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# Jarry Park at 100: Why a day of discovery is a civic win for Montréal and Park-Ex



## DIMITRIS ILIAS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter for Parc-Extension News  
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On Saturday, August 23, Montréal invites residents to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Jarry Park with a full day of free discovery and experimentation—open-air cardio and yoga, themed walking tours on the urban canopy and architectural heritage, a pool rescue demonstration, open doors at the Chalet Jean-Paul II, and a participatory music session by the basin. It's a festive schedule, yes—but it's also a civics lesson in how public space, community organizations, and local government can work together to strengthen urban life.

Jarry Park has long been more than a patch of green. Created in 1925 and later purchased by the City in 1945, the park is stitched into the social fabric of Villeray–Saint-Michel–Parc-Extension, serving generations with everything from pee-wee baseball to world-class tennis. That continuity matters: public parks are among the few civic institutions where every resident—newcomer or old-timer, child or elder—has the same standing and the same right to belong. Marking a centennial is not nostalgia; it's democratic maintenance.

The day's program reads like a blueprint for healthy, inclusive city-making. Free outdoor fitness meets public health goals without the gatekeeping of gym fees. Guided walks on the tree canopy turn climate adaptation into a hands-on tutorial—shade, biodiversity and stormwater absorption made visible, block by block. A heritage walk reframes familiar paths as civic memory, reminding us that places like Jarry Park carry stories of immigration, sport, protest, and play. And a water-rescue demonstration takes what is usually hidden—how lifeguards and emergency protocols work—and makes it transparent, building trust in public services. Accessibility is practical too: the event is free (some activities require registration), centrally located at 205 rue Gary-Carter, and reachable by frequent transit and cycling routes.

Even the setting has civic symbolism. The Chalet Jean-Paul II—named to commemorate the Pope's 1985 visit—will host an open house, a reminder that public buildings are shared assets, not back-of-house facilities. When citizens step inside, they better understand what it takes to operate parks: staffing, maintenance, programming, and the trade-offs that come with finite budgets. Being invited behind the scenes is a small but meaningful act of accountability.

Jarry Park's centennial also sits within a broader summer program that the borough launched to honour the milestone. Exhibitions and activities throughout the season interpret the park's social and cultural history—how the “Cité du Nord” evolved and how residents have used the space across a century. Civic literacy grows when we see policy—zoning, recreation planning, transportation—expressed not in documents, but in lawns, paths, rinks, and stages.

Critically, this celebration is co-produced with neighbourhood organizations and advocates who have spent years protecting and improving the park. Groups like the Coalition des amis du parc Jarry (CAP Jarry) have championed the park as an “espace de détente, de loisir et de sports extérieurs ouvert à tous.” Their presence signals something essential about civic life: cities function best when government sets the table, community partners bring energy and knowledge, and residents show up—not as spectators, but as participants.

Cities everywhere are being asked to do more with less—cool hotter summers, support mental health, welcome newcomers, and foster social cohesion amid polarization. Parks deliver on all of those fronts at once. A single Saturday of low-barrier programming can help a newcomer meet a neighbour, a teen discover a volunteer role, a parent learn about water safety, and an elder reconnect with a beloved path. The dividends are cumulative: people who feel rooted in their public spaces are more likely to vote in local elections, attend council meetings, report maintenance issues, and defend shared goods when budgets tighten.



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# OPINION & Editorial



## China is an example of AI surveillance in action

*Canada should take that as a warning, not a blueprint*

China shows what happens when artificial intelligence is weaponized by the state.

Its Social Credit System, a nationwide framework to rate the "trustworthiness" of citizens and businesses, decides whether people can get a loan, buy a home, travel abroad or even move freely inside the country by merging financial records, online activity, travel history and facial recognition data into one algorithmic profile.

Sold as a way to curb fraud and tax evasion, it quickly became a tool to track political loyalty and personal behaviour the state doesn't like. Step out of line, and the system punishes you.

Canadians should treat China's misuse of AI as a warning. AI is advancing so fast that, without strict limits, we could slide into a similar dystopian future—one where governments promise efficiency and safety but use technology to tighten control over everyday life.

It wouldn't take much for such a system to take root here. The data, the technology and the surveillance tools already exist. All that's missing is the decision to connect them.

Canadian governments have already shown they are willing to impose sweeping controls and restrict freedoms when faced with dissent or crisis. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Liberal government invoked the Emergencies Act—a law that grants Ottawa extraordinary temporary powers, including the ability to freeze bank accounts and bypass normal parliamentary debate—to limit movement in response to protests. Across Canada, governments closed businesses, banned gatherings, restricted travel within and outside the country, and introduced vaccine passport systems that restricted access to certain public spaces.

Now imagine those same powers supercharged by AI—able to track, predict and act in real time,

with decisions automated and enforcement instant. What used to be broad and temporary restrictions could become precise, ongoing controls that are almost impossible to resist.

A Canadian version of China's Social Credit System could link tax filings, health records, driver's licences, transit passes, social media accounts and other personal data. When once-separate databases are linked, previously separate pieces of information combine into a detailed profile, making it far easier to monitor, predict and restrict a person's actions. With that much linked information, governments wouldn't just know what you've done—they could control what you're allowed to do next. That's not a distant, sci-fi scenario.

This is why regulation matters—but Canada's current plan falls short. The proposed Artificial Intelligence and Data Act (AIDA), part of Bill C-27, is meant to be Canada's first law governing artificial intelligence systems that could have major impacts on people's lives. These so-called "high-impact" systems include AI used in areas like health care, hiring, law enforcement, credit scoring and critical infrastructure—technologies where errors, bias or abuse could have serious consequences.

On paper, AIDA would regulate these systems, require risk assessments and keep humans in the loop for key decisions. But with its narrow scope, weak enforcement powers and a rollout that could take years before its rules are fully in force, it risks becoming a safety net with a hole in the middle, in effect more about managing political optics than preventing abuse.

AI surveillance is no longer a future threat—it's already here. It combines cameras, sensors and massive databases to track people in real time, often without their knowledge or consent.

It can predict behaviour, automate decisions and enforce rules instantly. Mustafa Suleyman, in *The Coming Wave*, warns that AI must be contained before it becomes uncontrollable. Shoshana Zuboff, in *The Age of Surveillance Capitalism*, reaches the same conclusion: AI is tailor-made for mass monitoring, and once embedded, these systems are almost impossible to dismantle.

Some insist that slowing AI's development would be pointless, that other nations and corporations would race ahead. But that argument is dangerously naive. History shows that once governments and corporations gain powerful surveillance tools, they don't give them up—they expand their reach, change their purpose and tighten their grip.

China's example proves the point. The Social Credit System was never just about unpaid debts or tax evasion. Its real purpose has always been to track people and control their behaviour. Today, it measures political loyalty as much as financial reliability, punishing citizens for anything from joining a protest to criticizing the government online. Jobs, housing, education and even the right to travel can be revoked with a few keystrokes. Once a government is allowed to define "public good" and enforce it algorithmically, freedom becomes a privilege—granted or taken away at will.

Yes, AI-driven surveillance can catch criminals, detect threats and manage crises. But those benefits come at a cost. Once such a system is in place, it rarely returns to its original purpose. It finds new uses, and it becomes permanent.

The choice for Canadians is clear: demand enforceable laws, transparent oversight and real accountability now—before it's too late.

*Dr. Perry Kinkaid*

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# Arrest made after assault on Jewish father in Parc-Extension

**DIMITRIS ILIAS**  
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A 24-year-old man has been arrested in connection with last week's assault on a Jewish father in Parc-Extension's Dickie Moore Park, an incident that was partially captured on video and widely circulated online.

Police say the events unfolded on August 8, shortly after 2:20 p.m., as the victim arrived at the park accompanied by his young children. According to investigators, a man in the park's splash pad area approached the father and sprayed him with water from a bottle. Moments later, the suspect allegedly forced the victim to the ground and struck him repeatedly in the face, also delivering knee strikes, before leaving the scene on foot in the direction of Beaumont Avenue.

Footage recorded by a bystander shows part of the confrontation. In the video, the victim is on the ground while a child holds on to him. The assailant gathers items from a grocery bag and throws what appears to be the victim's kippa into the splash pad.

The Service de police de la Ville de Montréal (SPVM) says the suspect was identified and located following an intensive investigation that relied on information from members of the public. He is currently being questioned, and the case file will be forwarded to the provincial Crown prosecutor's office for a decision on charges. The investigation remains active.

Rabbi Saul Emanuel, executive director of the Jewish Community Council of Montreal, has called the assault a hate-motivated attack. He also criticized the police response time, claiming it took close to an hour for officers to arrive.

Police contest that account, stating that the arrival time was under an hour but providing no further details while the case is ongoing.

Elected officials have publicly denounced the incident. Prime Minister Mark Carney described it as "an appalling act of violence" and said that all Canadians have the right to feel safe. Montreal

Mayor Valérie Plante called the attack "violent and unacceptable," while Quebec's Minister for the Fight Against Racism, Christopher Skeete, stated that "hatred must stop."

Police are asking anyone with additional information related to the case to contact investigators.



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# Styrofoam and recycling: what Montreal wants you to know

**DIMITRIS ILIAS**

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Styrofoam — the lightweight, spongy material that keeps your coffee hot, your meat fresh, and your new TV from breaking in the box — is a familiar sight in homes and businesses. But when it comes to recycling in Montreal, it's not all created equal.

The City of Montreal is reminding residents that some types of Styrofoam, officially called polystyrene, can go into your recycling bin, while others cannot. Understanding the difference is key to keeping the city's recycling stream clean and efficient.

## What's accepted in your recycling bin

Some Styrofoam products are recyclable through the city's curbside program. These include:

- Food trays — such as the yellow trays used for meat or fish.
- Hot and cold beverage cups — including the type used for takeout coffee or cold drinks. If they're clean and free of food residue, you

can place these directly into your household recycling bin.

## What's not accepted — and why

Other types of Styrofoam cause problems in sorting facilities and should never go in the recycling bin. The most common example is protective packaging foam — the large, white blocks used to keep electronics or appliances safe in their boxes.

These pieces are easy to identify: when broken, they crumble into small, bead-like particles. At recycling plants, these beads scatter, contaminate other materials, and jam sorting machinery.

## Where to take non-accepted styrofoam

While protective packaging foam can't go in the recycling bin, it can still be recycled — just not from the curb. The City of Montreal directs residents to bring these materials to specialized drop-off points:

- LaSalle Ecocentre — 7272 Saint-Patrick Street, LaSalle
- Saint-Laurent Ecocentre — 3535 Sartelon Street, Saint-Laurent



This type of crumbly Styrofoam is not accepted in the recycling bin.

These ecocentres have the equipment and processes to recycle polystyrene packaging properly.

## Why this matters locally

In neighbourhoods like Parc-Extension, where space is tight, turnover in apartments is high, and businesses frequently receive shipments of goods, proper sorting is especially important. Every yellow meat tray or coffee cup placed correctly in the recycling bin — and every block of packaging foam sent to an ecocentre instead — helps keep the recycling system running smoothly.

The city offers recycling guides in multiple languages, making it easier for Montreal's

diverse communities to understand and follow the rules. The full list of accepted and refused materials, along with ecocentre hours and conditions, is available on Montreal's official waste management website.

## The takeaway

Before tossing Styrofoam, take a moment to identify which kind you have. If it's a food or beverage container, it can go into your recycling bin. If it's protective packaging, set it aside for your next trip to an ecocentre.

It's a small step that has a big impact — reducing contamination, improving efficiency, and helping Montreal meet its environmental goals.

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# Canadians agree: **fixing health care** will help build stronger Canada

**NEWSFIRST MULTIMEDIA**  
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The Canadian Medical Association (CMA) is heading to Muskoka this week to remind Canada's leaders of the important role health care can play in building a stronger, more resilient nation.

"There have been few greater nation-building projects in Canada's history than health care," says Dr. Margot Burnell, CMA president. "Health care is a pillar of the Canadian identity. In this crisis moment as federal, provincial and territorial leaders meet to discuss critical economic challenges, health care must be part of Team Canada thinking."

Health care is a critical part of the Canadian economy. The industry employs approximately 3 million Canadians and contributes more than \$200 billion per year to Canada's GDP. But the health system also spends billions importing technology, pharmaceuticals, medical equipment and other solutions. As policymakers aim to create a more self-reli-

ant Canada, we must take this opportunity to consider Canadian-made solutions to the health care challenges that patients face each day. By leaning into Canadian expertise and innovation, we can make Canada a leader in health-care solutions.

We know that Canadians value their health care. In a new survey, 89% of Canadians agreed that improving access to care is a key part of building a stronger country.

The survey, conducted by Abacus Data on behalf of the CMA, also shows 78% of Canadians are concerned about the potential for intermittent emergency department closures in their communities this summer. Over a third of respondents (38%) say they would avoid an emergency department due to closures and instead use potentially dubious online resources to self-diagnose and self-treat.

Canada is facing critical economic and health care challenges. With Canadians calling for action, there is no time to waste in implementing solutions that will improve health care and build a stronger future for all.

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## VICTIM'S RIGHTS

**Q** I have been married over 20 years, and we have all grown close to each other. Three years ago our world of normalcy collapsed when our niece informed us my mother-in-law's live-in boyfriend sexually assaulted her between the ages of 11 and 14. Our niece, my husband's sister's only daughter, was then 20 and four months into her marriage.

We pursued the matter legally but were not able to get a conviction. According to the state attorney, it was her word against his. My husband threw him out of his mother's apartment the day our niece spoke up. My mother-in-law filed a restraining order against her boyfriend and went with us to court to support our niece in her allegations.

My mother-in-law said if she saw her boyfriend in the streets she would run him over. Unknown to us, she was secretly seeing him from the day it all came out. A few months later my mother-in-law was in a car accident. The police report listed him as a passenger, so we knew for certain she was lying all along.

According to her, she made the decision to live with him again because she was alone for a couple of days and no one came to visit her. A few months ago she called me to say her boyfriend left her, and she was going to put him in jail for what he did. She was not at all bothered this beast had molested her granddaughter. Rather she was ticked off he had the nerve to leave her!

A few weeks later she moved him back in. Three weeks ago they had a fight, and he moved out again. I do not think I will ever forgive her for what she has done to this family. Something in me died for this woman. I guess she sank too low and too fast for me.

Because she can't visit her daughter or granddaughter, she comes to my house four days a week and on weekends. I feel dirty when she kisses me hello. I don't want her to touch me or my children, but my husband does not agree with me.

Elizabeth

**A** Elizabeth, the simplest principle of relationships is the one most often ignored. Either treat people in accordance with their behavior, or they will make a mess of your life. As Rudyard Kipling said, "Nothing is ever settled until it is settled right."

Your mother-in-law wanted a man. The price of having that man was allowing him to molest her granddaughter. She was willing to let her granddaughter pay that price. How do we know? Because when his actions were exposed, your mother-in-law went back to him again and again. There is every reason to believe her role was that of a procurer.

How does a woman who has ever been a mother do that to a child? Why is she not repulsed by him? Can she tell her granddaughter any more forcefully that she doesn't care about her? Can she smack her any harder? Your niece is family, too. What about her?

The lasting effects of sexual abuse on girls are well known. They include profound consequences like self-mutilation, alcoholism, suicide attempts, and creating new personalities. Your mother-in-law is a person with defective thinking and defective motives, a person with severe mental health issues which will probably never be addressed.

She does not belong in your home or around your children. What if you had to leave in an emergency? Who might she bring into your home? She has made her choice. She has chosen a molester over her family. Let her live with that choice.

As Kipling said, "Nothing is ever settled until it is settled right." The simplest principle of relationships is the one most often ignored. Either treat people in accordance with their behavior, or they will make a mess of your life.

Wayne & Tamara

WAYNE & TAMARA MITCHELL are the authors of YOUR OTHER HALF ([www.yourotherhalf.com](http://www.yourotherhalf.com))

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## **THIS WEEK'S BASKET:**

- Green Grapes (~2.5lbs)
- Local Small Watermelon
- Local Cherries
- Local Broccoli
- Sweet Potatoes (3)
- Local Green Peppers (3)
- Local Coffee
- Mushrooms
- Italian Blue Prune Plums
- Corn on the Cob (3)
- Limes (2)
- Kent Mango
- Clementines (5-7)
- Local Radishes
- Local Romaine
- Campari Tomatoes (paquet)
- Local Red Onions (3)
- Local Mini Cucumbers (6)

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**St-Michel  
(Dépanneur Les DS du coin)**  
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**MTL-Est (Action Sport Physio)**  
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**MTL-Ouest  
(Action Sport Physio)**  
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## **2 EASY STEPS:**

- 1 Book your basket online or by phone from Monday to Thursday
- 2 Pickup Thursday, Friday or Saturday. Delivery available

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# HOROSCOPE

Week of August 17 to 23, 2025

The luckiest signs this week:  
VIRGO, LIBRA AND SCORPIO



## ARIES

This week, you'll openly express what others are thinking, grabbing everyone's attention. You'll also find effective ways to restore balance if you're in a tricky financial situation.



## TAURUS

Expect an enticing job offer from a competitor that will be impossible to refuse. You'll be busy going back and forth when a relative reaches out for support. When it comes to your love life, someone will surprise you with a bold confession, leaving you feeling confused.



## GEMINI

A new chapter in your life is unfolding, bringing your dreams closer to reality. You'll feel excited about the opportunities coming your way. A memorable encounter with a very romantic person could turn your life upside down.



## CANCER

You'll need a strong cup of coffee to start your day and boost your energy. If you've been feeling unwell, you might discover treatments to improve your well-being. Try to turn your stress into motivation to power you through the day.



## LEO

Get ready to tackle your challenges head-on. You may feel stressed having to juggle multiple negotiations. However, this intense period may lead to new connections and provide a chance to expand your social circle.



## VIRGO

You may feel overwhelmed by urgent tasks at work or home this week. You'll feel as though everything must get done at once. Fortunately, those close to you will help you find more perspective. Focus on setting shared goals with your significant other to create a brighter future together.



## LIBRA

You'll plan an exciting nature getaway. You deserve a vacation, and organizing everything in advance will make this a memorable adventure for you and your loved ones.



## SCORPIO

You may feel a bit apprehensive when tackling major projects at work. However, your perseverance is your greatest strength. Embrace change as an opportunity for growth. If your emotions are still heightened, take a moment to pause and find your inner peace.



## SAGITTARIUS

Before making a decision that affects others, it's important to ask their opinions. At work, lengthy negotiations will lead to an especially lucrative financial agreement.



## CAPRICORN

Prioritize self-care this week. Adopt new, healthy habits to boost your energy and restore your zest for life. Your doctor may suggest making a few changes to your lifestyle to improve your health.



## AQUARIUS

You'll be in the spotlight this week as you lead a group or advocate for your community. Your charisma will shine through, and others will look to you for answers. This will boost your self-esteem.



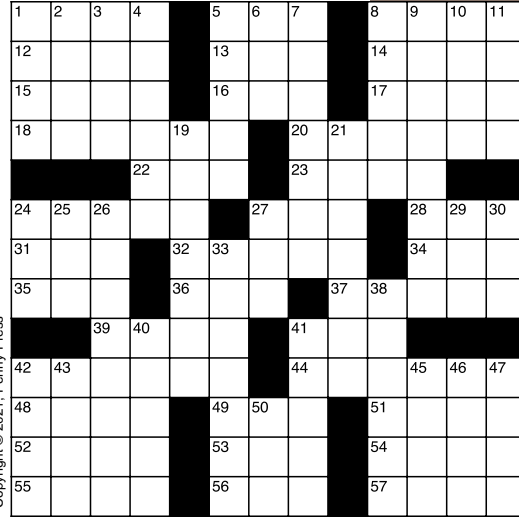
## PISCES

If you have young children, you'll spend a lot of time preparing for the new school year. A move may be on the horizon, or you could be undertaking major renovations at home. If you're single, you could fall in love at first sight.

# Coffee Break

## CROSSWORDS

PUZZLE NO. 285



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### ACROSS

- Property measure
- Commercial, for short
- Low male voice
- Squeezing snakes
- Mowed
- Milky gem
- Spectacular
- English brew
- Alaskan seaport
- Forceful person
- Hesitated
- Bogey beater
- Directory
- Beam type
- Slippery as an \_\_\_\_
- Statute
- Befitting
- Hurricane or tornado
- Ram's counterpart
- Quilting party
- Cackler

### DOWN

- On a cot
- Duplicate
- Precipitation
- Flee
- Movie star
- Expected to arrive
- Slackened
- Does better than a "B"
- "Stand \_\_\_\_ Deliver"
- Most skilled
- Wraps
- Bridle part
- Possessive pronoun
- Enthusiastic review
- "\_\_\_\_ Smile Without You"
- Rival
- Embraces
- As of now
- Game missile

### 7. Fastener

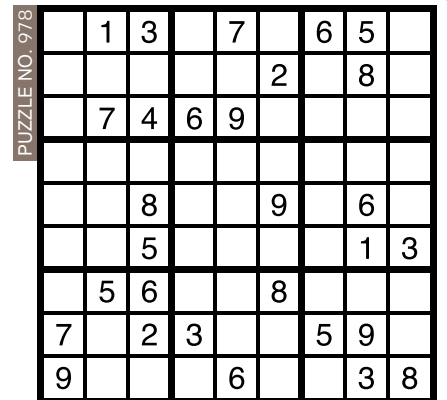
- Extra
- Disciples
- Not different
- Snow coaster
- Wetlands
- Physical disorder
- Scientist's workplace
- Imitate
- Pickpocket's crime
- Timespan
- Respectful wonder
- Join together
- Bear witness
- Loved
- Piggy-bank fillers
- Object of value
- Overhead curve
- Boyfriend
- Molten flow
- Always
- Forwarded
- From head to \_\_\_\_

# 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.

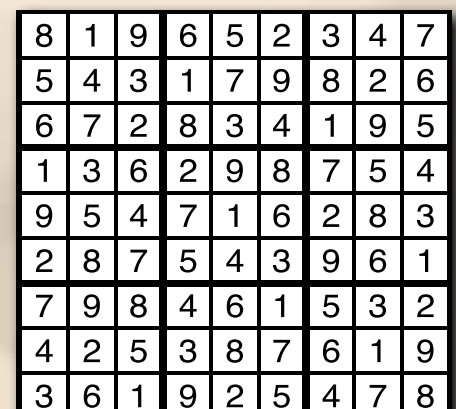


## Last Issue's Answers

### CROSSWORDS



### Sudoku



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