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150 Parc-Ex residents march against bike path plans



Page 2



Our office will be closed for the vacation period!

 Our next issue will be published on **August 18th**.

 We wish you a pleasant and safe vacation!



Page 7

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'Don't touch the parking!'

Critics of Parc Ex bike path strategy take their beef to council

MARTIN C. BARRY
marty@newsfirst.ca

More than 150 Parc Extension residents, who have serious concerns about the Borough of VSMPE's plan to reduce parking spaces to create bike paths on Ball, De l'Épée and Querbes avenues, staged a noisy but peaceful march from Athena Park to the borough's Ogilvy Ave. administrative offices to table a petition demanding the strategy be withdrawn or put to a referendum.

"Don't touch the parking! Don't touch the parking!" the marchers called out loudly as they walked the short distance from the Jean Talon St. park to the borough hall, along de l'Épée and Ogilvy.

Will be less parking

According to an outline of the borough's bike path plans for 2023, 39 parking spaces will be withdrawn on the south side of Ball Ave. between Stuart and Durocher as a result of the introduction of a bike route along that east/west street.

"They can't go through with this project," longtime Parc Ex resident Mario Di Chiaro, who organized the demo, said in an interview with Nouvelles Parc Extension News. At one time, he was a political organizer for former borough mayor Anie Samson.

"Right now people on Querbes who work at night have to park on Champagnieur at eleven o'clock at night," said Di Chiaro. "So, imagine if they take out one side of the street, people are

going to end up having to park in Town of Mount Royal. It's terrible."

If the borough proceeds, 55 spaces will be removed on the west side of de l'Épée between Ogilvy and Beaumont avenues. More significantly, nearly 160 parking spaces will eventually be eliminated on the east side of Querbes between Ogilvy and De Liège in order to extend a bike path on a 1.36-kilometre-long stretch of that north/south street.

Losing touch with family

During a June 27 public meeting organized by local city councillor Mary Deros, several residents got up to speak out about the impact the loss of parking spaces will have on them. One longtime resident who is of Greek origin complained that without parking near his home, members of his family who now live in other areas of Montreal will be unable to visit with their children because there will be nowhere to park.

Although the number of people of Greek origin in Parc Extension has diminished considerably since its peak during the 1970s, Di Chiaro said that "a lot of the Greek people who still live here are wondering how their children and grandchildren will come?"

Registers and referenda

While City of Montreal regulations for the holding of referenda currently require at least 25 residents' signatures just to initiate a register as the first step for a referendum, the support of up



to 10,000 additional residents could be required if they hope to achieve their goal.

Although borough administrators often limit the number of demonstrators admitted for public council meetings when the demonstrators seem agitated, Di Chiaro declared to the crowd outside that Borough Mayor Laurence Lavigne Lalonde is "afraid of us. She knows we are out here. But we will win. Mark my words."

'You have no plan'

Inside the borough council meeting chamber, Councillor Deros tabled the petition with the first signatures. During question period, Di Chiaro asked the borough mayor how she expects the rules of the road to be respected by cyclists when they're using the new bike paths, when many don't bother now to stop for red lights or stop signs.

"You have no plan, you haven't completed any studies, you didn't consult the population of Parc Extension, of Saint-Michel – what are you doing?" he said.

Maintaining that motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists all break traffic rules at some point, the borough mayor said that singling out one group was not "based on real facts." Di Chiaro said the lack of public consultation suggested the borough was behaving "like the socialists and the communists in Russia. It makes no sense. That's the Plante administration."

Supporters speaks out

Although those with objections to the removal of parking spaces to make more room for bikes outnumbered those supporting the plan, Félicie Bourgoin-Lamy spoke up in favour of the latter. "There are a lot of people here tonight who are against, but there are also those here who are for," she said.

Among the reasons she cited for building more bike paths are improved road safety, as well as an opportunity to open up Parc Extension, which is a district that has always tended to be cut off by physical boundaries from the rest of Montreal.

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3860, boul. Notre-Dame, # 304,
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E-mail: editor@newsfirst.ca

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Publishers:

George Bakoyannis
George S. Guzman

General Director:

George Bakoyannis

VP Sales & Marketing:

George S. Guzman
sales@newsfirst.ca

Graphic Design:

Lareine Zakhour
Elena Molter
Thomas Bakoyannis

Advertising:

Jean Paul Chamberland

Editorial Staff:

Martin C. Barry
Maria Diamantis
Renata Isopo

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info@reseausselect@tc.tc



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OPINION & Editorial



Students and Public Education before Profit

The COVID-19 pandemic has been an unprecedented disruptor to in-person education throughout the world and Canada was no exception. With little to no notice at all, teachers across the country found themselves teaching their students through computer screens and apps instead of in their classrooms. Switching to virtual learning created many challenges, such as securing sufficient devices and high-speed internet access for teachers and students, but the damaging legacy of the sudden change continues.

Emergency remote virtual learning became part of the daily routine of secondary, elementary, and even kindergarten students. But even as the severity of the pandemic waned, and students returned to in-person learning, repercussions of rash solutions introduced in 2020 remain. Those digital solutions, although practical to making virtual teaching and learning possible when being in school was not, have led to massive data trails left by students. Like easily found breadcrumbs, these trails have been gobbled up by edu-businesses looking to profit off the backs of students. From student assessment data to personal details, companies have obtained troves of information to monetize

children and publicly funded public education.

Although technology companies have been working their way into classrooms for some time now, the pandemic fast-tracked student data collection. Governments enthusiastically invited big tech into the classroom, and the technological advances that made it possible for students and teachers to stay somewhat connected while school buildings were closed came at the cost of privacy and the very principles of publicly funded public education.

When schools pivoted to emergency remote-learning, tech companies had the opportunity to analyse data streams produced by students the same way they analyse the rest of the Internet – for marketing purposes. Suddenly, students became vulnerable like never before.

The mere existence of data is not the concern, but the way it is handled and sold is. Student assessment data only belongs in the hands of qualified teachers and public institutions that use it to assess student learning needs and allocate resources accordingly. When student data is used to market private tutoring services, sell learning apps, or become an indicator of neighbourhood profitability for the real estate indus-

try, privatization and monetization threaten both equity and the very core of quality public education.

In response to the increasing and unchecked monetization of student data, the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF/FCE) strongly condemns any use of student assessment data for corporate profit. We call on the provincial and territorial governments to act by taking steps to protect privacy and prevent the misuse of student data. The CTF/FCE also calls upon the federal government to pass Bill C-27 to comprehensively protect consumer privacy and data of all Canadians.

While the CTF/FCE fully supports the use of appropriate technology in the professionally trained hands of teachers to help educate Canada's youth, a line must be drawn when technology becomes a gateway to profiteering from students and our publicly funded public education systems. We must act now to expel edu-businesses from our schools to once again make classrooms safe places to teach and learn, putting students and public education before profit.

Sam Hammond, CTF/FCE president

ANGRY? FRUSTRATED? ANNOYED?

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MESSAGE IMPORTANT

Après 30 ans, Nouvelles Parc-Extension met fin à sa distribution porte-à-porte.

Le journal du 3 mai a été la dernière édition livrée par le biais du service fourni par PUBLIC SAC.

Depuis sa première édition en 1993, **NOUVELLES PARC EXTENSION NEWS** a confié à PUBLIC SAC le mandat de livrer notre journal, votre journal, à votre porte.

Sur cette note, nous tenons à remercier tous les travailleurs qui étaient à l'arrière et à l'avant des coulisses pour livrer **NOUVELLES PARC EXTENSION NEWS** à votre porte.

Toutefois, le 17 mai 2023 a pris effet le règlement municipal touchant tous les documents imprimés distribués de porte à porte, sauf par Postes Canada.

L'objectif est de réduire autant que possible le tonnage de papier à recycler :

La ville affirme qu'environ 800 000 dépliant et autres publicités sont distribués à Montréal chaque semaine, ce qui représente environ 40 millions par année.

« La Ville de Montréal s'est fixé l'objectif ambitieux de devenir une ville zéro déchet d'ici 2030. Pour atteindre cet objectif, le volume de matériaux d'enfouissement doit être réduit de 85 pour cent, ce qui représente une réduction de 10 kg de déchets par personne et par année », estime la mairesse de Montréal Valérie Plante.

« Les villes doivent prendre des mesures fortes pour faire face à la crise climatique et ce règlement nous permettra de réduire à la source une quantité importante de papier et de plastique en circulation à Montréal », a déclaré la mairesse Plante.

Par conséquent, à compter du 17 mai, **NOUVELLES PARC EXTENSION NEWS** n'est plus livré de porte à porte.

Vous pourrez prendre votre copie à de nombreux points de distribution locaux sélectionnés, tels que les bâtiments publics, les pharmacies, les épicerie, les boulangeries, etc. publiés sur cette page.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE

After 30 years, Park Extension News is ending its door-to-door distribution.

The May 3rd newspaper was the last issue that was delivered through the service that PUBLIC SAC provides.

Since its first edition in 1993, **PARK EXTENSION NEWS** entrusted PUBLIC SAC with the mandate to deliver our paper, your paper, to your door.

On that note, we would like to thank all the workers that were behind and front of the scenes to deliver **PARK EXTENSION NEWS** to your door.

However, on May 17, 2023 took in effect the municipal by-law affecting all printed material that was distributed door to door, except by Canada Post.

The goal is to reduce as much as possible the paper tonnage to be recycled:

The city says around 800,000 flyers and other advertisements are distributed in Montreal every week, adding up to about 40 million per year.

"The City of Montreal has set an ambitious goal of becoming a zero-waste city by 2030. To reach this goal, the volume of landfill material must be reduced by 85 per cent, which represents a reduction of 10 kg of waste per person per year," believes Montreal Mayor Valérie Plante.

"Cities must take strong action to address the climate crisis, and this by-law will allow us to reduce at the source a significant amount of paper and plastic in circulation in Montreal," said Mayor Plante.

Therefore, since May 17, **PARK EXTENSION NEWS** is no longer delivered door-to-door.

You will be able to pick up your copy at many selected local distribution points, such as public buildings, grocery stores, pharmacies, bakeries etc. published on this page.

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Air travellers, here's what you need to know about compensation

What is a Canadian airline's responsibility to passengers as the summer travel season gets in full swing? What are your rights as a traveller? Here's what you need to know.

If a disruption is out of the airline's control

Airlines must comply with Canada's Air Passenger Protection Regulations (APPR). When a flight is delayed or cancelled, airlines must first inform passengers of the reason in plain language, regardless of whether the situation is in their control or not. They also must ensure that the traveller completes their journey.

According to a spokesperson for Air Canada recent Canada Day weekend disruptions were due to bad weather, particularly storms in the U.S. and Montreal. It also cited the busy travel season.

"As with any system, when it is operating at full capacity it may slow processes down and take longer to recover when issues arise," the statement said.

The APPR lists ten scenarios that would count as being outside of an airline's control, including bad weather, war, a medical emergency, airport issues or a security threat. If an earlier flight impacted by something out of the airline's control later affects a connecting flight, you won't be compensated for the second leg of your travels, either.

Airlines also don't have to provide food, drink or overnight lodging if they determine that a delay or cancellation was beyond their control.

But one advocate says not to give up if an airline shrugs its shoulders.

"Don't take Air Canada at their word that it's outside their control," said John Lawford, executive director of the Public Interest Advocacy Centre in Ottawa. "Because if you concede that something is outside their control, then they don't owe you compensation."

When a flight is delayed for more than three hours, the airline must rebook passengers on the soonest possible flight to their destination, should the traveller want them to.

But if your reason for travel was made futile by a missed flight or a long delay, the airline must refund the ticket if a customer asks them to and arrange for that person's return to their original location.

The airline always must communicate the reason for disrupting travels and what recourse an affected passenger might have against the carrier. Another rule under the APPR: Expect an update every thirty minutes until you have a new departure time or itinerary.

If a disruption is in the airline's control

If you're delayed for three hours or more, or if your flight is cancelled, the airline has to provide a refund or arrange alternate travel free of charge — either on the next available flight (on that airline or a different one) that is travelling on a similar route within nine hours of the original departure time.

They could also offer transportation to another airport within a reasonable distance that has an



Sleeping at the airports was a common burden for last year's passengers.

appropriate flight for you.

If your trip becomes useless because of the disruption, or if the arrangements offered don't fit your needs for another reason, the airline has to refund your ticket and get you on a flight back to your original location.

Refunds have to be sent within 30 days after the day it becomes the airline's responsibility to provide them, and they must be made in the original form of payment; the airline can also offer a different form of refund — such as a voucher — with some conditions.

There are different levels of financial compensation depending on how long your flight has

been delayed. For delays at arrival between three to six hours, the amount is \$400; between six and 9 hours, it's \$700; and for nine hours or more, it's \$1,000 — though these numbers could change if you're travelling with a smaller airline.

What travellers can do

Once three days have passed after you arrive at your final destination, you can file a formal claim with the airline customer relations to seek compensation. If 30 days pass after that and you aren't satisfied with how the claim has been handled, you can kick it up to the Canadian Transportation Agency.




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Wishing a warm welcome to all new residents of Parc-Extension!



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I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new neighbours in Parc-Extension



MARY DEROS
Conseillère de la Ville du district de Parc-Extension
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July 5, 2023

The following is a joint statement from the Danish Media Association, Digital Content Next, the Estonian Association of Newsmedia Enterprises, the European Newspaper Publishers' Association, the European Publishers Council, the Finnish Media Federation, the German Newspaper Publishers and Digital Publishers Association, the Inter American Press Association, the National Ethnic Press and Media Council of Canada, NDP Nieuwsmedia, the News/Media Alliance, News Media Canada, News Media Europe, News Media Finland, the Public Interest Publishers Alliance, the Swedish Media Publishers' Association, the Swiss Media Association, and the UK News Media Association on Google and Meta's threat to take down news in Canada after Canada's parliament passed the Online News Act (C-18) in June.

Global Reaction to Google and Meta Threat to Take Down News in Canada

While governments around the world are recognizing the immense importance of protecting high-quality journalism for future generations – trustworthy and reliable content that keeps our communities and lawmakers informed, accountable, engaged, and entertained – Google and Meta are fighting tooth and nail against efforts to ensure news publishers get paid for the content they invest considerable time and resources in to produce.

First in Europe and Australia, and now in Canada, these monopolists have threatened to pull news from their platforms and services in response to laws allowing news publishers to negotiate with them for fair compensation; publishers, many of which represent small local papers, who otherwise would not have any leverage against the dominant platforms.

In Europe, in some member states competition authorities stepped in. In Australia, the government stood firm and both companies eventually withdrew their irresponsible threats that would have caused incalculable damage to the Australian public. Only when sufficient political and regulatory pressure was applied to them, the platforms have started to negotiate deals in Europe, as well as with Australian publishers that have resulted in increased hiring of journalists and more revenues to publishers. In Canada, the law – the Online News Act – is new, but Google and Meta's tactics are old. We call on both companies to act like socially responsible corporate citizens, stand down and accept that the world is changing, and recognize that the law has been passed through the democratic process and the platforms can no longer prosper by abusing their dominance in the market at the cost of everyone else.

Faits saillants du conseil d'arrondissement

Des millions de dollars pour protéger les plus vulnérables



Lors de la séance du conseil d'arrondissement de Villeray–Saint-Michel–Parc-Extension (VSP), hier, les élu(e)s ont accordé des contributions financières totalisant près de 3 M\$ pour soutenir 20 projets de 17 organismes communautaires sur le territoire de VSP, dans le cadre de l'appel à projets du programme Prévention Montréal, lancé au printemps dernier.

Les projets, qui visent les enfants et les jeunes âgés de moins de 30 ans et leurs parents vivant en situation de vulnérabilité ou à risque d'exclusion, rejoignent plusieurs objectifs de l'approche novatrice de sa Stratégie jeunesse en prévention de la criminalité de l'arrondissement

ainsi que plusieurs recommandations issues du Diagnostic local sur la sécurité des filles, des femmes et des aînées de VSP.

« Ensemble, la Stratégie jeunesse en prévention de la criminalité et le Diagnostic local sur la sécurité des filles, des femmes et des aînées nous permettent d'avoir un portrait global et détaillé de la sécurité urbaine de notre territoire. On comprend davantage les enjeux liés à chacun des groupes ciblés et on sait donc mieux où et comment intervenir. Mais pour changer les choses, on va devoir faire appel à tous nos partenaires, dont les organismes communautaires, qui sont des alliés de premier plan dans la prévention à la violence », souligne Laurence Lavigne Lalonde, mairesse de l'arrondissement de Villeray–Saint-Michel–Parc-Extension.

Créé par la Ville de Montréal, le programme Prévention Montréal vise à engager une action structurante afin d'améliorer la qualité de vie et la sécurité des enfants, des jeunes et de leurs familles.

La sécurité des femmes au cœur des priorités de VSP

L'Arrondissement a confié un mandat au Centre international pour la prévention de la criminalité (CIPC) afin d'élaborer un Diagnostic local de sécurité chez les filles, les femmes et les aînées à VSP, une première pour un arrondissement montréalais.

Dans les précédents exercices de réflexions menés par VSP, les informations relatives à la sécurité des femmes, des filles et des aînées de l'arrondissement étaient beaucoup moins nombreuses. Plusieurs angles morts étaient présents. L'Arrondissement a donc demandé au CIPC de dresser un portrait quantitatif et qualitatif de l'ampleur et la nature de l'insécurité ainsi que de la sûreté chez les adolescentes (12-17 ans), les jeunes femmes (18-25 ans), les femmes adultes (26-64 ans) et les aînées (65 ans et plus) de l'arrondissement.

Les analyses ont permis à près de 100

citoyennes de tous âges et des trois quartiers de VSP de s'exprimer ainsi qu'à 22 partenaires de partager leurs expériences, enrichissant ainsi le Diagnostic. Elles ont aussi permis de soulever des enjeux importants vécus par les filles, les femmes et les aînées de l'arrondissement comme la cyberviolence, la cyberintimidation, le harcèlement de rue et les microagressions, le sentiment d'insécurité dans les transports en commun de même que la violence familiale ou commise par l'entourage.

De plus, les analyses ont permis de formuler 11 recommandations afin d'intervenir directement sur les enjeux soulevés, par exemple en favorisant la mobilisation communautaire pour mieux intervenir en matière de prévention des violences, en soutenant les parents et en incluant les hommes dans le renforcement de la sécurité des filles, femmes et aînées. L'Arrondissement déposera dans les prochains mois un plan détaillé en lien avec chaque recommandation.

Borough Council Allocates Millions to Protect Vulnerable Individuals in Villeray–Saint-Michel–Parc-Extension



DIMITRIS ILIAS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter for Parc-Extension News
dimitri@newsfirst.ca

Millions of dollars have been allocated by the Villeray–Saint-Michel–Parc-Extension (VSP) borough council to protect the most vulnerable individuals in the community. During the recent council session, elected officials approved financial contributions amounting to nearly \$3 million to support 20 projects initiated by 17 community organizations within the VSP territory. These projects are part of the Montreal Prevention Program, a call for projects that was launched last spring.

The focus of these initiatives is to assist children, young people under 30, and their parents who are living in vulnerable situations or are at risk of exclusion. The projects align with the innovative approach of the Youth Crime Prevention Strategy of the borough and incorporate several recommendations from the local assessment on the safety of girls, women, and seniors in VSP.

By combining the Youth Crime Prevention Strategy and the local assessment, a comprehensive and detailed overview of the urban safety of the territory has been achieved. This understanding of the specific challenges faced by each target group allows for more effective intervention strategies. The involvement of various partners, including community organizations, is crucial in the prevention of violence.

Laurence Lavigne Lalonde, the Mayor of the VSP borough, emphasized the significance of the Montreal Prevention Program, which was created by the City of Montreal. The program aims to take structured action in order to enhance the quality of life and ensure the safety of children, youth, and their families.

One of the top priorities of the VSP borough is the safety of women. For the first time in a Montreal borough, the Borough has commis-

sioned the International Centre for the Prevention of Crime (ICPC) to develop a local safety assessment specifically focused on girls, women, and seniors in VSP.

Previous reflections conducted by VSP revealed a lack of information concerning the safety of women, girls, and seniors in the borough, with several blind spots identified. To address this, the Borough tasked the ICPC with providing a quantitative and qualitative overview of the extent and nature of insecurity, as well as safety, among

different age groups, including adolescents (12-17 years), young women (18-25 years), adult women (26-64 years), and seniors (65 years and older).

The analysis process involved the participation of nearly 100 citizens from all age groups across the three neighbourhoods of VSP. Additionally, 22 partners shared their experiences, enriching the assessment. The analysis highlighted significant issues faced by girls, women, and seniors in the borough, including cyber violence, cyberbullying, street harassment, microaggressions,

feelings of insecurity in public transportation, and family or domestic violence.

Based on the findings, 11 recommendations were formulated to directly address these issues. The recommendations include promoting community mobilization to enhance violence prevention, supporting parents, and involving men in strengthening the safety of girls, women, and seniors. The Borough will present a detailed plan in the coming months that will be aligned with each recommendation.



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“The End of Icebergs” Exhibition Explores the Devastating Effects of Climate Change

DIMITRIS ILIAS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter for Parc-Extension News
dimitri@newsfirst.ca

Get ready to embark on a thought-provoking journey as the highly anticipated exhibition, “The End of Icebergs,” opened its doors to the public on June 21st at the Parc-Extension Exhibition Hall. Curated by Marie Perrault, this captivating display showcases the visionary work of artist Daniel Corbeil, who ingeniously draws inspiration from photo novels and comic books to create a science fiction narrative that highlights the urgent environmental challenges we face.

At the heart of the exhibition lies a captivating story that unfolds within the realm of Daniel Corbeil’s imagination. In this narrative, two groups with conflicting interests find themselves locked in a battle for the last remaining iceberg on Earth. Through a series of striking installations, photographs, and drawings, Corbeil skillfully captures the devastating effects of climate change and the profound impact of human activities on our planet’s degradation.

The exhibition masterfully juxtaposes the direct actions of a fictional group of environmental activists, inspired by organizations like Greenpeace, against large-scale technological engineering operations aimed at artificially preserving the dwindling ice mass. By presenting these contrasting perspectives on how to address climate change, Corbeil



prompts viewers to confront profound ethical questions about our role in shaping the future of our planet.

What sets Corbeil’s artistic approach apart is his commitment to sustainable practices and the creative reuse of materials. In a world plagued by rampant consumerism and its detrimental effects on the environment, Corbeil’s practice of recycling serves as a powerful antidote. By repurposing materials and challenging conventional notions of waste, the artist urges us to reconsider our own habits and the impact they have on the Earth.

To fully appreciate the depth of Daniel Corbeil’s artistic vision, it is worth delving into his background. Born in Val-d’Or, Abitibi, Corbeil now resides and works in Montreal, where he taught visual arts at Collège du Vieux-Montréal for over two decades. With a Bachelor’s degree and a Master’s degree in Fine Arts, his expertise and passion shine through in every piece exhibited.

“The End of Icebergs” exhibition will run until August 20, 2023, providing ample time for visitors to immerse themselves in Corbeil’s captivating world of art and environmental contemplation.

One of the remarkable aspects of this exhibition is its accessibility. No registration is required to visit, ensuring that anyone interested in exploring the profound themes of climate change and sustainability can easily attend and be inspired by Corbeil’s thought-provoking creations.

“The End of Icebergs” promises to be an unmissable event, offering a unique blend of artistic expression and environmental consciousness. It invites Park-Exers to reflect on the current state of our planet and the collective responsibility we bear in safeguarding its future.



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Parc-Extension cinema under the stars

Open-Air Screening at Dickie-Moore Park - Falcon Lake



DIMITRIS ILIAS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter for Parc-Extension News
dimitri@newsfirst.ca

Summer is in full swing, and what better way to enjoy the warm evenings than with a captivating outdoor movie experience? The borough invites the residents of Parc-Extension at Dickie-Moore Park as it presents its open-air screening series, in collaboration with Cinéma Publicon, July 21, 2023, from 8:45 PM to 10:40 PM.

One of the highlights of this event is the screening of the critically acclaimed Quebec film, Falcon Lake. This heartwarming tale follows the adventures of Bastien, a 13-year-old boy who embarks on a summer vacation with his family. Leaving behind the bustling streets of Paris, they find themselves at a charming cottage nestled beside a picturesque Quebec lake. Their gracious host is Louise, a dear old friend, and her daughter Chloé, a captivating presence that catches Bastien's eye. As fate would have it, the two teenagers end up sharing the same living space, leading to a remarkable

connection that transcends their differences.

Falcon Lake beautifully explores the themes of friendship, self-discovery, and overcoming fears. While Chloé exudes confidence and charm at the age of 16, Bastien is a bit more timid and reserved. Together, they navigate a world of peculiar games that leave an indelible mark on their lives. The film is a poignant reminder of the transformative power of relationships and the profound impact they can have on our journey towards personal growth.

To make the most of this enchanting movie night, the borough encourages residents to bring their own chairs, blankets, and even a picnic or snacks. Residents are also invited to find their perfect spot in the park, settle down comfortably, and immerse themselves in the cinematic magic unfolding before them.

Admission to the screening is completely free, and no tickets are required. However, please note that the event is weather-dependent. In case of unfavourable conditions, the screening will be cancelled to ensure the safety and enjoyment of all attendees.

Pocket Ashtray: A Way to Prevent Pollution and Fires, says VSP



DIMITRIS ILIAS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter for Parc-Extension News
dimitri@newsfirst.ca

Cigarette butts pose a significant threat to the environment and are a common cause of fires in cities. In an effort to address this issue, the borough of Villeray-Saint-Michel-Parc-Extension is promoting the use of pocket ashtrays as a solution to reduce the environmental impact and fire risk associated with cigarette butts.

Convenient and reusable

Pocket ashtrays are compact, odorless, and designed to be carried with you wherever you go. When there are no other ashtrays nearby, simply use the pocket ashtray to safely store your cigarette butts until you can dispose of them properly. These ashtrays are reusable, making them a practical and eco-friendly option.

Creating makeshift ashtrays

If you're hosting guests in your yard or on your balcony and they don't have pocket ashtrays, you can improvise by using a deep tin can filled with damp sand. Place the makeshift ashtray on a non-combustible surface to provide a safe place for cigarette disposal.

Where to find pocket ashtrays

Pocket ashtrays are readily available on the market and can be found in most Eco-Districts throughout Montreal. These portable ashtrays come in various designs and sizes, providing smokers with a convenient and responsible way to dispose of their cigarette butts.

The dangers of cigarette butts

Do you know about the phenomenon known as "litter-bugging"? It refers to the careless act of discarding cigarette butts anywhere without proper disposal. Unfortunately, this behavior is still prevalent due to social acceptance, despite the significant risks it poses.

Cigarette butts account for an alarming 30% of litter found on the ground in major cities like Montreal. Although they may seem small, cigarette butts are composed partly of plastic and contain up to 7,000 chemicals. Once discarded, it takes approximately 10 years for a single butt to decompose. When cigarette butts are blown by the wind and carried into the sewer system or watercourses by rainwater, they can pollute up to 500 liters of water.

Fire risk awareness

Improperly discarded cigarette butts can lead to fires, even when they appear extinguished. Some individuals throw their cigarette butts on sidewalks, while others may attempt to extinguish them in flower pots or flower beds. However, the dark soil and mulch found in these areas often contain flammable materials such as peat, moss, wood chips, and chemical fertilizers. When exposed to heat, these materials can easily ignite, creating a dangerous situation. It can take several hours for flames to appear after a cigarette butt has been discarded, especially if the soil is dry.

By using pocket ashtrays and properly disposing of cigarette butts, smokers can contribute to a cleaner environment and reduce the risk of fires caused by careless disposal. Let's all be responsible and do our part to prevent pollution and protect our surroundings.

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14 juillet 2023 / July 14, 2023 • Nouvelles Parc-Extension News • 11

No magic mushrooms for Montreal

DIMITRIS ILIAS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter for Parc-Extension News
dimitri@newsfirst.ca

To the chagrin of any Parc-Extension residents that might have been tempted to try them, Montreal's newest magic mushroom shop, Funguyz, faced swift action from law enforcement just hours after its grand opening. The Montreal Police Service (SPVM) conducted a raid on the illegal establishment, determined to uphold the law despite the shop's intentions to defy it.

Around 4 pm on Tuesday July 11th, a team of approximately ten SPVM officers entered Funguyz, situated on Ontario Street. SPVM spokesperson Jeanne Drouin confirmed that three individuals had been arrested during the raid, with additional searches planned for the hours to come. However, specific details regarding the targets of the arrests and the potential penalties they might face remained undisclosed.

Funguyz had boldly opened its doors that morning, fully aware of the legal consequences associated with the sale and possession of magic mushrooms and their active components, psilocybin and psilocin. Under the Canadian Criminal Code, these substances are prohibited unless authorized by Health Canada for therapeutic purposes.

Undeterred by the legal framework, Funguyz



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aimed to follow the example of 11 shops in Ontario, some of which had reopened after previous police interventions. Hector Hernandez, one of the owners of the Montreal shop, defiantly declared, "We are here to stay," emphasizing their commitment to challenging the authorities. Hernandez further warned that they would promptly resume operations as soon as the police left.

Funguyz catered to customers seeking various types of dried magic mushrooms and capsules. The SPVM refrained from commenting on the possibility of future raids should the shop reopen after the departure of law enforcement personnel. Ms. Drouin, while unwilling to disclose specific investigation techniques, reiterated that the sale of magic mushrooms and their derivatives remained illegal.

Despite the legal risks, the curiosity of customers was evident. Even before noon on the day of the raid, Funguyz had already welcomed over fifteen patrons. Francis, one customer who preferred anonymity, disclosed that he purchased a few grams of magic

mushrooms for therapeutic purposes, hoping to regain cognitive abilities impaired by a previous head trauma. Another unidentified customer expressed her curiosity about the shop's mushroom-infused chocolate bars, which she intended to enjoy recreationally with friends.

The possession of magic mushrooms or their derivatives is considered a criminal offense, carrying a maximum prison sentence of six months or up to a year for repeat offenses. Larger quantities intended for trafficking can lead to substantial fines and imprisonment of up to ten years.

Some experts argue that treating magic mushrooms as a public health issue rather than relying solely on criminal law would be a more effective approach. Eugene Oscapella, a lawyer and law professor at the University of Ottawa, drew parallels to the emergence of cannabis shops before legalization in 2018. He believes that regulating magic mushrooms through a public health lens, similar to tobacco and alcohol, would provide better outcomes.

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DIRECT ANSWERS

FROM WAYNE & TAMARA

DETOUR

Q I've been looking for so long to find someone to secretly talk to, to gain some insight, validation, or hope. My situation is the result of the choices I made, but I just need someone to hear me.

I have been married eight years. During the short time we dated, I knew he wasn't the true person I thought I'd spend my life with. The day I was going to tell him I didn't want to see him anymore was the day I learned I was pregnant. It was not intentional. While switching birth control pills, and continually being on them, I didn't use a backup method.

I was not raised to have a child out of wedlock, so I did what I thought was right. He wanted to marry me. I thought it was the right thing to do despite our start, but not surprisingly, we had problems.

The first three or four years were horrible, with small pockets of being so-so. He treated my daughter from a previous marriage with disdain, which hurts a child who tries to be loving. He's controlling and broken our vows. I know he had an affair because I found evidence and confronted him. He doesn't respect me enough to be honest.

A few years ago, after failed attempts at counseling, I left him. When people found out, he acted like he was the victim. I was furious because he knew the reasons, but led others to believe I abandoned him. I returned, but I am emotionally drained, hardened, angry and bitter.

I tried to make it work. Now, after all the headache and heartache, I can barely tolerate spending time with him. When he says a line he used to give me while stepping out on me, I flip my lid. It's like a trigger.

Now he says he doesn't want to lose his family. He wants me to say I love him, but I can't because I don't. Should I lie and say it anyway, just to make him feel better? I've built up this façade, so people don't know how

miserable I am.

I'm a professional, driven person and this has minimized me to nothing. I've lost my motivation for things I enjoy because I see no hope for the future. How can you build on feelings that were not there in the first place?

Peggy

A Peggy, going back was a mistake. It doesn't matter what other people think, especially when what they think makes

you live a lie, because then there is no truth anywhere. They don't see the truth, you aren't living the truth, so it is lies all around.

Some people say love is a decision, but you tried that and blatantly failed. Love is not a decision, and you knew he wasn't the right one in the first place. Without love, the relationship has been a disaster on both sides. All you had in common was sex and the child the two of you created.

People think an impostor can stand in the stead of love, but it can't. That is trying to trick yourself out of the real thing. Once you have been around false love for a while, you begin thinking what it would be like to have the real thing.

At what point would some people tell our children that false, made-up, worked-on feelings can replace love? Forget Shakespeare and Elizabeth Barrett Browning. Children can't be allowed to see this poetry because it will touch their hearts. You don't want children to grow up thinking there is real emotion, if you are going to teach the false.

So where are you now, Peggy? You are right back where you were in the beginning. It is time to tell this man you have taken the long way around to return to what you always knew was the right decision.

Wayne & Tamara

WAYNE & TAMARA MITCHELL are the authors of YOUR OTHER HALF (www.yourotherhalf.com)

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Week of JULY 16 TO 22, 2023

The luckiest signs this week:
VIRGO, LIBRA AND SCORPIO



ARIES

Self-esteem is essential for personal development. You'll be recognized for your accomplishments, which will fill you with pride. If you're single, having more self-confidence will get you noticed by the right person.



TAURUS

You don't have to go far to have an amazing summer vacation. Staying home and spending time with family is all you need. If you manage your time wisely, you'll be able to see all the people you haven't seen in a long time.



GEMINI

You'll feel restless and strike up conversations with several people. You'll spend hours discussing everything under the sun to get to know the people around you. You're naturally curious and will read anything you can get your hands on.



CANCER

Although you're still unsure about something, you'll look ahead and move forward with determination. You'll find the means to start your own business or treat yourself to a dream holiday.



LEO

A little excitement could do you good, as would maintaining dynamic relationships with your loved ones and developing new friendships. One activity won't wait for another. The New Moon could cause some confusion.



VIRGO

A little accumulated fatigue could slow you down. Try catching up on sleep. On the job, extra work combined with colleagues on vacation will force you to double your efforts.



LIBRA

Managing your social accounts will help you engage more effectively. You could organize a spontaneous trip or getaway with your loved ones, from which you'll bring back many unforgettable memories.



SCORPIO

You may take on a renovation or building project that will double the value of your home. The effort you put into improving your home will fill you with pride. Someone close to you will suggest an exciting outing.



SAGITTARIUS

You'll be given the opportunity to go on a getaway. You'll be inspired by a pilgrimage or spiritual activity. You may spend more time practicing new meditation techniques.



CAPRICORN

You'll have to get a handle on your emotions for one reason or another. You'll be called on for your generosity. At the very least, you'll have to take care of a loved one. Fatigue and stress could affect your mood; take some time off.



AQUARIUS

The new moon is the perfect time to create more harmony in your life. You could come across a new job opportunity, even in the middle of summer. You'll have to choose between two offers from people close to you.



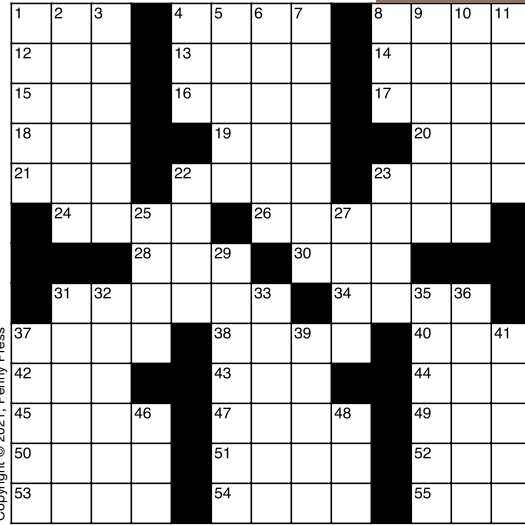
PISCES

The summer holidays are fast approaching! However, you won't take any time off until you've finished all your chores. At home, a deep cleaning or renovation project will bring you much satisfaction. Someone close to you will need you.

Coffee Break

CROSSWORDS

PUZZLE NO. 153



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ACROSS

- Hill builder
- Circular plate
- Poses a question
- Carpenter's cutter
- Indication of future events
- Examine
- Connection
- Filled tortilla
- Brave one
- ___ at ease
- Understood
- Capture
- Clergyman's title: abbr.
- Fender damage
- Morsels
- Food shop
- Mar
- Circle portion
- Like the Sahara
- Revolver

DOWN

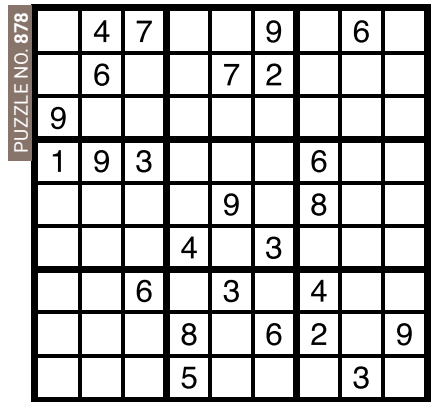
- To the ocean
- Dart
- Overly inquisitive
- 22nd letter
- Car engine's need
- Coffee container
- Give weapons to eye
- Seize
- Amend text
- Spotted playing cube
- List of activities
- Baseball's Rose
- Hearing organ
- Remarks further
- Part of a forest
- Stallone, to chums
- symbol
- Mental picture
- Minute part
- Tightly entangled
- Blond shade
- Pleasing to the eye
- A martial art
- Snooty ones
- ___-cheap
- Inlets
- Eyelid hair
- Fight
- Idea
- Coupled
- "Treasure ___"
- Noisier
- Dodges
- Antenna
- Belief
- Grudge
- ___ board (file)
- Motor coach
- Ball holder

Sudoku

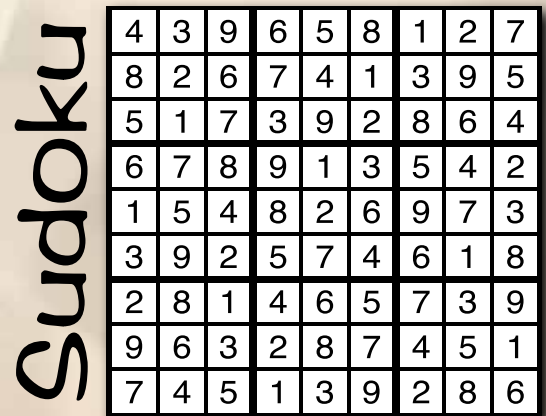
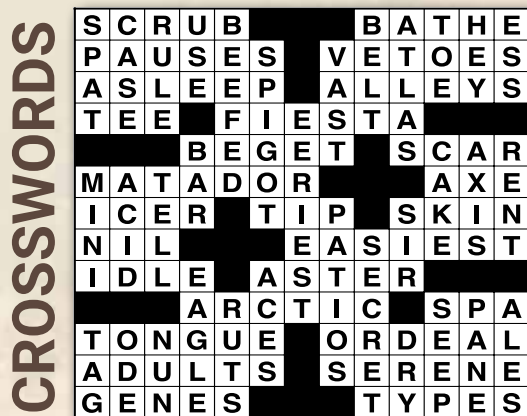
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Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 only once.

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.**



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