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## Local church powers through Era of Pandemic

Page 3



Local churches ask for  
exemption  
from new  
crowd  
restrictions

**Église de Dieu**  
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Page 5



## From bad to worse

L'Acadie/  
Jean-Talon  
Intersection

Page 6



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# Cross at your own risk

*Non-official EXO Pedestrian train crossing at end of Ogilvy is safer than you'd think, states City Councilor Mary Deros*

PHOTO: NEWSFIRST-DOMENIC MARINELLI



**DOMENIC MARINELLI**  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter  
For The Parc-Extension News  
domenic@newsfirst.ca

It's at the East End of Ogilvy that an EXO train crossing sits, an unofficial one according to signs posted there, but according to City Councilor Deros, it's safer than you would think, or safer than the sign posted on the fence would have you believe.

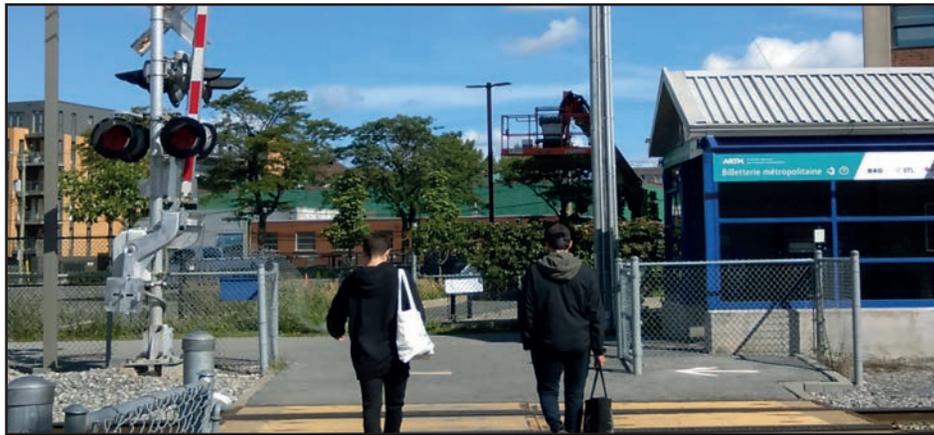
## A member of the community reaches out

It was Mary McCutcheon, a member of the community that reached out to me to write a piece on this, hopefully in the process, shedding a little bit of light on an interesting tidbit that may have gone unnoticed by most. It hasn't gone unnoticed by City Councilor Deros however, and we have what she had to say in detail.

## As it stands right now

I went to investigate the crossing on a Saturday afternoon. The sky was clear and the temperature was just right, so, a lot of pedestrians were out and about. What I saw was incredible ... in terms of how many people use the crossing, paying no mind to the sign set in place warning of supposed imminent danger. In fact, the sign was even vandalized at some point, it seemed, only half of it remains.

In a fifteen minute time span, over forty people crossed, carrying grocery bags from Provigo, going back towards the east, and many coming over towards the west and Park Ex, heading towards the Parc Metro Station, or wherever their daily walking would take them. Even cyclists crossed. But the one thing that didn't come by in that time



Two people cross into Park Extension, hoping to finish up with their day's shopping, cutting their walking route by more than half by using the crossing

was a train, or even the threat of one ... and for the longest time.

I saw firsthand that the crossing was indeed safe as it stands, as Mary Deros assured.

## Other crossings in the city

Crossing train tracks is actually illegal in other boroughs across the city, specifically in Montreal-North into St-Leonard. There are train tracks that run over Lacordaire Boulevard and the tracks are closed to anyone trying to cross with a small two or so foot fence. Police have given out tickets to those trying to cross, as was witnessed by myself during another investigation. But here, that seems not to be the case.

## "Sign, sign ... everywhere a sign"

And so it's as Les Emmerson wrote all those years

back: "...Sign, sign, everywhere a sign / Blockin' out the scenery, breakin' my mind / Do this, don't do that, can't you read the sign ...?"

And maybe most signs these days are there for our safety, this one has certainly left quite a few in the community scratching their heads.

The sign in place, attached to the fence states: "This is not a pedestrian access; the owner is not obliged to maintain this space. We are not responsible in case of accidents. \*We suggest you use the shuttle service. (Shuttle located in front of metro)"

The land belongs to the building that is there on the eastern side, apparently.

And the crossing may just as well represent a fork in the road for many who come upon it. Cross and reach your destination in a mere few moments, or, walk all the way around the buildings there, back onto Jean-Talon, under the underpass and all the

way to the front of the metro station? Decisions, decisions. The choice is yours, but it's clear that something needs to be done, assuring the community that this crossing is safe and comfortable.

## City Councilor's comments on the safety of the crossing

Mary Deros finds the sign redundant. It makes no sense to her, as the crossing is a great access point into the community of Park Ex, its businesses and vice-versa. Also, people in Park Ex have to cross there to purchase their tickets, as the ticket booth/machine is on the east side of the tracks.

She further states that a superior court judgment made it an official crossing with safety measures securely set in place. The community "needs" to cross there, she stated.

Of the safety measures she said: "The sensors are already there ... the flashing lights, noise sensors, the barricades. It's not a smooth crossing (because of the awkward fence and uncomfortable pathway as it stands), but that's the only thing that needs to be done." This in turn, would definitely make the crossing comfortable, as I stated earlier.

## A community in wait

So, as she stated, all that is left to be done is remove the fence that stands in the way on the eastern end of the crossing and pave the path with asphalt, making it an easier placed to cross. She is unclear as to when they would go about doing this, but hopes that it'll be done this year, as it was promised, and she states that it would be a nice present for the Holidays, as the community and she would surely appreciate it.



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# Local church powers through era of pandemic

A look back at what KOIMISIS TIS THEOTOKOU church and its community went through in the last few decades and how its dealing with the pandemic moving forward—w/ in depth comments by City Councilor, Mary Deros

PHOTOS: NEWSFIRST-DOMENIC MARINELLI



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I was interviewing Mary Deros for another matter a few weeks back and it was she that brought up the church, telling me about a feast they were having back in August, and despite the pandemic. And it was in the way she spoke, that an adoration and respect shone through, as it always does when she speaks about matters of the community—matters that are so important to her.

It was on that day that I discovered the church, covering the early portion of the Dormition of the Mother of God feast, celebrated on the day of August 15th. See coverage of that event here: <http://www.px-news.com/celebrating-the-dormition-of-mother-mary-in-state-of-pandemic-in-the-heart-of-park-extension/>

But it was also on that day that I got the idea to look further into a church where it has been said that miracles occur and a place that so many adoring members of the community hold dear. I wanted to know why such a church was so heralded, and dare I say it, so much more by the members of this community as opposed to other communities city-wide. So, as always, I got to digging.

## A history etched into the hearts and minds of the community

The Church is also known as “Panagitsa.” The Hellenic Community of Greater Montreal bought the church way back in 1968. The actual church was built a few years prior in 1962, but was inaugurated in 1968, as specified.

For years the church thrived in a community more than willing to accept it with open arms and open hearts and it served as a place of worship for one and all.

Sadly, it was in 2015, that a terrible fire rocked the foundations of what was such a pillar for the community, but the community and the church itself bound together to rebuild in just two years. They overcame that disaster and were flourishing quite nicely, being there for their community until yet another disaster washed upon our shores.

## City Councilor, Mary Deros and what this church means to her

For years, Holy Trinity was her church. She sang in the choir there and even met her husband at that church, but following its burning to the ground, KOIMISIS TIS THEOTOKOU became their family’s church.

Of the Virgin Mary, City Councilor Deros says: “Virgin Mary plays such a role. We pray to her when we need comfort and guidance.” But she states that it is not just people of the Orthodox faith that pray to her. “People of different origins touch the walls and small icons and they pray ... Muslims in the neighborhood and others.”

And I was witness to this, as I sat in front of the church, looking for a sign of someone to talk to, that a woman walked up to an icon on the side of the building, and she stopped to pray. It was an amazing sight to see, especially after having been told about it from Mary Deros only hours earlier.

And this dedication seems to be present in many. She stated that there are those that walk from Laval, north of the city and borough, all the way to the site of the church, to pray and pay homage.

And of the miracles, or as she likes to reference them as: “prayers that have been answered,” she has seen instances of this, as have others we spoke to, who wish to remain nameless.

And further, City Councilor Deros stresses that “all places of worship in the community mean a lot to us.”

Of the fire that occurred in 2015 she stated that



A local woman stops to pray at the icon, paying her respects

she remembers standing there as it burned and says: “It was a part of us that died that day and all efforts were made to rebuild ... to resurrect.”

## And now, rising from this state of pandemic

And it was on the feast of Dormition of the Mother of God that I saw first-hand how the community came together to worship, despite the threat of the pandemic all around them. The amount of people at the feast paled in comparison

**“Virgin Mary plays such a role. We pray to her when we need comfort and guidance.”**

to what used to be the numbers in the past, but yet they showed a united front and a dedication to their place of worship regardless.

Since the pandemic, the church has reached out to City Councilor Mary Deros, asking about how they can comply with the new rules set in place to prevent the spread of Covid-19, and she has told them to consult with the government website and postings, even giving them a number to call, letting them know that that is the best way to proceed and keep all safe, and she has done all she can to help, as always donating masks to the church—up to over 200 masks, she told me in our interview.

She is proud of the work they’re doing, as she has always been, saying that Father Nikolas, who has been there for over 40 years, always goes above and beyond, and especially in times of peril or difficulty.



Father Nikolas and others deep in prayer within the confines of the church during the height of the pandemic—having moved from other disasters in the past, they have faith in moving forward

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# OPINION & Editorial



## THAT'S WHAT I'M THINKING

Robert Vairo



### Speak softly and start believing.

Nothing personal but the language or languages you speak may influence whether you become infected with the Covid virus. Different languages spew more moisture than others. Do you speak softly, or loudly? Do you project when you speak, like singers, teachers, and broadcasters? A study in the journal Aerosol Science and Technology, says this all has an effect on how the virus will impact you. For example when we speak English, we aspirate a lot. We produce voiceless but plosive consonants like p, t, and k. We pronounce those letters within a word with exhaling breath. A researcher named Sakae Inouye from the University of Tokyo observed that like English, the Chinese language actually has even more aspirated letters. Inouye concluded that in Chinese, "the consonants p, t, k, q, ch, and c, when placed in front of vowels, are pronounced with a strong breath". In fact when a Chinese, English and Japanese speaker were compared, the tissue in front of their mouths fluttered in English and Chinese but not in Japanese. That could be the reason Japan has only one third the number of Covid cases of Canada, yet it has three times Canada's population. And if you speak French and most of us do, you will agree that at least anecdotal evidence suggests the expressive French, Italian, and Greek speakers have plenty of potential viral particles to pass onto others! Now it can't all be attributed to language because the Japanese have a mask wearing culture, are disciplined in social distancing, and respect their government's suggestions of avoiding crowds. We are still learning about this virus, but it's worthy of note that different speech sounds produce either more or less moisture according to the study in the medical journal LANCET. And loud speakers clearly emit more aerosolized particles than soft spoken speakers, in some cases ten times as many! So whichever way you chose, try to reduce your air flow, and keep your moisture to yourself.

No matter what language we speak we are all human beings and as humans, we tend to lie, a lot. A recent study found fully one third of the population lies about whether they have symptoms or have in fact been infected. Psychology researchers at St Catharines Ontario's Brock University found "34% of those testing positive denied having symptoms". Women more than men were more honest, older but not younger adults told the truth.

But what bothers me the most, is the recent on line Leger survey clearly showing pandemic fatigue has set in, and fully half of Canadians think our politicians are holding back information. Younger Canadians find politicians and health officials exaggerate the severity of this deadly virus. Why? Because we've been lied to, too often. Italians were told the virus was created in a Chinese lab. The Chinese said the virus originated with the US military. Donald Trump said the anti malaria drug hydroxychloroquine was the cure. Ottawa Public Health said recovered patients of the virus would not be reinfected for at least two years. Granting 14 day exemptions to Uline U.S. billionaire Liz Uihlein and her gang's private jet fly in for their 36 hour visit to Milton Ontario. That severely undermines public confidence. We were told masks were not effective. Yes they are. Health Minister Patty Hajdu admitted "We knew very early about COVID-19, the risk that it posed to human health". This was in December 2019! Hajdu, Justin Trudeau, Doug Ford, and no doubt other politicians that we don't know about have not followed their own rules. Teachers complain about class sizes but it was an infected teacher (no mask) who forced the closure of a Pembroke high school. And I am not alone wondering why 50 people can gather in a strip club but only 10 are allowed at a house party. And so one can perhaps understand why many no longer believe what they hear and have dropped their guard. And what about a vaccine. Can it be trusted now? All this despite a troubled Premier Legault saying "The situation is critical...please think about others", promising more powerful screen ads but he hasn't changed the rules, yet. Ontario's Doug Ford has, and is fed up, instituting a system of provincially enforced measures that carry heavy fines. I read this recent powerful commentary from an outraged Canadian, "Not realizing, or not caring about our overworked medical staff, selfish, spoiled, disrespectful citizens are going to kill us".

Most believe, some don't. The sad reality is one infected can send 30 others to hospital, hopefully to recover, thanks to our dead tired doctors and nurses. **That's what I'm thinking.**

Robert Vairo. robert@newsfirst.ca

## PARLEZ-MOI D'HUMOUR

Alcide Borik



### VÉNUS

Avez-vous entendu la dernière nouvelle ?

Ouvrez grand vos esgourdes : Un équipage norvégien de chercheurs a analysé les films des environs de Vénus, (quelques milliards de kilomètres) et a lancé cette nouvelle stupéfiante : Il y a de la vie sur Vénus!

Cette vie semble émaner de virus.

M'avez-vous bien lu? Comme si on n'en avait pas assez, Covid19, Trump, les Chinois... et j'arrête là pour ne pas me mettre tout le monde à dos.

Mais ils sont fous ces chercheurs norvégiens, dites-moi quel sera éventuellement leur point d'atterrissage pour qu'on aille les recevoir à coup de pierres. Quoi? Vous trouvez qu'on n'a pas assez de ces petits monstres capables de bouleverser notre vie, notre organisme, notre santé, notre cerveau, peut-être, il faudra qu'ils restent éternellement sur orbite, on se couchera sur le tarmac pour les empêcher de nous ramener ce truc là. On devrait leur larguer toutes les fusées que le Hamas stocke pour fêter leur Halloween personnelle, toutes les bombes que les Iraniens destinent aux mécréants, aux femmes, aux enfants, aux Juifs, aux Américains, à tout ceux qui ont une conscience, une morale, une éthique. Un Covid par siècle, et c'est la disparition de la vie sur terre, des forêts amazoniennes, des rivages de Floride et de Californie, et du futur défilé des Trump girls dé-confinées.

Déjà que la moralité de nos politiciens en a pris un coup, que les principes éthique s'envolent au gré des ouragans, que les anti-masques veulent nous interdire le moindre bal masqué (au nom de la démocratie, bien sûr), que nos jeunes insistent pour se gréer d'armes létales pour animer leurs parties d'enterrement de vie de gars-cons, vous ne voulez pas qu'on accueille sur terre ces virus, si Vénusiens qu'ils soient.

Ils vont vouloir nous forcer à appliquer une charia de chez eux, puis repartent un jour, fiers comme un p'tit banc, en clamant : On est Venus, on a vu, et on a Vinci (on a vingt culs) traduction certifiée. Il faut rédiger immédiatement un moratoire demandant aux virus extraterrestres de rester en quarantaine et en orbite, leur téléporter par télécopieurs 3 D des sandwiches et des chiens chauds cachères et halal, et les abreuver de voie lactée. On leur jouera **Arlequin, valet de deux mètres de Goldoni**, on scandera : Venus, Go home ! Même si Poutine veut entreprendre avec eux des échanges culturels et des transferts technologiques.

Attention : On en a un peu marre des réchauffements intempetifs de la planète!

# Local churches asking to be exempt from new crowd restrictions

*Local places of worship want the same treatment that theaters and reception halls are receiving as Covid-19 cases are on the rise and we slink closer to the red*



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Local places of worship have asked the government to change their decision, as their decision and new rules set in place state that they can only have gatherings of up to 25 people at a given time. They claim a severe injustice in this regard, as they have not been given the same allowances as theaters and reception halls have been given. In a conversation with City Councilor Mary Deros, she said: "They need to survive as well."

## A rise in numbers

As we've been reporting on the Park Extension News website, the numbers are rising and really, like trickling water from a troublesome hole in the works, the numbers haven't stopped rising since threats of a second wave surfaced. And now, as we are at the cusp of the red stage of a pandemic that has already wreaked so much havoc in our city and around the world, people are left to wonder just how these decisions are being made. In light of this decision here, we can definitely see that some, if not all plans, haven't been all that well thought out.

## A conversation with City Councilor Deros

It was actually Mary Deros that called me,

asking that I shine some light on this, as she felt that leaving the churches in the proverbial dust, allowing so few people in to worship, was definitely a tragedy in and of itself. She stated that if theaters were allowed more people at a given time, why not churches as well? She went on to say that perhaps churches were just as severely hit, if not more, than many local businesses during this horrible time of pandemic, and she agrees with the religious leaders calling for a change, this early in the orange stage of this second wave—and she states that all places of worship should be exempt, as especially in Park Extension, there are many faiths in the borough and they're all being restricted with this new decision.

Eglise De Dieu Outremont on Stuart, Jehova's Witness Kingdom Hall on Stuart and Temple Shree Ramji Mandhata on Durocher (as well as Orthodox and catholic churches in the area), are just a few of the places of worship in the area that'll surely be affected by the new decision and have already been affected by the pandemic.

Audiences in a public space are allowed to be up to 250 people at a given time. Many are suggesting that perhaps churchgoers are in fact audiences in a public space.

## Others react

"We demand from the government authorities that they reclassify as of today the places of worship," said the president of the Assembly of the Catholic bishops of Quebec, Christian



Kingdom Hall on Stuart too, will be limited in the amount of people that can attend at a given time state new rules set in place during stage orange of the pandemic /June 2019 via Google images

Rodembourg.

City Councilor Chantal Rossi agrees with Mary Deros, stating: "It's absolutely illogical. Why are places of worship so distinct from other spaces? If the church becomes an auditorium for fundraising, do we apply the 25 or the 250?"

## This decision can present an even worse issue

It was once again City Councilor Deros that stated that people need places of worship in times of peril. They needed it in the horrible first wave that came by, and so many issues were brought up for people during that time ... even suicides went up, and she feels that places of worship need

to be considered for higher numbers of people at one time, because further disasters for members of the community can be avoided with that simple decision. "People go to church and their places of worship for comfort," she said. And in the end, perhaps comfort—the comfort that only a place of worship can give—is all we have left.

## The red

And maybe it's the red that everyone fears, and that is the only logical thing in all of this ... the fear, but to limit churches and theaters seems wrong to so many in the community, but as the numbers rise this week, and slink closer to the red, perhaps all the rules will be changed once again, and at any given moment, we're afraid.

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# From bad to worse at L'Acadie/Jean-Talon intersection

Local business owners & City Councilor Mary Deros not happy with end result of the construction at the corner of Jean Talon and L'Acadie—situation has ended in petition & could get worse

PHOTO: NEWSFIRST-DOMENIC MARINELLI



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Good intentions aside, the work done at the intersection of L'Acadie and Jean Talon has solved one problem and has perhaps created a more serious one, and at the worst possible time for local vendors and businesses.

As we previously reported, work at the intersection has created a pretty difficult time of getting in and out of Park Extension, as well as at other areas across the borough, but in the end, we had hoped that all the difficulty and discomfort would lead to something quite positive for everyone in the area. As it turns out, what occurred was exactly the opposite, essentially solving one problem and creating another one.

## The initial plan

City councilor Mary Deros has been working on this for many years ... essentially the work creating the possibility for eastbound cars to make protected turns left at the aforementioned intersection. This was the goal, thus creating easier access for said vehicles, but what they ended up doing was not at all what she had in mind.

In a letter addressed to Mr. Caldwell, City Councilor Mary Deros stated: "... what I do not understand why the sidewalk was modified and the parking lot was removed on Jean Talon north side between L'Acadie and Birnam. This arrangement has not been discussed with me, nor with the services of our borough. There was already a ledge in the southeast corner as well as two voices for eastbound traffic. So the parking lot was protected



A city worker making the rounds, checking to see if all was secure moments after speaking with us—he stated work should resume that very day but quickly added he wasn't sure

without night traffic. The current layout will not help with sidewalk snow removal or a stop to easily disembark people at this location. With the University of Montreal to the south as well as the densification of secure on Beaumont there are more cars in the area. Our borough has increased the SRRR sector, therefore less space for traders. Mr. Caldwell, this development does not meet the realities of local needs ...

So it's essentially the parking areas at the above-mentioned area that have been removed, and a whole other bunch of problems have come along with that decision.

## Fallout

She started receiving complaints from merchants

early, complaints she agreed with wholeheartedly. She stated: "This is a tendency of this administration—any changes they bring about, they remove parking." She talked about how difficult it has been for businesses in the area during the pandemic and also states that she understood why work was slow in coming on the site, understandable during the era of Covid-19, but what she cannot fathom is the removal of parking. She states: "Just as we started to breathe, you're cutting the clientele space," speaking of the businesses perhaps doing a little better after Covid-19 and now, having to deal with this.

## Local business owners take action

And in a petition addressed to the Ville De Montreal, local businesses made their sentiments

known. Their letter states: "... This is very regretful to say that Ville De Montreal has removed the parking space for these business owners below, we are already facing a huge business

crisis and removing this parking doesn't help our clients to come and we are

receiving complaints from our clients for not finding parking. We are giving 30 days Notice to city to reinstate parking space otherwise we will sue the city.

We Undersigned the concerned above ..."

Many business owners (if not every single one so far at the spot) signed the petition, especially those directly affected.

I spoke to some business owners myself while scouting out the location, and they all concur, some of which signed the above mentioned petition. I spoke specifically with Lakhvir Singh, owner of Flavors of India Restaurant, the restaurant right on the corner, and he stated that there were serious parking issues already, but now they've been made severely worse.

## When a construction job isn't as simple as it may seem

While on-site, I spoke to a city construction worker and he stated that later that day (The 21st of September), work was to resume in late afternoon, but at deadline, we cannot clarify if this was so.

Regardless, the job almost finished, they've left many disappointed and frustrated people in their wake, and City Councilor Mary Deros is certainly one of them. In the end, all that remains to be seen is what happens next, but with City Councilor Deros on their side, we're sure we haven't heard the last of this story. We'll keep you posted, folks.

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# Une approche adaptée aux différentes régions pour limiter la propagation du virus

Plus que jamais, nous devons respecter les mesures sanitaires pour limiter la propagation du virus. Il est essentiel que chacun d'entre nous demeure vigilant et adopte les bons comportements. Puisque la transmission du virus ne se fait pas partout de la même façon, un nouvel outil a été mis en place afin de vous permettre de mieux connaître l'évolution de la situation dans chacune des régions du Québec. Ce système d'alerte à quatre paliers facilitera également pour la population le suivi des interventions du gouvernement.

Il est nécessaire de contenir la progression du virus partout au Québec. C'est ainsi que nous réussirons à maintenir une certaine normalité dans les prochains mois. Chaque région peut faire une grosse différence pour limiter la propagation du virus. Continuons de bien nous protéger.

Votre  
gouvernement

## Système d'alertes régionales et d'intervention graduelle

Le système d'alertes régionales et d'intervention graduelle précise pour chacune des régions sociosanitaires les mesures additionnelles à déployer pour ralentir la transmission du virus. Celles-ci dépendent du palier d'alerte atteint et visent à limiter les conséquences sanitaires, sociales et économiques de la COVID-19, à protéger les personnes les plus vulnérables et à éviter de surcharger le système de soins.

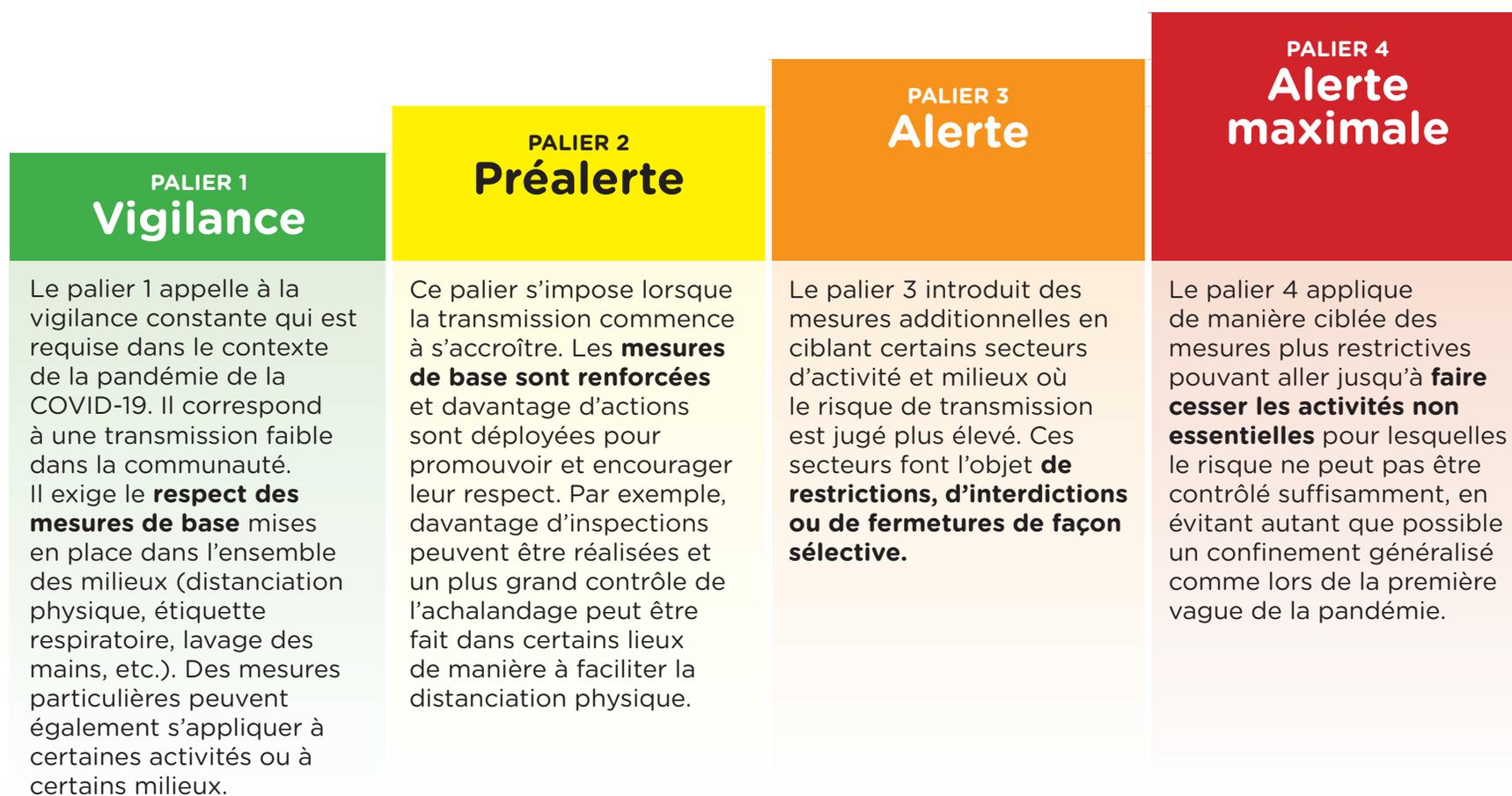
Les paliers d'alerte sont établis selon les recommandations des autorités de santé publique, qui font une analyse régulière de la situation en tenant compte de la situation épidémiologique, du contrôle de la transmission et de la capacité du système de soins. Selon les tendances observées, les paliers seront révisés chaque semaine par les autorités de la santé publique.

N'oubliez pas, chaque personne doit adopter des comportements permettant de limiter la transmission du virus. Faisons-le pour que nos enfants puissent continuer d'aller à l'école, pour protéger nos aînés, pour assurer la sécurité de nos travailleurs de la santé et pour relancer notre économie. **En tout temps, respectez les mesures de base :**



- Gardez vos distances
- Portez un couvre-visage
- Toussez dans votre coude
- Lavez vos mains
- Adaptez vos pratiques de salutations

## QUATRE PALIERS D'ALERTE ET D'INTERVENTION



Pour connaître le niveau d'alerte dans votre région, consultez la carte des paliers d'alerte par région sur [Québec.ca/paliersalerte](https://quebec.ca/paliersalerte)

[Québec.ca/coronavirus](https://quebec.ca/coronavirus)

☎ 1 877 644-4545

Québec 

# An approach adapted to the different regions to limit transmission of the virus

It is now more important than ever that we follow health measures to limit the spread of the virus. It is essential that each of us remains vigilant and adopts good habits. Since the virus is not spreading everywhere at the same rate, a new tool has been implemented to show how the situation is evolving in each Quebec region. This four-level alert system will make it easier for you to keep track of the government's interventions.

We must contain the spread of the virus throughout Quebec. This is how we can retain some level of normalcy over the next few months. Each region can make a big difference in limiting the spread of the virus. Let's continue to protect each other.

Votre  gouvernement

## Progressive regional alert and intervention system

The Progressive regional alert and intervention system specifies which additional measures each health region must take to slow the transmission of the virus. These depend on the alert level reached and are intended to limit the health, social and economic impacts of COVID-19, protect those who are most at risk and avoid overburdening the healthcare system.

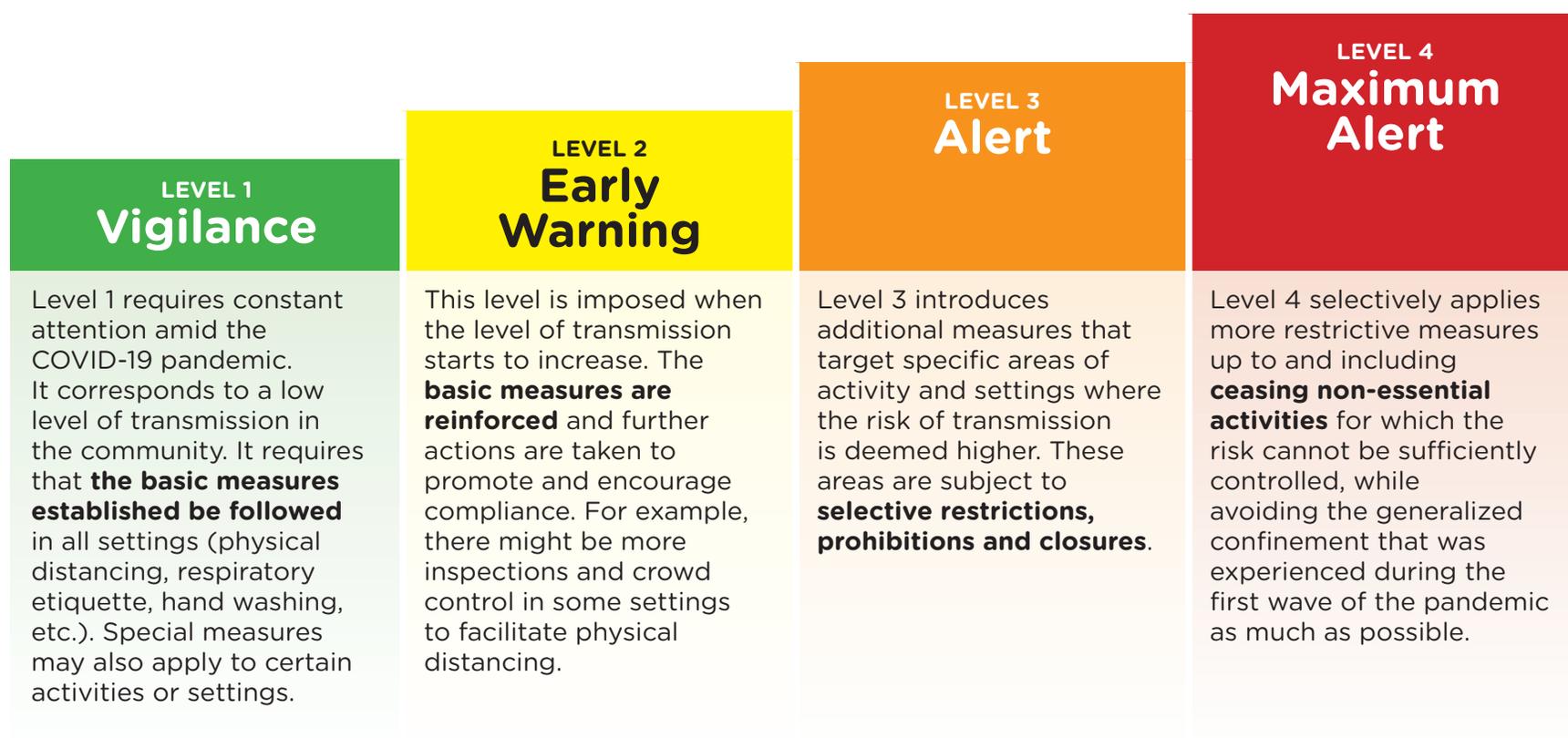
The alert levels are established based on the recommendations of public health authorities who regularly review the situation, taking into account the epidemiological situation, transmission control and the capacity of the healthcare system.

Don't forget that everyone must adopt behaviours that limit transmission of the virus. We do it to ensure that our children can keep going to school, to protect our seniors, to ensure the safety of our healthcare workers and to revive our economy. **Follow the basic measures at all times:**



- › Keep your distance
- › Wear a face covering
- › Cough into your elbow
- › Wash your hands
- › Adapt your greetings

## FOUR ALERT AND INTERVENTION LEVELS



To find out the alert level in your region, consult the Map of COVID-19 alert levels by region at [Québec.ca/alertlevels](https://quebec.ca/alertlevels)

[Québec.ca/coronavirus](https://quebec.ca/coronavirus)

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Québec 

# Two Mountains To Climb: Canada's Twin Deficits and How to Scale Them

Canada must come to grips not just with a massive fiscal shortfall but also consecutive deficits in our current account, a broad measure of our trading and investment relationship with the rest of the world. A government plan must be growth oriented if we are to get the twin deficits under control without resorting to the drastic measures of 25 years ago.

**INTRODUCTION**

The 2020 COVID-19 crisis has produced a unique economic emergency layered on top of a decade-long build-up of pre-existing weaknesses. One cannot be addressed in isolation from the other.

The 21st century began well for Canada. Our fiscal turnaround had proven durable as our debt-to-GDP ratio moved steadily downward. We were running a current account surplus with the world on the backs of strong demand and good prices for our exports and net inflows of foreign direct investment. We were building our net worth as a nation and setting the stage for future growth through the creation of new economic capacity. As a result, jobs and income were on the rise, along with opportunity.

But the situation began deteriorating in the second decade of the new century. The current account, a broad measure of our trading and investing relationship with other nations, turned negative and remains there. Non-energy exports never recovered after the Great Financial Recession and the tide turned against investment in Canada following the 2015 oil price collapse. In the long run, the real income of Canadians and the public programs they cherish depend on the value of the goods and services (GDP) Canadian workers and businesses produce. We maximize their impact by exporting those in which we are most cost efficient and importing those where we are less efficient.

Long before COVID-19, however, the signals were straightforward and stark: Canada's industries were losing ground in global competitiveness and attractiveness to foreign investors. Even Canadian businesses and individuals were finding more appealing places to invest. We were no longer building our future at home, but rather collecting rents in the present on investments from the past, like coupon clippers living off past prosperity.

Today, policymakers are being called upon to address these pre-COVID economic and

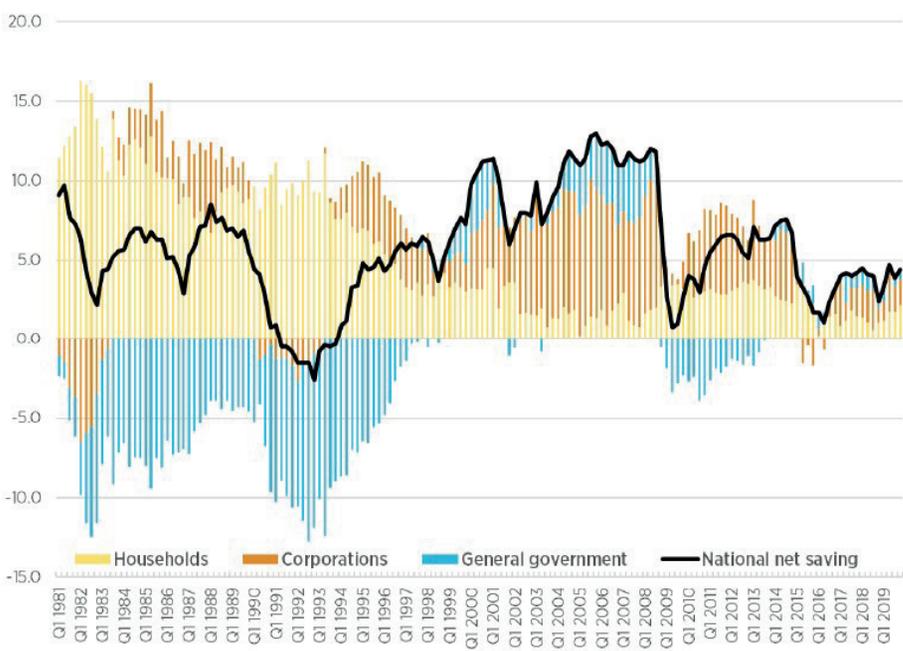
policy weaknesses alongside brand new pressures introduced by the crisis—the explosion in public debt, heightened demands for social security and health care and, leaving aside long-term climate pressures for the moment, the further erosion of the price for our largest export category by far, crude oil and bitumen.

It is more incumbent than ever for governments to know where they are headed overall, and to communicate effectively with citizens, markets, global trading partners and investors about how we intend to get there. If Canada is to fully recover from the COVID crisis, we need to articulate and promote a medium and long-term plan to restore ourselves as a favoured destination for investment and to use that investment to enable forward-looking industries and entrepreneurs to make and sell what the rest of the world wants to buy from us. This is the way to enhance the standard of living for Canadians.

The messages of this paper are very simple:

- You can't eat what you don't produce, and the value of what we are producing as a country is not covering what we are consuming. We can continue along that way for a while, but it is not a sustainable proposition.
  - You need to invest today to produce more and better in the future. Over much of the past decade, we have been investing less in our future while consuming more in our present, as evidenced by our lower net national savings rate (Figure 1). The COVID crisis exacerbates those trends.
  - You want to produce where your value is greatest. We need to add greater value to what we produce and, to the extent we are moving away from our biggest export, oil, we need to find competitive replacements that are attractive to buyers abroad and secure access to those markets.
  - You need greater productivity increases to compensate for an aging population. As our population ages, the growth of our labour force slows—and so doesn't provide our historic natural growth of output. In order to preserve our living standards and quality of life, we need to maintain high immigration levels and ensure faster productivity gains.
- Ultimately, this paper is optimistic in seeing in the COVID crisis the shock we have needed to muster the attention and will to address our weakening economic base. Over the past decade, the Canadian economy has been like the

David Allison Dodge is a Canadian economist who served a seven-year term as Governor of the Bank of Canada from February 1, 2001 to January 31, 2008.



**Figure 1: Net Saving as % of National Disposable Income | 1981Q1 to 2019Q4**  
Source: Statistics Canada, table 36-10-0111-01.

proverbial frog in the pot of water, never really feeling the gradually rising heat and therefore failing to react proportionately. The COVID crisis represents a sudden rise in temperature.

It is not too late for Canadian policymakers to get this right and bend the future more definitively in the favour of Canada and Canadians. This paper sets out some thoughts on how this can be done.

**PART I: THE CURRENT ACCOUNT CHALLENGE**

Most attention to the economic effects of the COVID-19 crisis has been devoted, not inappropriately, to Canada's burgeoning fiscal deficits and the labour market insecurity of Canadians. While one may quibble with this measure or that, a robust government response to an unprecedented crisis was absolutely necessary—and so we will have to determine how to distribute the burdens of this debt over time and among different segments of the population.

There is a second deficit that also merits

serious public attention. Canada's current account provides a reliable reflection of the medium-term strengths and weaknesses in the economy. The current account represents the sum of Canada's economic interactions with the rest of the world—imports and exports of goods and services, payments to foreign holders of the country's investments against payments received from investments abroad and transfers such as foreign aid or remittances. The current account can be in deficit for a time without problem. During an economic expansion, for instance, Canadian purchases of capital and consumer goods from abroad may rise.

But a chronic current account deficit that never corrects, particularly in times of global economic uncertainty, eats away at the confidence of foreign lenders and investors, sometimes resulting in sudden plunges in the value of national currencies and the rise, in response, of domestic interest rates—something Canada experienced in the mid-1990s and can ill afford today.

*to be continued...*

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## TENET

PG-13 | Action | 2h31



NOW PLAYING

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## NADIA, BUTTERFLY

14A | Drama | 1h47



NOW PLAYING

Nadia, an Olympic swimmer in her twenties, faces the challenges of her imminent retirement.

## UNHINGED

PG-13 | Dramatic Thriller | 1h31

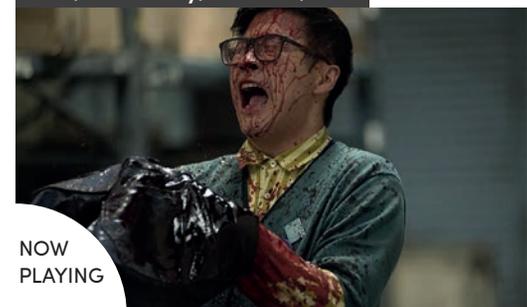


NOW PLAYING

After a confrontation with an unstable man at an intersection, a woman becomes the target of his rage.

## SLAXX

14A | Comedy, Horror | 1h17



NOW PLAYING

When a possessed pair of jeans begins to kill the staff of a trendy clothing store, it is up to Libby, an idealistic young salesclerk, to stop its bloody rampage.

## HONEST THIEF

PG-13 | Action, Drama | 1h39



COMING SOON

Wanting to lead an honest life, a notorious bank robber turns himself in, only to be double-crossed by two ruthless FBI agents.

## STARDOG AND TURBOCAT

PG | Animation, Comedy | 1h30



NOW PLAYING

A loyal dog and a vigilante cat embark on a space age voyage to find their way home.

## THE WAR WITH GRANDPA

PG | Comedy, Drama, Family | 1h34



COMING SOON

Upset that he has to share the room he loves with his grandfather, Peter decides to declare war in an attempt to get it back.

## WW 84-THE IMAX EXPERIENCE

PG-13 | Action, Adventure, Fantasy



COMING SOON

Fast forward to the 1980s as Wonder Woman's next big screen adventure finds her facing two all-new foes: Max Lord and The Cheetah.

# Park Extension T-Shirts spread a wave of Patriotism on Social Media

*A line of T-Shirts available on-line have sparked a new interest for Park Extension and its storied history*

PHOTO: NEWSFIRST-DOMENIC MARINELLI



...“One Station With Many Nations,” as one of the T-Shirts states—Park Extension a wonderful melting pot comprising of so many cultures residing in one borough, becoming one community, as it always was, welcoming and home to many



**DOMENIC MARINELLI**  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter  
For The Parc-Extension News  
domenic@newsfirst.ca

Where we come from defines us; where we're born and bred ... it stays within the confines of our souls way after we leave it, and often, we move way passed those areas that saw us grow from the children we were into the adults we became, but its nostalgia that can always bring us back, bringing along with it the flashes of our past—both the good times and the bad.

Whether it be because of harsh times in today's world or a private disaster that has rocked our foundation, thinking back to where we're from certainly counts as the best medicine in times of peril, very much like a warm cup of tea on a cold, stormy day. And as a society and a community, we sure have seen quite a few storms over the years, most recently, this pandemic.

And so it stands for so many in Park Extension, and it seems like a wave of T-shirts made available suddenly has been the start of all this looking back and pride of an area that means so much to us all.

## Park Extension pride on social media

Social media these days has its “haters” as well as its admirers. Perhaps it has a lot more of the latter among the younger crowd, but the former, older crowd has made pretty good use of it as well. And no, they're not posting images of themselves making the now-famous duck face, snapping shots of their latest high-end meal, or even raising glasses at some night club in Ibiza, but as far as we're concerned here in Park Ex, they're calling everyone back home to supper in a way, sharing photos of the past, and a pride for the area in a way that's not only refreshing, but quite amazing to see.

## The deal about the T-Shirts

It is perhaps the owner and operator of A Brand Apart, the company printing the T-Shirts, that said it best when I spoke to her, she speaking of her mother, Rosemarie: “I get such a visual when she talks about Park Extension. It's so sweet and storybook.”

I definitely understood what she meant, as simply walking the streets of Park Ex, you feel like you're in a film from a different era—maybe a golden era

when things seemed better than they are out there, in the rest of the world.

The patriotism to Park Extension, if you can have patriotism for a borough and not just a country, shines through on social media, and it shines through in the man responsible for bringing these T-Shirts to life, a Park Extension former resident who although he doesn't dwell there anymore, has got a lot of love and devotion to the area, as I felt from him when we met for our interview.

## More than just T-Shirts

And yeah, in the end, I guess this whole thing is about more than just the T-Shirts, which pretty much sum up all of what Ron Bridgman is about ... community, family and getting people to remember, encouraging them to look back. This is what he does with his time, every day on social media, with his Facebook group and his own personal page. He encourages others in the group to remember and go back, sharing pictures, stories and events, and all for the sake of nostalgia and yes, pride of where you're from—specifically Park Extension in this case.

The T-Shirt thing is a fun way to connect people and have them purchase cute relics that'll mean a lot to them in the years to come, so many of its members moved away, but it's their hearts that are still quite nestled in the community in which they were born and raised, as the T-Shirt states, and perhaps it's that, that is most important.

Ron, who owned a business in Park Extension at two locations and subsequently worked at Air Canada as a mechanic is now retired, but he certainly keeps busy with this work and is also planning a reference book about Park Extension, the location, as it once was and how much its changed, and perhaps even including stories of its community of the past, both still living there and moved away.

He spent such integral parts of his life in the area and he cherishes not only his own memories, but the memories that others have from the community and encourages the sharing of those memories and not just in his planned book and project, but on his groups on Social Media as well—and to one and all interested in Park Extension.

But whether there or not, one thing remains constant ... the respect we have for the borough that gave us all so much, and the community that cares about it.

# Deadline: WEDNESDAY before publication at 1 p.m.

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### CAPUTO, Donatella 1969 - 2020

Donatella Caputo passed away on September 17, 2020 At GLEN Hospital, Mrs. Donatella Caputo, wife of Johnny Mazzamauro.



### DUBÉ, Emile 1943 - 2020

In Montreal East, on September 17, 2020, at the age of 77, passed away Mr. Emile Dubé, husband of Mrs. Marie-Reine Roy. Besides his wife, he is survived by his brother Jocelyn (Claire Lafleur), his brother-in-law Léo Roy (Micheline Caouette) as well as several relatives and friends.



### MORRA, Ester 1949 - 2020

It is with sadness that we report the passing of Ms. Ester Di Guida Morra on September 16, 2020 at the age of 71. She is survived by her husband Michele, her son Joe Della Cioppa, her stepdaughter Angela Styhler, her grandchildren Anika, Alea and Lucca, her mother Matilda her sister Mary (Angelo) and her brother Joe (Devi), her nephews and nieces, other relatives and friends.



### JOSEPH HIGGINS, John 1933 - 2020

John Joseph Higgins, (known as Jackie), 87, of Verdun, died peacefully August 30th 2020 at his residence CHSLD Louis-Riel. He was predeceased by his parents Jenny Gilroy and Christopher Higgins and his 5 brothers Christopher, Ronny, Billy, Robert and Brian. He leaves behind his sisters-in-law Florence, Diane, Hazel and Camilla as well as his nieces and nephews Cheryl, Wayne (Karen), Tim (Christine), Danny, Jeff (Christine) Kelly-Ann (Jeff), Jennifer, Todd (Diana) and many great nieces and nephews.



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# HOROSCOPE

Week of **SEPTEMBER 27 TO OCTOBER 3, 2020**

The luckiest signs this week:  
**TAURUS, GEMINI AND CANCER**

**ARIES**  
If fatigue is becoming a constant companion, it might be time to include more exercise in your routine. A lifestyle adjustment will give you more energy and a more active social life to boot.

**TAURUS**  
Surprisingly, you'll benefit from stress this week. It'll give you the motivation to accomplish great things. Just make sure to balance the spheres of your life so you can better channel your energy.

**GEMINI**  
Everything will fall into place and allow you to start a small business or move into a position of authority at work. You'll discover your natural leadership skills.

**CANCER**  
A tropical vacation is on the horizon. Even if your departure date is a few months away, you should take care of certain preparations now like renewing your passport and getting vaccinated.

**LEO**  
You may witness an injustice that spurs a reaction from several people around you. In the aftermath, you'll play an important role in restoring harmony and suggesting appropriate changes.

**VIRGO**  
If you witness an injustice, you'll be tempted to take things into your own hands. As you look for a resolution, you'll need to consider all the angles. Make sure to rely on tact and delicacy to handle the situation.

**LIBRA**  
You'll be relentless in your attempts to reach an agreement or complete a transaction at work. You may experience a fair amount of anxiety and insomnia, but immense success awaits.

**SCORPIO**  
You'll be offered a leadership position at work, but be sure to carefully reflect before you accept. To avoid adverse fluctuations in your health, you must learn to express your emotions as they arise.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
You'll get almost instant results from starting a new diet and exercise routine. A strong sense of satisfaction and pride will come from having taken up the challenge to improve your health.

**CAPRICORN**  
You'll find it easy to speak up and express what others are keeping to themselves. However, some people might be quick to criticize you so be careful not to make inappropriate or off-hand remarks.

**AQUARIUS**  
If your finances are strained, it's important to carefully review your invoices. An error might have been made, and correcting it could save you an unnecessary expense or allow you to get a considerable sum of money back.

**PISCES**  
You'll participate in a personal or professional activity that will bring out your competitive side. Your refusal to come in second place will lead you to victory and fill you with pride.

# Coffee Break

## CROSSWORDS

PUZZLE NO. 999

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12					13			14		
15					16			17		
				18	19			20		
21	22	23	24			25	26			
27				28	29	30				
31				32			33	34	35	36
			37	38			39			
40	41	42				43	44			
45				46	47	48				
49				50			51	52	53	54
56				57			58			
59				60			61			

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### ACROSS

- Potent particles
- Touch lightly
- Sib
- Airman
- 12th letter
- Upper-body limb
- Church leader
- Be situated
- Also
- Join forces
- Pen's contents
- Suppose
- Firmly packed
- Gather in
- Possessive pronoun
- Broadway hit
- Have brunch
- Bowling path
- Globe
- "Lyin' \_\_\_\_"
- Borders on

- Wading birds
- Clip
- Sharp outgrowth
- Be obliged to pay
- Island drink
- Severe
- Female lobster
- Develop
- Of the country
- Increase
- Hankering
- Gives temporarily
- Chimpanzee
- Rock's \_\_\_\_ Tuesday
- Vintage
- Larry, Curly, and

- Play a lute
- Snack place
- Came to ground
- Runs, as dye
- Soft fabric
- Certain golf clubs
- Puff away
- More recent
- Curve
- Baltic or Bering
- Disturbed
- Moray fisherman
- Bowler or fedora
- "The \_\_\_\_ Side of the Mountain"
- Sailor's consent

- High-wire precaution
- Snakelike curve
- Off the right path
- Island greeting
- Greeted formally
- Capsize
- Knot
- Immense
- Sign of the future
- Ball or card
- Decorative vase
- Little bit
- Subways' cousins

# Sudoku

PUZZLE NO. 724

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

### HOW TO PLAY:

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 only once.

Each 3x3 box is outlined with a darker line. You already have a few numbers to get you started. Remember: **You must not repeat the numbers 1 through 9 in the same line, column, or 3x3 box.**

### Last Issues' Answers

## CROSSWORDS

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

## Sudoku

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



# BARBIES

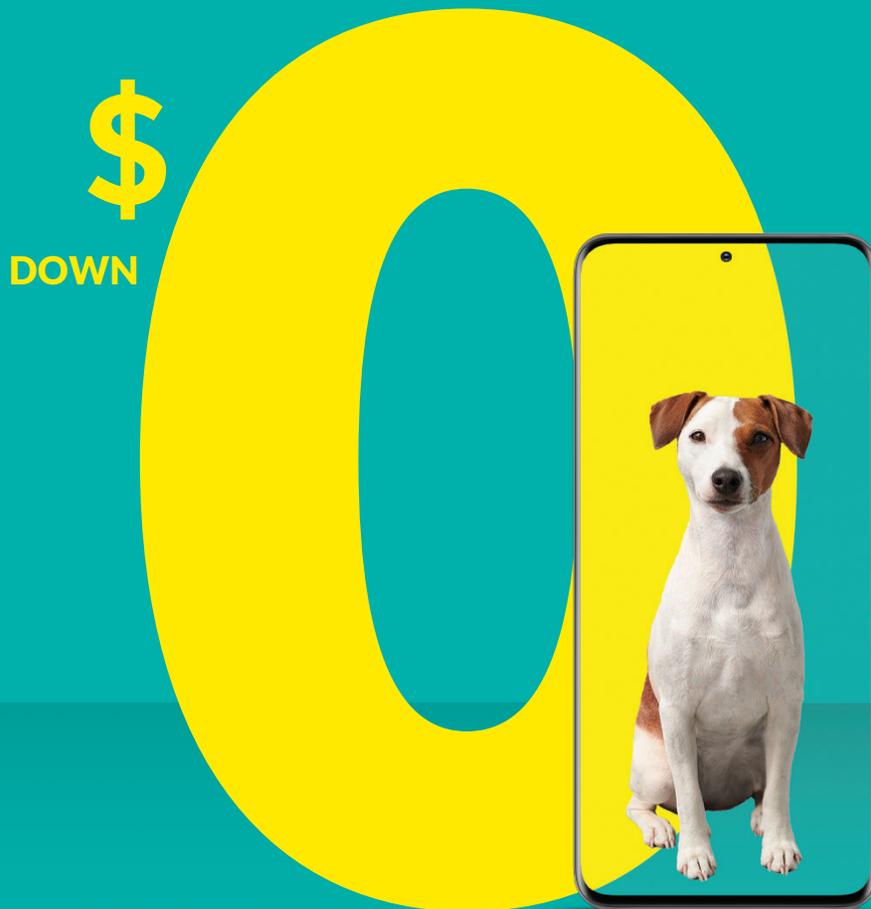
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Suggested presentation.



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