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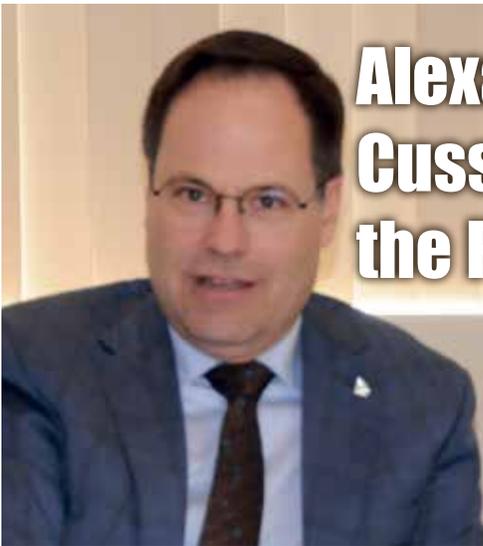
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# Flood victims still waiting in Sainte-Marthe-sur-le-Lac

*Some claims not yet processed, payouts lower than expected*

(NSN) With the spring melt only a month or so away, fallout from the tragic flooding that occurred in Sainte-Marthe-sur-le-Lac nearly a year ago is still being felt.

According to recent news reports, more than 100 property owners are still waiting to receive promised financial assistance from the Quebec government.

## \$77 million paid out

As of mid-February, according to one source, the province's Ministry of Public Security has dealt with more than 1,400 cases, of which 92 per cent have been completed, allowing \$77 million in financial assistance to be paid to Sainte-Marthe residents.

The payments being made by Quebec in

Sainte-Marthe represent around a quarter of all payouts (\$312 million) for damage caused across the province in last year's spring floods.

## Lower payouts

In Sainte-Marthe, according to Radio-Canada, a number of property owners seriously impacted by flooding and who qualified for compensation say the amounts they have ended up receiving are a lot lower than what they expected.

In the meantime, others complain the government still hasn't dealt with their claims dossier and that government records appear to be completely in disorder. Some have also refused settlements offered by the government, maintaining they're far too low.



# Give Lake of Two Mountains special status, say eco-advocates

*Enviro groups want lake recognized as crucial to the North-Shore region*

(NSN) Representatives from a coalition of environmental organizations in Quebec have signed a declaration calling for the Lake of Two Mountains to be declared an ecologically-important zone in need of attention because of its importance as a water reservoir and its proximity to the greater North-Shore region.

Located at the mouth of the Outaouais River, Lake of Two Mountains is considered to be a critical natural reservoir because of the abundance of fresh water it contains, while serving the water needs of a large number of municipalities along its shores in the North-Shore and Montreal regions.

## Water quality issue

The signers of the statement maintain that any measures to greater protect the quality of water in the area would contribute to reducing risks and possible costs at water treatment stations located along the lake.

They cite the example of the State of New York. They say that exemplary forest and agricultural practices in the Catskill Mountains 200 kilometres from New York City have ensured over the years that the city has always had access to water of an excellent quality.

## Crucial to Laval and Montreal

They also say that the City of Quebec since 2006 has implemented a strategy to safeguard water drawn from the Saint Charles River, which serves more than 300,000 Quebec City area residents.

The signatories believe that the Lake of Two Mountains area could in time become clean water sanctuary for the Laval and Montreal regions, and that a new regulatory policy should be created that would include best practices for management of rain waters, flood plains, agriculture, protection of biodiversity and management of the shoreline.

## Backed by CRÉs

They say such measures would be especially useful in view of climate change and the impact it is having on water management in the region. They also say their vision, which is backed by the Montreal, Laval and Laurentian chapters of the Conseil Régional en Environnement (CRÉ), depends on also protecting natural settings in the western part of the Montreal Metropolitan Community (CMM).

Making it a reality, they add, would allow conservation goals established in the Plan métropolitain d'aménagement et de développement (PMAD) to be met, while encouraging

access to nature for the benefit of the metropolitan population.

## Some of the signers

Among the signatories are Anaïs Boutin, director for protection and conservation at the Parc de la Rivière-des-Mille-Îles, Anne Léger, executive-director of the CRÉ des Laurentides, Denise Cloutier, executive-director of the Centre d'interprétation de l'eau (CIEAU), Cloé Courteau-Vézina, president of Éco-Comité des médecins, dentistes et pharmaciens du CISSS de Laval, and Raphaël Goulet, executive-director of the Conseil des bassins versants des Mille-îles (COBAMIL).

# Flood Management: Deux-Montagnes now equipped with Telemetric Station



In order to more precisely monitor Lac des Deux Montagnes and better predict spring flooding, the City of Deux-Montagnes recently installed a camera-equipped telemetric station at the end of 13th Avenue.

The objective of the telemetric station is to predict spring thaw, ice movement, and floods based on a year-round hydro-meteorological monitoring program. More specifically, it's composed of a barometric and pressure sensor for collecting data on a daily basis, as well as a camera for better monitoring the water level of the lake.

Being informed in real time of the results via Hydro-Météo gives the municipal emergency measures team significant latitude for making informed decisions in the event of an emergency situation.

This extra preventive measure, funded entirely by the provincial government through the Green Fund, is in addition to the construction of a permanent dyke.



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# Opinion & Editorial



## The English have not been robbed of their rights

*Bill 40 ushers in a new age of quality education driven by local leadership*

The problem of dysfunctional Quebec school boards is on a fast track to resolution following passage of Bill 40. The English community must ready itself for major reforms and modifications, in law, as the soon-to-be-introduced service centers take hold. The current CAQ government has been consistent in its intentions to reshape public education, fulfilling a campaign promise to abolish school boards and replace them with a new framework of form and reform.

Bill 40 is generously catering to the English community; it could have and should have awarded equal treatment for the English and French. The English boards got a royal sweet deal since they will still have elections. And, please let's not use the Constitution, English Minority Language Rights, or Bill 101 for these pitiful individuals who wish to retain power and control. Their tiresome tirades aren't about Education, they are about self-preservation, prestige, moneyable possibilities, and in some graphic cases a step up the ladder of political opportunism and a rise to higher levels of so-called public service, which is richly recompensed in money, perks, and juicy pension plans.

The English boards and their surrogates – the Quebec English School Boards Association

(QESBA), APPELLE, Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN) are still whining in fruitless obstruction of the changes that are guaranteed in law by the provisions of Bill 40, threatening legal challenges and political reprisals because they did not get their way in their futile attempts to retain the status quo. Contrary to what they may believe, that the status quo (school boards) are instrumental, indispensable, and responsible for student success results, not so. Only teachers, parents, and students themselves are responsible for student success.

More so, it would be interesting to know exactly how many pedagogues/former teachers are Commissioners in the nine English boards that will soon fade into the sunset. Not many, we confidently assume, and yet school boards constantly claim, without substance, that student success rates are based on the board's performance.

In what ways does a council of commissioners and a professional corps of highly-paid administrators have any direct input into a student's success, operating from the usual ivory tower, remote from the front-lines of the day-to-day challenges faced by teachers and students in their quest for academic achievement and personal, social and cultural development.

Neither the politicians in the guise of commissioners, nor their usually hand-picked board administrators have any clue about the pedagogical/psychological/communication skills and knowledge needed and frequently possessed by teachers who face up to 150 young people a-day in a typical school setting as they optimistically ply their trade – that of leading children out of the darkness of ignorance and immaturity into the light of learning to be useful members of their families, schools, communities, cities, province, country, and world.

And, yet, these commissioners and administrators have boasted for too long that they represented our students, our schools. They may have represented various other interests, but they certainly did not represent the teachers and students who toiled against great odds in the classrooms physically maintained by school-board sanctioned budgets.

Most Commissioners rarely visited a school unless it was election period or they had been invited to attend a special event. But suddenly, they became more involved, to a level of crusading when drastic measures were proposed in Bill 40. Too little, too late. The die is cast, the school boards are gone, so instead of griping, bristling with contempt for the proposed reforms, and contemplating legal challenges to Bill 40, the

vested interests in the English community should marshal their forces to embrace the new age of putting education into the hands of local administrators (principals), parents, teachers, community leaders.

The handful of elected representatives should welcome the prospect of working closely, respectfully, and democratically with school governing boards (teachers, principal, students, community leaders) as these soon-to-be elevated on-site dimensions of caring for quality education are given appropriate power, under the law, to administer their schools.

Undoubtedly, the service centers will be responsible for the distribution of funding services required for teachers to be able to perform their job effectively. And whose money is that? Well, there will be no more dispersing and squandering as they wish. They will not give away taxpayers'/ stakeholders' money to QESBA basically to support individuals who are benefitting six figure salaries without tax-payer consent. This is money that belongs to the children and not to a politically driven group.

The Commissioners are naturally worried and flustered that they will lose power and control, as they will now have to contend with appointed government officials to ensure that the arrow is shot straight. Clearly, it's the same body. A Commissioner is now called a Director and the School Board is an Educational Service Center. Why the fuss? The answer is obvious.

Commissioners do not have permanent positions or tenure. They are free to come and go with the universal suffrage system. They are not obliged to stay if they are not happy with Bill 40. They are not indispensable. Parents/stakeholders must be the directors put in place who have a direct connection to the schools through their children.

Let's not be fooled. The discontent isn't about English Language Minority Rights. The English have not been robbed of their rights. It is about retaining power and control, and the financial benefits. And if these school boards and their surrogate partners are foolish enough to go legal, they should be reminded that the Canadian Constitution does not, in the opinion of many legal experts, guarantee the existence of English school boards in Quebec, it simply guarantees the availability of English-language schools, where numbers allow.

*Renata Isopo*



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# Columnist and Anglo-rights firebrand William Johnson dies at 88

MARTIN C. BARRY

William Johnson, the often fiery political columnist, whose uncompromising stance on Canadian unity made him a reviled figure among Quebec separatists – but also a hero to many Quebec Anglo-rights activists – passed away in his home community of Gatineau near Ottawa last Sunday, his family confirmed to The Laval News.

Johnson, 88, was a long-time political columnist for The Globe and Mail and The Montreal Gazette, as well as the author of several books – some of which attacked Quebec nationalism with great gusto.

## Proud of his roots

While Johnson's mother was a Francophone and his father an Anglophone, he always claimed to be proud of his French-Canadian roots. Paradoxically, he accused many French Quebecers of suffering from a crippling narrow-mindedness that affected their political judgment.

Following studies at Montreal's Collège-Jean-de-Brébeuf, and after graduating with a B.A. from Montreal's Loyola College in 1949, Johnson, as he would later admit in a published interview, submitted to pressure from his fervently religious mother and joined the Jesuit priesthood, where he ended up spending 10 years.

## Abandoned the Jesuits

It was something he would end up regretting and turning against. Before completing his religious training, he left the Jesuits. He then embarked on a relatively short stint as an academic, teaching sociology at the University of Toronto, before beginning his long journalistic career.

His initial professional experiences in journalism during the early 1960s saw him freelancing feature articles for Weekend Magazine, a Saturday



Photo: William Johnson, right, is seen in this photo, taken in the mid-2000s, at a family gathering in Ottawa.

magazine supplement distributed as an insert in newspapers across Canada from the 1950s to the late 1970s.

In one of his most memorable pieces from that early time, Johnson wrote about taking part, along with members of his young family, in one of American black rights activist Martin Luther King's "freedom marches" through the south of the U.S.

## Worked at the Globe

His first full-time job as a journalist was in 1967 at the Toronto Globe and Mail, where he was taken on as a city reporter. By the early 1970s, he had become the Globe and Mail's political correspondent in Ottawa. He later also worked as

a correspondent in Quebec City and Washington D.C.

In the latter part of his career, Johnson became a political columnist for the Montreal Gazette, although (according to a biography posted on his web site) his position as national affairs columnist was "terminated" by Gazette editor Joan Fraser.

This came, as Johnson would sometimes recount to those who knew him, following a dispute over what he deemed to be The Gazette's weak response to the Quebec sovereignty movement under Fraser, who would go on to be appointed to the Canadian Senate.

## Alliance Quebec period

In what was perhaps William Johnson's most high-profile undertaking, in 1998 (when he was still disturbed by the close results of Quebec's 1995 referendum) he ran for and won the presidency of the English-language lobby group Alliance Quebec, serving a controversial and turbulent term until the year 2000.

According to an online encyclopaedia's description of the events back then, he refused to meet with government officials, held two demonstrations against the Charter of the French Language, added clauses to the group's constitution denouncing hypothetical declarations of independence by the Quebec government, and supported the election of members of the Equality Party to Alliance Quebec's board of directors.

In protest, 20 members of the Alliance Quebec board and most staff members resigned, while six affiliated groups severed their ties, calling his leadership style overly confrontational.

## Reaction in Laval

Martin Berman, a Chomedey resident who was on the board of Alliance Quebec while Johnson was president, credits Johnson with having greatly

influenced his views on Anglophone rights in Quebec.

"I don't like to admit it, but he actually converted me," Berman said. "I became very, very vocal because of him. I sort of knew what was going on in Quebec. But after hearing him speak, I sort of thought to myself it's about time somebody was doing something about this."

"He woke us up to what was happening," Berman added. "The rights of English-speaking people in the province of Quebec were being eroded so quickly and we were just sitting around like a bunch of dummies. All of a sudden he was saying wake up."

Another Chomedey resident, Gail Campbell, who was also active with Alliance Quebec during that period, saw things from a somewhat different perspective.

"I felt that Alliance Quebec was succeeding with a diplomatic approach," she said. "There was a difference in styles in his approach. And did we gain from it, or did we lose from it? I think we'll leave that to the ages to be decided."

## Published works

Among William Johnson's published books were The Informer: Confessions of an Ex-Terrorist, which Johnson co-wrote with Carole de Vault, a police mole who infiltrated the FLQ; Anglophobia: Made in Québec (1991); A Canadian Myth, Quebec, between Canada and the Illusion of Utopia (1994); and Stephen Harper and the Future of Canada (2005).

William Johnson had also been working on a new book, in which he hoped to take aim at the credibility of wartime claims made by René Lévesque – the Quebec sovereignty movement's most sacred idol – regarding Lévesque's experiences at the end of World War II when he was a U.S. Army correspondent in Europe.

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# Former Drummondville mayor seeks Quebec Liberal party leadership

*Would overhaul CAQ's 'religious symbols' law, while appealing to rural voters*

MARTIN C. BARRY

When you consider that Quebec Liberal Party leadership aspirant Alexandre Cusson devoted himself mostly until now to municipal politics and only recently decided to jump to the provincial level, it might be easy to dismiss him as an interloper seizing on an opportunity.

## Us and them

However, there are a few things that need to be known and understood about Cusson before passing judgment. Perhaps one of the first is his disdain for some of the policies of the current CAQ government.

"We have to put an end to the *us* and *them* outlook that is currently the practice of the Legault government," Cusson said in an interview with Newsfirst Multimedia, alluding to the CAQ's overall outlook as expressed in legislation such as Bill 21 banning religious symbols.

## Drummondville mayor

Prior to the announcement of his interest in seeking the PLQ leadership last November, Alexandre Cusson was probably best known as the mayor Drummondville, the 15<sup>th</sup> largest municipality in Quebec.

After spending the first 25 years of his working life as a teacher and senior administrator at a private school and junior college in Drummondville, Cusson was elected mayor of Drummondville in 2013 with 70 per cent support from voters.

After winning a second term in 2017, he became the head of the Quebec Union of Municipalities. In that capacity, he signed an important new fiscal pact between the provinces and Quebec with the Legault government.

## Memories of Bourassa

What is perhaps not as well known about Alexandre Cusson is that his involvement with the Quebec Liberal Party actually goes way back. Cusson first signed on as a card-carrying PLQ member in the early 1980s.

The 51-year-old recalled a meeting of PLQ youth wing members who gathered at the Paul Sauvé Arena in Montreal in 1985 to welcome Robert Bourassa back following the former premier's decade-long absence from Quebec politics. This was a few weeks before the 1985 election that saw Bourassa come back into office. Alexandre Cusson is not the first and probably not the last politician who starts out defining himself politically through early

adhesion to a political party, then spending years (and sometimes decades) pursuing other goals, only to return to the original fold in the end.

## Return to the Liberals

Perhaps the most noteworthy alternate example of this phenomenon is former NDP leader Tom Mulcair. After first joining the NDP in 1974, Mulcair got into provincial politics, representing Chomedey for the PLQ from 1994 to 2007 and serving in the cabinet. After suddenly leaving the Jean Charest government, he became active again with the NDP, becoming the party's leader in 2012.

"Obviously when I became mayor, I was fully involved with that and I was no longer involved with the Liberals," said Cusson, noting that he renewed his PLQ membership only recently. "But I have always been Liberal," he added.

## Two-way leadership race

Whether it's a new face or simply one that hasn't been seen in a long time, Cusson's decision to toss his hat in for the Liberal leadership assures the party will indeed have a race, rather than a coronation, which would have been the case with the only other candidate, Saint-Henri/Sainte-Anne Liberal MNA Dominique Anglade, in the running.

Still, as someone renewing himself with the Liberals, the prospect of Cusson winning raises the possibility he might see his next task as a reform of the PLQ following decades during which the party has been dominated by insiders.

## Does PLQ need reforming

"As I am always repeating, we must give our party back to its activists," Cusson replied when the reform issue was put to him. "What we notice is that over the last few years we haven't been communication as much with our activists. We haven't been listening to them as much. And so we have to enhance our chances.

"The Liberal Party is one which has an interesting structure," he continued, referring to several of the party's committees that were set up to take a constant reading of the pulse of the membership.

"We have to listen to them. We have to take the time to meet them. And I have made the commitment not only to listen to our province-wide committees, but also to listen extremely carefully to the local riding committees. It's the best way to reconnect with Quebec as a whole."



## Seeking the rural vote

As things now stand in the seat layout at the Quebec National Assembly, two out of the four parties have a base of seats that is predominantly rural. For the Parti Québécois that has almost always been the case, while the current CAQ government also has virtually all its seats in rural areas. Conversely, the PLQ's voter base is now almost entirely in the metropolitan Montreal region, following the party's disastrous results in the last election.

With his distinctly rural roots, the prospect of Alexandre Cusson winning the PLQ leadership could provide the Liberals with a new lease on life by allowing the party to tap into this vast reservoir of rural votes – albeit possibly while further polarizing the provincial political spectrum and alienating the Montreal region even more.

And yet, Cusson seemed to suggest, it might be the best route to bring back voters. "If we want to see the Liberal Party of Quebec become the party that governs Quebec, it's impossible to think that it's only with Montreal and the region that it's going to happen," he said.

## Sees Quebec 'as a whole'

"When the Quebec Liberal Party was in power, it's because it had people from all over Quebec. For me it's not a question of whether we are party that takes care of the regions or one that pays more attention to the metropolitan region. Quebec has to be taken into account as a whole."

If there remain valuable votes to be won in rural Quebec, it might also be remembered that the CAQ won their landslide in late 2018 after promising and then passing Bill 21, which

appealed mostly to French-speaking Québécois rural voters who felt their values were threatened by the rising presence of immigrants.

## Would re-write Bill 21

Still, Cusson insisted, Bill 21 runs counter to fundamental Quebec Liberal Party principles. He said the PLQ, under his leadership, would replace the legislation with something that doesn't undermine individual freedoms.

On the question of PLQ reform, Cusson said he's not sure the word reform is appropriate to describe what he has in mind. "But at least it would be to have our party function as it is supposed to," he said.

"The National Policy Committee, which is the soul of our party and which sets our vision for Quebec, works very hard. But over the past few years, it hasn't been listening very carefully.

## Touching base with activists

"So it's not a reform of the party's structure, so much as the attitude, presence on the field, being near the activists and hearing them, showing that we're interested in what they have to say. To me that's what's important."

Despite repeated accusations and tentative police investigations of alleged corruption within the Quebec Liberal Party, Cusson said he is confident the party has been operating honestly and on the level.

"I am convinced that at the Liberal Party of Quebec ethical behaviour is there and is exemplary," he said, although he acknowledged that a perception of corruption within the PLQ and other parties remains in the minds of many Quebecers.

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**MEDIA-TREK**

# Rosemère ponders new urban outlook over next decade

*Future of golf course and Place Rosemère are key elements*

MARTIN C. BARRY

The future of the Rosemère Golf Club and the pending redevelopment of the Place Rosemère shopping mall were among the issues raised by residents during public consultations held by town officials Feb. 19 and 22 on Rosemère's future urban planning orientations.

In the spring of 2018, Rosemère town councillors, working with residents, drafted a vision for the future development of the town.

## Rosemère's identity

Through the process, they were able to identify factors that could help in developing a new urbanistic vision for Rosemère, while still managing to preserve the North Shore town's identity.

The latest consultations were part of a second and final phase of the process, before the councillors and urban planning staff draft a new urban development master plan to guide development in Rosemère over the next decade.

According to basic and virtually unchanging tenets of Rosemère's current urban planning vision, the hub of the town remains the "village" core along Grande Côte Rd. (where the library, municipal pool and other facilities are located across the street from the Metro supermarket and mall).

## Widely varying opinions

In the meantime, the sprawling Rosemère Golf Club grounds and Place Rosemère along Labelle Blvd. are regarded as a regional hub. "We're trying to get a feeling from the population as to how they feel about all these things," Mayor Eric Westram said in an interview Feb. 22 with the North Shore News, noting that the variance in opinions in some cases is quite wide and may need reconciling.

"Everything that is going to come out of last Wednesday's consultation and today's, plus the two previous consultations and the two focus groups, will be letting us know where the population is at on all the issues so that we can find a consensus. We've always said that we wanted to keep Rosemère as green as possible."

## Place Rosemère's future

As town councillor Philip Panet-Raymond



Rosemère mayor Eric Westram listens to residents' comments during the second consultation held Feb. 22 at the Externat Sacré-Cœur school. Photo: Martin C. Barry

reflected, not everything is within the control of town officials. "The future of the shopping mall to some extent is in the hands of the owners," he said during the consultations, held at the Externat Sacré-Cœur school.

According to Panet-Raymond, Rosemère officials are currently waiting for a proposal to be made by the mall's owners (Toronto-based Morguard) to partly modify the mall's vocation to something that could integrate a new concept into the current all-retail configuration.

"Retailing has changed over the past 10-20 years," he said. "It's had an impact on that mall and its ability to maintain its value. That mall was reassessed in terms of value and it's gone down a little bit, which in turn has an impact on the taxation generated."

## Town open to changes

"We were encouraging the mall ownership to come back to us with a plan that updates and modernizes it, and that would also allow us to, you know, potentially put some rental residential in there," said Panet-Raymond.

"We're open to upgrading that mall. And they'll do their homework in terms of what works and what doesn't. They'll do demographic studies to determine what should be there and what will be profitable."

"Because obviously if businesses at the mall are working and are profitable, we're happy. Because then the tax base for us goes up and allows to do more with that tax revenue towards improving the lives of our residents."



Town councillor René Villeneuve speaks with Rosemère residents during the recent urban planning consultations. Photo: Martin C. Barry

## Golf course's future

As for the Rosemère Golf Club, whose future as a golf course looks dim given the dismal state of golfing as a sport, Councillor Panet-Raymond said the town has been in discussions with the owner, a developer who would eventually like to build housing on at least part of the large property.

"We have received no plans as yet from them," he said. "But we are consulting the population for purposes of getting some ideas for our own plans." He said the town is currently following a guideline that sets a 50 per cent threshold, meaning that at least that much green space would be conserved if there were to be redevelopment.

# Eco-groups unite to form coalition for wetlands protection

*North Shore, Lower Laurentian communities take proactive stance*

(NSN) A coalition of environmental groups from the North Shore and Lower Laurentian areas have announced that an agreement was reached between them during a meeting on Feb. 18 to encourage dialogue between municipalities for the safeguarding of regional protection plans for wetlands.

The organizations include Abrinord, COBALI, COBAMIL and RPNS. Also on board were the MRC des Laurentides (Antoine-Labelle, Argenteuil, Deux-Montagnes, La Rivière-du-Nord, Les

Laurentides, Les Pays-d'en-Haut and Thérèse-De Blainville) and the MRC Les Moulins and Ville de Mirabel.

## Fulfilling a mandate

The agreement revolves around the provincial environment ministry's Plans régionaux des milieux humides et hydriques (PRMHH). The latter are an obligation handed to Quebec's MRCs for fulfillment by June 16, 2022.

In order to help meet the requirement, the OBV (organismes de bassins versants) des Laurentides organized the regional meeting to facilitate dialogue between the MRCs and other stakeholders.

"It's about time we were proactive, that we got into action and developed common strategies on regional scale to raise awareness among our citizens and all the elected officials about protecting the wetlands, including flood plains," said Sainte-Anne-des-Plaines mayor Guy Charbonneau.

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## Seven ways to be an advocate for women's rights

Every year on March 8, countries around the globe mark International Women's Day. It's a time to both recognize women's

achievements and acknowledge the challenges they continue to face in the pursuit of gender equality. Wondering how you

can help promote gender equality in your daily life? Here are seven ways to make a difference.

courage women to run for leadership roles and vote for them when they do.



### 1. RAISE YOUR VOICE

Whether it's in the workplace, among friends and family members or at a public event, speaking up on behalf of gender equality is an integral step in advancing women's rights and freedoms.

### 2. SUPPORT WOMEN

Supporting women can take many forms including listening to their stories, endorsing their businesses, offering counsel and providing resources that empower them to take charge of their own lives.

### 3. SHARE THE WORKLOAD

Women do as much as two-and-a-half times more unpaid care and domestic work than men. Divvying up these jobs equally between men and women allows everyone to pursue other types of meaningful work.

### 4. GET WOMEN INVOLVED IN POLITICS

Communities need women to assume leadership roles so that women's concerns and needs can be better addressed. En-

### 5. EDUCATE YOUTH

Both boys and girls should learn about the status of women's rights and how they themselves can become advocates of gender parity.

### 6. ENSURE WOMEN KNOW THEIR RIGHTS

Women need to understand the legal and civil rights they have and how to protect them at home, at work and in their communities.

### 7. JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Social media platforms are increasingly becoming a place where advocates of women's rights can join forces to affect social change. For International Women's Day, join the conversation by using the hashtags #BalanceforBetter and #IWD2019.

This year for International Women's Day, look for ways you can become a champion of women's rights. No matter how small, every voice counts and every step forward matters.

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## We honour all passionate, determined women

Celebrating International Women's Day on March 8 allows us to appreciate the progress that has been made in women's issues, while we also look towards the future.

The origins of International Women's Day can be found in the context of the struggle by workers and suffragettes in North America and Europe at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. What were the main issues then? Women worked hard in claiming their right to the vote (which men had long enjoyed), better working conditions and gender equality.

This special day has grown significantly on the international stage since the intervention of the United Nations in 1975. After that, it took very little time before the cause was taken up by women in both developed and developing countries. Now events are organized around the globe every year to promote the rights of women and facilitate their participation in political and economic life.

So let's congratulate all those passionate, determined women who, by fighting for

their convictions, make an important contribution to society every day of the year.

### DID YOU KNOW?

International Women's Day is a public holiday in several countries, such as Laos, Russia and Moldova. In several other countries, including China and Madagascar, women are entitled to a day off work.



## Recent advancements in women's rights around the globe

According to the United Nations, "no country in the world has successfully eliminated discrimination against women or achieved full equality." However, advancements are made each year that lend hope for a future in which women everywhere have the same rights as men.

### SOUTH ASIA

**India.** In the summer of 2017, the Supreme Court of India declared the custom of divorcing a wife by declaring "talaq" (I renounce you) three times to be illegal. This practice once left women without financial protection and many who were divorced in this manner became destitute. India also outlawed marital sex with minors in a bid to protect child brides in the same year.

### NEPAL.

The custom of banishing menstruating women to cattle sheds was outlawed in 2017.

### THE MIDDLE EAST

**Tunisia, Lebanon and Jordan.** In 2017 these countries repealed laws that permitted rapists to get away with their crimes if they married their victims.

### SAUDI ARABIA.

Women were given the legal right to drive in 2018.

### LATIN AMERICA

**Chile.** In 2017 the country decriminalized abortion in cases of rape, fetal impairment and when pregnancy is life threatening.

### AFRICA

**Rwanda.** A world leader in terms of female political representation, the country's parliament has 106 seats, 59 of which are held by women as of 2018.

### EUROPE

**Iceland.** At the beginning of 2018, the country made it illegal to pay men more than women, a measure with which the country intends to close the gender wage gap.

### NORTH AMERICA

**United States.** A record number of women ran for Congress and won Democratic Party nominations in 2018.

**Canada.** Prince Edward Island joined the remaining nine provinces in offering women in-province abortion services in 2017.



**Denis Martin**  
Mayor

*On this International Women's Day, the city council and general management of the City of Deux-Montagnes wish to pay tribute to all the women around us who contribute every day to building a better world.*

**Happy International Women's Day**



*Happy Mother's Day to all Moms*

from the members of Rosemère's Town Council. May this day bring you pleasure and happiness with your children and grandchildren.



# Direct? Answers

from • Wayne & Tamara

## Delayed Development

What do you do when you have been with a man 21 years, and he still finds excuses for not getting married? We have two children together, and I have two by my ex-husband. They were two and three when we got together, and they are now 23 and 24.

He was married when I first met him. He was separated from his wife for three years, then finally got a divorce. Every time I bring up marriage he says he is going to marry me. Lately he said, "Let's go and get married in September." But, as always, he never gives me a date.

I feel I've wasted my life. I was 19 when I met him and am about to turn 40. My birthday is next month. The children I had for him are 15 and 19. I feel so stupid and betrayed and taken advantage of, I don't know whether to go on or what to do. It's a long story. I could write a book.

Eugénie

*Eugénie, a familiar piece of advice for novelists is simple: to write an exciting story, put your heroine in the soup and keep her in the soup. In other words, begin with a main character in trouble and keep piling up her troubles until she figures out a way to overcome each of them.*

*Pregnant at 15, pregnant at 16, you were a child having children, making decisions no child should make. At 19, married and divorced with two kids, you became involved with a married man. An outsider might wonder, where were the adults in her life while all this was happening.*

*Now at 40, with your youngest children coming of age, you have come to a realization. A thing can happen in a way so late, so inelegantly done, so far below minimum expectations, it might as well not happen at all. It won't be an event to celebrate. It has been ruined.*

*Because it is too late to get the genuine affirmation you crave, the question becomes, "What can I do, on my own, to improve my life?"*

*Between now and September you can stop*



*thinking about a wedding and start planning your future. You can begin life anew as an adult woman making her own decisions. You can have a whole other lifetime as an actualized person.*

*You were robbed of your childhood. What did you aspire to? What was dormant within you? Who did you want to be? Those are not simple questions, and the answers may or may not involve this man who won't marry you.*

*A wedding in September that you can't plan for or tell your friends about is a phantom. Without plans for your own life, your future is also a phantom. Instead, each day you must work for what you aspire to in life, whatever it is. You need to decide what will give you a sense of worth.*

*This man knows he doesn't have to marry you because he knows you have no other plans. He knows you have not plotted a course that you can achieve on your own.*

*"I wish this life was different," is a great wish, but wishes go nowhere. You are 40. You've spent 25 years without a strategy. It's time to face life as an adult woman, not as a woman who still thinks, "I need someone to take care of me." If you won't do anything to change your life, why write us?*

*You've spent life in the soup. The only way out of the soup is to answer the question, what can I aspire to? You said you could write a book. Great. Write that book about your new life.*

Wayne & Tamara

Wayne & Tamara Mitchell are the authors of  
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## Julie's Chatter

By Julie Laver - [laver.julie@gmail.com](mailto:laver.julie@gmail.com)

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May 2, 2020, Laval, QC. The event features private collector exhibits & several coin dealers. 30+ tables including coins, bank notes, tokens, medals, RCM products, CDN Tire, and much more. One day only, Saturday May 2, from 9:00am to 4:00pm. Free admission & parking. Free door prize to the first 50 visitors. For more information please contact [michelrobert6880@gmail.com](mailto:michelrobert6880@gmail.com) or 514-713-6880 <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1847723442205229/>

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Garage sale on March 24, April 28 and May 26th

### BRIDGE

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450-473-9541

[info@allsaintsdeuxmontagnes.ca](mailto:info@allsaintsdeuxmontagnes.ca)

[www.allsaintsdeuxmontagnes.ca](http://www.allsaintsdeuxmontagnes.ca)

### Prayer time before church

In the pastor's office (beside the piano) Sunday services with Sunday school at 10:00 am

1st Sunday – Morning Prayer

2nd / 4th Sunday – Holy Communion

3rd Sunday – Family service (Morning Prayer)

5th Sunday- Church Cafe (whenever applicable)

Two Mountains Community Youth Group

We meet at All Saints Church every Friday from September to June 7:30 – 9:30, except for every 3rd Friday, which is SPAM (Sports night At Mountainview). For all high-school aged teens. Please note that all events, dates and time, are subject to change so please like our Facebook page, visit our Website, or call All Saints (450-473-9541) and stay up to date.

March 7th "Food for Body and Soul" monthly breakfast 9:30 am – church hall

March 18th Messy Church Our schedules can get messy, life can feel messy. Join us once a month for a light supper, craft activities, celebration and fun from 5:30-7:00

March 21st Dinner & Quiz Night Tender pulled pork with fries, Coleslaw, dessert and coffee/tea \$20

March 26th Holy Communion service at Les Cascades 10:30 am

### HERITAGE SOCIAL CLUB

503 rue Cedar, Deux-Montagnes, QC J7R 1H1  
450-473-5429

March 11th: Wednesday St. Patrick's Lunch. Tickets need to be purchased in advance.

Menu: Corn beef and cabbage \$10.00.

Join us at 12pm with Irish songs by Forever Young Theatre Group.

March 13th: Karaoke night 8pm. Prior to Karaoke, Dance lessons!! From 7pm to 8pm.

March 17th: Happy St. Patrick's Day to all!!

March 18th: Bingo afternoon at 1pm. Hall opens at 11:30 am. Bring your lunch and enjoy coffee with friends.

March 21st: Cribbage afternoon, 1pm / Kitchen opens at 11:30 am

March 27th: Karaoke night 8pm, Dance Lessons!! From 7pm to 8pm

Tuesdays and Thursdays; Exercise classes from 9:30 am to 11:00 am with Dale Hammond:

514-213-6796. Forever Young Theatre Group (song, dance, theatre) Monday Morning 9:30 am.

For information, please contact Val Glover 514-668-6249. Dart night – 7:30 pm (maybe you can spare) Kitchen is open at 6:30. The Hall opens Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 2:00 pm come down and play Darts, Pool or just socialize with friends!!

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Come and join us for the Community Supper, 21 March at 6:00pm. A lovely meal consisting of soup, salad, chicken pot pie and dessert all for the reasonable price of \$10.00 pp. Children free.

There will be a raffle and door prizes. Please call Ann Gillard at 450-965-7507 for tickets.

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(Used to be Christ Church) 214- 14th Avenue, Deux-Montagnes. Our Community Luncheon is now open again at 214, 14th Avenue in Deux Montagnes. This program is open to everyone in the community and continues each Tuesday from noon till 2p.m.

We provide a free lunch which includes many of your favourite dishes, soup and sandwiches or a hot entrée plus a choice of salads and a variety of different desserts. So come along with your friends and enjoy the convivial atmosphere and delicious food. If you would like more information or would like a lift to the premises, please call Judy at (450) 491-6052 or Stella at (450)623-5192. Volunteers are welcome and a collection box is provided for donations if you can contribute to the cause. This program is sponsored by the Rosemere – Riverside United Church and a grant from the Good Samaritan Fund.



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# In Memoriam & Obituaries



## LANDRY, Nadine

1970 - 2020

In Sept-Îles, on February 19, 2020, passed away at the age of 49, Mrs. Nadine Landry daughter of Mr. Armand Landry and of the late Denise Beaudin residing in Sept-Îles. She is survived by her father, Mr. Armand Landry (late Denise Beaudin), her sisters: Nathalie (Dany Pinette) and Lise (Éric Cormier), her nieces: Jessy (her son Logan) and Fany, her nephews: Tomy and Jérémy, her uncles, aunts, cousins, and many friends.

## GAGNON, Denis

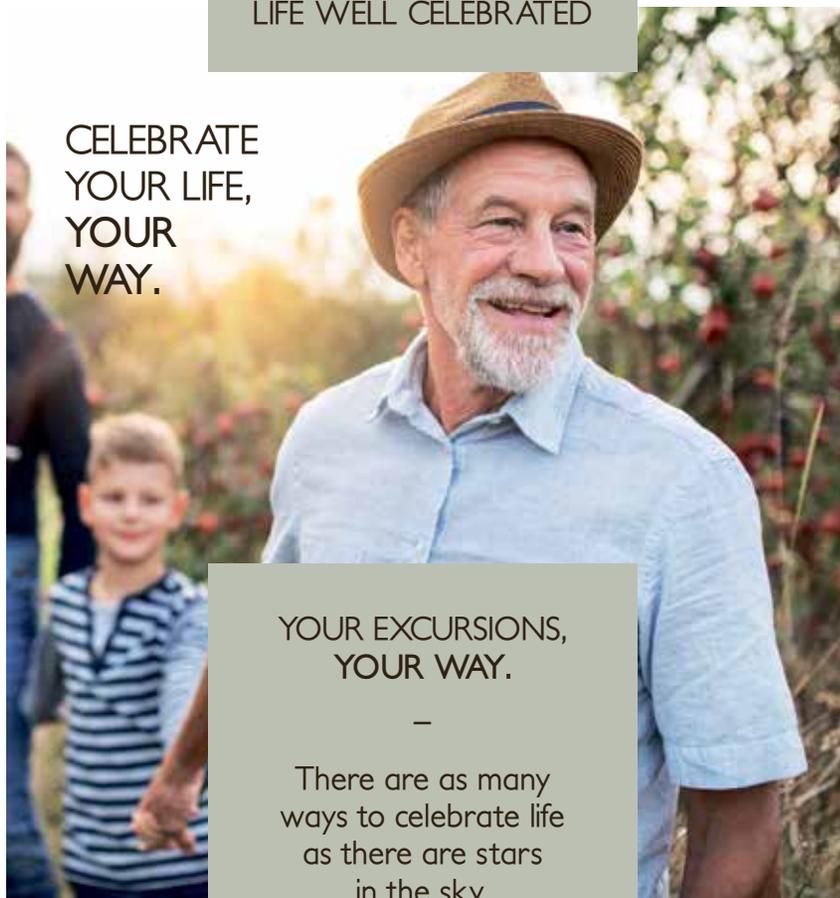
1948 - 2020



Passed away at CISSS Côte-Nord Pavillon Forestville on February 2020 at the age of 71, Mr. Denis Gagnon. He was the spouse of Mrs. Gisèle Canuel, son Mr. Roland Gagnon and Dame Valéda Girard and lived in Forestville. In addition to his spouse, Mr. Gagnon is survived by his spouse's children: Serge Amyot (Ginette Michaud), Stéphane Amyot (Julie Levasseur), Michel Amyot, Annie Amyot (Alan Dufour) and Christian Amyot (Caroline Leblanc). Her grandchildren and great grandchildren. His brothers and sisters: Monique, Carmen, Josette, Mona, Maryline, Carole, Lynda, Jimmy as well as brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, cousins, nephews, nieces and friends.

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## MORIN, Raymond

1932 - 2020



At the Côte-Nord Integrated Health and Social Services Center, on February 23, 2020, at the age of 87 years, passed away Mr. Raymond Morin, beloved husband of Mrs. Jeannine Gagnon. He lived in Chuteaux-Outardes. He is survived by his children: Sylvie, Alain and Richard, his brothers: René, Camil and Jacques, his sister the Bernadette as well as his brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, nephews, nieces, cousins, and friends.

## TREMBLAY-SIROIS, Rita

1925 - 2020



Passed away at CISSS Côte-Nord Pavillon Forestville on February 22, 2020 at the age of 94 years and 10 months, Mrs. Rita Tremblay. She was the wife of Mr. Maurice Sirois, daughter of Mr. Honoré Tremblay and Dame Anne-Marie Girard and lived in Forestville. Mrs. Tremblay is survived by her children: Denis, Jean (Rolande Lévesque) and Line. Her grandchildren: Stéphanie, Yoan, Annie, Claude, Michaëlle and Geneviève. Her great grandchildren: Sarah, Alexandre, Alexane, Maxence, Raphaël, Mathéo and Axelle. Her brothers and sisters: Olivette, Lucette, Thérèse, Noëlla, Rémi, Ginette as well as brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, cousins, nephews, nieces and friends. She went to join her children: Nicole, Richard, Serge, Michel, André and Annie.

## JOAN, Rhéaume

1970 - 2020



In Fermont, on February 17, 2020 passed away at the age of 49 years Mrs. Joan Rhéaume daughter of Mrs. Jackie Dempsey and Mr. Alain Rhéaume. She lived in Fermont. Mrs. Joan Rhéaume is survived by her sons: Michael (Anne-Marie Jeanneret) and Benoit, her unborn grandson Alexis, her mother Mrs. Jackie Dempsey, her brother Paul (Nathalie Lachance), her sister Mélanie (Sébastien Lacaille), her nephews and nieces as well as all his friends.



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# In Memoriam & Obituaries



## DESROSIERS, Bertrand

1938 - 2020

In Sept-Îles, on February 18, 2020, passed away at the age of 81, Mr Bertrand Desrosiers husband of Albéa Gagnon and domiciled in Sept-Îles. He is survived by his daughter Lise, his grandsons: Sébastien (Émilie Rousseau) and Jérémy (Sabrina Carpentier), his great-grandson Mathias, his great-granddaughter Charlotte as well as his friend Norma Gagnon, his brothers, his sister, his nephews, his nieces, his cousins, and many friends.



## JEANNETTE JEAN, Bélanger

1951 - 2020

At CISSS de Port-Cartier, on February 15, 2020 passed away at the age of 69 years Mrs. Jeannette Jean wife of the late Mr. André Bélanger. She lived in Port-Cartier. Mrs. Jeannette Jean Bélanger is survived by her sisters: Lucienne, Odette, Lise, the late Françoise and Claudette, her brother Yves, his brothers-in-law as well as his nephews and nieces.



## DESBIENS, Marc

1952 - 2020

Passed away at the CISSS Pavilion Forestville on February 17, 2020 at the age of 68, Mr. Marc Desbiens. He was the son Monsieur Régis Desbiens and Dame Marie-Jeanne Poitras and lived in Forestville. Mr. Desbiens is survived by his daughter: Karine Manning. His grand daughter: Emy. His brothers and sisters: Marie-Jeanne, René, Élise, Yvon (Gilberte Lafrance) as well as cousins, nephews, nieces and friends. He left to join his brothers and sisters: Rollande, Onil, Ronald and Daniel.



## LUDANYI, Frank

1926 - 2020

In Sept-Îles, on January 31, 2020, passed away at the age of 94, Mr Frank Ludanyi husband of Mrs Rita Laflamme and domiciled in Sept-Îles. He leaves to mourn in addition to his wife Mrs. Rita Laflamme Ludanyi, his daughter Claire, his son François, his grandson Mathieu (Tanya Cauvier), his granddaughter Alex as well as his brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nephews, nieces and many friends.



## PAULIN, Suzanne

1958 - 2020

In La Vallée des Roseaux, on February 18, 2020, at the age of 61 years, passed away Mrs. Suzanne Paulin, daughter of Mrs. Marguerite Roy and of Mr. Wilfrid Paulin. She lived in Baie-Comeau. She is survived by her daughter Mélanie, her sister Denise: her brothers Benoit and Marc-André (Katy Desbiens) as well as her uncles, aunts, nephews, nieces, cousins and friends.



## VAILLANCOURT, Donald

1929 - 2020

In Sept-Îles (Élyme des sables house), on February 15, 2020, passed away at the age of 90, Mr Donald Vaillancourt husband of the late Madeleine Santerre and domiciled in Sept-Îles. He is survived by his children: Louiselle (Marc Pouliot), Mona (Vincent Dufour), Jean-Yves (JoAnne Breton), Jacques (Claudie Montambault) and Marleine, his grandchildren: Kathy (Ross Ashley), Pascal (Mely Vorachith), Julie (Tommy Larouche), Frédérique and Charlotte as well as his great grandchildren: Cole, Nathan, Elliot and Logan, his brothers, his sister, his brothers-in-law, his sisters-in-law, his nephews, his nieces, his cousins, and many good friends.



## MICHEL, Derosby

1968 - 2020

At his residence in Port-Cartier, on February 15, 2020 passed away at the age of 52 Mr. Michel Derosby son Mrs. Paulette Ouellet and Mr. Charles-Aimé Derosby. Mr. Michel Derosby is survived by his wife Mrs. Vicky Tremblay, his children: Jimmy, Yoan, Patrick and Emmy, his granddaughter Eve, his sister Denise, his brothers: Mario, Denis and Yannick as well as his nephews and nieces.



## ÉLÉONARD, Derosby

1956 - 2020

At his home in Port-Cartier, on February 15, 2020 passed away at the age of 64 Mr. Éléonard Derosby husband of Mrs. Linda Devost. Mr. Éléonard Derosby is survived by his wife Mrs. Linda Devost Derosby, his children: Marie-Pier (Jonathan Cummings), David (Kathleen) and Steve (Natacha Chevarie), his 6 grandchildren, his great-grandchild, his brothers and sisters: Benoit (Yolande Pelletier), Claude (Brigitte Labrie), Claudette (Andrew Maurice), Ilda (Pierre Gosselin), Chantal (Harvey Bond) and Jacques as well as his nephews and nieces.



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## BRAHMS: THE BOY II

PG-13 | 1h 26min | Horror/Mystery/Thriller



NOW  
PLAYING

After a family moves into the Heelshire Mansion, their young son soon makes friends with a life-like doll called Brahms.

## THE CALL OF THE WILD

PG | 1h 40min | Adventure/Drama



NOW  
PLAYING

A sled dog struggles for survival in the wilds of the Yukon.

## THE WAY BACK

1h 48min | Drama/Sport



MAR. 6

A former HS basketball phenom, struggling with alcoholism, is offered a coaching job at his alma mater. As the team starts to win, he may have a reason to confront his old demons. But will it be enough to set him on the road to redemption?

## ONWARD

Animation/Adventure/Comedy



MAR. 6

Set in a suburban fantasy world, two teenage elf brothers embark on a quest to discover if there is still magic out there.

## MY SPY

PG-13 | 1h 39min | Action/Comedy/Family



MAR. 13

A hardened CIA operative finds himself at the mercy of a precocious 9-year-old girl, having been sent undercover to surveil her family.

## MULAN

Action/Adventure/Drama



MAR. 27

A young Chinese maiden disguises herself as a male warrior in order to save her father. A live-action feature film based on Disney's 'Mulan.'

## BLOODSHOT

PG-13 | 1h 49min | Action/Drama/Sci-Fi



MAR. 13

Ray Garrison, a slain soldier, is re-animated with super-powers.

## 14 JOURS, 12 NUITS

1h 39min | Drama



MAR. 6

Isabelle Brodeur embarks on a journey to Vietnam, her adopted daughter's birthplace. Her path leads her to the woman who was once her daughter's nanny. Doing so, Isabelle learns the existence and whereabouts of her daughter's biological mother.

# HOROSCOPE

Week of March 8 to 14, 2020

The luckiest signs this week:  
SCORPIO, SAGITTARIUS AND CAPRICORN

**ARIES**  
You'll get the green light at work to take a course that could lead to new career opportunities. Abundance will follow. Your relationship could benefit from a break in the same old routine.

**TAURUS**  
You'll save someone from an unfortunate situation by simply listening for a few minutes. This person will be forever grateful to you.

**GEMINI**  
You'll probably hear about a birth in the family. Also, you'll be faced with an opportunity to acquire a home that perfectly suits your needs and budget.

**CANCER**  
You'll be motivated to get a new car. Or, you may be invited to join someone on an adventure. At work, you might have to negotiate with people who don't speak your language.

**LEO**  
You'll find the solution to all your financial troubles. At work, you'll have the opportunity to advance to a better position and benefit from the salary increase that comes with it.

**VIRGO**  
Sometimes you get the feeling that life is moving too fast. Also, you'll want to treat yourself at the mall. Take the opportunity to revamp your wardrobe and your style.

**LIBRA**  
You'll put aside your worries and fears and plunge head first into your passion. You'll be inspired to create, which sets you on the right track to build your masterpiece.

**SCORPIO**  
People will ask a lot of you. At work and within your circle of friends, you'll be very popular this week. Professionally, you'll increase your client base.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
After lengthy negotiations, the bank director will give you the green light to acquire a property or to finance a project that's close to your heart. Your future will be all that you hope for.

**CAPRICORN**  
You'll plan a last-minute romantic getaway. You need to recharge your batteries and take the time to think about a situation that's worrying you.

**AQUARIUS**  
By changing your direction or objective, you'll finally reach your full potential. No matter what your goals are, you'll put everything you have into achieving them.

**PISCES**  
In your love life, you may consider marriage, if only to make you feel more secure. At work, you'll negotiate more effectively if you're not too emotionally involved.

# Coffee Break

## CROSSWORDS

PUZZLE NO. 980

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			

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### ACROSS

- Stuck-up person
- Gorilla
- Thunder sound
- Volcanic output
- Lived
- Wolf's cry
- Final word in prayer
- Curve
- Hideous
- Ice mass
- Respond
- Conducted
- Indian village
- Captured
- \_\_\_ room (family room)
- Not cooked
- Apply
- Part of the face
- Top flier
- Stinging insect

- Clumsy one
- Made a choice
- Pay
- Deer's mother
- Less
- Art \_\_\_
- Smooth
- Great rage
- Berserk
- Perform a longshoreman's job
- Cloth remnant
- Certain bean
- Blood\_hound's enticer
- Snaky letter
- Don't go

### DOWN

- Thick piece of stone
- Calling-card info
- In excess of
- Bracelet
- Academy \_\_\_
- Peel, as an apple
- Fugitive from prison
- Slide
- Campfire need
- Leather-worker's instrument
- Fabric layer
- Loony
- Audience's shout
- Bothersome child
- Frilly trim
- Had bills
- Bathers' locales
- Uncertain
- Ship bottom
- Ump's relative
- Out of control
- Foot levers
- In pursuit of
- Residue
- Historical epochs
- Give forth
- Michael Douglas movie
- Approval
- Producer Ziegfeld
- Young fellow
- Turmoil

# Sudoku

PUZZLE NO. 705

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

### HOW TO PLAY:

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

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

### Last Issues' Answers

## CROSSWORDS

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

## Sudoku

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



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