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week



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– A paranormal report



Cascapedia-St-Jules
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by vessels and fishing gear

The Gaspé **Spec**

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Railway bridge proves dependable

Gilles Gagné

RISTIGOUCHE SOUTH EAST – The Gaspésie Railway Society, Transport Québec and a Mont-Joli company, Sema Railway Structures successfully united to change an old railway bridge between September 23 and September 28 at Ristigouche South East, between Pointe-à-la-Croix and Matapédia.

The previous mileage 9 bridge dated back to the 1890s and has been hit with slow orders since at least 1989. The replacement of the bridge was initially scheduled for the fall of 2015 but it was postponed several times by the owner of the Matapédia to Gaspé line, Quebec's department of Transport.

"The bridge was made in Mont-Joli by Sema Railway Structures and that company also carried out its installation," points out Luc Lévesque, director general of the Gaspésie Railway Society,

the operator of the line.

The last train to pass on the old bridge was the September 23 windmill blade train. Traffic resumed on September 28 with a train hauling woodchips, lumber and cement.

"The cost of replacing the bridge amounted to \$1 million," adds Mr. Lévesque. That amount was taken from the annual envelope earmarked by Transport Québec for line improvements and maintenance work over the functional stretch of the railway, between Matapédia and Caplan.

Luc Lévesque doesn't know when a portion of the \$100 million announced on May 5 by Quebec Premier Philippe Couillard will be available for improvements on the Matapédia to Gaspé line.

He also doesn't know if the nomination of a new minister responsible for the region, namely Pierre Moreau, will

Cont'd on page 5



Credit: Quebec Forest, Wildlife and Parks Department

Adult females represent 64.5 % of the Gaspesian moose population.

Significant male/female imbalance in Gaspé Peninsula moose population

Geneviève Gélinas

GASPÉ – The moose population on the Gaspé Peninsula has been increasing by 13% over the last ten years. Two-thirds of the population are now females, an imbalance

due to the hunting regulations in the region, where there are more hunters than moose. The Department of Forests, Wildlife and Parks is addressing this imbalance, which limits moose breeding.

Moose hunting with rifles

took place from October 14 to 22 on Gaspesian public land, where close to 25,000 hunters try their luck every year. They're attracted by the high moose density – 11 animals on

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Lelièvre hopeful that Pierre Moreau will be a better regional minister

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND – The Member of the National Assembly for the riding of Gaspé, Gaétan Lelièvre, calls the nomination of Pierre Moreau as minister responsible for the Gaspé Peninsula "very good news" and he is hopeful that Mr. Moreau will do a significantly better job than his predecessor, Sébastien Proulx.

Pierre Moreau was also appointed Minister of Natural

Resources, which will increase his role in regional affairs. He was previously minister responsible for the Treasury Board.

"It is very good news for two reasons. I have developed a very good collaboration with Mr. Moreau over the last year or two. There is mutual respect between us. He is one minister who can talk frankly with opposition members of the National Assembly like me. Secondly, he is a senior

minister. He is not speaking in tongues. You get an answer when you ask him a question. It might not always be the answer you want but he has a position," says Mr. Lelièvre.

"Sébastien Proulx is doing good work at the Education ministry but regarding the region, he was absent, almost invisible. It takes an energetic person. I am convinced that he (Mr. Moreau) will be the best of the three liberal ministers that have been responsible for

the Gaspé Peninsula. I am confident but I am not naïve. A good hockey player must play as a team member," adds Mr. Lelièvre.

The Liberal Party minister in charge of the Gaspé Peninsula following the 2014 election was Jean d'Amours. He was replaced by Mr. Proulx in January 2016.

"We are not dealing with a government that has placed regional development at the heart of its preoccupations.

There are currently (budgetary) surpluses but they were obtained at the expense of the regions. It is one of this government's Achilles' heels. The regions were forgotten, ignored since the 2014 election," he points out.

The Gaspé riding Member of the National Assembly (MNA) has been sitting as an independent since the spring due to a controversy regarding

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SALLE DE SPECTACLES:

Camera Eye to pay tribute to Rush

New Richmond's Billy Robertson plays drums for Camera Eye

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND – Camera Eye, a band based mainly in Quebec City which counts within its ranks New Richmond-raised drummer Danny Robertson, will present a tribute to Rush, the famous Canadian rock band, on October 28 at 8 p.m. at the New Richmond concert hall.

Danny Robertson, who has been living in Baie Comeau for five years, plays for seven bands, three in his adopted hometown and four elsewhere, mostly in Quebec City. Camera Eye provides an increasing volume of work to its members.

"We play everywhere in Quebec. It is Camera Eye's first gig in Eastern Quebec and we want to come more often. We are also doing better and better on the Montreal market", he says.

Camera Eye was founded by its first drummer in 2009. Billy Robertson was asked to

replace him by bass player and lead singer Mathieu Gosselin, a musician he has known and played with for over 20 years. Étienne Roberge is the band's guitarist.

"It has been a dream of mine to play at home since I left, in 1989. People remember that I played the drums with my dad Len, for the band called Len and the Country Nights. I have many friends at home that have not seen me play. I am really excited. Music is my passion. I still have another job, as a clerk for Fortin et Lévesque, a business specialized in truck and machinery parts", explains Billy Robertson.

The Camera Eye tribute to Rush is presented according to the "free space" formula, with a bar service for the duration of the show. People can find more details at <http://spectaclesnewrichmond.com/programmation/spectacles/homme-age-a-rush/>

Five candidates in Percé

Geneviève Gélinas

PERCÉ – On November 5, the Percé electors will be in a position to choose between five mayoral candidates. The Spec interviewed them.

Jean-Guy Dubé

Jean-Guy Dubé, 75 years old, lives in the village of Percé. He makes carved wood signs and owns the art gallery called "À l'ombre du rocher."

Mr. Dubé would like to attract refugees to Percé. "We're experiencing devitalization, we could welcome people. We could convince the government to give us advantages in order to welcome refugees in our villages, rather than cramming them in Québec or Montréal. There are farmers and fishermen among them; we need them here."

Ottawa and Québec should pay to build homes for those refugees, believes Mr. Dubé. "With the support of other Quebec municipalities, we should be able to convince the governments."

Mr. Dubé wishes to build boat ramps in every community of Percé located on the seaside. He also wants community policing, that is to say policemen who are closest to people.

Owen Bouchard

Owen Bouchard is a retired administrator at the department of Justice. The 74-year-old man thinks that the Municipality of Percé is

"under the control of a group and has become an economic development society. That's the job of businessmen. The role of the municipality is to give services to the citizens," he says.

"If citizens have projects, the Town can support them by directing them to other levels of government. But the town employees' time doesn't have to be invested in economic development projects," Mr. Bouchard states.

He is asking for "more listening and more services for citizens." He would pay more attention to files like roads and sidewalks repairs, snow clearing of sidewalks and the installation of a bus shelter for Orléans Express users. Mr. Bouchard says that he's perfectly bilingual, because his mother used to speak English at home.

Cathy Poirier

Cathy Poirier, a 42-year-old business woman, is the co-owner of Monsieur Émile

smokehouse and president of the Percé Geopark. "It is important to rebuild a Greater Percé with a sense belonging and inclusion of all," she says.

"I want to decentralize recreation and tourism," Mrs. Poirier states. For example, the Geopark could promote more geo-sites in the Greater Percé area, like the Malbay sandbank, between Corner of the Beach and Barachois.

She wants to address the Percé demography problem. "If we want to increase the collective wealth and decrease the tax burden, we must be attractive to promoters, investors. As for families, we are becoming an increasingly dynamic environment."

Mrs. Poirier considers that she has the skills to represent Percé in regional and provincial forums. If she's elected, she will resign from the Geopark presidency and will delegate her responsibilities in her

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NOTICE

TO HUNTERS



The Town of Bonaventure would like to remind hunters that it is forbidden to hunt on private property without the express permission of the owner. The Town of Bonaventure cautions that all land on its territory is privately owned.

Hunters are reminded that it is important to respect the regulations on shooting near buildings and public roads.

In addition, we wish to emphasize that the Sûreté du Québec will provide an increased presence on the territory of the town during the deer hunting season to ensure compliance with all regulations.



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- Target collective needs such as for the elderly, families and youth;
- Continue ongoing projects.

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Police report

Simon Bergeron, 21 from New Richmond who had been missing from home since 2 p.m. on October 19, was found dead on the evening of October 20 in New Richmond. Sûreté du Québec officers didn't reveal the cause of his death but ruled out foul play.



Sûreté du Québec officers are still trying to find the vandals that vandalised the Bonaventure train station in the past year. Three windows and the glass of two doors were smashed and some damage was caused inside the building. The station belongs to the Gaspésie Railway Society and is leased to Via Rail. The station has not been occupied by VIA Rail since the suspension of the passenger train service, in September 2013. "It is permitted to think that the vandalism was caused by young vandals," points out Sûreté du Québec spokesperson Sgt. Claude Doiron. The evidence gathered so far is minimal.

On October 16, a fire totalled a New Richmond house located on Pamphile-Leblanc Street. The fire was reported to the police and firefighters at 7:15 a.m. by passers-by. Nobody was in the house when the firefighters arrived at the house. The owner is working in Western Canada and was away at that time. "An electrical problem looks like the cause of the fire," says Sgt. Claude Doiron, Sûreté du Québec spokesperson. The Caplan firefighters joined their New Richmond colleagues in order to put out the blaze. Up to 17 firefighters worked together to extinguish the fire.

The right whales' food supply is getting scarce

Geneviève Gélinas

GASPÉ – Collisions with vessels and entanglement in fishing gear are not the only enemies of right whales. Their main food, copepods, is getting scarce. As a result, the right whales give birth to a lower number of babies.

The biggest copepod is as big as a grain of rice. Despite its small size, this component of zooplankton is vital to North Atlantic right whales, an endangered species with only 500 specimens remaining.

Since 2010, the copepod's biomass has been decreasing in the Bay of Fundy and on the Scotian Shelves, the right whales' usual habitat in the summer. The whales are also fleeing that area. "The abandonment of usual habitats is

correlated to the decrease in their food," states Stéphane Plourde, a Fisheries and Oceans Canada researcher, specializing in zooplankton ecology.

There have been more sightings of right whales over the last few years in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. There could be more sightings because there is more effort to find them, warns Mr. Plourde. But one thing is certain: their distribution area is changing.

"Maybe right whales are moving more to find food [...]. But it's not because they go elsewhere that they're doing well," says Mr. Plourde.

The copepods in the Gulf of St. Lawrence have also been on a downward trend

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PASPEBIAC:

October 18 Career Day a huge success

Gilles Gagné

PASPEBIAC – The Committee for Anglophone Social Action (CASA), the Eastern Shores School Board, the Community Learning Centre, Complices en éducation and the Community Economic Development and Employability Corporation (CEDEC) held a Career day event at the Paspebiac cultural centre on October 18. Up to 210 grade 5 to grade 11 students from the Escuminac, New Richmond, New Carlisle, Shigawake-Port Daniel and Chandler schools attended the event.

Up to 40 organizations and companies set up kiosks for the occasion. For example, the Sûreté du Québec had two police officers designated to talk about their occupation. The Canadian Armed Forces, a lawyer, Family Ties, forestry groups and many other potential job providers were on hand to explain to the students



Photo: G. Gagné

Fisherman Jeffrey Vautier demonstrates the art of tying knots to some students.

what their activities are about. Shigawake's lobster fisherman Jeffrey Vautier (photo) was there to talk about commercial fisheries and his table was the centre of constant activity for the duration of the morning. A good story-teller, Mr. Vautier showed some knot and splice tricks to the youths,

who had keen interest in that craft. CASA's Shannon Marsh says the event went so well that all the partners want to hold it again in 2018. "Hopefully, we will be able to organize it on a yearly basis, and we would like to welcome the Gaspé (town) schools," she points out.

Right whale deaths caused by vessels and fishing gear

Geneviève Gélinas

GASPÉ – Five right whale deaths were caused by human activities in 2017, some as the result of a collision with a vessel and at least one other because the sea mammal got entangled in snow crab fishing gear. Those results were revealed by necropsies performed on carcasses found over the last few months in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Twelve North Atlantic right whales, an endangered species, have been found dead in Canadian waters since June, an unprecedented mortality occurrence. Veterinarians examined some carcasses and delivered their report for six whales on October 5.

For four whales, necropsy findings were compatible with acute death due to trauma. The cause of death of a fifth one couldn't be determined because of advanced decomposition, but some observations also suggested blunt trauma, which causes internal bleeding and sometimes, fractures.

Collisions with vessels are "the only known cause of blunt trauma for right whales," states Émilie L. Couture, a veterinarian at the Granby Zoo and at Université de Montréal.

The sixth whale died from



Credit: Krista Petersen, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

On September 19 in Miscou, scientists and whale conservationists performed a necropsy on a right whale which was found dead, entangled in snow crab fishing gear.

entanglement in fishing gear. "We observed fishing ropes, suboptimal body condition and scars," said Mrs. Couture. Whales entangled in fishing gear have difficulties to feed.

The scientists couldn't give the complete necropsy results for a seventh carcass examined on September 19 in Miscou, New Brunswick but it was also entangled in fishing gear, they pointed out.

Veterinarians checked for evidence of bio-toxins, infectious diseases and starvation to see if it could have been the primary cause of the death. "It is very unlikely that those conditions were involved," says Mrs. Couture.

There are less than 500 North Atlantic right whales left. "There's an obvious emergency. It's a highly endangered species. One death is very serious. Twelve is a huge scale. We have to discuss the probable causes and find solutions," explains veterinarian Pierre-Yves Daoust, pathologist and professor at the Atlantic Veterinary College of the University of Prince Edward Island, who participated in the necropsies.

"Necropsy findings of trauma and entanglement coincide with high levels of fisheries and maritime traffic in

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Commentary

Gilles Gagné

Could you start with an apology, Mr. Moreau?

Some people praise Philippe Couillard for the nomination of Pierre Moreau as the minister responsible for the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands. Mr. Moreau is recognized as a man of action who usually carries out the mandates that are required of him.

After the abrasive style of Jean d'Amours, minister responsible for our region between April 2014 and January 2016, and the way too discrete Sébastien Proulx, whose tenure in the Gaspé Peninsula lasted between January 2016 and mid-October, here comes a minister with other new responsibilities that are tied to the region, Natural Resources.

However, the Liberal Party government of Philippe Couillard has one hell of a hill to climb in Quebec's regions, and especially on the Gaspé Peninsula. Government funding for regional budgetary items fell drastically between 2014 and 2017.

Who was the minister in charge of axing regional budgets? Pierre Moreau was and he pro-

ceeded with a zeal that had not been seen at the Quebec level in decades, if ever. Since the summer, Philippe Couillard has admitted that reinvesting in the Quebec regions is a must for his government leading to the October 2018 election. That is an understatement.

His government slashed in health and social services, in education, in regional development organizations, in transport, in private business grants, to name a few. Those cuts hurt a lot of people. It created so much uncertainty that in the fall of 2014, people's normal consumption decreased drastically while it usually increases in the stretch leading to Christmas.

Giving the responsibility of the Gaspé Peninsula to Pierre Moreau sounds like asking the arsonist he was in regional development to put out his own fire.

Many people have forgotten that his law 28, adopted after the suspension of debates at the National Assembly, led to yearly cuts of \$300 million in Quebec's rural communities and small to medium-sized towns, while Quebec and Montreal only lost 70 million altogether. The two cities add up to 50% of the Quebec population, but they absorbed only 19% of the cuts!

That government expressed at the same time another form of urban favoritism when Montreal's and Quebec City's municipal workforce pension programs received a boost of \$1.1 billion over 15 years from Quebec City!

Law 28 was Philippe Couillard's imitation of Stephen Harper's mammoth bills. Law 28 modified 60 existing laws, eight regulations and was

more than 300 paragraphs in length! Some of its content was dealing with day cares, the wages of pharmacists, Hydro-Québec surpluses and provided mining companies with more flexibility when dealing with municipal authorities!

The list of measures hampering regional development could go on and on. Law 28 abolished the Conférences régionales des élus, the CRÉs, of all regions. They were imperfect organizations but axing them completely was not the thing to do.

Our CRÉ was instrumental behind the salvage of the Matapédia-Gaspé railway, the development of fiber optic in the region, the creation of RéGIM, our commuting service, and the creation of our Inter-municipal Energy Board, which is distributing more than \$1 million annually to the municipalities of the Gaspé Peninsula in wind energy royalties.

There is now a big hole in the planning of our region's future. Between 2011 and 2016, a period mostly covered by the austerity measures of the Philippe Couillard and Pauline Marois governments, the Gaspé Peninsula lost 3,000 residents, which is 12 times more than 257, the loss of the 2006-2011 census period, when we thought that the population loss would be completely curtailed.

Of course, Pierre Moreau was not the only cabinet member behind law 28. However, because he enthusiastically defended that bill and applied the measures contained in it, he should start his Gaspé Peninsula mandate with an apology and a commitment to the effect that he will quickly take care of the region's interest. He will then have to prove that he is a real man of action.

Guest Commentary:

Cynthia Dow

The "evil" cop-out

"The Devil made me do it!" Anyone who was around in the 1970s will remember the wonderfully funny Flip Wilson show, whose main character was known for blaming everything bad he did on Lucifer.

It was funny in a sitcom, it's not so funny when we are talking about tragedies like the recent mass shooting in Las Vegas. All too often, however, that's what we hear politicians say, and Donald Trump did not disappoint. He called the incident "an act of pure evil."

I am not going to get into whether or not "evil" exists, or the Devil for that matter. I don't really know, except to say that whenever I have run into ugly

deeds, I find the person to be generally full of pain and suffering. "Hurt people hurt people," is my understanding.

For a politician to use the "evil" label for an act makes it sound like nothing can be done to avoid future such incidents. If the Devil made Stephen Paddock do it, then what can be done? Nothing but praying... and maybe going out to buy more guns for "protection," as unfortunately many Americans did the morning after.

So far it seems a mystery, why Stephen Paddock surrounded himself with so many deadly weapons and then turned them on innocent concert-goers below. Police declared themselves as "baffled".

But whether or not we know what motivated the killer, there are still actions that can be taken to prevent similar occurrences. And we all know one of them: tighter gun controls.

Believe it or not (I had to double-check this) the Las Vegas affair was the 273rd mass shooting in the US since the year 2017 started.... 273rd mass shooting on the 274th day of the year! That's one

mass shooting per day. Something's really, really wrong, and I don't think blaming it on "evil" is going to solve the problem.

In contrast, Canada's only mass shooting thus far in 2017 was the horrible attack on the Quebec City mosque back in January. And we all know what that was about. Sadly, the provincial government continues with its attack on religious symbols by allowing discussion on a draft law to ban religious symbols within the public service. That kind of discussion only fuels racial tension and religious hatred.

In both cases, it's clear to me that the Devil DID NOT do it: two individual men did. Men who were, for one reason or another, out of balance with society. Men who, one way or another, had access to deadly weapons. Surely something can be done about both those causes: easy access to guns on the one hand, and untreated mental health issues on the other.

Men are much less likely than women to reach out for help when confronted with troubling thoughts or feelings. In fact, an article in Psychology Today earlier this year alluded to a "silent crisis in men's mental health" that has to be attended to.

Recent statistics indicate that almost one in two Americans run around with guns in their pockets, cars or homes. Scary!

So let's stop using "evil" as a cop-out and start talking about the social issues that must be dealt with if we are to stop these mass murders. We need to reach out to men and improve their access to mental health services, while reducing their access to guns. Surely not that difficult?

Correction

In the election cover story in the October 18 issue of The Gaspé Spec, it was written that Cascapédia-St-Jules was part of the MRC of Avignon, when in fact it is part of the MRC of Bonaventure. Our apologies for this error.



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RIGHT WHALES

▶ *Cont'd from page 3*

the Gulf of St. Lawrence. More research is needed to understand right whales' habitat use in the Gulf as well as the human activities in these waters to prevent further deaths," the report's authors write.

"Justified measures"

"These results show that the steps taken so far this summer to slow down ships and to

close some fisheries were warranted," the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, Dominic LeBlanc and the Minister of Transport, Marc Garneau, acknowledged through a press release.

The ministers said that on July 20, Ottawa closed the number 12 snow crab fishing zone in the southern part of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Since August 11, vessels measuring 20 meters or more have to limit their speed to 10 knots (19 kilometres per hour) when

travelling in the western portion of the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Over the next few months, the Canadian government will meet with representatives of the fishing and marine transportation industries, as well as with scientists. Those consultations "will lead to changes next summer aimed at protecting these endangered animals from further harm," state the ministers. Right whales leave the Gulf in December to head south.

LÉLIEVRE

▶ *Cont'd from cover*

his past links with a now-deceased manager of an engineering firm. Mr. Lelièvre was elected under the Parti Québécois banner and he doesn't rule out rejoining that party's ranks.

"However, the surplus situation could spell relief for the regions. Couillard government members know that their record is poor in regional development and they will try to better the situation over the coming year, before the next election," says Mr. Lelièvre.

When he was minister of Municipal Affairs in 2014 and 2015, Pierre Moreau applied cuts on regional development envelopes. He is the man who enforced law 28, which led to the abolition of the *Conférences régionales des élus* and the *CLDs* (*Centres locaux de développement*, or Local Development Centres). He cut \$300 million in regional development and regions' municipal budgets. At the same time, he solved the actuarial deficit of Montreal and Quebec's municipal employees' retirement funds, a \$500 million bill paid by the Quebec government.

"I was the opposition critic in charge of law 28. It was my duty to ask questions regarding those cuts. It was a very hard time, as the government was cutting, cutting and cutting. On the other hand, Mr. Moreau is a man of action and he is doing what he is asked to do. In a situation favourable to regions, he could be an efficient ball carrier but as I said, he has to play as part of a team, even with opposition MNAs," says Mr. Lelièvre.

The Gaspé riding MNA has three Gaspé Peninsula subjects in mind where Pierre Moreau will have opportunities to show good faith and they are all related to transport.

"His government announced \$100 million for the railway five months ago but there has not been much action since. We still don't know how fast the government will move and where they will intervene. In air travel, there is a very interesting venture on the table, the Lindberg project, with a promoter, Serge Larivière, proposing to use Hydro-Québec's aircrafts, only used 15% of the time, for regional links. The model has been tried successfully in Ontario. Thirdly, the Lower North Shore, Anticosti Island and Gaspé Peninsula leaders have been rooting for the maritime link for years. The only commitment we have received so far is the delivery of a study in October 2018. That is just around election time and it already looks as if the government will stretch the matter over another term and use it electorally," says Mr. Lelièvre.

"I can't forget that only one representative of a Quebec region, the new Transport Minister André Fortin, joined the new cabinet. Up to 20 ministers from the Montreal area compose that cabinet. That's the bleakest aspect of the shuffle," he points out.



Photo: G. Gagné

Freight trains such as this windmill blade train can now pass at a fair speed on the bridge spanning the Kempt River at Ristigouche South East, after decades of slow orders.

BRIDGE

▶ *Cont'd from cover*

will accelerate the assessment process pertaining to line improvements.

In the meantime, three of the four windmill blade trains

scheduled between the end of October and the Christmas break will be delayed until the beginning of 2018, due to the impact the September rain storms had on the installation of windmills in Texas.

The Gaspésie Railway Society staff remains very busy. They have completed the replacement of close to 20,400 ties between Matapedia and

New Richmond, the spreading of 20,000 tons of ballast, the addition of cement traffic to the freight train, the integration of the leased woodchip cars to Nouvelle's Temrex sawmill activities, and the upcoming addition of the Saint-Elzéar sawmill to the freight clients, something that should take place before the end of the year.

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PUBLIC NOTICE ENACTMENT OF BY-LAW

NOTICE is hereby given that the Town Council, at its special meeting held on October 6, 2017, has adopted the following By-Laws:

By-law 1341-17:

Règlement abrogeant le règlement 1071-09 sur le tarif de la rémunération et des frais des membres du personnel électoral.

By-law 1342-17:

Règlement modifiant le règlement 1055-09 concernant la délégation à certains fonctionnaires municipaux du pouvoir d'autoriser des dépenses au nom de la Ville de Gaspé et abrogeant le règlement 1224-13.

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

GIVEN at Gaspé, October 18, 2017.

Isabelle Vézina,
Director of legal services and town clerk

Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



Land of the Silver Birch

*Land of the silver birch
Home of the beaver
Where still the mighty moose
Wanders at will
Blue lake and rocky shore
I will return once more
Boom-diddy-ab-da, Boom-diddy-ab-da,
Boom-diddy-ab-da, bo-oo-oom.*

The ubiquitous birch tree. They seem to be everywhere! Birch trees have attractive bark and leaves which makes them a popular choice for landscaping and artists. They prefer a moist soil, but beware of planting them too close to your house. This is because the roots like to travel in search of moisture. The birch is a fine-looking tree and should be considered for inclusion in your landscape. The birch tree is appreciated in song and art, and many artists choose the splendid birch tree as a subject for their paintings. On top of that, it is darn useful for firewood. There are a number of varieties of birch, which vary in hardness. Not as heat-providing as maple, for example, but much used nonetheless. It burns well and the bark serves as an effective fire starter. Birch bark was prized by natives because it could be stripped from the tree easily and was used to make canoes, shelters and even bowls. Birch 'tar' was made from the sap and then used as a type of glue on arrow tips.

Birch wood is hard and if used to make furniture you will likely need to use power tools, because hand tools will make working with birch difficult. It is a pale wood and very fine-grained. But birch has many other uses. It can be used to make plywood which is light and strong, but use it only for the interior as the wood is not suited for exterior use. It is used to make skateboards because it is also a flexible wood. Model airplane builders use it for the same reason. Howard Hughes the famous American billionaire and inventor built an airplane mostly from birch wood which he called the "Spruce Goose." Scandinavians use a bundle of birch tied together in the sauna, which they slap themselves with to stimulate blood flow and provide a relaxing feeling after the sauna.

Like many plants and trees in the past, the birch was used for healing and medicinal purposes. The chaga mushroom which is reputed to have powerful anti-oxidant properties, is a fungus which grows mainly on birch trees. It is unattractively dark and hardened with a crusty exterior. I give credit to whoever first dared to try this fungal parasite as a cure. It is not attractive. However, the reputed benefits are most impressive. They include prevent and treat cancer, strengthen the immune system, fight viruses and inflammation and increase stamina. Do not pick these yourself unless you know exactly which ones are safe to ingest. Most people buy chaga mushrooms at the health food store. They are then ground to make a potent tea. If you want to learn more, there are many online articles which explain how to make chaga tea. Birch syrup is gaining in popularity, but some people find the flavour a tad bitter.

There is a group of people who are not fans of birch trees. They would be those with birch tree allergies. In late spring the pollen is most plentiful and the most common reactions are itchy eyes, sneezing and runny nose. The estimate is that about 25% of people have this allergy to some extent. You may have been blaming ragweed, but it could be birch pollen that you are sensitive to. There is a group of foods that you might have an allergy or sensitivity to if you are allergic to birch trees. These include almonds, hazelnuts, walnuts, peanuts, soya beans, apples, pears, cherries, apricots, plums peaches, kiwis, potatoes, carrots, and celery. When you eat them, the body thinks its birch pollen. Cooking breaks down the proteins. But a visit to an allergist can confirm this.

The poet Robert Frost concludes that "One could do worse than be a swinger of birches." However, we know that a birch is useful for a great deal more than swinging on!

WHALE'S FOOD

▶ *Cont'd from page 3*

since 2015. They're cold water species and the water has been getting warmer. "If the water is too warm, the copepods aren't in an optimal zone anymore. Their capacity to survive decreases as well as their quantity," the researcher explains.

Warmer water has an impact on the whole food chain. Zooplankton feeds on phytoplankton (algae). So warmer water means that there will be

less algae or that it won't be abundant when the copepods need it most.

As a result of the lack of food, right whale females are smaller and don't have enough energy to breed. From 2012 to 2016, there were 45 % less calves born than during the five preceding years. The interval between calving periods is increasing. Between 2007 and 2011, it was three or four years. In 2015 and 2016, it was six or seven years.

A whale that moves around more to find food is more

likely to get entangled in fishing gear or to strike ships.

Twelve right whales, an unprecedented number, were found dead in the Gulf of St. Lawrence this past summer. Necropsies were performed on seven and they all seem to have died from an entanglement or a collision.

In the past, there was a decline in right whale's fertility rate. The copepods came back, says Mr. Plourde. However, because of global warming, "this year's conditions might occur more frequently."



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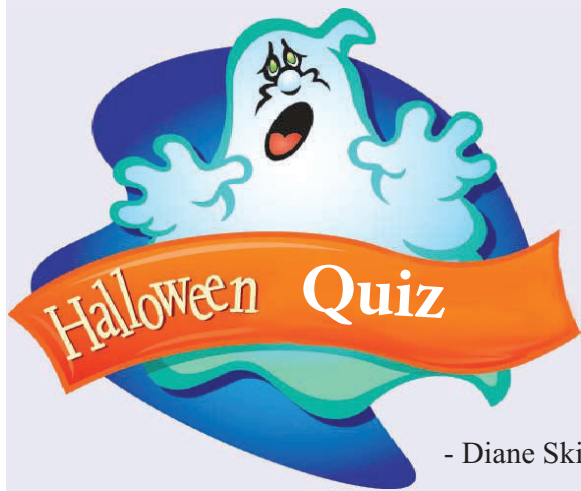
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Page 6, October 25, 2017 - Spec



- Diane Skinner Flowers

All Hallows' Eve, or Hallowe'en, or All Saints' Eve is observed in some countries on October 31. This tradition originates from ancient Celtic times. Over the centuries it has changed to be a celebration. It is a newish tradition on the Gaspé and if you ask your parents or grandparents or great-grandparents, chances are they did not celebrate this day in any big way. At one time it was all about playing pranks on your neighbours. Now it has become costume parties, carving pumpkins, trick or treating, haunted houses, candy, decorating the house and lawn and watching scary movies. See how much you know about this celebration.

1. What is the origin of the word Halloween?
2. Jack o'lanterns were originally carried to _____.
3. In Scotland, Ireland and England what vegetables were carved instead of pumpkins?
4. Trick-or-treating began in _____. People would go door to door and beg for food or money. A popular food was _____.
5. Trick-or-treating became popular in North America around_____.
6. Some believe that if you see a spider on Halloween night it is ____.
7. In Mexico they celebrate _____, instead of Halloween.
8. According to candy makers, the most popular Halloween treat is _____.
9. If someone has an intense fear of Halloween it is called _____.
10. According to one estimate, about \$_____ is spent on Halloween each year in North America. This would be for costumes, decorations, candy and parties. The average person spends \$_____ on candy, decorations and costumes.
11. There are no words found in the dictionary that rhyme with? (A Halloween colour)
12. According to CNN the top 5 children costumes are _____.
13. Animals associated with Halloween include _____.
14. The original name of candy corn was _____?
15. The next Halloween with a full moon will be in _____. The last full moon on Halloween was in _____. Before that, the last Halloween full moon was in _____.
16. The largest pumpkin ever grown was _____ (pounds or kgs)

Bonus: Make as many words as you can from the word Halloween. Without using obscure, seldom used scrabble words, I got a few over 60. Those who are proficient at Scrabble can certainly outdo that number!

Have a safe and scarilicious Halloween!

*"Shadows of a thousand years
rise again unseen,
Voices whisper in the trees,
Tonight is Halloween!"*



Just in case...

Diane Skinner

Many of us say we are not superstitious because these beliefs are based on old wives' tales (and old men tales too!) but not so fast. We deny being superstitious yet we feel Friday the 13th just might bring us bad luck or the breaking of a mirror upsets us a bit more than it should. Do you say bless you when somebody sneezes? This originated from more than good manners. It is based on the illogical belief that your soul leaves your body when you sneeze and in that instant the devil can take over your soul. Do you shudder if a black cat crosses your path? When you spill salt do you toss a bit over your left shoulder, just in case? If you find a horseshoe or a four-leafed clover, do you feel that good fortune is coming your way? Then you might be

superstitious.

There are numerous commonly held superstitions here on the Gaspé and some that are less common, going back many years. I recall my grandmother never allowing knives to cross each other. 'Bad luck', she would say, because it foretold an argument or fight. Here are a few to consider and somewhere in this list you might nod your head and say, "I'm not superstitious, but just in case." Friday the 13th – The number 13 has long been a dreaded number. Some apartment buildings until recently did not have a 13th floor. This may have come from religious beliefs because Judas was the 13th person at the Last Supper. Also, Jesus was crucified on a Friday. Put the two together and you have Friday the 13th. Not a

*Very superstitious, writings on the wall.
Very superstitious, ladders bout' to fall.
Thirteen-month-old baby, broke the lookin' glass.
Seven years of bad luck, the good things in your past.*

good day for Christians.

Breaking a mirror – The superstition warns us that breaking a mirror brings seven years of bad luck. This also has its origins in the past and religion. Mirrors were believed to reflect your soul so breaking the mirror would bring harm to your soul. To counteract this calamity, take the pieces and bury them in moonlight.

Spilling salt – The belief that spilling salt is bad luck started way back when salt was very valuable. At one time salt was as valuable as gold. So, if you spill salt, take a bit and toss it over your left shoulder. This is to drive away any evil spirits that may be lurking nearby.

Black cats – Black cats were historically associated with witches and some believed that the cats could turn

into demons or other evil beings when they were seven years old. Many people shudder when a black cat crosses their path.

Knock on wood – This superstition is from ancient times when people believed that trees were inhabited by gods. If you wanted to ask the gods for something, you would tap on a tree. When your wish or hope came true you would return to that tree and tap again to say thanks.

Opening an umbrella inside - Besides poking somebody in the eye or knocking things over, doing so was believed to bring bad luck upon the household.

Itchy palms – Itchy palms could mean you have a bothersome rash or dry skin, but some believe that an itchy right palm means you will be getting money. An itchy left palm might mean that you will be giving money to someone.

More superstitions:

Don't walk under a ladder, that will bring bad luck.

It is lucky to find a horseshoe. Display it like the letter 'U' so your luck will stay, display it the other way and your luck will run out.

Don't cry on your birthday or you will cry all year.

Always plant under a full moon.

Don't step on a crack in the sidewalk. (Step on a crack... break your mother's back.)

If you rock an empty cradle your baby will have colic.

Weeping on your wedding day brings misfortune.

When a death occurs, if the coffin strikes against the door of the dead person's home, another death will occur in the family,

Saying the Mass for the Dead for no good reason attracts death.

So, are you superstitious? Perhaps just a little? We might say that we are not, but even still, uncross those knives! Just in case ...

Yo-ho-ho and a Bottle of Rum!

Drinking rum before 10:00 a.m. makes you a pirate, not an alcoholic

Diane Skinner

Pirates are an exciting lot. Looting, beautiful lasses and adventure make for a thrilling life – at least in books and movies. The reality was probably more brutal. Scurvy, violence and brutality and most likely an early demise awaited the pirates and privateers of yore. The Gaspé was visited by pirates and privateers and some of these men eventually settled here in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. You could be a descendant of one of these adventure-seeking menfolk.

Pirates and privateers are essentially similar, but with one distinction. They sailed on ships, appropriated the belongings of others and generally were macho kind of guys. Pirates attacked ships of any nationality to obtain valuables, including the ship itself. Privateers attacked ships of enemy countries, for the same purposes. The difference was that the privateer was obligated to give their loot to their home country. But there are more similarities than differences.

Both used trickery and violence to achieve their goals. Pirates and privateers used similar weapons of their times. Both, over the years, used sabers and cutlasses. They used axes to damage the hull of ships they were attacking and prevent them from fleeing. Both used guns, pistols and blunderbusses. Blunderbusses



were short-barreled guns with flared muzzles and were used at short range, because they were not overly accurate. Messy business, pirating.

Muskets were used by both and these were as awkward to use. Muskets were developed in the 16th century and had long barrels and were fired from the shoulder or steadied on forked sticks. They were very powerful and could blast through armour, if needed. The word musket likely originated from the French word mousquette, which is a small hawk. Another weapon used by pirates and privateers was the musketoon. It could be fired from the shoulder and had a brass or iron barrel. They were smaller than a musket so were easier to use in small spaces, such as when boarding another ship. The heavier artillery such as cannons provided a huge advantage for the

aggressors. Reloading was time consuming and many weapons involved the use of a powder horn. These were made from the horn of an ox or bull. The well-equipped pirate or privateer also used grapplers made of iron with claws at one end. They were attached to a rope and thrown at the ship being attacked. When they hooked onto the other ship, they were used to pull the vessel alongside. A successful pirate or privateer needed to have all the necessary weaponry.

The first recorded attack by pirates on the waters surrounding the Gaspé was in 1686 near Percé. These were English pirates by nationality and they went ashore and destroyed a small community that existed there. They stole everything of value and then burned the simple homes and a tiny church belonging to the eight or ten families that lived there. How

heartbreaking that must have been to settlers already enduring a harsh life.

Joseph Dugas, Joseph LeBlanc and Louis-Amand Bujold were French privateers who also acted as suppliers for the French military who were, at times, stationed here, providing supplies. After several voyages to different ports in this region, they were arrested and imprisoned in Halifax. One of these men, Louis-Amand Bujold later escaped and settled in Bonaventure in 1765. He died there around 1775.

Pirate Pierre-Leon Roussy was born in France in the 1720s. Though he was a pirate he clearly yearned for a different life. He escaped capture by going ashore and living with the Mi'gmaq people. After a year, he settled in Bonaventure where he became a fisherman and married a local girl, Ann Chapados. They had 12 children, not unusual for those times. They moved to Paspébiac in 1766 and Roussy died there in 1782.

Another notable Gaspesian pirate was Jack Poirier who was born here but spent his seafaring pirate days in Asia. He returned to Bonaventure and told his family that he had buried a treasure of gold, silver and jewels at the mouth of the Bonaventure River. Folklore says that treasure has never been found to this day! One of Jack's descendants was the first



mayor of Bonaventure, Pierre-Alex Poirier.

The history of the Gaspé is exciting and is very much about survival, but it is sometimes difficult to find a great deal of information about our collective past. That's why we should keep reading, researching, writing and talking about our history. Loads of information can be found online. Read Paul Almond's 8-part series set right here on the Gaspé: The Alford Saga. You may be the descendant of a pirate, farmer, logger, miner, minister, shopkeeper, shipbuilder, blacksmith or a cooper. Because a great deal of our history has not been written collectively or formally, gather your research while there are people who can tell you these stories. You may be surprised at what you learn. People who have no knowledge about their history are like a tree with no roots.

There were certainly other pirates and privateers who visited and perhaps settled here whose names have been lost in time. Being remembered is a significant thing.

"You are without a doubt the worst pirate I've ever heard of." "But you have heard of me." – Jack Sparrow

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Psychics, healers and mediums – A paranormal report

Wendy Dawson

NEW CARLISLE AND GESGAPEGIAG - Since the beginning of time, man has relied on people within their circles for guidance, support and healing. Highly respected and well cared for, shaman, clairvoyants, medicine men were often central in their communities often holding important positions of power.

As time went on, and organized religion took up more place in modern society, many of these individuals fell out of favour. Just the same, if you ask around, I am sure you will hear a story or two about parlour tea leaf readings or neighbourhood “healers” that could be turned to for folk remedies or for a bit of wisdom in times of trouble.

The same holds true for today. While alternative healing and guidance cannot really be considered mainstream, it is available almost everywhere, including many towns and villages in our region.



Trisha Condo – Psychic and Intuitive Guide

Trisha Condo is both a psychic and intuitive guide. Trisha became aware of her intuitive gift at the tender age of 5!

While Trisha Condo through her lifetime has not always been at ease with her intuitive talents, she now recognizes her skill as a gift. “I really believe that is what it is, and that it was given to me to guide and support others.”

Today, in addition to her full-time job as a teacher, Trisha also acts as a psychic and

intuitive guide. She works as a psychic between 6 and 8 (when her energy allows it), or on weekends and as is the case in modern times, Trisha even connects with clients over the internet, some as far away as China. Her readings are done primarily through energy, auras and oracle cards. Trisha offers a series of

services that include soul-readings, a means of assessing what is and is not working in your surroundings. Her guidance, as she explains, is offered in general terms to support decisions about a person’s life path or to support them through life challenges. “It really is about the opportunity to help people.”



Angie Walters – Certified Crystal Reiki Master and Oracle reader

Angie Walters uses a variety of crystals and stones as a Crystal Healer. The crystals that she uses are strategically selected for their particular healing and therapeutic properties.

tals of different shapes and colours – all used for a distinct purpose.

With its roots in Japan, reiki is a method recognized for its ability to reduce stress and promote healing. Crystal reiki uses the same technique however it incorporates the use of crystals that speed up the healing process. The crystals used are said to release additional elements that contribute to overall well-being. Angie Walters has received her Master’s training in this form of healing. In addition to crystal reiki, Angie also offers traditional tarot and oracle reading. “This is not always what people think it is going to be. I’m not going to be able to sit there and tell you your future. Cards offer guidance and subjects for reflection”. Her own garden also allows her to mix custom bath salts, herb mixtures and room sprays. “It’s a part of what I do.”

Angie Walters has a small regular group of clients that come to her home for services. “What I do is about offering support and strength so that women can feel empowered in their own lives.”



At the tender age of 5, Trisha Condo met her spirit guide. Her first sighting was of him standing in her closet. One would think that this would be quite upsetting to a young child, however even as visions and voices became a more frequent part of her day to day, Trisha was quite comfortable in that setting and even felt in good company.

The same could not be said however for her brother and mother. Her younger brother would become frightened when she would ask him to confirm her visions. For her part, her mother, who had renounced her own visions for years, became concerned for the mental health and well-being of her young child.

At the age of 8, Trisha’s gift became more “fine-tuned”, if you will. The voices that she heard were no longer background noise, but instead clear messages and the spirit guide that she had met when she was 5 would now speak directly to her. “When you

are eight, you don’t want any of that. You don’t want to hear negative things about your parents splitting up or the death of your grandfather,” explains Trisha. Her spirit guide himself offered a solution to rid herself of his voice and the voice of others. “Just pray.” And so, she did, and things fell silent for a while.

Trisha Condo’s mother purchased a deck of oracle cards for her when she was 13 and her strong intuition began to surface again. Trisha began to study and use the cards, but mostly on herself. As she opened herself back up again, she used the occasion to fine-tune the noise and voices around her. By the age of 19, it got so very loud that it could no longer be ignored. Now it was Trisha’s own concern for her mental health that took over until a visit one day by the same spirit guide she had met as a 5-year-old child. “Now it’s time to start helping people,” was the message.

At the age of 16, Angie Walters knew that the Catholic church in which she had been raised was not a perfect fit for her. While looking into her family history, she became interested in her Irish grandfathers’ heritage. Knowledge of Irish and Celtic mythology with its strong powerful female models spoke to her.

On her journey to explore new age religions, Angie visited a Wiccan shop on Ste. Catherine street in Montreal where the owner instinctively guided her to the Celtic and Norse section of the store. That was the first step in her

new spiritual awakening.

Originally from Montreal, Angie spent summers on the Coast as a young woman. Like many of us, beach walks would end with pockets full of stones and rocks. “On the Coast, we are so rich in so many minerals, and so are the rocks and stones. I’m not sure I really understood why at that time, but that was my first connection with crystals.”

Angie’s knowledge has grown and her interest in crystals has certainly not waned. In her workspace there are hundreds of different kinds of stones and crys-

Cont’d on page 10



Justin Flowers – Reiki healer, witch and oracle reader
Justin Flowers is a trained Reiki healer and avowed Witch. An observer of Wiccan practice, Justin uses a number of different mediums in his craft including tarot and oracle cards as well as runes to guide his clients.

realized that he wanted to work in health, but more specifically in preventative health. “I wanted to make sure that people could be healthy and stay healthy.”

Today, Justin Flowers “helps, heals and guides” clients using a combination of Reiki, Wicca and oracles. His Reiki training was done through a naturopath in St. John. He has completed all three levels of training as well as his master’s level.

Justin explains that Reiki is a means of directing energy where it needs to go in your body, for either the purposes of healing or strength. “It is a complimentary procedure to conventional medicine. I would never advise a client to quit medicines or other treatment, but I would encourage them to use it at the same time as conventional treatment.”

Justin Flowers other training, in both Wicca and oracle reading was completed using a variety of means. “I received some of my information online, some of it was shared

with me in person. There is a whole online network of witches.” Justin explains that while there is a negative stigma that surrounds the word witch he would like to reclaim it. “Wicca is rooted in a variety of methods and treatments that use natural surroundings. We are so lucky here on the Coast and so rich in resources like herbs and plants that can be used.”

As for his readings, he explains that there is no way to know what will turn up. “I’m not a gypsy fortune teller.

The way I read is I ask a person’s guides to bring forward the messages that will help the person get through whatever cycle they are in.” He uses traditional cards, runes as well as a crystal ball to do his readings.

Justin has regular clients in person as well as online. “Even if a person is not “there” physically, we are all about energy. You upload and download that energy and those messages from the universe. I can then interpret those messages.”



What the cards say...

Even though I might be a bit of a skeptic, meeting with all three of these individuals was enlightening. It would be naïve to think that a person who only uses 10% of their brain would be able of understanding everything in the universe.

I had my cards read by Trisha, Angie and Justin and surprisingly all three of them provided similar information! Coincidence, psychic connection? Who knows? One of my favorite expressions is “speak to people who make you see the world differently.” All three of these magical people made me do just that.

After leaving the region to pursue his post-secondary studies, Justin’s journey found him working as a per-

sonal support care worker to a client suffering from muscular dystrophy. After the untimely passing of his client, he



Photo: Grand River Recycling Plant

Glass produced at the Grand River Recycling Plant was used for a walkway.

Recycling glass project off to a great start

Thierry Haroun
GRAND RIVER: - The latest statistics show that an innovative project that has been recycling glass at the Grand River Recycling Plant since last spring has surpassed its objectives. Spec sums up the situation with the executive director of the plant, Nathalie Drapeau.

Last June 28, representatives of the Percé Rock MRC (municipalities, politicians,

businessmen) were at the press conference organized by *Éco Entreprises Québec (ÉEQ)*, the organization that is fostering this 15-month pilot project. The project, which started last March and will end next spring consists of recycling conveyor glass rejects. To do this, it takes high-tech equipment and it’s that equipment that was officially inaugurated. From the start of the

Cont'd on page 12

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MOOSE:**▶ Cont'd from cover**

every 10 square kilometers before the hunting season – and a developed network of forest roads that make the territory accessible.

However, the moose population is increasing. It was estimated at about 16,000 animals during an aerial survey last winter, that is to say 2,000 more than ten years ago. The census excludes the wildlife reserves. In 2000, there were only 7,730 moose in the Gaspé Peninsula.

A licence holder may shoot a male or a calf. To kill a female, he or she has to win a special licence by a random draw.

That protection of females succeeded beyond expectations. The Gaspesian moose population now consists of 64.5% adult females, compared to 50% ten years ago. Adult males represent only 13% of the population down from 21% in 2007. Calves of both sexes make up the balance.

“The life expectancy of an adult male is pretty short on

the Gaspé Peninsula,” says Martin Dorais, biologist at the Quebec Forest, Wildlife and Parks Department. When the hunting season starts, every second buck is shot.

As a result, four or five-year-old males, which are the best for breeding, are becoming scarce. The data collected at game registering stations shows that 70% of the males shot are one-and-a-half or two-and-a-half years old. Males of that age generate less sperm and have a weaker constitution to breed with females.

“There are a lot of females, fewer bucks, and fewer productive bucks,” Mr. Dorais says. “Probably some females fail to mate,” he adds. Other females are fertilized late in the season and will skip a breeding year next fall.

The moose population is now producing 35 calves per 100 females; it was 59 calves ten years ago. “The population is far from being endangered. There’s a very high density of moose. But we have to change our harvest strategy,” Mr. Dorais states.

This year, the department

of Forests, Wildlife and Parks issued 4,100 licences to kill females, which is 850 more than in 2016. This figure could still increase in coming years, says Mr. Dorais. When one female is shot, two hunters have to stop hunting, which reduces the pressure on adult males.

“We’ve rarely had to manage this kind of situation, when a population is abundant and when we try to maintain it. But the sex imbalance isn’t dramatic and we can quickly restore the situation,” states the biologist.

COUNCILLORS SEATS: Several seats in contention Gaspé

Geneviève **Gélinas**

GASPÉ – In Gaspé, there are battles in the three electoral seats where Anglophones are present in significant numbers. In the Saint-Majorique, Wakeham and Pointe-Navarre district, Marcel Fournier, first elected in 2016 in a by-election, is running again. He will face Steve Fournier, an employee of Carrefour jeunesse emploi, Katy Landry, a 43-year-old stay-at-home mom and Cowboy Jay, pseudonym of Jason Valiquette, a cook who publishes humorous videos on the web.

In downtown Gaspé (district No. 5), Aline Perry, who has been a councillor since 2003, wants to start a fifth term. Daniel Brousseau, a 59-year-old manager who is semi-retired and Pier-Luc Bouchard, a 30-year-old paramedic and construction contractor, will try to take her seat.

In district No. 6, that is to say York, Sandy Beach, Haldimand and Douglastown, Ghislain Smith, first elected in 2009, is running again. He faces Éric Arsenault and Paul-Émile Poirier, a 72 year-old accountant from Haldimand.

On the north side of Gaspé, incumbent councillor Carmelle Mathurin was elected by acclamation in the Anse-à-Valleau/Saint-Maurice/Petit-Cap district. In Rivière-au-Renard, former councillor Charles Aspirault (from 1993 to 2013) is challenging incumbent councillor Réginald Cotton. Nelson O’Connor, incumbent councillor in L’Anse-au-Griffon/Cap-des-Rosiers/Forillon/Cap-aus-Os, is facing Nadia Normand and Jean-Louis Chevalier.



PUBLIC NOTICE OF POLL TOWN OF GASPÉ

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given to the electors registered on the municipal list of electors that:

1. a poll will be held;
2. the candidates in this election for the positions mentioned below are:

Position: **MAYOR**

- Daniel Côté
800, boulevard de Forillon
- Jean Lapointe
288A, montée de Wakeham

Office: **COUNCILLOR, WARD NUMBER 1**

- Carmelle Mathurin
913, boulevard de l’Anse-à-Valleau
elected by acclamation

Office: **COUNCILLOR, WARD NUMBER 2**

- Charles Aspirault
320, montée de Rivière-Morris
- Réginald Cotton
111, boulevard de Renard ouest

Office: **COUNCILLOR, WARD NUMBER 3**

- Jean-Louis Chevallier
809, boulevard du Griffon
- Nadia Normand
727, boulevard de Forillon
- Nelson O’Connor
504, boulevard de Forillon

Office: **COUNCILLOR, WARD NUMBER 4**

- Marcel Fournier
478, rue des Tourterelles
- Steve Fournier
186, montée de Corte-Réal
- Cowboy Jay
880, montée de Pointe-Navarre
- Katy Landry
729, boulevard de Pointe-Navarre

Office: **COUNCILLOR, WARD NUMBER 5**

- Pier-Luc Bouchard
54, boulevard de la Montagne
- Daniel Brousseau
118, Côte Bellevue
- Aline Perry
170, rue De Pontbriand

Office: **COUNCILLOR, WARD NUMBER 6**

- Éric Arsenault
20, rue Riverin
- Paul-Émile Poirier
973, route de Haldimand
- Ghislain Smith
474, montée de Sandy Beach

3. Advance polling will be held from **12 noon to 8 p.m.** at the following locations on **October 29, 2017**:

- For wards 1, 2 and 3 :
 - Antoine-Roy school, 110, boulevard Renard Est, Rivière-au-Renard,
- For wards 4, 5 and 6 :
 - C.-E.-Pouliot school, 85, boulevard de Gaspé, Gaspé.

4. Regular polling stations will be open for the poll on **November 5, 2017, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.** at the following Locations :

Ward number 1:

- Polling Station 1 (Anse-à-Valleau, Pointe-Jaune, St-Maurice, Petit-Cap) at St-Paul school, 33, chemin de l’Église, St-Maurice de l’Échourie ;

Ward number 2:

- Polling Station 2 (Rivière-au-Renard) at Antoine-Roy school, 110, boulevard Renard Est, Rivière-au-Renard

Ward number 3:

- Polling Station 3 (Anse-au-Griffon) at Chalet des sports, 85, Rang St-Patrice, Anse-au-Griffon ;
- Polling Station 4 (Cap-des-Rosiers) at the Chalet des sports, 1252 boulevard de Cap-des-Rosiers, Cap-des-Rosiers ;
- Polling Station 5 (Grande-Grève, Cap-aux-Os, Forillon) at The little school of Forillon, 1826, boulevard de Forillon, Cap-aux-Os ;

Ward number 4:

- Polling Station 6 (St-Majorique, Corte-Real, Pointe-Navarre) at the Notre-Dame-du-Sacré-Cœur school, 43, rue Fontenelle, Fontenelle ;
- Polling Station 7 (Wakeham) at the Wakeham Adult Center, 584, montée de Wakeham, Wakeham ;

Ward number 5:

- Polling Station 8 (Gaspé) at the C.-E.-Pouliot school, 85, boulevard de Gaspé, Gaspé;

Ward number 6:

- Polling Station 9 (Sandy-Beach - Haldimand) at the Carrefour intermodal, 8, rue de la Marina Gaspé;
- Polling Station 10 (York) at the York River community hall, 702, boulevard de York Ouest, Gaspé;
- Polling Station 11 (Douglastown) at the Trachy community hall, 15, rue Trachy, Gaspé;

5. The addition of the votes will take place at the following location, date and time :

TOWN HALL, 25, RUE DE L’HÔTEL-DE-VILLE, GASPÉ, AT 9 P.M., ON NOVEMBER 5, 2017.

GIVEN at Gaspé, October 25, 2017.

Isabelle Vézina,
Returning officer

For more information, call 418 368-2104, extension 8505

PERCE ELECTION

▶ Cont'd from page 2

business. She is committed to being a full-time mayor.

Guillaume Arbour

Guillaume Arbour is a 39-year-old construction worker who lives in Cannes-de-Roches. He states that he was encouraged to run for mayor by the presence of several young candidates for councillors.

"Several projects have been abandoned. I want to take already existing projects, and see if we can complete them." Mr. Arbour wants to promote attractions such as the Fort-Prevel golf course, the Indian Head rock in Saint-Georges-de-Malbaie or the beach in Corner of the Beach.

He would like to attract special event promoters, like Red Bull, for an extreme downhill mountain biking event on Mont Sainte-Anne.

Alexandre Chouinard

Alexandre Chouinard has worked for 38 years as a government employee at the Chandler employment insurance office. He was the mayor of Percé from 1983 to 1987 and got involved in var-

ious organizations, like the Chamber of Commerce. He doesn't want Spec to reveal his age, but he's the oldest of the five candidates.

In tourism, Percé must deal "with a variable number of tourists" and must resist assaults from the sea because of erosion, states Mr. Chouinard. "The financial situation of the Town remains difficult. It's tight," he adds.

Mr. Chouinard wants to make sure that Percé is "a clean and welcoming town," where "the population is respected and listened to." He would make sure that the Percé wharf is rebuilt and would re-examine the Percé finances "with a view of ensuring efficiency." He would "pay continuous attention to roads" and wants to "keep our young people" in Percé.

The last Percé mayor, André Boudreau, and five of eight councillors resigned in November 2016, after the project of developing a new commercial street in the downtown Percé area was rejected through a referendum. The Quebec Municipal Commission appointed a temporary administrator for Percé, lawyer France Thériault, to manage the town until the November 5 election.

RECYCLING GLASS

▶ Cont'd from page 10

operation to the end, where the very fine glass is recuperated, there are six steps. Some of these steps include the separator, quality control, the imploder and the screening. It takes only one person to operate the massive machinery. This said, Spec asked Nathalie Drapeau how things are doing in terms of operations, quantity and quality of the glass that is produced on a daily basis.

"Everything is going just fine. We're operating on a regular basis. Our new line is living up to expectations and all the equipment is reliable. We've been putting a lot of ef-

fort into the quality of our product and on market development," points out Ms. Drapeau. At the end of the processing line, two kinds of glass are sorted out, small glass, less than 6mm and bigger glass which is between 6 and 25 mm. The good news is that less than 1% of the glass produced is contaminated by paper, which is much better than the expected 5%. Up until now, 130 tons of glass has been produced and on an annual basis, the operation is expected to produce between 300 and 400 tons of glass. The glass can be used in different sectors and projects, such as landscaping, road construction, water filtration, and so forth. Ms. Drapeau was proud

to announce that all the glass produced up until now has been used in different projects in the Percé Rock MRC, such as the trails at Nova Lumina Multimedia site in Chandler and the Veterans Commemorative Site in Grand River.

The advantage of this environmental approach is that the organization will save \$70,000 to \$80,000 per year given that these rejects won't have to be transported and buried at the wastesite in Gaspé. The total investment of the project is \$800,000: \$358,000 from ÉEQ, \$150,000 from the Régie intermunicipale des matières résiduelles de la Gaspésie (which manages Grand River's recycling plant) and \$272,000 from RECYC-QUÉBEC.

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Announcements...

Obituary

PATTERSON: Mina Dorine (nee Mullin) -

Entered into rest on Saturday, October 14, 2017 in her 96th year. Beloved wife of the late Elias Patterson. Devoted mother of Maurice (Penny), Maureen and Kim. Grandmother of Shawn (Rotem), Keri (Steve) and Matthew.

Great grandmother of Dylan, Olivia, Ben and Pierce. A private family service was held at the Township Chapel of Gordon F. Tompkins Funeral Homes, Kingston, Ontario. Cremation with interment of the urn at a later date in Gaspé, Quebec.

Online condolences at www.gftompkins-township.ca

In Memoriam

FLOWERS: Irene (Day)

In loving memory of a dear sister who passed away October 25, 2014.

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

Loved and missed by Iona Flowers and family.



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Gaspé Polyvalent Midget Girls Relay: Audrey Bernatchez, Madison Dorion, Sophie Berger and Chelsea Lequesne.

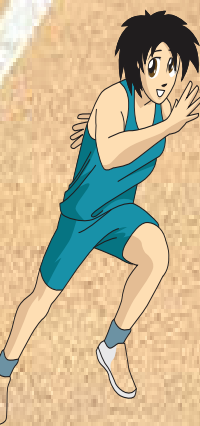


Gaspé Elementary School students showing off their ribbons.

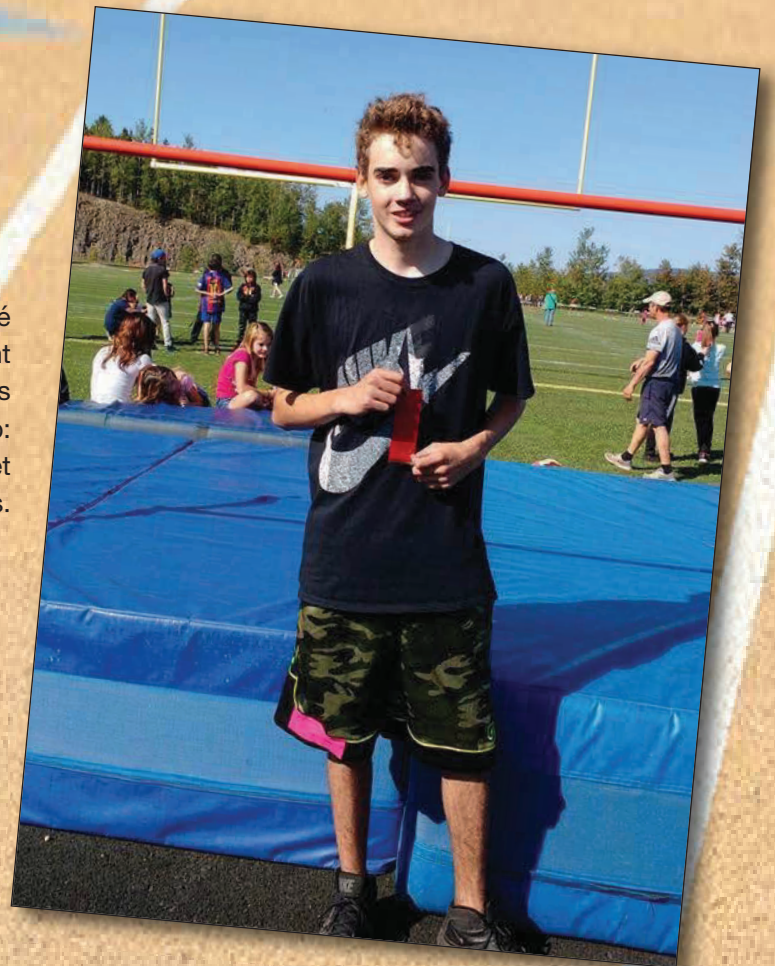
Gaspé Polyvalent Bantam Girls Relay: Kyanna Ste-Croix, Naomi Morin, Cathrina Comeau, Jillian Jean-Beliveau



Gaspé Polyvalent Juvenile Girls Shot Put: new record set by Catherine Fortin.



Gaspé Polyvalent Midget Boys High Jump: new record set by Kent Langlois.



HOROSCOPES

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, embrace that others see you as a role model. There may be someone close to you who holds you in strong regard. Pay attention to the influence you have on others.
TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, a difficult problem will ultimately prove very rewarding when you find the solution. Embrace this challenge and give it your best shot. You will be glad you did.
GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21
Gemini, attempt to connect with people

on a deeper level for the next several days. Your home is a place of comfort and your personal sanctuary, and you can make it that for others, too.
CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22
Cancer, slow down a little and take time to smell the roses. A breather can help you appreciate all the things you have and give time to show that appreciation.
LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23
Your focus this week will be on acquisitions. You may be renovating a home or business or simply updating a wardrobe. Keep track of your spending.
VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, change is stirring things up in a way that should be beneficial for you. See where this excitement takes you

and brace yourself for whatever comes your way.
LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, make an effort to be more financially prudent in the coming weeks. Some patience and discipline now will pay big dividends down the road.
SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22
Someone you know is interested in picking up new skills, and you are just the teacher for the job, Scorpio. Embrace this chance to help others.
SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21
This is an excellent time to express your feelings, Sagittarius. Others will be receptive to your thoughts, and a new relationship may be on

the horizon.
CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, you may need to develop some thick skin as you begin taking on a new project. You're fully capable, so don't listen to any potential doubters.
AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18
Your motivation must come from within this week, Aquarius. Others are not around to be your cheer squad. Your inner drive is there; it just may need a boost.
PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
Pisces, keep to yourself this week if you feel unwanted conflict is coming. Enjoy some solitary time until the waters calm down.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS	
OCTOBER 22	Jesse Tyler Ferguson, Actor (42)
OCTOBER 23	Ireland Baldwin, Model (22)
OCTOBER 24	Daya, Singer (19)
OCTOBER 25	Ciara, Singer (32)
OCTOBER 26	Pat Sajak, Host (71)
OCTOBER 27	Simon Le Bon, Singer (59)
OCTOBER 28	Joaquin Phoenix, Actor (43)

2017 Cascapedia-St-Jules Fall Festival...



Photo: Cynthia Dow

The grounds of the community centre were beautifully decorated for the Fall Fest! These harvest figures have a distinctly aboriginal look about them!



Adam Harrison shows off his classic car to great-uncle Brian. The classic car show is always a highlight of the festival!

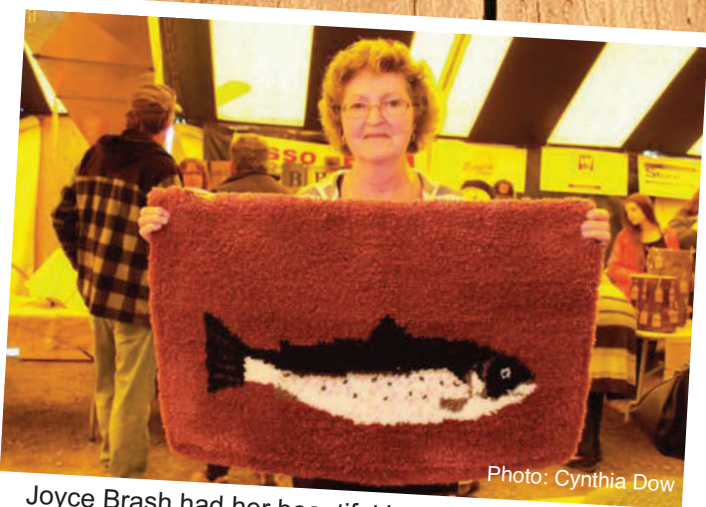


Photo: Cynthia Dow

Joyce Brash had her beautiful handiwork on display, including salmon rugs she designs herself: perfect for Cascapedia River homes!



Photo: Cynthia Dow

Woodworker Dennis Dow's fully articulated trucks and construction equipment were very popular at the Fall Fest craft sale on Saturday morning. The toys are completely unique as he develops the plans himself!

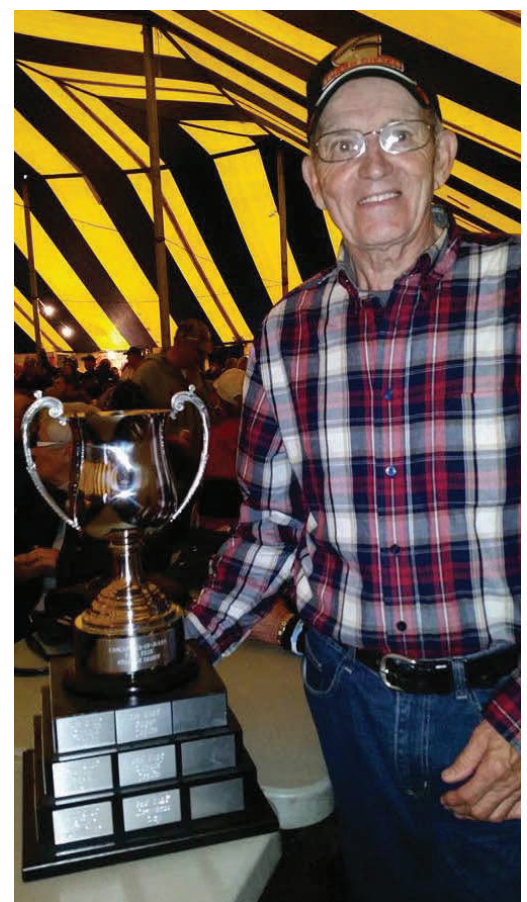


Photo: Cynthia Dow

Caitlin Barter and her Tippy Canoe Designs were a highlight of the handicraft show!



Darlene Sexton and Jenna Boudreau take time out of their busy schedule to have a laugh during the go cart races!!



Lawrence Day won 1st place in the 50+ category go cart races.



The washer competition was a very huge hit again this year.