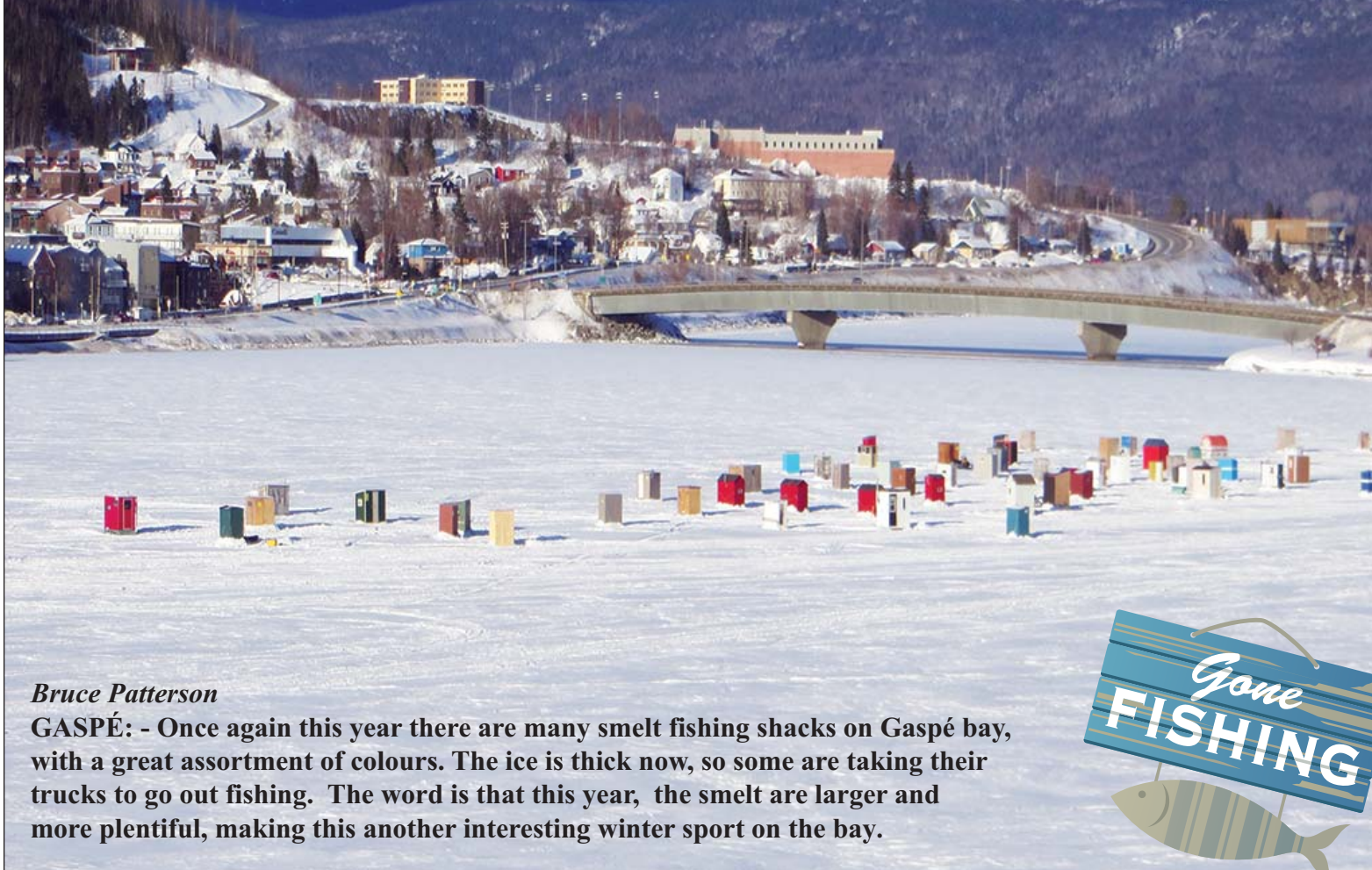


## Ice fishing shanties brighten up Gaspé Bay



*Bruce Patterson*

**GASPÉ:** - Once again this year there are many smelt fishing shacks on Gaspé bay, with a great assortment of colours. The ice is thick now, so some are taking their trucks to go out fishing. The word is that this year, the smelt are larger and more plentiful, making this another interesting winter sport on the bay.



### Inside this week



**The New York Times says, "Go to Canada"**



**Gaspesian population on the decline**

## Psychological distress high among health care professionals

Geneviève **Gélinas**

**GASPÉ:** – Health and social services professionals on the Gaspé Coast show alarming rates of psychological distress, a problem their union believes is linked to Minister Gaétan Barrette's reform.

*L'Alliance du personnel professionnel et technique de la santé et des services sociaux (APTS)* distributed a survey to 120 of its 480 members in the region. The survey was prepared with methodological support from Université Laval.

The respondents were asked how often they feel nervous, desperate, feel like doing nothing or are so depressed that nothing could make them smile. Depending on their answers, they were given an index of psychologi-

cal distress. In 53% of the cases, this index was high or very high.

"We work daily with these workers, we see their exhaustion. However, the scale of psychological distress, is much more than what we had imagined," says Robert Comeau, APTS vice-president.

A proportion of 22% of the respondents missed several days of work over the last twelve months for psychological reasons. "It would be higher if our members didn't fear the pressure of the health (management) offices," states APTS regional spokesperson, Guylaine Michel.

According to APTS, the health offices of the employer discourage the employees from asking for salary insurance benefits. "We see people

who take a leave without pay to keep their heads above the water," adds Ms. Michel.

According to the union, the reorganization of the health network and the cuts are responsible for the problems. The four health and social centers of the Gaspé merged in April 2015. The reorganization created, the *Centre intégré de santé et de services sociaux (CISSS) de la Gaspésie* which faced cutbacks of \$22 million on a \$300 million budget.

On the Gaspé Peninsula, 67% of the respondents said that they're negatively affected by the reorganization of the health network. 57% regret the little influence they have in their work. "The orders come directly from the ministry. The staff cannot use its professional autonomy.

They're torn between what they would like to do and what the employer asks them to do," explains Mrs. Michel.

Among the respondents, 60% say that they lack time to do their work. "Our members want to give the services at the expense of their own health. But the patients will feel the consequences of the staff absences in the waiting delays," states Robert Comeau.

According to the APTS, Minister Gaétan Barrette has to recognize the human cost of reorganizations. "Our people have to be consulted, We are asking for a slowdown of the reform, to take time to measure the impact and we want to be part of the discussions," says Mr. Comeau.

The respondents in the

*Cont'd on page 2* ▶



**Hemodialysis on the Gaspé: kidney patients becoming impatient**

## A wine show in Gaspé

Thierry Haroun

**GASPÉ:** - A unique event will take place this spring in Gaspé. What exactly is it? It's the first ever Wine Show. It will be held on May 17 at Hôtel des Commandants. During the day, the event will be reserved for experts and other professionals in the industry. Beginning at 5 p.m., the event will be open to the public who will have the opportunity to taste the products and talk with local producers. This show won't only exhibit wine, but all sorts of products, such as beer and so forth. "We know that in our region there's an interest in wine, beer and products locally made and processed, so we thought that the timing was right to organize such an event," explains the coordinator, Caroline Smith. "The Wine Show will also be an occasion to promote the many trades of the hotel and restaurant industry," adds Ms. Smith.

## Gaspésians finally hired

Thierry Haroun

**CHANDLER:** - Gaspesian construction workers have finally been hired by Telecon, a Telus sub-contractor, who's currently installing the fibre optic high speed internet network in the Gaspé Peninsula. "We won something after all. Some Gaspésians from Gaspé, Chandler and Grand River have been hired to install the network," confirms, Roberto Blondin, the spokesperson of the 15 Gaspesian construction workers who protested on January 23 in Val-d'Espoir near Percé, to criticize the hiring of workers from outside the region to install the network on the coast. "But our fight is not over because next time around we want to make sure that companies hire at least 50% of local workers. We have the support of Gaspé MNA, Gaétan Lelièvre," he added. The Percé Rock MRC Prefect, Nadia Minassian also supported the workers. "I confirm that four Gaspesian workers have already been hired and two more will be hired soon," Jacynthe Beaulieu, the spokesperson for Telus confirmed to Spec.

### DISTRESS:

▶ *Cont'd from cover*



Photo: G. Gélinas

"We see people who take a leave without pay to keep their heads above water," says, Guylaine Michel, regional spokesperson for L'Alliance du personnel professionnel et technique de la santé et des services sociaux (APTS).

rest of Quebec revealed a psychological condition worse than Gaspésians. In the province, 65% of the respondents showed a high or very high index of psychological distress (53% in the Gaspé). A proportion of 35% missed several days of work for

those reasons (22% in the Gaspé).

The survey was conducted from October 28 to November 29, 2016. The APTS represents, among others, social workers, occupational therapists, psychologists and physiotherapists.

# The New York Times says, "Go to Canada"

Thierry Haroun

**GASPÉ PENINSULA:** - Did you know that The New York Times has ranked Canada at the top of its 2017 list on where to go for your vacation? A ranking that puts a smile on Joëlle Ross' face. She's the executive director of the Gaspésie Regional Tourism Association.

The January 4, Travel Section of the prestigious daily paper is available on the newspaper's website. It consists of 52 places to visit in 2017 and Canada is on the top of that list. This is what it reads: "Canada is huge: the second-largest country by area. It's also a world unto itself, with cosmopolitan cities, barely explored natural wonders and everything in between. This is the year to visit: In honor of the 150th anniversary of its confederation, when the original colonies came together as one country, Canada is rolling out the welcome mat. All of the country's more than 200 national parks and historical sites are offering free admission throughout the year, from the turquoise lakes and mountain peaks of Banff in Alberta to the rolling dunes and red sandstone cliffs of Prince Edward Island along the Atlantic Coast to the newest reserve, the glacial-rounded Mealy Mountains in Labrador. Meanwhile, in Ottawa, a full year of celebration is planned, more events



Photo: T. Haroun

*The Gaspé could benefit from the NYT's article*

will be happening in Montreal, which turns 375. In addition, did we mention the exchange rate? A weak Canadian dollar means American travelers get more for their money. So 2017 offers an ideal time to go north."

### Great news for the Gaspé

It should be noted that on the top 10 list, one will find the Atacama Desert (Chile), Agra (India), Botswana, Dubrovnik (Croatia), Grand Teton National Park (Wyoming), Tijuana (Mexico), Detroit (Michigan) and in tenth place stands the beautiful city of Hamburg in Germany. Now, if the Gaspé Coast is not explicitly mentioned in the article, Joëlle Ross, points out that our region will surely benefit from this printing. "Of course, it's great news. We will certainly

benefit from such a nice article. It's like a free promotion, it's something that our budgets would never be able to pay, that's for sure!", she told Spec over the phone with much enthusiasm.

"What the Gaspé has in particular compared to other regions, is that we are an international destination. We're renowned internationally even if we don't have as many tourists as Montreal, Quebec City or even the Eastern Townships. The reason why there are more and more tourists that come visit our beautiful region is that we've invested in specific markets, we've made good decisions over the years in terms of planning and promotion despite our limited budget," she concluded. To easily find the article, just google: "52 places to go in 2017" and a link will appear.

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Photo: G. Gagné

The type of car used to carry cement powder looks like a grain car. In the case of the New Richmond silo, it will be installed above the tracks instead of beside.

## Gaspésie Railway Society awards silo contract to Fabrication Delta

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND: – The Gaspésie Railway Society has awarded Fabrication Delta the contract to build a silo that would be used when shipping out some of McInnis Cement's output. Fabrication Delta is located next door to the Gaspésie Railway Society office.

Five bidders, including two Gaspesian companies, participated in the call for tenders issued in December. The deadline for that call for tenders was January 20 and the contract was awarded the following week after the Gaspésie Railway Society board meeting.

"The value of the silo contract amounts to \$211,500 plus taxes. The completion is scheduled for the end of April or the beginning of May.

The silo will be placed on our property, next to our New Richmond office, above the track located north of that office," explains Éric Dubé, president of the Gaspésie Railway Society.

The capacity of the silo will be 160 tonnes, slightly less than the capacity of two covered hoppers, the type of

car used to carry cement powder. The cement will be brought to New Richmond by truck from Port Daniel because the railway is dormant east of Caplan. The McInnis Cement five-year contract calls for the loading of 28,000 tonnes of cement annually, the equivalent of about 300 carloads.

Éric Dubé is confident that Transport-Québec, the owner of the railway, will announce relatively soon how much and how the government will spend the money that has been promised for track repairs in the Gaspé Peninsula.

"It remains to be seen what form that investment will take. I don't know what the government is planning. Chances are that some people might be disappointed. It is hard to please everybody.

Personally, I want some progress and we have to regain the use of the tracks east of New Richmond and Caplan," he says.

In January, Sébastien Proulx, the minister responsible for the Gaspé Peninsula, confirmed that an envelope of \$50 million was on the table for track upgrading.

The initial plan was to bring VIA Rail back to New Carlisle.

However, most economic stakeholders on the Gaspé Peninsula want to secure the freight service to the town of Gaspé first, considering the huge possibilities of generating revenues from customers located there, especially LM Wind Power.

They currently send their windmill blades to New Richmond by truck. They are then transferred to rail cars.

According to the study carried out in 2014 by consultant Canarail, it would cost \$86 million to secure the rail line for both passengers and freight between Matapédia and Gaspé for 25 years.

The replacement of the two bridges spanning over the Grand Cascapédia river will be a necessity in the short to medium term because of its bearing capacity.

In the meantime, the Gaspésie Railway Society will handle its third windmill blade train between February 15, the expected arrival of the empty flat cars, and March 4, the scheduled date of departure of that train for Texas.

## Police report

On February 8, at 7:45 p.m. on Route 132 in Newport, three residents of Chandler sustained minor injuries in a car accident. The investigation into the cause of the accident is still ongoing. The jaws of life were required to extricate an occupant out of one of the two vehicles. The three occupants were brought to the Chandler hospital where they received medical attention. Traffic on Route 132 was blocked for about an hour in both directions.

-----

On February 9, the Gesgapegiag Police conducted an operation during which they searched a location in Gesgapegiag and seized a small quantity of marijuana. Three residents aged between 25 and 49 were arrested. One of the three suspects will appear in court shortly and could be charged with possession of marijuana for the purpose of trafficking. The other two suspects were questioned and released.

The investigation was conducted with the assistance of the Aboriginal Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit, the Gaspé Peninsula-Magdalen Islands detachment of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the regional investigation squad of Sûreté du Québec and Listuguj Micmac Community Police. The participating police services teamed up to provide assistance to this community that faces major problems related to drug trafficking. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police stated in a press release that "awareness-raising initiatives will also be implemented in relation to the substance abuse problems that affect this community". People with information on individuals or groups involved in drug trafficking activity can contact the RCMP at 514-939-8300/1-800 771-5401 or any local police department.

-----

On the morning of February 8, a drug bust was carried out in a home situated at 252 Maguire Street in Nouvelle by the Sûreté du Québec major crime squad, assisted by the Avignon MRC police detachment. During the bust, a couple, both aged 46, were arrested, questioned and released. They will be summoned to appear in court at a later date and will likely face charges of drug production and possession of drugs.

Police officers seized 252 shoots of marijuana plants, 21 mature plants and hydroponic greenhouse paraphernalia. "We had been investigating that case since the fall, following information provided by the public," points out Sgt. Claude Doiron, spokesperson for the Sûreté du Québec.



### 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 1314-16 «décrétant un emprunt et une dépense d'une somme de 190 000 \$ pour la réalisation de travaux de réfection de composantes des réseaux d'aqueduc et d'égout».
2. THAT By-Law 1314-16 has been approved by the qualified voters during a register held on December 12, 2016.
3. THAT By-Law 1314-16 have been approved by the Minister of Municipal affairs and Land occupancy, on February 2, 2017.
4. THAT the interested can consult those By-Laws at the Clerk's office, at the Town Hall, 25, rue de l'Hôtel-de-Ville, during regular office hours.

GIVEN at Gaspé, February 15, 2017.

Isabelle Vézina,  
Director of legal services and town clerk



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## Commentary

Gilles Gagné

### A health system pushed to its limits

The February 1 release of the Quebec Ombudsman report pertaining to a 4-month investigation involving 10 hospitals, CLSCs and public seniors residences of the Gaspé Peninsula reveals the characteristics of a health system being pushed to its limit, a "machine" that has gotten far from its clientele and the staff taking care of the people.

The 25-page document mentions patients in long-term care units being washed, for years in their beds, without having a full bath, alarms triggered by patients and not being answered for 15, 20 and sometimes more than 25 minutes, of an "adequate" supply of nursing services marked "by an almost non-existent wiggle room if additional work occurs" in long-term care units.

The report also emphasizes the lack of training for the staff and service organization shortcomings for patients experiencing cognitive problems, such as, Alzheimer's disease. The document identifies a problem criticized by nurses in 2015 and again in 2016 at the *Centre d'accueil* in New Carlisle, where the abolition of a nurse position on the day shift forces the remaining nurse to wake patients up at 5:30 a.m. if she wants to see all of them. There is hardly any doubt that the nurse has to hurry in order to carry out her duties.

The emergency units are also targeted in the report, especially Maria Hospital's. Assessing patients showing up at the emergency takes too long. There is no surveillance in the waiting room. There is a significant delay between the assessment of the patient by a triage nurse and the intervention of a doctor.

So many short-term care beds have been closed in hospitals over recent years that once patients are

assigned to a room, that room is already filled, hence a relatively high number of people lie on stretchers in the corridors. Otherwise, patients are returned home when they shouldn't be and they come back to the hospital a day or two later, in much worse shape, requiring long hospitalization. It becomes a costly spiral due to service cuts that shouldn't have happened in the first place.

The Ombudsman report also judges that the nursing staff doesn't have sufficient training and has to improve its knowledge in palliative care.

Conducted between September and December 2016, the investigation points out that the patients are not in danger but also states that the nursing and auxiliary nursing staff "experience problems fulfilling their deontological (ethical) duties.

The document covers the Gaspé Peninsula situation but we can be sure that health centres located in other regions of Quebec are facing similar challenges. Patients and staff members are being pushed to the limit of what the "system" can take.

The Ombudsman praises the dedication of staff members. There is strange irony in that situation, considering the lack of consideration expressed by health sector administrators, from the minister to a number of regional centres' managers, towards nurses, caregivers and a certain proportion of doctors.

There is justifiable demobilization on the part of numerous staff members. Moreover, how can we stay stoical when we see nurses in their mid-forties, at the peak of their competence, exchanging about how they are planning to take an early retirement package, 10 years too early? Who can blame them, considering the lack of respect they have to face, and given the pressure put on them, as they fear making mistakes due to exhaustion?

The 1996-2000 unjustified cuts of the Lucien Bouchard regime are going back 20 years now but the health system has almost never recovered from those slashes. The Philippe Couillard government should know better.

The system's lack of humanity stems from administrative structures more disconnected than ever from the public, as Health Centres' board members are mainly appointed by the minister himself. That disconnection is unavoidable because Health Minister

Gaétan Barrette chose people who wouldn't challenge him.

The facts contained in the Ombudsman report were known when the new Regional Health Centre, often called CISSS, was created in April 2015. The CISSS only reacted when the Ombudsman started investigating.

Minister Gaétan Barrette will win most debates pertaining to hospitals, CLSCs, seniors residences, debates taking place in a bureaucratic jargon that is a fiery repellent for 95% of the population.

However, Mr. Barrette's reform, if it stays away from human beings, will be a failure. In order to work, every major reform has to count on bureaucracy, nurses and caregivers. In organizational management, people have to be convinced that the new system will work, that they should join the reform instead of resisting to it. The current reform works with threats and table-banging firsts.

That is not counting the terrible disrespect shown towards two generations of aging citizens, the ones who will build the good base for the existing system.

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# Gaspesian population on the decline

Gilles Gagné

NEW CARLISLE: – According to the last census carried out by Statistics Canada, the population of the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands decreased by 4% between 2011 and 2016. This being the largest decrease in all of Quebec's regions. However, some of the census numbers concerning Native communities in the area are raising eyebrows (see other census article).

A loss of 3,768 inhabitants is not the worst decrease ever experienced by the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands. Between 1996 and 2001, which was characterized by the closure of the Gaspesia mill in Chandler and Murdochville's copper mine, both in October 1999, the region experienced a decrease of 7,578 people, or 7.8% of its population.

Statistics Canada analyst, Patrick Charbonneau points out that three main factors explain the region's population decrease; a higher number of mortalities compared to the number of births, the low number of immigrants coming to the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands and migration.

"We still don't have all the details for a complete analysis of the numbers but we can say that an aging population is number 1," notes Mr. Charbonneau.

He emphasizes that two-thirds of the Quebec population growth is attributable to the arrival of immigrants. The newcomers also have a higher birth rate, on the average. Canada's population path follows the same tendency.

Statistics Canada will release more details about the population trends at the beginning of May, says Mr. Charbonneau.

Only seven villages and towns of the Gaspé Peninsula experienced a population increase between 2011-2016; Saint-André-de-Restigouche, Ristigouche South East, Carleton, Maria, Saint-Alphonse, New Carlisle and Mont-Louis, near Sainte-Anne-des-Monts, on the north side of the peninsula (see chart).

In Gaspé, Mayor Daniel Côté was a bit surprised to see that his town, currently propelled by windmill component fabrication, shipbuilding, instrumentation and commercial fisheries, also experienced a population decrease of 3.9%. It went from 15,163 to 14,568 people.

"We didn't realize it. It is true that there was a slight drop until last year, probably, due to the loss of 150 civil servant jobs at the federal and provincial levels. The regional office of Hydro-Québec was also emptied but we don't have access to those numbers. I include the CRÉ in those numbers," points out Mayor Côté, referring to the closure of the *Conférence régionale des élus*. The head office of the CRÉ was located in Gaspé.

Daniel Côté points out that "the Quebec government cut \$6 million yearly from the regional development budget. We cannot work on development under those conditions."

The Côte-de-Gaspé MRC experienced the most significant population loss in the Gaspé Peninsula, a 7% decrease that was mainly due to the 14.8% decrease in the number of Murdochville in-

habitants, 9.7% in Cloridorme, 7% in Grande-Vallée and 4.5% in Petite-Vallée.

The Haute-Gaspésie MRC lost 6.4% of its population, compared to 5.1% in Avignon, 3.9% in Rocher-Percé and 1.9% in Bonaventure.

Daniel Côté says that both levels of government should support "urgently devitalized municipalities."

However, he refuses to be defeatist about the situation of the town of Gaspé. He ac-

knowledges that their situation is different.

"We are currently not facing a challenge of development; we are facing a (manpower) recruitment challenge. We have 200 jobs available to fill in Gaspé in 2017. I met the three directors of Gaspé's main fish processing plants, Marinard, Crevette du nord atlantique and Pêcheries gaspésiennes and they apprehend recruiting difficulties. Since the summer

and until 2018, LM Wind Power has and will create 265 jobs (...) We must make the region more attractive, give some vigor back to the Sustainable settlement strategy, put emphasis on the quality of life and solve our transportation problems, the train, the plane and the bus. Considering all the development options for Gaspé right now, I almost can't wait to see the 2021 census numbers!", says Daniel Côté.

## CENSUS CHART

| TOWN                    | 2011   | 2016   | DIFFERENCE (%) |
|-------------------------|--------|--------|----------------|
| Matapedia:              | 664    | 645    | -2.9           |
| Ristigouche South East: | 167    | 171    | 2.4            |
| Listuguj:               | 1,865  | 1,241  | -33.5          |
| Pointe-à-la-Croix:      | 1,457  | 1,371  | -4.5           |
| Escuminac:              | 588    | 544    | -7.5           |
| Nouvelle:               | 1,689  | 1,659  | -1.8           |
| Carleton:               | 3,991  | 4,073  | 2.1            |
| Maria:                  | 2,586  | 2,615  | 3.1            |
| Gesgapegiag:            | 688    | 654    | -5.1           |
| Cascapedia-St. Jules:   | 741    | 730    | -1.5           |
| New Richmond:           | 3,810  | 3,706  | -2.7           |
| Bonaventure:            | 2,775  | 2,706  | -2.5           |
| New Carlisle:           | 1,358  | 1,388  | 2.2            |
| Paspebiac:              | 3,198  | 3,164  | -1.1           |
| Hope:                   | 630    | 588    | -9.8           |
| Hope Town:              | 344    | 339    | -1.5           |
| Shigawake:              | 338    | 292    | -13.6          |
| Port Daniel-Gascons:    | 2,453  | 2,210  | -9.9           |
| Chandler:               | 7,703  | 7,546  | -2.0           |
| Grand River:            | 3,456  | 3,408  | -1.4           |
| Percé:                  | 3,312  | 3,103  | -6.3           |
| Gaspé:                  | 15,163 | 14,568 | -3.9           |
| Murdochville:           | 764    | 651    | -14.8          |

## Did the Listuguj population really decrease by 33.5%

Gilles Gagné

LISTUGUJ: - According to Statistics Canada, the population in Listuguj decreased by 33.5% between 2011 and 2016. Does this make any sense when typically Native communities throughout Canada are experiencing a demographic boom,

The Statistics Canada data reveals that the population of Listuguj went from 1,865 people in 2011 to 1,241 in 2016, a decrease of 624 people. In 2011, the census had established that the population of Listuguj had climbed from

1,475 to 1850. The 25.4% increase was not a shock to anyone.

Statistics Canada analyst, Patrick Charbonneau says that his team "trusts its numbers." His colleague Jonathan Chagnon commented that "certain reservations' administrations don't want the members to fill out the census questionnaire," but this was not the case in Listuguj.

Electoral officer, Michel Poirier would have been very surprised to see a 33.5% population drop in Listuguj since 2011 without noticing it. He has been an electoral officer

there for more than 20 years.

A poll was conducted in Listuguj on June 4, 2016. "The list of members includes 4,000, including children. Generally, the proportion of members living on and off reserve is 50-50 (half-and-half). I wouldn't have been surprised to see an increase of 624 people but 624 less is impossible. I don't know how they calculate," states Mr. Poirier.

"They are opening new streets, we see new houses everywhere. It is not a sign of a decline," adds the electoral officer.

He thinks that approximately 2,000 people live in Listuguj, adults and children, which is considerably more than the 1,241 people coming from census data.

The age structure of the Micmac community is also very different than the age pyramid of the other inhabitants of the Gaspé Peninsula. The median age in Listuguj, the age that separates the older half of the population from the youngest half, is under 30 years of age, compared to 50 years in the rest of the region.

In Gesgapegiag, the population has also decreased ap-

parently, from 688 to 654 people, a 5.1% drop. That would also be a surprising situation. In 2012, the Gesgapegiag data was not available at the same time as the other communities.

The Listuguj statistics were slightly adjusted between the release of the 2011 census numbers and 2017. The population was 1,850 after the 2011 census but 1,865 people is now used as the 2011 number.

The demographic portrait of the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands would

Cont'd on page 10

# 2016 was a record year for commercial fisheries

Gilles Gagné

PASPEBIAC: – Commercial fishermen on the Gaspé Peninsula experienced another record year in 2016, reaching overall record revenues for the third straight year. Those revenues amounted to \$141.2 million, a preliminary amount that surpasses the total of 2015, which was \$127 million.

It is also significantly better than the 2014 total, which was \$103.3 million, also a record at the time. Excellent shellfish landings can mainly explain the 2016 situation, like in 2014 and 2015.

Lobster landings reached a whopping \$32.9 million, almost double the 2014 total of \$17.9 million and clearly above the 2015 showing of \$25.9 million. The three years represent records for the Gaspé Peninsula and they come from record volumes of 1,794 metric tonnes in 2014, followed by 2,123 metric tonnes in 2015 and 2,287 metric tonnes last year.

Shrimp landings decreased slightly in 2016, to 16,382 metric tonnes compared to 18,075 and 18,211 metric tonnes in 2014 and 2015 respectively, but the revenues still reached \$47 million in 2016 because the average price climbed to new levels. The revenues linked to the Gaspé Peninsula shrimp landings in 2014 and 2015 were \$32.9 million and a record of \$48.73 million respectively.

Snow crab landings generated revenues of \$44.9 million in 2016, a tad below the mark of \$48.7 million in 2015. Those landings pro-



Photo: G. Gagné

*Commercial fisheries experienced another banner year in 2016.*

vided \$36.6 million to the Gaspé Peninsula crab fishermen in 2014.

The landings of halibut, a species that was quite secondary until 2010 or so, have become a significant side activity for a number of fishermen, mainly ground fish and lobster permit holders. In 2016, halibut catches generated \$3.75 million for the Gaspé Peninsula fishermen, compared to \$2.97 million in 2015 and \$2.65 million in 2014. Those numbers are records if the last three decades are taken into ac-

count.

Turbot catches are also high in volume and revenues these days. They amounted to \$8 million in 2016, compared

to \$7.3 million in 2015 and \$8.1 million in 2014. The 2014 total could be surpassed once the 2016 numbers become official, if upward adjustments are made. Most turbot catches are made by fishermen living on the north side of the Gaspé Peninsula.

Herring catches were also significantly high, value wise, in 2016, as they amounted to \$1.6 million, a bit less than in 2015, at \$1.65 million, but more than the \$1.4 million of 2014.

Those statistics are compiled by the economics service of the federal department of Fisheries and Oceans.

The two other Quebec areas characterized by important commercial fisheries also experienced good results. The Magdalen Islands landings totalled \$55.2 million in value in 2016, while they attained \$61.2 million on the North Shore, where snow crab landings represent about 80% of that total.

Consequently, Quebec's total landings reached another all-time best in 2016, with a value of \$258.6 million. It broke the \$238.5 million record attained in 2015. That record had also broken the 2014 peak of \$204.5 million.

While it is a bit early to

draw perspective on the price of lobster for 2017, at the beginning of November processing plant owner Raymond Sheehan was already expecting, a high snow crab price for this year. He was basing his analysis on plummeting quotas in Alaska, the big purveyor of snow crab in the United States.

"The snow crab quota in Alaska has gone down 68% over the last two years," he said, including in his number the current winter fishing season in the uppermost part of the United States.

"I wouldn't be surprised to see record prices and we might see very high quotas in the south part of the gulf of Saint Lawrence," added Mr. Sheehan, owner of E. Gagnon et Fils, the biggest seafood processing firm in Quebec.

The Alaska quota fell by 40% in 2015-2016 and decreased again by close to 50% in 2016-2017, for a combined loss of 68%.

Shrimp quotas should decrease in 2016 and it is a bit early to predict a price level. Patrice Element, who negotiate the prices given to shrimp fishermen in the Grand Gaspé area, was confident in December to have a fair price in 2017.



Story told by MURIEL CLARK  
Interviewed by TANNER WELLMAN

## Boots on the Radio

In my younger days I had a good singing voice and everyone would say to me "Muriel, why don't you get a program and sing on the radio?" So off I went to the radio station to see Dr. Houde and told him I would like to sing on the radio. He said "You would? Sure you can! I will make room for you, how about tomorrow morning at 9 a.m.?" I thanked him and told him my brother would play the guitar!

So my brother and I started singing on the radio. Soon after Harold Clark stepped in with his accordion and then

Francis Flowers who yodeled. Our program was called "Boots and her Buddies".

We sang on the radio every Saturday for a couple of years and we were sponsored by Molson. So every Saturday, for one hour, Boots and her buddies sang all the old western songs.

Then one day I went to Dr. Houde and told him I was leaving to join the army! I went and took my medical and then they called me. There were 25-30 women in my regiment and I was in charge of them all. It's amazing how fast life changes from one day to the next!

## To keep up with everything happening on the Coast

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## Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



### Full Snow Moon

On Friday evening, February 10, 2017 if you had viewed the sky and that sky was clear you would have seen a full moon. The Full Snow Moon to be more specific. To add to this there was a partial lunar eclipse and even a comet which passed close to the Earth. The heavens are full of spectacular beauty and wonders. Thank you Mother Nature.

February's full moon is traditionally called Full Snow Moon, for obvious reasons, but is also called Hunger Moon by some indigenous people. This is because the hunting and food is not as bountiful in February. Makes sense.

A full moon occurs when Earth is directly between the Sun and the Moon. The Moon is illuminated by the Sun and the far side of it is not. The full moons of each month have special names which reflect the time of year. A variety of names can be found but these are common ones with examples of indigenous names in parentheses.

- January - Wolf Moon (Black Smoke Moon)
- February - Snow Moon (Bare Spots on the Ground Moon)
- March - Sap Moon (Wind Moon)
- April - Fish Moon (Goose Eggs Moon)
- May - Milk Moon (Green Grass Moon)
- June - Strawberry Moon (Strawberry Moon)
- July - Hay Moon (Hot Sun Moon)
- August - Corn Moon (Harvest Moon)
- September - Harvest Moon (Wild Rice Moon)
- October - Hunter's Moon (Leaf Falling Moon)
- November - Frosty Moon (Deer - Mating Moon)
- December - Long Night's Moon (Big Moon)

Can you recall a grandmother cautioning you not to do certain things on a full moon? Don't get your hair cut. Don't go far from home. Bad things happen on a full moon. Well statistically there is some evidence for these fears. Is much of it imagined? Do humans and animals behave differently on the night of a full moon? Scientists cannot explain the variation in some events but some believe it has something to do with the quality of sleep. But others firmly believe that a full moon affects the birth rate, mental illness and behaviours, crime rate and animal behaviour.

Three theories which attempt to explain these perceptions are the tides, evolution and positive ions. The tides affect large bodies of water, such as the Bay of Chaleur, so they must affect humans since we are made mostly of water. Nurses and police officers often corroborate that the full moon evenings are more active. The second theory is evolutionary. Primitive men had to protect themselves more at the full moon which would make the night brighter, from predators such as lion attacks. This heightened awareness may be survival instinct. Therefore, we are looking for danger, aware of potential danger so we may see more of it. Positive ions, electrically charged atoms in the atmosphere, increase during a full moon and this is thought to affect human behaviour. These are theories only, not proven. The beliefs about the full moon are based purely on observation.

Here on the Gaspé we have had some tidal surges paired with high winds that have affected and damaged the coastline in significant ways. These are real, not theory. On December 10, 2010 and during or around other full moons in 2011 - 2016 storm surges caused damage here. But we can recall most clearly the effects of the latest super high tides here on the coast December 2016 and January 2017. It demonstrates that Mother Nature can also be devastatingly powerful and destructive.

# Percé will have to wait to November for an election

Geneviève Gélinas

PERCÉ: - The municipal election in Percé will not take place until November 5. That date was set by the Quebec government for all Québec municipalities. By election day, the Town will have been without a mayor and without five of the eight councillors for almost an entire year, following the resignations that occurred on November 20 and 21, 2016.

On February 8, the Municipal Affairs ministry ended the suspense about the election date, which could have taken place as soon as this spring with a special bill.

The decision "will ensure that we can engage, together, in rebuilding this town which has been hit hard by the weather conditions over the last months," the minister responsible for the Gaspé Peninsula, Sébastien Proulx stated through a press release.

The Rocher-Percé MRC prefect, Nadia Minassian, would have preferred an election sooner. "But I didn't meet even one person who wanted a (spring) election in Percé," she says.

Ms. Minassian commits to making sure that the absence of a municipal council won't negatively affect any file. However, she won't get involved with town decisions. "No decision of municipal jurisdiction will be made, unless there were resolutions by the last council."

The Gaspé Member of the National Assembly (MNA), Gaétan Lelièvre, explains the little interest of Percé citizens for a quick election. "They're afraid that triggering an election, given all the division in the last council, could lead to the formation of rival clans, and that some candidates could push ideas that question major projects like



Photo: G. Gélinas

Over the next months, Percé will have to manage a \$15 million project to rebuild its boardwalk and protect its coast from erosion.

adding gravel to the beach to counter erosion or rebuilding the wharf. They want those two files to progress without any interruptions."

Percé has to manage a \$15 million project to rebuild its boardwalk and to protect its coast against erosion, both greatly damaged by the December 30 storm. The wharf, which belongs to Fisheries and Oceans Canada, is also severely damaged and needs repairs before the tourist season.

Gaétan Lelièvre endorses the decision to hold the election in November, but considers that two conditions must be fulfilled. Québec will have to "finance through a decree, with no significant contribution from the Town, the rebuilding of the boardwalk." Charging the Percé taxpayers without having them represented wouldn't be acceptable, he explains.

"The negotiations must go on with Fisheries and Oceans Canada about the wharf and Québec must acquire the wharf," adds Mr. Lelièvre. He points out that "90% of the

boats," that use Percé wharf go to Bonaventure Island and Percé Rock, a provincial park managed by the *Société des établissements de plein du Québec*, a Québec public society.

"Why ask a 3,000 inhabitant town, with a limited financial capacity, to acquire an infrastructure that is going to involve major maintenance costs, in the millions?", asks Mr. Lelièvre.

In fact, the Town of Percé accepted to become the owner of a reconstructed wharf, if it can convince the users to pay for its maintenance.

The Québec Municipal Commission appointed a temporary administrator for Percé, lawyer France Thériault, who is consulting the three councillors still in office.



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# HEMODIALYSIS ON THE GASPÉ: Patients are becoming impatient

Geneviève Gélinas

GASPÉ : – Robert Benoit and Jean Lapointe, two patients with kidney illnesses, attended a public meeting on February 2 in Gaspé to express their growing frustration with the Integrated Health and Social Services Centre (CISSS) of the Gaspésie. The two men hope to get hemodialysis services in Gaspé. The CISSS heard their request, the CISSS spokesperson said, they are working to extend services, but cannot say when a solution will be set up.

Robert Benoit came to the February 2 public meeting of the CISSS in Gaspé to explain his situation. The 50-year-old man drives more than 800 kilometers per week in order to stay alive.

Three times a week, the Cap-aux-Os resident sits at the wheel of his old CR-V which has a mileage of 322,000 kilometers. He drives 135 km to Chandler, the only place on the Gaspé Peninsula where he can receive hemodialysis treatment. There, for four hours, he's plugged into a machine that does the work of his kidneys, purifying his blood. He leaves his home at 9.30 a.m. and is back at 8 p.m.

On top of his renal failure, Mr. Benoit has heart problems and his leg was amputated, all consequences of diabetes. The trips to the hospital make him tired and drain his finances. He receives \$650 per month for his travels. That's enough to cover his fuel costs, but not the wear on his car.

"I'm really fed up with those trips, he says. I do it because I have no choice. If I don't get hemodialysis for two weeks, I die."

If the Gaspé hospital did offer hemodialysis, most of his problems would be resolved, Mr. Benoit states. "I would have to drive 20 minutes to get my dialysis. I could eat lunch and dinner at home. I would eat better, I would be less tired and it would be less expensive for the hospital."

Jean Lapointe, a Gaspé resident, also went to the February 2 meeting, wearing a T-shirt with the words "Are you going to let us die on the Gaspé?". "I do that because there are people who let themselves die because (the hemodialysis services) are too far from their family."

Mr. Lapointe says that he knows three patients who de-



Photo: G. Gélinas

Robert Benoit, a Cap-aux-Os resident, has to drive 800 kilometers per week to receive his hemodialysis treatments in Chandler.

cided to "let themselves go," because they didn't want to travel to Chandler or move to Rimouski, where the hemodialysis service is also offered.

Since 2015, Mr. Lapointe has been advocating for hemodialysis in Gaspé. He has only one kidney functioning, at 24% of its capacity. The day when he will need hemodialysis, he swears that he will let himself die instead of leaving Gaspé. He collected 8,500 names on a petition in favor of services in his town.

The Gaspésie CISSS has "heard those heartfelt cries," said the CISSS spokesperson, Geneviève Cloutier. Several scenarios are being studied to make the hemodialysis services more accessible, she explains.

Hemodialysis chairs could be set up in the Gaspé, Maria and Sainte-Anne-des-Monts hospitals. A mobile unit, a kind of trailer, could transport the service from one sector to another.

Cyrille Gibeault, from Sainte-Anne-des-Monts, became the first Gaspésian to benefit from hemodialysis at home in December. To offer that service with the support of health staff is also being considered, explains Ms. Cloutier.

"The objective is to do significant progress in 2017. We

want at least to know which scenario we'll set up, even if we don't have the time to set it all up," she added.

For Mr. Benoit, time is a factor. "I want to know what progress they made with the project of hemodialysis chairs. I know that it's going to be expensive. But how much is my life worth?"

At the CISSS meeting, Chantal Duguay, CISSS president-director general, stated that hemodialysis was a "priority file," but couldn't give a deadline or any more details. Renal failure cases are increasing, she pointed out. "Hemodialysis services are becoming a basic service given the statistics."

Hemodialysis, the kind of dialysis that Mr. Gibeault benefits at home or Mr. Benoit at the hospital, is different from peritoneal dialysis, which is made with a sterile liquid injected in the patient abdomen through a catheter. Some Gaspésians have been receiving that kind of treatment at home for years on the Gaspé Peninsula, but it doesn't work for all patients.

To install the hemodialysis unit in Chandler in 2013 cost \$1.2 million. Before, the patients had to go to Rimouski, located 387 kilometers from Gaspé. Over the last years, many Gaspésians had to move to Rimouski.

# High schools celebrate Perserverance Week

Gilles Gagné

NEW CARLISLE – February 13 marked the start of "Educational Perseverance Week" in Quebec and some schools on the Gaspé are participating. New Carlisle High School will be participating with the "Sync and Swim" activity, designed for senior high school student. The activity will take place after school, over ten Thursdays. "They have to do their homework between 2:45 p.m., when classes finish, to 4 p.m. and then, they can go to the swimming pool between 4 p.m. and 5 p.m., transportation is included," explains Lisa Mosher, of Eastern Shores School Board. Twenty-four students were registered in that program as of February 12. Another activity called "Literacy through nutrition" started on February 13 at New Carlisle High School. The activity will take place over six weeks and will involve all the students from grade 7 and up. "It takes place at noon hour with a nutritionist, at the CLC (Community Learning Centre). The students will receive specific instructions on bodybuilding and healthy exercise. Each grade will benefit from the program during the six weeks," adds Ms. Mosher. The activities are organized with funds from the schools. Other initiatives will also be taking place in other ESSB schools.

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# Lift up your voice

Wendy Dawson

NEW RICHMOND: – The interview with Cynthia Patterson starts with a history lesson. A story about the bread riots in France during the late 1780s – a time when women began peaceful riots to protest the price and scarcity of bread.

The reason for the story is because the first interview question for Reverend Patterson is a little loaded, “Do you consider yourself a feminist?”. She explains that feminism has always existed in many ways and the examples are there throughout history.

“I did my Masters in history and in literature and today, there is a new openness to how we see women. A woman’s place and how we consider women is a good thing and a difficult thing all at once. All of the rights that have been hardly won are fragile and cannot be taken for granted.”

In November of 2016, Cynthia Patterson was ordained as an Anglican minister and when asked about her path to ordination, Reverend Patterson explains that it was not always part of the plan and that it materialized rather organically.

When asked about when religion became central to her life, Cynthia Patterson explains that she was raised with two sisters and by a mom, who was, for the most part, a single mother. She explains that her mother provided not only a strong model of a woman, but of a woman of faith.

“I saw that my mother’s faith gave her the strength she needed to face the many challenges in life and that was powerful,” she explains. “When I was twelve years old, I wanted to become a Sunday School teacher and my mother’s influence was central in that.”

When, at the age of twenty-nine Cynthia Patterson found herself back on the Coast, she, like many people her age had not been a regular attendee at church. “I was just bursting with gratitude at being back and I really wanted a place to give thanks for that. I was so happy to be home.” As it turns out, the place to share and communicate her gratitude was St. Peter’s Anglican Church in Malbay, about a 4 kilometer walk from where she was staying. The walk and the service quickly became a part of her Sunday routine.



Photo: G. Gagné

*In November of 2016, Cynthia Patterson was ordained as an Anglican minister.*

After some time, Cynthia Patterson was asked to become a lay reader. “I know that this sentiment is not uncommon, but I felt a certain kind of unworthiness. However I saw it as an opportunity to allow myself to become better, to put myself in a place to be better.” Reverend Patterson continued with her role as lay reader until the arrival of her daughter Aurora – a miracle she explains, but another story in and of itself.

Cynthia Patterson’s career path in social justice issues including Rural Dignity and indigenous issues paralleled her spiritual direction until she realized that she could pursue a religious path that allowed all of her personal priorities to come together.

Her willingness to become a deacon came from her realization that “a deacon represents the most vulnerable individuals within a society and also represents the Church within the world.” In 2011 she became Deacon of the Anglican Cathedral in Quebec and she worked at connecting with the physical community that surrounded the church.

“As is the case with many urban churches, the parishioners often don’t come from the surrounding neighbourhood. In this community there are boarding houses and high poverty. Together with the CLSC, we developed a program that allowed us to find out who are neighbours are. This experience was good and made me feel positive about the next step, so in the autumn of 2015 I registered with the faculty of Theology through distance education at Ottawa’s St. Paul University.”

Now in her 61st year, Reverend Patterson is not entirely sure what the future holds for her but knows that spiritual guidance still has a place in a modern world.

“It is tradition in faith to be called upon to fundamentally care for creation and the current climate crisis has created a responsibility for everyone living on the planet to remember our respect for the land. We have to listen and listen very carefully. Climate exceeds everything and contains everything – it is probably our deepest issue, she stresses.

Reverend Patterson’s social justice roots seem firmly entangled with her faith now, and she provides modern and uplifting perspective on issues that are sometimes hurtful and hard to face.

“In my first sermon after the mosque shootings in Quebec City, I quoted from the book of Isaiah ‘Cry loudly, do not hold back; lift up your voice like a trumpet’. This is a new time, we cannot let comments pass that are not acceptable, or racist jokes. I really believe in justice, peace, joy, love and hope. And I believe that together as a community, we must all hold up those values.”

Reverend Patterson currently divides her time between Entry Island, Grosse Ile, Gaspé and Quebec City, a schedule and territory that demands a great balance. On June 1, she and her husband Bishop Dennis Drainville will be settling in Gaspé on a full time basis. Until then, Reverend Patterson has a wish, “By the grace of God, that I can continue to serve where I am needed.”

CENSUS:

Cont'd from page 5

change somewhat if the population of Listuguj and Gesgapegiag remained equivalent to the 2011 numbers. The regional decline of 4% would only be 3%. Any population increase in Listuguj and Gesgapegiag would further change that number to be less than 3%. At 3%, it re-

mains the highest decrease in Quebec. The North Shore’s population decreased by 2.4%.

Analyst, Patrick Charbonneau emphasizes that “there is a date revision process but the request must come from the community.”

The Listuguj band council had not returned SPEC’s call, when the paper reached its deadline.

**MAKE TIME FOR FAMILY READING**



Ville de Gaspé

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETING

NOTICE is hereby given that the municipal Council of "Ville de Gaspé", at its regular meeting held on February 6, 2017, has adopted by resolution the following draft of by-law and that a public consultation meeting will be held at the Town Hall, on Monday, March 6, 2017, at 4:00 p.m.

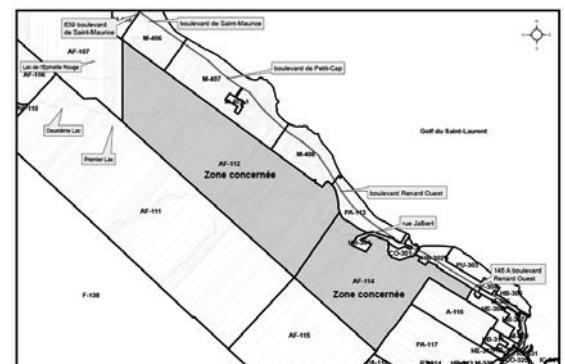
Draft of by-law 1156-11-25:

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

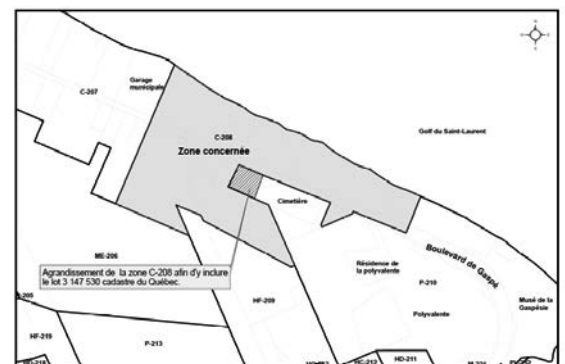
- « modifiant les usages autorisés dans les zones AF-112 et AF-114 afin de permettre, comme usage spécifiquement permis dans cette zone, l'usage de carrière et sablière et afin d'assujettir cet usage au Règlement sur les usages conditionnels 1172-12;
- agrandissant la zone C-208 à même une partie de la zone P-210, et ce, afin d'inclure le lot 3 147 530, cadastre du Québec à la zone C-208. »

The concerned zones are illustrated on the following sketches:

AF-112 and AF-114 zone, situated in Rivière-au-Renard area:



C-208 zone, situated around the Polyvalente C.E. Pouliot area in Gaspé:



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 in Gaspé,

Isabelle Vézina  
Director of legal services and town clerk

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# Announcements...



## Obituaries



**COOK: Archdeacon Allen**  
Anglican Church of Canada  
February 23, 1931 – January 12, 2017

Passed away peacefully on January 12, 2017 at St Joseph's Hospital in Hamilton, Ontario in his 86th year.

Loving father of Glen Cook of Woodbridge and Sheila Cook (Mike Nairn) of Hamilton. Allen was the brother of Barry Cook (Evelyn) of Oakville. He was predeceased by his beloved wife Susan, his son Michael and his sister Shirleyanne Smedley (Ross). Cherished grandfather to Julie, Sarah and Felicia.

As a young man, Allen attended Bishops University in Sherbrook, Quebec. His work in the Anglican Church would later take him to regions across Quebec and Ontario. Allen was a minister at parishes in the Dioceses of Montreal, Quebec, Niagara and Huron.

Allen was particularly fond of the time he spent in the Gaspé region of Quebec and he returned often after his retirement.

Friends and family were welcomed for visitation on Wednesday, January 18, at Dermody Funeral Home, Hamilton. A service celebrating Allen's life took place Thursday, January 19 at Christ's Church Cathedral. Interment followed at St Paul's Anglican Church Mount Hope.



**LEBLANC: Mary "Alma"**  
1921 – 2017

The passing of Mary "Alma" LeBlanc occurred on Thursday, February 2, 2017 at Bathurst Regional Hospital at the age of 95 years, 11 months. She resided at Residence Boudreau Special Care Home where she received excellent care since February 2016, in Bathurst, NB.

She was the wife of the late Norman LeBlanc born in West Bathurst, NB. She was the daughter of the late Thomas and Ellen (Nellie) van der Pluijm.

Alma was a devoted member of the Cascapedia-St. Jules Catholic Church. She was well loved by her neighbours and community members for her talents in raising poultry and baking, (especially her bread and donuts) and caring for others.

Alma lived in Bathurst for 45 years, before she resettled in St. Jules, Quebec for nearly 50 years on the LeBlanc family homestead.

She is survived by her daughter Helen Kenny of Bathurst and her son Raymond LeBlanc (Kathy) of Florenceville-Bristol, NB; brother Tony Vander Pluijm Sr. of Bathurst; six grandchildren, Mike Kenny, Keith Kenny, Ron Kenny (Christine), Brian Kenny (Wendy), Erica LeBlanc and Tyler LeBlanc; seven great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Besides her parents and husband Norman, she was predeceased by her first husband Emery Power, son Keith Power, grandson Patrick Kenny, infant sister Alma, sisters; Antonia and Gertrude (Louis) Lavoie, and brothers; Dociety and Johnny.

Visitation was held at Elhatton's Funeral Home. Funeral Mass was celebrated from Holy Family Church in Bathurst on Saturday, February 4, 2017. Pallbearers for the service were Keith Kenny, Ron Kenny, Brian Kenny, Amby LeBlanc, Dan LeBlanc and Tyler LeBlanc. Honorary pallbearers were Tony Vander Pluijm and Clement LeBlanc.

Interment will take place in the Cascapedia-St Jules Cemetery in the spring with a memorial mass.

For those who wish, remembrances may be made to the St. Jules Catholic Church or a charity of the donor's choice. Personal condolences may be offered through Elhatton's Funeral Home website.



**MILLER: Richard**  
1963-2017

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Richard (Dick) Miller on February 3, 2017 at the age of 53. He leaves to mourn his parents Jimmy and Brigid (nee Drody), his sisters Pearl (Denis) and Maureen, his nieces and nephews Jamie, Emma, Joe, Nolan and Brigid, as well as many special cousins, aunts, uncles and dear friends.

He will be very missed and fondly remembered for his quick wit, his incredible talent as an artist and for his kind and gentle soul.

A cemetery burial will follow at a later date.

### Prayer to the Holy Spirit

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

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

T.S.

### St. Jude's Novena

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the hopeless, pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us.

D.C.

## OUR RATES

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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.

**To meet the deadline announcements must be received by Thursday at 4 p.m.**



## PHOTO QUALITY

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



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## In Memory

### MACDONALD: Minnie:

In loving memory of my mother, Minnie MacDonald who passed away on February 20, 2015.

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

Remembered always lovingly. The Sylvestre, Scott and MacDonald families.

### Fifth Anniversary

#### PAUL: Gary George

November 29, 1956 -  
February 27, 2012

In loving memory  
of a dear son, brother,  
uncle, father and  
grandfather.

*In a quiet country  
graveyard,  
Where the gentle breezes  
blow,*

*Lies the one we love so dearly  
We lost five years ago.*

*No farewell words were spoken,  
No time to say goodbye.*

*You were gone before we knew it,  
And only God knows why.*

*So many times we needed you,  
So many times we cried.*

*If love could have saved you,  
You never would have died.*

*You've left behind our broken hearts,  
And precious memories too.*

*But we never wanted memories,  
We only wanted you.*

*You will never be forgotten,  
By the ones who love you best.*

*God broke our hearts to prove,  
He only takes the best.*

*We cannot bring the old days back,  
When we were all together.*

*But memories of happy days,  
Will stay with us forever.*

What a privilege to have had you in our family. Time has not eased our pain and heartache and you will always be remembered with love and affection by your mom, brother Bob (Bernadette); sisters; Merina (Wayne), Geraldine (Ron), Elizabeth (Dallas); your daughters; Laura Ann (Todd), Anita and grandchildren; Ethan, Dakota and Chloé, and your many nieces and nephews. xoxo



## Social notes...



Sharon Howell

GASPE NEWS

Hello everyone. I'm back!! There are a lot of events going on in our little part of the world. Here is but a taste of it. I will try to keep you informed as much as possible and will try to keep it short and sweet but ... we'll see.

### Recent events and news

Some recent good news: Bryce Coffin is home after a lengthy hospital stay. Elaine Bechervaise Patterson recently had a surgery she has been waiting for since about a year. Elaine is a very busy lady and she so enjoys all she does for her family, friends, and the community. We wish both Elaine and Bryce speedy recoveries.

The York River Seniors and the Shamrock Seniors in Douglstown are very active groups. They do all sorts of activities suitable for their ages and abilities, taking into consideration that many are in their mid to late 60's through to 100 years of age. Recently I decided to try the curling and darts activities on alternating Monday evenings in Gaspé. Both are target based activities, with equal levels of disappointment when things don't go as hoped or planned (yeah, right - planned). As well, they provide an amazing uplift to one's spirit when things go well beyond our wildest dreams (115 points in one turn). There are a number of participants who are very good at the games and they make it look much easier than it is. Are you up to testing your skills? Come on out and see for yourself. The next curling will be held on February 20 at Gaspé Elementary at 7:30 p.m. and darts will be on February 27 at the Legion at 7:30 p.m. Keep an eye out in the Coast Roundup Section of the SPEC for all the seniors activities in both of these communities. There is something for everyone.

The York River Seniors Club held a Military Whist Card Party on February 3 in the York Hall. It was another fun evening of getting together with other members of the surrounding communities as well as those from as far away as Fox River, Cap-aux-Os, Anse au Griffon, and sometimes Grande Vallée. The next Whist card playing get together will be on March 24 at 7:30 p.m. at York Hall. If you are interested in joining in the fun, organize for yourselves a table of four players and let Tony Patterson know (418-368-3276) that you would like to play. Everyone is welcome!

By the time you are reading this the 47th Annual Wakeham/York Winter Carnival will be well underway. For the local folks, please check the GoGaspé website for the upcoming activities. There is a spaghetti supper, a tuck tournament, family fun time at the rink, a breakfast, a snowmobile event, a dance, and don't forget to get your 50/50 tickets at any one of the events. The proceeds from the carnival go towards the rink. More information is available by contacting Lorilee Jean at 418-368-8914 or Danny Jean at 418-368-6329.

Bishop Bruce Myers, Coadjutor Bishop of Quebec will be taking the Sunday service on February 26. This will be his first official visit to the area

since being elected Coadjutor Bishop in November 2015. The time and location of the service will be confirmed and announced closer to time.

### Birthdays and Anniversaries

Best wishes and much happiness for the coming year are being sent to the following:

-February 2; Nicole Joncas, Helen Lucas, February 4; Nicholas Stanley (son of Rosemarie Kilbride & Terry Stanley - grandson of Francis Kilbride), February 5; Debbie O'Brien Boulay, February 7; Marie France Duguay (mom of sweet Liam and Logan LaPierre of Sandy Beach), February 8; Lois Bechervaise, February 9; Léon Dumaresq and Vanessa Jean, February 13; Scott Miller, February 16; Roberta (Bobbi Miller) Baker of Peachland, BC - formerly of Wakeham February 16; Jason Jean, February 18; Lillian Rooney Lavalée, February 21; Ray Gallichan and Kareb Briand, February 24; Karen McCallum Hansen of Kelowna, BC - formerly of Sandy Beach, February 25; Debbie Jean and Chris Lequesne, February 26; Allen Falle of Yukon, formerly of Gaspé, February 27; Ruth Miller Patterson Armstrong and February 28; Gloria Boulet.

Special congratulations and best wishes for the coming year are extended to the following folks who have lots of birthday celebration experience:

Mrs. Ella Clark Gillis who turned 95 years young on January 19.

Mrs. Iona McAuley Kennedy in Victoria, BC (formerly of Douglstown) who turned 94 years young on January 19.

Mrs. Mary Miller who turned 100 years young on January 23.

Mrs. Greta Mullin who turned 92 years young on February 1.

Mrs. Dorothy Johnson Doody who turned 88 years young on February 4.

Gabriella Kennedy Howell who turned 94 years young on February 8.

Lester Coffin who turned 91 years young on February 10.

Mrs. Muriel Cass who is turning 97 years young this year on February 20.

Congratulations and best wishes for many more years of happiness are being sent to:

Christie and Brian Dumaresq whose anniversary is on February 13.

Ron's Resto in Place Jacques Cartier 7th anniversary this month.

Should you have some news to share, please feel free to contact me at photo\_ops@hotmail.com. Thank you for your time.

**SORRY THIS PAGE ISN'T AVAILABLE THE LINK YOU FOLLOWED MAY BE BROKEN, OR THE PAGE MAY HAVE BEEN REMOVED**



### Will your memories still be there?



Will news clippings of your family's wedding, anniversaries and births be around a hundred years from now on Facebook? PROBABLY NOT.

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Our editions are saved by the National Library of Quebec and the National Archives in Ottawa in electronic format.

**You don't have to miss a week of The Gaspé Spec. Renew early to guarantee continued delivery of your paper. If you are moving, give us your new address early.**



## 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/Appalossa stallion. Call James Martin at 418-392-5655. (F22)

## COAST ROUND-UP

### GASPÉ:

#### Gaspé Cancer Foundation Upcoming Events

**Sunday, February 26:** 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 Cote de Gaspé are invited to attend. Complimentary wine and cheese to follow.

**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, Québec \$160, Montreal and Sherbrooke \$220.

### 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 entertainment. 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 17:** A board game evening will be held at 7 p.m. Come alone or bring a friend and of course your favorite refreshments. Some games provided are Settlers of Catan, 7 Wonders, Small World and Dominion. A voluntary contribution would be appreciated.

**Sunday, February 19:** A community breakfast will be held from 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Join us for an excellent breakfast with a traditional menu. A voluntary contribution of \$7 for adults (12 and over), \$4 for children (5-11 years) would be appreciated, ages 4 and under (free).

**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.

**Travel Talks:** Every **second Wednesday** 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 Douglas-town.

### BARACHOIS:

#### Legion Branch 261

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

### 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.

### BARACHOIS:

#### Bingo

The next bingo at the Barachois Rec Centre will be on **Friday, February 17** at 7 p.m.

### SHIGAWAKE:

#### Cookbooks for sale

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

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

### SHIGAWAKE:

#### Community Center Upcoming events

**Shigawake winter carnival:**  
**Friday, February 17:** There will be a lumberjack supper from 4 to 6 p.m. following that there will be a masquerade dance on ice at the skating rink at 6 p.m.

**Saturday, February 18:** Games on ice and snow from 1 p.m. (rink)

**Sunday, February 19:** There will be a brunch from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. (center) A ski doo rally at 12 p.m. Sliding on hill across from skating rink starting at 12 p.m., old timer vs younguns at 2 p.m. Family games, minute to win it games inside and out all weekend. For more info call Tiffany at 418-752-4236.

### SHIGAWAKE:

#### SPDS Governing Board Meetings

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

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

### 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, HopeTown.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 Upcoming Events

**Saturday, February 18:** There will be a crib tournament at 1 p.m. Cost is \$10 per person. To register your team call Linda at 752-2015 or Laura at 752-5495 before **Thursday, February 16**. Sponsored by Hope Town Sports & Recreation Club.

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

### PASPEBIAC:

#### Donations Needed

The *Collectif Aliment-Terre* appeals to the public for donations of plastic dishes with lids, glass jars, jam jars or mason style jars. These containers would be very useful for our collective kitchens and troubleshooting. 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. Thank you very much! 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:

#### Legion Dance

The Royal Canadian Legion will be hosting a dance on **Saturday, February 18** entertainment by The Landsmen. Dance starts at 8 p.m. Cost is \$5 at 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 RICHMOND:

#### Friperie Notice

Friperie Entraide de l'É.P.É. We always have a large selection of clothing in all sizes for families as well as furniture. Couches, beds, dressers, etc. If you have items which are still functioning and no longer need them don't throw them away before calling us because there are people who need stoves, fridges, washers, dryers, beds, chairs, tables, etc. For information please call 418-392-5161 (Boul. Perron West, New Richmond).

### 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.

### CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

#### Jam Session

On **Friday, February 17** at the 50+ Club, 319, Route 299, there will be a jam session open to all musicians and spectators. Doors open at 7 p.m. with entertainment beginning at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free and canteen services will be available on site. Welcome to all!

### 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 Gallagher Rd. Cost is \$5 per person. So bring a partner and come and join us for an afternoon of fun.

### 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.

### UNITED CHURCH

#### Sunday, February 19

New Richmond  
10:30 a.m.

Shigawake  
10:00 a.m. with Anglicans

### ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

#### Sunday, February 19

Shigawake  
All Anglicans  
10 a.m. Holy Eucharist



Photo: Courtesy of Rose Roussy

Have you ever noticed this white birch on the east side of Route 132 as you drive into New Carlisle? It has been the subject of a painting by one New Carlisle resident and of the following poem by a resident of Black Cape who taught school in New Carlisle for many years. What makes this tree special? It stands alone among many evergreens and maybe even you have noticed its beauty....

## My Favorite Tree, The White Birch

She stands sentinel on the edge of town  
Always lovely in her sparkling gown.

The seasons crowned her with emerald and white  
And into my heart she shone some light

Every morning for 19 short years  
She's greeted me through my smiles and my tears

And when I felt I was left in the lurch,  
I knew I could count on that peaceful birch

To let me know that the storms she'd withstood  
Had made her strong and been for her good.

On happy days when I hadn't a care  
I knew my friend would be standing there

To wave me on in the morning light  
And gently whisper, "It will be alright."

I know it is only a little tree  
But through the years she's been a friend to me.

Rose Roussy

## Why do we say....

By Gary Briand

When I was teaching in Granby in the early sixties a colleague would often say to me, "He got it one fell swoop, Briand." He was making reference to the ease at which he had managed to convey some difficult concept to a young man usually displaying dullness.

But where does the expression come from? Its meaning is quite evident - a sudden single strike or blow, often fierce and brutal. Generally its origin is related to Shakespeare. In Macbeth he writes that a Hell-kite (a hawk) killed chickens with "one fell swoop." But the word "swoop" comes from Swedish where it was used in relation to a fabled bird from Madagascar; one it was said to be capable of carrying away in its talons a horse and rider. In Swedish the word "swoop" also was used to describe movement in a very stately or noble stride. Perhaps Shakespeare gleaned the word "swoop" from some Scandinavian acquaintance.

The word "fell" in the phrase has nothing to do with the English verb "fall". It comes instead from the Old English adjective "fell" which meant "ruthless or fierce."

I don't know if my old teaching colleague was ruthless in method, and his manner stately or regal. But he was confident that he had made his mark with one fell swoop!

## Farfalle with Crabmeat, Asparagus, Scrambled Eggs, Garlic, and Herbs

Makes 4 to 6 servings

- 1 pound farfalle
- 1/2 pound asparagus, trimmed and sliced diagonally, 1/4-inch thick
- 10 extra-large eggs
- 4 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 1/4 cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese, plus more for serving
- 2 tablespoons heavy cream
- 1/2 pound cooked lump crabmeat, picked over to remove any bits of shell or cartilage
- 1/4 cup finely chopped fresh chives
- 2 tablespoons finely chopped fresh Italian parsley
- Freshly ground black pepper



Bring a large pot of water to a boil. Add the farfalle and cook until al dente, following the manufacturer's suggested cooking time. About 2 minutes before the pasta is done, add the asparagus.

Meanwhile, in a mixing bowl, beat the eggs with a fork or whisk until slightly frothy. Set aside.

When the pasta and asparagus are done, drain and set aside. Immediately melt the butter in a large skillet over medium heat. Add the garlic and sauté until fragrant, about 1 minute. Add the pasta and asparagus and toss briefly to coat them with the butter mixture. Pour in the eggs, add 1/4 cup Parmesan and the cream, and stir and toss the mixture until the eggs just have begun to form moist curds, about 2 minutes. Add the crabmeat, chives and parsley and continue cooking and tossing until the eggs have formed more solid curds that cling to the farfalle, 1 to 2 minutes more.

Serve immediately, passing freshly grated Parmesan and black pepper for guests to add to taste.

## What's This Artifact?



Answer:  
Old fashioned  
potato masher



ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

This week you may get caught up in family conflicts that you don't want to deal with right now. Yet, if you manage the situation the right way, it'll blow over more quickly.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, you could learn some very interesting things about activities that are going on around you. Pay attention to those that grab your interest the most.

GEMINI – May 22/June 21

Gemini, you already are a sensitive person, but the activities of the week may tug at your heartstrings just a little bit more. Don't be shy to express your feelings.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22

Today you may be receiving mixed messages from others, Cancer. You will have to dedicate some time to separating the fact from the fiction from what others are saying.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23

This week you can have an enjoyable time attending social gatherings, Leo. You'll enjoy relaxing in the company of some friends or family members.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

The stars are advising you get back into the swing of things, Virgo. Forget

your past frame of mind and prepare for a whole new adventure that is right around the corner.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, the challenges of the week could be catching up to you. Try to plan a day where your only activity is maximizing on relaxation. There will be time for responsibilities later.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, you are inspired to clarify your personal situation and make some changes in your life. Try a new strategy because the old methods may be inadequate.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

The time has arrived to focus on your personal life, Sagittarius. Things have been quite a roller coaster lately, and

you can find a way to even out the landscape.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Find a new and creative approach to a routine conflict, Capricorn. You may find that stress is abated with a different perspective to the situation. Scorpio can lend a helping hand.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Your relationships will evolve and there will be many changes in your personal life, Aquarius. Keep your strong personality in check and let others express themselves, too.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

You often find yourself attracted to individuals with very strong personalities who also are eccentric, Pisces. Try to expand your horizons.

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FEBRUARY 12

Mike Posner, Singer (29)

FEBRUARY 13

Robbie Williams, Singer (43)

FEBRUARY 14

Freddie Highmore, Actor (25)

FEBRUARY 15

Jane Seymour, Actress (66)

FEBRUARY 16

Elizabeth Olsen, Actress (28)

FEBRUARY 17

Daphne Oz, TV Host (31)

FEBRUARY 18

Molly Ringwald, Actress (49)

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