

Inside
this
week



David Suzuki to come to New Richmond on June 23



Septic tanks: Town of Gaspé says objectives were achieved



Objective of \$20,000 for the Gaspé Alzheimer Walk

The Gaspé **Spec**

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Lobster season starts on a windy note but catches are stable

Gilles Gagné

SAINT-GODEFROI: – The 2017 lobster season started on a relatively good note, despite strong winds for the first day of landings on April 30. The previous day was cool for putting out the traps but not nearly as windy.

The main buyer of lobster in the Gaspé Peninsula, E. Gagnon et Fils, from Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé, reported good landings for the first day of a season that lasts ten weeks.

“It looks like last year. It is just a day. One of the fishermen brought back 1,200 pounds that first day, something he had never done, while another one was not so lucky and landed between 400 and 500 pounds, way less than last year’s first day. The wind was so strong in the morning that a few fishermen didn’t go to sea,” commented Bill Sheehan on May 1.

What about the price that will be paid to the fishermen? “That is the big question. We start with a base price of \$7 per pound but it will be adjusted upwards for sure. It is difficult to determine a price when we haven’t had any sales outside the area,” adds Mr. Sheehan.

The 2016 season started with a price of \$7.75 per pound for the fishermen, but it took a few days before that figure was released.

This year, the Gaspé Peninsula would have benefited from an earlier start had the season begun as initially scheduled, on April 22. At the time, the price paid to Nova Scotia lobster fishermen was \$10 per pound.



Photo: P. MacWhirter

The fog was very thick at Shigawake harbour Saturday morning, as lobster fisherman Dennis Ross put out his traps.

“They have a big influence on the price as long as they are fishing alone. There are not many fishing in Nova Scotia in April. The price is already down to about \$7 per pound by now,” says Bill Sheehan.

“A substantial number of New Brunswick fishermen also started fishing during the first week of May and that significantly increases the volume of lobster available on the market,” he says.

“Gaspesian lobster will not be alone on the Montreal market for long. The New Brunswick products will be there before the end of the week. We lost a week. The Magdalen Islands lobster will also soon be added to the market,” he explains, referring to

the May 6 kickoff in the “Maggies.”

This year, the exchange rate between the Canadian and American dollar represents a big advantage for the Quebec and Maritime lobster fishermen, whether they export south of the border or not, because Canada’s price is highly influenced by demand factors in the United States.

“It is better than last year. This morning, the exchange rate is \$1.3657 (Canadian dollar for an American dollar). It was between \$1.30 and \$1.35 all winter long. It is even more advantageous now. The average was \$1.30 last year. It means that one cent of difference in the exchange rate translates into a 10 cent differ-

ence in revenues, based on a price of \$7 per pound. We will not go to the United States before Mother’s Day because the domestic demand is strong between now and that day,” states Mr. Sheehan.

“We have developed strong links with large supermarket chains such as Metro and IGA. They can call as late as noon and we can load a trailer of lobster and it will be delivered to Montreal at 5 a.m. the following day by one of our drivers. Metro and IGA use lobster a lot to draw shoppers in,” he says.

E. Gagnon et Fils is the largest buyer of lobster in the Gaspé Peninsula. “Last year, we bought about 1,250,000 pounds of lobster directly from

the fishermen, and 3 million pounds total, if we include the lobster we acquired from other buyers such as Poissonnerie Caron, Gervais Roussy and so on. We also buy 1.5M pounds of lobster from the other provinces, for a total of 4.5M pounds,” says Bill Sheehan.

In 2016, the 163 Gaspesian permit holders landed 2,213 metric tonnes of lobster for total revenues of \$33M for the fishermen. Both totals were records. The average price was 6.50\$ per pound in 2016, a little below the record.

“I do not rule out another record this year. It will stop one day for sure but the conditions remain good for record numbers,” concludes Bill Sheehan.

ACEQ provides services to Gaspésians facing cancer

Thierry Haroun

GASPÉ PENINSULA: 2016 was another busy year for the Eastern Québec Cancer Association that provides a variety of services for people and their relatives who are facing cancer. Gaspésians are among those who benefited from ACEQ's services. Spec reached ACEQ's Executive Director, Daniel Bénéteau, at the head office in Rimouski.



Photo: ACEQ

Executive Director of the ACEQ, Daniel Bénéteau.

"Gaspésians are a significant part of our clientele at the Hôtellerie Omer-Brazeau here in Rimouski where those faced with cancer and their family can stay while they are being treated at the hospital next door. The prices are very low: \$26 per night and that includes breakfast and dinner. There are also other services that the Hôtellerie provides. Gaspésians really appreciate that service during their stay. They tell us so!" says Mr. Bénéteau.

Numbers show that the Hôtellerie Omer-Brazeau registered 13,016 occupational nights of which 68.8% were occupied by Gaspésians (8563 people), followed by 26.3% from the the Lower-Saint-Lawrence region (3453 people), 5.9% from the North Shore (773 people) and 1.8% from the rest of the province (227).

Balanced budget

"Despite the tough economic context, we've man-

aged to balance our budget thanks to those who have participated in our fundraisers, partners and 2440 volunteers who gave 24,614 hours of their time to make things happen," added Mr. Bénéteau.

All in all, 14,765 hours were devoted to finance our activities, 9,616 to services offered and 233 to support the organization itself. In terms of budget, the ACEQ has a balanced budget of \$2,209,916.

Of that amount, 59% stems from fundraisers, 17% from grants provided by the Québec Health Ministry and 14% from those who stayed at Hôtellerie Omer-Brazeau.

Activities

The ACEQ offers many services that provide comfort to patients who suffer from diseases. In 2016, 2835 massages were provided in many

hospitals, such as Chandler, Gaspé, Maria, Sainte-Annes-Monts, Matane, Amqui and Rimouski. Moreover, 145 clinics were offered concerning nutrition, financial tips and anxiety to name but a few. Finally, a bilingual information brochure, Orientation and Information Guide, was distributed to hundreds of people. For further information, please visit the ACEQ's website www.aceq.org



IMPORTANT MESSAGE

Following the acquisition of new contracts over the next few months, the frequency of trains on the Gaspésie Railway will increase considerably between Matapédia and New Richmond.

ALWAYS BE ALERT - ANY TIME IS TRAIN TIME! A train can travel at any time of the day or night, during the week or on the weekend.

NEVER walk, run, bicycle or use an ATV on the railroad tracks, a railway right-of-way or on railway bridges.

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Government's plan for the railway could be \$50 million for five years

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND: – Quebec's Transport Minister Laurent Lessard indicated, during the review of transport credits, that for months his government has been considering an investment of \$50 million over five years for the Gaspé Peninsula railroad.

That time frame is dubbed enormous by several Gaspesian elected officials, considering the necessity of upgrading the Matapédia-Gaspé railway.

The urgency comes from transport requests east of Caplan, where the line was put in a dormant state by the same Quebec government in 2015. Those requests, heavily based on the activities of LM Windpower in Gaspé and McInnis Cement in Port Daniel, could multiply by five the current number of carloads over the next three years. (That number was 1,741 carloads in 2016.)

The amount of \$50 million has been mentioned since December. The possible time frame attached to it was raised for the first time on April 25 by Minister Lessard.

"We have an envelope of \$50 million to invest over the next five years. For the moment, there is no consensus on it," he said. He also added, similar to what Regional Minister Sébastien Proulx had previously said, that several conversations held with stakeholders including McInnis Cement and LM Windpower had delayed the announcement.

Parti Québécois Member of National Assembly for the riding of Gaspé, Gaétan Lelièvre, who had asked the review of credits question that led to Laurent Lessard's "\$50 million over five years" answer, can hardly believe the amount and the time frame, especially in the context that the Quebec government has not invested anything in the Gaspé Peninsula railway infrastructure in three years, and considering that it is the owner of the line since the spring of 2015.

"It is insufficient and miserable. There is an urgent economic need for LM Windpower and McInnis Cement, two companies that have developed temporary solutions because the railway is not repaired from Gaspé to Port Daniel. Those solutions are far from optimal. They hamper the competitiveness of those companies. Moreover, the government fails in the dual role of contributing to and accompa-



Photo: G. Gagné

GE, the buyer of the blades produced by LM Windpower's plant in Gaspé, pays significantly more to have them trucked to New Richmond where they are transferred to railcars. Transportation costs would be significantly reduced if the blades could be loaded in Gaspé. They are exported to the United States.

nying the region's economic development, and as the owner of the line," notes Mr. Lelièvre.

He emphasizes that the "missing consensus" referred to by Minister Lessard is in fact a real consensus, established months and months ago regionally and nationally with the Federation of Chambers of Commerce, Manufacturers and Exporters of Quebec and the Employers' Council.

He concedes that the regional consensus has weakened a bit over the last two weeks, "a factor stemming from the waiting time imposed by the government."

Mr. Lelièvre didn't appreciate a written note sent by the Table of prefects to his and Bonaventure riding Member of the National Assembly Sylvain Roy's attention asking them to refrain from doing any public intervention in regards to the railway before the May 6 visit of Quebec's Premier, Philippe Couillard, in Chandler. The premier could announce something about the railway on that occasion.

"It was either awkward, a lack of judgement or experience but if the president of the Table of prefects (Guy Gallant) had not expressed his intention of running at the Liberal Party convention in Bonaventure, we would not wonder if he is prioritizing the region or if he is protecting the political party," says Mr. Lelièvre.

Prefect Gallant takes the blame for "a communication error." He adds that he is not satisfied with the government's position when it comes to the railway.

"It takes an announcement. It is so long! We wouldn't be

talking about the consensus issue if an announcement had taken place two months ago," he says.

He adds that he hasn't had success in getting information from that government in the last three months, despite numerous attempts. "I also asked the government to inform us (elected officials) before any announcements. We want to be involved in the decision regarding how the money will be invested."

As for the "\$50 million over five years" referred to by Laurent Lessard, Guy Gallant points out that it doesn't match at all with the recent resolution adopted by the Table of prefects, to the effect that "the government must spend its \$50 million in the short term, like a year, and it must establish a three year time frame in order to reach the town of Gaspé."

Gaétan Lelièvre considers that such a scenario "lowers the bar too much. Reaching Gaspé and Port Daniel is more urgent than a three-year time frame."

During the review of transport credits, Laurent Lessard also stated that repairing the line between Matapédia and Gaspé "will cost more than \$100 million." He didn't provide any source for that statement.

Two studies were carried out in 2014 to assess the repairs of the Matapédia-Gaspé line, one by AECOM, whose evaluation situates the cost at \$122 million and one by Canarail, whose assessment is \$86 million. The Canarail personnel made more contacts with the Gaspé Peninsula rail stakeholders than the AECOM staff.

Police report

On April 26, 2017, at the New Carlisle courthouse during the trial of Réal Savoie, 54, from Nouvelle, accused of the July 27, 1996, premeditated murder of Sonia Raymond on the beach in Maria, the video of the April 16, 2014 meeting with Mr. Big lasting 1 hour and 47 minutes during which the accused confessed his crime was shown for the first time to the 12 jurors.

In order to have the accused confess his crime, Mr. Big told him that he would provide him with an alibi and that another man would admit having committed the murder. Mr. Big, whose name or badge number cannot be released, insisted that the accused explain several times how he killed the victim. Mr. Big told the accused that after checking with his contacts, a police intervention to arrest him was imminent and that the "pigs" had DNA evidence against him.

The accused said that he went to the beach before the victim and that he had been drinking for a while at the Carleton wharf and at the beach. He described the victim as "cold" and not interested in the conversation he wanted to have with her. "She told me: 'I have no time to talk to you.' It is just the language that really shocked me." On the video, he swore in French, using the word "tabarnak".

After the victim told him she was not interested in talking, he went to his pickup truck. "I came out of the truck in a rage. I went down (to the beach) and that is where it happened... She backed up a bit in the sand... Don't move or you are finished. She didn't defend herself. I took her shorts off. I took her top off. I took her slip off... She started crying. That is when I (became) disconnected and I cut her throat," said the suspect. The accused later said that the hunting knife he used only "tore" the skin. "It was not sharp. That is why I stabbed her twice at the same place. It was deeper." He added that he put the knife aside to use his two hands to take the victim's shorts off.

Mr. Big asked the accused to describe where the victim was sunbathing and how she backed up when he came back with his knife. The accused showed Mr. Big how she backed up with her feet, without getting up. He also said at least twice that the crime was committed between 2 and 2:30 p.m.

According to the accused the victim put one hand on the left side of her throat after being stabbed, a probable attempt to stop the bleeding. The accused said "she never screamed," neither before or after the stabbing.

Her body was discovered at approximately 6 p.m. and at the time it was a downpour.

Using very crude words sometimes, Mr. Big repeatedly asked the accused if he had sex with the victim, if he left bodily substances on the crime scene, either sperm or hair, on her? He said that he never took his pants off. "I was too mad. I was too disconnected," he answered, using again the word "tabarnak".

The accused explained how he got rid of the knife after the crime and threw it "far in the woods" so that nobody would find it. He also said that he showered and considering that he had blood on his t-shirt he burned his clothes at a nearby dump. He also washed the carpet of the truck with bleach because he had deposited the knife on the carpet.

The accused also explained that he set-up a rope to hang himself but he didn't. "I didn't have the guts to do it." The undercover police officer asked the accused to draw the crime scene and he did. Mr. Big also told the accused that he was willing to provide him with an alibi because Mr. Big's cousin, another member of the criminal organization, thought he "was worth it".

Before showing the video, Mr. Big had told the court that during the meeting, he tested the accused about "investigation hold-backs," details only the police knew about the crime, like the details about the victim's injuries.

On Thursday, April 28, the judge adjourned the case to Monday, May 1.



Commentary Gilles Gagné

An investigation that has been too long

A lot of Quebecers still wonder why the former premier of Quebec, Jean Charest, and the Liberal Party's main funding force, Marc Bibeau, didn't testify in front of the Charbonneau Commission in 2013-2014. The commission was charged to shed light regarding the links between the funding of political parties and public contract awarding in the construction sector.

The final report of the commission showed dissension between Judge France Charbonneau and commissioner Renaud Lachance, a former auditor general of the government with strong ties with the Liberal Party. Judge Charbonneau indicated that the links between contract awarding and political parties' funding were proven during the testimonies, while Mr. Lachance argued that they weren't.

Since the release of their report, seven people, five from the Liberal Party and two with ties to the Parti Québécois, were criminally charged in March 2016. The accusations go from fraud to breach of trust, including corruption and setting up deals. A liberal minister in the 1980s and the 1990s, Marc-Yvan Côté is one of the seven people accused, but so is the former vice-premier of Quebec, Nathalie Nor-

mandeau, and the former mayor of Gaspé, François Roussy.

Those people were not charged because of the Charbonneau Commission report but as a result of investigations conducted by UPAC, parallel work carried out by police officers.

While Marc-Yvan Côté's past is heavy, as he was banned for life by the Liberal Party of Canada following the Gomery Commission in 2006, a lot of people wonder who was pulling the strings of the Liberal Party of Quebec between 2003 and 2012, as Jean Charest when Quebec's premier.

Very few people, if any, believe that Nathalie Normandeau created the system that led UPAC into submitting a file to the department of Justice. That file led to the accusations laid against Mr. Côté, her, François Roussy and four more people.

We now learn that Jean Charest and Marc Bibeau were investigated on until 2016 by UPAC, the anti-corruption police unit. The source that fed the Journal de Montréal and led to the publication of a report on that topic remains unknown. However, it rejuvenates the suspicion regarding both men, mostly because nobody has released publicly the name of the people running the system that prompted the department of Justice into laying charges against Nathalie Normandeau and others.

Despite being cleared by the Charbonneau Commission report, Marc Bibeau remains suspected by a number of political observers. Some testimonies were incriminating. Georges Dick, a former president of RSW, an engineering company, affirmed Mr. Bibeau had warned him that he was powerful enough to influence the way Hydro-Québec was awarding its contracts, and he could favour the main contributors to

the Liberal Party.

A contractor, Paolo Catania, also swore that Marc Bibeau told him that construction site surveillance on Transports Québec contracts could be loosened up for contributors to the Liberal Party.

Jean Charest is also suspected by association, whether he knew or ignored what Marc Bibeau was doing. A premier is at least minimally responsible for the manoeuvres taking place in his or her party.

The information to the effect that Marc Bibeau and Jean Charest were still investigated on during 2016 can have a two-fold effect. It can come from frustrated investigators looking for a way to accelerate the last stage of the process, in an attempt to have somebody charged. It can trigger the opposite effect and lead both men, or whoever was pulling the strings at the Liberal Party, to remain on their toes.

One sure thing is that the whole affair represents a distraction, and probably more, for the government of Philippe Couillard. Half of his cabinet was part of Jean Charest's cabinet, people that were "forced" between 2003 and 2012 to function in a system where they had to raise \$100,000 for the party. That system led to rule abuse.

Parti Québécois leader Jean-François Lisée suggested calling Jean Charest and Marc Bibeau to testify in a parliamentary commission in order to shed light on the system that led charges being laid against Nathalie Normandeau. That suggestion is far from ideal. It would generate some kind of circus that would probably contaminate once and for all the UPAC investigation. At the same time, that investigation must come to an end. As time passes, useful evidence is probably disappearing. The line is fine here.

Guest Commentary:

Cynthia Dow

Playing in the dirt

Ah, spring! Snow disappearing, the scent of trees reappearing and mud, glorious mud!

I am a mud-lover! I love to feel it squelching up around my boots. I love the sucking, oozing sounds it makes. I love its earthy, tangy smell. I love taking my dog for long walks on muddy farmer's roads. The red clay of our farmlands around here is great for slip-sliding along!

When I was a kid, my brother Brad and I gloried in getting as dirty as possible. Thankfully we had a patient mother who didn't seem to mind! We ran in mud, we threw mud, we took our shoes off and let it squish up between our toes! If the day was decently warm, we would hose each other off before going in the house.

I'll make a confession right now: I sometimes still slip off my shoes or boots and get my feet into the mud. Nothing, but nothing feels better between the toes, not even sand at the beach! However, that red clay, when it dries, sure takes all the moisture out of your skin! A mud bath usually ends these days with intense scrubbing and moisturizing!

I still remember the joy of making mud pies with my childhood friend Heather. We used our doll dishes to form them and decorated them with dandelions and pretty leaves. Sometimes they were as intricate in design as the most fashionable of wedding cakes! They looked extremely tempting but, alas, we could not eat them!

Another thing I love at this time of year is making drains to channel the run-off. I have a wonderful spring brook at my home which likes to wander across my lawn. It is a sheer delight to get out there with a hoe and restore it to its proper bed.

Through many seasons of playing in the dirt, I have learned some important life lessons.

First lesson: even something beautiful can come out of the mess left behind after the winter! We should not dismiss what on the surface looks like something

disgusting as our creativity could well turn it into a real treasure!

Second lesson: interesting, isn't it, how water always takes the easiest way? No matter what it comes up against, rather than pushing and straining it simply looks for an easy alternative, blithely moves around the barrier, and hurries on its merry way. It doesn't dither about where or how it should go, it just flows freely and naturally and doesn't take offense.

Makes me wonder why we huff and puff about the barriers we face in everyday life: why don't we just find an easier way? Perhaps it is because we let our human egos guide us, and tell ourselves our pride is taking a beating, rather than changing our course gladly to follow the simple law of gravity.

Thirdly, I have learned that in returning my brook to its proper course, it is easier to dig the right channel deeper so that more water can follow it, rather than building up barriers to block the water that's wandering. In life as in digging drains, rather than building barriers perhaps we should focus our energies on what is already working, and make it better.

Enjoy the spring, fellow Gaspésians! Get out there and play in the dirt! And remember to create beauty out of the mess, surrender to insurmountable barriers, flow freely through your days, and focus on what's already working well!



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Letters to the Editor

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 friends.

Stephen Duguay,
Gaspé, Quebec.

SEPTIC TANKS:

Town of Gaspé says objectives were achieved

Geneviève Gélinas

GASPÉ: — The town of Gaspé is reporting positive results for its two first years of taking responsibility for emptying the septic tanks on its territory. All the cesspools were emptied for a little higher cost than expected, but that fee should decrease next year. Moreover, environmental contamination through poorly maintained tanks has decreased.

In 2015, the municipality decided to take charge of emptying septic tanks because the citizens were complaining about the price charged by the private sector, which was an average of \$413, taxes included. The standard to empty the tanks every two years wasn't respected and was posing an environmental risk, argues the town officials at the time.

In 2015 and 2016, a total of 2,701 tanks were emptied at a cost of \$277 per tank. The sludge was transported to disposal sites, partly in the Rocher-Percé MRC, and partly in Matane.

Year 2015 was a trial year, the municipality admits. Emptying operations began only at the end of July and only 924 tanks were emptied. Of those 924 tanks, 565 cases were considered urgent by the owners. Two employees and one truck were needed to do the job.

In 2016, the town of Gaspé had to make up for lost time and hired additional workers, rented a second truck and emptied 1,777 tanks.

The trial period is now over and 2017 should be a normal year, the town expects. To balance the work over two years and to serve the new construction, a total of 1,350 tanks should be emptied. One truck and two employees should be sufficient. The expected cost is \$236 per tank because of various savings.

"Our truck is designed to remove everything from the tank and then pour the water back in the tank," explains Jocelyn Villeneuve, Gaspé land-planning and environment director. For each tank, it means one cubic metre less liquid, a quantity that doesn't have to be transported and disposed of. In 2015 and 2016, the employees couldn't use that function. The tank's sludge was too thick, because

it wasn't emptied often enough.

Gaspé receives approximately \$437,000 per year from 3,500 owners for the service, but only 2,700 had their tanks emptied. Some of the other residences are older homes equipped with a sump that cannot be emptied. So in spite of a higher cost than expected, the town could accumulate a \$125,000 "cushion" in two years.

Mayor Daniel Côté remains on the cautious side when discussing the possibility of reducing the fees. "When I talk about an eventual rate cut, it is because we have a cushion. We'll adjust the rate depending on the real cost."

"We also believe that over time, people will install facilities conforming to standards. The number of 2,700 emptied tanks could increase," adds Mr. Villeneuve.

The fact is the town taking charge of the emptying tanks has resulted in "big environmental benefits," believes Mr. Villeneuve. "The large majority of the tanks hadn't been emptied every two years, sometimes not even every four years," he says. A septic tank which isn't emptied often enough can leak contaminants into the surrounding area.

People who want to continue having their tank emptied by a private company can get a credit for their \$125 tax fee by showing their emptying bill. In 2015, 76 people asked for a credit and 11 in 2016.

Gaspé is the only municipality of the region to have taken the responsibility for



Photo: G. Gélinas

Gaspé is the only municipality of the region to have taken the responsibility for emptying septic tanks.

emptying septic tanks but the Gaspé Coast is an exception. In 2013, in Québec, 57% of municipalities offered their citizens a septic emptying service.

Winter emptying

Gaspé Mayor, Daniel Côté, commented for the first time last week about the issue of winter emergency emptying at which costs \$1,000 or \$1,150 depending on the delay and time of day. A York resident, Lynnette McGregor, asked for an emergency emptying last December after her septic tank backed up in her basement. She complained about the 48 to 72 hour delay and the high cost. She finally contacted Plante Vacuum Trans-

port, a private company that emptied the tank for \$400.

"In a nice public relations game, the private sector can say anything," states Mayor Côté. "The winter bill we received (from the private sector) is very close to our bill," he adds.

If the private sector was to stop emptying tanks in the winter, "we're equipped to do it, but it's more expensive than from May to October," says Daniel Côté. "We shouldn't have many cases in the winter, because we emptied all the tanks."



PUBLIC NOTICE

ENACTMENT OF BY-LAW

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given:

- 1.- THAT at a meeting held on April 3, 2017, the Town Council has adopted by-law 1156-11-26 amending by-law 1156-11 by
 - « Modifiant les usages autorisés dans les zones AF-112 et AF-114 afin de permettre, comme usage spécifiquement permis dans cette zone, l'usage de carrière et sablière et afin d'assujettir cet usage au Règlement sur les usages conditionnels no 1172-12;
 - Agrandissant la zone C-208 à même une partie de la zone P-210, et ce, afin d'inclure le lot 3 147 530, cadastre du Québec à la zone C-208. »
- 2.- THAT by-law 1156-11-25 has been approved by the council of the regional county municipality La Côte-de-Gaspé, on April 12, 2017.
- 3.- THAT an assessment of conformity has been issued by the secretary-treasurer of the regional county municipality La Côte-de-Gaspé in respect of by-law 1156-11-25 on April 18, 2017.
- 4.- THAT by-law 1156-11-25 came into force on April 18, 2017, according to the Act respecting land use planning and development;
- 5.- THAT the interested can consult this by-law at the office of the town clerk, at the town hall, 25 rue de l'Hôtel-de-Ville, Gaspé, during regular office hours.

GIVEN at Gaspé, May 3th, 2017.

Isabelle Vézina
The Director of legal services and town clerk

You are cordially invited to take part in the launching of my cookbook "The Harvest."

This event will take place in the Cabaret of the Salle de Spectacle Desjardins in New Richmond on Thursday, May 11th at 7:00 p.m.

A cocktail will be offered by the Town of New Richmond.

The book is a collection of recipes that I have developed, using products that can be harvested from the natural abundance found in the Gaspésie. Some of these diverse natural plants, mushrooms and herbs can be used as vegetables, some as seasoning for a variety of foods, some to garnish the plates, or just to add flair to various dishes. Throughout the book, you will discover recipes for the preparation of wild meat obtained from feathered game and furbearing animals as well as recipes for wild berries and other delicacies. These recipes are the culmination of a lifetime.

Welcome everyone!
Bernard Dubé, author
418-392-4791



\$20,000 objective for the Gaspé Alzheimer Walk

Geneviève Gélinas

GASPÉ: – Megan McCallum, a 31-year-old Gaspé psychologist, is co-president of the Alzheimer Walk in Gaspé this year, along with Pierre Michaud, a former president and director general of the Regional Health and Social Services agency.

The Gaspé walk will take place on May 27 and aims at raising \$20,000 in order to offer services to Alzheimer's patients and their families. On May 28, there are walks planned in six other municipalities in the region, for a total objective of \$135,000.

Ms. McCallum is the daughter of businessman, Ron McCallum, and she has a personal and professional experience in dealing with Alzheimer's disease.

"My grandmother had early onset Alzheimer's in her fifties. I saw how the disease affects the person, but also her family. It was difficult to speak openly with her about the diagnosis. We just tried to enjoy her as she was, but to have been in contact with people like Gloria Chicoine (the Anglophone Alzheimer Society counsellor in Gaspé) would have made things easier, having a professional say 'that's normal and we have to adapt.'

As a psychologist, Ms. McCallum also works with caregivers in general, including those taking care of Alzheimer patients. "What I saw is that they have the same needs as we have. People talk openly about a heart attack, but not so openly about Alzheimer's. There's a sense of shame, because they lose their ability to do certain tasks, sometimes their personality or autonomy."

The Alzheimer Society services "help people connect," Ms. McCallum says. She recently gave a conference about "ambiguous loss", "when someone is physically present but psychologically absent." This happens with Alzheimer's disease. The fact that the patient's condition can change on a day to day basis makes this loss even more difficult to accept, she adds.

As for Pierre Michaud, he

visited one of his aunts who had Alzheimer's disease on a regular basis. "I was there when she died. It's difficult because people don't recognize you anymore. I had trouble accepting and understanding how a person can become so disconnected. It's sometimes more difficult for the relatives than for the sick person."

He emphasizes that the disease affects a significant part of the population. There are approximately 2,500 individuals who have Alzheimer's disease in the region and this figure is increasing.

Ms. McCallum and Mr. Michaud are conducting a six-week campaign in order to reach the objective of \$20,000. To help them, people can become elite walkers by committing to raise \$200. They can register with Anne Minville at (418) 368-1616. They can also conduct fundraising activities or support somebody who is already an elite walker.

People can also give money through the internet, on the www.alzheimer.ca website. They can click "Join the walk for Alzheimer's" and then on "Sponsor a walker", who can be Megan McCallum, Pierre Michaud or another elite walker.

The Gaspé Walk will take place at 7 p.m. on May 27, at the Gaspésie Museum. Walkers will go to the Canada's Birthplace site by the boardwalk and then return to the museum.

The Alzheimer Society Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine offers services to families and persons with Alzheimer's disease and related conditions. Those residing in Gaspé and the surrounding area can access a documentation centre, supported by telephone, as well as family and individual meetings and support groups. Anglophone counsellor, Gloria Chicoine, can be contacted at (418) 368-1616.

The money raised is used to help maintain those services. Other walks will take place the next day, on May 28, in Saint-François-d'Assise, Maria, New Carlisle, Chandler, Petite-Vallée and Sainte-Annes-des-Monts.



Photo: Philippe Metivier

A photography class was recently offered at the New Richmond Community Learning Centre.

Community Learning Centre offers photography classes

Jenna Boudreau

NEW RICHMOND: - The New Richmond High School CLC (Community Learning Centre) offered, under the instruction of professional photographer Philippe Metivier, a class to learn techniques and strategies of taking photos. Throughout the five weeks, Philippe discussed his career in photography and becoming a professional photographer in 2012. He has photographed multiple weddings, pregnancy and birthday photoshoots along with corporate photos. This was his first time teaching such a course.

The group of adults and students learned various techniques, including what settings to use, how to use lighting to enhance the subject and proper editing skills.

Philippe graciously offered to take and edit head shots for each student. It was fun to see people break out of their comfort zone and laugh while getting pictures taken. To obtain more information, please contact Philippe at contact@philmcreations.com.



Stories told by CLYDE MACWHIRTER
Interviewed by ALLISON LEGOUFFE DEA

Memories of a Young Man

Back when I was younger people were very poor. Those were hard times back then. For instance my mother used to get family allowance for us, a big \$6 a month!

To give you an idea of the poor times we had, I remember when we used to go skating. So Charles, Nelson and Curt and myself would all go back behind the barn to the pond and make a skating rink, we had no skates; so to make up for having no skates; we would put tin cans on our feet. Once you smashed the tin under your feet, it would mold to your boot and we used that for skates. Hard times for sure! People even made moonshine.

Times were different and kids worked harder than they do today. I grew up in Hope Town and at the time my homestead was across the road where my daughter Heather lives now.

Back then there was more snow than there is today. When I was young we had no snow suits, we just had long johns and pants to wear and the winters were colder then than they are now.

When I was about 12 or 13 years old, I used to cut firewood back on the 5th, back behind St. Godefroi. We had a huge woodlot which grew all

maple and birch trees. From that lot I would haul out our wood for the year.

I had to quit school when I was in grade 4 because my family depended on me to help out and that's what I did. School wasn't as important as helping your family get the work done. In the winter I would get up around 3:00 in the morning, feed the horses, and get ready and by 5:00 am, I was on the snow trail with the horses.

It was so cold in the mornings that instead of sitting on the sleigh, I would walk behind the horse to keep warm, and I would do the same on the way out.

When I would arrive back to the woodlot on the 5th, there were lots of people cutting including Everett McGie, Glen Carney, Eric MacWhirter, Syd Ross, and Harold Ross to name a few.

All the gang used to go and cut back there. There used to be 40-45 horse teams going back on the road to cut wood. So with all those horses passing through, the road was smooth as silk, and that was my job every year.

The times and children were different back then.



Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



I shall call him Squishy

"I shall call him Squishy and he shall be mine and he shall be my Squishy," from Finding Nemo

Memories of childhood days at the beach include poking beached jellyfish with a stick. Children are curiously fascinated by things that are gross and gruesome. So, we would poke away and scream, "Ewwwhhh!" and sometimes chase each other with the gelatinous creature on the stick. Please take note that the jellyfish was previously deceased - all part of a hot summer's day on a Gaspesian beach.

The jellyfish is a creature that inspires fear and fascination for swimmers in the salt water of the bay. It turns out that jellyfish in their habitat are beautiful, majestic organisms. Jellyfish are composed of 98% water and can be found in just about every ocean on this planet. They have been living here much longer than humans - about 500 million years. They usually appear clear, almost transparent with a body that is shaped like an umbrella. In some countries jellyfish are a source of food. Some jellyfish are used to make a treatment for arthritis.

When great numbers of jellyfish get together they are referred to as a swarm or a bloom of jellyfish. These blooms can contain up to 100,000 jellyfish. They move through the water partly by weak pulsations but are mostly carried by the tides and the movements of the water. They are passive animals who literally "go with the flow."

There are male and female jellyfish and the male normally fertilizes the eggs when they are floating in the water. At first the young jellyfish is referred to as a polyp which looks like a little stalk with tentacles that face upwards. At this point the polyp lives on the seabed or attaches to the bottoms of boats, buoys or even plankton. They are teeny, just a few millimetres in size. In the next stage of their development, the teeny polyps produce even tinier jellyfish that swim away. Survival is not guaranteed.

Survival is difficult when you have so many predators. First, jellyfish eat other jellyfish. Hey! You creatures! What about survival of the species? Fish, crabs, lobster and shrimp love to dine on a squishy jellyfish. Even seabirds will feed on a jellyfish that is near the surface. Jellyfish do not live long - normally just a few months.

If you have been stung by a jellyfish, it is something that you will remember. It can be an unpleasant, sometimes painful experience. Beware - a beached jellyfish can still sting! If you are stung, wash the area with vinegar or a paste made with baking soda and water. If it is still bothersome, take an antihistamine such as Benadryl.

There is a movement afoot to change the name of the jellyfish. Why? This is because they are not fish at all. The new suggested name for the jellyfish is... (drum roll) ...jellies or sea jellies. By the same logic starfish would become seastars? My thinking is that some things are best left as they are.

If you want to see jellyfish at their best, go to YouTube and you can see loads including one shot under the waters of the Bay of Chaleur (Scuba Baie des Chaleurs, out-ardes201).

It is a different world under these waters. much more dignified for a jellyfish than being waved around on a stick.



Photo: Courtesy of CASA

CASA hosts initiative to help organizations

Melissa Horsman, Project coordinator, CASA

SHIGAWAKE: - On April 20, CASA organized a Collaboration, Awareness and Promotion Day in Shigawake. The event was part of a year-long initiative aimed at assisting community organizations located between Hope and Port Daniel in developing strategies to ensure their sustainability. Many fantastic ideas for collaboration and to strengthen the community were discussed by the group of "super-volunteers." CASA is excited to support these organizations as they move forward.



Employment Opportunity Sales Manager

The Gaspé Spec newspaper is looking to hire a self-driven, results-oriented and ambitious person to fill the position of **Sales Manager**.

JOB OVERVIEW

The role of the Sales Manager is tactically critical to our revenues in the short, medium and long-term. With an emphasis on maximizing revenues the Sales Manager will be responsible for creating and executing comprehensive sales strategies, as well as managing existing advertising projects.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES AND ACCOUNTABILITIES

- Develop and deliver an advertising sales strategy for The Gaspé Spec.
- Set a strategy in place for delinquent accounts.
- Ensure all advertising revenue streams are maximized.
- To achieve targeted revenues and yields for The Gaspé Spec by maximizing the revenue generated from existing clients, while developing new advertising clients.
- Develop a plan to deal with delinquent accounts.
- Ensure that co-workers have a clear grasp of the strategies in place, commitments and implication in regards to delivery.
- Manage communications with client representatives regarding implementation, trafficking strategy, data analysis, creative strategy and campaign performance
- Positively and tidily maintain effective sales administration including: client record, order confirmations, sales resources, letters and proposals.
- Proactively communicate with your team and management information relating to customer developments, competitor activity, marketplace changes, and lost or gained accounts.
- Other ad hoc duties as required.
- Comply with Spec's standards and policies.

To deliver on these objectives and fulfil your job role, you need to have mastered and consistently demonstrated the following core competencies:

PERFORMANCE FOCUS

- Have a clear and measurable advertising strategy for The Gaspé Spec and ensure that the sales, publishing and editorial team have all understood and bought into the strategy.
- Deliver accurate forecasts as requested by management.
- Ensure your team has sales-packs, deadlines, rates, etc. and are able to use them effectively.
- Have a positive attitude and be a leadership example to the sales team.

KEY SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Proven experience in sales both on the phone and face-to-face.
- Experience working with expected targets and results.
- Ability to generate significant forward bookings.
- Team player, who will encourage team targets.
- Strong negotiating skills.
- Effective communication skills and confident telephone manner.
- Must be able to respect deadlines.

JOB REQUIREMENTS:

- Fluently bilingual English and French, spoken and written.
- Preference will be given to candidates with a CEGEP or University degree.
- Own a vehicle and be able to travel occasionally between Matapedia and Gaspé.

LOCATION: 128 Gerard D. Levesque, New Carlisle

SALARY: 8-week contract with possibility of renewal, \$18/hour, 32.5 hours/week.

Please send your resumé to: specs@globetrotter.net or 128 Gerard D. Levesque, New Carlisle, QC, G0C 1Z0. **Please indicate the job title of the job you are applying for. Application deadline is May 15, 4 p.m.**

*Call 418-752-5400 for further inquiries.

David Suzuki to visit New Richmond

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND: – Doctor David Suzuki, famous Canadian scientist, environmentalist and broadcaster, will come to New Richmond on June 23 in order to make a presentation called “Be inspired”. His visit stems from exchanges initiated last fall by Manjula Karunaratne of Immersion Baie-des-Chaleurs, the language school.

The town of New Richmond is an important partner in that event, providing some funding and allowing the usage of their space. The municipal administration will also be available to participate in the organizational steps.

“I simply wrote that letter in June. I didn’t receive any reply. So I wrote a second letter in September. I received an email in November from his office mentioning that ‘he accepts’. It was not complicated,” explains Manjula Karunaratne, who also organized the visit of Bea Johnson, “Ms. Zero Waste”, in July 2016.

Four additional presentations will be made the same evening at the New Richmond concert hall, adjacent to the town hall.

Kevin Davies will make a presentation about his busi-



Photo: Immersion Baie des Chaleurs

Doctor David Suzuki, the famous Canadian scientist, environmentalist and broadcaster, will make a presentation in New Richmond on June 23.

ness, Hop Compost. He is from Calgary and owns two companies, one of them makes compost from food recuperated in

posh restaurants.

The Collinsworth sisters, Hayley and Bree, from Thunder Bay, will introduce their

company, Ungalli Clothing. They make recyclable clothes.

A couple based in Quebec, Julie Poitras-Saulnier and David Côté, who make juice from fruits and vegetables will present their products: Jus Loop, Rise Kombucha and Crudessence.

Nathalie Drapeau, director general of the Percé Rock MRC Centre de tri (recycling centre) located in Grand River, will also make a presentation about some of the innovative actions undertaken by the organization.

The mayor of New Richmond, Éric Dubé, expresses enthusiasm regarding the initiative taken on by Manjula Karunaratne and her team.

“It fits with the town’s objectives, considering that we have a sustainable development policy, adopted in 2011. Moreover, we are in the process of updating our policy. Our councillor, François Bujold, is supposed to put the final touch on that update in the coming months,” says Mr. Dubé.

He points out that “sustainable development is about answering present needs without compromising future generations’ capacity to answer theirs.”

Manjula Karunaratne con-

firms that David Suzuki will be in the area on vacation with his family. “He intends to make stops in Gesgapegiag and Bonaventure Island. He also wants to go to Anticosti Island and Sept-Îles.”

She adds that some partners are joining her private initiative, such as the Avignon, Bonaventure and Percé Rock MRCs, Caisses Desjardins and CIRADD (the Carleton Cegep’s research centre on sustainable development). The project is a \$35,000 initiative.

All about Dr. Suzuki

David Suzuki holds a doctorate degree in zoology from the University of Chicago. He graduated in 1961. He was a professor of genetics at the University of British Columbia between 1963 and 2001. In the mid-1970s, he started a second career as a television and radio host of science-oriented series and documentaries. He is mainly known for his participation in CBC Television’s *The Nature of Things*, broadcasted in more than 40 countries.

He is also a critic of governments for their lack of action in environment protection.

Cont'd on page 9



TOURISM
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DU TOURISME *Gaspésie*

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cedec.ca

May 23, Gaspé

Training Session
“Digital Marketing”
Jonathan Nicolas



Conference
“Demographics of the English-speaking Community: How to Use Data to Build the Tourism Industry”



Mi'gmaq Evening
Aboriginal tourism projects



May 24, Gaspé

Conference
“Cruiseship Destinations”
Amy Powers
CruiseMaineUSA

Workshop Blocks
Various topics throughout the afternoon

Concert-Action Evening
Local Tourism



May 25, Percé

Conference
“Marketing Canada
Nationally and Internationally”



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Canada This project is funded in part by the Enabling Fund for Official Language Minority Communities and the Official Languages Economic Development Initiative of the Government of Canada.

Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions Développement économique Canada pour les régions du Québec



For more information: Dominic Lemyre | 888-641-9912 | dominic.lemyre@cedec.ca

Fibre optic will be available in Gaspé

Geneviève Gélinas

GASPÉ: – Within a month, 97% of Gaspé homes and businesses will have access to fibre optics. Telus is investing \$5 million to upgrade the capacity of its internet and cellular network in the municipal limits of the town.

Over the last few weeks, Gaspé residents may have noticed Telus and Telus subcontractors working on the wires. “We started in Gaspé one month ago. Cap-des-Rosiers and Rivière-au-Renard are already available for sales. We still need four weeks for everything to be opened,” says Clément Audet, Telus vice-president, consumers’ market.

A few months are still needed for every Telus customer to be connected. Telus customers can expect technicians to knock at their door to equip their house with fiber optics. If they don’t see them, they can stop by the new Telus store on Gaspé Boulevard.

The multiplication of electronic devices in Gaspesian homes and the growing transfer of pictures and movies made it necessary to install fibre optics, says Mr.



Photo: G. Gélinas

For a few weeks, Gaspé residents have been seeing the trucks and workers of Telus and its subcontractors working on the wires.

Audet.

“We won’t have network capacity limitation anymore. The decision will be made by the customer, depending on what he wants and how much money he wants to spend (...). If you want to watch six TVs at the same time, you will be able to,” he illustrates.

The basic internet service will remain at the same price, approximately \$40, but its speed will be 100 megabits per second rather than 15 megabits per second.

Gaspé mayor, Daniel Côté, is satisfied with the fact that 97% of the municipality’s households, as well as the three industrial parks, will soon be connected with fibre optics.

“Until now, the cost of connection was very high for a company who did want to develop its business,” he says. Before the upgrading, a business had to pay many thousands of dollars just to get a fibre optics connection, the mayor states.

Cellphones included

Telus will change the equipment of its Gaspé antennas transmitting the cellular signal. All three antennas will be equipped with the LTE (long term evolution) standard system, which will increase the capacity of the cellular network. “At the end of September, there will be LTE wherever there’s a cellular signal,” Clément Audet states.

\$30 million on the Gaspé

In 2017 on the Gaspé Peninsula, Telus will invest \$30 million to connect Gaspé, Cap-Chat, Causapsal, Nouvelle, Percé, Sayabec and Val-Brillant. “We’ll probably be more present in the Bay of Chaleur area next year,” says Mr. Audet. Presently, 40% of Gaspesians have an access to fiber optics.

Elsewhere, Telus is investing \$100 million this year in Eastern Québec, that is to say on the Gaspé, in the Lower St. Lawrence and on the North Shore. About 10% of that amount comes from the “Connecting Canadians” program, which provides financial aid for connecting less populated sectors.

SUZUKI:

▶ Cont'd from page 8

He is a long-time advocate of the necessity to reverse global climate change. He co-founded the David Suzuki Foundation in 1990 “to find ways for society to live in balance with the natural world that does sustain us.”

The Foundation puts emphasis on oceans, sustainable fishing, climate change, clean energy, sustainability and David Suzuki’s Nature Challenge. The foundation also works on ways to help protect the oceans from large oil spills such as the April 2010 oil spill triggered in the Gulf of Mexico by the Deepwater Horizon oil rig. Doctor Suzuki has also served as a director of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association for five years, starting in 1982.

He was awarded the Right Livelihood Award in 2009. The *Legacy*, a book he released in 2011, won the Nautilus Book Award. He is a Companion of the Order of Canada. In 2004, David Suzuki ranked fifth on the list of final nominees in a CBC television series that asked viewers to select the Greatest Canadian of all time. He was the only top finalist still alive.

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Participants will present their entrepreneurial ideas and you will be able to vote for your favorite projects.

The participants are from elementary and secondary schools.

You are invited to come to the gymnasium at the C.-E.- Pouliot on Saturday May 6, 2017 from 12:00 to 3:00pm.

Partners :

CASA, Complice, GASPÉ, CEDEC, MRC DE LA CÔTE-DE-GASPÉ, Desjardins, Ville de Gaspé, Commission scolaire des Chic-Chocs, Hydro Québec

New regional initiative for children and families in the Gaspé and Magdalen Islands

Press release

NEW CARLISLE: - Following months of planning and collaboration, CASA, the Council for Anglophone Magdalen Islanders (CAMI) and Vision Gaspé-Percé Now recently launched Bright Beginnings - a new regional program developed to support English-speaking children ages 0 to 5 and their families residing in the Gaspé and Magdalen Islands.

Bright Beginnings is the result of research carried out by the Regional Committee for Early Childhood Development which was established by CASA to examine the situation of English-speaking children in the region. The study highlighted that the socioeconomic status of the community and a lack of access to services that help to promote their well-being and development, particularly when developing cognitive and motor skills essential to literacy and learning, contribute to a challenging start in life for many children.

According to research, 36% of English-speaking 0 to 5 year olds in the Gaspé and Magdalen Islands live in single parent families, as compared to 15.3% of Francophone children. When looking at the parent's age group of 25 to 44, English-speaking individuals have low education attainment (49.4%) which is substantially greater than Francophones of the same age (36.1%). They face an unemployment rate of 27.2% which greatly exceeds the proportion of unemployed French speakers at 11.1%, and have a greater tendency to live on an income of less than \$20,000 when compared to French speakers (39.2% compared to 22.3%). These factors and a lack of access to services in English can contribute to a challenging start in life for many children in English-speaking families.

The committee has created a three-year action plan aimed at ensuring that children ages 0 to 5 have early learning opportunities and strengthened families for lifelong success. A series of workshops, activities and learning events in English has been created and will be offered throughout the region in partnership with various organizations such as Family Ties, Santé-Jeunesse, Baie-des-Chaleurs active et en santé and others.

According to Howard Miller, Director General of Eastern Shores School Board, this program is an important asset for the community. He states that "as 14 of 16 ESSB schools are designated as *milieu défavorisé*, a significant percentage of our families would benefit from outside-the-home assistance-and-sup-

port programs that help to better prepare their children for entry into our schools. This type of timely initiative can only increase the odds for our students' long term success in literacy and numeracy."

Further information on the program and upcoming events can be found on the Bright Beginnings GMI facebook page.

The Gaspé Spec Employment Opportunity Canada Summer Jobs Student

The Gaspé Spec newspaper is looking to hire a self-driven, results-oriented and ambitious person to fill the position of **Summer Entertainment Columnist**.

JOB OVERVIEW

The role of the Summer Entertainment Columnist is to write a weekly entertainment column. With an emphasis on capturing the unique atmosphere found on the Gaspé during the summer, the columnist will be responsible for executing all steps involved in forming a column.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES AND ACCOUNTABILITIES

- Research, write, edit and layout a minimum of one column per week.
- Promote the column.
- Ensure the column is original, interesting and targeted at Spec readers.
- Ensure a good working relationship between Spec and local organizations/municipalities.
- Represent Spec at local events and activities.
- Report any sales opportunities to the Sales Manager.
- Contribute to the database of photos for the 2018 Tourist Guide.
- Proactively communicate with your team and management.
- Other ad hoc duties as required.
- Comply with Spec's standards and policies.

To achieve these objectives and fulfil your job role, you need to have an aptitude in the following core competencies:

PERFORMANCE FOCUS

- Be organized, able to develop a timeline, follow it and meet deadlines.
- Deliver information accurately with a focus on presentation.
- Work well with your team, sharing information and leads.
- Able to follow an expected target and results approach.

KEY SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Have an aptitude for writing.
- Have a positive attitude, enjoy trivia and current affairs.
- Work well with others.
- Strong English grammar skills.
- Effective communication skills and confident telephone manner.
- Must be able to respect deadlines.

JOB REQUIREMENTS:

- Must be between 15 and 30 years of age, registered as a full-time student during the past school year and be registered to return on a full-time basis during the next academic year.
- Must have excellent written English
- Bilingualism is an asset
- Be knowledgeable about happenings on the Gaspé
- Must be able to occasionally work evenings or weekends
- Must have a driver's licence and access to a vehicle.

LOCATION: 128 Gerard D. Levesque, New Carlisle

DURATION: 8 weeks (start and end dates are flexible)

SALARY: \$11.25/hour, 35 hours/week.

Please send your resume to: specs@globetrotter.net or 128 Gerard D. Levesque, New Carlisle, QC, G0C 1Z0. **Please indicate the title of the job for which you are applying. Application deadline is May 22, 4 p.m.**

*Call 418-752-5400 for further inquiries.

Bright Beginnings

Bright Beginnings is an early childhood learning program developed by the Regional Committee for Early Childhood Development to ensure that children ages 0 to 5, residing in the Gaspé and Magdalens Islands, have early learning opportunities and strengthened families for lifelong success.

This is the logo which will be used to promote activities for children and to familiarize families with the program.



The Gaspé Spec Employment Opportunity Canada Summer Jobs Student

The Gaspé Spec newspaper is looking to hire a self-driven, results-oriented and ambitious person to fill the position of **"Local Travel" Columnist**.

JOB OVERVIEW

The role of the "Local Travel" Columnist is to write a weekly column as if experiencing a certain Gaspesian town for a day. With an emphasis on capturing the atmosphere of those towns, the columnist will be responsible for executing all steps involved in forming a column.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES AND ACCOUNTABILITIES

- Research, write, edit and layout a minimum of one column per week.
- Promote the column.
- Ensure the column is original, interesting and targeted at Spec readers.
- Ensure a good working relationship between Spec and local organizations/municipalities.
- Represent Spec at local events and activities.
- Report any sales opportunities to the Sales Manager.
- Contribute to the database of photos for the 2018 Tourist Guide.
- Proactively communicate with your team and management.
- Other ad hoc duties as required.
- Comply with Spec's standards and policies.

To achieve these objectives and fulfil your job role, you need to have an aptitude in the following core competencies:

PERFORMANCE FOCUS

- Be organized, able to develop a timeline, follow it and meet deadlines.
- Deliver information accurately with a focus on presentation.
- Work well with your team, sharing information and leads.
- Able to follow an expected target and results approach.

KEY SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Have an aptitude for writing.
- Have a positive attitude, interest in the tourism industry and a good knowledge of the geography of the Gaspé.
- Work well with others.
- Strong English grammar skills.
- Effective communication skills and confident telephone manner.
- Must be able to respect deadlines.

JOB REQUIREMENTS:

- Must be between 15 and 30 years of age, registered as a full-time student during the past school year and be registered to return on a full-time basis during the next academic year.
- Must have excellent written English
- Bilingualism is an asset
- Be knowledgeable about Gaspesian tourist attractions
- Must be able to occasionally work evenings or weekends
- Must have a driver's licence and access to a vehicle.

LOCATION: 128 Gerard D. Levesque, New Carlisle

DURATION: 8 weeks (start and end dates are flexible)

SALARY: \$11.25/hour, 35 hours/week.

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*Call 418-752-5400 for further inquiries.



Photo: G. Gagné

The Parc de la Gaspésie remains an important drawing card for winter tourism.

An increase in visitors during the 2016-2017 winter

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND: – The abundant snow and continued promotion of the Gaspé Peninsula yielded good results for the winter of 2016-2017, according to the Regional Tourism Association.

According to Joëlle Ross, director general of the Regional Tourism Association, the statistics available show that the reservations for the inns that were open all winter increased by 3% in November, 5% in December and 4% in January,

“During the 2015-2016 winter, 35,000 visitors came to the region, essentially snowmobilers, and cross-country and downhill skiers. The spinoffs amounted to \$40 million. With the numbers available now, we know that this year was better. We don’t have the final results but we know that February

and March were also good, similar to the beginning of the winter,” points out Ms. Ross.

She adds that the Regional Tourism Association numbers are based on a relatively wide sample of businesses taking winter reservations. “Waiting for Tourisme-Québec is long. We have been collecting data since 2013-2014,” she mentions, adding that winter data sampling is easier to assess because there are fewer accommodations open during the winter.

“We obtain numbers for the total of ‘people-night’ stays and we also get the money linked to the lodging tax (a \$3 per night tax used to replenish a regional promotion fund) paid by visitors on a per night basis,” states Joëlle Ross.

“We know that the Chic-Shack Inn reservations were very good this winter. We

also know that Pin rouge and Val d’Irène had a good season. They draw a lot of people from the Maritimes,” she explains.

As for the spinoffs, Joëlle Ross adds that it is relatively easy to calculate. “We know that snowmobilers spend close to \$1,000 per day,” she says.

While spinoffs from the winter tourist season reached about \$40 million in the Gaspé Peninsula for 2015-2016, the total spinoffs for 2015 amounted to \$260 million and \$309 million in 2016. The number of visitors totalled 650,000 in 2015 and 762,000 in 2016, “an exceptional year,” points out Ms. Ross.

It is a bit early to make predictions for 2017 but she emphasizes that some accommodations “have a higher number of reservations than last year. Some weeks are already booked.”

NUISANCES

Lorraine Blais - Fabien Boulanger - Denis Brodeur - Jean-Guy Chavarie
Iara Lacasse Cotton - Diane Annett Dorion - Kathy Kennedy - Noah Kennedy
Fred Kraenzel - Daniel Mace - Debbie Patterson - Patricia Turbid



Comédie écrite par / Comedy written by Lorraine Blais - Fred Kraenzel - Patricia Turbid
Mise en scène, scénographie, musique originale / Stage direction, scenography, original music by Danièle Rouleau

Nuisances to be performed at Holy Name Hall

Wendy Dawson

NEW RICHMOND: - Comedy is brewing in Douglas-town. For three days in May, the theatre group in Douglas-town will be putting on a bilingual play entitled *Nuisances*. The play written by Lorraine Blais, Fred Kraenzel and Patricia Turbid is a follow-up to the group’s first play entitled “*Desperados* and focuses on the life of the occupants of the Shamrock Seniors’ Residence.

The play, which is delivered simultaneously in English and in French, reflects on the lives and adventures of the senior Gaspesian residents described as having some “strong” personalities. Fred Kraenzel, who in addition to being one of the writers is also an actor in the play, explains that the bilingual

formula works rather well. “The play is half in English and half in French. Sometimes we will use repetition to make sure some things are better communicated but for the most part everything seems to be well understood.”

Danielle Rouleau finds herself directing the yet unnamed theatre group for the second time. Ms. Rouleau who also composed the original music for the production says that a play with 13 actors presents its challenges, however *Nuisances* has been in preparation for over 20 months now and the group is ready to take the stage.

The play will be performed on May 26, 27 and 28. More information can be obtained by contacting Holy Name Hall in Douglas-town.



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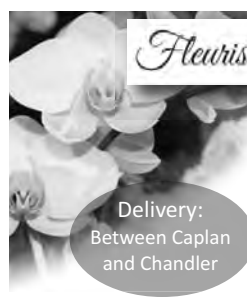
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In Memory



BILLINGSLEY: Albert (1923 - 1982)

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*Always so good, unselfish and kind,
None on this earth your equal I'll find.
Honourable and true in all your ways,
Loving and faithful to the end of your days.
Honest and liberal, ever upright,
Just in your judgement, always right.
Loved by your friends and all who you knew,
One in a million, that husband was you.
Thirty-five years have passed, our hearts still sore,
As time rolls on we miss you more.
A loving father, tender and kind,
What beautiful memories you left behind.*

Always loved and missed by wife Constance daughters Cynthia and Landis, sons Todd, Jan, Richard, John, George and families.

BOURGAIZE: Nelson

In loving memory of a dear father, grandfather and great-grandfather who passed away April 29, 1985.

*Silent thoughts of our time together,
Special memories that will last forever,
Each of us in our own special way,
Remember you with love today.*

Forever in our hearts and sadly missed by Dolly, Merle, Clayton (Eleanor) Lennox, Eunice, Bradford (Shirley) and families.

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Sharon Howell

GASPE NEWS

Hello, everyone. How amazing is it that four months have already passed in this year! We are all still putting up with the snow in our delightful part of the world and, no, we don't want to hear about the heat in yours. For our birdwatching friends, it is great to see the return of the robins, the juncos, and many others in the spring varieties. Here's to wishing you all well. This is what has been going on here.

Recent events and news

Over a period of approximately one month, Mrs. Rowena and Mr. Howard Gallichan were very pleased to have had all their children and some of their grandchildren come for a visit. Daughter Iona, who is married to Hubert Kelly, lives in Fort St. John, BC. Iona and her daughter Cheryl had quite the air travel adventure and finally had to drive from Quebec City to Gaspé. Son Ronny and his wife Hazel Clark travelled by car from Elliott Lake, ON. They were here when his brother Ray from Regina, SK; his sister Janet; and his son Conrad from Cambridge area in Ontario were also visiting. Rowena and Howard's son Francis from Kamloops also travelled by plane but he didn't have the adventure that some of his siblings experienced. Francis extended his stay by two weeks which allowed him the opportunity to see all of his siblings and to be a great caregiver to his mom and to visit his dad every day. Their other children: Eric, Ann and her husband Con, Ann's twin Andrew and his daughter Cassandra who is a nurse, and her fiancé Tyler along with Rowena & Howard's grandson Conrad drove to Gaspé from Cambridge. There were four drivers in their group who shared the driving and the others took turns keeping the driver company. Peggy who lives in Cambridge and her daughter Melissa from Lethbridge, AB, and Gail who lives in Summerland, BC, were also here together for a week. Nicky travelled by plane from Victoria. He was able to spend time with most of his siblings for a week. Nicky and Gail flew out of Gaspé together on their return journeys. Mr. Howard is now in residence at Mgr. Ross, aka "the San." He is being well looked after there. Mrs. Rowena goes to see him most afternoons. Should you have some time, Mr. Howard is on the third floor. He enjoys having visitors and he loves to chat. Their family members have all returned to their homes and some will soon be returning for another visit. They have great children who love and respect their parents.

Marguerite and Dennis Palmer's son, Stevie, was home recently from Toronto for his spring visit. I guess considering how much snow we had this year and that there wasn't too much in his area, this could have been his winter vacation instead of a spring one. His folks look forward to his visits and they are always so happy to have him home.

On Wednesday, April 12th, a number of volunteers met at the San to help transport the English patients to a communion service in the chapel on the fourth floor. The Rev. Douglas Johnson led the service and, with assistance by Vernice Dumaresq, gave communion to as many of the congregants as were able to receive it. Norma McDonald and Dale Baird provided the much appreciated music before, during, and following the service. After the service, everyone was given ice cream while Norma and Dale provided the lively music. The patients and their families appreciate

that this service is available once a month. A few times during the year the volunteers and the organizers provide the patients with a little party and some special treats and/or gifts. Thank you to all the volunteers who give very generously of their time at these events.

Our dear sweet and often times silly Dawn Eden had her birthday earlier in the month. However, she stayed in Murdochville that weekend so her mother, Helen Howell, invited the family in for a brunch on Saturday, April 8th. Miss Dawn was wearing the cutest outfit and looking fabulous while she was cooking the scrambled eggs. Our Dawn may not be recognizable to many people as she has undergone a great change in her physical appearance since a year ago in January. She feels and looks wonderful. She is also doing very well in her job at a wind park in Murdochville. Her employer recognizes and appreciates her business skills and to express their confidence in her they have recently given her new responsibilities which, as most everyone knows, usually includes an increased workload. Congratulations, Dawn on all of your achievements and promotions. You're an awesome gal.

Debbie and Hayden Sams have recently returned from a great holiday in Arizona. While they were there visiting with Marketha and David Letemplier a number of other Gaspesians, Ellie and Brice McDonald, Dale Miller, daughter Dawn, and his wife Joan Lucas as well as Rebecca Robertson and her husband Frank Sams also joined in the fun activities. On their return trip they stopped over in Ottawa to visit with some of their family members.

The York River Seniors' Group continues with its busy schedule of activities including darts and curling, walking at least once a week in the mornings and line dancing on Saturdays which they then put their expertise to work at their frequent dances. They also host 500 card parties and military whist card parties once a month. In between these activities they also have a bingo or a supper or a meet and greet afternoon. Most of their activities are held in the York River Community Hall which is very well used and very much appreciated. Their recent AGM resulted in the following executive members: Tony Patterson, President; Clothilda Adams, Vice-President; Ron Mundle, Secretary; Ron Eden, Treasurer; Alfred Cassidy, Director; Albert Patterson, Director; Elaine Coull, Director; Vernice Dumaresq, Director; Sandra Leggo, Director; Ann Fournier, Director; and Andy Patterson, Director. Current membership is at 276. Thank you very much to the executive for their hard work in making this one of the best seniors' groups around. It seems hard to believe that so many of us are now seniors but it is indeed a great time in our lives. These organizations really make a big difference in seniors' lives and provide the much needed social life. If there is a seniors' group in your area and you are not part of it, it might be worth checking out. You'll probably meet someone else there from Gaspé - they are everywhere.

(To be continued next week)

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COAST ROUND-UP

GASPÉ:

Bake Sale

A bake sale will be held at Carrefour Gaspé on **Friday, May 12**, beginning at 9 a.m. Tickets will be sold on two gift baskets. Draw at the end of the day. All proceeds will go to Fort Haldimand Camp. Bake sale organized by Parish of Gaspé Anglican Church and the Parish of All Saints by the Sea Anglican Church of Malbaie.

WAKEHAM:

Advance notice

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

BARACHOIS:

Legion Branch 261 Bingo

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

BARACHOIS:

Notice to all descendants of the Channel Islands

Descendants of the Channel Islands are invited to the Barachois Legion on **Tuesday, May 9**, at 2 p.m. to celebrate the Liberation of Channel Islands from German Occupation during WWII. Two surviving members from that period will be present. There will be a short presentation on large "Ocean Going" ships that were built in the Malbaie area.

BARACHOIS:

Bingo

The next Bingo at the Barachois Recreation Centre will be on **Friday, May 12**, at 7 p.m. More than \$500 to be won!

PORT DANIEL:

Upcoming Events

The Three Star Golden Age Club will be holding the following event at their building: **Saturday, May 13:** Mother's Day Tea, admission \$6, 12 noon to 2 p.m.

SHIGAWAKE:

Cookbooks for sale

The Marcil Branch W.I. has a cookbook that would make a perfect gift. The cost is \$12 per book 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:

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 and 50/50. Welcome all and bring your friends to Shigawake Community Centre across from the Anglican Church.

SHIGAWAKE:

SPDS Governing Board Meeting

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

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.

SHIGAWAKE:

Strawberry Social Advance Notice

Marcil Branch W.I. will be holding their Annual Strawberry

Social on Saturday, **July 29** from 12 - 2 p.m. Entrance: \$7. Children 6 and under free. There will be a 50/50 and door prizes. Everyone welcome. Bring your friends. For further info call Audrey Dea at 418-752-8152

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:

Bible Chapel Services

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

NEW CARLISLE:

Monthly breakfast and Annual General Meeting

The New Carlisle 50+ Club will be holding their monthly breakfast on **Wednesday, May 10**, at 9 a.m. at the Heritage Restaurant. The AGM will take place at the same time and location.

NEW CARLISLE:

Variety Show

The NCHS Home and School brings you "A good old Gaspesian Variety Show" on **Friday, May 5**, at New Carlisle High School, 7 p.m. \$5 entry fee. Toe-tapping music for all ages. Bring a friend and enjoy an evening out. Door prize, canteen service and a 50/50 for added fun.

NEW CARLISLE:

Funeral Association AGM

The Annual General Meeting for the New Carlisle Funeral Association will be held on **Tuesday, May 23**, at 1 p.m. at the Town Hall.

NEW CARLISLE:

Life Association Upcoming Activities

Saturday, May 6: Mothers' Day Tea at New Carlisle Town Hall, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. \$5 per person.

Saturday, June 10: Bingo at the Royal Canadian Legion in New Carlisle at 7 p.m. \$10 per series or 3/\$20.

NEW CARLISLE:

Mussel Supper

The New Carlisle Legion will hold a mussel supper on **Saturday, May 6**, starting at 5 p.m. Cost is \$15 per person. All are welcome

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. beginning in March 2017. 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

Friday, May 5: Evening of Music. "The Little River Band," and other musicians will be having an evening of music and songs at St-Andrew's United Church in New Richmond at 7 p.m. A free- will offering will be taken. Everyone welcome!

Friday, July 21: Strawberry Social

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

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.

Rotary Calendar Winners

The winners for the week of April 16 are: Roger Goulet, Diane Loubert, Donna Marsh, Elisa Landry, Mario Cyr, Martin Audet and Gérard Cayouette.

The winners for the week of April 23 are: Jules Cyr, Gerry Murphy, Aurele Loubert, Louise Bourque, Mona Leblanc, Eileen St.-Onge, Christian Cyr.

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UNITED CHURCH

Sunday, May 7

New Carlisle 10:30 a.m.

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

Sunday, May 7

New Carlisle

10 a.m. Morning Prayer

Hopetown

9 a.m. Eucharist

Shigawake

11 a.m. Eucharist

PARISH OF GASPE

Sunday, May 7

Sandy Beach

9 a.m. Service

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On the lighter side



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HOROSCOPES

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

You can only procrastinate for so long, Aries. Soon enough this will catch up with you, so it's best to start addressing your to-do list as soon as possible.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

Your patience will boil over this week if you do not find a way to let off steam, Taurus. Exercise may be just what you need, so schedule some time to work out.

GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, speak up and share your opinion this week. Others will appreciate your straightforwardness. Explain your point of view in detail and others will see where you are coming from.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, you wear your heart on your sleeve, and those closest to you will be able to figure out what is going on in your head. Accept their support when it is offered.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23

Sometimes even Leos needs to work through their feelings on their own. Don't be afraid to spend some time reflecting on what you need to resolve.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, it's nice to have like-minded people around you to support your efforts. But sometimes you need someone who sees things differently to shake up your perspective.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, make a concerted effort to block out any distractions in the days ahead. You might not avoid all the turmoil, but your efforts will prove fruitful.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, take others' point of view to heart in the days ahead. This signals to others you value their opinions and recognize their efforts.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

Others can use a dose of your optimism right now, Sagittarius. Find a way to include as many people as possible as you look to spread some sunshine around.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, you may develop a soft spot for someone who needs your help in the next few days. Do all you can without stretching yourself too thin. Your assistance will be appreciated.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, in your search for a different perspective, you may find yourself confiding in a coworker in the coming days. Give careful consideration to any advice you receive.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, your imagination is running wild and this could lead you on an unexpected adventure. Take a level-headed friend along for the ride.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

APRIL 30

Kunal Nayyar, Actor (36)

MAY 1

Tim McGraw, Singer (50)

MAY 2

David Beckham, Athlete (42)

MAY 3

Christina Hendricks, Actress (42)

MAY 4

Randy Travis, Singer (58)

MAY 5

Adele, Singer (29)

MAY 6

George Clooney, Actor (56)

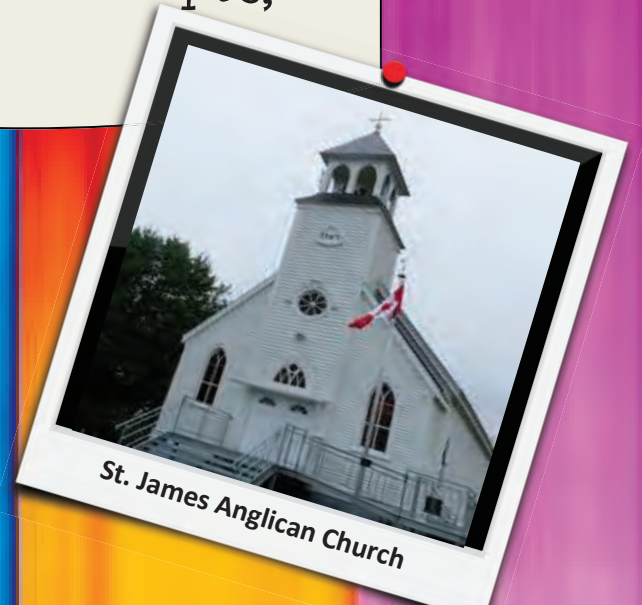


Getting to know our
community organizations

St. James' Anglican Church People, Port Daniel

St. James' Anglican Church People, Port Daniel, invites community members to become new members or join their existing volunteer list to help with upcoming activities. Volunteers are needed to set up venues for events, cooking or baking for fundraisers, creating advertisements and cleaning up after an event.

If you are interested or would like more information,
Please contact : Margaret Mauger 418-396-1345



St. James Anglican Church

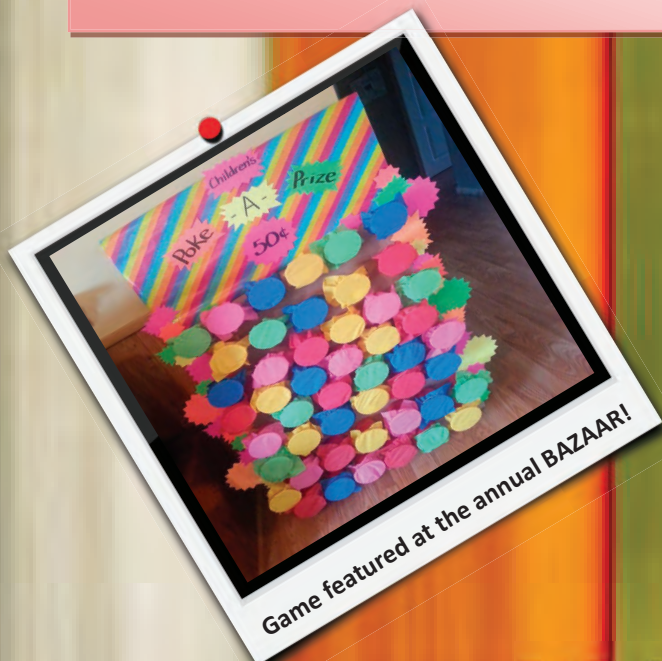
The small group of St. James' Anglican Church People, Port Daniel, was created to help fundraise for the church and other community needs that arise.

While people are encouraged to join the congregation, anyone who wishes to become a member or new volunteer is always welcome.

They hold a wide range of activities and profits go towards the church, other events and organizations that rely on donations.

Some of their events include:

- Annual Bazaar
- Garage Sales
- Gift Bingos
- Cold Lunch featured at the Shigawake Agricultural Fair & Music Festival
- Harvest Suppers



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