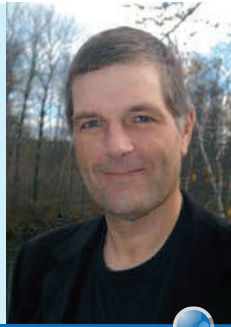


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The Gaspé **Spec**

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Lelièvre excluded from the Parti Québécois caucus

Geneviève **Gélinas**

GASPÉ – Gaspé Member of the National Assembly Gaétan Lelièvre will sit as an independent after his leader excluded him from the Parti Québécois caucus. Mr. Lelièvre accepted or asked for gifts and services from engineering firm Roche when he was the Town of Gaspé Director General.

Those revelations made by the *Journal de Québec* are about events that took place in 2008 and 2009. Mr. Lelièvre asked for Bell Centre hockey tickets for his son, who wanted to attend a Montreal Canadiens' game. He stayed for free in the condo of a Roche executive for two nights in Quebec City. Mr. Lelièvre asked for help from the same executive to sell his boat and negotiated the renting of his Gaspé apartment to Roche employees. He still owns his boat.

At that time, Roche was working at rebuilding roads in Rivière-au-Renard, and hoped to get contracts for drinking water treatment plants in Gaspé and Rivière-au-Renard, contracts Groupe Roche didn't obtain in the end.

The exchange of emails between Roche employees clearly shows that they wanted to make friends with mayors and municipal leaders and wished for the return of favours. About Mr. Lelièvre's request for two hockey tickets, Martin Lapointe, a Roche engineer responsible for business development, wrote: "It's going to cost \$450, but in the context of our negotiations for a contract without a call for tenders, I think that we have to say yes."

The same day the revela-

tions were published, Parti Québécois leader Jean-François Lisée held a press conference with Mr. Lelièvre. Gaétan Lelièvre "took unethical actions by accepting favours from an engineering firm," he stated.

Even if he talked about those facts with the Charbonneau Commission prosecutors, he hadn't informed the public or the Parti Québécois, underlined Mr. Lisée. "No one questions the quality of Mr. Lelièvre's work for his riding and for the Gaspé Peninsula, however, his actions made nine years ago [...] and his decision not to make them public have to be sanctioned."

"I asked Gaétan to leave the Parti Québécois caucus until further notice, the time to allow competent authorities to perform checks and to see if other information is added," said Mr. Lisée.

Mr. Lelièvre admitted that he placed himself "in an apparent conflict of interest" and apologized. "I realize that I should never have accepted some benefits I was offered, and I mean "offered." Several times, I refused. But a few times, some benefits were accepted."

Mr. Lelièvre has been a Parti Québécois Member of National Assembly since September 2012. At that time, he didn't find it appropriate to inform his leader and colleagues. "Today, we have to 'be cleaner than clean,'" he stated.

"I have never made an illegal action. I have always managed the public goods [...] with high rigor. But today, I realize that I should have done more, among others on an ethical plan," Mr. Lelièvre added.

The Gaspé Member of Na-



Photos: G. Gélinas

Parti Québécois leader Jean-François Lisée (photographed here in Gaspé while running for the PQ leadership), thinks that Mr. Lelièvre's "actions made nine years ago [...] and his decision not to make them public have to be sanctioned."

tional Assembly (MNA) will continue to represent the Gaspé riding as an independent. He continues his reflection about running again in October 2018, a reflection he had begun before the revelations.

Mr. Lelièvre isn't the first Gaspesian politician to be under the spotlight because of shady connections with Roche. Former Gaspé Mayor François Roussy and former Bonaventure Liberal MNA Nathalie Normandeau are criminally charged with conspiracy and breach of trust.



Gaspé Member of National Assembly, Gaétan Lelièvre, accepted and asked for benefits from an engineering firm.

The birth rate is declining

Thierry Haroun

GASPÉ PENINSULA: - The birth rate on the Gaspé Peninsula is way below the provincial average; 1.49 children per woman compared to 1.59. Only two regions had worse results: Montreal (1.43) and the Greater Quebec Region (1.48). Since 2006, the region's birth rate was higher than the provincial average rate on only three occasions: in 2011 with a rate of 1.69 compared to 1.68, in 2013 when it was 1.69 compared to 1.65 and in 2014 with a rate of 1.63 compared to 1.62. The latest numbers from the Quebec Statistics Institute (ISQ) also shows that in 2016 there were 642 births which is the lowest number in ten years. In comparison, 676 in 2015, 719 in 2014, 750 in 2013, 707 in 2012 and 772 births in 2011. If that tendency is maintained, the region's age pyramid will get older and older as years go by, confirms ISQ's spokesperson, Chantale Girard. In the province, there were 86,400 births in 2016, which is 400 less than the previous year.

The refund is not enough

Thierry Haroun

The Côte-de-Gaspé MRC is asking the Gaspésie Health and Social Services Centre (CISSS) to review its refunding policy concerning travelling expenses for those who are treated outside our region. The current CISSS policy refunds 13 cents per km. That amount is considered not enough by the MRC elected representatives who think that it could be prejudicial for some patients who don't have much money. "This request comes from citizens of our MRC who have sensitized Prefect Delisca Ritchie-Roussy. Therefore a resolution on the matter was passed recently to ask the CISSS to raise the amount per km but without asking a precise amount. The amount has to be more in phase with today's real expenses for a person who has to be treated outside the Gaspé Peninsula," pointed out the Executive Director of the MRC, Bruno Bernatchez. The CISSS told Spec that the amount is fixed at the provincial level, but that it will raise the issue with the Quebec Health Ministry.



Photo: Roger St-Laurent

Thank You Gala a success

Thierry Haroun

Organized by the Gaspé Chamber of Commerce on May 13, the Gala Merci Côte-de-Gaspé (Thank You Gala) was a real success as 240 people participated in the event. It provided an opportunity to build bridges between businesses of the MRC but also to honour those who had an exceptional year. The Grand Prize (\$2,000) went to Bistro Le Brise-Bise. Other winners in their respective categories are: ACE Armand Dumaresq matériaux de construction (Commerce and Clientèle Service); Plaquette de Frein B.B (Manufacturing Innovation); Suspendem (Service Innovation); Radio-Gaspésie (Social Economy); Hébergement Griffon Aventure (Tourism Contribution); Chic-Chac (Event); LM Wind Power (Employer of the Year); Croisières Gaspé sur Mer (Jury's Special Prize); Eloïse Bourdon (Business Woman of the Year); Jean-Pierre Couillard (Personality of the Year) and Ohmega (Business of the Year).

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Photo: G. Gélinas

Tourist train L'Amiral transported cruise passengers for the first time in September 2013, and did it again in 2014. Since 2015, it has been immobilized at the Gaspé station.

What about L'Amiral?

Geneviève Gélinas

GASPÉ: – Escalé Gaspésie is concerned because it still doesn't know when the Gaspé-Percé railway will be repaired adequately to allow the tourist train L'Amiral to move. The train used to carry cruise ship passengers from Gaspé to Corner of the Beach. On May 5, in New Carlisle, Premier Philippe Couillard announced that his government earmarked \$100 million to upgrade the railway from Matapédia to Gaspé. He didn't give any schedule but the Port-Daniel-Gaspé section will be the last to be repaired and it's not sure that \$100 million will be enough to get to Gaspé, the Premier stated.

"That is not reassuring," says Stéphane Ste-Croix, spokesperson of Escalé

Gaspésie. "It means that L'Amiral will be inactive a minimum of two to three more years." He points out that he welcomes the fact that there will be money for upgrading the railway in general.

Mr. Ste-Croix reminds us that the tourist train has been immobilized at the Gaspé station since 2015. "It's clear that it's going to deteriorate and I'm not talking about the clientele's frustration," because they see the train and cannot use it.

"Meanwhile, the cruise lines do their business and they're going to forget our rail excursions," worries Mr. Ste-Croix. The absence of the train offer "has an impact on our capacity to welcome, disembark and transport the cruise passengers," he adds. L'Amiral can carry 225 pas-

sengers. The tourist train cost was \$2.4 million. The federal and the provincial governments paid \$1.8 million of that amount.

While waiting for the train's return, Tourisme Québec is giving \$25,000 per year to Escalé Gaspésie in 2016, 2017 and 2018. This money helps cover the extra cost of renting coaches. About six times per year, there are not enough coaches on the Gaspé to transport the cruise ship passengers. Escalé Gaspésie has to rent some coaches outside the region. Their rental is expensive in peak periods and they travel long distances. "To rent a coach in Quebec City, Laval or Lower St. Lawrence means three days of billing but only one day of work," says Mr. Ste-Croix.

Ship to be used by McInnis Cement now ready for service

Gilles Gagné

GASPÉ – The NACC Quebec, the ship McInnis Cement will use to haul the production between its Port Daniel plant and Canadian ports, made a stop at Sandy Beach Harbour in Gaspé for an inspection and a change in port registry.

The ship belongs to a joint venture between Nova Shipping, of Luxembourg, and Algoma Corporation, an Ontario company. NACC means Nova Algoma Cement Carriers and the company owns a fleet of 10 vessels.

The ship underwent modifications in a Chinese shipyard. It left Jintang, China on April 7 and arrived at Sandy

Beach on May 17. The modifications added equipment that will facilitate the loading and unloading of cement.

"The NACC Quebec will haul cement between Port Daniel and our Canadian terminals of Oshawa, Ontario, and Sainte-Catherines, and also near Montreal. The Gaspé stop was also used for re-flagging the ship, in addition to its final inspection for service in Canadian waters," points out Maryse Tremblay, spokesperson of McInnis Cement.

Until its Gaspé stop, the ship built in 2011, was registered in Valletta, Malta, an island located in the Mediterranean Sea. The ce-

ment carrier will now have Gaspé as its port of registry. The new letters were already welded on the stern of the vessel but they have not been painted yet. The re-flagging process is very specific, points out Maryse Tremblay.

"An attorney left Gaspé with a certificate and documents and went to Malta, a compulsory process in re-flagging. The international crew, manned by people from many countries, left the ship and was replaced by a Canadian crew," she says.

The ship remained in Gaspé for several days, having to stay in dock during the

Cont'd on page 12

Town of New Richmond declares surplus in 2016

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND – The Town of New Richmond declared a surplus of \$191,522 for 2016, a third surplus in a row but the first one significant enough to create a reserve fund, points out Mayor Éric Dubé.

In 2014, the municipal administration ended its budgetary year with a paltry surplus of \$4,600, followed by a surplus of \$74,000 in 2015.

“The 2014 and 2015 surpluses were used to erase part of a previous accumulated deficit. The balance of that deficit, a sum of \$165,000, was dealt with following a five-year loan contracted by the Town of New Richmond,” explains Mayor Dubé.

The 2016 surplus mainly stems from increased taxation value, a result of the many construction sites that spanned the years 2015 and 2016 in New Richmond.

“Construction was strong in the business sector as well as in the residential sector. In 2016, we added \$8 million to our taxation value. It brought in \$160,000 of additional tax revenues. For the rest, we squeezed our expenses,” adds Éric Dubé.

The Town of New Richmond can therefore build an accumulated reserve for the first time in at least 12 years, he told Spec. Back then, the municipal administration was forced to pay back in excess of \$1 million to Smurfit-Stone, the owner of the now-defunct linerboard mill. The company had previously asked for and obtained a devaluation of its mill.

What will the town of New Richmond do with its accumulated reserve? “We have to think about it. We can fill unexpected needs or problems that were not tagged in our annual budget. We could pay the debt linked to the (Quebec



Photo: G. Gagné

The mayor of New Richmond, Éric Dubé, says that strong construction in recent years contributed to the budgetary surplus of 2016.

City International) Summer Festival (in New Richmond) faster. We have to decide,” says Mr. Dubé.

He points out that road work is already budgeted for a number of New Richmond streets and roads, including Ritchie, Cyr and Fallow roads.

As for the repairs of the Fourth Range bridge, Mayor Dubé expects a presentation by Transports Québec soon.

“Normally, they are sup-

posed to make a public presentation this spring. Considering the situation of the Grand Cascapedia bridge (on highway 132, closed for months because a pillar is listing), we don’t know what will happen to the (Fourth Range bridge) project. They (civil servants) were supposed to make the plans and specifications this year and replace it next year. We would like to see what their bridge concept looks like,” says Mr. Dubé.



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Police report

The Sûreté du Québec, the firefighters and the paramedics were called on May 11 to a New Richmond house following a 911 call to assist a woman who was 36 weeks into her pregnancy and who was experiencing complications. Her husband, Pierre-Luc Desjardins, knew that the condition of his wife, Marie-Line Barriault, was critical. He was worried because of the 12 kilometre detour now imposed by the closure of the highway 132 bridge between New Richmond and Gesgapegiag.

The police and the firefighters finally didn’t have to intervene directly, points out Sûreté du Québec spokesperson Claude Doiron, but the paramedics had to rush Marie-Line directly to the operating room, instead of stopping at the emergency, which is standard practice. According to a CBC report, another delay of five minutes could have had disastrous effects for the baby and the mother. The baby boy was born following surgery.

In order to reduce the response time, that emergency prompted the Baie des Chaleurs paramedics to request the posting of a second full-time crew on the New Richmond side of the river during the bridge closure and the consequent use of the detour.

“Currently, the second crew is based in Caplan and it is on call,” points out Caplan paramedic, Kevin Desbois. “We would like a second team to be hired full-time for the duration of the detour, waiting in an ambulance, ready to intervene immediately instead of the paramedics being at home and waiting for a call.”

The paramedics are afraid that if two serious cases occur within a short time, the intervention of the on-call Caplan crew will take too much time to reach the Maria hospital, considering the time it takes to get to their vehicle, and then cover the distance between the patient’s home or the location of the accident and the hospital.



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Guest Commentary:

Cynthia Dow

The truth about inconvenience

Several years ago I watched the documentary, An Inconvenient Truth, and it really packed a punch.

It's ten years since the film came out highlighting former American Vice-President Al Gore's campaign to educate world leaders about the impact of burning fossil fuels. It is a hugely inconvenient truth that our use of oil and gas is destroying our planetary home, since every aspect of our modern lives is bound up, one way or another, with the use of fossil fuels: to transport ourselves and our goods, heat our homes, and make plastics and lubricants, as well as soap and shampoo.

Surely, having to find alternatives to all those things looms as a huge inconvenience.

But just how inconvenient is climate change becoming?

The other day I was standing on the farm road which leads to the fields behind my house. I was standing on the edge of one of the deep ruts in the road caused by the increasingly frequent torrential rains which now pour down over our region. I gazed past dozens of trees blown down by Hurricane Arthur in July 2014, and I saw the flooding Grand Cascapedia, angrily charging its way to

the sea and taking with it huge trees which continue to undermine the bridge on Route 132 which is a life-line for so many people.

I thought about the inconveniences we are all now facing, perhaps for many months. Such a long detour: people having to get up earlier to get to work and get home later, truck drivers having to adjust their schedules, ambulance drivers having to re-organize their territories -- and pray that someone doesn't need a real fast run from the east side of the Grand Cascapedia to Maria Hospital. Local residents are having to take their lives in their hands to turn out into heavy traffic not meant for our little winding river-hugging road. This is not to mention the inconvenience to the Quebec government having to find the millions it will surely take to fix the bridge and eventually the inconvenience to taxpayers having to reach ever deeper into their pockets to cover the costs of yet another wacky climate event.

It's ironic, isn't it, that if we had put up with a little inconvenience over the past 40 years since first learning about the devastating consequences of pumping carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, we might have avoided some of this.

If we had reached for our sweaters rather than turning up the heat, if we had opted for smaller cars that burn less gas, if we had decided to favour public transport over private vehicles, if we had taken a lot of little actions that cause hardly any inconvenience, maybe we wouldn't have to deal with increasingly frequent floods, storm surges, hurricanes and mudslides.

I guess letting the planet go to hell in a hand-cart is just so much easier than sacrificing our oh-so-important perks.

Unfortunately, the impact of climate change is

no longer about mere inconvenience. Now it's starting to get deadly serious. Ask the mother in Ste-Anne-des-Monts who lost her baby daughter and her boyfriend. Ask the people flooded out of their homes in the Montreal area. Many of those homes are now a write-off. Ask the young mother who almost lost her life and her newborn because of the much longer ride to the hospital from New Richmond.

Sadly, while there has been much progress on the development of alternative energy sources over the past decade, and sales of new hybrid and electric cars are increasing by leaps and bounds, it looks like it may well be too little too late. We are now facing a situation where the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is beyond what scientists believe is the point of no-return. I heard one scientist tell CBC that even if we take extreme measures now to stop using fossil fuels, it may be 300 years before the planet can return to something approaching normal.

Crazily enough, the world's greatest polluter, the United States, may pull out of international accords meant to reduce greenhouse gases. Many people still are not making any effort to walk lighter on the Earth.

The truth about inconvenience is that, not having bitten the bullet when we should have, we are now seeing just how fatally inconvenient the climate may become.

Letters to the Editor

I have just read Mr. William Maloney's story of The Crucifix (April 19, 2017). I think the catalogue Mr. Maloney referred to was Dupuis Freres. I seem to remember it from my childhood in Gaspé.

Dale Spraggett (Leggo)

There is a photo (A blast from the past) on page 19 of the April 12, 2017, edition of the Spec. I believe that the person who has a question mark instead of a name to be Grant Assels. It is nice to see a picture of my old rirends

Stephen Duguay
Gaspé, Quebec



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Attracting workers in the Côte-de-Gaspé

Thierry Haroun

The Town of Gaspé, the Côte-de-Gaspé MRC and the Gaspésie and Magdalen Islands Sustainable Establishment Strategy are inviting employers and other organizations, Anglophones and Francophones alike, to reflect on demography and workforce issues.

On May 31, the first ever Demography and Attraction Day will be held at Hôtel des Commandants in Gaspé. "The demography issue is a major one for our communities in terms of dynamism for our villages, maintaining public services, developing projects and enterprises and attracting a workforce. If everyone

works together, it's a win-win situation for all. On May 31, it will be a unique occasion to show that we can all pull together," states Côte-de-Gaspé Prefect, Delisca Ritchie-Roussy.

"The Town of Gaspé currently benefits from an economic boom and attracting manpower has become a top priority. Small and big employers are doing all they can to recruit qualified personnel. We must therefore join forces so that our town becomes the first choice for those who intend to live in the region," added Gaspé Mayor Daniel Côté.

Jobs, jobs, jobs

The coordinator of the

Gaspésie and Magdalen Islands Sustainable Establishment Strategy, Danik O'Connor, indicates that statistics experts from Emploi-Québec will be part of the event to put the jobs that are available in perspective for the Côte-de-Gaspé." What we know for the peninsula in terms of numbers is that in the past year more than 5,000 jobs were posted by Emploi-Québec and currently there are still 900 jobs that are available. What we want during this event is to find solutions together, and the word together is very important here. Businesses of all types are faced with a lack of workforce. We invite Anglophone businesses and players concerned by this issue to participate in the event. We must all pull together," he pointed out. For those interested in participating, they must register at bit.ly/AttractionCDG. Place aux jeunes Côte-de-Gaspé, le



Photo courtesy of: Danik O'Connor

The Coordinator of the Gaspésie and Magdalen Islands Sustainable Establishment Strategy, Danik O'Connor

Service d'accueil aux personnes immigrantes de la Côte-de-Gaspé, the Gaspésie Integrated Health and Social

Services Center and the Gaspé Chamber of Commerce are also partners of the event.

The Bourque and Haldimand projects continue

Geneviève Gélinas

GASPÉ – Quebec-based firm Pétrolia is merging with Alberta-based firm Pieridae Energy Limited. "The merged company will carry on with the Gaspé project of a floating liquefaction vessel for natural gas with Tugliq, as well as the project of producing oil in Haldimand," states the Pétrolia management.

Pétrolia and Pieridae have been working on the merger "for months," says Jean-François Belleau, Pétrolia Director of Public and Governmental Affairs. "There's mutual interest in driving forward the projects and in creating an integrated company, from exploration and production to distribution of liquefied natural gas."

The two boards of directors agree to merge under the name of Pieridae Energy Limited. The Pétrolia shareholders will have to ratify the merger in a meeting to be held within one month.

Pieridae is a private corporation based in Calgary, which plans to build a liquefied natural gas terminal in Goldboro, Nova Scotia, which would include storage tanks, marine structures and gas processing equipment.

The merged company will keep its offices in Calgary, Quebec City and Halifax.

Pieridae will bring "financial stability" to Pétrolia and "more depth in business," Mr. Belleau says. "There's all the Pieridae network in Calgary, funding for our projects, among other factors, to go forward faster with the Bourque project."

Pétrolia is trying to assess the gas potential of the Bourque area, close to Murdochville. If a positive potential were confirmed, Tugliq and Pétrolia would build a pipeline to the Gaspé port, where a floating vessel would liquefy the gas, which would then be delivered by ship to the North Shore, a \$500-million project.

"The merger doesn't challenge the partnership with Tugliq," states Mr. Belleau. "Our priority remains to deliver the Bourque gas to the North Shore. The surplus of gas could be transported to Goldboro," he adds.

The merger "will change absolutely nothing" to the project of producing oil in Haldimand, says Mr. Belleau. Pétrolia is studying the data collected at the Haldimand No. 4 drilling site, and won't set a schedule for further operations before this analysis is done. The Haldimand project

SHARE your STORY



Story told by KAYE WALKER
Interviewed by TANNER WELLMAN

The Plane Tragedy

I remember something that happened in New Carlisle years ago and I am not sure how many people would know about this. I was around seven years old at the time and living on Notre Dame Street near where the old convent used to be. On this day an aircraft crashed on Normandie Street.

During the Second World War, in 1942 in Mont-Joli, there used to be a training facility for aircraft and navigation pilots. The pilots used to fly down to New Carlisle and circle around a big tower that used to be here in town and then head back to Mont-Joli.

Pilots would come from all around the world to train in Mont-Joli, from places such as England and Australia.

One night in April my family was standing outside and a plane passed overhead and we could see fire coming out of one of the engines. That plane crashed over at the corner of Billingsley and Normandie Street.

My father went up to see the site and by

the next day the military was on site and sealed everything off. Freda Gallan was able to take a few photos of the site before they sealed the crash site off.

After a few days the military cleaned it up. They transported the parts back on the train. Wherever the parts went I have no idea.

Three souls were lost that day; the pilot, Flight Lieutenant J.T. Gutray, from England, was only 29 years old. He is buried in Manitoba. Sergeant Patrick Albert Beavis, 19 years of age, was over here for training from the British Air Force. He was buried in Montreal. R.R. Kember, age unknown, was buried in Toronto.

I never did find out why the aircraft caught fire that night. Back then the planes were not made as they are today. They were not equipped with little black boxes or computerized equipment.

It was a sad tragedy and a sad loss of life.

Cont'd on page 10



Cement silo to be ready soon in New Richmond

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND – The installation of a cement silo near the New Richmond passenger and freight train stations is progressing well, although slightly slower than expected, but it will be ready on time for the production start of the McInnis Cement plant in Port Daniel.

The Gaspésie Railway Society staff and its three contractors are still working underground on the base of the silo. That silo was made by Fabrication Delta, located next door.

“The installation should be completed in a matter of days. The underground structure is not completed. It was a bit more laborious than anticipated. The soil offered a bit of a challenge and we had to run more tests but it will be ready soon. Once the underground base is completed, the silo will be quickly installed and we will be ready to load railcars,” explains Luc Lévesque, Director General of the Gaspésie Railway Society, the operator of the freight train.

The silo is necessary because the railway line is currently closed east of Caplan, due to a decision made in March 2015 by the owner of the Matapedia to Gaspé line, Quebec’s Department of Transport. Repairs are needed on four bridges located between Caplan and Port Daniel, where the McInnis Cement plant is located. That facility is situated right next to the railway line.

Trucks will haul cement between Port Daniel and New Richmond until the bridges are repaired between Caplan and Port Daniel. A first customer has agreed to buy 28,000 tonnes of cement annually for five years from McInnis Cement and use the New Richmond silo before the line is fixed. A fleet of 25 brand new covered hopper cars will be used for that traffic. The cars arrived in the Gaspé at the end of March.

Meanwhile, the Gaspésie Railway Society will take delivery of 25 woodchip cars at the end of May or beginning of June, in order to replace the cars belonging to CN and used

at the Temrex sawmill in Nouvelle. CN’s car lease agreement was not profitable for the Gaspésie Railway Society.

The replacement cars are leased at a more advantageous cost from an Oregon-based company and could eventually be bought by the Gaspésie Railway Society. They are used cars.

“We have a buying option agreement regarding those cars. They will be sent to Rail GD upon their arrival for

minor modifications and then brought in our operations,” says Mr. Lévesque.

From now on, the Gaspésie Railway Society will also accelerate the frequency of its windmill blade trains from one monthly train to two. The last such train left New Richmond on May 6. The next one will leave on May 27 while the next empty train will come in three days later for departure around June 10.

The blades also have to be

trucked, in this case from LM Windpower’s Gaspé plant to New Richmond because of the condition of the railway. Trucking fees are significantly higher than rail transportation costs for that traffic, and it is the same case for cement.

Quebec Premier Philippe Couillard announced on May 5 that the Gaspé Peninsula railway will be upgraded and repaired over its whole length but the time frame remains unknown.



Photo: G. Gagné

As soon as the underground work is finished, the silo will be installed quickly.



Photo: G. Gagné

Removal of rubble started at the old cinema

Gilles Gagné

NEW CARLISLE – The removal of rubble started on May 16 at the old cinema in New Carlisle. Excavations Leblanc, the demolition contractor, finally submitted a cleanup plan that was accepted by the *Commission des normes, de l’équité, de la santé et de la sécurité au travail*, the CNESST, the Quebec regulatory body in charge of health and safety at work.

“Our inspector consulted the plan suggested by the company. The plan conformed

to the rules and the company was given permission to proceed,” explains Sophie Gaudreault, spokesperson for the CNESST.

The building was demolished in October 2016 by Excavations Leblanc.

A CNESST inspection and a laboratory analysis revealed that traces of asbestos were present in the rubble. The contractor was asked to submit a safe removal plan of the debris but it took six-and-a-half months before it was sent to the CNESST.

The piece of land is owned

by Espace René-Lévesque, the upcoming interpretation centre that will be installed on another premise close-by to the east. The former cinema space can only be used as a parking lot and green space. It was given to Espace René-Lévesque by the town of New Carlisle. The installation of Espace René-Lévesque could start soon. The CNESST cannot say for now when the cleanup job will be finished.

Big black membranes were put up around the cinema premise to prevent dust from flying across the fence.



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PUBLIC NOTICE

ENACTMENT OF BY-LAW

NOTICE is hereby given that the Town Council, at its extraordinary meeting held on May 15, 2017, has adopted the following By-Law:

By-law 1333-17 :

« Règlement amendant le règlement 1073-09, règlement sur la préparation, la collecte et la disposition des matières recyclables et résiduelles. »

NOTICE is also given that this By-Law is deposited at the office of the municipality and that the interested may there take cognizance thereof during regular office hours.

GIVEN at Gaspé, May 24, 2017.

Isabelle Vézina,
Director of legal services and town clerk



Graduates from the 2016 - 2017 Trucking Course.

Wakeham Adult and Vocational Education Centre celebrates success

Wendy Dawson

WAKEHAM: – A variety of courses and options were offered through the Wakeham Adult and Vocational Education Centre this past year. Rachel Adams who teaches at the Centre is pleased at the level of success attained by the students who enrolled in programs at the school.

“The trucking course ended at the end of March so that students could complete their internship. There were 10 graduates from the program. Graduation was held at the same time as “Family Day,” an event that had been planned where families were invited to visit the school and take drives in the trucks. Almost every student had a family member in attendance. The day ended with a buffet-style supper. It was so nice to have Family Day coincide with the graduation event.”

While the trucking course enjoyed the largest number of students, 13 other students also completed their studies at the Centre.

“There were seven graduates from the Home Care Program. Many of those who took the course also work during the day and study at night, so this is really a large accomplishment. We also had three students complete the accounting program and three complete their academic upgrading.” Graduating students were celebrated with a ceremony where some awards were handed out for achievement and attendance.

With this current year behind them, Wakeham Adult and Vocational Education Centre is already looking ahead to the programs that could be provided next year.

“We would like to put some emphasis on the ma-



Photo: Rachel Adams

Home Care graduates with their teacher Gloria Chicoine.



Centre Director Richard Jalbert and Rachel Adams are happy to celebrate their graduates.

chining techniques course that is run through the CEGEP,” explains Ms. Adams. The 1800-hour vocational course which has enjoyed certain success in the past, runs the risk of being a lost option if the Centre does not have enough interested students to take the course this year. The course which is set to start on September 18 is a bilingual program. Those that graduate as machinists could fill any number of jobs that include operating a variety of machine tools that make or modify parts or

products for equipment, motor vehicle, automotive parts, aircraft and other metal products manufacturing companies and by machine shops.

Rachel Adams explains, “We focus on courses that will provide skills to fill the jobs that we know are out there.”

Those interested in finding out more about Machining Techniques or any other course offered at Wakeham Adult and Vocational Education Centre can visit their facebook page or call for more information.

Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



Foraging for fiddleheads

*Fiddleheads are greenery.
Wash them till they're cleanery.
We await their season eagerly.
Available only fleetingly.*

Hurry! Act now, for the season is short. Fiddleheads are ready to be picked. Fiddleheads are the furled fronds of a young fern. They are foraged, that is, picked by people who will dine on them, or harvested to be sold. They grow wild in wet, damp areas and can be picked for about two or three weeks in the early spring. The top of the plant is called fiddlehead because it looks like the top of a violin or fiddle. If you pick fiddleheads, only take half of the tops on each plant or cluster. This is to prevent over-picking, which will eventually mean that fewer fiddleheads will grow next season. If you over-pick every year, the plant will stop producing and eventually die. Be a responsible picker.

Fiddleheads have been eaten in this area for centuries. Native communities, the Mi'gmaq people, introduced the fiddleheads to Acadian and United Empire Loyalists who settled here over 200 years ago. Most commercial harvesting of fiddleheads happens in Maine, New Brunswick and Quebec. The village of Tide Head is considered the ‘Fiddlehead Capital of the World.’

Fiddleheads are served as a vegetable. Fiddleheads contain vitamins and minerals, including omega-3 and omega-6. They have antioxidants and fiber. They are a powerhouse of nutritional goodness.

Fiddleheads should be washed a few times in cold water before cooking. It's also recommended that you pick off any little brown bits. Fiddleheads should never be eaten raw. Scientists suggest cooking them for 15 minutes, if you boil them. If you steam or sauté them, 10 to 12 minutes is optimal. Serve them with butter, pepper and lemon. Fiddleheads can be blanched and frozen, or for the culinary adventurous types, they can be pickled.

The flavour of fiddleheads is distinctive and some people describe it as being similar to asparagus and spinach. Others report tasting a mushroom flavour or even that of artichoke. What is definite is that many people greatly enjoy locally available edibles. Thank you Mother Nature for providing these unique and delicate spring veggies!

Fiddleheads for 4

- 1 pound of fiddleheads
- 3 garlic cloves
- Olive oil
- Fresh herbs, finely chopped, such as parsley, thyme or basil

Wash the fiddleheads in a couple of cold water rinses. Remove any ‘bits.’

Pat dry with a clean tea towel.

Heat the olive oil in a large wok or pan and add the fiddleheads and garlic cloves when oil is hot.

Stir lightly until the fiddleheads are soft.

Just before serving, add herbs and salt/pepper to taste.

Enjoy a taste of spring!



Cecile Blais and Krisie Gallon reach personal goals through French immersion class

Gilles Gagné

NEW CARLISLE – Cecile Blais and Krisie Gallan recently completed a 17-week French immersion course at The Anchor, the Adult and Vocational Education Center in New Carlisle, and praise the effect that apprenticeship had on their confidence level.

Ms. Blais, who lives in Paspébiac, fulfilled the initial goal she had set when she started the French immersion course - finding a job - and it happened even before the end of the session, at the beginning of May.

“I wanted to work in home care. I found a job at Entretien Chaleurs in Bonaventure two weeks ago. I put in my application, with my resumé and it went well and fast. I am working with Alzheimer patients in homes. I am fine. I don’t mind answering the same questions five times a day,” she explains.

A resident of Fauvel, Ms. Gallan has a longer plan in mind. “I am joining account-



Photo: G. Gagné

Cecile Blais and Krisie Gallan affirm that their French class was a confidence booster.

ing this fall. There is a place where I want to work. They don’t know that I am coming yet and this is a place where you need to be bilingual,” she says with a smile.

Improving their French skills was something Cecile Blais and Krisie Gallan had in mind for a while before registering for the Anchor program. The full-time course started on January 9 and ran five days a week, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

“I took it to speak better French, in order to find a job in the community and to understand better. I spoke very little French before the course. My mother is English and my father is French. We spoke English in the house. A job is harder to find when you don’t speak French. Nobody wants to hire someone who can’t understand French,” explains Ms. Blais.

She raised five children

who are all adults now and took care of her father for seven years before wanting to land a homecare job. She works with English-speaking people for now but she knows she has the ability to work with Francophones as well.

“I don’t think I would have done it, working in home care, without the French class. I have confidence now,” says Ms. Blais.

Krisie Gallan “knew a little bit of French but I like to be perfect. I love Quebec and I am not moving away. I have two little girls and I want them to learn French. I want to be able to speak to anybody in my province.”

She is practicing regularly. “My girls are in French day-care, La Marinière, in Paspébiac. When I go to the IGA, I’ll speak French. If you don’t practice, there is no use,” adds Ms. Gallan.

The two women appreciate the fact that their teachers, Annie Poitras and Henri Gagnon, covered a wide range of topics during the course,

not only vocabulary and grammar.

“They told us: You shouldn’t care if you make a mistake. Even French people make mistakes,” says Cecile. “We learned through projects. We played games. We talked about cooking,” adds Krisie.

They felt well supported by the Anchor staff. “It is a great environment. You want to come every day. You don’t sit down and do nothing. My confidence started when I started the French course,” points out Cecile. “We didn’t want to leave. We have the confidence to start the conversation. The only thing I didn’t like? It should have been longer!” stresses Krisie.

The last weeks of the session are punctuated by work placements. Christine Grenier, of the Anchor, explains that the work placements are offered two days a week. The other three days are spent in the classroom.

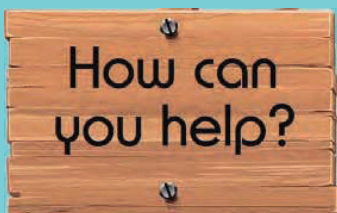
“We try to improve the

Cont'd on page 12

We may not attend every event in our community or neighbouring community but chances are you have attended a few. Perhaps you and your family attended a Harvest supper, winter carnival or maybe its tradition to go to the Shigawake Fair.

What if I told you that there will be no more events in your area if we cannot start **GETTING NEW MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY INVOLVED.**

There are community groups from Hope to Port Daniel that are in need of **VOLUNTEERS, MEMBERS AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN.**



CASA will be holding a volunteer information session for community residents from Hope, Hope Town, Saint Godefroi, Shigawake and Port Daniel as part of the CAP Project. We are asking you to come out and just learn a little bit about the various groups in the area and what they are really about. We will bring some refreshments and snacks.

WHEN? May 30th

WHERE? Shigawake Town Hall

WHY? Volunteer information session

For any information or if you would like to RSVP please contact Melissa or Shannon at 418-752-5995 or email melissa.casa@globetrotter.net



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- ◆ St. James’s People Of Port Daniel
- ◆ Three Star 50 + Club
- ◆ St. Paul’s Anglican Church Women
- ◆ Shigawake Community Center
- ◆ Municipality of Shigawake
- ◆ Hope Town Sports Club
- ◆ Bonaventure Agricultural Society Div. A
- ◆ Hayes Bursary



Alzheimer's Walk to take place on Sunday, May 28, in eight regional communities

Gilles Gagné

BONAVENTURE – The 11th Alzheimer's Walk will take place in eight communities of the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands on Sunday, May 28. Those communities are New Carlisle, Gaspé, Chandler, Maria, Saint-François d'Assise, the Magdalen Islands, Petite-Vallée and Sainte-Anne-des-Monts.

In 2016, the Alzheimer's Walk participants collected \$134,000. This year, the goal is set at \$135,000. The regional director of the Alzheimer's Society, Bernard Babin, stresses that the money collected by a community is almost all used locally during the ensuing year. "It is used to provide support to the patients and their caregivers," he says.

Mr. Babin appears in the photo, third from the right, with the employees of the Alzheimer's Society in the region; Patricia Dessureault (Percé Rock MRC); Mélissa Miville (Haute-Gaspésie);

Kathleen Friolet (Maria and Bonaventure); Alphéda Leblanc (Maria and Matapedia); Suzanne Bourget (Percé Rock MRC); Anne Minville (Estran and Gaspé); Louise Dupuis (Bonaventure) and Ludovic Landry-Johnson, who stands in front of the group and works at the head office in Bonaventure. Jeanine Richard, of the Magdalen Islands, couldn't attend the launching event leading to the Alzheimer's Walk.

That launch took place recently at the Hyundai car dealership in Bonaventure, the regional partner of the event. The employees of Hyundai donated \$5,000 to the Alzheimer's Society.



Photo: Courtesy of the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands

Bernard Babin, (third from right) Regional Director and employees of the Alzheimer's Society



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CASA would like to congratulate all students who participated in "Building My Region"!

A total of 27 teams participated in the event with an overwhelming participation of 13 teams from three English schools in Gaspé and Belle Anse.

CASA was proud to financially support Centre jeunesse emploi Côte-de-Gaspé offering the event for the first time to English-speaking students. Congrats to the CJE Team!

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Shrimp boats go fishing, 46 days late

Geneviève Gélinas

RIVIÈRE-AU-RENARD – The Gaspé shrimp fishermen and the processing plant owners finally agreed on landing prices on May 16, one month and a half after the official beginning of fishing, to the great relief of about 330 Gaspesian plant workers waiting for a paycheque.

Both parties committed to finding a pricing method to avoid that kind of delay next year.

The first shrimp boats from Rivière-au-Renard and Matane went out fishing the same afternoon and were supposed to land their first catches at the earliest on May 21. They will get an average price of \$0.96 per pound for their shrimp, that is to say 19 % less than last year. The prices per size category are \$1.19 per pound for the big shrimp, \$0.99 for the medium shrimp and \$0.85 for the small shrimp.

The prices are lower than in 2016 because of high inventories in the plants and because of the demand slowdown after high landing prices last year.

This fall fishermen and processing plant owners will start discussing a new price setting method that could avoid delays. Fishing could have started on April 1st.

Processing plant owners

would prefer a price that isn't fixed for the whole season, but one that would be adjusted depending on the market price. "Fishermen are 'not close-minded' about that method," says their negotiator, Patrice Element, "but other options exist, like an automatic arbitration by a panel of experts, as is in force in Newfoundland.

The total allowable catch decreased by 15 % this year. The few fishermen who have been fishing since the beginning of April have had trouble finding the shrimp. "It's going to be a profitable season, but it's going to finish late," believes Mr. Element.

Workers breathe easier

Workers of Rivière-au-Renard, L'Anse-au-Griffon and Matane processing plants had begun experiencing the "black hole," a period with no wages and no employment insurance benefits.

CSN union advisor Justin Arcand anticipates the same scenario next year if nothing changes. The processing season could be shorter for some workers, because of the decrease in shrimp catches. "Some of them are wondering about the number of hours they're going to work, and if they will qualify for unemployment insurance," Mr. Arcand says.



Photo: G. Gélinas

The first Rivière-au-Renard shrimp were supposed to be unloaded at the earliest on May 21.

The workers are asking for modifications to the unemployment insurance plan and for the support of the Gaspésie-Magdalen Islands Member of Parliament, Liberal Minister Diane LeBouthillier. "She gave us no news," states Mr. Arcand.

With the 2012 reform of the unemployment insurance program, Stephen Harper's Conservative government didn't renew a pilot project that was giving five more weeks of

benefits to Gaspésians in order to avoid the spring black hole. The Liberals of Justin Trudeau didn't bring back that program.

"Workers are angry about the five weeks issue because Mrs. LeBouthillier had participated in the mobilization against the Harper reform," reports Mr. Arcand.

As for Emploi-Québec, the ministry had just committed to offer paid training for plant workers, in collaboration with

the employers, when the agreement was announced on May 16. Mr. Arcand hopes that the ministry could react more rapidly in the future.

About 50 Quebec boats, with 200 fishermen on board, catch the Gulf of Saint Lawrence shrimp. They provide shrimp to four Gaspesian plants employing 600 people. Only the Sainte-Anne-des-Monts plant has been processing shrimp since the beginning of April.

THE BOURQUE

▶ *Cont'd from page 5*

is controversial notably because Haldimand No. 4 is located 350 meters from houses.

In a letter sent to the Pétrolia shareholders, written two days after the merger announcement, Pétrolia president, Myron Tétreault, wrote that in regards to Haldimand, "before establishing any exclusion of the project, intern analysis will have to be continued in order to determine the possible stimulation methods of wells, at Haldimand No. 1 and Haldimand No. 2."

If they ratify the merger, Pétrolia shareholders will get one share of the new company for 12 shares of Pétrolia. This exchange rate gives a \$0.38 value to the Pétrolia shares, that is to say 2.3 times its value at mid-May. The Pétrolia shares were worth \$2.50 at the end of 2011.

The Pétrolia shareholders will also receive "preferred" shares which will give them a right to 50 % of the amount which could be paid by the Government of Quebec because of the termination of the oil and gas exploration campaign on Anticosti Island. Quebec, a partner of the Anticosti project, is willing to compensate Pétrolia to end the exploration.

Côte-de-Gaspé prefect and Murdochville mayor, Délicia Ritchie Roussy, think that if the Pétrolia-Pieridae transaction "has the effect of accelerating the investments in the Bourque project, that's a good thing [...] it would be good for the MRC."

The perception is different among environmentalists. "What we fear is that a new investor could give more strength to the Pétrolia project [in Haldimand]," says Lise Chartrand, president of the committee *Together for the*



Photo: G. Gélinas

"The merged company will go forward with the oil production project in Haldimand," say the Pétrolia directors.

sustainable future of Gaspé. "We know that Pétrolia will go forward with the

Haldimand project and that the company considers using hydraulic fracturing or chemi-

cal stimulation [...]. Whoever is our interlocutor doesn't reassure us."



Rose Marie presenting her play in Ireland.

Emigrant - from the Caves of Keash to the Capes of Forillon

A play written and performed by Rose Marie Stanley entitled *Emigrant*, telling the epic story of one woman's experience of Sligo's Famine Emigration in 1847, was well-received in both Cliffoney and Keash last week. Rose Marie expressed that she was very pleased with the production and the reception she received in both venues. She and her husband Terry also expressed their thanks to Anne Hoey and Frank KIELTY who helped the production at Cliffoney and to their son-in-law Steve Olsen who provided the musical accompaniment.

After seeing the production, retired teacher and actor Michael Roper, described it as a powerful story. Retired Principal of Cliffoney National School, John Joe Gallagher, said he would love to see it presented to local students, adding that its dramatization of the Famine Story of Sligo had a far more powerful impact on him than reading several history books on the topic.

In the play Rose Marie told the story of Sligo's Assisted Famine Emigration of 1847 through the eyes of her maternal ancestor from Cross - just under the Caves of Keash - Sarah (McDonough) Kaveney, presenting an account of Sarah's life from the time she left her home in south Sligo until her death over forty years later in the Gaspé Region of eastern Canada. Sarah was 43 years old when she and her family left their Sligo home and within a month of leaving she had lost all of her five daughters with the sinking of their ship, the Carricks, at Cap des Rosiers. She, with her husband Patrick and son Martin, survived and they set up a new home near the site of the tragedy and she went on to have four more Canadian-born children, three boys and one girl. Eight years after arriving in the Gaspé, however, tragedy hit again when on St Patrick's Day 1855, Patrick lost his way in a snowstorm as he walked to the Irish celebrations in nearby Douglstown. Days later his body was recovered from a snowdrift. Searchers found the body after spotting the tree branch he clutched in his hand under the snow.

Life continued for Sarah and with the help of her Irish-born son Martin, she reared her new family and, in turn, each of her children got married and set up their own homes nearby. Martin was to have a short life. he died at the age of 45, leaving six young children and with his passing they too came under Sarah's care. At the age of 85, half of which she spent in Sligo and half in the Gaspé region, Sarah died. By then she had seen her children establish good lives for themselves and some of her grandchildren start third level education. Her heart always held a special place for her native Cross and over a life in which she faced many challenges and tragedies she displayed resourcefulness and determination that carried her through the many obstacles she faced.

DOUGLASTOWN:

The show must go on...

Gaspé, May 15, 2017 - The Douglstown Community Centre presents "NUISANCES", an original play written by Lorraine Blais, Fred Kraenzel, and Patricia Turbide from Douglstown and Gaspé. This bilingual situation comedy reflects the English and French duality in the Gaspésie and sheds a light on certain challenges met by the elderly. This project is funded by the

program *Québec, Ami des Aînés*.

Harmony seems to reign at the Shamrock, a home for seniors, however, we slowly discover that things are not always what they seem to be. Events tend to jostle the life of one or the other. Aging also brings its share of small miseries. Will these characters be able to cope with all the ups and downs and confrontations in store for

them?

The stage setting, scenography and original score was trusted to the very talented Danièle Rouleau.

You are all invited to see "NUISANCES" at the Holy Name Hall of Douglstown, on Friday, May 26, and Saturday, May 27, at 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, May 28, at 2 p.m. For information call (418) 368-0288. Adults: \$15 / Students: \$10



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Équiterre adds local farms to their network

Wendy Dawson

NEW RICHMOND — Équiterre is a grassroots Quebec based organization whose mandate is to support and encourage both individuals and groups in making ecological and equitable choices. Established in 1992, the group has been responsible for the development of several programs and initiatives that seek to change the world “one step at a time.”

The organization focuses on a variety of areas that include food, gardening, housing, consumption and transportation. Some of Équiterre’s actions include the compilation of information documents and guidelines for green living, the distribution of student bursaries for environmental or social research work, as well as working with governments and agencies to help drive environmental and social change through legislation.

Équiterre is not just about broader scope issues. Individual social action is also encouraged through smaller and more tangible initiatives like the organization’s organic summer food baskets.

This year Équiterre will be marking its 21st summer of community supported agriculture (CSA). Every year, Équiterre helps maintain a network of 550 farms that deliver weekly organic food baskets to over 19,000 subscribers.

Équiterre’s executive director Sidney Ribaux speaks about the projects longevity. “The program has been a huge, runaway success, as shown by the popularity of the baskets for 20 years and the

enthusiasm of these young, intrepid farmers vying to offer the best local produce.”

Of the 19 new farms joining Équiterre’s organic basket program network this year, two are local Gaspesian producers - *Le Jardin du Village* of Caplan and *La Cigale et la fourmi* of Carleton-sur-Mer. They are the first local farms to be part of the initiative.

Étienne Goyer of *Le Jardin du Village* is pleased to be a part of the organization. “This is a real opportunity to give back to a movement that has been a promoter of community supported agriculture since the beginning. They (Équiterre) were trendsetters and laid the groundwork for the support and success of local farms.”

Mr. Goyer explains that while being a part of the organization includes several benefits to participating farmers such as training opportunities, logistical support, visibility and mentoring programs.

The basket distribution also provides his farms and others like him an important cash infusion at the beginning of his production season. “The seasonality of cash flow in this business always presents a bit of a challenge. Revenue during the spring time is diminished even though expenses are at their highest. Cash flow management when you are in start-up mode or when you are planning growth can be difficult. The revenue that can come from the baskets is very valuable.”

Last year, *Le Jardin du Village* had 82 subscribers to their basket program, however, they are hoping this year with the support and the visibility that



Photo: Fleurdelise Dumais

Étienne Goyer of *Le Jardin du Village* is one of two new local members of Équiterre’s Community Supported Agriculture Network.

being a part of Équiterre will provide them with, that they could see that number grow to 100.

“Subscribers to the program receive a weekly food basket that includes anywhere from eight to 11 selections of different herbs and vegetables

from about mid-June to mid-October,” explains Mr. Goyer. “Selections are dictated by the season, so subscribers are getting the freshest best food available for the season.”

When time allows, Étienne Goyer includes a bulletin in his baskets that might include

news about what can be expected in the coming weeks as well as information about the less common vegetables that might be included.

Information about the local food basket service or information about subscription can be found at www.equiterre.org.

FRENCH CLASS

▶ *Cont'd from page 8*

program from year to year. Before, we just had full weeks of courses and no work placements. We also had full weeks of work placements. Now, when they come back to the classroom after two days of work placements, they have a chance to debrief, to talk about their experience and solve the problems,” explains Ms. Grenier.

Professionals, like a social worker, are invited to speak to the students about different topics. “They talk about health, social aspects, like confidence and being isolated, and finance, in order to help the students,” she adds.

The French immersion

class is funded by Emploi-Québec. It is part of that government department’s mission to improve the skills of Anglophones wishing to join or go back to the labour force. The program is offered once a year. Nine students were part of this year’s group. Two students had to leave for medical reasons and one left after six weeks.



Photo: G. Gélinas

The NACC Quebec made a stop of several days at Sandy Beach for re-flagging and an inspection by Transport Canada.

MCINNIS:

▶ *Cont'd from page 2*

re-flagging process. It will eventually get to the Port Daniel terminal, although the first load is not scheduled until the end of June.

“There might be an intermediate stop in between. We are currently thinking about that,” says Maryse Tremblay.

In the meantime, the Port

Daniel plant has started a certain number of production trials.

“The kiln has been working since last week (the second week of May) at the cement plant. We have produced clinker so far, the first step before cement. We will produce cement next but a certain period will then be required to run tests on that production and check if it fills the

requirements of the industry. Some tests will be carried out in our own laboratory and some samples will also be sent to customers. Part of the monitoring is done by outside company representatives coming to our laboratory and the other part is carried out on other locations. We expect the first load to leave the plant at the beginning of the summer,” explains Ms. Tremblay.

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COAST ROUND-UP

GASPÉ:

Flea Market

Saturday, June 3: The York Women's Institute will be holding a flea market from 10 a.m. to noon at the York River Community Hall. There will be a small bake table and something for everyone. Hope to see you there.

GASPÉ:

Musical Evening

Tammy Adams will be performing at the Gaspé Legion on **Saturday, May 27**, beginning at 9:30 p.m. Admission: \$5. Please join us!

GASPÉ:

Rummage Sale

The Nation Micmac de Gespeg will be holding a rummage sale on **Saturday, June 3**, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 34 Montée de Corte Real, Gaspé.

DOUGLASTOWN:

Community Centre Upcoming Events

Sunday, May 28: Happy Hour, beginning at 5 p.m., is a great opportunity to get together with old friends or make new ones. Bring your refreshments and a dish to share. A voluntary contribution would be appreciated.
May 26, 27 and 28: The bilingual play *Nuisances* will be performed at Holy Name Hall on Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and on Sunday at 2 p.m. Adults \$15, Students \$10.

WAKEHAM:

Advance notice

Wakeham ACW will be holding its annual summer sale on **Saturday, July 8**. Further information to follow at a later date.

BARACHOIS:

Bingo

The next bingos at the Barachois Recreation Center will be **Friday, May 26**, and **Friday, June 9**, at 7 p.m. More than \$500 to be won.

BARACHOIS:

Legion Branch 261 Upcoming Events

Saturday, May 27: The Legion Sandbag League Tournament Banquet will be held beginning at 5 p.m. Following, at 9 p.m., music by Nash Stanley. Entry donation \$5.
Every Monday: The Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 261, will be having a bingo at 7 p.m. at the Legion. Everyone welcome!

YORK:

Flea Market

The York Women's Institute will be holding a flea market on **Saturday, June 3**, from 10 a.m. - noon. It will be held at the York River Community Hall. There will

also be a small bake table. There will be something for everyone. Hope to see you there.

PORT DANIEL:

Annual Bazaar

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

PORT DANIEL AND SHIGAWAKE:

Bible Study

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

PORT DANIEL:

Strawberry Social Advance Notice

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

SHIGAWAKE:

Cookbooks for sale

The Marcil Branch W.I. has a cookbook that would make a perfect gift. The cost is \$12 per book and includes wonderful recipes from past and present W.I. members. To purchase a copy, please call 418-752-8152 or pick one up at the Spec office.

SHIGAWAKE:

SPDS Governing Board Meeting

Tuesday, May 30: There will be a SPDS Governing Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m. at Shigawake-Port Daniel School.

SHIGAWAKE:

Advance Notice Tea, Bake and Craft Sale

A tea, bake and craft sale will be held on **Thursday, July 20**, from 12 noon to 2 p.m. Adults \$7, children 6 and under free. Door prizes and other prizes as well as a 50/50 draw will be held. Welcome all and bring your friends to Shigawake Community Centre across from the Anglican Church.

SHIGAWAKE:

Community Centre Upcoming Events

Saturday, June 3: Mother Father Daughter Son Afternoon Tea from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. Cost is \$6 per person. Door prize and other prizes. Everyone welcome.

Saturday, June 17: Lobster or chicken dinner, \$20, 4-6 p.m. Tickets sold in advance.

HOPE TOWN:

Gift Bingo

Gift bingo on **Friday, June 16**, at 7:30 p.m. at the Hope Town Community Centre. Organized by the Sports and Recreation Club.

HOPE TOWN:

Whist Party

A whist party will be held on **June 10** at 8 p.m. at the Hope Town Community Centre. Come out and join us for a night of fun.

HOPE TOWN:

Hope Baptist Church

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

NEW CARLISLE:

Annual General Meeting

Heritage New Carlisle will hold its Annual General Meeting on **Wednesday, May 31** at 7 p.m., at the Kempffer Cultural and Interpretation Centre, 125 Boulevard Gerard-D.-Levesque. The evening's activities will include the annual report and the election of directors. Refreshments will be served. Everyone is welcome. Come and join us.

NEW CARLISLE:

Church Services

Services will be resuming at Knox Presbyterian Church on **Sunday, May 28**, at 3 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

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:

Garage Sale

A garage sale will be held at 19 Mount Sorrel, behind Laurentian Bank on **Saturday, June 3**, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. No early birds, please. Rain or shine.

NEW CARLISLE:

St. Andrew's Concert

Heritage New Carlisle will be holding a Jazz music concert featuring Gabriel Dionne on vibraphone, Lino Bélanger on guitar and Ian Lévesque on bass on **Friday, June 2**, at 8 p.m. at St. Andrew's Church. Presale tickets: \$12,

Price at the door: \$15; free for 5 years old and younger. The church is located at 175 Gérard-D.-Levesque Blvd, New Carlisle. Contact 418-752-1334 or at heritagenc@globetrotter.net for tickets.

NEW CARLISLE:

Bake Sale

Hope Baptist Church Ladies are having a bake sale on **Saturday, June 3**, at 9 a.m. (but not before) at the Bible Chapel in New Carlisle. Proceeds will be used to send children to Fair Haven Bible Camp and the youth programs at HBC.

NEW CARLISLE:

Monthly Breakfast

The New Carlisle 50+ Club will be holding its monthly breakfast at the Heritage Restaurant, New Carlisle, on **Wednesday, June 14**, at 9 a.m.

NEW RICHMOND:

Friperie Notice

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

NEW RICHMOND:

United Church Upcoming Events

Friday, July 21: Strawberry Social
July 30: Memorial Hymn Sing
October 21: Turkey Supper
December 15: Christmas Concert.

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

Barbeque

A barbeque will be held on Sunday, May 28, at the Royal Canadian Legion from 11 am to 1 p.m.

\$10 for adults, \$8 for children 12 and under. Hot dogs, burgers, salads, dessert, tea or coffee. Washer tournament to start at 1 pm. \$5 each participant.

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

50+ Club Activities

Every Tuesday: A prize bingo will be held at 7 p.m. Entry fee is 2 cards for \$5 and \$1 for each additional card.
Every Thursday: Dame de Pique at 1 p.m. \$5 per person.
May 27: A Spring Bingo will be held at 1 p.m.
May 27: Jam Session will be held at 7 p.m.

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UNITED CHURCH

Sunday, May 28

Hope Town
2 p.m. Service

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

Sunday, May 28

New Carlisle

11 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Hopetown
10 a.m. Morning Prayer
Port Daniel
9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

PARISH OF GASPE

Sunday, May 28

Peninsula
9 a.m. Service

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Sunday, May 28

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11 a.m. Service

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Why do we say...

By Gary Briand

I was at a Lodge meeting last year. At the night's conclusion, I overheard one member say to another, "I'll not mention it. My lips are sealed." Of course I had often heard the expression but, after arriving home, I added it to my list of phrases I wanted to explore.

The expression is not too old. It first occurred in Mike and Psmith by P.G. Wodehouse when Psmith promises never to reveal that Mike is about to play a cricket match. The year was 1909.

P.G. Wodehouse used the phrase on numerous occasions over the next three decades.

Most notably in Spring Fever where Lord Shortlands tells Mike Cardinal that he wants to marry his cook. The lordship's daughter, Lady Teresa, is horrified and begs Mike not to spread it about town. Mike Cardinal assures her: "My lips are sealed. Clams take my correspondence course."

In 1935, British Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin reversed the term in a speech to parliament. Unwilling to comment on a political crisis concerning Abyssinia, he said, "I have seldom spoken with greater regret for my lips are not yet unsealed."

"My lips are sealed" is the ultimate promise of non-divulgence.

Spec gets around...



CARRICK DESCENDANTS WALK IN IRELAND

Rose Marie Stanley, family and friends stand in front of the south wall of the Family Home in Keash, Ireland. They are about to embark on a 32 km walk from the family home in Keash to the port of Sligo. Called the Famine Trail Commemoration, it honours the memory of the Kaveney family who left Ireland on April 4, 1847 and were shipwrecked in Cap des Rosiers on April 28, 1847. The family took the name Kavanagh once in Canada.

While in Ireland, Rose Marie will be presenting the play she wrote about her descendants in Cliffony, Keash and Kilkenny.

Included in the picture is Nicholas Stanley, Sarah Shin, Pam McBurney, Stephen Olson, Stephen Phillips, Nathalie Stanley Olson, John Kilbride, Joan Kilbride, John Keaveney, Rose Marie Stanley and Terry Stanley who is holding his digital copy of The Gaspé Spec.



To keep the rim of your paint can clean so you can close it properly, place an elastic band on the can and clean your brush off with it.



THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

• **1533:** THOMAS CRANMER, THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY, DECLARES THE MARRIAGE OF KING HENRY VIII TO ANNE BOLEYN VALID.

• **1830:** U.S. PRESIDENT ANDREW JACKSON SIGNS THE INDIAN REMOVAL ACT.

• **1952:** WOMEN IN GREECE ARE GRANTED THE RIGHT TO VOTE.

SKIN CARE WORD SEARCH

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 B E A A E T A I L O F X E O W Y L S O I
 W P C C I N E G O D E M O C L T O H O U
 S I B S U N B U R N W M W P A I M B F M
 D A A T N E I L L O M E A N R U S C A O
 W R I N K L E S E S G H T U O D V H H I
 X W G B H N O I T A C I F I X O T E D S
 R D S B B U R C S D S C P X T I D M D T
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 A R D Y O X A A P T E N E L S U R M B R
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 I A I E S N I R H I M D V T A S A R C Z
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 C O O S T R E H S T E Z I I P F S Y O M
 E G L M T R G X G R G A H N C Z I X Y I
 N I A X A T E L O I V A R T L U O F C P
 C S E P T Y U U U I S I F S V D N R L T
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Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

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 DETOXIFICATION
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HOROSCOPES

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, as long as you keep trying your best, you will come out on top. Now you just have to have a little more confidence in yourself. Choose a motivational song as your anthem.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

Try something new, Taurus. What is the worst that can happen? If you find you do not like the activity, then check it off your list and embrace a new opportunity.

GEMINI – May 22/June 21

Gemini, think about reconnecting with an old flame. Even if the connection is purely platonic, the stroll down Memory Lane might be good for you.

CANCER – June 22/July 22

Cancer, this week may be a turning point for you in your life. Although you feel ready for the changes that are in store, you may have to adapt a bit more once they're here.

LEO – July 23/Aug 23

Leo, even if you stumble, you will have an opportunity to regain your footing. Do not shy away from taking a few chances here and there. You can handle what's in store.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

This may be one of those weeks when nothing seems to bother you, Virgo. The bad stuff just rolls off your back, and everything seems to keep you smiling.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, weigh all of your options before making a major commitment. Once you move forward, you may not have much room to turn things around.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, someone is trying to tell you something but you may not be receiving the message just yet. Settle in and the message may dawn on you at a later time.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

Talk about big plans with someone close to you, Sagittarius. This person might have some wise words to share, or may just be the sounding board you need right now.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Mistakes are a key to learning, Capricorn. Don't let minor hiccups derail you from the larger plan. Otherwise, your momentum may get seriously stalled.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Confidence is the key to just about anything, Aquarius. This week you have it in abundance. At this point, you can probably sell ice to eskimos, so put your luck to good use.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

A career move may be imminent and it could be worrying you, Pisces. After the first few days, things will be smooth sailing.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

MAY 21

Gotye, Singer (37)

MAY 22

Ginnifer Goodwin, Actress (39)

MAY 23

Melissa McBride, Actress (52)

MAY 24

Mark Ballas, Dancer (31)

MAY 25

Aly Raisman, Gymnast (23)

MAY 26

Stevie Nicks, Singer (69)

MAY 27

Paul Bettany, Actor (46)

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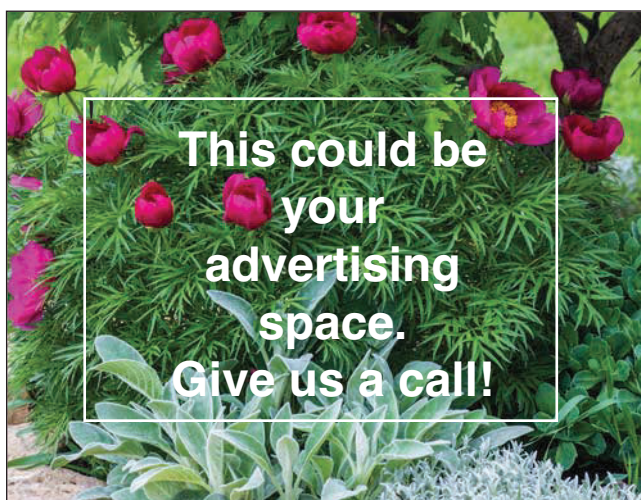
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