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this
week



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for Mi'kmaq students



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The Gaspé Spec

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A definite “no” for commercial street: The mayor and several council members resign

Gilles Gagné

PERCÉ: – On November 20, the residents of Percé said “no” to a \$1.8 million municipal project to develop a commercial street in the business area. That resulted in the resignation of the mayor, André Boudreau, to the surprise of many at the town hall.

The referendum results are clear: 953 citizens (56%) rejected the project and 745 voted in favour. All in all, 1698 people voted out of 2,860 potential voters, which gives a voting participation rate of 59%. The project generated a lot of interest, 338 electors had already voted in the November 13 advanced poll. The referendum was necessary since an August 16 register signing had 479 people oppose the loan that the Town of Percé was seeking for the commercial street. Once the results were announced late Sunday night by the election president, Gemma Vibert, the mayor took the floor and announced his resignation at the Town Hall before a packed room of his supporters. “I’m resigning right away. I will now leave and take care of my grandchildren at home. What we retain from tonight’s vote on the future development of



Photo: T. Haroun

A sign depicting Percé's commercial street project.

Percé, on the future development of the Town, is what my administration has presented and what this individual has presented. Thank you all,” he concluded.

The individual he was referring to in his speech, standing by his side, was Robert Daniel, municipal councillor of the Barachois ward, who coordinated the “no” side.

SPEC met him a few minutes later to get his reaction. “Yes, it’s victory for me, but it’s also a victory for the tax-

payers who weren’t in favour of financing a \$1.8 million project over 25 years. I’m satisfied with the result. I would like to thank the many volunteers who took part in this campaign. I hope that peace returns to the Town. There’s room for development and whoever wants to start a business, there’s a possibility to do so,” pointed out Robert Daniel.

He admitted that he was surprised by the resignation of the mayor, André Boudreau.

“It’s his decision, and yes I was surprised by that.”

The Town’s project has been in the plans since 2011. It consisted of building a street just east of the Coop grocery store and the Pit Caribou bar and to entice ten businesses. The land would have been sold for between \$40,000 and \$90,000 a piece and it would have generated approximately \$150,000 in tax revenues on a yearly basis over 25 years (the length of the Town of Percé loan contracted to build the

street). The length of the street is just under 600 feet.

More resignations

In addition to Mayor Boudreau, two councillors, Renaud Camirand and Lucien Proulx, officially resigned just hours after the release of the referendum results. Rumour has it that four more councillors, Doris Bourget, Magella Warren, Donald Rehel and John Cabot, are seriously considering leaving the council also.

Gemma Vibert, the Town of Percé clerk, confirmed to SPEC on the morning after the referendum that she had received two resignation letters at that time, sent by Renaud Camirand and Lucien Proulx. “I have not received a letter from Mr. Boudreau,” she said about the mayor.

On facebook, Renaud Camirand explained that when he entered municipal politics three years ago, he was inspired by André Boudreau and wanted to contribute to the beautiful projects he envisioned for Percé. That message apparently did not get through, he added.

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Surplus in Percé

Thierry Haroun

PERCÉ: The 2016 fiscal year for Percé should end with a surplus of \$183,894. That number was confirmed by Mayor André Boudreau at the last town meeting. The official numbers will be released soon. Interviewed by Spec, the mayor was pleased by the financial result. "Such good news doesn't just happen. We've been working on it for three years. We've made efforts despite government cuts. The other good news for the future, is that we have loans that end in the near future which will give us another margin of \$250,000." The long term debt of the town is \$5.5 million.

Higher costs than expected

Thierry Haroun

GASPÉ: - The cost of the ski lift project at Mont-Bécher-vaive in Gaspé will be higher than expected, confirms Mayor Daniel Côté. The cost of the project was previously valued at \$3.4 million. Now, it's valued at \$3.8 million. "There have been many small elements that weren't taken into account in the beginning by the volunteer committee. Things such as the loan fees, a cabin for the workers, electricity, equipment, etc. We're not blaming the committee because it's not easy for a volunteer committee to handle a project and make it fit perfectly with government criteria," said the mayor. He added that another factor that explains the increase is that the project was set up in 2014 and two years later the cost of living (CPI) has to be taken into account. "Given the situation, we're asking the government to add money to its grant of \$1.6 million already confirmed for the project," points out the mayor. The rest of the amount is assured by the Town (\$1.6 million) and a fundraiser of \$300,000 in the community.

Youth 4 Action Summit to be held in Paspébiac

Press release

NEW CARLISLE: - Gaspesian English-speaking youth will take part in a new and unique regional movement to foster action in community development and to increase recognition of youth contributions to the development of the English-speaking community of the Gaspé.

CASA will host the Youth 4 Action Summit - For a Brighter Future in the Gaspésie, on November 25 in Paspébiac in partnership with the Department of Canadian Heritage, SADC Baie-des-Chaleurs and CEDEC. At this evening event, participants aged 18-35 will engage in conversations about bilingualism, identity and belonging, education, employment and community life.

The event starts at 4:30 pm at the Paspébiac Cultural Centre and will feature speakers and entrepreneurs including Donna Willett, owner of a Tim Horton's franchise. In addition, door prizes, a buffet meal and music with Gesgapegiag's own DJ XS7 will make this an enjoyable evening for all those attending.

The Youth 4 Action Summit is a direct response to the need for the mobilization and support of English-speaking youth, so that they recognize the potential opportunities that the Gaspésie can provide and to assist them in becoming contributors to the vitality of the English-speaking community.

Following the event, CASA will continue to provide support to youth in establishing a collective leadership and increasing mobilization, so that youth have a stronger connection with the region and within both the Anglophone and the Francophone communities.

Participants must register for this event by contacting CASA at 418-752-5995 or casa75@globetrotter.net



Mount Miller is located so close to the town that local skiers can walk to it, including the clients of Auberge Chic-Chac.

Auberge Chic-Chac buys Murdochville's Mount Miller ski centre

Gilles Gagné

MURDOCHVILLE: - Auberge Chic-Chac, a Murdochville inn and off-trail ski business, is buying the Mount Miller ski centre for an undisclosed amount of money. The goal is to develop jointly the two ski options in the former mining town, renowned for its natural snow.

Through its lodging, catering, guiding and ski gear rental services, Auberge Chic-Chac has been involved in outdoor activities for close to 10 years, concentrating mainly on off-trail skiing and snow-boarding on the mountains around Murdochville. Some of the spots are reached by helicopter.

"The acquisition of the ski centre gives us flexibility, an opportunity to centralize our bar and catering operations in one location, where we can welcome 150 people. If it rains and we see the snow turn to ice, we can offer our clients, who come here mainly for the fluffy snow, an alternative like groomed runs," explains Guillaume Molaison, president of Auberge Chic-Chac.

Until November 11 the ski centre belonged to a not-for-profit organization. The acquisition is saving the ski centre's season.

"Mount Miller wouldn't have opened its doors this coming winter. The organization had sold some equipment, its run groomer, to pay its debt," points out Mr. Molaison.

The amount of the transaction has not been disclosed because "it is the prerogative of the minister to announce the grant given in that file," says Guillaume Molaison, without mentioning the amount of the grant and the minister he refers to.

He and his partners have already started to invest in Mount Miller. The total amounts to "hundreds of thousands of dollars." A grant will follow. For the moment, the modifications to the main building will be modest, given that the season is coming soon. "We will also clean the mountain," says Mr. Molaison.

Auberge Chic-Chac already owns grooming equipment for its needs on Mount York and Mount Porphyre. "We tested it last year and it is quite suitable for Mount Miller," he adds.

Mount Miller will offer day passes for free to children under 18 living in Murdochville. "We hope that those young people will become our future guides, on skis but also in white river rafting and kayaking, mountain biking and all the other outdoor activities. One day, people will say that there is a mountain culture in a village somewhere in Quebec," notes Mr. Molaison, who started in the outdoors business as a guide.

"I have become an entrepreneur. Through outdoor activities, I have developed my capacity to manage risk fac-

tors. Those qualities were acquired because I was an outdoors man first," he adds.

The workforce of the company will go from 25 to 30 employees with the acquisition of Mount Miller. "One of the main aspects of the project is to take advantage of our employees' versatility. We have always wanted that," points out Guillaume Molaison.

Over the long term, the management of Auberge Chic-Chac wants to increase and upgrade the lodging capacity of Murdochville, as well as bring in some young families, as there are suitable houses that can be acquired for approximately \$30,000.

"Our business plan includes increasing the value of Murdochville's real estate. It will also lead us to build new lodging facilities," he emphasizes.

Season passes will sell for \$300 per adult. By adding \$100, the clients will be able to try off-trail activities offered by Auberge Chic-Chac.

Auberge Chic-Chac will attempt to open the Mount Miller ski centre a bit before Christmas. "It is very important to take full advantage of the Christmas break.

The fact that Mount Miller was often closed before Christmas was a hassle for Auberge Chic-Chac because the option of groomed trails is important in case the weather doesn't cooperate with the fluffy conditions we want to offer," he concludes.

Police report

Shawn Hottot, 41, from Port Daniel charged with multiple counts of assault, will be sentenced on December 16 by Quebec Court Judge Celestina Almeida at the New Carlisle courthouse. On September 16, he entered a plea of guilty on six charges that were pending against him since the events of August 8, 2016 in Port Daniel. Initially, nine charges had been laid against him.

Shawn Hottot entered a plea of guilty on a charge of break and enter, of uttering a threat to cause death or bodily harm to Dale Junior Mann; two counts of assault on Crystal Roussy, mischief and aggravated assault on Dale Junior Mann. An unconditional stay of proceedings was ordered on the charge of mischief since it is a lesser and included offence in the break and enter case.

On December 16, the court will also determine the trial date regarding the charges to which the accused did not plea guilty. Those charges are assault, two counts of assault with a weapon, assault causing bodily harm, uttering a threat to cause death or bodily harm, and criminal harassment.

The accused is detained since the events of August 8.

On November 16, at the Rimouski courthouse, Samuel Labonté, 33, from Les Hauteurs, in the Lower Saint-Lawrence, entered a plea of guilty on a charge of drinking and driving causing the death of Georges Mamelonet, and was sentenced to 42 months of penitentiary. Mr. Mamelonet was a former mayor of Percé and a former Member of the National Assembly for the riding of Gaspé.

On March 11, 2015, the pickup truck driven by Samuel Labonté was proceeding south and apparently veered in the opposite lane, struck a truck, spun out and finally collided with the vehicle driven by Georges Mamelonet who was killed instantly. Mr. Mamelonet's wife was seriously injured in the accident while Samule Labonté sustained only minor injuries. The accident occurred at night in the Sainte-Angèle-de-Mérici area, about 15 kilometres south of Mont-Joli. The alcohol level in his blood was twice the legal limit at the time. He will be prohibited to drive a motor vehicle for 30 months following his release from the penitentiary.

On November 18 at the New Carlisle courthouse, Quebec Court Judge Martin Gagnon sentenced Lawrence Stevens, 74, a retired teacher from Bonaventure to 36 months of penitentiary.

On September 26, Judge Gagnon had declared the accused guilty of two counts of rape and one count of indecent assault committed between 1979 and 1982 on a minor girl. The attorney of the accused did not specify if he intends to appeal the case and requests bail pending the appeal.

In 2014, the accused was also found guilty of rape of another woman and gross indecency. Quebec Court Judge Jules Berthelot sentenced him to 42 months of penitentiary. The accused appealed against that verdict to the Quebec Court of Appeal, the appeal was heard on May 10, and the Court of Appeal ordered a new trial. The second trial is scheduled to begin on March 13, 2017 at the New Carlisle courthouse. The victim is a young female adult in that case.



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Gaspé Peninsula MNAs urge the province to invest in the rail line

Gilles Gagné

BONAVENTURE: – Gaspé Peninsula Members of the National Assembly, Gaétan Lelièvre and Sylvain Roy, are once again urging the Quebec government to allot the funds that are necessary to make the whole rail line between Matapédia and Gaspé functional again as soon as possible.

The traffic on the 202 mile-line is limited to a stretch of slightly more than one-third of that length, the 80 miles between Matapédia and Caplan. The Caplan-Gaspé stretch is in a dormant state following two decisions made in 2015 by the owner, Quebec's department of Transportation, which announced the acquisition of the whole line in March of that year.

"We come in support of the chambers of commerce, the prefects, the Côte-de-Gaspé MRC, the Town of Gaspé and the tourism boards (...) It is a must to bring back the freight traffic over the whole length of the line," says Gaétan Lelièvre, who represents the riding of Gaspé.

He supports that viewpoint with the hauling requests sent over the last few months by the Gaspésie Railway Society, the former owner of the line. That company owned by the four MRCs of the Gaspé Penin-



Photo: G. Gagné

Gaspé Peninsula MNAs Gaétan Lelièvre and Sylvain Roy think that the stars are aligned to convince Quebec's department of Transportation that upgrading the track as far as Gaspé is quite relevant.

sula's south part remained the operator of the line. One of the business opportunities is currently emerging in New Richmond, as windmill blades made in Gaspé by LM Wind Power are loaded on flat cars to be delivered to the centre-south of the United States.

"The (Quebec) government is forcing LM to export because new windfarms won't be built in Quebec for several years. LM must transport its blades to New Richmond instead of loading them in Gaspé. It costs between \$700,000 and \$800,000 in trans-shipment (...) That cost could be avoided if the line was functional between Caplan and Gaspé," adds Mr. Lelièvre.

He emphasizes that the LM Wind Power plant in Gaspé has just increased its workforce from 200 people to 285, with further possible hiring over the coming year.

The Port Daniel cement plant will also need the railway in 2017 to haul a portion of its production and bring in some of its inputs. McInnis Cement has been communicating that most of its production will be sent by ship. "There is probably no cement plant in North America without rail service," says Gaétan Lelièvre. "There is more, he adds."

"Two Gaspé businesses that don't want to be identified for

Cont'd on page 6

SHARE your STORY

Story told by GRANCIL HOTTOT
Written by MCKAYLA GALLON

The Bob Sleigh!

I remember a lady named Edna Ross, who was maybe 25 or 30 years old. She used to come and slide on a piece of cardboard because back then, when I was young people didn't have money to buy sleighs.

Someone had a great big bob sleigh made from a barn door and we wanted to get her on the bob sleigh and push her down the hill.

So we got her up to the top of the hill and we said "Ms Ross, come and get on this bob sleigh."

She said, "the only way I'm getting on

that bob sleigh is if some of you fellas get on too."

We said "yes we're going to get on!"

So Edna got on the front of the bob sleigh. And she asked "Are you all on?"

We said "yes we're on, hang on!" And we gave her a push and let her go without us!

Down she went, down that hill, on that slippery snow crust. She went down that hill about 30 mph! She couldn't get stopped and ended up in the alders!

Well, did we laugh over that!





Commentary

Gilles Gagné

Native women must keep hope, despite discouraging investigation results

The Quebec government's decision to count on the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls to shed light on the relations between the police forces and the First Nations is untenable, in the sense that it is a major error.

That decision follows a report issued by Quebec's department of Justice's prosecution division to the effect that not a single charge will be laid in regards to 38 complaints registered following exchanges between Native women living mostly in the Val d'Or area, in Abitibi, and the Sûreté du Québec officers working with Native communities.

Those 38 complaints were submitted by 31 different people, including 24 Native women and three non-Natives. The number of files emanating from Val d'Or and the surrounding area amounts to 32. Fifteen files were related to sexual crimes.

The prosecution division of the department of Justice didn't find evidence that was solid enough to lay charges in any of the 38 files opened a year ago following the release of a Radio-Canada report that caused quite a bit of controversy all across Canada.

It is hard to believe that there was no ground solid enough to initiate some kind of legal action. However, it is possible. The time elapsed between the commission of the criminal acts and the filing of complaints and the fact that some acts were committed at night, which makes the identification of the police officers quite difficult, are among the factors explaining the lack of prosecution.

It looks like a vicious circle. How can we convince Native women to file complaints against Sûreté du Québec officers, or other "white" police detachments if weighty files like the Val d'Or one don't yield prosecution. The system looks fixed against Natives and the lack of trust in the white man system will never lead Aboriginal people into laying complaints immediately after criminal acts.

At the same time, the Justice department's prosecution division rarely does what its personnel did on November 18, a public explanation regarding the reasons behind the lack of charges stemming from the Val d'Or context and a few other cases.

The spokesperson for the prosecutors clearly explained, and we can believe that position, that the version of the victims was taken seriously, that they were in all likelihood believed, and that most of the

events probably took place.

Truth be told, our judicial system is ill-conceived to deal with "probably guilty". The evidence must be very solid before charges are laid. The files related to Val d'Or remain open to new evidence even if that factor carries only minor consolation for the victims.

Now, Quebec's Native Affairs Minister Geoffrey Kelley has decided to rely on the federal commission to make recommendations regarding the relations between Quebec's Aboriginal citizens and police detachments. It is unacceptable, even if the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls is assuring us that they will study the Quebec case.

Time is a factor here. The work of the Canada-wide commission will probably be extremely lengthy, considering that at least 1,200 murders and disappearances are to be investigated, so the recommendations coming with it will also be a long time coming.

A commission targeting the Quebec issues will take less time before releasing recommendations. Moreover, its implementation would establish some kind of trust, a value that is still lacking considerably in the relations between Natives and non-Natives.

The improvement of those relations is urgent and might reduce the number of deplorable cases like the ones that took place in the Val d'Or area. Any short term betterment of the situation likely to generate some kind of thorough dialogue between a larger proportion of Natives and non-Natives is a spark that will lead to long term solutions.

Letters to the Editor

Open letter to the Prime Minister and Quebec Premier

The Mi'gmaq from Gaspé Peninsula extend a friendly invitation to the Prime Minister and Premier of Quebec to come discuss with them over a tall glass of water, while it's still safe to drink

In September, the Quebec government tabled a report in the National Assembly by the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries, Energy and Natural Resources. The report was in response to consultations held on Bill 106, An Act to implement the 2030 Energy Policy and to amend various legislative provisions.

By introducing this bill, the government implied that it was looking to make renewable energy development a priority. An analysis of Bill 106 revealed that, on the contrary, one of the Quebec government's main objectives is to support hydrocarbon development. Because of the different environmental risks associated with hydrocarbons, this direction is far from meeting consensus. Additionally, this choice is contradictory to Quebec's

objectives in the fight against climate change.

Aboriginal communities in the St. Lawrence Lowlands and Gaspé Peninsula are directly affected by the hydrocarbon projects. The main oil and gas exploration activities in Quebec are located on Anticosti Island and the Gaspé Peninsula, which are regions on traditional Gespe'gawa'gi territory, the seventh district of the Mi'gmaq First Nations national territory. Anticosti Island is shared with our neighbours of the Innu Nation.

The Gespe'gawa'gi is a territory that provides the resources necessary for our populations to survive and flourish. We have always been a people of the sea. The resources in our streams, rivers, lakes and sea supply us with the food we eat every day. And the important economic benefits of the Gaspé's fishing industry have been proven time and again; its inhabitants rely either directly or indirectly on the revenues generated and the number of jobs it creates.

The Gespe'gawa'gi Mi'gmaq refuse to support any industrial activity that risks poisoning streams, lakes, rivers or any other waterways that contain precious resources. We are opposed to any project that could cause irreparable damage to the resources on which we rely. We agree with the opinion of several actors who have noted that the risks associated with hydraulic fracturing and the high-pressure injection of toxic products into the ground have been insufficiently assessed. Why should we blindly accept initiatives that could compromise our way of living and put the fishing industry at risk? The threats and disadvantages associated with oil and gas exploration are greater than the hypothetical benefits to our aboriginal and non-aboriginal populations.

That is why, on September 15 in Carleton, the chiefs and councils of the Mi'gmawei Mawiomi (grouping the three Mi'gmaq communities: Gespegiag, Gespeg and Listuguj) adopted a resolution rejecting any operations that use hydraulic fracturing or chemicals carried out by stakeholders in the oil industry that are active in Gespe'gawa'gi.

Finally, we believe it is absolutely essential that you be aware that the decisions to prospect oil and gas deposits in the Gaspé and on Anticosti Island are being made unilaterally, in violation of the obligation to consult with aboriginals. In 2004, the Supreme Court of Canada issued instructions and guidelines stating that the Crown is constitutionally obligated to consult and, in certain circumstances, accommodate First Nations when projects are carried out on their territory.

Meeting this obligation is particularly important here, where Mi'gmaq fishing rights are recognized. In fact, in 1999, the Supreme Court of Canada confirmed the treaty rights of the Mi'gmaq Nation for commercial fishing in Gespe'gawa'gi waters. These rights would be worthless and could no longer be exercised if these resources are threatened.

In 2007, the Mi'gmawei Mawiomi submitted a comprehensive land claim (Nm'tginen) to the federal and provincial governments. This land claim clearly sets out the nature and scope of our rights protected by Article 35 of the 1982 Constitutional Act of Canada, as well as the importance of ensuring optimal protection of our territory for the benefit of current and future Mi'gmaq and non-aboriginals.

It is vital that the governments understand that they must consult with aboriginal communities when they are affected by hydrocarbon projects.

In the spirit of the honour of the Crown, our rights and your constitutional obligations, we invite you, Prime Minister Trudeau and Premier Couillard, to come visit us in Gespe'gawa'gi and drink a tall glass of water so that we can discuss how important this resource is, how to protect it and how to conserve it, before it is too late.

Chief Manon Jeannotte
Chief of the Gespeg Mi'gmaq

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Gaspesian fishermen's groups concerned as foreign investors looking to buy lobster fishing permits in Nova Scotia

Gilles Gagné

PERCÉ: – The interest expressed by foreign investors for the acquisition of lobster fishing permits in Nova Scotia is raising concern at the Canadian Independent Fish Harvesters Federation, as those acquisitions contravene a regulation of the federal department of Fisheries and Oceans.

The worries are genuinely shared by the Southern Gaspé Professional Fishermen Group, because of the precedent set in British Columbia in 1999, where foreign companies were allowed to buy numerous fishing licences, with serious consequences on the fish stocks and economic spinoffs in the coastal communities.

“The Canadian regulation forbids the acquisition of fishing permits by foreign investors. It (the rule) must protect the principle of the independent fisherman-owner exploiting those permits. However, it is only a rule. Its enforcement is left to the minister of Fisheries. As long as the enforcement isn't embedded in the Fishing act, there will be a threat about the repetition of what we saw in British Columbia 17 years ago. The minister can decide



Photo: G. Gagné

The volume and value of lobster catches has more than doubled over the last five years in the Gaspé Peninsula.

to open the door to foreign acquisitions,” says O'Neil Cloutier, director of the Southern Gaspé Professional Fishermen Group.

In a Nova Scotia paper which specializes in fisheries, an advertiser, on behalf of “foreign investors” is appealing directly to the fishermen who want to sell their permits in zones 33, 34 and 35, some of the best lobster zones of North America. The fishermen are invited to leave a message on an answering machine and someone will call them back.

The origin of the foreign investors is not mentioned. Over the last few years, Chinese companies have acquired fish processing plants in Nova Scotia.

O'Neil Cloutier adds that if the foreign buyers are operating in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, they will eventually have a look at the Gaspé Peninsula, Magdalen Islands and Anticosti Island acquisition potential.

“Nothing prevents them from coming here. The foreign companies have a lot of money. If they start buying

permits, the succession of young fishermen will never be able to keep up with that. Secondly, the revenues generated by commercial fishing will move out of the regions. In British Columbia, some local fishermen eventually bought back permits but the resource was so depleted that they are now fishing for close to nothing,” he says.

The Gaspé Peninsula lobster fishermen have more than doubled their revenues over the last five years. Their total landing revenues for that species alone reached \$27.5

million in 2016. Those results come after more than 15 years of effort to increase the number of mature lobsters.

Commercial fisheries inject more than \$300 million annually into the economy of the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands.

“The fishermen contribute greatly to the regional economy. They buy vehicles, boats, building material and so on. The resources belong to Canadians. If we let it start (the sale of permits to foreign investors) we won't be worth much,” explains O'Neil Cloutier.

The discretion of the federal department of Fisheries and Oceans on that issue is a cause of concern.

“In 2013, then minister Keith Ashley conducted a bogus consultation on the possibility of having plants buy fishing permits. So we know it is still an option for some people. If foreign investors make such blatant offers in a paper, it could be because they have an idea about something coming in that regard,” says Mr. Cloutier.

In Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, the exports of fisheries products respectively reached \$1.4 billion and \$1 billion last year.

Windmill blade train in New Richmond

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND: – The first windmill blade train is being loaded in New Richmond. The flat cars arrived on the night of November 11 in Matapedia and were immediately sent to New Richmond by the Gaspésie Railway Society director general, Luc Lévesque.

“We are talking about 72 cars of 90 feet in length each. There was no room to park them in Matapedia so we decided to take them to New Richmond that same night. We arrived in the wee hours of the morning,” says Mr. Lévesque.

The 72 cars and the couplers make a train of over 6,600 feet, about a mile and a quarter, or two kilometres. Finding room for them in New Richmond posed a logistics challenge, and the cars were spotted at various places, including the main line, as there is not enough room on the local sidings or the tracks leading to



Photo: G. Gagné

It takes three cars, each measuring 90 feet in length, to haul two blades.

Fabrication Delta and Rail GD. The flat cars are loaded between these two industries.

“The first train is a trial. We will load 30 blades on the same number of cars but their length requires a train of 45 cars because the blades overlap on a

second car,” explains Mr. Lévesque. The loading operation started on November 17. Two blades were put on flat cars. The operation continued the following day. The train is supposed to leave on December 3 for the central part of the

United States. It will be run as a unit train by the railways, which means that there will be no addition or subtraction of cars between New Richmond and the destination.

“Starting in January, the trains will be longer. The ship-

pers want trains of 72 cars and 48 blades,” points out Mr. Lévesque.

The 27 remaining cars are being stored for the next few weeks on the main line in Black Cape, near Burton's cemetery. The second train is scheduled for January.

The blades are made by the LM Wind Power plant in Gaspé and trucked to New Richmond because the rail line needs improvements east of Caplan. Quebec's department of Transport has not allotted money for the improvements since 2013.

LM Wind Power will supply blades to wind farms located in the central and southern parts of the United States for the next four or more years. Turbine builder General Electric is ordering the blades.

This first shipping contract awarded to a set of railways calls for the hauling of 600 blades between the Gaspé Peninsula and the United States over the next year.

RAILWAY:

▶ Cont'd from page 3

now, will also need the railway for large volumes of freight (...) I have never seen so many converging factors rooting for the railway as those we have now," insists Mr. Lelièvre.

Bonaventure riding's Sylvain Roy reminds us that a petition signed by more than 5,000 people was submitted to the National Assembly in the spring to ask the Quebec government to make the necessary investment to bring VIA Rail's passenger train, back which was suspended in September 2013 because of the state of the rail line, mostly the state of some bridges.

"In a first phase, we must consolidate the freight traffic and then the return of the passenger train, given that VIA Rail is requiring strict norms for its trains," points out Mr. Roy, referring to the fact that VIA Rail locomotives are heavier than the ones used by the Gaspésie Rail Society for its freight trains.

The last study conducted to assess the work necessary to replace the bridges spanning over the Grand Cascapedia River and overall improvements between Matapedia and Gaspé, suggested an investment of \$86 million. That study was completed by Canarail.

Gaétan Lelièvre states that project management carried out by the Gaspésie Railway Society, with the assistance of an engineering firm, would cost way less than \$86 million.

"Last year, many tasks were carried out by the Gaspésie Railway Society for half of the

cost that would have been needed, had the same work been undertaken the way civil servants wanted them to be done," he says.

"The main needs could be filled within the next two years (...) The region is the least endowed in transportation means. We deserve better services in order to enhance our development," adds Mr. Lelièvre.

"In order to develop, a region needs cellular phone and high speed internet services. A means of transportation is just as basic," points out Sylvain Roy.

He and Gaétan Lelièvre believe that the Quebec government is about to announce a significant amount for the Gaspé Peninsula railway, perhaps between \$30 million and \$50 million, "but they want to limit their intervention to the Matapedia-New Carlisle stretch (one half of the network). We hope that our intervention will make them reflect on the importance of repairing the whole line, to Gaspé (...) A stake of that size wouldn't even trigger questions related to the cost in Montreal," they both say.

The two Parti Québécois MNAs think that the politicians, like Transport Minister Laurent Lessard and the minister responsible for the Gaspé Peninsula, Education Minister Sébastien Proulx, might start questioning the decisions made so far by former Transport ministers, Robert Poëti and Jacques Daoust and their civil servants.

"They are stuck on opening the line between Matapedia and Caplan or Matapedia and New Carlisle, while all the po-

tential traffic that is on the table right now would be generated east of New Carlisle. The survival of the railway is on the line," says Gaétan Lelièvre.

In 2015, the Gaspésie Railway Society hauled 1,624 freight cars between Caplan and Matapedia. About 1,500 of them were generated by the Temrex sawmill in Nouvelle.

The hauling requests received by the Gaspésie Railway Society since the middle of the summer could propel the total number of carloads to 10,000 per year. All that traffic would come from the line portion that was put in a dormant state by Quebec's department of Transport.

The LM Wind Power plant in Gaspé could load a few kilometres from its York industrial park facility the 900 flat cars that will be loaded in New Richmond if repairs are not made east of Caplan.

The Association Coopérative forestière de Saint-Elzéar, which operates the Saint-

Elzéar sawmill, has committed to ship at least 100 cars of lumber per year if the company can load them in New Carlisle. That volume would only be a start that could be improved in the following years.

The Port Daniel cement plant has repeatedly expressed its intention to ship out 95% of its production through its marine terminal. That output is now supposed to reach 2.5 million tonnes yearly. Approximately 5%, or 125,000 tonnes, is expected to be sent by land transport. If the rail gets the bulk of that volume, it represents anywhere between 1,000 and 1,250 carloads. That doesn't include some inputs that McInnis Cement could receive by rail.

A significant volume of freight from a company that would like to ship out of Gaspé by rail represents for the moment the largest potential customer for the Gaspésie Rail Society. The commodity and the name of the company cannot be revealed by the railway.

MNA Gaétan Lelièvre also refused to divulge the name of the customer.

The return of VIA Rail east of Matapedia would also add a significant source of revenue for the Gaspésie Railway Society. The last confirmed amount of revenue from VIA Rail for the passing rights between Matapedia and Gaspé was \$610,000 in 2006.

On the passenger train issue, Gilles Lamy, of the Coalition of Gaspésians for the future of the train, points out that his group has also submitted an alternative to the conventional train that could spell the return of VIA Rail east of Matapedia. "We suggest the use of lighter Budd cars in a first phase of the passenger train return."

The intervention of Sylvain Roy and Gaétan Lelièvre followed two attempts to hold meetings with the minister of Transport, Laurent Lessard. A third attempt will be made before then end of November, possibly on November 23.

PERCÉ:

▶ Cont'd from cover

"I am disappointed at the outcome of the debate and the tension that has been created and that will prevail at the town hall. It might discourage many people from continuing the work. I hope

that Percé will be able to find some room for agreement, above all for the projects that are criticized and for which we can't wait any longer," he wrote.

He sent well wishes to the people that will take the lead regarding the development of Percé.

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Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



La Bolduc Queen of Canadian Folksingers

When lauding famous Gaspesians, especially to people from away, I am sure that you might mention Hazel McCallion or Paul Almond or Gérard D. Lévesque. (By the way did you know Gérard always, but always included the D. in his name? But that's information to be shared more fully in a future column) But does the name Mary Travers come to mind? She is better known as Madame Bolduc or La Bolduc, queen of Canadian folksingers. She was a fascinating woman, a crusader, who had more than her share of personal and professional troubles. And she was a Gaspesian.

Mary Rose-Ann Travers was born in Newport in 1894.



Both of her parents were Gaspesian and she grew up in a bilingual home. Her father was English speaking, with an Irish background. Her mother's first language was French and her ancestry was Mi'kmaq. There were 11 children in the family and the children were fluent in both languages. The family was economically humble but rich in culture and music. Her father taught Mary to play a number of instruments which included the fiddle, spoons, harmonica and accordion.

When Mary was just 13 she went to work in a logging camp as a cook's helper. It was in the camp where she gave her first public musical performances. Soon after Mary went to live with her sister in Montreal and she worked at a variety of jobs. These included maid and textile worker. At the age of 19 she married Édouard Bolduc and the next year she had a child who passed away in infancy. Over the years of about 15 pregnancies only four of the children reached adulthood. The family also struggled to make ends meet. But music provided entertainment and she very much enjoyed musical evenings with friends and family.

One evening while living in Montreal she was asked to fill in for a professional musician who had taken ill. This opportunity gave her a chance to earn some money for the family while doing what she loved. While performing that evening a producer was impressed with Mary's talents.

Pretty quickly after that Mary made her first record, in French and earned \$25. This was during the Depression so this was a significant amount for the family. That first record did not have massive success but her second was a smash. It sold an unbelievable 12,000 copies. Over the next year she recorded over 30 songs. Mary was a success!

She began to tour all over Quebec. She was a real entertainer and included music and comedy in her acts. Her first tour netted her around \$2,000. A small fortune for the times. In the following years she toured all over Quebec, Northern Ontario and New England. Her own children inherited their mother's talents and were soon part of the act.

Everything changed in 1937 when she was just over 40 years old and she was in a serious car accident in Rivière-du-Loup. It was a head-on collision and she broke her nose, leg and had a concussion. In the hospital in Rimouski it was discovered that she had cancer. She was unable to continue touring.

In the following year she began to tour a little, but never far from home. She recorded a song about her accident – Les souffrances de mon accident. Her career never recovered either and she passed away in Montreal at the age of 47.

Mary's legacy is impressive. She represents a blend of 3 cultures, French, Irish and Mi'kmaq. She was all Gaspesian. She was greatly influenced by traditional Irish folk music of her father. She used the fiddle in her music and many of her songs were comical and lively. She battled poverty, miscarriages and infant deaths, a car accident and cancer. There are about 100 of her songs that have survived and you can listen to her on You Tube. Her music will make you smile and tap your toes. In 1994 a Canadian postage stamp was issued with La Bolduc's picture and a park and museum were created in the town of Newport to honour her.

Technician says Optilab program will likely cause delays in lab results

Gilles Gagné

MARIA: – Danny Leblanc, a laboratory technician at the Maria hospital, has serious doubts about the efficiency of the Opilab program currently planned by Quebec's department of Health and Social services. Laboratory tests carried out in Rimouski will undoubtedly yield their results later than if those analyses were performed in the Gaspé Peninsula hospitals, he says.

The Optilab project aims at concentrating about 70% of the analysis currently carried out in local hospitals, in Rimouski, Mr. Leblanc can't see how Optilab will lead to efficiency gains and cost reduction.

"If we compare the two systems, by the time we start our analyses here in Maria, which corresponds to the current system, the samples probably won't have left for Rimouski, under the new system. The results will only be available several hours later in Rimouski, and probably only the following day in many cases," explains Danny Leblanc.

Under the current system, the samples are taken early in the morning at Maria hospital, but also at the Paspébiac, Caplan, Saint-Omer, Pointe-à-la-Croix, and Matapédia CLSCs. In those CLSC cases, the samples are sent to Maria hospital.

"At 12:45, we have all the samples ready for analyses. Sometimes we have 300 samples. There are manipulations to do. Some samples must go through a centrifuge machine, while others must decant. We are usually able to deliver all the results the same day the samples are taken," says Mr. Leblanc.

He says that the Optilab system is currently characterized by a lot of uncertainty. "The samples from the area will still have to be classified and prepared before shipment.



Photo: G. Gagné

Lab technician Danny Leblanc is worried about the delays that will occur with the implementation of the Optilab system.

If they are sent by bus, they will only leave the following day, considering the current schedule. We cannot ask people to come earlier. They already show up quite early for the samples. We hear that a special shuttle service could be implemented but the time to get to Rimouski will remain the same, more than three hours," explains Danny Leblanc.

"They will need a specific computerized system for all the samples sent to Rimouski. That is not done yet. There will be mistakes made upon the samples' reception and further afterwards, considering the number of analyses. We are under the impression that Optilab is a system designed by the hospitals located an hour away from Quebec and Montreal," he adds.

He thinks about the hospitals that are farther than Maria from Rimouski. "How do you deal with Optilab in Chandler, and the Gascons CLSC, which are almost five hours away from Rimouski? The operational cost will be astronomical and Rimouski will not be able to absorb all that work. It will require a lot of personnel and they will have to maintain a

sizable night shift, considering the time the samples will reach Rimouski," points out Mr. Leblanc.

Currently, about 90% of the samples taken in the Gaspé are analyzed locally. About 2 million samples are taken annually in the region.

"A sizable number of analyses must be carried out within four hours. Sending the samples to Rimouski will bust that expiry delay (...) There are also the 'critical value samples', when we send the results to the doctor, immediate care is required in those cases.

What will happen if those analyses are carried out in Rimouski, considering that the results will only be available hours later or the following day? It is putting the life of those patients at risk," says Danny Leblanc.

The Optilab system is supposed to be implemented on January 1. The management of all the laboratory technicians will be made in Rimouski, effective April 1.

"That's putting the cart before the horse (...) Winter conditions, and summer congestion on our roads were not taken into account," says Danny Leblanc.

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A Bachelor of Education for Mi'kmaq students

Wendy Dawson

LISTUGUJ: - This past September, McGill University began offering their bachelor of education to Mi'kmaq students from Gesgapegiag, Uqpi'Gangig and Listuguj in Listuguj First Nation. The innovative concept allows the 18 participants in the program to pursue their degree within the community, without the requirement of displacement.

Furthermore, the courses taught in the pursuit of the teaching degree will primarily be given by Mi'kmaq community members that hold master's degrees or doctorates.

This is the second time that the Mi'kmaq community has had the opportunity to have the university come to them, having had the bachelor of arts in community studies offered to them through Cape Breton University. That program has been hugely popular and created an interesting precedent for the success of the bachelor of education through McGill.

The exercise began almost a year and a half ago when the Listuguj Education Directorate began the enquiry into the possibility of offering the program as a community based initiative.

It began as a proposal for a 60 credit certificate, however there was a great interest in being able to complete the full 120 credit program. While other in-community university programs have been made available in other indigenous Canadian communities in the past, it is the first time that a complete Bachelor of Educa-



Photo: Jim Howden

The first cohort of McGill's new Bachelor of Education First Nations Inuit Education (Kindergarten-Elementary) degree program and program administrators.

tion program is being offered wholly off campus anywhere in Canada.

Over four years, the full program will be offered in three-hour blocks, three evenings a week. This means that students will complete four courses per semester and will also be required to complete two courses over the summer. The schedule meets the needs of the students who range in age from 22 to 56, who must divide their time between their studies, work and family commitments.

"There is a real need for this type of education," says Jim Howden, director of McGill's Office of First Nations and Inuit Education in the Faculty of education. "Not only does it focus on the community, it focusses on an indigenous curriculum. While I can only speak to the Faculty of education, the success of this program can open up possibilities with other faculties."

Melissa Drapeau, the post-secondary public relations liaison at the Listuguj Education, Training and Employment Department states the students participating in the program have become a close-knit family. "A program of this type really meets the needs of the participants," she

states. "With students remaining in the community, there is reason to believe that the success rate will be higher."

Ms. Drapeau also points out the importance of the collaboration between McGill's Faculty of education and the Listuguj Council of Mi'kmaq Educators. "There has been a

great effort in developing a program that meets both the needs of acquiring professional competencies as well as the indigenization of the curriculum. They (McGill) have been incredibly open-minded. This is also about educating future indigenous educators about what it means to decolonize education and teach differently."

Mr. Howden says, "I had the opportunity to be there at the launch of the program and I continue to be in contact and visit the community as much as I can. We are incredibly proud to be a part of all of this."

To date, most students in the program have stated an interest of teaching within their own community schools in the future, although their diploma will open up a world of possibilities for them. The participating students are expected to complete their bachelor of education in June of 2020.

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REMEMBRANCE DAY

Lest We Forget



Gilles Gagné
CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES: - Kathleen Casey-Campbell laid a wreath on behalf of the Mothers of Canada, a tradition underlining the fact that some mothers have children in the service. In the case of Ms. Casey-Campbell, her daughter Mildred, a doctor, is serving in the Canadian Armed Forces. On the right, seated, Second World War veteran Gerald Dow pays close attention to the whole ceremony.



Photos: Debbie Sams

NOV
ELEVENTH



NEW CARLISLE: - A large group gathered in the New Carlisle arena for the annual Remembrance Day ceremony organized by the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 64. As always there was an excellent turnout including representatives from surrounding municipalities, businesses, a large number of the general public and Minister of National Revenue, Diane Lebouthillier.

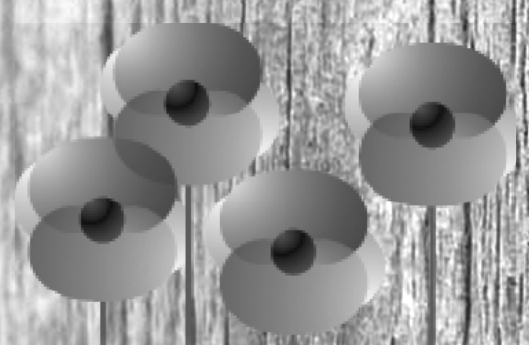
Among those in attendance were students and staff from New Carlisle High School and Shigawake Port Daniel School, who were very attentive during the ceremony and showed great respect for those who have served.



Gaspé
in photos!



Photo: P. MacWhirter



50 plus cart racing results 2016

Jack Harrison

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES: - Once again in 2016 Jimmy Brown's hill was the scene of fast carts and skilled drivers. Roger Caplan won the big one – this win puts him into the Soap Box Driver's Hall of Fame. His brother Donald finished second. Lawrence Day surprised the crowd when he finished third.

Another surprise was when Cecil DeVouge took out the McWhirter cart with his brother's #2 cart. A highlight of the day came when 80-year-old Ivan DeVouge became the second octogenarian to race down the hill. Billy Button, the clown from Alberta, was the first to successfully pull off that feat.

Escuminac's Lucy Ann

Landry and Robert Court - performed well. LucyAnn is determined to improve, but she should not take advice from other drivers because they can't be trusted. In fact I know of only one driver that is trustworthy. Jimmy "No-show" Geraghty will be back next year.

As for good sport of the year, this goes to Keith Boudreau who was asked to replace a no-show knowing that he had the worst cart facing the best in his first race and facing the second best cart in his second race. Keith, of course, lost both races, but when he was finished he asked "Where do I sign up for next year?" This is the type of driver we need in the wicked world of cart racing.



Race coordinator Jenna Boudreau presenting Ivan Devouge with his trophy for being an 80-year-old driver in the 50+ go carts.



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VILLE DE PERCÉ

**TO: THE MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL
THE TAXPAYERS OF THE VILLE DE PERCÉ**

FROM: ANDRÉ BOUDREAU, MAYOR

**SUBJECT: THE FINANCIAL REPORT IN ACCORDANCE WITH
SECTION 474.1 OF THE CITIES AND TOWNS ACT**

According to law, it is my duty at the end of the year to present a report on the financial situation of the municipality.

The chartered accounting firm "Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton" S.E.N.C.R.L. confirms hereby that financial statements of the Ville de Percé fully reflect its situation up to December 31, 2015, as well as the results of its operations and financial progression for the fiscal year ending on that date. These statements are in full accordance with the accounting principles commonly used for the municipalities of the Province of Québec.

WORKING SURPLUS

On **December 31, 2015**, the total unrestricted surplus amounted to **\$173,611**. Adjustments were made, the adjusted balance is **\$188,024**. Up to the present date, **\$4130** was taken from the surplus to cover unexpected or unbudgeted expenses.

Therefore, the Ville de Percé should have at its disposal **\$183,894** within the unrestricted surplus for the current fiscal year, ending December 31, 2016.

WORKING CAPITAL

On **December 31, 2015**, available funds amounted to **\$271,034** and the year's reimbursement to **\$71,799**.

On **December 31, 2016**, available funds will amount to **\$242,833** for a total committed amount of **\$257,167**, including an amount of \$100,000 incurred in 2015 for the acquisition of the former St. Michael School.

LONG-TERM DEBT

On December 31, 2015, the total long-term net debt amounted to **\$9,336,340** and was allocated as follows, to:

- the municipality: **\$5,536,703**
- the Government of Québec: **\$3,799,637**

Current-year reimbursements amount to **\$1,042,675**.

There was no new issuance during 2016.

On December 31, 2016, the long-term debt will therefore amount to **\$8,293,665** of which **\$4,910,778** are charged to the taxpayer, thus representing 2% of the tax base, amounting to **\$234,872,024**.

THREE-YEAR PROGRAM OF CAPITAL EXPENSES

The three-year program of capital expenses is a plan by which the municipality selects capital-asset projects to be developed over the next three years. The last program shows total expenses amounting to **\$4,440,000** for 2016, 2017 and 2018.

The 2017-2018-2019 program of capital expenses will be issued along with the budget notification.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

We expect to end the year on budget, as per the 2016 operating budget established at \$6,363,000, as long as no major unforeseen expenses are incurred by year end.

CONTRACTS

According to law, it is my duty to include in the present a list of all contracts involving an expenditure exceeding \$25,000 entered into by the municipality since the last sitting of the council at which mayor made a report of the financial position of the municipality. I shall also table a list of all contracts involving an expenditure exceeding \$2,000 entered into within that period with the same contracting party, if those contracts involve a total expenditure exceeding \$25,000. No contract of more than \$25,000 has been reached. The list of contracts over \$2,000 will be available at City Hall and on the website of the City (ville.perce.qc.ca)

REMUNERATION OF MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

According to section 11 of the Act Respecting the Remuneration of Elected Municipal Officers, the present document must state the compensation of the members of City Council. In 2016 the Mayor's remuneration is \$19,903 plus an annual expense allowance of \$9,952. City councilors' annual remuneration is \$4,979 plus an expense allowance of \$2,489.

Elected municipal officials have the obligation to guarantee sufficient funds to ensure municipal responsibilities and maintain a safe margin of financial flexibility.

The tax burden of town of Percé must be stabilized. Therefore, we strive to develop other sources of income. Our development projects are required to be self-financing, rentable or generate important economic benefits for the entire population.

We talk vigorously with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Land Occupancy to show them that their new programs do not work here and that we are unfairly penalize.

Since the beginning of our mandate, we conducted a series of budget cuts and reorganization of services in all departments, which allowed us, despite government cuts, to improve our finances.

In 2016, new assessments have hurt a large majority of taxpayers. Be aware though that rule of assessment roll equilibration, imposed by the government of Québec, is repeated every six years in our city. Whether the current city council or an another, it will be the same. So I repeat, we must develop new sources of income if we want to stop digging through your pockets.

Nothing is simple, pay attention to happiness merchants...

Percé, November 1, 2016.

André Boudreau
Mayor
Ville de Percé

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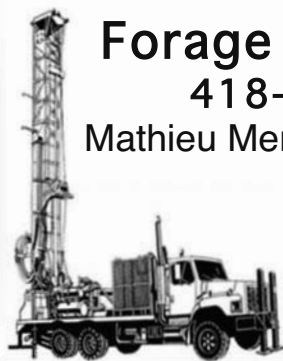


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Announcements...



Obituaries



HAYES: Lyall Havelock

Lyall Hayes passed away on October 31, 2016 at the Centre D'Accueil, New Carlisle, Quebec, at the age of 92. He was born March 23, 1924, in Hopetown, Quebec, to Evelyn Watt and Roland Hayes. He leaves behind his eldest sister Eileen and is predeceased by siblings Doug, Marge and Evelyn.

He left the farm in Hope Town in his late teens to join the Air Force. He then returned to the Coast and worked for CNR for 27 years and then for the Regional School Board of Gaspesia as Director of Transportation for the next 25 years. He loved going to Florida after his retirement and was an avid golfer until the age of 89. He loved his family and people in general and was a man who only saw goodness in others.

Lyall is survived by his wife Joyce, and children Charlene, Bradley (Kerry), Todd (Sandra), and Teri Lee (Charlie). He was loved unconditionally by his grand-

children Kristy, Cory, Mark, Ryan, Cody, Jordan, Brody, Shauna, Kylie, Shaylie, Boston and his great-grandchildren Noah, Jak, Jesse, Hudson, Tate, Kaitlyn, Addison, Mckenzie and Kalea. He was the ultimate grandfather and will live on through each of them.

The family would like to sincerely thank Lurly Gallan and the nursing staff of the Centre d'Accueil for the kindness and care they showed in his last months. It was very much appreciated and will not be forgotten by the family.



McCOLM: Paige
1952 - 2016

Paige Evan McColm, formerly of Black Cape, Quebec, passed away suddenly on June 7 in Lloydminster, Alberta. Paige is survived by his wife, Maria Lecomte; children, Jeremy (Lindsay) McColm, Nicki (Dwayne) Lessner, Jeff (Becky) McColm, Kelly (Tina) Lecomte, Stacey Lecomte; grandchildren, Reese, Presley, Heston McColm, Ryan, Blake Lessner, Seth, Zayden Lecomte, and Drake Moriaux.

He leaves to mourn his passing, his mother, June

McColm; siblings, Rhea (Robert) Noda, Robert McColm, JJ McColm; aunt Orian Barrett of Lloydminster, uncle Clayton McColm of Ottawa; nephews, Matt and Evan McColm, and numerous cousins.

Paige was predeceased by his father, Restie McColm, and sister-in-law, Allison McColm

**The New Carlisle
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extends sympathy to the family of
Gisele Boudreau

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Alexis Normandeau - St. Jules	418-759-3270

Social notes...

Jessie Watt was delighted to have many of her family visiting this fall. Her son, Rodney, Pointe Claire, arrived the last week of August and then daughter Ruth Lyall, Green Valley, stayed for the month of September. In early October, Edith Cunningham, Cornwall, along with Betty and Allan Sinclair, Ingleside, came for ten days. Gloria and Bob Ross, Ottawa, arrived for two weeks. Also, Vivian Scott, Mississauga and Heather Giannakos, Chesterville, arrived for ten days in late October. Ruth returned in early November and stayed three weeks.

Anne and Gordon MacWhirter visited family and friends in early October. Travelling by car, they drove to Montreal and then on to Hamilton, Ontario by plane. They visited there with Anne's brother Bob and Gayle. On to Niagara Falls, where they met with friends and family for a three-hour coffee visit. Great



Anne MacWhirter
**HOPETOWN
NEWS**

conversations with Willie and Bev Hayes, Gerry and Jackie MacWhirter, Kathy (Enright) Watt and Mike, Alden and Sue Hayes, Dorcas Hayes and Kathy Comerford. Friends Sharon and Leslie Dow stayed overnight with them in the Falls, where they enjoyed seeing fireworks at night. On to visit two fairs, one in Simcoe and the next day in Brigden. A couple of serious card games of 500 to make the visit complete.

After returning to Montreal, they joined more fam-

ily at a Thanksgiving dinner at the new home of Derek Dow and Cory in Metcalfe, Ontario (Derek is Cathy's son. Cathy is Dorothy's daughter) Dave Dow and Kevin Dow enjoyed the dinner too. Cathy's sister, Janet Sabourin and Donald attended as well as their children and grandchildren.

Three of Anne and Gordon's children, Trudy, Jeanie, Kevin and six out of seven grandchildren were able to join in the fun.

Audrey, eldest of the grandchildren, returned home with Nanny and Poppa by car. Audrey is studying in Carleton CEGEP this year.

If you'd like local news to be printed in this column, please send it to me at agmacwhirter@hotmail.com It is becoming increasingly difficult to get news on a regular basis. If I don't receive it, I cannot put it in the SPEC. So, do your part, please.



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COAST ROUND-UP

POINTE NAVARRE:

Shrine of Our Lady Upcoming Events

Monday, December 5: One hour of Taizé prayer will be held. Music, silence, songs and prayer will make you experience a time of relaxation and spiritual enrichment. Starts at 7 p.m.

Tuesday, December 6: The mass of St. Peregrine, patron of the sick suffering from cancer and long term diseases will be celebrated starting at 7 p.m.

Thursday, December 8: There will be a mass to celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary at 7 p.m.

ROSEBRIDGE:

Cap Aux Os Carol Service

The carol service will be held on **Saturday, November 26** at 7 p.m. in Cap aux Os United Church. Everyone is welcome to come and join us in this service. There will be Bible reading, Christmas stories and carol singing, followed by hot chocolate and goodies.

GASPÉ:

Christmas Sale

The friends of St. Paul's Anglican Church, Gaspé will hold its Christmas sale on **Saturday, November 26** beginning at 9 a.m.

GASPÉ:

Christmas Tea

The Gaspé Cancer Foundation will once again be holding its annual Christmas Tea on **Sunday, November 27**, at 1:30 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion in Gaspé. Musical entertainment will be provided during the tea. Admission is \$8 for adults and \$4 for 12 and under. For more information contact Beatrice Coffin at 418-368-1566.

YORK:

York River Seniors Club

The York River Seniors Club will be holding its Annual Christmas Party on **Saturday, December 3**, at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 59 in Gaspé. Cocktails are at 5 p.m., supper at 6 p.m. with music and dancing to follow. Price \$20 per person with a \$15 rebate given to all York River Seniors Club members at the door. The tickets are now on sale. Please note that there will be a limit of 140 tickets available. Get your tickets early. Tickets available at Photo Cassidy or

Tony Patterson (418-368-3276).

YORK:

ACW

The York ACW will be having a craft sale at the Carrefour Gaspé on **Saturday, December 10** from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. A great chance to get some Christmas shopping done. Hope to see you there.

DOUGLASTOWN:

Century Lodge #100

A breakfast will be held on **Saturday, November 26** at the Century Lodge #100 at 53 Rue Thompson, starting at 8 a.m. Cost is \$7 per person. For more information call Alfred Cassidy at 418-368-2011.

BARACHOIS:

Upcoming Community Events

Saturday, November 26: Spaghetti Supper fundraiser at the Barachois Legion, 5 p.m., \$8 for adults, \$4 children. Silent auction, raffle, door prizes.

Saturday December 10: Christmas Market indoors at the Belle Anse School from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. If you live in the Barachois / St. Georges / Percé areas and are interested in reserving a table (either as an individual or as a fundraiser for a group), please contact Sandy Coombs at 418-645-2874. Tables \$10.

PORT DANIEL:

Three Star 50+ Club

Saturday, November 26: Whist party at 8 p.m. A light lunch will be served.

SHIGAWAKE:

Community Centre Upcoming Events

Friday, December 2: Christmas Super Gift Bingo. Come out and enjoy the night.

Saturday, December 17: Children's Christmas dance from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. with a visit from Santa.

Saturday, December 31: New Year's Eve dance. Cost is \$12 per person.

SHIGAWAKE:

St. Paul's Anglican Church

Come, and bring your singing voices, to a Service of Lessons & Carols which will be held on **Sunday, December 18** at St. Paul's Anglican Church, Shigawake, beginning at 11 a.m. A free will offering will be taken to replenish the Malcolm Evan's Pastoral Care Fund. If you wish a tax receipt please place your donation in an envelope clearly marked: The Malcolm Evan's Fund, including your name and the Church you attend so that your respective church may issue you a tax receipt. If donating by cheque please make your cheque payable to your Church and follow the above instructions.

Lunch and a social time will follow at the Community Centre. Everyone welcome.

SHIGAWAKE:

SPDS Governing Board Meetings

Tuesday, November 22: Meeting at 6:30 p.m. at Hope Town Log Cabin.

Tuesday, January 31: Meeting at 6:30 p.m. at Shigawake Port-Daniel School.

Tuesday, March 28: Meeting at 6:30 p.m. at Hope Town Log Cabin.

Tuesday, May 30: Meeting at 6:30 p.m. at Shigawake Port-Daniel School.

HOPE TOWN:

Sports and Recreation Centre

Saturday, December 3: At 7:30 p.m. Christmas gift bingo at the Hope Town Community Center. Organized by the Hope Town Sports and Recreation Club.

HOPE TOWN:

Hope Baptist Church

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

HOPE TOWN:

Whist Party

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

NEW CARLISLE:

Christmas Bazaar

Saturday, November 26: St. Andrew's Anglican Church will be holding its annual Christmas Bazaar at the Town Hall from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For table rental (\$10) please call Agnes at 418-752-7192.

NEW CARLISLE:

Branch 64 Legion Upcoming Events

Saturday, December 3: There will be a Christmas gift bingo starting at 7 p.m. at the legion.

Sunday, December 11: Santa will visit the legion from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Bring your children for some Christmas fun.

Saturday, December 17: There will be a Ladies night starting at 9 p.m. DJ is Shannon Marsh. Cover charge \$5. Come on out for some fun!

NEW CARLISLE:

50+ Club

The New Carlisle 50+ Club will be having a breakfast at the Heritage Restaurant on **Wednesday, December 14** at 9 a.m. All members and their partners are invited to attend.

NEW CARLISLE:

Life Association

Wednesday, November 30: The Life Association AGM will be held at 4 p.m. at the New Carlisle Town Hall.

NEW CARLISLE:

Bible Chapel Services

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

NEW RICHMOND:

Richmond Manor Upcoming Events

Sunday, November 27: The Chaleur Bay Seniors' Association will be holding its annual pork roast dinner from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Richmond Manor, 196, boulevard Perron West in New Richmond. Cost is \$12 per person. Takeout orders are possible. Please call us at 418-392-4102 to buy your tickets.

FUNDRAISER: The Richmond Manor is the owner of a John Wiseman original which hangs in the livingroom. As a fundraiser we are selling our prints for just \$50 each. This is an unprecedented bargain. What a wonderful Christmas gift. Please call Manjula at 418-392-4102

NEW RICHMOND:

Upcoming Events

**St. Andrew's United Church
Friday, December 16:** Christmas Concert.

Sunday, December 18: There will be a special Advent Service at St. Andrew's United Church in

New Richmond at 10 a.m. in memory of loved ones. Hand crafted angels will be sold for \$5 each and if desired placed on the Christmas Memorial Tree during the service. For more information or to reserve an angel, please contact Kathleen Paquet at 418-392-4896 or Delena Powell-Bujold at 418-392-6813.

NEW RICHMOND:

Friperie Notice

Friperie Entraide de l'É.P.É. is open as usual on Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. We always have a large selection of clothing in all sizes for families as well as furniture. If you have items which are still functioning, don't throw them away before calling us because there are people who have need of a stove, fridge, washer, dryer, bed, chair, table, etc. For information: 418 392-5161 (248 boul. Perron West, New Richmond).

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

50 + Club

Upcoming Events

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

Wednesday, November 16, 23 and 30 Practice at 6 p.m. at the Fifty Plus Club. Everyone welcome to join us.

Saturday, December 3: Annual Christmas concert at 1 p.m.

Saturday, December 9: Jam session at the 50+ Club.

CASCAPEDIA-ST. JULES:

Legion Branch 172

Saturday, December 3: There will be a meeting at 1 p.m. followed by the annual elections. If any member wishes to stand for office, please submit your name to Gail Martin-Harrison at 418-392-2725.

GESGAPEGIAG:

Community Market

The Community market will take place on **Saturday, November 26** from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Galgoasiet. Rain or shine!

UNITED CHURCH Sunday, November 27

10 a.m. New Richmond
2 p.m. Hope Town

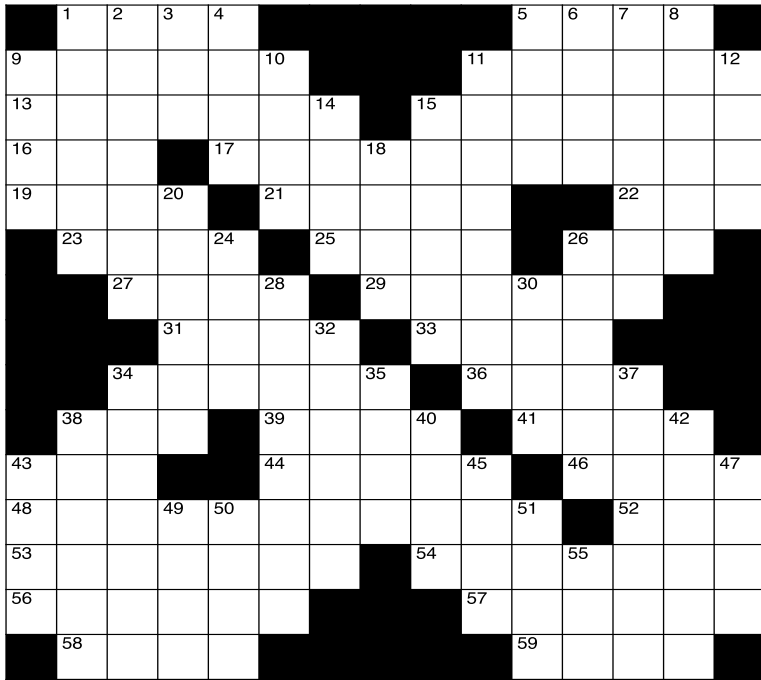
ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

Sunday, November 27 New Carlisle

10 a.m. Morning Prayer
Hope Town
10 a.m. Morning Prayer



CROSSWORDS

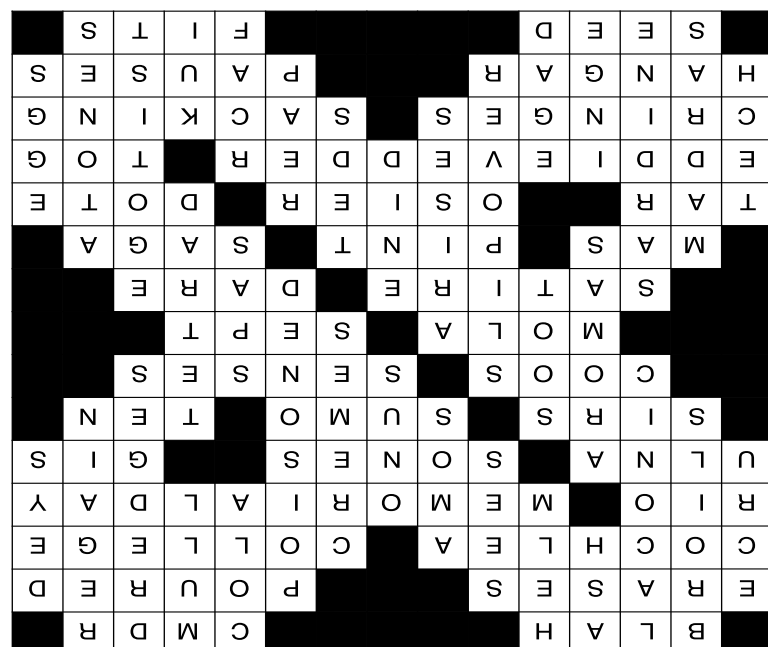


CLUES ACROSS

1. Nonsense (slang)
5. Military leader (abbr.)
9. Removes
11. Streamed
13. Inner ear cavity
15. Where to go after high school
16. Olympics host
17. A day to remember fallen soldiers
19. Forearm bone
21. Bypass surgery pioneer
F. Mason ___
22. Judo garments
23. Gentlemen
25. Large wrestler
26. Large integer
27. Makes a soft sound
29. Some claim to have six
31. Sunfish
33. Clan
34. A form of comedy
36. Defy
38. More (Spanish)
39. Sixteen ounces
41. Adventure story
43. Liquid distilled from wood or coal
44. Michigan ghost town
46. Fond of
48. Pearl Jam frontman
52. Clothes
53. Flinches
54. Giving the axe
56. Where planes are kept
57. Intervals
58. Plant's unit of reproduction
59. Equips

CLUES DOWN

1. Cooks by exposure to direct heat
2. Using few words
3. Wood
4. Steer
5. Soft drink
6. Consider
7. Clears from a river
8. Claim again
9. Beige
10. Witnesses
11. Spiked
12. Partidge actor Susan and Marmaduke director Tom
14. ___ and Andy, TV show
15. Fraiche and de Menthe are two
18. Burden
20. Olfactory properties
24. Carbon particles
26. Set of four
28. A sweater pulled over the head
30. Relaxing places
32. Gets up
34. Canned fish
35. ___ Blyton, children's author
37. A conceited and self-centered person
38. Fine-textured cotton fabric
40. Turner and Kennedy
42. Repents
43. Smartphones, tablets, etc.
45. A way to garner
47. Eat them for breakfast
49. Former Tigers third baseman Brandon
50. Oh, God!
51. Canadian flyers
55. One legged Chinese mythological demon



Why do we say

By Gary Briand

We attack today an enigmatic phrase that will conclude with no decisive choice to the three interpretations we give. The reader can make his/her own decision.

The phrase "to get a person by the short hairs" is an expression quite common to our Gaspésie, one that I have heard in various parts of Canada. Its meaning is clear: to have a person at one's mercy, to have complete mastery over or, at least, to have a marked advantage over an adversary.

The first recorded use of the expression in print goes back to George P. Burnham who published in 1872 *Memories of the United States Secret Service*. In the 1860's and 70's, men who fondly wore their hair and beards long were fastidious in demanding their barbers trim their nape hairs short. This short hair when pulled was more sensitive than that of the beard or the head hair. Many a time a man was rendered helpless by a grip on the short nape hairs.

Another possible explanation dates to the wars with the American natives. Many Indian bands covered their genitals with the briefest of animal skin but several bands wore no covering at all. In hand to hand combat where weapons were absent and hand to hand fighting occurred, the ideal place for the soldiers to grasp the native was by the short pubic hairs, a move that brought pain that eventually subdued the enemy.

A third explanation holds that the derivation comes from the beard. If a contestant caught a fellow by the short hairs of the beard, the contest was soon over. In 1809, Washington Irving's book *A Knickerbocker's History of New York* contains: "A gigantic question ... which I must needs take by the beard and utterly subdue."

Nape hair, pubic hair or beard hair. Your choice, dear reader!



Whenever you purchase a box of S.O.S Pads, immediately take a pair of scissors and cut each pad into halves.

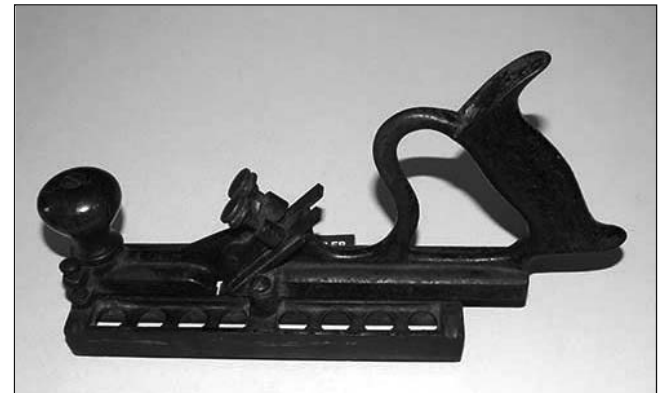
After years of having to throw away rusted and unused and smelly pads, I finally decided that this would be much more economical.

Now a box of S.O.S pads lasts longer. In fact, you will notice that scissors get sharpened this way!

What's This Artifact?



Marshall Billingsley



Answer: This object was once used to make groove & tongue boards, one by one. The object would be run across the board, and the teeth would make the groove in the board where the tongue would fit to hold the boards together.

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, step out of the limelight this week and let another person close to you shine. He or she needs the vote of confidence. Lend your support and offer any advice you can.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21
An impossible situation may prove less difficult than you initially expected, Taurus. Stick with your current path, and you can overcome the challenges ahead.

GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21
Gemini, your calendar is filled. Make the most of social situations and your chance to be the life of the party. There will be time to recharge your batteries later in the month.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22
Cancer, certain things have been on your mind and you don't know how to reach a resolution. It may be best if you talk things over with a trusted friend.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23
Your specialized skills are called on in the workplace this week, Leo. Make the most of this opportunity to prove to your superiors just how much you are able capable of.



VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22
Sometimes others do not see things from your perspective, Virgo. It may take some convincing to get them to come around to your way of thinking. Exercise patience.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23
A family situation arises and you're asked to resolve it, Libra. You may need to step back and let things play out, but try your best to come to a decision that benefits all involved.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, this week is a great time to take a step back and regroup. Things have been hectic of late, and the chance to rest up and relax is just what the doctor ordered.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21
Put your family first this week, Sagittarius. You have been overwhelmed with professional responsibilities in recent weeks, but now it's time to reconnect with your loved ones.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, you might need to save a

little more before booking that dream vacation. You're on the cusp of your getaway; you just need to hammer out a few more financial details.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18
Aquarius, maintain the strictest confidence when a loved one discloses something to you this week. You're a source of strength for this person, and they trust you to remain silent.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
Continue to communicate openly and honestly with others, Pisces. It's the best way to get ahead and solidify existing relationships.

- FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS**
- NOVEMBER 20**
Dierks Bentley, Singer (41)
 - NOVEMBER 21**
Troy Aikman, Athlete (50)
 - NOVEMBER 22**
Hailey Baldwin, Model (20)
 - NOVEMBER 23**
Robin Roberts, TV Host (56)
 - NOVEMBER 24**
Sarah Hyland, Actress (26)
 - NOVEMBER 25**
Christina Applegate, Act. (45)

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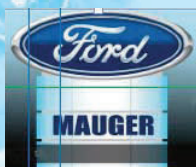


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