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The Gaspé Spec

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Deer and moose population assessment is almost complete

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND: – The Quebec department of Forest, Wildlife and Parks is currently finishing the assessment of the moose and deer population on the Gaspé Peninsula. Most of the field work was already carried out between mid-January and mid-February.

Many people witnessed some of the deer assessment procedure, as a helicopter was used on February 12 and 14, mostly over private land, either in the periphery of villages and towns, or woodlots.

The flights made to assess moose were less conspicuous, as that population is mainly concentrated on public land, deep in the woods.

Forest, Wildlife and Parks department biologist, Martin Dorais explains that the deer population assessment takes into account the fact that the animal has most certainly adopted zones where humans are present.

“Before 1990, there was no question; deer were living in the forest. After their population crash, between 1990 and 1992, as their population reached a low of 500 to 1,000 deer, they gradually moved closer to inhabited zones. Some people feed them. Today, they are omnipresent around towns, and they are involved in numerous accidents,” explains Mr. Dorais.

In 2016 alone, deer were involved in almost 500 accidents on the Gaspé Peninsula, mostly in the Bay of Chaleur area, where their population is more concentrated.

“The accident rate is even higher since the beginning of 2017. We could exceed 500

accidents this year,” adds the biologist.

The situation is now exceeding the jurisdiction of the Forest, Wildlife and Parks department.

“Our department’s jurisdiction deals with public land. Now, most of the deer live on private land. That led to joint work between our department, the UPA (*Union des producteurs agricoles*) and Quebec’s department of Transport,” emphasizes Mr. Dorais, pointing out that collisions with deer now occur year-round in some areas.

The deer population assessment will likely confirm what seems to be evident now, that their concentration is greater on private land but to intervene soundly, it is necessary to know the extent of that presence in the periphery of villages and towns.

“Meetings will soon be held with the UPA and the department of Transport. Our situation is not unique in Quebec. The Eastern Townships have been experiencing that for a long time. There are solutions to diminish the population. Hunting females has to be considered even though it might be controversial. Hunters will probably be reluctant to consider this option (...) However, the deer are there to stay. When a mother settles in the urban periphery, the fawns will later settle there as well, and the next generation also,” says Martin Dorais.

The department of Forest, Wildlife and Parks only had \$8,000 to assess the deer population in the periphery of communities but the UPA management feels so concerned about the problem that

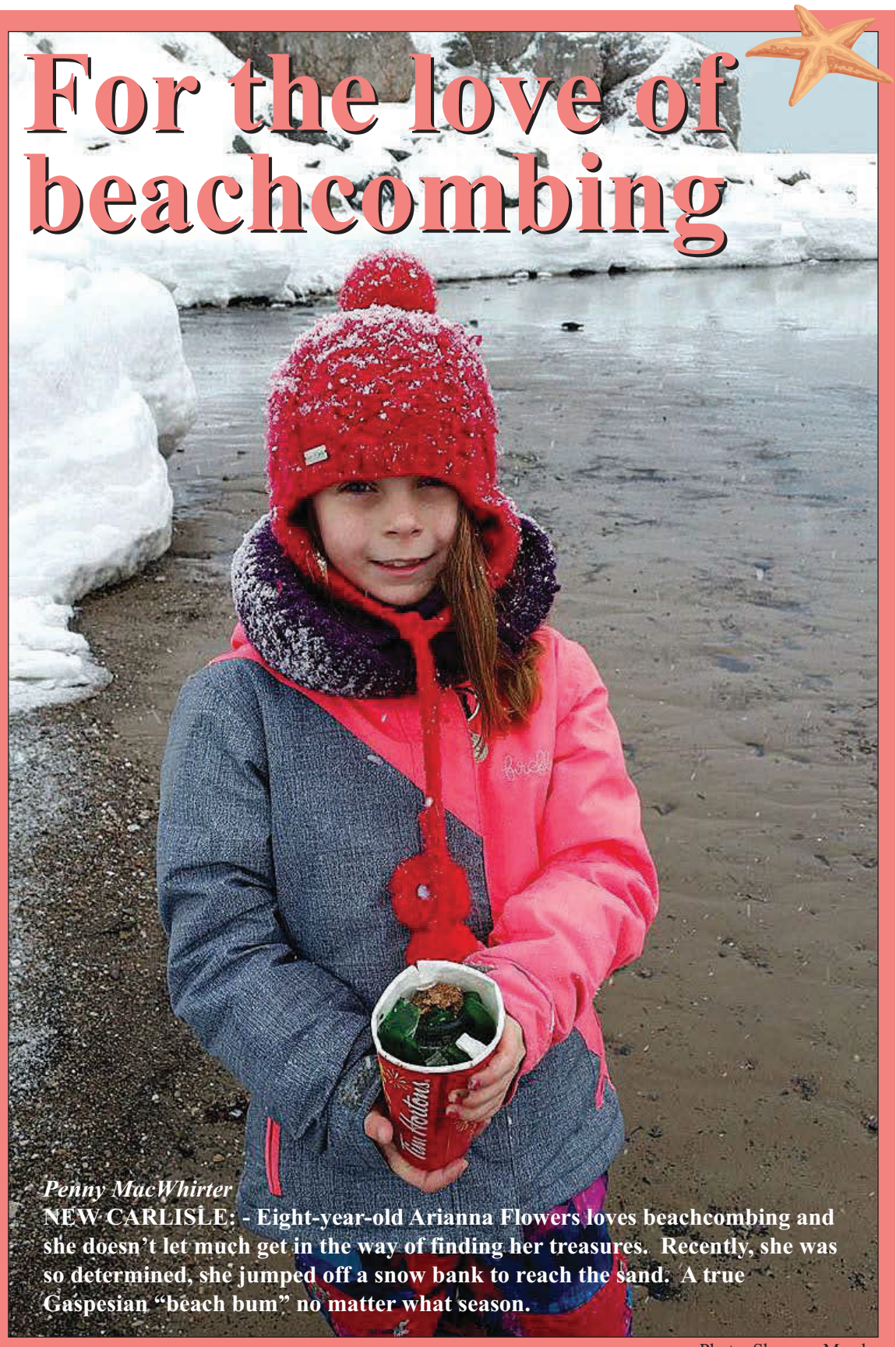
it added an undisclosed amount of money to conduct the study, which covers the territory between Escuminac and Hope Town.

“The UPA received complaints from members because the crops of some farmers were eaten by deer. Potato farmers in the Cullen’s Brook

area lost sizeable portions of their harvest,” points out Mr. Dorais.

Cont'd on page 7

For the love of beachcombing



Penny MacWhirter

NEW CARLISLE: – Eight-year-old Arianna Flowers loves beachcombing and she doesn't let much get in the way of finding her treasures. Recently, she was so determined, she jumped off a snow bank to reach the sand. A true Gaspesian “beach bum” no matter what season.

Photo: Shannon Marsh

CPEs in need of major investments

Thierry Haroun

GASPÉ PENINSULA: The hundreds of millions that were cut by the Québec government in the *Réseau des Centre de la petite enfance* (Quebec's publicly funded daycare centres) have had serious consequences at many levels across the province, including the Gaspé Coast. The CPE representatives of our region took the time to organize a news conference to sensitize the Liberal government on this issue.



Photo: T. Haroun

Annie Chouinard manages three CPEs.

On February 20, no less than nine representatives of the region's CPEs held a press conference in Chandler with Bonaventure MNA, Sylvain Roy being present. The Chandler, Grand River, Carleton, Cross Point, Maria, Saint-Elzéar, Gaspé and Bonaventure CPEs were on hand. They were all represented by their directors. First, they criticized the cuts amounting to \$300 million over the last three years by the provincial government. In

concrete terms, this translates into an average annual budget cut of \$120,000 per CPE. As an example, the CPE La Belle Journée, in Chandler, has been cut by \$127,000 this year alone and by more than \$250,000 between 2013 and 2016, which represents 20% of its annual budget.

There are other consequences to these cuts: It has generated deficits in some CPEs, such as the one in

Paspébiac which is faced with a deficit of \$50,000. Job

cuts, full-time jobs becoming part-time jobs, stress in the workplace, problems having access to training and recruiting and were other consequences that were mentioned at the press conference.

Money, money and more money...

Annie Chouinard, manages three CPEs (two in Gaspé and one in Murdochville). They employ 40 people and take care of 120 children. She says that the government cuts have had consequences. "There's \$120,000 short per CPE. I had to cut a job in the kitchen

and some jobs went from full-time to part-time. We also had to move some children from one group to another which generates stress and insecurity for the children and the parents." Therefore, the CPEs and Sylvain Roy are asking the government to reinvest the \$300 million that was cut so that these organizations can get back on track. "It's terrible what we are witnessing in the CPE. The governing boards have to do miracles to make ends meet. The government has to reinvest in these organizations, it's so important in terms of educating the youth and creating jobs," he said.

Curling in New Carlisle: a winning welcome activity!

Sophie Stürzer, Responsable du Service d'accueil des nouveaux arrivants de la MRC Bonaventure

NEW CARLISLE: - In February, more than 25 people, most of whom arrived in our region recently, took part in a curling initiation at the New Carlisle Arena. This activity, which was organized by the MRC of Bonaventure's CANA *Comité d'accueil des nouveaux arrivants* (welcome committee for newcomers to the region). It provided participants with an opportunity to learn about curling and to meet and connect with new people, all in a friendly environment. Participants included individuals of all ages, from children to retirees, as well as people from different regions of Quebec and other countries.

The two CANA coordinators, Sophie Stürzer and Lysanne St-Onge, were very satisfied. "It was a morning full of laughter. For most participants this was a new experience; some did not realize curling facilities are available in the Bay of Chaleur area. Several people even mentioned they'd like to try curling another time," stated Sophie Stürzer.

Lysanne St-Onge emphasized that "it was the common experience that made it possible to forge links between the participants, while discovering a sport that is better known in the English-speaking community. Several players from the curling league were on hand to introduce us to this sport."

MRC of Bonaventure welcome committee for newcomers to the region (CANA)

Since 2006, CANA has been mandated to facilitate social integration and discovery of the MRC Bonaventure by organizing a minimum of four activities per year. CANA is for anyone who has lived in the MRC for less than two years, regardless of age or origin.

The MRC Bonaventure CANA is a project managed by *Place aux jeunes* and *SANA Service d'accueil des nouveaux arrivants de la MRC Bonaventure*. This project is made possible thanks to the financial contribution of the partners of the *Stratégie d'établissement durable des personnes en Gaspésie et aux Îles-de-la-Madeleine 2012-2018*.



Spec is looking for winter photos. If you have a photo that you'd like published in Spec, please send it to Penny MacWhirter on facebook or to specs@globetrotter.net

Some suggestions are: Snowshoeing, Sliding, Scenery, Hockey, Pets playing in the snow, Bundled babies, Pets in their winter gear, Carnival pictures and Visiting wildlife. You are not limited to these suggestions, we welcome all winter pics. (Please include where the photo was taken and the names of anyone in it)



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Police report

The trial of Réal Savoie, 52, from Nouvelle, accused in April 2014 of the 1996 murder of Sonia Raymond, will resume on March 6 at the New Carlisle courthouse with jury selection. That process should take the whole day.

The trial started on November 7, 2016 but the first six weeks of proceedings were used to determine if the evidence gathered during the 2013-2014 undercover investigation was admissible in court.

Superior Court Judge Louis Dionne ruled on December 15, 2016 that the evidence was not prejudicial to the accused, that the evidence was reliable and that the behaviour of the police officers during the investigation was not reprehensible.

Judge Dionne stated that the police officers didn't commit procedural abuse against the suspect, contrary to what defence attorney Marcel Guérin tried to prove. Judge Dionne mentioned that the accused was never forced to do anything he didn't want to do during the investigation, a crucial point in proving that there was no procedural abuse, and that the evidence could be submitted to a jury.

Sonia Raymond was murdered on the afternoon of July 27, 1996, on the beach in Maria, just metres away from Route 132. She had gone to the beach for a swim and to take some sun. She was supposed to attend a wedding that evening.

The victim's body was found around supertime by a motorist who had stopped for a break. A violent rain storm swept the beach shortly after the discovery of the body and complicated the work of the investigators called to the scene.

The accused had a record of sexual assault when the murder was committed. He was considered a suspect a month and a half later because in September of 1996 he was accused of sexual assault in another case. At the time no evidence was found to involve him in the July murder of Sonia Raymond. In the fall of 2013, the Sûreté du Québec initiated a Mr. Big investigation. The objective of such an investigation is to have the accused admit his crime. The details of the investigation cannot be released because of a publication ban by the court. The details will become public when that evidence will be presented at trial before judge and jury after March 6.

Since the 2014 Supreme Court of Canada decision in the Hart case, the court has to review the Mr. Big evidence in preliminary sessions prior to trial. These sessions were held between November 7 and December 15, 2016.

Judge Dionne, crown prosecutors Florence Frappier-Routhier and Gérald Maltais, as well as defence attorney Marcel Guérin and Réginald Victorin returned to court on February 23 in order to clarify some legal issues in absence of the jury.

The trial of Réal Savoie will probably last until mid-April, and perhaps later.

The Sûreté du Québec investigated a potential case of cruelty against a dog in the Saint-Pie-X sector of Paspebiac. The event took place on February 14 when the owner of the dog reported to the police that the dog had been stabbed by a neighbour.

"We went and noted that the dog had been stabbed. We arrested and questioned a 50-year-old man living in the same sector. We released him and submitted a file to the crown prosecutor on February 19. We believe that the dog was a victim of cruelty. The crown prosecutor will decide about the follow-up of the file," explains Sgt. Claude Doiron, spokesperson for the Sûreté du Québec.

The dog was apparently stabbed twice with a knife. The police won't confirm that scenario because of the ongoing investigation. The dog was treated by a veterinarian and survived the injuries. The suspect claims that he was attacked by the dog and that he defended himself.



Photo: T. Haroun

The average waiting time at Chandler hospital has decreased from 10.7 hours to 10.4 hours.

GASPE COAST:

Emergency room waiting time is improving

Thierry Haroun

GASPÉ PENINSULA: - The Gaspé Peninsula is being credited for having the best performance in the past five years, in terms of the average waiting time in emergency rooms. Spec obtained detailed numbers on the matter from the Gaspésie Health and Social Services Center.

In fact, the *Devoir* newspaper recently reported that between 2012-2013 and 2016-2017, the average wait in emergency waiting rooms went from 17 hours down to 15.21 hours, an improvement of 9.4%. The Montreal daily paper also reported that the Gaspé Peninsula had the best performance for the same period, an improvement of 23.34%, followed closely by the Lanaudière Region (23.26%), the North Shore (22.64%) and the Lower St-Lawrence Region (21.84%).


In light of these results, Spec reached the Gaspésie Health and Social Services Center to get detailed numbers. The spokesperson, Johanne Méthot, called us back with these numbers. She confirms that the average waiting time went down by 23.34%, thus

going from 14.3 hours down to 10.5 hours which is much better than the 12 hours targeted by the Quebec Health Ministry.

The Saint-Anne-des-Monts Hospital has the best performance as the average waiting time went from 11.7 hours (in 2012-2013) down to 6.3 hours (in 2016-2017). Gaspé Hospital went from 11 hours down to 9 hours, Chandler Hospital from 10.7 hours down to 10.4 hours. As for Maria hospital, in Chaleur Bay, there's still much work to be done as the waiting time went from 23 hours down to 17.9 hours, which is still much higher than the 12 hours targeted by the Health Ministry. "We're very proud of

these numbers as a whole for our region. It shows that we've made good decisions over the years," says Johanne Méthot. She adds that two reasons explain these results. "First, we've put the right professional with the right patient at the right time and the right place. Secondly, we have prioritized health services at home for seniors. Therefore, people don't have to go to emergency rooms for this or that because there's follow-up through the Geriatric External Ambulatory Service (SEGA), for instance." The SEGA is located in Chandler, between the CLSC and the hospital, and was inaugurated recently.



 **PUBLIC NOTICE**

MINOR EXEMPTION FROM URBANISM BY-LAWS

NOTICE is hereby given that the Town Council, at a regular meeting that will be held on March 20, 2017, at 8 p.m., will consider the request for minor exemption from the zoning By-Law 1156-11, presented by Madam Anne-Marie Julien for a property situated at 6, Douglas boulevard.

The nature and consequences of this exemption are the following:

- the nature of the minor exemption is to reduce of 74 cm the minimal distance required by section 8.8.1 of the zoning By-Law 1156-11, or a minimum distance of at least 1.5 m from the side lines.
- the minor exemption will have for consequence to regularize a shed that is located at 76 cm from the side line.

During this meeting, the Town Council will hear the interested wishing to be heard on that request.

Given at Gaspé, March 1st, 2017.

Isabelle Vézina,
Director of legal services and town clerk

Guest Commentary:

Wendy Dawson

The Colour of Money – is Pink!

In my younger years, I didn't necessarily feel attached to the word "feminism", nor did I feel that I was ever part of a feminist movement. I felt the word was angry, militant, and an expression tied to an equality that I already felt belonged to me. Now that I am older, feminism has a new meaning for me, one of fairness, of justice and equality and an expression that not only includes women, but women and men equally.

If age has taught me anything, it is that my rather naïve sentiment that gender equality was already mine was attributable to a lack of experience and the harsh realities of daily life that demonstrate that the gender gap is very real, and that equality remains a utopic goal, but hardly a

reality, between men and women in Canada.

Gender equity is never more evident than when it comes down to dollars and cents and recent headlines addressing the Pink Tax underline that once again.

The Pink Tax is a term used to address the heavily inflated prices women pay for items that are targeted to them or used exclusively by them. It is a clear and proven discrimination in pricing of similar, and in some cases, exact products and services between men and women.

Examples of this include pricing for products such as razors, shaving cream, hair products and clothing and also for services such as dry-cleaning, insurance coverage, haircuts and car repairs. How much more, do you ask? In some cases as much as 43% more FOR THE EXACT SAME PRODUCT!

Why this is happening is cause for concern. Companies looking to defend themselves against these claims say that advertising to women costs them more to reach their female audience in what is often an especially competitive market. As a result, they claim that recuperating these costs in higher pricing makes sense. However, marketing specialists state that women constantly demonstrate an "elasticity" when it comes to buying

items, particularly health or beauty items – meaning we are simply willing to pay more. Is it because we are a sucker for more "feminine packaging" or advertised promises of looking younger and smelling better? Manufacturers are betting on that, and women, are quite literally buying into it.

Per a Statistics Canada report prepared for the Globe and Mail in March of 2016, women in this country make 73.5 cents for every \$1 made by their Canadian male counterparts – this discrepancy is even higher for indigenous and minority women. In Canada, the average pay gap is \$8,000 per year – twice the global average. So not only are women earning less, many products and services are costing them more.

On an annual basis, it is estimated that the average difference in spending on personal items means comes with a price tag of \$1,350 per woman in this country. That is a remarkable amount of money to have plucked out of your wallet one looney at a time. In fact, Parsehub, a data analysis company from Toronto found that there are over 3000 products on the market that are guilty of discriminatory pricing. Furthermore, the difference in costs for women does not even include the cost of sanitary products, necessary items for most women that were subject to sales tax as luxury items until July of 2015.

One consumer from Montreal became frustrated enough with the whole issue to begin the filings of a class action lawsuit against eight different Quebec corporations – a lawsuit that in the end might cost those corporations as much as \$100 million.

In 2005, the issue was important enough in the province of Ontario that a bill was tabled on the issue. While it never made it past the reading stage, the action does demonstrate that price discrimination is nothing new. The entire state of California banned gender pricing in 1996 with heavy fines for manufacturers as consequence and in New York City, gender pricing was also banned in 1998.

So while the average Canadian woman waits around for the closing of the wage gap, what can she do to make sure that she and other women don't get gouged at the checkout counter? I have said it before and I will say it again, vote with your dollar!

First and foremost, buy the men's stuff. Does your razor really have to be pink? You can always buy gender neutral products, or, if you are a do-it-yourself kind of person, the internet is filled with recipes for homemade, organic and hypo-allergenic recipes for handmade beauty and hygiene products. When shopping for services like insurance, make sure to ask questions about gender neutrality pricing.

The bottom line is it is up to you to make the decision about your purchases, and when we are made aware of issues such as the Pink Tax, we have the power to make good decisions and influence change. If you are not the type of person to write in to companies about their practices or complain to the Minister of the Status of Women (girltalkhq.com) about the Pink Tax inequalities, then the easiest first step is at the sales counter. You might not walk away with butterfly adorned packaging or the promise of smelling like a warm vanilla or cucumber mist, but you will save up enough money in a year for a solid RRSP contribution or a winter trip to Cuba. Make no mistake, your money is green.

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BPS CLOSURE:

Did the school board fail to follow through with its promises?

Geneviève Gélinas

NEW CARLISLE: – Six years after the decision to close Bonaventure Polyvalent School was made, parents of New Richmond High School students draw a bleak portrait of the situation. They criticize Eastern Shores School Board (ESSB) for having failed to follow through with the promises made at that time.

In February 2011, the Eastern Shores School Board commissioners decided to close Bonaventure Polyvalent School (BPS) and send the students to the feeder schools of New Carlisle and New Richmond. The BPS classrooms were adjacent to the classrooms of the Bonaventure French high school. That decision faced a strong opposition from a significant proportion of parents, teachers and students. BPS was gradually closed between 2012 and 2014.

On February 21, 18 people attended the meeting of ESSB's council of commissioners. Among them was the chair of the New Richmond High School governing board, Amanda Crozier, who went to BPS herself, and who has two children at New Richmond High School. She remembers the commitments made after the closure. "They showed us building plans, they talked about programs. Absolutely nothing has been done (...). Our children deserve better," she says.

Ms. Crozier points to a number of problems in New Richmond High School, including the lack of space. The cafeteria is also the library and a multi-purpose room, she says. "I feel bad for the teachers," who work in those spaces and "are doing the best they can with the resources they have."

"From not being in BPS, they don't have that contact with French," says Ms. Crozier. "There are sporting events, but with other schools of ESSB only and even that has been reduced because of budget cuts."

The students who attend the more advanced mathematical classes do it online, because there are not enough students to form a group, as there are six in the New Richmond graduating class. "But the internet service is so bad that they have to go to the café in front of the school,"



Photo: G. Gagné

Ray Venables, president of the Eastern Shores Teachers' Association.

which raises "safety issues," Ms. Crozier points out.

There's no designated French teacher at the elementary level in New Richmond this year. Ms. Crozier considers that it doesn't make sense in Quebec. Even though the class teacher teaches French, "of course, it's not going to be the same thing."

Above all, BPS was a "stepping stone" for the students, which the New Richmond and New Carlisle high schools cannot be, Ms. Crozier thinks.

"When they stay in their feeder school, it doesn't give them the step to go further. In New Carlisle High School in 2015, the year after the closure of BPS, only a few of 24 graduating students went on to something else (college, Cegep or vocational training)," she says.

Going to BPS was also a "way to meet people from Port-Daniel all the way to Gesgapegiag," she adds. Leaving their community prepared them for post-secondary education.

At the February 22 meeting, Wendy Dawson read a letter to the board of commissioners as a parent (Wendy is also a member of NRHS governing board and a collaborator of the SPEC). SPEC obtained a copy of the letter. She writes that the school board "not only failed to follow through with innu-

merable promises made at the time to students, teachers and parents, but that the conditions for learning, opportunity and growth have been greatly hindered since the decision to close BPS was made."

The promise for improved buildings has "quite evidently never been honoured," Ms. Dawson points out. "There is now a lack of resources in specialized core subjects," she adds.

"Students interact with other schools fewer than four times a year, not to mention that there is no longer any connection at all with the French speaking students of the region," writes Ms. Dawson, who also mentions the "eroded relationship" with the Gesgapegiag school.

Ms. Dawson has one child in New Richmond High School and also had one in BPS six years ago. "The services like homework programs, literacy programs and afterschool sports have been reduced in NRHS and there are not even enough students in the school to make up a sports team," she writes.

The closure of BPS didn't



improve the dropout rates, according to Ms. Dawson. "Currently there are more students than ever being streamlined into the WOTP (work-oriented training path) or leaving to complete high school credits at Adult Ed."

"After six years, the supposed savings have not been a savings at all but have instead been an extreme cost – one that cannot be measured on a balance sheet," writes Ms. Dawson, who is asking for a "plan of action with real and measurable goals," one that will include the two governing boards of New Richmond and New Carlisle.

The teachers' experiences

The teachers at New Richmond High School have to deal with a lack of space, says Ray Venables, president of the Eastern Shores Teachers' Association, who explained to SPEC what the closure of BPS has resulted in for his members.

To have enough space to work is "a challenge" in New Richmond High School. The space isn't well adapted to a high school of 2017. "The spaces which used to be adequate before aren't adequate anymore." The teachers criticize the fact that they have no quiet place to work or to greet a professional who visits them.

After the closure of BPS, the teachers who were specialists in their subject area had to broaden the scope of

their skills. "If you were a high school math teacher, your workload had to be completed with a science class, or you had to teach to another level. They're not specialists anymore and their workload has become more burdened." However, there have been no jobs lost.

At the time of the closure, the teachers were "concerned about maintaining the students in the English system. We knew that if BPS was closed and the service levels were not maintained, they would go to the French system."

There has been a loss of 83 students, a 23% decrease, between the 2010-2011 school year, when the decision to close BPS was made, and the 2016-2017 school year. The numbers went from a total of 356 students in BPS, New Richmond and New Carlisle high schools to 273 students in New Richmond and New Carlisle.

Mr. Venables admits that there's a general decline in the English population, but he is "asking questions" about those numbers. "Were there people who chose the French system? When BPS was open, a lot of Gesgapegiag students went there and BPS used to get grants to help them. If the New Richmond situation isn't at the same level, does it influence the decision to go to New Richmond?"

Gesgapegiag has its own school, which offers secondary education.

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BPS CLOSURE:

ESSB says space and internet problems are being addressed in New Richmond

Geneviève Gélinas

GASPÉ: – There are space problems and internet connection problems at New Richmond High School, admits Eastern Shores School Board (ESSB) director general, Howard Miller. However, “we’re very proud of what we’ve done” in the New Richmond and New Carlisle schools since the closure of BPS (Bonaventure Polyvalent School), he adds, considering the fact that “we have the most challenging clientele in the region.”

Mr. Miller asked SPEC to provide the interview questions in advance. He responded to the nine questions asked by SPEC, with a 12-page document prepared by his staff and himself and he read from it most of the time during the interview.

In regards to the physical improvements to be made, a request for new gyms was addressed to the Quebec Education Ministry in 2011, Mr. Miller explains. In 2013, the request for New Carlisle was denied and the request for New Richmond was granted for \$1.17 million. However, the staff said that classrooms were needed more than a gymnasium. The government refused to transfer the grant to the new project.

ESSB now wants to go ahead with a new project of renovating the school to increase space. First the government asked the school board to complete a space analysis. Mr. Miller has received the results but refused to unveil them before he meets with the staff and governing board of New Richmond High School.

Both schools were given funds to equip the science labs, stated the director general. They also received new



Photo: G. Gagné

Wade Gifford, Chairperson of the Council of Commissioners and Eastern Shores School Board director general, Howard Miller.

computer labs. Mr. Miller provided a list of renovations made in the two high schools since the BPS closure. Improvements include painting and roof renovation in New Richmond as well as heating conversion, painting and drainage in New Carlisle.

The director general describes the internet connection at New Richmond High School as “bad” and “spotty”. There are now smart boards in almost every classroom and over 90 mobile devices, he points out. This rapid growth “has placed a significant but anticipated increase in the demand on internet bandwidth for all schools and centres,” writes Mr. Miller.

Mr. Miller hopes that the Internet issue could be settled in the coming months. “Negotiations with the Réseau collectif seem to be pointing in the right direction. We may be able to quadruple our bandwidth, for the same price

we are paying right now.”

The Réseau collectif is a Gaspesian organization regrouping public organizations, such as, municipalities and schools, and offers Internet services to its members.

About contact with French and native communities, Mr. Miller writes that New Carlisle High School partners with the French drama club at the Polyvalente de Paspébiac, and shares the Paspébiac rink and Bonaventure pool with French students. The New Carlisle students have also participated in three to four aboriginal events over the last years.

Mr. Miller provided no example of French exposure for the New Richmond students. However, he reminds us that on the native side, enrolment in New Richmond is made up of 70% First Nations students. The principal is Mike Isaac, a Micmac of Listuguj. “ESSB has increased educa-

tion of indigenous issues through projects centered on Truth and Reconciliation,” Mr. Miller writes.

Otherwise, in New Richmond, if there’s no designated teacher for French classes, classroom teachers do “cross curricular teaching,” Mr Miller explains. “For example, the teacher who teaches a grade 6 history class can incorporate the history cultural component within her French program.”

Graduation rates

The graduation rates for five-year cohort were between 48% and 70% in BPS

from 2010 to 2014, for an average of 56%. In New Carlisle and New Richmond in 2015 and 2016, the rates were between 30% and 62% for an average of 49%. However, the numbers are probably too small to draw a conclusion. “It remains very similar, not better, not worse. We’re maintaining success or having slight improvement,” comments Mr. Miller.

“The first grad group of NCHS now has 11 in post-secondary schools plus 4 who went on to adult education programs,” the director general adds.

Mr. Miller insists on the graduation rate of ESSB in general. After seven years, 77% of the 2008 cohort of students had earned a diploma or a qualification. That’s higher than the average of the Québec public network, at 74.9%.

About student life, the director general points out that the ESSB high schools organize sport events and invite other ESSB schools from the Gaspé Coast.

New Richmond and New Carlisle high schools also house very active Community learning centers, which “create a hub of activity for our bilingual and trilingual community partnerships while encouraging a sense of belonging and collaboration among all ages in our families,” writes Mr. Miller.

In 2016-2017, New Carlisle High School has 83 students and New Richmond High School, 51 students.



PUBLIC NOTICE CONDITIONAL USE

NOTICE is hereby given that the Town Council, at a regular meeting that will be held on Monday, March 20, 2017, at 8 pm, will consider the request for conditional use in accordance with the Conditional uses by-law 1172-12, presented for the property situated at 143-145, rue de la Reine.

The nature of this conditional uses are the following:

- the acceptance of a residential use as a conditional use to the M-236 area, within a part of the building located at 143-145, rue de la Reine.

During this meeting, the Town Council will hear the interested wishing to be heard on that request.

Given at Gaspé, March 1st, 2017.

Isabelle Vézina,
Director of legal services and town clerk

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Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



Flittermice

*"The baby bat
Screamed out in fright,
Turn on the dark
I'm afraid of the light."*

Let's get right to the facts because there is so much mythology surrounding these little winged creatures.

Most bats eat insects, fruit and flowers.

One bat can eat up to 600 mosquitoes in an hour.

Bats live up to 20 years or so, depending on the species.

Bats are, contrary to the saying, NOT blind.

Bat babies are called pups.

Bats are the one and only flying mammals in existence. Bats cleverly use echolocation to identify and hunt their prey. Echolocation is the use of sound and echoes. By the way, whales and dolphins also use echolocation.

There are loads of these night flyers here on the Gaspé Peninsula but currently they are vacationing in warmer climates. They fly hundreds of kilometers south and live in caves with other bats, sometimes numbering up to a million. An old English word for bats is flittermice. That's descriptive!

Bats are found all over the world. There are over 1,000 species of bats and approximately 70% eat insects. Most of the others are frugivores, that is they eat fruit. A bat can eat up to one third of its body weight in insects every night. Do not detest the bat too much because if bats became extinct the insect population would grow astronomically. You would be scratching a lot more insect bites for sure.

Their front limbs are webbed wings and they are the only mammal capable of true flight. Bats rarely fly in the rain because it interferes with their echolocation. Most bats are night creatures, nocturnal, and become active around twilight. Females normally have one pup at a time, but usually have three litters a season. The pups remain with their mother until they are almost adults, when they can hunt for themselves.

We well know that all living creatures including humans are interconnected. Wind turbines, such as the ones here on the Gaspésie are adversely affecting the bat population. It's not simply that the bats fly into the wind turbines though. Remember the bat is cleverly adapted to use echolocation to prevent this. No, it is because the bat is a mammal, that the wind turbines are killing them. Bats have lungs and their little lungs are adversely affected by the change in air pressure of the wind turbines. When they fly close their teeny, tiny lungs rupture. Scientists confirm that the death rate of bats is higher in proximity to the windmills. Further the bats may even be looking to the turbines for a place to roost, thus luring them to their death.

Bats are not usually a beloved animal. After all they are a night creature that is quick and darting. In books and movies, the bat symbolizes danger. In the excellent series Silverwing by Canadian author Kenneth Oppel the image of the bat has turned the corner. The night creature is the central character in his books. He has done for bats what Richard Adam's Watership Down did for rabbits.

However, what of the real, living bat that will soon be returning to live in your trees? Be grateful for this creature. It has a purpose.

DEER:

▶ *Cont'd from cover*

UPA's funding support was welcome because the \$8,000 of public money was quickly exhausted. "Helicopter flights cost between \$1,000 and \$1,100 per hour so it didn't take long before we ran out of funds. It is an opportunity for sound sampling protocol to make a good assessment without having to fly over the whole territory," he adds.

In 2009, the last count of deer revealed that their population in the Gaspé Peninsula was about 7,000 deer. Martin Dorais thinks that the population could have reached 10,000 deer now. He expects that the number will be somewhat reduced at the end of the current winter because of the significant quantity of snow.

The moose situation is different, mainly because the budget of \$130,000 allowed the Forest, Wildlife and Parks department to cover a much wider territory, a need considering the much larger and

more diversified moose habitat.

"We selected 46 areas of 60 square kilometres out of 274 on the Gaspé Peninsula. We are talking about zone 1, which corresponds to the Sainte-Flavie to Sainte-Flavie



Highway 132 loop. We excluded the wildlife reserves and the parks. This time around though, we received a request from Forillon Na-

tional Park to include their territory in our assessment. We collaborated," explains Martin Dorais.

The aerial survey procedure is strict. "The helicopter covers corridors. There is a span of 625 metres between each line of flight. The sampling of surfaces takes into account the various densities of moose. It is a proven statistical model, the best in the field," points out Martin Dorais.

The quantity of moose norm is based on a per 10 square kilometre density.

"The last count was made in 2007. We had a density of 7.9 moose per 10 square kilometres in the winter time. It is a very high number for that time of the year. The goal is to have 10 moose per 10 square kilometres before the hunting season. I think we are close," says Mr. Dorais.

The results of both assessment exercises should be available at the end of March. "Our work is progressing really well," says Mr. Dorais.

SHARE *your* STORY



Stories told by **CLYDE MACWHIRTER**
Interviewed by **ALLISON LEGOUFFE DEA**

The Mounties Are Coming!

Back in the day, everybody made their own alcohol, called Moonshine. I remember my grandfather's neighbour, after he came back from the army, used to make his own Moonshine and sell it. Back then it was called Bootlegging.

My grandfather Anez got word that the Mounties were coming to the area to check on his neighbour and try and catch him selling Moonshine. So my grandfather went down and told him and his wife that he heard the Mounties were coming the next morning to raid him for the liquor.

The neighbour's wife took all the liquor over

Oh, Heavenly Father!

There was another person who used to make Moonshine with his brothers. They used to make it, pack it up and drive to Chandler to sell it.

I remember one time they wanted to go to Chandler to sell their moonshine but the Mounties were on the road checking everybody that passed. The men knew they had to be careful, but they still wanted to get to Chandler to sell it. He used to hide the Moonshine in the steeple of the United Church in Hope Town. That way if the Mounties came and raided their property, they wouldn't find anything. No one would think to look in the Church!

One night they went to the church and took their bottled moonshine from the steeple. They

to the swamp and dug holes and buried all the bottles of Moonshine. It was a lot of work but it got done. Low and behold, the next morning the Mounties came and checked all around their property. They walked to the swamp and walked over the buried liquor and never noticed they were walking over what they were searching for. After finding nothing, they left.

It was a close call! But he kept making Moonshine and he was never caught.

loaded it in a horse and buggy to take to Chandler to sell.

They decided to dress up in Priest gowns for their trip to Chandler. As they were driving down, Mounties pulled them over and asked him, "Where are you headed Father?" He said, "We are going to Chandler hospital. Somebody is dying and we have to get there!" The Mounties looked at them and said "Ok Father, Go on!"

Off they drove to Chandler with a buggy full of Moonshine. The Mounties never thought to check the buggy, after all...why would you doubt a Priest?



New Richmond mayor claims there's an explanation for census numbers in New Richmond

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND: – The mayor of New Richmond, Éric Dubé, thinks his town would have fared better between the censuses of 2011 and 2016 if more senior's lodging had been available in his municipality.

There was a decrease of 104 people in New Richmond between the 2011 and 2016 census. It is a 2.7% decrease. Mr. Dubé states that most of the population represented by the decline in New Richmond actually moved to a neighbouring town.

"A lot of our elderly just moved to Maria because of the expansion of the private residence for seniors there. In New Richmond, we don't have a lot of wiggle room in that regard," explains Mr. Dubé.

Maria experienced an increase of 79 citizens between 2011 and 2016, as the population went from 2,536 to 2,615 people, a 3.1% increase. It is the largest hike of the seven Gaspé Peninsula municipalities that experienced an increase according to the last census.

"We could add 30 units for seniors in New Richmond and that would free 30 houses for newcomers. I know that at least 30 elderly couples are

ready to sell their houses if they can find an apartment," points out Mr. Dubé.

Out of the 44 municipalities and two Native communities on the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands, only seven experienced a population increase, namely Saint-André-de-Restigouche, Ristigouche-South East, Carleton, Maria, Saint-Alphonse, New Carlisle and Mont-Louis, 60 kilometres east of Sainte-Anne-des-Monts.

Officially there was a decline of 4% of the population in the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands between 2011 and 2016. That number is questionable though, because it would imply that Listuguj had a decrease of 33.5% of its population, which translates to 624 people. This would mean that the population went from 1,865 to 1,241, a highly unlikely reality, actually called "impossible" by electoral officer Michel Poirier and Pierre Vicaire, of the Education Centre.

The department of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada works with a population number of 2,063 for Listuguj, as of December 2015. If that number is correct, the region would have experienced a decrease of 3.1% of its population instead of 4%.

Census chart

| TOWN | 2011 | 2016 | DIFFERENCE (%) |
|-----------------------------|------|------|----------------|
| Ascension-de-Patapédia: | 190 | 164 | -13.4 |
| Saint-François d'Assise: | 706 | 644 | -8.8 |
| Saint-Alexis: | 548 | 500 | -8.8 |
| Saint-André-de-Restigouche: | 157 | 161 | 2.5 |
| Caplan: | 2039 | 2024 | -0.7 |
| Saint-Alphonse: | 691 | 699 | 1.2 |
| Saint-Siméon: | 1179 | 1171 | -0.7 |
| Saint-Elzéar: | 467 | 458 | -1.9 |
| Saint-Godefroi: | 405 | 380 | -6.2 |
| Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé: | 1055 | 1015 | -3.8 |
| Cloridorme: | 743 | 671 | -9.7 |
| Petite-Vallée: | 178 | 170 | -4.5 |
| Grande-Vallée: | 1137 | 1057 | -7.0 |
| Rivière-Madeleine: | 334 | 289 | -13.5 |
| Mont-Louis: | 1118 | 1134 | 1.4 |
| Mont-Saint-Pierre: | 192 | 155 | -19.3 |
| Rivière-à-Claude: | 130 | 128 | -1.5 |
| Marsoui: | 309 | 275 | -11.0 |
| La Martre: | 245 | 243 | -0.8 |
| Sainte-Anne-des-Monts: | 6933 | 6437 | -7.2 |
| Cap-Chat: | 2624 | 2476 | -5.6 |

The municipalities that didn't appear in the February 15 issue of the SPEC





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\$20 | Tuesday, March 7: 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM
 Learn about the processes involved in filing your business taxes.




GET ONE-ON-ONE BUSINESS COACHING

- + **A Business Coach will be Near You on March 8 & 9**
March 8: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM: New Richmond SADC, 122 boul. Perron West
March 9: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM: New Carlisle CASA, 208 boul. Gerard-D.-Levesque
 Contact Kathy Gallon at: 418-752-5995 or kathy.casa@globetrotter.net


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MADE In...

La Boulangerie du gars du coin

FRESH BREADS AND BAKED GOODS

Wendy Dawson

The Made in ... series profiles locally created products available throughout the Gaspé Peninsula.

NEW RICHMOND: – It is 7:30 a.m. Saturday morning and Jean-François Henry is finishing up his shift at the bakery. He has been working since about 11 p.m. the night before, and there is only the bread table left to clean. The air is warm and heavy with the smells of fresh bread and yeast – easily one of the most comforting aromas known to man.

For her part, Marina Desaulniers, Jean-François' business partner and girlfriend is just starting her day, preparing for Saturday, one of the bakeries' busiest days of the week. When asked when they see each other, Marina simply responds, "On our days off." Days off are few and far between for the young couple, but with the support of a handful of part-time and seasonal employees, they have built themselves a fine little establishment.

Jean-François Henry and Marina Desaulniers met in Quebec City in February of 2014. It was not long before he shared with her that a return to

the Gaspé Coast was in the cards for him.

As a result she had to make fast work of getting to know the region in order to decide if it could also be a part of her future. Over the course of a year and many back and forth visits, she came to love what the Gaspésie had to offer. "I found what I needed," she explains.

A graduate of political science, Jean-François had a dream of starting a business in his hometown, one that would allow him to work for himself and give him enough freedom to enjoy the things he loves about living in the region like skiing and kayaking.

He felt that there was a need for a local bakery in New Richmond and

so at the end of the summer of 2014, he returned to Quebec City to study baking and by May of 2015, he was back to stay. By July of that same year la Boulangerie du gars du coin was open for business. The name of the bakery is a play on words that kills two birds with one stone. For one, the bakery is located on the corner (du coin) of Perron and Cyr in New Richmond, but the colloquial expression (gars du coin) makes reference to Jean-François being a guy "from these parts".

The bakery currently pro-



Photos: W. Dawson

Jean-François Henry and Marina Desaulniers are the young couple behind New Richmond's newest bakery La boulangerie du gars du coin.

vides a dozen different products, breads of all types, bagels, turnovers, croissants, muffins and more. Marina also prepares a daily luncheon special that includes a homemade soup with a choice of one of two varieties of sandwiches, "Always a vegetarian option," she explains. "There are a lot of vegetarians around here!"

Marina is also responsible for preparing the muffins, which are low fat and low sugar options. "We have a client base that is concerned with their sugar intake and they

have expressed that, and have also explained that they don't have a lot of dessert options." So, Marina is now looking into adding more low sugar recipes to the menu.

These winter months when their business is frequented by local clientele is the quiet time leading up to the summer months which Marina describes quite simply as "apocalyptic". "We have two bakers working two full time shifts because we simply don't have the ovens to supply the demand," she explains.

In addition to making products available at their store, the bakery also supplies the Taylor Point campground in New Richmond, the local markets and Marina herself delivers freshly baked products to other campgrounds in both Cascapédia and Caplan. She says that door to door with fresh bread is a pretty easy sell.

When asked about future projects for the bakery, Marina explains that she would like to see their bakery as a distribution point for good quality, regionally sourced and milled flours.

"I was really surprised at how many people still make their own bread here. It would be great for them to have access to different types of flour." She also explains that

there is a real interest in the production of pastries, "But that, of course, means either more courses or expertise. I will probably start with pies. At Christmas, we made cookies using old family recipes. That was fun. – I have joined the Cercles des fermières in New Richmond. I think it is important to learn traditional skills and recipes."

For now, they continue to build up their local business and clients. They currently provide freshly baked products to the Richmond Manor and would love the opportunity to supply other such businesses in New Richmond. At their store, they are seeing clients more regularly that chose to visit the bakery as part of their regular stops.

Marina makes no secret of the fact that there is a small niche of clients that they would like to see more of in their shop. "People our age," she explains, "just don't make the detour as part of their shopping habits and we would love to see that part of our client base grow."

To see what is on the daily menu for la Boulangerie du gars du coin, you can visit their facebook page. Better yet, just make a stop at the shop on the corner and let the smell of fresh bread take you away.



After receiving a bachelors in political science, Jean-François Henry returned to school to learn the trade of baker.

Gaspeian firms in acquisition mode

Gilles Gagné

SAINT-OMER: – Three significant transactions increased the size of three Bay of Chaleur area firms during the first few weeks of 2017. The largest transaction was announced on January 25 when Saint-Omer's LFG Construction announced the acquisition of Construction RIC, of Sept-Îles.

That transaction was followed a few days later by another move, as Navigue.com, the Saint-Godefroi company providing online services to a number of areas in the Gaspé Peninsula, bought Infocom, a Carleton firm specialized in security systems.

Moreover, a Saint-Siméon company, H&R Block Groupe de l'Est, bought the Rimouski branch of H&R Block and is opening an office in Mont-Joli.

In Saint-Omer, the largest contractor on the Gaspé Peninsula and possibly east of Québec City, LFG Construction, bought Construction RIC in an attempt to have a greater presence on the North Shore. LFG president, Claude Lapointe had wanted to increase that presence for several years with a permanent, good-sized and seasoned team.

"We were looking for a champion. Construction RIC was founded a long time ago, like us. It is an acquisition and we unite teams but both companies will keep their names. We will keep the RIC employees. Our goal is to maintain that company (under its name) and make it grow," explains Mr. Lapointe.

LFG Construction has 500 employees, sometimes more, and makes annual sales of approximately \$100 million. The company pays \$35 million in salaries yearly, three-quarters of that to Gaspeian employees. Construction RIC employs about 40 people and is mostly involved in civil engineering, road construction, industrial, commercial and institutional buildings.

The amount of the transaction was not disclosed. It will be effective on April 1. Claude Lapointe knows that "the economy of the North Shore is experiencing difficulties but we are aware that it can re-

bound in a time frame spanning between now and 18 months down the road."

LFG Construction was involved in the building of many wind farms in Quebec. The slowdown in that type of contract didn't have a great affect on the activities of the company. "We were able to maintain our business. We found contracts in Ontario and British Columbia," notes Claude Lapointe.

LFG is currently active in Gaspé, where the company crews are building the expansion of the LM Wind Power plant, in Paspebiac, with the construction of the new sport centre, in New Brunswick, as well as in the North Shore, mainly with contracts from Hydro-Québec.

In regards to H&R Block Groupe de l'Est, the acquisition of the Rimouski franchise, where nine people work, and the opening of another franchise in Mont-Joli, where four people will be hired, will bring the company's total number of employees to 100.

The Rimouski transaction came into effect on February 1 while the new Mont-Joli office opened on February 6.

"The acquisition of the Rimouski franchise allows us to complete our coverage of the territory we serve, which is the Lower Saint Lawrence, the Gaspé Peninsula, the North Shore and Northern New Brunswick. We are very proud," says Sylvain Bigaouette, president and director general of H&R Block, Groupe de l'Est.

Mr. Bigaouette bought his first H&R Block franchise in Saint-Siméon in 2004. That franchise had been founded in 1987. From there, he opened other offices in the Gaspé Peninsula, elsewhere in Quebec and in New Brunswick. He was first the sole shareholder of H&R Block Groupe de l'Est and he was joined by his partner, New Richmond's Pamela Dow, in 2015. "We are also surrounded by a high caliber management team to administer our branches," they both say.

In order to consolidate its



Photo: G.Gagné

A Saint-Siméon company, H&R Block Groupe de l'Est, bought the Rimouski branch of H&R Block and is opening an office in Mont-Joli.



Job offer

Horizon Emploi, a non-profit organization that helps people improve their employability, is looking for a candidate to fill in the following position:

Bilingual Employability Counsellor

For clientele struggling with professional integration into the workforce

Description of the position

- Welcome and assess the employability needs of the clientele
- Identify the obstacles to employment and provide adequate action plans
- Establish employment objectives that take into consideration the interests, abilities and needs of the clientele
- Ensure proper support for the duration of the job search or provide help in maintaining a job
- Provide information on the job market, job search techniques and jobs available in the region
- Create or update the tools needed for a successful job search (resume, cover letters, presentation cards, emails, etc.)
- Lead group sessions both in French and in English
- Offer counselling and employment counselling services
- Keep records up-to-date
- Assess the client's skills

Requirements

- Combination of university and/or college training and experience related to the development of employability (psychoeducation, sciences of orientation, social work, psycho-social intervention, employment counseling)
- Job experience
- Excellent quality of spoken and written French and English
- Bilingualism is a must
- Solid knowledge of Word and Excel (suite Office) software and of the Internet
- Ability to write administrative reports and a variety of other documents
- Autonomy, versatility, communication and organization skills
- Skills with counselling
- Knowledge of the region

Conditions

Position available immediately
Contract until June 30, 2017 with an extension from July 1, 2017 until June 30, 2018 (replacement for maternity leave)
28 hours/week (4 days)
Location: Horizon Emploi offices in Bonaventure
Salary: According to the wage grid in effect

Please send us your application in French prior to March 17, 2017 (4 p.m.) by email to info@horizonemploi.com.

Only the successful candidates will be contacted for an interview.

Cont'd on page 15

W

inter on the coast



Photo: Stephanie Bond

John Touzel's backyard in Malbay.



Photo: Lynda MacWhirter

Crab apples frozen in time are a delicacy for hungry birds.

Visioning Sessions

What do you want to improve in your community?

CEDEC will be leading a series of visioning sessions in the MRC Avignon to learn about opportunities and ideas that could be included in a CEDEC Revitalization Initiative. The sessions will be held in:

- **Ristigouche Sud-Est, Pointe-à-la-Croix and Matapédia**
(Salle communautaire F.P. Adams, Ristigouche | March 7, 6:30 to 8:30 pm - Quebec time)
- **Escuminac and Nouvelle**
(Fleurant Hall, 72, Route de la Pointe Fleurant, Escuminac | March 14, 6:30 to 8:30 pm - Quebec time)
- **Listuguj**
- **Gesgapegiag**

Citizens, organizational stakeholders, and members of the Mi'gmaq community are invited to raise opportunities for business and job creation, education and training needs, service gaps and ways to improve communications within the community.

Watch for dates and locations of unscheduled visioning sessions through community media and at cedec.ca.



For information, contact Emmanuelle Vallières-Léveillé, Revitalization Coordinator:

(819) 993-6560 | emmanuelle.vallieres-leveille@cedec.ca

Canada This project is funded in part by the Enabling Fund for Official Language Minority Communities and by the Government of Canada



CEDEC

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I have always had a great admiration for the laborers of the past century, and their valiant lifestyles, literally gouging a living from nature and their surroundings, with few tools to do the work, but a tireless determination to succeed. One group in that school was the lumberjacks, who like two-footed beavers chopped their way into the pages of history, humble, yet determined providers, living and working in almost impossible conditions.



An old log train.

The Lumberjack

Back in the days when a dollar or two, meant a day very well paid
The lumberjack, sweated bullets, for every cent he made.
In a world apart, at the winter's peak, his axe bit into the tree
Hard to imagine, today in our comfort, such down-right misery.

In heavy wool clothes, and home made duds, they worked so tirelessly
Such pride in their work, they'd never say quit, no matter what was to be.
They left their loved ones for months on end, to work many miles from home
And followed the trade, wherever the call of the timber boss made them roam.

They rubbed Liniment in their long-johns, to keep ticks and fleas at bay
And a regular dose of castor oil to keep la grippe away .
Pancakes, beef stew and fat salt pork, and lots of home made beans
Woolen pants which weighed a ton, no fancy Levi jeans.

“ I'm standin' here on a five minute break, I'll tell you just what I see
I gotta talk quick and get back to me work, for this pitiless company.
At two bucks a day I can't kick too much, I've seen hundreds of men makin' less.
I'm often yearnin' for a wee bit more learnin', to get meself outta this mess.

But there's mouths home to feed, and bills still unpaid, what's a poor man to do?
But give this my best, and pile up the logs ,till this year's contract is through.
You see it's me pride that keeps pushin' me on, from one lumber camp to another
There's four of us out here from Gaspé, two friends, and me and me brother.

There's every kind of worker out here, attacking the forest so green,
Some are mere boys from overseas lands, the toughest men I've ever seen.
There's food fit for pigs, most of the time, but when you're hungry, you eat
And bedbugs and fleas for good company, and rats 'round about your feet.”

There goes the topper, he climbs without fear, to top the tallest old pine.
As his spurs dig into the scaly bark, he's headed to heights so sublime.
Barely seen from the ground below, you could hear his trusty axe bight,
Into the flesh, great chunks he gnawed, the pine was losing the fight.

The forty foot top gave way to man, swayed, and then departed
With a final groan, it hit the ground, not a place for the faint-hearted.
The topper skipped down, ten feet per hop, like a tree-climbing kangaroo
He jumped to the ground , so light on his feet, ' now where's the next one to do?'

There were 'tie hackers' by the dozens on most of the logging trails
Their broad axes flying as true as a die, making ties for under the rails.
There were whistle punks and river rats to guide the logs down stream
Nerves of steel, and backs of iron, they lived the logger's dream.

“ I'm often yearnin', for a bit more learnin', to help me out of this mess
I was not exactly a genius in school, an impatient lad, I confess.
But to whittle my keep at the end of an axe, I guess you'd say I'm employed
When this job is done, I'm out on the run, and you bet I'll be quite overjoyed.

Now my story's nearly ended, 'bout these men who knew no pain,
They toiled the best years of their lives, to fill the old log train
And kept the mills a buzzing, and fed the ones back home
Those times are just a memory now, no more the loggers roam. ©

Art MacPherson

How to survive March break while staying here

(NC) Staying home for March Break and looking to fill your holiday full of fun activities? These creative ideas for enjoying time in your own town or city are sure to keep kids and adults alike happy.

1. Explore local popular and hidden treasures. Check out classics like tourist attractions, local museums, and parks and areas off the beaten path. Natural spaces are free, and a simple online search of free March Break activities will reveal lots of fun programs and ideas in your town or city that never crossed your mind. If you live near a National Park or National Historic Site be sure to visit in 2017 because entrance is free in honour of Canada's 150th birthday.

2. Keep it fun at home. Staying home doesn't have to

be boring. Search for easy DIY craft projects on Pinterest, break out the board games, or plan a movie night complete with popcorn and snacks. As long as the little ones have activities to do, they'll enjoy being inside or outside.

3. Spend time with the kids, not errands. No child wants to tag along while you go to the bank, and no adult wants to have to do errands during a break from the daily grind. Start getting your government payments by direct deposit — including your Canada Child Benefit, GST/HST credit and other tax-related payments — and have more time to do fun things with your kids. Sign up by visiting your financial institution or go to directdeposit.gc.ca for more information.



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Delhanty Wells: A long history of well digging

Jeanie LeLacheur

DOUGLASTOWN: - Up until the early 1940s it was a common site to see people hauling water with a dog and sleigh; few had wells and if you did it had most likely been a long slow (driven) process using a horse to power a "point" using a block and tackle.

In those early years it was Jerome White of Douglastown who was the first to travel with a well digger of his own making, bringing an easier access to water. In the 1920s when fishing was the main industry of the region and most took to the sea, Jerome White, who according to Damien Bond of Douglastown was always somewhat of an inventor and who did not like to fish, proceeded to march to his own drum by operating his own lobster factory, farmed cattle and during that time proceeded to make his own primitive driller.

However, as fate would have it a tragedy changed the course of well digging history for the innovative and foreseeing Jerome White when his son Allan was killed in a car accident. After the death of his son in 1943 Jerome White hired John Arthur Delhanty who worked with him for approximately two years before buying his own wooden well digger

and venturing out on his own in 1945, the year his son Gordon was born. The drillers were of course less efficient than today's equipment and John Arthur would stay at the house where they were digging for as long as it took to get water, often up to a couple of days.

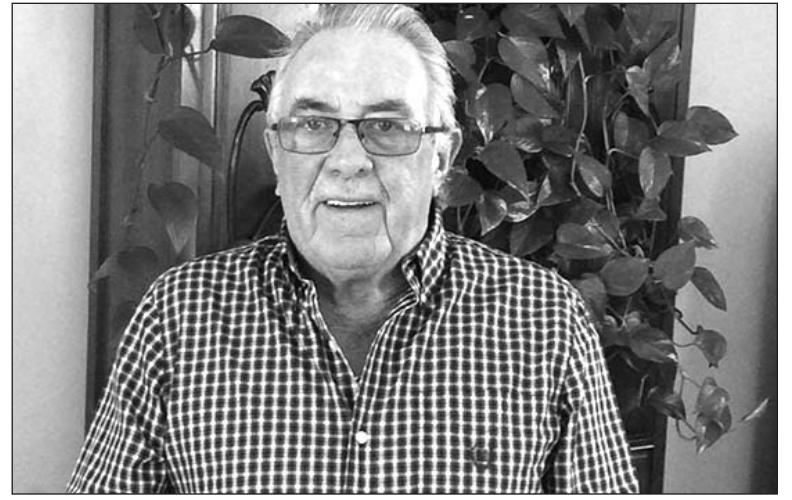
Truck mounted drill rigs which entered the picture in the 1950s completely changed the dynamics of the drill and well industry. Casing which is sold by the foot and lines the hole ensuring that no contaminants and or sand slid into the well started out at twenty five cents a foot and now goes for twenty five dollars a foot.

The mounted drill rigs use rotary drill bits that chew away at the rock, percussion bits that smash the rock, or, if the ground is soft, large auger bits. Drilled wells can reach depths of more than 1,000 feet and often a pump is placed in the well at some depth to push the water up to the surface.

Gordon Delhanty most would agree is the pillar of the well digging business here in the Gaspé, but like many of the Gaspé youth ventured to Montreal before coming home in 1983 to take over the family business from his father John Arthur Delhanty.

Today as Gordon hands the drilling reins to Excavation Robertson Touzel, it marks in

some ways the end of an era. Encompassing over seventy years of well digging history: evolving from a dog and sleigh to the mounted drill rigs of today, it is not without a touch of sadness that Gordon sees the family tradition move towards a new beginning. It is also with a sense of pride and accomplishment that Gordon continues to offer his experience to the new drillers while looking forward to some well-earned rest and relaxation.



Gordon Delhanty.



Jerome White made his own primitive well digger.



John Arthur Delhanty

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Contact the school in your area, you will find the list on the website:
WWW.ESSB.QC.CA
 or **CONTACT** our Bill 101 specialist
MELANIE HAYES: 418-752-2247 EXT 224

We will be hosting information sessions in each region later this summer, like our Facebook page to be informed of the dates.

f WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/EASTERNSHORES2016

Youth leaders of today and tomorrow

Jeanie LeLacheur

GASPÉ: - A local youth group is being developed as part of Contact Environment's strategic plan to engage community and especially youth in the sustainable development and protection of local natural resources and the environment. Michelle Stein of Ontario's Firehorse Leadership Organization recently partnered with the SOS Bats initiative to deliver a two day pilot project called "Youth leaders of today and tomorrow." Founder and director of the organization Ms. Stein had three local youth take part in activities designed to build leadership skills using horses as leaders. This event which was held at the Domaine du Centaure with the

collaboration of Serge Côté owner of the establishment and Melissa Plourde providing horses and technical support is being seen as the foundation of the future youth program and its activities.

Who am I as a leader? was the question asked of Amy Fournier, Kendall Collin Rooney and Taylor Clark who were the first to participate in the experiential learning activity.

Awareness, confidence, responsibility and community were the leadership characteristics to be defined and ascribed roles in school home and community as each participant was asked to choose one individual goal and make it their focus while observing and interacting with horses.



Photos: Michelle Stein

Serge Côté, owner of Domaine du Centaure, Melissa Plourde, participants Kendall Collin Rooney, Taylor Clark, Amy Fournier and Jeanie LeLacheur.

In an introductory ceremony each horse was honored by having Mr. Cote share its individual story.

Observing the three horses in the inside riding arena allowed a focus on herd dynamics (community) and participants were asked to think about, 'Why a horse looks for the leader in you? The three then entered the arena and watched the non-verbal communications of the horses as they themselves became a part of that herd.

A grooming ceremony and the horsemanship communication aspect allowed the group to become comfortable and learn about the non-verbal and body language used by horses before moving to the obstacle course challenge. The challenge had the girls using team work and communication (and having learned that horses need a leader or will be the leader and must have confidence and trust in their leader) lead their horse on the obstacle course walking over rails and between and around chairs. Communication and trust were then brought to the forefront when the leading exercise graduated to having a co-leader in the saddle.

The day ended with a special gratitude activity where each participant had the opportunity to paint a symbol on their horse in honour of each other and to say thank you.

The participants were intrigued, excited, in love with the horses, and after being shown how and encouraged to take on a leadership role, did so with confidence. According to Kendall it was "Amazing being able to create a bond with the horses..... a great experience because I want to be more of a leader and that one day showed me so many things.. I had a marvelous day!"

If local youth are to have a voice in community and the regions environmental issues they must first learn to develop leadership skills needed to present themselves and their ideas with confidence and respect. Contact Environment is of the opinion that the existing

emerging leaders program developed by Michelle Stein and the Firehorse Leadership Organization can be modified and used as a model to initiate similar activities and positive results for the youth of our region while contributing to local economic development.



Job Opportunity

EMPLOYMENT LIAISON COORDINATOR Gaspé

CASA is currently seeking a motivated, autonomous and bilingual individual to fill the position of Employment Liaison Coordinator – Gaspé for a period of two years.

OBJECTIVE:

Conduct a pilot project to facilitate the integration of English-speaking youth into the Québec labor market by supporting local service providers in their understanding of English-speaking clients and the adaptation and offer of their services.

Responsibilities include:

- Assess training and employment opportunities for Anglophone youth ages 15-29 in the MRC of Côte-de-Gaspé
- Establish and maintain a network of contacts including potential employers, schools, YES Montreal, CEDEC and others.
- Act as a liaison between the Carrefour Jeunesse Emploi, CASA and the wider English-speaking community
- Contact businesses, agencies and employers to create a mapping of services available for English-speaking youth
- Gather and collect pertinent research and data material
- Organize, compile and distribute data
- Other duties as requested by the Executive Director related to support for the development of employability resources for English-speaking youth

Pre-requisites

- CEGEP / University diploma with related work experience
- Sound knowledge of the English-speaking population
- Bilingualism required (fluent in oral and written French)
- Proven writing skills
- Experience in communications and public speaking
- Exceptional interpersonal skills and solid judgement
- Skills in research and compiling information
- Open-minded, adaptable, cooperative, willing to work as part of a team
- Excellent knowledge of Microsoft Word, Publisher, PowerPoint and online media
- Hold a valid driver's license and access to a vehicle

To apply:

Send an English letter of intent* and CV by Friday, March 3, 2017 to:

Cathy Brown, Executive Director, CASA

By email: casa75@globetrotter.net

By fax: 418-752-6864

By regular mail: 208 Gerard D. Levesque, New Carlisle, QC G0C 1Z0

*We thank all candidates for applying however only those selected for an interview will be contacted; applications received without a letter of intent will not be retained.

BUSINESS:**▶ Cont'd from page 10**

activities in Eastern Quebec and New Brunswick, the group recently sold its Joliette and Louiseville branches in the western part of Quebec to the head office of H&R Block. The company owned by Pamela Dow and Sylvain Bigaouette now operates 17 branches of H&R Block from their Saint-Siméon head of-

fice.

H&R Block Groupe de l'Est is well known for its income tax report services. Its clientele consists mainly of individuals, families, self-employed people and small businesses. It also offers book-keeping and accounting services.

Regarding the acquisition of Infocom by Navigue.com, the former owner of Infocom, Jean-Guy Leblanc, points out

that "the timing just happened. I learned that Navigue.com was looking for a company specializing in security systems. We started to talk and we reached an agreement. They are buying my equipment but I keep the building, where we also operate a recording studio with other partners."

Mr. Leblanc will remain employed by Navigue.com, which will see its workforce grow by five employees.

WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENTS**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

Please take note that wedding announcements must now be prepaid. We accept VISA and Mastercard. As well, we have direct payment at the Spec office.

**Centre Walgwan Center****JOB OPPORTUNITY
Teacher****POSITION:**

The Centre Walgwan Center is currently seeking a qualified teacher. The Centre is a healing centre for indigenous youth from a variety of communities suffering from substance misuse.

JOB DESCRIPTION:

We are looking for a committed teacher to complement our qualified workforce of psycho-educators. The teacher will be responsible for preparing and implementing a full educational teaching plan according to the center's requirements and the needs of our clientele, from 12 to 17 years of age. It will be fundamental to provide knowledge and instruction to clients while also helping them develop their personalities, self-knowledge and life skills.

PRIMARY DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Present lessons in a comprehensive manner and use visual/audio means to facilitate learning.
- Provide individualized instruction to each student and promote interactive learning.
- Create and distribute educational content (notes, summaries, assignments, etc.).
- Assess and record students' progress and provide evaluations and feedback.
- Maintain a tidy and orderly classroom.
- Collaborate with other staff members and participate in regular staff meetings.
- Plan and execute educational in-class and outdoor activities and events.
- Observe and understand student's behavior and psychological state, and report suspicions of neglect, abuse, self-harm, etc.
- Develop and enrich professional skills and knowledge by attending seminars, conferences etc.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Thorough knowledge of teaching best practices and legal education guidelines partnered with a willingness to follow the center's policies and procedures.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Dedicated to child development
- Well organized, creative and energetic
- Strong moral values and discipline
- Knowledge of CPR and First Aid
- Committed to a healthy lifestyle
- No legal impediments to working with minors
- Physically fit

JOB REQUIREMENTS:

- Bachelor's degree in education.
- At least 2 years of experience in a relevant setting.
- Québec teaching permit required. Out of province certified teachers must become certified in Québec.
- Some experience in treatment of addictions or tutoring would be an asset.
- Fluently bilingual: Ability to interact in a professional manner in both individual and group settings in both English and French.
- Ability to work with a team of professionals and to implement team strategy approaches to work with the clients to implement the mission of the Centre.
- Ability to work with computers and the necessary software typically used by the Centre.

SALARY:

**Based on the current Walgwan salary scale
Full-time permanent position with a probationary
period of 6 months**

Deadline: March 15, 2017 at noon

**Please send all applications to: Pamela Charlong,
Executive Director, Centre Walgwan Center
edwalgwan@globetrotter.net**

**Hiring will be done according to the Centre Walgwan Center's
Human Resources policies**

**Centre Walgwan Center
75 School Street, Gesgapegiag, Quebec G0C 1Y1
Tel.: 418-759-3006 / Fax: 418-759-3064**

PUBLIC NOTICE

To the qualified voters entitled to have their name entered on the referendum list of the entire municipality **and who are users of the water supply:**

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given by the undersigned, Clerk of Ville de Gaspé, that at an ordinary sitting held on February 20, 2017, the Town Council has adopted the following By-Law:

1328-17 : MODIFIANT LE RÈGLEMENT 1169-12, DÉCRÉTANT UN EMPRUNT ET UNE DÉPENSE D'UNE SOMME DE 7 735 000 \$ POUR LA MISE AUX NORMES DES INSTALLATIONS DE PRODUCTION D'EAU POTABLE DU SECTEUR GASPÉ-CENTRE, POUR AUGMENTER DE 7 735 000 \$ À 8 756 000 \$ ET MODIFIER LES CLAUSES DE TAXATION, POUR AUGMENTER DE 7 735 000 \$ À 8 756 000 \$.

THAT the persons qualified to vote on the By-Law on the date of February 20, 2017, and who have therefore the right to demand that this By-Law be submitted to a referendum poll will have access to a register open for that purpose from nine (9) hours to nineteen (19) hours on March 8, 2017, at the office of the undersigned, at the Town Hall in order to enter their name, address and occupation together with their signature.

IS A QUALIFIED VOTER OF THE MUNICIPALITY

A person who, on February 20, 2017, is not disqualified from voting according to article 524 of the Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities and meets the following requirements:

- a natural person domiciled in the municipality and, since at least six months, in Québec and
- is of full age and a Canadian citizen, and not under curatorship.

The non resident sole owner of an immovable or non resident sole occupant of a business place situated in the municipality who is not disqualified from voting and meets the following requirements:

- is the owner of an immovable or sole occupant of a business place situated in the municipality since at least 12 months;
- in the case of a natural person, be of full age and Canadian citizen and not under curatorship.

The non resident undivided co-owners and non resident co-occupants of a business place situated in the municipality not disqualified from voting and meet the following requirements:

- is the undivided co-owner of an immovable or co-occupant of a business place situated in the municipality since at least 12 months;
- is designated by means of a power of attorney signed by a majority of the persons who are co-owners or co-occupants since at least 12 months, as the one who has the right to sign in their name and to be entered on the referendum list of the municipality. This power of attorney must be produced before or at the signature time.

Legal person:

- have designated by resolution among its members, directors or employees, a person who, on February 20, 2017, and at voting time, is of full age and Canadian citizen, is not under curatorship and is not disqualified to vote.

THAT the persons qualified to vote on the By-Law in question must establish their identity to the responsible person for the register, by presenting, among others: a health-insurance card issued by the Québec Health Insurance Board, a driver's permit issued by the Québec Automobile Insurance Society, a Canadian passport, an identity card of the Canadian armed forces, a certificate of Indian status.

THAT the number of applications needed in order that a referendum poll be held for this By-Law is 470 and failing this number, the concerned By-Law will be deemed approved by the qualified voters.

THAT the qualified voters may examine this By-Law at the office of the undersigned from 8:15 a.m. till 12 noon and from 1 p.m. till 4:30 p.m. from Monday till Thursday, and from 8:15 a.m. till 12 noon on Friday, and during registration hours.

THAT the result of this registration procedure will be announced on March 8, 2017, at 7 p.m., at the office of the undersigned, 25, rue de l'Hôtel-de-Ville in Gaspé.

GIVEN at Gaspé, March 1st, 2017.

Isabelle Vézina,
Director of legal services and town clerk

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Grenier & Grenier LAWYERS



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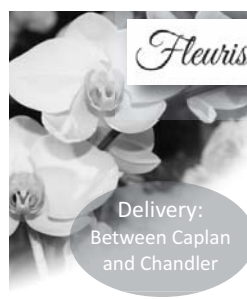
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Announcements...



Obituaries



HACKETT BOND: Anna

Mrs. Hackett Bond passed away at CISSS de la Gaspésie-Centre d'hébergement Mgr. Ross on February 6 at the age of 82 years and 10 months.

She was the wife of the late Hubert Bond from Douglastown.

The family received condolences at St-Patrick's church in Douglastown on February 9.

Funeral service was held at St-Patrick's church in Douglastown on the same day. Interment will be in the spring.

Anna leaves behind two sons; Perry (Johanne) and Rodney (Beulah), four daughters; Lyla (Owen), Janice (Benny), Darlene (Gaétan) and Marlene (Adolphe), also six grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, two brothers and three sisters, two brothers-in-law, two sisters-in-law and nephews and nieces.

*they walk beside us every day.
Unseen, unheard, but always near.
Still loved, still missed and very dear.
One year has passed since that sad day,
When cancer came and took you away.
God took you home, as was His will,
But in our hearts you liveth still.
Love, Mom and family.*



O'REILLY: Mary (Ingrouville)
1923 - 2016

In loving memory of our dear Maw, Nan, sister and friend who passed away February 27, 2016.

*God saw you were getting tired
And a cure was not to be,
So he put His arms around you
And whispered, "Come to me".
With tearful eyes we watched you
And saw you pass away,
Although we loved you dearly,
We could not make you stay.
A golden heart stopped beating,
Hard working hands at rest,
God broke our hearts to prove to us
He only takes the best.*

Lovingly remembered and dearly missed by your family.

Wow!



This must be quite special.
The oldest brother and sister of a family of nine - Vernon and Norma are godparents for their youngest sister, Verna.
All are doing great. Congratulations!



In Memory

MACKENZIE: Gary Dane

January 16, 1952 - March 4, 2016

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DEADLINE FOR THIS PAGE: THURSDAY



COAST ROUND-UP

POINTE NAVARRE:

Upcoming Events

Monday, March 6: One hour of Taizé prayer will be held at the Shrine of our lady of Pointe-Navarre. Music, silence, songs and prayer, will make you experience a time of relaxation and spiritual enrichment at 7 p.m.

Tuesday, March 7: The mass of Peregrine, patron saint of the sick suffering from cancer and long-term diseases, will be celebrated at 7 p.m. at the Shrine of Pointe-Navarre. Welcome to all.

GASPÉ:

Gaspé Cancer Foundation Upcoming Events

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

GASPÉ:

Potluck Supper

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

DOUGLASTOWN:

Douglas Community Center Upcoming Events

Wednesday, March 15: Travel Talks with Hélène Lebreux and Sylvain Vachon "From the Atlantic to the Pacific on a motorcycle" at 7:30 p.m. in the conference room. A neat way to travel around the

world! Most talks will be in French. Voluntary contribution.

YORK:

York River Senior Citizens Upcoming Events

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

Saturday, April 8: The annual general meeting will be held at 4 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion. Punch will be served from 5 to 6 p.m., supper is at 6 p.m. and a dance will follow with live entertainment. The cost is \$20 with a \$10 refund to members. Bar service available. Call Tony Patterson for more information at 418-368-3276.

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

DOUGLASTOWN:

St. Patrick's Day Activities

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

BARACHOIS:

Legion Branch 261 Upcoming Events

Every Monday: The Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 261 will be having a bingo night at 7 p.m. at the legion. Everyone welcome!
Saturday, March 11: Irish stew supper starting at 5 p.m. Price \$10 per person.

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

BARACHOIS:

Bingo

Bingo will be held at the Barachois Recreation Centre on **Friday, March 3, March 17** and **March 31** at 7 p.m.

SHIGAWAKE:

Cookbooks for sale

The Marcil Branch W.I. has a cook-

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

SHIGAWAKE:

SPDS Governing Board Meetings

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

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

SHIGAWAKE:

Community Center Upcoming Events

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

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

Monday, April 17: Easter bingo.

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

HOPE TOWN:

Hope Baptist Church

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

HOPE TOWN:

Whist Party

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

NEW CARLISLE:

Bible Chapel Services

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

NEW CARLISLE:

Upcoming events

The following upcoming events for new Carlisle legion branch #64 will be held:

March 4: Mini prince/princess at 6 pm.

March 4: Winter carnival dance with dj Shannon Marsh starting at 8 p.m. entrance \$5.

March 11: A crib tournament at 1 p.m. Call to register team 752-6214/752-5495/ 752-6799, cost \$10 per person

March 25: Dart club gift bingo starting at 7 p.m. 1 series \$10 or 3 series for \$20. All proceeds go to Legion

April 9: Sunday breakfast at New Carlisle chalet starting at 9 a.m. cost \$10 per person

NEW CARLISLE:

Monthly breakfast

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

NEW RICHMOND:

Friperie Notice

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

NEW RICHMOND:

United Church Upcoming Events

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

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

50 + Club

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

March 3 and March 17: Jam Sessions at 7:30 p.m.

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

St-Patrick's Mass

St-Patrick's mass will be **Saturday, March 18** at 4 p.m. On **Sunday, March 19** our supper will be at the Community Centre from 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. and the bar will be open at 1 p.m. with Irish music. Everyone is welcome. Hope to see all the "Irish" there!

Rotary Calendar Winners:

The Rotary Calendar winners for January 15 to 31 are: Claire Routhier, François Pineault, Cathy Garrett, Mario Boudreau, Gaston Cayouette, Nathalie Godbout, Cathy Cyr Wright, Cécile D'Amours, Stephen Gilker, Martine Cyr, Sheila Fessenden, Ginette Cyr, Freddy Audet, Hectorine Leblanc, Reynold Sexton, Charles Cormier and Paul Scott.

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UNITED CHURCH

Sunday, March 5
10:30 a.m. New Carlisle

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

Ash Wednesday, March 1

Hope Town

7 p.m. Imposition of Ashes

Sunday, March 5

New Carlisle

11 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Hopetown

10 a.m. Morning Prayer

Shigawake

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

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Why do we say ...

By Gary Briand

A short time ago I watched an NBC interview with Donald Trump. Among the many things Mr. Trump said was that, "Americans are fed up with liars and the advice of ivory tower pundits." After turning off the channel, I was on my way to bed when my phone rang. It was a former student of mine from Matane who teaches English as a second language in the secondary school system. His query was about "ivory tower". What does it mean and where does the expression come from?

I told him that ivory in the Bible refers to a house and to a woman's neck but neither of these explain the modern use of the phrase. Living in an ivory tower refers to people of high position who feel aloof from regular life and who believe that they can observe life without being affected by the meaning of it.

The origin of the phrase is 1837. In that year, the French poet Charles Augustin Saint Beuve wrote a poem later translated as "Thoughts of August". He used the "ivory tower" image to criticize another French poet, Alfred de Vigny, as being too concerned with romantic and unrealistic themes. The tower made of ivory formed a permanent retreat in which de Vigny isolated himself from the world.

The term still carries that pejorative meaning that indicates a failure to connect with the everyday world amid a perceived condescension on the part of the tower dweller.

I wonder if dwellers in the Trump tower are not indeed inhabitants of an ivory tower?



Simple meal tailor-made for busy families

Many families strive to eat dinner together every night, but family schedules tend to be hectic. Still, simple recipes can make it that much easier to routinely sit down to family meals no matter how busy everyone's lives become.

While award-winning cookbook author Diana Henry admits she's never eaten the following recipe for "Turkish Baked Eggplant with Chile, Feta and Mint" in Turkey, she insists that lack of authenticity does nothing to affect the meal's flavour.

Turkish Baked Eggplant with Chile, Feta and Mint

Serves 4 as a starter or side dish

- 4 eggplants
- Olive oil
- Salt and pepper
- 2 onions, thinly sliced
- 6 cloves garlic, thinly sliced
- 2 medium fresh red chiles, halved, seeded and thinly sliced
- Juice of 1/2 lemon
- 4 ounces feta cheese, crumbled
- 3/4 cup Greek-style yogurt
- 1 handful of fresh mint leaves, torn
- Extra virgin olive oil

1. Preheat the oven to 400 F. Halve the eggplants lengthwise and then score a diamond pattern into the flesh of each half on the cut surface, being careful not to cut all the way through. Pour about 10 tablespoons of olive oil over them and season with salt and pepper. Turn them over to make sure they are well coated. Roast for 40 to 45 minutes.
2. While the eggplants are cooking, sauté the onions in 1/4 cup olive oil until soft and golden. Add the garlic and chiles and cook for another 2 minutes, until they are soft as well.
3. When the eggplants are tender, put them on a serving plate, cut-side up, and squeeze lemon juice over them. Gently press the cooked flesh down to make a bit of room for the onions. Fill the eggplant cavities with the onion and sprinkle the feta on top.
4. Daub the yogurt over the eggplants and throw on the mint leaves. Drizzle extra virgin olive oil over the top before serving. You can serve this warm or at room temperature.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, it may take a little while this week, but you will come to the answer you need to solve a puzzle that has been hounding you. It'll free up space in your mind, then.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21
At work you will have plenty of moments to shine if you can zero in on those opportunities, Taurus. Think about making a name for yourself in the days to come.

GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21
You need to look at a certain situation from all angles, Gemini. If not, you can't get the full picture and make the best decisions possible. Therefore, take a little more time.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22
The desire to prove yourself and the fact that there is just too much on your plate, Cancer, could be causing stress in your life. Letting others lend a helping hand is not a sign of weakness.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23
Get all of your finances in check before you start thinking about big-ticket spending, Leo. This includes electronics, cars, or even expensive vacations. Know what you can afford.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, sometimes your desire to lead the show gets in the way of relationships with others. You might need to capitulate and let another person take the spotlight.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23
Someone close to you recognizes all of the help you've provided him or her, even if this person doesn't verbalize the thanks very often. Your efforts are appreciated, Libra.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22
You have been spending a good deal of time sorting out the lives of other people, now is time for you to get a handle on the situations that affect you, Scorpio.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21
You may need to join in when others ask you this week, Sagittarius. It's not the time to veer off in your own direction, especially at work. Show you can be a team player.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20
Don't let other people get in the way of your success, Capricorn. It is not being rude if you ask someone to step aside so you can get the recognition you deserve.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18
Big changes are in store and you may not expect all of them, Aquarius. As new information comes to light, you will have to adjust your situation accordingly.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
Romantic endeavors come to the forefront during this week, especially after love was rekindled earlier in the month, Pisces.

- FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS**
- FEBRUARY 26**
Danny Mac, Actor (29)
 - FEBRUARY 27**
Josh Groban, Singer (36)
 - FEBRUARY 28**
Gilbert Godfried, Comic (62)
 - MARCH 1**
Ron Howard, Director (63)
 - MARCH 2**
Rebel Wilson, Actress (37)
 - MARCH 3**
Ronan Keating, Singer (40)
 - MARCH 4**
Catherine O'Hara, Actress (63)

Guess Who?

My birthday is on July 21, 1946.
I was a folk singer with many hits during the 1960's and 1970's. I then converted to a life of Islam.

Answer: Cat Stevens

SUDOKU

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

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Level: Beginner

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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

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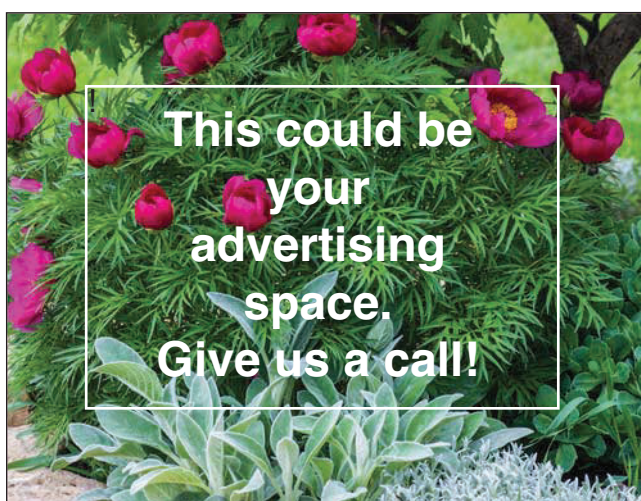
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