

**Professional Auto Body Repair & Painting**  
 Expert Color Matching • Factory Genuine Parts  
 Insurance Work Accepted • All Work Guaranteed  
 Import Car Specialists • Major & Minor Repairs



**A2 AUTO**  
 1385, Boul. des Laurentides local 103,  
 Vimont, Laval 514 476-4565

# THE NORTH SHORE News

Blainville, Boisbriand, Bois-des-Filion, Deux-Montagnes, Lorraine, Rosemère,  
 Pointe-Calumet, Sainte-Marthe-sur-le-Lac, Sainte-Thérèse, Saint-Eustache



**BARBIES**  
 RESTO • BAR • GRILL

SKIP Uber  
 BOORDASH  
 Pick up / Delivery  
 400-868-0033  
 Online Orders  
 barbiesgrill.com

barbiesgrill.com

**newsfirst**  
 MULTI-MEDIA

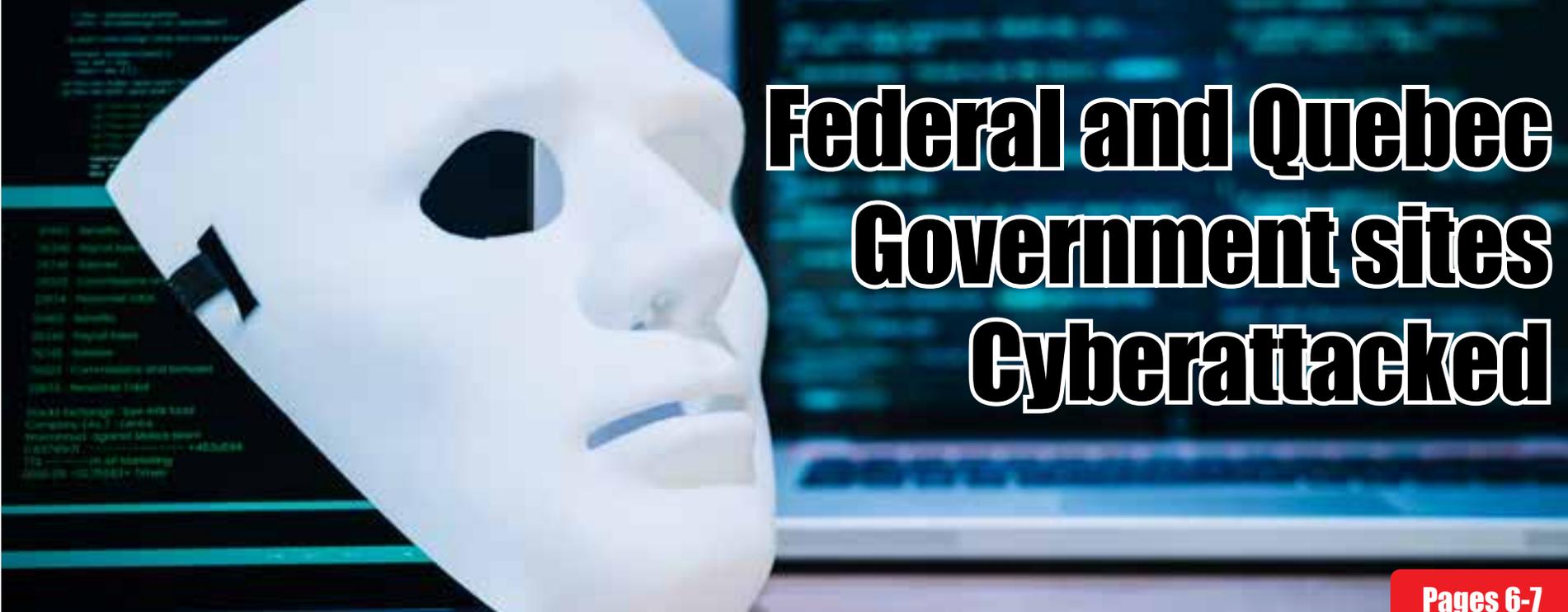
Vol. 17 - 51

December 17, 2021

450-978-9999

www.ns-news.com

editor@newsfirst.ca



## Federal and Quebec Government sites Cyberattacked

Pages 6-7

## Omicron looming over the holidays

The provincial government also announced that it would be offering access to free at-home rapid-testing



Page 3



**Best Choice**  
*Since 1983*  
**WELCOME**  
 AT OUR STORES

At IGA extra Daigle, we always take our time to serve you better.

*Our services*

- Packers
- Phone orders 450-430-9897
- Delivery service
- Order online at [igadaigle.com](http://igadaigle.com)

*Looking forward to serving you*

Opening Hours: Monday to Friday from 8am - 9pm. Saturday and Sunday from 8am - 8pm.

450, Blainville Str. East  
 Sainte-Thérèse  
 450-435-5500

220, Saint-Charles Str.  
 Sainte-Thérèse  
 450-435-1370

25, Des Entreprises Blvd.  
 Boisbriand  
 450-430-5572

2605, D'Annamasse Str.  
 Boisbriand  
 450-433-6226

Visit us at [igadaigle.com](http://igadaigle.com)  
 and make wonderful discoveries!  
 Subscribe to our info letter!




# We all have questions about the **vaccine**

Is the COVID-19 vaccine for children the same as the one for adults?



The vaccine given to children under the age of 12 contains a smaller amount of mRNA, because children have a stronger immune response than adults. Despite the smaller dose, the vaccine is just as effective as the one for adults.

Get answers to all your questions  
about the vaccine at

[Québec.ca/YOUTHvaccine](https://quebec.ca/YOUTHvaccine)

Getting vaccinated is the best way to protect us all.

# Omicron variant is here and may stay for long



**MATIAS BRUNET-KIRK**  
matias@newsfirst.ca

Amid growing worries over the increasing scope and reach of the COVID-19 and its Omicron variant, health authorities have started adapting both testing and vaccination measures to respond to a surge in cases.

This fits into a bigger trend occurring across the province, with 2,300 new cases detected on Tuesday. With case numbers increasing, various levels of governments are imposing new measures to try and stem the spread.

## Provincial response

On Tuesday, Québec's Minister for Health and Social Service Christian Dubé announced that the growing threat of the Omicron variant forced them to put in place new health measures.

"You are going to see an increase in cases in the coming days," the Minister of Health warned Quebecers during a press briefing in Montreal on Tuesday. He also added that they were also expecting the number of hospitalizations to rise over the coming weeks, especially after the Christmas period.

The provincial government has since reimposed mask mandates in the common areas of private seniors' residences and has recom-

mended that employers reimpose telework orders to all employees who can work from home.

Although the government permitted the maximum number of guests at Christmas gatherings to increase from 10 to 20 last week, they are now uncertain whether such measures will be able to go forward. As of Wednesday, these directives had not yet changed, but the Health Minister implored people to only gather if they are vaccinated.

## Rapid testing

The provincial government also announced on Tuesday that it would be offering access to free at-home rapid-testing ahead of the holidays. The roll-out will include the free distribution of over 10 million rapid tests at pharmacies throughout the province.

As of Monday, people will have access to up to five free tests a month per person. These will

be distributed at 1,900 participating pharmacies across the province to help deal with projected growth in the Omicron variant.

Health Minister Dubé has so far indicated that they had only detected a "limited number" of cases of the new Omicron variant in the province. "However, experts say the situation is likely being underestimated," said Dubé. "What we know is that experts agree this variant is a lot more transmissible than delta. It travels faster and hits more often," he added.

*"You are going to see an increase in cases in the coming days,"*



On Tuesday, Québec's Minister for Health and Social Service Christian Dubé announced that the growing threat of the Omicron variant forced them to put in place new health measures. Photo: Christian Dubé via Facebook

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

The Town of Rosemère is taking the opportunity of this festive season to offer you its best wishes for health, happiness, love and prosperity. May 2022 live up to your expectations and fill you with joy.

**ROSEMÈRE**

*Bijouterie*  
**GÉMEAUX inc.**  
At your service since 1987!

**Final Sale on Wenger watches all at 50%**

- ♦ Jewellers and watchmakers on site
- ♦ Exclusive creations
- ♦ Free estimate on all repairs.
- ♦ Evaluation Certificate
- ♦ Necklace restringing
- ♦ Watch water-resistance testing
- ♦ Repair of watches and old clocks
- ♦ And Much more!

**WE BUY GOLD, DIAMONDS, SILVER, COINS, CURRENCY AND WATCHES. BEST PRICE GUARANTEE!**

**SAVE up to 50%**

199 C, boul. Labelle, Laval H7L 2Z9 450.625.4744

# THE NORTH SHORE News

10,000  
copies

3860, boul. Notre-Dame, # 304,  
Laval, QC H7V 1S1  
Tel: 450-978-9999 • Fax: 450-687-6330  
E-mail: editor@newsfirst.ca

[www.ns-news.com](http://www.ns-news.com)

Distributed to the  
North Shore region



#### Publishers:

George Bakoyannis  
George S. Guzman

#### General Director:

George Bakoyannis

#### VP Sales & Marketing:

George S. Guzman  
sales@newsfirst.ca

#### Graphic Design:

Elena Molter  
Thomas Bakoyannis

#### Advertising Consultants:

Peter Stavropoulos  
peter@newsfirst.ca

Jean Paul Chamberland

#### Editorial Staff:

Martin C. Barry  
Maria Diamantis  
Renata Isopo  
Robert Vairo

The views, opinions and positions expressed by  
columnists and contributors are the author's alone.  
They do not inherently or expressly reflect the  
views, opinions and/or positions of our publication

Layout: MEDIA TREK

Distribution: DIFFUMAG

Printing: TC. TRANSCONTINENTAL

Project funded in part by

Canada

Member of  
Quebec Community Newspapers Association &  
Canadian Community Newspapers Association



National Representation:

RÉSEAU SÉLECT

TEL.: 1-800-361-7262 ext 241056

ISSN number : 1923-0648

Annual subscription : \$97<sup>98</sup> tax incl. • Per copy : \$1

**Publishers' Liability for Error:** The publishers shall not be liable for slight changes or typographical errors that do not lessen the value of an advertisement. The publishers' liability for other errors or omissions in connection with any advertisement is strictly limited to publication of the advertisement in any subsequent issues or the refund of any monies paid for the advertisement. Articles published reflect writers' opinions, but not necessarily the opinion of this newspaper.

ENTIRE CONTENTS COPYRIGHT 2021

## THAT'S WHAT I'M THINKING

Robert Vairo



### Praise for Government, Crazy Grocery Prices, Christmas.

It never ceases to amaze me how governments consistently bungle projects that they were elected and well paid to manage professionally and effectively. And so it's refreshing to be able to write about the optimism that's emanating from our west coast. It was a horrific scene of floods and destruction. It is Canada's worst disaster.

The BC government, corporations and ordinary folk have reacted with swiftness, courage and determination to this horrible and catastrophic blow dealt by Mother Nature. And they are getting it done.

Trans Mountain and Enbridge, that transport gasoline and natural gas from Alberta to most of British Columbians, quickly stopped the flow for precautionary reasons when the rains came (the floods unearthed the pipelines, leaving them exposed or underwater). The BC government, foes in court with these same pipeline companies, actually praised and thanked the corporations.

B.C. acted swiftly in declaring a Provincial State of Emergency to mitigate impacts on transportation networks and movement of essential goods and supplies. It also allowed various government departments to order repairs and reconstruction done immediately, and disburse money in days, which would otherwise have taken months. Victims received an immediate two thousand dollars, a small but well received amount, with more to follow. There was swift and efficient prioritizing and organization. Emergency services went to work literally within hours to assess damage, block roads because of highway wash outs, snapped bridges, and mudslides obstructing routes. They rerouted traffic, closed some roads, and arranged for single lane traffic to allow only emergency and essential vehicles.

The unsung heroes are the farmers affected. Even though some had lost cattle, chickens, hogs, and homes, they didn't immediately seek shelter but helped neighbours move their livestock first. There are some unbelievable human stories. School kids with fund raisers, Telus \$1 million, Stormtech Performance Apparel \$600,000 in new clothes, and the list goes on of corporate and private help and donations.

The government ordinance gave powers to their Public Safety Minister Mike Farnworth to freeze gasoline prices that were in effect ten days earlier. Retailers were served with hefty fines for gouging. There was none reported.

British Columbians were told to drive only if necessary, and resume working from home. Fill up was limited to 30 liters at a time except for emergency and essential vehicles, to preserve what gasoline remained. There were some cheaters, as there always are, but most abided.

The main transportation highway, the 600 km Coquihalla, the shortest route from Edmonton to Vancouver was scheduled to reopen only at the end of January. Because of the voluminous machinery and manpower

dispatched, and the Canadian Armed Forces, some crews working under lights around the clock, 'the Coq' (pronounced 'coke') as it's called there, is expected to be back in business some time after Christmas.

There is anger too. The Americans have done little to mitigate flood waters from Washington state from spilling into Canada. The U.S. Nooksack River, is a powerful contributor to floods in Abbotsford BC. There are grounds for a law suit.

What is also in Canadians' conversation coast to coast, is COVID-19 infections on the rise, and Omicron expected to quadruple daily case counts. Even at this late stage there is no accountability by the Legault government for "10 times the number of deaths in care homes more than anywhere else in Canada".

The center stage chatter has to be the stratospheric rise in the cost of everything. We are all noticing because the surge in prices is affecting what we need and buy daily, like food, energy and housing. Inflation in Canada will likely be over 5% this month, it was approaching 7% in the U.S.

Yes, inflation is world wide, but it has domestic roots. And what is astounding is our liberal government's inability and unwillingness to address grocery store prices, while continuing to plan more record spending.

And this continuous spending has resulted in a warning from the National Bank's chief economist Stéphane Marion. "We are bleeding capital". With no new projects allowed, private investment in Canada has slowed since 2015. There is investment in residential real estate though. It now exceeds investment in all the other sectors of the economy for the first time since 1961. That's not a good economic indicator. Not even Canadian pension funds are investing in Canada. 130 billion dollars have left this country that otherwise would have funded expansion, more employment, especially for the record increase to 400 thousand immigrants now allowed into Canada, one of the highest per capita rates of permanent immigration in the world. Says Marion "Clearly we are not doing well when our own domestic pension funds prefer to invest heavily abroad rather than in Canada."

It's true, the pandemic has dampened toy drives, visits with mall Santas, and annual Christmas parades, but that should not prevent us from enjoying safe, festive, family gatherings.

Hope you had a great Hanukkah, and have a very Merry Christmas.

That's what I'm Thinking.  
Robert Vairo  
robert@newsfirst.ca



#### #NewsMatters:

#### The National Assembly Report

By Raquel Fletcher

#### End of session

The party leaders expressed their views as part of their year-end press conferences Thursday and Friday in Quebec City. As is the custom, the leaders exchanged Christmas greetings to one another and a few light-hearted jokes.

Anglade presented the other leaders with Christmas gifts, including a toy backhoe for the premier, needling him over his controversial plans to build a \$10 billion tunnel between Quebec City and Lévis. "I took the time myself - myself - to paint it green so he could say it's carbon neutral," she said to laughter in the house.

During his speech, Legault was also good-natured, noting that: "Despite all the tough debates that we can have here, I think that I want to say a big thank you to all the MNAs for the work that has been done during the pandemic.

"It's been more than 21 months that we have been trying, each one of us, in our riding offices to reassure citizens, to face, in certain cases, major frustrations."

It was a rare moment of levity and cordiality in the National Assembly, where debate has become increasingly tense in recent weeks. Legault admitted he has a short temper when he feels provoked by the opposition.

When a 65-year-old man died earlier this month after the emergency room was closed in his town due to staff shortages, Anglade accused the premier of being personally responsible.

"I'm strong, but it's tough to hear things like that," the premier admitted with a heavy sigh.

Anglade also revealed how the pandemic has been taking its toll. She broke down in tears in front of reporters while talking about people who lost their lives in the province's long-term care homes during the first wave. "I know what it's like to lose somebody you love in a terrible situation," she said, referring to her own parents' deaths in the 2010 Haiti earthquake.

Reading the final report about what happened to them gave her closure, Anglade said. "It's not necessarily something you really want to find out. But when you do find out, you're capable of moving on," she said.

#### Next year's election

While leaders called for a more respectful tone, next year's election is only 10 months away and they hinted at the type of campaign rhetoric to come.

The Liberal leader said she doesn't believe recent polls that show the CAQ could win close to 100 seats, including more seats on the island of Montreal.

"Next year, there is going to be a clear choice that Quebecers are going to have: they're going to have a choice between a government that is paternalistic, that doesn't anticipate, that doesn't have a vision for society, versus a government that is progressive, inclusive, federalist and that has a vision for the future," she said.

"I think what ordinary people want is affordable rent. They want accessible mental health care... and they want us to deal with climate change. So, when we ask those questions, François Legault reacts, he loses control, because we are putting the finger on his contradictions," said Nadeau-Dubois.

The PQ leader currently does not have a seat at the National Assembly but said he doesn't feel left out of the debate.

"We will jump into 2022 on the right topics and with people that deserve the trust of the population," said St-Pierre Plamondon.

The former lawyer still struggles with name recognition but said he won't drop one of his surnames to make it easier to say. "I don't think I could come to Christmas this year saying: Mom, I just deleted your name," he said. "So, we'll stay with PSPP"

# Mayor Denis Martin Appointed to MMC Executive Committee

NSN – Deux-Montagnes Mayor Denis Martin was appointed to the Montreal Metropolitan Community (MMC) executive committee on December 9. The committee oversees the administration of the MMC's 82 member municipalities. The eight-member executive committee is chaired by Montreal Mayor Valérie Plante and includes Longueuil Mayor Catherine Fournier and Laval Mayor Stéphane Boyer. Mayor Martin will represent the interests of the North Shore on the committee.

Mayor Martin said he was extremely honoured by the trust his peers placed in him by electing him to this key position at the highest level of municipal government. "I'm very proud to be a part of the MMC executive committee and look forward to putting my experience to work on its behalf. The issues dealt with, and the decisions made by the executive committee have a far-reaching impact on all the municipalities in its purview, and on a major portion of the population. I am deeply committed to never losing sight of serving the common good and to maintaining a comprehensive forward-looking vision of sustainable development for the entire North Shore," he said.

In addition to his role on the MMC executive committee, Mayor Martin will sit on the Autorité régionale de transport métropolitain (ARTM) board of directors. He will also continue serving on the Union of Quebec Municipalities executive committee, where he's chair of the economic development committee as well.

Given the many challenges and mandates he faces in months ahead, the chief one being representing the interests of Deux-Montagnes residents, Mayor Martin has resigned as prefect of the Deux-Montagnes RCM. He wishes every success to Mayor Pierre Charron of Saint-

Eustache who will be replacing him as RCM prefect.

## About the Montreal Metropolitan Community

The Montreal Metropolitan Community (MMC) was created in 2001 as the planning,

coordinating, and financing body encompassing the 82 municipalities in the community, representing a population of 4.1 million in a territory of over 4360 square kilometres. The MMC jurisdiction includes land-use planning, economic development, social housing, public transit, and the environment. For more information, please visit [cmm.qc.ca](http://cmm.qc.ca).



## Deux-Montagnes cuts Property Tax Rate

For the next year, Deux-Montagnes residents will benefit from a lower property tax rate in order to limit the financial impact resulting

**MARIA DIAMANTIS**  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter  
For The North-Shore News • [info@newsfirst.ca](mailto:info@newsfirst.ca)

from the overall increase in property values. This was decided during the 2022 budget for the City of Deux-Montagnes which was approved on December 9, at a special meeting of city council.

The residential tax rate will be reduced from \$0.84 to \$0.70 per \$100 of assessment. For 55% of Deux-Montagnes homeowners, the rate cut will either lead to a decrease in their tax bill or a slight increase of no more than 1.9%. This is particularly the case for owners of an average single-family residence in Deux-Montagnes - whose assessments increased from \$256,600 to \$313,500 -, who will see an increase of \$56 on their annual tax bill. The rate cut was made possible in part due to a rate freeze on

costs for services, including waste collection, potable water, and snow removal.

Deux-Montagnes Mayor Denis Martin is extremely pleased with the budget. "The council made the decision to reduce the base property tax rate to compensate for the significant increase in home valuations," he said. "Because the city is on sound financial footing, we were in a good position to keep the tax burden down for Deux-Montagnes homeowners, while continually improving the level of services we provide. That's not to say that the managers involved in preparing the budget didn't have their work cut out for them in delivering a prudent and responsible budget, despite the sharp rise in the Consumer Price Index."

## New assessment roll

The property assessment roll is a mandatory process under the Act respecting municipal taxation. It's carried out every three years in all Quebec municipalities. The assessment

roll is prepared by an independent third party accredited by the Ordre des évaluateurs agréés du Québec and is governed by rigorous professional standards. The ministry of municipal affairs and housing (MAHM) has produced an explanatory document for anyone wishing to learn more about how the assessment roll process works.

## Major projects scheduled for 2022

• Ongoing upgrade to the potable water and sewer line rehabilitation program as outlined in the three-year capital investment program (CIP)

• Investment of more than \$4 million in overflow control structures, as well as other investments in sustainable development projects

• Completion of Parc du Centenaire to provide public access to the waterway and sustainable development for recreation and tourism

Most of the costs for these projects are covered by government subsidies.

## Mikaël Kingsbury back on top

Mikaël Kingsbury hasn't brooded over his disappointing performance for a long time. Kingsbury rebounded to secure the 67th World Cup victory of his career. Kingsbury has regained his usual place on the top step of the podium, Sunday in Idre Fjäll in Sweden, on the occasion of the World Cup moguls in parallel. Eliminated from the super final on Saturday for the first time in his career by virtue of an eighth solo position, the "King of the Moguls" rebound in the final round.

"I gave everything I had left of energy after the fifth consecutive day of racing," said Kingsbury. "I'm happy to have bounced back from my result on Saturday. I was disappointed, but I didn't let myself down, especially since I had the opportunity to recover quickly. I didn't dwell on my performance on Saturday and went one round at a time. I had turned the page, if I hadn't been able to forget, I wouldn't have had this result today. You must have failures to bounce back and I am happy that this poor performance arrived at the start of the season of this Olympic year."

Kingsbury had the opportunity to push against his main rival in the final Ikuma Horishima who won solo gold on Saturday. "We push each other and pull each other up to offer the best version of ourselves. You have to measure yourself against the best to keep progressing. It's a very difficult duel. We do the same things and we go at the same speed."

Despite a good start Sunday Kingsbury lagged



slightly behind the Japanese athlete after the first jump, but he turned the tables after the second jump and he crossed the finish line with a difference of 0 s 03. "After the first jump, he had a slight lead, but I really maximized the speed that the track could give me Ikuma and did the same thing. On the bottom jump, that's where I could go get him. I wasn't sure I would win, but it's always better when you cross the line first in a duel" he said.

Idre Fjäll's track is not, moreover, a favourite among skiers. "This is the track where I have the most difficulty winning, it is a flat track where it is very difficult to stand out. It's hard to pick up speed up and down. It is also the easiest track on the circuit," Kingsbury concluded.



*Trusted care since 1996*



**Foot pain? WE CAN HELP!**

- **BUNION & HAMMERTOE SURGERY** (minimum incision)
- Foot, Ankle and Knee Pain
- Custom high quality plantar orthotics
- Ingrown Toenails
- **EFFECTIVE** treatments for Plantar Warts
- **LASER TECHNOLOGY** (discolored nails)
- Pediatric Foot Problems

**25 Years Experience**  
New York College of Podiatric Medicine (1996)  
Clinician at UQTR

**podiatrerenord.com**  
**450 979-0303**

**Dr Martin Scutt,**  
**PODIATRIST & Assoc.**

**260 Grande Cote,**  
**Rosemere**  
**(near the train station)**



# Ransomware

## Canadian energy, health,

2021 ransomware trend report released by Communications Security Establishment, a cyber intelligence agency

More than half of the known ransomware victims in Canada this year were critical infrastructure providers, according to a new threat assessment from Canada's cyber spies — and the number is likely even higher.

As part of a new awareness campaign, the Communications Security Establishment (CSE), Canada's foreign signals intelligence agency, released a ransomware bulletin Monday looking at the key trends of ransomware in 2021.

In its report, CSE's Cyber Centre said ransomware attacks are "brazen, sophisticated, increasing in frequency, and, for the cybercriminals, very profitable."

"The impact of ransomware can be devastating, and the severity of the financial consequences related to a ransomware attack can be profound."

For the first time, the agency also confirmed publicly Monday that it has used its new cyber attack powers, granted to it through legislation back in 2019.

"The Communications Security Establishment Act gives CSE the legal authority to conduct cyber operations to disrupt foreign-based threats to Canada, including cybercriminals," said CSE spokesperson Evan Koronewski.

"Although we cannot comment on our use of foreign cyber operations (active and defensive cyber operations) or provide operational statistics, we can confirm we have the tools we need to impose a cost on the people behind these kinds of incidents."

"We can also confirm we are using these tools for such purposes, and working together with Canadian law enforcement where appropriate against cybercrime."

Ransomware is a form of malware used by threat actors and criminals who encrypt files on a device then demand a ransom in exchange for decryption. Once successfully hacked, ransomware victims are often attacked multiple times.

CSE said it's aware of 235 ransomware incidents against Canadian victims from Jan. 1 to Nov. 16 of this year and more than half of those targets were critical infrastructure providers, including those in the energy, health and manufacturing sectors.

The number is likely higher, as the agency said most ransomware events go unreported.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has made organizations like hospitals, governments and universities more mindful of the risks tied to losing access to their networks and often feeling resigned to pay ransoms," notes the report.

"Cybercriminals have taken advantage of this situation by significantly increasing the value of their ransom demands."

### Canadian hospitals hit

Newfoundland and Labrador is still reeling after a cyber attack hit its health-care system, cancelling thousands of medical procedures ranging from chemotherapy to X-rays.

Sources have told CBC the security breach is a ransomware attack, but so far government officials have not confirmed the nature of the cyberattack and will not say if they have received a ransom demand.

This summer Humber River Hospital in the Toronto area was forced to shut down its IT systems in order to prevent a ransomware attack.

Staff were unable to access electronic patient records and diagnostic test results leading to long waits in the emergency department and prompting the hospital to cancel clinics and redirect some ambulances to other hospitals.

CSE said it expects high-impact targeting to continue.

"We assess that ransomware operators will almost certainly continue to target large organizations with operational technology (OT) assets, including organizations in Canada, to try to extract ransom, steal intellectual property and proprietary business information, and obtain personal data about customers," it warned.

Canada is far from alone. This year has been marred by the highest ransoms and the biggest payouts around the world.

Earlier this year the Colonial Pipeline, the largest fuel pipeline in the U.S., was hit by an attack attributed to the Russia-based DarkSide RaaS cybercriminal group.

As a result, the company's operations were affected, resulting in record price increases, panic-buying, and gasoline shortages

Let me help  
you find *your*  
dream home.

**Voula Kottaridis**  
514 993.5010  
REAL ESTATE BROKER

PROTECTION ROYALE

ROYAL LePAGE

HEALTHY CENTRE  
Agence Immobilière  
450.682.2121

# e attacks

manufacturing sectors were major targets

## Global Cybercrime Damage Costs:

- **\$6 Trillion USD a Year.\***
- **\$500 Billion a Month.**
- **\$115.4 Billion a Week.**
- **\$16.4 Billion a Day.**
- **\$684.9 Million an Hour.**
- **\$11.4 Million a Minute.**
- **\$190,000 a Second.**



ALL FIGURES ARE PREDICTED BY 2021



\* SOURCE: CYBERSECURITY VENTURES

### Ransomware operators will likely become increasingly aggressive: CSE

In Canada, CSE said the estimated average cost of a data breach, which includes but is not limited to ransomware, is more than \$6 million. The average price has stabilized over the past years, a trend CSE attributes to cybercriminals becoming better at tailoring their demands to what their victims are most likely to pay.

Ransomware operators will likely become increasingly aggressive in their targeting in 2022, including against critical infrastructure, warned the agency.

Part of the problem fighting ransomware is that many operators and their affiliates are based in countries with lax or non-existent laws against cybercrime, said CSE.

"Mitigating the increasing risks will require concerted national efforts to improve cyber security and adopt best practices to harden critical systems, as well as co-ordinated international actions to undermine criminal infrastructure and tactics," said the report.

As part of that effort, CSE, working with the RCMP, has published what they call a "playbook" that outlines steps organizations and businesses can take to protect against ransomware, and what to do if attacked.

### Organizations urged to implement cyber safety measures

A handful of cabinet ministers have signed an open letter to Canadian organizations urging them to implement basic cyber security measures.

The letter, co-signed by Defence Minister Anita Anand, Emergency Preparedness Minister Bill Blair, Public Safety Minister Marco Mendicino and International Trade Minister Mary Ng, said the federal government is working with its allies to pursue cyber threat actors and disrupt their capabilities.

"We are also assisting in the recovery of organizations compromised by ransomware and helping them to be more resilient going forward," they wrote.

"Our message is clear: taking basic steps to ensure your organization's cyber security will pay swift dividends."



## Federal and Quebec Government sites attacked

Canada Revenue Agency, other government departments take some services offline due to security 'vulnerability'



Software flaw has potential to be used by 'bad actors,' says Canada's minister of defence

A number of government departments have taken some services offline as a preventative measure following the discovery of a software flaw that Defence Minister Anita Anand says "has the potential to be used by bad actors."

Groups using the popular Apache Log4j system should "pay attention to this critical, internet vulnerability affecting organizations across the globe," Anand said in a statement.

"Given the critical nature of this vulnerability and reports of active exploitation, we are urging Canadian organizations of all types to follow the recommended guidance," she said, adding any incidents should be reported to the Canadian Centre for Cyber Security, part of the Communications Security Establishment.

On Friday the Canada Revenue Agency took some services offline as a precaution after it learned of a global security vulnerability. It says there is no indication its systems have been compromised or that there was any unauthorized access to taxpayer information.

### Quebec shut down nearly 4,000 government sites

Over the weekend, Quebec shut down close to 4,000 government websites out of precaution, including those related to health, education and public administration.

Éric Caire, Quebec's minister for government digital transformation, said Sunday there is no indication the government was the victim of a successful cyber attack.

"Out of an abundance of caution, some departments have taken their services offline while any potential vulnerabilities are assessed and mitigated," said Anand.

"At this point, we have no indication these vulnerabilities have been exploited on government servers."

### 'People are scrambling to patch'

The vulnerability — located in open-source software used to run websites and other web services — has been described as one the worst computer vulnerability discovered in years.

Unless it's patched, it allows grants hackers access to impose code, meaning they could steal valuable data and unleash malware.

"The internet's on fire right now," Adam Meyers, senior vice president of intelligence at the cybersecurity firm CrowdStrike, said to the media.

"People are scrambling to patch," he said, "and all kinds of people scrambling to exploit it."





**\$207<sup>ea</sup>**  
**Fast Delivery!**  
Volume pricing available

Taxes extra. Prices are for PDF files. Format based on specifications.  
Graphic design not included but very affordable.  
Minimum order \$100. Delivery charges may apply.

**Place your order today!**

## RETRACTABLE BANNERS

The lightweight pull up banner comes with a lightweight swivel foot unit, 3 piece interlocking pole, carrying bag and a 1 sided 33"x79" vinyl banner installed.

**MEDIA-TREK**  
Communications - Promotions - Marketing

Call us for more information **450.978.9999**

# Audits: a perfect report card for Lorraine



**MARIA DIAMANTIS**  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter  
For The North-Shore News • info@newsfirst.ca

In terms of the adoption of the 2021 budget, only 57% of the cities audited were found to be compliant. Lorraine is therefore one of those who respected the obligation to adopt an annual budget during the period from November 15 to December 31, 2020, during an exclusive session, and who published a public notice for at least eight days before the meeting in which the budget was adopted. Regarding the adoption of the PTI (Programme triennal d'immobilisations), only 44% of the cities audited, including Lorraine, complied with the required standards. This means that the municipal council of Lorraine adopted the PTI covering the

period from 2021 to 2023 during an exclusive meeting, before December 31, 2020 and that the City published a public notice to this effect at least eight days before this session.

The mayor of Lorraine, Mr. Jean Comtois, said he was very proud of these results: "Lorraine did its homework well, on all fronts! The budget process and the three-year capital program are complex processes that serve as the basis for our annual action plan. Planning ahead for future projects and actions, properly informing citizens of the decisions that are taken, being available to answer their questions, these are elements that all members of the municipal council have at heart. I salute the work of the entire municipal team. These CMQ audit reports confirm that the administration is working hard, with rigor and transparency, for all Lorraines and Lorrainers.

## Professional Auto Body Repair & Painting

- Insurance Work Accepted • All Work Guaranteed • Expert Color Matching
- Factory Genuine Parts • Import Car Specialists • Major & Minor Repairs



**A2 AUTO**

1385, Boul. des Laurentides local 103, Vimont, Laval 514 476-4565

# Sainte-Thérèse launches its new registration platform for its activities



**MARIA DIAMANTIS**  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter  
For The North-Shore News • info@newsfirst.ca

The City of Sainte-Thérèse launched its new online registration platform (inscriptions.sainte-therese.ca). This will facilitate the experience of citizens when they register for the various activities and courses offered by the city. In addition to offering a more user-friendly interface, one of the main advantages is to be able to group all the members of a family under the same account. When the time comes, all citizens will have to do is select the people they want to register for an activity. All receipts and family statements will also be consolidated in one place.

"This new platform meets the needs of Teresians much better, since its use is simple

and its functions are improved. Of course, the transition to this one will require a small adaptation, but know that our team will be able to answer your questions and will be happy to accompany you in this transition! », said the mayor of the City of Sainte - Thérèse, Mr. Christian Charron.

### Winter session 2022

A vast program of cultural and sports activities will be offered for the winter session 2022. Numerous courses will be available for adults, as well as programming for children and adults 50 years and over. Teresians can consult it via the registration platform and will be able to register as of December 14.

In order to be fully prepared when registration open, it is strongly recommended residents create their account now with a valid Citizen Card number on hand.

## Police operation:

# Vaccination passport during the holiday season.



**MARIA DIAMANTIS**  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter  
For The North-Shore News • info@newsfirst.ca

The Régie intermunicipale de police Thérèse-De Blainville is informing citizens that it will participate in the provincial police operation, aimed at respecting the health measures related to the vaccination passport. The operations will take place as of the 10<sup>th</sup> of December 2021.

The holiday season is conducive to festive gatherings and receptions with colleagues and friends in restaurants and licensed establishments. RIPTB police officers will visit these places to ensure compliance with the rules related to the vaccination passport.

These operations aim to promote self-regulation of behavior through preventive actions and communication strategies. They aim to

support operators, event organizers and owners who must apply the measures relating to the vaccination passport.

Residents of Quebec can download the QR code from the self-service portal which is the vaccination passport. In the portal, one will find two passport formats: one for use in Quebec and another for use outside of Quebec. Once in the portal, people are prompted to provide identifying information, among others: Last name and first name, Date of birth, Health insurance number, Date of first vaccination against COVID-19, Commercial name of the first vaccine received against COVID-19

People aged 12 to 14 can also obtain their proof of vaccination by adding their postal code in the self-service portal. In order to identify and protect personal information, residents will be asked to select the email address or mobile phone number provided at the time of vaccination to receive the download link.



# DIRECT? ANSWERS

From Wayne & Tamara

## Mother Goose

**Q** I am a 31-year-old woman who has been married eight years. I have one daughter who is the most important thing in the world to me.

The second most important person to me should be my husband, but he's not. Quite a while ago we drifted apart to the point where we were two strangers living in the same house.

At the same time, I became friends with a man at work. He is also married. We spent quite a lot of time together over the last four years, and have enjoyed each other's company. Even though I flirted with him, I never considered he would have more than friendship feelings for me.

About two months ago we started asking more intimate questions of one another. We found we had a lot in common and began to have strong feelings for each other. However, we never even held hands or kissed because we were both aware it was not right.

At one point we sent fantasies about one another back and forth at work on a regular basis. My stomach was in knots for a month, and I thought about him almost every minute. I had problems eating and sleeping, and the relationship with my husband got progressively worse as I compared him to this man.

My fantasy man told me he loved me and told his wife about his "strong feelings" for me. Then she kicked him out of the house. Everything felt as if it was spinning out of control, and I seriously contemplated divorce to be with this person.

But soon after she kicked him out, he realized his wife was the most important person in the world to him. He promised never to see me again and has stuck to that promise. I have respected his wish for total avoidance. It was hard at first, but I put myself in his wife's shoes and felt terrible for what happened.

It's been a month now. For the first three days I did nothing but cry, but then I realized it would not have worked out between us.

The lovers part was just a fantasy. However, I deeply miss the friendship and camaraderie I had with him.

I am going to counselling with my husband, but have never mentioned what happened as it would hurt him pointlessly. It is getting better between us, but sexually there is no spark and I wonder if we will ever find it again.

Now I want to renew my friendship with the other man. I am asking you how to go about this. I don't want to hear that it can't be done. I realize I care for him but don't think I love him, so I can handle the friendship right now. What do you think?

Elsbeth

**A** Elsbeth, you aren't looking for the right answer. You're looking for your answer. Do you remember the nursery rhyme that begins, "There was a crooked man who walked a crooked mile." You're looking for a crooked answer to fit a crooked life. This isn't said to be mean, but you know how far off-kilter your life has become.

When two people marry, they intend to be the most important person in each other's life. Out of their love, they have children they guide and teach. In time, the children leave home and begin their own lives, repeating the cycle their parents prepared them for. But the husband and wife continue to be the most important person in each other's life.

Your problem began when you and your husband drifted apart. To fill the gap, you found a man to be your surrogate husband, lover, and companion. Getting this man back into your life only allows you to continue to ignore the real problem: your relationship with your husband.

Only honesty will straighten out your life. Honesty with yourself. Honesty with everyone else..

Wayne & Tamara

# Classifieds

The Morning News  
Newville PARC-EXTENSION  
THE LAVAL news  
Call 450 978.9999

## WE BUY GOLD AND DIAMONDS

- For over 38 years -

450-681-1363



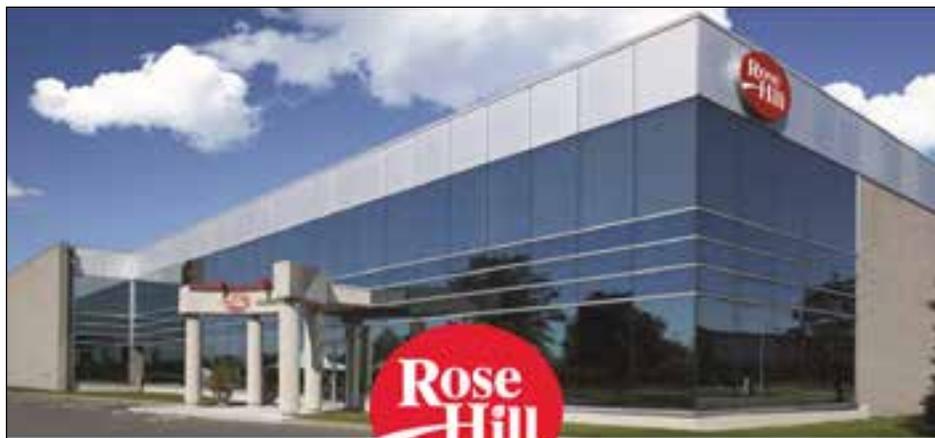
Before selling elsewhere, come see us!

Mon. to Wed. - 10am to 5:30pm  
Thurs. and Fri. - 10am to 7:00pm  
Saturday - 9am to noon  
Sunday - Closed

solutionrl.com  
\*No price by phone

Same address since 1989

1799, boul. Curé-Labelle,  
Chomedey (North of St-Martin)



## We are hiring!

If you are looking for a permanent position with full benefits, higher than average salary, a respectful working environment and additional performance based compensation, Rose Hill Foods may be the ideal workplace for you!

Located in Ville Saint-Laurent (Montreal), with nearly 40 years of continuous evolution since its founding in 1983, Rose Hill Foods has become a leader in the Canadian food industry.

We are currently looking for capable and energetic people to work in our Production and Packaging Line.

The most valuable asset of our business is our employees!

Want to know more? Contact:  
Vasileios Bourmpounis  
E-mail: vbourmpounis@rosehillfoods.com  
Tel.: (514) 745-1153 ext.: 245

ROSE HILL Foods Inc.

7171 boul. Thimens, St-Laurent, Qc. Canada H4S 2A2 • www.rosehillfoods.com  
Tel: 514-745-1153 • SF: 800-361-3102



## Doggie Daycare

- 🐾 Boarding/Home Environment
- 🐾 No cages
- 🐾 Interacts with our family and pets

**\$16/day** Just

**Julie's Pet Sitting Services**

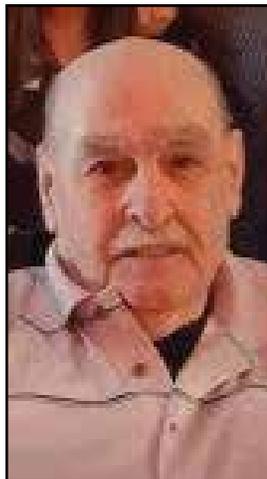
Will walk your dog or take care of your animals in your home while you are away.

**\$12-22/visit** Just\*

(\*Price may vary on location and pet)

Call Julie Laver  
450.491.7637

# In Memoriam & Obituaries



**THIBAULT Fernand**  
1938 - 2021

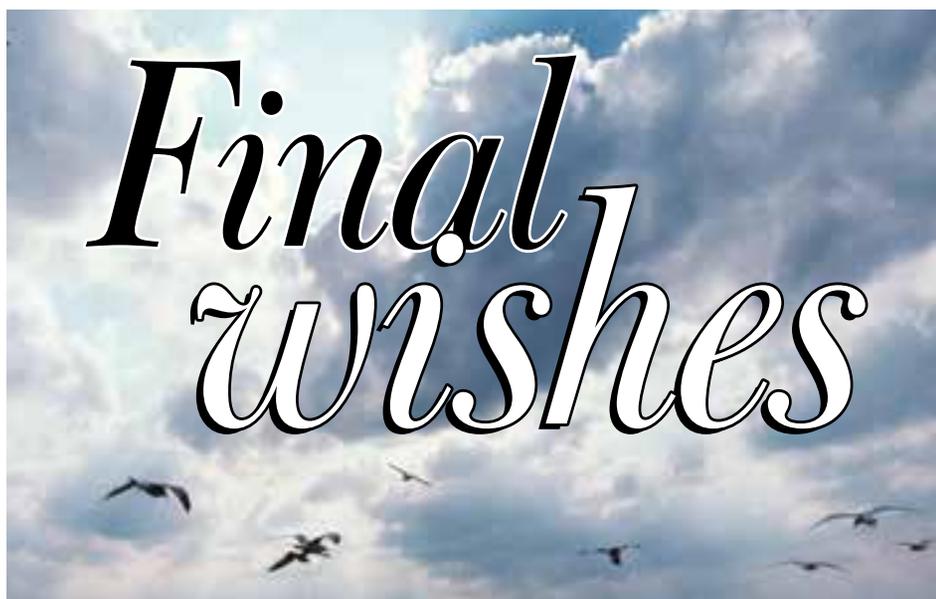
At the CISSS of Sept-Iles, on December 12, 2021 passed away at the age of 83 Mr. Fernand Thibault husband of Mrs. Delvina Petitpas. He lived in Sept-Iles.

Mr. Fernand Thibault is survived by his wife Mrs. Delvina Petitpas Thibeault, his daughters Chantal (Marcel Gagné) and France (Martin Tremblay), his grandchildren: Tommy, Joanie and Benjamin, his brothers and sisters, his brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law as well as his nieces and nephews.



**BURGESS Sylvie**  
1967 - 2021

In Baie-Comeau, on December 10, 2021, passed away at the age of 54, Mrs. Sylvie Burgess, spouse of Mr. Jacques St-Pierre. She lived in Baie-Comeau. She is survived by her husband Mr. Jacques St-Pierre, her sons: Bruno and Luc, her parents: Mrs. Liliane Beaudin and Mr. Andy Burgess, her brothers and sisters: Guy (Rosa), Claude (Marie-Josée) and Elsy (Ghislain), her brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, the father of her children: Gilles Foster, her nephews and nieces, as well as other relatives and friends.



## Maintaining the quality of life of your loved ones



Life insurance exists to protect the surviving members of your family from financial loss associated with your death. Theoretically, people who have the most to gain from taking out life insurance are those who will leave others in need when they die, such as a spouse or children.

By taking out sufficient life insurance, you can guarantee the preservation of your family's lifestyle and goals in the event of your death. The first step is to evaluate your personal situation. The best way to go about this is to establish an up-to-date financial plan that takes into account your family's needs. The goal is to calculate the immediate living expenses that must be met so that your family will not have to deal with any financial worries in case of death.

An estimate of final expenses should also be made, especially funeral expenses, lawyer fees, as well as estate taxes —when a death occurs, the assets of the deceased are taxed before being passed on to heirs. The policy holder's debts should also be taken into consideration, such as credit card balances, a mortgage, and personal loans.

The death of a family member will have an effect on the family budget; there will, of course, be a drop in income if the deceased worked, but this might be balanced by a reduction in certain expenses, such as groceries, clothing, and transportation. In short, a sufficient amount has to be planned for so that beneficiaries will be able to maintain the lifestyle they are used to.

*Adequate life insurance can prepare you and your family for the unexpected.*



**FONTAINE Adrien**  
1937- 2021

At the CISSS de Sept-Îles, on December 10, 2021 passed away at the age of 84 Mr. Adrien Fontaine husband of Mrs. Adeline Pinette. He lived in Maliotenam. He is survived by his wife Mrs. Adeline Pinette Fontaine, his children: Lyne (Johnny Mckenzie), Eugène (Dora Bacon), the late Cyrille (Sophie Vollant) and Bernard, his grandchildren, his great-grandchildren, his great-great-grandchild, his sister Lorraine, his brother Robert, his brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law as well as his nieces and nephews.



**LAFRANCE Paulo**  
1951 - 2021

In Forestville at the Centre intégré de santé et des services sociaux de la Côte-Nord, on December 10, 2021 at the age of 70, passed away Mr. Paulo LaFrance, He is survived by his wife Mrs. Lisette Robinson, his children: Roger (Liliane Ritchot), Yan and Manon (Pierre Trucotte); his grandchildren: Jennifer, Yannick, Mégan, Michaël, Gabriel and James, his great-granddaughter Elena; his sisters: Hélène, Jeanette, Léonne, and Lisette as well as his brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, cousins, nephews, nieces and friends.



**OTIS Roger**  
1930 - 2021

In La Vallée des Roseaux, on December 10, 2021, at the age of 90, passed away Mr. Roger Otis, husband of the late Mrs. Pierrette Gendron. He lived in Baie-Comeau. He is survived by his close friend Émélie Michaud, the children and grandchildren of Mrs. Michaud; his children: Marie-Claude, Christiane, Caroline and their spouses; his grandchildren: Hélène, Anne-Marie, Amanda, Maxime, Marie-Josée, Benoit-Pierre, Julien and Ariane, his great-grandchildren as well as his brothers and sisters, brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, nephews, nieces, cousins, relatives and friends. He was also the father of the late Martine.

Contact us today to place an obituary or in memoriam in our next issue  
NO CHARGE Email: [production@newsfirst.ca](mailto:production@newsfirst.ca) • Tel.: 450-978-9999

# HOROSCOPE

Week of **DECEMBER 19 TO 25, 2021**

The luckiest signs this week:  
**VIRGO, LIBRA AND SCORPIO**



## ARIES

Even if you didn't anticipate it, festivities will take place at your home and you'll have a lot of preparations to make. You'll need to be delicate and tactful when dealing with a few of your relatives.



## TAURUS

You'll put on some kind of show. At work, you'll receive recognition for an achievement. When it comes to matters of the heart, remember that it's a magical time for marriage proposals.



## GEMINI

Even if you try to stick to a budget, your generosity will prevail and you'll spoil your loved ones. You could be faced with an unexpected expense. Fortunately, there'll be plenty of extra work to go around.



## CANCER

You'll be the person who puts a smile on everyone's face. Use caution when running errands. You might consider buying a new car as a Christmas present to yourself.



## LEO

You might make it to the end of the year feeling exhausted. A healthy diet should help you regain your strength and give you the energy you need to enjoy your time off.



## VIRGO

You'll suggest new activities to do as a family over the holiday season. You'll book plane tickets, a hotel and excursions at the last minute so that you can spend quality time together in an enchanting environment.



## LIBRA

Avoid waiting until the last minute to get things done, both at work and in terms of your holiday preparations. It's a good idea to let loose, enjoy the moment and accept that not everything can be perfect.



## SCORPIO

At work, you'll participate in a gift exchange. Among your family, you'll be surprised to find that everyone has accepted your invitation and your home will be packed for the holidays.



## SAGITTARIUS

At work, your boss will ask a lot of you just before you're set to take time off. A lot of responsibilities will fall on your shoulders, and some of the people who were supposed to help won't be around.



## CAPRICORN

Take a break from your responsibilities to sort out the concerns that are on your mind. This will leave you with a clear head to have fun and go on an adventure. You'll give more attention to your relationship.



## AQUARIUS

Against all odds, your boss will give you new responsibilities that look suspiciously like a promotion. You'll get the raise to go with it. The path to personal and professional success, however, is still hidden from you.



## PISCES

If you're single, you'll be surprised to meet someone new at this time of year. Your people skills will help you find a solution to a family conflict and ensure harmony throughout the holidays.

# Coffee Break

## CROSSWORDS

PUZZLE NO. 107

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		

Copyright © 2021, Penny Press

### ACROSS

1. What it takes to tango
4. Lather
8. Poems
12. Torn cloth
13. Again
14. Phooey's kin
15. Feel sick
16. Grand party
17. Plunged
18. Court response
20. Glass part
21. Gusto
22. Diamond or pearl
24. Cram
27. Painters' stands
30. Interlace
33. Mix thoroughly
34. Happen again
35. Razors
37. One who drenches
38. Trim rind from

### DOWN

1. Catch
2. Lament
3. Stare rudely at
4. Hang loosely
5. Disables
6. Sandwich mart
7. Bogs
8. Weird

9. Punter's action: 2 wds.
10. Roof extension
11. Dance component
19. Plan
23. Born first
25. Cook's shield
26. Golf shoe grippers
27. Subside
28. Entire
29. Specialized aircraft
31. Actor's hint
32. Be wrong
36. Boil
37. African adventure
40. Humanities
41. Sheep's coat
43. Pencil's middle
45. Has a mortgage
46. Farm building
47. Solely
49. Cat's sound
51. Allow

# Sudoku

### HOW TO PLAY:

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

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

PUZZLE NO. 832

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

### Last Issues' Answers

## CROSSWORDS

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

## Sudoku

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



# SAVE MONEY

Print your cheques with us with confidence

We print all kinds of cheques: Business, Canada or USA Fast Delivery!

Amazing Prices!  
250 for \$87  
500 for \$127  
1000 for \$187

**MEDIA-TREK**  
Communications - Promotions - Marketing

Full Banking Security Features

Call us for more information 450.978.9999



The best choice  
*Since 1983*



More than  
**10 000\$**  
in prizes

A grand prize of **\$2500** in groceries  
And 3 prizes of **\$1000** in groceries

**Visit us in  
December!**

One winner every day from  
December 1st to 24th with any purchase

**SAINTE-THÉRÈSE**  
220, rue Saint-Charles  
450-435-1370

**SAINTE-THÉRÈSE**  
450, rue Blainville Est  
450-435-5500

**BOISBRIAND**  
25, boul. des Entreprises  
450-430-5572

**BOISBRIAND**  
2605, rue d'Annemasse  
450-433-6226

\*4 finalists will be selected on December 26 at 3 pm from all the winners of the month in our 4 participating stores. The \$2,500 grand prize draw will be held on December 26 at 3 pm from the 4 finalists. The other 3 finalists will receive \$1,000 in groceries each. \*\*Purchases must be made in the same transaction. Purchases are calculated on the price of the merchandise before taxes, excluding tobacco products, lottery tickets, travel tickets, gift cards, vivo items | Villeroy & Boch and everything else and any other product where the law forbids it. Some restrictions apply. See details in store. A winning transaction per day, randomly selected from all transactions from December 1 to 24, 2021. The contest is open to residents of Quebec and New Brunswick aged 18 or over. The winner must correctly answer a mathematical skill-testing question. Contest details and rules available at IGA and IGA supermarkets customer service counter.