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2019

The Year in REVIEW

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How taxes and other fees will affect your wallet in 2020

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What's going to cost more in 2020

Groceries

Based on recent reports from universities researchers, food prices are expected to rise between two and four per cent.

For the average family following Canada's food guide, that can translate into an additional \$487 on food, increasing the average household total grocery bill to \$12,667.

The cost of meats is expected to increase most dramatically — between four to six per cent — while on the low end of the spectrum, bakery items are poised to stay the same or rise by two per cent.

Housing

If you plan on moving or buying a home, those costs are also expected to rise.

In its Housing Market Outlook, the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. forecasts the average price of a home to be in the range of \$506,200 to \$531,000 in 2020.

CMHC predicts modest home price increases over next two years. Quebec market will show "relatively strong" gains.

Also a report from Rentals.ca forecast that overall, rents in the Greater Montreal Area, will increase by 4.8 per cent.

Gasoline

If you were hoping for a break on gas, 2020 won't be your year.

Consumers that aren't actively paying attention for lower prices, are going to end up spending anywhere from \$200 to \$300 more per year.



Taxes, rebates and fees: What's changing in Quebec in 2020

The new year means changes for your tax bill and your bottom line.

Armed with a hefty surplus, the Coalition Avenir Québec government is offering up a number of goodies for the coming year.

Here's a breakdown of what will be different in Quebec in 2020, from taxes and rebates (and fee increases too).

Family allowance

Quebec's new family allowance, available to those with one or more dependent children under 18, comes into effect in January, two years earlier than originally promised.

Families will receive, on average, an additional \$779.

Single daycare fees

The CAQ's promised return to a single-fee

system for public daycare will be retroactive to the beginning of 2019.

The amount of money back will depend on the income of the parents. The rebate only applies to tax credits for subsidized daycares.

It will mean an average savings of \$1,100 for 140,000 families.

Families of children with disabilities who require special care will also receive an additional \$652 per month.

Less in school taxes

The CAQ government has committed to harmonizing school-tax rates across the province. The goal is to have a single rate by July 2021.

By then, homeowners across the province will be paying a tax rate that equals the lowest effective rate in the province from 2018-2019.

The savings will depend on where you live. For instance, the owner of a home valued at \$270,000 in Montreal will save \$179 a year by 2021, while an owner of a home of the same value in Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean will save \$500.

Minimum wage going up

Quebec's minimum wage will climb to \$13.10 an hour on May 1 — an increase of 60 cents, Labour Minister Jean Boulet announced Wednesday. Service industry workers who work for tips, such as bartenders and restaurant servers, will see their salaries rise by 40 cents per hour, to \$10.45.

The CAQ campaigned on a promise to increase the minimum wage year over year, working toward \$15 per hour by 2023.

Hydro-Québec rebate

Hydro rates will be frozen as of April 1, 2020, and the increases for the four following years will be limited to the rate of inflation.

You will also receive money if you were a Hydro account holder in 2018 or 2019.

Residential customers will receive an average of about \$60, though the exact amount issued to each customer will be known in January.

Hospital parking capped

Starting in the spring of 2020, hospital parking fees will be capped at around \$7 to \$10, depending on the region. The first two hours will be free. Right now, in some places parking fees cost more than \$20

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Quebec Union of Municipalities turned 100 last year

Group continues to lobby Quebec on behalf of towns and cities

MARTIN C. BARRY

Sunday Dec. 15 was an historic day for elected officials in hundreds of towns and cities across Quebec.

UMQ's 100th

On that day a hundred years before, mayors and city council members gathered for the first time to found the Union des Municipalités du Québec, an organization that has represented the interests of municipalities across the province ever since.

On Dec. 15 1919, a special meeting took place at Montreal city hall during which more than 400 delegates agreed to form the UMQ. At the end of the 19th century, according to the UMQ, Quebec was in the midst of a tremendous period of social and economic development.

Rapid urbanization

Although rapid industrialization was accelerating the rate of urban development, this in turn was causing management problems within towns and cities that elected officials were having trouble dealing with.

And while the status of municipalities was officially established within Quebec's territory as early as 1855, it was only in 1867 that the newly-formed Canadian federal government granted the Province of Quebec jurisdiction over municipal affairs.

Growing problems

But even if municipal governments were given a certain degree of autonomy at that time, historians and academics today acknowledge that the province's towns and cities were still hardly in a position to adequately deal with the socioeconomic problems they faced at the end of the 19th century and beginning of the 20th.

Around this time the outbreak of the First World War would further impact the economic difficulties being felt by municipalities and the provincial government overseeing them. It was about then that voices began to be heard from leaders of the municipalities, questioning what was then a provincial Liberal government that seemed indifferent to the situation.

They found a solution

The conclusion the municipal representatives came to was that the creation of a common association was the right course to take. It should be noted that around this same time several other similarly-minded associations were also created, including the Union of Canadian Municipalities (UCM), dating from 1901.

As well, most of the other provinces across Canada also saw associations of municipalities created within their boundaries towards the beginning of the 20th century. In Quebec, the phenomenon was a little late to start. After some initial attempts in 1907 and in 1913, it was finally in 1918, following the end of World War I, that a definite move was finally made.

Beginnings of the UMQ

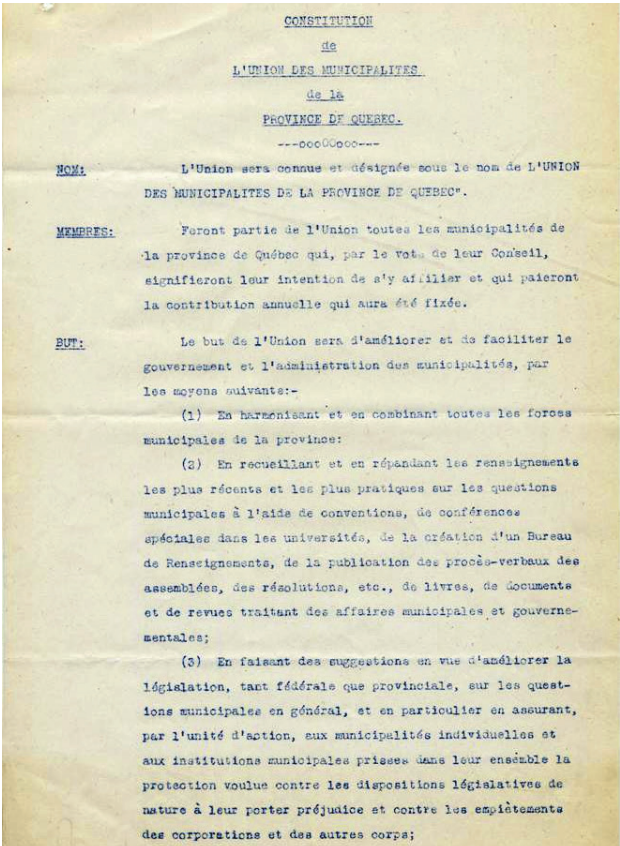
The first UMQ committee was formed by Téléphore-Damien Bouchard (Saint-Hyacinthe), Robert Ryan (Trois-Rivières), Rosaire Prieur (Pointe-aux-Trembles) and Frederick Wright (editor of the *Canadian Municipal Journal*). It became official the following year.

The UMQ's first annual convention, held Dec. 15 – 16 at Montreal city hall, marked the official launch of the Union des Municipalités de la province de Québec (as it was known then).

UMQ's first president

In all, 400 delegates from all over Quebec voted unanimously for the adoption of the resolution formally creating the UMQ. Joseph Beaubien, who was then mayor of the City of Outremont, was elected as the UMQ's first president. He remained in the position for the next 29 years, which stands to this day as the longest term in office by a UMQ president.

The founding members of the UMQ established the basic orientations for the organization. Among these were the goals to improve and facilitate the administration of municipalities. As well, the UMQ members decided the organization should strive to bring all Quebec's municipalities together so that they constitute a unified force to deal effectively with the provincial government.



This page from a notarized document from the UMQ archives dating from the early 20th century shows how the UMQ was established by the mayors and other elected officials from several hundred towns and cities across Quebec back then.

Your snow blower may be hazardous

Health Canada recalls more than 15,000 snow throwers because of breaking wheel rims

There have been 36 reports of lacerations and fractures in Canada as of Dec. 17

More than 15,000 snow throwers have been recalled after Health Canada identified a risk of the wheel rims breaking if the tires are overinflated.

Health Canada said in the recall alert posted that this can cause possible lacerations and fractures.

The affected products are various models from Yardworks, Yard Machines, MTD Yard Machines and Troy-Bilt Series 2 Stage Snow Throwers. A snow thrower uses its auger to throw the snow, while a snow blower has an additional fan that blows out the snow.

The recalled products are manufactured by MTD Products Ltd. and were sold between 2004 to 2006 at the Home Depot, Rona Home Hardware, Canadian Tire and other retailers.

If consumers have any of the affected snow throwers they should "Immediately stop using the product and contact MTD for free replacement wheel rims," the alert said.

The brand name can be located on the snow thrower's housing along with the model number



Pictured is a YardWorks and Troy-Bilt Snow Thrower model, one of the models being recalled by Health Canada. (Health Canada)

which can be found on the rear frame.

What you should do

Consumers should immediately stop using the product and contact MTD for a free set of replacement wheel rim assemblies made of steel.

Consumers can contact MTD toll-free at (800) 668-1238 between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. EST Monday through Friday.

The following model numbers are affected:		
Brand	Model Numbers	Sold at
MTD Yard Machines	31A-3AAD500	The Home Depot, Rona Home Hardware and other retailers
	31A-3DAD529	
Troy-Bilt	31AS3BB2563	Canadian Tire
	31BS3AAE563	
Yard Machines	31AS3BAD516	
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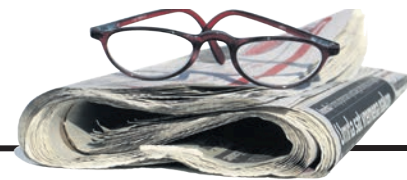
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EL CHEIKH MAT

En Persan, el cheikh mat, ça se traduit par : le roi est mort... et les joueurs d'échecs le savent bien puisque nous avons traduit el cheikh mat par *Échec et mat!*

Nos contemporains se demandent si 2020 est le prolongement d'une décennie ou le début d'une nouvelle. Pourtant, il semble clair que l'affaire Weinstein, même s'il y aura encore bien des abus par des personnes en position d'autorité parentale ou professionnelle, d'argent ou de pouvoir, représente bien plus que la tape sur les doigts que le système législatif donne aux délinquants, et le public se pose bien des questions, car les coupables sont d'autant plus poursuivis qu'ils appartiennent à la crème de la société.

Il y a quelques années, Dominique Strauss-Kahn a perdu l'occasion de devenir Président de la République française après les accusations d'une femme de chambre.

Quelques années plus tard, l'affaire Weinstein éclate, l'homme y perd fortune, famille, oscars, et bien d'autres choses encore, n'est-il pas assez puni demande la journaliste de Radio Canada à une victime présumée de Weinstein?

Sous entendu :

L'opinion publique qui crie ME TOO, afin de disqualifier un producteur célèbre, récompensé, voire *oscarisé*, pour le rendre passible d'emprisonnement à vie en dépit de son âge, de sa vulnérabilité et des punitions qui lui ont été infligées par son propre entourage...

... Mais il n'en demeure pas moins que Weinstein aura été puni par ses pairs, par sa famille, mais pas par la loi!

Une classe politique qui déclare forfait pour l'élection en dépit de ses qualifications qui en

font le favori, Dominique Strauss-Kahn, est acquitté *parce que Nafissa ne paraissait pas être un témoin fiable...*

Mais l'on parlait du même principe que cet homme avait été bien puni déjà en perdant ses espoirs de présidence, la loi s'est donc abstenue d'en rajouter.

Elle était où la Justice? Pourquoi faut-il que le public se substitue à elle pour sanctionner un crime d'abus sexuel?

Dans notre édition du 31 mai 2019, ma chronique intitulée POUR UNE POIGNÉE DE DOLLARS, je me demandais si, en signant un chèque de 44 millions de dollars, Harvey Weinstein allait s'en tirer, mais aujourd'hui, il passe en cour, et l'avenir nous dira s'il sera condamné ou acquitté, de ces accusations, et des autres à venir, car il semble avoir tiré ses dernières cartouches et les nouvelles plaignantes n'auront vraisemblablement pas grand-chose à se partager autre que le plaisir de l'envoyer

derrière les barreaux où les détenus détestent les riches... et les abuseurs.

Weinstein a bien été puni dans sa puissance, son argent, sa famille, ses trophées de producteur, mes ses péchés de prédateur sexuel, qui les punira?

Je serais convaincu que nous sommes entrés dans une nouvelle décennie quand nous aurons la preuve hors de tous doutes que la justice ne peut pas être achetée par une batterie d'avocats intimidants, des juges complaisants et un public indulgent et qu'elle s'applique également à tous.

C'est seulement là que nous pourrions être certains d'être passés à une nouvelle décennie.

Political considerations for a new year and a brand new decade

As a new year and a fresh new decade begin, there are a number of important issues looming for leaders and citizens alike in the municipal, provincial, federal and even international spheres of government.

Although the recent Christmas and New Year holidays came and went with overall peacefulness and relatively few news developments, the assassination of Iranian general Qassem Suleimani in the first few days of January set the tone for a global crisis that could easily escalate into this decade.

Suleimani was killed in a targeted United States drone strike on Jan. 3 in Iraq where a U.S. military base had been attacked on Dec. 27, resulting in the death of a U.S. contractor. The U.S. embassy in Iraq was also attacked by Iran-supported militiamen in the days afterwards.

Considering these developments came in the months leading up to the United States' 2020 general elections taking place in early November, they constitute a final and possibly desperate attempt by incumbent president Donald Trump to demonstrate some leadership – something that he has been woefully short of during the past three-and-a-half years of his first term.

What is perhaps notable in the aftermath has been Iran's somewhat ironic response, calling Trump a "terrorist in a suit" after he further threatened to strike 52 more Iranian sites if Iran doesn't leave the U.S. alone.

Considering that Iran has been acknowledged to be a haven and promoter of international terrorism, it's unlikely that Iran's pleas for sympathy from other nations will be heeded. In the meantime, Iran's foreign minister has complained that the U.S.'s reprisal targeting of Iranian cultural sites would constitute a war crime.

That also is an ironic statement coming from a government which is known to support the activities of Islamic extremists and terrorists who have themselves targeted and destroyed numerous non-Islamic but valuable Middle-Eastern cultural sites.

At the national level of politics, the Trudeau Liberals are enjoying a peaceful lull following last October's federal election – even though the

Liberals are now only a minority government. The departure of Conservative leader Andrew Scheer probably only adds to the Liberals' sense of contentment.

But it remains to be seen with the resumption of the House of Commons following the Christmas break whether the Liberals' minority position leaves the government poised for a crisis, or whether Justin Trudeau lives up to his reputation for governing effectively with seemingly little more than his cool sense of detachment.

Provincially, the Coalition Avenir Québec government continues to enjoy very high support and popularity among Quebec's majority French-speaking grassroots population. However, there is far less of this from other groups. Especially minorities directly affected by the CAQ's highly-controversial Bill 21, which bans the wearing of Islamic veils and other religious symbols by public servants.

While Bill 21 is regarded as a bit of a side show by the CAQ because it doesn't impact most of the province's electorate, the clincher for the provincial government to retain its dominance in the National Assembly may well end up being how well Quebec's economy is managed.

Given Premier François Legault's vast experience as the founder of a successful airline and as a corporate CEO, we look forward to his being able to drive the province's economy to new heights.

Municipally, it looks as though the lack of social housing issue will continue to preoccupy VSP borough as well as centre city officials in the coming year, as it did for much of 2019.

While the administration of Montreal mayor Valérie Plante claims many new social housing projects are in the works, she has yet to deliver them, and social housing activists in Park Extension are increasingly impatient.

With municipal elections scheduled to take place in November 2021, it remains to be seen whether Plante and her Projet Montréal party deliver the promised goods in time, or lose valuable grassroots support should they fail to do so.

– Martin C. Barry

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

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Nouvelles Parc-Extension News looks back at last year's turbulence *Social housing dominated locally, Trudeau re-elected in Papineau*

MARTIN C. BARRY

As Queen Elizabeth said in her annual message to Canadians and other members of the Commonwealth this past Christmas Day, the path we take in life "is not always smooth and may at times this year have felt quite bumpy."

While Her Royal Majesty may well have been referring to the misfortunes that befell her son Prince Andrew last year, 2019 was indeed a turbulent year for people everywhere – whether it was in Laval or across Quebec and the rest of the country.

JANUARY

A group of friends gathered together to prepare meal bags with other goodies that were distributed to Montreal's homeless. The participants were: Anita Gavrielatos, Athena Baktis, Betty Synanidis, Elizabeth Mamounis, Francine Fournier, Georgia Cocoromitis, Georgia Dimitropoulos, Georgia Panayiotopoulos, Helen Vrahiotis, Joanne Vrahiotis, Patty Droukas, Peggy Rapatsouleas, Tia Darsaklis, Timothy Tzanakos and Alexandra Sevapsidis.

A host of federal tax changes came into effect with the new year. Some hit people's paycheques, while others manifested themselves on bills. If you were a small business owner, there were a few changes for which you had likely been preparing for months. From low-income subsidies to passive cash taxation to the carbon tax, the rules were about to shift.

Starting in January, Canadians' Canada

Pension Plan contributions increased from 4.95 per cent to 5.1 per cent on earnings between \$3,500 and \$57,400. It was the first of five years of graduated increases that will run until 2023, when the rate will reach 5.95 per cent.

The oft-told story of the engineer who immigrated to Canada only to end up having to drive a cab for a living "is no longer as true as it used to be," federal Immigration Minister Ahmed Hussen told a gathering of community group leaders at the YMCA in Cartierville, as he defended Ottawa's position on the recognition of academic credentials from foreign countries.

Hussen – who is himself a product of Canada's immigration system, having come to Canada from Somalia during the early 1990s – was one member of a panel of elected officials from three government levels who took part in a round-table discussion sponsored by Ahuntsic-Cartierville Liberal MP Mélanie Joly.

Regarding the new CAQ provincial government's stated commitment to reducing the number of immigrants entering the province by up to 20 per cent, Hussen said, "They are very adamant about keeping their campaign commitment to cut the numbers. But they emphasize a number of things.

"Number one that it's a temporary measure, that in about two years they'll bring the number back. And that they need this pause, as they called it, to take some of the savings from the 20 per cent cut to invest in the 40,000 immigrants that they'll bring in to help them with integration."

At this time last year, the Montreal Police

Department was beefing up its sexual assault and exploitation units — and creating the SPVM's first dedicated cold case unit to look into unsolved crimes. The shake up was the result of a process started by Martin Prud'homme, former interim chief, who returned to the Sûreté du Québec.

It was all part of a reorganization of resources, explained SPVM spokesperson Insp. André Durocher. The police service wasn't hiring, and no jobs were being abolished. Many of the positions being filled were vacant, he said. However, apart from the riot squad, which lost two officers, it is not clear which other units are losing officers to the new ones.

FEBRUARY

Following a meeting with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau at his Papineau constituency office, Park Extension city councillor Mary Deros said she felt confident the Federal Court of Canada would uphold a request by Villeray/St-Michel/Park Extension that would force CP Rail to create a level crossing linking Ogilvy Ave. to de Castelnau St.

The Borough of Villeray/St-Michel/Parc Extension had been lobbying for years to have a level crossing (similar to the one further north along the rail line at Ball Ave.) put in place at Ogilvy/de Castelnau in order to facilitate pedestrian and bicycle traffic between the two sides. CP has consistently refused, citing security as its main objection.

"From what I was told, the case is going to be looked at in March and they are not going to be

considering any more arguments," said Deros. "They're going to be looking at the facts and hopefully will then make a decision that will be favourable to opening it up for pedestrians and cyclists."

In an interview published in the Feb. 8 issue of Nouvelles Parc Extension News, federal border security and organized crime reduction minister Bill Blair convincingly defended the Liberal government's decriminalization of marijuana.

Leading up to the changes by the Liberals the previous October to the country's longstanding prohibition on cannabis, more than a third of Canada's population had been breaking the law, said Blair. As such, "we began the process of looking at how do we reduce the harm of this drug," he added.

"Some people say to me, 'Well you've legalized cannabis.' And I say no – we've regulated the daylight out of it. We've brought in all sorts of new rules – enforceable, proportionate, sensible rules – that control every aspect of its production, its sale and its consumption."

During the same interview, Blair ruled out the possibility his ministry would follow the example of the Trump administration in the U.S. and build some kind of wall along Canada's southern border to keep out intruders. "I don't believe a physical barrier is either practical on a 9,000-kilometre border or necessary," said Blair.

With a federal election scheduled to take place in October, the lines were being drawn early in the year by some political parties and candi-

► Continued on page 6

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2019: The Year in REVIEW - by Martin C. Barry -

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dates. Former Conservative cabinet minister Maxime Bernier was one of the first to get a head-start when he hosted a campaign launch for one of his People's Party of Canada candidates who was running in a Feb. 25 by-election in Côte des Neiges.

Park Extension activists opposing the private redevelopment of a former Beaumont commercial property because it was previously targeted for social housing scored a partial victory when officials with the Borough of Villaray/St-Michel/Parc Extension decided during the monthly borough council to postpone a vote on allowing the project to go ahead.

In response to some Park Extension parents' concerns about loitering or other questionable activities at the William Hingston Centre, a special gathering took place on Feb. 11 at the community centre on Saint Roch St. to mark the launch of a new program to enhance security for children in the future.

As part of the program, the William Hingston Centre would henceforth be designated as a public place that is an "Ami des Enfants" (Friend of Children).

MARCH

As stated in our March 8 issue, The Villaray/St-Michel/Parc Extension borough council voted without the support of Mayor Giuliana Fumagalli during a special council meeting in February to allow the demolition of a commercial block on Beaumont Ave., paving the way for the construction of new four-storey building slated to serve as a student residence.

The decision, taken during a special afternoon meeting of the borough council, went against the wishes of housing activists in Park Extension. They had staged a demonstration prior to the February council meeting several weeks before when the demolition motion was first tabled but was postponed pending further study.

In an interview published in the March 6 issue of the Laval News, the Conservative Party of Canada's lieutenant for Quebec Gérard Deltell outlined the Tories' plans for the federal election which would be taking place on Oct. 21.

Based on a CPC press statement as well as our interview with Deltell, it seemed that a significant part of the Conservative election plan would depend heavily on disparaging incumbent Liberal Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

"Quebeckers are fed up with Justin Trudeau, and his lack of understanding towards the bills average people have to pay," said Deltell. The Member of Parliament for the Quebec City-area riding of Louis-Saint-Laurent downplayed the potential impact that former Conservative Maxime Bernier's new People's Party would have on the CPC on election day.

With predictions being made that immigration would rank high among the issues in the upcoming federal election, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Minister Ahmed Hussen said in an interview with Nouvelles Parc Extension News that he was prepared to defend the incumbent Liberal government's policies, while setting the record straight with regard to "misinformation" he said had been spread by the Conservatives.

"The Conservatives have repeatedly misinformed Canadians about the Global Compact," said Hussen, referring to the United Nations' Global Compact for Migration, a non-binding international agreement enacted by the UN and agreed to by the Liberal government. In December 2018, Conservative leader Andrew Scheer claimed the agreement would undermine Canada's ability to decide who immigrates here.

Almost a decade after the idea of new park at the corner of Stuart and St. Roch was first announced as part of Park Extension's centennial celebrations, the Borough of Villaray/St-Michel/Parc Extension has finally given the go-ahead for the work for the project to be carried out.

At the March borough council meeting, it was announced that a contract was being given out for the construction of Centennial Park over the coming summer. As some might remember, the previous plans were postponed because a suitable contractor was not found. The park is now due to be completed in 2020.

Federal Finance Minister Bill Morneau tabled a pre-election budget on March 19 designed to calm Canadians worried about retiring with financial security, getting the skills they need to land new jobs, or being able to afford a first home.

Morneau's fourth budget — a springboard for the Liberal platform heading into the fall election campaign — offered several new lower-cost programs that target key electoral constituencies: millennials, workers, businesses and seniors.

APRIL

The head of Montreal's largest taxi service predicted that the region's traditional taxi industry would cease to exist within three years after the CAQ government passed Bill 17 to overhaul the taxi industry and level the ground for alternate taxi and ride-sharing services like Uber and Lyft.

"It's an inhumane law," said George Boussios, president of Champlain Taxi. "It is going to get 22,000 families, 8,000 permit holders into bankruptcy."

In the same April 5 issue of Nouvelles Parc Extension News, the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) also expressed its deep disappointment with and opposition to Bill 21. "Bill 21 is a divisive and an unnecessary piece of legislation that can only lead to societal

discrimination," said QESBA president Dan Lamoureux.

A late winter ice storm that roared through the Laval, North Shore and Montreal regions left many residents of the areas without electric power as hundreds of transmission lines snapped under the weight of fallen tree limbs laden with hardened snow and ice.

For many who were around more than 20 years ago, the pandemonium was a jarring reminder of the far greater ice storm that roared through the Montreal and Laval regions, the province of Quebec and large parts of eastern Canada in January 1998.

With the federal election only months away, the incumbent Liberal government's Minister for Families, Children and Social Development said he was concerned a Conservative government would make drastic cuts to a vast array of family-oriented and social welfare programs.

"Conservatives are known for two things," Jean-Yves Duclos said in an interview with NPEN. "First they cut the benefits and services to middle-class Canadians. And second they give tax advantages to the wealthiest Canadians."

Several hundred patriotic Greek Montrealers gathered at the Hellenic Community Centre in Côte des Neiges on the evening of Friday March 22 for a gala dinner to celebrate one of the most important dates in the history of the Hellenes — Greek Independence Day.

For Greeks around the world, March 25, 1821 marked the beginning of the revolutionary fight that ended 400 years of Ottoman rule. Following a protracted war in which Greek patriots received support from Russia, Britain and France, Greece finally received recognition from the world as an independent nation in 1832.

In the meantime, the Borough of Villaray/St-Michel/Parc Extension was reminding motorists that the posted speed limit on all local streets is now 30 km/h. After announcing the change last December, it took several months to change speed limit signage throughout the borough.

Park Extension city councillor Mary Deros was supporting a motion proposed by the Official Opposition at Montreal city council that street construction and repair contractors working for the City of Montreal should be obliged to provide a guarantee on their work that would be good in some cases for at least five years.

"If they're going to do the work and within a year there are fissures and potholes, they have got to be accountable," Deros said in an interview in the April 19 issue of Nouvelles Parc Extension News.

MAY

As reported in our May 3 issue, more than 300 people from all over the Montreal region attended a candlelight memorial service in Park

Extension's Jarry Park to express their solidarity with victims of the terrorist bombings which took place in Sri Lanka on Easter Sunday 2019.

Three Christian churches in Sri Lanka and three luxury hotels in the commercial capital Colombo were targeted in a series of coordinated terrorist suicide bombings. Among those from the Park Extension area who attended the memorial service were Vathany Srikandarajah and Nizam Uddin, who are president and general secretary respectively of the Himalaya Seniors of Quebec. Mrs. Srikandarajah is of Sri Lankan heritage.

VSP Borough Mayor Giuliana Fumagalli was promoting a motion tabled on May 13 in Montreal city council by herself and Montreal city councillor Marvin Rotrand that the Société de Transport de Montréal should openly publish their performance indicators as a gesture of transparency.

With the federal government poised to release a "digital charter" outlining Canada's plans to deal with hate speech and misinformation on the Internet, Liberal Heritage Minister Pablo Rodriguez told Nouvelles Parc Extension News that his department was near the point of announcing an anti-racism strategy that would also take abuses committed over the Internet into account.

"Nobody is saying that Canada is a racist country, but racism does exist here," he said in an interview. "We have to combat this rise in hate and anti-Semitism and all kinds of different forms of discrimination online and in the real world."

Compared to past years, the annual "sugaring off" party staged in Park Extension's Athena Park and reported in our May 3 issue was a fair bit on the wet side. It took place on the weekend, after all, when eastern Canada suffered some of the worst spring flooding ever.

It was the fourth year the Alliance familles-école organized the sugaring-off event in conjunction with the Centre des Loisirs du Parc. Park Extension city councillor Mary Deros dropped by for a while to take in the ambience and savour the sugary treats.

More than four decades after the tragic loss of one of Park Extension's treasured Greek Orthodox houses of worship, members of St. Sophie's Church announced that a new church building at the corner of Wiseman Ave. and Saint Roch St. would open and be ready for religious observances by Easter 2020.

As reported in our May 17 issue, a human skull that was found among the belongings of a resident who was being evicted from his Wiseman Ave. dwelling because of a compulsive hoarding habit was apparently stolen from a cemetery three decades before.

The resident, Michael Friedrichs, 69, was charged with indecent treatment of human

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remains. The prosecution requested during his arraignment that he be remanded in custody for the time being.

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JUNE

While homicides were up in 2018, the general crime rate declined in Montreal in 2018, according to new data released by the SPVM. The police force’s annual report, which was presented at Montreal City Hall, showed that homicides were at a five-year high in 2018, with 32.

That was up from 24 the previous year. Violent crimes as a whole were up, with a 19.1 per cent increase in attempted murders and 4.8 and 2.8 per cent increases in assaults and sexual assaults, respectively. SPVM chief Sylvain Caron said the increase was at least partly due to organized crime.

The Cyber-Investigation Team of the Technological Crimes Section at the Montreal

Police Department was calling for vigilance from Montreal citizens regarding an increasingly frequent extortion scam in Canada.

Virtual kidnapping was not a new phenomenon, although it had already claimed several victims over the last two years in Canada, namely in Vancouver, and appeared in Montreal a few months before.

At the beginning of the June 4 Villeray/St-Michel/Parc Extension borough council meeting, the mayor and councillors paid homage to all the young athletes who participated in the 42nd Jeux de Montréal which took place in April.

For borough general manager Stéphane Chénier, the June council meeting was his last before retiring after 35 years service with the City of Montreal and 13 years as director-general for VSP.

The first annual APGA Tour golf tournament, held at the Atlantide Golf Club in Île Perrôt on June 9, raised more than \$23,000 for the Hellenic Chronic Care Hospital Foundation. Nick Liounis, vice-president of the Hellenic Chronic Care Hospital Foundation, said the foundation “could never foresee raising so much money at one event and we are truly, truly grateful for this.”

More than 30 people were invited by the Himalaya Seniors of Quebec to the William Hingston Centre on Saint Roch St. on June 15 for a special celebration to mark Eid al-Fitr, the Muslim “breaking of the fast” at the end of Ramadan.

While there, the guests were also honouring Himalaya Seniors president Vathany Srikandarajah who was named a Volunteer of the Year by Villeray/ St-Michel/Parc Extension

recently.

It was the third time in recent years that the Himalaya Seniors were so honoured by the borough. In previous years, the organization’s general secretary Nizam Uddin had been named Volunteer of the Year and the group was also cited for its exceptional contributions to the Park Extension community.

Although it may not have been a three-alarm blaze, a minor fire that broke out in a tree-bed in Place de la Gare on Hutchison Ave. last Sunday afternoon demonstrated the importance placed on civil responsibility by a longtime Park Ex resident who felt it was her duty to make an emergency services call.

“I think all of us have an obligation in our neighbourhood to make sure that it’s safe for our children and for ourselves,” said Sophia Saridakis, a lifelong Park Extension resident. “When anybody sees anything like this I think they should just react immediately.”

JULY

One of the biggest Canada Day celebrations Park Extension had seen in years took place in Place de la Gare at the corner of Jean Talon St. and Hutchison Ave. on Monday July 1. It was a party that stood in stark contrast to a local Canada Day “non-event” that took place on July 1 three years ago.

At that time, Place de la Gare was a very lonely place to be on the country’s birthday because of an oversight that resulted in no major celebration being held that year in a riding which is Prime Minister Justin Trudeau’s home territory.

However, the Park Extension-based National Bangladeshi-Canadian Council (NBCC) had taken the initiative and stepped forward after

that to see that a Canada Day event was organized each year worthy of the occasion.

Borough Mayor Giuliana Fumagalli delivered very good news at the July 2 meeting of the Villeray/St-Michel/Parc Extension borough council meeting. After more than a decade of lobbying and legal wrangling with CP Rail and railway regulators, the borough mayor announced that a federal agency had ruled that the borough is entitled to two level crossings.

While acknowledging that real estate values and rents were rising in Park Extension as the district undergoes a gentrification, local city councillor Mary Deros said the borough and centre city were doing their best to deal with a city-wide housing crisis.

“There’s a crisis in all of Montreal with the lack of affordable housing,” she said in an interview. “It’s not just in Park Ex. Except that in Park Ex we have some people who are working very hard on this issue, which is a good thing.”

With the University of Montreal’s satellite campus in the former Outremont train yard slated to open soon, the problem was only expected to get worse. Many Park Ex tenants were reporting how they are being forced from their dwellings by rents that were rising as groups of students moved in and made rent offers that exceeded what longtime tenants were paying.

Bill 21, the controversial legislation passed by the province’s Coalition Avenir Québec government banning the display of religious symbols, came up as an issue during a seminar and workshop on the impact of racism on cultural minorities held by the Himalaya Seniors at the

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BACK TO SCHOOL

4 reasons to go back to school as a senior

If you're looking for something to do when you retire, consider going back to school. It can be a challenging, engaging and fulfilling way to occupy your golden years. Here are some reasons it may be right for you.

1. FINANCIAL BENEFITS

Learning new skills at school could lead to you securing an additional source of income, thereby making your retirement more comfortable and keeping you busy to boot. If, for any reason, you need to stay employed after you reach the age of retirement, developing new skills or honing the ones you have could open the door to better jobs.

2. FULFILL YOUR GOALS

Many people end up putting aside their youthful aspirations to deal with the financial realities of life. In this type of case, retirement could be an opportunity for you to pursue passions you had to put on hold and complete courses, or even a degree, in a field of study you love.

3. BE MENTALLY STIMULATED

Research suggests that seniors who are mentally active are less likely to show signs of Alzheimer's disease or dementia. Plus, taking courses can have beneficial psychological



effects and provide you with something to focus on and work towards.

4. AVOID ISOLATION

Social isolation is a serious concern for seniors and going back to school can help prevent it. Some classes are specifically designed for older students, which allows you to learn new skills while building your network. Social connections can be a source of support and improve your overall quality of life.

Many universities and colleges offer discounted rates for senior students, and you may be able to audit some classes for free. This information is usually available online. Otherwise, you can call the institution you're interested in to find out more.

Extracurricular activities: benefits and drawbacks

Are you wondering if the benefits of extracurricular activities for kids are overblown? Or perhaps you're worried that they'll turn your family schedule into a logistical nightmare? Here's what you should keep in mind when deciding whether to sign up your children for activities.

BENEFITS

Many studies show that recreational, athletic and cultural activities make a positive impact on children. Here's why:

- They allow kids to develop their talents and skills.
- They contribute to academic success by making it less likely children will lose interest in school or become depressed.
- They're a great way to socialize and make friends who share your child's interests, which promotes their academic and social integration.
- They boost self-esteem.

DRAWBACKS

The benefits of extracurricular activities are contingent on them remaining fun. They shouldn't feel like an obligation or become a source of tension.

Make sure your children's schedules aren't



overloaded. Too many activities can negatively impact a child's academic performance and even their ability to sleep.

Extracurricular activities should be enjoyable and allow children to develop new skills in a healthy environment. Pressuring them to perform will negate any benefits and may cause unwarranted stress.



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BACK TO SCHOOL



How to help your teen choose a career path

It's normal to worry about what your teen's going to do after high school but remember, they're probably just as nervous as you are, if not more so. Here are some guidelines for helping them make good choices about their future.

SUPPORT BUT DON'T HOVER

Think of yourself as the foundation of your child's support system. Give them the tools needed to make informed decisions but don't attempt to make choices for them. Similarly, teach them how resumes and cover letters work, but don't write them yourself. Let your teen choose and follow their path autonomously.

IDENTIFY THEIR STRENGTHS

As a parent, you likely have unique insight into your child's strengths and abilities. Are they good at organizing their thoughts and presenting them clearly? Do they work better alone? These traits can offer clues as to which potential careers would be a good fit for your teen. You might be tempted to tell your child they'd make a great lawyer but try not to box them in. Instead, help them identify their talents and areas where they can be put to good use.

PUSH PASSION NOT PRESTIGE

Even if you're convinced your child would make a great doctor, don't push them down that path unless they're interested in it. Spending



40 hours a week doing something they're passionate about is a lot easier than spending the same amount of time doing something they don't care for.

In addition to offering your own guidance, encourage your teen to consult a career counsellor in your area. These professionals can provide further strategies for choosing a career path.

Going back to school? Why not!

There are all kinds of good reasons to go back to school. It may be that you want to fulfill an old dream or finish off the degree you started so many years ago. Perhaps you want to start a new career or update your skills. Whether you're 30

or 60 years old, going back to school can be stimulating and rewarding. Are you ready for the challenge?

If you left school a long time ago, it's normal to feel nervous about returning. Will you have enough money? Will you be able to keep up with the other students? Can you juggle both your studies and your family life? When will you find time to do your assignments? Talking to a counsellor will help you see your way more clearly.

Even if you have a good idea of what you want to do, a counsellor can help you develop an action plan that suits your needs, finances, interests and availability. For example, you could choose to study part-time or take on-line courses for more flexibility. Before you embark on this adventure, consider all the options open to you. Of course, the support of your family is important, but don't let their objections change your mind. With courage and determination, you can achieve your goals, just as thousands of other adults have done before you.

In addition to opening up new employment opportunities, going back to school will improve your self-confidence and increase your independence. In fact, many mature students report feeling younger than ever. Who knows; maybe school is where you'll find the secret of eternal youth.



Regardless of your age, going back to school can be stimulating and rewarding.



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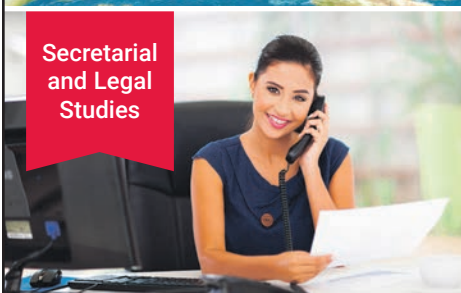
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William Hingston centre on July 5.

"Being racially abused is something no one ever wants to fall victim of, considering how it could give rise to anxiety, depression and feeling unsafe," said Ruaid Usmari, the first of more than a half-dozen speakers.

VSP borough mayor Giuliana Fumagalli pointed out that everyone in Park Extension manages somehow to harmonize all the district's languages and cultures. "We have something in particular in Park Ex – and I think it's respect – and I think I'll repeat it until the cows come home," she said.

"We are actually all living as neighbours and have a profound respect for each other and for the cultures we have. It's not always easy to have all the language and culture barriers that we have. But with time we are able to."

AUGUST

Quebec Finance Minister Eric Girard issued a statement saying he would soon be tabling new legislation to deal with theft of personal information through widescale computer hacking. The move came following the theft of personal data from Quebec's Caisse Desjardins.

Initially, according to Girard, the proposed legislation would improve the protection of personal and financial information belonging to citizens. He noted that as things stood, personal financial assets were guaranteed in instances where fraud is committed.

He suggested that credit tracking agencies such as Equifax are playing an important role in providing stronger security. Girard said Desjardins reacted quickly to the situation it was faced with.

As a result of innovative work by the Chief of Neurosurgery at the Jewish General Hospital (JGH), which is part of the CIUSSS West-Central Montreal, patients could now benefit from the least invasive surgery possible.

"I'm delighted to finally be able to use spinal endoscopy to treat my patients," said Dr. Jeff Golan. "I used to have to refer them to my colleagues in the United States. But from now on, my patients can benefit from this procedure here free of charge."

Spinal endoscopy is a surgical technique that requires only a small incision in the patient's side for the placement of a tiny tube 7 mm in diameter. Once the tube is near the spine, the surgeon can insert the surgical instruments through the tube and perform the procedure.

As reported in our Aug. 16 issue, music, dance

as well as some very thoughtful comments were the order of the day during the second installment of the Himalaya Seniors of Quebec's two-part conference to raise awareness and start people in the local cultural communities talking about racism and discrimination.

"Today we are here to find a way which might bring better understanding about our cultural communities," said Himalaya Seniors president Vathany Srikandarajah who delivered opening remarks.

Three of Park Extension's most important cultural communities held festivals and celebrations over the weekend of Aug. 17 – 18. The usually tranquil corner of d'Outremont Avenue and St. Roch Street was enlivened by traditional Greek music and dancing for the annual Park Extension Greek Cultural Festival on the evening of Aug. 17.

Held around the same date as the Orthodox Church's Feast of the Dormition of the Mother of God (Aug. 15), all proceeds from the festival were going to a local Greek Orthodox church.

On the same day, hundreds of people of Pakistani origin from all over Montreal gathered on Querbes Ave. and in Howard Park for festivities to mark the 72nd anniversary of Pakistan's national independence.

Newswise, the backdrop for last year's Pakistan Independence Day was the renewal of tension in the Kashmir Conflict, which involved an unresolved territorial dispute between Pakistan and India.

And Querbes Ave. resonated with joy and jubilation on the afternoon of Aug. 18 as people of Indian heritage from everywhere in the Montreal region gathered to take part in a festive parade to mark the day more than seven decades ago when India became a nation.

It was the perfect day for a parade, according to Naseer Mehdi Khan of the India Canada Organization, one of the chief organizers. "There was a forty per cent chance of rain, so we are grateful for the sun," he said.

SEPTEMBER

Over the objections of a group of people from Park Extension concerned about a lack of social housing, the Borough of Villeray/St-Michel/Parc Extension's demolition committee gave its permission to tear down an aging former bakery on Querbes Ave. where a new residential condo project was scheduled to be built.

The property's owner, Montoni Group, purchased the former Homemade Kosher Bakery building at the corner of Beaumont Ave. after the City of Montreal had previously planned to acquire the building for future

redevelopment into social housing.

Delivering her monthly report on new developments in the borough, Villeray/St-Michel/Parc Extension Borough Mayor Giuliana Fumagalli said during the Sept. 3 borough council meeting that she was pleased that the groundwork was underway for two new social housing projects in VSP.

The first involved the purchase by the city of a property on de l'Épée Ave., formerly the Bétonel retail outlet. Another was on Cartier St. further east in the city.

"As you know, the Park Extension neighbourhood is changing at a quick pace and the need for social and affordable housing are great," she said. "The construction of this new social and community housing will be a breath of fresh air."

The twelfth annual Notte in Bianco, a dress-white fundraising event held on Sept. 4 at the Terrebbonne home of Maria and Vincent Guzzo of Cinémas Guzzo fame, raised more than \$250,000 to help support innovative children's mental health research.

Held for the benefit of the Guzzo Family's initiative in youth mental health, funds from the event would be distributed to the Jewish General Hospital, the Shriners Hospital and Youth Mental Health (Literacy for Dyslexia).

Officials from three levels of government were among the dignitaries who turned out on Sept. 20 for the official opening of the new Science Complex at the University of Montreal's MIL campus in the former Outremont train yard on the south side of Park Extension.

The event was interrupted momentarily when some representatives of the Comité d'Action de Parc Extension (CAPE) who were in a gallery overlooking the ceremonies began shouting while dropping leaflets to the floor below.

The protesters, who also staged a quiet demonstration outside, maintained that "the arrival of the Campus MIL is contributing to the gentrification of Parc-Extension and threatening the social fabric of the neighbourhood."

A remarkably youthful and lively Maria Arcudi Simon marked her 100th birthday at the Habitation Communautaire Hellénique de Montréal on Hutchison St. in Park Extension with some friends, some music and a healthy dose of wine.

During a brief ceremony, a certificate from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was presented to Arcudi Simon, as well as a certificate from the Premier of Quebec. Both congratulated her on reaching the centennial milestone. There was also birthday cake, coffee and a cheese and fruit platter.

Papineau NDP candidate Christine Paré,

whose main adversary in the upcoming federal election was Justin Trudeau, took major swipes at the incumbent Liberal Prime Minister during her campaign launch. Among other things, Paré questioned Justin Trudeau's commitment to feminist values.

OCTOBER

The head of Canada's largest chain of vaping supply shops told Nouvelles Parc Extension News he wasn't concerned about a wave of negative publicity that had impacted the vaping industry. All the same, he and other vaping shop owners launched a trade association to counter what they regard as misinformation.

"What's needed at this time is for the electronic cigarette business to work with the government and to have the proper information, reports and studies delivered the proper way," Daniel Marien said in an interview published in October in NPEN.

During a special meeting held at VSP borough headquarters on Oct. 1, the members of the Villeray/St-Michel/Parc Extension borough council adopted the borough's annual budget for 2020. The more than \$59 million budget was balanced in terms of revenues and expenses.

"The 2020 operating budget is part of an ongoing consolidation of services offered to all our citizens," said Borough Mayor Giuliana Fumagalli. "It reflects the goals and values favoured by the members of council, the administration and the population of the borough."

As reported in our Oct. 11 issue, the Himalaya Seniors of Quebec continued a theme begun several months before, with a third conference/seminar held at the William Hingston Centre on Sept. 29 on discrimination and racism and the possible impact they have on people living in highly multicultural and ethnic Park Extension.

While the previous events invited public officials as well as others to come forward and speak on the topic, this time scholars and persons with educational or academic backgrounds, as well as a few local officials, expressed their views on the potentially sensitive topic.

Rose Ngo Ndjel of Afrique au féminin said discrimination does indeed exist and there are avenues within the public system to draw attention to the problem, while finding solutions to the problem in individual cases.

"We do not close our eyes to problems like this," she said, noting the importance of dealing with racism and discrimination when necessary.

As was widely expected, the Oct. 21 federal election didn't yield a majority, but Prime

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Minister Justin Trudeau's Liberal party managed to secure most seats in the House. The Liberal party obtained 157 of the 338 seats, 36 more than the Conservatives (who, however, received more votes in absolute terms).

Trudeau was re-elected in Papineau, with 51.2 per cent of the vote. The Liberal leader had an early lead in his home riding, and it was enough for analysts to forecast his victory. He was first elected in Papineau in 2008 and was re-elected in 2011 before leading the Liberal party to a majority government in 2015.

The following day, Trudeau showed up at a Metro station in Papineau to thank his constituents for helping the Liberals secure a minority-government victory. Only a few hours after he left the stage at Liberal party election headquarters in Montreal, Trudeau stood at the top of the station's escalators to shake hands with commuters.

NOVEMBER

As reported in our Nov. 8 issue, 150 recent newcomers to Canada became full-fledged citizens of Canada during a citizenship ceremony held at the Patro Le Prevost Centre in Villaray on Oct. 29.

The ceremony was presided by Canadian citizenship judge Simon Durivage, a former French-language television news anchor and member of the Order of Canada. It was hosted by the National Bangladeshi-Canadian Council. Durivage thanked the NBCC for sponsoring the event.

Among the special guests were Giuliana Fumagalli, Mayor of Villaray/Saint-Michel/Parc-Extension, George Guzman, editor and co-publisher of Nouvelles Parc-Extension News, and Daniel Côté, director of development at the Centre Patro Le Prevost.

Social housing – specifically the lack of it in many areas of Villaray/St-Michel/Parc Extension – dominated a good deal of the borough council's November public meeting at VSP headquarters on Ogilvy Ave. in Park Extension.

Not only did social housing activists from Park Extension stage a small demonstration outside to raise awareness of the shortage's local impact. Lobbyists for social housing from other parts of Villaray and Saint-Michel also made their voices heard about a problem the Plante administration claimed to have under control in the form of thousands of planned social housing units – even though most had yet to be completed.

Park Extension city councillor Mary Deros said in an interview before the meeting that she and other municipal officials continued searching for future sites for social housing projects. "The good news is that we have not stopped looking for areas to develop social housing," she told Nouvelles Parc Extension News.

While Deros acknowledged that Park Extension "is very hot" from the standpoint of development and real-estate dealings, she continued, "We at the borough level and also with the housing committee of the City of Montreal are actively working to develop potential areas for social housing."

Elected officials in Villaray/St-Michel/Parc Extension were greeting the opening of Vanier College's new satellite campus on Beaumont Ave. as a watershed moment in the history of the borough – one that was almost certain to contribute to the cultural and economic prosperity of VSP.

Borough Mayor Giuliana Fumagalli and Park Extension city councillor Mary Deros joined Saint-Laurent Borough Mayor Alan DeSousa along with Vanier College Director General John McMahon and other senior administrators from Vanier for a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the new campus on Nov. 13.

While the opening of the University of Montreal's new MIL campus just a short distance away in the repurposed Outremont train yard had garnered a lot of attention, Councillor Deros said in an interview that the

new Vanier College campus would probably better serve Park Extension's residents' needs.

Quebec's strong economic and financial situation were allowing the CAQ government to take a major step and accelerate its actions to give money back to taxpayers more quickly.

As part of an Update on Québec's Economic and Financial Situation, an additional \$857 million would be invested to accelerate the implementation of key commitments made to Quebecers. "The Update on Québec's Economic and Financial Situation shows that Québec is doing very well," said Eric Girard, the province's finance minister.

DECEMBER

As reported in the Dec. 6 issue of Nouvelles Parc Extension News, members and friends of the FILIA Association for Senior Citizens gathered in Chomedey on Nov. 24 to celebrate a rare milestone – the organization's 35th anniversary. Since its establishment in February 1984, the FILIA Senior Citizens Association had been promoting the care and well-being of senior citizens. Initially it was in Montreal's Park Extension neighbourhood. In more recent years it had been active in Chomedey and Laval.

Through a number of diverse activities and charitable events, FILIA works to ensure that elderly members of the community can continue to enjoy an independent and dignified life in a comfortable environment, while remaining connected to their rich culture and heritage.

"Not enough attention is paid to older people," FILIA founder Joanna Tsoublekas said in an interview. "We are an organization that has a mission and dreams to build and meet the needs to make life easier for the older generation."

Among the special guests at the early afternoon gala were the Consul General for Greece in Montreal Michalis Gavrilidis, the MNA for Chomedey Guy Ouellette, Laval city councillor for Souvenir-Labelle Sandra El Helou, Liberal MP for Saint-Laurent Emmanuella Lambropoulos, Montreal city councillor for Park Extension Mary Deros, Laurier-Dorion MNA Andrés Fontecilla and former Liberal MP for Ahuntsic Eleni Bakopanos.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau sent a message to the guests. "Tonight, we gather to celebrate Canada's seniors, and to recognize the many contributions that seniors have made, and continue to make to our communities," he said.

Park Extension city councillor Mary Deros announced during the December borough council meeting that VSP was proceeding with an upgrade on a park located on Birnam Ave. between Jean Talon St. and Beaumont Ave.

"The entire park is being redone with water games and a play area for the two-to-five year-olds and another play area for the five-to-twelve year-olds," she said.

Borough Mayor Giuliana Fumagalli announced near the beginning of what was the year's last borough council meeting that VSP would be adding \$316,000 to its budget for social housing needs.

As reported in our Dec. 6 issue, a group of parents from Park Extension was exploring the possibility of setting up an Alternative School in the area. Alternative Schools were not new in Quebec, they said, and there were currently over 30 of them operating in the province.

For a third year in a row, under the coordination of Alexandra Sevapsidis, a small army of dedicated volunteers was once again heading to downtown Montreal for the Annual Christmas Mission to "Feed the Homeless."

A plan by Montreal mayor Valérie Plante to transfer responsibility for municipal parking from Stationnement de Montréal to a new but as yet unclearly defined agency had Park Extension city councillor Mary Deros and her Ensemble Montréal colleagues worried.

"They want it to be able to control all the parking meters – including not just the main arteries, but also the few on the side streets," she said. "And once they take control of that, we don't know what they're going to be charging."

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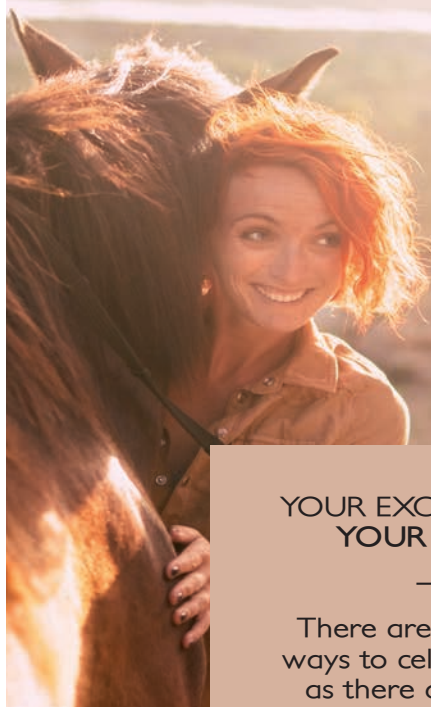
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In Memoriam & Obituaries

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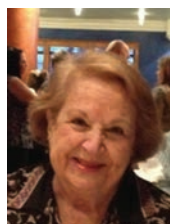
LIFE WELL CELEBRATED™

TOUGAS, Rémi 1911 – 2019



In Montreal, on Monday December 30, 2019 passed away, at the age of 108, Mr. Rémi Tougas, husband of the late Marguerite Tardy. He leaves to mourn his children Suzanne, François (Chantal) and Hélène, his grandchildren Martine (Robert) and Chistine (Jean-Pascal), his great-grandchildren Roméo and Dalia, relatives and friends.

ZEMOKHOL, Ginette 1929 – 2020



The family of Ginette Zemokhol-Rabbat has deep regret to announce her death on Friday January 3, 2020 in Montreal at the age of 90 years. Her soul rests in eternal peace with her husband Georges L. Rabbat. She leaves to mourn her children Samy (Diane) and Charles (Linda) as well as her grandchildren, (William / Sarah and Sabrina), her brother Khalil Zemokhol from the St-Georges Monastery of Deir-El-harf in Lebanon, his sister Thérèse Zemokhol Waked, her nephews Karim (Marie) and Philippe (Louise) and nieces, as well as several other relatives and friends.

BRAULT, Guy 1923 – 2020



From Ville Saint-Laurent, on January 2, 2020, at the age of 96, passed away Mr. Guy B. Brault, beloved husband of the late Lucille Girard. He is survived by his sister, Renée (the late François Delorimier), his children, Gilles (Danielle Bizier), Louise (Alain Arteau), Diane (Jean-Guy Joubert), Paul (Benoît Gaudet), Isabelle, the late Claire and his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

BEAUMONT, Jeanne D'Arc 1942 – 2020



In Lanoraie, on January 3, passed away at the age of 94, Jeanne D'Arc Fortin, wife of the late Gérard Beaumont. She is survived by her children Micheline (late Robert Potvin), Diane (Guy Couture), Jocelyne (Jean-Pierre Chaput) her grandchildren Josée, Isabelle, Michel, Dominique, Hugo, Samantha, Mathieu, as well as 10 great-grandchildren. Her sister Cécile, her brother Raymond and several nephews and nieces.



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In Memoriam & Obituaries



PAQUETTE, Hélène
1930 – 2019

In Montreal, on December 30, 2019, at the age of 89, passed away Hélène Paquette, beloved wife of the late Claude Lessard. She leaves to mourn her children Daniel (Danielle) and Marie-Claude (Alain), her grandchildren Dominic, Sabrina (Pietro), François and Félix, her great-grandson Jacob, as well as many relatives and friends.



RIVET, Jacques
1937 – 2020

In Montreal, on January 3, at the age of 82, passed away Jacques Rivet, beloved husband of the late Suzanne Lapierre. He is survived by his children Alain (Linda Lacroix) and Annie (Steve Wall), his granddaughters Alissa and Mylène, his sister Claudette as well as several other relatives and friends.



PAQUIN, Carmen
1949 – 2019

In Montreal, on December 31, 2019, at the age of 70, passed away Mrs. Carmen Paquin, beloved wife of M. Richard Lemieux. Besides her husband Richard, she is survived by her son Carlos (Carla), her daughters Valérie and Isabelle Paquin-Lemieux (André), her grandson Alexis, her brother and sisters Monique, Alain, Suzanne, Lorraine and Denise Paquin as well as their spouses, other relatives and friends.



LEBLANC, Maurice
1945 – 2019

Maurice Leblanc passed away on December 30, 2019 at his home in Pointe-aux-Tremble at the age of 74, surrounded by his children. He is survived by his two children: Pascal Haché Leblanc (Manon Pagé), Caren Haché Leblanc (Patrick Lavallée). His five grandchildren: Tali Villeneuve, Maé Villeneuve, Jason Leblanc, Maxime Leblanc, Maely Leblanc, his brothers and sisters: Adrienne leblanc, Marcel Leblanc (Martine), Jean-Paul, as well as nephews and nieces, relatives and friends.



LALONDE, Pierrette
1938 – 2020

In Montreal, on January 5, 2020, at the age of 81, passed away Pierrette Lalonde, beloved wife of Raymond Perreault. She leaves to mourn her children Victor, Céline, Roger (Sylvie) and Robert Perreault, her grandchildren Marlène, Véronique, Mélissa, Jonathan, Karine, Stéphanie and their spouses, her great-grandchildren Sébastien, Daphnée, Nolan, Lucas, Jacob, Jackson, Charlie-Rose, Jacob and Malec, her brothers and sisters Huguette, Claire (Constant), Monique (Jacques), Michel (Jeanne) and Gérard Lalonde (Huguette) other relatives and friends.



BEAUDOIN, Céline
1938 – 2019

At Hôpital Maisonneuve-Rosemont, on December 31, 2019, at the age of 81, passed away Mrs. Céline Beaudoin, beloved wife of the late Mr. André Bédard, daughter of the late Marie Berthe Boulanger and of the late Mr. Jacques Beaudoin. She leaves to mourn her children Joanne (Kevin), Marc, Caroline (Daniel) and Nathalie (Brett), her grandchildren Félix, Kianna, Marc-Olivier, Gabrielle, Alexandre, Camille, Catherine and Félix, her brother Jean (the late Roberta), her sister-in-law Denise Bédard (Marcel Paradis) as well as her nephews, nieces, cousins, other relatives and friends.



GAGNON, Romuald
1931 – 2019

In Montreal, on December 30, 2019, at the age of 88, passed away Mr. Romuald Gagnon, son of the late Adrienne Tremblay and the late Arthur Gagnon. He went to join his sisters and brothers Jean, Nicole, Eudace, Lise and Gilbert Gagnon. He is survived by his sisters and brothers Roméo (Claire), Gaétane (Yvon), Arthur (Monique), Pierre (Pauline), Raymond (Claudette), Huguette (Adrien), Madeleine and France Gagnon and many nephews and nieces.



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STAR WARS: THE RISE OF SKYWALKER

PG-13 | 2h 21min | Action/Fantasy



NOW
PLAYING

The surviving Resistance faces the First Order once more in the final chapter of the Skywalker saga.

1917

R | 1h 58min | Drama/War



NOW
PLAYING

Two young British privates during the First World War are given an impossible mission: deliver a message deep in enemy territory that will stop 1,600 men, and one of the soldier's brothers, from walking straight into a deadly trap.

THE GRUDGE

R | 1h 33min | Horror/Mystery



NOW
PLAYING

A house is cursed by a vengeful ghost that dooms those who enter it with a violent death.

LIKE A BOSS

R | 1h 23min | Comedy



JAN. 10

Two friends with very different ideals start a beauty company together. One is more practical while the other wants to earn her fortune and live a lavish lifestyle.

UNDERWATER

PG-13 | 1h 35min | Action/Horror



JAN. 10

A crew of aquatic researchers work to get to safety after an earthquake devastates their subterranean laboratory. But the crew has more than the ocean seabed to fear.

MY SPY

PG-13 | 1h 42min | Action/Comedy



JAN. 10

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

BAD BOYS FOR LIFE

R | 2h 3min | Action/Comedy



JAN. 17

The Bad Boys Mike Lowrey and Marcus Burnett are back together for one last ride in the highly anticipated Bad Boys for Life.

DOLITTLE

PG | 1h 46min | Adventure/Family



JAN. 17

A physician discovers that he can talk to animals.

YOUR HOROSCOPE

Week of Jan. 12 to 18, 2020

The luckiest signs this week:
SCORPIO, SAGITTARIUS AND CAPRICORN



ARIES

There will be a mountain of files on your desk this week. Not only will there be lots to do at the office, but you'll also work long hours to make sure your home looks immaculate.



TAURUS

You'll be congratulated for one reason or another. Some people may even start to idolize you. At times, you'll have cause to feel very proud of yourself.



GEMINI

You'll decide to throw a last-minute party for your friends. You'll surpass even your own expectations, but be sure not to go over budget, because you haven't quite paid off the holiday bills yet.



CANCER

You'll have many stories to tell this week, whether they're about your recent vacation or family history. At work, you may finalize an important agreement.



LEO

A little luxury wouldn't hurt this week. At work, you'll be offered an unexpected promotion. Expect to be stressed; there will be lots of exhaustion and confusion this week.



VIRGO

You'll attract attention by taking action. People will notice you for one reason or another. You'll feel creative this week, or at least appreciate an artform.



LIBRA

If you haven't found your ideal career path yet, you may have a flash of inspiration that puts you on the right track. Someone close to you will need you this week.



SCORPIO

The holidays are finally over, and life is getting back to normal. You'll succeed in both having an active social life and in making time for yourself, much to your great delight.



SAGITTARIUS

After big changes are made at work, you'll be called upon to use your organizational skills. You'll also use them at home, where you'll be in charge of a big cleaning project that involves the whole family.



CAPRICORN

Just looking at travel deals will be enough to make you want to book a seat on the next flight. You're in need of a vacation, and you don't mind going alone or with your partner.



AQUARIUS

Without a doubt, the most important thing in life is your health. Your doctor will finally pinpoint what's troubling you and start you on a treatment plan that will have you back on your feet in no time.



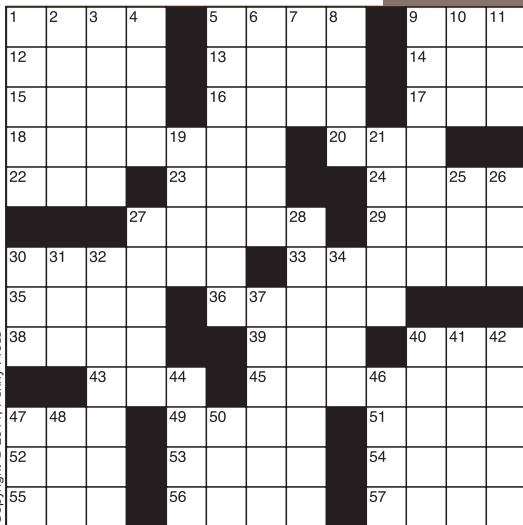
PISCES

At work or in other circumstances, you'll lead a negotiation or mediation session. You'll find a solution to a union dispute or for unsatisfied clients.

Coffee Break

CROSSWORDS

PUZZLE NO. 976



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ACROSS

1. Breakfast, e.g.
5. Commands to Trigger
9. Little rascal
12. Friend
13. Opera feature
14. Neither's conjunction
15. Holler
16. Louse eggs
17. Foreign agent
18. Extends
20. Derby
22. Dress edge
23. Bambi's mom
24. Sheet
27. Hunting dog
29. City vehicle
30. Most plain
33. One who dodges
35. Forewarning
36. Less

- hazardous
38. Rich Little, e.g.
39. Dripping
40. Cauldron
43. Caustic material
45. Quickly
47. Had lunch
49. Came to ground
51. On the peak of
52. Kind of room
53. Madden
54. Glass unit
55. Gathered
56. Lack
57. Arctic transport

DOWN

1. Swamp
2. Go off to marry
3. Signal
4. Old stringed instrument
5. Donations
6. Developed
7. Humorous one
8. Window part
9. Alternatively
10. Housekeeper's tool
11. Use leverage
19. Uproars
21. Wedding site
25. Chopping tool
26. Douglas _____ (tree)
27. Jane Fonda's dad
28. Beat
30. Tropical serpent
31. Electrical unit
32. Vote into office again
34. Retired soldiers
37. For a time
40. Essential
41. Without others
42. Did secretarial work
44. Make, as money
46. Faucets
47. Body part
48. Fit to a _____
50. Tall tale

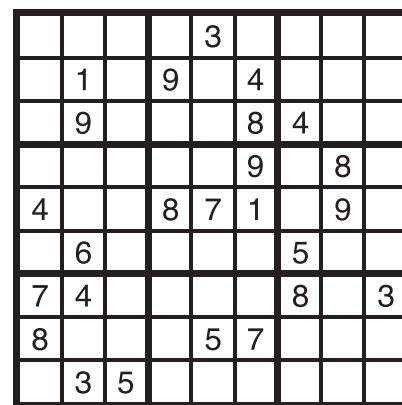
Sudoku

PUZZLE NO. 701

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.**



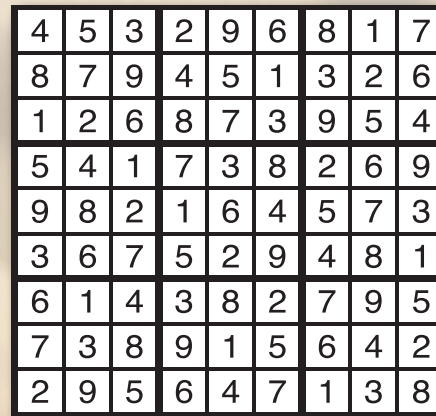
CROSSWORDS

LAST ISSUE'S ANSWERS



Sudoku

LAST ISSUE'S ANSWERS



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