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Vol. 28 - N°. 05

06 Mars / March 06, 2020

450-978-9999

www.px-news.com

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Columnist and Anglo-rights firebrand William Johnson dies at 88

MARTIN C. BARRY

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

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

Proud of his roots

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

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

Abandoned the Jesuits

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

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



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

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

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

Worked at the Globe

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

a correspondent in Quebec City and Washington D.C.

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

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

Alliance Quebec period

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

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

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

Reaction in Laval

Martin Berman, a Chomedey resident who was on the board of Alliance Quebec while Johnson was president, credits Johnson with having greatly influenced his views on Anglophone rights in

Quebec.

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

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

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

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

Published works

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

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

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Do local station closings put SPVM's neighbourhood policing at risk?

Park Ex's PDQ 33 not slated to shut, unlike PDQ 11 in NDG

MARTIN C. BARRY

Despite the looming closure of the SPVM's PDQ 11 in NDG and rumours of reduced neighbourhood policing in other districts of Montreal, Park Extension councillor Mary Deros says she's heard nothing to suggest PDQ 33 on Beaumont Ave. is closing, while admitting that the Montreal Police don't usually give advance notice of their plans.

'Nothing official'

While police department administrators maintain that closing Station 11 will lead to improved policing in NDG overall, a storm of protest has broken out in that western Montreal community over the controversial plan to merge Station 11 with Station 9.

As for the future of Station 33, Deros said she had heard "nothing official" lately, although she recalled that the police department tried around eight years ago to increase the capacity of Station 31 on Saint Laurent Blvd. in Jarry Park by merging it with Station 33.

'Anything is possible'

Asked whether she was concerned about the possibility of Station 33's capacity to serve Park Extension being compromised as part of the Montreal Police's consolidation plans, Deros replied, "Anything is possible, but nothing official has been announced. Not to our borough. Not to me."

According to Deros, there was some talk eight years or so ago about erecting a building at a yet to be determined site that will be large enough to accommodate a future SPVM neighbourhood station combining PDQs 31 and 33.

Police independent

"But again, this has never gone beyond talk," she said. "And



Although the SPVM's Station 33 on Beaumont Ave., which serves Park Extension, isn't slated to close soon, the closing of Station 11 in Notre Dame de Grâce has started the rumour mill rolling about PDQ closures elsewhere in Montreal. Photo: Martin C. Barry

nothing concrete has been announced. Not even in pre-planning of anything. But there was talk this at least eight years ago, although nothing has come up again."

Deros wasn't surprised that the rumour mill has been turning with regards to the future of neighbourhood policing services in many areas of Montreal, given the Montreal Police's tendency to act, while hardly consulting residents or elected officials.

"The police department works independently," she said, noting

that PDQ 33's last move from Park Ave. to its current location on Beaumont was done quickly and without much notice given to anyone outside the police department. "It was done quick-quick in the summer and it was a fait accompli by the fall," said Deros.

Close to the people

While maintaining that the police force is supposed to be answerable on major decisions to Montreal city council, Deros suggested the police should still be consulting with elected officials and the citizenry on all decisions that stand to have an impact on the community.

"We are close to the people," she said regarding the role of city councillors. "And citizens need to be consulted because these things affect their sense of security."

Asked whether she believes a permanently-based police presence is still necessary in Park Extension, Deros said, "Unless they offer something and they can prove that the move or the decision that they will take will give more security for my citizens, I believe that it's better for them to be there."

How decisions are made

"But then, we can also talk about it," she went on. "This is how decisions should be made. Give me the right tools, give me the right reasons: if they propose to move, I need to know why. I need to know how it's going to help the area. Will I have more cruisers or more police in the territory? I mean, there's a whole lot of questions that need to be answered."

"And, after that, once we know all the reasons and all the advantages or disadvantages, then we can make a good decision. The right decision. But to have a decision imposed by a couple of bureaucrats that are not from the area and don't see the reality of things, I don't believe is the right way to go about things."

Housing activists appeal to borough on evictions

Controls needed, says Comité d'Action de Parc-Extension

(PXN) The Comité d'action de Parc-Extension (CAPE) is calling on the Villeray/St-Michel/Parc-Extension borough to adopt regulatory changes in order to better protect tenants against evictions.

As Parc-Extension faces a severe housing crisis, CAPE says many landlords are taking advantage of the situation to evict tenants and rapidly raise rents.

Evictions, repossessions, major renovations, and harassment aiming to force the departure of tenants are on the rise in Parc-Extension, they maintain. Since December 2019, according to CAPE, around 30 households in nearly 20 buildings have contacted CAPE on the subject of evictions – 123 in total since May 2018.

They want changes

"The borough must review its practices to prohibit permits for work that leads to the eviction of tenants, especially in areas where the vacancy rate is less than 3 per cent," said Amy Darwish, a spokesperson for the group.

"It is unacceptable that the borough doesn't exercise any form of control and stands by as these tactics leave tenants homeless every year. We are waiting on measures, which have been recently considered by many boroughs,

to counter evictions."

CAPE claims that only the borough has the necessary powers to act quickly and effectively. CAPE also says that Rental Board case law is clear on the question of evictions to subdivide, enlarge or change the use of a dwelling: landlords who hold renovation permits from the city are almost guaranteed to secure the eviction of tenants.

Just a formality: CAPE

At present, says CAPE, obtaining a permit is a simple administrative formality. They say it is also important to note that once an eviction is authorized, neither the rental board or the borough verifies if the work has actually been carried out. All too often, renovations are only a pretext to quickly get rid of tenants, says CAPE.

The Regroupement des comités logement et associations de locataires du Québec (RCLALQ), of which CAPE is a member, is also calling on the Quebec government, so that tenants are better protected from evictions. Housing committees and tenant associations are also demanding that evictions be prohibited according to article 1959 of the Civil Code of Quebec.



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Opinion & Editorial



The English have not been robbed of their rights

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

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

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

The English boards and their surrogates – the

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

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

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

personal, social and cultural development.

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

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

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

ling with contempt for the proposed reforms, and contemplating legal challenges to Bill 40, the vested interests in the English community should marshal their forces to embrace the new age of putting education into the hands of local administrators (principals), parents, teachers, community leaders.

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

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


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

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

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

Renata Isopo

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



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Infographie/Layout: Media Trek
Distribution: TC. TRANSCONTINENTAL
Impression/Printing: TC. TRANSCONTINENTAL

Membre de: l'Association des journaux régionaux du Québec
et l'Association des journaux communauté du Canada.
Member of: Quebec Community Newspapers Association
& Canadian Community Newspapers Association



Numéro ISSN : 1194-8051
Abonnement : 59⁹⁵⁵ • Par exemplaire : 1⁵

National Representation:



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Farrow/Ferguson's latest book, *Ball Park*, is set in Park Extension

Accomplished Canadian novelist was raised in this community



Trevor Ferguson, who writes under the pseudonym John Farrow and who was raised in Park Extension, sets his latest detective novel, *Ball Park*, in Park Extension.

File photo: Martin C. Barry

MARTIN C. BARRY

Although it's been decades since Trevor Ferguson, a.k.a. John Farrow, put Park Extension behind to become a novelist and detective fiction writer, the neighbourhood lives on in perpetuity in his literary output.

"In Park Extension many streets bore bold French names," Ferguson, who goes under the pseudonym John Farrow, writes in Farrow's latest work, *Ball Park* (published by Severn House of Great Britain).

His old haunts

"Champagneur. D'Anvers. L'Acadie. Querbes. Jean Talon. Saint Roch. These ran adjacent to streets reflecting a Scots and English heritage. Bloomfield. Ogilvy. Stuart. Hutchison. Ball. Wiseman. A mishmash of centuries-old allegiances.

"Those who gathered in Ball Park represented a broader world than that of the ancient battling nations of France and Great Britain. Kwang-Sun. Rahim. Padmini. Hideaki. Tomas. Dawida. Sanjay. Youthful men and women in a new world that proffered an open invitation to be explored. A world as baffling as it was inclined toward promise; a venture contradictory in its inducements and perils."

Memories of Park Ex

The passage represents a rare moment in *Ball Park* when Ferguson/Farrow seems to reminisce warmly about his past roots, and achieves a level

of literary style beyond the hardboiled police pulp fiction genre he's become more accustomed to since assuming his John Farrow persona.

On p. 250 of *Ball Park*, he describes the notorious "fence" along l'Acadie Blvd. in western Park Extension that has separated the community from Town of Mount Royal since the early 1960s.

The l'Acadie fence

"Something about that divide struck him," he writes, referring to Montreal Police detective Émile Cinq-Mars, the protagonist of his successful police novels. "Poor on one side, nouveau riche on the other. Immigrants on one side, established generations on the other. High-density traffic and racket alongside peace and calm. One side denoted by struggle, the other by privilege. The divide spoke to him."

In a recent e-mail exchange with *Nouvelles Parc Extension News*, Ferguson explained some of the differences between the books he wrote under his own name and those he wrote later as Farrow.

"Novels I've written of Park Ex, such as *Onyx John* (1985) and *The True Life of Sparrow Drinkwater* (1993), afforded me much more time to dwell on the nature of the community," he said. "You'd find many descriptive passages in those books. *Ball Park* is written lean; it doesn't lend itself to lengthy tangents. Park Ex is still prevalent in the background.

Remembers Park Ex

"The war time houses below d'Anvers on

Bloomfield, the infamous fence between Park Ex and The Town, sliding behind buses on snow: all Park Ex scenes ... I have great affection for Park Ex, and I'm fascinated by its changes through time. That's not the same as missing it; but I'm glad that the district is part of me."

Farrow/Ferguson also recalled a time during his later years living in Park Extension in the 1970s when he and the woman he would eventually marry ran a community newspaper.

"I was hired by the young woman who would become my wife to create a newspaper because I was already devoted to writing," he said. "Doing our modest paper was a great way to be writing for a living, as short-lived as that was. The main benefit to me, of course, was that I fell in love with my boss, and married her!"

Ran a local newspaper

"But I interviewed quite a number of people in Park Ex in those days and any such experience is beneficial to a writer's development. Back then, I not only wrote the paper, I also printed it and delivered it to stores, and tried to find advertisers. A shoe-string operation.

"The most memorable article for me, and many others apparently, had to do with a dog show. I wrote it up from the perspective of my dog, and folks got a kick out of that. I learned though, that the paper became marginally important in the community, especially when someone had a gripe with what I'd written or failed to include."

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SINCLAIR LAIRD SCHOOL MARKS BLACK HISTORY MONTH WITH “LEADERSHIP AND PERSEVERANCE” Q&A

Students from Grade 5 and 6 classes at Sinclair Laird Elementary School in Park Extension joined four senior English Montreal School Board (EMSB) administrators February 19 at a special occasion to mark Black History Month. Under the theme of “Leadership and Perseverance,” they spoke about influential people and events, and the way the course of life can change with education and pursuing a career.



MARILYN RAMLAKHAN

“I wanted to become a teacher because it allowed me to give back.”



GAIL CALLENDER

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ANN WATSON

“To show integrity, be committed and have empathy – these are things I aspire to be.”



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Former Drummondville mayor seeks Quebec Liberal party leadership

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

MARTIN C. BARRY

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

Us and them

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

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

Drummondville mayor

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

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

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

Memories of Bourassa

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

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

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

Return to the Liberals

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

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

Two-way leadership race

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

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

Does PLQ need reforming

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

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

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



Seeking the rural vote

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

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

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

Sees Quebec 'as a whole'

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

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

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

Would re-write Bill 21

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

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

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

Touching base with activists

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

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

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

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March 8 International Women's Day

Seven ways to be an advocate for women's rights

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

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

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

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



1. RAISE YOUR VOICE

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

2. SUPPORT WOMEN

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

3. SHARE THE WORKLOAD

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

4. GET WOMEN INVOLVED IN POLITICS

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

5. EDUCATE YOUTH

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

6. ENSURE WOMEN KNOW THEIR RIGHTS

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

7. JOIN THE CONVERSATION

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

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

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We honour all passionate, determined women

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

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

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

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

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

DID YOU KNOW?

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



Women in politics: Emerging from the shadows

Around the world, there are far fewer women than men who are actively involved in politics. Among the countries where women predominate, Rwanda is at the top of the list! Indeed, the radical reworking of electoral and parliamentary processes remains a primary way to promote sexual equality in leadership roles.

It is the case both here and elsewhere that because women still assume most family and household responsibilities, their professional and financial situations are generally weaker. That makes it difficult for women wishing to enter politics to build a reputation and a public image. It is difficult to obtain the support of a political party; difficult to access networks and the necessary financing to support their work and electoral campaigns; and difficult to win over voters.


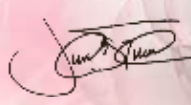

In many areas of the world, gender prejudice adds to the other obstacles that keep women in the minority in the upper levels of many different sectors, such as post-secondary education, business, and senior management. However, in Canada, it is encouraging to see that the role played by women is gradually moving them off the back benches. Influential women lead organizations of all types and occupy key political posts, such as provincial premier. Women are also parliamentary assistants, advisors, managers, and strategists; hopefully, some of them will dare to make the leap to become members of parliament, cabinet ministers, and, one day, prime ministers.

Other women combine discretion and visibility with skill. Some first ladies leave their personal stamp on their country's political history, sometimes going so far as to eclipse the popularity of their famous politician husbands.

The face of politics is more feminine than it would first appear. So our congratulations should go to those who dare to contribute to our society's advancement in this way.

Mes vœux les plus chaleureux à l'occasion de la
Journée internationale des femmes

Best wishes on the occasion of
International Women's Day

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Recent advancements in women's rights around the globe

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

SOUTH ASIA

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

NEPAL.

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

THE MIDDLE EAST

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

SAUDI ARABIA.

Women were given the legal right to drive in 2018.

LATIN AMERICA

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

AFRICA

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

EUROPE

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

NORTH AMERICA

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

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



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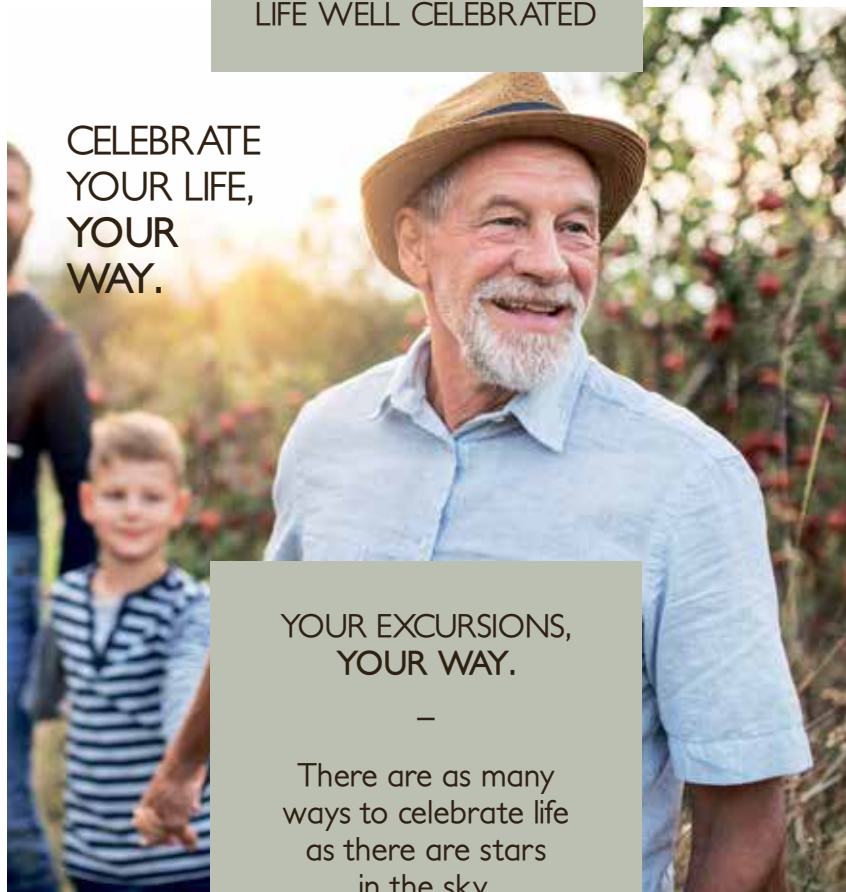
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ROSE-AIMÉE, Bélanger

In the Oasis of Peace Unit of Marie-Clarac Hospital (Montreal) passed away on February 25, 2020 at the age of 84, Mrs. Rose-Aimée Bélanger, daughter of Alain Bélanger and Victoria Hébert. Native of Leclercville, she was domiciled in Montreal. She was the sister of Pauline (Demers), René (Hermance Demers), Martin, priest of Saint-Sulpice, and Denise, sister of Charity of Quebec. She also leaves to mourn many nieces and nephews, as well as other relatives and friends.



HOOD, Madeleine

1930 - 2020

It is deep sadness that we announce the death of Mrs. Madeleine Hotte, passed away in Montreal, on February 20, 2020, at the age of 89 years old. She leaves to join her brother and sisters whom she loved so much. She is survived by her children Serge, Carole, Norbert (Valérie) and Jasmine (Michel), her grandchildren Mylène (Yanick), Esther (Christine), Laurianne (Joyce) and Benjamin, her sister-in-law Marcelle McDuff, her nephews and nieces, her great friends Monique Borduas and Mariette Noël as well as several other relatives and friends.



FERREIRA, Gabriel

1931 - 2020

In Montreal, on Thursday February 20, 2020 passed away, at the age of 89, GABRIEL FERREIRA, husband of Maria Natalia Carvalho. He is survived by his sons Gabriel, João, Michel (Huguette) and Mario, his grandchildren Alexandre and Mikhael, his brothers and sisters, Isara, Manuel, Angela, Isabela and Dounara, as well as his brothers-in-law and daughters-in-law sisters, nephews and nieces, relatives and friends.



PÉRUSSE, Debora

1966 - 2020

In Montreal, Friday February 21, 2020 passed away, at the age of 53, DEBORA PÉRUSSE, beloved wife of Luigi Delledonne. Besides her husband, she leaves to mourn her son Jake, as well as her brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, nephews and nieces, relatives and friends.



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In Memoriam & Obituaries



RONALD, Dupont

1958 - 2020

Ronald Dupont passed away on February 24, 2020 at the age of 61.

He is survived by his daughter Natalie, his son Michael, his sister Deborah, his nephew Alex as well as his extended family and several friends.



YOUSSEF, Sabbagh

1954 - 2020

On Tuesday, February 25th, 2020, Youssef (Joseph) Sabbagh passed away peacefully at the age of 65. He is survived by his children Melanie and Julie-Anne, his granddaughter Charlotte, his beloved son in law Mimmo, his best friend Barbara, his brother Fouad, and his wife Mona and son Jean-Pierre, his sister Therese and her family, and his caring sister-in-law Beverley.



CLAUDIA JOSIANE, Jeannotte

1976 - 2020

It was deep sadness that on February 24, 2020, in Montreal, at the age of 43 years, passed away Mrs. Claudia Josiane Jeannotte, wife of Annibale Mazzoldi. She is survived by her son Alexandrew, her mother Pauline Lafrance, her father Michel Jeannotte (Nicole), her parents-in-law Carlo Mazzoldi (Josie), her brother Danik (Altha), her brother-in-law Paolo, her nieces Mary Fee and Analie, her nephew Louis-Olivier, as well as many relatives and friends.



DIANE, Bissonnette

1950 - 2020

In Montreal, on February 24, 2020, at the age of 69 years passed away Diane Bissonnette, predeceased by her son Sylvain Nadeau. She leaves to mourn her son Martin Nadeau, her brothers Robert, André, her sisters Louise, Hélène (Richard), Monique (Alain) and Rachel Bissonnette other relatives and friends.



ST-JACQUES, Claudette

1940 - 2020

In Montreal, on February 23, 2020, at the age of 79 years, passed away Mrs. Claudette St-Jacques, beloved wife of Mr. Jacques Larocque. Besides her husband, she leaves to mourn her childrens Linda (André), Nathalie (Michel) and Daniel (Mélicca), her grandchildrens, her great-grandchildrens, her brothers and sisters, her brothers-in-law and sisters, nephews and nieces, as well as several relatives and friends.



ANDRÉ, Delisle

1946 - 2020

André Delisle died in Magog at the age of 73. He was a straight, thoughtful, kind and generous man. He was passionate about history and loved traveling. He left his mark in the public sector where he worked, notably at the Ministry of Finance, Hydro-Quebec and the city of Montreal. Spouse of Suzanne Masson for 49 years and father of Antoine (Véronique Leduc) and Guillaume. Preceded by his brother Jean-Pierre, he leaves to mourn his sisters and brothers, Louise (Fabyenne Gosselin), Michelle (Pierre L'Heureux), Francine (Jacques Thibeault), Jacques (Muriel Poitras) and Paul (Caroline Gravel) as his sisters-in-law and brother-in-law, Julie (late Robert Cloutier) and Louise Masson (Jacques Roy).



ROGER, L'Héroult

1936 - 2020

In Montreal, on February 25, 2020, at the age of 83 years, passed away Mr. Roger L'Héroult, beloved husband of Mrs. Huguette Hamelin L'Héroult. Besides his wife, he leaves to mourn his childrens Martine (Stephan), Josianne (Éric) and Hugues (Elsa), his grandchildrens Laurie-Ann (Mathieu), Jacob, Charles-Olivier, Louis-François, Joannie, Julianne, Mya and Liam, his sisters, brothers, sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law, as well as several relatives and friends.



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



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THE CALL OF THE WILD

PG | 1h 40min | Adventure/Drama



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

THE WAY BACK

1h 48min | Drama/Sport



MAR. 6

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

ONWARD

Animation/Adventure/Comedy



MAR. 6

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

MY SPY

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



MAR. 13

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

MULAN

Action/Adventure/Drama



MAR. 27

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

BLOODSHOT

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



MAR. 13

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

14 JOURS, 12 NUITS

1h 39min | Drama



MAR. 6

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

HOROSCOPE

Week of March 8 to 14, 2020

The luckiest signs this week:
SCORPIO, SAGITTARIUS AND CAPRICORN

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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ACROSS

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

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

DOWN

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

Sudoku

PUZZLE NO. 705

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

HOW TO PLAY:

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

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

Last Issues' Answers

CROSSWORDS

OLD		RAYS		ATOP
DOE		ALEE		TOGO
ODE		DATE		TORE
REPAIR				VALET
		COMEDIC		
MIST		RISKIER		
ALP		RHODA		NAY
PLYWOOD				ANTE
		ALTERED		
PLATE				ODDEST
LIME		PLUG		BOO
OVER		RATE		BAG
DENY		EYED		SPA

Sudoku

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



7/7

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