

Quebec to create vaccine reserve starting next week

By Gordon Lambie

Quebec's Ministry of Health and Social Services announced Wednesday that starting next week, all Pfizer vaccine doses received by the province will be placed in reserve rather than be distributed to the different health and social services establishments. The province received 585,000 doses of Pfizer this week which have already entered circulation, but according to the announcement the 513,630 doses expected in the week of August 9 will be set aside in case of future need.

The reserve is meant to help ensure a first and second dose for latecomers, and a third dose for those who were initially given two different vaccines or who may require it for other reasons, such as being immunocompromised. The reserve is also meant to help prevent delays in the case that another call for vaccinations is made and additional doses need to be ordered.

At this point in time, Quebec has more than two million doses in stock, most of which do not expire until at least mid-October.

As a part of Wednesday's announcement, the ministry also noted that the vaccination clinics set up through partner businesses, such as the one that was in operation at BRP in Valcourt, are gradually being shut down, having met their goal of vaccinating

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Festival Cinema du Monde outdoor screenings a success



JOCELYN RIENDEAU

By Michael Boriero

There are roughly three weeks remaining for Quebecers to take in the Festival Cinema du Monde in Sherbrooke, which kicked off in-person events on July 2.

Last year, the festival was forced online due to the pandemic. But,

according to the festival's director, Malika Bajjaje, they were able to adjust on the fly this summer. They presented part of the festival online in April, and in June.

However, July and August presented a special opportunity for the festival's organizers, Bajjaje explained, as they explored regular outdoor screenings

every weekend for the first time in the festival's history, which have since turned into a popular outing.

"It's completely full, we're always at capacity," said Bajjaje. "It's our major success this year. The outdoor screenings are phenomenal in the sense that all of the places are full, we

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Weather



TODAY:
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AND CLOUD

HIGH 27
LOW 14



FRIDAY:
SUNNY

HIGH 29
LOW 15



SATURDAY:
CHANCE OF
SHOWERS

HIGH 26
LOW 16



SUNDAY:
CHANCE OF
SHOWERS

HIGH 25
LOW 16



MONDAY:
CHANCE OF
SHOWERS

HIGH 26
LOW 18

Remembering courage, strength and love



LINDA KNIGHT SECCASPINA

By the 1930s 90 per cent of the urban population was dependent on a wage or salary, and most families you knew lived on the edge. Living in the city meant reliance on a male family member with a job to stay alive, and if you lived on the farm you counted on what you grew to feed everyone.

As a child, my grandmother used to tell me all sorts of stories about the Depression. Each morning she made sandwiches for the hungry people knocking on her door, and her weathered screened verandah sometimes became a shelter for homeless people during rainy nights. The train station was just a few blocks down from where they lived on South Street in Cowansville, and those that rode the freight trains would get off daily to see if they could find work or food.

I was always told that we had a hobo mark on our side door, and Grammy Knight would also take in needy families until they got on their feet. Grampy once said that he never knew who would be sitting across from him nightly

at the dinner table. Each time my grandmother asked him to go to the grocery store to get another loaf of bread for someone in need he went without complaining.

One day Grammy hired a young homeless woman named Gladys who worked for her until she died. I was barely eight years old when Gladys passed, but I still remember her like yesterday. Gladys was an odd-looking woman who tried to hide her chain-smoking habit from my grandmother. The manly-looking woman would talk up a storm while she cleaned with stories that young ears should have never heard- but I always did.

Gladys would tell me all about her days during the depression as a teenager, where she would hide along the tracks outside the train yards. She would run as fast as she could along the train as it gained speed and grab hold and jump into the open boxcars. Sometimes, she missed, and sometimes she watched some of her friends lose their legs, or their lives, as they jumped off as the train was reaching its destination.

There was nothing left at home for her during those horrible years of the Depression. One Sunday they were without money for the church collection plate and under one of the old rugs they finally found a dime which they proudly placed on the collection plate.

There were just too many mouths to feed and Gladys knew she wasn't going anywhere if she remained at home. So she just rode the rails as it was free and she knew she would find food somewhere, which was more than she was going to do

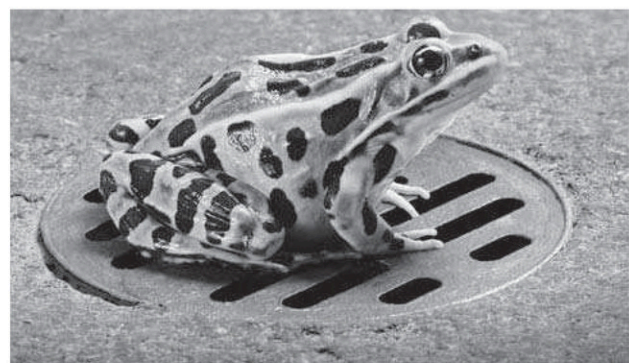
at home. She cut her hair, wore overalls and a cap, and survived life on the road until my grandmother hired her.

Gladys ended up dying in her sleep in 'the back room' of my grandparents' home. After she died, my grandmother promptly labelled it 'Gladys's room'. When I was older and came home on weekends, that very same room was where I slept. You have no idea how many times I thought I saw Gladys in the dark shadows scurrying around with her feather duster, and yes, still chain smoking.

When I was older my grandparents would make a simple dinner for themselves. My grandfather would cut up tomatoes, add mayo like a dressing with salt and pepper. While I watched him eat, I would say, "is that all you're having !?? He would reply to me,

"I'm from a time when you looked in the icebox and you put together what was in there and that's what you had. Remember that "my birdie" ... it isn't always right there for you when you get home . Money was scarce and we had to survive on what we grew in the garden. We learned to use everything and had no waste".

My grandparents taught me a lot about life. I never thought I would be my grandmother, but here I am now. They taught me to count my blessings, not my troubles, and to "show up" for people. Your ancestors that lived through those times were brave and they never judged a book by its cover. You just never know as they say, the things you take for granted might be something others are praying for.

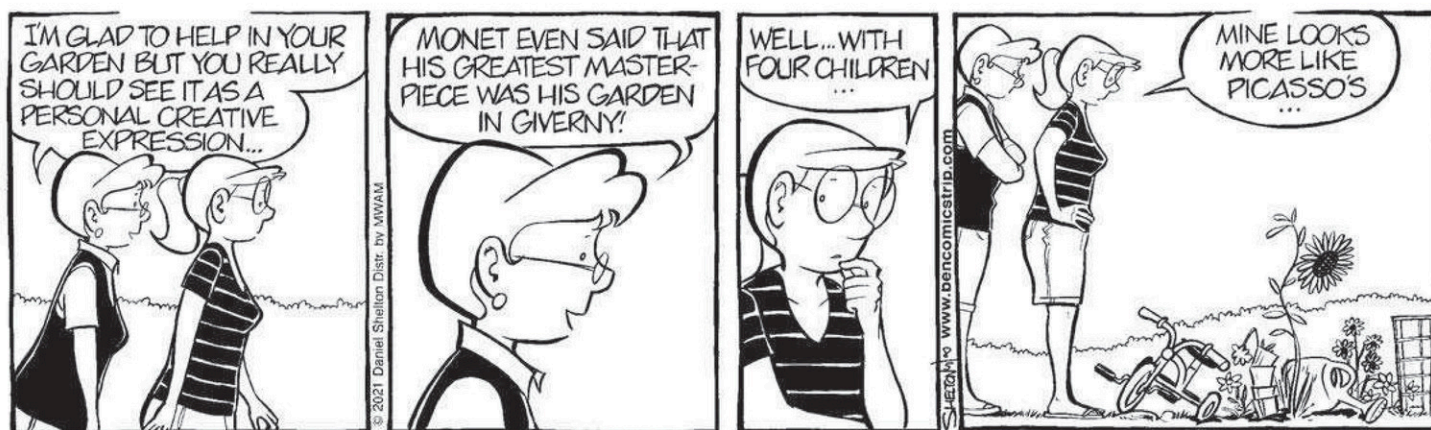


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Ben by Daniel Shelton



Local News

According to Élections Québec, recent local elections have seen voter turnout decrease dramatically, with it falling below 50 per cent of eligible voters in many municipalities.

Everything you need to know for Quebec's upcoming municipal elections

By Arianna Myers
Special to The Record

Getting citizens engaged with politics and encouraging them to participate in elections is challenging in Canada, particularly at the municipal level. According to Élections Québec, recent local elections have seen voter turnout decrease dramatically, with it falling below 50 per cent of eligible voters in many municipalities.

However, municipal elections are important as they choose the future leaders to guide our communities and manage our public services such as parks, road signage, fire departments, public pools, public transportation, community centres, libraries, and bike paths.

Therefore, with the Quebec municipal elections fast approaching, here's what you need to know before you vote.

Are you eligible to vote?

To be eligible to vote in the upcoming municipal elections, citizens must

meet the following criteria: They must be on the list of electors, be at least 18 years old on election day, be a Canadian citizen by Sept. 1, 2021, and must not be under curatorship or have lost their right to vote.

Voters have the responsibility to ensure that they are on the list of electors. They have until Sept. 1, 2021, to check online or contact Élections Québec. During the election period, voters must ensure that their name is written on the notice that their municipality will mail them. If it is not, they must go to the address indicated on that notice to register. Moreover, if they are an owner of a building or occupy a business establishment, they can confirm their entry on the list of electors as of Sept. 17, 2021.

To be eligible, people must also meet one of the following two criteria by Sept. 1, 2021: They must have been living in Quebec for at least 6 months, or if their primary residence is not in the municipality, they must be the owner of a building or occupy a business establishment located in the municipality for at least 12 months. If

not, they must submit an application for entry on the list of electors or a power of attorney to the municipality.

Where can you vote?

This year, election day is on Sunday, Nov. 7, 2021, and polls will be open from 9:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. During the election period, each municipality will inform its citizens of where they can vote. However, there are also many other voting options.

Early voting will be on Sunday, Oct. 31, 2021, from 9:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Moreover, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some municipalities may also add additional advance poll days on Saturday, Oct. 30, Monday, Nov. 1, or Saturday, Nov. 6, from 9:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

People living in residential and long-term care centres, people residing at home, but who cannot leave for health reasons, as well as caregivers living at the same address, or people in mandatory quarantine, will be eligible to vote by mail. Moreover, depending on the municipality, mail-in ballot may also be an option for voters above the

age of 70, as well as business owners and occupants of business establishments who live elsewhere.

In addition, due to the ongoing pandemic, voters may be able to vote at the office of the returning officer. Possible days are Oct. 29, as well as Nov. 1, 2, and 3, 2021, and will be open from 9:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

What do you have to bring?

Upon arrival at the polling site, eligible voters must present one of the following forms of photo identification: A health insurance card, a driver's license, a Canadian passport, a Certificate of Indian Status, or a Canadian Armed Forces identification card.

In addition to low voter turnout, municipalities often face a shortage of candidates for mayor or council positions. For example, during the last municipal elections in the Eastern Townships, which occurred in 2017, 386 positions out of a possible 627 were filled without opposition, and only 21.8 per cent of mayoral positions, and 33.4 per cent of councillor seats were held

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Festival Cinema du Monde

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are limited due to covid, but they are full."

The success of the outdoor screenings has even convinced the festival's director to make this a mainstay in the future. People want to be outside, she continued, and they like the setting and the ambiance. There will be screenings at Park Jacques-Cartier this weekend.

Bajjaje said they have also made their way to Lennoxville. They held several screenings out of Square Queen. It is a bit more work logistically for the festival team, she admitted, as they needed to set up sign up sheets for

outdoor screenings around the city.

"It depends, like in Square Queen we partnered with Commerce Sherbrooke, and because of Covid we need people to sign up in advance to reserve a spot," said Bajjaje, adding that this is the best way to manage the number of people, and maintain a physical distance.

She admitted that the numbers were higher last year. But she believes this can be attributed to the easy access online, and people needing some kind of outlet during Quebec's prolonged lockdown. There is still a lot of participation this year, she clarified.

What has changed from last year's

unique festival is the morale. The festival team is more overwhelmed this summer, but they are also relieved to be back at work. She said people don't understand what goes on behind the scenes.

Bajjaje also noted that they have tried to be more inclusive with the English-speaking community. They normally make an appearance in Lennoxville to connect with the community and showcase international films. There is a lot of the same elements this year.

"There are English films, and we have films with English subtitles, almost all of the English films have

French subtitles, and the films that we show at Square Queen are in French with English subtitles," said Bajjaje.

She hopes to spread the word that the festival is not only for the French-speaking community. Bajjaje is always looking for ways to break down the walls that divide the communities. She said presenting at Square Queen was an important moment.

"It is really to develop the festival and make it more accessible to the English-speaking community. We always want to break this barrier between the two communities," said Bajjaje.

Vaccine reserve

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

employees and their families, as well as members of the surrounding communities.

Despite the changes, the announcement reiterates that it remains possible to quickly receive a shot, by appointment or otherwise, at clinics and pharmacies throughout Quebec

As of Wednesday's information, a

total of 11,256,183 doses have been administered in Québec, accounting for adequate vaccination in 69.1 per cent of the population 12 years of age and older.

Despite the progress in the vaccination campaign, the Province of Quebec reported 184 new cases of COVID-19 on Wednesday, bringing the total number of people infected to 378,157 with 1,263 active cases across

the province. The total number of deaths since the start of the pandemic was revised to 11,240 due to the withdrawal of one not attributable to COVID-19. The number of hospitalizations remained stable compared to the previous day, at 58, but the number of people in intensive care dropped back down by one, to 17.

In the Eastern Townships the number

of active cases climbed to 40 with the addition of another new case in the Sherbrooke area. At the moment, 24 of the 40 cases active in the region are in Sherbrooke.

Local hospitalizations remained unchanged at three, and no new deaths were reported. The next update on the local vaccination campaign is expected Friday.

2021 Mazda MX-5



When (wo)man and machine get symbiotic

Photo: M. Crépault



By Michel Crépault

Auto123 puts the 2021 Mazda MX-5 to the test in a long-term review. Today, part 2: When (wo)man and machine get symbiotic.

The MX-5 changes and still stays the same, much to our delight. When it was born, it weighed 955 kg. A beautiful baby. Over the generations, its parents have taken great care not to overfeed it, in fact today the basic soft-top Miata weighs exactly the same as at birth (the scale can read up to 1,170 kg depending on the model and options).

In an age when every other model that was on the road 20 or 30 years ago has become heavier over time, that's quite a feat. But it didn't just happen by chance.

When Mazda decided to revive the British roadster in its own style, it produced a recipe containing five main ingredients: lightweight-ness, rear-wheel drive, equal weight balance, low cornering inertia and affordability.

Since then, the Hiroshima-based automaker has never deviated from that original formula.

Symbiosis

The MX-5's 50-50 weight distribution between the two axles is something you can feel from the very first turns of the wheel. This beautiful balance settles under your buttocks and never leaves you. You feel at one with the machine, like a surfer standing comfortably balanced on their board in the middle of the waves.

The Japanese love images and symbols, as evidenced by their passion for manga, and Mazda has settled on an expression that embraces the concept behind the creation of the MX-5:

Jinba ittai. This roughly translates to "individual and horse as one".

In a traditional Yabusame event, an archer aims at a target while galloping at high speed. They are able to make this shot because they and their horse are in harmony. A touch of the heel, an imperceptible squeeze of the thighs and the horse understands the rider's command. It's a beautiful analogy that fits the MX-5 like a glove.

I drive it and I'm in complete control; the slightest impulse I give to the steering is quickly responded to. It's impossible to escape the bumps on our roads, of course, but the short wheelbase, the rigidity of the structure and the right balance of weight mean that you roll with the imperfections instead of fighting against them. And if you do happen to get a little airborne, everyone takes off together and everyone lands on their feet like a cat.

I know this because I keep going over and over the two railroad tracks that cross the road leading to my house. Not one - two! With any other vehicle, it is strongly advised to brake before passing over these mounds, especially since one of them looks like it was conceived by a Six Flags ride designer. In the MX-5, though, I go for it! The convertible follows the shape of the better-paved track like silicone around the kitchen sink. On the other track, designed in the form of a lunar crater, the Miata and I bounce cross it in a grand old mood. Let's do it again! Now, I'm not saying that it doesn't shake, rattle and roll. On the contrary! Drive the MX-5 on a road that's crookeder than a snake-oil salesman's smile, and your vertebrae clack together like castanets; your dentures, if you don't keep your mouth closed, may wind up on the floor.

But in those instances, you don't suffer alone; you suffer with the car. I think of that 2004 Viggo Mortensen movie, in which he participates with Hidalgo (titular horse of the film) in a 5,000 km race in an Arabian desert. Horse and rider are one throughout the event. Jinba ittai. When the MX-5 scrambles, swerves, jumps, shakes, shuffles and kneads, you stay together and stay in

control because you stand together.

For once, a sales slogan doesn't lie...

Propulsion and nothing else

I'm not an expert on drifting, but those who are say that the MX-5 allows them to practice their art to the fullest. The rear-wheel drive attributed to the two-seater combines with the perfectly distributed weight, low ground clearance and pocket size to make it easy to execute clever slides. I'm told.

For less adventurous riders like me and like most of us, the MX-5's incisive personality can be explored without the need for such tricks. For starters, you only need to knit the gear lever of the 6-speed manual transmission to experience that too-rare sensation of being not just a motorist, but a "driver". It's a sensation halfway between satisfaction and bliss.

For one thing, the placement of the short lever is perfect. Where your forearm rests on the centre console, where the palm naturally rests, the knob is right there, waiting for you. For another, the shifts of the six gears are tight, very tight. Tac-tac-tac. You need rhythm and regularity. The gears are so close together that if you push too hard, you end up in the wrong one.

Mazda also offers a 6-speed automatic transmission with paddle shifters for fingertip shifting fun. Not only does it do a great job, it doesn't cost anything extra if you choose it instead of the manual. An argument that seems to be seductive since Chuck Reimer, head of product communications at Mazda Canada, told me that almost 70 percent of Quebecers who have bought an MX-5 so far in 2021 went for the automatic (it was 65 percent in 2020).

These figures surprise me, I confess. Is the art of shifting gears by hand being lost? Does driving a Miata mean taking it easy with the sun on your neck?

For my part, just as I can't imagine a Margarita without tequila, a Santa Claus without a beard, and the Habs without Carey Price, I can't separate the Miata from its extraordinary manual transmission.

Municipal elections

CONT'D FROM PAGE 3

by women.

Therefore, if you are interested in running as a candidate in the 2021 municipal elections, here's how.

According to Élections Québec, in order to run, candidates must have the right to be entered on the municipality's list of electors and must have resided within that municipality continuously or at least for the last 12 months on Sept. 1, 2021.

If eligible, candidates must then obtain a nomination paper from the office of the returning officer of the municipality and submit the completed form, along with the appropriate documents to the office of the returning officer.

Candidates will have from Sept. 17 until Oct. 1, at 4:30 p.m. to register.

For more information on how to vote, or how to register as a candidate, visit <https://www.electionsquebec.qc.ca/municipales/en/index.php>

Eastern Townships manufacturer awarded combat boot contract

Record Staff

Footwear manufacturer L.P. Royer Inc (Royer) was awarded a contract worth nearly \$7 million this week to produce general-purpose combat boots and nylon laces for the Canadian Armed Forces. The company, operating out of facilities in Lac-Drolet, Quebec, and Sherbrooke, will supply 40,000 pairs of boots and 100,000 pairs of laces to supply depots in supply depots in Edmonton, Alberta, and Montréal, Quebec by Feb. 2023.

According to a press release, the general-purpose boots are "designed to provide enhanced foot protection and comfort for Canadian troops during operations conducted in ambient temperatures ranging from 0°C to 25°C." and are a part of an effort from the Canadian government to modernize its military equipment.

"Through this contract, we will not only provide superior quality boots to the members of our Armed Forces, but also create jobs and economic benefits directly in our community," said Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau, who made the announcement Tuesday.

The Royer contract was awarded through an open, fair and transparent competitive process by Public Services and Procurement Canada and is expected to maintain 25 others. Harjit Sajjan, Minister of National Defence, said that by providing quality combat boots, the Armed Forces can ensure its members are well equipped in the field.

"It is essential that the members of our Canadian Armed Forces have the equipment they need to fulfill their commitment to serving Canadians at home and abroad," said Sajjan.



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The Border Report

The town is looking to train at least six new first responders who would be able to serve the community on a rotation.

A surge of golfers in the Eastern Townships

By Michael Boriero

Golf became an important outlet for many Quebecers last year, as people struggled to find physical activities that met the province's health and safety measures, and this summer has been much of the same.

In Stanstead, Dufferin Heights Golf Club is experiencing one of its most successful summers in history. According to Eric Taylor, the club's general manager, it is even busier than last year, and 2020 was one of their busiest years ever.

"We're like 35 per cent higher this year as far as the number of rounds played versus last year. I mean we started earlier this year, so that does skew the numbers a little bit," said Taylor.

He added that there are a lot more beginner golfers out on the course. There are more people asking for lessons, taking lessons, purchasing equipment, and clothing, which has

been a boost for business overall, Taylor explained.

When asked about the loss of American golfers, since the border closed last year, Taylor said it has not been a major factor for the club. They used to get a lot more U.S. tourists, but that slowed down in recent years due to border restrictions.

"I mean we usually have quite a few American visitors, but we have a lot more people from Quebec now than we ever had before because people aren't leaving the province, right? So it has more than made up from any losses we've seen from U.S. clients," said Taylor.

Nearly 40 kilometres away in Lennoxville, Old Lennox Golf and Ski Director Bert Collins said the nine-hole golf course is always full. Everyone seems really happy, he explained, golfers of all ages are coming out to play, and many of them are getting there earlier than usual.

"What is really funny is I've got

these guys that show up at 6 a.m. the pro shop opens at 6:30 a.m. [...] When they go out, I give them a cart, and after they play their nine holes, they will stop at the pro shop and pay their fee," said Collins.

But he does not mind accommodating the needs of his members and guests. There are quite a few people that work early in the morning, Collins said, so they like to get in a quick round of golf before they head out to their respective jobs.

While there has been an influx of younger golfers since the start of the pandemic, Collins noted that there is still a significant population of golfers well into their 80s, and they are coming in almost every day of the week. The beginner golfers have also been easy to work with.

"I'll be honest with you, they are really, really respectful. I've never had any problems at all. I never have to go on the course because they are really slow. When I go on the course it is just

to see them," said Collins.

The last few weeks have particularly hot and humid in Quebec. Collins has noticed that many of the younger members tend to forget their water bottles at home. He decided to go around with a cooler, ice and water to hydrate them on the course.

"I'll take a small cooler that we have, I'll put some ice in it, and water, and I go on the course and try to find out if they have water or not [...] when it's really hot, you have got to take care of them," said Collins.

He could not provide a direct numbers comparison to last summer, however he noted that there is a severe shortage in golf equipment. Beginner sets are hard to come by these days, Collins explained, and that has to do with the number of golfers in the province.

"This year I am telling you, if I look at the parking lot right now, it's full. I have starting times until 5:30 one after the other," he said.

Stanstead offering free first responder training

By Gordon Lambie

The Town of Stanstead is offering an information session for anyone in the community who might be interested in becoming a first responder in the hopes of increasing the number of people on hand in case of an emergency situation. The meeting is set to take place next Thursday evening, August 12, at 6:30 p.m.

"We need many well-trained people able to respond quickly in

the case of emergency calls. It could make all the difference in saving lives," said Stanstead Mayor Philippe Dutil.

According to Rachel Burnham, Stanstead's Communications Coordinator, the meeting is meant to serve as a way of gauging interest and encouraging participation in a future training session for First Responder 1 class (PR-1) which includes CPR, reanimation and anaphylaxis training.

The town is looking to train at least

six new first responders who would be able to serve the community on a rotation.

"These are interventionists who could arrive first on the scene," Burnham said, noting that the community sees about 20 emergency calls over the course of the average year, the vast majority of which are for heart attacks.

Although lifesaving classes often have a cost associated with them, the communications coordinator explained that these courses will

be offered free of charge to anyone who opts to take them as a way of encouraging participation in the program. Once the course is completed, the certification it offers is valid for a period of three years.

Anyone interested in attending next week's information session is encouraged to register as soon as possible by calling 819 876-7181, extension 0 or emailing info@stanstead.ca

"There is really a big need," Burnham said.

FRONTIER ANIMAL SOCIETY

Featured pet: Gatsby

Three-year-old Gatsby was picked up as a stray and brought to a local pound. Unclaimed, he needed a safe place to land so he was transferred into our care.

Gatsby, who we affectionately refer to as our "little hippopotamus," is a whirlwind of energy. He needs lots and lots of exercise and will benefit greatly from a busy and active lifestyle where he gets a good dose of daily mental stimulation. Because of his energy, we are looking to place him in a home with a securely fenced yard where he can run and play. Gatsby loves to play frisbee but he cannot be off leash unless in a fenced yard. Despite his short little legs, with a little more work on his leash skills, he'd be a great jogging partner to

help burn off some energy.

Gatsby has experienced a lot of change and inconsistency in his short life. He's a good dog and he deserves to settle into a home with an experienced and committed adopter who will provide him with stability and love and who will help him become just a little more Zen.

Gatsby is way too excitable to live with kids and unfortunately, he does not do well with other dogs or cats.

We believe him to be an American Bully.

If you are intrigued by this little powerhouse, and would like to learn more about him, we'd love to hear from you. To inquire, please give our adoption coordinator Brenda a call at 819.876.7747 any day of the week between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.



EDITORIAL

I was ready. I was also sweating profusely and having difficulty seeing clearly through my slightly foggy spectacles.

The Empire Strikes Back: Wasp Episode II



TIM BELFORD

I'd like to start this week by thanking the many well-wishers who voiced their sympathies concerning my recent experience with the nest of ground wasps in my backyard. It is comforting, in a strange way, to realize how many out there have had a similar incident and to be welcomed into the EpiPen Carrier's Club.

I also want to answer the most frequently asked question, "What did you do about the wasps?"

The answer is simple. Like Donald Trump and his reaction to North Korean, Iranian, Chinese and Democratic Party threats, I promised to "totally destroy" the enemy.

Normally, I would have just done what is usually done on the farms back home: pin point the nest, wait until dark when things are cool and the wasps have all cuddled up for the night, pour a can of gasoline down the hole and light a match. It's simple but highly effective.

Unfortunately, this nest was located in an oblong-shaped cedar planter about five feet away from a cedar gazebo that I am quite fond of and the thought of inadvertently burning it to the ground lent a certain air of caution to my decision-making process. There was also that minor incident with the field grass

that brought the North Hatley Fire Department out in full force but that's another story.

No, this had to be done at close range, armed with the best chemical sprays modern science can produce. It also meant I had to put myself within reach of any wasps who might avoid the initial invasion and be forced to try out my new EpiPen long before its expiry date.

Step one was to create my very own 'hazmat' suit. This consisted of a pair of thick sweat pants worn over my regular trousers and tucked into a pair of rubber boots. On top I wore a long sleeve shirt covered by a nylon rain jacket with elastic wrist bands into which I tucked a pair of heavy gardening gloves. The pièce de résistance was a floppy hat surmounted by a nylon mesh gardening head cover. I was ready. I was also sweating profusely and having difficulty seeing clearly through my slightly foggy spectacles.

Prior to assailing the nest itself, I soaked a cloth with spray. I then waddled to the nest opening, whose location I had ascertained during the day from the safety of the screened gazebo. I then proceeded to use spray number two, a foaming agent, which completely blocked the opening. Acting with considerable haste, I jammed the soaked cloth into the hole and covered everything with a layer of top soil. Done.

The next day, again from the safety of the gazebo, I checked the results. The hole remained closed but I noticed several wasps flitting about obviously in search of a way in. Where these miscreants had spent the night I do not know but they were determined to dig their brothers out of the tomb I thought I had artfully created: time again for the hazmat suit.

Suffice it to say, I spent the next



three or four days, and six cans of spray, wandering about like an over-stuffed scarecrow knocking off stragglers who kept showing up with irritating regularity.

Each time a wasp appeared to dig a new hole I filled it with spray. Each time one landed I covered it with foam. I also added another six inches of top soil and finally covered everything with a mesh-covered

oblong box that I had previously used to defend the flowers from the local deer population. It seems to have worked.

Just to be sure, when the autumn chill arrives, I intend to dig up the entire box, hostas and all and start all over again. Still there's that lingering thought, "Where did all those returnees spend their nights?" I'm not sure I want to know.

Letters

A different perspective

DEAR EDITOR,

At the moment there is a controversy about official languages. In my opinion there is an element of arrogance in this whole debate.

"Official Languages" are French and English. They are the language of European settlers in Canada. Aboriginal, First Nations, languages are not included. They were here hundreds, perhaps thousands of years before European settlers. We have imposed our languages. First Nations languages should be the primary Official Languages.

I am hoping that the appointment of Mrs. Mary Simon as, aboriginal, Governor General will go some way to righting this imbalance.

SINCERELY,
JOHN SERJEANTSON

The Record welcomes your letters to the editor. Please limit your letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit for length, clarity, legality and taste. Please ensure there is a phone number or email where you can be reached, to confirm authorship and current town/city of residence. Names will not be withheld but the address and phone number of the writer are not published, except by request. Please email your letters to newsroom@sherbrookerecord.com. Preference is given to writers from the Eastern Townships.

THE RECORD

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De Grasse ends Canada's two day medal drought in Tokyo

The Canadian Press

After two days without any medals at the Tokyo Olympics, Andre De Grasse got Canada back on the board with the greatest run of his stellar career.

The decorated sprinter finally added Olympic gold to his medal collection, crossing the finish line of the men's 200 metres in a Canadian-record time of 19.62 seconds.

Gold was the one Olympic medal missing from De Grasse's collection. The 26-year-old from Markham, Ont., raced to bronze in the 100 metres on Monday in Tokyo, and captured a silver and two bronze in 2016 in Rio. He's raced to a silver and three bronze over the 2015 and '19 world championships.

De Grasse's victory comes 25 years - plus a week - after Donovan Bailey raced to 100-metre gold at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.

Toronto's Aaron Brown finished sixth. Canada had two men in the 200-metre final for the first time since 1928, when Percy Williams took gold and teammate John Fitzpatrick finished fifth.

De Grasse's run was the highlight of an impressive day in track and field for Canada, with Damian Warner sitting first after the opening five events of the decathlon and fellow Canadian Pierce LePage in third.

Warner opened his quest for an Olympic decathlon title in assertive fashion, running 10.12 seconds in the 100 metres to tie his decathlon world record in the event.

The 31-year-old from London, Ont., held a commanding lead after three of 10 events, after following up his 100 metres with a good performance in the shot put and a spectacular one in the long jump.

Warner soared 8.24 metres, the longest in Olympic decathlon history, and a distance that would have earned him a bronze medal in the open men's long jump earlier in the week.

Warner's lead diminished after the shot put, in which he finished 11th, and the high jump (eighth). But he rebounded with the third-best time in the 400 metres at 47.48 seconds to enter the halfway point in top spot with 4,722 points.

Australian Ashley Moloney, who had the best time in the 400, was second with 4,529 points.

LePage, from Whitby, Ont., had 4,529 points. He ran the 100 in 10.43, the third-fastest time on the morning. His 7.65 metres in long jump was second-best, and his throw of 15.31 in shot put was fourth.

To cap the day, he posted the second-best 400 time at 46.92 seconds while running in a fast heat with Warner and Moloney.

Warner is the No. 1-ranked decathlete in the world this year after shattering his Canadian record at the Hypo-Meeting in Gotzis, Austria. His score of 8,995 there was the fourth best in history.

Athletes still have the high jump

and 400 metres on Wednesday, amid gruelling conditions that include heat in the 30s that feels like 40 C-plus with humidity. Thursday events are the 110-metre hurdles, discus, pole vault, javelin and the 1,500 metres.

Canadians also had a strong showing in sprint canoe on Wednesday.

At Sea Forest Waterway, Canadian canoe sprinter Laurence Vincent-Lapointe roared back from an unwanted two-year hiatus to win first place in her heat and advance to the semifinals of the women's canoe single 200-metre race.

Vincent-Lapointe, a seven-time world champion at the distance, hadn't competed since the spring of 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and a positive drug test that almost upended her career. She was cleared in January 2020 when the International Canoe Federation accepted she was the victim of third-party contamination.

The 29-year-old from Trois-Rivieres, Que. marked a time of 45.408 seconds at Sea Forest Waterway, which was enough to win her heat and move her straight to the semifinals. Teammate Katie Vincent, of Mississauga, Ont., also won her heat in a time of 46.391 and will move on to Thursday's semis.

Vincent-Lapointe has dominated her sport for much of the last decade, but for a time it appeared she wouldn't get the chance to fight for a medal in her sport's first Olympic appearance.

"There's been moments when I could have thought I wouldn't make it, but deep down, I always felt I would make it," she said.

"Even three years ago when I learned women's canoe would be at the Olympics, I said that I would be there. Through everything that happened, I believed I would be here."

In other canoe-kayak competition, Michelle Russell of Fall River, N.S., qualified for the semifinals of the kayak single 500 metres after finishing third in her quarterfinal.

On the men's side, Toronto's Nicholas Matveev qualified for the semifinals after finishing second in his quarterfinal heat for the men's kayak single 200-metre.

In golf, Canadians Alena Sharp and Brooke Henderson both struggled in the first round of the women's tournament. The Canadians are well down the leaderboard after shooting 3-over 74 rounds at Kasumigaseki Country Club.

Elsewhere on the track, Genevieve Lalonde of Moncton, N.B., was 11th in the women's 3,000 steeplechase, shaving a couple of tenths of a second off her Canadian record to run 9:22.40.

Gabriela DeBues-Stafford clinched her spot in the women's 1,500 final by finishing third in her semi in a season's best 3:58.28. Her time was the third fastest on the night in the fastest semifinal in Olympic history with five women dipping under the four-minute mark.

Her younger sister Lucia Stafford was sixth in her semifinal (a personal best 4:02.12), and didn't advance.



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Labyrinthitis causes difficulties with balance



ASK THE DOCTORS by Eve Glazier, M.D., and Elizabeth Ko, M.D.

ear – the outer, middle and inner – play a role in hearing, only the inner ear is responsible for balance. It's located in a small compartment within the temporal bones, which help to form the sides and base of the skull. It consists of the cochlea, which is the hearing portion of the inner ear, and a complex of fluid-filled tubes and other structures, which deal with balance. Taken together, these tubes and structures are known as the vestibular system, or the labyrinth. They specialize in sensing various types of movement of the head, such as tilting up or down, tilting left or right, turning sideways and acceleration. Tiny hairs located throughout the vestibular system decode movement and turn it into nerve impulses. These are sent to the brain via the eighth cranial nerve, also known as the auditory nerve. The brain translates the information and instructs the body how to proceed.

The most common cause of labyrinthitis is a viral infection, such as a cold or the flu. The viruses that cause shingles, measles, mumps and rubella can also affect the inner ear. The condition can be caused by a bacterial infection that

has spread from the middle ear, but this is more common in children than adults. It can also arise as the result of an allergic reaction.

Inflammation and swelling affect the auditory nerve, and also interfere with the proper functioning of the fluid and fine hairs in the vestibular system. As a result, they receive garbled input relating to movement and balance and send that misinformation to the brain. The symptoms of labyrinthitis include dizziness, vertigo, impaired balance, a sense of spinning or falling, or nausea. If inflammation affects the cochlea, tinnitus and hearing loss are possible, as well. Treatment depends on the individual's specific symptoms, age and general health. These can include medications such as corticosteroids to reduce inflammation, antiviral medications to combat the infection, and medications to control nausea and alleviate dizziness.

In most cases, labyrinthitis resolves over time and doesn't cause lasting problems. Although your case is lasting longer than what is usually seen, your continued

improvement is encouraging. The feeling of fullness you describe suggests the middle ear may be involved. If you haven't already done so, you should speak with your health care provider about it. If a bacterial infection is suspected, antibiotics may be prescribed.

Patients who experience ongoing symptoms of labyrinthitis can benefit from an exercise program known as vestibular rehabilitation. This involves exercises that help the brain learn to cope with the altered signals it is receiving from the vestibular system. If your symptoms persist, we recommend you ask your doctor for a referral to a vestibular rehab specialist.

Eve Glazier, M.D., MBA, is an internist and associate professor of medicine at UCLA Health. Elizabeth Ko, M.D., is an internist and assistant professor of medicine at UCLA Health.

Send your questions to askthedoctors@mednet.ucla.edu, or write: Ask the Doctors, c/o UCLA Health Sciences Media Relations, 10880 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1450, Los Angeles, CA, 90024. Owing to the volume of mail, personal replies cannot be provided.

Datebook

THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, 2021

Today is the 217th day of 2021 and the 47th day of summer.

TODAY'S HISTORY: In 1884, the cornerstone for the Statue of Liberty's pedestal was installed on Bedloe's Island in New York Harbor.

In 1962, Marilyn Monroe was found dead in her Los Angeles home.

In 1981, President Ronald Reagan began to fire 11,359 striking air-traffic controllers for violating his order to return to work.

In 2010, a cave-in at the San Jose Mine near Copiapo, Chile, trapped 33 miners 2,300 feet underground.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Guy de Maupassant (1850-1893), author/poet; Joseph Merrick aka "The Elephant Man" (1862-1890); John Huston (1906-1987), actor/director; Neil Armstrong (1930-2012), astronaut; Herb Brooks (1937-2003), hockey coach; Loni Anderson (1945-), actress; David Baldacci (1960-), novelist; Patrick Ewing (1962-), basketball player; Adam Yauch (1964-2012), rapper; James Gunn

(1970-), filmmaker; Travie McCoy (1981-), rapper; Lolo Jones (1982-), Olympic athlete.

TODAY'S FACT: Norma Jeane Baker began using the name Marilyn Monroe in 1946 but did not change her name legally until 1956.

TODAY'S SPORTS: In 1979, Pete Rose of the Philadelphia Phillies hit his 2,427th career single, breaking Honus Wagner's National League record. Rose would finish his career with 3,215 singles, a major-league record that still stands.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "One sometimes weeps over one's illusions with as much bitterness as over a death." – Guy de Maupassant, "Une Vie"

TODAY'S NUMBER: 91 – minutes legendary magician Harry Houdini spent underwater in a sealed coffin before emerging unharmed on this day in 1926. The event was Houdini's last public escape.

TODAY'S MOON: Between last quarter moon (July 31) and new moon (Aug. 8).

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Text only: 40¢ per word. Minimum charge \$10.00 (\$11.50 taxes included)

Discounts: 2 insertions or more: 15% off

With photo: additional \$18.50. **DEADLINE:** 11 a.m., day before publication.

BIRTHDAY, ANNIVERSARY & GET-WELL WISHES, ENGAGEMENT NOTICES:

Text only: \$16.00 (includes taxes)

With photo: \$26.00 (\$29.90 taxes included) **DEADLINE:** 3 days before publication.

WEDDING WRITE-UPS:

\$26.00 (\$29.90 taxes included) WITH PHOTO: \$36.00 (\$41.40 taxes included)

Please Note: All of the aforementioned (except death notices) must be submitted typewritten or neatly printed, and must include the signature and daytime telephone number of the contact person. Can be e-mailed to: classad@sherbrookerecord.com - They will not be taken by phone.

DEADLINES FOR DEATH NOTICES:

For Monday's paper, email production@sherbrookerecord.com or call 819-569-4856 between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Sunday. For Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday's edition, email production@sherbrookerecord.com, call 819-569-4856 or fax 819-569-1187 (please call to confirm transmission) between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. the day prior to the day of publication. The Record cannot guarantee publication if another Record number is called. Rates: Please call for costs.

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Summer Opening Hours for North Hatley Library, 165, Main, North Hatley, QC, JOB 2C0, 819 - 842 - 2110. biblio@nhlibrary.org Monday-Friday 10am-2pm

Do Just One Thing



By Danny Seo

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has issued guidelines to keep your dog safe this summer from toxic algal blooms in waterways. The murky green substance looks like paint floating in the water and can be found in shades of blue, green, brown and red. If you see ponds, streams or other waterways with a colorful foam of scum, avoid letting your dog near them. If they drink any of this water, it can lead to serious illness or death. If your dog does take a swim in questionable water, give them a good bath in clean water when they get home.

Gone goodbye

Dear Annie

THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, 2021

Dear Annie: My significant other and I were in a relationship for 15 years. One evening, I was feeling insecure and asked whether there was someone else. Very soon after that, my significant other completely cut off all contact with me.

We were in a commitment and planning to get married, but now there is absolutely no communication, which just drives me to want to contact him even more than I would have in the past.

I'm trying to stay anchored in optimism, hoping that this storm will pass, he will get back in touch and we will restore our relationship.

How does a person shut down and not have any communication? This has spurred me to start obsessing. Without the ability to know when we will speak again, I feel paralyzed. It's very irritating, and it makes me feel totally separate from this person.

Wouldn't it create a better outcome if there were a resounding "no" or if we talked it through? How long do I hold on? Maybe it's too late. Or maybe even if he were to come back, I should be wary and concerned that he could have ever completely shut down like this. Thanks in advance for your input. – Left Behind

Dear Left: People often live in a state of open-ended anguish when a loved one goes missing or dies in a way that makes a body irretrievable. Denial is a stage of grief, and without concrete evidence of a person's death, it can be very hard to move past it.

Similarly, without a definite breakup from your partner, you're stuck in a holding pattern. That's what makes his cowardly behavior so unbelievably cruel and selfish.

If he has made himself totally unreachable, then you need to decide once and for all that things are over between you. Truly over. Only then can you have closure, properly mourn the relationship and move on.

Whatever you do, don't blame yourself. One moment of your feeling insecure should not lead your significant other to cut off all ties after being in a relationship for 15 years. I would ask what prompted your suspicions in the first place. Trust your intuition.

Dear Annie: Can you tell me a polite way to respond to a "friend" who constantly says mean things? For example, she'll say, "What's that line

on your face?" "What happened to your arm? You have spots on it." "Wow! You have a big nose." She always does it while in the company of others, which embarrasses me. Often she doesn't even address me but makes the comments to other people within my earshot. I'm not sure what I did to deserve this, as I've only tried to be nice to her. Does she do this because she is insecure? I don't want to hurt her feelings, but I've reached a point where I don't want to be in her company anymore. Hope you can help. – Frustrated Friend

Dear Frustrated: You were right to put "friend" in quotation marks. This woman is no friend; she is a frenemy. Forget being frustrated. You have my permission to be (SET ITAL)outraged(END ITAL).

Shaming a person in front of others is a form of bullying. You sound like a sweet person, and she has probably chosen you as the object of her animosity because of that. She mistakes your kindness for weakness.

So stand up for yourself the next time she insults you. I would suggest a harsh comeback, but if you're not comfortable with that, then say something upbeat but firm – for example, "Unless you're my doctor, I don't need you examining my skin." If there is some reason you can't or don't want to distance yourself from this bully, you need to at least keep her in check.

Dear Annie: I am in my late 60s, and my boyfriend, "Mark," is in his early 70s. We have been living together in my house for a year and a half. We're both divorced and have adult children from our previous marriages. Mark communicates daily with all five children via phone calls and text messages. My problem is that he's also regularly in contact with his ex-wife, who lives in the same town as us. They talk at least once a week via phone call or text, usually when I'm not around. Mark always tells me about it. They've been divorced for many, many years, and it bothers me that they talk so often.

I've asked him what they have to discuss; he says that it's always about the children. But he's also shared that she tells him about trips she's going on and things like that.

She lives with a boyfriend, too, so she is not alone, and she also talks to all their children daily. So, I don't know what she needs from Mark.

I guess I just find myself wondering, why do she and Mark have to communicate every week behind my back?

Should I continue to give him his privacy? Am I being overly sensitive? Should they maybe talk on the phone or text in front of me instead? Because what bugs me is that it seems so secretive. I share everything with him.

I tried suggesting that he limit his contact with his ex to just emergencies and matters regarding their kids, but he got upset. Should I let it go? – Vexed By the Ex Texts

Dear VBTET: In a word, yes. It sounds like he and his ex-wife are friends, and he probably talks to her when you're not around because he worries you'll get upset. He might be more open about it if you adopt a more accepting attitude toward their friendship. When you find yourself feeling insecure, gently bring your attention back to the facts:

No. 1: He and his ex have been divorced for decades, and if they wanted to get back together, they would have done so a while ago.

No. 2: It's not a bad thing that he is friendly with the mother of his children. In fact, that's a great sign.

No. 3: You and he are in a committed, loving relationship and share a home together.

I know it's easier said than done, but it will get a little easier with the doing. Who knows – you might end up befriending her, too.

Dear Annie: I recently referred a friend to another friend for a freelance web design job for a huge company. She got the job and just finished, and although I never told her I'd appreciate a referral fee for having introduced her to the opportunity, it would have been nice. I learned of another opportunity for this friend, but I'd like her to acknowledge that I recommended her. How do I kindly ask this friend for referral fees, for both this new job and the last one? – Middlewoman

Dear Middle: You don't. As far as I'm concerned, friends help friends, and they don't charge commission. However, if I hear compelling testimony otherwise, I'll be sure to print it here.

"Ask Me Anything: A Year of Advice From Dear Annie" is out now! Annie Lane's debut book – featuring favorite columns on love, friendship, family and etiquette – is available as a paperback and e-book. Visit <http://www.creatorspublishing.com> for more information.

Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com.

CELEBRITY CIPHER

by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

"L XIYTT GY JPP PLEY BU HY
DYFUXCLMYV CUB ZUD UCY NLYFY UZ
ZLDYGUDET, HIB ZUD BKY PYVXYD UZ
UID VJLPO GUDE." — CYLP JDSTBDUCX

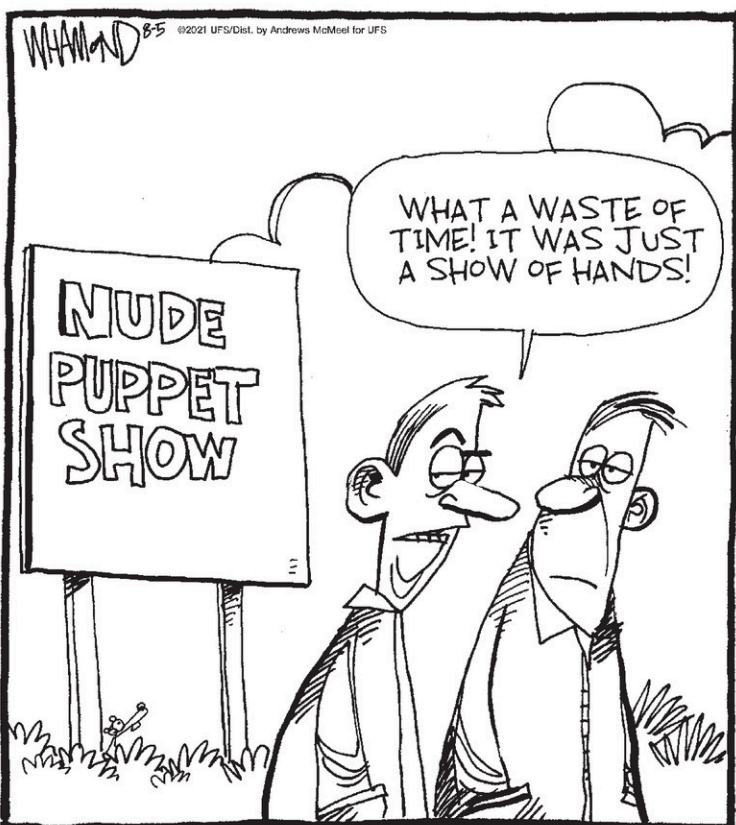
Previous Solution: "I've never wanted to be a lady who lunches; I've always wanted to be a woman who works." — Meghan Markle

TODAY'S CLUE: d sjanbe N

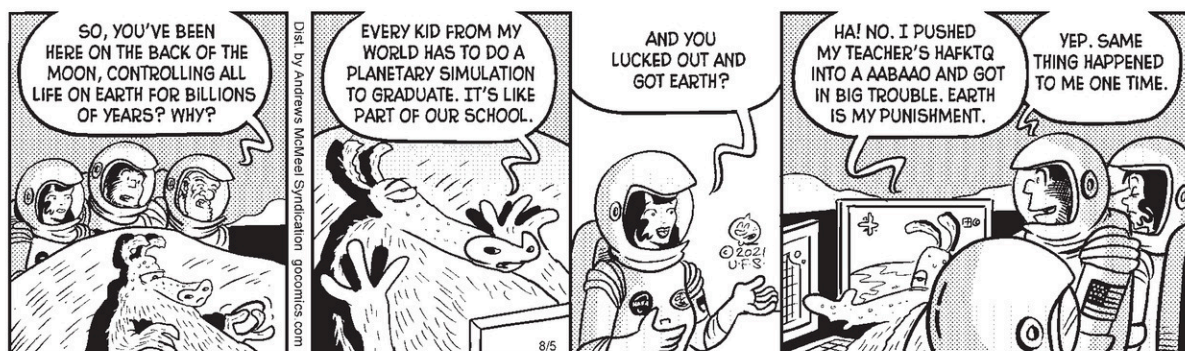
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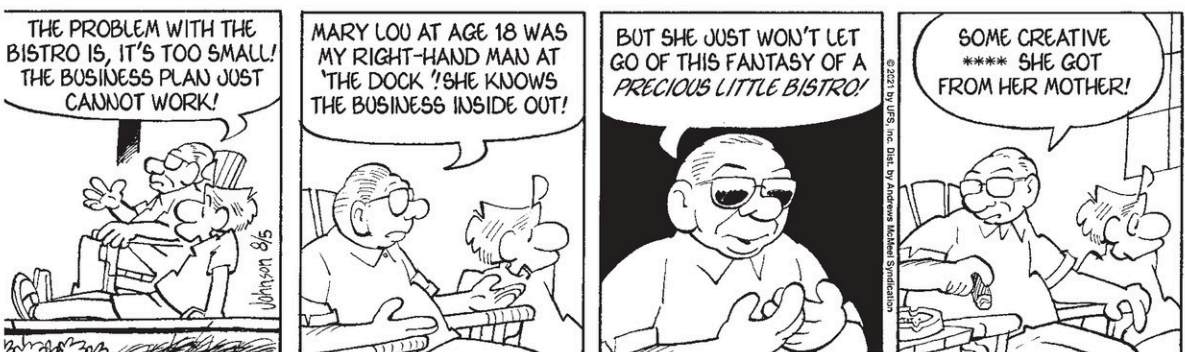
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340 Garage Sale

Town of North Hatley Giant Garage & Rummage Sale

Saturday, August 8, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Sunday, August 9, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 North Hatley Recreation Society Beach House
 2070 Lake Road - 2 floors
 Masks required.

340 Garage Sale

Huge Yard Sale at Beulah United Church 967 Main St. Ayer's Cliff, Sat. Aug 7th from 8:30 a.m. - noon. Baked goods, fresh vegetables, jewelry, kitchen and glass wear, crystal, puzzles, books, toys, furniture, tools and lots more.

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PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

HOW TO PLAY:

Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.



PUBLIC NOTICE SUMMARY

The Ville de Sherbrooke would like to inform you that the following public notice has been uploaded onto its portal, at the following address: sherbrooke.ca/avispublics, on this day:

ZONING AND SUBDIVISION BY-LAW

Request for the maintenance of records

Second draft By-Law No. 1200-146 – Amending the Zoning and Subdivision By-law No. 1200 of the Ville de Sherbrooke, zone RU1744, Cardinal-Lavigerie Street – Boroughs of Fleurimont and Lennoxville

Subject: The purpose of the second draft by-law is to authorize the transformation of the property of the Missionnaires d'Afrique Pères Blancs, located on Cardinal-Lavigerie Street, into a long-term therapy center.

To be valid, all requests for the maintenance of records must be sent in writing to the clerk from August 4 to 12, 2021.

Please take note that the following public notice has been uploaded onto the portal of the Ville de Sherbrooke on August 4th, 2021.

This public notice and the related documents may be consulted on the Ville's website at: sherbrooke.ca/avispublics. Additionally, you can get information on this public notice by calling 819-823-8000, ext. 5700, during regular business hours.

GIVEN IN SHERBROOKE, on the 5th day of August, 2021.

Éric Martel
 Assistant Clerk

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1 888 473-4636



HEART AND STROKE FOUNDATION OF QUÉBEC

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NEA Crossword Puzzle

Your Birthday

THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, 2021

financially.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) – The money you invest in yourself, your home or your business will bring high returns. Take the road less traveled and see where it leads. A physical change will lead to new possibilities.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) – Do something creative. How you spend your time will determine your state of mind. Stick to your prerogative, and you will achieve the satisfaction and happiness you desire.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) – You'll dazzle people with your insight and uniqueness. Spend time with someone who supports and inspires you to follow your heart. Romance will encourage a happy personal life.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) – Stay focused, disciplined and intent on reaching your goal. Reach out to experts to verify you are on the right path, and you will avoid wasting valuable time.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) – Take heed of any criticism that comes your way, and consider what you can do to be and do your very best. Take physical action. Pursue skills and information that will help you make the most of your day.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) – Think before you act. Make intelligent decisions that will help you get ahead. Don't let excess or trusting someone you shouldn't be your downfall. Make discipline a priority.

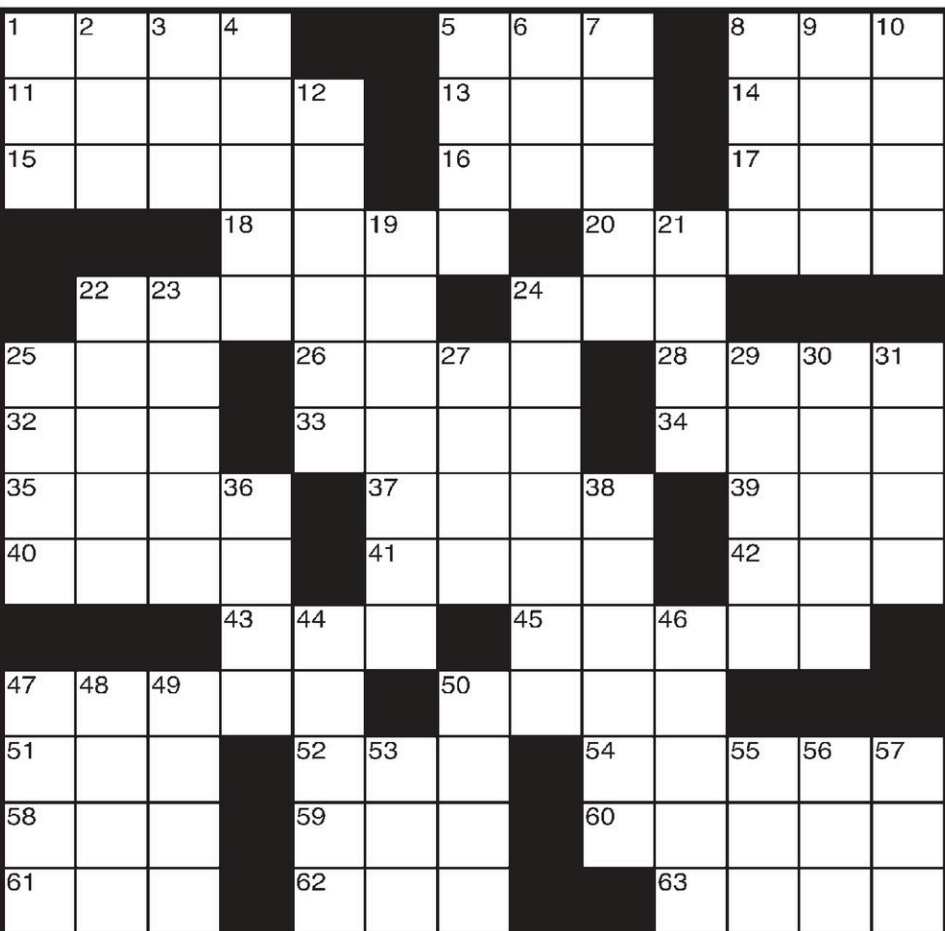
CANCER (June 21-July 22) – Use your imagination to create something spectacular. You'll gain peace of mind if you enjoy what you do. Look for a unique way to use your skills to help others, and happiness will be yours.

Answer to Previous Puzzle



- 9 Scorch
- 10 Magazine exec — Brown
- 12 Radio noise
- 19 Most cautious
- 21 Not his
- 22 Food processor button
- 23 Lithe
- 24 Of no value
- 25 Road map info
- 27 “— do for now”
- 29 Ebbets Field great
- 30 Boring item
- 31 Links org.
- 36 Read quickly
- 38 Modifies pigment
- 44 Cuttlefish style (hyph.)
- 47 Like some furs
- 48 Detroit gridder
- 49 Between
- 50 Mediterranean landmark
- 53 Family member
- 55 Yes, in Tokyo
- 56 Say incorrectly
- 57 Response to a rodent

- ACROSS**
- 1 Tyrant
- 5 Stick out
- 8 Circus routine
- 11 Loses color
- 13 Past
- 14 Cubs loc.
- 15 FBI member
- 16 Reporter's question
- 17 Duryea or Marino
- 18 Playing marbles
- 20 Brand of spandex
- 22 Spaghetti
- 24 GI hangout
- 25 Toupee, slangily
- 26 Lens opening
- 28 Mountains or river
- 32 Part of TNT
- 33 Give a ticket
- 34 Enlist again (hyph.)
- 35 Snaky fish
- 37 Jazzy Fitzgerald
- 39 Souffle ingredient
- 40 Try to find
- 41 Yukon hauler
- 42 Briny expanse
- 43 Believer's suffix
- 45 Pack rat
- 47 Moth's lure
- 50 “Around the Horn” ailer
- 51 Intend
- 52 Wash. time
- 54 Giggle (hyph.)
- 58 Garden pond fish
- 59 “Am — — time?”
- 60 Psych out
- 61 Result
- 62 Collected sayings
- 63 Scotty beamed him up
- DOWN**
- 1 Form 1040 expert
- 2 Zig's opposite
- 3 Stein filler
- 4 Leases out
- 5 Yaks
- 6 “lck!”
- 7 Hammers and saws
- 8 Angus Young's band



Embrace opportunities, and you will discover the path that is right for you. Sort through what you want to keep and what you want to discard. Make room for new beginnings, and place what you love and cherish somewhere safe. Consider what's going on around you, and plot a course that encourages your success. Leave nothing to chance or in someone else's hands.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) – Don't take on others' responsibilities. Use intelligence when offering guidance and encouragement. Fulfill a purpose that teaches both you and the recipient how to maintain equality.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) – How others perceive you will make a difference to the way you fit in socially. Honesty and integrity will lead to acceptance and positive feedback. Romance will enhance your life.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) – The fewer people you work alongside who know about your personal life, the better. Be a good listener, a confident contributor and a solutions person. Avoid impulsive purchases or actions.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) – How you handle work responsibilities will determine if you excel. Take on only what you know you can manage, and do your very best. The opportunities will come your way. Romance is favored.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) – An argument will not be worth the aggravation if you are opinionated. Your charm will get you what you want and encourage others to share valuable information to help you get ahead

THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, 2021

Which opponent has the void?

by Phillip Alder

Occasionally, we are Monday-morning quarterbacks. In particular, if you dabble in the stock market, it is easy to say what you should have done after the stock you held has gone down or the stock you sold ran higher. In bridge, though, the cards are more predictable than stock prices. You should be able to find the right play more often than not.

In today's deal, South had decisions to make in both the bidding and play. First, should he have opened one heart or two no-trump? The Kaplan-Rubens evaluation method, which loves aces and kings, rates the hand at 21.85 points. But obviously one heart could have worked better. (This type of hand is why strong-club systems were invented.) Then, though, after North made a transfer bid, South jumped to four hearts to show four or five trumps, a doubleton somewhere and a good hand for hearts – it is called a superaccept. North then bid what he thought his partner could make.

After winning the opening spade lead, South played a heart to dummy's king. When East discarded, South had no option but to try the club finesse, but that lost, and he went down one.

Was South wrong or unlucky?

Certainly wrong. Suppose South starts with the heart ace and

				North	08-05-21
				♠ 7 4	
				♥ K 10 9 7 6	
				♦ Q 4 2	
				♣ A Q 4	
West				East	
♠ Q J 10 5 2				♠ 9 8 6 3	
♥ Q 3 2				♥ —	
♦ 9 7				♦ 10 8 6 3	
♣ 10 7 3				♣ K J 9 8 5	
				South	
				♠ A K	
				♥ A J 8 5 4	
				♦ A K J 5	
				♣ 6 2	
				Dealer: South	
				Vulnerable: Both	
South	West	North	East		
2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass		
4♥	Pass	6♥	All Pass		
Opening lead: ♠ Q					

West discards. Then declarer can endplay East. South leads a heart to dummy's king, cashes his second spade winner and plays on diamonds. If East never ruffs, he is thrown in with his heart queen, forced to lead a club into dummy's ace-queen or concede a ruff-and-sluff.