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Businesses are at risk of permanently closing due to COVID-19 PAGE 2 & 3




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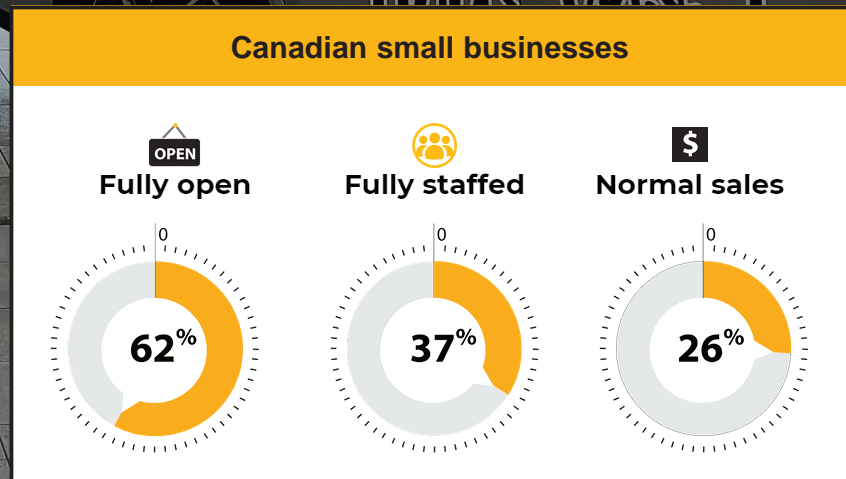
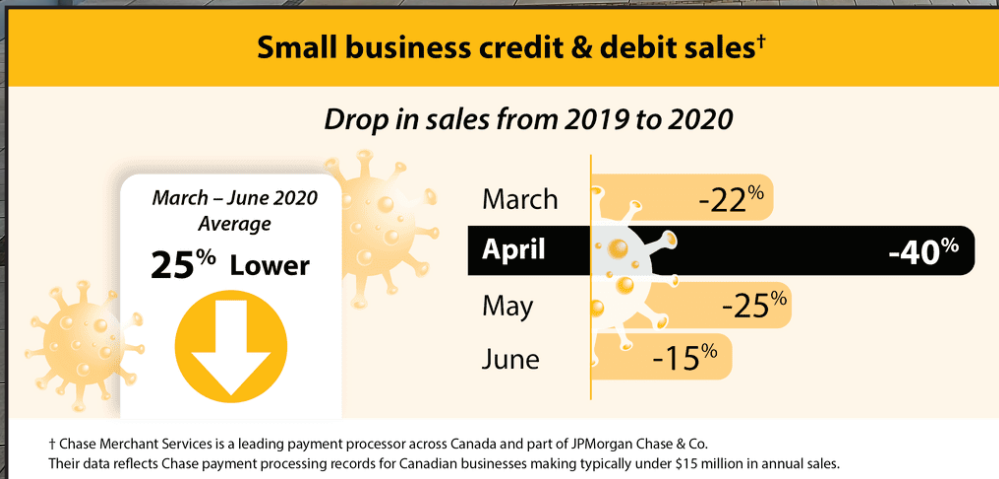
55,000–218,000 businesses
 are estimated to be at risk
 of closing due to COVID-19*

On average
1 in 7
 businesses
 at risk of closing

158,000 businesses!

* Not including businesses that have already closed.

Park Ex local businesses trying to survive PAGE 6



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Youla Kottaridis



Canadian Federation of Independent Business: Many Canadian businesses are at risk of permanently closing due to COVID-19

By Simon Gaudreault, Senior Director of National Research

Current business conditions

Since mid-March, governments across Canada have imposed severe restrictions on business/economic activity as part of their plans to fight COVID-19. Many restrictions have recently been relaxed, but small businesses have not returned to normal staffing or sales levels. The latest small info, shows, COVID-19 has led to a significant drop in activity at Canadian independent businesses. Only 62 per cent are currently fully open, with 37 per cent at or above normal staffing capacity and 26 per cent at or above normal sales.

Normal business turnover

Under normal conditions, businesses enter and exit the economy. The latest StatCan data shows¹ that, on average, business entries (starts) were 140,000 each quarter between the third quarter of 2016 and the third quarter of 2019. Business exits (permanently closing) averaged roughly 126,000 per quarter. Net business creation has been positive for every single one of the past 13 measured quarters, averaging +14,000 (+1.2%). These pre-COVID numbers help put current small business exits into perspective.

How many Canadian businesses are currently at risk of closing?

Acknowledging this ebb and flow that is naturally occurring in the Canadian economy, CFIB (Canadian Federation of Independent Business) estimates the number of Canadian small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) at risk of closing due to COVID-19 that already happened prior to the end of June.

CFIB estimates that the number of Canadian small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) at risk of closing due to COVID-19 is in the range of 55,000 to 218,000 (between 5% and 19% of all SMEs). The wide range reflects high uncertainty business owners are feeling about the future.

To estimate the proportion of SMEs that are likely to close permanently, CFIB used results from a June 26th-July 2nd, member survey where respondents were asked to what extent they agreed or disagreed with the following statement: "I am actively considering bankruptcy/winding down my business as a result of COVID-19". Projecting these results to all Canadian SMEs allowed us to determine an estimate and a range around the estimate for business closures across Canada, by province and by sector. The methodology, including how the range was determined, is more fully discussed in the appendix.

Detailed results of CFIB's estimates are presented in Table 1.

For example, the first row of the table shows that the mid-range estimate for businesses at risk of closing in Newfoundland and Labrador is 2,735 SMEs (16% of all SMEs in the province). The table also provides a low and high-end range around the estimate.

Based on the survey results, Alberta has higher percentages of businesses at risk of closure compared to the average, with 19% or almost one in five actively considering bankruptcy or winding down their business.

Industries most at risk include Arts/Recreation/Information (30%) and Hospitality (27%).

CFIB estimates may be conservative as member businesses are usually more established and therefore more resilient. There is also a "survivor" survey bias as CFIB membership ends when a business stops being active. Worryingly, this indicates high vulnerability even within the most resilient group of Canadian independent businesses.

Conclusion

Since mid-March, things have been far from business as usual in Canada. Many independent businesses continue to be negatively affected,

with only 62 per cent fully open, 37 per cent at or above normal staffing capacity and 26 per cent at or above normal sales. CFIB estimates that going forward 158,000 (14%) Canadian small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) are at risk of closing due to COVID-19, a number that does not include businesses that have already shut their doors. The low range of CFIB's estimate is 55,000 and the upper end of the range is 218,000 (between 5% and 19% of all SMEs). Sectors most at risk include Arts/Recreation/Information and Hospitality.

Methodology

To estimate the proportion of SMEs that are likely to be at risk, CFIB used survey results from its 15th national member survey on COVID-19 (June 26-July 2, 2020). Respondents were asked to list their level of agreement with the statement: "I am actively considering bankruptcy/winding down my business as a result of COVID-19 (see Table 2 and Figures 1-2.)



Table 1: Projection of SMEs at risk of closing due to COVID-19, Canada, summer 2020

	Low end estimate		Mid-range estimate		High end estimate	
	total SMEs at risk	as a share of all SMEs	total SMEs at risk	as a share of all SMEs	total SMEs at risk	as a share of all SMEs
Newfoundland and Labrador	1,380	8%	2,735	16%	3,435	19%
Prince Edward Island	0	0%	220	4%	769	12%
Nova Scotia	923	3%	2,272	9%	3,503	13%
New Brunswick	1,342	6%	3,247	15%	4,752	21%
Quebec	5,128	2%	17,993	8%	29,564	14%
Ontario	23,545	6%	67,112	16%	90,253	22%
Manitoba	1,071	3%	4,279	11%	5,475	15%
Saskatchewan	1,665	4%	6,283	16%	8,503	21%
Alberta	13,097	8%	32,522	19%	42,159	25%
British Columbia	6,395	4%	21,116	12%	28,820	16%
Territories	31	1%	439	11%	650	17%
CANADA	54,577	5%	158,218	14%	217,883	19%
Agriculture and Natural Resources	1,941	3%	6,018	9%	8,726	12%
Construction	5,743	3%	16,157	9%	25,415	15%
Manufacturing	1,601	3%	6,924	13%	11,769	22%
Wholesale	1,119	2%	4,865	10%	7,472	15%
Retail	5,664	5%	17,190	15%	23,944	21%
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	3,023	3%	13,572	15%	18,099	20%
Arts, Recreation & Information	3,582	10%	10,788	30%	14,205	39%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate & Leasing / Enterprises & Administration Management	11,342	7%	26,177	16%	31,110	19%
Professional Services	5,019	3%	12,876	7%	19,128	11%
Hospitality	8,504	10%	22,962	27%	29,563	35%
Other Services	7,038	6%	20,689	17%	28,452	23%
CANADA	54,577	5%	158,218	14%	217,883	19%

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Table 2: "I am actively considering bankruptcy/winding down my business as a result of COVID-19" – Canada

	n	%
Strongly agree	218	4.9%
Somewhat agree	421	9.4%
Somewhat disagree	416	9.3%
Strongly disagree	2,293	51.1%
Don't know/Unsure	475	10.6%
Not applicable	661	14.7%
Total	4,484	100.0%

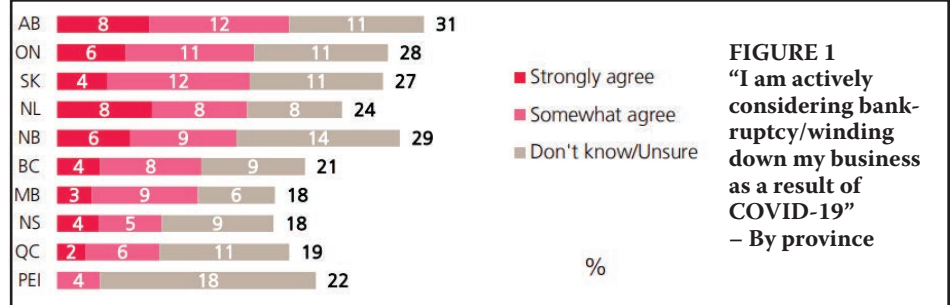


FIGURE 1
"I am actively considering bankruptcy/winding down my business as a result of COVID-19" – By province

Survey results data

CFIB uses the survey results above to project an estimate of businesses at risk for the entire Canadian SME group. StatCan data on SMEs that are active employer businesses (1,137,260 as of Q3 2019) is the main source of data for estimating the SME group. StatCan business location counts are used to estimate provincial/business size distribution because these breakdowns are not available for the StatCan data on active employer businesses.

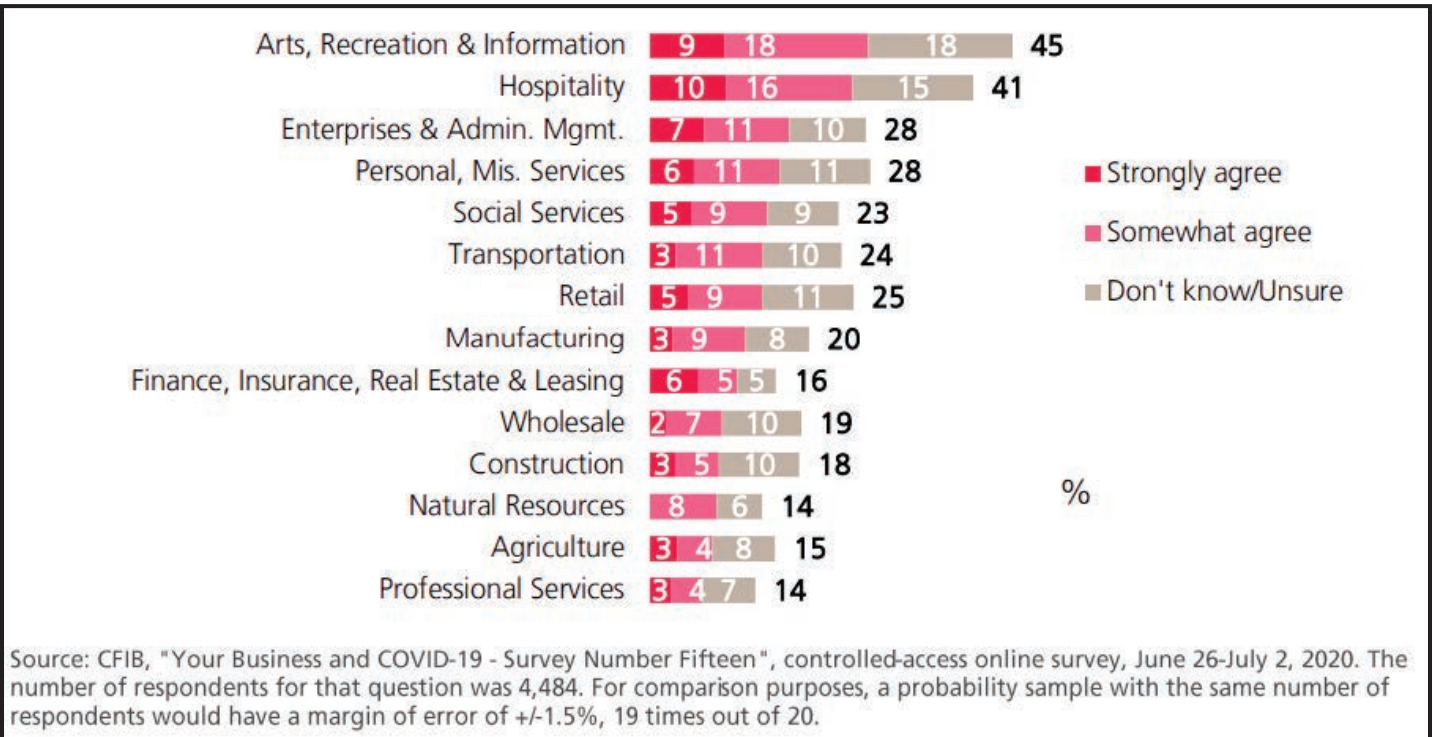
The percentages from the CFIB survey described above are applied to the count of SMEs that are active employer businesses. Some adjustments are made for province, industry and business size to reflect the differences between the composition of the CFIB membership and that of all Canadian businesses. Special industry groups are created to account for difference in industry classification between CFIB survey data and StatCan data.

We project three estimates based on the responses to the statement "I am actively considering bankruptcy/winding down my business as a result of COVID-19":

- Low end estimate: applying only respondents who selected "strongly agree"
- Mid-range: "strongly agree" + "somewhat agree"
- High end: "strongly agree" + "somewhat agree" + 50% of the "don't know/unsure"

FIGURE 2

"I am actively considering bankruptcy/winding down my business as a result of COVID-19" – By industry



Source: CFIB, "Your Business and COVID-19 - Survey Number Fifteen", controlled-access online survey, June 26-July 2, 2020. The number of respondents for that question was 4,484. For comparison purposes, a probability sample with the same number of respondents would have a margin of error of +/-1.5%, 19 times out of 20.

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OPINION & Editorial



Erasing History

Following the killing of George Floyd, the internet was ablaze with what can only be likened to a war ... a North American war between those that felt they had been victimized and those who were charged with upholding the law. In the end, the victims were in fact just that—specifically George Floyd and others that met the same fate as he did—and those upholding the law were shown to have deep incisions in what was thought to be the very fabric of a just entity of power and protection.

Yet despite being justified in their anger and their plight, still, the victims' collective plight diverged in many different directions—as it so often does—in that old fork on the proverbial road, diluting the original intent and message; that message heard loud and clear the world over: SOMETHING WENT VERY WRONG WITHIN THE SYSTEM (and unfortunately on both sides of the spectrum).

Finding growth in pain

It isn't painless to grow and change from where we've been. That's why they call them growing pains.

It was Friedrich Nietzsche that once said: "That which does not kill us makes us stronger." The quote has been repeated many times over

PARLEZ-MOI D'HUMOUR

Alcide Borik



Voulez-vous danser avec nous?

Et d'abord, savez-vous danser la valse? Quelle danse merveilleuse! Depuis la Comparsita, reine des parties de notre adolescence, jusqu'à l'immortelle scène de "odeur d'une femme" envoyant un handicapé visuel enlever sur la glace une innocente jeune femme pour l'initier à cet art, et en passant par tant de valses de Vienne ou d'ailleurs qui nous font avancer de deux pas puis reculer d'un seul (ou l'inverse) c'est la reine des danses sociales, de ma génération tout du moins.

La valse de la Covid19, c'est à peu près le même mécanisme : vous déconfiner bars et restaurants, puis, à mesure où les cas se font plus nombreux, vous imposez de nouvelles restrictions aux tenanciers ou aux chauffeurs d'autobus. Si les statistiques baissent, hop!, on déconfiner un peu plus, si elles montent, tant pis, on ne va pas sacrifier des vies pour que l'économie continue de rouler. Ce que dit notre ministre le matin, a de fortes chances d'être inacceptable le soir, et le public, excédé, demande qu'il se branche, mais, bien entendu, sa décision est suspendue aux lèvres des associations de marchands et à l'efficacité des preneurs de tests en gros.

Des bars, quand le climat sera propice, on sera toujours capables de créer une ambiance feutrée et des hôtes accueillantes capables de consoler les célibataires éplorés, mais vivre avec un virus dont nous connaissons parfaitement les conclusions malheureuses, et surtout, nous ne connaissons pas les séquelles parfois désastreuses, alors qu'une bonne partie des risques sont éliminés par un masque à quatre sous, faut vraiment être asocial pour râler contre ça!

Des virus mortels, il en naîtra toujours vu la manière désinvolte dont nos industriels traitent la terre, le climat et la protection de l'environnement, alors ...

...Remarquez, aller danser en public avec un masque qui m'empêcherait de sentir de près le parfum du cou de ma danseuse, ce qui me fait transpirer doublement d'émotion, triplement même en comptant la touffeur caniculaire...

...et surtout, si on n'a jamais su vraiment danser...!

since it's unearthing by the wise philosopher and great thinker, but I often wonder if the true meaning of this quote is as globally understood these days as it was originally intended.

It is in Oświęcim, Poland that the Auschwitz concentration camp sits, seemingly forgotten and ominous, if one were to look upon it as it stands today. It was the location of one of the vastest concentration camps operated by Nazi Germany during World War II. It is said that it had over 35 (perhaps even 40) crematoriums and as many as 1.1 of the 1.3 million prisoners there were killed during the Holocaust.

The location is owned by the state treasury now and millions of tourists have visited the site and still do, being captivated by its history. All that transpired behind those many walls and chambers lives on in the memories of those that were there, and of course in the many documents and texts detailing what happened there during the world's second Great War.

But imagine if you will, if all the great books of the era, like Anne Frank's *The Diary of a Young Girl* and others like it were to have been discarded of, and if the camp itself would have been torn down soon after the war, like many would have wanted. We wonder if these things came to pass, would the plight of the Jews have been regarded and thoroughly understood; at least as it is understood today?

A global understanding

Myself, I went to Catholic school as a youth and even there, we learned about the Holocaust. We learned to have compassion for those that suffered at the hands of Nazi Germany and its leaders. And we also learned that some of our own ancestors were held captive in the many concentration camps during that terrible and trying time.

And what did we think of these poor souls ... these men, women, and children? We conjured up images of heroes, trying to stay alive even in captivity; we held the Jews that survived in high regard; we looked upon them as those that had suffered a terrible ordeal and had overcome. And they did, they overcame; they moved on from something that was once thought to have been an unimaginable experience.

The term: "Lest we forget," is a term used for the memorial of war. It was pulled from a poem entitled: *Recessional* by Rudyard Kipling and it more than encompasses the feeling that we must remember what we've been through, as it will always remind us of what we're capable of overcoming.

The Death of George Floyd

The death of George Floyd shocked the world when it happened on May 25th, 2020. In essence, it seemingly turned back the proverbial clock back thirty years or more, and for the black community, that was the greatest shock of all. For that particular community, it signified that all they had worked for in the decades since the Rodney King fiasco in California, and the turmoil the black community suffered in the sixties and earlier in the US was for naught. In one fell swoop, the community was made to feel like once again, they were victimized and for the sole reason that they were black.

More than anything we understand that concept, and it is in that concept that we understand their need for action, and we band together with them to seek that justice and that equality that they felt they lost on that fateful day.

The Riots

What ensued were a fusillade of riots—some needless riots—where in cities all over North America the energy was ill-placed because of this need for change; where the need for change, or rather the call for a change was blended in with this want to violate the overall machine as opposed to nipping the real problem in the bud—essentially attacking the whole system as opposed to the single incident and those responsible.

Of course there are many sentiments of change that have come from that first shot fired, that first drawing of blood, just as there were many similar sentiments that followed other huge disasters like the falling of the two towers in New York City on September 11th, 2001; the reason being: It is at such times that the shift in the paradigm, or even the change in the equilibrium is felt most ... in moments of utter despair and betrayal; despite the fact that it's happening all around us and all

No bloom for Park Extension flower shop

Business is at an all-time low, but despite Park Ex Flower shop is pulling through



Park-Ex Flower Shop Aris Mitropoulos (left), and his employee Kim (right) try their best to serve their clientel even under the latest harsh circumstances due to COVID-19.

PHOTO: Domenic Marinelli-Newsfirst



DOMINIC MARINELLI
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
For The Parc-Extension News
dominic@newsfirst.ca

Located at the heart of Park Extension on St. Roch Street, the Park-Ex Flower Shop has been serving the community for quite some time, but perhaps they aren't just in the flower business as it may seem on the outside. Perhaps on the inside, they sell feelings just as much as they do one of nature's greatest and most beautiful of gifts.

"Our business is in 'emotional sales,' so it's either a very happy occasion or a very sad occasion," current owner Aris Mitropoulos says of his shop. Aris states that the only time a purchase for flowers isn't emotional is when one purchases flowers for themselves because they feel they deserve them.

Neighborhood flower shops do cater to the neighborhoods emotions, as Aris stated ... his words very poignant and lasting. It was in fact his words that I thought about as I ventured back to my computer to write up this piece ... emotional sales.

When I walked in there to conduct my interview with Aris, I was taken back to a time when the corner flower shop was where you went to buy that single rose you could so rarely afford for that girl you wanted to take out to the movies. You know who I'm talking about ... she lived right down the street. This place in particular, though, smells like a typical flower shop, yes, but there's so much more to it than meets the eye; the aromas of the gorgeous flowers way back in the fridge seemingly reaching out to potential clients and they obviously did to me, calling images of my own personal history with flower shops to my mind as I so mentioned.

An unfortunate pandemic

Unfortunately, we can't simply do a profile on a local business without mentioning Covid-19. The subject came up and for good reason. They are doing their part—if not more than some—to protect the community and themselves.

In dealing with Covid-19, the shop is actually alone in what we've seen thus far: They hold the consumer at the door. The space is a comfort-

able square meter, blocked by a rail and an appropriately placed table where a bottle of disinfectant is present—a familiar sight by now for one and all.

Graduations, proms and weddings all went out the window when Covid-19 reared its face into our lives and into the lives of businesswomen and businessmen everywhere. So was obviously the case for a flower shop no less; such events would have definitely kept them busier all this summer season, no doubt. Their hours were reduced considerably.

From the start of the pandemic, they didn't stop working, though, and in one way or another. Their doors were locked and the store wasn't open per se, but they were there during lockdown, working and serving only essential services and funerals, and once they were given the green light to go ahead and open, they did so with a vigor and dedication to serving the community as they always had. During lockdown, they had to refuse hundreds of orders to go to people's homes. "We didn't want to put our customers in jeopardy and we didn't want to put our staff in jeopardy," says Aris.

Their community is specifically Park Ex, but they also have clients that span as far as Montréal West, further East and even Laval—all over really.

A brief history

They've been at the 705 St. Roch location for six years. They were at the corner of Querbes and St. Roch for ten years prior to that. During the eighties and nineties, they were across the street from JPA which was where the store was purchased from previous owners by his parents, Greek immigrants who had a passion for flowers to begin with, seeing no other option for a career choice at the time. Aris's father was in the needle trade—a dwindling profession to say the least—and his mother was always good with flowers and plants. They were personal friends of the previous owner and the rest, as they say is history.

Cliché

Perhaps, but these days, we could all do with that old romantic story of immigrants coming



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TIME SCHEDULE	8:40 a.m. – 12:40 p.m.	9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Beginner 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Intermediate

EVENING COURSES

PROGRAMS	English	French Second Language
STARTING DATE	Tuesday, September 8, 2020	Tuesday, September 8, 2020
ENDING DATE	Wednesday, January 27, 2021	Wednesday, January 27, 2021
DAYS OFFERED	Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday (10.5 hours/week)	Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday (10.5 hours/week)
TIME SCHEDULE	5:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	5:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. (Beginner & Intermediate)

REGISTRATION INFORMATION FOR FALL SESSION

Mon., Aug. 17 and Wed., Aug 19	9am to 3pm and 5pm to 8pm
Tues., Aug. 18 and Thurs., Aug 20	9am to 3pm
Wednesday, September 9, 2020	9am to 3pm and 5pm to 8pm

ADDITIONAL FALL REGISTRATION DATES

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Adult Education & Vocational Services

▶ Continued on page 13

How Covid-19 has affected these 3 Park Ex businesses

Some have been affected more than others – join us as we take a look at three long-standing businesses in the community



DOMENIC MARINELLI
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
For The Parc-Extension News
domenic@newsfirst.ca

It is through the trying times that come our way that the strongest shine through all the calamity. Such was the case with this past spring and early summer with the dawn of Covid-19. Many weren't able to deal with the stresses that the pandemic brought, many even arguing that the pandemic was something that this fast-paced world of ours wasn't ready for at all.

What was quite interesting to see however, was that many of the community's long-standing businesses did alright in the end ... with the support of the community itself and with the endurance that they themselves had within them as business owners, they're still doing quite well amidst these uncertain times—even thriving—and all because they did what they could to keep their clientele safe.

Of course there are many businesses in the community doing this, and we'd love to take a deeper look at them in later installments, but for this time we decided to look at three community businesses in particular to kick things off.

Afroditi Bakery



To walk into the bakery now, one wouldn't know that anything was wrong outside those doors or out in the world for that matter. In fact, when walking through the front entrance, when you pass by the disinfectant and wipe your hands, you're immediately transported back in time, to where the corner bakery was where you went for your tasty confections and not a popular chain. The display cases are lined with delicious, mouthwatering treats that are just as much eye candy as they are delicacies of a gastronomic persuasion.

The counter clerks are friendly, as are the owners, Anestis Karagiannidis, who opened the place way back in 1971 and now his son, Billy, who operates and expanded the one location into many more.

Anestis Karagiannidis has seen many ups and downs since opening the place, and perhaps nothing as life-changing as the

Covid-19 pandemic. "The world will change, my friend," he told me when I stopped in to visit him, and I definitely agree with him, as the landscape of the modern business will never be the same again.

But they seemed to have been well prepared for it and are now at 80% production to what they were doing before Covid-19, and that's definitely saying something.

The only difficulties they had was an early panic leading to layoffs, and when they realized that demand was slowly rising, many employees did not want to return to work out of fear or perhaps even the CERB allowance they were given by the government. There was also the fact that their larger orders they usually got for banquets stopped coming in altogether. This presented a small problem for them, but not one that was insurmountable. You don't stay in business for this long (next year 50 years) without learning how to swerve the big potholes in that long and bumpy road we all call life.

Billy said: "We're catering mostly to the retail customer. We came a long way. People are getting used to the rules, so they feel more comfortable ... a lot of restaurants closed, so they come to get their desserts here. We were fortunate not to close at all. We've been rolling with the punches from the beginning."

We wish them luck and applaud their hard work and dedication to serving the community through thick and thin.

Gold Scissor



And if a trim, a fade, or even a shave is what you're in the market for, Gold Scissor has been serving the community for nearly two decades. Opened by Ali Tokgoz in 2001, they've been serving the community for 19 years specifically. We spoke to his brother Osman, who has been there for these last 15 years and he told us that they're doing their part to help.

And indeed they are ... specifically, they have disinfectant at all the right places, clients are all abiding by the mask rules. The barbers themselves are all wearing both masks and shields. They now only take appointments and they have taped off the waiting area where there were a few seats formerly. To look at these seats now a feeling of both nostalgia and disquiet filled me, thinking back to better days, when the local barbershop was where great conversations were unearthed and rumbling laughter could be

hard from the street, all with the soft yet quick yet fragile sound of the snipping of scissors. Perhaps none of us knew how fragile that sound was before Covid-19 ... fragile and fleeting.

To sum up the feeling we all have, it is perhaps Osman that said it best. When we asked what his hopes were for the next three months, he said: "That Covid is finished!"

Well said, my friend ... well said.

Astral shoes



And last but certainly not least is of course Astral Shoes. When it comes to shoes, there is no doubt that big business did away with the smaller manufacturers and outlets over the last two decades and we've seen the loss of many of these smaller companies. But Astral Shoes has been around for a very long time and at its current location since 1993.

We spoke to Aldo Tarsia and he was one of the first business owners to say that Covid-19 wasn't all that much of a change for him. His business has been declining and for quite some time. When Covid-19 hit, he simply closed for about three months and when he was able to re-open which was on the 25th of May, he did. When I walked in, he was alone and very graciously decided to speak to us.

"Covid-19 made a bit of an impact, but not much," he said. "A little bit." He went on to tell us that it was the large conglomerate stores that did him and his business a disservice and we more than understand that.

Still, he is abiding by all the rules and is there all week long except Sundays. He still does some repairs if they're worth it, but sells designer shoes at astonishingly low prices ... prices you're not likely to find anywhere else. And with winter on the horizon, he promises incredible prices on winter boots.

So, while society slowly pieces itself together, get back out there folks, slowly but surely. Get back out there and stop by these neighborhood rocks of the community, and have yourselves a delectable treat at Afroditi, a cut and trim at Gold Scissors and for those of you looking for an astonishing price on designer shoes, why not pay Aldo Tarsia a visit at Astral Shoes. We're sure you won't regret it.

PHOTOS: Domenic Marinelli

BARBIES
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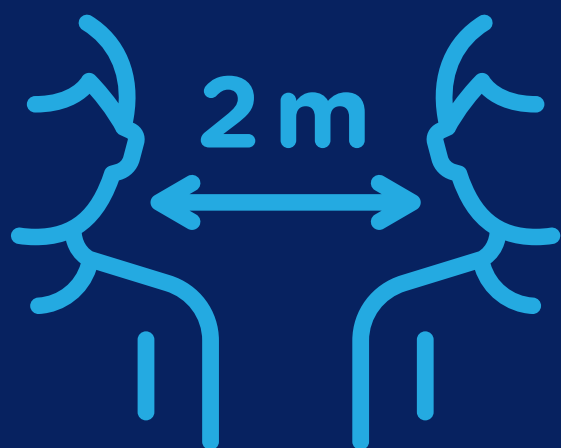
Suggested presentation.



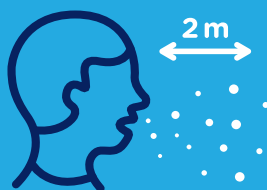
**Portez un
masque**



**Lavez
vos mains**



**Gardez vos
distances**



Le virus se transmet d'une personne à une autre par le contact avec les gouttelettes infectées qui sont projetées dans l'air quand une personne infectée parle, tousse ou éternue. Ces gouttelettes contaminées peuvent être projetées à une distance de deux mètres et atteindre des personnes qui sont à proximité.



Le virus peut aussi se transmettre par les surfaces ou les objets contaminés. Les gouttelettes projetées par une personne infectée peuvent se déposer sur des surfaces et le virus peut y survivre de quelques heures à quelques jours. Une personne infectée peut aussi contaminer ses mains en touchant son visage, augmentant ainsi le risque de contaminer les surfaces qu'elle touche. Les personnes qui toucheront ces surfaces ou ces objets contaminés pourront contaminer leurs mains. Et si elles les portent ensuite à leur visage, elles pourraient s'infecter.

En maintenant une distance de deux mètres avec les autres en tout temps, en lavant ses mains souvent et en portant le masque, on réduit le risque de contamination.

On continue de bien se protéger.

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

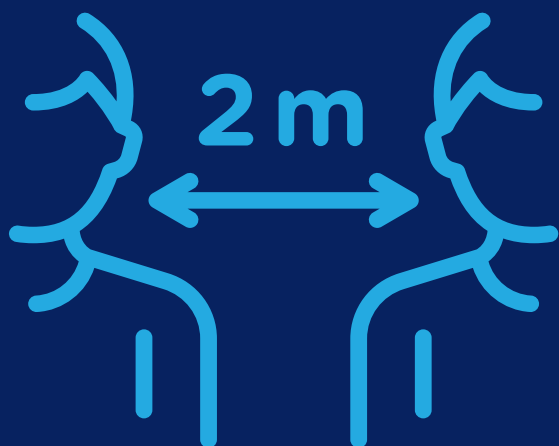
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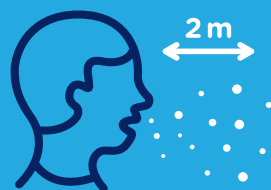
**Wear
a mask**



**Wash
your hands**



**Keep your
distance**



The virus is primarily transmitted from person to person by contact with contaminated droplets released into the air when an infected person talks, coughs or sneezes. These contaminated droplets can travel up to two metres and reach people nearby.



The virus can also be spread by contact with contaminated surfaces or objects. Droplets expelled by an infected person can land on surfaces, and the virus can survive there anywhere from several hours to several days. An infected person can also contaminate their hands by touching their face, thereby increasing the risk of contaminating surfaces they touch. Other people who touch these surfaces or objects can contaminate their hands. And if they then bring them to their face, they can infect themselves.

By staying two metres away from others at all times, washing your hands often and wearing a mask, we can reduce the risk of contamination.

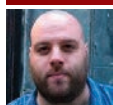
Let's continue to protect ourselves.

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 1 877 644-4545

Are Park Extension residents respecting the New Public Transit Rules?

After issues regarding the wearing of masks in other public establishments have risen, will the same issues crop up in public transit?



DOMENIC MARINELLI
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
For The Parc-Extension News
domenic@newsfirst.ca

Preventative measures have been taken by the STM in order to protect the drivers and citizens during these trying times all over the city. This has all been going on for quite some time obviously—since March in fact—but as of Monday, July 27th the so-called ‘gracing period’ is up and the STM and if necessary, we presume the SPVM, will be cracking down on anyone not complying.

The specific date for the mandatory face-covering law was July 13th. After said ‘gracing period,’ if passengers do not comply, they can be blocked entry on busses or metro lines.

How are things in Park Extension?

After observing many of the bus stops in the city, as well as riding many of the busses that pass through the borough—specifically the 179, the 92, 16 and of course the 100 bus lines, we’d have to say that things are actually going quite well in the borough thus far. This is of course difficult to monitor if you’re not the STM or even the aforementioned authorities of course, but most, if not all civilians were complying by the rules throughout Park Ex on the days in which we were observing.

How the rest of the city seems to be doing

We spoke to an STM bus driver that wishes to remain nameless from elsewhere in the city. He or she drives the 49 bus out East and at multiple hours of the day, his or her schedule changing from day to day. They stated that so far, everything was going well and they didn’t encounter any difficult situations. We hope this remains to be the case moving forward, but after what happened at a local Tim Horton’s since the 18th of July, we’ll definitely be keeping our ears to the ground.

There is no doubt that there is a sub-portion of the community that regards the wearing of masks and face-coverings as rubbish, so if anything we’d expect an uprising from that portion of the community if nothing else.

The metro lines

To walk into Acadie Metro station is to walk into the depths of some horror movie set where the world has been overtaken by fictional zombies or vampires. Saying that it was deserted shortly after rush hour on a Monday would be putting it way too mildly, but there it is just the same.

The STM worker behind the ticket booth sat reading from what looked like a newspaper and when I descended into the lonely depths of the subway station and lurked by his window, he didn’t even look up, he was probably so used to the tranquility and seclusion he felt. You could hear a pin drop for how quiet it



We spotted a bus, where at the side windows, one out of three passengers (young of age...) was not wearing a mask...

was. He wasn’t wearing a mask, but he was behind the Plexiglas those booths are known for, even before Covid-19.

Of course, this can’t be said for all Metro stations in the city, as many of them are quite jammed, especially in the morning and afternoon rush hours, but as it applies to our borough, things were pretty deserted at that hour; many seemingly avoiding the depths of the earth as a mode of travel right about now. But of course, this can change at the drop of a hat.

It must be noted that each and every single other passenger we saw down there (all both of them during a 15 minute period) were wearing masks.

How transit workers are keeping safe

And very much like the STM worker in the booth, there are those drivers that aren’t wearing masks, and yes, even on the 27th of July, the end of the aforementioned ‘gracing period,’ but other measures are being taken and have been taken since the start of this whole mess ... specifically the blocking of passengers getting on the bus from the door at the front. The drivers are sectioned off by tape and some are even encased within a Plexiglas enclosure of their own. It must be noted that many

drivers are wearing masks, and all sorts of masks, but we have seen others without, and the only question we pose is: is the tape enough? For those drivers separated by travelers only by the yellow tape and no Plexiglas and no mask ... is that distance enough? If someone sneezes in that enclosed space, isn’t the driver at risk or vice-versa?

Of course this is very reminiscent of the many questions we’ve all had since the start of this whole thing ... questions that we have seldom gotten answers to during this whole ordeal.

And we can’t answer it either. Because we won’t lie to you. What we can tell you is that the health authority of Montréal and the labor safety board of this province has decided that they (transit workers) are exempt from wearing masks because of the aforementioned measures taken, such as the Plexiglas, tape, etc..

We can assume that the STM knows what they are doing and we have to trust them the way we’ve trusted our local McDonald’s and Tim Horton’s restaurants for our burgers and coffee; the way we’ve trusted our leaders, and all for the good of us all, as those in power should know better, and it is in times like these that we hope that they do.



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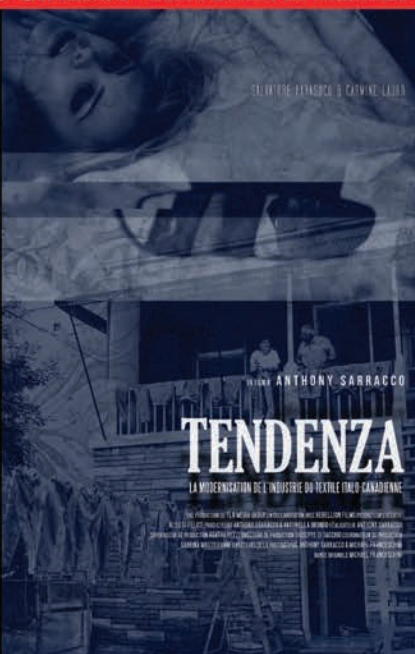


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TARGET NUMBER ONE

PG-13 | Thriller | 2h15



NOW
PLAYING

In 1989, a Canadian journalist investigates the circumstances surrounding the suspicious arrest of a heroin addict imprisoned in a Thai jail.

BLOODSHOT

PG-13 | Action | 1h49



NOW
PLAYING

Ray Garrison, an elite soldier who was killed in battle, is brought back to life by an advanced technology that gives him the ability of super human strength and fast healing.

INTERSTELLAR

G | Science Fiction | 2h49



NOW
PLAYING

Earth's future has been riddled by disasters, famines, and droughts. There is only one way to ensure mankind's survival: Interstellar travel. A newly discovered wormhole in the far reaches of our solar system allows a team of astronauts to go where no man has gone before.

BAD BOYS FOR LIFE

13 | Comedy | 2h 4min



NOW
PLAYING

Marcus Burnett is now a police inspector and Mike Lowrey is in a midlife crisis. They unite again when an Albanian mercenary, whose brother they killed, promises them an important bonus.

UNHINGED

R | Thriller | 1h30



NOW
PLAYING

After a confrontation with an unstable man at an intersection, a woman becomes the target of his rage.

BILL & TED FACE THE MUSIC

PG-13 | Comedy | 1h18



AUG. 14

Once told they'd save the universe during a time-traveling adventure, 2 would-be rockers from San Dimas, California find themselves as middle-aged dads still trying to crank out a hit song and fulfill their destiny.

THE NEW MUTANTS

PG-13 | Action | 1h38



AUG. 28

Five young mutants, just discovering their abilities while held in a secret facility against their will, fight to escape their past sins and save themselves.

MONSTER HUNTER

PG-13 | Action | Fantasy



SEPT 4

When Lt. Artemis and her loyal soldiers are transported to a new world, they engage in a desperate battle for survival against enormous enemies with incredible powers.

◀ Continued from page 4

the time progressively.

And now in the end, a justified fight for Black Lives Matter and that aforementioned call for change became a meager attempt at getting an actual change, and it thus became more of a retaliation instead ... one perhaps aimed at the wrong adversary.

Erasing History

Which brings us here

The things that our ancestors lived through—both good and terrible—have shaped who we are today. Strength, power, the overcoming of obstacles ... and yes, even the controversial moments of our history as a people cannot be simply erased. It is in all of these aforementioned things that we will remember how we got to where we are today. To attack history, I feel is a misplacement of energy now. We can only change our future, or rather the direction in which our future is going, by changing our present and learning from where we've been before.

Columbus ... General Stonewall Jackson ... Jefferson Davis ... and the list goes on. It is no doubt, both to this writer and most of you out there that the actions these men are responsible for taking in the past are wrong by today's standards—unequivocally so—but erasing their existence is like trying to ignore the ice age.

All those that have written harsh and racist words in literature, or rather depicted such ideals on screen in the past to be common ... it's obvious today after all we've learned, that those methods, manners of speaking and political views were all archaic and now deemed rightfully inappropriate. Yet to forget that these actions existed in the first place is a crucial mistake.

As time passes, those memories will be diluted until they are forgotten by future generations. The tearing down of monuments and statues can only further blur the lines of fact and reality for future generations (an effect that social media and fake news has already brought to the doorstep of our youth), thus dissolving a history that needs to be remembered forever.

The black community in North America suffered greatly. The proof, the footage, it's all there. It is in these instances that today's society can be reminded of what this community overcame, what they had to do to fight for equality in this world, and still fight for. As far as I'm concerned, by keeping history intact, their future generations will always remember what their ancestors went through, and so will the rest of society, which is possibly more important.

Don't change the past. Change your present and your future and always remember, friends ... always remember what persecuted you, what prevented you from achieving your goals ... even if it was simply peace and freedom, because once you attain that freedom, you can always look back proudly.

It's through remembrance that we can best move forward and never repeat what has already come to pass. And if it ever does, like the case of George Floyd ... we'll all be ready for it together.

Domenic Marinelli

◀ Continued from page 5

here and not only setting themselves and their families up, but also in turn giving back to the community that embraced them. "It was a small shop, a small investment and they wanted to roll the dice and do it," Aris explains when speaking of his parents. A look of pride comes into his eyes as he speaks of his parents and that long-ago decision they made to originally purchase the shop. If I could see his mouth beneath the mask, I'm sure a smile would be spread there as he looks back.

He took the business over in 2008, subsequently moving here in 2014 from the States in order to operate the business full-time.

The inner workings as they stand today

A team of two workers were present when I walked in to interview Aris: Kim, who has been there for a decade and Mira who has been there for 5 years. A few of their other employees have not yet returned, partly because it isn't as busy as it usually would be at this time, and partly because some part-time workers that are collecting CERB allowances for the time being have not yet returned. Like so many other businesses in the area they too have certain employees that failed to return to work because of the blanket that the CERB represented, but Aris holds firm that most of his employees are dedicated and will return when the time is right; both part-time workers and his other full-time workers included.

What serving Park Extension means to them

They haven't charged for delivery to any Park Extension address, nor have they ever. "Park Ex is diverse." He states that the community itself and all its nationalities garner them all sorts of different requests for business and this diversification provides them with a lot of business, and

yes, even during such difficult times. He further states that they also have a more affluent portion of the community that comes in and makes orders or purchases that balance out the more mundane orders they receive, balancing out their income overall; even students who have an even lower disposable income than most clients come in and purchase items (perhaps very reminiscent of the images the flower shop conjured up for me upon walking in).

Aris says of his business and dedication: "I'm dealing with people and I love doing what I'm doing." Perhaps that's the simplest way to put it, but sometimes simple is the best way to get a point across and I read him loud and clear.

Leading by example

In Aris Mitropoulos we saw a business owner that not only cares about the business he runs, but more how he serves the community and the end result his product garners. He cares about how that bouquet or that beautiful plant will be received by whom it is meant for, and that is clear in the way he speaks about the business, the history of the business and the future of his business. His staff seems to share that dedication; that came off of them as I watched them make a few arrangements at the back of the shop from my square meter vantage point. Overall, I was awash with feelings of nostalgia, admiration and yes, even respect as I spoke to this man, this member of a community that has really banded together during a terribly unfortunate time for the world.

Dare I say it ... this isn't seen in other boroughs in the city ... this brotherly and sisterly accord I see in most of the faces I pass on those streets of Park Ex, going from one story to another, and I saw it in the flower shop the day I spoke to Aris. It was an honor to be given a glimpse into his operation and we thank him for his time.

"To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow." – Audrey Hepburn

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ST-VINCENT, LUCIEN ROGER

1922 - 2020



It is with sadness that we announce the death of Mr. Lucien Roger St-Vincent in Montreal on July 14, 2020, at the age of 98 years. He was the son of the late Mr. Joseph Albert St-Vincent and the late Mrs. Marie-Louise Collin. He was the spouse of the late Mrs. Maria Luisa Schulz. He leaves to join those he loved. He is survived by his brother Maurice, his daughter Tatiana, his godson Mario, his nephews and nieces, as well as several relatives and friends.

BOUCHARD, ROSE-ANNE

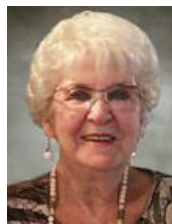
1922 - 2020



In Montreal, on July 27, 2020, at the age of 98, passed away Madame Rose-Anne Bouchard, beloved wife of the late Joachim Tremblay. She will be sadly missed by her daughter Jocelyne (Pierre), her granddaughters Sylvie (Michel) and Johanne, her sister Blanche (Paul) and her brother Huy (Pierrette) as well as many relatives and friends.

ASSELIN, SUZANNE

1933 - 2020



It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Suzanne Asselin, daughter of the late Dorius Asselin and of the late Berthe Thériault, in Montreal on July 23, 2020. She is survived by her brother Roger (Pierrette Martineau), his sisters Jeannine wife of the late Roland Gravel (Gilles Binette), Louise (late Jean Hurand), Denyse (André Sarrazin) as well as many nephews and nieces, relatives, friends and residents of Cité Rive.

BEAULAC, CLAUDE

1942 - 2020



On July 23, 2020, in Montreal passed away Claude Beaulac son of the late Rose Lacombe and the late Armand Beaulac. Husband for 54 years of Colette Roy, father of Marc and Annie and grandpa of Marc-André (Karianne), Marc-Antoine, Marie-Pier (their mother Nathalie), Rosanna, Jasmine, Virginie, (their mother Nancy) Loïc and Noah (their father Lucien), his great-grandchildren Léa-Rose, Théo and Flavie.



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HOROSCOPE

Week of August 9 to August 15, 2020

The luckiest signs this week:
CANCER, LEO AND VIRGO



ARIES
You'll want to treat yourself, update your wardrobe or change your hairstyle. You'll find the courage to make a change, improve your social life and step outside your comfort zone.



TAURUS
You won't always listen to the advice that's offered to you. Luckily, your instincts will guide you in the right direction. You'll feel like you have a guardian angel watching over you.



GEMINI
Sometimes you need to take a step back in order to gain enough momentum to move forward. You'll put a lot of thought into what makes you happy and how you can reduce your stress.



CANCER
An active social life can be expensive. If you don't have a habit of tracking your expenses, you'll likely blow your budget and struggle to pay off your debts.



LEO
You and your family will put a lot of effort into making a good impression. Your children will be well dressed, and you'll get up to speed on the latest technology.



VIRGO
At work, a training program will provide you with an opportunity for advancement. You'll also take on projects that are more in line with your values. You'll redefine your ambitions.



LIBRA
If your last vacation was less than ideal, you'll plan a getaway that gives you an opportunity to socialize. The experience will leave you feeling rejuvenated.



SCORPIO
You'll try to please everyone even though you know it's not possible. If you listen to your heart, you'll never falter. You need to have more confidence in yourself.



SAGITTARIUS
Getting back to work after a long vacation will leave you feeling drained. Plus, your loved ones will demand more of your time than usual. You'll need plenty of rest to get through the week.



CAPRICORN
Someone will put you on a pedestal, and this will lead to success. You'll be able to offer clarity on a mysterious situation. The thanks you get in return will be gratifying.



AQUARIUS
You'll spend quality time with your family or enjoy your own company at home. Your relationship will be a top priority. You'll unleash your creativity and create a masterpiece, even if it's just an elaborate meal.

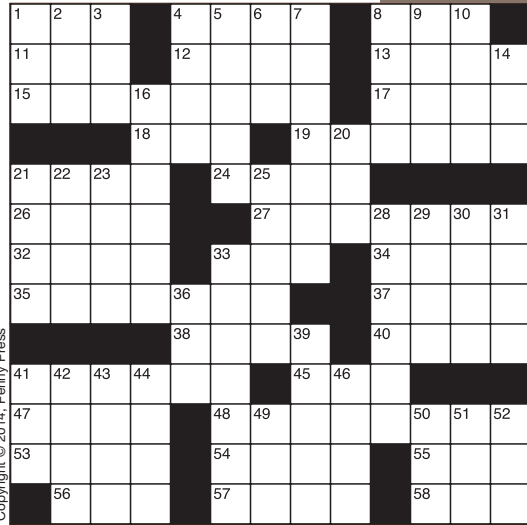


PISCES
You'll be tempted to purchase a new car. You'll also spend a lot of time negotiating and listening to debates. You might discover that you're a talented salesperson.



CROSSWORDS

PUZZLE NO. 992



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ACROSS

- 1. Vegetable box
- 4. Footfall
- 8. End
- 11. Cheer for a treader
- 12. Snatch
- 13. Keats poems
- 15. Veteran: hyph.
- 17. Persons
- 18. Miner's product
- 19. Flawed
- 21. Thin
- 24. Street sign
- 26. Holler
- 27. Killarney's location
- 32. Female singer
- 33. Explosive noise
- 34. Slender woodwind

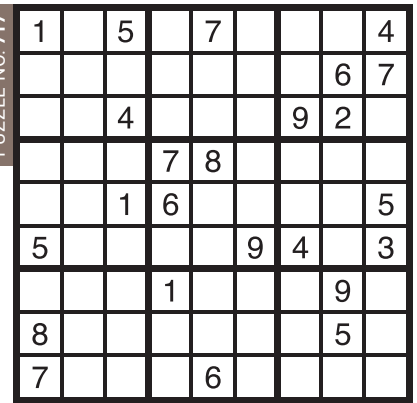
- 35. Beauty
- 37. Messy fellow
- 38. Gift paper
- 40. Shipped
- 41. Perfect
- 45. Vane reading: abbr.
- 47. Seasoned
- 48. Helped
- 53. Bagel feature
- 54. At the top
- 55. Nay's opposite
- 56. Roads: abbr.
- 57. Back talk
- 58. Entertainer Vereen

DOWN

- 1. Ghostly greeting
- 2. Feeling awful
- 3. Buntline or Beauty
- 4. Blend
- 5. Subdues
- 6. ___ out (barely manage)
- 7. Carry out, as a task
- 8. Health food
- 9. Movie hero
- 10. Fur
- 14. Shade of blue
- 16. Indian drum
- 20. Gibbon or gorilla
- 21. Rug style
- 22. Lounge around
- 23. Tad
- 25. Jeweled headpiece
- 28. Profits' opposite
- 29. Talented
- 30. Middle of the day
- 31. Loan or mortgage, e.g.
- 33. Dressers
- 36. Acknowledge
- 39. Mexican coins
- 41. Fan's cry
- 42. Selfish trips
- 43. Sensed
- 44. Roman date
- 46. Wrongdoings
- 49. Bottled-water source
- 50. Flap
- 51. Optometrist's concern
- 52. Hideout

Sudoku

PUZZLE NO. 717



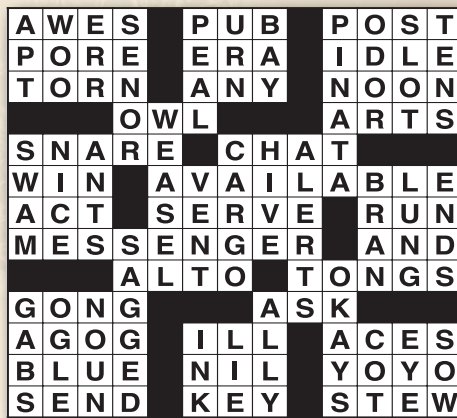
HOW TO PLAY:

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

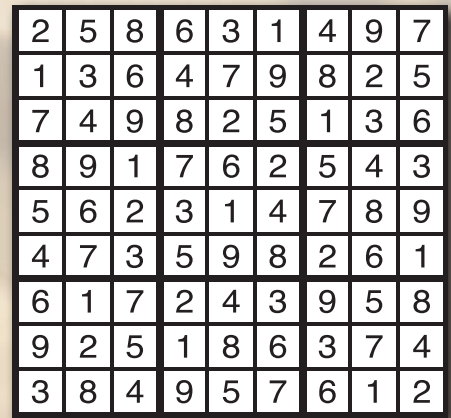
Each 3x3 box is outlined with a darker line. You already have a few numbers to get you started. Remember: **You must not repeat the numbers 1 through 9 in the same line, column, or 3x3 box.**

Last Issues' Answers

CROSSWORDS



Sudoku



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