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week



General Store est. in 1909 and still sells just about everything



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SHIGAWAKE AGRICULTURAL FAIR AND MUSIC FESTIVAL:

Marked once again by a great turnout

Gilles Gagné

SHIGAWAKE: – Statistics still have to be aligned, making it a bit early for a thorough wrap up but the organizers of the Shigawake Agricultural Fair and Music Festival know for sure that the 2016 edition of their event was another great success.

The four days of the agricultural fair and music festival were characterized by strong points, and SPEC

lot of local bands on Thursday. Actually, it is their day and we saw keen interest in them this year. It is also nice to see people from here, or with roots here, make their holiday plans around the event,” says Meghan Clinton.

For Friday, she was glad about the decision she and the programming crew made about starting the music night with Romeo “Tunny” Hottot and Glenn Patterson, two fiddlers.

“It went very well. It was



Photo: P. MacWhirter

The lawn tractor race has become a very popular event.

it was close to the record of last year,” she says.

The 2015 combination of the Barr Brothers and Gaspesian singer Marie-Pierre Arthur drew the largest crowd in the history of the Music

Festival. This year’s Saturday crowd might have been even larger, considering the number of people on the entire fairgrounds site.

“It is a bit hard to keep track of exact turnout num-

bers now that we sell weekend passes,” she says.

The lawnmower race has also become a huge attraction. Should music festival

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Photo: P. MacWhirter

Nikki Hottot parading the Shigawake flag.

asked Meghan Clinton, the event’s spokesperson, to find a few words for each of those days.

“For Thursday, we had a surprisingly great turnout, the best so far since we have been organizing the music festival. It set the mood for the rest of the event. We had a

great introduction to the weekend. We had great weather that day, of course, and that always helps,” points out Ms. Clinton.

She is still amazed by Saturday’s turnout. “I didn’t get the numbers. It was massive for us. It was super. Was it our best turnout ever? If not,



Photo: G. Gagné

George Hayes from Shigawake performing at the Trough.

Community gardens for all

Thierry Haroun

GASPÉ: - Do you feel like gardening? Growing fruit and vegetables by yourself or with friends and family? If you live in the Côte-de-Gaspé MRC, you can join a community garden.

The program is called *Cultiver pour bien manger*. It's organized by *La Maison aux Lilas de l'Anse*, based in l'Anse-aux-Griffons. The financial partners of this initiative are The Côte-de-Gaspé MRC, *Santé Jeunesse Côte-de-Gaspé*; *Comité de Lutte à la pauvreté et à l'exclusion sociale*; *Québec en forme* and Service Canada.

The program has implemented five community gardens: at the Douglastown Community Center, the Cap-Aux-Os Community Center, Maison de quartier of Sandy Beach, Seniors Home of Grande-Vallée and Murdochville (Centre Aventure).

The spokesperson for this project is Marie-Josée Nadeau. "By definition, community gardens are open to everyone and



Photo: La Maison aux Lilas de l'Anse

Community garden in the Côte-de-Gaspé.

that's the case for all five of our gardens. It's for the passionate or those who want to learn how to garden and grow food. Everyone is invited. People grow whatever they want in their part of the garden. One could decide to do it alone or to work as a team. They choose what they want to grow in relationship to the space, the time and the means they have, etc. People grow traditional food, such as carrots, radish or lettuce. Some try eggplants and chillies. As for tomatoes, it's

not always easy to grow them because of the temperature in our region," says Marie-Josée Nadeau.

Up until now, on average there are approximately ten people that participate in each of the gardens. "The idea in general is to promote good health habits, to eat well and to promote local gardening. Community gardens aren't just gardens. They're places where people meet, gather and exchange ideas," says Marie-Josée.

The Cultural Symposium is back

Thierry Haroun

GASPÉ: - The 5th edition of the Côte-de-Gaspé Cultural Symposium will take place on October 27 at the Élias Dufresne Community Center in Fox River. "It's an invitation to those who care about culture at large, such as cultural workers, artists, volunteers and so forth," mentions the spokesperson of the Symposium, Olivier Deruelle. "On average, these events have attracted approximately 45 people and that's what we expect to get. If we're organizing a fifth event, it's because there's need for it. We realize that people want to share, exchange and create new links." The details and other themes of the Cultural Symposium will be announced in the near future. The event is made possible thanks to the Cultural Development Agreement recently signed between the Côte-de-Gaspé MRC, the Town of Gaspé and the Québec Culture and Communications Ministry.

Chandler mayor experienced cellular problems first-hand

Gilles Gagné

CHANDLER: - The mayor of Chandler, Louise Langlois, experienced first-hand the problems stemming from Telus' incapacity to cope with the rise in cellular phone services, especially between the July 22 and July 31 Centennial celebrations in her town.

"I saw text messages coming in the day after being sent. I also was unable to make phone calls with my mobile phone, for hours sometimes. I couldn't even hear the ring at the other end. There was strictly no sound at all. I was spending 13 hours a day on the field during the centennial events. It was not practical. We had to get out of Chandler to get better service, and not everywhere," pointed out Ms. Langlois, nine days following the end of the celebrations.

Like the mayor of Percé, André Boudreau, she hopes that the management of Telus will take note of the problems and refrain from thinking that it was an isolated event.

"It is true that the attendance during the centennial was exceptional. The population of the town probably tripled during the ten-day celebration. There will be no centennial next year but we want to increase our tourist spinoffs in the future, not diminish them," she emphasizes.

"Tourism is and has been an important part of our economic diversification since the closure of the Gaspesia mill. We think in terms of tourism growth. We have outstanding success with Nova Lumina, our new attraction, and we need satisfactory service from Telus. I was under the impression that Telus could adapt to an overuse of cellular capacity with its existing equipment. Apparently, it is not the case," she adds.

SPEC asked Jacinthe Beaulieu, spokesperson with Telus, if the company could guarantee, considering that there is a ten-month span between now and the beginning of the 2017 summer, that people will not run into similar problems next year.

"The guarantee is that there will be a clear improvement. For now, I cannot say more. We are open to adding temporary towers. We will be able to tell more when our planning has been completed," explains Ms. Beaulieu.

"The organizing committees of some temporary events ask for additional cellular power sometimes," she adds. "It is the case of the Osheaga Festival in Montreal but they have to ask in advance and get the permits. Here (in Chandler), the delay did not make it possible. The notice was too short. It can cost hundreds of thousands of dollars," says Jacinthe Beaulieu.

She points out that Telus is investing \$10 million this year to improve its network in the Gaspé Peninsula, "including a good part in order to solve the situations described here. In fact, that amount is spent yearly and our wireless network benefits from it. Our technology is called LTE, (Long Term Evolution)."

Will that work be carried out fast enough to avoid a repetition of this summer's network congestion? "I don't have the time frame of that work but the situation will be improved in 2017," she concludes.

Percé wireless network overloaded during tourist boom

Geneviève Gélinas

PERCÉ: - Text messages taking too long to be transmitted, cellphone calls difficult or even impossible to make... The Telus wireless network has not been able to give tourists and locals an adequate service during the summer boom, as the number of users has multiplied six-fold. The Town of Percé is asking Telus to adapt its equipment to meet the demand.

In the summer, the number of inhabitants in Percé goes from 300 to 5,000. This year, the influx of tourists is even more than usual and the wireless network is overloaded.

"When text messages take two to three hours to be transmitted, it's a problem. It is also the case for online transactions and consultations," says Mayor André Boudreau. "Today everybody plans his or her holiday on the internet by reserving accommodations and attractions online. So if you arrive in Percé and you're unable to go on the internet, things are going wrong."

"Percé has experienced the same problem over the last few summers, so the exceptional influx of tourists this year isn't the only reason for the overload," the mayor points out.

"We've been told (by Telus) that it is because there's a lot of people! What we want is to receive a lot of people for a longer duration (...). Today, in a two adult and two children family, there are four mobile phones processing at the same time."

"Percé isn't the only area to experience wireless connection problems. During the Cap-d'Espoir Festi-Plage, the festival-goers had problems using their cells. It was also almost impossible to make a cellphone call during Chandler's 100th anniversary, at the end of July," says Town of Percé director general, Félix Caron.

"Percé adapted its drinking water and sewage systems to face the summer influx of tourists," says Mayor Boudreau. "Is it possible to adapt the Telus network? They better not ask for public grants. The service is already expensive enough!"

Spokesperson for Telus, Jacinthe Beaulieu, reports that the Telus network is experiencing six times more traffic than usual in Percé, The "usual" being the traffic last May. "It has never been seen before, even if we compare it to other summers. The travellers who have a contract with other companies use our networks. The

signal is like a highway. When there are more users, there are more traffic jams."

At the end of July, Telus configured its antennas to make a priority for the 911 emergency calls and the calls made from a mobile phone in general, says Ms. Beaulieu.

The company will increase the capacity of its wireless network "in the coming weeks or months." Telus will also update its technology which should increase the network speed and capacity. This change will occur "in the coming months, on the whole Gaspé Peninsula," says the spokesperson.

Within the next year, Telus will install fibre optics on the tip of the peninsula, an infrastructure that the company has already started installing in some places on the Gaspé Peninsula.

"It will allow us to improve the cellphone signal at some strategic places," Ms. Beaulieu says.

Once those changes are made, "there will be a clear improvement but we're dependent on unforeseen elements," Ms. Beaulieu points out. She encourages users to temporarily disable the applications and technologies they're not using in order to save the signal.

Mamu Construction removes water from brook without permit

Gilles Gagné

GESGAPEGIAG: – Gessapegiag resident, Naomi Condo, is criticizing the way an employee of Mamu Construction, or a subcontractor, used a brook passing under Droken road to fill-up a tank truck. The water was sprayed on the Gessapegiag-Maria part of Highway 132 currently being rebuilt by Mamu Construction.

Ms. Condo saw the truck shortly after 10 a.m. on August 11, close to her home. She approached the driver immediately.

“I asked the guy to stop. He told me that he was told to go there and take the water to spray on Highway 132. I told him that he had no right to take the water from the brook.

He asked me if there were fish in the brook and I told him “yes”. I added that my kids and other kids fish and swim in that brook. I also did when I was a kid and other generations before us did as well,” Ms. Condo told SPEC, five hours after witnessing the operation.

Her facebook page shows part of her intervention with the truck driver. She is called Rebel Spirit on facebook.

The truck driver seemed shy after the exchange with Naomi Condo but nevertheless kept filling his truck. Ms. Condo was told by a neighbour that the truck had also been seen in that area at least one other time.

“He took so much water out that the water level dropped considerably and I told him he made a mess of the brook,” adds Naomi Condo.

She walked along the brook following the sighting of the truck and found a small patch of oil, a hundred feet or so from the spot where the water was pumped out.

“We can’t be sure that it comes from the truck but there is usually no oil there,” pointed out Naomi Condo.

“Our people pick berries here, and medicine. All the brooks of this small area are interconnected. Our kids fish and swim here as well,” she



Photo: G. Gagné

Naomi Condo intervened as a truck driver filled his tank with water from the brook in this photo.

adds.

Further down the brook, Naomi Condo found out that Mamu Construction or its subcontractors are dumping used asphalt on a piece of land that is located within the limits of Gessapegiag.

“That asphalt still smells like oil. We can also see that it leaks into the brook. That brook is connected to the other brook where water was taken out. This is completely unacceptable,” she said.

SPEC visited the location and there is definitely a smell of hydrocarbons in the air around the asphalt dump and water from the pile of asphalt is slowly going down towards the nearby brook.

For now, Naomi Condo has called Quebec’s Department of Natural Resources, as a first step that should lead to a formal complaint. She has also contacted Mamu Construction supervision employees and has made a couple of calls to the Gessapegiag band administration, since the contractor was selected by the band.

Quebec’s Department of the Environment spokesperson David Castonguay, says

that the rules in place for drawing water from a brook are clear.

“No matter the quantity of water and the size of the brook, or whether there are fish in it or not, it takes an authorization to take water from it,” says Mr. Castonguay.

He also stated that as of August 11, Mamu Construction did not hold such a permit, according to the documents that are available to him.

“No such permit was issued (for the Gessapegiag-Maria area) since 2010,” he adds.

His colleague, Ian Larouche, points out that sometimes, the “promoters” of the project can apply for the authorization on behalf of the contractor. In the case of the Gessapegiag-Maria Highway 132 upgrading project, the promoters are Quebec’s Department of Transportation and the Band of Gessapegiag. Mr. Larouche will make further verification in that regard.

As SPEC reached its deadline, Mamu Construction had not returned any of the calls from SPEC

Police report

On August 9 at approximately 4:15 p.m. in Gaspé, a robbery was committed at the TD Bank on Queen Street. The Côte-de-Gaspé detachment of the Sûreté du Québec intervened minutes after the crime was committed. The SQ Pabos regional squad of investigation took charge of the case a few hours later.

Nobody was injured when the crime was committed. The man was able to flee before the arrival of the police. A search was conducted in the surrounding area and in Gaspé but to no avail. The day after the robbery, Hélène Nepton, spokesperson for the Sûreté du Québec, pointed out that it was not known if the robber had an accomplice or accomplices, nor did the police know how the robber fled.

On August 11, another Sûreté du Québec spokesperson, Christine Coulombe, couldn’t confirm if the robber was armed or not. The amount stolen during the robbery was not revealed, which is usually standard procedure in such a case.

On the evening of August 9 shortly after 8 p.m., Réjean Pelletier, 62, from Sainte-Anne-des-Monts was struck and killed by a car along Route 132 in Sainte-Anne-des-Monts.

The victim was rushed to the hospital by the paramedics but succumbed to his injuries shortly after. So far, the investigation reveals that the victim was probably about to cross Highway 132 when he was struck by the car. The victim was wearing dark clothes and the driver of the car did not see him.

“A blood sample of the victim was sent to the laboratory for analysis. We can’t say for now if the victim was impaired. The investigation is still ongoing,” pointed out SQ spokesperson, Christine Coulombe, on August 11. Foul play has been ruled out.

On August 9, Shawn Hottot, 41, from Port Daniel was arrested by the SQ and appeared before Justice Luc Marchildon at the New Carlisle courthouse on multiple charges related to events of the late night of August 8 in Port Daniel.

The accused is charged with attempted murder, uttering threats to cause death and bodily harm, assault, uttering a threat to cause bodily harm, break and enter in a home and mischief in relation to property for a value under \$5000.

The accused allegedly invaded the home of his former girlfriend and assaulted a man. The victim escaped to a neighbouring property, where he was pursued and assaulted again by the accused, who inflicted bodily harm to him, including broken facial bones. The accused also assaulted a man who intervened to put an end to the assault.

Following the August 9 appearance, the case was put over to August 12 and then put over again to August 19, at which time the accused will appear before a Quebec Court judge. Until then the accused is remanded in custody at the New Carlisle jail.

On August 8, Normand Allain, 50, from Pabos Mills, appeared at the Percé courthouse on charges of sexual assault on a minor girl, sexual contacts and enticing the young victim to touch him sexually.

Normand Allain was living with the grandmother of the four-year-old girl he allegedly assaulted. A native of Gascons, he had returned recently to the Gaspé Peninsula. The victim informed her other grandmother about the behaviour of the accused and the mother of the victim filed a complaint to the Sûreté du Québec. The accused had already left the Pabos Mills dwelling when the police showed up. He was arrested in Rimouski where he was hiding.

Justice Luc Marchildon ordered an assessment of the mental condition of the accused at a facility in Gaspé. He will return to court on September 6.







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Commentary

Gilles Gagné

National Energy Board's dwindling credibility is justified

The credibility of Canada's National Energy Board is once again suffering due to the lack of transparency showed by two of its commissioners, its president and some members of its personnel. Over several months, those people refused to admit that the subject of the Energy East pipeline project was raised during a meeting with former Quebec Premier Jean Charest, while documents recently obtained by the National Observer proved otherwise.

The meeting occurred in January 2015 in Montreal following a request by National Energy Board commissioner, Jacques Gauthier. Jean Charest was doing consulting work for TransCanada, the promoter of Energy East, a pipeline destined to deliver Alberta's tar sands oil to Quebec and New Brunswick. Mr. Charest was not a registered lobbyist for the company.

Jacques Gauthier, his fellow commissioner Lyne Mercier and board president Peter Watson attended the meeting with Jean Charest, along with two employees of the National Energy Board.

For months, National Observer's journalists tried to get confirmation that Mr. Charest had discussed issues related to the pipeline project during that meeting. For months, National Energy Board's spokespersons replied that the Energy East topic was not covered. Jean Charest's assistant, Grégory Larroque, also lied to the National Observer when he said that Energy East was never covered during the meeting, which he also attended!

The National Observer finally received the documents, mainly copies of emails and hand-written notes, proving that the Energy East initiative was not only mentioned during the exchange with Jean Charest but was a big part of the agenda initially planned by Jacques Gauthier.

Why was it hidden in the first place then? National Energy Board commissioners certainly have the right, and probably the duty, to inquire about the subjects they will be asked to assess. Initially and officially, Mr. Charest was supposed to be questioned about Quebec's major stakes. The commissioner apparently ignored his ties with TransCanada.

We can wonder now if they tried to know. National Energy Board commissioners have a quasi-judicial role, similar to judges'. When they meet with potential stakeholders or anybody in the exercise of their duties, an accurate and written summary of the exchange is supposed to be carried out. Why wasn't it done in the case of Jean Charest, or why wasn't it

possible to communicate the accurate information right from the beginning, if the appropriate procedure had applied?

That kind of mystery marred the first round of consultations held a week ago in New Brunswick by the National Energy Board. Its credibility was already questionable, given that most of its commissioners, including Jacques Gauthier, Lyne Mercier and president Peter Watson have been appointed by former Prime Minister Stephen Harper, whose favouritism for oil and gas projects was well-known.

Justin Trudeau has since modified a certain set of norms that will be used in the assessment of initiatives related to hydrocarbons but the law governing the National Energy Board remains a remnant of the Conservative government.

The Energy East pipeline project faces stern opposition in Quebec, mainly because of its potential effects on the province's drinkable water sources. The way Quebec is designed geographically, with the Saint

Lawrence River crossing its territory from one end to the other, will force any pipeline operator to cross the drinkable source of water of close to six million people, 75% of Quebec's population.

However, the opposition to pipeline projects is also mounting in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and British Columbia, where municipalities and citizens, including the First Nations, are worried about the potential impact of seeing a greater volume of hydrocarbons circulate near their homes and watershed. The last spill in Saskatchewan did nothing to reassure them.

The National Energy Board's last attempt to hide the content of a meeting with Jean Charest does not enhance the public's confidence in that regulatory body. Its communication personnel only sheepishly admitted to a "research error".

How will National Energy Board's future reports be received, considering those recent communication evasiveness? If it is with suspicion, it will be perfectly justified.



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MCINNIS CEMENT:

Cement carrier chartered to ship out of Port Daniel

Gilles Gagné

PORT DANIEL: – McInnis Cement has reached an agreement with a maritime company, Nova Algoma Cement Carriers, to charter over the long term a vessel that will deliver the cement produced at its Port Daniel plant to various North American destinations

“That cement carrier is a recent ship that was launched in Turkey, in 2011. The ship is currently being upgraded in China where it will be equipped with the latest loading and unloading technology,” says Maryse Tremblay, spokesperson for McInnis Cement.

“The ship will be delivered by the beginning of 2017, which coincides with the start of our production shipments,” says Ms. Tremblay, who adds that the vessel will be used solely by McInnis Cement.

Nova Algoma Cement Car-



McInnis Cement as of 2016.

Photo: G. Gagné

rier is a joint venture that took form in January 2016 when Algoma Central Corporation, of St. Catharines, Ontario, agreed with a Luxembourg company, Nova Marine Holding S.A., to operate a fleet of specialized

cement carriers and support infrastructure projects worldwide. Algoma Central Corporation is one of the largest ship owners in Canada and owns 50% of the joint venture.

“The capacity of the ship is 15,000 tonnes. It is a start,” indicates Maryse Tremblay, who doesn’t rule out McInnis Cement chartering another ship once the Port Daniel plant is up and running.

The equipment installed on the ship will increase the efficiency and reduce dust emissions when cement powder is loaded and unloaded. The ship will also be furnished with equipment that will reduce the sulphur dioxide emissions stemming from fuel consumption.

Maryse Tremblay emphasizes that McInnis Cement decided to charter a ship instead of buying one “because our business is to produce cement, not operate ships. We don’t want to be in a field that we don’t know.”

The ship is being upgraded in China because the Algoma Central Corporation is part owner of a shipyard there. The ship was also in operation in the Pacific Ocean prior to entering the shipyard, says Maryse Tremblay.

“The ship will be used to serve our North American

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MCINNIS CEMENT:

Caisse de dépôt et de placement du Québec takes control

Gilles Gagné

PORT DANIEL: – The Caisse de dépôt et de placement du Québec (CDPQ) takes majority control of McInnis Cement. The move was announced on August 11, nine days after the appointment of McInnis Cement’s new executive vice-president of engineering, construction and operations, Ronald Bougie, who is now managing the Port Daniel cement plant project.

The move aims at protecting the Caisse de dépôt et de placement’s clients’ capital, in light of the \$444 million cost overrun announced on June 29. The management of CDPQ considers that the Port Daniel cement plant is still a profitable venture.

The partial takeover comes with a cash investment of \$125 million by CDPQ in the preferred equity of McInnis Cement. Consequently, the CDPQ has now injected \$265 million in the equity of the company, since \$140 million had already been announced between 2014 and June 2016.

Moreover, an American fund management, Black Rock Alternative Investors is also injecting \$125 million in the project through a debenture,

which is a loan not guaranteed by a specific property but backed by the worthiness of the corporation, in this case, the Caisse de dépôt et de placement du Québec.

Maxime Chagnon, spokesperson for the CDPQ, explains the context of the partial takeover.

“When the cost overrun was announced, we said that if we were to invest again (in McInnis Cement), we would do it at our conditions. There was a management change last week (on August 2) and now, there is a change in the control of the company (...) The Caisse de dépôt takes control of Beaudier Ciment and by so doing, takes control of McInnis Cement,” says Mr. Chagnon.

When the cost overrun was announced at the end of June by Quebec’s minister of the Economy, Dominique Anglade, she explained that it was due to engineering and planning problems, the cost of accelerating the construction process in order for the Port Daniel plant to be up and running during the first part of 2017, and the addition of equipment worth about \$100 million.

The man who has so far

paid the price for the cost overrun is former president director general, Christian Gagnon, whose departure from McInnis Cement was announced on August 2.

Maxime Chagnon assures that “after a thorough reassessment of the project,” the Port Daniel cement plant still bears a “good profitability profile,” despite the cost overrun “because the market conditions are even better today,” than when CDPQ first invested in it, in 2014.

“There is a cement deficit that is increasing in the North American market,” he also emphasizes, pointing out that most cement plants are operating at or near capacity. The strength of the American dollar adds to the favourable context of eventual profits, he points out.

Maxime Chagnon affirms that “to my knowledge,” none of the cash lenders that had agreed to work with McInnis Cement have forfeited.

Beaudier, the holding owned by the Beaudoin and Bombardier families, was considered until August 9 the control shareholder of 55% of McInnis Cement. Beaudier had set up a subsidiary, Beaudier Ciment, for that pur-

pose. Beaudier had previously acquired the project from Cimbec Canada at the end of 2011.

“The participation of the Caisse de dépôt was 45% previously and it was 55% for Beaudier. Now, it is the opposite,” sums up Maxime Chagnon.

He adds that CDPQ is trying to diminish the cost overrun. “For us, it hovers between \$400 million and \$450 million. We are trying to do better.”

CDPQ also points out that “the cement plant’s fundamental qualities, a plant and equipment (that) are among the most advanced in the industry, with lower operating

costs than the market and direct access to a marine terminal for low-cost, flexible distribution,” are still there.

CDPQ finally says in its press release that “the proposed transaction, which includes the new and additional financing, is still subject to certain conditions, including the execution and delivery of final documentation and approval by the banking syndicate.”

This new financing is in addition to incremental equity investments made by McInnis Cement shareholders, as provided for in the initial investment agreement. That new financing is sufficient to complete the project, according to CDPQ.

The cement plant in a few numbers

Cost in January 2014: \$1 billion
Cost in November 2014: \$1.055 billion
Cost in August 2016: \$1.5 billion
Annual production: 2.2 million tonnes
Job creation once the plant is in operation: 153 jobs,
78 by McInnis Cement and 75 by subcontractors
Production start: March 2017
Construction completion: Close to 85%

Investments by public or public related bodies:

Investissement-Québec: \$250 million in loans
and \$100 million in equity
Caisse de dépôt et de placement du Québec:
\$265 million in equity

BARACHOIS GENERAL STORE:

Established in 1909 and still sells just about everything

Geneviève Gélinas

BARACHOIS: – When he was eight years old, Harris Thompson would walk down the street to Robins general store in Barachois and buy a gallon of kerosene for 7 cents. Sixty years later, he bought the store so that the heart of the village would survive, not as a museum, but as an “alive and well” business, which goes on selling almost everything from soup cans and pots to mattresses and nails.

Mr. Thompson is 74 years old now, but he remembers his visits, as a child, to Robins as if it was yesterday. “I used to walk down Church Street with my kerosene container (for lamps). Mom used to give me 10¢. The kerosene was 7¢ a gallon. I was allowed to buy something worth a penny and I would bring 2¢ back to my mother.”

Today, Barachois has approximately 350 inhabitants, but Mr. Thompson remembers the busy days of the 1940s and 1950s. “I used to sit on the bridge and count the fishing boats. There were 50. We had at least five general stores and three wood mills...”

At the age of nine, his life suddenly changed. “Mom died in April. In July, the parish priest took me and my two sisters to New Brunswick. Then I went to a boys’ home in Maine.”

He was finally taken in by a family of Acadian farmers who settled in Maine and spoke French. “Barachois has



Photo: G. Gélinas

Harris Thompson, born in Barachois, bought the Robin general store to make sure it will survive.

always remained my home,” says Mr. Thompson. As a child and as a teenager, he used to spend one month with his grandparents in Barachois during the summer. As an adult, he founded a dehydrated vegetable business in Ontario, which he sold five years ago.

In December 2004, the Robin Jones and Whitman company, the oldest in Canada after the Hudson Bay company, sought protection under the Company’s Creditors’ Arrangement Act. At the end of 2005, the trustee closed the Barachois store, after almost a century of service. “I knew that if we did nothing, it

was the end of the village because the store is the heart of the village,” says Mr. Thompson

“I acquired it in 2006 because it’s the symbol of an important period, a meeting place for the community and a place where I remember my childhood,” he adds.

In 2013-2014, Mr. Thompson achieved renovations of \$400,000. The storefront was rebuilt to resemble the original, in off-white and green coloured wood. The year of construction, 1909, is still written on the front, but the words “Magasin général Thompson” now decorate the facade. The character of the

building draws the attention of tourists as well as locals.

“We receive local people, but also a lot of people from outside, people of Gaspé, Val-d’Espoir and even further,” says Mr. Thompson. “They come because they can buy almost anything: ovens, fridges, wood, baloney... We sell so much baloney. It’s incredible!”

The first floor is occupied by the grocery and the hardware departments - fruit, cookies, cans, paint, mouldings, door handles, etc. The store weighs the nails to determine their price. “We may be the last to sell nails in this way,” says Mr. Thompson.

In the adjacent warehouse, where generations of employees wrote their calculations on the walls, one can buy construction materials. A large wooden stairway leads to the second floor, where there are mattresses, rocking chairs and laundry sets, among other things.

Mr. Thompson showed us the archives of the Robin company, piled up close to a window, which include a treasure of several accounting books dating back to 1912 or 1915. The list of merchandise is written in English, in neat handwriting: barrels of cornmeal, salt pork, molasses, barley...

The businessman lives five months per year in Barachois and spends the rest of the year in Mississauga, Ontario. When he’s on the Gaspé, he shows up almost every day at the store to take care of administration, “a hobby”.

The rest of the year, Mr. Thompson can count on his experienced employees. Manager Carl Bond has been working at Robin’s for almost 50 years. The most recently hired employee has 24 years of service.

Mr. Thompson wants the store to survive him. “The building is part of the heritage. It has to continue existing. I have two sons and a daughter. They have their own businesses, but I think that they will be able to handle the store.” If the store had to be sold, the preference would be given to the employees, he adds.

PQ LEADERSHIP RACE:

Lisée gets the support of Yvan Bernier

Geneviève Gélinas

GASPÉ: – Parti québécois leadership candidate Jean-François Lisée wants to revive the inter-ministerial committee on Gaspé Peninsula development in order to go on with the work started under Bernard Landry and continued under Pauline Marois.

Mr. Lisée was in Gaspé on July 28, and the former Bloc québécois Member of Parliament Yvan Bernier used this opportunity to announce his support for the former journalist.

The leadership candidate thinks that the Gaspé Peninsula has “extraordinary potential, but it cannot fully develop



Photo: G. Gélinas

PQ candidate Jean-François Lisée.

if we don’t provide the resources and tools to achieve it.” That’s why he would revive an inter-ministerial committee dedicated to the

development of the Gaspé.

Mr. Lisée criticizes the abolition of the *Conférences régionales des élus* (CRÉ) by the Liberal government. “The CRÉs facilitated consultations but also had budgets for homelessness, battered women, youth...”

However, he wouldn’t restart the CRÉ if he becomes premier in 2018. “We would look at what the local representatives have reinvented and we would ask them: which tools do you want?” Over the span of two years, he would return the budget cuts that were applied to those organizations.

Mr. Lisée is in favour of repairing the Gaspesian railway

from Matapédia to Gaspé. “It’s disgraceful that the government acquires the railway and doesn’t invest the required money. That’s the same thing for the tourist train.”

In regards to wind energy, Mr. Lisée wouldn’t order new wind farms, as asked by the industry. He believes that the Quebec industry is going through “a delicate moment.” “We knew that there would be good times, as we produce (components) for our wind farms, and bad times. We have to ensure a steady production by accompanying our business towards exterior markets.”

The candidate is in favor of the Bourque natural gas proj-

ect in the Murdochville area. “It’s the most interesting (oil and gas) project because that’s natural gas which could reduce the ecological footprint of industries on the North Shore and maybe of McInnis Cement.”

Mr. Lisée supports the Junex oil exploitation project on the Galt property, 20 kilometers west of Gaspé. However, he doesn’t agree with the oil and gas development on Anticosti Island.

About the Pétrolia oil project in Haldimand, Mr. Lisée remains vague. “This raises the question of social acceptability. In principle, I oppose

Cont’d on page 7

MCINNIS:

▶ Cont'd from page 5

markets; Canadian and American waters including the Great Lakes," adds Maryse Tremblay,

The financial terms of the deal between McInnis Cement and Nova Algoma Cement Carriers have not been revealed.

"In its business plan, McInnis Cement expects to use vessels to ship up to 95% of its output," she says. That annual production is supposed to reach 2.2 million tonnes yearly, which is about 40,000 tonnes weekly.

The ship will be renamed NACC Québec by Nova Algoma Cement Carriers. It will operate under the Canadian flag and therefore with a Canadian crew, points out Wayne Smith, vice-president of commercial affairs of Algoma Central Corporation and spokesperson for Nova Algoma Cement Carriers.

"We are very proud of being part of that venture and excited

about the modifications that are made to the ship," says Mr. Smith.

McInnis Cement announced at the beginning of August that the company has acquired a marine terminal in Providence in order to serve the states of Rhode Island, Connecticut and Massachusetts. An investment of \$US22 million is necessary to buy and adapt that terminal for cement shipments. More than 80% of the construction of Port Daniel's cement plant is completed.

The project cost soared over the last year and it was admitted at the end of June by Quebec minister of the Economy, Science and Innovation, Dominique Anglade, that the overrun was \$444 million. That brings the total cost of McInnis Cement's project to \$1.5 billion, including a set of marine terminals in Canada and the United States.

Investissement-Québec lent \$250 million to McInnis Cement for that venture and has a \$100 million part in the equity of the project.

\$3 million to support the Wind Energy TechnoCentre

Geneviève Gélinas

GASPÉ: - Ottawa renews its support to the Wind Energy TechnoCentre through a grant of \$1 million per year during the three coming years. This money will be used to pay for the operations of the research and development centre, based in Gaspé but having customers in five countries other than Canada.

The total budget of the TechnoCentre is \$4.5 million per year. The money given through the Canada Economic Development (CED) Agency is "a crucial aid because that's money for operations. It pays the employees' wages, the rent, so we can keep a stable base of staff. It has a lever effect because it makes it possible to complete financial arrangements with other partners," explains Frédéric Côté, director general of the Techno-

Centre.

The organization has close to 30 employees; approximately 60% of them hold a masters or a doctorate degree. It welcomes about 15 interns each year. The TechnoCentre develops technologies to integrate wind power in the energy systems of remote networks or for the wind farms to operate at their full potential, even in conditions of cold and frost. The organization also helps provincial and Gaspesian businesses to increase their business volume, essentially through trade missions.

The TechnoCentre has customers in six countries, that is to say Canada, the United States, Sweden, Finland, Germany and France. They do business with the TechnoCentre "because we have a leading-edge expertise and because we're doing applied

research, very concrete. We use real equipment. Our employees have a specialized training and a clear idea of how it works in the field," says Mr. Côté.

The TechnoCentre owns and exploits the *Site nordique expérimental en éolien Corus* in Rivière-au-Renard, which includes two 2-megawatt windmills. The income from electricity sales and from services provided to the private sector represents a bit less than half of the TechnoCentre budget. The balance comes from federal and provincial grants.

Over the last three years, CED had also given \$1 million per year to the TechnoCentre. It's the largest grant paid by CED in the Gaspé Peninsula and in Magdalen Islands. The agency invested an average of \$10 million per year in the region in the last four years.

FAIR:

▶ Cont'd from cover

sets take a break during the race, considering that almost everybody is watching tractors? "We will reflect on that," says Meghan Clinton.

Despite grey weather on Sunday, she was happy with the results. "It was fantastic. We had a great turnout. I got exactly what I wanted, a busy Sunday afternoon for the music festival and still plenty of people outside (for the horse haul). I am very happy."

Like in 2011, the Shigawake event was held at the same time as the *Festival Musique du bout du monde* in Gaspé, a coincidence somewhat triggered by a calendar trick. Next year, both events will be held over consecutive weekends.

"Our priority is to have our Cegep students still here. They are our employees because we hire them with student projects. We have had a collaborative relationship with the Gaspé event. We both want exclusivities, though, but usually presenting the same bands has not affected our respective turnouts, I think," concludes Meghan Clinton.

PQ LEADERSHIP:

▶ Cont'd from page 6

hydraulic fracturing. At this moment, this method isn't used in Haldimand, but if there's no social acceptability in Gaspé, it's over."

Supported by
Yvan Bernier

Former Bloc québécois Member of Parliament, Yvan Bernier, who represented Bonaventure-Pabok-Gaspé-Îles-de-la-Madeleine from 1993 to 2000, was at Mr. Lisée press conference to support his candidacy.

"I retired in 2000, when I understood that Quebecers had moved on (in regards to sovereignty). I was lukewarm to the PQ leadership race. Jean-François Lisée aroused my curiosity with his idea of taking more time to update the sovereignty project."

Candidates Véronique Hivon, Martine Ouellet and Alexandre Cloutier also came to the Gaspé Peninsula this summer. Only Paul St-Pierre Plamondon hasn't come to the region yet during his campaign. The Parti Québécois leader will be chosen on October 7.

Fall Fest 50-Plus go-kart races

Jack Harrison

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES: - Another year has passed and fall is almost upon us. The rumours have been rampant leading up to this year's races. Apparently Stacey John Campbell is making his foray back into racing. He has already been challenged by newcomer Justin Lavigne who claims he could be the best driver that ever walked through the Delta gates. Apparently, he hasn't heard of Kevin Bujold who was pretty good.

Two ex-champs, Lorna and Ivan DeVouge, are anxious to get back into it after missing a year while recovering from injuries. The Day Boys from Fauvel keep getting better each year. Last year Bruce Day left me behind so fast I thought I had stopped.

The O'Neil clan always shows up and puts on a good



Photo: Darlene Dimock

It's time to get your go-karts ready!

show. This year, the drivers that chicken out of the go-kart races can get into the wiggle cart races at the rink. This could be fun. Any age and any size can take part, even women. It's possible that the women may wiggle better than the men.

Jeanna Boudreau is back to help Darlene organize the

downhill event. They always do a great job!

Remember, there are carts available for anyone who wants to race. Jimmy Geraghty has not said what cart he will use yet, but we know he will be good. I have some wheels and frames to give away, so let's start getting a winner!

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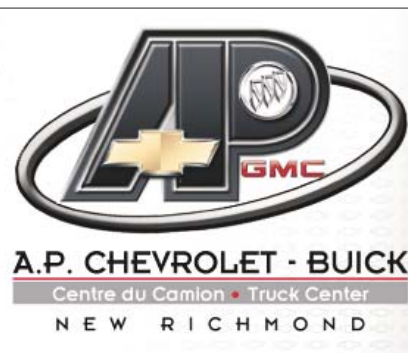
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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

THURSDAY, AUGUST 25

6 p.m. - 9 p.m. Entry of 'Country Garden' and Crafts Exhibits
Barn Decorations - Prize & Trophy
5 - 5:45 p.m. Registration for Cowboy Showdown and Western and English Horse Judging
6 p.m. **Cowboy Showdown**
Prizes will be given on September 24, 2016.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 26

9 - 11 a.m. Entry of exhibits and animals
1 p.m. Judging of 'Country Garden' and Crafts
1:30 - 4 p.m. **Traditional skill demonstrations**
4 - 5 p.m. Registration for GYMKHANA, 17 and under
6 - 9 p.m. Last chance to register for the Horse Judging (Halter class)
6 p.m. **GYMKHANA, 17 and under**
Prizes will be given at the Saloon Sunday afternoon
9:30 p.m. **Music and Dance with "Out of Nowhere"**

SATURDAY, AUGUST 27

7 - 9 a.m. Breakfast available in the main building
9 a.m. **Horse Judging** (Halter class)
Gymkhana Registration
9 - 9:45 a.m. Registration for Dogs, Costumed Animals and Colts. Welcome to all!
10 a.m. **Dog, Costumed Animals and Colt judging and Kids zone**
Prizes will be given directly after.
10 a.m. - 1 p.m. **Animation with M'sieur Bujo**
12:30 - 4 p.m. **GYMKHANA - First Round**
1 - 3 p.m. **The Magic Man, David Philippe**
4- 5:30 p.m. Registration for Open Arena Ranch Sorting
6 p.m. **Open Arena Ranch Sorting - 1st round**
8 p.m. **Open Arena Ranch Sorting - 2nd round**
9:30 p.m. **Music and Dance with Alex & Caro**

SUNDAY, AUGUST 28

7-9 a.m. Breakfast available in the main building
9 a.m. - 12 noon **GYMKHANA - 2nd round**
10 a.m. to 1 p.m. **Animation with M'sieur Bujo**
12 noon - 1 p.m. Registration of the Washer Toss Teams
1 - 3 p.m. **The Magic Man, David Philippe**
1:15 - 4 p.m. **Washer Toss Games**
1 p.m. **Single Horse Haul**

Prizes for the GYMKHANA will be given afterwards in the Longhorns Saloon



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Announcements...



Obituaries



WILLETT DOW: Jean Mary

Jean was born on October 27, 1927 in Grand Cascapedia to Vincent Willett and his wife Ethel Martin. She had two brothers, Roy and Murray, and two sisters, Joyce and Helena. The sole surviving sibling, Roy, lives in Brampton, Ontario.

She leaves to mourn her husband of 65 years, Gerald, four of her five children: Gloria, Clare, Ian, and Leslie. Sadly, Colleen pre-deceased her mother in a tragic car accident last fall. Four grandchildren were Jean's delight: Matthew, Vanessa, Melissa and Sarah, as well as three great-grandchildren: Tatianna, Jayden and Liam.

Jean went to school in Cascapedia and later worked at Clapperton's General Store when Gerald was working on the bread truck for Orley Bisson, and that's how they met. He then saw her at a dance on a Friday night at Crépault's Hotel in New Richmond West, and the rest, as they say, is history! They were married March 28, 1951 in Westmount, QC.

Here are some memories shared by Gloria, who unfortunately could not be with us today:

One of our earliest memories of Mum would be her reading to us at the house in Grand Cascapedia. She took the time to foster in us the love of stories. I recall that when the storybooks became repetitive, she would read the comic strips and appropriate stories from the Star Weekly.

Another vivid memory of Mum was her doing the laundry for the five of us and she and Dad bent over a ringer washer. The boys recall that they got into the mud behind the shed at the back of the house once too often! Mum got out her wooden spoon, and took after the three of them! For protection, they ran into the house and hid under one of the beds! They rolled back and forth to avoid the spoon as it was poked under the bed! Berry-picking is another memory. She took us to pick wild strawberries and raspberries, each of us with a container to fill at least once. Then she would make the jam - the summer bottled up in jars - and we had to agree that the picking had been worth it as we enjoyed the jam on cold winter mornings.

Our homes in Cascapedia and New Richmond West were where the kids from the neighborhood came to play ball and hockey, and there was always a half-time break, with Mum serving cookies all around. She spent many hours in the evenings and on weekends reviewing spelling and our notes for upcoming exams. She encouraged each of us to go on to further education after high school.

She always strongly supported Dad in his occupation by working with him in the store, and in his fishing getaways. She never complained about packing up the food and clothes and all else that was needed to get the family off to a lake cabin for the weekend. As remembered during the couple's 50th anniversary, "We're all blessed with good health of that there's no doubt! Me son, there's nutrition in all that codfish and trout!"

One of Jean's greatest joys was having her beloved grandchildren, Mathew and Vanessa, Melissa and Sarah for lunch on schooldays. She could be counted

on to look after the dogs and cats when the girls were away.

Mum had lifelong friends from her youth who always came to visit when they came home to their families. She cherished those visits, and of course kept in touch through Christmas cards.

Once her nest was empty of kids, Jean turned to hobbies for enjoyment. Her crocheted doilies are now over North America and Britain. She was a volunteer at the craft shop in New Richmond for several years and made many friends there. She became an avid reader, and her love of words was intact until a few weeks ago when she was still able to say and spell the words of the "Word Search" puzzles as Dad circled the words on the page. She had an active mind and was very social, and until recent months she could converse and add her sense of humour appropriately to conversations. She was quick to smile and loved to laugh.

Jean's faith in God was evident throughout her life. She would have us bow our heads and pray for healing when we were sick or when someone we knew had troubles. She had us go to Sunday School and she was delighted when we had our first communion to join the Anglican Church, and she later became a member of the church herself.

In 1979 Jean faced one of the greatest challenges of her life when she fell ill with breast cancer. She had surgery performed by Dr. Alban Gagnon, and a couple of years after had another bout of cancer. Despite her trials, she was determined to help others, and after a period for healing, became a volunteer working with other women diagnosed with the same disease. Jean struggled with Alzheimer's disease and finally succumbed to it last Sunday. A devoted wife, mother and community member, she will be missed by all who knew her.



MCAULEY: Ruth Briand

1930 - 2016

Ruth Briand McAuley passed away at the Cote de Gaspé pavillion, Hotel-Dieu, on August 8 at the age of 86 and 1-month.

Mrs. Ruth Briand McAuley was the wife of Mr. William McAuley from Douglastown. She leaves to mourn her husband; her two sons Richard and John (Heather); daughter Elizabeth (Jean-Serge); two sisters, Mary-Jane Rehel, Blenda Patterson and their families.

The family received condolences at the church in Douglasown on Friday, August 12. The funeral service was held at the Douglastown church on Saturday, August 13. In lieu of flowers, a donation may be made to the Gaspé Hospital Foundation.

PHOTO QUALITY

Please keep in mind when submitting photos of a loved one please do not send in photocopies, copies printed off a home colour printer or the cards given out at the funeral home. The quality of your photo will not reproduce well in the newspaper.



RICHARD: Leonard "Len" Anthony

December 13, 1926 - June 28, 2016

It is with profound sadness that we announce Len's passing, with his family by his side, at the age of 89 years.

Beloved husband and best friend of Opal (nee Gagnon) for 60 years. Loving father of Denise Vaneldert of Sault Ste Marie and Barb Richard of Ottawa. Cherished grandfather of Bram Vaneldert of Brussels. Survived by his brother Roger (Anne) Richard of Boston, MA. Predeceased by his brothers Gerry (Doris) Richard and Donny Richard.

Len will be fondly remembered by his nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

Born in Waltham, MA, Len grew up in Moncton, NB, and studied Business Administration at Queen's University. His work took him from the Caribbean to the Gaspé Coast where he met his wife, Opal. Len eventually settled with his family in Toronto where he had a long career in sales and management before finally retiring to Ottawa. He found joy and solace in golf which he played avidly into his eighth decade. A sports enthusiast with an uncanny knowledge of hockey, he also had a keen ear for music, impeccable rhythm and loved to dance.

Len was a devoted husband and father and he will be dearly missed. A memorial mass was held on July 15 at St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church in Bell's Corners, Ottawa, ON. Inurnment of the ashes to be held in Port Daniel, QC at a later date.



In Memory

BOURGAIZE: Ada

In loving memory of a dear mum, grandmother and great-grandmother who passed away August 16, 2012.

*May the winds of love blow softly,
And whisper for you to hear,
That we'll always love and miss you,
And wish that you were here.*

Lovingly remembered and sadly missed by Dolly, Merle, Clayton (Eleanor), Lennox, Eunice, Bradford (Shirley) and families.

ROONEY: Jerome Patrick

In loving memory of our dear father who passed away August 20, 2009.

*His smile has gone forever,
And his hand we cannot touch.
We have so many memories
Of a dad we loved so much.*

Sadly missed and always loved by the Ronney family.

Committal Service

The Committal Service for family and friends of Herman Astles, will be held at St. James Anglican Church in Hope Town on August 31 at 3 p.m.

STE-CROIX: Harris

In memory of a dear brother who passed away August 19, 2011.

Brother
We hold on to our memories,
The ones that are so dear,
To try to keep you always close
Now you are no longer here.
You were called away.
It was your time.
But it is so true,
You have left a legacy,
There was no one like you.
You were very special
And we want to say,
We feel lost in so many ways
That you are not here today,
But we will never forget you
And we know we have been blessed
To have you for our brother
Because you were the best

Missed and never forgotten by your two sisters,
Audrey and Tena.

STE-CROIX: Harris

In loving memory of our dear uncle who passed away August 19, 2011.

Dear Haddis,
If all our dearest dreams
And wishes could come true,
Then the only thing we'd wish for
Would be to spend some time with you.
For, since you have been gone,
Life has never been the same;
And we'd give all that we have
Just to see you once again.
We miss you so very much
For the times that we once shared
Have left the sweetest memories
That may never be compared.

You are always in our hearts, Cliff, Sandra, Carter
and our families.

Happy 90th Birthday



Please join us in celebrating Cecil Leggo's 90th Birthday at the Trachy Hall, 15 Rue Trachy, Douglstown on Saturday, September 3. There will be a cold potluck meal for family and relatives beginning at 4 p.m. and an open house for well wishers from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. For more information or to add your potluck contribution, please email to cecils90th@gmail.com or call 418-392-5771 and leave a message.

WALSH: Lois

To Lois:
This is the anniversary
Of the day that I lost you.
For a time it felt as if
My life had ended too.
But loss has taught me many things,
And now I face each day
With all our happy memories
To help me on my way.
And though I'm full of sadness
That you're no longer here,
I know your love still guides me
And I still feel you near.
What we shared will never die,
It lives within my heart,
Bringing strength and comfort,
While we are apart.
Love, your husband Bill.

Engagement



Congratulations to Heather Imhoff and Richard Almond who were engaged on July 24, 2016.

Heather is the daughter of Joan and Steven Imhoff of New Carlisle, and Richard is the son of Marlene Major and Robert Almond of Shigawake.

They are wished much love and happiness by their families.

50th Wedding Anniversary



Congratulations to Ann (Ross) and David Sawyer who celebrated 50 years of marriage on Saturday, August 6, with family and friends at their home. Their daughter Maxine, with husband Tony Greco and their daughter Meghan, Laval, Quebec; and their son Terry, wife Teresa and their daughter Celena, Victoria, B.C. were all home to celebrate this special occasion. Many more happy and healthy years are wished to this very special couple.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Holy Spirit, you who make me see everything and who shows me the way to reach my ideals, you who gives me the divine gift to forgive and forget from all that is done to me and you who are in all instincts of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank you for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from you. No matter how great the material desires may be, I want to be with you and my loved ones in your perpetual glory.

A person may pray this prayer three consecutive days without asking for their wish. After their third day, their wish will be granted, no matter how difficult it may be. Promise to publish this dialogue as soon as the favour has been granted.

H. J.

OUR RATES:

CARD OF THANKS, BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT, PRAYER, ENGAGEMENT, BIRTHDAY, ANNIVERSARY, MEMORIAL SERVICE
ANNOUNCEMENT: \$30 (\$35 with picture) up to 20 lines.

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Social notes...

July 22, 23, and 24 was the official opening of Le Berceau du Canada (birthplace of Canada) which is the newly constructed buildings along the waterfront in Gaspé. There were many officials in attendance and access to the buildings that house displays was free. There were many musicians who performed there throughout the weekend. One of the events was Karen Briand and Friends who sang for about an hour on June 23. Karen sang five songs, her friend Tanya Adams sang two or three songs, and her friend Ann (Tutu) Reid sang four or five songs. They were accompanied by The Knights of Rock 'n Roll (Alfred Cassidy, Richard Jalbert, and Marcel LaPointe). It was 30+ years since Karen performed solo but you wouldn't know it – she did a fantastic performance. Tanya Adams is no stranger to the stage and she did a great rendition of "Me and Bobby McGee," Janis Joplin style. She also did a great performance of Dollie Parton's "Jolene." This was Ann Reid's first public performance and she, too, did a wonderful job. Ann has a very powerful voice and is also an excellent guitar player. She played the guitar for all but one song when Dale Baird accompanied her. The group Knights of Rock 'n Roll followed Karen and Friends. They played for an hour and they, too, did an excellent performance.

Dolores (Doda) and Berton Miller celebrated their 65th Wedding Anniversary on July 24. They started their day by going out to breakfast. Berton gave his lovely wife a dozen red roses and they received many congratulations and best wishes from their children who were unable to be here for the occasion but they will be coming home later. With many thanks to their good friend, Ruth Armstrong, née Miller, they were invited to supper with Ruth and some of her family: her daughter Susie and Scott Palmer, her son Greg and Mariette Patterson, her brother Frank (Francis) Miller, and friends Phyllis and Victor Miller. The meal was delicious and, for dessert, a decorated cake for the occasion. Doda and Berton feel blessed to have had all these 65 happy years with their family and lifelong friends who are so kind. Thank you to all from Doda and Berton.

Mrs. Ella Clark Gillis has been enjoying a lovely visit with her son Kevin and his wife Marie who are home from Edmonton. Mrs. Ella, who is 94, takes in as many activities as possible and was up dancing with Kevin at the Kitchen Party at Pioneer Days. Good for you, Mrs. Ella!

The funeral service was held for Rupert (Sonny) Lequesne on July 25. The family and friends of Sonny and Joan gathered at St. Paul's Anglican Church in Gaspé to say their final farewells to this quiet and much loved man. He obviously touched many lives throughout his lifetime as the church was filled to capacity. May he rest in peace!

Pioneer Days is once again a great success and many, many people have worked very hard to achieve that goal. The silent auction was back on the list of events and there were so many lovely items donated and they are now in the hands of new owners. The breakfasts on July 1 and last weekend's breakfast are always well-attended and people from far and near look forward to the event to catch up with friends. There is always something being raffled and this year was no exception. Dennis Palmer built a beautiful huge birdhouse. Dennis does very good work in all he undertakes and this was no exception. The lucky winner was Susie Patterson Palmer from Kapuskasing, ON. There is always a big supper during Pioneer Days and this year it was topped off with Dinner Theatre held at Gaspé Elementary (the old Gaspé High School for those of you who haven't been here for a few years). Karen Briand and her group of 14 (only one guy – Dennis Hackett from Douglastown, in the group - Dennis is a good sport) performed 12 songs in a Tribute to ABBA. There was also a Kitchen Party on the Thursday evening. The York River Seniors Group sponsored the events on Friday, including a gift bingo and music in the afternoon. There were kids' games on Saturday morning after the breakfast. Then the final event is the Sunday morning service at Fort Haldimand Camp. Some years it is held outside but the past few years it has been held in the hall. After the service the draw was held for the bird house and the 50/50 tickets. The lucky winner of the 50/50 was Beatrice Coffin of Pointe Navarre. Congratulations to all the winners and thank you to all who helped to make the event such a great success.

Our household has been very busy with the sound of young voices. Sometimes they are laughing, sometimes crying, and sometimes they are emitting ear piercing



Sharon Howell GASPE NEWS

sounds. Thankfully the latter ones are few and far between. Cathy's grandchildren: Isabel, Tristan, and Delaney arrived on June 24 to attend their Aunt Vicky Normand's wedding and have stayed for the summer. Their dad, Bruce, took a week's vacation at the end of June and another two weeks at the beginning of August. Their mom Cara could only get her holidays for the last three weeks of August and beginning of September. She will be here for probably two weeks before she and the little ones return to Chateauguay to head back to school. It is going to be so dull when they leave and we are going to miss them very, very much.

Madeline Mullin Patterson and her daughter Lori are visiting from Peachland, BC. It has been a few years since they were home and it is wonderful to see them again. Madeline has two new great-grandbabies since last year and this is the first time she and Lori got to meet them. I am sure that they, Madeline and Lori, will be busy spending time with Kristin and Megan and their young families as well as with her sister Betty and her husband Charlie LeBoutillier and their family and friends.

On August 1 family and friends of Gail Clark Dumaresq gathered for the burial of her ashes in St. Andrew's Cemetery in York. Her loving and devoted husband, Ron, and their daughters, Kathy and Barbara, travelled from Ottawa to bring Gail home. Kathy read a lovely poem by an anonymous writer about "going back to Gaspé" and Barbara delivered a beautiful eulogy of her dear mom. Some of the relatives who came to Gaspé for the occasion included: Kathy's two sons and their families: Nick, wife April, daughter Chelsie, and son Wyatt from Woodstock, NB; Chris, wife Jen and son Etienne from Halifax, NS; Barbara's husband Don and son Jake from Ottawa; Sadie Grant (formerly of York) and Buzz (Selwyn) Dumaresq as well as their daughter Debbie and her husband Paul Mulholland, all from Ottawa. It has been three years since Sadie and Buzz were home. Gail's brother, Kingsley, of Center Burlington, NS, and his daughter Debbie, and her husband Richard Fice of Dartmouth, NS; her brother Walter and his son Kelly, from Bathurst, NB, were also home. Gail was such a lovely lady and was obviously well-loved. Her kind and generous spirit was reflected in the large crowd who gathered to say "so long."

June Eden of Cornwall, ON, is visiting with Virginia and Ricky Sinnett for about two weeks. She brought Mrs. Marie Stewart down to visit with her family and will take her back to Ontario when she returns. Also visiting Virginia and Ricky is their daughter Karen. Karen will be home for a couple of weeks.

Wade Rooney of Thunder Bay recently visited with Rowena and Howard Gallichan and spent a few days in the area. Unfortunately we didn't get to see them. Wade was last in Gaspé six years ago. Wade is the eldest child of the late Edna Howell of Sandy Beach and Harris Rooney of Douglastown. Edna and Harris lived in Allan Howell's house for a few years in the early 1950's before they moved away to Thunder Bay (Fort William at that time). Wade was travelling with his daughter and three

grandchildren. They have travelled on to Bathurst, NB, where they are going to visit with his cousin Gail Howell, eldest daughter of Simone Plourde and Leo Howell. They will be taking Gail up to Chateauguay to visit with her Aunt Gabriella.

Debbie & Hayden Sams have been spending some time in Rimouski where Debbie has undergone some radiation treatments. She has done well throughout the treatments and is very thankful for all the well wishes and prayers extended to her during this time. We all wish her well and that she can now relax and enjoy the remainder of this beautiful summer.

Vernice and Barry Dumaresq are two very busy people. Barry recently had cataract removal surgery and he is scheduled for another cataract removal surgery in the fall. In the meantime they have had a house full of guests including their son Michael, wife Wendy, and daughter Kaitlynn, from Fredericton, NB. Their son Dale, wife Gylaine, and son Léon, were also visiting from Sherbrooke, QC. Vernice is going to be returning to the Townships with Dale and his family when they leave near the end of this week. Also visiting Vernice and Barry is Marsha McLeod, her husband Marco Vanzuilen, their sons Cohen and Evan, from New Hamburg, ON.

Patti Ann Patterson, her husband Daniel, and their daughter Olivia Ann are home from Ottawa for a visit with family and friends. They have been staying at Patti Ann's parents, Anne and Lyall Patterson, of Sandy Beach. Daniel had an accident at work just before Christmas and I am sure that the family is looking forward to their vacation. While they are home, they will be attending the wedding of cousin Emily Roberts (Tom Roberts and Sandy Simpson's daughter), and her fiancé Éli Fournier. Patti Ann's brother, Richard, his wife Crystal, daughter Isabel and new baby son, William (approximately six months old) are also visiting and they will be attending the wedding. Baby William will be baptized at the church in Sandy Beach on Sunday, August 7.

Birthdays and Anniversaries for August

Please join me in wishing the following people the very best of days on their birthdays and may their year be filled with love, joy, happiness and wonderful memories.

Wilma Roberts (3) who turned 88 this year; Logan Lapierre (5) who turned 2 this year; Cathy Sams Taugher (6); Danny Lapierre (8); Heather Donovan (9); Ann Roberts Patterson (10); Linda Alexander and Shirley Baird (12); Kay Baker (14) Mrs. Kay will be 103 years young this year. Congratulations!

Lorna Palmer Clark (14); Kim Alexander (15); Victor Annett (17); Mera Kennedy (24); Heather Maloney (26); Sharon Boyle Dee (29); Sarah Eden (31); Édouard Harris Arsenault (31) – 1 year old already.

Happy Anniversary wishes are extended to:

Eleanor and Clayton Bourgaize who were 49 years married on July 15;

Karen and Gary Briand who were 46 years married on August 1;

Gracie and Ben Annett who were 58 years married on August 16. Congratulations to you all and may you have many, many more wonderful years together.

Until next time, I wish you good health and if you have some news you might like to share, please feel free to contact me at 418-368-3914 or by email at photo_ops@hotmail.com. Thank you for your time.

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CLASSIFIEDS

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COAST ROUND-UP

ST. MAJORIQUE:

Military Whist Tournament

The Parish of St Majorique will be having its annual military whist card tournament on **Saturday, October 8**, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the St. Majorique Municipal Hall. The cost for the day is \$25 per person including lunch. For more information and/or to reserve a table, please call Laurette at 418-368-0256. Prizes awarded to winning tables.

ROSEBRIDGE:

United Church Hall

On, **Saturday, August 27**, there will be a breakfast at Rosebridge United Church Hall. From 7 a.m. until 11 a.m. The cost is \$8 for adults and \$3 for children under 12. There will be fruit, eggs, bacon, pancakes, beans, fried potatoes, toast, muffins, tea, coffee and juice. Everyone welcome!

YORK:

York River Senior

Citizens' Club

Upcoming Activities

Thursday, August 25: Mini Putt from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Fort Ramsay.

Saturday, September 3: Labour Day Corn Boil at Point O'Hara.

Thursday, September 8: Mini Putt 10 a.m. at Fort Ramsay.

Saturday, September 24: Regional Whist Tournament at Gaspé Elementary School from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cost is \$25 which includes lunch, winning prizes and door prizes. To register, please contact Tony Patterson at 418-368-3276 or Cynthia McDonald at 418-368-5227.

Sunday, October 2: Meet and Greet at York Community Center from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. This is also Seniors Appreciation Week, so come out and join the celebration. You will also be able to pay your annual dues of \$25 (FADOQ card which expires in 2016, check your card for expiration date).

This is a great opportunity for those 50+ in the Gaspé area to join the club and take advantage of all that there is to offer. There are also financial benefits received when using your card at a number of businesses in the Gaspé area. Contact Tony Patterson at 418-368-3276 or Alfred Cassidy at Photo Cassidy in Gaspé. Every **Tuesday** at 10 a.m. until September 6, there will be a beach walk.

BARACHOIS:

Public Market

The Barachois Public Market will take place on **Saturday, August 27**, outdoors at the Barachois Recreation Centre from 9 a.m. to noon. If you live in the Barachois/St. Georges / Percé areas and are interested in selling your produce, plants, baking, jams, crocheting, knitting, etc. (either as an individual or as a fundraiser for a group), and would like to reserve a table (\$10) please contact Sandy Coombs at 418-645-2874. Tables are limited, so please reserve by August 24.

BARACHOIS:

Royal Canadian Legion

Monday nights: Come on out for a fun night of Bingo starting at 7 p.m.

SHIGAWAKE:

Harvest Supper

St. Paul's Anglican women and the Shigawake community center will be holding their annual harvest supper on **Saturday, September 10** at 4:30. Cost is \$15 for adults.

HOPE TOWN:

Whist Party

The Hope Town Community Center will be holding the next whist party on **Saturday, September 10**, at 8 p.m.

HOPE TOWN:

Super Gift Bingo

The Hope Town Sports Committee is hosting a super gift bingo with great themes to please all ages at the Hopetown Log Cabin, **Saturday, September 24**, at 7:30 p.m. Canteen service available. Bring a dabber and a few friends. Proceeds go towards the NCHS 2018 grad trip.

HOPE TOWN:

Hope Baptist Church

"I was glad when they said to me, Let us go into the house of the Lord" (Psalm 122:1). We are a Bible-based, Christ-centered and family-focused church. Sunday School is for all ages, 9:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.; Worship service at 11 a.m.; Friday Kings Club (ages 5-12) at 3:30 and Young Peoples (ages 12-18) at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome to join us at Hope Baptist Church, 305 Route 132, HopeTown. www.hopebaptistchurch1.com. 418-752-5838. Pastor Paul Bedford BTh. MTh.

PASPEBIAC:

Trip to Jersey in the Fall

Trip to Jersey in the Fall - Paspébiac Fishing Bank 250th Celebrations. To celebrate this anniversary, the Historic Site of the Paspébiac Fishing Bank, in conjunction with the Gaspé-Jersey-Guernsey Association, is organizing a trip to Jersey this fall. For information, please call 418-752-6229.

NEW CARLISLE:

Local Market

The New Carlisle Local Market will take place every **Saturday** until September 24 which will also be the garlic festival. Interested in selling your produce or homemade items at the market? Call Carol at 418-752-8555 or Sandi at 581-233-0658. An interesting setting for buskers too. Don't forget to like us on facebook.

NEW CARLISLE:

Walk-a-thon

Mark your calendar for this year's fall fundraising event for the Linda LeMore-Brown Foundation's Walk-a-thon - **Sunday, October 2**. Registration is at 12:30 p.m. at the Optimist Chalet in New Carlisle. Pledge sheets and information will be available August 30 at the CASA office at 208B Gerard D. Levesque, New Carlisle.

NEW CARLISLE:

Bible Chapel Services

Sunday: Breaking of Bread for Believers - 9:30 a.m., Sunday night service - 7 p.m. **Wednesday:** Bible study and prayer at 7 p.m. "You Must Be Born Again."

NEW CARLISLE:

Video Games Exhibition

Temporary exhibition: "Back to the Games!", from **July 29 to August 31**. An exhibition on video games, mangas and role-playing games. Discover and play games from our collection: Nintendo™, Sega™ and others! Open every day from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Kempffer Cultural and Interpretation Centre, 125 G.-D.-Levesque Blvd., New Carlisle.

NEW CARLISLE:

St. Andrew's Church Harvest Supper

There will be a Harvest Supper on **Saturday, September 24** from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Take out available between 3:30 and 4:30 p.m. Price \$13, children under 10 \$7.

NEW CARLISLE:

50 + Club

The New Carlisle 50 + Club will be holding its next monthly breakfast on **Wednesday, September 14**, at 9 a.m. at the Heritage Restaurant.

NEW CARLISLE:

"Calling All Seniors"

On **Friday, August 19**, the New Carlisle Committee for seniors will be visiting Duthie Point (at 351 Blvd. Perron W., New Richmond). The former Gaspesia British Heritage Village, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. The cost is \$5 per senior. Bring your own lunch and beverage. All seniors from near and far are invited to attend this interesting and fun day and to meet other seniors. For more info contact: Mary Beth Astles at 752-3661 or Ann Hall at 752-2716.

NEW RICHMOND:

Cultural Association.

We wish to announce that La Boutique, 210 Perron W., New Richmond, is open for the summer. (Monday - Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Thank you for your patronage.

NEW RICHMOND:

Agricultural Fair Dates

The Agricultural Fair dates are from **August 25-28**. During your vacation, take in this annual event. Rough camping available. Call James Martin 418-392-5655.

NEW RICHMOND:

St. Andrew's United Church Upcoming Events

Saturday, October 22: Turkey Supper.

Friday, December 16: Christmas Concert.

NEW RICHMOND:

Friperie Notice

Friperie Entraide de l'É.P.É. is open as usual on Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. We always have a large selection of clothing in all sizes and for all the family as well as furniture. If you have items which are still functioning, don't throw them away before calling us because there are people who have need of a stove, fridge, washer, dryer, bed, clean sofa, chair, table etc. For information: 418 392-5161 (248 boul. Perron West, New Richmond)

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

Royal Canadian Legion Upcoming Events

Saturday, September 17: The general meeting of the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 172, will be held at 1 p.m.

Saturday, September 24: The 70th Anniversary celebration will be held at 1 p.m. with a washer tournament, music and supper (which will follow at 4 p.m.) Everyone is invited to this special event. **Saturday, November 25:** Roast beef dinner.

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

Bookroom

The bookroom will be closed **until September 1**. Any questions, please contact Kathleen at 418-392-4896

Please note that in future we will be printing advance notices for events scheduled at a later date for a period of three weeks only. We ask that you remind us to reprint the event advertisement as the date of the event nears.

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

50+ Club

Upcoming Events

Friday, August 19: There will be a jam session open to all musicians and spectators. Doors open at 7 p.m. with entertainment beginning at 7:30 p.m.. Free admission. Canteen service on site. Welcome to all.

GESGAPEGIAG:

Community Market

The Gessgapegiag community market will take place on **Saturday, August 20** from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The market is located at the Galgoasiet in Gessgapegiag. Rain or shine!

ROTARY CALENDAR

The winners for the week of August 7 are: Sophie Bergeron, Denis Cyr, Élizabéth R. Leblanc, Patrick Marsh, Jules Leblanc, Sabrina Mercier, and Gary L. Sylvestre.

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UNITED CHURCH

Sunday, August 21

10:30 a.m. Hope Town

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

Sunday, August 21

New Richmond

3 p.m. Holy Eucharist

New Carlisle

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Hope Town

10 a.m. Morning Prayer

Shigawake

7 p.m. Holy Eucharist and Baptism

Port Daniel

11 a. m. Holy Eucharist

GREATER PARISH OF GASPÉ

Sunday, August 21

York

St. Andrew's

10:30 a. m.

All Parish Eucharist

and

Gracie Annett Retirement

On the lighter side



Spec gets around...



Ruth Dugdale and Macy Court (Arden) are posing with a SPEC in front of the John Lennon Wall in Prague. This incredible one month trip is already half way through.

Why do we say By Gary Briand

As a young child I often heard people say, "Mr. X turned the air blue." Alternately, parishioners conveyed the same sentiment by saying that so and so had "made the air blue." How, then, did English evolve to describe the frequent use of cuss words as turning the colour of the very air to make it blue?

Piquing my curiosity was why I associated "blue" with the Virgin Mary. She always wore a blue robe. What, then, this conflict of "blue" associated with the Holy Virgin and "the blue" describing a glut of swear words and curses? On that dilemma I have pursued my research over several years.

As early as 1742 Edward Young clearly endorsed the association of "blue" with evil. In his Night Thoughts on Life, Death and Immortality appears "Riot, pride, perfidy, blue vapours breed." And goes on to describe "blue" as the colour of plagues and pestilence. Even as early as 1616 these lines appeared in the English The Times' Whistle:
"Alston, whose life hath been accounted evill,
And therefore cal'de .by many the blew devill."

The best explanation of the contradiction that I find is given by a professor of English at Tulane University. He argues that "blue" evolved as two symbolic meanings which are diametrically opposed. As the colour of the clear sky and of the sea, it came to represent purity, faith and staunchness. That is why it came to represent the virgin's cloak, but at the same time, a flame that burned blue came to be related to the flames of burning brimstone and, therefore, connected with hell. Such a blue flame became associated with an omen of death or other evils. The superstitious believed that the blue flame meant the presence of the devil or ghostly evil spirits. The professor believes that the word "blue-blages," meaning hell and such phrases as "he talked blue" or "he turned the air blue," came to describe obscene talk that would evoke the devil himself whose sulphur pouch would cause the flames to turn blue.

SUDOKU

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

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Level: Advanced

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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

ANSWER:



Prevent musty suitcases. Place an individual sheet of Bounce inside empty luggage before storing.

HELPFUL HINTS



Carpet Stains

Clean stubborn stains by spraying with a water and vinegar solution and then use an iron to lift the stain.

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, you know how to lay on the charm to get a job done, and you might need to work your magic this week. Some might scoff, but the end results will be positive.
TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, your work ethic is recognized by superiors this week. Accept this well-earned praise, but keep working hard to maintain your reputation.
GEMINI – May 22/June 21
Gemini, while you may have one foot on the ground, your head seems to be up in the clouds. Make an effort to regain your focus so you can finish the tasks at hand.
CANCER – June 22/July 22
Problem-solving does not interest you this week, Cancer. You just want things spelled out to you in black and white. If things become too complicated, ask for clarification.
LEO – July 23/Aug 23
Leo, the pressure to make decisions is easing up, and you can finally relax and focus on entertaining things. Take some time to strengthen an important re-



lationship as well.
VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, ideas in your head are developing so quickly that you can't pin one down. Your creativity is a feather in your cap, so make an effort to sort out your ideas.
LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23
Decisions that seemed so easy to make just a few days ago now seem like uphill battles. Don't sell yourself short, as you can handle the challenges ahead.
SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22
You have an ability to attract power and love, Scorpio. Make the most of this power and try to help others as much as possible. You will be glad for having done so.
SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21
Sagittarius, recent contributions on the job are finally getting you some special attention. Your efforts paint you as a team player, and others are taking notice.
CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, a big decision has you

mulling all of the potential outcomes. Take a few breaths and some extra time to reevaluate your priorities in the next few days.
AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18
Aquarius, beauty is everywhere if you just look for it. Pay attention to the little details that can show you the potential of others. You may be surprised at what you find.
PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
Pisces, you are much more comfortable when surrounded by a close network of friends. Organize a get-together with your social circle.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- AUGUST 14**
- Tim Tebow, Athlete (29)
- AUGUST 15**
- Jennifer Lawrence, Actress (26)
- AUGUST 16**
- Steve Carell, Actor (54)
- AUGUST 17**
- Donnie Wahlberg, Actor (47)
- AUGUST 18**
- Robert Redford, Actor (80)
- AUGUST 19**
- John Stamos, Actor (53)
- AUGUST 20**
- Robert Plant, Singer (68)

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