countries to return inadmissible travellers and goods to the other country, which is more difficult when one side of the border is closed while the other remains open.

These adjustments are based on an analysis of operational pressures, peak periods, and services required at the ports of entry, to minimize the impacts on border communities. Almost all of these ports of entry are processing an average of two or less cars or commercial trucks per hour during the hours that will no longer be in operation, and travellers have an alternative border crossing option within a 100 km radius.

Here are the border crossings whose hours of operation will be modified for travellers as of January 6, 2025:

Chartierville
Currently open to travellers from **8 a.m. to midnight**, 7 days a week
New schedule for passengers: **8 a.m. to 8 p.m.**, 7 days a week

Clarenceville
Currently open to travellers from **8 a.m. to 8 p.m.**, 7 days a week
New schedule for passengers: **8 a.m. to 4 p.m.**, 7 days a week

Frelighsburg
Currently **open 24 hours** for travellers, 7 days a week
New schedule for passengers: **8 a.m. to 8 p.m.**, 7 days a week

Herdman
Currently **open 24 hours** for travellers, 7 days a week
New schedule for travellers: **6 a.m. to 6 p.m.**, 7 days a week

Hereford Road
Currently **open 24 hours** for travellers, 7 days a week
New schedule for passengers: **8 a.m. to 8 p.m.**, 7 days a week

Highwater
Currently **open 24 hours** for travellers, 7 days a week
New schedule for passengers: **8 a.m. to 8 p.m.**, 7 days a week

Lacolle Route 221
Currently **open 24 hours** for travellers, 7 days a week
New schedule for passengers: **6 a.m. to 10 p.m.**, 7 days a week

Lacolle Route 223
Currently **open 24 hours** for travellers, 7 days a week
New schedule for passengers: **8 a.m. to 8 p.m.**, 7 days a week

Noyan
Currently **open 24 hours** for travellers, 7 days a week
New schedule for passengers: **8 a.m. to 8 p.m.**, 7 days a week

Trout River
Currently **open 24 hours** for travellers, 7 days a week
New schedule for travellers: **6 a.m. to 6 p.m.**, 7 days a week

The Laval Christmas Market is back at the Centre de la nature

The popular Christmas Market will once again kick off the holidays in Laval this year and will animate the Centre de la Nature from December 6 to 8 and from December 13 to 15 for a 13th edition. More than 50 local artisans will be on hand to offer you their original products such as delicacies, decorations, jewelry, clothing, beauty products and more.

"The Laval Christmas Market is a must-see event for holiday shopping and encouraging the local economy. Every year, citizens are always there. It's also a great opportunity to rediscover

the Nature Centre in a festive and magical atmosphere! I thank and congratulate our participating local artisans and I invite Laval families to come out in large numbers," mentioned Laval mayor Stéphane Boyer.

For the occasion, the superb wooden houses of the craftsmen and craftswomen will be decorated. Activities for the whole family will also be offered during the two weekends of the event, including a visit from Santa Claus and the Star Fairy, a mini-tree planting activity and animated tales. Food trucks will also be on site to delight visitors.

Additional Information:
marchedenoel.laval.ca
Nature Centre,
901 Park Avenue
Fridays, **December 6 and 13**, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Saturdays, **December 7 and 14**, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Sundays, **December 8 and 15**, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



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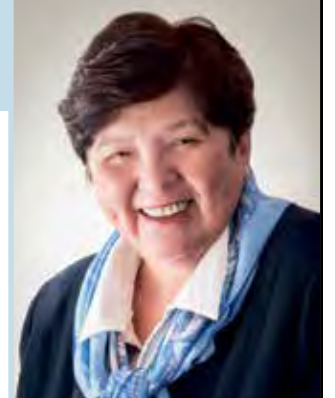
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Laval, H7S 1M9

Where and When

November 23rd, 2024
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Résidence l'Oasis honors six former Canadian Armed Forces soldiers

WWII vets recall combat experiences at Remembrance Day ceremony



MARTIN C. BARRY

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

Six Canadian Forces veterans ranging in age from 70 to more than 100 years were the focus of a special homage during a Remembrance Day commemoration ceremony held at the Résidence l'Oasis de Laval on November 11.

Veterans Lucien Gravel, age 90, Jean-Jacques Lavergne, 99, Jean-Pierre Bureau, 70, Jean Poirier, 89, Daniel Legault, 73, and Ernest Robert, 100, all served with the Canadian Forces in a variety of capacities – including defence and combat operations during World War II.

Every year, the seniors' retirement residence holds a Remembrance Day ceremony.

During a video presentation, several of the veterans recounted their World War II combat experiences.

These included close brushes with death, but sometimes also regrets over the hardships and trauma they endured and saw inflicted on others as a result of warfare.

Seen here seated, Canadian Forces veterans Lucien Gravel, age 90, Jean-Jacques Lavergne, 99, Jean-Pierre Bureau, 70, Jean Poirier, 89, Daniel Legault, 73, and Ernest Robert, 100, are with Royal Canadian Legion Branch 251 members Chuck Washburn, Barbara Vezina and Pat Vezina during Résidence l'Oasis's Remembrance Day service on Nov. 11. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)



They fought for their country. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)

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Dignitaries pay their respects at Laval War Cenotaph for Remembrance Day

Laval's mayor, MNAs and MPs deposit wreaths in memory of fallen soldiers



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MARTIN C. BARRY

*Local Journalism Initiative Reporter for The Laval News
marty@newsfirst.ca*

Members of the Canadian Forces, including soldiers from the Royal 22nd Regiment's Fourth Bataillon, as well as Air, Sea and Army Cadets and Royal Canadian Legion members, joined dignitaries and citizens paying their respects on Nov. 9 at a Remembrance Day commemoration at the newly-located Laval War Cenotaph.

Monument relocated

In a change from tradition this year, the Cenotaph was relocated to a place outside a City of Laval administrative building on Chomedey Blvd., from its usual spot on Souvenir Blvd. a short distance from Laval City Hall, because

of excavation work taking place there in recent months.

Among the dignitaries depositing wreaths at the base of the monument were Liberal MPs Annie Koutrakis and Angelo Iacono, as well as CAQ MNAs Céline Haytayan, Valérie Schmaltz and Christopher Skeete.

Mayor and councillor pay respects

Laval Mayor Stéphane Boyer deposited a wreath on behalf of the municipality. Laval city councillor for Souvenir-Labelle Sandra El-Helou was also among the dignitaries attending the ceremony.

▶ Continued on page 15



Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News

Representatives of the Canadian Armed Forces, the 4th Bataillon Royal 22nd, Legion Branch 251, the Navy/Army/Aviation Cadets, the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board (SWLSB) and the Centre de services scolaire de Laval (CSDL) deposited wreaths to pay their respects to soldiers who died or were maimed while defending their country.



A Canadian Forces soldier stands in position as a sentry observing vigil at the City of Laval's War Cenotaph, relocated this year to a spot on Chomedey Blvd. outside an administrative building. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)



Laval mayor Stéphane Boyer deposits a commemorative wreath at the base of the city's War Cenotaph on Nov. 9. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)



Cadets march past the military reviewing stand at the conclusion of this year's Remembrance Day ceremony. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)



Laval Liberal MPs Angelo Iacono and Annie Koutrakis deposited wreaths at the base of the War Cenotaph. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)



Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News

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Con U pitches in for breast cancer research with 'Pink in the Rink'

MARTIN C. BARRY

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marty@newsfirst.ca

City's fundraising efforts on behalf of women's breast cancer research now includes hockey enthusiasts at Montreal's Concordia University. Pink in the City partnered with the Concordia Stingers women's and men's hockey teams last

A growing army of supporters for Pink in the



Pink in the City supporters came from Chomedey to take part in the Pink in the Rink event last weekend at Concordia University.



The official dropping of the puck to start off the Concordia Stingers men's team exhibition match last weekend.

weekend for a "Pink in the Rink" campaign event to support Pink in the City's breast cancer fundraising journey.

The Stingers are now a valued part of the Pink in the City family, says Pink in the City co-founder Denise Vourtzoumis, a longtime Chomedey resident and business owner.

A common cause

"The collaboration highlights the importance

of giving back and promoting community involvement, something that both Pink in the City and the Stingers are deeply passionate about," she said in a social media post prior to the Pink in the Rink event.

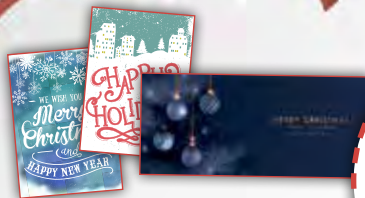
She said that together with a shared love for sport and commitment to making a difference, "we aim to raise awareness and funds to benefit the wellness program at the breast clinic of the Royal Victoria Hospital."



Pink in the City co-founder Denise Vourtzoumis (centre) is seen here with supporters from the Concordia Stingers women's team during the Pink in the Rink event held at the university's Loyola campus in Montreal last weekend.

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This initiative is made possible through the Centre intégré de santé et services sociaux de Laval with funding from The Community Health and Social Services Network and Health Canada.

Canada Post strike creates uncertainty for small business before holidays, CFIB says

Nearly 80% of small enterprises rely on Canada Post to do business, according to federation

MARTIN C. BARRY

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Nearly a week into the Canada Post strike, the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) says it is disappointed by the work stoppage's impact on small businesses and it is urging Canada Post and the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) to quickly come to an agreement to avoid further disruption as the country heads into the holiday shopping season.

According to CFIB spokesperson Dariya Baiguzhiyeva, three quarters of Canada's small firms say they stand to be negatively affected by the work stoppage, particularly with challenges to cash flow due to delayed invoices and cheques and higher cost delivery alternatives.

Small business suffering

The CFIB is urging Canada Post and the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) to quickly come to an agreement.

"While many Canadians may not depend on Canada Post as much as they once did, small businesses often rely on the postal system to ship goods, send marketing materials to consumers, send invoices and receive payments from suppliers and business customers," the CFIB said in a statement.

"With the critical holiday shopping season around the corner and limited alternatives in many parts of Canada, avoiding a postal disruption is important," the federation said.

They depend on Canada Post

According to a recent CFIB Flash Survey (Impact of Work Stoppages), a strong majority (79%) of small businesses rely on Canada Post services to do business.

Three quarters (75%) of small firms said they will be negatively affected by a work stoppage, particularly with challenges to cash flow due to delayed invoices and cheques and higher cost delivery alternatives.

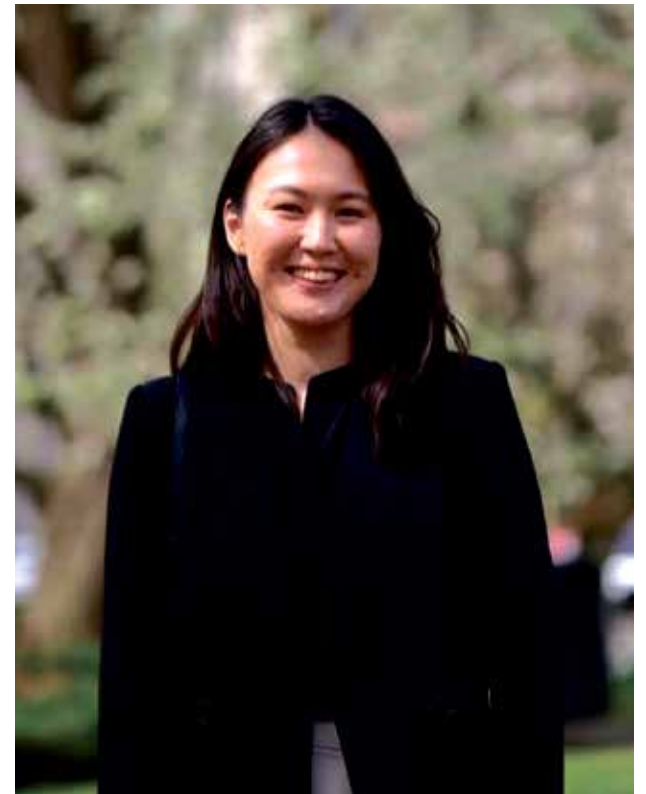
The federation points out that small firms depend on a reliable postal service, and they need mail and parcel delivery service provided by Canada Post to remain fully operational.

"We're asking both parties to negotiate in good faith and reach a quick resolution for the sake of Canadian small businesses and consumers," the CFIB statement continued.

Back-to-work legislation

"And as the federal government has ignored almost every attempt by Canada Post to deal with its unwieldy cost structures, CFIB will call on government to use all its powers (including binding arbitration or back-to-work legislation) to keep the postal system working if negotiations are unsuccessful"

In the online survey, which has been active since November 13, the number of respondents was 1,461. The CFIB says that for comparison purposes, a probability sample with the same number of respondents would have a margin of error of at most +/- 2.6%, 19 times out of 20.



CFIB spokesperson, Dariya Baiguzhiyeva.

The CRA has zero tolerance for fraud

(NEWSFIRST) - Whether it be a threat from external bad actors, or taxpayers willfully submitting fraudulent returns, the CRA is standing on guard.

Protecting taxpayer accounts

In today's increasingly digital world, safeguarding sensitive information against constantly evolving threats is critical for every organization, including the CRA. The protection of taxpayer information remains one of our highest priorities. Recognizing that even with our robust security controls, we, like many large organizations, are not immune to privacy breaches, and we recognize the worry and frustration this can cause for those affected.

The CRA has a wide array of security measures to protect the personal information of Canadians, and to shutdown would-be fraudsters. That said, bad actors are continually evolving their tactics and so we must be vigilant in adapting to stay one step ahead.

In fact, since 2020, the CRA has implemented numerous security measures, technologies, processes and controls to ensure the security of taxpayer information including multi-factor authentication throughout CRA login services, and proactively revoking user IDs and passwords that may have been obtained by unauthorized third parties through external sources.

We have been successful in protecting hundreds of thousands of fraudulent attempts to gain access to personal and business taxpayer accounts.

When we suspect an account is the target of an external threat actor, we take swift and immediate precautionary measures on the taxpayer's account such as locking it to prevent transactions, conducting in-depth reviews, and contacting the individuals. The CRA formally notifies the affected individuals and provides credit protection, where warranted, at no cost to them.

Taxpayers who are confirmed victims of identity theft are not held responsible for any money paid out to scammers nor penalties or interest related to fraudulent claims.

The CRA has processes in place to report all material privacy breaches to Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat (TBS) and the Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada (OPC).

The CRA is prevented from commenting on taxpayer information obtained from compromised third parties, due to privacy protections found in the Income Tax Act.

Fraudulent tax returns

The vast majority of Canadians are honest, law abiding taxpayers. As such, Canada's tax system is based on voluntary compliance and self-assessment. Individual taxpayers are responsible for ensuring the information they report on their tax returns

is accurate.

Unfortunately, there are those few who believe they are above the rules of society. For that reason, the CRA has strong safeguards in place to catch this small percentage of fraudsters who willfully submit false claims in order to steal funds from the collective purse. Safeguards include automated and manual checks, as well as cooperation with financial institutions, to flag suspicious returns and participants in illegal tax schemes before funds are distributed.

The CRA does not publicly discuss tax schemes utilized by bad actors, to avoid inspiring other would-be fraudsters from following suit.

Taxpayers who claim false expenses, credits or rebates from the government are subject to serious consequences. They are liable not only for corrections to their tax returns and payment of the full amount of tax owing, but also to penalties and interest. They may also face criminal prosecution.

In rare cases where fraudulent funds are paid out, we take every available enforcement action to return the funds to the Crown and hold the offending parties accountable. This includes criminal investigations that could be referred to the RCMP.

Once convicted, tax evaders can face penalties, court fines, and jail time — in addition to having to pay the taxes they tried to evade, plus interest.

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Action Laval activists gathered for annual policy congress

Opposition party leaders confident of winning next year

MARTIN C. BARRY

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter for The Laval News
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Action Laval's interim-leader, Val-des-Arbres city councillor Achille Cifelli, thanked the opposition party's many supporters who turned up at Collège Letendre on Saturday Nov. 9 for an annual policy congress, during which a platform for the next municipal elections was discussed openly.

A show of enthusiasm

In all, according to a statement issued by the party, 30 resolutions were brought forward and adopted over the course of the day.

"I am pleased to see the enthusiasm shown by our activists a year from the elections," said Cifelli.

"Action Laval is a party which plans to consult the population even more," he continued. "Therefore it is only normal for our team to allow its members to openly express their views on our platform in view of the next elections."

A focus on local

Among other things, party members voted for motions to have the city reinvest in infrastructures in Laval's districts, rather than in the downtown core. They also voted to increase and diversify services offered by public transit, and to increase a subsidy for the support at home of persons age 65 and over.

"I am very proud of the work and the serious attitude of our activists, who, like myself, have in their hearts to be able to offer the citizens of Laval a city that respects their priorities," said Cifelli.

Confident of winning

Action Laval's leadership says they feel confident of being able to win the mayoralty race next year (although a candidate hasn't yet been chosen), with a correspondingly high number of city council seats when municipal voters go to the polls on Nov. 2, 2025.

The party's two main platform issues for the time being are fiscal responsibility and consulting residents so as to accurately represent their interests.

Join the STL to fill a bus with food on November 21

(NEWSFIRST) - The Société de transport de Laval (STL) invites the community to the second edition of its food drive for the benefit of the Centre de bénévolat et moisson Laval (CBML). The event will be held at the Le Carrefour terminus on Thursday, November 21 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. We are counting on your generosity to fill a bus full of mutual aid!

An STL team will welcome donors at 3000 Le Carrefour Boulevard to collect non-perishable food items that will be placed on a bus decorated for the occasion. Donations of money and credit cards will also be accepted.

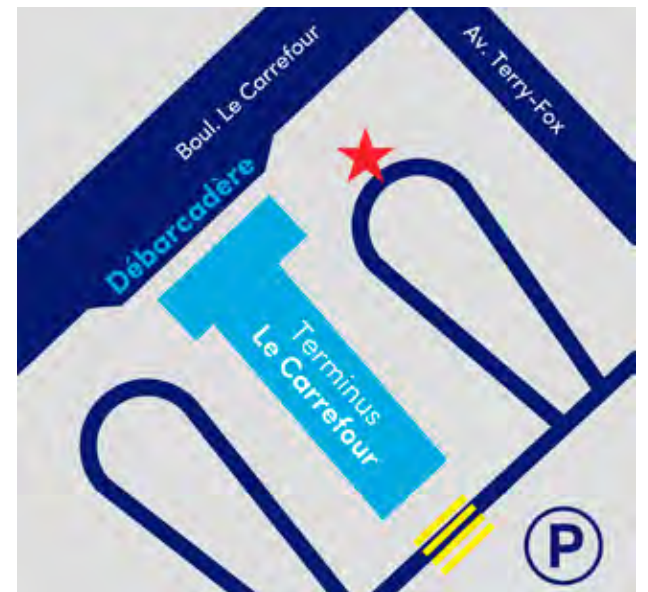
In 2023, the STL's initiative raised 1.23 tonnes of food and nearly \$1,100 to fill the CBML's Christmas baskets. 2,500 families, including 2,000 children, were able to count on a well-filled basket.

Watch a look back at the 2023 edition here:
vimeo.com/889605390

"Building on the success of its first collection last year thanks to the generosity of the community and our employees, the STL is continuing its commitment to supporting Laval families. Once again this year, we invite the community to show solidarity as the holidays approach, and we are convinced that Laval residents and visitors alike will be there," said Josée Roy, STL General Manager.

A first part of the collection is currently taking place with STL employees, which is proud to have supported the Centre de bénévolat et moisson Laval for more than 15 years, notably through the breakfast and snack program in Laval schools.

On November 21st, your food will have a collective impact.



New customer service role at CATSA checkpoints

(NEWSFIRST) - Passengers needing assistance now have access to a bilingual resource, across 16 airports nationwide, to help guide them through the security screening process. Introduced by the Canadian Air Transport Security Authority (CATSA) in July 2024, this new position enhances the client experience by ensuring passengers receive barrier-free services at security screening checkpoints.

Primarily located in the queuing area leading to the checkpoint, Facilitators can be easily recognized by their blue vests with "Need Help/Besoin d'Aide" on the back along with the CATSA logo. They are focused on assisting passengers who need additional help navigating the screening process and act as a complement to existing airport services and those of air carriers. Created as part of new Airport Screening Services Agreements,

which came into effect in April this year, this position aligns with CATSA's Strategic Plan 2024-2029, specifically the Pillar focused on *Elevating the client experience*. By enhancing support for passengers, this role demonstrates CATSA's commitment to delivering high-quality service and improving the overall checkpoint experience for passengers.

"We have already received very positive feedback on the new position from passengers, airport partners and checkpoint staff," said Nada Semaan, CATSA's CEO. "These Facilitators are proving to be a valuable resource, ensuring that passengers who need assistance experience a barrier-free, accessible screening process across 16 of Canada's busiest airports."

CATSA remains dedicated to security, innovation, and making the passenger experience better for everyone.



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New library/community centre opens in Saint-François – Duvernay-Est

\$41 million 'ECC' to serve growing population in Laval's eastern districts

MARTIN C. BARRY

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The residents of Saint-François and Duvernay-Est, two of Laval's largest and most isolated districts, will be able to boast from now that they have one of the city's newest multi-purpose pieces of infrastructure.

The Espace citoyen des Confluents (ECC),

which is located on a soon to be developed green patch in Laval's sprawling but rapidly-expanding east-end, was officially opened by Mayor Stéphane Boyer last Friday evening, along with a few city councillors and members of the Quebec National Assembly.

The Marius-Barbeau branch of the City of Laval's library network, as well as a community centre and offices for the Laval Police Dept.'s Azimut public safety unit, are now all located



From the left, Michel Allen, City of Laval's director of culture, leisure, sports and social development, Isabelle Piché, city councillor for Saint-François, Alice Boulianne, director of the Table de concertation Initiative locale Saint-François en action, Mayor Stéphane Boyer, Valérie Schmaltz, MNA for Vimont and Benoit Collette, director-general of the City of Laval. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)



Members of Laval city council and guests take a tour of the new ECC building in Saint-François last Friday evening. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)

in the ECC building at 1000 Marie-Uguay St.

Fulfilling a need

The ECC is around four kilometres east of Autoroute 25 and nearly two kilometres south of Marcel-Villeneuve Ave. The city says the project was largely the result of a public consultation in which residents from the sectors said they needed a comprehensive point-of-service like this.

According to a press release issued by the city, the library branch now has three times more room with 1,800 square metres. The community centre has several multi-purpose rooms, and there are plans to eventually create a small auditorium with a 180-person seating capacity. "Today is a big day for the population of the

east end of Laval," Mayor Boyer said before proceeding along with some of the leading figures in the project with a formal red ribbon cutting. He said Espace citoyen des Confluents was a project the city and its partners had been working on since 2017.

'A major addition,' says Boyer

"I am extremely proud of its realization," he added. "With one of the largest libraries on the island and a multitude of close-by services, this is a major addition to our cultural and community offerings in the districts of Saint-François and Duvernay-Est. I invite the citizens of the sector to take full advantage and to make this new space their own."

The \$41 million cost was shared by the City of Laval and the provincial government. The Legault government was represented at the opening by Vimont CAQ MNA Valérie Schmaltz, with Mille-Îles Liberal MNA Virginie Dufour also among the guests.

In a statement issued by the city, they acknowledge that the eastern portion of Laval is undergoing a period of protracted growth. In addition to the other facilities, the ECC complex has games rooms, a kitchen, an outdoor community garden and terraces, and bicycle and skateboard locking racks, with options to carry out maintenance and repairs.

The city notes that with the additional space, the library branch has added to its book and documents collections, which now include 55,000 items. The branch also has new digital equipment, a video games section for teens, and three times as many self-service computer terminals.

LEED Gold for ECC

The city succeeded in obtaining a LEED Gold certification for the building, based on its construction according to internationally-recognized environmentally-sustainable standards. The city points out that it carefully chose the location of the ECC, taking into account that a grid of future nearby streets has already been laid out, along with cycling paths, public green spaces and other features.

The city commissioned Quebec-based sculptor Ludovic Boney to create a special work to hang over the entrance lobby of the ECC. Suspended from the ceiling, *Système d'assemblage* is a mix of sculpture and architecture, composed of 597 colorful, triangular plaques and modules symbolizing the ECC's multidimensional purpose.

Ludovic Boney previously created more than 20 works of public art for organizations such as the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec, as well as for the municipalities of Trois Rivières and Quebec City.



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or after January 7, 2025




CHRISTMAS FOOD DRIVE



Food is a human right and is an immediate and tangible way to help someone. Every donation of food helps. Last year we distributed over 400 Holiday baskets. This year we expect to have an even higher demand. All donations are welcome. A tax receipt can be issued for any financial donation over \$20

You can Help

Soups and stews
Grain breakfast
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beans

Canned fish,
meat
Peanut butter /
other nut butters

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canned tomatoes
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Canned
vegetables

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DECEMBER
2-10

Things to do

COMING UP

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

CHRISTMAS MARKETS

Christmas activity



November 16 - December 24

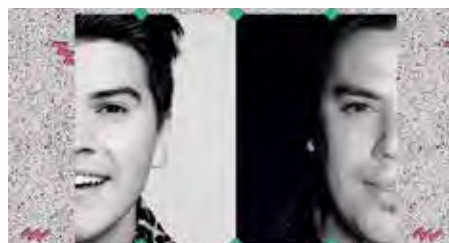
Laval, Quebec

Looking for Christmas markets to get you in the holiday spirit? Wander around the 9 Christmas markets in Laval, not to be missed!

Free

LES BB

Concert



November 26

8 PM

Salle André-Mathieu

475 boul. de l'Avenir, H7N 5H9

Ludovick Bourgeois pays tribute to his famous father Patrick and his cult band Les BB.

Starting at \$52

CANADIAN WATCHES & JEWELRY SHOW

Shopping



November 28

4:30 - 9 PM

Grand Hôtel Times - Centropolis

3245 Blvd. Saint-Martin O, H7T 1S2

Come meet Canadian experts in watches and jewelry — for all enthusiasts and collectors!

Free general admission

INSTANTS ILLUMINÉS

Outdoor activity



November 29 - March 2, 2025

7 - 10:30 PM

Promenade du Centropolis

Place Centrale

The sound and light experience returns — come and celebrate the magic of winter around a digital campfire.

Free

MUSÉE DE LA SANTÉ

Museum



November 30

2 - 5 PM

Cosmodome

2150 autoroute des Laurentides, H7T 2T8

The Musée de la santé Armand-Frappier and Cosmodome invite you to a fun-filled day out for the whole family.

Free

LE NOËL DE SIMON BOULERICE

Christmas activity



November 30

8 PM

Théâtre Marcellin-Champagnat

1275 avenue du Collège, H7C 1W8

Unforgettable evening where music, song and storytelling meet in perfect harmony.

Adult: \$45 / 12 and younger: \$20

NOËL À L'ESPACE MONTMORENCY

Christmas activity



December 6 - December 7

Espace Montmorency

600 rue Lucien-Paiement, H7N 0H7

Experience the magic of the holidays at Espace Montmorency.

Free

MARCHÉ DE NOËL DE LAVAL

Christmas activity



December 6 - December 15

Nature Center

901 avenue du Parc, H7E 2T7

Experience the magic of Christmas in the Arts Village, where 35 artisans will be offering quality products outdoor.

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70-year-old man arrested following attack on two women in Laval

A 70-year-old male suspect was arrested on Nov. 7 after he allegedly attacked two women residing at a mobile home on Dagenais Blvd. in Laval.

The Laval Police said they received a call around 9 p.m. reporting a fight that had broken out between a man and two females at the home in the city's Laval-Ouest district.

An LPD spokesperson said when the LPD arrived on the scene, they found two victims who had been stabbed and sustained minor injuries. However, neither of the two women needed to be taken to hospital.

The suspect, who is known to police, appeared in court the following morning

and was charged with breaking and entering, armed assault and uttering threats. At the time, police did not reveal the connection between the three people.

Several media in Montreal later identified the suspect as Burt Laird Crawford, age 70. According to those reports, he faces 12 charges, including forced entry while armed with an axe. The media identified one of the women as his ex-spouse or partner.

The reports also stated that he had serious previous convictions, and was being sought by law enforcement officials to face charges in Ontario related to alleged disturbances and violence-related offences in September.

Family of three from Laval perish in Highway 401 collision

Three Laval residents, including a baby, were reported dead, with a child seriously injured, following a Remembrance Day weekend collision on Ontario's Highway 401 near Quinte West east of Belleville.

According to the Ontario Provincial Police, OPP officers, paramedics and firefighters responded to the scene of the crash in the west-bound lanes of one of Canada's busiest highways at approximately 1:15 p.m. on Saturday Nov. 10.

The OPP said a 25-year-old male and a 22-year-old female died on the scene, while an eight-month-old child was later pronounced

dead at the hospital.

According to the police, a four-year-old child was evacuated by an air ambulance to a hospital in Toronto with serious injuries. The OPP said the crash happened when a minivan collided into the rear of a tractor trailer, whose driver wasn't injured.

Although the police said all the victims were from Laval, they were not immediately identified, pending notification of next-of-kin. An accident investigation, led by the OPP and with the Office of Ontario's Chief Coroner, has been launched.

Arrests made in Laval for child exploitation and pornography

The Sûreté du Québec says four days of raids conducted in various areas of the province in recent weeks targeting the distribution and possession of child pornography resulted in 17 arrests – including some in Laval.

The SQ, in collaboration with the Laval Police Dept., as well as police in Montreal, Longueuil, Quebec City and Gatineau, executed more than 20 warrants from November 4 to 7 in an

operation involving more than 200 police and civilian operatives.

In all, 17 men between the ages of 38 and 80 were placed under arrest and taken into custody. They appeared in court to face charges of possession, distribution and accessing child pornography. The public is urged to report any incident of sexual exploitation of children to cybertip.ca.

Recent Laval Fires



The fire-damaged home on 66th Ave. in eastern Chomedey. (Photo: Association des pompiers de Laval)

The Association des pompiers de Laval (APL) reports that a fire in Chomedey on Nov. 12 that was apparently caused by an electric short left a family temporarily homeless.

The blaze in the two-storey multiplex broke out around 4:45 pm on 66th Ave. near Saint Norbert

Park.

Fire department investigators later uncovered the source of the outbreak: wiring for a ceiling lighting unit.

Damages were estimated at \$50,000 for the building, with a further \$15,000 for interior furnishings.



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Why do some animals turn white in winter?

Did you know that some animals in northern regions change colour in the fall? Before the snow blankets the ground, they start growing white fur or feathers on their bodies. The transformation can take several weeks.

WHAT CAUSES THIS PHENOMENON?

The change in fur or plumage colour for animals like foxes, hares and partridges happens when the days get shorter. It occurs naturally



as the animals receive less sunlight.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

There are several advantages for animals to be white in winter:

- It camouflages them from predators in the snowy wilderness
- It allows them to approach their prey undetected
- White is a colour that helps keep them warm
- Winter fur is thicker and longer

When the days get longer in spring, the opposite happens. The white typically turns brown or grey. Nature is fascinating, isn't it?

There are only 19 species of mammals in the world that can change colour. Most of them live in Canada!

How spiders spin webs

Although spiders make many people squeamish, these eight-legged arachnids are undoubtedly fascinating. Here's an overview of how spiders create their beautiful webs.

First, the spider climbs up to a high point and creates a long thread of sticky silk called a bridge thread. This thread is carried by the wind until it sticks to another point.

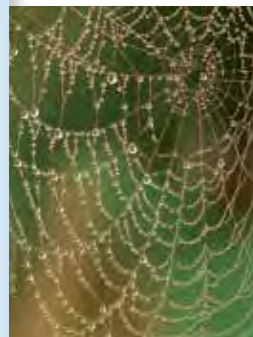


Once in place, the spider spins another thread while crossing the bridge. The weight of the spider bends this thread into a V shape.

At this point, the weaving begins. The spider creates radial threads by attaching them to surrounding anchor points. When all the threads are made, the web looks like a star with several branches.

The spider then reinforces the web by weaving a spiral in the middle. This is where it will sit comfortably to await its prey.

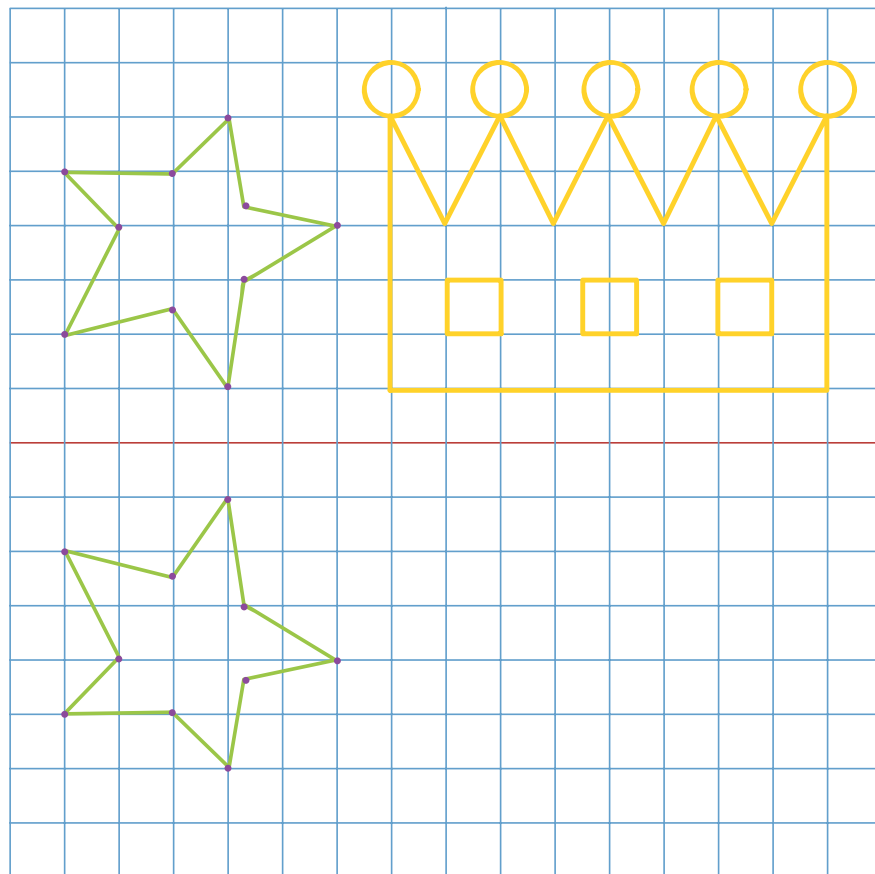
On average, it takes 30 to 60 minutes for a spider to spin a web.



Silk is secreted from glands in the spider's abdomen. This silk is a liquid. However, it becomes solid when exposed to air.

MIRROR IMAGE

DRAW THE MIRROR IMAGE OF THE PICTURE YOU SEE



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DIRECT ANSWERS

FROM WAYNE & TAMARA

NOT SEAWORTHY

Q *I have a question that may be something I alone can answer, but perhaps you can assist. Here's hoping.*

I love my boyfriend. He is a wonderful man, with a great heart and soul. No one else could care for me as deeply as he does. We've been together three years, and although marriage has been brought up in passing, we've never discussed it at length. It's reached the point I feel if I am not going to marry him, I should let him go.

He hasn't pressured me, asked about forever, or anything of that nature. But I know if I said today "let's get married," that would be all I needed to say. We have a good give-and-take relationship, but I still wonder: Would it work, would I be happy, would we end up like so many others in a dreadful relationship 20 years down the road?

I look at other men and think what my life might be like if I were with them and consider "trying them out" so to speak. I go back and forth on this and don't know if it's just my young age, 23, the fact that by nature I am indecisive, or if I am, as another of your reader's wrote, only 99% in love with him.

I don't want to wait until there's a big white dress in my closet to realize I'm on the wrong path.

Addie

A Addie, we use the word "love" in this context. Love is what you feel for the one you want to be with for the rest of your life. That word in relationship to anyone else is not love. For example, I love him but he's hitting on my sister, or I love him but I can picture myself with other men, or I love him but anything else... That's not love. It's desperation, wish, hope, desire, innate need, or even a craving to be abused. But it's not love.

How do we know you don't love him? You are already predicting the relationship's demise. You are leaving yourself an out. You've left the hatch on the submarine open. If you marry, expect to hear the rushing of water, the bonging of the alarm, and the cry to abandon ship.

Some research has looked at who fares better in relationships: people who follow their gut feelings, or people who weigh pros and cons. That research tilts in favor of the gut feeling people. They are more likely to stay in a relationship which lasts. Why is that true? You have an emotional stake in your gut. The "reasons" for staying with someone are head stuff. Head stuff can change, and head stuff doesn't involve you personally.

Another way of saying this is Occam's razor. The simplest answer is usually best. There are no extra parts to go wrong. The complicated answer has failure built into it.

Wayne & Tamara

EPILOGUE

Q *I appreciate your candid and prompt response. It confirms what I believed to be true. Although I feel pain and sadness for what I have to do, your response gave me the last bit of a push I needed to actually do it. Thank you very much, you are just wonderful!*

Addie

A Addie, your feeling of relief proves this is the right decision. Like all good people, you do

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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HOROSCOPE

Week of NOVEMBER 24 TO 30, 2024

The luckiest signs this week:
SCORPIO, SAGITTARIUS AND CAPRICORN

ARIES
Finding the balance with different aspects of your life can be challenging. However, making a few small adjustments will change everything. When it comes to your health, make sure you get enough sleep to strengthen your immune system.

TAURUS
You may toy with the idea of starting your own business. You'll start to pursue new professional goals and meet new people, which could lead to valuable collaborations in the future.

GEMINI
You'll be in the spotlight this week, whether in front of an audience or on social media. Success is on the horizon! Expect to be recognized and applauded for something.

CANCER
Cleaning your home will help free your mind and eliminate confusion. You may need to assert yourself in a specific situation to maintain control.

LEO
You may receive criticism this week or deal with people who beat around the bush. Be patient and diplomatic to clarify any confusion that arises. Your perseverance will pay off.

VIRGO
You may come into a large sum of money, whether through an insurance claim or inheritance. Be tactful in situations where patience may be running thin.

LIBRA
Positively channel your extra energy by engaging in physical activity. This will keep your spirits up. Having an outlet is essential for your overall well-being.

SCORPIO
Your head will be full of ideas and worries. You may start thinking about a new career path, and opportunities will present themselves. Be open to opportunities for change.

SAGITTARIUS
At work, you may have to serve a crowd or participate in a large event. It can benefit your career and finances, but you must be prepared to handle challenging requests.

CAPRICORN
This time of year sees some businesses facing a period of change. Despite your worries, this situation could work out well for you. You'll move forward while others may leave.

AQUARIUS
You'll be inspired to go on a spontaneous adventure. Pressing matters at home may require your attention. Get ready to spend money on a trip or home improvements.

PISCES
Opposing points of view and unexpected changes may come up. It's important to be patient and determine the best course of action once the situation settles down.

Coffee Break

CROSSWORDS

PUZZLE NO. 185

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	54	55			
56				57				58			
59				60				61			

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ACROSS

- Piercing tools
- Sandal or clog
- Cleopatra's snake
- Breakfast, e.g.
- Chime
- Cold-weather ailment
- Cafe handout
- Share of expenses
- Walking on _____
- Met offering
- A la _____
- Characteristics
- Covers
- Bit of news
- Luxury feature
- That thing's
- Dreadful
- Abominable Snowman
- Cooking container
- Audio system
- Complain
- Wool material

DOWN

- Cast off
- Granny
- Own
- Sick
- Edging
- Tied, as a race
- Kind of shirt
- Give support to
- Midterm, for one
- Bullets, to a GI
- Blubber
- Bowling path
- Garble
- Luxury hotel
- Egg producer
- Cookie grain
- Make a choice
- A long way off
- Narrow cut
- _____ and simple
- Devoured
- Stage whisper
- Pay increase
- Center of worship
- Edition
- Timid
- Song of praise
- Commandment word
- Crunchy
- Peak
- Notable time
- "Three _____ in a tub"
- Field bed
- Ninth's follower
- Coarse sand
- Enrage
- Doing nothing
- Hone
- Roof part
- Dusks
- Auto imperfection
- Exist
- None
- Band equipment

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY:

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

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

PUZZLE NO. 910

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

Last Issue's Answers

CROSSWORDS

S	W	A	R	M		D	E	B		L	O	T		
P	A	Y	E	E		O	W	L		O	U	R		
A	R	E	A	S		L	E	I		G	N	U		
					P	A	U	L		P	R	I	C	E
B	A	G			R	A	M			I	C	E	R	
E	R	E			A	G	R	E	E	D				
D	E	L	U	X	E		T	R	E	A	T	Y		
					R	E	N	T	E	R		C	E	E
G	L	E	N		T	O					T	A	N	
R	O	A	S		P	R	E	P						
O	U	T			A	M	P			T	A	R	P	S
U	S	E			P	A	L			C	R	E	E	P
P	E	N			E	Y	E			H	E	F	T	Y

Sudoku

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

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