

Inside
this
week



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Shigawake's Jennifer Hayes appointed
to the Canadian Dairy Commission



Rail line sustains damage
on its dormant section

The Gaspé Spec

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Winter storm ravages Percé's coastline

Geneviève Gélinas

PERCÉ: – The December 30 storm resulted in severe damages at the Percé wharf and boardwalk, already damaged by previous storms, as well as to the Café de l'Atlantique.

The effects of strong winds and high tides were even greater than the storms experienced over the past years, say some Percé residents.

"It started in the morning with strong winds. Four or five Hydro-Québec poles fell in the Côte Surprise area," says Percé director general, Félix Caron. Close to 4,500 people in Percé and its surroundings were cut-off from the electricity grid, some of them for almost 24 hours.

The waves damaged the entrance of the wharf, the part that needed emergency repairs in 2013 and 2016. Fisheries and Oceans Canada inspectors, the wharf owner, will first have to examine the structure, says Mr. Caron. However, "from what I can see, it looks like it has gotten worse," he adds. According to the director general, emergency repairs will be needed again before the next tourist season.

The condition of the board-



Photo: Ariane Aubert Bonn

On December 30 in Percé, strong waves beat against the two observation towers that were created for interpretation on erosion.

walk was also worsened by the storm. "There are damages along one kilometer of boardwalk. The concrete walls were ripped off along about one hundred meters, between the parking of the SEPAQ (*Société des établissements de plein air*

du Québec) and a little before the pool," describes Mr. Caron.

Percé had chosen not to repair the damages from the 2015-2016 winter. Instead, the Town erected two observation towers and a temporary boardwalk to present interpretation

on the damages and coastal erosion. The panels also explain the Percé coastline project that is being planned.

"The towers are still there, they're securely anchored. The wooden boardwalk had been taken up in the fall, so it's safe

and intact," says Mr. Caron.

Total loss

The Café de l'Atlantique, a seaside annexe to the restaurant La Maison du pêcheur, is a "total loss," describes France LeBreux, co-owner of the two businesses. "The principal walls have fallen, the roof almost collapsed but we solidified it."

The Café was damaged by other storms in the past, but "the December 30 storm, I have never seen anything like that," states Ms. LeBreux.

She doesn't know yet if the Café will be rebuilt but emphasizes that the Maison du pêcheur is intact and only got water in its basement.

Her neighbour, the Bell House (formerly Rouge Homard) was also damaged, but not as seriously. "There was a door torn off and damages to the exterior walls," says Félix Caron. This building and the former Auberge Le Pirate also lost a few meters of land.

In Coin-du-Banc, on Beach Street, a house was flooded. The tourist train station and a sanitation block were also "highly damaged," says Mr. Caron.

DECEMBER 30 STORM: Planning of Percé coastline project is underway

Geneviève Gélinas

PERCÉ: – According to the town administration, the December 30 storm once again demonstrated the relevance of the Town of Percé project to protect the coastline from erosion. The \$20 million project is planned to start in 2018.

"It reinforces the direction

we took in 2010. We have to think of a new solution. The experts recommend putting gravel on the beach," says the director general of Percé, Félix Caron.

The Town wants to transport approximately 4,300 truckloads of gravel to protect the coast from the waves.

The storm demonstrated the

merits of such an approach, says Mr. Caron. "On the east side of the wharf, where there's still a beach, there were fewer damages. The waves are broken by the gravel. But on the Normandie hotel side, the sea hits with all its strength on the concrete wall and the damages were much greater."

The cost of \$20 million,

which is an estimate, includes the rebuilding of the boardwalk higher up on the beach. A few buildings, including la Maison du pêcheur, would be moved to a safer place.

France LeBreux, co-owner of the business, supports the Percé project to protect the coast. "We cannot let the Percé seashore disappear. We're a

tourist jewel," says Ms. LeBreux, who is also the president of the Rocher-Percé Tourism Board.

Ms. LeBreux underlines that Percé "needs help" from the governments, which have to "take the Percé erosion problem seriously."

Cont'd on page 10

QUEBEC: - The campaign Quit to win challenge (*Défi J'Arrête, j'y gagne*) is back. This 18th consecutive quit smoking campaign aims at encouraging smokers to stop smoking for a period of six weeks, between February 6 and March 19.

Statistics show that 22% of Gaspesians smoke, which is higher than the provincial average of 19%. The good news is that since 1987, the number of smokers in the province has



Yv Bonnier-Viger.

dropped drastically, 40% of Quebecers and Gaspésians smoked on a daily basis back then. On the Gaspé Peninsula, people residing in the Percé.

**Never
stop trying**

SPEC spoke with the regional Public Health Director, Yv Bonnier-Viger, to get his point of view on this important health issue. "Tobacco is still the main killer in terms of can-

The statistics concerning our region worry Dr Bonnier-Viger. "They are a concern of course. We, as a collective society, have the responsibility to help these people to stop this habit. Now the good news is that this campaign can be a great help. The idea is to try and if it doesn't work this time, it's going to work the next time around. If you really try and try again, it will finally work," he says.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Expenses and reconciliation for tax purposes provided for 2017 are as follows:

• GENERAL ADMINISTRATION	\$1 046 400
• PUBLIC SECURITY	\$585 800
• TRANSPORTATION	\$1 276 100
• ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE	\$1 021 300
• SOCIAL HOUSING	\$15 800
• URBAN PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT	\$1 005 500
• RECREATION AND CULTURE	\$155 000
• FINANCING EXPENSES	\$230 100

• REPAYMENT OF LONG-TERM DEBT	\$966 500
• TRANSFER OF INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES	\$75 000
• RESERVE FUNDS	\$65 500
	<hr/>
	\$1 107 000

and revenues are as follows :

TAXES	\$3 244 500
TARIFF FOR MUNICIPAL SERVICES	\$979 200
PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES	\$483 900
TRANSFERS	\$1 251 300
OTHER REVENUES FROM LOCAL SOURCES	<u>\$484 100</u>
TOTAL REVENUES	\$6 443 000

INVESTMENTS	2017	2018	2019	Total
Administration				
Percé library relocation		\$200 000		\$200 000
Layout out of the basement of City Hall		\$100 000		\$100 000
Computers	\$5 000	\$10 000	\$5 000	\$20 000
Total Administration	\$5 000	\$310 000	\$5 000	\$320 000

Fire safety				
Pumper tanker, fire station 62	\$375 000			\$375 000
Upgrading respirators	\$10 000	\$10 000	\$10 000	\$30 000
Total Fire safety	\$385 000	\$10 000	\$10 000	\$405 000

Snow removal truck	\$60 000			\$60 000
Total Public works	\$60 000			\$60 000

Distribution network	\$50 000	\$50 000	\$50 000	\$150 000
Replacement of fire hydrants	\$5 000	\$10 000	\$10 000	\$25 000
Replacement of pipes		\$500 000		\$500 000

Sewers	\$30 000	\$30 000	\$30 000	\$90 000
Pumping stations	\$10 000	\$10 000	\$10 000	\$30 000
Val d'Espoir filtration field	\$240 000			\$240 000

Closure of the L.E.S.	\$50 000	\$50 000		\$100 000
Total Environmental hygiene	\$385 000	\$650 000	\$100 000	\$1 135 000

Digitized matrix graphic	\$20 000			\$20 000
Walkway	\$100 000	\$100 000		\$200 000
Côte Surprise Project			\$500 000	\$500 000
Total Urban planning and development	\$120 000	\$100 000	\$500 000	\$720 000

Total of Investment Activities	\$955 000	\$1 070 000	\$615 000	\$2 640 000
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Gemma Vibert, Clerk



Photo: G. Gélinas

The tax increase in Gaspé is the lowest in four years, after increases between 2.5 % and 4.9 % from 2014 to 2016.

GASPÉ BUDGET: 1.9% tax increase in Gaspé

● **Geneviève Gélinas**

GASPÉ: – In 2017, for the owner of an average residence in Gaspé, valued at \$158,500, the municipal tax bill will increase by \$35. The average tax rate will be 1.9% higher than in 2016, which equals \$1,891.

It's the smallest increase among the four budgets prepared until now by mayor Daniel Côté and his council. From 2014 to 2016, the Gaspé residents experienced increases of 3.2%, 4.9% and 2.5%.

In the budget presentation on December 19, those present were reminded that the Town received total cuts equaling \$1.9 million from the Quebec Government in 2014 and 2015, and that there were no new transfers in 2016 and 2017.

The council tried to find "the right balance between the citizens' capacity to pay, the continuation of projects and the delivery of municipal services," its members wrote in a press release.

"Each year, we would prefer not to impose an increase, but there are always unforeseen expenses," says Ghislain Smith, councillor for York, Haldimand, Douglastown and Sandy Beach, in an interview with Spec.

Some expenses are also unavoidable, Mr. Smith adds, such as the \$100,000 required to organize the 2017 municipal election in November, he illustrates.

The Town of Gaspé budget will amount to \$24.2 million in 2017, a \$600,000 increase. The payroll increases by \$238,000. The

preparation of a new property assessment will require an extra \$211,000 this year.

The Town will invest more money to support non-profit organizations, a \$208,000 increase. "We have organizations that organize cultural events, such as, CD Spectacles or the Festival Musique du Bout du monde (...). If the Town took responsibility for that, it would be much more expensive," states Mr. Smith.

Gaspé also had a nice surprise. Its share of the Sûreté du Québec bill is decreasing by \$150,000 in 2017. The agreement signed with the municipal employees on their pension plan also allows Gaspé to save \$106,000.

In 2017, Gaspé is counting on extra revenues of \$230,000 by selling land and buildings.

To balance its budget, the Town is taking \$600,000 from its surplus. A surplus amount of \$2.5 million still remains.

Fewer construction permits

The slowdown in construction has been confirmed with only 31 permits delivered in 2016, for a value of \$47 million. It's the lowest number of permits since 2005, but Gaspé is still far from the stagnation of 2001 to 2004, when less than 20 permits per year were issued.

Pre-budget consultation

Gaspé organized a pre-budget consultation through a web survey and 297 residents answered. The citizens iden-

tified the recruitment of new stores (7.82), the promotion of the Gaspé-Forillon destination (7.64) and the support of local events (7.56) as the most important components of the municipal administration work among the choices offered in the survey, on a 1 to 10 scale.

Gaspé residents consider a decrease in ticket prices as the principal issue regarding air transportation. A proportion of 39% of the respondents would consider flying instead of driving their car, if the maximum price was between \$500 and \$600.

According to those consulted, the most important use of the railway is freight transport in order to attract new businesses and industries. Also if VIA Rail did resume transporting passengers to Gaspé, 57% of the respondents describe themselves as potential users.

A new arena?

The Town also asked the citizens about the construction of a new arena. The respondents are divided on its location. A proportion of 47% think that it should remain in downtown Gaspé and 44% think that it could be somewhere else.

Regarding the services which could be integrated in the new arena, 76% of people would like to have an artificial grass surface to play soccer all year long, 58% are in favour of a running track integrated in the stands around the rink and 45% would like the library Alma-Bourget-Costisella to be moved to the new building.

Police report

More than 70 drivers were arrested by Sûreté du Québec police for impaired driving between the end of November and the beginning of January in the Gaspé Peninsula, the Magdalen Islands and the Lower Saint Lawrence regions. The Sûreté du Québec carried out 136 roadblocks during that period.

That campaign was called VACCIN. Elsewhere in Quebec policed by the SQ, up to 700 drivers were also arrested for impaired driving during the same period. Despite all the prevention campaigns held over the last years, 770 arrests represents an increase of more than 20% compared to the same period in 2015-2016.

On January 9 at the Quebec City courthouse, before Superior Court Judge Serge Francoeur, Bert Dow, 61, from Port Daniel West, entered a plea of guilty on the charge of the non-premeditated murder of retired teacher Russell Duguay, the day his third trial was set to begin.

Representations on sentence were also heard on January 9

The murder was committed on March 13, 2004 at Mr. Duguay's residence, a few houses away from the residence of Bertram Dow. The victim was shot and died a few hours later at the Chandler hospital. Bert Dow was disarmed by Byron Duguay, one of the victim's three children.

Bert Dow was found guilty of non-premeditated murder following the first two trials before judge and jury. The first trial was held in New Carlisle in May and June 2006. He was found guilty of non-premeditated murder. However, the Court of Appeal ruled that the linguistic rights of Bert Dow, whose trial had been held in English, were not respected during some exchanges that took place in French between defence attorney Mylène Lareau, crown prosecutor Gérald Maltais and Superior Court Judge Richard Grenier. The accused had given his consent regarding these exchanges.

The second trial was also held in New Carlisle, in June and July 2010. Again Bert Dow was found guilty of non-premeditated murder. He apologized to the Duguay family and said that he would not file for an appeal. He and his lawyer Mylène Lareau, nevertheless, 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.

The third trial was initially supposed to be held again in New Carlisle but a change of venue was requested by then defence attorney Kimon Kling, who was eventually substituted by attorney Marcel Guérin. They opined that Bert Dow would not get an impartial trial in New Carlisle. Because of the size of the English community, it would have been difficult to find impartial jurors. A change of venue was ordered and the trial transferred to Quebec City.

Crown prosecutor René Verret, of Quebec City, did not reveal for now the sentence he will suggest to Superior Court Judge Serge Francoeur. "I am aware that Bert Dow has served more than 10 years of penitentiary, which is the minimum that must be served when sentenced to life imprisonment for non-premeditated murder before being allowed to apply for parole. Following the sentence to be imposed on February 28, the parole board will decide when Bert Dow will be eligible for parole."

Crown prosecutor René Verret was thanked by the Duguay family following the January 9 court appearance. "For the family, the plea of guilty means great relief because it is absolutely terrible to wait such a long period before the end of judicial proceedings," pointed out René Verret.



Commentary

Gilles Gagné

Climate changes: Do some people really doubt its existence?

On December 15, Highway 132 suffered the consequences of a Gulf of Saint Lawrence storm, and a couple of crashes left the Northern Gaspé Peninsula main road damaged in some places, including in La Martre, the village with the famous red lighthouse.

Fifteen days later, this time on the south side of the peninsula, the railway and some areas of the town of Percé also sustained damage that should translate into food for thought.

We have to acknowledge as soon as possible that the intensity of most storms is increasing, and that their occurrence is skyrocketing. A major storm, which would occur every quarter-of-a-century or every 50 years before 2000, is now taking place every fifth year now, or worse.

Their destruction capacity in the winter time is increased by the near absence of ice, or a way shorter period of ice floe presence. The ice used to protect our shoreline against erosion and also had the wonderful effect of putting a temporary lid on the stormy pot the sea has become. That lid was often sufficient to last for the duration of the storm. The relative ab-

sence of ice has also made erosion an almost year-long phenomenon, in practical terms.

The Gaspé Peninsula has now had to deal with at least five major storms since December 2006. They occurred on December 2, 2005, December 6, 2010, July 4 and 5, 2014, December 15, 2016 and December 30, 2016. That makes five in 11 years and one month. That is not counting the major rain storms of August 2008, November 2009 and December 2010.

Saying that the repairing crews of Transport-Québec are caught off-guard by the recurrence of climatic events is an understatement. They do temporary patchwork as a first intervention and come back later for more durable work. Durable in that context is an overstatement because the repairs last less and less.

While some people still cast a doubt on the existence of global warming, like United States' president-elect Donald Trump and Canada's former prime minister Stephen Harper, other smarter people are doing research on the best methods that will allow the population living along the shoreline or along rivers and streams to better plan the future.

A team of experts, regrouped under the Ouranos research consortium, has been studying the short, medium and long term interventions for years. They are looking at what is going on elsewhere, in other countries, where more brains have been scrutinizing the impact of climate change.

What the experts of Ouranos say, in general terms, is that we will have to learn about rolling with the blows, instead of systematically replying blow for blow. Of course, there are exceptions, like the protection of some stretches of roads and rail lines. But overall, we will have to soften our approach. Then we will save time, energy and money.

Moreover, thinking about that topic has to start now, if it has not started already. The conception of our interventions must change. While it is easier said than done, thinking about a new approach is already a start.

Concrete walls along our roads are rarely efficient. They usually amplify the effects of the waves hitting them. The damage is just worse close by.

Thirdly, we can hardly count on our governments as facilitators of change. They are mostly lagging behind. The population, and groups of concerned citizens, will have to instill change.

The Ouranos experts revealed last spring that Quebec's three coastal regions, the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands, the Lower Saint Lawrence and the North Shore, will need \$1.5 billion to adapt to the next half-century's changes.

We will hear some enemies of rural Quebec asking for the closure of some parts of those regions. They forget, in their ignorance, that if we close some villages that appear "marginal", we put some other richer areas at risk.

Besides, history should have taught us that expropriations always backfire in people's faces.

The conception of our roads and our neighbourhoods should also trigger a broader reflection on what we individually and collectively intend to do in order to reduce the effects of global warming. Both issues are unavoidably linked now.

All the small gestures are important regarding global warming. They probably look like a small drop in the bucket of climate change, but they are the only way to lead us to a better tomorrow.

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Shigawake's Jennifer Hayes appointed to the Canadian Dairy Commission

Gilles Gagné
SHIGAWAKE: – On January 4 Agriculture Minister Lawrence MacAulay announced the appointment of Shigawake's Jennifer Hayes as commissioner of the Canadian Dairy Commission. The appointment is for a three-year term, effective January 3, 2017.

The Canadian Dairy Commission is a public corporation established in 1966 to coordinate federal and provincial dairy policies and create a control mechanism for milk production aimed to avoid shortages and surpluses, and stabilize revenues. The Canadian Dairy Commission's board of directors is appointed by the Government of Canada upon the recommendation of the minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food.

In a press release, Minister MacAulay said that he is "pleased to announce the appointment of Jennifer Hayes to the Canadian Dairy Commission. Jennifer's energy, talent and commitment to the Canadian dairy industry will be an asset to the Commission

and her leadership and experience can serve as a model to young women considering a career in agriculture."

Biographical notes about Jennifer Hayes

Jennifer Hayes is a dairy and beef farmer based in Shigawake, Quebec. She is the third generation to farm at Pine Crest Farms, which she co-owns with her father Garry and uncle Joseph. Her farm is the most eastern dairy farm on the mainland in Quebec. Ms. Hayes has extensive governance experience as an active member of the UPA (*L'Union des Producteurs Agricoles*) and its specialized dairy, beef and local syndicates.

Ms. Hayes holds a masters degree in business administration (MBA) from Concordia University and is actively engaged in rural development initiatives in her region. According to the press release issued by Minister MacAulay's office, she has a particular interest in policies that strengthen the symbiotic rela-



Photo: G. Gagné

Pine Crest Farm Jennifer Hayes and family: Jennifer Hayes runs Pine Crest Farms with her father Garry, her cousin Spencer and her uncle Joey.

tionship between rural communities and sustainable agriculture. Since 2012 she has acted as a revitalization agent at the MRC of Bonaventure, where she has accompanied rural municipalities in formalizing social and economic development plans, and elaborating essential community development projects. She is a skilled partnership

broker incorporating partners from the private sector and multiple government agencies at the federal, provincial, regional and local levels.

Jennifer Hayes has two young daughters, aged eight and five who she hopes will one day take their place beside her on the family farm.

SPEC will soon interview Ms. Hayes in regards to her

nomination. She has asked for a delay of 10 days in order to get more acquainted with her new responsibilities.

Over the years, she has been an advocate of Canada's supply managed system for dairy farmers, a tool that has protected to a certain degree the revenues of the farmers and assured stability for the prices paid by the consumers.

DFO transfers ownership of Griffon Cove wharf, along with a \$1.9 million grant

Gilles Gagné
GASPÉ – The federal department of Fisheries and Oceans is transferring the Griffon Cove wharf property to the Town of Gaspé, along with a \$1.9 million grant for improvements and to downsize it.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada has been considering a property transfer in Griffon Cove since 2010. The Town of Gaspé adopted a motion in September 2016 to express an interest in acquiring it.

The agreement between the two parties was made official on December 21. The amount of \$1.9 million will be used to build a service area and a ramp for boats. A set of

floating docks will also be installed. The service area includes improvements to the parking lot.

The mayor of Gaspé, Daniel Côté, points out that part of the wharf will be downsized, given that its commercial use is no longer as important as in the peak period of cod fishing. He also emphasizes that the Crevette du Nord atlantique shrimp processing plant, located beside the wharf, no longer uses it as much. The shrimp boats are now unloaded in nearby Rivière-au-Renard and the catches are brought to the plant by truck.

"Some aspects of the agreement are not official yet. Regarding the short and long

term roles of the (shrimp processing) plant, we are talking about supporting the volunteers of the wharf administration. Over the long term, I don't want to give too many details at this stage but we could go as far as transferring the ownership of the wharf to the plant, as long as the space remains available to the public. Nothing is excluded. So far the plant's management has acted like a good corporate citizen and that is impor-

tant," points out Daniel Côté.

Commercially, the Griffon Cove wharf is used by two lobster fishermen. A certain number of yacht owners use the wharf, mostly as a transit point on their way to Gaspé marina. A café is also located on the wharf. Overall, the place is an important meeting place for the community.

Canadian Revenue minister and Member of Parliament for the Gaspésie and Magdalen Islands riding, Diane

Lebouthillier, emphasized that the \$1.9 million grant will be given directly to the Town of Gaspé, which will administer it in conformity with the agreement reached in the fall.

Asked if the Town of Gaspé will be able to count on additional funding in the future, given the strength and the occurrence of the storms, Ms. Lebouthillier said such a possibility "has to be verified."

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Lowest municipal tax increase of the decade for New Richmond

 Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND: – The 2017 Town of New Richmond municipal budget bears the lowest tax increase of the last decade, indicates Mayor Éric Dubé. He credits this to an increase in the municipal value, the reduction of the debt load and many years of effort and patience on the part of taxpayers.

The bill of an average house valued at \$143,987 with municipal services will increase by 0.93%, or \$21.76. A year ago, the tax increase was 1.4%. The tax rate will go from \$1.1643 per \$100 of municipal value in 2016 to \$1.1786 in 2017.

“0.93% is a very small increase, considering that after the closure of the Smurfit-Stone mill, we experienced five consecutive years of 3% hikes, followed by 11%, then 3.4% and 1.4%, from what I can remember,” points out Mayor Dubé.

The bill for an average house equipped with municipal services was \$2,328.13 a year ago, compared to \$2,349.89 this year.

The total budget for the Town of Richmond will reach \$9,037,227 this year, a 3% increase compared to \$8,770,659 a year ago. In both cases, Mayor Dubé emphasizes that the total budget is artificially inflated by an item called “subsidized debt”, which amounted to \$2,468,457 a year ago and which will reach \$2,405,458 in 2017. The item consists of money from the Quebec government for the reimbursement of loans generally linked to public works.

Mayor Dubé points out that the municipal value increased by \$6,408,870 between 2016 and 2017. It went from \$268,623,649 to \$275,032,219.

“I don’t recall such an increase. It is mainly attributable to business investments, like the BMR hardware store, the Subaru car dealership, Livre-Tout (the delivery and storage company), Henderson (the service station and convenience store), the Groupement forestier Baie des Chaleurs’s new garage and other improvements like that,” explains Mr. Dubé.

“For the first time in its history, the value of private and municipal properties in New Richmond tops \$300

million, if we include the value of the properties owned by the Town. In the latter case, municipal properties are not taxable of course. The whole picture is promising.” says Mayor Dubé, when thinking about the recent rise of properties’ municipal value.

For the fourth year, the Town of New Richmond will allot \$150,000 to the Little Cascapedia River Regional Park, which manages the Pin rouge ski centre and the Taylor Point campground. The funding agreement between the municipal administration and the Little Cascapedia River Regional Park is valid for 20 years.

“We have to consider that Pin rouge receives a proportionate amount of money, when compared to other sports and leisure buildings. The arena receives \$175,092, while the pool gets \$85,250, without including its share of the debt load. The concert hall will receive less this year, with \$116,202. It was \$134,000 in 2016. We receive a grant of \$5,000 from Quebec’s department of Culture. The numbers change quickly at the concert hall. One full house can make a big difference in the yearly budget,” points out Mayor Dubé.

The debt budgetary item will see some changes in 2017, and for the better, insists Éric Dubé.

“We have refinanced some loans and were able to get a better interest rate. In 2017, we will pay \$480,034 in interest, which is \$117,402 less than in 2016. It is a decrease of almost 20%. We will pay \$3,168,487 in capital fees, an increase of \$109,582. It contributes to improving our financial situation,” he comments.

However, the situation is problematic for the Economic Development Society, which manages the industrial park building constructed in 2006 and opened in 2007 as an economic diversification move, following the closure of the Smurfit-Stone mill.

For the first time in a decade, the Town of New Richmond will have to earmark some money for the building, precisely \$53,500, as some tenants are no longer using it. “We were thinking of selling it but the equity paid on the building is not high enough and we would

take a loss. We will find tenants, balance the budget and wait a couple of years. The Economic Development Society pays close to \$90,000 yearly in equity and we receive municipal taxes for the building. It is not so bad,” says Éric Dubé.

The town council has decided to give the business sector a break in 2017 by leaving the business tax at \$2.3833 per \$100 of municipal value. The industrial tax has increased by 4.18%, from \$1.6209 to \$1.6888 per \$100 of municipal value.

Most of the budgetary items are characterized by stability, when the budgets of 2016 and 2017 are compared.

In the revenue column, the biggest change comes from incoming municipal tax revenues, which will go from \$3,674,222 to \$3,887,753. It is a jump of \$213,531, or 5.8%. The “other revenues” column has also climbed, from \$1,044,250 to \$1,193,428, or 14.3%.

Conditional revenues, which come from the Quebec government, decreased from \$2,650,620 to \$2,590,077, a cut of \$60,543.

In the expenses column, the biggest increase will hit the leisure, culture and concert hall item, through an increase of \$106,764, or 8.4%, as the amount earmarked for that field will go from \$1,266,185 to \$1,372,949. The administration item will go from \$1,091,302 to \$1,156,025, a jump of 5.9%.

A rare decrease in the public security item will occur in 2017, as that budgetary envelope will go from \$449,096 last year to \$426,004 in 2017. The Sûreté du Québec bill is included in that item.

Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



The Year Without a Summer

It’s deepest, darkest (but our hours of daylight are getting progressively longer) winter and we can’t help but think wistfully of the long, warm summer days ahead. We like to talk about the weather and, of course, complain about the weather. It is what we do. It is too cold or too windy or too changeable. But we feel confident that six months from now we will be having warmer, brighter days. But in the year 1816 Gaspesians truly had a solid reason to complain. It was the year without a summer. The effects on the crops and the people and animals who lived here were devastating.

Severe climate change caused famine across the Northern Hemisphere and that included here on the Gaspé that year. The cause is believed to be the eruption of a volcano, Mount Tamboro, in Indonesia that spring. It was the greatest eruption in over 1,000 years. Huge amounts of volcanic dust settled over the Northern Hemisphere. This combined with a year of low solar activity combined to create the ‘Year Without a Summer’.


Inhabitants of the Gaspé reported seeing a type of fog all that spring and summer. This was caused by the volcanic ash that filled the atmosphere. It must have been a strange and frightening sight for the inhabitants of this Peninsula. The sun could not break through. Keep in mind the people did not have access to news, facebook, Twitter and weather reports. They did not know what was happening or why.

Crops that were planted that spring did not flourish and were killed by frost and in early June heavy snowfall was reported. Through July and August some lakes and rivers were still ice covered. Along with the lack of sunlight were curious changes in temperature. Some days the temperature spiked at 35 degrees Celsius and within a matter of hours dropped to freezing.

On the Gaspé there were almost no crops for harvesting and no quick access to markets and little money to buy all the staples required to feed families and animals. The prices were sky high because of the great demand for food. As the summer of 1816 progressed the inhabitants of the Gaspé must have realized that their situation was dire. The government stepped in and supplied some food for the desperate people. We can only hope that we never see a ‘Year Without a Summer’ but it is doubtful that it would be so difficult for us to survive. Take comfort though. Six months from now it will most certainly be warmer and brighter.

But we can only imagine how challenging it was for our ancestors. I have said it before, and likely will at least once more, our Gaspesian ancestors were a hardy people. They struggled just to survive and survive they did. If your ancestors are Gaspesian, be proud because you have a right to be. A little bit of them is part of you.

New Richmond’s Tourism Development Corporation still owes \$275,000

 Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND: – The New Richmond Tourism Development Corporation still owes \$296,000 to the Caisse Desjardins regarding the deficits linked to the Quebec City Summer Festival in New Richmond, held between 2010 and 2012 inclusively. The 2017 Town of New Richmond budget will be used to lower that debt. The Town had en-

dorsed the New Richmond Tourism Development Corporation when former Mayor Nicole Appleby was in office.

“The debt of the Tourism Development Corporation used to be \$400,000. Over the last two years, we have cut a bit more than \$100,000 off of that debt load. We intend to keep going this year. Initially, it was decided to get rid of the debt in 10 years but we will go faster than that. Actually, we

reimbursed a bit more than \$20,000 just before the end of 2016 so we now owe \$275,000 instead of \$296,000. We have not determined a specific schedule of reimbursement. We adjust as we see some wiggle room in our budget during the year. We will definitely pay the loan back before the 10 year-period. We will finish it as soon as possible,” explains New Richmond Mayor Éric Dubé.

Rail line sustains damage on its dormant section

● Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND: — The Gaspé Peninsula railway sustained some damage during the December 30 wind storm, mainly in the Chandler area. Six spots were identified by the operator of the line, the Gaspésie Railway Society.

Luc Lévesque, director general of the Gaspésie Railway Society, wrote a report on December 31 and submitted it to Quebec’s department of Transport, the owner of the Matapédia to Gaspé line.

“In New Carlisle, the south end of the wye was slightly damaged. In Pabos Mills, two spots were eroded, mainly from under the rails. It is almost in the woods. In Chandler, the line was damaged along Chenal road, west of the train station. In Pabos, actually between Pabos and Grand River, along Highway 132, the line and the rock dyke were moved somewhat. It is near mile 49. In Corner-of-the-Beach, the line was not damaged but it was buried by debris and sand. The little station used by the passengers of the Amiral train was heavily damaged and the wooden wharf was totalled. The line has been also slightly undermined, over a length of about 200 feet maybe, in the Haldimand area,” explains Mr. Lévesque.

The rails and the ties are recoverable, even though they have to be put back in place in some cases. The estimate of the damage remains reasonable, according to Mr. Lévesque.

“Putting the ballast, the rails and the ties back in place will



Photo: G. Gagné

The Gaspé Peninsula railway sustained some damage during the December 30 wind storm.

probably cost around \$200,000. Restoring the rock dykes will be more costly. I would say that it will cost between \$600,000 and \$700,000. So the total cost is less than \$1 million, I would say,” adds Luc Lévesque.

All the spots that sustained damage on December 30 are located along the dormant section of the line, the stretch that has not been properly maintained since VIA Rail stopped passing there, in December 2010.

“We put between \$50,000 and \$70,000 worth of rock per year on such a section in order to reinforce the protection dykes. I am sure that we could

have avoided these damages had the decision to maintain that stretch sufficiently been made,” says Mr. Lévesque, who was hired in 2014.

The Gaspésie Railway Society was the owner of the tracks until the end of 2014 but was deprived of cash flow that year because the Quebec government didn’t come up with any infrastructure funding in the budget of the new government, after the April election.

Since then, the Quebec government put the line east of Caplan, which includes the spots damaged by the December 30 storm in a dormant state. No significant maintenance was carried out in 2015 and 2016

on the line east of Caplan. “Maintenance” consists of visual inspections from spring time to the fall. The report sent by Luc Lévesque to Quebec’s department of Transport is “under analysis”. No further information was available at Transport-Québec as of January 6.

“The dormant state of that stretch of line is a hurdle. Had the line been operational between New Carlisle and Gaspé, we would have received a positive answer right away,” says Luc Lévesque.

The Gaspésie Railway Society, politicians and numerous regional organizations have been putting pressure on the

Quebec government to reopen the line between Caplan and Gaspé since November due to a number of business opportunities relying on the freight train to either start or increase their operational efficiency.

The largest of those customers is Gaspé’s LM Wind Power, forced to load windmill blades in New Richmond in order to reach its clients in the United States.

A supply contract of 600 blades taking place on 900 flat cars started in December. Loading the blades in Gaspé would allow LM Wind Power’s clients to save \$800,000 in transportation costs for a year.

Percé author George J. Pappas passes away at 97

● Gilles Gagné

PERCÉ: — Percé author George J. Pappas, who had published his first novel, ‘Where the Tides Meet’, two years ago, died on December 15, at the age of 97, at the Chandler hospital. He would have turned 98 on January 3.

He adopted Percé as his permanent home in 1979. A good friend of Mr. Pappas, inn owner Michel Boudreau, also of Percé, says that he died in serenity and was lucid until the end.

George J. Pappas was born in New Jersey in 1919. He was an art teacher until he retired at the age of 60.

“He fell in love with Percé in the 1960s and came

every summer between 1965 and 1970. As an artist, he made beautiful paintings of Percé, choosing the beach, the mountains and the surrounding area as scenes. He was gladly exchanging with other artists,” explains Michel Boudreau.

Mr. Pappas bought a couple of houses in Percé, even trying his hand as an inn owner in 1967 with the building that has since become the Percé town hall.

“He bought a second house on Mont Joli, facing the rock, before settling just across the street, in his beautiful yellow house. He retained his American citizenship but never went back to the States, even for a

visit, after receiving the status of “landed immigrant” in 1979,” adds Mr. Boudreau.

In addition to being an art teacher, George Pappas was also a literature professor and he decided to give a shot at being an author.

“He has written three books and started a fourth. As a matter of fact, he started writing his first book, the one I call the fourth book, about 20 years ago and never finished it. His first published book was finished 10 years before publication, two years ago. Between 2015 and a few months before his death, he wrote two other novels, ‘Murder with a Vengeance’ and ‘From the Mountain Top’. He was ex-

pecting that third book (From the Mountain Top) to be released shortly. He wanted that before dying. He was hospitalized but went back to his home on December 10. He wanted to die in his home. He received assistance with his care at home. On December 15, we sent him back to the hospital. His heart was working at maybe 30% of its capacity. He was still lucid. He tried to speak to us but it was too difficult. He left peacefully,” explains Michel Boudreau.

Mr. Pappas’ three books were printed by Friesen Press, Victoria, British Columbia and they can be found on that company’s website.



Photo: Courtesy of Michel Boudreau

Author George J. Pappas.

MADE in...

Baie des Saveurs ORGANIC AND LOCAL FOOD DISTRIBUTION NETWORK

Wendy **Dawson**

CAPLAN - Ah the New Year, the time when our minds are filled with resolutions and our roads are paved with good intentions. Let's face it, even though your body is almost entirely made up of turkey, grandma's sweets and 5 o'clock cocktails at this point, all is not lost. Eating well, locally and organically is an easy and attainable New Year's resolution and it is just a few clicks away.

In 1998, part time farmers Luc Potvin and Éric Giguère of Maria's Jardins Viridis were looking for a way to sell the many onions and carrots that they produced over the growing season. It was a laborious and manual affair, and all potential clients had to be reached by telephone every three weeks and confirmed orders would then be picked up by interested clients.

Known at the time as Réseau bio, the initiative grew to include other producers who were seeking a direct sale to their clients over the fall and winter months and soon Baie des Saveurs was born.

Baie des Saveurs is a website driven platform that allows local Gaspesians access to a variety of local Gaspesian foods. Four different producers, Jardins Viridis, Végéterre, La cigale et la fourmi and Le Jardin du village have compiled a variety of vegetables and products to suit every-

one's tastes. From cheeses, red cabbage and squash to prepared foods such as soup, muffins and garlic pesto, there is something to complete your pantry.

The concept is relatively simple. For a one time annual membership fee of \$7 (included in the total of your first order), interested clients visit the easy to navigate website and select the items that they want to pick up from one of six pick-up spots on a bi-weekly basis. Pick up locations are situated in Carleton, Maria, New Richmond, Caplan, Bonaventure and Paspébiac – Caplan and Paspébiac having been added to accommodate the continued expansion of the Baie des Saveurs client base. From the first week of November until the first week of May, those that have registered on the site receive email reminders of order dates as well as reminders of pick-up dates.

During the fall and winter of 2015/2016, there were over 300 members that placed at least one order during the distribution network's operation. The number of members continues to grow steadily - an average of 10% per year.

Étienne Goyer, co-owner of Jardin du Village with his partner Sonia Boissonneault, sold about 15% of their annual production through the network last year but expects that amount to double to 30% this year.

"The client base is ex-



Photo: W. Dawson

Étienne Goyer from Jardin du Village at the public market held in Gaspé during the visit by the Queen Mary in October 2016.

tremely diversified," he explains. "We have all age ranges, young families and the elderly, we have professionals and blue collar workers. However I would guess that over half of our clients are neo-Gaspesians. Part of our reflection as a group is how to get more local Gaspesians as clients."

Some of the items available to consumers are not necessarily found on everyone's grocery list. Dikon radishes, Jerusalem artichokes and Saskatoon berries might not be common to everyone and the suppliers of the Baie des Saveurs network recognize that.

It is, in part, what motivated an event held in Maria this past November by Baie des Saveurs, which allowed those who were interested to come and visit the producers as well as discover the products that are sold through the network. The culmination of the event was a huge communal meal where over 100 participants savoured delicious

and locally grown foods. The popularity of that event means that there might be another on the horizon for next year.

For his part, Étienne Goyer loves the opportunity that being a supplier for the network provides him. "I really like the whole system. That I actually

see and meet the client who eats what I grow has created a very strong feeling for me and also provides me with an important social network. It is a positive experience to meet new people, to learn about their families, that they learn about mine. I am very grateful for that experience."

When asked about the importance of buying locally, Étienne Goyer waxes poetic and political, "There is a really good vibe among our customer base. This is a real

collective movement about a better and more resilient food system. Buying locally is a positive and solidary gesture."

Price points for the products on the Baie des Saveurs website are similar to those of organic and prepared foods at the grocery store. For more information about Baie des Saveurs, how to register and where pick-up points are located, you can visit both their facebook page and their website at baiedessaveurs.com.

If you are not entirely comfortable with the idea of using the website, someone from the group will be happy to assist you in either English or French, "We value our customer base tremendously and we are willing to dedicate some time to helping them get on board," says Étienne.

Baie des Saveurs is a perfect opportunity for your 2017 to include healthy, organic and local foods.



Photo: facebook

Harvesting potatoes.

Santa arrives at Barachois Legion on a Ski-doo drawn sleigh

Submitted by
Patricia Ste Croix Annett

BARACHOIS: - Santa arrived at Barachois Legion Branch 261 on Sunday, December 11 on a Ski-Doo drawn sleigh. He was greeted with excitement by more than 50 girls and boys who were anxiously awaiting his arrival.

The children were treated to hot dogs, drinks and Christmas cookies before receiving a Christmas gift from Santa.

To offset the cost of the children's gifts, tickets were sold on a Christmas food basket valued at over



Cheyenne Wylie receives a gift from Santa.

\$150 and gift certificates donated by Magasin Thompson / Robins Barachois, IGA, Tim Hortons, Ron's Restaurant and Adams Restaurant in Gaspé.

The winner of the food basket was Karen Sennett and the gift certificate winners were Carter Coffin, Lindsey Element, Dave Pitman, Rosaire Lejeune and Janet Harvey.

Legion President, Lloyd Roussel and executive are appreciative of the many volunteers, businesses and community for their donations and for their continued support.



Santa's sleigh being pulled by a snowmobile.



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Stuck in the Ice

On a Sunday morning in December (2016) I looked out the window and found that our area had had a significant snowfall, as forecast, about six or seven inches. In addition the temperature was well below freezing. It was the day that I had chosen to go to church. I am a regular attendee (every few weeks or so, regularly).

I did allow an extra ten minutes or so to get the snow off the car, which can be quite a lot since I have neither a garage nor a carport. The car should start in spite of the cold, because it has two built in options, a 110 volt engine heater and a remote starter. To ensure there would be no problem in the morning, I not only plugged in the engine heater, but used an old trick to keep the battery and engine compartment a little bit warm overnight, which is to use an extension cord with a light bulb on the end of it and place the bulb near the battery. All was copasetic. There would be no problem.

When the time came to be on my way, I started the car with the remoter starter button and let it run for a couple of minutes. Then I approached in my Sunday best and brushed the snow off, but found that there was some ice in the seams between the doors and the door frames. The doors would not open, no matter how hard I tried, even with the car warming up inside. I even retrieved a hard-

wood paint stick which would go in the cracks along the door frames and I could hear the ice crack when I levered the stick. Success was at my door! But no, the doors wouldn't open. I was about to get a hair dryer and try that, but then realized I don't have a hair dryer.

Time was getting on and I decided church would have to get along without me on this occasion. So, I went into the house, took off my coat and watched the birds enjoying themselves on the feeder in the back yard. Then a little voice spoke to me out of my subconscious and said "Did you unlock the doors?" Imagine my dismay when I found that the car doors had been locked all the time during my endeavours and they were not stuck at all! It was a little bit embarrassing and I promised myself that I would tell nobody.

After church, having coffee as usual, but in an unguarded moment, I told my story to a small group of friends, all of whom I have known for many years, and they found it quite funny. Afterwards, I told it to anyone who would listen. Even a couple of them had a good laugh.

There must be something to be learned from all this. It must be to unlock your doors if you want to get in.

Bob Chisholm, Don Mills, Ontario



Mini Canadian Fan

Elaine Sexton

Pictured above is Liam Boudreau, who will be three on January 29, son of Rebecca Landry and Keith Boudreau, who won the December mini-fan of the month contest for the Montreal Canadians.

To be eligible, parents were to send in a picture of their child, between the ages of 0 - 4 years, dressed in the Canadians logo.

The picture on the left is what was sent to the contest and the other is what he won, including the toque!

Liam, along with his older sister Zoey, began skating lessons this fall.

Congratulations Liam!





Lifestyle choices that reduce your risk of Alzheimer's

(NC) Did you know that there are only two risk factors for Alzheimer's disease that we cannot control? These are genetics and aging, but other risk factors can be reduced by making the right lifestyle choices for your body and brain in order to age successfully.

“While there's no way to prevent Alzheimer's disease, a healthy brain is able to withstand illness,” explains Holly Quinn, Chief Nursing Officer at Bayshore HealthCare, which provides home and community healthcare services and often works with Alzheimer's and dementia patients and caregivers.

Maintain a healthy brain and reduce your risk of Alzheimer's disease with these simple lifestyle choices:

1. Diet. A healthy diet is important for your overall body health, and especially a healthy brain. Eating nutritious food long-term also helps maintain brain function and slow memory decline. Choose foods rich in omega-3 oils, whole grains, and fruits and vegetables of many different colours.

2. Mental exercise. It's important that you exercise your brain and body on a daily basis. Growing evidence suggests that regular mental stimulation may help reduce the risk of Alzheimer's disease by enhancing cognitive reserve (the

mind's resistance to damage. Try puzzles, playing chess, learning a new hobby or musical instrument (anything you enjoy that engages your brain can help create new mental pathways or develop infrequently used ones.

3. Physical exercise. What's good for your heart is also good for your brain. Exercise is great as it gets the blood moving and keeps the heart and brain healthy through constant nourishment from increased circulation. If possible, aim for at least 30 minutes of moderate physical activity at least five times a week.

4. Quit smoking. Smoking is extremely dangerous to your health and body, and your brain is no exception. Recreational drug use and excessive alcohol consumption are also best avoided.

5. Manage stress. It's very important to fix any underlying problems that are causing stress, as stress increases blood pressure and makes the heart beat faster. It also releases the stress hormone cortisol, prolonged levels of which can have a negative effect on the body. Relax your body and mind by managing stress with physical activities, breathing exercises, yoga or meditation.

Find more information at www.bayshore.ca.



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STORM:

Cont'd from cover

Last fall, Ottawa and Québec confirmed a little more than one million dollars together to finish the studies, plans and specifications of the project. However, the budget to concretize the project has not yet been finalized.

The work is planned to begin in January 2018, says Félix Caron. He considers this a realistic schedule, despite the problems experienced at the Percé town hall over the last two months.

Mayor André Boudreau and five councillors resigned in November. Judge France Thériault, appointed by

the Commission municipale du Québec, will manage the town until the next election, planned for this spring.



JOB OFFER DIRECTOR

The Micmac Interpretation Site in Gespeg has a mission to put in place the values of Micmac cultures of the Aboriginal community in Gaspé. It is through its interpretation activities, the site highlights the history of the community from 1675 to today.

Number of positions to fill: 1

Place of work: Micmac interpretation site in Gespeg, Pointe-Navarre and the administrative offices of Gespeg in Corte-Real.

Terms of Employment: Full Time

Education: Diploma of collegial studies in a field related to employment (administration, human resources management, tourism, culture with management skills) Any other schooling or experiences may be considered

Job Description:

The Director is the person who plans and organizes operations, directs staff and controls all aspects of the operation of the Gespeg Interpretation Site in order to provide quality services and products to customers and ensure the proper functioning and the profitability of the site.

Main tasks:

- Supervise the staff under his / her responsibility and ensure the proper functioning of the team;
- Manage the daily operations of the Site;
- To ensure the smooth functioning of services and surroundings;
- Manage the team's work schedule;
- Manage internal and external communications;
- Welcome journalists and distinguished guests;
- Teach team members to respond to visitors' inquiries;
- Ensure the safety of clientele and the comfort of the equipment or premises for its use, at all times;
- Represent the company to clients and the general public;
- Promote all of the company's products and services to clients and partners;
- Ensure client satisfaction during and after activities;
- Manage the cashes (reception and boutique);
- Manage the Website and the social networks of the Site;
- Produce an annual report of operations with recommendations to the Gespeg Micmac Nation Council;
- Produce statistics of attendance and any other statistics necessary to improve the offer and the performance of the Site;
- Work closely with the Gaspé community and the First Nationstourism community;
- Establish a quality approach to tourism
- Any other related duties.

Profile and skills required:

- Ability to communicate and provide information and guidance;
- Autonomous and versatile;
- Ability to mobilize and motivate a team;
- Strong teamwork skills;
- Strong organizational skills;
- High sense of ethics;
- Sensitive to continuous improvement;
- Minimum 2 years experience in human resources management;
- Good knowledge of Micmac culture is an asset;
- Ability to solve problems and deal with unexpected events;
- Be available to work on weekends;
- Excellent in French and English;
- Be prepared to learn the Mi'gmaq language;
- Experience in managing budgets and cashes is an asset;
- Proficiency in Word and Excel;
- Acomba software is an asset.

Salary: According to the salary policy in force in the organization

Number of hours per week: 40 hours / week from June to October and 35 hours/ week from November to May

Start Date: As soon as possible or no later than February 6th, 2017

Application deadline: January 25th, 2017 at 4 pm

*** Only those selected for an interview will be contacted. ***

*** Selected applicants must agree to take the required examinations***

Means of communication:

NAME: Elisha Simon, Director General
Phone: 418-368-6005
Fax: 418-368-1272
Email: direction@gespeg.ca

Social notes...

This New Year my wish for you is to dream big, but be satisfied with the simple blessings that life has gifted you with; to make mighty plans for the future, but never to ignore the little joyous moments of the present.

We extend condolences to the family of the late Mrs. Marion Prentice, 94, who passed away on November 28. Marion was the mother of Gregory (Sarah) and Kim (Graham), and the late Betty and Diana (Richard), and sister to Viola. She was a grandmother and great-grandmother. Grandsons Darren, Travis and Christopher Prentice, Montreal, and Robert Beebe were home to attend her funeral.

It seems as if half of the town was away for the Christmas holidays. Jewell Roy spent the holidays in the United States with her daughter Johanna and her family and son Paul and his family.

Patsy MacDonald spent the holidays with her daughter Catherine, Audrey and Malcolm and her son Ian, Fiona and Katie in Woodstock, N.Y.

Alta Main continues to enjoy the holiday season with her family in the Toronto area. (Randy, Janice and Karen and their families)

Enid and Lynden Bechervaise were pleased to have their sons Scott and Trevor and their families spend Christmas with them.

Starr, Blake and Danny Sinclair flew to Moseley, Virginia (near Richmond, Virginia) to be with their daughter Suzanne and her family for the holidays.

Cathy Brown and her son Andrew (Montreal) flew to Savannah, Georgia to be with her son Greg, his wife and children over the Christmas period.

Sincere sympathy to the family of the late Mr. Peter



Sharon Farrell
NEW CARLISLE
NEWS

Le Gresley, 85, which occurred December 19, 2016. He leaves to mourn his wife Renate, his sons: Mark (Barbara), John (Marina), his daughter Lisa (Rod), his grandchildren: Kathryn, Andrew and Laura, his great-grandchild Owen and his brother John.

Maureen Sinclair, Cullens Brooke, was happy to have her son Rod and Sonya home for Christmas.

Peter and Mona (Doherty) Douglass were delighted to have their daughters Courtney and Mandy join them for Christmas.

We are sorry to report the death of Michael Buttle on Christmas day. Michael grew up in New Carlisle and was living in Hamilton, Ont. He was the son of Dolly Buttle and the late Vestie Buttle, brother to Marilyn, Jimmy and Adrian.

Sharon (Murray) and Wayne Guignon spent several weeks in Fredericton with Stephanie, Pete and Isabelle. Stephanie managed to keep Wayne busy doing renovations.

I noticed that Bertrand Beaulieu's former home (beside the court house) has been demolished. I believe the Quebec government now owns the property.

Robert, Andrea and Robin Coulombe, Hamilton, Ont. spent Christmas at their home on the beach.

The cross-country and snowshoeing trails behind the Optimist Chalet are ready for use. Get out and

enjoy some fresh air!

We were deeply saddened by the news of the passing of Mrs. Heather Buttle on January 1. Heather, 73, leaves to mourn her husband Claude Buttle, sons Kevin (Caroline) and Greg (Peggy), daughters Linda (Mike) and Kellie (George). She was the grandmother to Jimmy-Lee, Cassidy, Holly, Ashley, Sherie-Lynn, Mathieu, Bianca, Jérémie, Kendra-Lynne, Chloe, Morgan and Erica and a great-grandmother.

Sharon and Wade Gifford had a trip of a lifetime. They spent six weeks visiting friends in New Zealand and on the way home enjoyed Christmas in Hawaii.

Doreen and Ray Copage, Fredericton celebrated Christmas with their daughter Donna and her family.

Ann Daigle, Fredericton, N.B. visited family and friends over the holiday period.

Diane (Watt) and Jim Middleton, Ottawa, and Cheryl Watt, Montreal spent the holidays with their family in New Carlisle.

Get well wishes go out to Ann Craig who is a patient in Maria Hospital.

Janice and Gary Sylvestre were so pleased to have their son Tyler home for Christmas. Tyler and his girlfriend are attending university in Holland.

Olive Gilker spent the holiday period in the Toronto area with her family.

Congratulations to Ken Ross and Olivia Walker who got engaged Christmas Eve and the church bells will be ringing in June.

The ski trails and snowshoe trails are now ready and are in excellent condition. Please respect the rules of no dogs on the ski trails. Also the chalet is now open.



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Announcements...



Birth



WILLETT: Griffin James

Our Sweetheart

Born on July 18, 2016 in Swift Current, Saskatchewan, son of James and Kristine Willett of Swift Current. Grandson of Mike and Cathy Willett of Saskatoon and great-grandson of Archie and Elsie Willett of Cascapedia-St. Jules, Quebec.



Obituaries

LEGRESLEY: Peter D.

On December 19, 2016, our beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and brother passed away at age 85 in New Carlisle, Quebec.

Peter is survived by his wife, Renate; children, Lisa (Rod), Mark (Barbara) and John (Marina); grandchildren, Kathryn (Kristen), Andrew and Laura; great-grandson, Owen; brother, John and family.

Our sincere thanks to Dr. Basque, CLSC home support services and the palliative care staff at Centre d'accueil.

We wish to express our sincere gratitude to everyone for their sympathy and prayers. Your support and kindness is greatly appreciated.

A memorial service will be held 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.



PARENT: Francis James

James Parent passed away at C.I.S.S.S de la Gaspésie- Hôpital de Gaspé, on December 26 at the age of 90 years and nine months. Mr. Parent was the husband of the late Jessie Hackett from York.

The family received condolences at St-Andrew's Church in York on December 31 from 11:30 a.m to 12:30 p.m.

The funeral service was held at the same location at 1 p.m. Interment to follow at the York cemetery.

He leaves behind his nephews, his nieces, his cousins and a lot of friends.



In Memory

MACKENZIE: Arnold

In loving memory of a dear husband and father who passed away December 29, 2015.

If we could have a lifetime wish,

A dream that would come true.

We'd pray to God with all our hearts,

For yesterday and you.

A thousand words can't bring you back,

We know because we tried.

Neither will a thousand tears,

We know because we cried.

You left behind our broken hearts,

And happy memories.

We only wanted you.

Sadly missed and always loved, Joyce and family.

OUR RATES:

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

IN MEMORIAM: \$30 (\$35 with picture) *up to 20 lines - \$40 (\$45 with picture) more than 20 lines*

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\$40.00 (\$45.00 with picture) (Max. 300 words)

Please send your announcement to: joan.spec@globe-trotter.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.

Happy 90th Birthday



Left to right, Janet Element, Doris Nelson, Donna Nelson and Bobby Nelson

Doris Nelson

Doris was born on December 21, 1926 in Sandy Beach, where she grew up. She was an elementary school teacher in Murdochville for 29 years, after which she spent some of her retirement in the town of Gaspé and subsequently, Cascapedia. Twenty-two years ago, she moved to Cowansville, Quebec to be closer to her kids, Bobby and Janey, who were in Montreal.

Her family and friends had a surprise birthday party for her on Sunday, December 18, at Emmanuell United Church Hall, and despite icy roads and freezing rain, many friends and family showed up, a true testament to the love people have for Doris!

Janey Element (daughter), Bobby Element (son) and Donna Nelson (niece), organized the event; Bobby read "Desiderata," one of Doris' favourite poems; Janey got her guitar out and sang three of her favorite songs and Doris thanked everyone for being there.

In typical Doris fashion, she cracked three good jokes and ended by saying she plans to be around for her 100th! See you then!"

Card of Thanks

I would like to thank everyone who came to my surprise birthday party at the Heritage Restaurant on December 4. Also thanks to my daughters, Janet and Brenda who were not able to be here but helped my niece Avis, to plan a nice surprise. Thanks again everyone.

Lee Leggo



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COAST ROUND-UP

WAKEHAM:

100 Birthday Celebration

An open house will be held in honour of Mary Miller's 100th Birthday on **Sunday, January 22** at the Senior's Room in Wakeham. Guests are welcome from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Best wishes only.

YORK:

ACW

Upcoming Events

Saturday, July 15, 2017: Summer sale. Details to follow at a later date.

Saturday, November 18, 2017: Christmas sale. Details to follow at a later date.

DOUGLASTOWN:

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, January 18: Travel talks is back by popular demand. Every second Wednesday starting, Wednesday, January 18 at 7:30 p.m. in the conference room of the community center. A neat way to travel around the world. Most travel talks will be in french. Everyone welcome!

Sunday, January 22: The monthly traditional breakfast will be served from 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. A voluntary contribution of \$7 for adults (12 & over), \$4 for children (5-11) and ages 4 and under are free. Everyone is welcome!

Friday, January 27: The Community center will be holding a happy hour starting at 5 p.m. Bring your refreshments and a dish to share. A voluntary contribution of \$2 would be appreciated. It's a great opportunity to get together with old friends or make new ones.

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 km in and around Douglastown.

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. A new 8-week session

is starting on **Saturday, January 21** for \$70. Or 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 contact Sandy Coombs at 418-645-2874.

SHIGAWAKE:

SPDS Governing Board Meetings

Tuesday, January 31: There will be a meeting at 6:30 p.m. at Shigawake Port-Daniel School.

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.

SHIGAWAKE:

Cookbooks for sale

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

SHIGAWAKE:

WI Marcil Branch Advance Notice

Friday, February 10: Valentine's Tea. From 12 p.m. until 2 p.m. at the 3 Star 50 Plus Club. \$6 per person. Kids 6 and under free. 50/50 and door prize.

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:

Military Whist

There will be a whist party on **Saturday, January 14** at 8 p.m. at the Hope Town Community Center.

HOPE TOWN:

Community Center

Saturday, January 21: There

will be a Crib tournament at 1 p.m. \$10 per person. Call Linda or Audrey at 418-752-2015 to register your team before Thursday, January 19.

Winter Carnival Schedule:

Friday, January 27: Casse-rolle supper from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. Adults \$10. Children 7-12 \$4 and under 6 is free. Also a gift bingo at 7:30 p.m. Series of 3/\$20.

Saturday, January 28: Games on ice. 1:30 p.m. Family game night starts at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 29: Hockey. Oldtimers vs Youngtimers. Starts at 1 p.m.

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 RICHMOND:

Friperie Notice Holiday Closure

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

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

50 + Club

Upcoming Events

Every Tuesday: Prize Bingo at 7 p.m. Entry (2 cards for \$5) and \$1 for each additional card.

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

Jam Session

On **Friday, January 20, Friday, February 3** and **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. - free admission and canteen service on site. Welcome to all!

GESGAPEGIAG:

Community Market

A community market will be

held in the Galgosiet building on **Saturday, January 21**, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. To reserve a table for \$5 call the band office (Bonnie Jerome) 418-759-3441.

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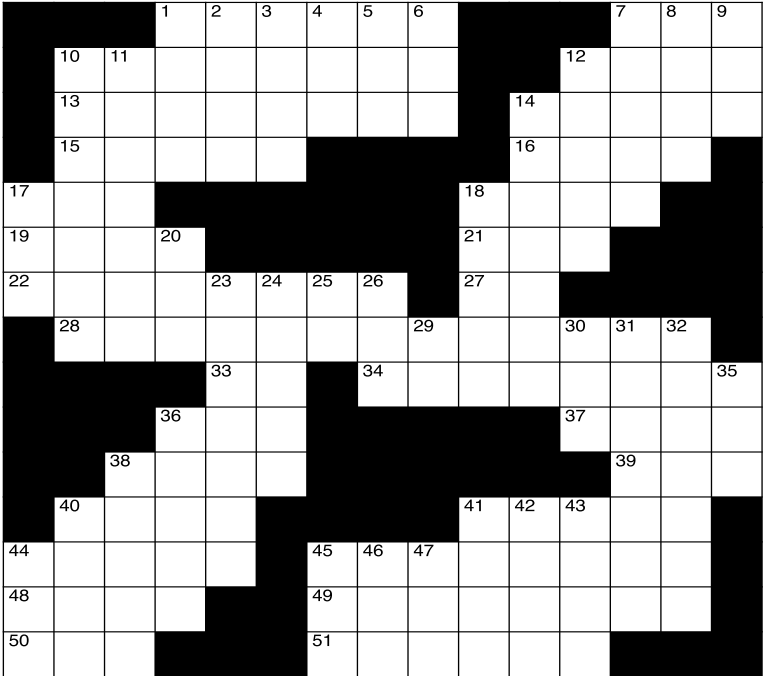
If your organization is a frequent user of our Coast Round-Up section of the Spec, we would like to offer you a special deal! For a flat rate of \$60 per year, we will publish all your coast round-up announcements for one year. This should prove financially beneficial and more convenient for you.

If you would like to take part in this deal, just send us your cheque for \$60, with the name and address of your organization. All you have to do is call or fax your messages without having the hassle of making individual payments each time!

Keep in mind Coast round-ups are \$5 per week, making this plan an even more profitable deal!



CROSSWORDS

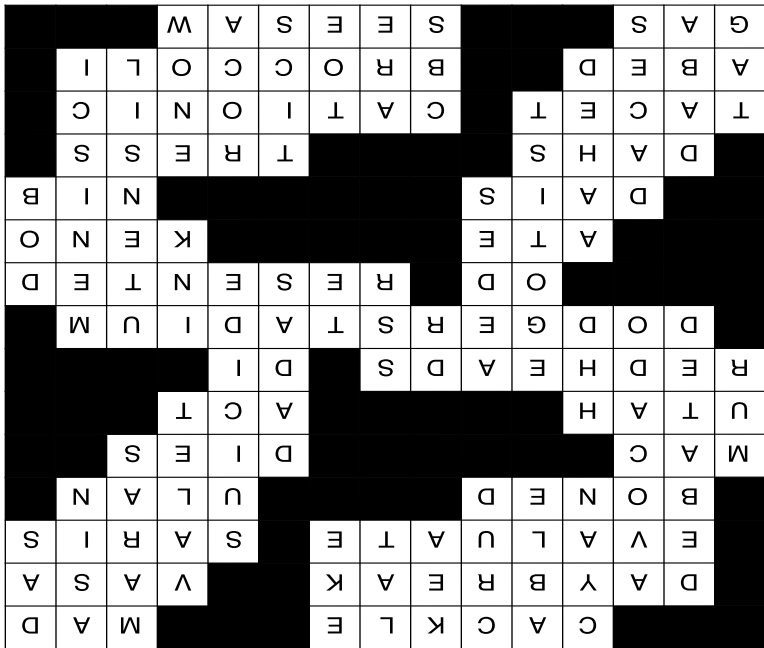


CLUES ACROSS

- Give a raucous cry
- Mentally ill
- Natural electrical phenomenon
- Vessels
- Judge the worth of something
- South Asian garments
- Studied intensively
- District in Kazakhstan
- Beloved meal __ and cheese
- Ceases to live
- Home to BYU
- What thespians do
- Julianne Moore and Christina Hendricks are two
- Double in chemistry
- Clayton Kershaw plays here
- Overdose
- Begrudged
- Consumed
- A game of chance
- A low platform
- Shelled and crushed coffee bean
- Dashes
- Long lock of a woman’s hair
- Indicates silence in music
- Positively charged
- In bed
- Cruciferous vegetable
- Fuel
- Kids’ ride

CLUES DOWN

- Greenish-blue
- Having sufficient skill, knowledge, etc.
- Dirt
- New Zealand mountain parrot
- Back muscle
- Supplement with difficulty
- Kate and Rooney
- How Amazon identifies its products (abbr.)
- Emirati island
- Contended
- Pear-shaped fruit
- Parks cars
- Killing oneself
- Austrian river
- Older brothers
- Home hemodialysis
- One who is self-absorbed
- Yellow fever mosquitos
- Pepper or Oz
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Tellurium
- Pens are filled with it
- Use this at dinner
- Thin fibrous cartilage (pl.)
- When you were born
- Oohed and __
- Small freshwater fishes
- Religion in China
- Twitches
- Cape near Lisbon
- Management software
- Game for kids
- Ed Murrow’s home
- They __
- Part of the foot



A walk down memory lane...



The old theatre in New Carlisle in the 40s

Marjorie LeGrand Doherty has many fond memories of this old building. She remembers when it was built “I was 14 or 15 when the theatre was built, after the one in Paspebiac burned down.” She and her friends, including Dorothy Beck and friend and neighbour Gerard D. Levesque often went to see films. Many friends would bike to her place and leave their bicycles on the veranda and then they would all walk to the theatre together.

Why do we say...

By Gary Briand

"He is not worth his salt" is an expression widely heard in the Douglastown of my youth. It is closely related to "to earn one's salt" and the explanation I will offer for the first provides insight on the second.

What we must understand is that the word "salt" comes from Latin's "solarium," the very word that came into English as "salary." In the early days of Rome, the emperor's soldiers were paid by a piece of wood or stone with a distinctive notch or mark. This marker was then taken to the central place and exchanged for salt, a rare commodity in those times and one not frowned upon by medical doctors as it is today. In fact, salt was considered as essential to maintain human life. Thus, one where labour lacks production is not worth the salt that he receives.

The late John Fitzgerald Kennedy once said of Henry Cabot Lodge, his American Ambassador to Vietnam, " ... he is not worth the salt we give him."

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HOROSCOPES

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, relaxation seems like the perfect idea, but some restlessness might get in the way of these plans. Low-impact activities may be the way to go.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, if you find it difficult to ask for what you desire, garner the courage and make a stand. Trust your instincts that you deserve what you are seeking.

GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, you are in your element this week and you will be soaring on good vibes for several days. There's no pressure to get things done, so keep on sailing.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, find your footing this week, which figures to be busy and hectic. Prepare a schedule so you can complete all the tasks at hand on time.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, optimism is good, but you may need to be a realist this week as well. Do not compromise common sense for the sake of seeing the bright side of everything.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, concentration comes naturally to you, but don't focus so much that you begin to miss what's going on around you. Seek a friend who can keep you smiling.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, you are eager to listen and learn but you also want to share your own experiences. This week you will need to find a balance between being the student and the teacher.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, avoid jumping to conclusions and encourage others to do the same. Allow things to play out before forming any concrete opinions or developing a course of action.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

Make your decisions now before you add any more information to the mix, Sagittarius. Your judgement could be clouded by unnecessary data coming your way.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, you are at a turning point in your life and now may be a good time to make a few important changes. This may involve a new career path or new friends.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, even if you have a lot to get done, you will be able to think on your feet and make changes as needed. Maintain your self-confidence throughout the week.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

Actively explore your impulses in the next few days, Pisces. You may not have a chance to do so in the coming weeks.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

JANUARY 8

Stephen Hawking, Scientist (75)

JANUARY 9

Kate Middleton, British Royalty (35)

JANUARY 10

Hrithik Roshan, Actor (43)

JANUARY 11

Mary J. Blige, Singer (46)

JANUARY 12

Zayn Malik, Singer (24)

JANUARY 13

Orlando Bloom, Actor (40)

JANUARY 14

Jason Bateman, Actor (48)

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