

VIA RAIL:

Trains are full but there won't be an increase in train frequency

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND: – Gaspésians, and other train riders, are experiencing a problem trying to reserve a seat or a room on VIA Rail's Ocean train, linking Halifax and Montreal. Since the suspension of the train between Montreal and Gaspé-New Carlisle in September 2013, the Ocean has been the train serving the Gaspé Peninsula, either in Campbellton, New Brunswick, or Matapédia.

However, even though summer is typically a busy period for VIA Rail, sold out trains happened unusually early on the Ocean this year. It has been impossible, or extremely hard, to find a seat or a bed since the end of June. The "sold out" period is usually closer to mid-July.

The distribution of youth passes has played a role in that situation. Another factor seems to be the number of Renaissance passenger cars sidelined for different reasons. That is the main equipment used on the Ocean train.

Between July 11 and July 17, including four-and-a-half business days, The Gaspé SPEC tried to get information from VIA Rail on the Renaissance equipment.

The questions were simple: How many Renaissance cars are currently in service? How many units are under repair? How many Renaissance units are permanently sidelined?

In the documents consulted by SPEC, 139 Renaissance units were bought in 2000 for \$130 million. 106 of them were adapted between 2000 and 2002 for their use in Canada, which required another significant investment.

While waiting for answers from VIA Rail, SPEC asked questions to Tim Hayman, a Transportation spokesperson based in Halifax. Transportation is a commuter transport advocacy group, formerly



Photo: G. Gagné

VIA Rail currently operates the Ocean train with three locomotives, and at least 18 cars, sometimes more.

known as Transport 2000.

Mr. Hayman first explains that adding cars to the existing Ocean train is not easy.

"VIA is currently running both sets of Renaissance equipment on the Ocean at their maximum practical length - five coaches, and eight sleepers, in addition to the rest of the required equipment, baggage, service cars, diner and transition car. They also added a stainless steel Chateau sleeper to each train for crew space so they could free up more rooms in the Renaissance sleepers, and they've also sold some surplus space in that car on the sold out trains," he initially commented.

"Even if VIA had more Renaissance equipment available, and I suspect they have at least a few more coaches and sleepers that are serviceable this the moment, I am skeptical that they would add any more to the train. Anything longer than that length runs into operational issues. There is a platform length issue, and

importantly, in Halifax station, any train with more than 18 Renaissance cars starts to have issues fitting in the station track. The Renaissance can't easily be split and recombined, as it takes several hours to do so. Consequently, if they ever need to run extra cars beyond that length, they usually use stainless steel sleepers (Chateau) or even coaches to add on the tail end, since these can be dropped on the second track in Halifax and recombined quickly before departure," adds Mr. Hayman.

A simple solution, adding train frequency, also seems unlikely, analyzes the Transportation expert.

"The only way they could practically add capacity for the Ocean would be to put another full set of Renaissance equipment into service and run additional frequencies, but that is highly unlikely, and that's where you get into the issue with equipment that is not serviceable. Again, I don't have a specific number. No

one I've asked could tell me, but I believe it's not enough to make another full set," says Mr. Hayman, who raised the matter with a representative of VIA Rail.

"VIA could in fact run the Ocean at least four times per week while still only running two sets of equipment, and I think it's an absolute shame that they aren't doing that. However, in a meeting with Susan Williams, VIA's Eastern general manager last year, I raised the four trains a week option and she said she was fully aware of that, and while she wouldn't commit to anything, it sounded like they had that on their radar as a possible option. But I don't know if it will actually happen," says Mr. Hayman.

"Personally, I think they would be better off to run trains that are half the size on a daily basis, rather than these monster trains three times a week. They would very likely carry more people in the long run," he concludes.

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FORILLON PARK:

Campgrounds to be renovated

Geneviève Gélinas

CAP-DES-ROSIERS – Forillon Park will invest \$6 million in renovations of the service buildings in its three campgrounds. This year the renovations will take place at the Petit-Gaspé campground and next year at the Des-Rosiers and Cap-Bon-Ami campgrounds. The work will focus on exterior siding, doors, windows, decks, the interiors (including bathrooms and showers), and the foundations in certain cases. The buildings date back to the 1970s.

Forillon received 150,000 visitors in 2016 and sold 21,000 campsite nights. This year, for the 150th anniversary of the Confederation, Parks Canada is offering free admission to all its locations, including Forillon Park. Director of Parks Canada for the Gaspé Peninsula, Stéphane Marchand, is expecting “an exceptional year.” At the end of June, 17,000 campsite nights were already reserved. A total of 175 employees will be working in Forillon this summer, that is to say 25 more seasonal and student employees than usual.

Four exhibits at Chafaud Museum

Thierry Haroun

PERCÉ: - Not one, not two, not three but four exhibits are taking place on the old walls, dating back to 1846, of the Chafaud Museum in Percé. The main one is from Pierre Henry, poet and painter, who’s presenting some 40 art pieces (mainly acrylics and charcoal sketches) evoking the Percé and Charlevoix landscape. On the second floor, two artists have exhibits. Jacques Martineau displays colour drawings that are quite impressive in terms of the technique used. The other artist is Marc Chicoine displaying fishing boats from burned wood, a very unique art. Finally, in a special room, three wonderful watercolours and two sculptures from Suzanne Guité, originally from New Richmond, assassinated in Mexico in 1981, are exhibited. The Musée Le Chafaud, which is in its 33rd season, is open every day until late September.

Better screening for breast cancer at Maria hospital

Press release

MARIA – The organizing committee of the 5th edition of the RCGT Golf Tournament for the benefit of the Baie-des-Chaleurs Health Foundation is pleased to announce that the target of \$150,000 has been exceeded. It is indeed \$168,650 that was announced at the event closing on July 7. This amount will be used to finance the purchase of a three-dimensional digital breast tomosynthesis machine, a vacuum biopsy machine and a specialized examination chair. This high-tech equipment will improve the detection rate of breast cancer by 50% and perform more biopsies at the Maria Hospital.

“Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton would like to warmly thank all partners, sponsors and donors of the event. The contribution of our community to the cause of the Baie-des-Chaleurs Health Foundation is once again exceptional. From year to year, Baie-des-Chaleurs companies are there to support the mission of the Foundation. It is thanks to them that this tournament remains one of the most important activities benefiting our region,” says Daniel Berthelot, RCGT Associate and President of the event.

The President of the Foundation, Mr. Carol Morneau, and Dr. Marie-Claude Thériault, Honourary President of the RCGT for Elles Golf Tournament, thank all the sponsors, donors, participants and volunteers who contributed to the success of this important funding activity of the Foundation. “The objective of this tournament was achieved through the contribution of everyone. That’s what makes the difference.”

“Considering that one in nine women in the Gaspé will have breast cancer in their lifetime, the arrival of this new technology in our region will necessarily have great repercussions for all the women of Baie-des-Chaleurs who will have to undergo a screening mammogram. In fact, the equipment that will be acquired through the Foundation’s contribution will help to make the current screening program more efficient and to avoid the anxiety created in the patients during reminders for supplementary examinations and by the expectation of results,” says Dr. Thériault.

The Bay of Chaleur Health Foundation’s mission is to contribute to the financing of medical equipment acquisition projects and other equipment to develop the services offered by the Gaspésie Integrated Health and Social Services Center, according to its objectives and priorities to improve the health and well-being of the population by engaging the community.



Photo: G. Gélinas

Co-owner of the Auberge Chic-Chac, Guillaume Molaison.

Auberge Chic-Chac acquires the Lake York Outdoor Centre

Geneviève Gélinas

MURDOCHVILLE: – Murdochville’s Auberge Chic-Chac recently bought the Lake York Outdoor Centre from the town of Murdochville for \$235,000. The Chic-Chac managers want to develop the area by adding mountain bike trails and off-trail skiing.

The purchase includes the 100-site campground and five chalets. The outdoor centre is close to the Murdochville golf course, six kilometers east of the town.

Long before the town put the Lake York Outdoor Centre up for sale, the co-owner of the Chic-Chac, Guillaume Molaison, said, as a Murdochville citizen, that it would be “logical to bring organizations together,” to manage several seasonal attractions jointly.

With the Lake York transaction, the Chic-Chac is now the owner of an inn offering off-trail skiing and rafting packages, the Mount Miller ski center and the outdoor center.

“It allows us to provide good employment conditions and keep our managers (...). I cannot attract employees to Murdochville by giving them only \$5,000 to \$10,000 (in wages) per year through skiing,” says Mr. Molaison.

The Chic-Chac has become a four-season business. “In November, we begin preparing for the ski season. The Mount Miller Ski Centre opens at the beginning of De-

cember. There’s skiing and cat-skiing all winter long, until April. (Snowcat skiing is an alternative to heli-skiing and provides a comparable quality of skiing by using a snowcat to transport guests to deep powder areas.) There’s rafting (on the York River),” Mr. Molaison says. One can add to those options, mountain biking and camping, as well as attracting golf lovers and salmon and trout fishing enthusiasts. “October has always been the month for investments, but we could accommodate people who are visiting us to hunt,” says Mr. Molaison.

The Chic-Chac developed mountain biking trails and off-trail runs on Mount York. The outdoor centre becomes a new gateway to that mountain. Mr. Molaison would also like to build new trails for those two sports, especially on Mount Rothery, close to the outdoor centre entrance.

Campers won’t be forgotten, assures Mr. Molaison. “First, we want to make sure

that we give good service to the people who already use Lake York,” he says.

That clientele is open to new things, he adds. “It’s an aging clientele. They want something to convince their children and grandchildren to come and enjoy this place. Mountain biking wouldn’t interfere with that quietness. It doesn’t make noise.”

The Chic-Chac acquired the Mount Miller Ski Center last fall, from a non-profit organization. Winter 2016-2017 was a good season, with revenues of \$300,000, three times more than the normal revenues, mainly because of bar and restaurant sales. The ski center building “became our gathering place for the Chic-Chac (inn),” states Mr. Molaison.

The Chic-Chac is the property of Eloïse Bourdon and Guillaume Molaison, a couple, and other Quebec investors. The company hires 35 people, including five who are working all year long because of the Lake York operations.



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Photo: G. Gagné

Transport Québec expects to reopen the bridge spanning over the Grand Cascapedia River on Highway 132 in June 2018.

Bridge to reopen in June 2018

Gilles Gagné

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES: – Transport Québec expects to reopen the Highway 132 bridge spanning over the Grand Cascapedia River in June 2018. The bridge was closed on May 8 of this year because one of the pillars shifted, the result of the strong river current.

That strong current undermined the gravel bed supporting the pillar. The shift caused a small depression on two of the bridge's spans, and slightly deformed the guard rail. At the time, those clues urged a police officer to warn Transport Québec and close the bridge right away.

The possibility of seeing the pillar and the two spans collapse was assessed by Transport Québec, and then ruled out, however, it was quickly decided that the pillar and two of the bridge's 11 spans would be replaced. The bridge has 10 pillars.

Transport Québec engineer Victor Bérubé points out that 90% of the repair plans are ready and that the ministry should be ready to launch the call for tenders process on August 7, with an August 28 deadline.

"Contract awarding should take place by mid-September (...) and the work will be carried out between September and May 2018. Traffic (on the bridge) should resume in June 2018, and the paving job will take place between mid-June and mid-July," explains Mr. Bérubé.

"The cost of the contract is expected to range between \$5 million and \$10 million," says Yves Berger, regional director of Transport Québec, adding that the discrepancy between the two amounts comes from the fact that the ministry

wants the best tender possible and therefore avoids forwarding numbers that would be accurate.

The closure of the bridge forced Transports Québec to rely on an 11.5 kilometre detour, passing through the usually quiet communities of Cascapedia and Saint Jules. The daily traffic of a few hundred vehicles in Cascapedia-St-Jules rose considerably, as 6,500 vehicles per day are passing on Highway 132, a number reflecting the annual average.

"In the wintertime, about 4,000 vehicles are passing daily on that stretch of highway but in the summer, that number reaches 9,000," emphasizes Yves Berger.

Pillar and spans replacement work will be realized in two steps, first the removal of those components, followed by the installation of the new parts. Two dykes will be laid on the riverbed in order to facilitate those steps, and carry out further protection work that will touch the 10 pillars.

"Each pillar will be protected by a steel boom," says Victor Bérubé, referring to structures that will prevent the repetition of the May 8 pillar shift. "Steel boards will be installed and concrete will be laid inside to fill the void between the steel and the pillar," he adds.

Work will continue during wintertime. Yves Berger admits that starting the work before the end of salmon fishing would have been more complicated, in a river renowned world-wide.

"Getting authorizations was the main reason for not being ready to start though," affirms Mr. Berger, adding that Transport Québec has filed for a number of authorizations from wildlife and en-

vironmental authorities at the Quebec level, as well as the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans, especially because the tide is moving upstream to the bridge.

In order to save two months, could Transport Québec have opted for the emergency designation of a contractor, thus bypassing the call for tender process, similar to the situation in Hope Town in November 2015 in order to fix the Highway 132 bridge adjacent to the beach?

"Given the magnitude of the works, it was too big, too complex for that kind of contract. In Hope Town, a contractor had already been designated for other works and it was determined that the company could do the bridge repairs," explains Mr. Berger.

Patrickton and Gallagher roads to be repaved

Moreover, Transport Québec has opted for repaving Patrickton and Gallagher Roads, same as MacKay Road in June, in order to alleviate the burden on MacKay Road. That rumour had been circulating since the bridge was closed. Repaving will take place in August.

"The vehicles moving east will be directed towards MacKay while the vehicles going west will be directed to Gallagher and Patrickton. That will increase traffic fluidity. Of course, local traffic will use any of the ways, according to people's needs," says Yves Berger.

Paving MacKay and Des Ponts Roads has already cost close to \$1.4 million. Adding Patrickton and Gallagher Roads will add about \$1.6 million to the tab, for a total of \$3 million.

Sûreté du Québec investigators are still trying to find the murderers of the four unresolved murders on the Gaspé Peninsula over the last 30 years. The successful outcome of two unresolved murders over the last four years has given hope to some people, including police officers, that it is still possible to find the murderers many years after the crimes.

In April 2016, Johanne Johnson was found guilty of the murder of her husband, James Dubé, in Grand River, committed in April 1998. She was charged 15 years after the crime, following an undercover investigation of the Mr. Big type, during which she admitted the crime.

On May 4, 2017, Réal Savoie entered a plea of guilty during a lengthy murder trial that had started in November 2016. His victim, Sonia Raymond, was murdered on the beach in Maria in July 27, 1996. Réal Savoie was charged in April 2014, almost 18 years after committing the crime, following a Mr. Big investigation.

Four unresolved murders were committed on the Gaspé Peninsula since 1988. Linda Condo from Gesgapegiag was shot along a Miguasha wooded area road in October 1988. Claudette Servant and Victorien Vallée were shot in their Saint-Anne-des-Monts home in May 1995. Will Langlois from Port Daniel disappeared in Chandler in February 1998.

"All the unresolved murder files are never closed. A number of investigators are working exclusively on those cases. It is their only mandate, investigating Quebec's unresolved murders. They are always looking for new clues, rechecking information they already have, trying to find new angles on some clues," explains Sgt. Claude Doiron, spokesperson for the Sûreté du Québec on the Gaspé Peninsula, Madgalen Islands and Lower Saint Lawrence region.

"I, for one, receive calls from those investigators. They ask me if I have a press file on some of the cases, to make sure that they have covered all the ground. We always hope that someone, somewhere, maybe to free one's conscience, will call us with the clue that will make everything unfold. It could be someone on his deathbed, for example," adds Sgt. Doiron.

"Most of the time, there is only a small clue missing, a clue that could make a difference between an unresolved murder and the laying of charges against a suspect. The investigators have a pretty good idea of who could be charged in most cases but they miss that piece to complete the puzzle. We are aware that some people are waiting for answers and we hope to give them those answers one day," says Sgt. Claude Doiron.

Linda Condo's body was discovered a few days after the murder. Considered a potential suspect, a man from the Baie des Chaleurs area was later questioned repeatedly in that file. He was even submitted to the polygraph (lie detector test), but to this day there is not enough evidence to charge him.

The Servant-Vallée couple was found in the woods by a trout fisherman in the Ruisseau-Castor brook, about 10 kilometres from their home. Their bodies were partly decomposed. It was six weeks after the murder. In that case again, a suspect was identified and so far, there is not enough evidence to charge him. A significant amount of money was missing from Mr. Vallée's safe.

Will Langlois was never seen again after getting off the bus in Chandler on February 5, 1998. He was an important witness in a murder case, having been one of the last two men to see Daniel Langlois alive, before perishing in the fire that totalled his house on December 25, 1996.

Will Langlois later testified in a preliminary hearing that a third man, Rodrigue Boudreau, had set fire in a closet in Daniel Langlois' house, following a Christmas party. Rodrigue Boudreau was facing murder charges when Will Langlois disappeared. During Boudreau's trial in November 1998, the judge admitted as evidence the recording of Will Langlois' testimony rendered during the preliminary hearing. Rodrigue Boudreau then entered a plea of guilty on a reduced charge of manslaughter.



Commentary Gilles Gagné

Rising interest rates could slowdown

Canadians learned at the end of June and the beginning of July that an increase in interest rates was looming, despite years of stability in that regard and a firm conviction by respected analysts that the Bank of Canada wouldn't move in that direction before mid-2018.

Bank of Canada governor Stephen Poloz gave a hint on June 27-28 when he stated that low interest rates "had done their job," which was to make money accessible to Canadians following the tough recession of 2008-2009.

In details, "doing the job" means encouraging consumption, which is easier when the credit cards' interest fees are lower. They too are aligned on the overall interest rates led by the Bank of Canada's rate.

Doing the job is also encouraging people to buy houses. There again, a low mortgage rate will facilitate people's decision to acquire a house, condominium or opt for another residence. Cars are often acquired through unused borrowing space on mortgage loans nowadays and, therefore, contribute to our govern-

ments' ways of encouraging consumption.

Now, after the post 2008-2009 paltry growth years, the Canadian economy has fared better in 2014-2015, and it is apparently adjustment time.

Doing the job now could come to enticing Canadians into a bit of reflection regarding their debt load, which is way too high.

The July 12 rise of the Bank of Canada's leading interest rate will probably be followed by other hikes, the way it happened in 2004, following the 2000-2001 slump. It is true that at 0.75% instead of 0.50%, the Bank of Canada base interest rate remains quite low, the lowest in 15 years, barring the 0.25% exception of 2009-2010.

What the Bank of Canada and, indirectly the Government of Canada, wishes to attain through an interest rate increase is deal with other issues.

One of the first goals consists of attenuating the effects of speculation, a reality mainly in Vancouver and Toronto, but a situation that affects all of the Canadian cities and hampers people's access to housing at a fair price. Although higher interest rates are far from the only way to deal with speculation, nobody wants to see in Canada a repetition of the speculative bubble that led hundreds of thousands of Americans to live in their cars or trailers in 2008-2009 in some cases. A higher interest rate might temper the real estate market a bit.

Despite being advantageous for exporting companies, the low value of the Canadian dollar can also represent a drag for the firms relying heavily on the imports of foreign goods, mainly sophisticated equipment that is

not made in Canada.

A higher interest rate usually contributes to increasing the value of a currency, as it becomes more profitable to acquire it for trade purposes. The Canadian dollar is no exception here. As a matter of fact, the value of the Canadian currency started to increase even before the Bank of Canada's interest rate rose. Our dollar increased past the 78 cent mark almost overnight, gaining more than half-a-cent in that short interval.

A higher dollar might also spell a bit of relief for the business people and the vacationers travelling outside the country. It might as well give a break to the food processors adding value to imported goods.

A Canadian dollar that would stabilize around 80 American cents looks like a reasonable goal for the Bank of Canada analysts.

Regionally, the Gaspé Peninsula could suffer a bit if the July 12 hike is followed by several other increases in the coming years. We export a huge proportion of what is produced here, with the exception of electricity.

Almost all of our fishery products are sold to American, European and Japanese customers. A big proportion of our lumber goes south of the border, and those products are already hit by a lumber dispute. Our windmill blades are currently exclusively exported to the United States. In tourism, we greet mainly Quebecers, but Europeans were here earlier than usual in 2017, in part because of our low dollar.

Gaspésians have proven in the past that they can adjust, however, and they probably will again regarding interest rates.



Guest Commentary Wendy Dawson

You can't get there from here

If you had any impromptu plans for your summer vacation or if you were hoping that a friend or family member could just swing down to the Coast for a special event, and if you had any fantasies of the train being involved in that equation, you can stop your planning right now.

As it turns out it is next to impossible to get into or out of the Gaspésie by train for the entire month of July. Almost each and every seat, bedroom and roomette (with the exception of a very rare cancellation) on the trains travelling between Montreal and Halifax are sold out and have been for over three weeks now.

I regularly use VIA rail for my work travel. I like the idea of travelling at night, of not losing an entire day to my displacement between Campbellton and Montreal. I am a regular enough passenger that some VIA employees know me on a first name basis, exchanging small talk about the weather "down home." This year, my classification of VIA preference member changed, a testament to my rail miles. I am not alone, of course. I see many of the same faces in my travels, having exchanged with other Gaspésians who like me are based in the Gaspésie, but have offices in urban centres.

While there is no statistic available, I am certain that business travel still represents an important (and regular) number of travelers on the Ocean.

When I called for a reservation on the train near the beginning of July and one week before my scheduled departure date, I was a little surprised that there were no seats, or bedrooms or roomettes available. When, after some enquiring, it became obvious that not only was my scheduled date of departure sold out but so was the ENTIRE MONTH OF JULY, I was motivated to find out why.

As it turns out, the short answer for the unusually high volume of rail travel this month is VIA Rail's youth pass giveaway in celebration of Canada's 150th. In March of this year, VIA Rail launched the 150 youth pass, a program inviting young Canadians between the ages of 12 to 25 to travel on all routes as much as they wanted in the month of July for \$150. The program almost blew up shortly after being launched.

Originally VIA rail intended to offer unlimited passes! Two or three days after the launch, the reservation system broke down and someone at VIA rail must have done some basic math and realized that the "unlimited" part of the plan would have to change, announcing in a tweet that passes would be tapped out at 1,867 (for the year of Confederation) otherwise there would "not be enough seats for all come July."

That was, as it turns out, a self-fulfilling prophecy. Upon calling the customer relations department at VIA to understand how, when analyzing their business model, did no one understand that an important tipping point would be handing out 1,867 passes that would have to be used during the peak of travel season. There was, of course, no satisfactory answer.

When I questioned why VIA, in a simple supply and demand scenario, would not add trains to their schedule for paying customers that might want to travel during the PEAK OF TRAVEL SEASON, I was told quite simply they did not have the equipment. By the way, this situation is not only affecting the Ocean and the Montreal / Halifax circuit. With the exception of the Quebec - Windsor corridor, seats are a rarity on all trains Coast to Coast.

I'll admit that despite my appreciation for train travel, I was and continue to be incredibly insulted by VIA Rail's abandonment of the Gaspésian region (I am the one, who when making a reservation, reminds the agent - and ask them to take note - that I have to travel from another province to take a train).

While I realize that there are mitigating factors, I still feel as if VIA considers Gaspésians second class citizens and this most recent short-sighted fiasco is just adding insult to injury, especially considering that the agent I spoke to when trying to make my reservation at the beginning of the month reminded me that I should be planning for vacation travel. I had to remind the young woman that I was planning, for business travel, and that not every person on the Ocean was travelling between Halifax and Montreal with recreation in mind.

Truth be told, the idea of letting young people explore the country by rail is wonderful. The pass program was a great initiative. However Canada will be celebrating 150 years for the entire year, so why not open the pass for a twelve-month period? Students have other opportunities to travel in a year. Why schedule the pass travel for what is likely one of the most important revenue generating months for VIA Rail? And why did VIA not begin planning for additional trains and modified summer schedules for the month of July after the passes had been distributed?

What sometimes become blatantly obvious is that poor service and little foresight is not something that VIA has reserved just for Gaspésians, but rather for Canadians at large.

VIA Rail announced in February, prior to the Youth pass announcement, that they would be initiating a number of special projects to celebrate Canada's 150th birthday "designed to strengthen the pride and sense of belonging felt across our country." It seems to be a message that would well serve the employees of VIA. It would seem that a strong 'pride of belonging' within that agency would create a better service all around.

If VIA hopes "to make of passenger rail the preferred way to move and connect people in Canada," as is stated as their vision on their website, then they have some work to do - because they can't get there from here.



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Mayors satisfied to have at least a time frame

Gilles Gagné

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES: – The mayors of Cascapedia-St-Jules and New Richmond, Pat Saint-Onge and Éric Dubé respectively, are satisfied to have at least the main information regarding the reopening of the Highway 132 bridge spanning over the Grand Cascapedia.

The fact that Patrickton and Gallagher Roads will be completely repaved is well received by Pat Saint-Onge, even if his municipality's portion of Patrickton is already in fair shape, compared to Maria's side.

"We will take the money we would have used for Patrickton and Gallagher and put it somewhere else. As for the bridge, I am pleasantly surprised. I thought it would take longer than that," he em-



Photo: G. Gagné

Transports Québec regional director Yves Berger explains that rebuilding the bridge anew was considered but rejected.

phasizes.

Considering the importance of salmon fishing in his community, Mr. Saint-Onge is somewhat relieved that demolition work of the pillar will not take place before the

end of September or the beginning of October. He also appreciated that the bulk of the work will be done by May 2018.

"If it hadn't been done by the spring, it could have been delayed until the fall of next year. The spinoffs of the salmon season come only once a year," he says.

New Richmond mayor Éric Dubé was hoping for a faster realization, given that some retail businesses are suffering from the detour.

"I understand that what is presented respects what is possible to carry out. They will give us updates regarding the calls for tenders, the selection of the contractor and construction start. We would certainly have liked a faster time line. The impact on some retail stores is evident since the closure of the

bridge. The New Richmond fish market (Raymer) is selling less to the people of Maria, as people avoid the detour when it is possible. They go to the Carleton fish market. I hear that Mam'zelle Maria (the restaurant) is also getting fewer people, again because of the detour. The impact is essentially felt because of the local clientele's reluctance to use the detour. Tourists are not really affected. They pass through it, being used to orange cones if they are from Montreal. They are in no hurry; they are on vacation," says Mr. Dubé.

Meanwhile, the work that will be carried out on the Highway 132 bridge will stretch its life for a period of 10 to 30 years, according to Transports Québec.

"The lifespan of that type of bridge is 80 years. It was

opened in 1961 (56 years ago). So the repairs are justified, considering that they will protect it better," says Transport Québec engineer Victor Bérubé.

The ministry's regional director Yves Berger says that the option of rebuilding the bridge anew was analyzed following the May 8 closure.

"A cost-benefit analysis was carried out and it was decided that it was worth investing into repairs," he points out.

A new bridge would cost at least \$50 million and would require a few years of construction. "It would evidently be practical to build a new bridge while the old one is serviceable. It also means that the new bridge would necessitate the use of new approach angles for Highway 132," adds Mr. Bérubé.

Youth Services Cooperative is back

Thierry Haroun

GASPÉ: - The Gaspé Youth Services Cooperative is back for a seventeenth time and the services provided by its participants are very useful for the community, confirms the organizers.

The announcement was made on July 1 at Gaspé's Town Hall with the presence of the participants, the coordinator, Monica Turcotte-Arbour, and the mayor, Daniel Côté.

This initiative provides opportunities to the young participants, aged 13 to 16, to take part in a collective work group and to practice management. One of those participants is Kendall Collin-Rooney. She's 13 and she studies at Gaspé Polyvalent.

In an interview with Spec, she clearly showed her enthusiasm in getting involved in this Cooperative. "I'm getting involved by doing a lot of planning. I get to know how people want to get things done. Actually, I got to know this Youth Services Cooperative by two workers who came to our school where they made a presentation in our class. I'll be doing little contracts that clients will be asking us to do, such as mowing lawns, painting, general things like that. I really think that this initiative is useful to the community. We'll be doing things that people don't have the time or cannot do. It's about helping them really," she said.



Photo: Town of Gaspé

Daniel Côté, Monica Turcotte-Arbour, Kendall Collin-Rooney.

The Gaspé Youth Services Cooperative is also about bringing together 10 teenagers through a cooperative approach, explained the coordinator,

Monica Turcotte-Arbour. "On top of taking contracts adapted to their capacities, the participants will have to manage the cooperative, in terms of human resources, management, promotion and finances. The project has already resumed and will take place until the beginning of August," she pointed out. As for the mayor, Daniel Côté, he had a lot of positive things to say about this project. "First, it provides an important service to the community without a doubt; and it provides a service to a wide range

of clientele, such as for people who are busy and don't have the time to do such chores, to people faced with a handicap and so forth. As for the town of Gaspé we will offer them a contract worth approximately \$2000 to do some landscaping work, mowing lawns, painting, small jobs."

He also pointed out that this project "is worth the effort because it will offer a working experience to these young participants, a management experience at the same time through a cooperative spirit which I think is very rewarding." For further information, please call the *Maison des jeunes* at (418) 368-1714 or the *Carrefour Jeunesse-Emploi* at (418) 368-2121

A little bit country and a little bit rock & roll

Jeanie LeLacbeur

GASPE: - Produced and directed by Karen Briand, the country rock show of the year unfolded at Gaspé Elementary on June 22 to a full house.

Sixteen performers, after many months of practice and hard work, came together to impress an attentive audience sharing laughter and music from the heart.

A mixture of rock and country, Micheal Jackson's 'Thriller' opened the show followed by an evening filled with something for everyone including a Miley Cyrus medley of which 'It's the Climb' had moments of perfection.

A house party atmosphere gave a relaxed air to the show and also allowed for entertaining dialogue and comic moments including a Dolly Parton (wanna be with some interesting items to help fill her shoes um, no bra,) and a dynamic duo who had the audience in stitches with their geriatric antics.

Numbers included Elvis' favourite, *Jail House Rock*, and Johnny Cash's, *Jackson*. Although the entire performance was well practised, there were, however, a few numbers that stood out in calibre. The Gaspé version of *I've Been Everywhere Man* was a big hit and the recent remake of three older country hits *Country Roads*, *I Will Always Love You* and *On the Road Again* called *Forever Country* was simply brilliant. Merle Haggard's *Silver Wings* was also exceptional as was the closing Lee Ann Womack's *I Hope You Dance* to which more than a couple of listeners shed a few tears.

The challenges, Karen admits, were trying to get 16 people together, then having only 3 out of 16 performers read music and working with an age group from 13 to 69. Some group members were first-time performers, others were extremely shy but it all created an opportunity to shine for this seasoned director.

A second show will be held on August 3, 2017, at Gaspé Elementary School and, as is the custom, the proceeds from this second show will go to charity. This year's proceeds, as did last year's Abba second performance, will go to Camp Haldimand.

After months of practice and hard work, congratulations to the troupe and the director and know that you passed the true test of music - making your audience laugh and cry.

This year's performers are: Kerrilee Drohan, Elizabeth Baird, Vivian Rooney, Kendall Collin, Tanya Adams, Angie-Lynn Levesque, Clothilda-Patrick Adams-Smith, Wendy Savidant Jean, Edith Coffin, Darleen Jean, Sharon Howell, Beverly Vibert, Olivia Rehel, Phyllis Misson, Daryl Adams and Dennis Hackett!

**SELL IT FAST
IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!**

425 employees now working at LM Wind Power Gaspé plant

Geneviève Gélinas

GASPÉ: – The expanded LM Wind Power plant in Gaspé currently employs 425 people, and that number could eventually reach 500 if the plant becomes productive enough. The new part, inaugurated on July 14, allows the employees to increase the production pace, but also makes possible the fabrication of longer blades for the offshore wind mill market.

More than 100 blades have gone through the 2,700 square meter expansion since the Construction LFG workers finished building it ahead of schedule, at the end of May.

The LM employees do the post-molding steps there, explains plant manager Alexandre Boulay. “They cut the flashes, polish the blades, do the finishing, the assembly and balancing.”

The expansion cost was more than \$12 million. As a result of moving the post-molding steps to the new part, LM could add one mold to the two existing ones in the older part of the plant.

LM had 185 employees in August 2016. The company has hired 240 new employees since then to reach 425. “The objective is 450 so we need 25 more. However, it depends on our productivity. If we increase the pace, we’ll need more employees. There’s an objective to aim for 500,” Mr. Boulay says.

About 80% of the LM employees are from the Gaspé coast and the balance comes from elsewhere in Quebec and other provinces. LM has in-



Photo: G. Gélinas

LM Wind Power has hired 240 new employees since August 2016, to reach a total workforce of 425 employees.

vested “several hundreds of thousands of dollars” in the marketing process to find good candidates, admits Mr. Boulay. “It allows us to get a good workforce.”

Since September, the Gaspé employees have been manufacturing 42-meter blades for General Electric. The Gaspé blades will replace components which are at the end of their useful life on wind mills already in the United States.

The blades are transported by truck from Gaspé to New Richmond, where they are loaded on rail cars to reach their destination by train. “Two trains are going back and forth continuously between the Gaspé Peninsula and Texas,” states Mr. Boulay.

The manufacturing of blades for the American market will keep the LM employees busy until 2021, Mr. Boulay said. “In 2021, there will be new markets. We think about Alberta and New England. We’ll look at the offshore

wind turbines market, because we can manufacture blades that are twice as long (than 42 metres).”

The offshore turbines require more than 80 metre long blades, and sometimes up to 88 metres. Even onshore, some turbines have blades between 60 and 70 metres in length.

If LM was to manufacture 80-metre blades, they should be exported by ship, says Mr. Boulay. Up to 60 metres, they can travel by train. And as for the blades currently produced at LM, they could be transported by train from Gaspé with minor changes to the Port-Daniel tunnel, the manager adds.

The Quebec Government announced \$100 million for upgrading the Gaspesian railway, but didn’t determine a schedule and admitted that the amount could not be enough to reach Gaspé. “We’re sure that it can be done within a few years. The objective is 2021,” states Mr. Boulay.

Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



Bay of Warmth

We enjoy it and rely on it for so much. It feeds us; we swim in it, boat on it, walk its shores, gaze upon it, marvel at its wide variety of moods and use it as a barometer for the weather. We follow its movements, tides and gather the treasures we find on its shores. Our bay is a source of enjoyment and employment. We call it simply, “The Bay,” and it defines who we are.

Bay of Chaleur is a member of the Most Beautiful Bays of the World Club. Thousands of tourists who come here to vacation agree with that. The bay, its water and its beaches drive tourism in our region.

Bay of Chaleur (in French, Baie des Chaleurs) was reputedly given its name by Jacques Cartier in 1534. It is an “arm” of the Gulf of St. Lawrence but looking at a map it resembles a foot with a pointy big toe. Direct translation of Baie des Chaleurs is “bay of warmth” but that depends entirely on the day. Even in the summertime the waters can be frigid.

The north shore of New Brunswick borders the bay’s southern shore. The Gaspé Peninsula borders its north shore. Its widest point is between New Carlisle and Bathurst and is about 50 km (27 miles). At the far west end of the bay it changes to the mouth of the Restigouche River.

Where does the bay end and the Gulf of St. Lawrence begin? That is an interesting question recently posed to me by a reader from Rhode Island, Peter Moehrke. “The question of where the Gulf of St. Lawrence ends and the Baie de Chaleur begins is one that I have been posing to locals for two decades now, and I am always amazed at the diversity of answers. What do you say?” Everyone I spoke to had an idea of where they thought it ended and I was in that same boat, but it took some research to provide the exact coordinates.

The mouth of the bay is delineated by a line, which begins at Haut-Fond Leander, near Grand-Rivière, Quebec in the north. Then follow the imaginary line south to Miscou Shoals, just near Miscou Island, New Brunswick. To be more precise, the latitude of Haut-Fond Leander is 48 degrees north by 64 degrees west. To determine this you will need a map, which includes latitude, and longitude or you can use a marine compass and a sextant. These are fancy tools most often used by sailors.

Because of the shape of the bay and the steep cliffs along our shore, it can produce windy weather. These high winds on the bay can be dangerous for boaters and fishermen. The bay is divided into two basins. The inner basin, which is found in the western section of the bay is approximately 50 metres in depth. The eastern basin, also known as the outer basin, has depths of 70 – 90 metres.

Lately, North Atlantic right whales have been found deceased in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and are increasingly being located in the Bay of Chaleur also. Still puzzling to scientists, the possibility is that blue-green algae are the cause of the deaths.

There is only so much space to write and I have not even mentioned the Phantom Ship Legend, the Battle of the St. Lawrence during World War II which took place in the eastern end of the Bay of Chaleur, marine birds, animals, fish and shellfish. It is our bay, and when family and friends come from away, we show it off proudly. And even though they are not from here, they can appreciate its rugged and unspoiled beauty.

Cascapedia-St-Jules receives new playground equipment

Elaine Sexton

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES: – Thanks to a \$6,000 donation from the Fall Festival Committee, there is now new playground equipment for the community’s younger children.

The new bleachers for the ball field were donated by the Caisse Populaire in New Richmond and the municipality helped with the rest, totaling \$1,500.

They were enjoyed by local children Zoey and Liam, and Lincoln on vacation from Chateauguay.

Everyone will surely enjoy the new set-up.



Zoey and Liam and Lincoln.

Quebec's Department of Transport to pave Bonaventure airport's runway

Pascan to use Charlo during the temporary closure

Gilles Gagné

BONAVENTURE: – The Quebec Department of Transport will close its airport in Bonaventure for three weeks, effective August 21, in order to repave the runway. The call for tenders to find a contractor expired on July 13 and a decision should soon be made.

During the temporary closure of the Bonaventure Airport Pascan Aviation will use the airport in Charlo. However, two daily flights, one in and one out, between Saint-Hubert, Quebec City and Bonaventure will be suspended during the closure.

The private transporter will only keep a morning



Photo: G. Gagné

The Bonaventure airport is notably used by sports fishing camp clients.

flight in, from Saint-Hubert and Quebec City, and the evening flight out. Transport Québec will use

standard means, essentially the NOTAM system, to inform other users that the airport is closed for a few weeks. Regular users were informed of the situation over the spring.

Guillaume Paradis, of Transport Québec, says that the paving contractor will have 10 days to complete the runway job, excluding rainy days. The contractor "will have to work on a continuous basis, including Saturday and Sunday, in order to limit the airport's closure period."

The contract is expected to cost between \$500,000 and \$1 million. The bed under the runway was completely rebuilt between 2001 and 2004, and new insulation material

was installed at the time. Those aspects don't require work at the present time.

Officially, the period of closure of the Bonaventure airport could last one month, until September 21, but it could also be cut to three weeks, maybe less, if the weather conditions are favourable.

The Baie des Chaleurs Chamber of Commerce would like the period to be even shorter than a month in order to minimize the impact on passengers but also on companies and individuals using Pascan's services for freight purposes.

The Bonaventure airport is also vastly used by the sports fishing and hunting clientele.

The Great Gaspésie Literacy Contest Winners 2017

Gary Briand

GASPÉ PENINSULA: - 2017, the ninth year of our annual contest, saw a reduced number of contestants.

Twenty-three entries were received. Unfortunately, seven of the contestants had to be eliminated due to non-respect of deadline.

One question was ignored in our final judgement of the entries: "Excluding the St. Lawrence River and defining the Gaspésie as beginning and ending at St. Flavie, I am the longest river that begins in the interior of the peninsula."

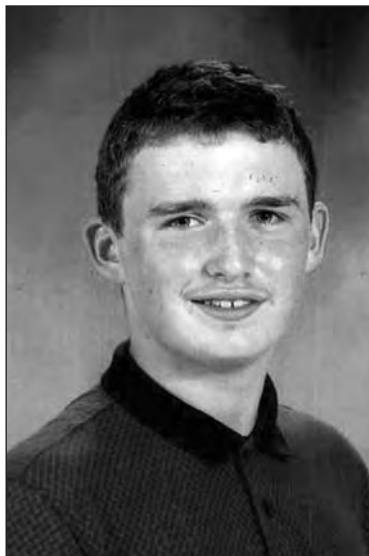
The answer thought to be correct was much disputed by three geographic specialists. Then leading authority on holiday in Austria could not be reached. Once the dispute is regulated, GLC will publish the same question in the tenth edition of our quiz.

First and second place prize winners were awarded \$500 and \$400 respectively.

The top prize went to Jasper Court of Fleurant Point, Quebec. Jasper is a student at Sugarloaf High School, Campbellton, NB.

He was closely followed by Jasmine Gifford, a student at New Carlisle High School.

Our jury did not think it appropriate to award a third prize as no contestant but the winners had achieved more than 60% of the answers. In-



Jasper Court



Jasmine Gifford

stead, the GLC awarded a class of adult learners in English, second language, a prize of \$200 for their hard work in class.

The prize, given in the name of Mme Nathalie Pouliot, a teacher at Bonaventure, is a collective one. Mme Pouliot was instructed to hold a small party for her students in recognition of their efforts to learn the English language.

Both outstanding winners, Mr. Court and Miss Gifford are previous winners of the GLC contest. The result of their research and much thought is to be commended.

In the judgement of GLC, they have bright futures.



IMPORTANT NOTICE

Please take note that obituaries, in memoriams, classifieds etc, must now be prepaid.

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Boys Camp	10 - 12 yrs	July 23 - July 28
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Ivan Starnes 418-752-3591

Mrs. Donna Jiona 418-752-8577

Nelson Roussy 418-392-5706 (after 7:00 p.m.)

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July 27 - July 30

The 20th edition of the Bonaventure Western Festival is beginning soon! Events such as a gymkhana, horse haul, and modified lawn tractor races will take place. Musical entertainment from the Clemville Kids, DJ Allen, Laurie Leblanc and more will also be available!

If you are a lover of western styled festivals and events such as the ones mentioned, this is the place for you to be!

For more information, please contact (418) 534-4060 or consult festivalwestern.net.

Local artist Cedrik St-Onge will be performing in Percé at La Vieille Usine de l'Anse-à-Beaufils on July 24 starting at 8:30 p.m.

If you love supporting local artists and enjoy live entertainment, this is the place for you to be! For more information, please call (418) 782-2277.

Well-known Quebec-born artist, Laurence Jalbert, will be performing at La Vieille Usine de l'Anse-à-Beaufils on July 25 starting at 8:30 p.m.

If you are familiar with this artist and enjoy her music or simply enjoy live entertainment in general, then come on down! For more information, please call (418) 782-2277.

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Malbay Festival

This year's annual Malbay Festival is set to begin on July 23 with a gift bingo at the Barachois Recreational Centre at 7 p.m. Prizes that can be won at the bingo are things such as gift cards, money, and pre-selected items such as tents, bedsheet sets, coffee makers and much more! No further events will take place until July 25. A Seniors' Day will take place at the Royal Canadian Legion in Barachois on this day, running from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The actual festival begins on July 28 at the Belle Anse School grounds. The day will begin with free entrance to the festival; starting with pre-recorded music from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. Nash Stanley and the Landsmen will begin performing from 9 p.m. until 2 a.m. for all the people at the festival to enjoy. The next day, July 29, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., there will be a free lunch for anyone who wants it! At the same time, there will be a four-wheeler

poker run that will be leaving the Barachois Legion. For more information about this run, please contact Peter Devouge at (418) 360-6229. A farmers' flea market will also take place at 9 a.m. until 12 p.m. For more information, please contact Sandra Coombs at (418) 355-2874. The musical entertainment for this night will be Tammy Adams, beginning at 9 p.m. and running until 2 a.m. She will be playing country music for everyone to enjoy!

July 30, at 9 a.m., there will be a mass under the tent, followed by a lumberjack breakfast from 9:30 a.m. to noon. There will then be a fiddling hoedown at 2 p.m. Contact Sandra Lemiux at (418) 645-2329 for more information. A president's draw will take place at 3 p.m. Finally, the bar will close at 8 p.m. which marks the end of the festival. Canteen and bar services will be available throughout the duration of the festival.

A golf tournament in celebration of Carleton-sur-mer's 250th anniversary will be on July 28. The event will take place at the golf course in Carleton. For more information, please contact (418) 364-3434

A beach festival in Cap d'Espoir will start on July 26 and run until July 30. The festival officially opens at 7 p.m. on July 26. There will be music from artists such as Sam Tucker, Robby Johnson, and DJ Tizi. The next day, July 27, there will be a car rally and fireworks. For a full detailed outline of events, please visit www.festiplage.com or call (418) 782-6197.

An Ecomusée about Charles Robin will take place on July 25 in Carleton-sur-mer. The discussion will be led by Fernand Alain, prepared for the 250th anniversary of the arrival of Anglo-Normans in the Gaspésie region. If you're interested in this kind of history, don't miss it on July 25!

The entertainers for this Thirsty Thursdays will be Marie Lou & Caro. The duo will be playing genres such as country, rock, folk, pop, Québécois, and disco. If you're a lover of this type of music and live entertainment, come enjoy some fun on July 27 starting at 7 p.m.!

The York River Seniors' Club will be having a band day on July 22 at O'Hara's Point in Gaspé for anyone who is interested. This event is part of the many Canada 150 celebrations that the York Seniors' Club will be participating in this summer. If this is something that interests you, then be at O'Hara's point on this date!

An outdoor cinema at the municipal beach in Carleton-sur-mer will begin on July 26 and will continue every Wednesday until August 23. If you enjoy outdoor cinema and watching movies under the stars, join the fun!

Tide Predictions

Paspébiac	Carleton	Chandler	Gaspé
Thursday, July 20	Thursday, July 20	Thursday, July 20	Thursday, July 20
06:37 - 0.39 m	06:41 - 0.36 m	06:20 - 0.36 m	06:06 - 0.55 m
12:12 - 1.26 m	12:26 - 1.51 m	12:19 - 0.92 m	11:35 - 1.03 m
17:51 - 0.39 m	18:07 - 0.35 m	17:48 - 0.43 m	17:12 - 0.48 m
Friday, July 21	Friday, July 21	Friday, July 21	Friday, July 21
00:45 - 1.98 m	00:56 - 2.37 m	00:39 - 1.40 m	00:17 - 1.73 m
07:42 - 0.27 m	07:46 - 0.23 m	07:30 - 0.30 m	07:14 - 0.47 m
13:18 - 1.28 m	13:32 - 1.55 m	13:27 - 0.91 m	12:50 - 1.04 m
18:50 - 0.33 m	19:09 - 0.29 m	18:43 - 0.40 m	18:12 - 0.45 m
Saturday, July 22	Saturday, July 22	Saturday, July 22	Saturday, July 22
01:42 - 2.10 m	01:55 - 2.50 m	01:39 - 1.48 m	01:16 - 1.83 m
08:41 - 0.15 m	08:42 - 0.12 m	08:32 - 0.25 m	08:13 - 0.39 m
14:17 - 1.32 m	14:32 - 1.62 m	14:26 - 0.92 m	13:51 - 1.07 m
19:47 - 0.28 m	20:07 - 0.23 m	19:37 - 0.37 m	19:11 - 0.42 m
Sunday, July 23	Sunday, July 23	Sunday, July 23	Sunday, July 23
02:37 - 2.18 m	02:50 - 2.59 m	02:36 - 1.54 m	02:10 - 1.90 m
09:36 - 0.07 m	09:33 - 0.06 m	09:27 - 0.22 m	09:05 - 0.34 m
15:13 - 1.38 m	15:26 - 1.72 m	15:18 - 0.94 m	14:45 - 1.11 m
20:43 - 0.23 m	21:03 - 0.19 m	20:33 - 0.34 m	20:08 - 0.39 m
Monday, July 24	Monday, July 24	Monday, July 24	Monday, July 24
03:30 - 2.21 m	03:42 - 2.63 m	03:29 - 1.56 m	03:00 - 1.91 m
10:26 - 0.03 m	10:21 - 0.04 m	10:18 - 0.21 m	09:54 - 0.32 m
16:05 - 1.43 m	16:17 - 1.81 m	16:05 - 0.96 m	15:34 - 1.16 m
21:37 - 0.22 m	21:55 - 0.18 m	21:28 - 0.33 m	21:04 - 0.39 m
Tuesday, July 25	Tuesday, July 25	Tuesday, July 25	Tuesday, July 25
04:20 - 2.17 m	04:32 - 2.61 m	04:19 - 1.55 m	03:48 - 1.88 m
11:13 - 0.05 m	11:06 - 0.06 m	11:05 - 0.22 m	10:38 - 0.32 m
16:55 - 1.47 m	17:05 - 1.88 m	16:51 - 0.99 m	16:21 - 1.21 m
22:29 - 0.23 m	22:47 - 0.22 m	22:23 - 0.32 m	21:58 - 0.41 m
Wednesday, July 26	Wednesday, July 26	Wednesday, July 26	Wednesday, July 26
05:07 - 2.06 m	05:19 - 2.52 m	05:08 - 1.50 m	04:34 - 1.80 m
11:57 - 0.10 m	11:49 - 0.13 m	11:49 - 0.26 m	11:21 - 0.35 m
17:43 - 1.49 m	17:52 - 1.92 m	17:38 - 1.01 m	17:07 - 1.24 m
23:19 - 0.29 m	23:37 - 0.30 m	23:17 - 0.33 m	22:51 - 0.45 m

Translating the beauty

THE ART OF STEPHEN JEROME

Stephen Jerome is from the First Nations community of Gesgapegiag. He is an ancestral black ash basket maker. His father Francis Jerome taught this tradition to him when he was a child. His father suffered from Multiple Sclerosis and was confined to a wheelchair. He passed away in 2002 at the age of 54. Stephen thanks him every day for these special teachings. The Mi'gmaq tradition of basket making lives on through his hands and heart.

Diane Skinner

Art speaks to us what words cannot. The astonishing beauty of the Gaspé Peninsula provides an inspiring environment for artists. The artist sees the world and "translates" it for us with paint or wood or glass or stone. This is an 8-week series that will introduce you to some of the many artists of the Gaspé.

GESGAPEGIAG: - A visit to Stephen Jerome's workshop is a sensory delight, full of materials to make traditional baskets and the tools, many of which once belonged to his father. Every table, shelf and corner is full of history and meaning. The smell of the ash and the sweet grass bundled and hanging to dry is magnificent. Stephen continues to create traditional baskets to honour his father and, thereby, finds peace in his studio as he connects with his father, the man who taught him this ancestral art form as a child.



Stephen's baskets come in many sizes and styles. Lately, he has been making baskets with three and sometimes four baskets and he often has a number of projects going at the same time.

Stephen has been making baskets full-time for just over a year and in the past he had been a lobster fisherman and had worked in construction and in the windmill industry; but his work as a basket maker is his calling, his passion. He is actively engaged with preparing his materials, making baskets and teaching the art of basket making to a wide variety of ages. He spends long hours in his studio and begins his day very early, often at 4 or 5 a.m. He tells us that he even worked on Christmas Day. Making baskets is very labour intensive and many, many hours go into the preparation and making of his baskets.



Photos: D. Skinner

Traditional black ash basket maker Stephen Jerome holds the cradle that he made for his own daughter.

Basket making, he explains, is his therapy.

Stephen was born in Gesgapegiag and attended school in New Richmond. He comes from a family of seven boys and recalls helping his dad to make baskets as a very young boy. He says that reading was a challenge but he excelled in mathematics. He says anything to do with numbers or geometry come easily to him. He recalls that when he was in Grade 4 he made a basket from beginning to end in front of the school. He showed us that very same basket with pride. It was small and perfect. Even at his young age he showed the skill, interest and temperament to create baskets. His teacher, Kathleen Casey-Campbell, recalls that even as a young boy he loved to share his knowledge with other students. She recalls him as being a very bright student.

Black Ash

His baskets are made from black ash. In the film, *My Fa-*

ther's Tools, the opening scene shows Stephen cutting down a tree and taking it home to prepare. He goes out in all kinds of weather, sometimes wearing snowshoes, and laughs when telling us that he sometimes cuts down his trees while up to his waist in water.

Why black ash? The wood is very flexible and we have the perfect climate here for them to grow. Black ash trees are found near the river wherever ferns grow and provide the best quality wood for baskets. Black ash trees are healthy here on the Gaspé, but are being devastated by Emerald Ash Beetles in Nova Scotia and many other areas. Stephen prepares black ash strips, ready for making baskets, for up to 15 other native communities who do not have access to healthy black ash trees. Stephen tells us that some of his buyers are over 80 years old.

How does Stephen know which trees to choose? "The wood tells me. Then it tells me

what I am going to make. I can tell right away by the feel." Sometimes the wood does not want to split "right" and then Stephen will change his plan and make something else with that tree. He is, his wife Heather says, a perfectionist. He has changed his style somewhat over the years. This year he has started to weave his handles and is creating baskets of different sizes. Some are triple baskets. A bassinet (or cradle) he made is a gorgeous example of his skills as a basket maker. His projects come in many sizes and forms.

His Father's Tools

Stephen literally uses his father's tools and his appreciation for their history is evident when he is showing them to visitors. He uses his father's "crooked knife" and an "ash pounder" that was made by a group of men from Gesgapegiag. In the film you can see the ash pounder at work and it is just amazing to watch. It pounds the strips of ash which then break apart into the thinner strips for weaving. He also has some tools that belonged to his grandmother and from other elders who have passed on.

Stephen is teaching groups of students to make baskets in the traditional way. He sees the sense of pride when they realize for their culture, an opening up and an awareness of their past. He recalls one teen that said on the first day, "I can't do that!" but with Stephen's guidance the teen did actually make a basket that was outstanding.



These are examples of the tools that were passed down to Stephen by his father, Francis Jerome, who passed away in 2002. Francis Jerome taught his son Stephen the art of basketmaking.

A lady came to Stephen's studio to buy a basket and remarked that the price was high. He explained to her the process of making the basket, from felling the tree to the final product. She paused and said, "Not expensive at all." She left, he says proudly, after buying four baskets – two on each arm.

The Future

Stephen has been basket making full-time for the past year, but is looking to the future. He has plans to add to his studio and states, "I am supposed to do this." A friend remarked that Stephen's dad would be proud of his basket making. His answer was, "Me and my father made this." His sense of his aboriginal past is strong. When he and Heather were at the Sundance Film Festival in January, David Suzuki gave him this wise advice, "Now it's up to you to keep it going." That is just what Stephen is doing, with his heart and his hands. Contact Stephen Wisgog11@hotmail.com or on facebook.

My Father's Tools - The Film

Heather Condo is the director of a seven-minute film, *My Father's Tools* which is a unique and moving look at her husband Stephen Jerome and his traditional basket making. Wapikoni Mobile, a portable studio that is fully equipped with cutting-edge technology that travels to First Nations communities, produced the film. *My Father's Tools* was screened at the 2017 Sundance Film Festival. Heather Condo says, "This is an important story to tell because of the lack of knowledge there is on the tradition of basket making. Our ancestors made baskets for thousands of years. We have not found anyone in Eastern Canada yet that makes these types of baskets. It is extremely important to capture Stephen's work now for future generations."

Does Heather have plans to make another film? She says while smiling, "I'll continue. There is more to come." (To watch a trailer of this gorgeous film go to <https://vimeo.com/195362858>) Contact: heatherscondo@gmail.com

Support our Gaspesian artists!

LM Wind Power's chief executive officer encourages Quebec to develop new wind farm projects

Geneviève Gélinas

GASPÉ: – The chief executive officer of the multinational company LM Wind Power, Marc de Jong, wants the Quebec government to take advantage of the wind energy and hydroelectricity combination, “the most performing solution for renewable energy,” and to develop more wind farms.

Mr. de Jong was in Gaspé for the July 14 inauguration of the expanded LM plant in the Augustine's industrial park.

“In spite of an important wind potential in Quebec, there's still no project for 2017 and no predictability,” said Mr. de Jong in the presence of the Quebec Economy, Science and Innovation minister Dominique Anglade, at the inauguration.

“It could have been catastrophic for the Gaspé plant,” Mr. de Jong added. However, the plant found export contracts to the United States, which secures the plant up to 2021.

“We have to think about the future,” Mr. de Jong continued. “The renewal of the



Photo: G. Gélinas

LM Wind Power's chief executive officer Marc de Jong, second from the left, was in Gaspé for the inauguration of the plant expansion, with Minister Dominique Anglade, second from the right. They are flanked by Gaspé Mayor Daniel Côté, on the left, and the Gaspé plant director general Alexandre Boulay.

railway is going to decrease the export costs to the United States and to other provinces (...). It's necessary to create a market of wind farms in Quebec. This local market is the “most reliable” way to ensure the future of the manufactur-

ing companies in Quebec,” the chief executive officer said.

The province also benefits from “a lot of possibilities” to combine wind energy, which varies depending on the wind, and hydroelectricity, an en-

ergy source that can be stored behind dams.

“I hope that the Quebec government is going to develop new projects and repowering projects for energy in Quebec and in Massachusetts.” The repowering con-

sists of replacing old components of wind turbines with new and often more performing components.

The wind energy and hydropower combination is even “less expensive and more reliable” than to produce wind energy in Massachusetts, Mr. de Jong stated.

Quebec must look after the future of wind energy now, he believes. “For the three to four coming years, there are several opportunities to export (blades) to the United States because there is repowering over there. There must be new projects developed for 2021-2022. This is the time to develop projects to take place in three or four years, because it requires a few years to be developed.”

Asked about the statements of Mr. de Jong, Dominique Anglade answered that “the future of LM is ensured for the coming years. I'll have discussions about the coming years (...). There's no market on the short term (for wind energy in Quebec). It doesn't mean that there will be no market in the coming years.”

IKCC declares June 22 World Kidney Cancer Day

Kay (Karen) Ross
Kidney Cancer Canada

The International Kidney Cancer Coalition is an independent, international network of patient organizations that focus exclusively on kidney cancer. This Coalition has declared June 22, 2017, to be World Kidney Cancer Day.

We have come a long way in the treatment of kidney cancer since my husband was diagnosed in 2000. At the time his prognosis was poor and there was only one treatment available in Canada and it had a very low response rate. David did not respond to it.

I still remember the long, lonely days and nights in front of the computer trying desperately to find treatments for him. We travelled to Boston several times where he received treatments and did not respond. We travelled to Chicago and Toronto, speaking with the most experienced and knowledgeable oncologists in kidney cancer, hoping to find a treatment that would work for him.



David Ross.

All roads finally led to a clinical trial opening in Halifax, with a targeted drug therapy in 2005. With the advent of these treatments, kidney cancer patients had more options. The drug prolonged David's life for almost 7 years and, unfortunately, he stopped responding to it.

Now in 2017, we have emerging immunotherapies that are showing good response rates for some kidney cancer patients. A cure has not yet been found but drugs that will prolong patients' lives are available. Research needs to continue. None of these treatments would have

happened without extensive research.

Kidney Cancer Canada has so much useful information, an active discussion forum where patients and caregivers can ask questions and get answers and we have an active peer support programme manned by trained volunteers. Kidney Cancer Canada also funds research and advocates for access to treatments with the provincial governments.

With Kidney Cancer Canada, patients and caregivers no longer have to spend all their time surfing the net for information. Now they can go to one site, find what they need and where it is available in Canada.

This year there are some activities available for fundraising for kidney cancer research. The International Kidney Cancer Coalition has

created a 7 question, interactive quiz that tests what people know about kidney cancer. The quiz can be accessed at www.worldkidneycancerday.org.

Also, patients, caregivers, families, friends and health care professionals all over the world are greening their lips, posting, tagging and donating to kidney cancer research. You may see some of them on facebook, Twitter, etc. Please join us in this challenge. The challenge can be found at: www.kidneycancerCanada.ca or #GreenLipstickChallenge or #KidneyCancer or at Kidney Cancer Canada on facebook.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at rossk771@gmail.com or 506-455-5413.

**Together we
can save lives**



Musical improvisation camp in Coin-du-Banc

COIN-DU-BANC: - The coast of Gaspésie has been listed by National Geographic as one of the top 20 tourist destinations in the entire world (and the only one in Canada). Nestled in the most easterly tip of the region appropriately known as “le bout du monde,” which translates as “Land’s End,” and minutes away from the famous Percé Rock, the coastal village of Coin-du-Banc offers an inspirational and spectacular natural setting for a summer camp devoted to musical improvisation. We contend that where the land ends, imagination begins.

Coin-du-Banc en folie! is the brainchild of a neighbourly beachside coffee and brainstorming ritual between the two founders: Alain Chalifour and Ajay Heble. “Wouldn’t this be the perfect place for an out of this world musical improvisation camp!” That’s all it took.

Presented by the International Institute for Critical Studies in Improvisation (IICSI), this summer camp seeks to develop innovative strategies to put aspiring young musicians in direct and

meaningful contact with professional improvisers. *Coin-du-Banc en folie!* is a unique summer camp that will engage young musicians and non-musicians alike in hands-on workshops led by world-class improvising artists: clarinetist François Houle, from British Columbia) and pianist Marianne Trudel, from Québec.

The workshops will take place in an inclusive and supportive environment, nurturing and developing musical improvisation as a vital model of arts-based community-making. In addition to participating in workshops, lecture-demonstrations, and jam sessions, campers will attend concerts and have opportunities to experience some of the unique tourist attractions that the area has to offer, visits to local artisans’ studios, and tours that highlight the region’s breathtaking beauty. Camp participants will be lodged in the newly-renovated beach house of the camp’s co-founder Alain Chalifour and his wife Deana. It is located directly on the stunningly beautiful Coin-du-Banc beach.

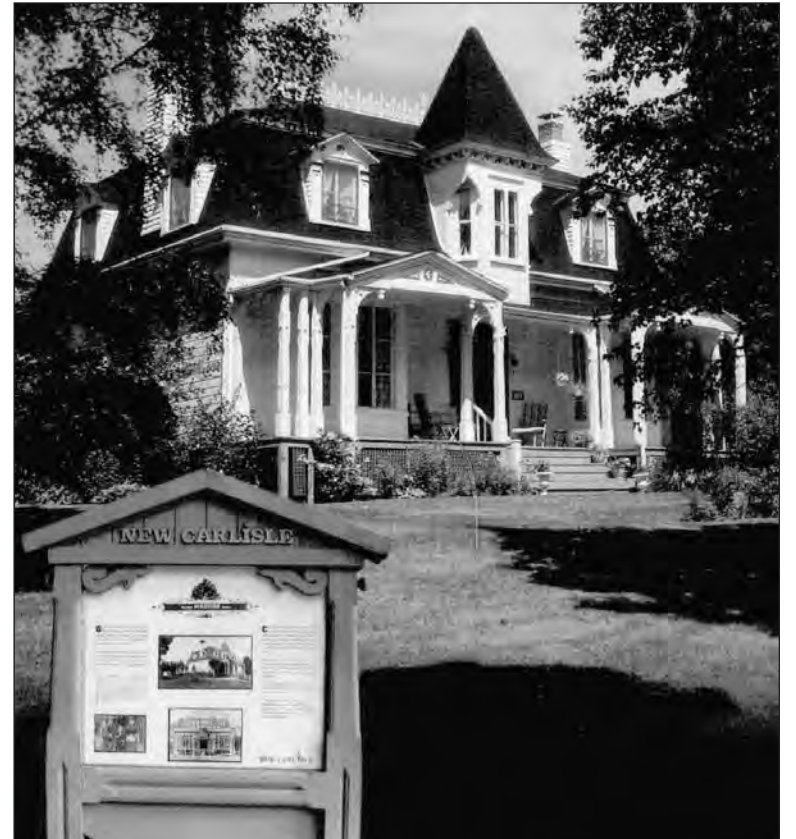
The objectives for this project are: to connect members of under-resourced communities with profound experiences of improvised music making; to promote the creative process, in general, and experimentation in musical improvisation, in particular; and to track the process of the program itself through a complementary research and evaluation component.

We anticipate that *Coin-du-Banc en folie!* will become a landmark site for the development of contemporary creative music where participants are offered a unique opportunity and setting to interact with, and learn from, influential figures within the field of improvised music.

The second edition of the camp will be held from Saturday, August 5, to Saturday, August 12, in Coin-du-Banc. During that time there will be daily sessions dedicated to creating and rehearsing music. Curricular topics to be considered include the following: developing an extended musical vocabulary, riff-based ensemble improvisation, composition, collabo-

ration, conducted improvisation, graphic scores, deep listening, assistive/adaptive use technologies, digital and computer-based improvisation, and free playing. In addition to workshops, the participants will have the opportunity to perform on stage

at the amazing *Festival de musique du bout du monde* in the town of Gaspé, as well as perform in a closing public concert with faculty members at the Musée de la Société historique de Coin-du-Banc, (Historical Society of Coin-du-Banc).



MAGUIRE HOUSE: One of New Carlisle’s grand old homes

Susan Le Maistre

NEW CARLISLE: – Number 13, rue Notre-Dame, New Carlisle – a spooky address to local children, perhaps, but a house with a great history and “home” to the Le Maistre family for 65 years.

Officially known as the Maguire House, it sits on a 10-acre property “back of town,” and was built in 1892 for Francis Gordian Maguire, a young barrister from Quebec City. (Gordian had purchased the land from William Wilkie, who was likely a Loyalist). The Maguire family sold the house in 1920 to Pierre-Émile Côté who was at various times a federal and provincial politician.

The Côtés installed electricity and built a tennis court between what is now the driveway up to the house and rue René-Lévesque. While the Côté family remained in Quebec City for the entire duration of the Second World War, the house became Regional Headquarters for the Reserve Army – it was fitted out with a bar and “battleship” linoleum. When it became vacant in 1952, the Le Maistres purchased the house for the grand sum of \$8,500, and it became our family’s memorable home.

The eldest grand-child of Charles Le Maistre Sr. and Rose Nelson, I have so many fond memories of the house, as it evolved from year-around to summer home after the deaths of our grandparents. I recall people from all over dropping in at any time of the day (including many SPEC readers, I’m sure!); lounging in the shade of one of the two large verandas; card parties; swinging under the “twin maples,” lots of piano music and singing, at the slightest invitation (in full harmony!); and the always-exquisite meals together. In the earlier days, my mother would read tea leaves after dessert, when the “men” left the table.

To this very day, the house remains one of the favourite places for what would now be the great-grand-children of the original Charles and Rose. And is it any wonder? Aunt Betty Le Maistre and her husband, David Freeman, are the current owners, and they have continued to open their hearts and hospitality to all. The place has chandeliers and antique furniture, there are hundreds of objets d’art and other interesting items from years gone by, and we can all be pretty sure of hooking up with a number of our relatives, who invariably converge on the house from somewhere in Canada during the summer.

But alas, the time has come for this amazing place to pass on to new owners, who will not find it spooky; rather, they will find it full of happy and welcoming spirits.

Thérèse Gallant exhibit at Cascapedia River Museum

Gilles Gagné

CASCAPEDIA-ST- JULES: – Saint Jules based artist Thérèse Gallant presents until July 28 at the Cascapedia River Museum an exhibit of 25 oil paintings mostly painted over the winter. All of her art pieces are bearing titles inspired by the theme “the sea through songs.” She chose French songs. Some of the art pieces go back a few years. They notably show maritime scenes from the Gaspé Peninsula, the North Shore, the Magdalen Islands, Prince Edward Island and Florida.

Thérèse Gallant has been interested in visual arts “and playing with colours forever,” she says. “I took my first courses at the Institut familial in Sainte-Anne-des-Monts, where I studied in 1964-1965. The course was presented by a nun in an art class. I starting drawing more seriously in 1980 while attending courses presented by Nicole Beaulieu,” she explains.



Photo:facebook

Thérèse Gallant recently exhibited her work at the Cascapedia River Museum.

After, she took two semesters in drawing and illustration at the Cegep level and also attended regular courses presented by Jean-Paul Laplante for over 20 years, until 2004. “I also took some mul-

timedia training with Nathalie Boissonnault in 2013, and I have attended various seminars over the years,” she adds. The exhibit also includes pieces of mock stain glass on canvas.

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Obituaries



In Memory of Helena Irvine Lyons

Passed away at Maria Hospital on July 10, 2017, at the age of 92, Mrs. Helena Lyons of Mann Settlement, Quebec, wife of the late Norman Benford Lyons. Born in Mann Settlement on December 18, 1924, Helena was the daughter of the late Murdoch Irvine and Mary Huntington.

She was a teacher, leaving Mann Settlement for Black Cape, before becoming a full-time mother and homemaker. Helena provided great comfort to the many family members and guests who passed through her home, and her fun-loving and peaceful demeanour will be missed by all who knew her.

She is survived by her children: Jack (Ruth), Anne (Randy) Wetmore, Charlotte, Sandra (Dennis) Crowley, Norman (Heather), Cindy (Walt) Parks, Lori (Clayton) Bird, Nancy (Greg) Matthews; as well as her brother Graydon, her sister Marina; her grandchildren: Stacey (Mike), Kristopher (Krissy), Valerie (Kevin), Susan (Patrick), Brandon (Lauren), Ryan (Vanessa), Jessie, Maynard (Nicole), Jack, Matthew, Kate, Andrew, and Erin; her great-grandchildren: Samantha, Kyra, Kaiden, Angelica, Celena, Blake, Brooklyn, Jacob, Morgan and Landon. She was predeceased by her husband Norman, son Maynard, her son-in-law Raymond, her parents, her sisters Bertha and Isabel, her brothers Russell and Murdoch and her special uncle, John Lyons.

Funeral service was held at the Campbellton Baptist Church, 18 Andrew Street, on Thursday, July 13, at 2 p.m., New Brunswick time. Visitation was held at Maher's Funeral Home, 33 Lansdowne Street West, Campbellton, NB, on Wednesday, July 12, from 2 - 4 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m., New Brunswick time.

Donations to the Mann Settlement Cemetery or to the charity of the donor's choice would be appreciated by the family.

Funeral arrangements were in the care of Maher's Funeral Home, Campbellton, NB. (506) 789-1699 or toll free (855) 404-1699 email: maher.fh@nb.aibn.com

Please keep in mind when submitting photos of a loved one 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.



MULLIN: Flora

Passed away at CISSS de la Gaspésie, Hospital-Gaspé on July 5, 2017, at the age of 80 years, Mrs. Flora Mullin, wife of Mr. Sonny Fournier, from St-Majorique.

The family received condolences at the Résidence Funéraire Valère Fortin inc., located at 86 Jacques-Cartier St., in Gaspé, on Saturday, July 8, from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Celebration at 10 a.m. at the funeral home the same day.

Mrs. Flora Mullin leaves behind her husband Mr. Sonny Fournier; three sons: Clayton, Lowell (Doreen), and Scott; one daughter, Melody (Roch); four grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, two sisters, many brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nephews, nieces and friends.

REEDER: Cecil (Dee)

Passed away at home, on July 5, 2017, at the age of 77 years, Mr. Cecil (Dee) Reeder, husband of Judith Stanley from York.

The family received condolences at the Résidence Funéraire Valère Fortin located at 86, rue Jacques-Cartier in Gaspé, on Friday, July 7, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. and on Saturday at 1 p.m. before the funeral.

The funeral service was held at St. Andrew's Church in York, on Saturday, July 8, at 3 p.m. Interment followed at the York cemetery.

Dee is survived by his wife Judith, son John (Monica), daughter Lorelei, granddaughter Sarah, and his two sisters Maggie and Angie (Raymond). Predeceased by his son Mark.

He also leaves to mourn his sisters-in-law, his brothers-in-law, several nieces and nephews and many friends.

If desired, a donation may be made to the Gaspé Hospital Foundation.



In Memory

POPOVICH: Paula

In memory of my daughter who passed away July 19, 1999.

So hard to believe it's 18 years since I heard your voice. They say that those you love don't go away. And that I believe, as I always feel you near. Going to Gaspé for two weeks in July. Will sure think of you there. How you loved being there, but little did you know it was your last trip. Miss you so much. Keep on watching. Your Mama.

Memorial Service



A service for Sally Anderson (Ramier) will take place at St. James Anglican Church, Port Daniel, West on Friday, July 21, at 2 p.m., followed by the interment of ashes in St. James cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. James Anglican Church, Port Daniel West, or a charity of one's choice.

Happy Anniversary



Happy 50th Anniversary
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COAST ROUND-UP

POINTE-NAVARRRE:

Mass

The Feast of Ste. Anne will be celebrated at mass on **Tuesday, July 25** at 7 p.m. at the Sanctuary of Pointe-Navarre. Welcome to all.

YORK:

Senior Summer Activities

Friday, July 28: Annual Seniors' Day is part of the Pioneer Days Festival at Camp Fort Haldimand. All members (50 and over) of the greater Gaspé Community are welcome to our free day of games, activities, lunch, bingo and finishing with music.

YORK:

Canada's 150 Celebrations

The York River Seniors' Club will be taking part in different events this summer at O'Hara's Point as part of Canada's 150 Celebrations. **July 22** - Band Day, **July 30** - Fiddle Gala and **September 4** - Annual Corn Boil.

BARACHOIS:

Bingo

The next bingo at the Barachois Recreation Center will be **Friday, July 21**, at 7 p.m. More than \$500 to be won.

BARACHOIS:

Local Market

The first Barachois Local Market will take place on **Saturday, July 29**, from 9 a.m. to noon, under the tent at the Malbay Festival. For those in the Barachois area as well as greater Percé, if you are interested in selling your handmade knitting, crocheting and sewing, baking, jams, etc. and would like a table, please let us know. Also, if you will have any gardening produce ready, consider joining our local produce table and we will sell it for you. Contact Sandy Coombs at 418-645-2874, or email badc-dcbe@outlook.com

BARACHOIS:

Yoga

Yoga will be held at the Barachois Recreation Centre at 10 a.m. every Friday morning until August 12. \$10 drop in, or a book of 6 lessons for \$55.

BARACHOIS:

Legion Branch 261 Upcoming Events

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

COIN DU BANC:

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Open: Corner of the Beach Cultural Museum will be open daily (except Mondays) during July and August from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Wednesday, July 25 from 2 to 4 p.m. - a lecture on authors. Local writers will read excerpts from their works and explain their interest and motivation for writing. They will discuss the research and development required to be an author and exhibit things they may have had published.

COIN DU BANC:

Important Notice

Notice to anyone who has family buried in St. Luke's Cemetery at Coin du Banc. The cost for cutting the grass in the cemetery last year was eight hundred dollars (\$800) and the cost of liability was another eight hundred (\$800) not to mention maintenance of the fence. Please consider assisting with these costs by making a donation, by cheque, to La société historique de Coin du Banc - Corner of the Beach Historical Society. All donations over twenty dollars (\$20) will be given an income tax receipt. The address is 350 rue de la Plage, Coin du Banc, Percé, QC G0C 2L0. Any help you can give would be greatly appreciated by the directors: Alex Vibert, Shirley Boyle and Janet Harvey.

PORT DANIEL:

Strawberry Social

Marcil Branch W.I. will be holding its Annual Strawberry Social on **Saturday, July 29**, from 12 noon to 2 p.m. at the 3-Star Golden Age Club in Port Daniel West. Entrance: \$7. Children 6 and under free. There will be a 50/50 draw and door prizes. Everyone welcome. Bring your friends. For further information, call Audrey Dea at 418-752-8152.

PORT DANIEL:

Annual Bazaar

St. James' Anglican Church will be hosting its annual bazaar on **Thursday, July 27**, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Three Star Golden Age Club. There will be a bake table, tea and dessert, bottle table, children's games, 50/50 draw and much more. Free admission and fun for the whole family. A great way to spend an afternoon.

PORT DANIEL

AND SHIGAWAKE:

Bible Study

Evening Prayer and discussion will be held at Shigawake Town Hall every **Wednesday** (unless otherwise noted) at 7 p.m. and at St. James, Port Daniel, every **Friday**.

SHIGAWAKE:

Cookbooks for sale

The Marcil Branch W.I. has a cookbook that would make a perfect gift. The cost is \$12 per book and includes wonderful recipes from past and present W.I. members.

To purchase a copy, please call 418-752-8152 or pick one up at the Spec office.

HOPE TOWN:

Whist Party

A whist party will be held on **Saturday, August 12**, at 8 p.m. at the Hope Town Community Centre. Come out and join us for a night of fun.

HOPE TOWN:

New Hours

New hours for the Legros-Wise gallery in Hope Town (384 Rte 132 East): Tuesday to Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (porcelain jewellery, one-of-a-kind porcelain, photos and sculptures). Everyone welcome. Enid loves to have visitors. On Saturdays until September 23, she will be at the open market in New Carlisle with her porcelain jewellery from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. (Jy26)

HOPE TOWN:

Hope Baptist Church

Hebrews 10:25 says "You should not stay away from the church meetings, as some are doing..." Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. for all ages; Family Worship at 11 a.m. Sunday, (nursery provided); King's Kids (ages 5-12) at 3:30 p.m. Friday; Young Peoples (Gr. 7 and up) at 7 p.m. Friday. We are a Christ-centered, Bible-believing and preaching, friendly church where everyone is welcome. 305 Route 132, Hopetown 418-752-5838 Pastor Paul R. Bedford BTh. MTh.

NEW CARLISLE:

Heritage New Carlisle

You are invited to "Julia's Tea Corner" at the Kempffer Cultural and Interpretation Centre every Wednesday this summer from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. For only \$5, come and enjoy a cup of tea accompanied by treats cooked by our volunteers. The Kempffer Centre is located at 125, G.-D.-Levesque Blvd. To reserve for 2 p.m. or 3 p.m. please contact us: 418-752-1334.

NEW CARLISLE:

Bottle Drive

There will be a summer bottle drive from Shigawake to New Carlisle on **Saturday, August 5**, beginning at 9 a.m. Please leave your bottles on your front step if you won't be home. Money donations will be accepted. Proceeds toward NCHS grade 11 trip. Thanks in advance for your support.

NEW CARLISLE:

Gospel Hymn Sing

A gospel hymn sing with Alberta 'Flowers family and others will be held at St. Andrew's Anglican, at 2 p.m. Freewill offering. Everyone welcome.

NEW CARLISLE:

Local Market

The market season began on **July 15** and runs until **September 23**

(garlic festival). Hours are from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Come and shop locally for everything from fresh strawberries to jewellery. Be entertained as well. Contact us through our facebook page or call Sandi @ 581-233-0658 or Carol @ 418-752-8555.

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 - 7 p.m. "You Must Be Born Again."

NEW CARLISLE:

Monthly Breakfast

The New Carlisle 50+ Club will be holding its monthly breakfast at the Heritage Restaurant on **Wednesday, September 13**, at 9 a.m.

NEW CARLISLE:

Grand Opening

Heritage New Carlisle invites you to a 5 to 7 Grand Opening of its new temporary exhibition, "Painted with Wool", on Thursday, July 27, from 5 to 7 pm at the Kempffer Cultural and Interpretation Centre. A wine of honour will be served. Come discover the works of two artists who bring a true renewal in the art of rug hooking. The Kempffer Centre is located at 125, G.-D.-Levesque Blvd. in New Carlisle. For information, please contact us at 418-752-1334.

NEW CARLISLE:

Church Service

Knox Presbyterian will be holding a church service on **Sunday, July 23**, at 3 p.m.

NEW RICHMOND:

United Church

July 30: Memorial Hymn Sing
October 21: Turkey Supper
December 15: Christmas Concert.

NEW RICHMOND:

Friperie Notice

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

NEW RICHMOND:

Garage Sale

A garage sale will be held on **August 19** at 256 Boul. Perron, New Richmond, starting at 8 a.m. A Nordic Trac will be available as well as other household items from two residences. For further info., please call: (418) 392-2725.

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

50+ Club Activities

Every Thursday: Dame de Pique

at 1 p.m. \$5 per person.

Sunday, August 13: A barbecue will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. \$10 for adults and \$8 for children under 12 years old.

Friday, August 4 and 18: Music Nights. Doors open at 7 p.m.

GESGAPEGIAG:

Community Market (Cancelled)

The community market that was to be held in the Galgosiet building on **Saturday, July 29**, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. has been cancelled.

ROTARY CALENDAR WINNERS

The winners for the weeks of June 25 are Raynald Paulin, St-Jules Eagles Club, Nicole Beauchemin, Mona Leblanc, CAB St-Alphonse/Nouvelle, Derek Bisson, Succession Douglas Caldwell. Winners for the week of July 2 are: Reina Carroll, Daniel Berthelot, Denis Dugas, Bernard Dubé, Jeanne Robichaud, Élisabeth Leblanc, Brigitte Leblanc. Winners for the week of July 9 are: Arsène Cormier, Christine Bourdages, Céline LeBlanc, Irma Boudreau, Noëlla Béchar, Christine Diotte and Luc LeBlanc.

BLANKET CLASSIFIEDS

QCNA (Quebec Community Newspapers Association) can place your classified ad into 20 weekly papers throughout Quebec - papers just like the one you are reading right now! One phone call does it all! Call Marnie at QCNA 514-697-6330. Visit: www.qcna.org.

SAWMILLS from only \$4,397. - MAKE MONEY & SAVE MONEY with your own bandmill - cut lumber any dimension. In stock ready to ship. Free info & DVD: www.Norwood-Sawmills.com/400OT. 1-800-566-6899 ext:400OT.

UNITED CHURCH

Sunday, July 23

New Carlisle

2 p.m. Hymn Sing at

Anglican Church

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

Sunday, July 23

New Carlisle

2 p.m. Prayer & Praise

Hopetown

10 a.m. Morning Prayer

PARISH OF GASPÉ

Sunday, July 23

Peninsula

9 a.m. Service

PARISH OF ALL SAINTS BY THE SEA

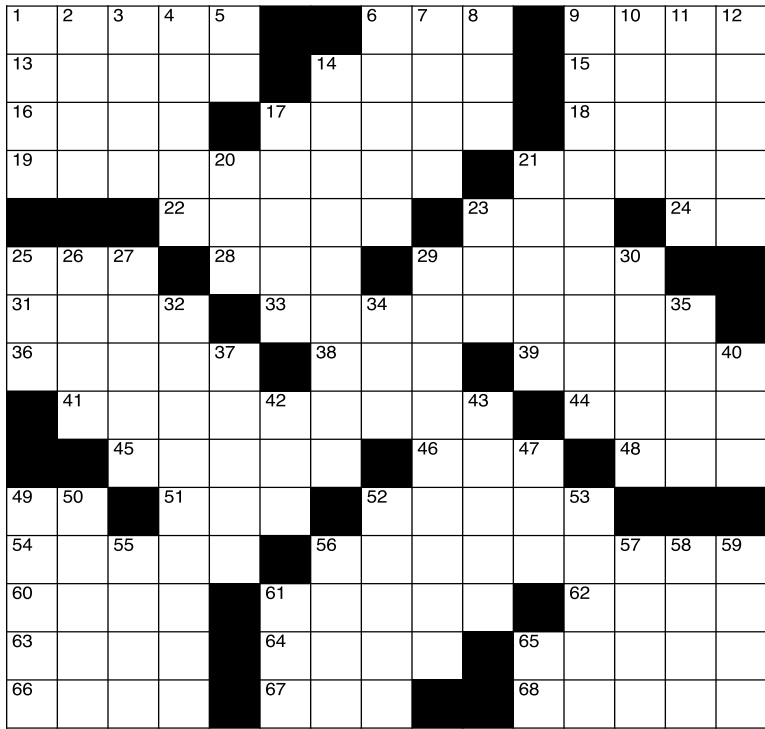
Sunday, July 23

Malbay

11 a.m. Service

On the lighter side

CROSSWORD

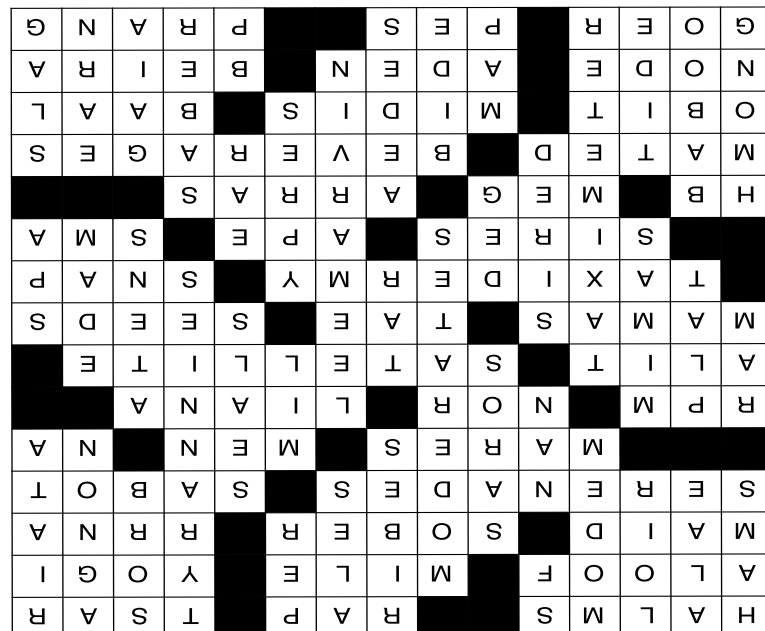


CLUES ACROSS

1. Pea stems
6. Type of music
9. Leader
13. Distant
14. 5,280 feet
15. Beloved Yankee great
16. A female domestic
17. Free from alcoholism
18. Ribosomal ribonucleic acid
19. Entertains with song
21. Wooden shoe
22. Female horses
23. Group of males
24. Sodium
25. Revolutions per minute
28. Neither
29. Woody climbing plant
31. Dismounted
33. Orbits the earth
36. Female parents
38. Separates acids
39. Origins
41. Stuffing and mounting animalskins
44. Rupture
45. Fathers
46. Large primate
48. Shape-memory alloy
49. Halfback
51. "Family Guy" daughter
52. Irish mountain chain
54. Paired
56. Drinks
60. Death notice
61. Skirts
62. Fertility god
63. Where a curve intersects itself
64. Red Sea port
65. Mozambique seaport
66. Leaver
67. The human foot
68. Crash

CLUES DOWN

1. Excessively theatrical actors
2. Wings
3. French river
4. Internet device
5. Where Tony Bennett left his heart
6. Flowering shrub that bears gooseberries
7. Brews
8. For each
9. Dictatorships
10. Slavic person in Saxony
11. Nobel laureate Shmuel
12. Lasso
14. Tones down
17. Lunar period
20. Leavened Indian bread
21. Military elite
23. One thousandth of an inch
25. L.A. footballer
26. Land plan
27. A satellite of Saturn
29. "Cat Ballou" actor
30. Obscure aspect of Sun God and a group of asteroids
32. Indicates the fare
34. ___ and feather
35. Round Dutch cheese
37. Begat
40. Relaxing place
42. ___ Hit'an of Alaska
43. Belgian city
47. Organ of hearing and balance
49. Isolated Southeast Asian people
50. "Power Rangers" villain
52. Yellow-fever mosquitos
53. Heavy cavalry sword
55. Laundry detergent
56. A way to wait
57. Mother and wife of Uranus
58. Justly obtain
59. Stony waste matter
61. Helps you find places
65. Oil company



A blast from the past...



The above photo was taken on July 19, 1919 during the Armistice Celebration in New Carlisle after World War 1. The man in the kilt is Major Basil Hamilton and next to him seated in the car is Charles Le Maistre. Others are unknown but if you recognize someone, please let us know. Thank you to Betty Le Maistre for submitting this photo.

Point to ponder

Why do people order double cheeseburgers, large fries, and a diet coke?

WHY?

Go ahead...play with your food

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, you may need to make some modifications to your strategy as a situation continues to evolve. Don't be afraid of change, as it is necessary to get the job done.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21
It can be difficult to separate facts from the fiction, Taurus. However, you generally are a good lie detector. Put your skills to use to determine if someone is stringing you along.

GEMINI – May 22/June 21
Gemini, some shocking information may find you reeling if you do not stay grounded. Although it comes as a surprise, with some processing you will be able to handle it.

CANCER – June 22/July 22
Cancer, address a potentially mess situation before it gathers too much steam. Communication is all that's needed to ensure cooler heads ultimately prevail.

LEO – July 23/Aug 23
Leo, allow your plans for self-improvement to take center stage, especially true if you have put them on the shelf for some time. Make yourself a priority.

HOROSCOPES

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, you don't tend to be reckless, but even you can surprise others sometimes with your behavior. Let the tongues wag if it means stepping out of your comfort zone.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, take others' candor with a grain of salt. They might just be blowing off steam and they will appreciate having someone there who listens.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, you sometimes have a sarcastic sense of humor that makes you loved by some and disliked by others. Explain to the latter group that you mean no harm.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21
Sagittarius, a possible breakthrough in your communication levels may open up a whole new world. This can only improve your relationships and help your career.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, you're very good at balancing the elements of your life. This week

may be especially challenging as many things come your way in rapid succession.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18
Aquarius, others may seem sure about their actions even if you feel lost. Don't put too much stock in it, as everyone copes with self-doubt from time to time.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
Some of your beliefs are non-negotiable, Pisces. This can make for some rather heated conversations. But you're up to the challenge.

- ### FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS
- JULY 16**
Corey Feldman, Actor (46)
- JULY 17**
Donald Sutherland, Actor (82)
- JULY 18**
Jamie Benn, Athlete (28)
- JULY 19**
Brian May, Guitarist (70)
- JULY 20**
Gisele Bündchen, Model (37)
- JULY 21**
Paloma Faith, Singer (36)
- JULY 22**
John Leguizamo, Actor (53)

A GASPESIAN'S GUIDE TO THE

COAST

- Jessie Aubut-McWhirter

From one end of the Coast to the other, there's no doubt that our region has marvels that never cease to amaze even the locals. This series will introduce you to the different sights and wonders of our home in the hopes that you will create special memories of your very own.



This week we'll be stepping foot into the town of New Carlisle: the birthplace of René Levesque and home to many years of local history.

On Saturday mornings you'll find that the municipal park along the main road is bustling with local farmers and artisans selling their produce and crafts. This is a great time to get to know some of the locals and support them in their livelihoods.

Across from the park is the Kempffer House with its Victorian architecture sure to pique the interest of any history buff.

Black Lake, located to the north of New Carlisle, is the perfect place to go for a picnic with the family. Once you

have directions from some of the locals, it's a short drive away through beautiful tree-lined dirt roads. The gazebo provides shade, plenty of seating and an unparalleled view of the lake. The lake also hosts its own picturesque dock which is great to launch kayaks, paddleboats, paddleboards, rowboats and canoes. Black Lake is one of the best places for a family outing—just don't forget sunscreen!

After having had your picnic, why not go for a walk? While travelling along Gerard D. Levesque Boulevard, turn north on Oriental Street and follow the signs to the Optimist Chalet. There are paths through the forest with various loops ranging from 1.1km to 4km. Surrounded by trees and the sounds of nature, these footpaths are a must for any nature-lover who may be accompanied by their four-legged friend.

If walking amongst nature's flora and fauna isn't for

you, then there's always the famous boardwalk—accessible by going south on Green Street. The boardwalk presents a fantastic view of the Chaleur Bay and a beautiful stone carving marking the southernmost point of the Gaspé Peninsula. Many benches line the boardwalk, so you can sit down and watch the sunset colours illuminate the bay and watch the wildlife at the Jean Paul Dubé Bird Sanctuary. Enjoy walking along the line dividing land and sea, and bring your furry friend on a leash to enjoy it with you.

As the great green jewel of New Carlisle, the Green is loved by all for its large play park, baseball diamond, volleyball court, gazebo, beautiful view of the bay, on-site canteen and bathrooms as well as pet friendly premises. The Green connects directly to the boardwalk and the beach, so it's a fantastic spot for family outings.

A little entertainment in the



New Carlisle boardwalk.

evening might be your style, and New Carlisle has that. Every Friday night during the summer from 8 - 10 p.m. local artists such as Bazou et les Jaloux, Thicker than Water, Ian & Jenny, Lily of the Valley and Marie-Lou & Caro play a variety of music at the Green. Memorable nights of foot-tapping fun await you down in the great green jewel of New Carlisle.

If you plan to stay overnight, there are many op-

tions available for you here in New Carlisle ranging from motels to camping sites and bed & breakfasts. There are also several restaurants for breakfast in the morning as you gear up for your next adventure here on the Coast.



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