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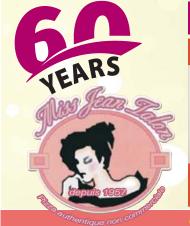


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Park Extension city councillor Mary Deros, far right, is seen here with some of the Sinclair Laird Elementary School students and staff who participated in the creation and performance at the Hellenic Community Centre of L'Or du Roi Midas.



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## Absolved of wrongdoing, Sklavounos apologizes to 'those who I might have offended'

I must say that I am anxious to get back to work,' says Laurier-Dorion MNA

MARTIN C. BARRY

Laurier-Dorion Liberal MNA Gerry Sklavounos, one of the Montreal Hellenic community's most visible public figures, formally apologized on Thursday for indiscrete statements he admits making last year in Quebec City to a woman who ended up complaining about his behaviour.

But Sklavounos, who was expelled from the Quebec Liberal caucus after allegations of sexual assault were investigated but eventually dismissed by the Quebec City police, insisted that any indiscretion on his part was entirely verbal and not physical. However, he did not elaborate on just what he said to offend the woman in question.

#### Premier's decision on caucus

Sklavounos said he wanted to be back at his job as a member of the National Assembly by the following week. As well, he said he is leaving it up to Premier Philippe Couillard – who demanded Sklavounos make a sincere statement showing comprehension of the situation – as to whether he is readmitted to the Liberal caucus.

Nonetheless, Sklavounos declined repeated requests by journalists to shed additional light on the incident. The controversy started when Alice Paquet alleged during a speech she delivered at Université Laval during a rally last October for sexual assault victims that she had been the victim of a sexual assault.

Although she didn't at first identify the person who assaulted her, she singled out Sklavounos the following day during a Radio-Canada interview when she claimed he assaulted her sexually three years ago. Since the revelations and widespread media coverage, Sklavounos maintained a very low profile until Thursday. He was, in fact, on medical leave, which he said was necessary to deal with the resulting emotional stress, which in turn brought on health problems, he added.

#### Wants to return to work

"I must say that I am anxious to get back to work as soon as possible so that I may serve as I always have the citizens of Laurier-Dorion who have mandated me with their trust on four consecutive occasions over the last ten years and who have demonstrated their support for me over the last weeks and months," Sklavounos told a packed room of journalists at the Residence Salamis for senior citizens in

Sklavounos said the time he spent in the last few months outside the limelight "allowed me to revisit my life and brought back memories of the hurdles I had to overcome as a youth in Park Extension, the son of a single mother, growing up in a diverse and under-privileged neighbourhood, but with the love of a mom, a big sister, and later a step-dad who would all help to shape the man I am today."

Regarding the incident that got him into trouble, Sklavounos said that those who've been acquainted with him a long time know him as a person who is "extroverted, voluble and passionate." But he added that "they also know



Sklavounos said the allegations were hard not only on him, but his entire family, including wife Janneke.

full well that in my relationships I have always tried to be the most respectful possible towards the people I meet, be it on the professional or personal level.

#### Pledges to be careful

"Nonetheless, if in the course of these attempts to be social, to create links of friendship or to lighten the atmosphere in a manner that might sometimes be awkward I have offended or made other persons uncomfortable, I would like to point out that this now appears to me as unacceptable and inappropriate and I pledge to offer proof that I will be much more careful in the future.

"To all those who I might have offended, despite myself, please understand that this was never my intention and that I regret it sincerely. Equality between women and men is a fundamental value of our Quebec society, enshrined in our Quebec charter of rights and liberties of the person, and for me this is non negotiable. Women and men have the right to live, to learn and to work in an environment that is healthy, secure, respectful and harmonious."

#### 'Wrongful allegations'

Sklavounos said one of the most disturbing aspects of the affair were news reports alleging the victim had been physically assaulted. "They were among the most hurtful things I heard," he said, answering journalists' questions. "It hurt me profoundly because at the same time I was dealing with a false allegation for something I had not done. It was the part that was most hurtful for me.

"There were wrongful allegations against me in the media," he added. "I knew I was innocent, but the world didn't. I was going through that. I was going through health issues. I was extremely, extremely stressed. And I was wondering also for the future, for my family, for my kids, what the future would hold."

## **PROGRAMS AT**









**English Montreal School Board** 

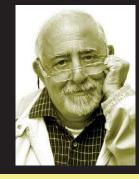
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# Parlez-woi D'HUMOUR

Alcide Borik



#### LE PHILOSOPHE

Il a la tête d'un philosophe grec. Je ne sais pas s'il a des ascendances grecques, mais il enseigne effectivement la philosophie. Petit, chauve et bedonnant, atteint du syndrome du boulanger (Le syndrome du boulanger, c'est quand la brioche vous tombe sur la baguette!) il s'habille modestement et traverse les couloirs de l'Université d'un petit pas rapide, saluant au passage ses étudiants qui lui retournent gaiement son salut. Il est populaire et ses yeux globuleux pétillent de malice. Arrivé dans sa classe, il rappelle les bavards à l'ordre en leur rappelant que ce que l'on dit doit être plus important que les bruits qu'on fait avec la bouche!

Il exhibe alors un gros bocal de verre et sort de son tiroir des balles de ping-pong qu'il y empile jusqu'au bord et demande à ses élèves si le bocal est plein.

Ils répondent par l'affirmative.

Il sort alors de son tiroir des petits galets qu'il introduit un à un dans le bocal, ferme le couvercle et secoue le tout. Le son cristallin de l'opération achève de faire régner le

- Est-ce qu'il est plein maintenant?

Un oui unanime lui répond.

Il sort alors de sa vieille sacoche usée un sac contenant du sable, découvre le bocal, et y verse le contenu qui remplit aussitôt les interstices.

Les étudiants trouvent en riant que le bocal

est plein, reconnaissant implicitement qu'il ne l'était pas cinq minutes plus tôt.

Mais notre philosophe, puisant encore dans sa sacoche une bouteille de bière, réussit sans peine à la verser dans son bocal tandis que les étudiants sidérés observent son manège : Remettant le couvercle sur le bocal pendant que l'hilarité de la classe se calme, il dit alors :

Supposons que ce récipient représente votre vie. Les balles de ping-pong représentent les choses importantes, votre famille, votre santé, vos amis, vos passions. Tout le reste est moins important car votre vie est déjà pleine.

Les galets c'est votre travail, votre voiture, votre téléphone intelligent, le logement où vous vivez, et le sable, c'est tout le reste, mais vous admettrez que sans ça, votre vie était déjà bien pleine. Par contre, si vous versez d'abord le sable et les galets, vous n'aurez jamais de place pour les choses importantes.

C'est une leçon d'humilité : Par trois fois, vous vous êtes trompés en pensant que le bocal était plein. Il ne faut pas se fier aux apparences, il faut toujours vérifier si elles ont raison!

Une main se lève au fond de la salle.

- Et la bière alors?
- C'est la leçon la plus importante : Souvenezvous que, quelle que pleine que soit votre vie, il y a toujours de la place pour prendre une petite bière avec les amis!

## Hasty change to Canada's electoral system never made sense

efore any changes are made or any referendums held, Canadians must understand that many of the proposed alternatives come with drawbacks

The federal government is walking away from its campaign promise to change the way Canadians vote in federal elections. Given that the task was always going to be complicated and the results messy, the decision is understandable.

In his recently-released mandate letter to Karina Gould, the newly-appointed minister of Democratic Institutions, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said that "changing the electoral system will not be in your mandate."

Trudeau justified his change in intention by saying that "a clear preference for a new electoral system, let alone a consensus, has not emerged. Furthermore, without a clear preference or a clear question, a referendum would not be in Canada's interest."

Had a referendum taken place - and it should have - Canadians needed to fully understand that while there may be benefits to other electoral systems, there are also

Consider a proportional representation (PR) system, which the special parliamentary committee recommended in December. While many may know about the potential benefit of distributing seats in Parliament more closely to vote shares, there are also

For example, a recent study found that a move to PR would likely lead to higher government spending and larger federal deficits. The study found that the average size of central governments from 2000 to 2014 in countries with PR was almost 25 per cent larger than in countries with majoritarian/plurality election rules similar to what Canada now uses. The study also found that PR countries tend to finance this extra spending by running larger deficits.

The reason? PR systems tend to elect more parties to the legislature, increasing

the likelihood for coalition governments. In order to form coalitions, larger parties must gain the support of smaller parties, often by capitulating on their main issues, which leads to higher levels of government spending.

Moreover, smaller parties in PR systems are able to exert a disproportionate amount of power at the expense of the preferences of the majority of voters who didn't vote for such parties.

We should also consider the drawbacks of the alternative vote (AV) or ranked ballots system, another reform option. This system has the potential to reduce competition in our elections, a key attribute of a healthy democratic system.

For example, another study examined the impact adopting AV rules would have had on Canada's seven federal elections between 1997 and 2015.

The study found that just one party - the Liberals - would have gained seats in every election. In fact, they would have gained an average of 19 seats per election. To a lesser extent, the NDP would have increased their seat totals in more recent elections. Only the Conservatives would have lost seats every election.

The study also found that AV rules would have changed the outcomes in a number of elections, including in 2006, when instead of a Conservative minority government, the Liberals would have won a minority.

Before any changes are made or any referendums held, Canadians must understand that many of the proposed alternatives come with drawbacks. Changing the electoral system in a hasty manner was never going to be in the interest of Canadians.

The government should be congratulated for its willingness to make a tough political decision that's in the best interests of all Canadians.

Lydia Miljan

The opinions on THIS PAGE reflect the consensus of Editorial Board.

# **Nouvelles**

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## It's lease renewal time, says Park Extension Action Committee

Know where you stand when renting, say tenants' rights groups

**MARTIN C. BARRY** 

The Comité d'action de Parc Extension (CAPE) and the Associations de Locataires de Villeray (ALV) are inviting tenants in both communities to look carefully at rent increase notices that will be to them sent by their landlords in the coming weeks.

Free consultation

The two organizations, which have lengthy experience in dealing with tenants' rights issues, are offering a free consultation service. They will also be able to guide tenants in actions they can take to refuse a rent increase which might be abusive while at the same time renewing a lease.

According to rent increase guidelines released by Quebec's Régie du Logement on Feb. 9, the following increases are considered normal: 0.6 per cent for dwellings heated by the renter; 0.6 per cent for dwellings heated with electricity by the owner; 0.1 per cent for dwellings heated by gas by the owner; and -2 per cent for dwellings heated by oil by the owner.

Recommended hikes only

These numbers are only guidelines and are not mandatory. They do not take into account major renovation or repair work which may have been done by an owner last year, or tax increases. Renters wishing to know more about the taxes paid on a dwelling where they lease can call 3-1-1 (municipal taxes) or (514) 384-5034. As a general rule, rent increases can be calculated on the basis

of each \$1,000 of work carried out on a building divided by the number of dwelling units in it.

Owners must follow rules

Building owners who wish to increase the rent or change conditions of a lease are obliged to notify tenants in writing within prescribed deadlines which are: from three to six months before the end of a lease of at least one year; from one to two months for leases less than 12 months; from one to two months for leases of indefinite length. As well, notices must respect a one-month period tenants have to advise their landlord they refuse an increase.

The ALV will be holding tenants' rights workshops at the Centre Lajeunesse (7378 Lajeunesse in Villeray) on the following dates:

- · Monday Feb. 20 at 13h30, local 211
- $\cdot \qquad \text{Wednesday Mar. 1 mars at 18h, local 208}$
- Monday Mar. 13 at 13h30, local 211
- · Tuesday Mar. 21 at 18h, local 208
- · Wednesday Mar. 29 at 13h30, local 201
- · Tuesday Apr. 4 at 18h, local 208
- · Wednesday Apr. 12 at 13h30, local 211

The workshops are free, although pre-registration is recommended. For more information, call CAPE at (514) 278-6028 (http://comite-dactionparcex.org) and ALV at (514) 270-6703 (http://locatairesdevilleray.com).

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The War Amps does not receive government grants. Charitable Registration No.: 13196 9628 RR0001

## **Chaque trousseau de clés** perdu a une **histoire**

« Merci au Service des plaques porte-clés des Amputés de guerre. J'ai perdu mes clés et la télécommande de ma voiture dans un parc. Plus tard, j'ai eu l'heureuse surprise de les recevoir par messageries. C'est un service hors pair. » — Une donatrice

Le Service des plaques porte-clés, c'est gratuit et ça fonctionne. Environ 13 000 trousseaux de clés perdus sont retournés à leurs propriétaires chaque année.







L'Association des Amputés de guerre ne reçoit aucune subvention gouvernementale. N° d'enregistrement d'organisme de bienfaisance : 13196 9628 RR0001





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# The City of Montreal will be hosting a secondlaunch event for the project in the autumn

Sinclair Laird students take part in 'King Midas' book/CD launch L'Or du Roi Midas' is acclaimed musical team's latest success

MARTIN C. BARRY

Students from nine schools of the English Montreal School Board, including Sinclair Laird Elementary in Park Extension, joined hundreds of other pupils from all over the Montreal region at the Hellenic Community Centre in Côte des Neiges on Feb. 9 to perform selections of a children's book and CD they helped create, based on the classic story of King Midas.

#### **Continuing musical success**

The many hundreds of proud parents, friends and supporters who attended the launch and concert heard not only from the project's creators, but also enjoyed a mini performance of three choral pieces from the CD sung by 450 young choristers accompanied by the Ensemble Symphonique Panarmonia directed by Mark Dharmaratnam.

Ann Marie Matheson, the EMSB's director-general, said the interdisciplinary project was "exactly the sort of project" educators should be celebrating as they get ready for the annual school break. "We're very happy to be here and to have taken part in this activity," she said.

#### Thanks from the EMSB

"Thank you for everybody's contribution, thank you for inviting us and thank you for working with our students." According to Park Extension city councillor Mary Deros who attended the launch, the City of Montreal will be hosting a second launch event for the project in the autumn.

The new CD/book's release followed the earlier success of music directors Dimitris Ilias and Maria Diamantis, as well as author and lyricist Glen Huser and composer Giannis Georgantelis, whose previous picture book/CD project, Le Temps des Fleurs, le Temps des Neiges, retold the myth of Demeter and Persephone.

#### Be careful how you wish

Illustrated by three-time Governor General's Award-winning illustrator Philippe Béha and adapted into French by Robert Paquin, the latest work, L'Or du Roi Midas, invites readers and listeners into a world where the old saying, "Be careful what you wish for," is borne out through a king who lusts for wealth and who responds to an offer by the god Dionysus that the king might be able to obtain anything he wants by



Those attending the performance enjoyed a mini performance of three choral pieces from the CD sung by 450 young choristers accompanied by the Ensemble Symphonique Panarmonia directed by Mark Dharmaratnam

simply asking that all he touches turns to gold.

At least 450 students representing more than 60 cultural backgrounds joined their voices to record the choral parts for this monumental children's opera. The young vocalists came from 20 schools that are part of school boards all over the Montreal region, including the SWLSB, the English Montreal School Board and the Commission scolaire Marguerite-Bourgeoys. The Hellenic Community of Greater Montreal's Socrates-Demosthène schools were the project's main partner.

#### **EMSB** schools took part

EMSB schools which participated in the project were Sinclair Laird, Gardenview, Roslyn, Willingdon, Cedarcrest, Royal Vale, Edinburgh, Pierre de Coubertin and Honoré Mercier. Schools from the Commission scolaire Marguerite-Bourgeoys and the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board also took part. The producers say that net profits from sales of the book/CD within the school systems will be donated to the participating schools to strenghten music education and literary exploration in their curriculum.





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# Park Extension Historical Society unveils roster of Montreal 375 events

Local contribution to centre city anniversary of Montreal's founding

MARTIN C. BARRY

The Park Extension Historical Society and the Borough of Villeray/St-Michel/Parc Extension unveiled the schedule of special events they have decided to stage cooperatively this year as the local contribution to celebrations marking the 375<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Montreal.

The historical society and the Société d'histoire d'Outremont are working together to prepare these events, under the theme The Outremont Yard and Beaumont: Railroad Memories. This series has been accepted as an officially accredited presentation for the 375<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

#### March 4 event kickoff

An opening segment, called Nuit Blanche, will take place on March 4 at Café L'Artère on Park Avenue (where the unveiling of the events schedule also was held earlier this week). The Park Extension Historical Society will offer a series of films and videos about trains, locomotives, tracks and classic train trips. Beginning at 7:30 pm, it will include a mixed program of shorts for a little over an hour, followed by a break, and then a second program, continuing until 2 am.

The second instalment of the Outremont Yard and Beaumont event will be a series of historical walking tours in June and July. The historical society says the industrial and residential history along the three sides of the former Outremont train yard will be explored, with an emphasis on the many manufacturers along Beaumont Ave. Three tours have been planned, each requiring an hour or two. There will also be opportunities for refreshments, picnicking and enjoying flavours of the neighbourhood.

#### **Historical exhibition**

A third instalment will be an historical exhibition involving the Outremont yard, set to take place in the theatrical staging area at the William Hingston Centre next December and overlapping into January 2018. It will include an exhibition of photos, maps, artefacts and stories from the old railway yard and its surroundings in both Outremont and Park Extension. It will be prepared by professional historians and archivists from Atelier L'Enclume.

The Park Extension Historical Society was formed in 2009 as a non-profit organization dedicated to collecting and preserving the memories of the Park Extension community which has 30,000 plus residents (West and North of CPR train tracks, East of Mont-Royal boro, South of Highway 40). Park Ex was annexed to the city of Montreal in 1910 and since 2002 has formed the west end of the Villeray-St Michel-Park Extension borough.

#### **Organized local centennial**

In 2010 the society's principal activity was initiating the observance of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Park Extension's annexation to the City of Montreal. An on-going activity is keeping an archive and collecting books about Montreal and its different cultures.

The society also joined the Fédération des sociétés d'histoire du Québec and subscribed to "Quebec Heritage News." The society's members meet on the last Tuesday of the month (except in summer and December) at the William Hingston complex (419 Saint Roch St.) and are always welcoming new members. For more information, contact info@histoireparcextension.org.

# Société d'histoire de Parc-Extension SHDEH Park Extens Historical Soc

Leading members of the Park Extension Historical Society are seen here with Park Extension city councillor Mary Deros at Café L'Artère earlier this week for the launch of the society's program of activities in the coming year for the 375th anniversary of the founding of Montreal.



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Centre Funeraire Côte-des-Neiges

# **New riding office for Justin Trudeau** opens on Crémazie

(PXN) A five-to-seven cocktail reception was held for the official opening of a new constituency office for Papineau Liberal MP and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau at 1100 Crémazie Blvd. on Friday Feb. 3. With more than 150 attendees, the event was considered a great success, according to a riding office spokesperson. Several

associations, organizations, artists and volunteers from the riding were present at the opening. "This event allowed us not only to meet the people who work hard every day in the riding, but also to have them visit our new office, which is also their new office, in the hope that everyone feels welcome," said the spokesperson.



for the week of February 26 to March 4, 2017

The luckiest signs this week: Gemini, Cancer & Leo



#### ARIES

Get some much-needed rest before you try to take action. You should step outside the house to break your routine. Only by asserting yourself will you be able to restore your in-



#### **TAURUS**

You'll tend to be distracted, probably because of fatigue. You simply need to rest. Your creativity will impress many



You'll have a mountain of paperwork to deal with at the office. This situation will motivate you to get organized in order to be more pro-ductive and leave work early.



Before you commit to something more serious, take some time to relax and have fun. You may find yourself celebrating a promotion
— a first step towards a promising future.



#### **LEO**

You're feeling restless and eager to skip town. You will finally find the time and the means to reward yourself with a well-deserved vacation, or at least a pleasant escapade.



Some annoyances will be at the forefront of your week. It's a sign that you need to make some changes if you want your smile to make a comeback. Harmony is not always found in the status quo.



#### LIBRA

You'll have to make certain compromises to keep the peace both at home and at work. Any agreements you make will bring along lots of responsibilities.



#### **SCORPIO**

You'll devote most of the week to your work. If you're looking for a job, you'll find an opening for a de-manding position that's full of promising future prospects.



#### SAGITTARIUS

You're feeling increasingly unsatisfied with your professional life and are ready to make some changes. Don't give up: you'll find a job that's in line with your ambitions



#### **CAPRICORN**

You'll have many things to work through at home or with your family. Once tensions are appeased, your relationship with your loved ones or your partner will be back to normal.



#### **AQUARIUS**

You've recently bought a newfangled gadget and now have lots of questions about how to use it. You'll probably have to go out several times in order to get answers and be entirely satisfied.



#### **PISCES**

It will be with great joy that you'll treat yourself this week. You'll get your hands on some money and be able to splurge on a few things, including a trip.

# e break

#### **CROSSWORDS**

22 23

30

49

53

33

18

32

35

38

55

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16

39



**PUZZLE NO. 857** 

- 9. Somber
- 12. Matinee hero
- 15. Breaking story 16. Luxury hotels
- 18. Road curves
- 24. Active word
- 31. Male voice
- 34. Pond resident
- 35. Surfaced
- 37. Do embroidery
- 40. Ran a motor

**PUZZLE NO. 593** 

#### **ACROSS**

- 1 Moniker
- 5. Puff of smoke
- 13. Bullets, to a GI
- 14. Even
- 17. Decorative vase
- 20. Yearned
- 22. Pawn
- 27. Drain, as energy
- 30. Have dinner
- 32. Presser
- 36. Embargo
- 38. Comfort
- 39. Vatican official

- 42. Measurement
  - downward
  - 47. Rowdy crowd
  - 49. Like the Sahara 51. Ripped
  - 52. Carpenter's tool
  - 53. Small rodents
  - 54. Lobster's append-
  - age 55. Foxy
  - 56. Whistled
  - 57. Beer ingredients

#### **DOWN**

- 1. Baseball team
- 2. Citrus drinks
- 3. Cuts the lawn
- 4. Different 5. Used to be
- 6. Collide
- 7. Slap 8. Stylishly elegant
- 9. Apprentices 10. Telecast

- 11. Lair
- 19. Gloss
- 21. At all 23. Rowing blade
- 25. Part played
- 26. Prepare by steep-
- ing
- 27. Beget
- 28. Operatic melody
- 29. Maybe
- 31. Adjusted, as a
- radio 33. Insufficiency
- 34. Light blow
- 36. Dress part 39. Risk
- 41. Meek one
- 43. Clearly outline 44. Shirt type
- 45. Ambush
- 46. Cuts down
- 47. Pas' mates 48. This bird gives a
- hoot 50. Mountain moisture

50

43

#### **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.

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

#### **PROBLEMS**

Store owner: "Thank you for your patronage. I wish I had twenty customers like you.'

Customer: "Gosh, it's nice to hear that, but I'm kind of surprised. You know that I argue every bill and always pay late."

Store owner: "I'd still like twenty customers like you. The problem is, I have two hundred customers like

#### **PAPER TOWEL**

A pirate walks into a bar with a paper towel on his head, sits down and orders a drink.

Bartender serves the pirate his drink, and asks about the paper towel.

The pirate smiles and says, "That be the bounty on

## What will happen to my property if I don't make a will?



If you don't have a will, the civil code provides different applications of the law, depending on your situation. For example, if you are married and have children, 1/3 of your property will go to your spouse and 2/3 of that property will go to your children in equal shares. If you wish to change what the law has already provided make sure to make a notarized will.

- Weddings
- Marriage contracts
- Small claims court
- Mediation
- Power of attorney

me head!"

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#### 0830 **PUBLIC NOTICE**

SAMIR AALALLOU Prenez avis que Samir Aalallou, dont l'adresse du domicile est le 1920, boulevard du Souvenir, appartement 503, Laval, Québec H7N 0B3, présentera au Directeur del'état civil une demande pour changer son nom en celuide Martin Trudeau. Laval, le 15 novembre 2016SAMIR AALALLOU



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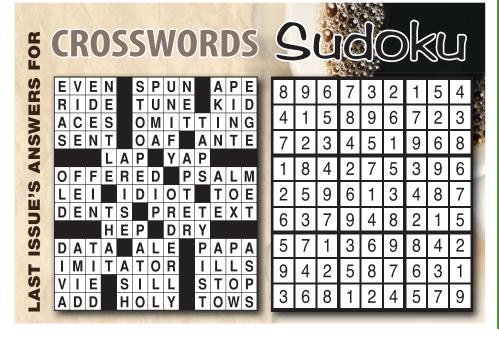


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#### **IN MEMORIAM & OBITUARIES**

#### AIKINS, George Francis 1926 - 2017

George was the beloved soul mate and husband of Sylvia (Ross) and loving and inspiring father of their daughter Shari (David), and of the children of his first marriage to Janine Cooke: Suezan (Sam), Steve (Leslie), Tana Karen, Lisa (Daniel) and Greg (Mary). He savoured joyful times with grandchildren Lauren (Dan), Kelly, Matt, Mike, Nick, Taylor, Chris, Natty, Christianne, Noah, Gabriella, Brooke and Scott. He is survived by sister Peggy McMullan and sisters-in-law, Kae and Joan Aikins, Diane Sheikh, Lainie (Yisrael) Eshchar, Claire (Henry) Smukler and Cheryl Ross. He was predeceased by brothers Jim and Joe, and brother-in-law Max Ross. Like many of us, his nieces and nephews share fond memories of their Uncle George. George was born in Edmonton to Elva (Bedard), a teacher and Harry, a salesman. As George turned 11 the family moved to Montreal, where his endlessly curious intelligence, hardworking ambition, and energetic passions for lifelong education, art, music, sailing and skiing blossomed throughout his long life, benefiting his family, friends and community. He joked that when he realized skiing would not support a family, he went steerage to Universal Lace of England and convinced them he should be their Canadian salesman. Later he established G.F. Aikins Co. Ltd., to sell fabrics, and in the 60's, he established Agmont Mills Co. Ltd., with just two circular knitting machines. Years later, joined by his son Stephen, Agmont was described by the industry magazine as "an innovative company with a large and tremendously modern mill, equipped with the most sophisticated technological advances for computerized production." Awakening to the plight of ex-convicts, he supported the John Howard Society as an employer, but much of his lifelong giving was quietly done, helping where he could. Always intellectually and socially aware, as a young man George joined the founders of the Thomas More Institute, a unique institution for adult education where he was a discussion leader, board member and lifelong supporter.



#### **AMICARELLI, Antonio**

#### 1929 - 2017

Peacefully passed away on February 9, 2017 at the age of 87, husband of Lucia Amicarelli. He will be fondly remembered by his children Michael (Jacinta), Anna (François), Tina (Tarik), his grandchildren Marco, Andrew, Alexandre, Olivier, Sabrina, Juliana and Adriana, loving family and friends.



#### ARSENAULT, Lucille 1924 - 2017

Lucille Marie Eva Arsenault née Garneau passed away peacefully on February 4th 2017. Lou was predeceased by her husband Raoul, her brother Gerry, her sister Roslyn, her mother Evelyn, and her father Paul-Emile. She is survived by her seven children, Joanne (Jeffrey), Suzanne (Henry), Michael (Margarita), Louise, Pierre (Mai), Daniel (Jennifer) and

René (Carol); by her sixteen grandchildren, Simone (Derek), Marise (Chanaka), Madeleine (Danu), Evelyne (Jacob), Pablo (Lisa), Nicholas (Lara), Thomas, André, Danielle, Tyler, Noah, Nicole (Ev), Mathieu, Zakary, Jacob and Jonah; and by her four great-grandchildren, Leyani, Sheshanti, Morgan and Laura. Lou dedicated her life to helping others for which she received the Sovereign Medal For Volunteers. She co-founded the Centre Bienvenue, a not-for-profit organization that equips individuals living with mental health issues with the tools and services they need to be active and contributing members of society.



#### **BARNOFF**, Danny 1954 - 2017

Passed away peacefully, surrounded by loved ones, at the West Island Palliative Care Residence on February 19, 2017 at the age of sixty-two. Born in Montreal. Grew up in Verdun, attended Verdun Catholic High School. Former manager at Bar-B-Barn West Island, worked at Trans Continental Equipment Pointe St-Charles. He was an avid golfer, mem-

ber of Summerlea Golf Course in Dorion, also frequently seen at Dorval Golf Course. Loved to spend time at the cottage in Lantier where his passion was fishing and dominating at horseshoes (still cottage champ). Spent many years in bowling leagues at Laurentian lanes and loved playing darts with his buddies.

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



#### **FIST FIGHT**

13+ | 1 hr 31 mins | Comedy



On the last day of the year, mild-mannered high school English teacher Andy Campbell (Charlie Day) is trying his best to keep it together amidst senior pranks, a dysfunctional administration, and budget cuts that put jobs on the line. But things go from bad to worse when he accidentally crosses his much tougher and deeply feared colleague, Ron Strickland (Ice Cube), who challenges Campbell to an old-fashioned throwdown after school.

#### THE GREAT WALL

G | 1 hr 43 mins | Thriller



The Great Wall tells the story of an elite force making a valiant stand for humanity on the world's most iconic structure. The first English-language production for Yimou is the largest film ever shot entirely in China.

#### FIFTY SHADES DARKER



When a wounded Christian Grey tries to entice a cautious Ana Steele back into his life, she demands a new arrangement before she will give him another chance. As the two begin to build trust and find stability, shadowy figures from Christian's past start to circle the couple, determined to destroy their hopes for a future together.

#### **JOHN WICK: CHAPTER TWO**

IIII



Legendary hit man John Wick comes out of retirement when a former associate plots to seize control of an international assassins' guild. Bound by a blood oath to help him, Wick travels to Rome to square off against the world's deadliest killers.

#### **A DOG'S PURPOSE**

G | 2 hrs 01 min | Fantasy |



Based on the beloved bestselling novel by W. Bruce Cameron, A Dog's Purpose, from director Lasse Hallström (The Cider House Rules, Dear John, The 100-Foot Journey), shares the soulful and surprising story of one devoted dog (voiced by Josh Gad) who finds the meaning of his own existence through the lives of the humans he teaches to laugh and love. The family film told from the dog's perspective.

#### THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE

G | 1 hr 44 mins | Action-Animation |



Bruce Wayne must not only deal with the criminals of Gotham City, but also the responsibility of raising a boy he adopted.

#### RESIDENT EVIL: THE FINAL CHAPTER

13+ | 1 hr 46 mins | Thriller-Horror |



Picking up immediately after the events in Resident Evil: Retribution, Alice (Milla Jovovich) is the only survivor of what was meant to be humanity's final stand against the undead. Now, she must return to where the nightmare began - The Hive in Raccoon City, where the Umbrella Corporation is gathering its forces for a final strike against the only remaining survivors of the apocalypse.

#### A CURE FOR WELLNESS

13+ | 2 hrs 26 mins | Drama-Thriller



An employee (Jason Isaacs) sent to rescue his boss from a European spa soon realizes he's trapped.

## Canadians wait longer to see doctor than international average

Canadians wait longer to see a doctor than in other countries

Canadians wait longer for health care than people in many other countries, but are generally more satisfied with their experience once they are seen, according to a new report.

The Canadian Institute for Health Information's report released Thursday is titled "How Canada Compares," and based on results from the Commonwealth Fund's 2016 survey of adults in 11

Canadians continue to report longer wait times for doctors, specialists and emergency department visits than their peers in other countries, the authors said. Once they do go get medical care, Canadians are often pleased with its quality.

- -Nurse supply in Canada declines for 1st time in 20 years
- -Payments to Canada's doctors reach \$22.8B

The other countries in the report are the United States, Germany, Norway, the Netherlands, Sweden, New Zealand, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Australia and France.

Less than half (43 per cent) of Canadians could get a sameor next-day appointment with their family doctors or at their regular place of care the last time they needed medical attention, researchers found. The highest were in New Zealand (76 per cent) and the Netherlands (77 per cent). The international average was 57 per cent.

The trend for same- or next-day appointments in Canada dropped from 42 per cent in 2010 to 38 per cent in 2013.

#### Is it time to re-think the role of doctors in the healthcare system?

Canadians are also more frequent users of services such as emergency departments, drugs and doctors than in most other countries included.

Part of the issue may be because of a gap in access to electronic records in Canada compared with other Commonwealth Fund countries, said Tracy Johnson, director, health system analysis and emerging issues with CIHI in Toronto.

For instance, it might help if more patients were able to email their doctors a question and get an answer back about whether it can wait a couple of days or needs to be addressed immediately.

"If patients could access their lab results in an electronic format or they could access through email questions to their family doc, then it may help solve some of the flow-through problems we have to ED or the perception that they're not getting access quickly enough," Johnson said.

#### Hard to wait

Dr. Joshua Tepper, a Toronto family physician who wasn't involved in the report, would also like to see more e-referrals and e-consultations that link back into a patient's electronic

The, president and CEO of Health Quality Ontario also sees ways to improve how care is organized, such as through centralized intake and assessments to streamline appointments with care teams for areas such as hip and knee replacements or back



Source: Canadian Institute for Health Information



of Canadians reported being able to get a sameor next-day appointment with their family doctor.

Source: Canadian Institute for Health Information

"Waiting can feel long for very good reason," said Tepper. "It is hard to wait, especially around your health, especially if you're worried about certain diagnosis, if you're in pain."

In the report, low-income Canadians said they had greater cost barriers to accessing care in general, an inequity Tepper

For instance, one in 10 Canadians didn>t fill a prescription or skipped a dose because of cost, according to the report. About 58 per cent of Canadians reported using one or more prescription drugs, compared with the international average of 52 per cent.

About one in four people 18 and older in this country reported skipping a dental visit because of the cost compared with one in five elsewhere.

Just over a third, 34 per cent, of Canadians said they could get care on evenings or weekend without going to an emergency department. But after-hours was closer to the international average of 43 per cent in Ontario and Alberta.

Tepper noted the report is based on averages from self-reported data. There are areas of the country that offer models of excellence, but they aren't the norm.

Canadians also reported the longest wait times for specialists, with 56 per cent waiting longer than four weeks to see a specialist, compared with the international average of 36 per cent.

#### **Excellent quality of care**

Canada's health-care system scored better on meeting the needs of individual patients. This included saying their regular doctor knew their medical history, involved them in decisions and explained things in a way that's easy to understand.

What's more, 74 per cent of respondents in Canada rated the quality of care from their regular provider as excellent or very good, compared with the 11-country average of 65 per cent.

The Commonwealth Fund describes itself as a private U.S. foundation that aims to promote a high-functioning health-care system. The CIHI is an independent, non-profit organization that provides information on Canadians' health systems and the health of Canadians.





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