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Penny Ward  
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## Young and old Mother Goose fun at the Wales Home

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# THE RECORD

THE VOICE OF THE EASTERN TOWNSHIPS SINCE 1897

## The Christmas Star

Page 7

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PM#0040007682

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2017

## No second chances for Magog House

### Historic Sherbrooke building goes up in smoke

By Gordon Lambie

One bystander called it “the end of an era,” as he watched the building burn on Wednesday morning.

Magog House, the home of the former Magog hotel and one of Sherbrooke’s oldest buildings, is no more. A fire that broke out for as-yet unknown reasons on Wednesday morning was the building’s second of 2017 and was the nail in the coffin of a structure that has been a part of Sherbrooke’s downtown core since 1836.

“I cannot put the lives of my fire-fighters in danger,” said Sherbrooke Fire Chief Stéphane Simoneau just prior to the start of the demolition on Wednesday afternoon. “Despite the fact that this is a heritage building, we made the decision to demolish it for the safety of the public.”

Simoneau explained that because of the structure of the heritage building, the day long fire and water damage made it increasingly likely that the building would collapse in the coming

CONT'D ON PAGE 4

## Meet the new ETSB heads



MATTHEW MCCULLY

Kandy Mackey has been appointed the new Director General of the ETSB. Michel Soucy, previously Director of Operations, has been appointed to fill Mackey's vacated position as Assistant Director General.

By Matthew McCully

During a special meeting of the Council of Commissioners held Tuesday evening, the Eastern Townships School Board announced the appointment of Kandy Mackey as Director General and Michel Soucy as Assistant Director General.

Both nominations were approved

unanimously by the council.

Mackey has over 21 years of experience with the ETSB as a teacher, principal and director. She has been Director of Pedagogical Services since 2012, and held the position of Assistant Director General for the last four years.

Soucy has a background in senior management with real estate and financial organizations, and has been Di-

rector of Operations, overseeing the buildings and grounds, school transportation and information and technology dossiers with the ETSB since 2012.

According to ETSB Chairman Michael Murray, the council is delighted with the nominations and confident that there will be a smooth

CONT'D ON PAGE 3

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## Weather



TODAY: SUNNY

HIGH OF -12  
LOW OF -17



FRIDAY: CLOUDY

HIGH OF -10  
LOW OF -11



SATURDAY: SNOW OR RAIN

HIGH OF 2  
LOW OF -9



SUNDAY: SUNNY

HIGH OF -7  
LOW OF -10



MONDAY: PERIODS OF SNOW

HIGH OF -9  
LOW OF -16

# Muddling through somehow



ROSS MURRAY

This past weekend, while suffering from CSPD - Collective Seasonal Psychosis Disorder - I called up a Christmas playlist on my phone. That's dangerous, the random playlist, because you never know when they'll play Pentatonix and ruin your whole Christmas.

In this case, we went straight from Judy Garland's melancholy "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" to Mariah Carey going pure id with "All I Want for Christmas is You." Now there, I thought, is the evolution of Christmas in a nutshell.

I even did some analysis. In "Have Yourself..." Judy sings "you, yourself" four times, "we, us" five times, and "I, me" zero times. In "All I Want for Christmas..." Mariah sings "I, me, mine" 17 times. She sings "you" six times, but of those six, four are used, appropriately, as objects.

"Have Yourself..." is about being together, contemplating better times, wishing the best to loved ones. "All I Want..." is about gittin' some!

By the way, if you're doing your own word count for "Have Yourself...", you may come with a different tally. That's because the original 1944 version was updated at the request of Frank Sinatra in 1957 to be less, well, bleak. For exam-

ple, the original lyrics are, "Someday soon we all will be together / If the fates allow / Until then, we'll have to muddle through somehow..." The updated, upbeat version goes, "Through the years we all will be together / If the fates allow / Hang a shining star upon the highest bow..."

If you ask me, the Greatest Generation had it right. A happy Christmas is far from a sure thing, although we've collectively (CSPD) deluded ourselves into believing not only that it should be ("I, me, mine") but that it must be. Unfortunately, you don't always get what you want. And sometimes you get what you don't want, namely the flu, from all the hugging and kissing, but that's another story.

Just the act of purchasing gifts, for example, is hugely stressful. Believe me, I know; my wife tells me all the time.

"You're in charge of gifts this year," she said this past fall.

"Okay," I said, but I sensed she was bluffing because she loves the children too much to do that to them.

I try to help. I really do. I try to come up with ideas, but it's exactly like when I see all those products in the stores: I look but I don't see. It's just a wall of overwhelming. I mean, why do we need so many different kinds of panini makers!

I also procrastinate. "You're in charge of your parents," Deb said this month, lowering the bar. "Got it," I said. Then she showed me an item in a catalogue we could order for them. (She's so helpful.) "Perfect. I'm on it," I said. A week (or so) later, I went online and discovered the item was sold out.

"I guess I'll get them a certificate to that restaurant they like," I told Deb. But I didn't.

Monday, Deb called me at work. "What's your parents' postal code?" she asked. She'd been online and found that original item now available.

"JOB 3E0."

"No, that's your postal code..." Deb said.

"Oh, right," and I gave her my parents'.

"What's their phone number?"

"819 -"

"No."

"902..."

Procrastinating and exasperating, I know. My wife is a saint.

One thing she can't help me with, though, is buying something for her. She's tough. I have a long history of striking out, although who wouldn't want a cup-holder tissue dispenser, honestly!

I'm hopeless, it stresses me out, and I'm running out of time. And I really have only one person! If only all everyone wanted for Christmas really was you. I could handle that. Just think where I'd put the bow...

But I'm not going to go full-on Mariah and make this all about me. Instead, I'll try to embrace my inner Judy.

Our son arrived home last Sunday, and as we decorated the tree, I put on the record he likes - well, he doesn't like it, he says (sure...), but it's kind of a tradition. It's the Ray Conniff Singers, who are so cringingly out of fashion they don't even show up on iPhone playlists.

The older girls arrive home Saturday, and I can't wait to see them. The house will be full, and there will be an excess of food and drink. Games will be played. They'll be tickled with their gifts. (Thanks, Mom.) It will be merry. It will be loud. It will be messy. We'll muddle through. Such is life. Such is Christmas. Have yourself a merry little one.

# Sherbrooke holiday garbage collections

Record Staff  
SHERBROOKE

The City of Sherbrooke is reminding the public of some important information concerning the garbage collections planned for the holidays.

### Monday pick-ups postponed to Friday

As indicated in the 2017 collection calendar, the pick-ups planned for the two holiday Mondays will be postponed to the following Fridays. Thus, the collections of Monday, December 25 will take place on Friday, December 29, while the

collections normally scheduled for Monday, January 1 are postponed to Friday, January 5.

### 2018 Collection Calendars

The 2018 collection calendars will be mailed next week, but until the new calendars have been distributed by Canada Post, the public can access the 2018 calendars in PDF format at any time by visiting [sherbrooke.ca/collectes](http://sherbrooke.ca/collectes), or the interactive map.

### Christmas tree collection

The collection of Christmas trees will begin on Monday, January 8, in all bor-

oughs. To dispose of a tree:

- Remove all decorations and plastic covers.

- If possible, keep fir trees out of the weather before pick-up.

- Place natural trees on the curb at the edge of the driveway and well clear of snow and ice before 8:00 am on the usual garbage day. Do not put them on the street or on the sidewalks.

The City of Sherbrooke thanks the public in advance for its usual collaboration and wishes everyone a happy holiday season.

## Ben by Daniel Shelton



# LOCAL NEWS

Over the course of the morning the babies and their parents sang familiar Christmas carols together with the residents, shared some of their favourite rhymes, and had a surprise visit from Santa Claus.

## Young and old enjoy Mother Goose fun at the Wales Home

Residents of the Wales Home had a special treat last Friday morning when they were visited by the Parent-Child Mother Goose program of the Richmond Community Learning Centre. The program, which teaches songs, rhymes, and oral storytelling skills to parents of children aged 0-3, usually meets at Richmond Regional High School but opted to end their fall session with a little bit of community outreach.

Over the course of the morning the babies and their parents sang familiar Christmas carols together with the residents, shared some of their favourite rhymes, and had a surprise visit from Santa Claus.

This is the first time that the group visited the home in roughly three years of existence, but the enthusiasm of participants both young and old suggests that it will not be the last.



PHOTO: GORDON LAMBIE

## Open house in the Marguerite Knapp Building



GORDON LAMBIE

Townshippers President Gerald Cutting, Townships Sun Publisher David Wright, and Lennoxville Borough President Claude Charron at Wednesday night's open house in the Marguerite Knapp Building in Lennoxville. The annual holiday event welcomes the public into the building that serves as home to a range of local community organizations including the Women's Centre and the Townshippers' association.

## Meet the new ETSB heads

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

transition that will allow the board to seamlessly move forward and ensure continuity of its priorities.

Also on the agenda was a resolution for an investment plan for the James Strickland Fund, a bequest donated to the ETSB by the late Lennoxville resident

In August, the liquidators of Strickland's estate handed a cheque in the amount of \$160,488.55 to the ETSB, officially launching the James Strickland Fund to support meal programs for elementary students in the ETSB.

The board resolved to put \$150,000 in a conservative investment portfolio and use the interest earned to support meal programs at Lennoxville Elementary and other elementary schools.

The board acknowledged the new sex education mandate passed down by the Education Ministry on Dec. 14.

"We have no official details yet," Murray said.

A pilot program had been in place in some schools in the province for the past two years, Murray added.

As of September, sex education will be mandatory in all schools across the province. "It will be offered at all levels; whether it will be once in elementary and once in Secondary or every year, we don't know yet," commented Murray. He did say

that professional development would be given to ensure teaching staff would be properly prepared.

By June the ETSB is required to provide the education ministry with its commitment to success plan (formerly known as the strategic plan).

Murray invited any interested commissioners to join the steering committee to develop the plan.

Sitting on the committee would require a significant time commitment, Murray added, saying that a draft should go for consultation by March.

The board announced that the spring conference hosted by the ETSB this past spring had a financial surplus. Murray said the surplus entitles the ETSB to a \$14,500 rebate, which he said the board will put to good use.

Before adjourning, Murray made a point of congratulating Parent Commissioner Cindy Véronneau on her presentation to Kathleen Weil, Minister Responsible for Relations with English-Speaking Quebecers recently at Richmond Regional High School.

Véronneau is the board's representative on the Special Education Advisory Committee; she spoke to Weil about the need for access in outlying areas to services for special needs children.

According to Murray, Véronneau's presentation resonated with Weil to the point that during her noon hour speech, she singled out Véronneau, highlighting the needs she had outlined earlier.

Véronneau's diligence earned a round of applause from the other commissioners.

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# No second chances for Magog House

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

days. Support walls on the second and third floors had collapsed, increasing the pressure of the outside walls on the floors inside.

"We had a lot of difficulty fighting this fire because it was a building that was on the one hand being renovated and on the other, largely abandoned," Simoneau said. "As soon as we understood that there was no one to evacuate we adopted a defensive strategy to avoid the fire spreading rather than trying to save the building."

That strategy, he said, involved largely spraying down the outside of the building, meaning that very little of the water was making its way into the heart of the structure. As a result, a fire that was first reported just after 5 a.m. was still going strong at 3:30 in the afternoon.

With the fire still burning and the focus shifted to demolition, the Fire Chief said that it was far too early to be

able to say what started this fire although he was able to say that the initial blaze seems to have been on the abandoned second floor. Asked if the demolition would hinder the investigation, Simoneau said that many pieces of information were recorded over the course of the day and that the Police will be involved in the investigation as it moves forward.

"This does not mean that we are saying it was a criminal act," the fire chief stated, "but it will allow us to cover every possibility."

The building's internal sprinkler system limited damage from an electrical fire last April, but the building was still mostly empty and in recovery mode.

"An empty building always prompts questions," the Simoneau said "People can interpret it how they will, but anything is possible."

The building was most recently home to several businesses including the Le Magog, Duplessis and L'Otre Zone Bars

but had in the past been the location of the Magog Hotel. The Duplessis closed its doors for good after the fire in April and the L'Otre Zone had been on the verge of

reopening. Le Magog, which suffered only minimal damage in the spring, was little more than smoking ruins by 9 a.m.



PHOTOS BY GORDON LAMBIE



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Fondation du CHUS

On behalf of the patients, hospital staff and the CHUS Foundation, we would like to express our sincere gratitude for your generosity and also would like to extend to you and your family, much health and happiness this Christmas season.

*Warm wishes.*

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# Ayer's Cliff Elementary enjoys Christmas dinner thanks to local volunteers

On Wednesday December 20 the students of Ayer's Cliff Elementary School were treated to a royal feast of turkey, stuffing, potatoes, gravy, vegetables, cranberry sauce and cake. All of the food was donated, and with many of the turkeys were among those auctioned off by the 4-H at this past

year's fair to support the Children's Wish Foundation. Instead of keeping these turkeys, several groups donated them to the school for the Christmas dinner. Guy Patry, owner of the local grocery store, and his wife Danielle donated all the other food necessary to feed 100 students and staff. The home and school as-

sociation as well as the breakfast program ladies all volunteered their time to prepare the wonderful lunch. Many volunteers from the community cooked the turkeys and helped serve the lunch. The Mayor of Ayers Cliff, Vincent Gérin stopped by for the event as well as Reverend Lee Ann Hogle from Beulah

United Church, who was present to offer grace. After enjoying the meal and thanking all who provided it, the students enjoyed an extra long recess playing in the snow.

Submitted by Jennifer Mackinnon  
Secretary Ayers Cliff Elementary



Guy Patry and Mayor Vincent Gérin filling their plates



*I'm gonna be a Fireman someday.*

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# EDITORIAL

*"For actors and producers who abused their position  
He shed not a tear nor excused their condition..."*

## Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night



TIM BELFORD

It was the night before Christmas  
and all 'cross the nation

We awaited dear Santa with much expectation.

But as we wrapped up our parcels and festooned the tree

A bad time for some we didn't foresee.

For far in the north in a comfortable nook

That gentle old elf perused his great book.

With columns denoting both naughty and nice

He checked the long list not just once but, yes, twice.

His finger ran down until it came to a T

Trump, Donald it read, "Oh my. Oh dear me!

Taking health care from some, that's really so cruel.

For him it's a lump of his preferred fossil fuel."

Close to Trump he found Trudeau, a Justin by name,

Another involved in the political game.

"A bit of a peacock too fond of a pose.

He'll awake Christmas morn with a wart on his nose."

And so it went as he scanned the long list

Ensuring that none, good or bad,

should be missed.

Through the cold winter night in the dim-lighted den

He scratched at the list with his goose feather pen.

Under P he found Putin who invaded Ukraine

"That's something that he could never explain,

So for Vlad it's a Christmas day pain in his tummy

And none of the borscht that's always so yummy."

For actors and producers who abused their position

He shed not a tear nor excused their condition

But with a stroke of his pen and the wink of an eye

Made sure that he and his deer would pass by.

Under C he found Couillard, Philippe, Premier

Who turned to the Anglos, again, a deaf ear.

"I think another poll showing votes disappearing

Would really do wonders to fix Philippe's hearing."

Through the long winter night he amended the list

Ensuring not any bad deed would be missed.

And when the sun rose and he'd finished his work

He looked at the book with a bit of a smirk.

"Tonight when I ride with my deer 'cross the sky

The trip should be shorter as I pass them all by.

But to the kind and the loving who fight the good fight,

Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night."



## René- Lévesque Blvd project still on budget despite overruns

Record Staff  
SHERBROOKE

The City of Sherbrooke has acknowledged that the completion of phases 1 and 2 of René-Lévesque Boulevard is encountering unplanned costs. Nevertheless, these increases in specific costs has not resulted in an overall budget overrun for the major project, which has been evaluated at \$26.4 million.

Council authorized the payment of approximately \$900,000 to a consulting engineering firm for the design of plans and specifications and the supervision of work. Due to the complexity of the site and changes made as the project progressed, this sum exceeds that called

for in the contract with the firm but remains below the initial estimate made by the City's Major Projects Office.

Council also agreed that contingent work associated with the construction of René-Lévesque Blvd could reach 12 per cent of the value of the initial contract, rather than 10 per cent as originally agreed upon. This authorization is intended to cover the anticipated additional contingent work.

The construction of phases 1 and 2 of René-Lévesque Blvd requires major work on a 2.75 km section at the western limit of the urban perimeter, between Industriel Boulevard and Henri-Labonne St. The opening of this section is scheduled for 2018.

## Downtown quarrel turns violent, two arrested

Record Staff  
SHERBROOKE

Two young Sherbrookemen face charges after an altercation went wrong early Wednesday in Sherbrooke.

At around half-past midnight, a 21-year-old turned up at a residence at 200 Olivier Street, in downtown Sherbrooke and broke down the door of the home armed with a hammer.

The occupant defended himself, a fight broke out and the interloper was pushed down a staircase.

Police were called to the scene and found the 21-year-old at the bottom of the stairs suffering from a severe head injury. He was taken to the hospital, where he was listed in stable condition.

The occupant, 19, was arrested and could face charges of assault with a weapon and assault for pushing the other man down the stairs.

The two men knew each other, but police do not as yet know the reason behind their altercation. The 21-year-old could also be charged with break and enter, uttering death threats, and assault.

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### THE RECORD

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# The Christmas Star

## Lois Blanchette's swan song

By Matthew McCully

**A**t 97-years-old, musician Lois Ogilvie Blanchette told The Record she has decided to retire from choir directing and performing publicly.

Her final appearance was yesterday at the Seigneuries du Carrefour Retirement Residence, where she directed l'Ensemble vocal de La Bruère, performing an original composition of Blanchette's, The Christmas Star.

"I'm slowing down a bit," Blanchette said in an interview before the concert, not wanting to put too much stress on herself these days.

She did, however, relish every moment of her final public appearance as a choir director.

She took a few moments to herself to gather her strength before taking the stage. She pulled a piece of maple fudge from her purse for a little boost of sugar as the choir entered the room and began the concert.

Blanchette's song, seventh in the program, was a surprise for the audience.

She stepped up to the stage wearing the same dress she has been wearing to concerts since she was 18-years-old.

"Don't look too closely at it," Blanchette said, confessing there were parts of it being held together with tape.

Before beginning, Blanchette gave a brief description of her song, The Christmas Star, and explained the importance of controlling the dynamics of the singers to engage the audience and put emphasis on the lyrics.

Her final endeavour earned her a standing ovation from the crowd.

Blanchette was an accomplished violinist, harpist, and former coloratura soprano, and is well-known in Sherbooke as a choir director.

In the 1970s Blanchette was on vacation in Florida with her husband. They had parked their car in a shopping centre lot quite a distance from the door on a very hot day. When they finally made their way to the door

of the mall, the wave of cold air conditioning shocked and paralysed Blanchette's vocal chords. She was unable to speak for days and ultimately lost her ability to sing altogether.

"The lord giveth and he taketh away," Blanchette said, explaining that when her voice was taken, but she was given something else; an opportunity to arrange and direct.

Among the many groups she worked with, Blanchette directed La Chorale de l'Amitié (The Singing Girls of Sherbrooke).

One of her choir members from a 1962 concert, André Roux, happens to be a neighbour of Blanchette's and attended yesterday's concert to hear the song she had performed with Blanchette 55 years ago.

While she is stepping away from the lime-light, Blanchette remains a lover of life. She pointed out that she will celebrate her half birthday on December 24.

When she was young, her parents allowed her to open one present from under the tree

since it was precisely halfway to her birthday.

The Record would like to wish Blanchette a happy retirement from choir directing and a happy half birthday.



Blanchette kept the program from the 1962 concert here the song *The Christmas Star* was performed.



One of her choir members from a 1962 concert, André Roux, happens to be a neighbour of Blanchette's and attended yesterday's concert



Her final endeavour earned her a standing ovation from the crowd.

## 2017 Babies!

Proud parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, show off your pride and joy in our "Babies of 2017" edition of The Record to be published on **January 19, 2018**.

Mail a photograph of the baby with: baby's name, birth date, parents' name, hometown and 10 words describing the little tyke, along with \$20. (taxes included), daytime phone number and a stamped, self-addressed envelope to

**The Record at 6 Mallory St.,  
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# The Border Report

. There is a strong sense of pride for those who are choosing to participate in our programs...

## Holiday heating reminder from Fire Chief Goodsell

As temperatures drop, folks are turning up the heat in many ways.

Wood heat is still a popular choice, especially outside the urban setting. I would say that around 30% of my territory uses a combustible wood source, which includes pellet stoves. A lower cost of operation, combined with guaranteed heat in a power outage are two of the main reasons for wood stoves.

Then there are the occasional users who might use wood heat on weekends, at the cottage or in the fireplace for ambiance.

In many cases, the occasional user is just as much of a risk as the regular user, because they tend to forget a step, which can be dangerous.

When it comes to ashes, there are a few things we can do to reduce further risk.

One, always use a solid metal bucket and shovel to remove ashes. Ideally, the fire has been out for a while and the ashes have had time to turn grey- thus no hot embers remaining, but this is not always possible, especially if it's your main source.

Always take the ashes outside as soon as you're done cleaning the stove. Do not place them close to the house, and do not dump them into any other com-

combustible source, like a garbage or compost bin. If you can, put a little snow on top of the ash can or even around it. Remember that ashes can stay hot for a number of days after being pulled from the stove, and can re-ignite with the right amount of oxygen and fuel.

Happy Holidays.  
Submitted by Stanstead Fire Chief Chris Goodsell



By Clea Corman

The holiday season is upon us and mother nature seems to have obliged by giving us the winter wonderland so often associated with this time of year. Somehow, when the world is doused in white, things getting quieter, giving us the opportunity to think. However, people tend to become abnormally busy during this time of year, running last minute errands for parties and buying gifts. December has been quite the busy month at Phelps as well, and we

are looking forward to what the new year has in store. We have had an amazing start to this school year, with an incredible amount of support from the community and participation in our programs like we have never seen before. I know that over the holidays, I will be reflecting on all those moments we have shared with Phelps participants; the successes, the laughs and the ridiculous moments that arise from working with youth. There is a strong sense of pride for those who are choosing to participate in our programs and for those in the



community who know how important it is to support our youth. You are all making a difference. A big thank you from the Phelps team, and best wishes!

Phelps Aide Phelps Helps is a rural community non-profit striving to reduce the elevated drop-out rate in the Stanstead area. Phelps was started in 2012 by two community members, and



has grown from a single program to seven unique programs, providing Stanstead area youth with free tutoring, educational and career support and hands-on learning from Grade 3 to the end of high school and further. For more information, please email us at info@phelpshelps.ca or call our offices at 819-704-0799.

### FRONTIER ANIMAL SOCIETY

## Featured pet: Pushkin

As yet another year comes to a close, we'd like to take this opportunity to share some of the highlights from 2017.

This past November, the Frontier Animal Society was extremely honoured to be the recipient of Guardian's Quebec Rescue of the Year Award. We take great pride in the work we do and receiving this award serves as an acknowledgment of our commitment and effort. And we couldn't have done it without your help, and the help of our dedicated volunteers.

All of our volunteers and staff share our founder Joyce Decker's passion for animal rescue but running an animal shelter isn't always easy.

On a good day, adoption inquiries outnumber the requests for incoming animals. On a really good day, at least one of those adoption inquiries is for a senior dog/cat or for one of them that is in need of a little extra love, attention and commitment. We love those days!

But then there are the not so good days. The days when we find ourselves scrambling to figure out—with our capacity at its limit and our vet bills piling

up—how we can possibly save even one more animal in need of our care.

But how can we say no to Larah, the senior black lab that was dumped at a municipal pound; her body ravaged by mange? How can we turn our back on Digby, the stray cat found curled up on a cold, snowy sidewalk; emaciated and infested with fleas? How do we ignore the plea to help Angala and Shirley, two tiny kittens found huddled together under a bridge? And what about little Pushkin? A 12-year-old yorkie heartlessly abandoned; her little body riddled with infection and in need of immediate medical care.

There are times we just can't say no. Often we are their last resort.

Our adoption count so far this year is 70 amazing dogs and 102 magnificent cats and kittens happily settled into their new homes. We also sterilized and returned 11 feral barn cats. Along with our usual suspects—abandoned cats, dogs from municipal pounds on death row, local and northern strays and owner surrenders—we welcomed Danna and Jody, two dogs flown in all the way from Jordan. We don't usually do inter-

national rescue, but when they arrived in Montreal, emotionally shut down and in need of a place to go, we were glad to offer them a safe place to land. They both needed special care but, happily, they are now both thriving in their new adoptive homes.

For those animals still with us, waiting to find a family of their own, we'll make sure they get extra love and a few extra treats over the holidays.

On behalf of the hundreds of animals

whose lives you've helped us save, we thank you for your generous financial support. We hope we can count on your generous donation again this year.

Donations can be made by check in the name of SAFAS, 2405 Griffin Road, Ogden, Qc J0B 3E3 OR credit card or paypal by visiting our website at safas.ca

Wishing you and yours a safe and happy holiday season!

The SAFAS Team



Pushkin

# Eastern Townships generosity: a gift that keeps on giving

Three Richmond-area schools; Richmond Regional High School, Saint Francis Elementary, and école Plein Cœur recently ran a combined food drive to support the local community. Between the three, 115 baskets were prepared for needy families in the Richmond, Melbourne, and Cleveland areas.



COURTESY.

Richmond food drive Plein Coeur



COURTESY

Richmond food drive RRHS



COURTESY

Richmond food drive St. Francis

## SQ arrest Katevale woman in fatal hit and run

Record Staff

The Sûreté du Québec's Major Crimes Investigation Department arrested a woman Tuesday for a fatal hit and run incident in Bonsecours on November 7 that killed a road worker. The 30-year old Ste-Catherine-de-Hatley resident appeared Wednesday at the Granby Court House to be charged with manslaughter, hit and run, dangerous driving, and assault with a weapon.

At around 3:30 pm, November 7, a red car struck a worker on a road construction site on Route 220, near the intersection with Ch. de l'Église. The victim was 60-year old Michel Carmel from Sherbrooke. According to information circu-

lating since the accident, Carmel had signaled the driver to stop while she finished a cell phone call, but she failed to do so.

The Major Crime Investigation Services (SECM) group has over 250 investigators throughout the Sûreté du Québec territory. They carry out large-scale investigations into crimes against people and property and financial crimes. In addition, the SECM coordinates investigations at MRC stations, and collaborates with the various municipal police services.

Any information on criminal or suspicious activity can be sent to the Sûreté du Québec Criminal Information Center at 1-800-659-4264.

### Christmas

is just around the corner and it's time to be thinking about gift giving. Offer the gift of a subscription to The Record to keep family and friends linked to the events of the Townships.

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# Local Sports

Raymond coached with Gaiters' current bench boss Cherif Nicolas at Cégep de Vieux-Montreal from 2007-2012, winning the Bol D'Or in 2009.

## Raymond named co-Defensive Coordinator at Bishop's

Experience cannot be taught. The experience of winning a Vanier Cup is something Fabrice Raymond will bring immediately to the Bishop's Gaiters football team. He was officially named the Lennoxville institution's co-defensive coordinator today.

Raymond hoisted the Vanier Cup in 2014 as a defensive backs coach for the Montreal Carabins, a position he held from 2013-2017. During that stint, the Carabins also won the Dunsmore Cup in 2015 and he coached 11 RSEQ all-stars and four U SPORTS all-Canadians.

"I'm excited about working here," said Raymond, the newest member of the Gaiters' family. "I have experience from playing and coaching against Champlain-Lennoxville and more recently recruiting

here. I really love the area. Bishop's is a great place; it has a collegiate feel to it."

Raymond also coached in the East-West bowl from 2013-2015, acting as the defensive coordinator in 2015.

The Central University alum played cornerback for four years earning two letters along the way.

Raymond coached with Gaiters' current bench boss Cherif Nicolas at Cégep de Vieux-Montreal from 2007-2012, winning the Bol D'Or in 2009. Along the way, eight of his defensive backs were named all-stars. Nicolas and Raymond will split the Defensive Coordinator duties with the Gaiters.

"I'm going to work with the team on simplifying difficult things," Raymond added. "I've worked a lot on aerial de-

fense coverage; I want to help our team understand how teams are attacking us. I like guys to play with confidence and to do this we will focus on fundamentals, technique and effort."

While coaching at Vieux-Montreal, the defensive guru also patrolled the sidelines for École Secondaire Dalbé Viau from 2008-2012.

His outreach in the football community continued as he was an invited coach with Team Quebec from 2008-2012, coached the defensive backs from 2013-2015 and was the Head Coach of Team White in 2015.

"We believe that Fabrice is a great addition to our staff," said Nicolas, who will celebrate his one-year anniversary at the helm of the Gaiters on Thursday. "I have

had the privilege to coach with him in the past and he is extremely loved and respected by his players. Coach Raymond also brings a wealth of knowledge acquired throughout his tenure with the University of Montreal and the experience of coaching in two Vanier Cups. I know that our players and our program will greatly benefit from him as a person as well as a coach."

Raymond will join the Gaiters' coaching staff early in the New Year in preparation for the 2018 AUS campaign, their second in the conference.

Stay up-to-date anytime with the Bishop's Gaiters at [www.gaiters.ca](http://www.gaiters.ca) or on social media using @BishopsGaiters or #GaiterNation.

## From hockey to hoops:

### A look at 10 of the biggest sports stories from 2017

By Ryan McKenna  
THE CANADIAN PRESS

The NHL decided to skip out on the Pyeongchang Olympics, a pair of Toronto franchises won titles and the Blue Jays lost beloved former pitcher Roy Halladay when his private plane crashed.

Here are 10 of the biggest sports stories The Canadian Press reported on in 2017:

#### NHL SKIPS PYEONGCHANG OLYMPICS

After months of speculation, the NHL officially announced in April that it won't participate in the 2018 Olympic Games in Pyeongchang, South Korea.

It's the first time since 1994 that NHLers won't attend the Olympics. The decision was met with disappointment from players around the league.

Canada's roster for the upcoming Games will be composed mostly of ex-NHL players that are currently playing in Europe.

#### PENGUINS DEFEND STANLEY CUP

Sidney Crosby and the Pittsburgh Penguins defied a recent NHL trend by winning the Stanley Cup for a second straight year.

Pittsburgh defeated the Nashville Predators in six games to win the title. Crosby, the Penguins' captain from Cole Harbour, N.S., also earned his second-straight Conn Smythe Trophy as playoff MVP.

The repeat is more impressive given the level of parity in the current NHL. The last team to win two Cups in a row was the Detroit Red Wings in 1997 and 1998.

Pittsburgh's win also extended Canada's Stanley Cup drought to 24 years. The 1992-93 Montreal Canadiens are the last team from north of the border to hoist the iconic trophy.

#### ROY HALLADAY DIES AT 40

Roy Halladay, who spent 12 seasons with the Toronto Blue Jays, died on Nov. 7 at the age of 40 when his private plane crashed into the Gulf of Mexico.

His death was a shock to Canadians that witnessed him win a Cy Young

Award with the Blue Jays in 2003 and another as a member of the Philadelphia Phillies in 2010. Halladay was with Toronto from 1998 to 2009 before being dealt to Philadelphia, where he played from 2010-13.

He was a three-time 20-game winner and pitched both a perfect game for the Phillies (2010) and a no-hitter in the National League Division Series later that year.

#### RACHEL HOMAN DOMINATES WOMEN'S CURLING

Ottawa's Rachel Homan produced one of the most successful calendar years in curling history in 2017.

The 28-year-old skip earned a berth in February's Olympic Games in Pyeongchang, South Korea with a victory at the Roar of the Rings. She also captures the Tournament of Hearts national title and the world championship.

It's the first time that Homan will represent Canada at the Olympics. The national title was her third and the worlds win was her first.

The Canadian squad won every game at the worlds \_ Homan's third attempt at world championship glory \_ and erased the country's nine-year title drought.

#### TORONTO FC WINS FIRST MLS CUP

Toronto FC started the Major League Soccer season looking for redemption after losing in penalty kicks to the Seattle Sounders in the 2016 MLS Cup at BMO Field.

They accomplished just that and more, defeating Seattle 2-0 in a rematch on home field to win the first MLS championship in franchise history.

Toronto (20-5-9) was also the best team during the regular season and set a record with 69 points \_ the most ever in MLS history. Along with the MLS Cup, they accomplished a treble by capturing the Supporters' Shield as best MLS regular-season team and a Voyageurs Cup as Canadian champions.

Led by captain Michael Bradley and forwards Sebastian Giovinco and Jozy Altidore, the Reds set franchise records for wins (20), goals scored (74), fewest goals allowed (37), shutouts (13), home wins

(13), home points (42), road wins (7) and road points (27).

#### ARGOS TURN FRANCHISE AROUND

The Toronto Argonauts fired general manager Jim Barker following a 5-13 season in 2016 and had head coach Scott Milanovich resign.

Expectations were low entering 2017, but with new personnel such as GM Jim Popp and head coach Marc Trestman, Toronto turned things around drastically.

Quarterback Ricky Ray was mostly healthy this season and led the Argos to a 9-9 regular-season record and East Division title.

Toronto went on to capture the 17th Grey Cup in franchise history with a 27-24 upset win over the Calgary Stampeders at Ottawa's TD Place.

#### DENIS SHAPOVALOV'S BREAKOUT SEASON

Denis Shapovalov started this year as the 234th ranked player on the ATP World Tour. He finished 2017 ranked No. 51.

The 18-year-old burst onto the tennis scene in 2017 \_ highlighted by a trip to the semifinals at the Rogers Cup in Montreal.

Shapovalov beat world No. 1 Rafael Nadal at the Rogers Cup before falling to Alexander Zverev in the semis. He's the youngest player to ever to reach an ATP World Tour Masters 1000 semifinal.

The Richmond Hill, Ont., native used that momentum to reach the fourth round at the U.S. Open \_ his best finish at a senior Grand Slam.

#### R.J. BARRETT LEADS CANADA TO NEW HOOPS HEIGHTS

R.J. Barrett turned heads this year as Canada's next top basketball star.

The 17-year-old from Mississauga, Ont., earned MVP honours over the summer while leading Canada to gold at the FIBA under-19 World Cup in Cairo. It was the first time Canadians of any gender or age group won a world basketball title. And Barrett did it all as one of the tournament's youngest players.

Canada didn't back its way into the title either. They decisively beat the

United States in the semifinals before cruising past Italy in the final.

The tournament success prompted Barrett to rethink his future and reclassify for college a year earlier. He announced his intentions to play for Duke next year.

Barrett could become the third Canadian to go No. 1 overall in 2019 after Anthony Bennett (2013) and Andrew Wiggins ('14).

#### BROOKE HENDERSON CAPS ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR

Brooke Henderson built off an impressive rookie season to earn two more LPGA Tour wins this year.

The Smiths Falls, Ont., native won both the McKayson New Zealand Women's Open in September and the Meijer LPGA Classic in June to reach five career wins.

Another highlight on the season for the 20-year-old was rallying back at the CP Women's Open in Ottawa to finish tied for 12th, firing a course record 63 in the process.

Henderson, 20, earned more than US\$1.5 million and finished sixth on the money list. She's currently No. 13 on the world rankings.

#### CANADA SHUT OUT AT WORLD TRACK CHAMPIONSHIPS

Canada entered the world track and field championships in London with a ton of hype after a steady build up of solid performances in the two previous years.

But a slew of injuries and illnesses left the Canadians off the podium and empty-handed for the first time in 16 years.

Sprinter Andre De Grasse pulled out two nights before London with a torn hamstring. He was pegged to win three medals. Olympic and world champion high jumper Derek Drouin withdrew with an Achilles injury and then a stomach bug swept through the Canadian team hotel which forced nine Canadian athletes and staff into quarantine.

Canada had won six medals at the 2016 Rio Olympics.

# Datebook

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2017

Today is the 355th day of 2017 and the first day of winter.

**TODAY'S HISTORY:** In 1620, the Pilgrims went ashore at Plymouth Rock, setting foot on North America for the first time.

In 1913, the New York World newspaper published Arthur Wynne's "Word-Cross Puzzle," the first crossword puzzle.

In 1937, Disney's "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," the first feature-length animated film, premiered.

In 2013, the Walt Disney Company completed its \$4.06 billion purchase of Lucasfilm Ltd.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS:** Benjamin Disraeli (1804-1881), British prime minister; Josh Gibson (1911-1947), baseball player; Joe Paterno (1926-2012), football coach; Jane Fonda (1937-), actress; Frank Zappa (1940-1993), musician; Samuel L. Jackson (1948-), actor; Chris Evert (1954-), tennis player; Ray Romano (1957-), actor/comedian; Florence Griffith Joyner (1959-1998), Olympic track athlete; Kiefer Sutherland (1966-), actor; Julie Delpy (1969-), actress/filmmaker.

**TODAY'S FACT:** "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," derided by Hollywood insiders as "Disney's Folly" while it was in production, cost Disney Studios an estimated \$1.5 million to create. Walt Disney mortgaged his home to help cover the unanticipated expenses.

**TODAY'S SPORTS:** In 2010, the University of Connecticut Huskies women's basketball team won its 89th consecutive game, setting a new Division I record for consecutive wins.

**TODAY'S QUOTE:** "It is knowledge that influences and equalizes the social condition of man; that gives to all, however different their political position, passions which are in common, and enjoyments which are universal." — Benjamin Disraeli

**TODAY'S NUMBER:** 41 — adult male Pilgrims on the Mayflower who signed the Mayflower Compact before disembarking on Plymouth Rock.

**TODAY'S MOON:** Between new moon (Dec. 17) and first quarter moon (Dec. 26).

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## In Memoriam

**HARVEY, Kevin Allen:** May 23, 1963 - December 21, 2000.

*Our tears may fall a little less  
But we speak of you often  
And reminisce of times  
You were here with us.  
We miss you oh so very much,  
Especially when Christmas time is near.  
We will never stop loving or missing you.*

**BARBARA AND JUNIOR  
(Mom and dad)  
LLOYD AND MARK  
(brothers)  
JANICE AND TRUDY  
(sisters)**

## In Memoriam

**ROBINSON, Mary and Walter (Bill) -** In loving memory of our dear parents, grandparents and great-grandparents who passed away December 25, 2011 and December 12, 1990.

*O happy hours we once enjoyed  
How sweet their memory still,  
But death has left a loneliness  
The world can never fill.*

**Sadly missed by her  
DAUGHTER, SONS  
AND FAMILY**

## Death



### Larry (Bernard Laurence) BOIRE

With heavy hearts we announce the passing of Larry, 61, who died December 16th at the Hotel Dieu in Sherbrooke. He was most precious to his wife Barbara (Hedges), and greatly cherished by his children Will (Lisa Liskovoi), Michael (Destiny Beland), Rebecca and Sam. He will be missed by his brother Paul (Monica Wong) Toronto, brother-in-law Philip Hedges (Christine) Sussex UK, cousins Trudy Munro, Toronto, Shelley and Joanne McDonald, California, and Aunt Donna Dermer, Kelowna. He leaves to mourn his close friends Doug and Marthe Broadbent, Don and Christine Doell, Dave and Carol McCormack, Stephane Souci, Wendy Hughes, Sandra Rundic and his colleagues at Wolters Kluwer. Larry was a proud member of the Lennoxville United Church choir, the Masons and the Cangro Investment Club.

We warmly welcome family and friends on Saturday, December 23rd, 2017 at the Lennoxville United Church, 6 Church St., Sherbrooke (Lennoxville), with visitation from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. followed by the funeral service at 11:00 a.m. A private family memorial service and interment will be held at the Malvern Cemetery in Lennoxville, Quebec in 2018.

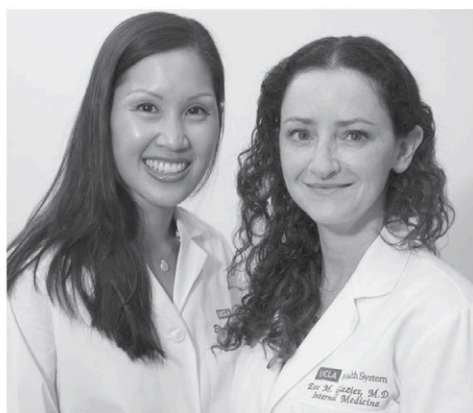
In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the Canadian Cancer Society or the Fondation du CHUS.

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# Age-related loss of taste and smell not uncommon



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

**Dear Doctor:** Does loss of taste occur naturally with old age, or could it be a symptom of an illness? I'm 89, in pretty good shape with good blood pressure, but seem to be losing my sense of taste.

**Dear Reader:** While it's true than an impaired sense of taste can be related to illnesses that range from a simple cold to a complex neurological disorder, by the time one is 89 (congratulations, by the way!) it's more likely that the decline is age-related. To understand why, we need to talk about two of our senses — taste and smell.

Let's begin with a tiny and amazing organ — the taste bud. We enter the world with about 10,000 taste buds, each of which is made up of between 10 and 50 sensory cells. These cells are bundled together like the sections of an orange, and are connected to a complex web of nerve fibers.

Each bundle is tipped with a fluid-filled pore that behaves as a funnel and, via minute fibers known as taste hairs, delivers molecules to the sensory cells to be "tasted." The nerve fibers send chemical messages from the taste buds to the brain, where they are interpreted as sweet, salty, bitter, sour and savory, also referred to as "umami."

The taste buds themselves are tucked into undulating walls and grooves on the surface of the tongue, which are known as papillae. The papillae greatly increase the surface area of the tongue. This allows for a significant increase in sensitivity without a corresponding increase in the size of the tongue. Additional tasting cells are found on the roof of the mouth and along the lining of the throat.

As you may have noticed, we recover from a bite or burn to the tongue far more quickly than to other parts of the body. This is due to the remarkable rate at which the sensory cells in the taste

buds can regenerate. As we age, though, these cells tend to regenerate more slowly. This affects our sense of taste.

At the same time, our sense of smell, which plays a crucial role in our ability to taste and distinguish the subtleties of flavors, also begins to diminish. When we chew, volatile molecules travel via the nasal cavity from the mouth to the nose. There, as on the tongue, highly specialized cells send signals to the brain, where the incoming data get interpreted as flavor.

Research shows that what is perceived as a loss in the sense of taste is, in fact, often a loss in the sense of smell. The tongue will tell us that something is sweet. But it's the sense of smell allows us to say whether that sweet bite is a peach or an apricot.

A diminished sense of smell has many causes. If the decline in your ability to taste is sudden or severe, a visit to your primary care physician is a good idea. He or she can perform tests to assess the degree of the loss, conduct a physical exam to rule out chronic conditions or disease, and propose medical treatment, if appropriate.

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

## RATES and DEADLINES: ANNOUNCEMENTS & NOTICES

**BIRTH NOTICES, CARDS OF THANKS, IN MEMORIAMS, BRIEFLETS:**  
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:**  
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**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: [clasad@sherbrookerecord.com](mailto:clasad@sherbrookerecord.com) - They will not be taken by phone.  
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For Monday's paper, call 819-569-4856 between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Sunday.  
For Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday's edition, call 819-569-4856 or fax 819-569-1187 (please call to confirm transmission) or e-mail: [production@sherbrookerecord.com](mailto:production@sherbrookerecord.com) 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.

# TOWNSHIPS' CRIER

## TOWNSHIPS

If you want to drink, that's your business. If you want to stop, we can help. Call Alcoholics Anonymous 1-888-424-2975, www.aa.org

## LENNOXVILLE

Monday, December 25: 'Christmas For you' at Hope Community Church (corner of Queen and College, Lennoxville). Join us for Carols and Christmas Dinner. Time: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. (doors open at 10:30 a.m.). For transportation and information call: 819-822-2627, e-mail: info@hcclennoxville.ca or facebook.com/hcc.lennoxville

## SOUTH DURHAM

Annual Carol Service at South Durham United Church on Saturday, December 23 at 7 p.m. Rev. Reg. Jennings officiating. Everyone welcome!

## MILBY

St. Barnabas Church, Milby. We invite you to join us for our Christmas Eve Service of Carols and Readings on December 24 at 7 p.m. Rev. Gene Ross and Ven. Dean Ross officiating. Hope to see you there.

# Changing diet changes relationship

Dear Annie

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2017

**Dear Annie:** Last weekend, I got a text from my dad that said: "I'm going vegan LOL." (Yes, he says "LOL." He's hip like that.) I laughed and brushed it aside, but during dinner last night, he and my stepmom told me they are serious about it. It definitely took me by surprise, but I was supportive and excited about the idea, so much so that I even went with him to Barnes & Noble to pick out an awesome vegan cookbook. But since then, I've been having a strangely emotional reaction to his decision.

We love to eat. That's our "thing." We go out to dinner, try new, unusual cuisines and eat our way through new cities when traveling. He even seriously considered taking a leave from work to audition for a Food Network show. Some of my best memories involve meals we've shared. And now what? I'll order sashimi, and he'll have ... seaweed? I have no issue with the decision itself; I've done every juice cleanse and 30-day challenge under the sun — and I love me some seaweed. I actually find the choice quite admirable.

What I realized is that the child in me is afraid that a piece of our relationship will be lost. Through my parents' (nasty) divorce, no matter how things were between them or between us — no matter when new people came into the picture and old people left — whenever we sat down at the table, all of the yuckiness melted away. This feels like one more thread of consistency and connection being cut.

Are there any actions you suggest I take to move forward? — Herbivore Dilemma

**Dear Herbivore Dilemma:** You are clearly a thoughtful person to have such insight into your emotions and their roots. Perhaps this is the opportunity you've needed to express some long-held feelings. Talking through these concerns

will bring you closer than ever. And with time, you'll find out that it was never about the food; it was about sitting down together.

**Dear Annie:** I have a weird question for you. I live in a Midwestern community that has expensive water and sewer costs. I also exercise every day, and as a result, I drink a lot of water — and I mean a lot of water. So when my wife is not home, I urinate in the bathroom sink. Then I wash my hands, which rinses the sink basin at the same time. This uses a fraction of the water that flushing the toilet would use. Multiply that by dozens of times a day and the savings are significant. Urine is sterile; the sink gets washed out afterward; and my hands are clean. What are your thoughts on my actions? — Sink Secret

**Dear Sink Secret:** I think you ought to knock it off. For one, urine isn't sterile; that's just a myth. For another, if you're really bent on saving water, there are plenty of ways to do so — such as installing a low-flush toilet — that don't require lying to your wife.

**Dear Annie:** My fiance recently decided to retire this coming March. We both will be 65 in January, and I have decided to continue to work for another year. If he continued to work for another year, he would increase his Social Security benefits at age 66, and I think that would be smart. He says he can make up the difference in his salary by working part time in retirement, but seeing as he can make only \$15,000 in addition to Social Security at 65, he will be losing out on \$12,000 that would have gone toward his Social Security totals. I am suffering from resentment because he has ignored my advice. Am I being unreasonable? — Resentful Senior

**Dear Resentful:** You can begin your retirement in a state of relaxation or resentment. Your fiance has figured out what works best for him. You should do the same for yourself. Relax about this

last year of working or not working, and focus on enjoying your retirement with your mate, which I hope will be for many years.

**Dear Annie:** "Blamed and Alone" wrote to you about his wife's loathing him for no apparent reason and seeming to have a lot of persistent rage, though they've been in therapy. I've seen quite a few letters addressed to you about similar problems. Did it ever occur to "Blamed and Alone" that his wife's problem could relate to menopause? I have personally seen what menopause can do to a woman's psyche. My dad's friend went through a bout of melancholia and wouldn't let her husband leave the house for work. She sat and cried all day. My mother became extremely irritable when she entered menopause.

Maybe "Blamed and Alone's" wife would benefit from a visit to her gynecologist, in addition to a therapist. When I entered menopause, I started to suffer anxiety and panic attacks, which were very unlike me. My doctor prescribed a hormone, which did the trick. I was a different person from that day on. Though every drug has side effects, you have to weigh the pros and cons and decide what will help you lead your best life. I certainly wouldn't discount the possibility that drugs could help the wife of the letter writer. — Been There, Done That

**Dear Been There, Done That:** Thank you for sharing your experience. I'm not sure whether it applies to the situation between "Blamed and Alone" and his wife, but it's possible. In any case, it's a good reminder that hormonal changes are no joke, and the accompanying mood swings can be severe and even dangerous. I encourage anyone experiencing this to talk to a doctor as soon as possible.

Send your questions for Annie Lane to [dearannie@creators.com](mailto:dearannie@creators.com).



## The Peanut Gallery - Order of the Eastern Star

With a new slate of officers, the name of the newspaper changes so now we have The Peanut Gallery because our two new Worthy Grands have chosen Snoopy and Woodstock as their fun symbols. Worthy Grand Matron Helen Black and Worthy Grand Patron Bryan Mitchell have already got their feet wet. They certainly enjoyed the reception following their installation and the dinner the next Saturday where the Guest Speaker was Sid Stevens of Sun Youth Founded 63 years ago to help the needy, it now has 60 paid employees and over a 1000 volunteers. It promotes sports and summer camps for youth, seniors and mothers. He stated five qualities needed to make a volunteer organization work PRIDE in the work done; DETERMINATION; DEDICATION TEAMWORK and DISCIPLINE. Both Worthy

Grands have chosen it for their special project. The International Weekend in Portland Maine was great. Apparently, a Barbershop Quartet was the hit of the entertainment. They have been asked by the various chapters to be the Installing Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron at their installations. Worthy Grand Matron Helen Black was pleased to play a part in the Initiation of Sister Danielle Kristina Crudup in Westmount Chapter #9

Their session is called "Seasons in the Sun" with the Motto "Forgive and Forget that Friendship may live" and their favourite songs are Worthy Grand Matron Linus and Lucy (Vince Guaraldi), Beautiful Day (Joshua Radin) and Love (Adele). Worthy Grand Patron Bryan Mitchell Amazing Grace, Here Comes the Sun (The Beatles) and Daisy a Day

(Jud Struk)

Dates to look forward to in 2018: March 3rd Bowlathon and March 18th St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Happy November birthday wishes go to Sister Joyce Martin P.G.M. (25th ) Cowansville Chapter #17 and OES Anniversary congratulations to Sisters Brenda Stone P.G.M. (1975) and Rhianon van der Meer (2016) Cowansville Chapter #17 and Brothers Neil Albers (1989) and John Lutzmann (2000) Owl's Head Chapter #35'

Best wishes go out to Sisters Helene Emond Valclair P.G.M. and Freda Gordon and to Brother Leo Dryden for complete recoveries and sympathy to Sister Hugette Duguteme P.G. M. on the death of her sister Jacqueline Royer.

Sister Sandra Tickner-Broadhurst Grand Organist has opened her own

studio offering Music Therapy, Healing Drum Circles and Vocal Toning and much more.

Quotes from the paper:

- Senior Bumper Sticker "YOUNG AT HEART - slightly older in other places."

- In the beginning, God created earth and rested. Then God created man and rested. Then God created woman. Since them neither God or man has rested

- God made man before women so as to give him time to think of an answer for her first question

- Frustration is trying to find your glasses without your glasses

- It takes two kinds of people to make the world: poets to write about the glories of nature and the rest of us to rake them.

Until next time  
Evelyn Beban Lewis

Email your social news to: [classad@sherbrookerecord.com](mailto:classad@sherbrookerecord.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.

“ MN 'PN ZVPF IKVFN. MN BV FNNB  
 NIOS VXSNP ... IFEVFN EVG OIF YNX  
 SNKD HPVJ VP YATN SNKD XV; XSIX 'W  
 DIPX VH EVGP VZKAYIXAVF.” — ZAKK  
 J G P P I E

Previous Solution: “John Heard was the coolest cat in New York City ... he was defiant ... poetic ... he was ridiculously generous.” — Daniel Stern  
 TODAY'S CLUE: A sjanba L

**ALLEY OOP**



**ARLO & JANIS**



**THE BORN LOSER**



**FRANK AND ERNEST**



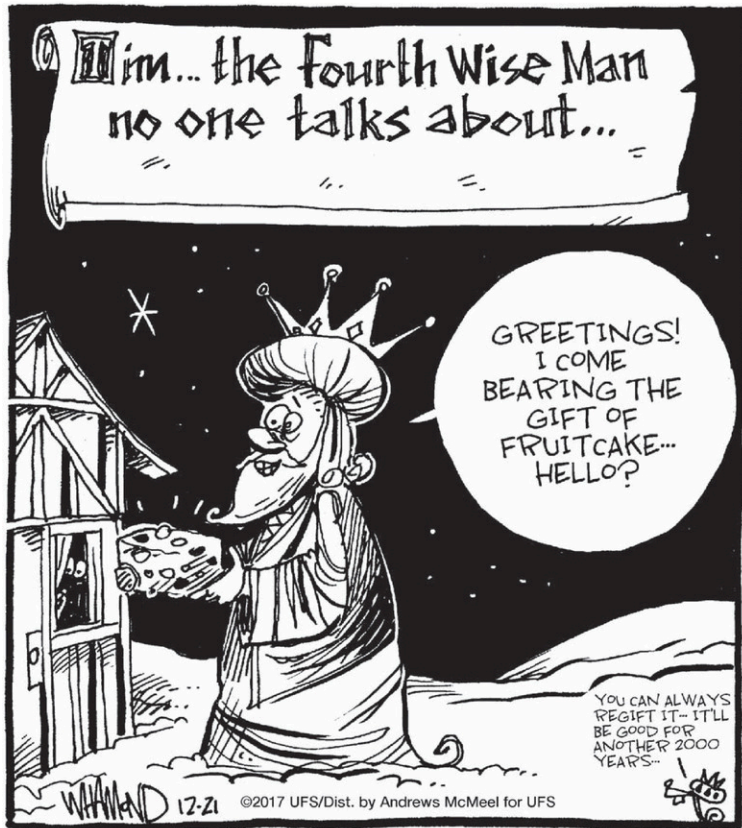
**GRIZWELLS**



**SOUP TO NUTS**



**REALITY CHECK**



**HERMAN**



“Never shout at your plumber.”



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## Hearty minestrone warms you up on cool evenings

**KITCHEN SCOOP**  
By Alicia Ross

Soups and stews often improve over time, so they are the perfect make-ahead or intentional leftover meal. Most can be frozen for even more flexibility and serving options. Today's recipe is a variation on classic minestrone, but made with prepared broths, canned beans and quick staples. Best of all, it can be ready for dinner tonight or later. You are sure to enjoy the hearty vegetables, nutritious bean proteins and soul-satisfying comfort of this Mainstay Minestrone.

**Mainstay Minestrone**

Start to finish: less than 30 minutes  
Yield: makes about 10 (3/4 cup) servings  
1 tablespoon olive oil

- 1 cup chopped onion
- 8 ounces sliced fresh mushrooms, coarsely chopped
- 1 cup thinly sliced carrots
- 2 cloves minced garlic or 1 teaspoon bottled minced garlic
- 1 cup low-sodium V-8 juice
- 1 cup low-sodium, low-fat beef broth
- 2 cups low-sodium, low-fat chicken broth
- 1 1/2 cups water
- 1/2 cup uncooked short pasta, such as macaroni
- 1 can (15 ounces) chick peas, rinsed and drained
- 1 can (15 ounces) red kidney beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 can (2 1/4 ounces) sliced black olives, drained
- 2 cans (14 ounces each) chopped tomatoes
- 1 teaspoon dried Italian seasoning
- 1 teaspoon sugar

- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper, or to taste
- 1 cup frozen green peas
- 10 teaspoons grated or shaved parmesan cheese, optional for serving

Heat oil on medium-high in a soup pot. Add onions, mushrooms and carrots. Cook, stirring frequently, until carrots are crisp-tender and mushrooms begin to lose their liquid, about 2 to 3 minutes.

Add garlic, V-8 juice, both of the broths, water and pasta to pot; raise heat to high. Cover pot and bring broth to a boil. While soup is heating, lift lid to stir from time to time, as pasta will begin to stick to the bottom of the pot.

Rinse and drain chickpeas, kidney beans and olives, and set aside.

When soup boils, reduce heat to medium-high.

Uncover pot and add tomatoes with their juices, chickpeas, kidney beans, olives, Italian seasoning, sugar and black pepper. Stir frequently, adjusting heat if necessary to make sure soup maintains a vigorous boil.

Cook until pasta is just tender, about 5 more minutes. In last 2 minutes of cooking, stir in frozen green peas. Serve, garnishing each bowl with 1 teaspoon parmesan cheese or more to taste.

Approximate values per serving: 388 calories, 6 g fat (0.7 g saturated), no cholesterol, 22 g protein, 66 g carbohydrates, 17 g dietary fiber, 12 g sugar, 242 mg sodium.

*Alicia Ross is the co-author of "Desperation Dinners!" (Workman, 1997), "Desperation Entertaining!" (Workman, 2002) and "Cheap. Fast. Good!" (Workman, 2006).*

## Food processors and choppers can be kitchen magicians

**FROM CONSUMER REPORTS(R)**  
By the editors of Consumer Reports

Food processors are jacks-of-all-trades that can chop, slice, shred and puree many different ingredients — sometimes in great quantities — plus tackle heavier jobs like kneading dough. Mini-choppers are good for lighter work and smaller jobs — especially useful when you need to prep only a handful of basil or chop some nuts.

Consumer Reports offers this overview.

If you regularly cook for a crowd or like to prepare multiple batches of a recipe, you might appreciate a bigger, 11-to-16-cup processor. But they tend to cost more, sometimes weigh more and hog counter space. A capacity of 7 cups or so is fine for most tasks.

Choppers make more sense for small jobs, such as dicing half an onion or mincing a handful of parsley — plus they're easier to clean.

Lower-priced models Consumer Reports tested tended to deliver subpar performance in at least one processing task.

**Chop Shop: The Major Types**

Full-sized processors are usually more versatile — able to chop and slice foods and knead dough. Mini-choppers look like little food processors, but they're for small jobs like chopping half a cup of nuts or a couple of shallots. Here are the types of food processors to consider.

— Food Processors. Most

easily chop vegetables for soups or stews, slice salad fixings and shred cheese for tacos. Some models can knead bread dough; just know that these models are generally the more expensive ones.

— Food Choppers. The difference between food processors and choppers: power, capacity and function. Smaller, lighter and less expensive choppers make quick work of cutting up small batches of nuts and herbs that would get lost in a food processor's large bowl. Choppers typically don't have shredding and slicing blades.

**Slice of Life: Features to Consider**

Standard equipment includes a clear plastic mixing bowl and lid, an S-shaped metal chopping blade (and sometimes a blunt blade for kneading dough), a plastic food pusher to safely prod food through the feed tube and a safety lock.

Consumer Reports suggests considering these additional features:

— Speeds. Food processors typically have two settings: on/off and pulse. The latter setting runs the machine in brief bursts for more precise control. Choppers typically have one or two pulse settings, high and low. Those are all the speeds you really need.

— Touchpad controls. Now a common feature, touchpads are easy to wipe clean.

— Multifunction accessories. A shredding and slicing disk is standard on full-sized processors. Some models come with a juicer attach-

ment or interchangeable blades to handle a variety of jobs.

— Dough blade. A blunt blade that improves performance in kneading dough.

— Feed tube. A wide feed tube saves you the trouble of cutting up potatoes, cucumbers and other large items.

To learn more, visit [ConsumerReports.org](http://ConsumerReports.org).

**SUDOKU**  
DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

	4			8			9
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**PREVIOUS SOLUTION**

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

# Your Birthday

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2017

Push to get ahead. Channel your energy into self-improvement and making the most of your time. Use your intelligence to bring about positive changes at home and in your relationships with others. Take time to re-evaluate the past and to pursue a better future. Romance is highlighted.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Move things around at home to suit your current situation. Visitors or guests will appreciate your hospitality and want to return the favor in whatever way possible. Personal growth is encouraged.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Look at the possibilities that are within reach, and hone in on what it is you want to accomplish before the year comes to a close. Set realistic goals.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Emotions will surface, making it difficult for you to make a decision. Don't let anger or remorse dictate how you deal with others. Do what's best for you.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-March 20) — A change of heart will disrupt your plans. Try not to show disappointment. If you carry on, you will be surprised by the outcome. An opportunity will come your way.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) — A personal change can be made. You'll feel good about the way you look and feel if you choose a healthy lifestyle and project self-confidence. Romance is highlighted.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) — You'll face opposition if you are physically, emo-

tionally or financially excessive. Consider the consequences and show more discipline in the way you live, act and spend. Avoid people who are bad influences.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) — Don't take on responsibilities that don't belong to you. Too much of anything will leave you in a vulnerable position. Aim to please, but stay within your budget.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22) — Don't be fooled by a smooth talker. When it comes to handling your money and personal affairs, you need to take charge. Use your imagination to find a workable solution.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) — Take care of your responsibilities or someone will complain. You can have fun after you take care of business. A personal change will lead to compliments and an affectionate encounter.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Keep your eye on the ball. Don't let emotions drag you off-course. It's important to search for truth and to make your decisions based on facts, not on assumptions.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Taking on too much will make you anxious. You are best off revisiting your to-do list and finding a way to cut back. A realistic assessment will help you make fewer unrealistic promises.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Don't let your emotions take control when dealing with friends or relatives. You may not agree with everyone, but diplomacy should be implemented in the spirit of the season.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2017

# From the printed to the spoken word

By Phillip Alder

If you would like a change of pace, turn to bridge videos. Larry Cohen (larryco.com) has put out four on defense this year: the opening lead, second and third hand play, and signals. Each lasts about 50 minutes.

The second-hand DVD concentrates on second hand low and cover an honor with an honor. Larry uses his relaxed style to highlight the basic positions, then looks at the exceptions to the rules.

In this deal from the video, West leads the heart queen against four spades, which runs to South's ace. How should the play proceed?

Cohen doesn't give an auction, but this one seems reasonable. South's four-spade jump is a slight overbid, but most would do the same.

Given the trump split, declarer is faced with four losers: one spade, one diamond and two clubs. But he might be able to induce defensive errors.

First, South should lead his spade 10, trying to persuade West to cover an honor with an honor. But West should realize that this cannot help to generate a spade trick for his side. Assuming West plays low, declarer wins with dummy's

North		12-21-17	
♠	K 3		
♥	10 4 3 2		
♦	A J 8 4		
♣	A 5 4		
West		East	
♠	J 7 2	♠	Q
♥	Q J 9	♥	K 8 7 6 5
♦	K 6 3	♦	Q 9 7 5
♣	Q 9 6 3	♣	K 8 7
South			
♠	A 10 9 8 6 5 4		
♥	A		
♦	10 2		
♣	J 10 2		
Dealer: North			
Vulnerable: Neither			
South	West	North	East
		1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass
Opening lead: ♥ Q			

king, crosses to his spade ace, then leads the diamond 10.

Now West must cover an honor with an honor to stop South from gaining two diamond tricks and being able to discard a club. After West covers, declarer wins with dummy's ace, ruffs a heart and leads a diamond to the eight. East takes the trick with his nine and plays another heart. Now declarer, down to his last chance, leads the club jack, but West does not cover. Great defense.

# CROSSWORD

**Across**

- 1 It can generate a lot of interest
- 7 Become less aloof
- 11 Texting format, briefly
- 14 Saint of Ávila
- 15 Opera set in Egypt
- 16 Fell with an ax
- 17 Whirligig
- 19 Toothpaste-approving org.
- 20 Northernmost capital on the Mississippi
- 21 Key of Grieg's only piano concerto: Abbr.
- 22 Careful way to play it
- 25 Mont Blanc, e.g.
- 28 Class-conscious gp.?
- 29 Actress de Armas of "Blade Runner 2049"
- 30 Swivel around
- 31 Fielding mishap
- 33 Attacking fiercely

- 37 Fine woolen wear
- 40 Increased steadily
- 41 Rogue
- 42 Lively, in mus.
- 43 Charlottesville sch.
- 45 Majors in acting
- 46 Westminster award
- 50 Admiral who explored the Antarctic
- 51 x, y and z, in math
- 52 11th Greek letter
- 54 "Hey, ewe!"
- 55 Motown group ... and what 17-, 25-, 37- and 46-Across comprise?
- 60 Large shade tree
- 61 Run into
- 62 Garden figures in red hats
- 63 Muddy pen
- 64 Scalawags
- 65 Grieg wrote only one for piano

**Down**

- 1 Euro parts: Abbr.
- 2 Street cred
- 3 "\_\_\_ tu": Verdi aria
- 4 Not getting it
- 5 Ain't right?
- 6 Clavell's "Shogun" sequel
- 7 Prepare to advance after a fly ball
- 8 Schedules of items to deal with
- 9 Hubbub
- 10 Path
- 11 "Tut-tut!"
- 12 \_\_\_ blitz
- 13 Two-time Best Actress winner Hilary
- 18 Simba's mate
- 21 Hypothetical evolutionary link
- 22 Short glasses?
- 23 Set \_\_\_ for: lure
- 24 Language that gave

- us "bazaar"
- 26 Sweet'\_\_: coffee additive
- 27 California's motto
- 29 Stylish suit
- 32 "Darn it!"
- 33 But, to Brutus
- 34 See 43-Down
- 35 When the sun rises in the west
- 36 Avarice
- 38 Mother of Sam and Charlie Woods
- 39 Dreaming phase
- 43 Man, in 34-Down

- 44 Beetles
- 46 Innocent ones
- 47 Sing the praises of
- 48 Hardly wholesome
- 49 Sword handles
- 50 Relay stick
- 53 Spy-fi villain on Crab Key
- 55 "I don't need the deets!"
- 56 Fence (in)
- 57 Medical suffix
- 58 Odie, to Jon Arbuckle
- 59 Org. funded by FICA

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# An open, but amusing night



Members of the Sherbrooke Snow Shoe Club gathered for their third meeting of the season on Wednesday, November 29th. It was a relatively dark evening, with the temperature slightly above freezing.

After socializing for an hour or more in the main, central portion of the clubhouse, members and guests eventually made their way into the back dining hall where club president Gordon Barnett called the meeting to order. He had some difficulty addressing the assembled attendees due to technical problems associated with the club's PA system. Nevertheless, he persevered and finally secured the attention of all present. After welcoming everyone, he called for the singing of the national anthem. This was followed by Past President/2nd-Vice Harry Brown asking the blessing.

On the President's cue, the club's White Knights set about serving the evening meal starting off with bowls of chicken and rice soup. Next, came entrees of peach meatballs with mashed potatoes and mixed vegetables. The dessert portion of the meal consisted of servings of rich 'grandma's pudding', topped with ice cream. During the meal, one former past president who shall remain anonymous, was seen scurrying about collecting leftovers from a fellow member who could not complete his meal. Ironically, this strictly 'meat & potatoes' individual does not share the same passion for desserts. Known to devour just about any entree placed before him, this former leader of the club does however, draw the line at baked beans and scalloped potatoes, two particular meals he dislikes with great distain.

Following the meal, a number of guests were introduced. President Gordon also took the opportunity to thank Chef Carole Lacroix and her crew, as well as the White Knights for serving the meal. He then conducted the drawings for the evening's door prizes. The fortunate individuals were member Richard Dezan and guest Dave Noble.

To lighten the mood, Past President Dave Moore offered up three jokes for the amusement of the crowd, the most notable being about a Newfie visiting Texas. The jokes proved to be an apt segue for the sing-along that followed. Led by Chorister Phil Kerwin, together with a couple of fellow members willing to test their voices, the songs were made palatable with the musical accompaniment of Janis Graham on the piano.

The musical entertainment completed, President Gordon convened a short business meeting. The first such meeting since the annual gathering in October, it was an opportunity to address all the current outstanding issues regarding the club's operation. The approval of minutes, an update on the payment of dues, and the reporting of various committees were all items addressed by the membership. After various announcements, the business meeting was concluded in anticipation of the unscheduled entertainment to follow.

Although technically an open night, club secretary Steve Moore could not but help to offer up some light amusement, especially in light of his recent illness and hospitalization. He subsequently proceeded to display a series of photos taken of bathroom signs found in various American and Canadian public establishments, notably bars and restaurants, for the most part. Some of the signs depicting bathroom facilities or the distinction between men and women were rather provocative to say the least. Some were amusing, some thought-provoking and others downright sexist. While obvious a subject best described as low-brow, the images presented nevertheless resulted in the desired response from members and guests alike.

The entertainment portion of the meeting thus completed, the crowd dispersed for the usual post-meeting activities.

Submitted by Steve Moore  
SSSC Secretary

## 2018 Jeep Wrangler: Improvements all around



The new Wrangler will cost you more, but you'll get more

PHOTO: V. AUBE



By Vincent Aubé

Just recently unveiled at the Los Angeles Auto Show in early December, the new 2018 Jeep Wrangler already sits atop the wish-lists of fans of the legendary 4x4 around the world. Needless to say, nowhere was the excitement more at fever pitch than at FCA Canada's official launch of the eighth generation of one of the most iconic vehicles to have roamed the planet since the 1940s.

Its Jeep bonafides immediately apparent!

We'd already seen the first official images of the new Wrangler before alighting in the Arizona desert for the launch, but a fuller in-person inspection revealed some elements that make this JL model different than the previous edition (known as the JK).

Truth be told, the design of the 2018 edition is in in many ways very similar to its predecessor's. It's in the details that you start to see the new Jeep distinguishes itself. In front, for example, the grille still includes seven vertical slits, but they now take on a rectangular form, while the round headlamps now fit inside the two outside slits - a nod to the CJ model. There's also the inclined upper end, inspired by the YJ model. The light clusters can now be fitted with LED lights, and the headlights adopt attractive luminous loops - a signature that identifies the Jeep as such. Note that the Sport version settles for conventional headlights.

From the side, a very discrete edge etched into the body gives an added hint of muscle to the vehicle, which by the way has gained in fenestration. In back, the window is larger (we heartily approve!), enabled by lowering the placement of the spare tire, and the licence plate slot has been moved to within the bumper. The design of the position lamps has also been updated on the higher trims - meaning it is not included in the base model of the Wrangler.

About those trims: the Sahara, with its chrome and its dressier wheels, focuses on elegance, while the Wrangler Rubicon is more aggressive in nature, as exemplified by its oversized wheel arches that harbour standard 33-inch wheels (we're told 35-inch tires can be fitted under there as well, without modification), and its off-road vibe is enhanced by a few black exterior components.

The Wrangler on a diet

This new edition of the Jeep Wrangler had to be more fuel-efficient, as does any new model being produced these days, we should add. One way to get there is to lighten the load, and this the engineers at FCA dutifully did. The 2018 Wrangler still makes use of a ladder frame, but it's the beneficiary this time around of high-resistance lightweight steel. As well, several of the body's components, like the doors, hood, rear hatch and even the windshield frame, are now of aluminum.

As a result the vehicle is some 90 kg lighter than its predecessor. Add to that two improved powertrains and voilà, you have yourself a Jeep Wrangler that's stingier on fuel than before.

Speaking of powertrains... there's newness under the hood!

To start, the 2018 Wrangler retains its 3.6L Pentastar V6 as its base engine. Generating 285 hp and 260 lb-ft of torque, this naturally aspirated 6-cylinder can be had with either a 6-speed manual or 8-speed automatic transmission. Added to the mix this year is stop/start technology, sure to save owners even more at the pump.

But as the current trend is toward fewer cylinders, an all-new 2.0L 4-cylinder turbo engine delivering 270 hp and improved torque of 295 lb-ft has been added to the list of options. This is the same engine, by the way, that powers the Alfa Romeo Giulia, though with a few adjustments touching on the cylinder head. Only the 8-speed automatic gearbox is available with this engine, which also introduces eTorque technology, a hybrid system that enables not just engine stops at red lights, but also electric power assist, extend fuel shut-off, transmission shift management, intelligent battery charging and regenerative braking.

In the next year, The Wrangler will also be offered with a 3.0L EcoDiesel V6 with an output of 260 hp and delivering 442 lb-ft of torque. It will also be mated with the 8-speed automatic, though this one will be adapted to be able to manage that monstrous amount of torque. And there's more: believe it or not, a plug-in hybrid Wrangler is also in the works, for some time in 2020!

A more refined Wrangler?

Unsurprisingly, the improvements made to the interior of the 2018 Wrangler are both significant and immediately apparent. Materials used are of high quality, the assembly more precise than ever. Obviously, the enhancements are more in-your-face when you choose the Sahara or Rubicon version; the leather and real metals add to the refinement quotient. But even the base model Wrangler Sport is clearly better-appointed, even if it does have to make do with some hard plastic surfaces and old-school handles for opening/closing the windows.

The rectilinear dashboard, for its part, takes its inspiration from various models of years past. Suffice to say that functionality is the main focus here; the ventilation commands are judiciously placed just

above the buttons for the electric windows in the centre, a necessary ergonomic choice since the doors can be removed. Also noteworthy is the presence of the fourth-generation UConnect system (not available with the small screen), which operates faster and benefits from clearer graphics. Jeep is offering a choice between three screen sizes: 5, 7 or 8.4 inches. The instrument panel has also been revised and now includes a screen giving access to a host of useful information strategically placed behind the steering wheel. Hats off the engineers who finally have integrated a telescopic column to the steering; the wheel itself is pleasant to the grip. The seating, however, is average at best. It's more contoured than before, but it's still some padding short of being able to really protect passengers from road irregularities.

The Jeep Wrangler is one of the very few "dismantleable" vehicles currently on the market. If the mood strikes you can take off the doors, lower the windshield and of course remove the roof. The new model makes all these operations that much easier. Removing four bolts is all it takes to be able to lower the windshield, the doors are relatively simple to remove, and the soft roof is a bit easier to fold back, but the big improvement is in how much easier it now is to handle the hard top. The rear panels and those above the passengers can be pulled off in no time. Jeep has also introduced the Sunrider option, basically a foldable canvas that transforms the hard-top Wrangler into a convertible in just seconds.

At the wheel

Two main objectives animated the manufacturer when developing this new Wrangler: improving its off-road capabilities (no surprise there), and, more importantly, making driving it on the road a more pleasant experience.

When venturing far from the asphalt, the 2018 Jeep Wrangler is just about unmatched, as was confirmed by our brief session taking a Rubicon version rock climbing. With two available 4x4 systems, improved Dana axles, a new two-speed transfer case, power locking of the axle and the Trac-Lok limited-slip differential, the Wrangler was like a child at play.

Still, the iconic Jeep had no choice: it had to be a tamer beast on the road. After a number of kilometres behind the wheel, I can confirm that the 2018 edition 4x4 is unquestionably more docile than before. The suspension is much better at filtering the road's imperfections, and the transparency of the automatic transmission is a definite asset. The new turbo engine also shines when passing on the highway, thanks to the torque available to it at low RPM.

We also had the chance to drive a Sport 2 version powered by the V6 and a manual gearbox. In this case we were happy to note that the gear knob doesn't vibrate like it used to. Purists may squawk, of course, but in my opinion it signifies if anything that the new gearbox is more precise.

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