

Laval students excel at regional science fair



Mike Cohen

Five Laval students will proceed to the 2015 Super Expo-sciences Hydro-Québec Provincial Finals April 16 to 19 in Gatineau. They were among 15 finalists chosen by judges at the recent Hydro-Québec Montreal Regional Science and Technology Fair at Concordia University.

At the Hydro-Québec Montreal Regional Science and Technology Fair, prizes valued at nearly \$50,000 were awarded in recognition of outstanding achievements by the up-and-coming generation of scientists in the region. For the occasion, Concordia played host to more than 215 exhibitors from throughout the region. Overall, budding scientists presented 150 competing projects to more than 8,000 visitors. The event was organized by the Educational Alliance for Science and Technology (EAST), in co-operation with key personnel from Concordia.

Winners from Gatineau will go on to the Canada-wide competition in Fredericton, New Brunswick May 9 to 16. EAST has been selected by Youth Science Canada to act as hosts of the Canada Wide Science Festival May 14 to 21, 2016, which will attract the country's top 500 young scientists selected from the almost 500,000 science fair participants across

Canada. They will showcase their projects and compete for close to \$1 million in cash, prizes and scholarships at McGill University. The Regional Science Fair returns to Concordia for the next two years.

Wilfred Mason from Laurier Senior High School went all the way to the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) in Los Angeles last year. His 2015 project, called H.E.R.O., resulted in the Action TI Award, the Concordia University Award for Outstanding Achievement in Electrical and Computer Engineering, the Dawson College Science Award, Highest Distinction, the Intel Excellence in Computer Science Award, ISEF Participation Award, a Silver Medal (Intermediate) and the Yale Science and Engineering Association Award.

"H.E.R.O. presents a novel approach towards assisting the visually impaired," Wilfred explained to me. "The novelty of the approach lays in coupling such a setup with a voice activated, smartphone application that utilizes cloud based mapping software and geographic data localization to convey directions to the user through the systematic application of vibrations from a smartphone device. One vibration to turn right, two to turn left and a long beep to reroute. H.E.R.O. adapts to highly complex environments, and plans a safe route

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Laval charts 20-year course

Capital influx sets record pace

By Robert Frank
The Suburban

Laval has come of age. On Monday, the mayor unveiled its roadmap — a strategic plan that he dubbed Laval 2035 — designed to navigate the city smoothly through the two tumultuous decades ahead.

Laval is booming, attracting hordes of new businesses and residents. That

is fast turning the former suburban backwater into a budding metropolis in its own right.

Its burgeoning population will, within a decade or so, surpass Quebec City as the province's second most-populous city. Laval's rapidly shifting demographics have also enriched it, to the point that it is already much more cosmopolitan than the capital.

That wave of change can be like rid-

ing a bucking bronco, so one of Marc Demers' first acts as mayor was to call for a plan that would outline how Laval should deal with what lies before it.

"Our vision, [entitled] Urban by Nature, will serve as the compass that will guide Laval's future development," Mayor Demers said in a statement, April 13. "It's a city that's prepared to rise to the challenge that urbanization

will pose."

City manager Serge Lamontagne summed up the vision as a means to balance urban development with nature and the needs of Laval residents.

The bottom line, the city hopes, will be to make Laval even more attractive than it already is, to an even broader range of prospective residents, tourists, investors and key influencers.

Laval has long been successful at attracting more than \$1 billion a year in new capital investment. That pace appears to be accelerating.

Nearly \$800 million in new investment has already been announced during the first quarter of 2015. It remains to be seen whether capital inflows can sustain that torrid pace, as it would imply an influx of well over \$3 bil-

lion this year. Even were the city to fall far short of that mark, Laval is well on its way toward a record windfall for 2015.

As this week's edition of *The Suburban* went to press, the city was preparing to make an English version of its strategic plan available to the public via its website: www.reponsonslaval.ca.

"It was the biggest public consultation that Laval has ever undertaken," executive committee vice-chairman David De Cotis told *The Suburban* in an interview. "We consulted nearly 3,300 Laval residents, as well as civil servants and other stakeholders throughout 2014. We made quite a few revisions, together with the executive and members of the mayor's office, to polish the report before finally sharing it with the public." ■

MY BABY'S A STAR

by Calvin R. & Jackie Mathews

ACROSS

1. Charge
4. Bar bills
8. Cambridge sch.
11. Prefix for room or chamber
15. Tearful request
16. Mid-March date
17. One born Jameel Farah
19. One born Philip Silversmith
22. Speeds
23. Time period
24. Ash, for one
25. Up and about
27. Add fuel to
28. Fishes
30. Island nation in the Pacific
33. Turndowns
35. European river
36. One born Stefania Federkiewicz
42. Singer Paul
44. Airs
45. Canine coatings
47. Building addition
50. Lodge
52. Conjunction
54. Lhasa's location
55. Approximately
57. List-ending abbr.
60. Source of quick cash, for short

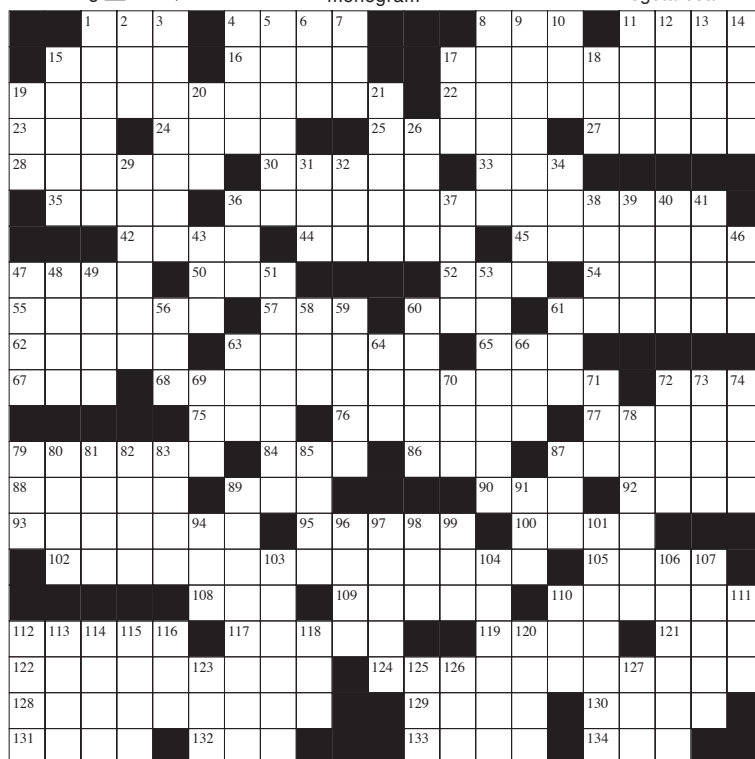
121. Tally up
122. Native
124. One born Muzyad Yakhoob
128. One born Benjamin Kubelsky
129. Bar order
130. Cable network letters
131. Depots: abbr.
132. British sports cars
133. Relinquish
134. Scrubber's item

DOWN

1. Hurls
2. Sea denizen
3. ___ Orthodox Church
4. Mah-jongg piece
5. December season
6. Buzzer
7. Uzbek, once: abbr.
8. Woman's name
9. Unseemly
10. 7 to 7, or 14 to 14
11. Had ___; became frenzied
12. Intl. military alliance
13. Hike
14. Gaelic
15. Insincere
17. Sky sight
18. Bradley and Sullivan
19. ___ soup
20. Dept. of the Treas. agcy.
21. Foil alternative
26. "Song ___ Blue"; 1970s hit

29. American or National
31. DDE's opponent
32. Alien's vehicle, for short
34. Heir, often
36. ___ Gabriel, California
37. Common contraction
38. Bulb word
39. Kuwaiti leader
40. First name in country singing
41. Idditarod vehicle
43. A little butter?
46. Nov. 1 honorees
47. Signal farewell
48. Showy flower
49. Head movements
51. Huey, Dewey and Louie
53. Threatening
56. ___ de plume
58. Actress Mowry
59. Moved stealthily
60. Ease
61. Jack ___ of "Barney Miller"
63. Anat. or zool.
64. MacGraw or Larter
66. Letters for a driller/filler
69. Dog tags, familiarly
70. Calendario period
71. Currently
72. "Beat it!"
73. "See ya!"
74. Carry Nation & her allies
78. Snow White's dwarfs, e.g.
79. Evangelist McPherson's monogram

80. Put away
81. Wallet contents
82. Approximately
83. Singing group
85. Classic villain
87. Lanka lead-in
89. Barbecuing
91. Chicken, once
94. Prefix for gram or center
96. Mr. Cassini
97. Was inactive
98. Jazz's org.
99. Acquire
101. Straight beaters
103. Ford and Miller
104. ___ in; controlled
106. Upper-right corner items
107. Car style
110. Favorite
111. Address abbrs.
112. Mil. ranks
113. Blind as ___
114. Almond ___
115. Angers
116. Sis or bro
118. Actress Susan
120. Harp of old
123. Treasured person
125. Opening trio
126. Originally named
127. Bogotá bear



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INVESTMENTS

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government can exert a chokehold on where it is possible to do so.

Vimont MNA Jean Rousselle, who also attended the April 9 news conference, told *The Suburban* last year that he supported free choice.

Under the Liberal government, he said, "no one can be refused service in the hospital of their choice and patients can make their own choice."

Rousselle added that that while he lives in Laval, he himself has for many years has been cared for by an anglophone general practitioner who works out of the city of Montreal.

"When you develop a relation-

ship with your doctor or your hospital who understands your case history and your needs, it would be foolish to make people lose that privilege," he said at the time.

Restricting access to residents in the 450 area code means that the superhospital would also see an influx of English speaking patients, creating more demand for health care service in English, which they are entitled to by law.

Rousselle promised that Cité de la santé would continue to improve its services to English-speakers.

"Patients deserve to be treated in the language of their choice since we live in a bilingual country," he said. "We can achieve more English service at the hospital." ■

COHEN

Cont'd from page 4

through changing environments by allowing the user to explore object position in an obstacle-cluttered relative environment and navigate via a geographical user interface."

Thomas Ribeiro from Laurier Senior High School and his project Super-Dam won the Concordia University Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science Innovation Scholarship. Fondation ALCOA, Highest Distinction, Intel Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) Participation Award, Laval University Participant Prize and the McGill University — Geography Award.

Anastasia Katsolis from Laval Liberty High School and her project Miracle Versus Entity won the Concordia University — PERFORM Centre Award in Preventative Health Sciences, the Concordia University Expo-sciences Tuition Entrance Award, Highest Distinction and a Silver Medal (Senior).



Mahsa Ghazi from Laval Liberty High School and her project Preterm Labor: New Hope won Highest Distinction and the McGill University Biology Award. Her twin sister Marjan from the same school and her project Limitations of Beta-Blockers won the Concordia University Science College Award and Highest Distinction.

Have you got something to share? E-mail mcohen@thesuburban.com or call 514-484-9203, ext. 307. Follow me on Twitter @mikecohencl and at <http://blog.thesuburban.com>