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## Homeless services during lockdown

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# THE RECORD

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## Maple federation quota winners

Page 7

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2022

## Quebec limits access to PCR tests, shortens COVID 19 isolation period

By Jacob Serebrin  
The Canadian Press

The Quebec Health Department said Tuesday that members of the general public with COVID-19 symptoms will not be eligible for PCR testing and should consider themselves positive if they do not have access to self-tests.

The province will reserve PCR tests for those considered "high risk," such as symptomatic hospital patients, people who live in congregate care and people being transferred between medical facilities, Dr. Marie-France Raynault, a senior strategic medical adviser to Quebec public health, told a technical briefing.

CONT'D ON PAGE 5

## Stéphane Laforest parts ways with Sherbrooke symphony



RECORD ARCHIVES

By Gordon Lambie

After more than 20 years as the head conductor and artistic director of Sherbrooke's symphony orchestra, the OSS, Stéphane Laforest has announced that he is leaving the position, effective immediately and will not be returning to conduct the last four performances

of the current season. The conductor gave notice on Jan. 2 after having conducted more than 180 concerts with the symphony in the region.

Speaking with The Record on Tuesday morning, Laforest attributed the decision to a number of different factors, with a particular focus on his own health and a changing relationship with the orchestra's board of directors.

"It has been on my mind for about one and a half to two years," the former conductor said, sharing that although he has always worked a lot, he hit something of a wall in the last year when he had what seemed like it might be a heart attack.

"I was scared, so I went to the hospital, but it turned out to be a

CONT'D ON PAGE 5

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TODAY:  
A MIX OF SUN  
AND CLOUDS

HIGH 3  
LOW -4



THURSDAY:  
SCATTERED  
FLURRIES

HIGH -2  
LOW -11



FRIDAY:  
SCATTERED  
FLURRIES

HIGH -7  
LOW -19



SATURDAY:  
MAINLY SUNNY

HIGH -14  
LOW -20



SUNDAY:  
LIGHT SNOW

HIGH -2  
LOW -6

## HAND IN HAND

# Do you know Richmond et ses Jeunes?



Formed in 1994 as a part of a regional effort to prevent drug addiction in young people, the dynamic Richmond et ses Jeunes committee is now dedicated to supporting the youth in the Richmond area in a variety of different ways meant to promote global health. The current goal of the committee is to act positively on the health, well-being and educational success of young people through a set of collective actions in focused on promotion of healthy habits and preventative intervention.

Through the financial support of the CIUSSS de l'Estrie - CHUS, the Fondation du CSSS du Val-Saint-François and some community donations, there are many projects that the committee has been able to carry out, with more being implemented soon! Here are just a few examples of where support for projects has been given: recycling in St. Francis school, breakfast programs in our schools, leadership camps along with funds given to help finance joint family community activities.

One such activity is the cross country ski project, which offers families in the Richmond area free access to the ski trails and equipment for the winter season. This offer starts in January and the project is done in collaboration with the Club de Ski de Fond Richmond-Melbourne, located in Melbourne Township, with a special funding from Conseil sports Loisirs through the program "En Estrie, on bouge!". Projects that are supported encourage the social participation of the youth and a healthier and active



Some committee members at a past edition of Family day in Richmond

COURTESY

lifestyle. Look for the Richmond et ses Jeunes banner at special community events and ask about projects happening or about possible support for your own ideas involving youth in our area. Check us out on Facebook and Instagram too!

The current members of the committee Richmond et ses jeunes committee and their roles are as follows :

Guillaume Roy, Maison des Jeunes de la Saint-François

Siu-Min Jim, Richmond Regional High School Community Learning Centre

Tiffany Blinn, drug addiction prevention, Richmond Regional High School

Cathy Varnier, Richmond resident

Sylvie Giroux, municipal councillor, Canton de Cleveland

Lois Miller, municipal councillor, Canton de Melbourne

Martin Roy, Carrefour Jeunesse Emploi comté de Richmond

François Daigle, parent  
Shannon Brock, Le Rivage du Val-Saint-François

Estella Normandeau, youth representative

François Séguin, recreational services with the Town of Richmond

Katherine Dubois, municipal councillor, Town of Richmond (new)

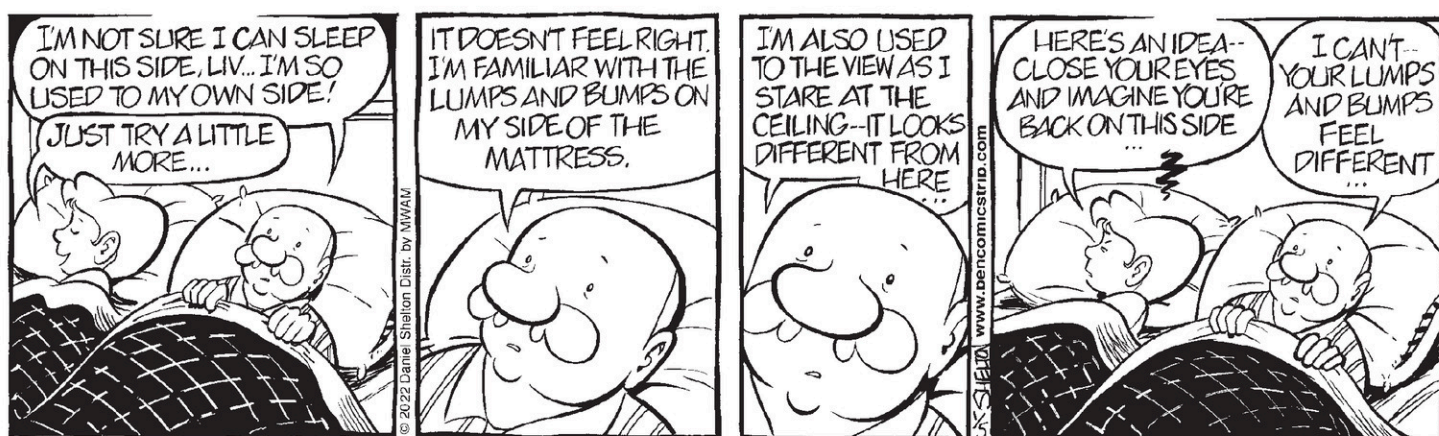
Anyone wishing to contact the committee or learn about its projects is invited to reach out by email to richmondetsesjeunes@gmail.com or check out the group's facebook page.



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## Ben by Daniel Shelton



# Local News

When asked whether people come in with opinions about the latest measures, Saint-Louis said they rarely talk about the pandemic.

## Business as usual for Sherbrooke's homeless and vulnerable services

By Michael Boriero  
Local Journalism Initiative

Quebec's latest lockdown measures, including the reinstatement of a controversial curfew, have caused many sectors to switch gears, however, Sherbrooke's homeless and vulnerable services remain open for business.

According to Partage St-François General Director Sébastien Laberge, the government's recent announcement has little impact on the city's homeless shelter. He isn't about to get a rush of people in his building, either, he explained, this is usually a pretty quiet period for the shelter.

"What I know is that we have spaces open. For us, in the winter, it's our slowest period of the year. I have very little traffic in the winter, beds are always available, and there are less and less people coming to the shelter," said Laberge.

He told The Record that typically during the months of December, January, and February — the province's coldest months — people go above and beyond to find solutions in order to stay out of the snow. He has worked at the shelter for eight years and it's the same thing every winter.

"When it starts getting cold, people are a bit more motivated to keep their housing and to pay attention. In the summer, people pay less attention, and property owners will also be more prone to kicking someone out in July," Laberge said.

He added that even if, by chance, the shelter is completely full, his staff never shuts the door to someone in need. If someone knocks on the door

late at night, they're always ushered in to find warmth, a cup of coffee, snacks, and sometimes fresh clothes, Laberge continued.

When asked about the impact Quebec's lockdown measures can have on the homeless population, Laberge said he prefers to stay out of the debate on a personal level. But he noted that the Sherbrooke Police Service (SPS) handled the lockdown with care in 2020.

And Laberge expects them to be poised this year, too. He told The Record that when the SPS picks someone up off the street who is in need of shelter, they always offer to bring them to the Partage before presenting them with different options.

"The impact, for now, we haven't seen it, and we didn't see it last year, in the sense that if people want shelter they can come here, there are spaces available, we'll take them in, these measures don't throw us off," said Laberge.

And he noted that while the Omicron variant has caused a surge in Covid cases throughout the province, it's nothing they haven't handled before. He has had to manage Covid outbreaks among his staff and users for nearly two years now. He's used to people going into quarantine.

However, he has received some help since late fall. He hired about a dozen students studying social work, pushing his staff to about 40 to 50 employees, so there are a lot of hands on deck should someone need to enter quarantine after testing positive for COVID-19.

"It's not a fun time, we keep changing the schedules every week,



RECORD ARCHIVES/ GORDON LAMBIE

Partage St-François

but this fall we hired a lot of personnel. The trick, however, is that it's not how it used to function today," said Laberge, sharing it has been difficult to find people committed to working more than one shift a week.

Ma Cabane Director Marc Saint-Louis said it has also been business as usual for his day centre. The centre closes at 5 p.m., so it isn't affected by the curfew, he explained, the only difference is they have rapid tests on hand now, which they have used four or five times.

When asked whether people come in with opinions about the latest measures, Saint-Louis said they rarely talk about the pandemic. The people walking into the building have other

issues, like finding food and a place to keep warm during the cold winter months.

According to Saint-Louis, the centre receives about 40 to 50 people every day, despite the drop in temperature. If it does increase, though, it won't change the way he runs the centre. They'll continue to monitor numbers and look out for symptomatic people walking in.

"We don't need measures to see that things are not going well right now with the number of cases. I told my team to be prudent, which is difficult sometimes because we let up a bit, so we need to pay attention. I had one person test positive during Christmas," he said.

## Local hospitalizations at level similar to peak of second wave

Record Staff

Quebec's provincial institute of public health, the INSPQ, reported 4,209 known active cases of COVID-19 in the Eastern Townships on Tuesday and 3,482 new cases reported over the last seven days. This works out to just under 500 new cases per day, not taking into account rapid tests that were done at home.

As of Tuesday's report there were 89 people hospitalized in the region,

14 of whom are in intensive care. This is comparable to the peak of hospitalizations in the region during the second wave of the virus in January of 2021.

The number of deaths in the region since the start of the pandemic has climbed to 410, with eight new deaths over the last week.

The CIUSSS de l'Estrie - CHUS has yet to indicate when they intend to provide another detailed update on the local situation.

THE RECORD

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*Thank you for your understanding.*

# EDITORIAL

Many of these principles about technology and learning are also applicable for parents who may be considering purchasing technology at home for student learning.

## Investing in technologies for student learning: four principles school boards and parents should consider

Lucas Johnson  
PhD Student, Faculty of Education,  
Lakehead University

Technology, in its many forms, has been present in the classroom since the introduction of the blackboard, followed decades later by the overhead projector. Now, in our digital age, classroom environments can always be connected to the internet, and educators need to make choices about both hardware and software.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the need for students to be digitally fluent and have adequate access to devices and broadband internet at school and at home. The pandemic certainly fuelled the market for educational technology providers to market their hardware and software to Canadian school boards.

Schools make considerable financial investments each year in technology. Each contract has its own terms and conditions which must be accepted for teachers and students to use the devices or services. My research focuses on how educational technologies make their way into classrooms, and the decision-making processes school boards use to select and implement technologies.

For the sake of quality education, student safety and well-being it's important that school administrators and parents or guardians are in dialogue about basic frameworks and guiding principles related to selecting technology for schools. Many of these principles about technology and learning are also applicable for parents who may be considering purchasing technology at home for student learning.

Here, I propose four considerations when selecting technology to support

teaching and learning.

### 1. Why technology?

Consumers experience relentless pressures to purchase. Commercial and marketing events like Black Friday and Cyber Monday contribute to creating an appeal for new hardware. Thoroughly considering why technology should be chosen and how it integrates with learning can help decision-makers choose which technology is most valuable or crucial to teaching and learning.

One model that can help these decisions is developed by education and technology researcher Ruben Puentedura. His SAMR Model stands for substitution (Does the technology act as a direct substitute?); augmentation (Does it augment existing learning?); modification (Does it modify existing learning?) or redefinition (Does it redefine what happens in classrooms?).

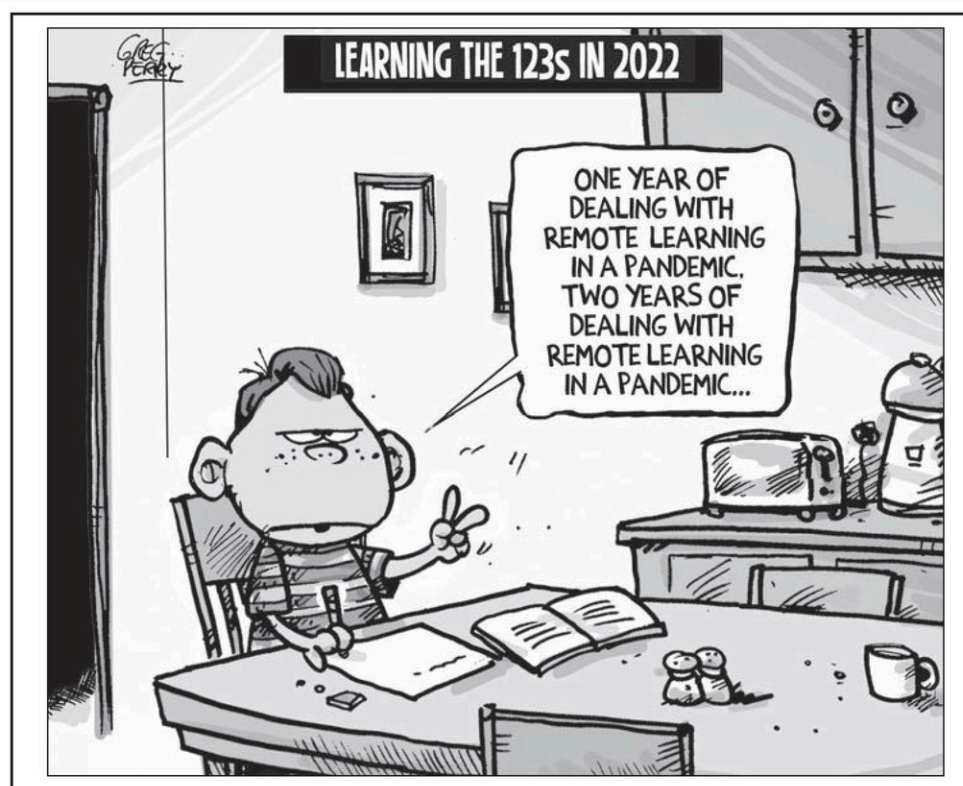
For example, collaboratively working on a cloud-based document in groups that are in different locations could not be done without technology. This example shows modification or redefinition as it shifts how students collaborate.

Identifying if the technology is critical to the learning and how exactly it fits is a good first step in determining if there is a need for it.

### 2. Compatibility

A vast variety of hardware devices run different operating systems. There are also many different software options. These factors, together, increase the potential of incompatibility.

When selecting hardware, one crucial decision is choosing between a hand-held or portable device, such as a tablet or a laptop computer. It's important to note that tablets and laptops use different operating systems.



Not all pieces of software will work equally well on all devices.

In efforts to overcome this potential incompatibility, many tools are now browser based. For example, web and video math tutorial systems can be accessed via a web browser rather than downloaded and installed on a device, reducing their dependence on certain types of hardware. This can increase their compatibility but there may still be limitations on some platforms.

Knowing which software and tools educators plan to use, and investigating their requirements, can help when choosing devices.

Another compatibility factor to consider is the integration with the school's existing technology infrastructure. For example, a Chromebook running Chrome OS is heavily reliant on the Google Apps ecosystem. It wouldn't be well-suited to an environment that is already using Microsoft 365 and Microsoft Teams for the collaborative environment.

Likewise, a school board which is using the Google Workspace for Education (formerly G Suite for Education) will benefit from devices and software designed to work in the Google ecosystem, which include options like signing in with your Google account.

### 3. Access

There are many factors to consider with access. A key one is how people can log in and connect to services and networks whether at school or at home: Will the learners have to create accounts to access a tool that is being used? Can they access the tool using their existing school credentials?

In the classroom, logging in to a tool can be time consuming, especially for younger students. At home, if the student doesn't know their username or password for a particular tool, this

becomes a barrier.

Tools that don't require users to log in are potentially easier to use and more accessible. But they are much less useful for teachers for tracking individual progress and assessment.

Tools that require credentials to be accessed should ideally use a single set of credentials or single sign on process.

Not having access to a physical device and broadband internet are also potential impediments. Some school boards have tried to equalize access by providing devices to all students. This can help in the schools but it doesn't overcome the inequitable access to broadband internet across Canadian communities.

### 4. Data privacy and security

Mitigating all potential vulnerabilities and data breaches should certainly be a leading factor for school board administrators. As with all things digital, there are concerns over privacy, ownership of and access to data.

Studies suggest that very few of us read the terms and conditions that come with new software or platforms. However, when it comes to consenting for minors and entering minors into relationships with software companies, a more critical eye is required.

It is important to be aware of who has access to the information learners create and to have a clear understanding of who the students can communicate with and how. Always check if there are any moderation or filtering settings available. Students shouldn't be using platforms for education that allow uninhibited communication with other users outside of their classes or schools.

While there are many factors that can influence how educators decide what technology to implement for students, these four key considerations are a place to begin.

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### Member

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# Orford inaugurates new chair lift

Record Staff

The Mont-Orford ski resort held an official inauguration for its brand-new quadruple lift on the Alfred-Desrochers slope last Friday.

"This is another historic moment for the ski resort, and one which makes us very proud," said Jacques Demers, President of the Corporation. "This will greatly improve the offering to skiers."

The new Doppelmayr quadruple lift is significantly faster than the old double chair lift, which dated back to 1965: it can carry skiers up to the top of the slope in less than nine minutes and its boarding capacity has been doubled.

"This investment of \$4.5 million will make this slope for beginners and intermediates even more accessible to families and people who are learning to ski," said Simon Blouin, general manager. "Obviously, this will also relieve congestion on the Giroux Nord slope and offer ideal slopes for snow school lessons."

Since 2019, several investments have been made in Mont-Orford, including the installation of snowmaking equipment on the Alfred-Desrochers slope.

"It was important for us to be able to cover this slope with snow so that we could open it earlier and longer in

the season, in addition to offering a varied sliding terrain over the entire mountain," added Blouin, noting that the improved snow conditions made it possible for the slope to be accessible for part of the holiday season, ending the year 2021 on a high note.

Located in the heart of Mont Orford Park, the Mont Orford resort is spread over four slopes and three peaks, offering visitors a natural panorama. The mountain offers the fourth highest ski area in Quebec and is the highest in the Eastern Townships. Every winter, skiers and snowboarders descend its 62 trails, including its 18 glades, and take advantage of its five ski lifts and



COURTESY MONT ORFORD

two snow parks. At the foot of the mountain, visitors can also access the Sépaq trails for cross-country skiing, Fatbike, alpine hiking, snowshoeing, or hiking.

## Covid

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

Raynault said testing centres are overwhelmed and supply shortages are expected as demand for tests continues to rise elsewhere.

"We have a capacity of about 30,000 tests a day, and last week, for example, we had almost 60,000 tests per day and it's unsustainable," she said. "So we have to keep our capacity for the ones who are more at risk, the places at risk."

Members of the general public who have symptoms of COVID-19 are being asked to administer a rapid antigen test, Raynault said, and if one is not available, they are being asked to consider themselves positive and isolate for five days — down from the previous recommendation that people isolate for 10 days.

Raynault said the recommendation to isolate for five days applies only to

those who have received two doses of vaccine or are under 12. People who isolate for five days must not have a fever for at least 24 hours, and their symptoms must be improving before they leave isolation.

She said studies have shown people are most contagious in the two days before they develop symptoms and in the two to three days after symptoms appear.

With more people being asked to isolate, maintaining the 10-day isolation period would "paralyze" society, Raynault said.

"There isn't only COVID in the life of a society," she said. "If we don't have firefighters to put out fires, if we don't have police officers to ensure security, if we don't have delivery people so there's food, if we don't have bus drivers, that is also a consideration that we take into account in public health."

The five-day isolation period does

not apply to health-care workers in direct contact with patients, who must isolate for seven days before returning to work.

Raynault said Quebec has not lost control of the situation, despite a high level of community transmission, because intensive care beds remain available. She said a lower percentage of those hospitalized with COVID-19 are in intensive care than during previous waves of the pandemic.

Earlier Tuesday, Quebec reported another jump in the number of people hospitalized with COVID-19, as well as 21 more deaths linked to the pandemic. Health authorities said 1,592 people were in hospital with COVID-19, an increase of 196 over the previous day. The number of people in intensive care rose by four to 185.

Quebec reported 14,494 new cases of COVID-19, with 28.1 per cent of tests analyzed in the previous 24 hours

coming back positive. The province also had given another 69,983 vaccine doses in the previous 24 hours.

Quebec is starting to expand booster shot eligibility to its general adult population in an effort to combat the rampant Omicron variant. Quebecers aged 55 and over could book appointments starting Tuesday, with minimum age requirements decreasing in five-year increments over the next three weeks. By Jan. 21, all adults aged 18 and over will be able to book an appointment to receive their third COVID-19 vaccine shot.

Less than 20 per cent of Quebecers aged 5 and over had received a third dose as of Monday.

The Canadian Armed Forces announced on Monday they were deploying up to 200 personnel, mostly in Montreal and nearby regions, to help speed up the provincial vaccination drive.

## Stéphane Laforest

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

panic attack."

Since that initial event, however, the attacks have come back on a regular basis.

"I am now taking pills to help, but I need more than pills to solve the problem," he said, explaining that one half of the decision to step away from his work with the orchestra came from an effort to reduce stress in his daily life.

The other part of the decision lies in what Laforest described as a kind of growing apart with the organization.

"24 years is a very long period for anyone," he reflected.

Although Laforest's arrival in 1998 has often been cited as having been a breath of new life for the OSS, he said that in recent years he had begun to notice more creative differences at play between himself and some members of the board of directors. He was quick to clarify that there was no great schism or feud involved, but rather that the low-level tension was one of the forms of stress he saw no reason to hold on to.

Ultimately, when he and the board couldn't come to an agreement over his next contract, Laforest said that they

made the decision to end his tenure at the end of the current season and, faced with that reality, he made the choice to end on his own terms.

"It was a big decision for me," the former conductor said, arguing that the differences in artistic visions between himself and the orchestra, coupled with the other changes in his life, led him to what he believes is the right choice. "After 40 years of this kind of work, you can see the signs," he continued, suggesting that it was better to break things off now than let them degrade further.

Nicolas Bélanger, the General Manager of the OSS, described Laforest's departure as "enormous," but shared that it did not come as a complete surprise, even if the timing wasn't exactly what was expected.

"He would never stop," Bélanger said, sharing that it was not unusual for him to get eight to ten work emails from Laforest, even when the conductor was on vacation.

The manager noted that the period of pandemic over the past two years has created a lot of uncertainty and unexpected change in the world of the performing arts and speculated that it is in part these shifts that led to

disagreement.

Looking ahead, Bélanger said that the OSS' January concert was already postponed to May due to the closing of performance venues and the February performance was already scheduled to take place with a guest conductor. With that cushion of time, the manager expressed confidence that other guests can be brought in to finish the spring season.

"We will then begin a process to find a new conductor for the start of next season," he said, adding that there is not someone waiting in the wings at this point in time.

Bélanger expressed a desire to let the dust settle on this significant change for the orchestra, but also assured The Record that there is a strong desire to mark Laforest's departure in some kind of formal way.

"Stephane brought so much to Sherbrooke's cultural community," he said. "We cannot let this happen without giving people a chance to say goodbye."

Laforest expressed openness to that idea, sharing that he would have liked "a better send-off" than a press release, but he also clarified that he still has many other projects on the go.



COURTESY OSS

"I am a guy who wants to move forward, not backwards," he said.

With the pandemic circumstances leaving it unclear how and when the maestro might get to share his parting words with the local community, he took a moment to express gratitude for his past collaborations with the Bishop's University Singers.

"I just want to thank them because they were very nice to me," he said. "I will remember the Messiah with them for the rest of my life."

# Hockey Sherbrooke hopes for a gradual return to indoor sports

By Michael Boriero  
Local Journalism Initiative

Sherbrooke General Manager Stéphane Dion began monitoring the situation closely, as the government's latest lockdown eats into the regular season.

"We hope to have news next weekend from the government, our federation, and public health to know if we'll be able to restart our activities in a gradual fashion,

After Quebec prohibited all indoor sports and activities until at least Jan. 17, Hockey

kind of like in 2021," Dion said in a phone interview, adding that he supports a pause given the number of cases.

Although there is a lot of speculation, Dion said there hasn't been any word regarding the resumption of sports. The government's lockdown and curfew announcement was made last week just before New Year's Eve, so everyone is still in a wait-and-see mode.

"We have an event, a tournament, that starts on Jan. 20 and undoubtedly at the end of the week we'll have an orientation regarding the event to see whether we cancel it completely or if we wait again for next week," said Dion. The federation plans to take it week-by-week.

According to Dion, he hasn't received many messages from parents yet. The office was closed for the holiday break, he explained, but he expects it will start to pick up by next weekend. The parents will want to know what will happen to the season, he continued.

Dion told The Record that he had high hopes for teams in the federation to return to the ice following the annual two-week break during Christmas time. But the prolonged pause initiated by Quebec has thrown a giant wrench in the regular season schedule.

The next two weekends have been cancelled, he said, which means roughly 80 games have been erased from the schedule. And there is no certainty whether teams will get those games back at a later date. The board members will need to discuss all possibilities.

"We're going to sit with the city, the different leagues, and also Hockey Quebec, to see what will happen with the season," said Dion, adding that one option is to extend the schedule by a few weeks in order to reach the maximum amount of games in a season.

He also explained that, like last year, if the government does prolong these new health and safety measures, then the federation will look into the possibility of reimbursing parents for the remainder of the season. But it hasn't come to that yet, Dion said, the situation is fluid.

However, a more pressing issue lies in whether or not kids will even be interested in returning to hockey should the government continue pushing back the lockdown deadline. Since 2019, Dion has seen about 400 kids quit the sport entirely — nearly 23 per cent of the league.

They are finding other interests outside of hockey, he continued, as they can't even practice the sport on the ice during these lockdown periods. Dion believes all of these stops and starts, pauses caused by outbreaks, will hurt a players' development in the long term.

"Yes, I think it does have an impact on the youth because these kids are often passionate, they play hockey, they want to live the experience every week, they want to develop. We might not see the impact tomorrow, but it will happen in the long term," he said.

Dion noted that next week coaches training kids at the school level are planning to integrate a virtual workout routine to keep their players interested, engaged and in shape during the break. It's important to keep them motivated, he said, but the lost time on the ice will cause problems.

Dion pointed specifically to kids playing at the bantam and midget elite levels. They only have a couple of years there before they're expected to make the jump to the junior majors and then, for some of them, the professional ranks. The reality is the path will be a lot harder now.

"I think effectively the impact we're seeing it now, we're in it already, but I think the collateral damage will happen later. For this group of kids, unfortunately, it's not a normal situation we're living at the hockey level, it's the first time for everyone," said Dion.

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# Maple federation announces new quota winners

Over 3000 producers get ready to tap  
5 million more trees



FARM NEWS REVIEW

SCOTT STEVENSON

Local Journalism Initiative

Within two years, Quebec will be producing some 23 million pounds more maple syrup than we are now. That translates into about 2 million gallons more than current production, or 17 million more 540-ml cans that you find on store shelves.

It means a lot of maple producers are now hurriedly installing new pipeline in their sugar bushes, with the new year's sap run only two months away.

Under Quebec's maple syrup supply management system, the maple federation—or Producteurs et Productrices Agricoles du Québec (PPAQ)—planned an increased supply for the province last year, handing out extra quota to qualified producers by an application and lottery system. The good news came to 3,300 producers—including this columnist (1,000 taps)—last Dec. 15.

The federation anticipated the increased demand, and therefore new quota to add supply, due to a “strong increase in sales and exports of maple syrup, and following mediocre production from the 2021 season,” its Dec. 1 press release reported.

Several years ago, it began a new international marketing campaign, and the industry also enjoyed greater interest in maple syrup during the pandemic.

Since production varies from year to year, the one constant measure the federation can use for offering new quota is the number of taps a producer installs in his or her sugar bush.

(Notice, by the way, the new gender-balanced name of the maple federation, “Producteurs et Productrices...,” reflecting positive attitude changes within agricultural

leadership but unfortunately not yet reflected in the make-up of the PPAQ and other farm association boards of directors.)

The federation offered new quota on 7 million taps, all of which were handed out Dec. 15. On average, members of the federation have been producing 3.29 pounds of syrup per tap in recent years. A gallon of syrup (eight cans, roughly) contains 11 pounds of syrup.

Maple producers, as you can see, must know their math as much as their maple trees.

I became terribly bad at math from later high school on, but I like to think that I might now be somewhat better versed in forest ecology. And I wish that in handing out quota on 7 million taps, the federation would have at the same time provided essential guidance on keeping Quebec's sugar bushes healthy.

Theoretically, as many as 5 million more maple trees in Quebec's sugar bushes will be tapped in the coming months, given that some trees get more than one tap.

Those sugar bushes represent much of southern Quebec's forests, which are important beyond measure to our environmental, financial, and overall well-being.

The risk is not so much that 7 million new holes are about to be drilled into the trees of those forests but rather that many of the other trees around the healthy maples may be removed to excess by over-protective or over-zealous producers.

We know now that the old notion of “removing the competition” can be more harmful to a forest than helpful. We've similarly learned that healthy forests need dead trees as well—as habitat for the insects and birds that might prevent pests or disease from attacking too many healthy trees. We need diversity in all respects.

But dead standing trees will eventually fall and therefore risk damaging the sap gathering pipelines, so producers usually prefer to remove them.

I hope we will not see a day in the Eastern Townships, in Quebec, and beyond where our maple forests are ravaged by disease because of our lack of foresight or care.

*Scott Stevenson farms and writes at his home in Newport, Quebec. He reports on individual Townships' farmers biweekly for Brome County News and reviews the farm news biweekly for the Record.*



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**Québec.ca/COVIDvaccine**

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thanks to the booster dose.**

**Get the booster dose and follow all  
health guidelines to protect yourself  
from COVID-19 and its variants.**

**Death**

**Lanny Ross 'Skip' KEELEY**  
September 8, 1944 - December 30, 2021

The Keeley family announces the passing of Lanny Ross 'Skip' Keeley on December 30, 2021. Skip was born in Sudbury, Ontario, on September 8, 1944.

The family moved to the Eastern Townships in 1946 where Skip grew up surrounded by music on the family farm outside of Tomifobia. He attended school in Stanstead and later went to MacDonald College/McGill University where he studied Agricultural Science. Upon graduation, Skip moved west to Dominion City, MB where he set up a veterinary support practice.

Skip had many promising careers ahead of him until he was blindsided by a brain aneurysm in 1976. Challenges followed and he eventually became a resident of the Luther Home in 1998. Skip has been the beneficiary of the incredible, support, caring and patience of all the staff of the Luther Home. They encouraged him in his love of music, cards, games, politics and sports, his trusty newspaper always by his side! Skip was a presence in the Home bringing with him his sense of humour, his attention to detail and his love of interactions with the staff. They became Skip's city family as his own family lived so far away. Words alone cannot express our appreciation to every staff member at the Luther Home.

Skip leaves to mourn his son Michael [Anika] in California, grandchildren Piper and Jax, his sister Jackie (Don) in Quebec, and his brother Larry (Dawn) in Ontario, as well as his friend and ex-wife Diane (Jim) in Gimli. He was predeceased by his parents Jack and Marge Keeley.

Internment at the Ruiters' Corner Cemetery at a later date.

*You and your song are gone, but the melody lingers on!*

**Death**

**Death**

**Death**



**Jean Vivian Buchanan MACDONALD**  
June 19, 1931 - January 1, 2022

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of our mother, Jean Buchanan MacDonald. She passed away peacefully at the Wales Home on January 1, 2022 in her 91st year. Predeceased by her loving husband of 58 years, Robert J. MacDonald, and parents Winnie and Wilbert Buchanan.

Mourning her loss, is daughter Sandra MacDonald-Wangen (Peter), and son Drew; son Robert Bruce MacDonald (Linda), daughters Kristen (Taylor), Brittany, and Jenna MacDonald. She is survived by her brother Angus Buchanan (Janice), and niece Kim and nephew Chris Buchanan. Also nephew John Robert MacDonald (Linda) and niece Judy Joyce (Fred).

She was a nurse for many years at the Wales Home, a source of great pride to her and her family. It was a comforting end to her life journey. We would like to thank all the staff of the Wales Home for the outstanding care she received during her residence at the Home.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Wales Home, Lennoxville United Church, or a charity of your choosing.

Due to the current public health restrictions of 25 people, a private graveside service will be held on Friday, January 7, 2022, at 3 p.m. at the Malvern Cemetery.

**CASS FUNERAL HOMES**  
3006 College St., Sherbrooke QC  
www.casshomes.ca

**PHONE: 819-564-1750**  
**FAX: 819-564-4423**

**Death**

**Randy WOODS**  
1957 - 2021

Passed away at his home near Melbourne, Quebec, on December 28, 2021, at the age of 64, Mr. Randy Woods, son of the late Raymond Woods and late Elsie Booth.

Randy leaves to mourn his brothers and sisters Brian, Larry (Linda Grainger), Donna (Kurt Wallar) and Kimberley (Chris Wright), his niece, nephews as well as many other relatives and friends.

A graveside service will be held at Melbourne Ridge Cemetery at a later date.

**CASS FUNERAL HOMES**  
295 Principale S., Richmond QC  
**PHONE: 819-826-2502**  
**FAX: 819-564-4423**  
www.casshomes.ca

**Death**



**Harris Gordon SHUFELT**  
1940 - 2021

It is with great sadness that we announce the sudden passing of Harris Shufelt on December 25, 2021, at the age of 81.

He leaves his loving wife of 53 years, Carol McCaw, dear father of Janet, Kevin (Manon Rousseau), Andrew (Martine Viens), and cherished grandfather of Trisha, Matthew, Thomas, Cedric, Emily, Jacob, Adam and Sophianne.

His kindness, support, wisdom, sense of humor, will be dearly missed. A celebration of life to be held in the spring.

**Death**

**Stephen MCDOUGALL**

It is with great sadness that the family announces the death of our dear brother, Stephen McDougall, at the age of 64.

A gifted writer, Stephen worked for several newspapers as a freelance journalist. Stephen had many friends in Danville and in the Eastern Townships, an area of the country that he loved and refused to move away from.

The son of Ronald and Brenda McDougall (predeceased), Stephen was brother to Duncan McDougall, Florence Patton and Martha McDougall. He was also an uncle to five nieces and nephews and great-uncle to three nieces and nephews.

Given the high COVID infection rate at this time, the family has chosen to hold a commemoration service later in 2022 to celebrate Stephen's life.

**Do Just One Thing**



**Danny Seo**

When grocery shopping, if you change your mind about buying something and don't feel like returning it to where you found it, you should still bring it to the checkout line with you. Many people will leave unwanted items in places where they don't belong. Over time, misplaced items can be damaged and/or reach their expiration dates, leading to food waste. If you change your mind about an item, simply bring it to the checkout and hand it to a cashier; they have a system in place to reshelve items properly so nothing gets wasted.

**RATES and DEADLINES: ANNOUNCEMENTS & NOTICES**

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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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# NEA Crossword Puzzle

# Your Birthday

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2021

How you deal with your deadlines and responsibilities will determine how vulnerable you appear to others. Refuse to let anyone lead you astray.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)** – Live, learn and move along. Perpetual motion keeps life interesting. Explore what's available to you and share what you find with someone you respect. Keep your valuables in a safe place.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)** – Put your energy into looking and feeling your best. Strive for perfection, strength and a healthy attitude, and you will get the results you want. Be yourself and trust your instincts.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** – Network, socialize and do something that pumps you up and gives you the drive you require to follow through with your plans. Take a unique approach to relationships and networking.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)** – Set your sights on what you want to achieve and refuse to let anything sidetrack you. Pay attention to detail and be disciplined. Knowledge is the key to getting things done right the first time.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)** – A sudden change based on what someone says or does will leave you in a quandary. Rely on your intuition, and you'll choose what's best for you. Progress can be made.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)** – Let your heart lead the way. Take responsibility for your words and actions, and refuse to let anyone take advantage of you. When in doubt, do your research and sit tight.

Reflect before you initiate change. Observing, addressing unstable or questionable situations and considering the results you are trying to achieve will save you time and money. Eliminate confusion and take notes, and you'll get a clear picture of what's possible.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** – Ponder over what to do next. Refuse to let anyone push you in a direction you aren't ready to pursue. Stay focused on what's important to you instead of putting what others want first.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19)** – You can enforce change. You will make a difference if you take charge. Don't count on everyone to agree with you, but the ones who do will contribute handsomely.

**PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20)** – Go over every detail before you make a move. Don't be afraid to do things on your own if necessary. Someone may have ulterior motives, so tread carefully. Strive for a peaceful life.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)** – Surround yourself with people who share your beliefs and interests. Discuss alternatives and be a team player. Don't get worked up over something you cannot change.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)** – Don't step on someone's toes. Do your own thing, and leave others to their devices. Try to get along with others and to be transparent and up-front in all your dealings.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)** – Rev things up and finish what you start.

## Answer to Previous Puzzle

T	O	M		A	G	A	R		D	R	A	M
U	M	A		Z	U	L	U		R	E	D	O
B	E	N	J	A	M	I	N		O	V	E	N
A	N	N	U	L	S			G	U	N		
	S	A	M	E				P	E	A	C	E
			P	A	N	A	M	A		B	A	D
B	O	C	A		I	S	U		R	E	N	E
E	X	I	T		K	E	G		A	T	E	N
G	E	N		S	E	A	S	O	N			
S	N	E	A	K				A	S	A	N	
			L	Y	E		A	T	O	M	I	C
S	A	R	A		R	E	M	E	M	B	E	R
A	L	U	M		A	V	E	R		E	C	O
D	E	M	O		T	A	N	S		R	E	P

- ACROSS**
- 1 Gives the boot to
  - 6 Flourished (Var.)
  - 12 Made tea
  - 14 Rock band crew member
  - 15 Before deadline (2 wds.)
  - 16 Imaginary
  - 17 None
  - 18 — out a living
  - 19 Horse command
  - 21 Road topping
  - 23 Type of overalls
  - 26 Prince Val's son
  - 27 Kiosk buy, slangily
  - 28 Kind of vinegar
  - 30 Complain persistently
  - 31 Cigar residue
  - 32 Reference book
  - 33 Special skill
- DOWN**
- 35 Visitor from Melmac
  - 37 Mdse. bill
  - 38 Secret motive
  - 39 Date regularly
  - 40 Puppy bite
  - 41 Team cheer
  - 42 Consumed
  - 43 Epoch
  - 44 San Francisco hill
  - 46 Quipster
  - 48 Mountainous
  - 51 Honey source
  - 55 Beepers
  - 56 Barked
  - 57 Battery terminals
  - 58 Peasants

- 7 Goose's call
- 8 Cheese dish
- 9 Shelley offering
- 10 Travel word
- 11 Lamprey
- 13 River formations
- 19 A favorite relative
- 20 Hire
- 22 Horrified
- 24 Running in neutral
- 25 — Babies
- 26 "Puppy Love" singer
- 27 Use force
- 28 Bistro
- 29 Invitation addendum
- 34 Jangled
- 36 Room to maneuver
- 42 Ocean depths
- 43 Graceful and quick
- 45 Man-eating giant
- 47 Imitates
- 48 Auditor, for short
- 49 Bled, as a color
- 50 In time past
- 52 Calendar abbr.
- 53 TKO official
- 54 Fabric meas.

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	11
12					13	14					
15						16					
			17			18					
	19	20			21	22			23	24	25
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	41				42				43		
			44	45			46	47			
48	49	50				51			52	53	54
55						56					
57							58				

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2021

## Great declarers are good readers

By Phillip Alder

Top declarers are excellent at placing the key missing cards. Watch Jeff Meckstroth in action on this deal.

East's one-diamond opening showed two or more cards in the suit and 11-14 points. Meckstroth (South) preferred the more descriptive one-no-trump overall. Two diamonds promised at least six cards in either major, and two no-trump indicated length in two suits excluding spades.

Declarer was allowed to win the first trick with his spade queen. He cashed the heart ace and, confident that West had played a singleton 10, continued with his club king and jack, East ducking both to deny declarer a door to the dummy. East won the third club and cashed the spade ace. Then he paused. The defenders were getting one spade, one heart (if declarer couldn't get to the dummy to take a finesse) and one club. So they needed two diamond tricks without establishing the diamond 10 as a dummy entry. As a consequence, shifting to the queen wasn't going to be good enough. Instead, East led the diamond three! He hoped that South would play him for the ace and put up his king.

Meckstroth realized that if West had the ace-queen or ace-jack of diamonds,

North				01-05-22
♠ K 5				
♥ J 9 5 4				
♦ 10 8 5 2				
♣ Q 9 3				
West		East		
♠ J 10 8 7 6 3		♠ A 4 2		
♥ 10		♥ Q 7 2		
♦ A 9 4		♦ Q J 3		
♣ 8 7 6		♣ A 10 4 2		
South				
♠ Q 9				
♥ A K 8 6 3				
♦ K 7 6				
♣ K J 5				
Dealer: East				
Vulnerable: Both				
South	West	North	East	
			1♦	
1NT	2♦	Pass	2♥	
Pass	2♠	2NT	Pass	
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass	
3♥	Pass	Pass	Pass	
Opening lead: ♠ J				

he was doomed. So, did West have only the ace or the queen-jack? With the queen-jack, he might have led that suit. So, Meckstroth played low from this hand!

West took the trick and returned the suit, but South won with his king and exited with his last diamond. East could not stop Meckstroth from getting into the dummy to take the heart finesse.

### CELEBRITY CIPHER

by Luis Campos

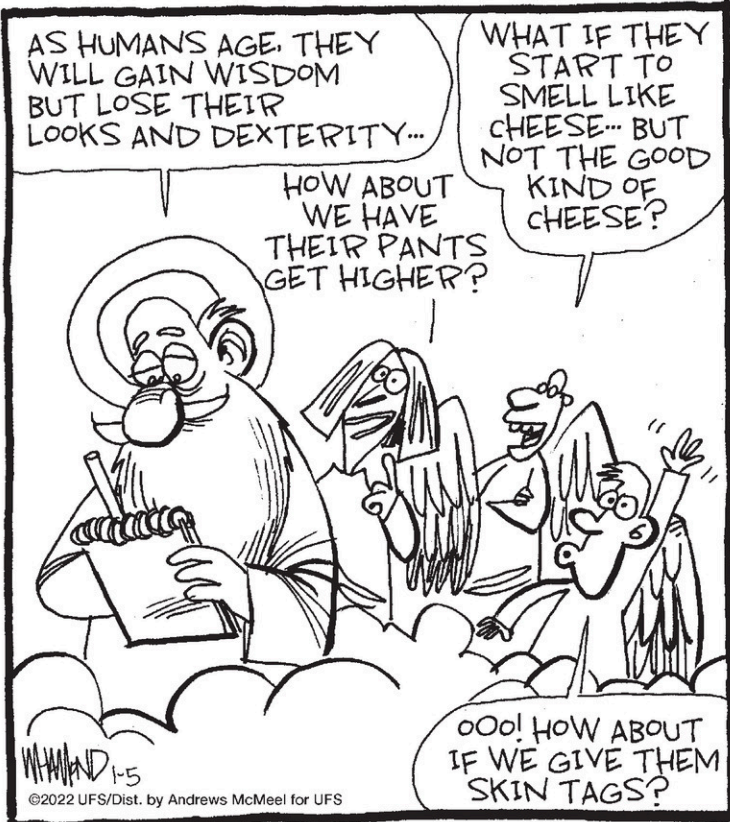
Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

"PTO IKIZN YRHIIYYLRB WCP FY  
C JT TA LCOSIZ, URO IKIZN JT TA  
LCOSIZ FY C YRHIIYYLRB WCP."  
- ZTUZO ARKCB

Previous Solution: "If you do anything for too long, it starts to lack edge, to become too easy. Easy is the kiss of death." — Julia Ormond

TODAY'S CLUE: A sɪnəʒɪ

### REALITY CHECK

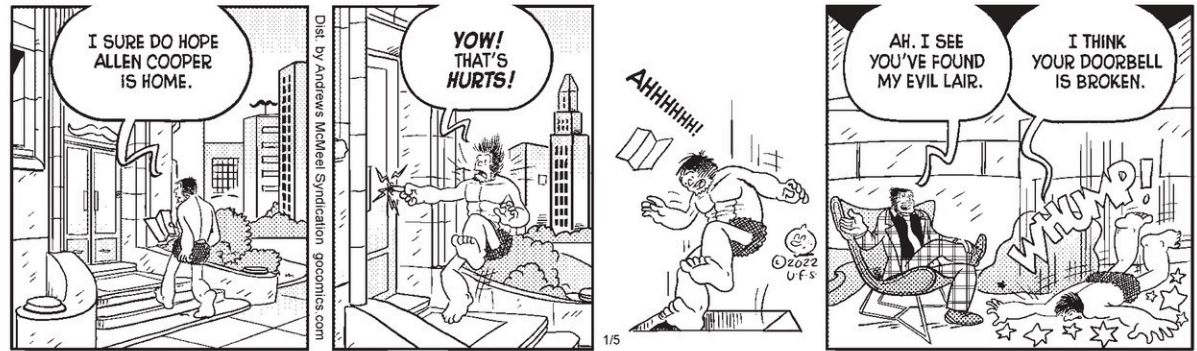


HERMAN

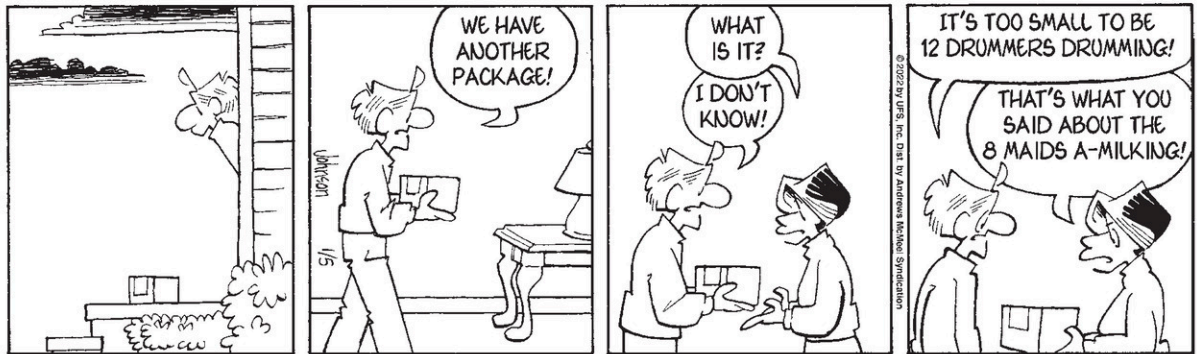


"There's the last-minute replacement jockey for your hot-tip."

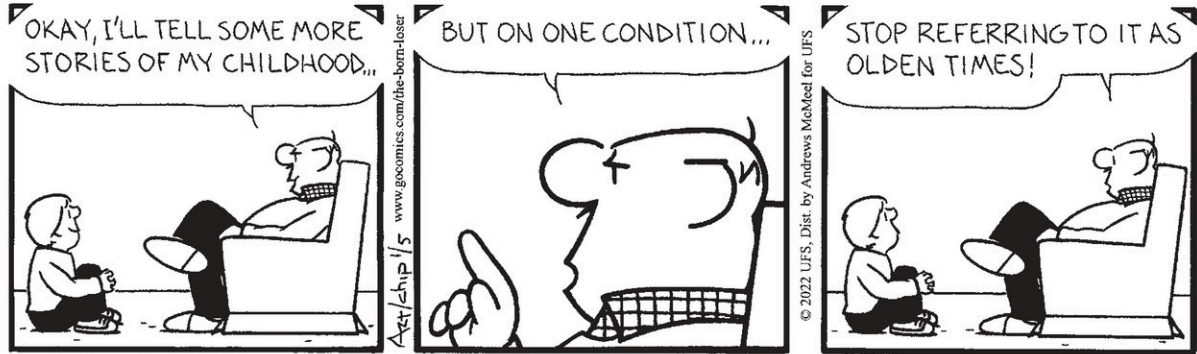
### ALLEY OOP



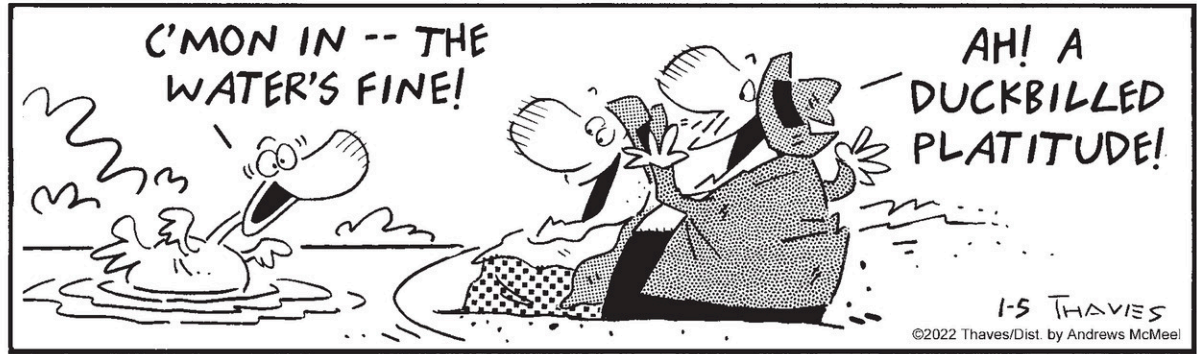
ARLO & JANIS



THE BORN LOSER



FRANK AND ERNEST

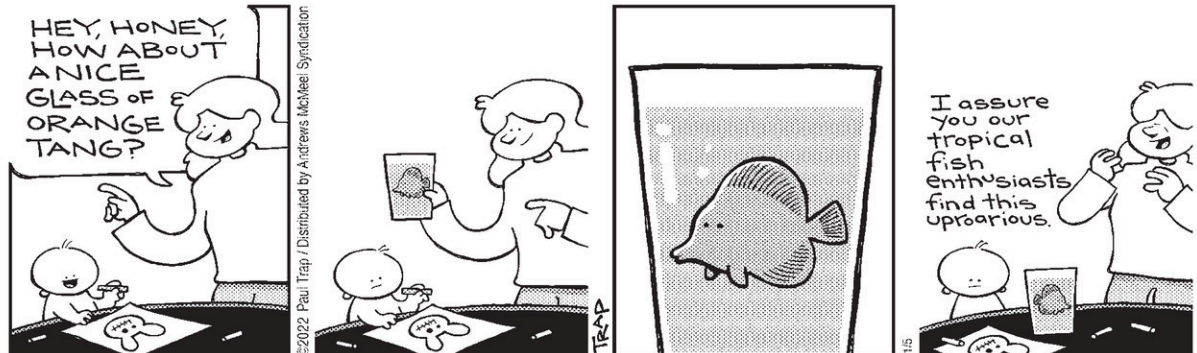


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## Educator position

AIDE COMMUNAUTAIRE DE LENNOXVILLE ET DES ENVIRONS  
LENNOXVILLE AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY AID

**CONTEXT**  
 For more than 40 years, Lennoxville & District Community Aid has offered services to seniors aged 65 and over - living in the Borough of Lennoxville in Sherbrooke, in Waterville, North Hatley and in the Canton of Hatley. Our goal is to allow seniors to preserve their autonomy and improve their quality of life.

**NATURE AND SUMMARY OF THE POSITION**  
 The work of the educator consists mainly of interaction activities, initiation into the use of technologies, support, and follow-up. In order to promote the active living of seniors in the community and to maintain their autonomy, the worker identifies the needs to be met so that they can develop their ability to call on resources that can meet their desires. The worker applies, in collaboration with the elderly, strategies aimed at promoting community life, prevention of physical and social deconditioning, recovery, and ensuring the maintenance of these individuals in their community in complete safety.

**MAIN TASKS**

- Plan, organize and offer services to promote the integration and social participation of seniors
- Support, lead and supervise structured activities aimed at creating self-help groups
- Promote an active lifestyle that benefits their health.
- Work in a sub-committee made up of seniors.
- Perform, as part of his duties, all other related tasks related to the nature of the position

**PROFILE AND SKILLS**

- Great interest in seniors and the improvement of their living conditions.
- Excellent listening skills, positive and patient attitude.
- Ability to identify problems and make decisions.
- Good organizational skills, interest in teamwork
- Ability to introduce the use of new technologies to seniors
- Discretion, integrity, flexibility, autonomy, dynamism, and professionalism.

**REQUIREMENTS**

- College education in a relevant field: Special Care Counselling or related field
- Experience in helping relationships, particularly with the elderly
- Knowledge of the community environment
- Bilingual (French and English – spoken and written)
- Good command of the Office suite
- “Experience in community intervention will be considered an asset”

**CONDITIONS**

- Full time, Monday to Friday, 32 hours per week
- Salary: \$ 22.00 / hour

Interested candidates must send their curriculum vitae accompanied by a cover letter before January 12, 2022, to **SELECTION COMMITTEE**, at the following address: [direction@communityaid.ca](mailto:direction@communityaid.ca)

## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

### Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux (MSSS)

**COMITÉ PROVINCIAL POUR LA PRESTATION DES SERVICES DE SANTÉ ET DES SERVICES SOCIAUX EN LANGUE ANGLAISE**

This call for applications seeks to recruit members to be part of Comité provincial pour la prestation des services de santé et des services sociaux en langue anglaise (“Provincial Committee”).


The Provincial Committee is being struck under a recently passed regulation, with the Minister of Health and Social Services tasking Secrétariat à l'accès aux services en langue anglaise et aux communautés ethnoculturelles to form a selection committee to launch the call for applications and recommend qualified candidates to the Minister, who will then appoint the 11 members to the Provincial Committee.

The Provincial Committee is mandated under the regulation to advise the government on (i) providing English-language health and social services, and (ii) approving, evaluating, and updating all regional access programs for the provision of English-language services.

Applicants must have an understanding, knowledge, and experience of cultural, historical, and linguistic issues relating to Québec’s English-speaking community. They must also show an in-depth knowledge of the issues confronting the community in terms of health and social services provision and of how the health and social services system is organized and governed.

Applicants must be ready to deal with the many challenges involved in improving access to English-language health and social services and enhancing the vitality of English-speaking communities. The deadline for submitting applications to the selection committee is February 5, 2022 at 5 p.m.

For more on applicant profiles or to get an application form, see the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux (MSSS) website at [Quebec.ca/callofapplications](http://Quebec.ca/callofapplications).



**CLASSIFIEDS WORK!**

# (819) 569-9525

## Let your children fly

Dear Annie

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2022

Dear Annie: I cried when I was reading the letters from parents about not letting go of their children in college. My mother was so strict with me that I was not even allowed to go to college.

A new local college was opened the year I graduated from high school, but my parents’ excuse for me not to go was that they couldn’t afford it. They also asked me how I was going to get there since it was 25 miles from home. They decided that, since I was a girl, I did not need a car, even though they bought both of my brothers a car when they turned 16.

I could not even get a job because we lived in the country and there were no businesses close by. They finally allowed me to go to “beauty school” to learn how to do hair, which I hated. After graduating from that and getting my

license, I still could not work because, they asked, “How are you going to get to work without a car?” It was always just one roadblock after another.

I was not even allowed to date, while all of my friends were going out with boys to parties and such. My mother didn’t trust me. Honestly, I don’t know why because I never had boys come to visit me on the farm. I think that I was 18 or 19 before I had my first date, and even then, Mom was not sure about it.

Needless to say, the first male who asked me to get married was the one I chose. I could not wait to get out of that house, but as it turned out, the man I did marry was a HUGE mistake.

My brother was in the Navy, and while he was stationed in Florida, he asked me to fly down there to spend time with him. He had a married friend who said that I could bunk with them. I was finally working in a factory at this time, so I had my own money, but my

parents said, “NO!” They actually told me that if I went, I would not be welcome back home again.

Honestly, I never could understand why they, especially my mother, distrusted me so much. I never gave her any reason to, and when I questioned her, all she would say was, “Oh, I trust you.” I feel as if I missed so much in my teenage years. I even thought about joining the Navy, to which my mother said, “No way in hell!” At that time, I still had animals on the farm, and I knew that if I did join, my parents would dump them. So, I just stayed home.

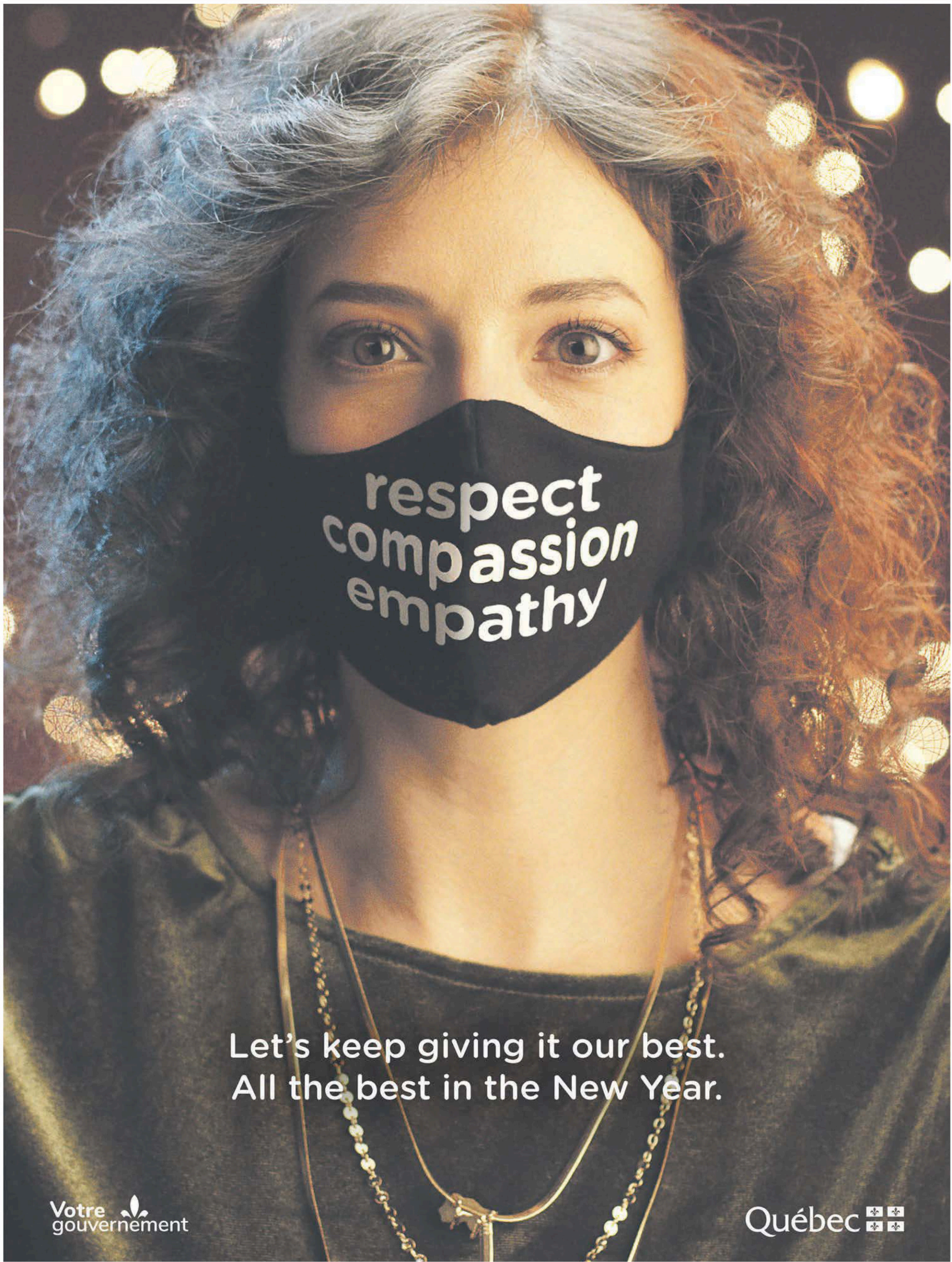
The funny thing is that a cousin’s wife said that she was in the Navy and that she really enjoyed it and that I should have joined. Thanks for listening. Please keep telling parents to let their children “spread their wings” because it is the way they grow up. – Caged Bird

Dear Caged: What your mother did

to you was not fair. She said she trusted you with her words, but her actions painted a much more hurtful picture. The fact that you wrote this letter and see the importance of giving children their own wings to fly out of the nest shows you can already fly. You are doing it with your pen and by telling your story. Now that you are an adult, it’s not too late to get a job, go to college, move out on your own and live a life that you want to live.

Your mother’s restrictions were no doubt imposed on you from her own insecurities and fears about the world. She loves you, but her way is not necessarily the most loving way. And you know that. So, spread your wings. I can’t wait to hear about all the adventures that take place once you take flight.

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



respect  
compassion  
empathy

Let's keep giving it our best.  
All the best in the New Year.