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Covid-19 Mobile Testing Clinic at Howard Park

City Councilor Mary Deros sits in wait as
nurses on-site test her for Covid-19

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Covid-19 Mobile Testing Clinic at Howard Park



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Walking into Howard Park at this point in the fall presents a certain contrast to where the park was during the summer. Although certainly lower than the numbers that the feasts offered in the park over the years, still, many people showed up for events all summer long to celebrate, in spite of the pandemic.

The park in October

On the first weekend of October, however, the park was essentially deserted. A few children played with their parents off to the side, sitting on benches, the leaves blew atop the grass and pathways as I walked towards the Liege side of the Park ... oh yeah, and there was a free testing clinic for Covid-19 ... but at first glance, you wouldn't have known it. If it wasn't for the red tent that lay beside and in front of the park's building there, you wouldn't have known.

Word of mouth

Relying on word of mouth these days takes a wee bit of technology, as it were, so I originally found out about the test clinic online, as I keep my ear close to the ground and these days, the internet is as close to the proverbial ground as you can get. But I was also alerted by City Councilor Mary Deros a few days later. She mentioned that she would be going to the clinic and if I'd stop by, we could have a chat.

The clinic which had started the Friday before I went in, which was on the Saturday, had only 40 people show up to get tested. It had rained,

and Mary Deros had asked for the red tent I had spied upon entering the park—that they place it for those going to get tested.

The day in question, Saturday, the 3rd, apparently only one person had shown up to be tested when I got there. As I snapped pictures of the park and nurses stationed under the tent, a few handfuls of others showed up.

How it works

I spoke to nurses on site (all requested to remain nameless), and they told me that you didn't need ID to get tested. All you needed to do was give your name, a phone number or email where the results could be delivered to you. The test itself was just under ten minutes. At the door, nurses and staff on-hand gave you a new mask to wear and then you were ushered into a back room where the test was performed, in either the mouth or the nose with a cotton swab. Then, patients or rather those being tested were ushered out the back door, urged to use the sanitizer placed there. It was as simple as that.

Why such a little turn-out?

The reasons for this can certainly be numerous, but perhaps it is fear that held people at home and not at the park. I spoke to a staff member that believed just this ... she echoed the sentiment that perhaps it is test clinics like this that also spread Covid-19—not a fact—but a sentiment. She felt that the public probably feel that way, which certainly can account to the lower amount of people that shows up.

Another possibility is perhaps the fact that people just didn't want to give up their Saturday. Many also voiced the possibility that the event didn't reach as big a possible audience as was



A worker sits within the building on the Liege side of the park, prepping people before the test, asking for necessary information

expected, even though the internet was used to promote.

A conversation with City Councilor Deros

She stated that she was pleasantly surprised that 40 people showed up the day prior despite the rain. She had posted about the event, despite the fact that she too had been only notified about it the week before. She herself got tested at the clinic and she said that local businesses also posted about the event on their respective sites.

She had heard that if you weren't experiencing symptoms then perhaps you shouldn't go in. She got tested as a precaution, as she was feeling a tad under the weather.

So, maybe in the end, it's a good thing that people didn't show up. Perhaps there are very few experiencing symptoms, but maybe that's wishful thinking; perhaps we can all be a little guilty of that in the end and Peter John Cox / Richard P Drummie / Martin George Page (Go

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Borough Council looks to 2021 with hope



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Of course to detail the full extent of the council meeting held on October 5th, would be to detail a transcript of many pages and we don't really have the room for all that here, but we've outlined the essential points of focus, detailing their PowerPoint presentation as an overview for you members of the community to peruse (translated from French and featuring some of my annotations). The council certainly had a lot to say on the past and the future, as you will read, but the proceedings didn't necessarily go off without a hitch, so to speak.

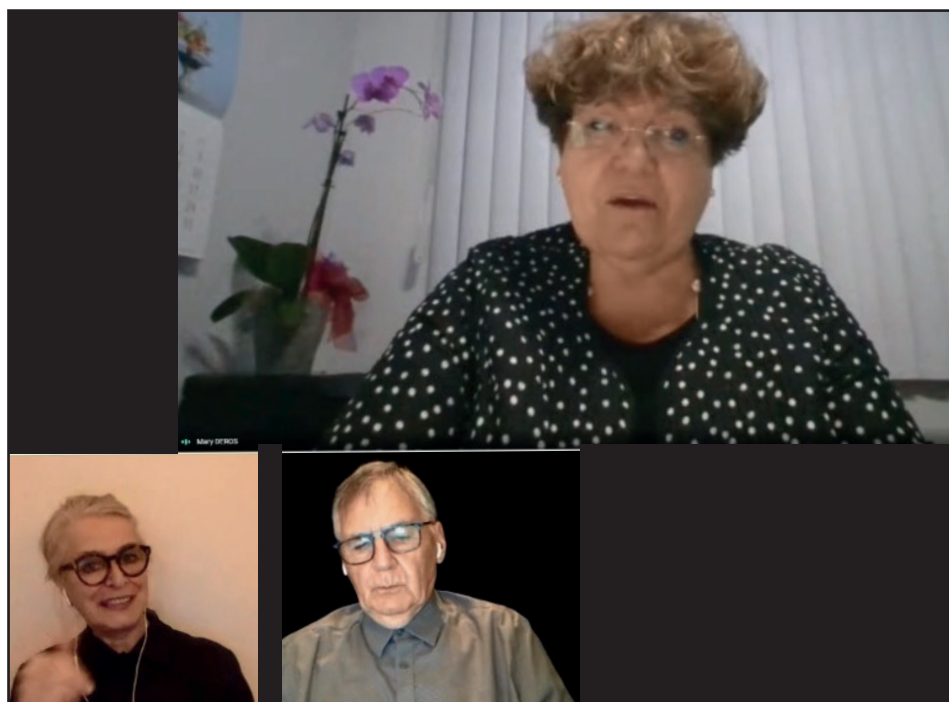
Accomplishments of 2020

Presented proudly both on the power point presentation and during the meeting presented online live and on their website, the council spoke of its accomplishments from the past year which included: "... a development of 16 new green alleys, 150 squares of trees and a plantation of 350 trees in the public domain and distribution of 42,000 plants ... an adoption of plans to chart the future in culture and social development; authorization for the construction of three social housing and collaboration in the purchase of four properties for developments future. Support for ten organizations communities in their relocation to the landscape; upgrading of the Saint-

Michel arena and the Park-Extension library. Redevelopment of three parks and two sports grounds as well as renovation of four chalets. Acceptance of a first donation for the development of a park designed entirely according to standards of universal accessibility; revision of the zoning by-law for preserve the rental stock and facilitate understanding of certain provisions complex (implantation rate, number floors, margins ...) Establishment of parking areas dedicated to car sharing and new bicycle racks in the public domain; also planning of an East-West cycle route on Villeray and expansion of sectors of on-street parking reserved for residents; implementation of a reduction of the speed limit on several arteries."

Priorities for 2021

And for the New Year, plans were certainly set in place ... a positive plan that definitely looks good on paper: "Continuing the fight against urban islands, in particular by planting trees and perennials. Integrate the concepts of ecological transition in all redevelopment projects. Continue to implement measures to improve the cleanliness and beautification of the territory. Develop a vision of urban agriculture. Propose a regulatory amendment project on parking on the private domain. Promote active and collective transport by further developing mobility hubs. Adopt a first Policy on traffic calming. Pursue the redevelopment and repair projects of certain



A view of the meeting as seen on the internet, as Mary Deros thanks dedicated workers on the front lines, specifically in the public health domain.

local streets. Continue to deploy a connected and safe cycling network." This still seems to be part of the plan, despite the fact that it wasn't met with open arms by one and all in most parts of the

city. We further reported that in Park Extension exclusively, the amount of cyclists compared to

► **Continued on page 13**

As Covid-19 cases rise, new rules are set in place in week 2 of red alert



As high schools move forward with new restrictions, the community wonders how safe their children are in elementary schools



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Just as the city of Montréal has been getting used to the new rules set in place because of the red alert issued last Thursday, the Quebec Government has declared that now other businesses must close, and what more, a whole other demographic must now wear masks—a demographic that a week ago was deemed exempt from the new rules.

High school students must now wear masks. In addition to this, students will only be required to go to school on a one-day-yes, one-day-no basis. Jean-François Roberge, who acts as Minister of Education stated that this would surely limit the number of passengers on public transportation and in the actual school at one given time.

Plans are also being set in place to lower the number of kids in classrooms and in the hall-

ways, the one-day-yes, one-day-no basis will surely help with that. Also stated was the plan to have only one child per bench on school busses. Lunch will be eaten in classrooms apparently.

Roberge said in a statement: "I'm calling on students to adopt these new measures and respect them. I'm calling on parents to explain to them and accept them."

At the higher level of education (College / University), sports rallies and get-togethers have been canceled in all schools and those living in dormitories cannot have any visitors at all. School gatherings at other levels have also been canceled and/or postponed.

Who still mustn't wear masks?

And still, it's elementary students that are asked not to wear masks, they still exempt from even that, which has certainly perturbed many, as many feel that it's the smaller children that more readily carry germs—as it has always been, even

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OPINION & Editorial



THAT'S WHAT I'M THINKING

Robert Vairo



The Bad News and Some Good News

For the foreseeable future it appears we're in for some very tough struggles. The winds of early autumn brought a major disappointment. Daily cases of infection rising to almost a thousand cases a day, and climbing. We thought we had actually flattened the curve and all we needed was just to maintain our health measures a little while longer. We seemed close, especially encouraged so many pharmaceuticals and Universities were involved in research. A vaccine was surely not far away. But some of us dropped the ball. Trying to balance health and economy, it was decided that businesses should reopen, with restrictions. They did, but unfortunately some did not respect the law, nor did reckless maskless party goers. Despite the evidence of the sick and dying, some still do not believe Covid-19 is real, although cavalier Mr Trump now does. So here we are. One more full lock down is being discussed.

Some Good News

The good news so far are the smiles and happiness of children getting back to their school routine with their friends, keeping their busy little minds occupied, and nervous, but happier Moms and Dads. And last week, more good news. After what seemed like every other country in the world had already done so, our Canadian government purchased, and a full day later Health Canada approved, the Abbott 'ID Now' COVID-19 rapid tests from U.S.-based Abbott Laboratories, although not arriving until later this month. On location nose swab testing, with results literally in minutes. Hallelujah! This announcement, ironically just hours after Ontario's Doug Ford, "what's their problem", rightly lambasted Health Canada for delays.

Stay Positive

I am trying to remain positive. But it's difficult. The pain and anger we feel because of non believers who have ruined it for the majority. The pain and anger we feel for not being able to see the rest of our family who live at another address. Feel for the men and women operating a business today. A commercial building with vacant office space. I can not imagine trying to operate a restaurant during this pandemic. Those that are still open, have to plead and negotiate with landlords, banks, and break budget to mitigate the risk. That means countless panels of plexiglass, masks, visors, disinfectant, extra staff, if they can find motivated individuals to come to work, although the recent Quebec assistance will help. But I am trying to remain positive.

It's safe to say we are in transition to a new lifestyle both at home, at play and at work. Entrepreneurs, current and new, have to have fresh ideas adjusted to outmanoeuvre uncertainty by course correcting. There's a hotel in Vancouver with a new slogan, 'Work from Hotel Belmont'. Like all other hotels, its rooms went from full capacity to nearly empty, so owners and management rethought their vocation as a conventional hotel and pivoted into renting rooms as office space for a day. That's the idea. That's the new reality. 'Tele-doctoring' is something you might have already experienced. Some court cases are being heard remotely, call it 'tele-court' rather than in person before the judge. The whole case heard, and judgment rendered, online. Office vacancies are spiking in Toronto, Vancouver, to a lesser extent in Montreal, as the "pandemic fuels work-from-home migration". Clients call now, so there's no need for a physical visit. Many offices are now virtually empty. What to do with empty office towers. Convert to housing? Our online shopping has increased 160% since the virus struck. The mail man now delivers boxes not envelopes. This will not change with a vaccine. The fix is in. We will forever be suspicious and ask "how safe is it"? We will get through this but we will have to adjust and readjust with changing times. That is the reality.

Hockey in August

A shout out to the National Hockey League. It would have been so much easier to just shut it down, but no. What we got and watched, was a cleverly crafted mini season with playoffs and Stanley Cup thrown in. We did not see the crowds in Edmonton and Toronto but we heard them. Sound effects were great. Horn sounds of the respective team that scored, crowd noises, oohs and ahhs, and even "dernière minute de la troisième période". I loved it. And amazingly, the NHL is the only major league without a case of Covid-19. Congratulations.

Stay safe, stay positive.

I'm Robert Vairo

That's What I'm Thinking.

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Letters to the Editor



This is an emergency so why don't we act like it?

Dear Editor,

Canada has sunk over \$16 billion taxpayer into fossil fuel companies since the start of the pandemic. The cost of the Trans Mountain pipeline could have already ballooned to well over \$20 billion in public money.

In the midst of a global health crisis, we shouldn't be spending billions of dollars on a dangerous pipeline while hundreds of Indigenous communities are under boil water advisories. Access to clean drinking water is a basic human right and is especially critical in the midst of a health emergency.

The government always seems to have enough money to fund Big Oil, but not enough money to invest in First Nations communities to clean up drinking water, a commitment they have failed to follow through on for years. We need Justin Trudeau to divest from dirty fossil fuels and invest in its commitment to end all water boil advisories.

Jacinthe Bruneau

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Exposé - The state of Place de la Gare Park

Taking a look at the park ... the state of it and what's needed by the members of the community who spend their days and nights there



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Many also refer to it as Jean Talon Park, but there it sits on Hutchison Street between the Provigo building and of course the businesses out front like the McDonald's and of course Solo Drum Studio, but the park in and of itself, remains a standby for the community, and perhaps specifically those that spend their days and nights there.

Walking into the park—first impressions

Myself, I've been in the park and on many occasions, and the faces there are indeed familiar, as I'm sure they are to you all, residents of Park Extension.

I was there and was covering a Canada Day event for the paper a few weeks back. Temperatures were still quite high and despite the pandemic, the festivities went on regardless. But it was also on this occasion that I noticed the state of the park, even mentioning a few things about the state of it in that piece I was working on ... i.e., broken bottles strewn about the expanse of the park, littered trash, an extensive amount of cigarette butts, and so on; it further amazed

element that is there, present in the park and at all times of the day and night. Sadly, it isn't only the harmless that lurk under the trees and off to the side of the park near the entrance to Provigo. There is in fact a criminal element and it needs to be said, especially because while I was there, snapping pictures and taking notes for this piece, I noticed a mixture of all sorts of people. There were those using illegal narcotics, yet just a few meters away on the expanse of grass at the center, children were playing. Off on Hutchison, a man was being arrested and placed into an ambulance for being drunk and subsequently sick, and there I was snapping pictures of monuments and the littered ground and what more, I saw at least 5 rats scurrying around the park—too fast to snap a decent picture of. This specifically is perhaps something quite common in Washington Square park, New York, but maybe not in park Extension.

Something didn't quite work about the whole thing, and I had the same sentiments that I had had on the day of the Canada day celebration ... so perhaps a wee bit of work would be necessary on the park, and for everyone who uses it.

An eye-opening experience—a stranger in the park

And it was as I conducted my investigation that



Families spending their evening in the park—Monday September 28th, 2020—a particularly warm evening in early fall ... children played atop the lawn mere meters from a known criminal element present in the park

me that the park wasn't better taken care of than it was, especially due to the fact that a gathering of men, women and children was in occurrence on that particular day.

A portion of the element that frequents the park

What should also be discussed is of course the

I was approached by a regular that I had seen in the park on many occasions. So enthralled in what I was doing, I entered the cropping of trees off by the entrance of Provigo, snapping away with my Nikon, that I didn't realize I had walked right into a group of men and women that were not too happy with me being there.



The old Pacific Railway Building (now Joe Fresh), regal and historic, looks down on the park and all the goings-on

The lot of them scattered quite quickly, except for one man. He came up to me and said: "Man ... these people better not be in one frame of those photographs or you and that camera aren't getting out of his park. I don't care how big you are, these people will jump you, man."

At first I was shocked, then—quite honestly, I wanted to laugh—and not because I didn't take what he was saying seriously, but because I suddenly felt like I was on the set of some Steven Seagal movie, circa 1992.

Honestly, at first, I thought he was foe rather than friend, but once I told him who I was and why I was doing it, I watched him soften and realized that his previous statement had withered away like moisture atop the grass and plants that grew all around us. I also realized that he'd wanted to help me and not intimidate me with his warning.

He motioned with his hands towards the others and I saw their collective shoulders lower and relax before my very eyes. What ensued was a pretty interesting conversation with the stranger in the park.

What is needed according to a veteran of the area & other members of the community?

A water fountain is definitely needed. This fact was first brought to my attention by Sasha M. Dyck who is involved in many community goings-on and cares deeply about it, its history and its people; he had told me that a member of the community Daniel K. Seligman had brought up the possibility. I reached out to him on Social Media and he had this to say: "I had

just suggested it would be a good idea to have a water fountain in the park because there are so many people in the spring/fall/winter that use it (the space)."

It was after I mentioned that I had heard that they were trying to get a water fountain installed in the park and hopefully shedding some light on cleaning the space up that the stranger in the park softened considerably, as stated.

He said: "Aw man, we'd love at least a fountain, and these rats ... there are at least thirty of them that come out at night."

In the end, perhaps a water fountain would be a great idea. There are many in the community looking to have one installed, as shown here, and perhaps a little light can be shed on the fact that it has been kept in pretty bad shape so far—the park that is.

Groups on Social Media have certainly gotten into it, complaining about the rats as well, looking to their leaders for a resolution to the problem, one resident in particular, Yasmine Amor, posting an open letter to the City Council of the borough herself. In her post she stated: "So walking down Place de la Gare has been slightly disturbing when I ran into 10 or more rats. Mary Deros, could you please take care of the rat infestation near the metro station? Thanks."

What City Councilor Deros had to say

I spoke to City Councilor Mary Deros and she said that people can't say that nothing is being done. She is doing everything that she can to help and support the homeless at the park, but

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Two Mountains To Climb: Canada's Twin Deficits

and How to Scale Them

(continued...)

In the wake of COVID-19, households and businesses—not just governments—will have much more debt to service in 2022 than they had in 2019—with little extra productive capacity—meaning little growth in incomes—to enable them to do so. Despite low interest rates, the cost of servicing debt securities held by non-Canadians amounted to \$47.3 billion in 2019. With Canada's stock of public debt set to grow at the federal level by perhaps \$500 billion this year (and almost \$100 billion for provinces) and oil destined to bring in less revenue, the current account deficit will be under yet further pressure.

It is important to note that not all our borrowing is being sourced domestically, as it is sometimes supposed. Foreign investors acquired an all-time record of \$54 billion in Canadian debt securities in April alone. They followed that up with another \$32.4 billion in May, the second highest total since monthly data began being compiled in 1988, followed by net sales of \$7.8 billion in June.

Should these purchasers of our debt at some point grow nervous about our economic prospects, history shows they could demand the additional protection of foreign-denominated loans or higher interest payments. This would place downward pressure on the Canadian dollar, raise the cost of imports across the board for Canadian consumers, including the purchases of production-enhancing capital equipment for businesses.

Significant current account deficits and the trend in net outflows of domestic investment cannot continue indefinitely without extracting a cost. The rest of the world will not go on investing in Canada unless risk-adjusted returns here are as high or higher as they are elsewhere. Nor will foreigners continue to absorb Canadian corporate and government debt—especially debt issued in Canadian dollars—if the weakening of federal, provincial, and corporate balance sheets persists. If Canadian governments continue to borrow from the world to finance consumption, they will eventually encounter increased resistance from lenders. We are already seeing a debate breaking out in the form of conflicting credit ratings for Canadian debt. This may be followed at some sudden future moment by demands for interest rate premiums, decreased ability to borrow in Canadian dollars and the exclusion of weaker corporate and provincial creditors

from the market.

Unless governments adopt credible plans to rein in borrowing (either through expenditure cuts, tax increases or a persuasive growth plan), lenders could eventually force a restructuring of our debts, as we saw in Asia and Russia in 1997-98, and in peripheral Europe in 2014-15 and are witnessing again today in Argentina.

We will return to the permutations in the third section of the paper. Suffice to say, Canada is not yet anywhere close to keeping that company, and is in relatively better fiscal shape than many of its peers. But the weaker current account position after 2006 reflects, in part, long-standing competitiveness challenges for Canadian industry that will need to be aggressively addressed in the post-COVID world while also having to contend with weaker global demand.

At a time when the COVID crisis will be requiring the generation of additional wealth in order to cover the burden of new public debt, we can hardly afford to surrender any level of investment in productive capacity. We need to address these hazards by restructuring our economy and, through domestic policy choices, expanding our capability to supply the kinds of goods and services the world seeks and is prepared to purchase from us.

PART II:

THE GROWTH CHALLENGE

Nothing about the current account crunch should detract from the critical importance of also bringing our fiscal balance back under control. The necessity to regain a sustainable fiscal position is rooted in issues of both economic welfare and social fairness. Rising debt and its service costs will, over time, crowd out spending on more economically and socially productive uses. Between the 1994 and 1995 federal budgets, debt service costs soared by more than \$5 billion, about half from rising interest rates and half from an increased stock of debt. That was worth one CBC, one Via Rail and all of Ottawa's post-secondary expenditures and veterans' allowances. If we are not careful, something similar could happen again.

Perpetuating the financing of current consumption over future investment also raises issues of inter-generational equity by imposing the debt burden on younger Canadians. And it risks ultimately leading to higher interest rates, a huge potential load for highly indebted governments, corporations and households. Canadian

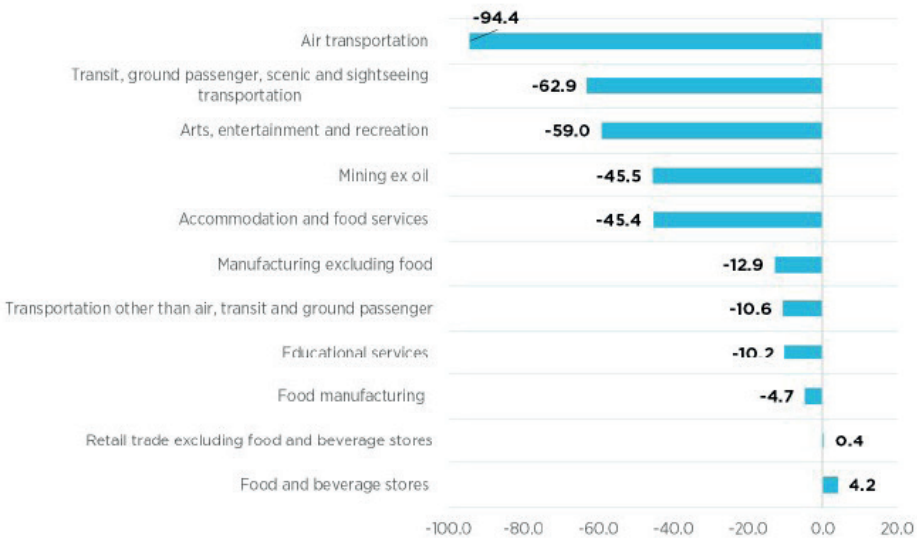


Figure 5: Drop in Canadian Real GDP by June 2020 Relative to February (%) | Selected Industries

Source: Statistics Canada, table 36-10-0434-01.

policymakers will have to come to grips with how they are going to distribute these burdens over time and over different segments of the population. In other words, who pays the price, how big a price and when.

The even more important issue right now is how we use our borrowing. The challenges of distributing the debt burden will be far more manageable if there is less burden. And that will require directing spending to create greater productivity and growth to generate higher revenues to governments (as well as households and businesses), thus keeping the debt-to-GDP ratio in check.

At the end of 2019, I projected that Canadian growth would continue to deteriorate from its relatively good 2018 performance. In providing a jolt of short-term stimulus, the 2017-18 Trump tax cut gave our exports a lift as well. But the effects were fading by last year. I forecast that, at best, productivity gains would amount to 1% per annum. Real output would only have increased 1.7-1.8% per annum in 2020 through 2022 and potential growth would have declined slightly thereafter as a result of declining employment/population ratios. I was pessimistic about the ability of Canadian corporations and governments to introduce productivity enhancing digitization measures,

especially in the service sector. Progress on steadily bringing down federal debt-to-GDP ratio had effectively stopped by 2019, because federal government borrowing for consumption purposes had begun to increase, but even more importantly because the rate of growth of GDP had slowed again.

Such was the situation when COVID struck. The expectation of a 1.8% growth benchmark in 2020 was sobering enough before the crisis. Now, once a sustained recovery takes hold, it would simply be too little and would have to counter the headwinds of a destabilized economy, export markets that are less open, interruptions to our immigration pipeline, supply chains in need of redesign and, of course, the spike in public debt. Coaxing more growth out of the economy has gone from a major policy challenge to an absolute necessity.

(to be continued)

*David Allison Dodge OC FRSC (born June 8, 1943) is a Canadian economist. He served a seven-year term as Governor of the Bank of Canada from February 1, 2001 to January 31, 2008. He was succeeded by Mark Carney.



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Une approche adaptée aux différentes régions pour limiter la propagation du virus

Plus que jamais, nous devons respecter les mesures sanitaires pour limiter la propagation du virus. Il est essentiel que chacun d'entre nous demeure vigilant et adopte les bons comportements. Puisque la transmission du virus ne se fait pas partout de la même façon, un nouvel outil a été mis en place afin de vous permettre de mieux connaître l'évolution de la situation dans chacune des régions du Québec. Ce système d'alerte à quatre paliers facilitera également pour la population le suivi des interventions du gouvernement.

Il est nécessaire de contenir la progression du virus partout au Québec. C'est ainsi que nous réussirons à maintenir une certaine normalité dans les prochains mois. Chaque région peut faire une grosse différence pour limiter la propagation du virus. Continuons de bien nous protéger.

Votre
gouvernement

Système d'alertes régionales et d'intervention graduelle

Le système d'alertes régionales et d'intervention graduelle précise pour chacune des régions sociosanitaires les mesures additionnelles à déployer pour ralentir la transmission du virus. Celles-ci dépendent du palier d'alerte atteint et visent à limiter les conséquences sanitaires, sociales et économiques de la COVID-19, à protéger les personnes les plus vulnérables et à éviter de surcharger le système de soins.

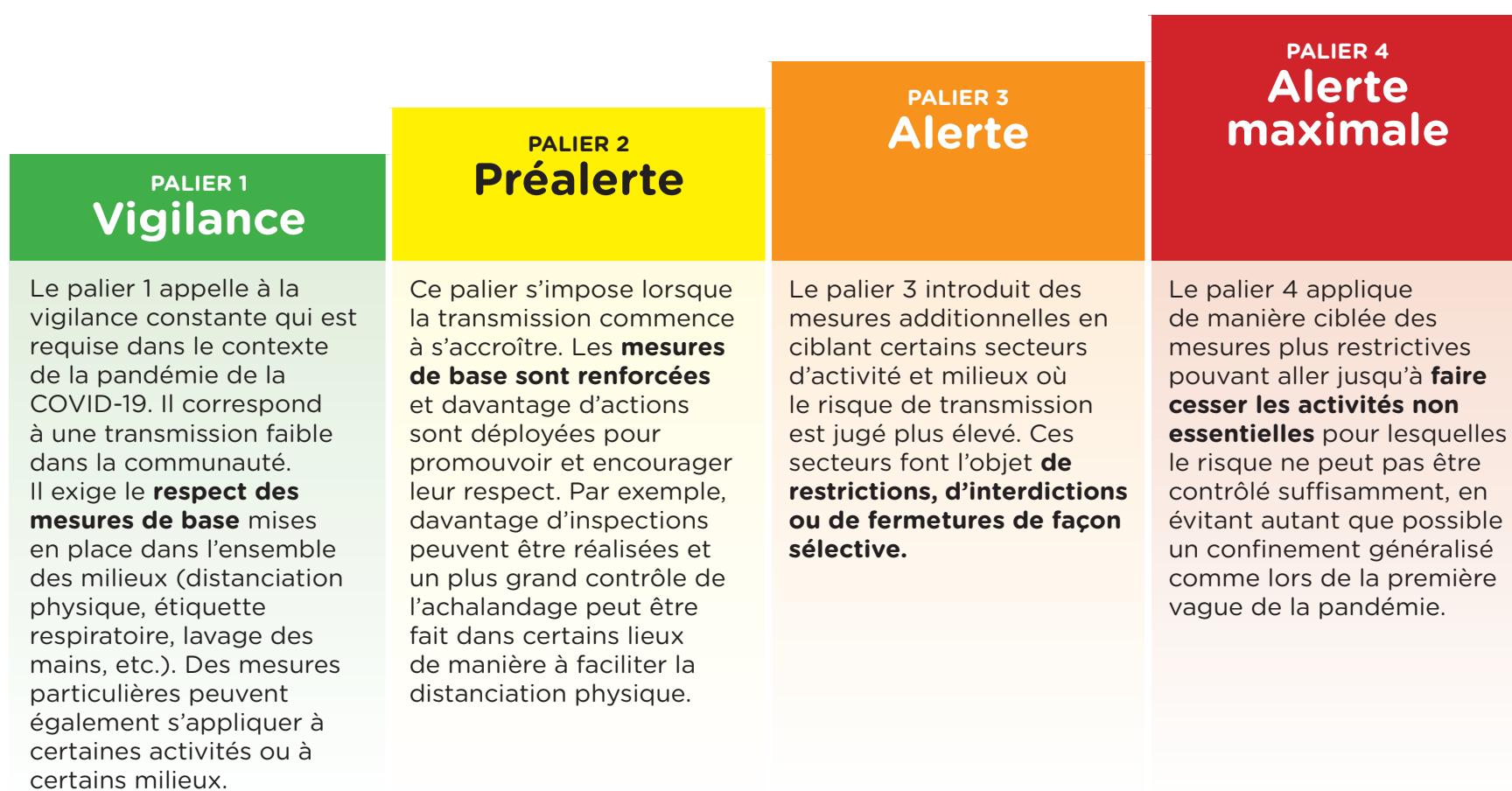
Les paliers d'alerte sont établis selon les recommandations des autorités de santé publique, qui font une analyse régulière de la situation en tenant compte de la situation épidémiologique, du contrôle de la transmission et de la capacité du système de soins. Selon les tendances observées, les paliers seront révisés chaque semaine par les autorités de la santé publique.

N'oubliez pas, chaque personne doit adopter des comportements permettant de limiter la transmission du virus. Faisons-le pour que nos enfants puissent continuer d'aller à l'école, pour protéger nos aînés, pour assurer la sécurité de nos travailleurs de la santé et pour relancer notre économie. **En tout temps, respectez les mesures de base :**



- Gardez vos distances
- Portez un couvre-visage
- Toussez dans votre coude
- Lavez vos mains
- Adaptez vos pratiques de salutations

QUATRE PALIERS D'ALERTE ET D'INTERVENTION



Pour connaître le niveau d'alerte dans votre région, consultez la carte des paliers d'alerte par région sur [Québec.ca/paliersalerte](https://quebec.ca/paliersalerte)

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

☎ 1 877 644-4545

Québec 

An approach adapted to the different regions to limit transmission of the virus

It is now more important than ever that we follow health measures to limit the spread of the virus. It is essential that each of us remains vigilant and adopts good habits. Since the virus is not spreading everywhere at the same rate, a new tool has been implemented to show how the situation is evolving in each Quebec region. This four-level alert system will make it easier for you to keep track of the government's interventions.

We must contain the spread of the virus throughout Quebec. This is how we can retain some level of normalcy over the next few months. Each region can make a big difference in limiting the spread of the virus. Let's continue to protect each other.

Votre
gouvernement

Progressive regional alert and intervention system

The Progressive regional alert and intervention system specifies which additional measures each health region must take to slow the transmission of the virus. These depend on the alert level reached and are intended to limit the health, social and economic impacts of COVID-19, protect those who are most at risk and avoid overburdening the healthcare system.

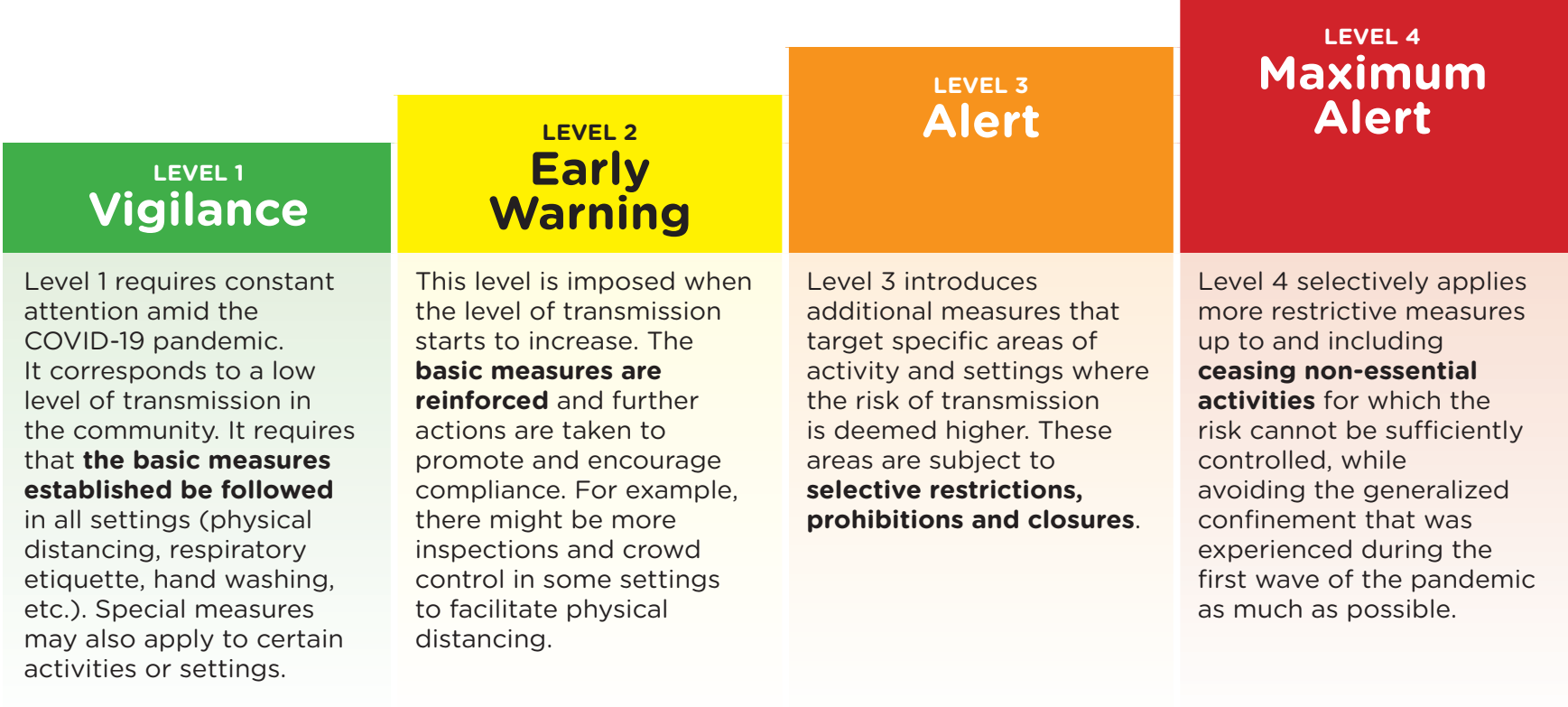
The alert levels are established based on the recommendations of public health authorities who regularly review the situation, taking into account the epidemiological situation, transmission control and the capacity of the healthcare system.

Don't forget that everyone must adopt behaviours that limit transmission of the virus. We do it to ensure that our children can keep going to school, to protect our seniors, to ensure the safety of our healthcare workers and to revive our economy. **Follow the basic measures at all times:**



- › Keep your distance
- › Wear a face covering
- › Cough into your elbow
- › Wash your hands
- › Adapt your greetings

FOUR ALERT AND INTERVENTION LEVELS



To find out the alert level in your region, consult the Map of COVID-19 alert levels by region at [Québec.ca/alertlevels](https://quebec.ca/alertlevels)

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The United Nations—friend or foe?

The United Nations turns 75 last month and although the world is celebrating their longevity, there are those that have outlined their blatant and epic failures over the years since their inception



DOMENIC MARINELLI
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
For The Parc-Extension News
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It was in 1945 that the United Nations came into being, specifically on October 24th of that year. The catalyst for the creation of the United Nations was of course the Second World War. It was first in 1942 that Franklin D. Roosevelt and Prime Minister of Great Britain, Winston Churchill, TV Soong of China and of course Maxim Litvinov of the USSR signed the United Nations Declaration ... the ultimate goal at that time was to defeat the Nazis and dedicate their joined powers to establishing liberty, independence religious freedom, the rights of justice and of man. It has been recorded that Canada and 22 other countries signed that same declaration the following day.

Of course it would take just a few years to defeat Hitler and his band of Nazis, and by the aforementioned 24th of October, 1945, the United Nations would be officially under way as a peace-keeping organization and by that time with 80 percent of the world's countries as officially signed participants in that charter.

To this day, 98 percent of the world's countries—a total of 193 states of government—have signed on, establishing Canada as it's leader when it comes to peace-keeping and diplomatic acts and maneuvers.

The Rwanda Genocide

But although the United Nations has been involved in many acts of world progress and peace treaties, there are certainly instances in which the ball was dropped, for lack of a better term, and maybe the Rwandan Genocide of 1994 was and is perhaps the best of examples to this. It started in April of that year and ended in July of that same year. The amount of people killed during the atrocities numbered from 500,000 to 1,074,016 ... numbers that perhaps seem ultimately impossible but yet are so sadly true.

And where was the United Nations, you ask, specifically if you know nothing about this conflict ...

As it turns out, the UN was there, headed by Roméo Dallaire, a Force Commander of UNAMIR. The latter was the peacekeeping group sent into Rwanda when the threat of the conflict there began. The issues were primarily between Hutu extremists and the Tutsi people of the area. The goal ultimately was to stop the genocide before it ever began, but the mission ended up being terribly underfunded by the United Nations. At first only 60 officers were sent in with Dallaire when they put the UN flag up at their offices in Rwanda. Dallaire has said that really in all there were three groups involved in the conflict; the Belgians at that time being a factor, seeing that they had control of Rwanda leading to that point.

Despite pleas for re-enforcements by Dallaire, the UN didn't deliver in the end and Dallaire had to contend with what can only be called bureaucracy and a failure to understand what was on the horizon for Rwanda and its people. Dallaire felt like the UN felt as though Rwanda was less of an investment than other conflicts at the time. The Italians and the French sent troops, but only for their own expatriates. And finally, the final straw ... the UN voting to actually move out of Rwanda, leaving only 300 there.

Dallaire stayed.

Burma / Myanmar

Although this country gained its independence from Great Britain in 1948, the act possibly launched them and most of its people into terrible conflict and civil war. Very much like Vietnam and other conflicts in history, these people fought against a regime all their own, yet

the UN was nowhere to be seen here either ... there was very little support and always has been, even the United States offering only non-lethal aide and that was way back in 1951. Of course I can probably fill the whole paper and maybe a few editions of it with this history, but rest assured that Myanmar too is another example of this, and in the end proves what Dallaire said: Perhaps the UN does not see value in this conflict and never has.

Today's world

And in today's world, with these histories filling the books, allowing us to remember and not forget, which is a concept that "cancel culture" has no grasp of ... it is only from these atrocities that we can get better and move away from actions (or lack thereof) of the past. Remembering the past is the only way we can prevent it from ever happening again.

I had heard that there were even survivors of the Rwandan Genocide in Park Extension, but when I reached out on Social Media, I received no responses. I had originally planned to interview them if they were still in the area for this piece, but upon my failure to do so, perhaps there's something value even in that ... maybe in the end, a lack of anyone reaching out means they have moved away after their survival ... moved away and gotten on with the rest of their lives, but surely never forgetting what they overcame during that terrible conflict.

In an interview with City Councilor Mary Deros for another matter, I asked her about the Rwandan Genocide, and she said that she has surely shown her support in the past and continues to when such travesties occur, as she is more than sympathetic to their plight (then and now) and saddened at what occurred at that time.

She didn't say whether it was the UN that dropped the ball in any way or not, but she further wanted to mention the issues that Armenia is and has been facing. "I am against all form of genocides," she said. "(When we think back to these genocides), the memories can take us back to the genocide of 1915, and perhaps had that been recognized, we wouldn't be living through genocides like Rwanda and now Armenia."

Conflict in Armenia

These issues started long ago, the conflict first arising in the early 20th Century. What is considered part of the modern conflict had its origin in 1988, ultimately leading to all-out war in 1994. The reasons behind this conflict rest in the dispute over the region of Nagorno-Karabakh and seven others, which are controlled by the self-declared Republic of Artsakh, but are internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan ... a territorial conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

A violation to a ceasefire occurred in 2016, and now they have come to this ... the current crisis.

Ensemble Montréal put out this declaration this week stating its sentiments:

"The elected representatives of Ensemble Montreal wish to condemn the violence which takes place and which claims the lives of innocent people in Nagorno-Karabakh. The current situation is very worrying due to an important geopolitical conflict which shakes the region with deadly episodes. Ensemble Montréal reminds that this conflict was quickly denounced by the United Nations Security Council and by many heads of state. We call on the Trudeau government to react to the situation in the Nagorno-Karabakh region by condemning the violence, demanding a ceasefire and calling for a resumption of negotiations to end this conflict which has already caused the death of several hundred people."

So perhaps this time, the UN will do everything



The United Nations turns 75 amidst a history that reveals a checkered past and details that lead us to question its dedication to actual world peace (Photo credit: United Nations)

in its power to help those in need, ultimately learning from their past mistakes.

Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.
George Santayana

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Bonjour,

Suite aux plus récentes demandes du Gouvernement du Québec par rapport à la propagation de la COVID-19, nous souhaitons confirmer que les Cinémas Guzzo seront fermés du 1er au 28 octobre inclusivement.

Comme toujours, nous suivons la situation de très près et nous nous ajusterons au besoin en fonction des demandes des autorités. Notre priorité demeurera avant tout la santé de nos employés et du public.

L'équipe Cinemas Guzzo

Following the most recent requests from the Government of Quebec regarding the spread of COVID-19, we wish to confirm that all Cinémas Guzzo will be closed from October 1st to October 28th inclusively.

As usual, we are monitoring the situation very closely and will adjust as necessary based on requests from the authorities. Our priority will remain above all else, the health of our employees and the public.

The Cinémas Guzzo Team

#EnsembledanslapréventiondelaCOVID | #AllTogetherInCOVIDPrevention

Ticket offenders, rather than close movie theatres, says Cinémas Guzzo head

Quebec more interested in 'perception,' than dealing effectively with COVID, says Vince Guzzo

'Whoever doesn't respect the rules, shut them down. But don't shut down a whole industry,' says Cinémas Guzzo president



MARTIN C. BARRY
marty@newsfirst.ca

Although the provincial government announced last week that \$50 million in compensation will be paid to the operators of cultural venues and live theatres to offset the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, film theatre chain executive Vince Guzzo is wondering why Quebec is penalizing companies like his, while doing nothing to actually enforce COVID-19 sanitation regulations.

Closed until Oct. 28

Under new regulations that came into effect in the Montreal region last week in the highest-alert "red" zones decreed by Quebec to combat the spread of COVID-19, cinemas, bars, theatres, casinos and museums are closed from Oct. 1 to Oct. 28.

Guzzo, whose family founded the Cinémas Guzzo chain 46 years ago, is incensed that the government seems to prefer not taking concrete action against individuals who are openly breaking sanitary rules, while penalizing companies by forcing them to shut – even though they've complied with all the regulations.

A feeling of powerlessness

"The day that my behavior – that is what I do or don't do – is no longer relevant to what happens, and whether my theatres are open or not, means I have become the most powerless person that exists," Guzzo said in an interview this week with Newsfirst Multimedia.

"In other words, if you're closing my theatres not because we violated confinement laws, not because we have COVID cases coming out of movie theatres, not because we're a high-risk market – and you've got to remember we were shut down beginning in March – once we re-opened and after operating in July, August and September and there were zero cases coming out of movie theatres, and zero media coverage saying we were not respecting the rules – and everybody was saying there was no issue with movie theatres – but the government still shuts us down.

A perception problem

"But they don't shut down shopping malls, they don't shut down gyms and other stuff," he continued. "So now there's a problem. And that problem is that we're being shut down for perception reasons. That's where the problem is: we are literally in a position where whatever we

do or whatever we don't do is irrelevant."

While noting that Premier François Legault made it abundantly clear while announcing the new regulations last week that the government was determined to stop people from socializing, Guzzo said he was outraged that Quebec didn't include parks and other publicly-owned gathering places in the ban.

"When you see that they couldn't control who was playing the tam-tam at the park," he said, noting the public drumming events that drew large crowds to the edge of Mount Royal this past summer, in defiance of the government's standing recommendation against holding large gatherings.

Damned if we do or don't

"Don't blame us – shut down your parks," added Guzzo, maintaining that Cinémas Guzzo meticulously followed all the sanitation rules imposed by the government. "You know, we've actually been controlling our premises. It's a very awkward situation to be in. Damned if we do and damned if we don't."

Guzzo's reading of the government's message goes like this: "We're going to shut down theatres because you are a socializing outlet. Whether you are a problem socializing outlet or not is irrelevant to them. We're shutting you down, they're saying. Which is what's bothersome."

"My argument with the Legault government is: whoever doesn't respect the rules, shut them down. But don't shut down a whole industry. Shut down the restaurant that's violating the rules. The bar that's violated the rules. Shut down whoever's not getting these rules respected."

Why no tickets, asks Guzzo

Regarding the province's notable hesitation up to now to aggressively ticket individual sanitation rule violators, Guzzo said, "They should be giving tickets. When CNESST [Commission des normes, de l'équité, de la santé et de la sécurité du travail] comes into my theatres or onto my construction sites, if there's something wrong I get a ticket. So how come the government isn't doing that with such a severe situation as COVID-19?"

(For the record, Guzzo pointed out that Cinémas Guzzo wasn't cited even once since re-opening in July for any alleged failure to abide by the COVID-19 sanitation regulations.) He suggested that the government seems more interested in maintaining a "perception" that it is taking effective action to deal with the pandemic, while not going after those who are actually causing it and making it worse.

◀ Continued from page 2

West) were right when they wrote the song.

We can only hope that one day soon, we'll all be singing the lyrics: "I'll get over you I know I will/ You made a hole in my heart ..."

One can hope, can't he?

Regardless, the test clinic will still be there this week ... Wednesday, October 7th and Thursday, October 8th from 11AM to 7PM. So if you feel symptoms and you live in the area, stop on by and you'll be done in a jiff.

◀ Continued from page 3

cars is and was extremely low ... we hope only that these bike paths planned—if any are—won't add to construction or the creation of one-way streets in this borough specifically. They also plan to: "Continue the development of social housing. Maximize the digital presence in the service offering to the population. Maintain the redevelopment of green spaces, sports grounds and furniture for the good to be of the population. Maintain the green alleys program. Optimize snow and ice removal operations on the road and sidewalks. Continue the process for the creation of a business development company. Begin the development of a cultural district. Maintain efforts in prevention and in the fight against unsanitary housing and cleanliness of public space."

A new budget for new needs—budgetary challenges for 2021

The challenges listed are more than understandable, and the council took to talking about it with hope, the new challenges brought on by Covid-19 certainly something that took up quite a bit of time ...

"Indexation of 1% of budget transfers determined by the City for 2021 does not cover the real increase in the cost of salaries and contracts (including annual growth in labor). Participation in the effort to finance the transitional measures relating to the retirement results in an additional decrease of \$ 262,000 in the overall budget of the rounding ... Income from limited local sources; additional expenses to protect employees and population from the effects of COVID-19."

Presentation of the 2021 budget – the council's choices for 2021

"Pursue actions responding to political and citizen priorities, optimizing spending, in particular through the adoption of a financial support policy. Restructure operations with a view to organizational performance. Maintain the level of service to citizens. Do not increase the local tax rate. Maximize income from local sources. The borough presents a balanced budget between revenues and expenses of \$ 60,365,500, an increase of 1.6% (\$ 909,400) compared to the budget of the previous year; a budget that rationalizes expenses (decrease of \$ 350,000); a budget that limits the increase in the local tax to inflation (2%). Increase in the target of revenues from local sources in order to maintain our level of services to citizens."

They further presented a plan moving forward even to 2030 through a PowerPoint presentation.

Disagreement by the council members

In the case of 'Renovictions,' the council definitely disagreed, with apparently 4 council members on one side of the spectrum and borough mayor Fumagalli on the other. In the case of 'Renovictions,' it is quite the sensitive topic in the city as of late, and borough councilor Mary Deros, as well as three of the other council members ... Josué Corvil, Rosannie Filato and Sylvain Ouellet, feel one way about it, the mayor another. It was obvious during the proceedings, but the four council members passed a motion in favor to their convictions that day and it could mean a big change is coming soon regarding this topic.

We will have more on this story in the next issue as it is still in development.

◀ Continued from page 3

before the pandemic, they not being aware of proper hand-washing and distancing measures.

Who is being asked to close?

And in another shocking turn of events, it has been gyms that have been asked to close once again, despite the fact that most gyms were operating on an appointment based fashion for quite some time now. This of course is in addition to all other aforementioned businesses asked to close until the 28 day period is over.

These new rules will be set in place as of Thursday October 8th.

Why aren't they closing schools completely?

And this is definitely a question that has saturated Social Media in Montreal since this announcement made the rounds on the internet, and the question that keeps coming up is that despite the changes that have already been made, the numbers have not ceased to rise ... the numbers spiking with 1000 cases or more for four straight days! Something is obviously wrong somewhere, many feel, the decisions not making much sense overall.

To many, the new rules and protocols seem to be a lot more work than is necessary right at this time.

The government is also looking to hire a whole team of janitors that they will reportedly pay 20-24 dollars an hour in schools, money that perhaps could have gone elsewhere right now had they closed schools and offered remote studies via Zoom for students of all ages.

So as the numbers rise, many are left to wonder if this new form of lockdown will truly end on the 28th, as was originally projected. Because as numbers rise daily, newer rules seem to be put in place at least every week, which is the track record after just two. We'll keep you posted both here and online, dear readers ... <http://www.px-news.com/>

◀ Continued from page 5

keeping the park clean is also up to the people that hang out there as well. She implores that people stop feeding the birds, as this leads to the infestation of rats as well. She also asks that people stop throwing their garbage and empty beer cans and wine bottles in the bushes.

She further stated that she meets with the police every two weeks and says that the police are working on the park. Further, she is working to see what kind of shelter can be found for those that sleep in the park at nights now that the cold weather approaches.

There are two sides to every coin

So maybe in the end, it's a two way street, as City Councilor Deros states: those that hang out there can also do their part to keep it cleaner, and the city can possibly keep it a tad cleaner on their end, maybe having it cleaned a tad more often.

And to the stranger in the park: Thanks for the heads-up. Hope this helps.

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VIAU, Réjeanne
1926 - 2020

At Résidence Champagnat, in St-Jean-sur-Richelieu, on September 28, 2020, at the age of 94, passed away Réjeanne Viau, wife of the late Paul Gingras. She is survived by her children: Louise, Pierre (Jackie Savard) and Manon; his grandchildren: Jean-François, Karine and Manon, his great-grandchildren, as well as several other relatives and friends.



KRAMAR (nee Horvat), Maria
1928 - 2020

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Maria Horvat on October 3, 2020 at the age of ninety-two. Beloved wife of the late Augustin Kramar. Loving mother of Emil (Lucy). Cherished grandmother of Tammy, Jason (Adriana) and Mathew (Genevieve). Dear sister of Stefan (late Lilian) late Josef (Maria), Krista (late Martin), late Katarina (late Martin) and Liza (late Miska). She will also be sadly missed by nieces and nephews as well as many other relatives and friends.



MARDINI, Pierre
1961 - 2020

In Montreal, on Friday, October 2, 2020 at the age of 59 years passed away PIERRE MARDINI, beloved husband of Nawal Obaid. He will be sadly missed by his wife Nawal, his sons Joseph Pierre (Myriam Mourad), Jean Pierre and Roy Pierre, his brothers Hanna (Hilda Merjaneh), Rizkallah (Emelia Aroutin) and late George, his sisters Jeannette (late Jean Karkajian), late Amal (late Michel Belouneh), Houda (Samir Merjaneh), Ghada (Michel Daulatly), Maha (Antoine Kaspar) and Hala (Joseph Mazzek), his brother-in-law Nizar, his sisters-in-law Zeinah (Pierre Homs) and Nada.



LABERGE, Gaétane
1945 - 2020

In the palliative care unit of Maisonneuve-Rosemont Hospital, on September 30, 2020, passed away Mrs. Gaétane Laberge, wife of Mr. Marcel Fauteux. She leaves to mourn her daughters Anick-France and Sylvie, her beautiful children Sylvain, Nancy, Marie-France and Stéphane, her grandchildren Vanessa, Jonathan, Raphaël and Gabriel, her sister Jacqueline, her brother Jacques-Gilles as well as her nephews and nieces, relatives and friends.



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Week of OCTOBER 11 TO 17, 2020

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ARIES

A few hours of overtime at work this week will temporarily improve your financial situation. This will allow you to dedicate more time to your relationship, which may need some attention.



TAURUS

You'll be in the right place at the right time to stand out and make a good impression. You'll be proud of yourself this week. At work, you'll be rewarded or at least given sincere recognition.



GEMINI

It'll be hard to get you out of the house. You'll feel attached to old belongings that are taking up too much space. In the end, you'll be able to get rid of the clutter.



CANCER

You won't hold your tongue this week, and you'll speak up when others remain silent. You'll need to demonstrate authority as you navigate a complex situation in order to overcome an impasse.



LEO

You'll likely have to invest considerably in your career this week. You might also purchase a new vehicle to avoid a breakdown and improve your image.



VIRGO

You'll go out of your way to impress others. At work, you'll gather a large client base and achieve one of your top ambitions. Your hard work will lead to success.



LIBRA

If you're looking for the perfect job, you'll find the inspiration you need to choose the right path. You'll also benefit from having an active imagination as it will allow you to create a masterpiece.



SCORPIO

If you don't get moving, your sedentary lifestyle will start to negatively affect your health. You'll invite friends to exercise as a group to help you stay motivated.



SAGITTARIUS

Whether you're starting a new career or approaching retirement, this week you'll try to clearly identify your next steps. If you want your future to meet your expectations, you need to make a plan.



CAPRICORN

A training program will propel your career to new heights. You'll need a lot of patience to overcome the challenges ahead, but something will inspire you to persevere.



AQUARIUS

You'll spend a lot of time reflecting on your environment and eventually make significant changes to your surroundings. You'll need to assess your priorities and determine what's best for you.



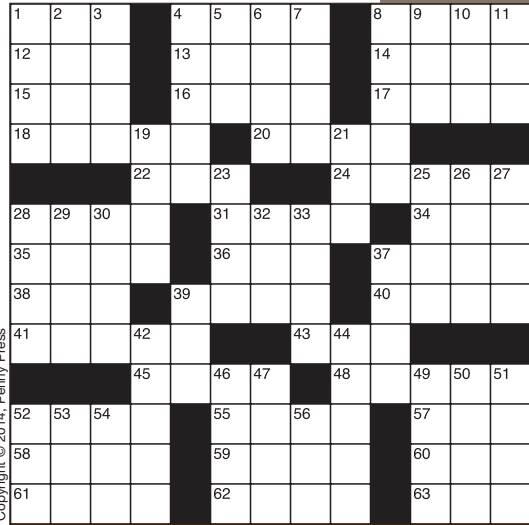
PISCES

You'll be inclined to say yes to everyone, but this will make it harder to keep your promises. It's difficult to make a decision without all the necessary information, so make sure you reflect long and hard.

Coffee Break

CROSSWORDS

PUZZLE NO. 1002



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ACROSS

1. Find a sum
4. Basis
8. Husband's spouse
12. Scheduled to arrive
13. Jealousy
14. Constant
15. Slippery fish
16. Pile
17. Stared at
18. Piece
20. Security device
22. Mischievous child
24. Consuming
28. Door fastener
31. Found's companion
34. ___ good to be true
35. Yield to

DOWN

- commands
36. Kind of grain
37. Skin condition
38. Long scarf
39. Old stringed instrument
40. ___ So Cold"
41. Wait on
43. Filled dessert
45. Slick
48. Unpleasant
52. Unruly kid
55. Diamond calls
57. Distinctive time
58. Price
59. Chimney duct
60. Walking on ___
61. Highly impressed
62. Printed words
63. Like a ___ of bricks
1. Summer coolers
2. Fencing event
3. Snack store
4. Tailor again
5. Wallet stuffer
6. Shaped like an egg
7. Printed mistake
8. Calendar divisions
9. Climbing plant
10. Lawyer's payment
11. Discontinue
19. Detroit, e.g.
21. Used scissors on
23. Scheme
25. Urge
26. ___ but the Brave"
27. "Life ___ On"
28. Certain haircuts
29. Clarinet's cousin
30. "King ___"
32. Rowing device
33. Stair
37. Cruising
39. Floral wreath
42. Cast a ballot
44. Map graphic
46. Place for hay
47. Santa's time
49. Sofa
50. Set of three
51. Knitter's material
52. Bathing-suit part
53. Uncooked
54. Had food
56. Semiformal wear

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY:

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

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

PUZZLE NO. 726

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

Last Issues' Answers

CROSSWORDS

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

Sudoku

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

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