

## Major flooding throughout the coast *Highway 132 over Grand Cascapedia River to remain closed for weeks, maybe months*

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND: – The Gaspé Peninsula was affected by floods to a certain extent, but nothing comparable to the west part of Quebec. Physically, the most conspicuous effect of the high water level was the closure of Highway 132 bridge spanning over the Grand Cascapedia River.

That closure was ordered on the morning of May 8 after an inspection carried out by an employee of Transports Québec. While making a routine inspection of the bridge an odd curve in the side rail guard was found, a sign that something is wrong underneath. The zero tolerance rule is applied when such a phenomenon is detected and the bridge was closed immediately.

Another look at the bridge's 12 pillars revealed that one was undermined by



Photo: G. Gagné

*The bridge spanning over the Grand Cascapedia River was closed the morning of May 8 after an inspection by a Transport Québec employee.*

Cont'd on page 13



Photo: Barry O'Neil



Photo: Pierre Olivier Bujold

*Guide House at Englehart's on the Grand Cascapedia River.*

*Aerial view of the 132 in New Richmond.*

## CALL CENTRES: Working conditions need improvement

Thierry Haroun

**GASPÉ PENINSULA:** - Working conditions and the pressure that employees of the region's call centers are such that many of them are faced with anxiety, depression and stress. The union that represents them, the Québec Civil Servants Union (SFPQ), is aware of these problems.

The problem concerns 300 workers and four public call centres located in Gaspé, Sainte-Anne-des-Monts, Chandler, and Murdochville. Information obtained by Spec shows that the absentee rate reaches 18% at the Murdochville call center and up to 22% in some others. "The problem is growing because these call centres are a public service to the population of Québec, but they are managed as if they were privately-owned call centers that sell products," points out the president of the regional SFPQ, Hélène Chouinard.

"Their work is now evaluated by the quantity of calls they answer instead of the quality. It's nonsense! They have so much time for a call. They have three minutes maximum to give information to a citizen and not more. They aren't allowed to give more information than the customer has asked for. The employer is simply forgetting that it's a public service that our members are giving to the popula-

tion who deserves better."

"A management approach has serious consequences on the employees' health. Anxiety, stress, depression and absentee are their daily challenges," mentions Ms. Chouinard. "Many of them take drugs and other pills to get through their workday. Just imagine this: you start your workday at 8:30 a.m and finish at 4:30 p.m. and all you do is answer calls every three minutes. There's not much time allotted between calls. The stress is enormous. It's performance, performance all the time. We are against that policy and we are condemning it!"

**Big brother is  
not very far away**

"That's not all," adds Hélène Chouinard. "There's a surveillance system that checks if employees are respecting the three minutes per call. On top of that, there are not enough employees and call centers aren't hiring."

The vice-president of the union, Patrick Audy, told Spec that his organization is currently trying to bring this issue to the attention of the ministries concerned in order to alleviate the problem. "We just hope that by publicly criticizing the situation that the employer won't turn a blind eye on the matter any more."



Photo: G. Gélinas

Christian Babin, President of B.B. High Performance brake pads, shows its product.

## B.B. High Performance Brake Pads trying to convince USA firms

Geneviève Gélinas

**GASPÉ:** - Gaspé-based firm B.B. High Performance Brake Pads is participating in several wind energy conferences this spring in the hopes of selling its products conceived for more than one megawatt wind turbines. President Christian Babin was in San Diego, California, in early March and in Dallas, Texas, in mid-April. He will fly again to Anaheim, California, at the end of May. "We must increase the sales. In 2018, we want to have 20 %

of the replacement brake pads market in North America. It means 2,500 replacement kits per year," states Mr. Babin. The firm chose a trademark, Kuma Brake Pads. It has been selling brake pads in Québec since November and in USA since February. Mr. Babin re-

fuses to say how many, but implies that it's not enough. B.B. High Performance Brake Pads employs eight people and rents a space in the former GDS plant in the Sandy Beach industrial park. Its production capacity is 10,000 brake pads per year.



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**COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER**

**SADC DU ROCHER-PERCÉ**

The Société d'aide au développement des collectivités (SADC) helps the community of Rocher-Percé by providing resources to stimulate economic and social development.

Under the supervision of the Director General, the Communications Officer collaborates with the organization's different services and coordinates both internal and external communication activities.

**Duties and responsibilities :**

- Coordinate the distribution of information on the web site and the Facebook of to the organization.
- Write press releases.
- Collaborate in preparing and carrying-out communication activities.
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- Perform other related tasks.

**Qualifications :**

- Professional diploma or College diploma or University Diploma or be in the process of obtaining a diploma in communication, informatique technologies (IT) or secretarial services.
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- Must be dynamic and have strong communication abilities.
- Master french (written) – knowledge of English would be an asset.
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**Work Conditions :** Salary is \$437.50 for 35 hours per week. Duration : 10 weeks. **Candidates for the position must submit their job offer and curriculum vitae before 4 :00 PM, Wednesday May 17 to :**

Communications officer  
SADC du Rocher-Percé, 129, René-Lévesque Ouest, bureau S-101  
Chandler (Québec) G0C 1K0  
Courriel : info@sadcrp.ca



Photo: G. Gélinas

Premier Philippe Couillard observed the "disaster" caused by the December 30 storm. Beside him, France Lebreux, whose restaurant, *La Maison du Pêcheur*, had to be moved further from the sea.

## Couillard promises Quebec will acquire the Percé wharf

Geneviève Gélinas

PERCÉ: – Quebec will become the owner of the Percé wharf, as its current owner, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, wants to get rid of it. Premier Philippe Couillard made that commitment on the sidelines of a press conference in Percé, where he announced that his government will pay most of the work to protect the shoreline and rebuild the boardwalk, a project estimated at a minimum of \$15 million.

"Quebec is going to take over the wharf, the renovated wharf," stated Mr. Couillard. "I understand that for the municipality and its taxpayers, it's difficult to acquire it," he said. The premier's prerequisite, though, is that Ottawa first has to rebuild the wharf.

A ministry wouldn't necessarily acquire the wharf. It could be an organization "in the provincial orbit," specified the premier. "The SÉPAQ (*Société des établissements de plein air du Québec*) is a possibility among others," he noted.

"We want the wharf to carry out its functions," added Mr. Couillard, that is to say to protect the shoreline and to be the departure wharf for tourists going to Bonaventure Island.

The December 30th storm seriously damaged the Percé wharf which is at the end of its useful life. Percé, which has 3,000 inhabitants, had first committed to acquiring the wharf if Ottawa was to rebuild it, but the municipality

suspended the transfer process because there was no agreement with excursion boat companies for them to raise a maintenance fund through a common ticketing system.

Every year, from May to October, about 195,000 people walk on the Percé wharf, some to admire Percé Rock or to fish by angling. Among them, about 60,000 people take excursion boats to reach Bonaventure Island, a park managed by the SÉPAQ.

The Gaspé riding Member of the National Assembly, Gaétan Lelièvre, is suggesting that the Société des traversiers du Québec or the SÉPAQ take the responsibility for the wharf.

### A solution for erosion

Philippe Couillard took a little walk along the Percé shoreline. He saw the disaster made by the last storm. "The government is going to rebuild everything: the beach and the boardwalk. We'll fin-

ish this work," he promised.

A number of things have to be carried out, namely demolish the ruins of the old boardwalk, repair the sewer pipes and transport 5,000 dump trucks of gravel on 900 meters of beach to absorb the shock of waves. This "phase one" will cost between \$10 million and \$12 million, will start in May and will be completed this fall. Percé will pay \$545,000 and Québec will pay the balance.

The rebuilding of the boardwalk will then remain, as will some landscaping. That work could start this fall and be completed in the spring of 2018. The cost of this last phase is estimated at \$5 million, and could be paid by the Quebec Tourism Ministry and Canada Economic Development.

Percé deputy mayor Magella Warren describes the beginning of the work as "a great relief (...). We couldn't live through such a scenario year after year. We needed a long term solution."



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## Police report

On the morning of May 3 at the New Carlisle courthouse during the trial of Réal Savoie, 54, from Saint-Omer accused on April 16, 2014 of the July 27, 1996, first degree murder of Sonia Raymond on the beach in Maria, Superior Court Judge Louis Dionne, in the absence of the jury, authorized the crown attorneys to eventually cross-examine the accused in the presence of the jury regarding part of his criminal record.

That authorization immediately provoked out of court negotiations between the crown and defence attorneys that lasted until mid-afternoon, following which, defence attorney Marcel Guérin informed the court that the accused would plead guilty to a lesser and included offence of second degree murder.

The trial then resumed in the absence of the jury. The judge asked the accused if his eventual plea of guilty to a charge of second degree murder would be made of his own free will and if he had been informed of the consequences of such a plea. The accused replied, "Yes." The judge then asked the accused, "to the charge of first degree murder, how do you plead?" The accused replied, "Not guilty." The judge then asked the accused "to the charge of second degree murder, how do you plead?" The accused replied, "Guilty."

The judge convoked the jurors to the courtroom. They were informed that the accused had pled guilty to a charge of second degree murder, that they would have no verdict to render, and were thanked by the judge for the professionalism they displayed throughout the trial.

Judge Dionne then set the pre-sentence hearing, the representations on sentence and sentencing to May 3.

On May 3, the victim's sister, Celine Raymond; the victim's boyfriend, Marc Normandeau; and the victim's brother, Guylain Raymond, all testified about how the murder of Sonia Raymond impacted their lives.

Following the pre-sentence hearing the attorneys made a common suggestion of 22 years regarding the eligibility of the accused for parole.

Judge Dionne sentenced the accused to life imprisonment, without eligibility for parole until he will have served at least 22 years of the sentence. The judge stayed the proceedings on the charges of confinement and sexual assault with a weapon.



## PUBLIC NOTICE

### MINOR EXEMPTION FROM URBANISM BY-LAWS

NOTICE is hereby given that the town council, at an ordinary meeting that will be held on June 5, 2017, at 8 p.m., will consider the request for minor exemption from the zoning By-Law 1156-11, presented by Mrs Cindy Girard for a property situated at 5 rue des Malards.

The nature and consequences of this exemption are the following:

- the nature of the minor exemption is to reduce by 13 cm the lateral back margin in accordance to the minimal lateral back margin of 2 m. required at the specifications grid of the HB-265 zone by the zoning By-Law 1156-11
- the minor exemption will have the consequence to regularize the location of the detached single-family dwelling with a lateral back margin of 1.87 m.

During this meeting, the town council will hear from those interested and wishing to be heard on that request.

GIVEN at Gaspé, May 10th, 2017.

Isabelle Vézina  
The Director of legal services and town clerk



## Commentary

Gilles Gagné

### It is time to move in the railway file

The May 5, \$100 million announcement for the betterment of the Matapédia-Gaspé railway made by Quebec's Premier Philippe Couillard is proof that common sense, when it is explained with conviction, and even stubbornness sometimes, can be valuable.

The whole file made sense economically, because about 1,000 jobs are at stake, and social sense, because the Gaspé Peninsula population is deprived of a fair passenger train service, considering exorbitant plane fares and uncertain future for the bus link.

Despite the reassuring words of Premier Couillard, a lot of work remains to be done before we see the resumption of a full freight and passenger service on the Gaspé Peninsula line.

Premier Couillard, by extension, is in part responsible for the bad situation because of the incompetent Ministers of Transport he appointed since the election of the current government in April 2014.

We basically lost three years of repair work, of potential economic growth and of transport efficiency during that stretch.

When former Transport Minister Robert Poëti put the Caplan to Percé line in a dormant state in March

2015, and added the same status to the Percé-Gaspé stretch six months later, he heavily jeopardized the economic future of the Gaspé Peninsula.

A highly incompetent Transport Minister, Mr. Poëti, who was also minister responsible for the Montreal area, didn't believe in the future of the line in the first place. In order to save the appearances, he declared that his department would fix the railway when the number of customers would make it worth the hassle. He also suggested many mayors of the eastern section of the line have considered turning the line into a cycling path, a highly irresponsible idea.

During his 21-month reign at Transport Quebec, Robert Poëti tried to demonstrate how costly repairing the Gaspé Peninsula railway would be. His successor, another highly incompetent Transport Minister, in fact a man who should never have become a statesman, Jacques Daoust, acted as if he wanted to beat Mr. Poëti's ineptitude.

The best example of his bad faith occurred in March 2016, when he said in a parliamentary commission that repairing the Gaspé-Percé stretch of line would cost \$32 million, data that didn't appear in any study taking into account the line's needs.

Those ministers were that inefficient in part because they were informed by irresponsible Transports Québec civil servants. They are not all irresponsible, but it doesn't take many to stop the system, or slow it down. That is what happened with more emphasis since the property of the line was transferred to that ministry in May 2015.

Unfortunately, a certain number of those civil servants didn't want the increased responsibilities coming with 325 kilometres of tracks. In addition to that

factor, they probably didn't believe in the viability and usefulness of the line. Chances are that they didn't care in the first place too.

They are the people who fed Philippe Couillard with the information he announced on May 5. The lack of time frame is greatly attributable to the "experts" of Quebec's Department of Transport. They have been saying for two years that the line was not worth repairing east of Caplan. It would have been difficult to tell the premier that after all, they were wrong all that time. Mr. Couillard himself could hardly admit that the government had been misled for years by a ministry already involved in so many controversies.

However, it is a testimony to Transport Québec's inefficiency that the Gaspé Peninsula railway file was recuperated and dealt with by the premier's office.

Truth be told, if there is some good faith shown by the civil servants and the politicians, there is a formidable window of opportunity stemming from the premier's announcement.

It is unfortunate that the line is currently closed east of Caplan, but at the same time, it is an opportunity. If the money is really available, why not start repair work as soon as possible between Caplan and Gaspé?

There is work to do on only four bridges, one in Caplan, one in Saint-Siméon and two in Port Daniel, and we are not talking about rebuilding, in order to reach McInnis Cement in Port Daniel.

It is a bit more complicated east of Port Daniel, not because of the complexity of the jobs, but because of the number. So why not start now, while working crews are not disturbed by passing trains?

## Guest Commentary:

Wendy Dawson

### The outdoor classroom Where nature nurtures

It is a struggle to work in front of a computer at a desk this time of year. After months of longing for warmer days and brighter skies, those days are finally upon us. In the ranges of New Richmond, my open window lends itself to a cacophony of bird songs and to the sights and smells of an earth in renewal. My brain, foggy from the winter months, longs to be outside and the kid in me wants to play in the dirt.

This feeling is not new to me. When I was younger, there was no worse punishment than having to stay in a classroom that became increasingly and unbearably hotter as we inched towards the final days of the school year. I will remember forever James Eames, a teacher from my high school, who regularly brought us outside for classes during those final weeks of school, likely because just like us, he too felt the need for grass under his feet.

It is incredible really that when we consider all the development and progress of the last 100 years that

the classroom setting remains relatively the same. Rip Van Winkle could have fallen asleep in a classroom 100 years ago and would awake today and still certainly understand that he was in a classroom. The tradition of a teacher standing in front of a group of students using means and measures that are supposed to apply equally to all students does not seem very inspired.

Adjusting learning environments to better suit the needs of students is a constant consideration in the education system. Teachers modify seating arrangements, classroom settings, tools and resource equipment in an attempt to better reach their students. But what if the setting of the classroom itself was changed? What if the bricks and mortar of the classroom became the expanse of the great outdoors?

Don Barclay of Gaspé Polyvalent's Community Learning Centre recently told me about a global initiative called Outdoor Classroom Day. Planned for May 18th, interested teachers can register their classrooms and join over 500,000 students who participate in this initiative worldwide. The idea is to change the learning environment by bringing students outdoors to teach them about their physical surroundings by using science and biology, to encourage physical activity or to simply teach students traditional subjects in a setting that allows them to enjoy the grass under their feet.

It is already well established that kids spend less

and less time outdoors and more and more time plugged in - a factor that according to some research contributes directly to childhood obesity, social isolation and can also aggravate existing conditions such as autism and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. By bringing children outside of the classroom we encourage different types of learning. Not only can these approaches help teachers reach students that do not thrive in a conventional setting but it may also help students recognize new learning methods that work for them.

Indigenous communities throughout Quebec and Canada have recognized the importance of land-based learning and are integrating methods and approaches as a regular part of their curriculum. Native students are given the opportunity to learn traditional teachings in an outdoor environment which then allows those students to understand and value their history and also foster a connection to the land that for generations supported the needs of their people.

All Gaspesian students would be well served with the regular integration of the outdoor classroom in their quotidian. Can math not be used to calculate the surface area of our forests? Could geography not focus on the region's Appalachian mountains or the bedrock of the Canadian Shield? Could science classes not focus on the ecosystems rivers or on the cleanliness of our shorelines? Would a hike up a mountain or learning to fly fish be a valid gym class? The answer to all those questions is yes. The long-term benefit is having students form a meaningful relationship with their surroundings and their environment.

Outdoor learning can be powerful. Other than the obvious benefits that come from being outdoors, it is recognized that an outdoor classroom helps learners develop versatility and confidence. In addition, team work exercises are proven to develop trust and feelings of connection - tools which help with all personal relationships.

There will always be a need for a conventional classroom setting, but if we want to transform the quality of learning for the betterment of our sons and daughters, it might be time to think outside the box, and step outside.

If you or anyone you know might be interested registering for Outdoor Classroom Day, go to outdoorclassroomday.com.



ESTABLISHED • MAY 1975

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SPEC OFFICE HOURS:  
Mon. to Fri: 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

(Taxes included)  
1-year (paper or digital): \$46  
6-months (paper or digital): \$25  
Outside Canada:  
1-year paper \$165 digital: \$46

Published every Wednesday by:  
Les Publications de la Côte Inc.  
(Sea-Coast Publications Inc.)



**Publisher:**  
Penny MacWhirter



**News Editor:**  
Gilles Gagné



**Office Manager:**  
Joan Imhoff

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We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Periodical Fund (CPF) for our publishing activities.  
We acknowledge special funding from the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications.

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www.gogaspé.com





Photo: G. Gagné

Quebec Premier Philippe Couillard, right, flanked here by regional minister, Sébastien Proulx, remained vague about the return of a passenger train to the Gaspé Peninsula, suggesting that his level of government is not in charge of VIA Rail.

## Quebec government earmarks \$100 million for the railway

Gilles Gagné

NEW CARLISLE: – Quebec's Premier, Philippe Couillard, announced on May 5 that the Matapedia to Gaspé line will be upgraded over the next years at a cost he judges to be at least \$100 million. However, he was not in a position to determine a time frame for the realization of the work, because some studies remain to be completed.

Mr. Couillard also indicated that the reflection of the railway is now registered in Quebec's major infrastructure projects, 2017-2027, along with the Turcot Interchange and the province's large hospitals in order to secure its funding.

"I can say that it is \$100 million, not \$100 million that others will be able to take some parts away from (...) I don't believe we will be able to get to Gaspé with \$100 million," added Mr. Couillard.

He justified the decision to repair the line all the way to Gaspé by the economic strength of the file.

"We have evidence of new economic activity in the Gaspé Peninsula," he said before looking at Alexandre Boulay, the director general of the LM Windpower Plant in Gaspé, and adding that "people were impressed to see the company's publicity during the Christmas break saying that there are jobs available in the Gaspé Peninsula."

The Matapedia-Gaspé railway was acquired by Quebec's Department of Transport

two years ago. It was announced in March 2015 and it was concluded on May 15th of the same year. It was known back then that the line, mainly its bridges, needed repairs. Instead of opting for the repairs, the ministry decided that almost two-thirds of the line be put in a dormant state, from Caplan to Gaspé.

Since the summer of 2016 though, the transport requests, stemming from that dormant section, have been numerous, thus forcing the Gaspésie Railway Society, the operator of the line, to accommodate two clients, windmill blade manufacturer LM Windpower and McInnis Cement, to organize temporary solutions because they cannot load their production at or near their plants of Gaspé and Port Daniel, respectively.

LM must haul its blades by truck between Gaspé and New Richmond, and transfer them into railcars for the final delivery to the United States. McInnis Cement will do the same with a part of its output as soon as the Port Daniel plant will begin its production.

The freight traffic between Caplan and Matapedia climbed from 1,624 to 1,741 carloads between 2015 and 2016, and will reach at least 3,000 carloads in 2017. Transport requests from potential customers could propel that number to 10,000 carloads in 2020 if the railway service is brought back to Gaspé.

The time it will take to upgrade the whole line and resume operations still represent

the biggest unknown, despite the reassuring tone Premier Couillard adopted during the announcement.

He explained that the line is divided in three sections, Matapedia-Caplan, Caplan-Port Daniel and Port Daniel-Gaspé, and each section is characterized by a specific status.

Hence, the Matapedia-Caplan section is a "business case" the last step before final upgrading work is carried out.

The Caplan-Port Daniel stretch is classified as an "opportunity file deserving quick and priority realization" while the Port Daniel-Gaspé is "put under study regarding its (business) opportunities."

Philippe Couillard insisted, just like Transports Québec civil servants had done prior to him, that 28 structures of three metres and more, located along the Gaspé Peninsula line, require "essential work." Sixteen of those structures are located between Port Daniel and Gaspé.

The premier was asked by SPEC if realization delays could lead potential shippers to opt for other transportation modes, thus ruling out the railway and making the Port Daniel-Gaspé stretch stuck with a "case under study status" instead of becoming a "business case".

"It won't happen because we will be able to provide a foreseeable time frame to investors (or plant operators)," replied the premier.

Cont'd on page 13

## Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



## Hanging Out

It is a warm breezy day and that means perfect conditions for hanging out your washing. When I was little I loved to help my grandmother with the laundry. I especially liked pulling the clothes from the wringer though she would never allow me to feed the wet clothes into the roller. Too risky! I would place them into the large galvanized tub sitting on the floor of the porch. Then I would hand her the clothespins as she hung the clothes on the line. I probably was not as useful as I imagined but my happy, loving grandmother never minded that one bit.

When you live in the city you rarely have the luxury of having a clothesline and some municipalities do not allow them. Why? Some councillors feel they look 'tacky.' Forgive us if we disagree, dear councillors. Are these government types aware of the cost of hydro? A line of freshly washed laundry blowing in the wind is a beautiful thing to behold. It is colourful and unique. No two lines are alike.

Every person has their own style of 'hanging out.' Most people hang out the big things first. This is to allow for the length of sheets, blankets or quilts. Next come towels. Then pants, shirts and t-shirts. Then socks and other assorted smaller items. There is some differing of opinion when it comes to 'unmentionables.' Undergarments. Some people dry those inside, discreet and unobserved by the neighbours. Others put those undies on the line and allow them to flap freely in the breezes of the Gaspé. But be prepared, for those neighbours will know whether you wear black, white or colours, briefs or boxers, high-cut or comfy. It takes confidence to hang those items on the line.

Early morning is the very best time to hang out the laundry. Then you can bring it in by dinnertime. An important note for people from Away. Dinner is at noon. Supper is at five. Never use these two words interchangeably on the Gaspé. It can cause great confusion.

Never, ever leave your laundry out all night. People may think you are a poor housekeeper who cares not at all for your laundry. Never hang out something that is tattered or torn. It invites criticism. This is a matter of pride. It is okay to hang out laundry in the winter and take it into the house dried but frozen. In fact, it is fun to do because the jeans can stand up by themselves.

The smell of the laundry off the line is wonderful. Yes, it smells clean. But more than that. It smells like outdoors and salt water and nature and fresh air. It is perfectly acceptable to smell your laundry. Don't hold back. Close your eyes and breathe it in. I recently bought a candle and the scent is called Fresh Laundry. It doesn't measure up, I am sorry to report.

Now, let's discuss clothespins. Plastic or wooden? If you love tradition, then it's got to be wooden. Besides, I believe that they last longer and are more environmentally friendly. The Earth has more plastic on it than it should. What do you store your clothespins in? Something new and plastic from Dollarama or something recycled like an empty coffee can? You might be lucky and have the container that belonged to your mother or grandmother.

Anyway, Gaspésians take great pride in our clotheslines and the beautiful laundry blowing in the breezes. Have a great week of seeing the beauty in our Gaspé and in ordinary, everyday things.



# Stakeholders convinced that repairs can be done promptly

Gilles Gagné

NEW CARLISLE: – Most people involved in the Gaspé Peninsula railway file are convinced that the line can be put back in working order over its whole length in a relatively short time, way less than what premier Philippe Couillard and Transport Québec officials suggested.

Most people are reluctant at predicting an accurate time frame, because of the uncertainty linked to the new studies that will be carried out.

“We will not wait 10 years. We know that there will be work carried out at Mile 9 this year (the small bridge spanning over the Kempt River will be replaced in Ristigouche South East). We know that the two Cascapedia-St-Jules bridges won't be replaced this year,” points out Éric Dubé, the president of the Gaspésie Railway Society.

He is glad about the amount announced, \$100 million higher than any sum that had been mentioned so far. He thinks that the two Cascapedia-St-Jules bridges could be replaced in 2018 and be in working order in 2019.

“The follow-up committee, where the Gaspésie Railway Society is an important player, will make sure that work will be accelerated,” he adds.

Those two bridges were originally built in the mid-1890s and while they can still take a standard loaded freight car of 263,000 pounds, a string of such cars often has to be mixed with empty cars, on an alternate basis of one loaded and one empty, be-



Photo: G. Gagné

*Percé Rock MRC prefect, Nadia Minassian assures the public that the follow-up committee will ensure that the upgrades to the line are quickly carried out all the way to Gaspé.*

cause of the bridge's limited bearing capacity.

Alexandre Boulay, director

general of the LM Windpower plant in Gaspé, was hoping for a return of the freight train

in Gaspé in 2018 and now accepts that it is unlikely but “honestly, I would be very surprised that it would take more than five years. Hauling our blades by truck has a significant impact on our competitiveness and our economy. We presently have close to 400 employees and we will have 475 next year.”

Sylvain Roy, the Parti Québécois Member of National Assembly for the riding of Bonaventure, was present at the New Carlisle announcement and was relieved to see the announcement made by Premier Couillard.

“That is what we have been advocating for a long time, my Gaspé colleague Gaétan Lelièvre and I.” He wishes that Transports Québec “will trust the experts of the SCFG (the French acronym for the Gaspésie Railway Society) and opt for internal management for some of the work that has to be carried out. It would allow

for reduced costs and faster delivery.”

He fears that Transport Québec will take a lot of time analyzing situations that have already been studied, “a situation that could turn potential customers away from the railway.” He also fears cost overruns if Transport Québec takes the lead of the situation by themselves.

Percé Rock MRC prefect Nadia Minassian is very happy to know, at last, the intentions of the government. “We will make sure that work progresses as fast as possible. The follow-up committee will play an important role,” she explains, referring to a committee bringing together the Gaspésie Railway Society, the elected officials of the region, stakeholders including LM Windpower and Transport Québec.

That group has been asked to work jointly on the upgrading of the Matapedia-Gaspé railway.

## NOTICE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



TECHNOCENTRE  
TIC

You are cordially invited to the Annual General Meeting of the Technocentre TIC Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine to be held Thursday, May 25, 2017 at 5 p.m., at the following location :

**CENTRE COMMUNAUTAIRE DE MARIA  
65, RUE DES VOLTIGEURS  
MARIA, QUÉBEC**

Please confirm your attendance with Ms. Jessica Cayouette at **418 689-4804**, ext. 0 or by email at **info@technocentre-tic.com**

Welcome to you all!

### Homesick for the Gaspé?



Find out what's happening on the Coast. Turn to the pages of The Gaspé Spec

## RÉNO RÉGION (PRR) PROGRAM REGISTRATION 2017-2018

These programs concern all owner-occupants of the M.R.C. of Avignon and Bonaventure who need major repairs to their home.

### Who is eligible for these programs:

- If you are the owner-occupant of a house in the MRC and the uniform municipal evaluation for 2016 is less than \$100,000.
- and you must NOT have previously benefited from a SHQ financial program since 2006.

### Eligible work:

- Your house must require work to correct one or more major defects relating to your habitation.

All the work must be carried out by a contractor who holds an appropriate license from the Régie du bâtiment du Québec.

### Financial assistance:

- The grant can be up to a maximum of \$12,000. The amount of the grant is calculated according to the income and size of your household.

### Program Registration:

- If you meet all the criteria, you have to contact your municipal office.
- Registration will be held from **May 5, 2017 to June 5, 2017.**
- At the time of registration, you must present **ALL** the following documents:
  - Your 2016 municipal tax bill.
  - The proof of your **FEDERAL** income 2016 (report with T4, TP4 or other).
  - The 2016 notice of assessment from Federal Government (document is obligatory 1-800-959-8281 for “C” Option) for **ALL** household concerns.

Julien DOUCET  
SHQ agent

# Regional airports: \$50 million needed

Thierry Haroun

**GASPÉ:** - The Quebec government has currently no program to finance airport infrastructures. That's the reason why, Gaspé Mayor, Daniel Côté, is asking Ottawa to broaden its airport infrastructure program in order to give a bit of oxygen to airports who currently have no access to financing.

*Le Devoir* newspaper recently learned that the Québec Airport Financing Program (PATA) hasn't been renewed since December 2015. Therefore, many Québec airport representatives, such as Daniel Côté, who also presides over the Regional Airport Committee of the Québec Municipality Union, are asking the Québec government to reconduct the PATA as soon as possible so that regional airports can have access to financing. For instance, the Québec Airport Counsel, that represents 38 regional airports across the province, estimates that the PATA would need no less than \$50 million to help the airport renew their flight equipment and other infrastructures, such as asphaltting their runway.

In the meantime, Daniel Côté, is asking the federal government to broaden the criteria of the Federal Airport Infrastructure Program (PAIA) for airports who have no access at all to financial aids. "The way it currently works is that airports that benefit from a regu-



Photo: T. Haroun

Gaspé airport.

lar airline service such as Gaspé's airport with regular Air Canada Jazz flights have access to the federal PAIA program. For instance, the PAIA program recently financed at 100% the winter equipment for our airport. The total bill was close to \$700,000. The problem is that airports such as the one in Grand River or Sainte-Anne-des-Monts, who have needs in terms of repair, don't have regular flights, so they don't have access to PAIA or to the PATA that hasn't been renewed. A solution has to be found for these airports and broadening the PAIA program for these airports would be one of them. Regional airports are so important for many communities in terms of medical service, as an example!"

**Prefect Minassian and Premier Couillard react**  
"The good news is that the

Québec Municipality Union has set up a Committee dedicated to this issue. Having their support is major. Now, it's a

fact that we do need access to some sorts of financing. We have the chance of having an airport that is in good shape but it could be better. As an example, we would like to have a longer runway (currently at 4000 feet)," pointed out Percé Rock MRC Prefect, Nadia Minassian.

Spec met Quebec Premier, Philippe Couillard, in Percé on May 4. He confirmed that the PATA program would be resumed, without setting a timetable though. He also confirmed being well aware of the issues small airports and regions are faced with, such as high ticket fares. "That's the reason his government", he added, "will organize in Lévis (near Québec), next February a Regional Airport Forum."

*The Gaspé Spec*

**Employment Opportunity**  
Sales Manager

The Gaspé Spec newspaper is looking to hire a self-driven, results-oriented and ambitious person to fill the position of **Sales Manager**.

#### JOB OVERVIEW

The role of the Sales Manager is tactically critical to our revenues in the short, medium and long-term. With an emphasis on maximizing revenues the Sales Manager will be responsible for creating and executing comprehensive sales strategies, as well as managing existing advertising projects.

#### KEY RESPONSIBILITIES AND ACCOUNTABILITIES

- Develop and deliver an advertising sales strategy for The Gaspé Spec.
- Set a strategy in place for delinquent accounts.
- Ensure all advertising revenue streams are maximized.
- To achieve targeted revenues and yields for The Gaspé Spec by maximizing the revenue generated from existing clients, while developing new advertising clients.
- Develop a plan to deal with delinquent accounts.
- Ensure that co-workers have a clear grasp of the strategies in place, commitments and implication in regards to delivery.
- Manage communications with client representatives regarding implementation, trafficking strategy, data analysis, creative strategy and campaign performance
- Positively and tidily maintain effective sales administration including: client record, order confirmations, sales resources, letters and proposals.
- Proactively communicate with your team and management information relating to customer developments, competitor activity, marketplace changes, and lost or gained accounts.
- Other ad hoc duties as required.
- Comply with Spec's standards and policies.

To deliver on these objectives and fulfil your job role, you need to have mastered and consistently demonstrated the following core competencies:

#### PERFORMANCE FOCUS

- Have a clear and measurable advertising strategy for The Gaspé Spec and ensure that the sales, publishing and editorial team have all understood and bought into the strategy.
- Deliver accurate forecasts as requested by management.
- Ensure your team has sales-packs, deadlines, rates, etc. and are able to use them effectively.
- Have a positive attitude and be a leadership example to the sales team.

#### KEY SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Proven experience in sales both on the phone and face-to-face.
- Experience working with expected targets and results.
- Ability to generate significant forward bookings.
- Team player, who will encourage team targets.
- Strong negotiating skills.
- Effective communication skills and confident telephone manner.
- Must be able to respect deadlines.

#### JOB REQUIREMENTS:

- Fluently bilingual English and French, spoken and written.
- Preference will be given to candidates with a CEGEP or University degree.
- Own a vehicle and be able to travel occasionally between Matapédia and Gaspé.

**LOCATION:** 128 Gerard D. Levesque, New Carlisle

**SALARY:** 8-week contract with possibility of renewal, \$18/hour, 32.5 hours/week.

Please send your resumé to: [specs@globetrotter.net](mailto:specs@globetrotter.net) or 128 Gerard D. Levesque, New Carlisle, QC, G0C 1Z0. **Please indicate the job title of the job you are applying for. Application deadline is May 15, 4 p.m.**

\*Call 418-752-5400 for further inquiries.

**Come in out of the rain!**

Drop in to Spec's bookroom and pick out a great, gently used book, perfect for a rainy day.

Harlequins 3 for \$1, all other books \$1.

# Premier hears concerns from regional Anglophones

Wendy Dawson

NEW CARLISLE: – While touring the region last week, Premier Philippe Couillard was able to stop in New Carlisle to meet with representatives from CASA and the Eastern Shores School Board.

“This meeting,” explained Mr. Couillard, “was about meeting with the English-speaking community on the Gaspé which has its own specific characteristics if we compare it to other communities in Quebec. I learned a lot of things about the various communities and their needs.”

Mr. Couillard went on to explain that three areas were identified by the group as priority areas for Anglophone Gaspésians, “First is education.” Mr Proulx, Education Minister, agreed that the problem begins in preschool and continues through high school and vocational training. “We had a very good conversation about all of this and about the practical needs of the community and we will follow up on this.”

In addition to education, Mr. Couillard explained that two other areas of priority have been identified by CASA. The first being assistance to small community agencies along the coast that require some assistance in navigating the provincial political channels as well as issues related to seniors.

Mr. Couillard was happy to announce the recent appointment of Mr. Greg Kelley, son of Mr. Geoffrey Kelley, as a person within the government specifically dedicated to assisting English-speaking Quebecers (with the recognition of their issues at the provincial level.) “Mr. Kelley will be the link to all of the ministries, because it can get confusing at some points. All these ministries and public organizations are quite complicated to go through,” explained Mr. Couillard.

When asked by SPEC how he and his government would try and engage local voters – especially anglophones - who may have felt alienated by early austerity measures that negatively impacted re-



Photo: W. Dawson

Members of CASA, Vision Gaspé Percé Now, ESSB, NCHS and the New Carlisle CLC had the opportunity to host a meeting with Phillippe Couillard and Sébastien Proulx during their visit to the region on Friday May 4 to identify priorities for the regions Anglophone population.

sources and services, Mr. Couillard states “I will say the same that I have said to French-speaking communities, we never cut budgets in spite of what has been said. We slowed the budgets for two years in a row in order to balance books. Now we have money to invest in health care and education and the economy. This is why we can invest so much now in education and health care and to help our businesses. We will be adding 7,000 people to the education system in the coming months and this will make a tremendous difference to kids. Its not just about money but the people we

bring into the system and we want the English-speaking people of the Gaspésie to have their share of that.”

The intention of the current government regarding investment in employment opportunities was also addressed - particularly investment in the area of what are considered language neutral jobs. “We see progress. The unemployment rate has been dropping significantly here. We see all these big companies creating a hub of activity around themselves, bringing small and medium-sized businesses in as their suppliers – such as LM Windpower in Gaspé and the Cimenterie in

Port-Daniel.

We would also like to see a project on the North Shore in the economically challenged. Sainte-Anne-des-Monts area. All this new activity is going to create jobs and jobs have to be accessible to everyone including English speaking people here. I get also from the meeting (with CASA and ESSB) that proficiency in French second language is a significant issue, blocking them (Anglophones) from entering the work force and this has to be addressed at school or at Adult Ed. Gaspé is very, very bilingual. As for the rest (of the Gaspésie) we have a large number of Eng-

lish speaking people, even younger English speaking people who are not speaking French. It says that we have to put some effort into immersion classes and twinning people. “

Cathy Brown, Executive Director for CASA, was satisfied with the meeting, “We were very pleased to have been given the opportunity to host a private meeting with Premier Couillard and Minister Proulx. The dialogue around the English-speaking community was candid and productive. We are confident that our concerns will be taken into account.”

As for the months ahead, Mr. Couillard and his government are already thinking of election time scheduled for the fall of 2018. When asked about what Liberal representation in the region might look like, Mr. Couillard states “We would certainly like our MNA in the Islands Germain Chevarie to be re-elected and I want to have two very strong candidates for both Gaspé and Bonaventure. They are in the process of being identified. Really I believe that we have made significant efforts to develop the region and results are now showing We are there for the economy, health care and education. We don’t have other issues like referendum and all the rest. We are concentrating on people’s needs and I am sure the people here will be well-represented with at least one, if not two, Liberal MNA’s in the next parliament.”



## PUBLIC NOTICE

### ENACTMENT OF BY-LAW

NOTICE is hereby given that the town council, at its ordinary meeting held on May 1st, 2017, has adopted the following By-Laws:

By-Law 1331-17:

« Règlement amendant le règlement 1179-12 décrétant l'adoption d'un programme de revitalisation pour les périmètres d'urbanisation de Rivière-au-Renard et de Gaspé. »

By-Law 1332-17:

« Règlement décrétant l'ouverture de la rue des Ancêtres constituée d'une partie du lot 3 811 090, cadastre du Québec, sur une longueur de 255 mètres. »

NOTICE is also given that this by-law is deposited at the office of the municipality and that those interested may obtain more information during regular office hours.

GIVEN at Gaspé, May 10th, 2017.

Isabelle Vézina  
The Director of legal services and town clerk



## PUBLIC NOTICE

### MINOR EXEMPTION FROM URBANISM BY-LAWS

NOTICE is hereby given that the town council, at an ordinary meeting that will be held on Monday June 5, 2017, at 8 p.m., will consider the request for minor exemption from the zoning By-Law 1156-11, presented by Mr Harold Verreault for a property situated at 27 avenue Gaul.

The nature and consequences of this exemption are the following:

- the nature of the minor exemption is to use the galvanized sheet as an outer covering (roofing) for an insulated private garage whereas this material is prohibited by section 5.5 of the zoning By-Law 1156-11
- the minor exemption will have the consequence to allow the use of galvanized sheet as an outer covering (roofing) for an isolated private garage.

During this meeting, the town council will hear from those wishing to be heard on that request.

GIVEN at Gaspé, May 10th, 2017.

Isabelle Vézina  
The Director of legal services and town clerk





## COAST GUARD:

# Forillon Shipyard could build four more boats

Geneviève Gélinas

**GASPÉ** – The Canadian Coast Guard will order eight more search and rescue boats, in addition to the 12 planned at first. The Forillon Shipyard in Gaspé is confident it will be building a part of those additional boats, as it has received a \$45.8 million contract for six vessels after the first order was placed. However, other shipyards are asking for another call for tenders.

The Forillon Shipyard shared the first contract, granted in 2015, with Hike Metal Products, a shipyard of Wheatley, Ontario, which is also building six boats.

On April 26 in Gaspé, Fisheries and Oceans Minister Dominic LeBlanc announced that there will be eight more boats, for a total of 20 to be constructed.

The contracts of the Gaspé

and Wheatley shipyards include options for each building four more boats.

Mr. LeBlanc doesn't know if Ottawa will use that possibility or if another call for tenders will be launched. The Treasury Board will decide, he answered. "Given the fact that we need to have (the boats) as soon as possible, I asked the Coast Guard to check the options," he added.

The first boat built in Gaspé, the Baie de Plaisance, will be delivered to Cap-aux-Meules, in the Magdalen Islands, in November. "The Coast Guard is extremely satisfied with the work done at Forillon Shipyard," stated the Minister, who praised the "good and old expertise" of the company.

Forillon Shipyard president Robert Côté attended the announcement. He believes that Ottawa will hire his ship-



Photos: G. Gélinas

*A first contract with the Canadian Coast Guard provides work to 50 employees at the Forillon Shipyard in Gaspé. One of the boats built in Gaspé, is the Baie de Plaisance, will be delivered to the Magdalen Islands.*



*Fisheries and Oceans Minister, Dominic LeBlanc announced the construction of eight additional search and rescue lifeboats for the Coast Guard.*

yard to construct at least a portion of the additional boats. "We're very confident about having some. The ongoing contract is going well." The first contract has been keeping 50 employees of the Gaspé shipyard busy since 2016 and will do so until 2019.

The president of Hike Metal Products, Andrew Stanton, also believes that the eight additional boats will be built between his shipyard and Forillon Shipyard. It "doesn't make sense" to start a new call for tenders, he says, because "we're much too far in

design and engineering."

"Another company, Groupe Océan, had submitted its bid for the construction of the first 12 ships and would like to tender again," states Philippe Filion, Public and Corporate Affairs Director.

"We're advocating for another call for tenders. The more competition there is, the more value the government will receive for its money. The more lots it's divided in, the more assurance we have that the expertise and jobs are maintained everywhere in Canada," Mr. Filion adds. Groupe Océan has facilities in

L'Isle-aux-Coudres, Bas-Caraquet and Quebec City.

The Coast Guard boats will be 20-metres long and 6-metres in width. Those self-righting boats will be capable of operating up to 100 nautical miles (160 kilometers) from the shore. They will be used to conduct searches on water, respond to marine distress calls and provide assistance to disabled vessels. They can carry four to six crew members plus up to 14 survivors. They will replace the existing Arun-type boats, which have been in service for an average of 18 years.

An advertisement for IGA featuring a bouquet of pink and yellow tulips. A white tag with the text "Happy Mother's Day" is placed among the flowers. The background is a solid purple color. The IGA logo is prominently displayed in red and white. To the right of the logo is a circular logo for "AIR MILES Travel and More" featuring a white airplane flying over a blue globe. Below the IGA logo, the text "New Richmond, Québec" and the phone number "418-392-4237" are written in white.

Mr. Martin Duguay and his staff want to wish all mothers a very Happy Mother's Day!

**IGA**

AIR MILES  
Travel and More

New Richmond, Québec  
418-392-4237

# A new drinking water supply for \$7.66 million

Geneviève Gélinas

**GASPÉ:** - The boil water advisories will become much less frequent in downtown Gaspé beginning next year. The Town of Gaspé will collect water from groundwater wells rather than from the river. The provincial and federal governments are funding the project through grants paying 83% of the \$7.66 million bill.

The St. John River is currently providing water to the downtown Gaspé area. It is filtered and chlorinated before being sent to the aqueduct. This system doesn't work perfectly in all conditions.

"When the water is cloudy, during spring flood, we have to ask people to boil the water," explains Gaspé mayor Daniel Côté. In 2016, the downtown Gaspé residents had to boil their water for almost 50 days, spread over three periods in April, May and June.

Gaspé will dig at least four groundwater wells on the south side of the St. John River. The water filtered by the rock will be less blurry, even in the spring. The filtration and chlorination system



Photo: G. Gélinas

People living or working in downtown Gaspé are experiencing a 'boil water' advisory almost every spring, including this year.

will be more efficient, and boil water advisories will be far less frequent.

"For ten years, the town has been planning to change the Gaspé drinking water supply system but the federal and provincial funding programs were not generous enough, says Mr. Côté.

"They were talking about the governments funding

50% of the projects. It would have added a large tax burden to our taxpayers but being patient has been profitable. What we're given is financial aid paying 83% of the costs, that is to say that citizens will pay 17% of the bill."

The Quebec portion is \$3.83 million and the Ottawa part reaches \$2.09 million. In theory, the Gaspé taxpayers would pay a \$1.3 million bill, but it could be more if the tenders submit higher prices than expected, because Gaspé will pay the difference.

The call for tenders will be launched in May and the

work could start this spring. Trees have already been cut on the wells' future locations. A total of 4,566 people, living in 2,104 accommodations, as well as all people using services and working in downtown Gaspé are connected to the Gaspé-centre aqueduct.

The town of Gaspé has not yet complied with all the drinking water standards. The villages of Rivière-au-Renard, L'Anse-au-Griffon and L'Anse-à-Valleau also need their systems to be improved.

"In Rivière-au-Renard, a water treatment plant is required. The preliminary esti-

mation shows that it would cost between \$12 million and \$14 million," says the Gaspé mayor.

## Investments also in Bonaventure

Bonaventure is going to build a water tank on Louisbourg Avenue, rebuild the water pipes and the avenue itself, as well as build a sidewalk for persons with reduced mobility to better access the avenue.

The *Aux Quatre Vents School* and the arena are located on Louisbourg Avenue. "All the big infrastructures don't have enough pressure to ensure an adequate fire protection. If there was a failure on the only water pipe, we wouldn't have water any more," explains Bonaventure mayor, Roch Audet.

The construction of a water tank should guarantee a water reserve for 24 to 48 hours and would make Louisbourg avenue "more secure," the mayor says.

For the drinking water part of the project (tank and pipes), Ottawa will contribute \$3.76 million and Québec, \$2.48 million. Bonaventure will pay \$1.2 million for this part of the investment, but a total of \$2.2 million to cover the ineligible expenses.

The occupants of 614 accommodations will benefit from the investment, in addition to the school and arena.

## Gift of Love

A mother's heart is a "Gift of Love" towards her children and family. Every day a mother's heart is filled with joy, happiness and love. Along our beautiful winding Chaleur coastline all mothers in every small town strive for perfection in thoughtfulness and emotions, filled with circumstances unknown. We Gaspésians can make this "Mother's Day" special by taking a moment to rekindle our thoughts of what she said or did during our childhood. Lets fill this "Mother's Day" with kindness and remember as children, we often grasp our own responsibilities in life too early and we become baffled and hurt growing up. Gaspésians, let's continue with our Mother's pride and strength this "Mother's Day". Why not love our mothers of yesterday, today and tomorrow.

Ken Ross  
New Carlisle, Quebec.

## Manoir St-Augustin

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1-866-312-1314

# Recognition of Anglophone volunteers

NEW CARLISLE: - April 23 to 29 marked the 43rd annual week of volunteer action. Celebrations began on April 24 with an afternoon of activities organized by the Bonaventure Volunteer Seniors Committee. Other activities also took place during the week in St-Elzéar, Port-Daniel and St-Simeon.

On April 28, to end the week, The Centre d'action bénévole St-Simeon Port Daniel (CAB) welcomed its English-speaking volunteers to a brunch in recognition of their volunteerism.

Just over twenty volunteers were present and CAB took the opportunity to recognize its new volunteers; Tracy Lapointe and Wayne Guignon; as well as Patrick Smith, who had five years of volunteer service; and Loretta Audit who has been a volunteer for ten years.

The volunteers of the year are Gerard Boissonneault of Bonaventure and Mary Beth Hocquard of New Carlisle who both deliver 'Meals on Wheels' and accompany CAB clients to the CLSC or the hospital. Mary Beth is



Ten-year volunteer Loretta Audit.

also on the New Carlisle Seniors Volunteer Committee. Their involvement is greatly appreciated and we would like to congratulate them once again on being CAB volunteers of the year!

The slogan this year is "Volunteers: Enriching our society" and we are rich with

all these beautiful people with a big heart. Many thanks to our partners and sponsors. A warm thank you to the volunteers for your involvement in all the sectors of the community! You give of your person without counting and we are extremely grateful to you!



five-year volunteer Patrick Smith.



New volunteers Wayne Guignon and Tracy Lapointe.



Getting to know our community organizations

## Hope Town Sports & Recreation Club

The Hope Town Sports & Recreation Club would like to welcome the community to join their volunteer list or become a member! Summer is coming and we are in need of volunteers for our softball games and other events! If you would like more information or are interested in volunteering,

Please Contact : Linda MacWhirter 418-752-2015





Terry Fox Run

The Hope Town Sports & Recreation Club is a bilingual group that provides organized athletic activities geared towards youth in the area. The group also organizes activities for seniors and offers other events for all ages. They are very active in the community and host different events year round.

They also hold events to help raise funds and donate to local bursaries such as the Hayes Bursary. The Hope Town Sports Club is also a big supporter of the Terry Fox Run, which they organize and host the run every September.

A few events include:

- Organized T-Ball
- Activities and Games
- Skating
- Winter Carnival
- Gift Bingos
- Terry Fox Run
- Delivering Cookies to the seniors of Hope Town on Christmas Eve


Canadian Heritage

Patrimoine canadien


# Students from Gaspé take it outside

Wendy Dawson

GASPÉ: – Over the course of the last school year, 12 grade 5 and 6 students from Gaspé Elementary embarked on a project called the Outdoor Adventure Club. The club which was developed, organized and coordinated by students from the Adventure Tourism Program of the Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles aimed to teach participants an appreciation for the outdoor environment.

With the help of two students from Gaspé Polyvalent, the CEGEP students taught members of the club a variety of outdoor skills that included survival techniques, orientation and animal tracking. The initiative not only exposed participants to a variety of land-based learnings but also helped the CEGEP students hone their own methods in adventure tourism. The program took place over eight weeks and CEGEP students were evaluated on their initiative.



Through the Adventure Club project, students gained a greater appreciation for the outdoors.



Mother's Day...  
is on its way!



We would like to take this opportunity to thank all Moms for everything they do for their families.

**Happy Mother's Day!**



208 Gerard D. Levesque Blvd  
New Carlisle, Quebec, G0C 1Z0  
418-752-5995

Mother's Day, Sunday, May 14



The place for great shopping!  
39-2 Montée Sandy Beach  
Gaspé, Qué.  
Tel.: 418-368-5253



**RAILWAY:****▶ Cont'd from page 5**

The management of LM Windpower has repeatedly said over the last months that rail service is needed in Gaspé as soon as possible and before the next three years.

Asked if a return to Gaspé is possible in 2020 or before, Josée Hallée, who manages the railway division of Transports Québec, replied that east of Port Daniel, "the stakes are major." She meant that it will be very difficult. She made that statement during a debriefing period reserved for the regional media, 90 minutes before the announcement made by Premier Couillard.

However, Marie Deschamps, the press secretary of regional minister Sébastien Proulx, replied to the same question, while sitting alongside Ms. Hallée, that "it doesn't mean that we can't" (reach Gaspé in less than three years).

Premier Couillard remained vague about the possible return of a passenger train in the Gaspé Peninsula and when it would happen. He justified his vague answer by pointing out that "it takes an operator", without mentioning Via Rail, a corporation owned by the federal government, over which he has no control.

"It is up to the operators to raise their hand. It (the return of the passenger train) will not add major works", he specified.

**FLOODING:****▶ Cont'd from cover**

the exceptionally strong current of the Grand Cascapedia River, inflated by the heavy rain and snow melting of the previous days.

According to a Transports Québec unidentified source, it will take weeks before traffic is restored on that highway 132 bridge, as working crews must first wait for the water level to decrease, then inspect the problematic pile and deter-

mine a refection operation.

Traffic is deviated towards road 299, then towards the Gérard-D.-Levesque bridges in Cascapedia-St. Jules and MacKay road towards Gesgapegiag. It represents a 12-kilometre detour.

All around the Gaspé Peninsula, about 100 houses were evacuated on May 7 and 8, including 20 in the Saint-Edgar part of New Richmond.

In Sainte-Anne-des-Monts, on the north side, tragedy struck on the afternoon of May

7th when a man in his thirties and a two year-old boy were swept away by the current of the Sainte-Anne River, shortly after seeking refuge on the top of the man's vehicle. A search and rescue team was still trying to find them 24 hours later.

The woman accompanying them was able to save her life by grabbing branches on the side of the river. She was rescued seconds shortly after by witnesses of the tragedy. The accident took place as the couple and the baby were appar-

ently going to help a friend stuck in a forestry road. The vehicle was stuck in the water before it was carried by the current.

In the Grand River area, the water supply was cut on the afternoon of May 7, forcing major reductions in activities in the area's important seafood processing plants, Poisson salé Gaspésien, Lelièvre, Lelièvre et Lemoignan and E. Gagnon et Fils. That third plant is located in Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé.

### The Gaspé Spec Student Employment Opportunity Canada Summer Jobs

The Gaspé Spec newspaper is looking to hire a self-driven, results-oriented and ambitious person to fill the position of **Summer Entertainment Columnist**.

**JOB OVERVIEW**

The role of the Summer Entertainment Columnist is to write a weekly entertainment column. With an emphasis on capturing the unique atmosphere found on the Gaspé during the summer, the columnist will be responsible for executing all steps involved in forming a column.

**KEY RESPONSIBILITIES AND ACCOUNTABILITIES**

- Research, write, edit and layout a minimum of one column per week.
- Promote the column.
- Ensure the column is original, interesting and targeted at Spec readers.
- Ensure a good working relationship between Spec and local organizations/municipalities.
- Represent Spec at local events and activities.
- Report any sales opportunities to the Sales Manager.
- Contribute to the database of photos for the 2018 Tourist Guide.
- Proactively communicate with your team and management.
- Other ad hoc duties as required.
- Comply with Spec's standards and policies.

To achieve these objectives and fulfil your job role, you need to have an aptitude in the following core competencies:

**PERFORMANCE FOCUS**

- Be organized, able to develop a timeline, follow it and meet deadlines.
- Deliver information accurately with a focus on presentation.
- Work well with your team, sharing information and leads.
- Able to follow an expected target and results approach.

**KEY SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**

- Have an aptitude for writing.
- Have a positive attitude, enjoy trivia and current affairs.
- Work well with others.
- Strong English grammar skills.
- Effective communication skills and confident telephone manner.
- Must be able to respect deadlines.

**JOB REQUIREMENTS:**

- Must be between 15 and 30 years of age, registered as a full-time student during the past school year and be registered to return on a full-time basis during the next academic year.
- Must have excellent written English
- Bilingualism is an asset
- Be knowledgeable about happenings on the Gaspé
- Must be able to occasionally work evenings or weekends
- Must have a driver's licence and access to a vehicle.

**LOCATION:** 128 Gerard D. Levesque, New Carlisle

**DURATION:** 8 weeks (start and end dates are flexible)

**SALARY:** \$11.25/hour, 35 hours/week.

Please send your resume to: specs@globetrotter.net or 128 Gerard D. Levesque, New Carlisle, QC, G0C 1Z0. **Please indicate the title of the job for which you are applying. Application deadline is May 22, 4 p.m.**

\*Call 418-752-5400 for further inquiries.

### The Gaspé Spec Student Employment Opportunity Canada Summer Jobs

The Gaspé Spec newspaper is looking to hire a self-driven, results-oriented and ambitious person to fill the position of **"Local Travel" Columnist**.

**JOB OVERVIEW**

The role of the "Local Travel" Columnist is to write a weekly column as if experiencing a certain Gaspésian town for a day. With an emphasis on capturing the atmosphere of those towns, the columnist will be responsible for executing all steps involved in forming a column.

**KEY RESPONSIBILITIES AND ACCOUNTABILITIES**

- Research, write, edit and layout a minimum of one column per week.
- Promote the column.
- Ensure the column is original, interesting and targeted at Spec readers.
- Ensure a good working relationship between Spec and local organizations/municipalities.
- Represent Spec at local events and activities.
- Report any sales opportunities to the Sales Manager.
- Contribute to the database of photos for the 2018 Tourist Guide.
- Proactively communicate with your team and management.
- Other ad hoc duties as required.
- Comply with Spec's standards and policies.

To achieve these objectives and fulfil your job role, you need to have an aptitude in the following core competencies:

**PERFORMANCE FOCUS**

- Be organized, able to develop a timeline, follow it and meet deadlines.
- Deliver information accurately with a focus on presentation.
- Work well with your team, sharing information and leads.
- Able to follow an expected target and results approach.

**KEY SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**

- Have an aptitude for writing.
- Have a positive attitude, interest in the tourism industry and a good knowledge of the geography of the Gaspé.
- Work well with others.
- Strong English grammar skills.
- Effective communication skills and confident telephone manner.
- Must be able to respect deadlines.

**JOB REQUIREMENTS:**

- Must be between 15 and 30 years of age, registered as a full-time student during the past school year and be registered to return on a full-time basis during the next academic year.
- Must have excellent written English
- Bilingualism is an asset
- Be knowledgeable about Gaspésian tourist attractions
- Must be able to occasionally work evenings or weekends
- Must have a driver's licence and access to a vehicle.

**LOCATION:** 128 Gerard D. Levesque, New Carlisle

**DURATION:** 8 weeks (start and end dates are flexible)

**SALARY:** \$11.25/hour, 35 hours/week.

Please send your resume to: specs@globetrotter.net or 128 Gerard D. Levesque, New Carlisle, QC, G0C 1Z0. **Please indicate the title of the job for which you are applying. Application deadline is May 22, 4 p.m.**

\*Call 418-752-5400 for further inquiries.

# The Fast and the Furious

Normand Desjardins

BONAVENTURE: - The *Fast and the Furious* waters made their desperate way downstream overflowing their embankments, eroding land, country roads and carving new paths as it sped past. Nature is powerful and the water element has certainly given the Gaspé coast a lesson or two in the past year.

Going on our routine walks, we were astounded at watching this rather rare natural phenomena and its intensity more so. And so Sunday's activity in Bonaventure was definitely "let's all go to the river and marina to see how dangerously high this water is getting." Certainly not a day to go kayaking downriver.



Halls River area.



## PUBLIC NOTICE

### PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETING

NOTICE is hereby given that the municipal council of "Ville de Gaspé", at its regular meeting held on Monday, May 1, 2017, has adopted by resolution the following draft by-law and that a public consultation meeting will be held at the town hall on Thursday, May 18, 2017, at 4:30 p.m.

#### Draft of by-law 1156-11-27:

The draft of by-law amends the zoning by-law 1156-11, as follows:

- Agrandissant la zone M-240 à même une partie de la zone M-241;
- Modifiant les usages autorisés dans la zone C-330 afin de permettre comme usage conditionnel : l'usage habitation et afin d'assujettir cet usage au Règlement sur les usages conditionnels no. 1172-12;
- En remplaçant le troisième paragraphe et en ajoutant un quatrième paragraphe à l'article 25.1.2 MODIFICATION OU REMPLACEMENT D'UN USAGE DÉROGATOIRE.

The concerned areas (M-240 and M-241), situated in the Gaspé area, and illustrated on the following sketch:



The concerned area (C-330), situated in the Rivière-au-Renard area and illustrated on the following sketch:



During this meeting, the Mayor, or another Council Member designated by him, will explain the draft of by-law and the consequences of their adoption, and will hear the persons and bodies wishing to express their views.

The draft of by-law is available for consultation at the town hall office.

GIVEN at Gaspé, May 10th, 2017.

Isabelle Vézina  
The Director of legal services and town clerk



Story told by MURIEL CLARK  
Interviewed by TANNER WELLMAN

## Old school days

I remember when I was young; I grew up on Vimy Street and attended New Carlisle High School. Every day I had to walk to school. It wasn't a far walk but it seemed longer in a snowstorm.

Some days I thought I would never get to school. The weather was so bad. Only the few students who lived in Hopetown or Paspébiac had a drive to school. Out of town students came to school in a hack, a horsedrawn carriage.

Back when I went to school, the building looked different than it does today. It wasn't as big as it is now. School started at 9 a.m. and when we entered the school, the rule was that all students lined up in the hallway before entering the classroom. No one was allowed to enter the classroom until lining up was complete.

After we settled into our classrooms, every morning, all were marched into the gym for assembly, where we sang "Oh Canada" and "God Save the Queen" and then, after that, we were marched back into our classrooms.

We had no electricity back then and I remember when the sun would go down and it started to get dark in the classroom. The janitor, Mr. Johnny Flowers, would have to bring lanterns to our classrooms and put them on our desks for us to see our work.

We had to finish our work before leaving for the day to go home. If we were not done all of our work, we had to stay at school until it was completed, no matter the weather. I remember lots of times my father had to come in the horse and sleigh to get us at school.

We had good teachers, but we had to listen in class. You didn't get away with much back then. I remember and I will never forget one time when I was in

grade 5. This was the year when we had three grades in one; grades 5 to 7 were combined.

So this one time, Doreen Annett was in grade 7 and she was dating Walter Mitchell who was seated next to me. Doreen wrote him a note and asked me to pass it to him.

Well, the teacher caught me and took the note. The teacher read it out to the whole class. I think Doreen was embarrassed over that but we had a chuckle over it.

Winters were so much colder back then than they are today, and people who lived in town walked to school. There was no such thing as ski doo suits then. We just had coats over our stockings with boots or moccasins.

I remember it was a cold walk in the winter and when we all got to school, the teacher would have us line up on a big register. This register was heated with wood, and we would all stand on there until our legs and feet warmed up, and then we started our school work.

When I was young I had a few jobs. I used to babysit for 25 cents a day. I thought I was rich and in those days I could buy a pencil or a pen nib for a penny, and I could buy the handle to stick the pen nib in for two pennies.

We had an inkwell on the corner of our desk and my parents would buy us a bottle of ink and divide it between my sister and two brothers.

The school bathrooms were also something back then that you don't see anymore. The bathrooms had a box on top of the wall above the toilet and attached to the box was a big chain which is what we pulled to flush the toilet.

I loved school when I was young, and I wouldn't change a single thing!



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# Announcements...



## Obituaries



### DELANEY: Honey Lee MacNaughton

Family and friends of Matapedia, Quebec, and surrounding area were deeply saddened by the death of Honey Lee MacNaughton Delaney which occurred at the Campbellton Regional Hospital on April 12, 2017, at the age of 88 with her loving family at her side.

Honey was born December 20, 1928, the daughter of Hazel (nee Moores) and Lee MacNaughton of Matapedia, Quebec. For 57 years she was the beloved and devoted wife of the late Earl Delaney who passed away on May 17, 2006. She was also predeceased by her ever loving grandson Austin on March 8, 2008.

Honey is survived by her 12 daughters and two sons. Daughters: Hazel (Brian Campbell), Irene (Jimmy Lepoidvin), Dorothy (Robbie Lodge), Maggie (Don Cavers), Mary (Ross Forman), Linda (Cory Unruch), Heather (Wayne Mann), Susan (George Court), Opal (Andre Mill), Ida, Rose and Frances; Sons: Billy (Doreen Vienneau) and Morris (Monique Carrier).

Her greatest pride and joy were her grandchildren which include ten granddaughters: Lori, Kerry, Jenny, Anne, Amanda, Samantha, Jessica, Joanne, Kristal, Sarah and 14 grandsons: Daniel, Robert, John, Richard, Larry, Earl, Morris, Lee, William, Morgan, Dallas, Michael, Curtis, and Brandon. To complete her generation she also had great admiration for all her 25 great-grandchildren. She will also be missed by her many nieces, nephews and friends.

Honey will be sadly missed, never forgotten and forever loved by all who knew her. A family chain is broken and nothing is the same but as God calls us one by one the chain will link again.

A large attendance was observed at Maher's Funeral Chapel in Campbellton, N.B., as an indication of the numerous friends and relatives that Honey enjoyed during her life.

Interment will be at the Matapedia Protestant Cemetery at a later date.

*Though your smile is gone forever,  
And your hand we cannot touch,  
Still we have so many memories,  
Of a mother we loved so much.  
Your memory is our keepsake  
With which we will never part.  
God have you in his keeping,  
We have you in our hearts.*

**OUR RATES:** CARD OF THANKS, BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT, PRAYER, ENGAGEMENT, BIRTHDAY, ANNIVERSARY, MEMORIAL SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT: \$30 (\$35 with picture) up to 20 lines. IN MEMORIAM: \$30 (\$35 with picture) up to 20 lines - \$40 (\$45 with picture) More than 20 lines OBITUARY OR WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT: \$40.00 (\$45.00 with picture) (Max. 300 words) Please send your announcement to: [joan.spec@globetrotter.net](mailto:joan.spec@globetrotter.net) Announcements for this page should be submitted typed or printed and paid in advance. To have your photo returned, please send a stamped self-addressed envelope. SUBMISSIONS FOR THIS PAGE MUST BE IN OUR OFFICE BY THURSDAY.

### RENOUF: Harold (Buddy)

In loving memory of my husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather who passed away March 16th, 2017, at the Centre d'accueil, New Carlisle, at the age of 88.

*If we could have a lifetime wish,  
A dream that would come true,  
We'd pray to God with all our hearts,  
For yesterday and you.  
A thousand words can't bring you back.  
We know because we tried.  
Neither will a thousand tears,  
We know because we cried.  
You left behind our broken hearts.  
We only wanted you.*

Sadly missed and always in our hearts. Wife Leila, sons Donald and Richard, daughter Karen and families.



## In Memory

### ANNETT: Emily (néeTuzo) and Francis,

In loving memory of a dear mother, grandmother, and mother-in-law who passed away May 2, 1998, and a dear father, grandfather and father-in-law who passed away May 14, 1998.

*We seem to see in the soft dim light,  
Faces we love the best;  
Recalling them as the sun's last rays,  
Go down in the far off west.  
We miss them more as time goes on,  
We will never close our hearts.  
Their hearts the truest in all the world,  
Their love the best to recall;  
None on earth can take their place,  
They are still the dearest of all.*

Sadly missed and always remembered by daughter Bonita, son-in-law Daniel and grandchildren, Janna and John.

### GIRARD: Joseph Patrick

September 8, 1957 - May 5, 2016

*Those we love don't go away.  
They walk beside us everyday,  
Unseen, unheard, but always near.  
Still loved, still missed and very dear.*

Lovingly remembered, Mom, Dad and family

### KIROUAC: Laura

In memory of our mother on Mother's Day.

*A mother's memory is more than gold,  
And a mother's worth can never be told,  
A loving mother, good and kind,  
A beautiful memory left behind,  
No longer in our lives to share,  
But in our hearts you are always there.*

Loved always. Della, Andrew and Phyllis

### STARNES: Phil

In loving memory of a dear father, father-in-law and grandfather who passed away 17 long years ago on May 10, 2000.

*There is always a face before us,  
A voice we would like to hear,  
A smile we will always remember,  
Of a father we love so dear.  
Deep in our hearts lies a picture,  
More precious than silver or gold,  
It's a picture of our father,  
Whose memory will never grow old.*

Always loved and deeply missed. Love daughter Valerie, son-in-law Harvey and grandchildren Monica, Darcy and families. Love you dad, oxox.

## Card Of Thanks

The family of the late Harold (Buddy) Renouf would like to thank all relatives, family and friends for their kindness and support, visits to the funeral home, cards, phone calls, flowers, the lovely food and money in our difficult time. Your kindness will not be forgotten.

*Wife Leila and families*

## 95th Birthday



The family and friends of Eric White send their best wishes on his 95th birthday. May you have many more.

## 90th Birthday



This wonderful lady turned 90 on April 11. Flo Boucher celebrated this milestone birthday with her children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and extended family. There was a wonderful party with great food, great music and lots of fun.

*We love you Mom.*

## Card Of Thanks

The family of Honey MacNaughton Delaney would like to express sincere thanks to the doctors, nurses and staff at the Campbellton Regional Hospital for their expert care to the their beloved mother while a patient there periodically for the past two years. The care our mother received was above and beyond our expectations. Thanks so much.

Also deepest appreciation and thanks to friends and neighbours for all thoughtfulness. The acts of kindness and sympathy to the family at this sad time in our lives will always be remembered.

*The Delaney Family*



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# Social notes...

(continued from last week)

On Saturday, April 15, Mrs. Elsie Patterson of Sandy Beach celebrated her 99th birthday with family and friends at Le Bourlingueur Restaurant. Mrs. Elsie likes Chinese food so they all went there for supper. Her son Reid, his wife Martha Roberts, their daughter Jennifer, her husband Clyde Langlois and their two sons Jeffrey and Kent were just a few to start off the party. Mrs. Elsie's son Lynn was home and he, too, was there. Mrs. Elsie's nephew Gary Clark and his wife Nancy Eagle as well as her niece Linda Jean, her nephew Lyall Patterson and his wife Ann Roberts rounded out the lovely get together.

The Reverend Cynthia Patterson was able to come to Gaspé from Quebec City for about 10 days to take the Easter services and to visit those in the community who can't get out for church services. She then returned to Quebec in time to attend the installation of Bishop Bruce Meyers as the 13th Bishop of the Diocese of Quebec. Reverend Cynthia, her husband Dennis Drainville, retired Bishop of Quebec, and her mom Mrs. Marjorie Patterson will be moving back to Barachois the first of June. Reverend Cynthia maintains a full schedule in Quebec and has spent this week on the Magdalen Islands and will be trying to find time to organize their move home. It sounds to me she needs to be triplets to accomplish all this. We wish them all a safe and delightful voyage to home turf.

The choral group led by Karen Briand is busy working on a concert of both country and rock 'n roll music. They meet weekly in the Wakeham School and they have had a few extra rehearsals as the snow storms this winter usually happened on Wednesdays, their practice nights. Things are progressing nicely and as soon as they have a date set in June it will be officially announced. So, keep some time open in your schedules toward the latter part of June – you surely won't be disappointed.

The Pioneer Days Committee has begun meetings to plan for upcoming events. As in past years, Pioneer Days is held in the latter part of July but they also have other activities that are held before then. There will be a bake sale and raffle of two gift baskets on Friday, May 12, at the Carrefour in Gaspé. The bake sale is always a great success and the gift baskets are ideal for Mother's Day on the 14th of May. Notices will be placed in the Coast Roundup and in a number of local shops, GoGaspe, etc. The proceeds of the funds raised at Pioneer Days go toward Camp Fort Haldimand.

My sister Cathy is recuperating from gallbladder surgery. It's hard to tell that she is recuperating as she is always very busy. For a month she is not supposed to lift anything over 10 pounds. I hope taxiing her siblings around doesn't interfere with her recuperation; otherwise we are all in trouble. Her generous nature and natural nursing abilities are ever at the ready for those in need of these services. What can I say? She's quite the girl and we



Sharon Howell

GASPÉ NEWS

really appreciate that.

Glen Alexander just returned from a ten day vacation to visit with family in Ontario. He left Gaspé on Easter Sunday and had a stopover in Ottawa then went on to Trenton where he visited for a few days with his brother Manny and his wife Valerie Mullin. Valerie and Manny moved to Trenton within the last couple of years so this was a great opportunity for them all to explore the sights and sounds of the area. Then he drove to Ajax where he visited with his sister Judy and his other brother Billy. He continued on to Ottawa where he spent the remainder of his time with daughter Kim, grandson Caleb, and Greg. Glen had intended to make this trip last year but he had a very bad accident with the four-wheeler. He has made a remarkable recovery and, as usual, he is back working as hard as ever.

Debbie and Andy Patterson have just returned from their Easter vacation with their son Dale, his partner Kristin, and his two children Drew and Alexis who all live in Vermont. They travelled to Costa Rica for about a week and thoroughly enjoyed their holiday. The weather was wonderful, the water was warm, and the surf was awesome which resulted in Debbie losing her very expensive glasses. Luckily Debbie brought another pair of glasses with her. They sure have some fantastic adventures and Debbie's descriptions of events are great novel material.

We wish a speedy recovery to Doreen Langlois who recently spent some time in hospital in Gaspé and then Quebec City. She will be returning to Gaspé as soon as possible.

We also wish a speedy recovery to Raymond Rehel of Bridgeville. He is a brother to Yvon Rehel of Sandy Beach and to the late Marina Rehel who recently passed away. Raymond had open heart surgery and is now home and recuperating. Get well soon, Mr. Rehel.

We extend our condolences to the family, friends, and relatives of Mr. Tommy Morin who passed away at the Gaspé Hospital on April 9 at the age of 73. Mr. Morin was the son of the late Jean-Baptiste Morin and the late Annie Hipson of Douglstown. Mr. Tommy will be dearly missed by his daughter Tracy; by his sister Alvina and her husband Harvey Annett; and by his two brothers Patrick and Eddy and their families. A funeral will be held at a later date. Rest in Peace, Mr. Tommy.

We extend our condolences to the family, friends, and relatives of Mrs. Carmen Whitty who passed away at the Gaspé Hospital on April 12 at the age of 75. She will be dearly missed by her hus-

band, Adelard and her daughters: Marie along with her husband Michel Smith and family; Guy-laine, who worked at BMR for many years along with her partner Glen Lee Adams and family; and Johanne along with her husband Georges and family. She will also be dearly missed by her sister Huguette and family as well as by her two brothers: Real and Yvon and their families. She and her husband Adelard Cotton used to have the fish store in Sandy Beach near the Lobster Cove area. Mrs. Cotton had not been well for a few years while battling cancer. Rest in peace, Mrs. Cotton.

We extend our condolences to the family, friends and relatives of Mrs. Marina Rehel who passed away at the Gaspé Hospital on April 17 at the age of 77. She was the wife of the late Mr. Ovila Rehel of Bridgeville. She will be dearly missed by her daughters, Reina and Sylvia, along with their families as well as by her son, Guylain, and her numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She will also be dearly missed by her sisters Laurienne and Georgette as well as by her brothers Raymond and Yvon and their families. Rest in peace Mrs. Rehel.

We extend our condolences to the family, friends and relatives of Mr. Andrew Girard of Barachois who passed away at the Gaspé Hospital on April 25 at the age of 90. He was married to the late Mrs. Margaret Vibert. He will be dearly missed by many people but especially by his children Gloria and George and their families and his sister Flora and her family. Rest in peace, Mr. Girard.

Regretfully we have to add one more Gaspesian to the list of those who have passed away. On April 27, Sybil Gaul Fournier ended her battle with cancer. Our deepest sympathies are extended to her family, friends and relatives. Sybil was a great gal and very proud of her Irish heritage and her Douglstown roots. She will be dearly missed by her husband, Guy, as well as her sons Keith and Joey and their families. She will also be dearly missed by her sister Sally and her family. A service will be held at a later date in the summer. Rest in peace, Sybil.

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

Since I included the list of birthdays earlier this month I have found out about a few more. We wish these folks all the best for the coming year.

*Barry Dumaresq – April 10, Wendy Savidant Jean – April 17, Rev. Cynthia Patterson – April 18, Marjorie Bechervaise Fournier – April 22, Gladys Bechervaise Mullin – April 22, Ann and Andrew Gallichan – April 25 (1960), Pamela Rooney – April 25, Ricky Shannon – April 26.*

It looks like that is all that I have to share with you for this week. Should you have some news to share, please feel free to contact me at photo\_ops@hotmail.com. Thank you for your time.

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# On the lighter side



Surprisingly yummy and nutritious sweets

## Bean & Maple Syrup Bars

Ingredients:

- 2 cups (500 mL) all-purpose flour
- 1 cup (250 mL) brown sugar
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) butter, cut into pieces, at room temperature
- 1 1/2 cups (375 mL) white pea beans, soaked and cooked or canned in water; drained and rinsed
- 2/3 cup (150 mL) maple syrup
- 3 eggs
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) brown sugar
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) melted butter
- 1 cup pecans, chopped
- 2 oz. (60 g) semi-sweet chocolate (optional)
- 24 halved pecans (optional)



Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350°F (180°C).
2. In a food processor or mixing bowl, combine flour and sugar. Add butter pieces and pulse or cut in until crumbly. Transfer into a greased 9x13" pan and press evenly into bottom. Set aside.
3. Filling: In a food processor or blender, purée beans and maple syrup. When smooth, add the eggs, sugar, and butter and blend well.
4. Sprinkle chopped pecans evenly over base, then pour filling over top. Bake for 30 minutes or until set in the middle and lightly browned. Cool to room temperature.
5. In a double boiler, melt chocolate over barely simmering water. Drizzle chocolate over bars in a criss-cross pattern. Refrigerate bars until chocolate has set. Cut into triangles and garnish each one with a pecan half.

## What's This Artifact?



Marshall Billingsley

This artifact in the photo is a peculiar thing that some of our readers may be familiar with.

What do you think it is? Can you solve this mystery?

The object is made of metal and the blades have an edge, like they were once used to cut something.

The answer will be in next week's issue of The Gaspé Spec



You can see many more artifacts like this one at:



New Carlisle, Quebec

## SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

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!

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!

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

ANSWER:

## A thought for your day...

"It's better to create something that others criticize, than to create nothing and criticize others"



Source: facebook

## HOROSCOPES

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

Accept that sometimes things will not go your way, Aries. However, you can learn to adapt and find balance in any situation you find yourself in.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

Discovering all of the answers need not be your goal all the time, Taurus. Keep in mind that the journey can sometimes be more rewarding than the destination.

GEMINI – May 22/June 21

Gemini, don't hesitate to let others know how much they mean to you.

Such simple gestures will be appreciated and help you maintain strong relationships with those you love most.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, when in doubt, speak with someone who has more experience than you. It's a big person who can accept help when it's needed, and others will be willing to help.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23

Next week may be a better time to make a big decision, Leo. Coast along for a little bit longer and get a feel for the lay of the land before making your decision.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Coming across memorabilia or old photographs may have you thinking about

those who came before you, Virgo. It is a good week for introspection and reminiscing.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, don't let any opportunity pass you by this week — even those that may seem like they won't yield much reward. Everything is a learning opportunity.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Obsessive thoughts will not make the solution to a problem come any easier. It's better if you clear your head and then maybe the ideas will arrive when you least expect.

adrenaline this week and pave the way for new interests.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, look at yourself in the mirror and tell yourself that you can handle whatever comes your way. You are the only one who can derail your plans.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Someone you wouldn't normally look to for advice provides some invaluable wisdom in the days ahead, Aquarius. Heed this advice and express your gratitude.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, instead of focusing on all of the little details, look at the bigger picture. This will prove to be the inspiration you need to stay motivated.

### FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

MAY 7

Breckin Meyer, Actor (43)

MAY 8

Candace Nelson, Chef (43)

MAY 9

Rosario Dawson, Actress (38)

MAY 10

Bono, Singer (57)

MAY 11

Brad Marchand, Athlete (29)

MAY 12

Malin Akerman, Actress (39)

MAY 13

Debbie Ryan, Actress (24)

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