

## Remarkable ice caves



*Penny MacWhirter*

**NEW RICHMOND:** - On February 18, 17-month-old Noah Major of Hope Town visited the ice caves in New Richmond with his father Christopher Major and mother Diana Wylie. The caves are located off of the Saint Edgar Road, approximately a 45-minute walk on a well packed trail.

Photos: Diana Wylie

### Inside this week



**Damien Arsenault's position as political adviser under investigation**



**Gaspé municipal septic tank service inadequate**



**New Anglican Bishop visits the Gaspé**

### CENSUS:

## Population numbers for Listuguj do not add up

**Gilles Gagné**

**LISTUGUJ:** - Clues are indicating that there is an error in the census evaluation for the population of Listuguj. This time around, the numbers used by the department of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada and the impression of Listuguj Education Centre's Pierre Vicaire are giving weight to census inconsistencies.

While Statistics Canada indicates that the population of Listuguj decreased by 33.5%

between 2011 and 2016, the department of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada works with a population of 2,063 people. This is 822 more people than the census results. That statistic is dated December 2015, approximately six months before the census was carried out.

If the population of Listuguj is approximately 2,063 people, that would represent a gain of 198 people between 2011 and the end of 2015. That situation coincides with the impressions gathered by

SPEC, especially Pierre Vicaire's.

"It is impossible," states Mr. Vicaire when asked if a current population of 1,241 people in Listuguj makes sense.

"We have more births than mortalities in Listuguj. We have 250 pupils at the elementary level and 110 students at the secondary level. It is always increasing. I don't see how we could have lost one-third of our population," says Mr. Vicaire.

Similar to the opinion

made by Listuguj electoral officer, Michel Poirier on February 9, Pierre Vicaire says housing construction is vigorous in the community.

"Somebody has not made the right calculation," he adds, pointing out that he filled out his own census form "in 20 minutes" during the spring of 2016. He is not aware of any potential instructions to the effect of not completing the census form in Listuguj, a situation that has occurred in

**Cont'd on page 11**



Photo: T. Haroun

Percé wharf.

## Will Percé wharf be in operation this summer?

Thierry Haroun

PERCÉ: - Will Percé wharf be open this summer? According to Fisheries and Oceans Canada it might not be. It will depend on the results of studies expected in the coming months. This is an issue of concern for many of the users of the infrastructure, especially boat tour companies.

Percé wharf is actually faced with two issues. First, there's the issue concerning its complete reconstruction. The wharf was built in 1985 and it has reached the end of its life span. The regional director of Small Harbours for Fisheries and Oceans, Bernard Beaudouin, told Spec that he's confident that an amount for its reconstruction will be announced in the next federal budget. However, that amount would be exclusively slated for the reconstruction.

Which brings us to the second issue: Repairing the wharf that was seriously damaged by the record storms in December and January. Mr. Beaudouin confirmed that after the storms, experts from his Ministry briefly assessed the infrastructure, but studies will soon be underway that will fully assess the situation. Also depending on the state of the

wharf, a decision will be made. If major work has to be done, the wharf will most probably be closed until its reconstruction, he pointed out.

### Reactions

Reached by Spec, the spokesperson of the *Bateliers de Percé*, a company that does boat tours around Bonaventure Island, Mona Cahill, explained that if the wharf remains closed to the public, the boats will depart from the wharf in l'Anse-à-Beaufils. "It's really not the ideal situation for us because that means less departures and less clients. We're asking the Ministry to make a decision, as soon as possible, so that we can adapt to the situation. The tour boat season

starts on May 15." The President of the Percé Rock Tourism Office, France Lebreux, is also concerned. "The wharf is at the heart of the economic development of our village. We're asking the Ministry to assess the wharf's state as soon as possible and do the repairs necessary so that its open to the public in May, for the start of the summer season."

We also reached Lucie Boulianne, the spokesperson for Sépaq, a government board that manages Bonaventure Island-Percé Rock National Park. "We are preoccupied by the fact that the wharf may not open and we intend to work very closely with all the partners to find a solution to this issue."



### Call for Tenders

#### SUPPLY SAND, GRAVEL & OTHER MATERIAL

Ville de Gaspé requests tenders to supply sand, gravel, crushed gravel, rock abrasive, top soil, black ground, asphalt and cold patch.

The necessary documents are available at the Town Hall's Public works department during regular office hours situated at 25, rue de l'Hôtel-de-Ville, Gaspé.

Whichever mode chosen, the tenders, to be valid, must be received at Ville de Gaspé's Clerk office, in sealed envelopes, before March 13, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. with the following inscription on the envelop "Soumission – Sable, gravier & autres " to be publicly opened the same day, at the same address, beginning at 2:01 p.m.

Ville de Gaspé does not bind itself to accept the lowest nor any of the tenders received.

Gaspé, February 22, 2017

Isabelle Vézina  
Director of legal services and town clerk



## News briefs

### A multi-million dollar project

Thierry Haroun

GASPÉ: - The Town of Gaspé will go-ahead with a multi-million dollar water infrastructure project. The project of \$8.7 million consists of supplying the downtown area with groundwater stemming around the Rivière-St-Jean. The first draft of the project made in 2012 was valued at \$7.7 million. The new amount reflects the inflation rate over the past five years, explains Mayor Daniel Côté. The good news he adds, is that the government will finance 83% of the project. "It took us time to convince the government, which had set the financing at 50% at the start, but we finally convinced the authorities that our citizens could not pay that amount of money." If everything goes as planned, the work could start this summer.

### Ecocenter in Gaspé should be in operation by the summer

Thierry Haroun

GASPÉ: - The Town of Gaspé will finally have its own Ecocenter. If everything goes as planned, Mayor Daniel Côté says, it should be in operation this summer. "It's an investment of a few hundred-thousand dollars. I don't want to give any precise numbers at this point because I don't want to influence the call for tenders that will be published soon." An Ecocenter is a facility that provides an opportunity to discard materials such as asphalt shingles, dry construction materials (ceramic, melamine, etc.), tires, cardboard, metal items, oils and so forth. The Ecocenter will be located at the current waste site. "In terms of environment, its a good investment," adds the mayor. He also announced that in 2019 a composting service will be available. In the Percé Rock MRC, the Towns of Chandler, Grand River and Percé have an Ecocenter.



### PUBLIC NOTICE ENACTMENT OF BY-LAWS

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given:

- 1.- THAT at a meeting held December 19, 2016, the Town Council has adopted by-law 1171-12-02 amending the by-law "1171-12 règlement relatif au plan d'implantation et d'intégration architecturale 1171-12 , en modifiant l'article 4.2 PROJET D'HÉBERGEMENT D'ENVERGURE ET D'HABITATION MULTIFAMILIALE DE DOUZE (12) LOGEMENTS ET PLUS afin d'enlever du sous-article 4.1 DOMAINE D'APPLICATION les exceptions suivantes : habitations collectives ou habitation à loyer modique, maison pour personnes en difficultés et maison de retraite et orphelinat »;
- 2.- THAT by-law 1171-12-02 has been approved by the council of the regional county municipality La Côte-de-Gaspé, on February 8, 2017;
- 3.- THAT assessments of conformity have been issued by the Secretary-treasurer of the regional county municipality La Côte-de-Gaspé in respect of by-laws 1171-12-02 on February 13, 2017;
- 4.- THAT by-law 1171-12-02 came into force on February 13, 2017, according to the Act respecting land use planning and development;
- 5.- THAT the interested can consult this by-law at the Town clerk's office, at the Town Hall, 25, rue de l'Hôtel-de-Ville, Gaspé, during regular office hours.

GIVEN at Gaspé, February 22, 2017.

Isabelle Vézina  
Director of legal services and town clerk

# Gaspé municipal septic tank service inadequate

Geneviève Gélinas

*With contributions from Jeannie Lelacheur*

GASPÉ: – The Town of Gaspé charges citizens who need to have their septic tank emptied during the winter \$1000. The municipality took responsibility for the emptying service in 2015, arguing that it would be a savings for citizens.

On a December evening, Lynnette McGregor's septic tank started to back up into her basement. The next morning, she called the Town. "They told me that they could be here within 48 to 72 hours and that it would cost \$1,000. I found that a long wait because that's an emergency service," says Ms. McGregor, who also found the price steep.

At that time, Ms. McGregor was walking with crutches due to a hip surgery. "When you don't have water and toilets for 72 hours, things are going wrong."

The York resident called the Gaspé company Plante Vacuum Transport, which still offers the service. "They arrived three hours later, the cost was \$400, but they offered to credit it because my tank was far from being full." A pipe leading to the septic, emptied in 2015, was blocked.

Ms. McGregor thinks that the population should have been told about the cost of the winter pumping, as well as about the limits of the service, when the Town set it up. "\$1,000, that's ridiculous, and that's something they didn't tell us."

In 2015, the Town of Gaspé took control of emptying the septic tanks on its territory, because it could do it at a lower price than the private sector, they explained at the time. Since then, Gaspé residents who are not connected to a sewage system pay \$125 per year. The Town commits to pump their septic tanks every two years, this means that it costs them \$250 per pumping.

However, the normal pumping period is approximately six months, from mid-May to the first snow that stays on the ground, usually in November. During this time, the Grande-Rivière disposal site for septic tank sludge is open, and Gaspé transports the waste there.

## Sludge transported to Rimouski

At first, during the winter of 2015-2016 the Town couldn't



Photo: G. Gélinas

*In December, York resident Lynnette McGregor was told by the Town that to empty her septic tank would cost \$1,000 and would be done in 48 to 72 hours.*

empty septic tanks but this winter, the municipality is providing an emergency process. The municipality now has a tank at its Wakeham dump, which can hold the sludge of two septic tanks. Then the sludge has to be transported to a site authorized by the Environment Ministry which is opened in the winter. Currently, the closest site is in Rimouski, 387 kilometers from Gaspé.

"Cost is determined according to the estimation of the real cost for pumping in winter," argues the municipal council in a resolution adopted last November.

The Town says that it can intervene in a three-hour delay. However, if the winter pumping is done outside of normal working hours or within a 48 hour notice, it will cost \$1,150 instead of \$1,000.

Dozens of people turn to the private sector. Kevin Plante, of Plante Vacuum Transport, says that his crew has pumped between 20 and 25 septic tanks in emergency conditions since the beginning of the winter.

During the warm season, between the spring and fall of 2016, the company emptied about 100 septics, and the same number in 2015, reports Mr. Plante. "A lot of people tell us: we cannot wait until the town

can come (...). Last summer, the Town couldn't do all the pumping it was supposed to do."

Plante Vacuum charges \$350 per emptying operation, summer or winter, says Mr. Plante. Mr. Plante says they can keep the same price in the winter because, "I have a special permit for emergency cases and a site in Gaspé where I can dispose of the sludge," Mr. Plante says.

When a citizen turns to the private sector, the Town credits him or her the \$250 amount paid for the public service. The Municipality also applies this credit in the case of a \$1,000 or \$1,150 emergency emptying.

The Town says that it received only one application this winter, a person who finally asked the private sector. The Town reminds people to regularly clean their pre-filter to avoid emergency emptying.

Another citizen reported to SPEC that the Town came to her home last November. The employees couldn't find the septic tank and later told her it was too late. She was not told what it would cost to have her tank emptied during the winter period.

The Town of Gaspé has about 3,500 homes which aren't connected to a sewage system.

## Hush-hush policy at the Town

Geneviève Gélinas

GASPÉ: – The Town of Gaspé refused to give us an interview about the winter emptying of septic tanks but gave written answers to our questions. However, regarding the regular operation of septic tank emptying, from spring to fall, there is total silence. We couldn't even get written answers. The Town refuses to say how much the operation costs, how many employees and trucks work on it, or even when the public service started to operate.

"The question of the septic tanks in general will be addressed in a press conference at the end of March after the municipal council has seen the overview of the two years of operation of this service," wrote the municipality spokesperson, Jérôme Tardif.

# Police report

One of the longest court cases in the history of the Gaspé Peninsula, the murder of Russell Duguay by a neighbour, Bertram Dow, will come to an end on February 28 with the representations on sentence and the sentencing by Superior Court Judge Serge Francoeur in Quebec City. Bertram Dow entered a plea of guilty to non-premeditated murder on January 9.

Mr. Duguay, a retired teacher, was shot in his home on March 13, 2004, almost 13 years ago. He died of his injuries at the Chandler hospital a few hours later. Bert Dow was highly intoxicated when he shot the victim. He was disarmed outside the house by Byron Duguay.

There are Gaspé Peninsula murder cases that have been in the news for longer periods, including the murders of Sonia Raymond and of James Dubé. Sonia Raymond was killed in July 1996 and the continuance of the case will soon resume at the New Carlisle courthouse. James Dubé was shot in April 1998 and his former wife, Johanne Johnson accused of the murder was found guilty in April 2016 at the Percé courthouse. Johanne Johnson has appealed the verdict.

The case of Bert Dow is different because he was arrested shortly after the murder, and he was charged two days later. In his case, the two appeals to the Quebec Court of Appeal extended the duration of the case immensely.

The first trial was heard in New Carlisle in May and June 2006. He was found guilty of non-premeditated murder by 12 jurors. The attorney of Bert Dow, Mylène Lareau, filed for an appeal based on the instructions given to the jury by Superior Court Judge Richard Grenier. However, the Court of Appeal ordered a second trial for a reason based on the linguistic rights of the accused, that had not been respected during some exchanges in French between defence attorney Lareau, crown prosecutor Gérald Maltais and Judge Grenier. The accused had consented to these exchanges, exchanges that were in fact, translated to the accused personally by the interpreter but the exchanges were not recorded.

The second trial was also held in New Carlisle, in June and July 2010. Again, Bert Dow was found guilty of non-premeditated murder by 12 jurors. He apologized to the Duguay family and affirmed that he would not file for a second appeal, nevertheless, Mylène Lareau and the accused appealed the verdict, putting emphasis on the instructions given to the jury by Superior Court Judge François Huot regarding the state of intoxication of the accused, and the Quebec Court of Appeal ordered a third trial.

The Quebec Superior Court later ordered a change of venue which is why that trial would have been held in Quebec City

Bert Dow, 61, will be sentenced by Judge Francoeur to life imprisonment and the judge will determine the number of years that he must serve before becoming eligible for parole. To date Bert Dow has served more than the minimum of 10 years imposed by the courts in such a case before becoming eligible for parole.

Crown prosecutor René Verret intends "to leave the Parole Board determine the time to be served on the sentence to be imposed on February 28."

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## Commentary

Gilles Gagné

### Trump faces major economic challenge

Among the many challenges awaiting the president of the United States, the task of "making America great again" economically certainly appears as the most difficult, even if Donald Trump probably thinks it might be the easiest, because of his alleged competence in economy.

On paper, the economic situation of the United States appears sound. The official employment rate stands at 4.8% which, in modern terms, equals full employment or close. However, the real employment rate, which should include all the people able to work but that have withdrawn from the job market because of lack of opportunities or discouragement, climbs to 9.4% when the latter factors are taken into account. That is more than double the official rate.

Moreover, 5.8 million Americans are working part time while their first choice would be a full time job. That is not counting millions of people who work for less than \$10 or \$10.50 per hour, the "working poor".

One third of unemployed American men admissible for work have a criminal record. A high proportion of them have committed minor offences. Down south, simple possession of marijuana – far from trafficking and cannabis growing – provides you with a criminal record. Now, trying to find a job with a criminal record in the United States is an unenviable task.

Donald Trump committed to "making America great again" while thinking of the good old days, when the coal industry provided tens of thousands of well-paid job.

Reopening some coal mines in Pennsylvania and Wyoming will not take place overnight. The demand is plummeting, and will likely decrease even more, considering that energy production is essentially a state jurisdiction in "America" and that those states are often required to clean the environmental mess created by burning coal or oil spills, if we include the overall problem linked to hydrocarbon consumption.

The election of Donald Trump was propelled by millions of voters who used to earn high salaries paid to unqualified workers. For the most part, those jobs are gone, probably forever. Mr. President is hardly aware of that new economic situation, or he prefers ignoring it, for electoral purposes.

There is no doubt that Donald Trump is clientele-driven, that he is first trying to please his electoral base instead of acting like a genuine statesman. That probably explains most of his strange, or stupid, or flatly unacceptable, or all of the above, statements he

has made since becoming a politician.

The threat Donald Trump is expressing towards a relatively large proportion of the United States' immigrants does nothing to mobilize the working forces of a country that is heavily relying on cheap labour to make it economically.

Those threats also affect hundreds of thousands of qualified workers, notably the engineers and scientists needed to make places like the Silicon Valley keep their status of economic forces.

All those variables will interact in a context that might send the economy of industrialized countries into a slump, as most economies, for reasons that are rarely easy to understand, work according to cycles of eight to nine years. The last slump, a major one notably due to the subprime crisis, took place at the end of 2008 and beginning of 2009. That is pretty much eight to nine years ago.

There is a growing number of political and economic analysts who think that Donald Trump and his supporting cast, after creating the "alternative facts" expression, will need to set up "alternative economics". Those alternative economics will change how things like the unemployment rate, investments, the trade balance and the national deficit are calculated. They might serve Donald Trump's regime at one point, instead of helping society get an idea of how it really evolves.

With all the challenges ahead, including a possible economic downturn, Mr. Trump might need those "alternative economics" to survive politically. How far are his believers ready to go before getting thoroughly disillusioned?

## Letters to the Editor

In February 1 edition of Spec I responded to Andy Patterson regarding my article "The Year Without a Summer." I neglected to include where I found my information. Here is my reply.

"This column is a rewrite of a column I wrote in 2011, I believe. I first read about this event in Paul Almond's 2011 book, The Survivor.

First to answer where I researched my information for the initial article: It was a topic that I googled. I just typed Gaspé history and that is how I first read about it. I am always looking for obscure or lesser known historical info about the Gaspé. For example this is how I first found out about Gaspeite, which I subsequently wrote a column about. Many readers commented that they had never heard of Gaspeite before the column. I know of a reader who then went and bought his wife a gift of gaspeite jewelry.

I found additional information for my 2017 column by typing in The Year Without a Summer 1816 Gaspé. A number of detailed articles can be found there. I did not get a lot of new information for my column, but it did enrich my knowledge about it.

So if you are interested in reading more, that would be a helpful place to look.

Of particular interest might be the 'Chaleur genealogy' site. Additionally, I just discovered the "The Great Gaspé Famines of 1816 and 1833" by Ken Annett. This contains the actual text of the letter requesting aid for starving Gaspésians."

Diane Skinner Flowers,  
Columnist

### In my own words: Morning Mist

"Morning Mist." Do we wake up mornings feeling a little down, under the weather or little lazy? Yes! But wait a minute, there is sunshine of happiness behind that mist. Keep trucking forward, you will get there. Your Higher Power will make that mist disappear and in no time you will realize that everything will be okay. Let's grow internally not externally. Others' opinions, their behaviours or their responsibilities are theirs not ours. Let others live their own lives and we have enough to take care of our own business. Our days are much happier and pleasant when we get out of that morning mist. We give bits and bites of our hearts to everyone rather than a piece of our mind.

Ken Ross,  
New Carlisle

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# Éric Dubé may run for prefect

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND – The mayor of New Richmond, Éric Dubé, assures us that it is too early for him to decide whether he will run for the position of Bonaventure MRC prefect, considering that the actual prefect, Jean-Guy Poirier, has often said that the current term would be his last.

Mr. Dubé has been mayor of New Richmond since November 2013. He had previously served the equivalent of three terms as a councillor, between 1999 and 2011. He says he will make up his mind only after the next municipal election, on November 5. He intends to run again for the mayoral position.

“I must start by assuring my re-election as mayor of New Richmond! I have not reached that point (the prefect position) in my reflection. I have not thought of it. It is not part of my priorities at the present time,” reacts Mr. Dubé.

He points out that what Jean-Guy Poirier chooses to do could be a factor in his



Photo: G. Gagné

*The mayor of New Richmond, Éric Dubé, will definitely try to get elected for a second term in November. He will decide after if he will run for the Bonaventure MRC prefect position as well.*

eventual decision about submitting his candidacy for the prefect position.

“Jean-Guy (Poirier) announced that he was leaving. Recently, he was not as sure (of his decision),” adds Éric Dubé.

A group is pushing for the election of the prefect by the

whole electorate of the MRC, not just the mayors in a meeting after municipal elections.

“Members of the group are visiting all the municipal councils to spread that word. In New Richmond, Josée Kaltenbach came to inquire about our position. We will decide at the March public

meeting what the Town of Richmond stand is on that issue,” explains Mayor Dubé.

Members of the same group attended the February 15 Bonaventure MRC meeting and claimed the same universal voting system for the prefect election. The MRC council of mayors said that the decision will be made at the April meeting.

Éric Dubé is uncertain about the universal voting system at the MRC level versus the election of the prefect solely by the mayors.

“Neither of the two systems guarantees that you will have a good candidate. Moreover, the system works a bit oddly. New Richmond makes up 30% of the Bonaventure MRC population, but I don’t get 30% of the votes when a decision has to be made. In the Côte-de-Gaspé MRC, the Town of Gaspé makes up 85% of the population. In a way, a mayor like Daniel Côté could practically decide who the prefect would be, if he favors a candidate and asks his population to choose that person. Would a prefect elected by the population go

against the mayor of Gaspé’s decision in a debate? Chandler also makes up a big part of the Percé Rock MRC, like Sainte-Anne-des-Monts in Haute-Gaspésie. This explains in part why the small villages favor the current system, I think,” analyzes Éric Dubé. He likes this work at the Town of New Richmond. “Administering the town only, considering the team we have, takes about two-and-a-half days a week. However, a number of things go along with the position of mayor in New Richmond. I preside over the Regional Park of the Little Cascapédia River, which includes the Pin rouge ski centre, and that is almost as demanding as the Town. I also preside over the Gaspésie Railway Society and I am a board member of the Regional Energy Board, which manages the Gaspé Peninsula community owned wind farms. That justifies a full-time mayoral position. I am about to turn 49. I would work at something else without a full-time salary. I still need a salary,” explains Éric Dubé.

## Will prefect Jean-Guy Poirier retire in 2017?

Gilles Gagné

SAINT-SIMÉON – When asked about the future, Jean-Guy Poirier, the mayor of Saint-Siméon for the last 39 years and the only prefect the MRC of Bonaventure has ever had, answered by saying, “Normally, I would retire in 2017.”

MRCs were created 36 years ago in 1981. So Mr. Poirier has been prefect for 37 years. Two years ago he said that the present term would be his last as a mayor and prefect. However, lately, he has talked less and less about retirement.

“My final decision is not made yet. I’ll have discussions with people and (municipal) councillors. It is looking more like a departure. I added my severance package in my municipal budget,” explains Mr. Poirier.

He was elected on November 30, 1977 as mayor of Saint-Siméon. He started to sit on the “Council of mayors” in 1979, which was the predecessor of the MRC.

Currently he is dealing with a request made by a cer-



Photo: G. Gagné

*In the past Bonaventure MRC prefect, Jean-Guy Poirier has often said that he was about to retire, but he came back for an additional term every time.*

tain number of citizens regarding the implementing of the universal ballot system to have the prefect elected by all the eligible voters in the MRC. “I could have solved that last night,” he said on February 16, the day after the

MRC public meeting. He was referring to the vote by the Bonaventure MRC mayors to determine whether they would accept the universal ballot system as the designated process for electing a prefect. “Two mayors, Lise

Castilloux of Caplan and Éric Dubé of New Richmond, informed us that they have started discussions in their municipalities about the universal ballot system and that they would like to finish that exercise before the vote at the MRC level,” explained Mr. Poirier.

The municipal council of Saint-Alphonse has agreed to push for the universal ballot system at the MRC level. Jean-Guy Poirier still thinks that it won’t be adopted by a majority of mayors. He says he has nothing against a prefect elected through universal ballot but adds that some conditions would have to be changed in order to make it more efficient.

“It doesn’t look good (for that option). Regionally, Avignon has refused and Côte-de-Gaspé has rejected it as well. It takes a full-time prefect to make it work. Otherwise, it is impossible for a part-time prefect to do the job. If you don’t pay the people, only retirees will be in a position to go for it. Under the current system, the prefect elected through universal

ballot doesn’t have more power. The problem is, despite the fact that one (prefect) is elected by the citizens, if a project submitted by a group requires funding, the prefect still has to get consent from the MRC mayors, because there is money involved. The prefect doesn’t owe anything to mayors that have not elected him (or her) but if he doesn’t have additional powers, projects can stall,” explains Mr. Poirier.

“The current system is poorly designed. That is probably why we have only 14 prefects elected through universal ballots out of 87 MRCs in Quebec. Two or three MRCs have wanted to backtrack the universal ballot and the government refused,” he concludes. In the Gaspé Peninsula, two MRCs have the population electing prefects, Percé Rock and Haute-Gaspésie. The MRCs that want to join the universal ballot system have until April 30 to adopt it.



## Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



### Nature's Missiles: Northern Gannets

Cream puffs, pies, and chocolate brownies  
Should be banned from the planet  
They have no real value, no redeeming factor  
We stuff our faces like gannets

- Jack Ellison, 2013

If you have visited Bonaventure Island, Percé you will certainly have seen, heard and smelled northern gannets. In the warmer months, these birds are plentiful at this location, in fact it has the largest gannet colony in North America of around 32,000 nests. The birds migrate in the winter travelling great distances often more than 1000 km. (600 miles) The younger gannets fly further south than the adult birds, sometimes as far as Mexico.

The gannet is easily recognized by appearance and its incredible diving ability, hence the nickname 'Nature's Missile.' They are usually white with dark tips on the wings. At some points in the season its head can be a faint yellow colour. Adults, on average, are 90 cm (35 inches) long, weigh 3 kg (6+ pounds) and have a wingspan of 175 cm (70 inch) wingspan. They are a sizable bird. They are a sea bird and their feathers are waterproof. This feature gives them the advantage of being able to spend long periods of time in the water. Their eyes are a light blue or grey surrounded by a dark circle of skin which gives them a slightly comical expression. Their long beak has a curve at the end which is perfect for spearing fish. Their toes are webbed to assist with swimming and they have a toe that faces backwards. This is perfect for hanging onto the rocky cliffs where they live.

They are termed "Nature's Missiles" because of that afore mentioned diving ability. When they spot fish in the water they might be at a height of up to 20 m. (65 feet) When they do their torpedo dive they are straight with the wings tucked into their body. They can hit the water at speeds up to 100 km per hour. Amazingly they can even swim to a depth of 15 m. (50 feet)

The male gannet builds a nest and then hopes that a female is attracted to him and that nest. Gannet pairs sometimes stay together for life. At times, they go off in different directions after their chick is independent but will meet up 'same time and place' the following year. Normally a pair of gannets produces one egg per mating season.

Bonaventure Island (Île Bonaventure) sits just off the coast of the Gaspé Peninsula, southeast of the village of Percé. In 1971 the Quebec government gained ownership of the island property and homes and evicted the inhabitants, some 35 families. Some of those houses are still standing today. Today it has one of the largest bird sanctuaries, including the huge gannet population, in the world. So, it is a memorable place to visit. From May to October you can take a boat around the island and choose to walk around the island for a few hours. Here you will have opportunities to photograph the handsome northern gannets, nature's missiles, of Bonaventure Island. Oh, a helpful hint. Take some Vicks VapoRub for your nose. The smell of thousands of gannets' droppings is a powerful experience. You will thank me.



Photo: G. Gagné

Damien Arsenault was appointed by minister Jean D'Amour about three weeks after Mr. Arsenault's April 2014 electoral defeat.

## Damien Arsenault's position as political adviser under investigation

Gilles Gagné

CARLETON: – Quebec's Ethics and Deontology Commissioner is investigating the hiring of Damien Arsenault, the former Member of the National Assembly for the riding of Bonaventure, who has been a regional political adviser for the Quebec government since the spring of 2014.

Mr. Arsenault was first hired at the end of April 2014 by Minister Jean D'Amour, when he was the minister responsible for the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands. Mr. Arsenault had just lost the April 14 election.

He kept the position with Minister D'Amour until the cabinet shuffle of January 28, 2016. Sébastien Proulx was appointed minister responsible for the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands and kept Damien Arsenault as regional political adviser.

The Ethics and Deontology Commissioner will also investigate three other cases of defeated Liberal Party candidates that were hired by the Quebec government. They are Isabelle Leblond, ex-candidate in Bertrand, Pierre-Luc Bellerose, a former Berthier candidate, and Laurence Méthot, a former candidate in Duplessis, on the North Shore.

The investigation was initiated after complaints were filed to the Commissioner by Carole Poirier, the Parti québécois whip. The case was worked on for months by Ms. Poirier and her staff.

The current Bonaventure riding Member of the National Assembly, Sylvain Roy, is cautious in his comments be-

cause of the Ethics and Deontology Commissioner's investigation. Mr. Roy lost to Daniel Arsenault in the by-election of December 5, 2011 but later defeated him twice, on September 4, 2012 and on April 14, 2014.

"It looks as if the practice of hiring defeated Members of the National Assembly has become a structured process. Everybody has the right to earn a living but this way of functioning is controversial. We have to refrain from using the decision-making process as a political tool. Here, we have people with political ambitions in contact with public decision-makers. In politics, perceptions are very important. The public can be under the impression that those persons are in a permanent electoral campaign. Where do you draw the line between supporting development and the self-promotion of one's political ambitions? I am not saying that Damien (Arsenault) is doing that but people are drawing judgements based on their perception," analyzes Sylvain Roy.

Damien Arsenault regularly attends the meetings of

the CAR, the *Conférence des administrateurs régionaux* (Conference of regional administrators), a relatively small group of people that has a say in regional decision-making.

"It is hard to believe that an elected person like Gaétan Lelièvre (Member of the National Assembly for Gaspé) cannot attend those meetings and that Damien can," points out Sylvain Roy.

He also says that for a man who is supposed to be "the eyes and ears of the regional minister, we don't see him."

The Ethics and Deontology Commissioner's investigation is held behind closed doors, and not publicly.

If the Commissioner's report identifies shortcomings in the nomination process of political advisers, a report will be released quickly.

The investigation process usually takes several weeks but, occasionally months. The conclusions and the recommendations are sent to the president of the National Assembly, to the person or persons under investigation and the caucus leader of the party involved.



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# Sam Tucker gets noticed on “La Voix” television show

Geneviève Gélinas

GASPÉ: – Musician Sam Tucker really made a name for himself when he appeared on the “La Voix” television show on February 12. He was not a stranger to many Gaspésians, who have been listening to him on local stages for the past few years.

Sam Tucker, 24, likes to say that he grew up in the Robin Hood country, close to the Sherwood Forest. He’s from Retford, a 22,000-inhabitant town in the English East Midlands, 50 kilometers from Nottingham. He has an older sister who is a designer, a mother who is a visual artist and a father who is a semi-retired farmer after having pursued a real estate agent career.

Through his mother, “there was a kind of creativity” in his family, but none of them were musicians. He was more involved in sports when he was young, practicing cricket, rugby, soccer, track and field, as well as squash. One summer when he was 15, “I had nothing to do, the sports season was done and I needed a hobby. My mother told me: take up an instrument.”

Sam chose the guitar and eventually took three years of lessons with a bluesman. He started giving concerts around 18 with a small rock band. He began a four-year bachelor degree in linguistic science and learned French.

During his third year, he had to do a placement as a language assistant with an English second language teacher. “All my friends went to France, but I had already visited France with my parents. I wanted to



Photo: Courtesy of Sam Tucker

*Sam Tucker says that he feels a lot of support from the Gaspé Peninsula since he sang on “La Voix”.*

go to Canada. My teachers, three French women, didn’t like the idea. They weren’t sure that they would understand my French when I would come back.”

Sam chose Canada anyway. How did he end up in Gaspé? “It was chance. We could suggest three preferences, but as you almost never get what you prefer, I just told the agency that they could send me wherever they wanted.” That ended up to be in Gaspé.

For one school year, he assisted adult education teachers in Gaspé and Rivière-au-Renard. He also stayed in Gaspé the following summer.

That’s where he started to think of music as a career. “I started to give shows on weekends at the Brise-Bise (a Gaspé restaurant and bar). I was always very welcome. I also played in other bars. I was well-paid and beer was free. I was making a catalog of my own songs and I started to hide them between the covers I was

and curious. There’s no stress, especially in Gaspé. People take time to have fun, they don’t think only of money or career.”

In 2015 and 2016, he spent time in both Gaspé and England, depending on how long his visas lasted. Since October, he has been living in Montreal with his Gaspesian girlfriend. “There are more bars where I can play, I have the opportunity to get more visibility.”

A Gaspesian who participated in “La Voix” last year, Jonny Arsenaault from Carleton-sur-Mer, encouraged him to do the auditions. He succeeded and on February 12, one could watch him on TV, interpreting “Reckoning” by Asaf Avidan. Sam’s coach at “La Voix” is singer-songwriter Pierre Lapointe, who recruited him after his performance on the show which is the equivalent of The Voice.

Since February 12, “I’ve gotten a lot of support from the

Gaspé. There’s a huge wave of support on social medias, that’s very intense,” he says.

Gaspésians will be able to watch him again on TV later this season, for “The Dual”. He will sing a duet with another member of Lapointe’s team, who will have to choose only one of them to go on with the contest.

Sam doesn’t know yet where he will play music next summer, but he would like to come back to Gaspé, in his favorite spots: the Brise-Bise, the Haldimand Beach and other small beaches up the St. John River.

What do his parents think of his experience, back in England? “They’re so far away, it’s hard for them to understand the situation I’m facing now. I know that they’re proud of me anyway. My mother says that she’s proud of the fact that my sister and me weren’t afraid of pursuing a career in the professions we prefer.”



Story told by EARL GALLON  
Interview by MCKAYLA GALLON

## That’s Not a Bear!

I was raised in the country as they called it back then, which is now Bonaventure East. My parents’ names were Frank and Muriel Gallan. At that time, so many houses didn’t have electricity yet, but we were one of the first in our area to get electricity, and we had a TV. I was maybe 15 at the time.

Where we lived, we shared a driveway with Gerald and Ernie Gallan, two brothers who lived together in their homestead up at the top of the driveway. When we got electricity, Ernie and Gerald would come down every night and watch TV, which became routine for about ten years or so.

Every night at 6 p.m. Gerald and Ernie would come walking down the driveway. They would watch TV with us, shows such as Bonanza, Gunsmoke, and any basic westerns that would come on, and of course the news.

My father had to work in the mornings therefore my parents went to bed around 9:30 p.m. and Ernie and Gerald would sit alone in our livingroom until around 11:00 p.m., then would quietly let themselves out, not making a sound and lock the door behind them. You could set your watch by them; every night at

5:55 p.m. you would see the two of them walking down the driveway towards our house for the evening.

On one of these said nights Ernie and Gerald ran into the house, all out of breath and looking a little frightened. “What’s wrong boys?” my father, Frank asked with a frown.

Now those who knew my father knew he was always cranky. Ernie said, “Uncle Frank, there is a bear up there in the road!” And my father replied “Go sit down boys, there is no bear on the road!”

“Yes there is!” they said. Then my father said in a cranky voice “Earl and Garnet, take them home!” Now Garnett and I were younger than Gerald and Ernie but we left to walk them home.

When we all started walking up the road towards their house, we came across a black bull lying in the drive way. I said “that’s not a bear, it’s a bull!”

It was our neighbour’s huge black bull that must have gotten loose during the evening and decided to sit itself in the driveway! We laughed all the way home about that one!

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# New Anglican Bishop visits the Gaspé Peninsula

Cynthia Dow

SPEC.

At the age of 44, Bruce Myers is one of the youngest Bishops ever to take on the challenge of leading the 52 parishes of the Anglican Diocese of Quebec. Brought up in the United Church, the Bishop became an Anglican when he first worshipped at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Quebec City: "I recognized the Anglican Church as a home I didn't know I was missing," he told

For years a broadcast journalist for CJAD Montreal and CFRB in Toronto, at the age of 27 the Right Rev Myers decided to make the church his vocation, and entered the McGill Theological College in the year 2000. He served as the priest in the Magdalen Islands from 2004-2007. He sees many points of contact between journalism and being a priest: "Seeking the truth for the common good, shining

light on darkness... uncomfortable truths may cause distress, but in the long runs it leads to a better outcome." He notes that there is no more important time for good reporting than in today's world.

During his sermon at the communion service on Sunday, February 19th in Shigawake he spoke movingly of the recent murder of six Muslim worshippers in Ste-Foy and noted the lack of revenge and hatred amongst the mourners at their funeral. "The Imam also described the young gunman as a victim... This runs counter to our society, but Jesus calls us to a dif-

ferent way of life, to love our enemies, to seek the welfare of other people. To live in, but not of this world."

In 2015, then Reverend Myers decided to join a religious group called the Oratory of the Good Shepherd to intensify his commitment to the Church. The group embraces a common rule of life, including celibacy and a specific approach to prayer, spending, and major life decisions. As for his new role, the Coadjutor Bishop will be "welcomed and seated" in a ceremony on April 22nd at 10 AM at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity. He replaces retiring Bishop

Dennis Drainville, who will be feted at a 5 PM reception on Saturday, March 11th at the Morrin Centre in Quebec City.

Meanwhile Bishop Myers is "travelling and listening" with the objective of getting to know the people and communities of his huge Diocese. "It's a vast and very diverse region," he notes, what with urban and rural parishes, young and elderly congregations, some entirely French-speaking, some English-speaking, some indigenous. He will spend next weekend in the Parish of Greater Gaspé.



Chaleur Bay Parish Incumbent Rev Nicholas Forte, left and Coadjutor Bishop Bruce Myers, right, at St. Paul's, Shigawake.



Photo: C. Dow

Josée MacWhirter, member of the United Church, Coadjutor Bishop Bruce Myers, Peter and Dianne Fenton, and Lois Williams at the reception at the Golden Age Club in Port Daniel.

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Photo: Courtesy of Sharon Howell

Dorothy Phillips holding a copy of her latest book.

## Dorothy Phillips publishes another historical book

Sharon Howell

GASPÉ: - Dorothy Phillips recently published her latest book "A History of Peninsula and Farewell Cove". Dorothy devoted the past four years to completing this historical document about twenty-two lots of land in Peninsula and Farewell Cove, which includes from the time of their settlement to their ownership today. There are a few lots which are missing the names of the current owners as it was not possible to contact them without camping out on their doorsteps, and we know that is not something Dorothy would do.

The book contains 237 pages of text and approximately 90 pages of photographs. The information was gathered from many of her relatives who were fond of keeping diaries; from the sharing of family stories, particularly from her own parents and from others who have lived in the area over the years and who have also shared their stories.

There are many interesting stories of the emotional and physical strength of the people of yesteryear, particularly

when some of them walked from Gaspé to Quebec in late March to join the crew on a ship or when they walked from Dalhousie to Peninsula in the winter carrying very heavy items. There is also a story of a gentleman who travelled a great distance in the winter to confirm some sad news about a ship that had been lost.

The picture on the front cover of the book is a photo of a cherished memento that was hand painted on satin by her Great Aunt Flora Ascah who passed away in 1932.

Some of you may already own a copy of her previous publications on the history of the churches, the Miller fam-

ily, and the schools in the area. Some of you may also have known her from when she taught in the Gaspé Bay North School or when you might have been involved with her in some of her work with St. Matthew's Anglican Church and the Guild in Peninsula.

Dorothy is so very appreciative of all the assistance she received throughout the creation of this book. She is now very happy to share it with anyone who would like a copy.

Please contact her at her home number 418-892-5471 to make arrangements to get your copy. You surely won't be disappointed with your purchase.

## RéGIM experiences drop in ridership

Gilles Gagné

factor in our case," adds Antoine Audet.

NEW RICHMOND: - The Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands commuter service, RéGIM, experienced a 10% decrease in the number of people using its services in 2016. However, that drop was the first one since the inception of the Régie intermunicipale de transport de la Gaspésie et des Îles-de-la-Madeleine, in 2010.

The number of users dropped to 80,900 in 2016, from 90,000 in 2015. RéGIM's director general, Antoine Audet points out that the organization was nevertheless able to balance its budget, which was \$2,906,000 in 2016.

"A relatively wide range of factors explain the ridership drop. The reorganization of the Orléans Express service was positive because they added stops, including in the Bay of Chaleur area, and re-established the return trip to Gaspé along the south shore. In 2015, we carried 2,200 people in our shuttles to complement Orléans Express and it dropped to 927 last year. As I said, this is good news because our shuttle service is not our core business," points out Mr. Audet.

"We lost some students because of a funding reduction from the Cegeps in Carleton and Gaspé. There is a loss of 2,000 riders there. The other factors are not major ones. The reduction in the price of gas is one. A litre cost \$1.45 when I joined RéGIM in 2013 and it is now down to \$1.10. Demographics also influence a bit but I don't think it is a major

"We can say that there are cycles in our field. I look at the numbers of the STM (*Société de transport de Montréal*) and I gather that we are doing fairly well. We just couldn't increase our ridership continuously. Sometimes, it goes down and that's what happened in 2016," he states.

"We have adopted a number of measures and adjustments that will eventually take our clientele back up again. We have added a lot of development tools, like the tablets, that will allow us to improve our services, to add flexibility, to modify routes, to cut some and add them where they are needed. We are not implementing a service where you can take the bus every 15 minutes, let's face it, but we are geared towards service improvement," analyzes Antoine Audet.

RéGIM now offers adapted transport in three of the region's six MRCs. The addition of adapted transport in the Bay of Chaleur area added \$500,000 to the yearly budget of the organization, which now stands at \$3.4 million.

RéGIM has nine employees, not including the 15 drivers. They are employed by the transporters that own the buses.

Approximately 25% of the RéGIM's revenue comes from tickets sales, while another chunk of 25% is covered by grants. A commuter gas tax brings in 50% of RéGIM's annual revenue.



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# Desjardins will not be Canada's next astronaut

Gilles Gagné

Questions: Gilles Gagné

Answers: Daniel Desjardins

CARLETON: - During the summer of 2016, Daniel Desjardins originally from the Bay of Chaleur area, entered the competition that will lead to the selection of Canada's next two astronauts. He performed remarkably well in a number of tests, enough to be part of the top 100 candidates.

Initially, 7,993 people started the online application form required by the Canadian Space Agency. Only 3,372 actually sent it in. The following is a question and answer interview with Daniel regarding his journey into fulfilling his life-long dream of becoming an astronaut. Although his attempt did not pan out the way he was hoping for, Mr. Desjardins, at 29 years of age, is young enough to apply again in the future, considering that some astronauts only make it in their forties.

**When did you learn you were no longer part of the qualification process that could have allowed you to become one of Canada's next two astronauts?** I received a letter on January 19 from the Medical Selection Board stating that I did not meet the medical selection criteria established for this recruitment campaign.

**What is your rank in that selection process?** Out of a total of 3,372 initial applicants, I was fortunate to have made it to the top 100 selected to undergo medical testing. Unfortunately, 28 of us were cut, and 72 now remain (to whom I wish the best of luck!).

**Do you know why your candidacy was interrupted at**



Photo: Courtesy of Normand Desjardins

Daniel Desjardins.

**that point?** Yes, the reason was stated in the letter that I received from the Medical Selection Board.

**If it is a health condition, what is it and can it be corrected for another selection process?** It was a sleep-related issue. I'm confident that it can be fully resolved as I am in excellent health otherwise. The next recruitment campaign may occur in 8-10 years. The previous one was in 2009.

**Were you disappointed?** It was certainly disappointing, since, leading up to the final letter, I felt that I was gaining momentum and that I was a competitive candidate. However, it was unbelievably exciting to be within reach of a childhood dream, and I do not regret a single moment.

**Will you try again?** Definitely.

**Will you keep studying in order to achieve that goal?** I will certainly continue to be

passionate about the things I love. Though I hope to re-apply during the next recruitment campaign, I think that it is healthy to have other goals as well and not just this one.

**What did you retain from the experience of the last six months?** Only good can come from pursuing one's own dreams, no matter who you are or where you are from. Attempting something and falling short is certainly not a failure, because everything is in the process, the journey. Regret arises when we don't try - when we don't dream.

**Are you still teaching and what subject?** I am having a lot of fun teaching physics (electricity, optics, and thermodynamics) and space science courses to undergraduate students at the Royal Military College of Canada in Kingston Ontario, and should remain there until summer of 2019.

**When is your next visit to the Gaspé Coast?** I am very much looking forward to my next visit which will be during the summer months when the students are gone. I miss the Coast; the calmness, the friendliness, the beauty. It is and will always be where I call home.

CENSUS:

Cont'd from cover

the past in some Aboriginal communities of Canada.

Mr. Vicaire intends to talk about the situation to band councillor Lorna Sook, who is involved in Listuguj educational affairs. The band council has not reacted yet to the census data.

"I hope that the new data will not effect the programs," says Mr. Vicaire, referring to the possibility that the programs where funding is aligned to the population or an approximate number of users could be decreased.

At the department of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, as of February 20 Julie-Andrée Saint-Pierre was unable, to specify whether the ministry will use its own demographic data or Statistics Canada ones in the determination of the programs' funding. The programs funded by that department were also not specified by Ms. Saint-Pierre.

An upward correction for the Listuguj population number would change the regional demographic portrait. According to Statistics Canada, the population of the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands de-



Photo: G. Gagné

Pierre Vicaire says that it is "impossible" that Listuguj lost one-third of its population between 2011 and 2016.

creased by 4% between 2011 and 2016, if the 3,768 inhabitant-decrease is confirmed.

However, that loss would fall to 3,144 people, or 3.34%, if Listuguj maintained its population between 2011 and 2016. If Listuguj has gained 198 people, as the department of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada suggests, then the regional decrease would stand at 3.13%, or 2,946 people.

Statistics Canada will only revise the Listuguj data if a request comes from the band council.



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- o Supervising the Maintenance workers in their daily duties.

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- o Diploma in business administration or in a related field.
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**Profile of the ideal candidate:**

- o Good interpersonal skills, autonomous, good judgment.
- o Experience working with a native community.
- o Sensitive to the social and cultural dynamics of First Nations communities.
- o Skillful in planning and organization.
- o Experienced in teamwork.

**Hiring priority:** Given to Gesgapegiag Registered Band members followed by other Mi'gmaq followed by other First Nations individuals.

**Remuneration:** Salary will be according to the salary scale in force, depending on experience.

**Job location:** Gesgapegiag

**Date of assumption of duties:** April 2017

All applications will be treated in a confidential manner.

Send your cover letter and resume before Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup> 2017 at 12:00 PM (noon) to:

Jessica Poirier, Human Resources Coordinator E-mail: [jessica.poirier@gesgapegiag.ca](mailto:jessica.poirier@gesgapegiag.ca)



## PUBLIC NOTICE ENACTMENT OF BY-LAW

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given :

1. THAT at a meeting held on November 21, 2016, the Town Council has adopted By-Law 1315-16 «décrétant une dépense d'une somme de 3 500 000 \$ et un emprunt de 3 500 000 \$ pour l'acquisition et l'installation d'un télésiège au centre de ski Mont-Béchervaise».
2. THAT By-Law 1315-16 has been approved by the qualified voters during a register held on December 14, 2016.
3. THAT By-Law 1315-16 have been approved by the Minister of Municipal affairs and Land occupancy, on February 9, 2017.
4. THAT the interested can consult that By-Law at the Clerk's office, at the Town Hall, 25, rue de l'Hôtel-de-Ville, during regular office hours.

GIVEN at Gaspé, February 22, 2017.

Isabelle Vézina,  
Director of legal services and town clerk

# Business & Professional DIRECTORY

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# Announcements...



## Obituaries

### BUTTLE: Michael

On Sunday, December 25, 2016 at the age of 53, Michael left us peacefully and with dignity, surrounded by the love of his family.

Michael was the beloved son of the late Vestie Buttle (1980) and surviving mother Dolly (Mercier) Buttle. He was predeceased by sisters; Alda (1952), Gloria (1980), brothers; Bobby (1998) and Claine (2007). Michael is survived by sister Marilyn and brothers; Jimmy and Adrien.

Michael was a giving and loving father to Crystal and proud grandfather to Taylor and Nathan. He will also be missed by many nieces, nephews and friends.

We are all better people for knowing and loving him. As per Mike's wishes, cremation has taken place. A graveside service will be held at a later date.

### GRANT: Sharon Kathleen

Suddenly on Friday, February 10, 2017 at the Peterborough Regional Health Centre at the age of 67. Sharon Grant (nee Gilker) was the beloved wife of Kevin Grant. Loving mother of Krista

Grant.

Dear sister of Orville (Fern), John, Sheldon (Ellen), Ray, Edwin "Bud" (Viola), Pansy (Jack), Mae, Dorothy "Dot", Jean (Eugene) and the late Sandra (survived by Robbie).

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. Arrangements entrusted to the Benson-Shields Funeral Homes, Millbrook (705-932-5300). In memory of Sharon, donations or condolences may be made at [www.bensonfuneralhomes.com](http://www.bensonfuneralhomes.com).

### MCGEE: Iva (Chatterton)

On January 18, our beloved mother peacefully passed away with her daughter, Sherry and granddaughter, Hope by her side at the Scarborough General Hospital in Toronto.

Iva loved Toronto since moving there several years ago with her family.

She is predeceased by two husbands; Chester Powers and Hastwell McGee and five children; Bessie Powers, Hendrick, Carol-Ann, Dean and Rick McGee.

She is survived by her six children; Brenda (Phil), Sally (Ernie), Donna (Harold), Wendell (Yvonne), Sherry (Garry), Jerry (Barb) and by two sisters; Austa Ross and Eileen Chatterton. Also her grandchildren whom she loved dearly; the

late Lynn McGuire, Hope, Jennifer, Hayley, Amanda, Tonya and Chelsey and her only grandson, Shane and Susie and Sky-Ann. Also great-grandchildren; Darren and Brittany, Noah, Kiarra, Kayson, Ryland and Logan.

Pallbearers who carried mom to her final resting place in Pine Hills Cemetery in Scarborough, were sons; Wendell and Jerry and sons-in-law; Phil, Ernie and Harold and grandson, Shane.

R.I.P, you will never be forgotten.

### Card of Thanks

On behalf of our family and myself, I would like to thank the doctors and nurses at the Maria Hospital for taking such good care of my husband Reginald Sexton, who passed away on December 16, 2016.

We want to thank everyone for making Reggie's funeral as easy as possible for us. Thanks to the clergy, servers, readers, choir, Knights of Columbus and everyone who came and prayed with us.

A special thank you to the Mutual Aid Committee for the lovely lunch.

For the prayers, encouragement, cards, flowers, donations and food, we are truly grateful.

*Joan Sexton & family*

# Social notes...

Diana and Gary Lapointe recently travelled to Ottawa, Ontario to meet their new granddaughter Emily Diane Lapointe born on December 24. Congratulations to proud parents Julie Gallan and Mark Lapointe and big brother Kevin Leclerc.

Ella Beck has returned from Montreal where she spent Christmas with her daughter Kay, Stephen and family. She also visited with daughter Helen and granddaughter Caroline.

The New Carlisle firefighters held a fundraiser bonspiel on Saturday, February 11, at the arena with 12 teams participating. The firefighters are currently raising money to purchase a thermal imaging camera. The team of Dominic Bélanger (Fortunat Horth, Hermon Roussy, and Conrad Aubut) met the team of Devin Gifford in the finals. Devin's team consisted of himself, Wade Gifford, Gérard Blais and Cathy Brown. It was a close game, but the Bélanger team was the victor.

A pancake supper will be held at St. Andrew's Anglican Church on Tuesday, February 28 from 4:30 to 6 p.m.

Shane Murray recently underwent open heart surgery in Florida and is recovering well at home in



**Joan Imhoff**

**NEW CARLISLE NEWS**

Florida. His family and friends wish him a speedy recovery.

Sincere sympathy to the family and friends of the late Margaret Brown Dorais who passed away recently at St. Joseph's Residence in Maria.

Welcome to Kimberly Campbell who has set up her beauty salon in our area in the former La Carolle store. If you are interested in having electrolysis, facials, etc, drop in and make an appointment.

Sincere sympathy to the family and friends of Sharon Gilker, originally of New Carlisle, who passed away suddenly last week in Lake Infield, Ontario.

This year the LLB Curling Bonspiel in New Carlisle will be held on the weekend of March 17. Please start thinking about getting a team together to Curl for the Cause. If you are not a curler and

would like to volunteer at the arena that weekend, please give Cathy Brown a call at 418-752-5995.

If you have any news you want added to this column, please give me a call 418-752-5400 or send me an email: [joan.spec@globetrotter.net](mailto:joan.spec@globetrotter.net). Thanks!



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## CLASSIFIEDS

**FOR SALE:** A 1973 Upright Willis piano including bench. Must be picked up by the buyer at the Fifty Plus Club, 319 rte 299, Cascapedia St. Jules. Donation for article will be greatly accepted. For more information please call Dorothy at 418-392-4686.

**FOR SALE:** Two and half-year-old Morgan/Appaloosa stallion. Call James Martin at 418-392-5655. (F22)

## COAST ROUND-UP

### GASPÉ:

#### Gaspé Cancer Foundation Upcoming Events

**Sunday, February :** The public is asked to please note that the Annual General Meeting of the Gaspé Cancer Foundation will be held at 1 p.m. at the York Community Centre. All citizens of the MRC Côte de Gaspé are invited to attend. Complimentary wine and cheese to follow.

**March:** The Annual Gaspé Cancer Foundation Membership Campaign will officially begin in March. The blue registration form can be found in your March 8 Publi-sac. May we remind you that membership fees are \$12 per year. New members have a 30-day waiting period before being eligible to receive their travel assistance. If you are a member in good standing, are afflicted with cancer and must travel outside the region for treatment, you are eligible for the following travel assistance: Chandler \$40, Maria \$70, Rimouski \$120, Rivière-du-Loup \$150, Quebec \$160, Montreal and Sherbrooke \$220.

### GASPÉ:

#### Potluck Supper

There will be a potluck supper to support the ACW Education Fund of the Diocese of Quebec. The Education Fund provides financial aid to students from the Gaspé Peninsula, Lower North Shore and the Magdalen Islands who leave the area to continue their education. The potluck supper will be held on **Saturday, April 1**, at 5 p.m. at the York River Community Hall. The price is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 5-12 and free for children 4 and under. Come out and support this great cause.

### YORK:

#### York River Senior Citizens Upcoming Events

**Saturday, March 18:** There will be a St. Patrick's Day supper and dance starting at 6 p.m. at the community hall. Entertainment with the senior's band. Cost is \$10. Bar services available. For advance tickets call Tony Patterson at 418-368-3276.

**Saturday, April 8:** The annual general meeting will be held at 4 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion. Punch will be served from 5 to 6 p.m., supper is at 6 p.m. and a dance will follow with live enter-

tainment. The cost is \$20 with a \$10 refund to members. Bar service available. Call Tony Patterson for more information at 418-368-3276.

**Sunday, April 30:** The annual bingo will be held at 1 p.m. at the community hall. Cost is one card for \$3 or 2 cards for \$5.

### DOUGLASTOWN:

#### Community Center Upcoming Events

**Friday, February 24:** Happy Hour starts at 5 p.m. It's a great opportunity to get together with old friends or make new ones. Bring your refreshments and a dish to share. A voluntary contribution would be appreciated.

**Wednesday, March 1:** Travel Talks with Maryse Arsenault - "Haïti: an enriching experience!" at 7:30 p.m. in the conference room. A neat way to travel around the world! Most talks will be in French. Voluntary contribution.

### DOUGLASTOWN:

#### Golden Age Club

**Walking Every Monday:** The Shamrock Golden Age Club invites you to walk with us at 10 a.m. every Monday. Meet at the Community Center and walk 3 to 5 kms in and around Douglastown.

### DOUGLASTOWN:

#### St. Patrick's Day Activities

A mass will be celebrated with our new Bishop Gaetan Proulx on **Saturday, March 18** at the church at 4 p.m. Following mass the St. Patrick's day supper will be held at 5 p.m. in the church basement. This year there is a new menu of either fishcakes or meat pie. Take-outs are available. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children.

### BARACHOIS:

#### Legion Branch 261 Upcoming Events

**Every Monday:** The Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 261 will be having a bingo night at 7 p.m. at the legion. Everyone welcome!

**Saturday, March 11:** Irish stew supper starting at 5 p.m. Price \$10 per person.

**Saturday, March 18:** Irish evening with Nash Stanley starting at 9 p.m. Admission \$5 at the door.

### BARACHOIS:

#### Yoga

Have you made your New Year's fitness resolution? How about learning Yoga? Learn relaxation, breathing, while working on balance and flexibility and helping your heart and circulation. You can drop-in weekly for \$10 per lesson. These bilingual classes are held at 10 a.m. on Saturdays at the Belle Anse School. To reserve a place call Sandy Coombs at 418-645-2874.

### SHIGAWAKE:

#### Cookbooks for sale

The Marcil Branch W.I. has a cookbook that would make a perfect

gift. The cost is \$12 per book and includes wonderful recipes from past and present W.I. members. To purchase a copy, please call 418-752-6564 or pick up at the Spec office.

### SHIGAWAKE:

#### SPDS Governing Board Meetings

**Tuesday, March 28:** There will be a meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the Hope Town Log Cabin.

**Tuesday, May 30:** There will be a meeting at 6:30 p.m. at Shigawake Port-Daniel School.

### SHIGAWAKE:

#### Community Center Upcoming Events

**Saturday, March 11:** St. Patrick's dance at 8 p.m. Cost is \$12 per person.

**Saturday, April 8:** Roast beef or chicken supper from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Cost is \$15 per person. Tickets will be sold in advance.

**Monday, April 17:** Easter bingo.  
**Saturday, May 13:** Mother's Day tea from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. Cost is \$7 per person.

### HOPE TOWN:

#### Hope Baptist Church

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

### HOPE TOWN:

#### Whist Party

The military whist party will take place on **Saturday, March 11** at 8 p.m. at the Optimist Club in St. Godefroi.

### HOPE TOWN:

#### Community Center

**Friday, February 24:** Gift bingo at 7:30 p.m. at the Hope Town community Center.

### PASPEBIAC:

#### Donations Needed

The *Collectif Aliment-Terre* needs donations of plastic dishes with lids, glass jars, jam jars or mason style jars. These containers would be very useful for our collective kitchens. We are also looking for a 6 foot tall freezer in good condition. It would be greatly appreciated because we unfortunately lack space for our frozen products. Do not hesitate to contact us at 752-5010 or visit us at 8-A, Boulevard Gérard-D.-Lévesque East in Paspébiac, in the basement of the Knights of Columbus building, back door.

### NEW CARLISLE:

#### Bible Chapel Services

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

### NEW CARLISLE:

#### Monthly breakfast

The New Carlisle 50+ Club will be holding their monthly breakfast on **Wednesday, March 8** at 9 a.m. at the Heritage Restaurant.

### NEW CARLISLE:

#### Pancake Supper

A pancake supper will be held at St. Andrew's Anglican Church on **Shrove Tuesday, February 28** from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Adults \$7, children 10 and under \$4. Everyone welcome.

### NEW RICHMOND:

#### Friperie Notice

NEW schedule: The friperie Entraide de l'E.P.E. will only open on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. from March 2017 on. We can open from 8 a.m. on request at: 418-392-5161. Summer clothes have arrived for the whole family and in different sizes. There are a lot of free things every week: soccer shoes, skates, skis, dishes, toys, plush boots. 248 boulevard Perron West, New Richmond. For information call 418 392-5161.

### NEW RICHMOND:

#### Fundraiser

The Richmond Manor is the owner of a John Wiseman original that hangs in our living room and we also own all of the prints. As a fundraiser we are selling our prints for just \$50 each. This is an unprecedented bargain. What a wonderful gift it would be to offer someone a symbol of the Gaspé Peninsula. For more information please call Manjula at 418-392-4102.

### NEW RICHMOND:

#### United Church Upcoming Events

**Sunday, April 30:** An after service hotdog luncheon will be held at the church. Cost is \$7 for adults and \$5 for kids under 12.

**Saturday, November 18:** There will be a ham and scalloped potato supper held from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the church. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$6 for children under 12.

### CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

#### 50 + Club

**Every Tuesday:** A prize bingo will be held every Wednesday at 7 p.m. Entry fee is 2 cards for \$5 and \$1 for each additional card.

### CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

#### Cribbage Tournament

The Royal Canadian Legion, branch 172, will be hosting a partners cribbage tournament on **Saturday, February 25** at 1 p.m. at 55 Gal-lager Rd. Cost is \$5 per person. So

bring a partner and come and join us for an afternoon of fun.

### CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

#### Family Day Fundraiser

Once again we will be having our annual family day at the youth center on **Saturday, February 25**. A day filled with activities and games for all ages. It will also be a fundraiser for Zachary Clement, who is in Quebec for a medical problem. All donations will go to help with the financial aspect of his treatment. Registration will begin at 10 p.m. and activities begin at 10:30 p.m. If you would like to volunteer please let us know. At noon, join us at the community center for some homemade soup, sandwiches, hotdogs and dessert which will be on sale until 1 p.m. Come and enjoy your day on the snow hill and have some laughs with our youngsters and also help a gracious young man, Zack. For more info, 418-759-5131.

### GESGAPEGIAC:

#### Community Market

A community market will be held in the Galgosiet building on **Saturday, February 25** from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. To reserve a table for \$5 call the band office (Bonnie Jerome) at 418-759-3441.

### Rotary Calendar Winners

The lucky winners for the weeks of January 1 and 8 are: Gisèle Fournier, Jocelyne Boissonneault, Robert King, Philippe Aubin, Bruno Barriault, Andrew Sexton, Maryse Boudreau, Martin Cormier, Gilles Gagné, Yannick Cormier, Lorraine Robertson, Gaby Genest, Paul-Égide Bourdages and Éric Cormier.

## UNITED CHURCH

### Sunday, February 26

#### Hopetown

12 noon service and  
Annual Meeting

## ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

### Sunday, February 26

#### New Richmond

3 p.m. Holy Eucharist

#### New Carlisle

11 a.m. Holy Eucharist

#### Hopetown

10 a.m. Holy Eucharist

#### Port Daniel

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

#### Gaspe

10 a.m. - Eucharist Service

The Right Rev. Bruce Myers,

Co-adjutor Bishop of the

Diocese of Quebec

#### Malbay

2 p.m. - Eucharist Service

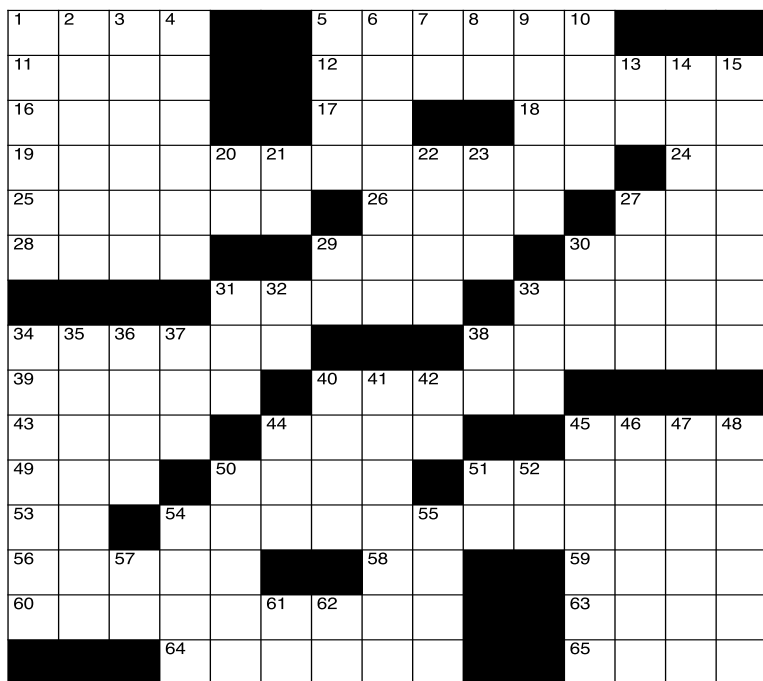
The Right Rev. Bruce Myers,

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## CROSSWORDS

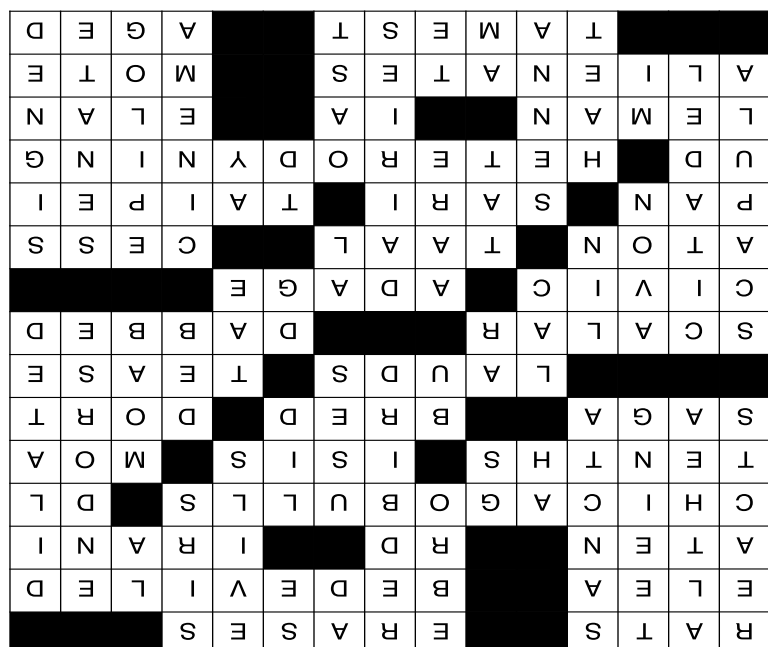


### CLUES ACROSS

1. Subway inhabitants
5. Removes
11. Ancient Greek City
12. Plagued
16. An aspect of the Egyptian Sun god
17. Registered dietician
18. A citizen of Iran
19. Jordan's old team
24. Ballplayers go here when they're hurt
25. Common fractions
26. Terrorist organization
27. Extinct flightless bird of New Zealand
28. Heroic tale
29. Reared
30. One of the first cars
31. Praises highly
33. Make fun of
34. Defines a vector space
38. Blotted
39. Municipal
40. Maxim
43. Russian investment bank
44. Active Filipino volcano
45. Scottish tax
49. Peter \_\_\_
50. South Asian garment for women
51. Taiwan capital
53. University of Dayton
54. Combining radio waves
56. Sweetheart (archaic)
58. Farm state
59. Singer-songwriter Atias
60. Isolates
63. Tiny piece
64. Most domesticated
65. Matured

### CLUES DOWN

1. Responds
2. Trailblazing tennis player \_\_\_ Gibson
3. Driving
4. Holy places
5. Spanish river
6. Cardinal
7. Anno Domini
8. Southeast
9. Ills
10. Gentlemen
13. Lanthanum
14. Support
15. Widened
20. Exclamation of surprise
21. Type of Suzuki motorcycle
22. Advantages
23. Cover
27. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
29. Baylor University
30. Aristocratic young lady
31. Resinous insect secretion
32. Noble gas (abbr.)
33. Combo exercise \_\_\_-bo
34. Shoulder blade
35. Fortress
36. River in England
37. Popular point guard Jeremy
38. Decigram
40. Swiss river
41. Where milk is processed
42. Weird guy Yankovic
44. Tattoo (slang)
45. Place to see movies
46. Conclusive comment
47. Has high legislative powers
48. Initialed
50. Cassia tree
51. Touchdown
52. Egyptian pharaoh
54. Thai district Ban \_\_\_
55. Kiln
57. Michigan
61. Morning
62. Rob Gronkowski is one



## Why do we say

...By Gary Briand

A friend of mine from Campbellton contacted me recently to enquire about "my husband and I." He had read in a magazine an article commemorating Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's ninetieth birthday. The article made allusion to Her Majesty's ability to recover from the occasional faux pas that she had made through her long reign. The article mentioned the controversial use of "my husband and I." My friend wanted to know the details behind the slight kerfuffle.

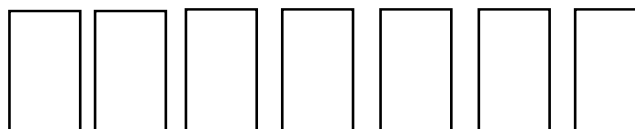
I explained to him that the speech that gave rise to the negative press was given by Queen Elizabeth in her second Christmas message. The incident occurred in New Zealand in 1953. She began by stating "my husband and I left London some three weeks ago." Grammatically correct, the phrase appeared perfectly harmless and respected the convention of placing the speaker in second place after the other person cited. But back home, the British press went on the attack: how dare the Queen place her husband before her! Was she not Queen, the first in rank in the realm? The press suggested, "Prince Philip and I" and "I and my husband." Philip was not, after all, the King! For the next twenty years Elizabeth II began to employ "Philip and I" and "Prince Philip and I" in numerous speeches. Then, in 1972, to celebrate her twenty-fifth wedding anniversary, Elizabeth made a remarkable speech at the London Guildhall where six hundred royals sat for a banquet. The always astute Queen began with the following words:

"I think that everybody really will concede that on this, of all days, I should begin my speech with the words, 'My husband and I.'" It was our remarkable Queen's putdown of the British press.

## WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters in the word to spell something pertaining to vision.

E E N X M I A



Answer: Examine

So true...eh?



## HOROSCOPES

**ARIES** – Mar 21/Apr 20  
Expect some great luck and happiness in the days ahead, Aries. If you plan on taking a trip, travel will most likely be to a warm-climate destination to soak up the sun.

**TAURUS** – Apr 21/May 21  
Taurus, you have a reputation of being a great financial strategist. It's time to look over your personal finances and see where you might be able to tighten the reins here and there.

**GEMINI** – May 22/Jun 21  
A partner in your life has become very vocal lately and is not easy to persuade on any topic, Gemini. You have to find a way to reach this person so the relationship can develop.

**CANCER** – Jun 22/Jul 22  
You have been working very hard, Cancer, and what you need most right now is an escape. This will happen in time, so don't lose hope. You just need to meet a few deadlines.

**LEO** – Jul 23/Aug 23  
Children, involvement in creative projects, or other personal, private life affairs will fill several days, Leo. Serious decisions can be put off for the time being.

**VIRGO** – Aug 24/Sept 22  
Virgo, your home and family are on the top of your mind as you enter the week, Virgo. Perhaps you have party details to oversee or travel arrangements to make.

**LIBRA** – Sept 23/Oct 23  
You always are thinking of others, Libra, but now it's time to think of yourself. Rest if that is what you desire, or plan a move if you need a change of pace.

**SCORPIO** – Oct 24/Nov 22  
Scorpio, this should be a happy week for you with a lot of social interaction among friends. A number of nights out dot your calendar, and you're not apt to miss any.

**SAGITTARIUS** – Nov 23/Dec 21  
As the week opens you could be reassessing everything in your life, from your job to your relationship to your goals. This can be a good time to put any plans into motion, Sagittarius.

**CAPRICORN** – Dec 22/Jan 20  
There is a chance you may be in touch with medical personnel this week, Capricorn. It will not have to do directly to you, but maybe a call for a friend or family member.

**AQUARIUS** – Jan 21/Feb 18  
Aquarius, it's hard to mistake your allure right now. If you are single, others will really notice you this week. If you're attached, you will get more attention from your partner.

**PISCES** – Feb 19/Mar 20  
This could be a memorable month for your career, Pisces. You have the ability to get the attention of some very important people.

### FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- FEBRUARY 19**  
Jeff Kinney, Author (46)
- FEBRUARY 20**  
Justin Verlander, Athlete (34)
- FEBRUARY 21**  
Ellen Page, Actress (30)
- FEBRUARY 22**  
Drew Barrymore, Actress (42)
- FEBRUARY 23**  
Mia Michaels, Choreographer (51)
- FEBRUARY 24**  
Emily Didonato, Model (26)
- FEBRUARY 25**  
Chelsea Handler, Comic (42)

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