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Local citizens do not want a new stadium in Jarry Park

Page 7



Photo courtesy of Coalition des amis du parc Jarry (CAP Jarry).



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Montreal's inclusion plan faces its everyday test in Parc-Extension

DIMITRIS ILIAS
dimitri@newsfirst.ca

The city promises measurable progress by the end of 2027. In one of Montreal's most diverse neighbourhoods, residents will experience that progress through services they can understand, reach and trust.

A municipal inclusion strategy can sound distant from daily life until a resident needs help at a service counter, tries to understand a public notice or decides whether a complaint will be taken seriously. Those encounters are where Montreal's 2023-2027 equity, diversity and inclusion plan will ultimately be judged.

The city recently updated its public presentation of the plan, which commits the administration to reporting measurable progress by the end of 2027. The strategy is organized around three outcomes: making employees and managers accountable for equity and anti-discrimination work; delivering services that are anti-discriminatory and universally accessible; and increasing public and employee confidence in the city's ability to confront racism, harassment and discrimination.

That citywide promise carries particular weight in Parc-Extension. Centraide's current neighbourhood profile, drawing on census and local data, reports that 45 per cent of residents are immigrants, 68 per cent belong to racialized groups and 11 per cent speak neither French nor English. It also identifies high rates of low income and core housing need. Together, those conditions can make a confusing form, an inaccessible meeting

or an unclear complaint process more than a minor inconvenience.

What residents should be able to see

The plan does contain measures with direct public consequences. It calls for front-line employees to build anti-racism and anti-discrimination skills, for city projects to use gender-based analysis plus and universal-access principles, and for guides supporting the public complaint process to be distributed. It also proposes systems to generate disaggregated data and track incidents involving harassment, racism and discrimination.

If implemented well, those commitments could influence how information is written and shared, who is reached before municipal decisions are made, whether facilities and digital services are usable by people with disabilities, and how consistently residents are treated across departments. In a multilingual, high-density neighbourhood, inclusive service also means recognizing that equal treatment does not always produce equal access.

The strategy reaches inside the municipal workforce as well. It calls for stronger management accountability, more inclusive recruitment and advancement, renewed employment-equity measures and clearer responsibilities when complaints are filed. The document identifies women, racialized and ethnic minorities, Indigenous people and people with disabilities among the groups whose progression within the organization requires attention.



A deadline without a local scorecard

The plan's results-based language is significant, but the published 14-page document leaves important accountability details unresolved for the public. It does not provide numerical baselines, neighbourhood-level targets or a schedule for releasing progress reports. Nor does it say how residents will be able to compare service outcomes between boroughs.

That gap matters because the plan itself acknowledges low confidence in the city's leadership on discrimination, limited inclusive public participation, insufficient knowledge of specific population needs and continuing territorial and economic inequities. Those are not abstract problems. They affect whether people hear about consultations, can participate in them and believe their involvement will influence a decision.

The strategy grew out of work begun in 2022 by several municipal units and refers to the 2020 Office de consultation publique de Montreal report on systemic racism and discrimination. That earlier consultation followed a citizen petition bearing more than 16,700 validated signatures and produced 38 recommendations. The OCPM stressed that recognition must be accompanied by structural change, measurement

and political and administrative accountability.

The final stretch to 2027

With the plan entering its final period, the central question is no longer whether Montreal has adopted the right principles. It is what evidence the city will publish to show that municipal services have changed - and whether that evidence is detailed enough to reveal where barriers remain.

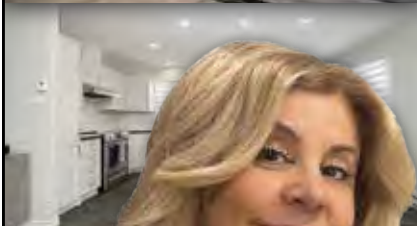
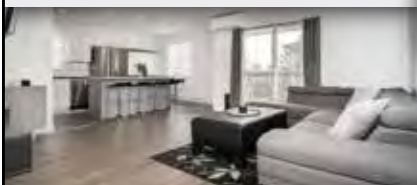
For residents, useful measures could include the accessibility and language clarity of public information, participation by groups that have often been underrepresented, the time and outcome of discrimination-related complaints, and documented changes to front-line practices. The city's own strategy commits it to common indicators, but those indicators will have to be public and understandable if they are to build confidence.

The plan describes sufficient resources, sustained commitment and strong institutional leadership as conditions for success. By the end of 2027, the most persuasive result will not be another declaration. It will be a municipal service that people with different languages, incomes, abilities and backgrounds can use on fair terms - with transparent data showing where Montreal improved and where work remains.

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OPINION & Editorial



Is Ottawa about to break its own supply management law?

If the rumours prove correct, Canadians should brace for more cheques to dairy farmers and more milk dumping U.S. President Donald Trump's latest tariff threat has pushed Canada back to the negotiating table. An additional 50 per cent tariff on specified Canadian goods, scheduled to take effect Aug. 19, appears to have caught Ottawa flat-footed.

The federal government is now scrambling to limit the damage to several industries, including roughly \$1.5 billion in agri-food trade involving Canadian alcoholic beverages, whisky and dairy products.

Start with the provincial bans on American alcohol. Perhaps they were intended to create negotiating leverage, but consumers faced fewer choices and less competitive pressure on prices, while purchases shifted to Canadian brands or non-American imports.

That is not what economic leverage looks like. Real leverage comes from assets other countries need: energy, critical minerals, transportation infrastructure, market access and regulatory cooperation. Restricting consumer choice and suppressing competition is political theatre masquerading as economic strategy.

The dairy file is more complicated and potentially far more consequential.

Late last week, it was reported that Ottawa was considering concessions involving greater access for American dairy proteins. Depending on how such a commitment is structured, it could place the government on a collision course with Bill C-202, the law Parliament adopted in 2025 to prevent future trade agreements from increasing tariff-rate quotas or reducing over-quota tariffs for supply-managed products.

Those quotas determine how much foreign dairy can enter Canada at lower tariff rates.

Although Bill C-202 received support across the political spectrum, that unanimity did not make it sound policy. The legislation effectively told the dairy industry that future governments would protect supply management from further

trade concessions, reducing one of the few remaining incentives to prepare for greater competition, invest in processing capacity and develop a serious long-term strategy.

Now the Americans may be testing just how firm that protection really is.

Ottawa should not grant additional access to American dairy proteins simply to get through the current trade dispute. If concessions are necessary, they should be part of a broader Canadian plan to make the dairy sector more competitive and less vulnerable.

Those who believe American dairy products could never penetrate the Canadian market are missing the point. The Americans are not necessarily trying to sell cartons of milk to Canadian households; they want to sell proteins to Canadian processors. Companies such as Saputo, Agropur and Lactalis could use those lower-cost ingredients in cheese and other manufactured products.

Processors could save money, but consumers would have no guarantee of seeing those savings at the grocery store while Canadian dairy farmers could face reduced demand as processors substitute American proteins for Canadian ones.

Canada has been down this road before.

During the controversy over diafiltered milk proteins, from roughly 2015 to 2018, American proteins entered Canada tariff-free as protein ingredients but could then be treated as milk by Canadian processors. This lowered processors' ingredient costs while displacing some Canadian milk.

Canada responded with milk Classes 6 and 7, allowing domestic proteins to compete at lower prices. The United States objected, and Canada eventually eliminated those classes during negotiations for the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA).

Ottawa then compensated dairy farmers.

And that is where we could be heading again. Canada protects the system, eventually makes concessions when trade pressure becomes too great, compensates producers and leaves the underlying problems for another day.

The costs are not trivial. Ottawa has committed more than \$4.8 billion in compensation and support for supply-managed sectors affected by market access granted under CUSMA, the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) and the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).

There is another problem. Canada already struggles with surplus non-fat milk solids, and additional American proteins could reduce demand for Canadian milk proteins even further, creating more pressure to dispose of milk Canadian farmers have already produced.

Ottawa could find itself in a very awkward position. Barely a year after Parliament passed Bill C-202, the government may have to accommodate American demands anyway, leaving Canadian dairy farmers with fewer market opportunities while taxpayers are asked once again to compensate them.

None of this means supply management needs to be abolished. But protecting the system is not the same thing as strengthening it.

Canada needs greater transparency, independent reporting on milk disposal, more investment in domestic processing and gradual modernization of quota policy.

Bill C-202 was supposed to protect Canadian dairy from future trade concessions, but trying to legislate away trade pressure was never a substitute for reform.

The choice is not between abolishing supply management tomorrow and preserving it unchanged forever. Canada can reform the system on its own terms or wait until pressure from Washington leaves it with fewer choices.

Dr. Sylvain Charlebois

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DIMITRIS ILIAS
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Canada's labour market delivered a stronger-than-expected July, but the national improvement will take time to show whether it is reaching workers in neighbourhoods such as Park Ex.

Statistics Canada reported that employment rose by 75,100 positions in July, while the unemployment rate declined to 6.4 per cent, its lowest level in two years. Economists surveyed

before the release had expected a much smaller increase.

The gains included full- and part-time work and were concentrated in the private sector. Wholesale and retail trade, finance and insurance, and professional, scientific and technical services were among the areas recording growth.

The headline is encouraging for job seekers, particularly because employment has now increased over three consecutive months. Still, one national month does not establish how many jobs were created in Montreal, how secure they are or whether residents can obtain the hours and wages they need.

Canada's stronger July job market brings cautious hope to Park Ex workers

Wage growth also cooled. Average hourly earnings for permanent employees were three per cent higher than a year earlier, down from 3.7 per cent growth in June. Slower wage increases can leave households under pressure when rent, food and other essential costs remain elevated.

That distinction matters locally. Centraide of Greater Montreal's neighbourhood profile identifies a 21 per cent low-income rate in Parc-Extension and a median household income below the Montreal average. It also reports that one quarter of adults aged 25 to 64 do not hold a high-school diploma, while language barriers affect part of the population.

Those conditions can limit access to jobs even when employers are hiring. Recognition of foreign experience, education requirements, language ability, child-care schedules and transportation can all influence whether an opening becomes realistic employment.

Carrefour jeunesse-emploi Centre-Nord offers free employment and education assistance to residents aged 15 to 35, including a service point at the Parc-Extension library. Its support includes job-search guidance, resumes, interview preparation and information about training or returning to school.

The July numbers suggest Canada's economy entered the second half of 2026 with more momentum. For Park Ex, the more important test will be whether that growth produces accessible, stable jobs—and whether workers see incomes rise fast enough to improve daily life.



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Jarry Park stadium proposal reaches a civic crossroads before costs and approvals are known

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Tennis Canada has chosen a preferred concept, but Montreal has not yet been presented with a final project and residents are demanding a say in what happens to public parkland.

The future of a baseball field in Jarry Park has become the first concrete test of a much larger question: how far should a major sports organization be allowed to expand inside one of Montreal's public parks?

Tennis Canada's preferred modernization concept would place a new centre-court stadium on the diamond beside its existing complex. The proposed venue would seat about 15,000 spectators, compared with 11,991 at IGA Stadium, and include a retractable roof designed to reduce weather disruptions and permit use during three seasons.

The concept also calls for as many as four practice courts and another match court. Tennis Canada says the current stadium is nearing the end of its useful life and no longer meets professional-tour expectations. Its year-long feasibility study examined renovation, new construction within Jarry Park and relocation elsewhere in Montreal.

The organization selected new construction in the park, arguing that renovating the aging stadium carried technical risks and offered little or no cost advantage. Relocation was rejected as too expensive. Tennis Canada has not released a total project budget, financing plan, construction timetable or final site plan.

A proposal, not an approved project

Tennis Canada describes the stadium as a preferred scenario still undergoing technical, financial and operational analysis. That distinction matters: the proposal would affect city-owned public space and cannot proceed on Tennis Canada's decision alone.

The organization has acknowledged that government participation would be needed and says discussions have begun with municipal, provincial and federal officials. No level of government has publicly announced a financial commitment. The amount Tennis Canada would contribute has also not been disclosed.

If the baseball field is removed, Tennis Canada says it would pay to build a replacement as close as possible to Jarry Park in collaboration with the city. No replacement site has been identified publicly, leaving baseball users without a confirmed alternative.

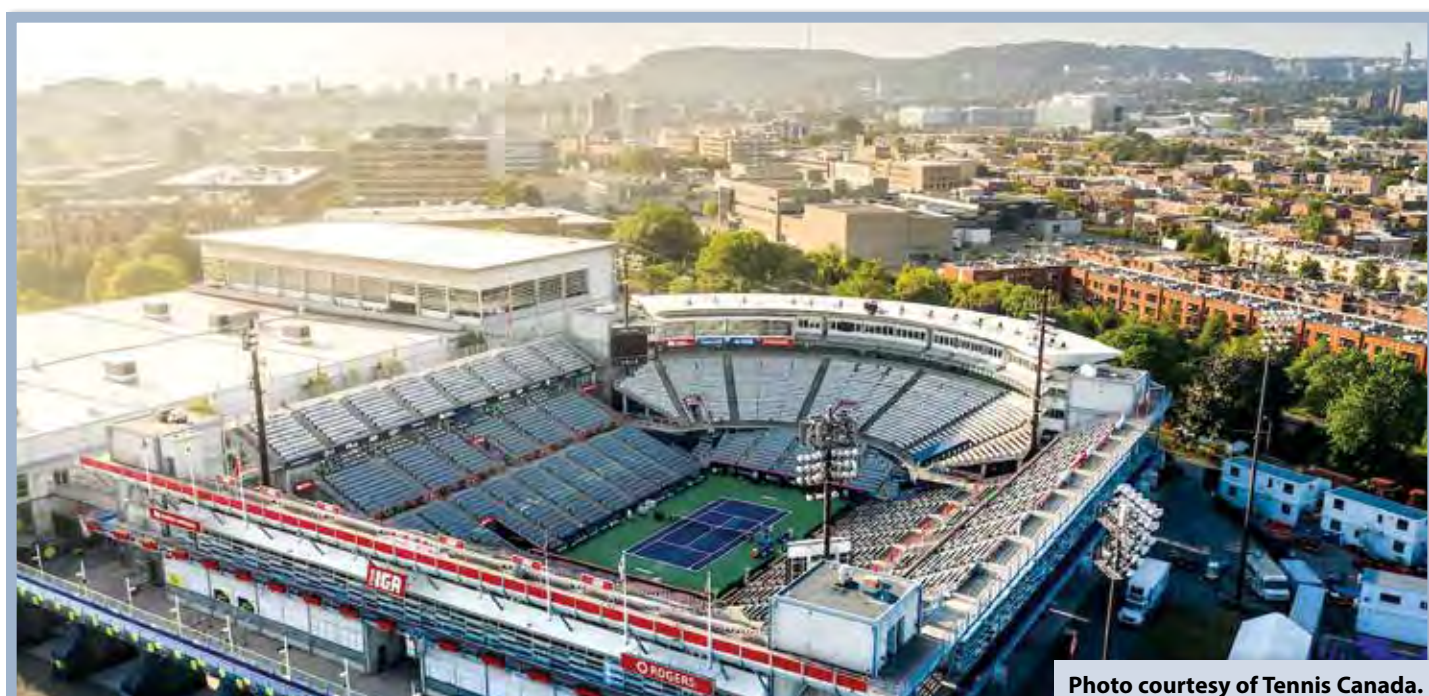


Photo courtesy of Tennis Canada.

Jarry Park covers roughly 36 hectares and functions as more than an event site. Montreal lists a swimming pool, wading pool, picnic areas and several sports facilities among its amenities. The Tennis Canada complex itself contains 11 outdoor and 12 indoor courts, some available for public reservation outside tournament operations.

Opposition shifts the debate to public process

Opposition has expanded beyond the baseball diamond. Community organizations formed a common front and organized an Aug. 9 demonstration, turning the proposal into a broader debate about access, traffic, noise, heat and the future balance between neighbourhood recreation and large-scale events.

The setting sharpens those concerns. Jarry Park serves Villeray and sits beside Parc-Extension, one of Montreal's most densely populated areas. In neighbourhoods where many households lack private outdoor space, decisions about a public park can affect everyday recreation as directly as they affect international sport.

Tennis Canada says redevelopment could improve community access, add indoor and outdoor courts and integrate the complex more effectively with the park. Those poten-

tial benefits remain conceptual, however, until the organization releases measurable commitments on public access, operating periods, event frequency and the final amount of parkland occupied.

The next decision belongs in public view

The immediate issue is therefore not whether Montreal should retain the National Bank Open. It is whether the preferred design repre-

sents an acceptable use of public land and what conditions, redesigns or alternatives would be required before elected officials approve it.

A complete public assessment would need the project's cost and funding sources, precise footprint, environmental and traffic effects, replacement plan for the baseball field and enforceable guarantees for community use. Until those details are available, the stadium remains a private organization's proposal for public property, not a settled municipal project.

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FROM WAYNE & TAMARA

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Q I have been with my boyfriend two years, and we've had our disagreements. I believe we always come out of them better people realizing we both have aspects of our personality we need to work on.

He thinks it would be a good idea to live together before we get married. I do not. My thinking is, if you want to live with me then why not just get married? This argument went on and on until I compromised and said, "I will live with you only if I have a ring and a wedding date."

My boyfriend has his own apartment, which I do not have the key to, and I have been spending a lot of time there lately. About a year ago, he left me because we had a difference in religious beliefs, but the next day he came back and apologized. I forgave him and we sorted everything out.

A month ago we had a discussion about him liking it when I was at his apartment. He said he wants me in his life, I help him figure things out, and he wished I could be there all the time. I told him, "You can easily fix that...it's called engagement." And then I left.

I called him back in a few hours and said, "Fine, we'll do the counseling thing. It would be good for both of us." He says he is not ready for marriage because he can't tell me when he's upset with me. We are in counseling for this, and my fear is he will keep coming up with excuses why we can't marry.

I promised myself I will not be one of those girls who sits around every holiday and birthday, thinking, "Oh! Maybe he'll give me a ring now!" I'm not like that, and I never want to be. When he told me he's afraid I will walk out on him again, I remind him he has always walked out on me.

I'm afraid I am wasting my time. I want to be married, and I want to have children and so does he. Should I stick it out or walk away?

Nicole

A Nicole, if you are looking for a strategy to get what you want, skip the counseling and save the money. There is a cheaper solution. Stop delivering yourself to his apartment. The current arrangement doesn't even cost your boyfriend the time to date you.

It's not that you have an old-fashioned sensibility. Rather you have a down-to-earth nature, and you are no country bumpkin. You know moving in will make it too convenient for him not to marry you. When he tires of the arrangement, he won't need a divorce. He will simply tell you to move out.

A man who loves a woman wants to make her his own. Counseling sessions are a sign that the deep connection, which must be there for love to last a lifetime, is absent. The most obvious conclusion is that your boyfriend isn't confused. He knows what he wants. He wants you without marriage.

Wayne & Tamara

OLD BUSINESS

Q I have decided to divorce my husband. I have done everything I could to save this marriage. I am so worn out and angry with myself for not leaving sooner.

One of his retorts is, "What took you so long to figure out you are miserable?" That implies I am so dumb I don't know what's good for me. My question is, how can someone who has

everything on the ball, fall victim to this and not make a move before now?

Neva

A Neva, people are loss-averse. They hold on to losing stocks and bad investments far too long because to cash them out is to admit an error. We all have a terrible time admitting mistakes, and that is why you held on for so long.

Wayne & Tamara

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

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BIG BASKET (\$40)

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Blueberries (Quebec) | 11. Broccoli (Quebec) |
| 2. Oyster Mushrooms (Ontario) | 12. Sweet Corn (4) (Quebec) |
| 3. Pineapple (Honduras) | 13. Green Bell Peppers (2) (Quebec) |
| 4. Avocados (2) (Mexico) | 14. Zucchini (2) (Quebec) |
| 5. Flavour Tomatoes (Ontario) | 15. Mango (Mexico) |
| 6. Cantaloup (Quebec) | 16. Beets (Quebec) |
| 7. Lebanese Cucumbers (Quebec) | 17. Iceberg Lettuce (Quebec) |
| 8. Romaine Hearts (Quebec) | 18. Mini Onions (Quebec) |
| 9. Green Beans (Quebec) | 19. Bananas (4) (Costa Rica) |
| 10. Cactus Pears (3) (Mexico) | 20. Limes (2) (Peru) |

SMALL BASKET (\$22)

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Pineapple (Honduras) | 6. Iceberg Lettuce (Quebec) |
| 2. Cauliflower (Quebec) | 7. Mango (Mexico) |
| 3. Kiwis (2) (Greece) | 8. Sweet Corn (2) (Quebec) |
| 4. Flavour Tomatoes (Ontario) | 9. Bell Pepper (Quebec) |
| 5. Lebanese Cucumbers (Quebec) | 10. Red Onion (Quebec) |
| | 11. Bananas (3) (Costa Rica) |

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**Rivière-des-Prairies
(Boucherie la petite Italie)**
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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

PANIERDUFERMIER.CA



HOROSCOPE

Week of **AUGUST 16 TO 22, 2026**

The luckiest signs this week:
CAPRICORN, AQUARIUS AND PISCES



ARIES

Taking a step back will be enough to resolve major issues affecting your future. Discussions and negotiations will be necessary, and you'll need to carefully consider each option before finalizing an agreement.



TAURUS

Finding a solution that satisfies everyone is difficult when opinions clash. You'll need to be creative to ease tensions, come up with original compromises and restore a harmonious atmosphere around you.



GEMINI

A series of small victories will restore your confidence. With this renewed self-esteem, you'll feel more comfortable defending an idea or a personal project and taking concrete steps to implement it.



CANCER

Your priority will be to design an efficient and inspiring home workspace. With solid organization, your leadership qualities will shine through, and you'll be ready to develop your own ventures with confidence.



LEO

Matters of the heart will occupy your thoughts. Through thoughtful gestures, discreet acts of kindness and sincere words, you'll help the relationship grow, gradually deepening both your feelings and those of your partner.



VIRGO

The prospect of a real estate transaction could arise: a sale, a purchase or a renovation. You'll explore more advantageous options, both to reduce expenses and to improve the comfort and stability of your home.



LIBRA

Several people will call on you, leading to frequent trips. The increased volume of travel could become an opportunity to treat yourself to a few small pleasures, or even to consider upgrading to a vehicle better suited to your lifestyle.



SCORPIO

By carefully analyzing your budget, you'll realize that your financial resources are sufficient to move forward with a major project. What you thought was out of reach will suddenly become achievable, opening the door to a dream you've had for a long time.



SAGITTARIUS

The weight of your responsibilities might discourage you at first, but your recent progress will prove that you have solid resources at your disposal. Once you realize this, you'll finally dare to act with an unstoppable determination.



CAPRICORN

Taking a step back will help you clarify your goals. Professionally, you're aiming higher and more precisely, but this progress will require a gradual evolution, patiently built over time.



AQUARIUS

The holidays are barely over, and you're already dreaming of your next getaway in good company. At the office, you might lead a big meeting with colleagues or partners, creating a defining moment for your organization.



PISCES

You're feeling a need to grow internally and intellectually. You might be considering a career change or a journey of personal development. Embracing these changes could prove deeply beneficial for your growth.

Coffee Break

CROSSWORD

GRID N° 309

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15				16				17		
18			19				20			
			21			22				
23	24	25				26	27	28	29	30
31				32	33	34				
35								36		
			37		38	39	40			
41	42	43	44					46	47	48
49						50			51	
52						53			54	
55						56			57	

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ACROSS

- Current measure, for short
- Huck's boat
- Wilts
- Douglas
- A woodwind
- October gem
- Summer drink
- Funny
- Sub shop
- Parachute part: 2 wds.
- Gold purity measure
- Reach
- Rosary component
- Gathered
- Apprehend
- Creepier
- Skin design
- Just
- Top's counterpart
- Dull pains

DOWN

- Out of range
- Skirt style
- Get ready
- R2-D2, e.g.
- Cancel a space launch
- Henry or Jane
- 20th letter
- Cola, e.g.
- Imitator
- Festive event
- Narrow gash
- Military student
- Joint
- Great wrath
- Baseball stick
- Chapter in history, perhaps
- Gallery exhibit
- Pleasing smell
- Dowel
- Wiggly sea creature
- Not wet
- Cries
- Also
- Subject
- Meeker
- Atmosphere layer
- Land division
- Animal's nail
- Detest
- Organs of sight
- Hasty
- Embankment
- Fall
- Water barrier

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.

GRID N° 1002

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

LAST ISSUE'S ANSWERS

CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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



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