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newsfirst
MULTIMEDIA

Vol. 34-12

June 10, 2026

450-978-9999

www.lavalnews.ca

editor@newsfirst.ca

120,000 readers

June 21, 2026

A day for
ALL THE DADS

Father's Day



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Celebrate Quebec Day at 11 sites



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Group photo featuring the 11 organizers of the FNL2026 local celebrations, elected officials, members of SNQ Laval, and the organizing team.

FC Supra visits Collège Laval

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Laval council observes a moment of silence for domestic violence victims

Saint-Vincent heritage preservationists say Maison Giasson's future is threatened

MARTIN C. BARRY

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
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Prior to the start of the June 3 meeting of Laval city council, the mayor and councillors observed a minute of silence for the ten women who died due to acts of domestic violence in Quebec since the beginning of 2026.

As council speaker Cecilia Macedo noted, the province reached the annual average number of "femicides" in just a few months.

"This number reminds us of the grave nature of the violence that women can be exposed to," she said. "By honoring the memory of the victims, we are loudly and strongly reaffirming our willingness to see these violent acts come to an end.

"Women are not objects and belong to no one, they are free and thanks for respecting this," she added.

Congrats to Montréal Victoire

In his opening remarks, Mayor Stéphane Boyer noted that the Montreal Victoire women's hockey team's recent victory in the Professional Women's Hockey League championship will provide encouragement to youths to become more involved in sports. He congratulated the team (who play their home games at Place Bell) for winning the PWHL's Walter Cup.

"So obviously, this is something to celebrate," said Boyer. "But beyond the celebration, for me it's also something very symbolic for our youths and our girls, for whom there has often been too little or no room at all in sports – especially hockey.

"So, this is a model for our youths to follow. And we often see that when a professional

team does well, it's not unusual that the following year there is an increase in registrations in our sports associations."

In a summary of the work the city has done to clean up the territory after a long winter, the mayor revealed that more than 70 per cent of the painted traffic median lines and strips on boulevards and streets all over Laval had been completed as of last week.

Mayor reports on spring cleaning

As well, he said mechanical sweepers had also gone over three-quarters of the city's territory and will pass over them once more in the coming weeks to make sure the work is done properly. In addition, according to the mayor, more than 90 per cent of Laval's parks and green spaces had been cleaned of post-winter debris.

Boyer also revealed that cameras positioned on public works trucks are helping to identify potholes, leading to a significant reduction in the number of complaints about potholes received from residents.

During a period of the meeting for councillors to table reports and documents, Action Laval city councillor for Saint-François Isabelle Piché presented her report on the closing of the mini-farm at the Centre de la nature, which was the focus of a more than 20,000-signature petition, as well as a survey and consultation meeting organized by Piché.

With the Fête nationale du Québec nearly upon us, Chomedey city councillor Aglaia Revelakis pointed out that a celebration will be taking place June 24 at the Paroisse Saint-Martin from 11 am until 6 pm with a range of activities, including folk dancers.

Heritage property threatened

A group of residents from the city's Saint-Vincent-de-Paul district, who turned up at the June council meeting to ask questions about the fate of the Maison Giasson, a heritage property on Bellevue Ave. which they claim is in danger, never got a chance to speak, after failing to register in time for the council meeting.

In spite of this, the city councillor for Saint-Vincent-de-Paul, Annick Senghor, tabled a petition with 32 signatures demanding action on the property's future. Built around 1945, the Maison Giasson, which faces out towards the Rivière des Prairies, appears on a City of Laval list of heritage properties. It was the home of Dr. Carl Giasson, who died in 2016.

While not allowed to speak during the question period, Denise Fortin, a spokesperson for the residents, provided *The Laval News* with a list of the issues they had hoped to raise with Councillor Senghor and Mayor Boyer during the meeting.

Among them: the protection of mature trees in the neighbourhood near the building; monitoring and follow-up of permits issued for work carried out at 467 Bellevue Avenue; strengthening the city's Architectural Integration and Implementation Plan (AIP) at the Saint-Vincent-de-Paul village core.

Other issues: Whether the City of Laval is ensuring that the restoration plans for 467 Bellevue Ave. respect the original Queen Ann style of the house and the surrounding built environment; and what requirements or recommendations has the city made to guarantee harmonious integration and the enhancement of the existing heritage.

Residents demand restoration

In a declaration demanding the restoration of the 467 Bellevue property that the residents issued in April, they stated, "We, the residents of the Bord-de-l'eau sector in Saint-Vincent-de-Paul, wish to express our profound indignation at the near-total destruction of the green space located at 467 Bellevue Avenue.

"This space, which we considered the 'lungs' of our neighbourhood, was cut down with a chainsaw by the landowner. Despite our efforts with the City of Laval to emphasize the importance of this area for our health, our environment and the quality of life of our neighbourhood, 95 per cent of this precious wooded space has been cleared, within the limits permitted by municipal regulations.

"We consider this act a serious attack on our already fragile environment. This intervention has not only harmed local biodiversity but also our collective well-being. At a time when the City of Laval is investing in tree planting and the protection of its natural areas, it is unthinkable to accept such a loss in the heart of our community."

The residents are demanding: That the City of Laval take responsibility and purchase the land at 467 Bellevue Avenue; that it restore the house and plant a forest there to commemorate the heritage and history of the neighbourhood; and that the city regulate the construction of new homes along the waterfront, "homes that blend well into the neighbourhood," the residents stated.



The Fête nationale du Québec will be celebrated at Paroisse Saint-Martin on June 24, according to Chomedey city councillor Aglaia Revelakis. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)



Mayor Stéphane Boyer congratulated the Montreal Victoire women's hockey team (who play home games at Place Bell) for their recent championship win, citing them as a good example for young people to get involved in sports. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)

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ISSN number : 1923-0605
Annual subscription : \$89.95 • Per copy : \$1

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Layout: Media Trek

Distribution: TC. Transcontinental/
DIFFUMAG

Printing: TC. Transcontinental

Project funded in part by

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OPINION & Editorial



Father, dear father, what's in it for you?

The changing mission of fatherhood in an age of uncertainty

Over the last 30 years or more, fatherhood has undergone profound transformations, once narrowly defined as provider and disciplinarian, it has evolved into something far more complex, demanding, and deeply human. Today's fathers are expected not only to provide, but increasingly nurture, guide, listen, comfort, and stand as steady emotional anchors in their children's lives. This evolution is not incidental. It reflects a quiet but powerful redefinition of masculinity itself, deserving far more recognition than it receives.

Furthermore, modern fatherhood is not as passive as it once was. It is now active, constant, and often too-often exhausting. Fathers are present at kitchen tables helping with homework after long workdays. They are the ones pacing the floor with a sick child in the middle of the night, showing up at parent-teacher meetings, attending medical appointments, coaching teams, and sitting through long early-morning practices in cold arenas and chilly soccer fields. They are not occasional participants in their children's lives. They are central figures, shaping their children's sense of security and belonging through everyday acts of consistency in love, patience, and acceptance of duty.

Yet much of what fathers do remains unseen and, too often, taken for granted. Behind the scenes, many fathers are making difficult choices that their children may never fully understand. They postpone their own needs, putting aside personal ambitions. They forgo rest, hobbies, and sadly, even their health.

In many families, fathers work second jobs, take overtime shifts, often accepting physically demanding work so their children can participate fully in life whose benefits now cost exceedingly more.

They do this so their child can pursue character-building participation in sports, or go on expensive culturally-enriching school trips abroad without feeling excluded or different. These are not small decisions, they are sacrifices made quietly, without expectation-of-recognition.

However, in truth, there is a particular kind of dignity in this silence. Many fathers do not speak openly about pressures carried. They absorb financial stress, worry about providing, and navigate the emotional weight of responsibility without complaint. They do not always have the language or social permission to express

vulnerability, but that does not mean they do not feel it. The anxiety of making ends meet, fear of failing their children, exhaustion of constant responsibility are real and present burdens. Fathers feel deeply. They simply often feel in silence. And yet, they continue.

They continue to wake up early, show up, provide structure, offer guidance, and protect not only their children's physical well-being but also their sense of dignity. They are the ones who quietly ensure that their child has the right equipment for sports, even if it means going without something themselves. They are the ones who sit in the stands after long shifts at work, tired but attentive, because presence matters. They are the ones who encourage resilience, model perseverance, and teach, often without words, what it means to endure.

Clearly, fatherhood today is also more inclusive than ever, and this too must be acknowledged with clarity and respect. Fathers come in many forms - biological, adoptive, stepfathers, foster, gay, teachers, and uncles. Each brings commitment, care, and responsibility into children's lives. In Canada, and particularly in Quebec, this diversity is growing. By 2021, one in five same-gender couples raising children were two fathers. This reflects not only changing family structures but also a broader understanding that fatherhood is defined by presence and responsibility, not by biology alone.

At the same time, the rise of single fatherhood tells another important story. According to Statistics Canada, across Canada, nearly 330,000 families are headed by single fathers, with Québec among provinces where this is most common. These men face unique and often under-recognized challenges, balancing full-time work with full-time parenting, often without the same support networks more readily available to single mothers. They navigate childcare systems, legal frameworks, and social perceptions that are still catching up to their reality.

Single fathers aren't anomalies. They are committed parents who have stepped forward when circumstances demanded it. Whether through separation, divorce, loss, or choice, they have taken on the full responsibility of raising children, often in environments that still question their capacity to nurture. They deserve not skepticism, but respect.

In our city and across Quebec, these fathers

are part of the fabric of daily life. They are in schoolyards, daycare pickups, grocery stores late-in-the evening, managing both practical and emotional needs of their families, learning, adapting, and growing alongside their children. They are proof that fatherhood is not static. It evolves with courage and necessity.

Behind all of this, there are personal stories that remind us what fatherhood truly means. My own father, born in 1907, embodied forms of strength that still resonate today; strict, especially when it came to dating, he never hesitated to set firm boundaries. But beneath that firmness was a deep, unwavering commitment to my future. He did not offer material wealth, nor did he believe in dependency. His message was clear, "I will not give you anything except your education, and let that serve you well." And it did.

He believed in independence long before it became common conversation. He was, in many ways, ahead of his time, a quiet champion of female autonomy. He taught me to rely on my own abilities, think critically, and build a life grounded in self-sufficiency. His love was not expressed through indulgence, but through principle.

Through expectation. Through belief. That, too, is sacrifice. The willingness to prepare children for the world rather than shield them from it. Father's Day should not be reduced to symbolic gestures. It should be moments of honest recognition; recognition that fathers today are carrying more than ever before, giving more of themselves, often without acknowledgement. That their sacrifices, both visible and invisible, shape the lives of their children in lasting ways.

In Québec, where we pride ourselves on progressive social values and strong family support systems, there is still work to be done. Fathers, especially single fathers, need greater support within our institutions, schools, and communities. They need to be seen not as secondary caregivers, but as equal and essential parents.

To you, the fathers of our community and beyond -working long hours, sitting in arenas and on sidelines, quietly paying for opportunities their children may one day lovingly appreciate instead of selfishly taking for granted -you matter, your sacrifices matter. Your presence matters. And even when it goes unspoken, it is felt. We honour you.

Renata Isopo

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Laval had a 128 per cent hike in housing starts last year: economic report



The City of Laval stands out for the strength of its indicators and the robustness of its real estate activity, according to the latest annual report from Laval économique, the city's economic development service.

The 2025 report reveals that the number of residential units started in the city jumped by 128 per cent, reaching 4,613 units by the end of the year.

The report suggests that the economic vitality of the region and the renewed confidence of investors are very real, despite an economic context still marked by uncertainty.

The report also indicates that Laval's gross domestic product (GDP) is estimated at \$24 billion, confirming the dynamic nature and diversification of the city's economy. As well, the report reviews actions implemented by the city to support businesses, stimulate investment and strengthen the region's economic resilience.

"With a gross domestic product of nearly \$24 billion, investments exceeding \$2 billion annually, record housing starts and a thriving job market, Laval is a major economic driver," said Mayor Stéphane Boyer, reacting to the report.

Prosperous and innovative

"We are continuing our work to make Laval a prosperous, innovative and forward-looking city for all," he continued. The report says public and private investments in Laval reached over \$2.2 billion last year, marking the fifth consecutive year that the \$2 billion mark was exceeded.

"This remarkable stability confirms Laval's ability to attract

major and sustainable investments in the real estate, industrial and commercial sectors," stated Laval économique.

The total value of the City of Laval's building permits (non-residential and residential) is now estimated at over \$1 billion. The report says the city supported 28 real estate projects directly contributing to the housing supply, representing investments totaling nearly \$660 million.

"Economic development relies on a clear vision and the ability to leverage the right resources at the right time," said Lidia Divry, director of Laval économique. In 2025, she continued, Laval économique supported more than 1,780 Laval businesses.

\$10 return on each \$1 invested

As well, a total of \$3.3 million in financial assistance was granted, generating \$30.3 million in investments within the region. Every dollar invested by the city ended up generating nearly \$10 in additional economic benefits, noted Divry.

"These results demonstrate the ability of Laval businesses and our partners to adapt, innovate and collaborate," she said.

The year 2025 was also marked by the launch of Opération Prospérité Laval, a \$4.5 million, three-year investment aimed at supporting Laval businesses' exports and ensuring sustainable economic growth for the region.

To date, according to the Laval économique report, more than 45 Laval-based companies have received support to help them evaluate and develop their access to new export markets.

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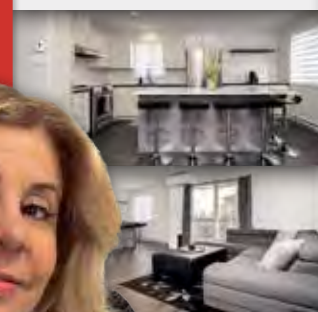
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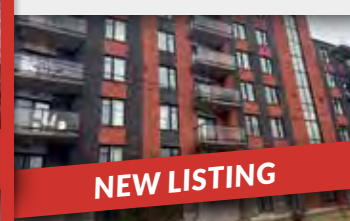
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Laval to celebrate Québec's National Day at 11 sites in 2026

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Québec's National Day will be celebrated across 11 locations in Laval this year, with festivities centered on emotion and tribute to mark the 75th anniversary of the birth of hockey legend Guy Lafleur.

The Société nationale du Québec à Laval (SNQ Laval) unveiled the 2026 program during a launch cocktail and volunteer appreciation event held June 1 at Wilfrid Pasta Bar. The evening brought together more than 80 guests,

including dignitaries, organizers, and community partners, and featured a performance by Laval singer-songwriter Patrice Massicotte.

In addition to a major regional concert scheduled for June 23 at the Centre de la nature, 11 local organizations will host celebrations across the city on June 23 and 24. Eight long-term care and residential centres will also take part in the festivities.

Among the highlights is Laval's only inclusive event, organized by the Association of People Living with Hearing Loss of Laval, which will take place at Parc Prévost in the Vimont district.

Key events

June 23

- Activities begin at 4:30 p.m. at Saint-Léopold Church
- Additional events at 6 p.m. at Champfleury Community Center
- Regional concert at 6:30 p.m. at the Centre de la nature

June 24

- Celebrations begin at 11 a.m. in multiple locations, including Parc Champfleury and St-Martin Parish grounds
- Midday and afternoon events will take place

at Parc Prévost, Parc Jolibourg, Maison André-Benjamin-Papineau, and several other sites

• Festivities conclude at 6 p.m. in Sainte-Rose
SNQ Laval credited Hydro-Québec, the official presenter, as well as the City of Laval and community partners, for supporting the event. Funding is also provided by the Government of Québec.

Elected officials in attendance at the launch included Minister Christopher Skeete, MNA Céline Haytayan, and several municipal councillors.



Céline Hatayan, MNA responsible for the region, pictured with SNQ Laval President Michel Leduc.



Courtesy of SNQ Laval: Michel Leduc, President of the Société nationale du Québec à Laval (SNQ Laval), surrounded by Executive Director Éliz Robert and historian Claude Tousignant.

Photos: Martin Alarie



Minister Christopher Skeete with SNQ Laval President Michel Leduc and SNQ Laval member Lynda Tousignant.



Yannick Langlois, municipal councillor for L'Orée-des-Bois and the Mayor's representative for the occasion, alongside Emmanuelle M. Provost, Assistant and Coordinator of Laval's 2026 Fête nationale local celebrations.



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Portion of Méga Centre Notre-Dame being redeveloped into a light-industrial park

Residents are beginning to complain about being left in the dark over project

MARTIN C. BARRY

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Saint-Laurent property developer Rosefellow has started work at a large former section of a consumer retail megamall on the edge of Autoroute 13 in Sainte-Dorothée, in order to redevelop it into a modern industrial space providing infrastructure to strengthen Laval's supply-chain and logistics corridor.

Last year, the company paid the megamall's owners, RioCan REIT and Harden, \$75 million for the underused retail and commercial property where the tenants had included designer apparel factory outlets, although occupancy over the years remained relatively low.

Demolition done

Last year, Rosefellow announced plans to spend around \$200 million to develop 550,000 square feet of the property, including several industrial buildings, at the northern end of the Méga Centre Notre-Dame, with demolition of the last of the retail outlets near completion last week.

In 2025, when the mall owners announced it had gone ahead with the sale of the 27-acre portion of the Méga Centre Notre-Dame, Harden said the transaction marked a key milestone in the site's transformation, supporting broader redevelopment efforts and reinforcing a long-term commitment to enhancing Laval's economic and commercial vitality.

Harden co-owns the remaining area of the mall in conjunction with RioCan in a 50 per cent partnership. "The portion sold to Rosefellow was a less productive area of the site," Harden



Photos: Martin C. Barry, The Laval News

acknowledged last year in their statement following the sale announcement.

"This strategic disposition enables targeted reinvestment into the retail core of Méga Centre Notre-Dame, accelerating its transformation into a productive, dynamic destination for residents, workers, and visitors alike," they added.

Meeting a regional demand

Rosefellow's planned redevelopment of its portion will see the construction of up to three

state-of-the-art industrial buildings, meeting a growing regional demand for high-performance logistics and light industrial space.

The parties all firmly believe the development will complement the centre's retail operations, creating a mixed-use hub that draws value from both sectors, while serving evolving needs.

The first phase of the project, a 144,316-square-foot building, is being designed to meet LEED Gold standards and the Canada Green Building

Council's Zero Carbon Building Standards.

The development is expected to feature a hybrid steel-and-mass-timber structure, solar panels on the roof and facade, and a high-efficiency mechanical system.

Construction on the first phase is scheduled to begin before the end of June, with completion tentatively scheduled for the first quarter of 2027. A second phase, involving a 410,740-square-foot industrial building, is expected to begin by late this summer.

Nearby residents complain

In the meantime, some residents on streets immediately adjacent to the site (and who apparently were not aware of the proposed redevelopment, which was announced as early as May 2025) have begun expressing their alarm.

"The construction is very disruptive to the residents behind the mall," said one resident who contacted *The Laval News* by e-mail.

"Was there any consultation about making an industrial park in a residential neighborhood?" they said. "Will there be trucks coming and going? How will this affect property values? How long will the noise and construction continue? Just wondering if anyone looked into this."

The Laval News reached out to the city councillor for the district of Sainte-Dorothée, Ray Khalil, who is also responsible for development and territorial management dossiers on the executive-committee, for his response, but we did not hear back earlier this week in time for our deadline.



Demolition got underway last week on vacant former discount retail outlets like this one at the northern end of the Méga Centre Notre-Dame in Sainte-Dorothée in preparation for the development of new infrastructure to reinforce Laval's supply-chain and logistics corridor.

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June 21, 2026

A day for
ALL THE DADS

Father's Day



Abroad on Father's Day? Celebrate despite the distance

Can't be with your family this Father's Day because of a business trip or vacation? Don't worry! You can still celebrate the event from afar. Here are a few ideas.

HOST A VIRTUAL HAPPY HOUR

Videocall platforms are more powerful than ever. Set up a call at a designated time with your loved ones—an hour or two during the celebration at the family home, for example. Take the opportu-

ity to chat, have a bite to eat and enjoy a drink.

SEND A PERSONALIZED CARD

At a local store, pick up a greeting card or postcard that reminds you of your father or his interests. Comedy, nature, travel or a hobby of his—you have plenty of options. In it, write a message from the heart. Depending on where in the world you are, you may need a plan to mail the

card well ahead of the actual day.

CREATE A DIGITAL PHOTO ALBUM

While you're abroad, contact your father's loved ones and ask them to send you a photo of themselves with him. Compile the photos into a digital album or slideshow that you can share with your beloved dad on the day of the celebration. Emotions guaranteed!

This year, celebrate your father no mat-



ter where you are in the world. Let your heart speak and enjoy this moment to the fullest.

3 DIY Father's Day gift ideas: easy projects to do yourself or with your kids

Father's Day is coming up! Want to give the dad in your life a gift that's truly one of a kind? Why not unleash your creative side? Here are three gift ideas you can make yourself or with your kids.

1. PERSONALIZE A COFFEE MUG

Purchase a plain white mug and let your imagination run wild. Use porcelain markers or a few drops of nail polish diluted in hot water to create fun designs or beautiful marbled effects.



2. PAINT CUSTOM COASTERS

Find some small ceramic tiles or wooden squares and get out your paintbrushes. First, apply a base coat of paint. Then, have fun decorating them in a way you think Dad will like. Use stencils if needed.

3. MAKE A COLOURFUL TRINKET TRAY

Using multi-coloured FIMO clay, make a ball.

Then, flatten it with a rolling pin. Press it into a small oven-safe bowl to shape it. Bake at 230 F for 10 to 30 minutes, depending on the size of the object.

This Father's Day, express your gratitude with a handmade gift you've personalized yourself or with your children. Visit your local stores to find everything you need.



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Foyeuse fête des Pères!
Happy Father's Day!



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A message from your elected official

Bonne fête des Pères!

À tous les merveilleux papas, je vous souhaite une journée remplie d'amour, de joie et de précieux moments en famille.

Happy Father's Day

To all the amazing dads, wishing you a day filled with love, joy, and cherished moments with your families.

Aglaia Revelakis

Conseillère municipale - Chomedey

a.revelakis@laval.ca

514-242-5761



conseil municipal

June 21, 2026

A day for
ALL THE DADS

Father's Day



Personalize your Father's Day card

Are you stuck for ideas on how to personalize the message inside your Father's Day card? No need to worry or overthink it. Here's a short guide to help you get it right.

EXPRESS YOUR GRATITUDE

To create an authentic message, start by listing the ways your father has made a difference in your life. For example, you could thank him for:

- His guidance during important moments, like helping you through a tough time or supporting you in buying a home
- The love and care he has shown you throughout your life
- The relationship he has developed with your own children
- His unwavering support and listening ear

VARY THE FORMATS

Why not let your artistic side shine? Devote part of the card to a drawing. You can even include your children in the creative effort.

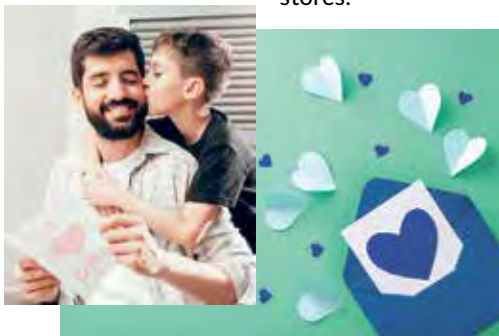
For an extra touch of originality, try writing a poem. All you have to do is speak from the heart. Your lines can

rhyme or not, be playful or profound. You might use vivid imagery—maybe comparing your love for him to a mountain, for example! Poetic forms with short, rhythmic lines, such as the haiku, can also make a striking impact.

ADD A MEANINGFUL PHOTO

Include a photo that has special significance in the card. It could be a family snapshot from your childhood or a picture of your father in his younger days. Linking your personalized message to such a happy memory will make the sentiment in your card even more genuine.

Find everything you need to create a memorable greeting card at your local stores.



Create a slideshow to honour your dad: step-by-step instructions

Does your dad already seem to have every possible barbecue tool, gadget and accessory imaginable? This year, give him something far more meaningful by creating a slideshow that celebrates his life. Here's how to do it.

1. GATHER PHOTOS

Look through all your old photo albums, including those on your smartphone, to find the best photos featuring your dad. Ask your friends and family to do the same.

Tip: If you find old, faded or damaged prints, visit a local photo centre to get a digitized and enhanced version of the original photo.

2. PUT IT ALL TOGETHER

Several free, easy-to-use software programs are available online. Use one to create a colourful and dynamic slideshow presentation. To give the slideshow even more emotional impact, add a song your dad loves.

3. PLAN THE BIG REVEAL

Consult with other family members to decide on a time when everyone can gather to watch the finished slideshow

with the guest of honour.

Take the opportunity to say a few kind words to your beloved dad, then sit back and celebrate in style.

Happy Father's Day!



Joyeuse fête des pères !

Happy Father's Day!



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2026 Laval Firefighters' Race draws a record 12,100 runners

A smaller Firemen's Festival gets a 'thumbs-up' from kids and parents

MARTIN C. BARRY
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A record number of participants turned out for 14th annual Laval Firefighters' Race on Saturday May 30, when more than 12,100 young people and adults took part in this popular and consistently very anticipated event.

Since 2012, the race has brought together young and old in a festive and inclusive atmosphere.

Organized by firefighters from the Laval Fire Department, the City of Laval, and the Quebec Firefighters Foundation, the Firefighters' Race aims to promote physical activity and healthy lifestyles within the community.

This year's event also raised over \$82,000 in donations for the Foundation to Support Burn Victims.

Incredible performances

In the marathon, Edouard Foster took first

place among the men with an impressive time of 2 hours 34 minutes and 51 seconds. Corinne Lienhard was the first woman to cross the finish line, completing the distance in just 3 hours 3 minutes and 22 seconds.

In the half-marathon, Benjamin Raymond, with a time of 1 hour 14 minutes and 15 seconds, and Roxanne Leblanc, with a time of 1 hour 23 minutes and 16 seconds, each finished in first place in their respective categories.

It should be noted that the winners of both the marathon and the half-marathon each received a gold helmet bearing the Firefighters' Race logo, symbolizing the determination, discipline, perseverance and effort required to achieve such a feat.

The event also included 10 km, 5 km, 2.5 km and 1 km races. All races culminated at the finish line located on the outdoor grounds of Collège Montmorency, where enthusiastic crowds cheered runners crossing the finish line.

Eight marathons in eight days

In a sidenote, from May 24 to 31, ultramarathon runner Manuel Cabral, an ambassador for the Laval Firefighters' Race, took on the challenge of running a marathon every day, inviting other runners to join him each time, while also donating to the Quebec Firefighters Foundation.

He completed this feat by finishing his eighth marathon on May 31 as part of the Laval Firefighters' Race, where he also recorded the fifth-best time in the 42.2 km race. Last year, he ran a half marathon every day during the virtual portion of the event, from May 17 to June 1.

All proceeds are donated to the Quebec Firefighters Foundation, the only organization dedicated to raising funds for burn victims in Quebec. The funds will directly contribute to financing: specialized medical equipment; clinical research; a direct aid fund for victims and their families; and a summer camp adapted for children with severe burns.

A smaller Firemen's Festival

While the Firefighters' Race was taking place, a modified and diminished version of the Laval Firemen's Festival was also underway on the grounds of Collège Montmorency. Originally held for many years at the Centropolis mall, in more recent times the staging area for the still highly-popular Firemen's Festival was transferred to the grounds outside the college.

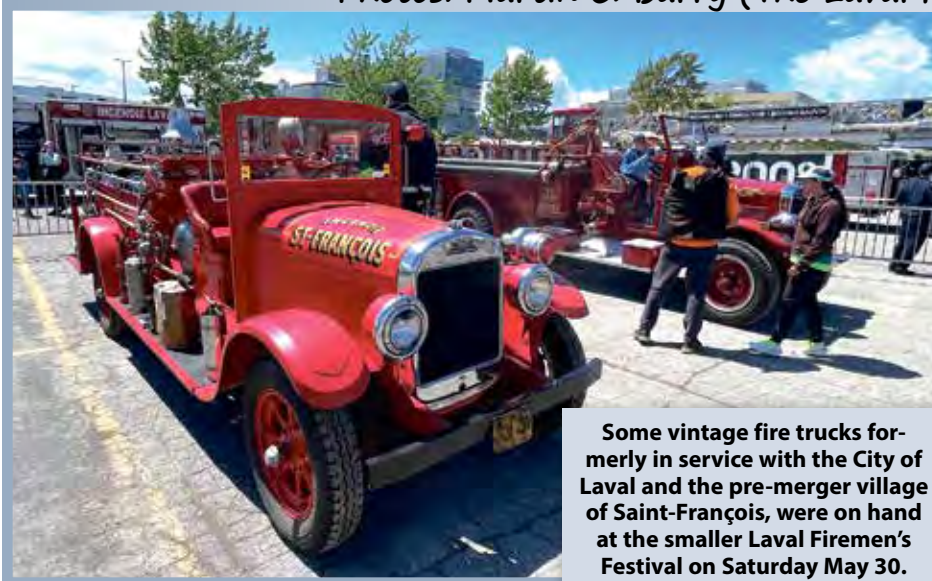
However, as the City of Laval announced last fall in its budget for 2026, the Firemen's Festival was reduced beginning this year to a single day (rather than two) and with far fewer activities for kids and families. As a result, the ever-popular parade of fire trucks, with sirens and warning signals screaming, was greatly reduced, with just a few fire vehicles on site Saturday.

But there were at least a few activities, including educational kiosks on fire prevention and safety, a simulated evacuation of a smoke-filled house and firefighter museum artefacts.



Some of the winners and participants in the 2026 Laval Firemen's Race.

Photos: Martin C. Barry (The Laval News) and Jany Tremblay (City of Laval)



Some vintage fire trucks formerly in service with the City of Laval and the pre-merger village of Saint-François, were on hand at the smaller Laval Firemen's Festival on Saturday May 30.



The fire hose skill demonstration was one of the traditional activities maintained this year at the 2026 Laval Firemen's Festival.



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Collège Laval's Journée MarcellinChampagnat (JMC) with guest appearance from FC Supra du Québec

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Under clear blue skies on May 27, 2026, Collège Laval's campus transformed into a vibrant celebration of community, generosity, and youthful energy. The annual Journée MarcellinChampagnat (JMC), a cornerstone event in the school's calendar, once again brought together more than 2,000 students and 175 educators for a fun filled day.

At its core, JMC is about far more than games and festivities. It represents a collective effort to support the Collège Laval Foundation, which plays a crucial role in ensuring that education remains accessible to students from all walks of life.

This year's edition took on an added dimension through a special collaboration with FC Supra du Québec. Collège Laval hosted club President Rocco Placentino, the club's Brand Director Paul Desbaillets and several FC Supra players including Riad Bey, Matisse Chrétien, Bakary Kaboré, and Thomas Lebeuf.

A lively atmosphere

From the start of the day, the school was rampant with energy as students selected from a wide range of activities aimed at sparking their curiosity and exposing them to new experiences.

There were tournaments in volleyball and basketball which ran alongside creative workshops like pottery and wellness activities such as yoga. Escape games and performances added further variety, ensuring that every student could find their place within the day's programming.

As Principal Caroline Claveau explained, the diversity of activities reflects a broader mission.

"It's a day of cultural, athletic, recreational, and philanthropic activities. But the intention behind all of this is to raise money for the Collège Laval Foundation."

By early afternoon, the campus had evolved into a lively festival atmosphere.

A driving force behind the day's success were teachers Sandra Conte and Judith Désormeau, who played a central role in organizing the event. Conte was instrumental in reaching out to FC Supra du Québec and coordinating their visit, ultimately bringing the professional club to campus for the friendly match against their Maraudeurs.

Changing lives through education

While the energy of the day was palpable, its deeper purpose lies in the impact it enables. Funds raised during JMC go directly to the Collège Laval Foundation, which provides financial assistance and life-changing opportunities to students.

"Their tuition is completely paid. Related expenses, school supplies, uniforms, are all covered," said Claveau emphatically. "We're essentially changing a student's life."

Through programs such as the Marist Scholarship, students from financially disadvantaged backgrounds are able to attend the school without the burden of tuition or related expenses.

"We're very fortunate to welcome students who come from families that are financially disadvantaged," Claveau explained. "The Collège Laval Foundation is there to support them financially. This means we have students at the school who wouldn't have had the opportunity to experience Collège Laval otherwise."

Caroline Battista, Development and Partnership Advisor for the Foundation, emphasized that identifying these students often involves collaboration with the wider community.

"We have partnerships with certain community members who identify young people who have great athletic potential and great academic potential," said Battista "This way they can pursue an



Members of FC Supra and the Maraudeurs come together for a photo following their event. (Photo: Collège Laval)

academic path at Collège Laval."

But the Foundation's role also extends to families facing unexpected hardships.

"In life, you never know what might happen," Battista noted. "There are families going through difficult times, job loss, illness, or whatever. The Foundation is there to help with exactly those kinds of problems... to life's unexpected events."

Claveau also underscored the importance of discretion and care. Support is handled confidentially, ensuring dignity for every student. This approach allows those receiving assistance to fully integrate into school life without stigma.

A memorable match: the Maraudeurs take on FC Supra

One of the defining highlights of JMC 2026 came in the form of a friendly soccer match between the Collège Laval Maraudeurs and FC Supra du Québec. For students, it was a rare opportunity to witness and participate in high-level competition alongside professional athletes, even if it was just a friendly match.

Set on the soccer pitch behind the school, the match drew a crowd of nearly 1,000 students. Some gathered along the hillside overlooking the field, while others packed the bleachers to capacity, leaving no seat empty.

Before kickoff, a student sprinted around the pitch carrying a massive 10foot flag, energizing the crowd as cheers echoed across the field. And once the whistle blew to start the game, bedlam.

"Truly the highlight of the event, which we're wrapping up with a great friendly match between our students, our Maraudeurs, and the Supra," Claveau said.

Players not only competed on the field but also took time to connect with students. They were seen laughing and teasing each other after the game, surely a very important experience for everyone involved.

"It's a beautiful day here at Collège Laval, we're all so happy to be here and be apart of this," said FC Supra player Riad Bey.

The match itself was competitive and spirited, reflecting the heart and determination of the Maraudeurs.

"Honestly, it's super fun to play against them," Bey added. "They [Marauders] really played hard, they were very competitive, it was an honour to play against them."

For Bey, the connection to the local community made the event even more special.

"I'm from Montreal, but I played three years at FC Laval so I

know this particular region very well," he shared. "The community around us is extremely important."

Building bridges

Beyond the match itself, the presence of FC Supra du Québec highlighted the importance of community engagement. For Paul Desbaillets, the club's Brand Director, initiatives like JMC are central to their vision.

"Well, first of all, it's an honor," he said. "A brand-new football club launching in the province fully loaded with Quebec kids, homegrown talent showing off the French football to the rest of Canada... we're blessed."

Desbaillets emphasized that the players' role extends beyond performance.

"You're seeing the players take a few minutes talking to all these kids, and all of them are going to absorb all this information," he noted.

Community connection remains at the core of the club's philosophy though.

"I think as long as we're activating in the community, we're constantly talking to the community, and we're putting our money where our mouth is, that sort of old adage, I think we'll be okay."

A lighthearted moment during the day reflected the growing bond between the school and the club. Noticing Principal Claveau wearing an FC Supra scarf, Rocco Placentino, the club's president joked to her, "Next year we're going to make another one with both the Maraudeurs and the Supra on it." The comment drew smiles and laughter as they both embraced.

A collective effort and lasting impact

The success of Journée MarcellinChampagnat (JMC) is the result of a remarkable collective effort. From the student life team who helped coordinate the many moving parts to teachers whose initiative brought FC Supra to campus.

By the end of the event, more than \$20,000 had been raised for the Collège Laval Foundation. These funds will directly support students and families in need, ensuring that access to education.

For students, it is a powerful reminder that education is not only about academics, but also about empathy, engagement, and community responsibility.

As the afternoon came to a close, one thing was certain.

Journée MarcellinChampagnat is more than a tradition at Collège Laval. It can quite literally change someone's life.

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Laval Police Department tables an encouraging 2025 activity report

Cases files opened by LPD reached 16,868 in 2025, compared to 18,961 in 2024

MARTIN C. BARRY

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Criminal incidents in Laval dropped by up to 11 per cent last year compared to a year earlier, according to an annual report presented by the head of the city's police service to municipal officials last week.

Laval Police director Karine Ménard tabled the force's 2025 activity report in Laval city council on June 2. The lengthy and detailed report provided an overview of the LPD's main achievements last year, including annual highlights and crime trends in 2025 in Laval.

The year 2025, according to the report, was marked by sustained efforts by the police to resolve a number of priority cases involving social and criminal factors that continue to evolve.

More than 10 per cent drop in caseload

The total number of cases reported to the Laval Police reached 16,868 in 2025, compared to 18,961 in 2024. Crimes against persons went down by 6 per cent, while property crimes went down by 8 per cent.

According to the LPD, vehicle thefts of all types underwent a significant decrease of 18 per cent. For the second consecutive year, the number of property crimes decreased, said the police, with an 8 per cent reduction compared to 2024, and an 18 per cent decrease since 2023.

Interventions related to mental health disturbances reached a peak of 3,293 cases, an increase

of 4 per cent compared to 2024. LPD director Ménard emphasized the staff's commitment to achieving results.

"Behind every statistic, there are women and men deeply committed to the community," she said. "I am proud of the professionalism, humanity and adaptability of our police and civilian staff.

"Every day, they are there to protect, support and reassure the citizens of Laval," she added. "Their work makes a real difference in people's lives, and it is together, with our partners and our community, that we continue to move forward."

Marked increase in extortions

In 2025, according to the report, the phenomenon of extortion received particular attention due to its scale and its direct impact on Laval's economy. The Laval Police said they had noticed a marked increase in extortion cases, primarily affecting businesses, but also some entrepreneurs and service companies.

"These acts of intimidation, often accompanied by threats, financial pressure, or violence, have significant consequences for the sense of security and economic vitality," stated the report.

Faced with this situation, the LPD launched the Coordinated Vigilance Project, which relies on a structured approach combining prevention, targeted investigations and close collaboration with businesses and partners. "These initiatives help to better support victims, encourage reporting and send an unequivocal message to criminal groups that extortion will not be tolerated in Laval," said the LPD's report.

The LPD said combating urban gun violence

remained a priority in 2025. Through the Coordinated Paradoxe Project, teams maintained constant pressure on criminal elements. The report indicates there were 16 illicit firearms discharges in 2025, compared to 25 in 2024, as well as 26 illicit firearms seized and 21 arrests.

"While the phenomenon remains volatile, these results demonstrate the effectiveness of a concerted, proactive and visible approach on the ground," stated the report.

Road accidents down for second year

In terms of road safety, the LPD said it continued efforts to reduce the number of accidents on the territory. For the second consecutive year, the total number of accidents in Laval was down, with 4,157 cases recorded in 2025, 211 fewer than in 2024, representing a 5 per cent decrease.

Although a slight increase in the number of fatal accidents was observed, the LPD said it maintained a proactive approach focused on protecting vulnerable road users, including pedestrians, school zones and residential neighborhoods.

It should be noted, however, that two of the three fatal accidents in Laval involving a pedestrian in 2025 were workplace accidents (CNESST) and did not occur on public roads.

The Laval Police also continued their fight against vehicle theft. In 2025, the number of vehicle thefts, of all types, decreased by 18 per cent compared to the previous year. Furthermore, the total volume of property crimes declined by 8 per cent, confirming a downward trend that began after a peak which was reached in 2023.

Mental health and homelessness

The year 2025 also cast a spotlight on mental health and homelessness issues in Laval, representing a growing share of police activity. According to the LPD, interventions involving individuals with mental health problems reached a new high with 3,293 cases, representing a noteworthy 20 per cent of all police activity.

To address this increasingly complex situation, the SPL said it relied in particular on its Social Emergency division and on psychosocial teams, "which allow for a more humane and tailored intervention," in collaboration with partners in the community and institutional networks.

The LPD said it also carried out several hundred interventions with people experiencing homelessness, while prioritizing support and referrals to appropriate resources.

New facilities opened

From the LPD's organizational standpoint, 2025 was marked by significant structural achievements. The opening of the LPD's new headquarters building and west end "gendarmerie" in Chomedey represented a major step forward, stated the annual report, "bringing teams closer to the field and optimizing coverage of the territory, particularly in an area generating a high volume of calls."

The opening of the new facilities, as well as the reorganization of the LPD's territory into two operational regions, "contributed to improving response times, strengthening coordination between squads and increasing the overall efficiency of the police service, directly benefiting the residents of Laval," stated the 2025 report.

De Cotis, Barrasso and Uva lead community cleanup at Lausanne Park

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Saint-Bruno city councillor David De Cotis joined community volunteer/environmental advocate Enrica Uva and Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board Ward 6 Commissioner Barbara Barrasso on May 30 to take part in an annual Spring Cleanup at Lausanne Park.

The event, the fourth of its kind, brought together a large number of local residents, students from Terry Fox Elementary School and their families, with all being united by a

common goal: to preserve and enhance one of Saint-Bruno's most cherished green spaces. "Our fourth annual cleanup was another tremendous success," De Cotis told *The Laval News*.

A year-after-year success

"This initiative continues to grow year after year because it strengthens community pride, promotes environmental responsibility and encourages residents of all ages to take an active role in caring for their neighbourhood," he said. "I am committed to ensuring this tradition continues for many years to come."

Throughout the morning, dozens of volunteers worked together to remove litter and beautify the park. Students from Terry Fox Elementary School demonstrated remarkable enthusiasm and dedication, setting an inspiring example of civic engagement.

"I was truly impressed by the energy and commitment shown by these young people," added De Cotis. "Their participation sends a powerful message about the importance of community involvement and environmental stewardship. They are helping build a stronger and more responsible generation for the future."

A unifying event

"This is something that always brings the community together," he continued, noting that some of the participants were passers-by who decided on the spur of the moment to join the citizen cleanup crew in order to do their part.

He said part of the day's mission was to explain to some of the younger people that there are consequences when trash, such as cardboard and paper waste from convenience stores or fast-food takeout restaurants, is disposed of carelessly instead of placing it in garbage or recycling bins as it should.

"We're telling them, 'Look what happens when you just throw things away and it just piles up,' said De Cotis. "We're trying to teach them about dedication and discipline, so that when they're eating something, they know enough to put it in the garbage can right away."

Volunteerism and commitment

The success of the initiative was also made possible through the collaboration of dedi-



cated community partners and volunteers who generously contributed their time and efforts. According to Barrasso, the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board strongly encourages initiatives among students and their families that promote citizenship, volunteerism and community commitment.

"Our students have once again demonstrated that they are capable of achieving great things when they come together for a meaningful cause," she said. "I am extremely proud of their efforts and I know their families share that pride. Through activities like this, we are helping shape the engaged and compassionate citizens of tomorrow."

Committed to the environment

For her part, Enrica Uva emphasized the importance of bringing families together around a shared commitment to the environment. "When young people see adults working together to improve their community, they learn that every action matters," Uva said.

"It was inspiring to see so many families, students and volunteers come together to care for Lausanne Park," she continued. "By working side by side, we are not only creating a cleaner environment, but also building stronger connections within our community."

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Possible arson blaze damages de la Concorde barber shop

A possible arson fire damaged a barbershop in the district of Pont-Viau in eastern Laval early last Monday morning.

The Laval Police received a 9-1-1 call at 4 a.m. about the incident on de la Concorde Boulevard East. Although tenants living above the shop were forced from their homes, there were no

reported injuries.

Police say witnesses saw a suspect fleeing the scene before the arrival of authorities.

A 21-year-old woman, alleged by the police to be a possible accomplice, was arrested nearby. She was expected to be questioned by police later in the day.

Contraband and unauthorized items seized at Federal Training Centre

The Correctional Service of Canada says that on May 17, as a result of the vigilance of staff members, contraband and unauthorized items were seized at the Federal Training Centre, a multi-level security federal institution located in Laval's Saint-Vincent-de-Paul district.

The contraband items seized included cocaine, cannabis concentrate, cell phones and accessories. The total estimated institutional value of this seizure was \$182,500. The CSC says it uses a number of tools to prevent drugs from entering its institutions.

These include ion scanners and drug-detector dogs to search buildings, personal property, inmates and visitors. The CSC says it is heightening measures to prevent contraband from entering its institutions "in order

to help ensure a safe and secure environment for everyone."

CSC says it also works in partnership with the police to take action against those who attempt to introduce contraband into correctional institutions.

The CSC says it has also set up a telephone tip line for all federal institutions so that it may receive additional information about activities relating to security at CSC institutions.

These activities may be related to drug use or trafficking that may threaten the safety and security of visitors, inmates and staff members working at CSC institutions.

The CSC says that those who call the toll-free number (18667803784) are ensured that the information shared is protected and that callers remain anonymous.

Recent fires in Laval

JUNE 7 | 2:10 AM // Building fire on Chemin Saint-Antoine in the Laval-Ouest sector. Residential building. Visible smoke. Code 10-09, full response, potential for escalation.

An electrical short circuit caused by a revolving fan is believed to be the most likely cause of this fire which damaged a residence at this address on the night of Sunday June 7.

The incident occurred in a residential area of Laval-Ouest around 2:10 a.m., when 9-1-1 was



first received a call. The Laval Fire Department sent eight units to the scene, including 30 firefighters and officers, with the first crew members arriving at 2:14 a.m.

Smoke was visible from the outside, and an evacuation was completed to ensure that all occupants, including some in an adjacent building, were evacuated as well.

Firefighters located the source of the fire in the basement and quickly extinguished the flames, limiting spread to the building structure and upper floors.

Firefighters brought the blaze under control around 2:42 a.m. and damage was estimated at around \$25,000 for the building structure, and an additional \$10,000 for furnishings and other contents.



MAY 27 | 10:36 PM // Building fire on Grand-Pic Street in the Sainte-Rose sector. Residential building. Smoke visible. Code 10-07, meaning intervention required.

Charges pending against 18-year-old who crashed into school

An 18-year-old driver who crashed into an elementary school in eastern Laval last week was released pending a court appearance, although further searches and analysis could lead to charges.

The identity of the driver was not immediately released by the Laval Police, as the Director of Criminal and Penal Prosecutions (DPCP) has a mandate to decide on the next legal steps, according to the Laval Police Department.

Around 3:25 a.m. last Thursday morning, the driver suffered serious injuries after fleeing police and crashing into the Charles-Perrault Elementary School building on de la Concorde Blvd. East.

He was taken to hospital where his condition was initially considered critical, although he was deemed to be out of danger a few hours later. The elementary school, which was closed all day Thursday last week, reopened Friday morning.





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11TH EDITION OF ZONES MUSICALES

Over 40 **FREE** outdoor shows across Laval this summer

Marie-Élaine Thibert, Elida Almeida, Zébulon, King Melrose, Beyries, Maten, Cécile Doo-Kingué, Le Winston Band and Emilie-Claire Barlow, among many others. The series will conclude on August 22 and 23 in downtown Laval, on the pedestrianized rue Claude-Gagné, where Lou-Adriane Cassidy and QW4RTZ will headline the closing weekend.

for cultural affairs. "This event is an exceptional way to rediscover our city through enchanting sites and a rich variety of musical offerings. The City is proud to provide high-quality programming free of charge and to make culture accessible to all. These concerts create countless opportunities for the community to come together and enjoy the summer, and everyone is welcome."

Highly anticipated each year, the Orchestre symphonique de Laval concerts will take place on August 11 and 12 at Parc Bernard-Landry under the direction of artistic director and conductor Adam Johnson. One family concert and one general public performance will give audiences the chance to enjoy classical music in a lively atmosphere, complete with food trucks and on-site entertainment.

The events will be held across eight accessible zones throughout Laval: Vieux-Sainte-Dorothée, Vieux-Sainte-Rose, Centre de la Nature, Berge aux Quatre-Vents, Saint-François, Parc Bernard-Landry, Parc Légaré and the



Montmorency sector, which includes the Maison des Arts and the pedestrian-only rue Claude-Gagné. Some shows will feature dancers, while several sites will offer food and beverage options as well as pre-show entertainment. All locations will include amenities and facilities designed to help visitors fully enjoy the summer season.

From July 4 to August 23, the City of Laval will present a vibrant summer cultural program as part of the 11th edition of Zones musicales, presented by Groupe Banque TD. Once again this year, more than 40 free outdoor shows featuring a wide range of headline acts will take place across eight locations, including parks, public spaces and waterfront areas.

The festivities will kick off on July 4 and 5 with a double-opening weekend at Parc Bernard-Landry, featuring performances by Zachary Richard and Mixmania.

This year's lineup offers something for every taste, bringing together more than 350 artists from diverse musical backgrounds. Performers include



"Summer in Laval doesn't truly begin until Zones musicales gets underway," said Christine Poirier, Municipal Councillor for Pont-Viau and responsible

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DIRECT ANSWERS

FROM WAYNE & TAMARA

COLD TURKEY

Q I dated a girl two years. The first time it ended because she started doing drugs and wouldn't stop. When she began dating a druggie friend, I continued giving her rides, a place to crash for a night, and money. Then she left him and came back to me.

Cautiously I decided to give it another try. Unfortunately I found out she had been dating this other man and me at the same time. It ended once more. Later we started to talk again, but that ended with her taking my time and money, and then leaving.

My conscious mind can recognize she is all-around not a good person, much less good for me. I know she has taken much from me and given little in return. My mind seems to have completely gotten over her, but my body can't seem to.

Whenever I see any white car remotely resembling hers, I turn and stare. If I see a girl with the same skin complexion, I can't help but gaze. When I hear her name, my stomach tightens, and if I see her, I feel immensely downtrodden.

I would say without a doubt I am over her, but I can't help feeling queasy and even jealous when I hear news of her, good or bad. These

are all instinctual, involuntary actions. I don't understand.

It is as if my brain has moved on, but my body is still going through the motions of breaking up. I know time is probably the best cure, but it is difficult living like this.

Dylan

A Dylan, warnings not heeded, conscience not listened to, red lights driven through. Sooner or later, they all catch up to you. So will you heed another warning, or will you boldly go where no man should go?

Don't be a lemming, or just another mouse for the snake. Warnings we don't heed are snakes we feed. When you were with her, you were way overmatched. This is a woman who charms men to support her habits.

The queasiness and jealousy you feel are textbook symptoms. Twice you were given ample reason to sever contact, and twice you refused. It's not her you need to get out of your system, it's your personal weakness.

By spreading out the pain of breaking up, you reinforced it. Like Pavlov's dog, you trained yourself to salivate at the very thought of her. If you hadn't spent so much time trying to turn ground beef into steak, you would be over this.

Wayne & Tamara

PERSONAL PROPERTY

Q I have been with my husband four years, married for two. He has never accused me of cheating but insists that every man in a 10 mile radius is hot on my trail. At least once a month we fight about this.

I always ask why he doesn't trust me, and he says he does trust me, it's everyone else he doesn't trust. I don't know how to fix this. I have tried so hard. He offered to go to counseling but hasn't saved money for it, and I can't afford it either. I pay for everything else.

I am afraid my only option is divorce. I hate that I am tearing apart our family, but I don't know if I can continue. I feel alone, yet we have

talked about this many times. I don't think he is capable of change.

Vonna

A Vonna, your husband is trying to exert property rights over you. He is not in love with you, but he is afraid of claim jumpers. Every time he suggests you could be unfaithful he smirches your character. Every day you stay tells him he has the right to do what he is doing.

Like all good people you think this is your problem to fix. But it's not up to you. The only fix is letting him suffer the consequences.

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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Committed to mobility, STL files activity report for a 'challenging' 2025

MARTIN C. BARRY
 Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
 marty@newsfirst.ca

The Société de transport de Laval (STL), which released its 2025 activity report last month, said the year was marked by persistent economic challenges, but also progress in terms of the future development of mobility on its territory, particularly in terms of electrification and on-demand transportation in industrial areas.

"In a context marked by austerity and budgetary constraints, the STL has also been able to transform these challenges into opportunities for growth and optimization, while placing the customer experience at the heart of its operations," stated Laval city councillor for Vimont Pierre Brabant, chairman of the STL board of directors.

"Alongside the ongoing funding challenges, the STL has made it a priority in 2025 to guarantee quality service to its customers, on the one hand, and to support its teams to foster a healthy, safe, and inclusive work environment, on the other," said Josée Roy, the STL's CEO.

Well-being and commitment

"More than ever, we are convinced that the success of our mission depends on the well-being and commitment of the women and men who carry it out every day," she added.

The STL said it continued its mission to serve the residents of Laval, while ensuring the efficiency and optimization of its resources. However, according to the transit agency, ridership in 2025 was down 2.5 per cent compared to the previous year.

The STL board attributed the decrease to various external factors, including adjustments to service offerings, exceptional weather conditions, including storms and heat waves, as well as periods of strike action at the Société de transport de Montréal (STM), the impact of which was felt on the Laval network.

Despite the slight decline, public transit ridership in Laval remained the highest in the metropolitan region, said the STL. "This result demonstrates the continued importance of public transit in the travel habits of Laval residents, even in a less favorable economic climate," stated the annual report.

Paratransit trips up 5 per cent

The STL said paratransit has been following an opposite trend, with a five per cent increase in trips, surpassing 2019 levels, totaling nearly 550,000 trips for the year. Initiated in 2024, paratransit service optimization efforts continued in 2025 "to better reflect actual ridership on the network," the STL said.

In spite of a demanding budgetary context, the STL said it demonstrated agility by redesigning its service to meet anticipated mobility needs and facilitate access to new express stations for its customers. Five additional routes were also added

to support ridership, particularly in western Laval, and to optimize connectivity between networks.

To support economic growth in industrial sectors, the STL said it launched three new on-demand taxi routes. The initiatives aimed to improve worker mobility in these sectors, particularly in western Laval.

To meet budget rationalization requirements of the Metropolitan Regional Transportation Authority and to contribute to metropolitan efforts in this area, the STL continued its efforts to optimize its administrative expenses in 2025.

Paratransit partner with STM

In addition to continuing to adjust its service offerings based on ridership on its network, the STL entered into a partnership with the Société de transport de Montréal (STM) to take over the reservation centre and paratransit services for Laval residents, effective January 1, 2026.

The year 2025 also marked a significant milestone in the STL's energy transition. Progress on the future electrified garage – the largest infrastructure project since the STL's inception – paved the way for the imminent arrival of the first new-generation electric buses, according to the transit agency.

The agency said this major transformation will require profound changes, impacting infrastructure, work practices and staff skills. "This strategic project is fully aligned with the STL's commitment to an energy transition and more sustainable mobility," they said.

The STL's 2025 performance results indicated that customer satisfaction with regular transit saw a slight decrease, primarily due to service adjustments implemented during the year.

Former STL chair reacts

Reacting to the STL report, Action Laval city councillor for Saint-Bruno David De Cotis (who chaired the STL's board from 2013-2017) faulted the transit agency primarily for a lack of transparency, while maintaining that nothing was said of the STL's recent cuts in service brought on by a supply-chain-generated shortage of spare parts.

While the service cuts were actually implemented in the first few months of 2026, De Cotis said there should have been some mention of the problem in the 2025 report because the problem started last year, he claimed.

"It started in 2025 because they knew about it," said De Cotis. "The parts weren't coming in in February and March. They knew about that last November. It wasn't something new. There's absolutely no mention of what happened, of why it happened, and what they would do to prevent it from happening again."

De Cotis also noted that other public transit agencies in the Montreal region were facing similar circumstances, but didn't report any supply chain problems. Although Action Laval had asked for an inquiry to be held, the Mouvement lavallois council majority voted the motion down, he added.



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HOROSCOPE

Week of **JUNE 14 TO 20, 2026**

The luckiest signs this week:
VIRGO, LIBRA AND SCORPIO



ARIES

You'll begin a new life phase by selling the family home. Now that your children have left the nest, you're ready to embrace new challenges. You'll approach these changes with optimism, curiosity and serenity.



TAURUS

Careful budgeting can make your vacation plans a reality. Whether you travel alone, with your partner or with friends, the experience will bring discovery, fun and lasting memories. It will also improve your personal and material well-being.



GEMINI

Your spontaneous nature pushes you to act quickly, which is attractive but sometimes misleading. Be observant, seek advice from loved ones and avoid rushing decisions. Thoughtful planning will prevent overspending and regret.



CANCER

A revealing dream may clear away your doubts about the future. This intuitive message could guide your career toward new heights. Pay close attention to subtle signs. They'll bring clarity to your professional direction.



LEO

Feeling under pressure, you'll have a strong urge to pause. Express your creativity with home improvements. You'll indulge in new ornamental pieces, fun hues or original ideas to create a comforting space that reflects your real desires.



VIRGO

You'll be responsible for organizing a casual event for many people. Your hospitality, diplomacy and creativity will ensure success. This challenge will strengthen your personal relationships and boost your confidence in your ability to spread joy.



LIBRA

Every project starts with an inspiring dream. You'll find the drive to turn your dreams into reality. This momentum will help you grow both personally and professionally, fueling your desire for a prosperous and fulfilling future.



SCORPIO

An unexpected event will upset your emotional balance, causing you to reconsider your choices. You may feel called to travel, especially on a spiritual level. You'll uncover important answers about your destiny and your desired path.



SAGITTARIUS

Align your goals with your partner's desires to protect your relationship. Taking a step back will help you recognize your accomplishments and desires. Together, you can build a shared path grounded in calm and mutual understanding.



CAPRICORN

A stressful negotiation will test your nerves. Meanwhile, an unexpected romantic declaration may disrupt your daily life, especially if you're already in a relationship. This confession will require clarity and sensitivity to avoid conflict or misunderstanding.



AQUARIUS

Setting your ego aside will lead to more genuine self-confidence. Even if facing others' opinions of you feels challenging, you'll learn to trust yourself and affirm your worth as you pursue your ambitions.



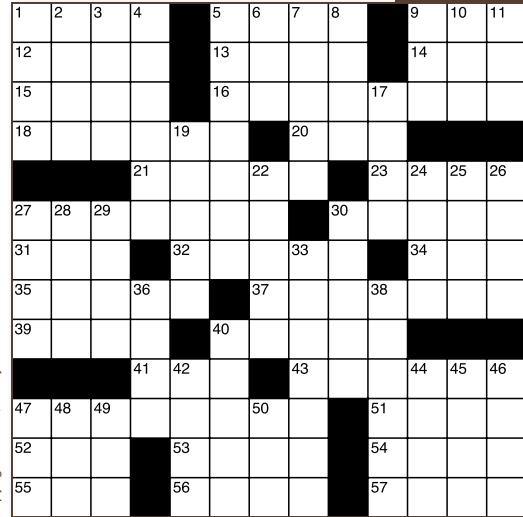
PISCES

You'll feel pride in the achievements of one of your children, such as a first success or a diploma. At work, your honesty and openness will be acknowledged, bringing well-earned appreciation and praise.

Coffee Break

CROSSWORD

PUZZLE N° 306



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ACROSS

1. Spiders' works
5. Component
9. Inquire
12. On the pinnacle
13. PBS science show
14. Game cube
15. "The Lion King" villain
16. Light
18. Group of words
20. Barely passing grade
21. More inferior
23. Madden
27. Dashing
30. Recluse
31. Anger
32. Australian animal
34. Paving liquid
35. Skating areas
37. Piano classes
39. Not on schedule

DOWN

1. Hornet
2. Clearly outline
3. Wild pig
4. Spread out awkwardly
5. Raging fire
6. Finger's opposite
7. Steer clear of
8. Better half
9. Summer cooler
10. Term of address
11. Crucial
17. Sub
19. Douses
22. Fair booth
24. Involved with
25. Lacking fat
26. Does wrong
27. Lass
28. Opera solo
29. Period preceding Easter
30. Cowboy's need
33. Educated
36. Ship bottom
38. Stirring utensils
40. Minor role
42. Cincinnati nine
44. Barbecue attachment
45. Fish story
46. Large number
47. Pester
48. Be in arrears
49. Put money on
50. Addition shape

Sudoku

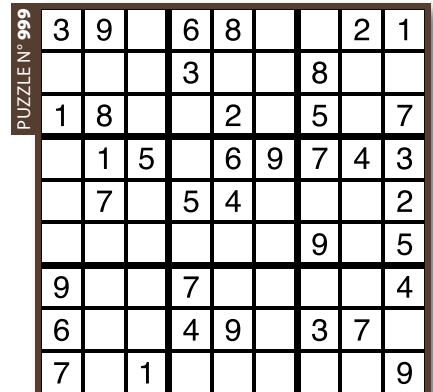
HOW TO PLAY

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

Each 3x3 box is outlined with a darker line.

You already have a few numbers to get you started.

Remember: You must not repeat the numbers 1 through 9 in the same line, column, or 3x3 box.

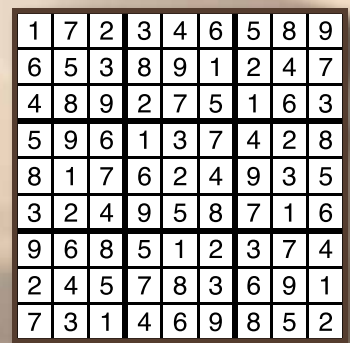


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