# Inside this week



Hill Billie Ranch passes on a passion for horses



People of the quilt



Muin triathlon entices youth to a healthy lifestyle

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## **UNUSUAL WAY OF TRAVELLING:**

# Welcome to the world of hi-rail cars

Gilles Gagné

SAINT-OMER: - Two Americans, Alan Freed and Douglas Brenner, travelled on the Gaspé railway on August 26 and 27 in a 1957 Pontiac Hi-Rail, a car adapted to circulate either on rails or on roads.

The trip of Mr. Freed and Mr. Brenner was original in the way that usually, the owners of such former inspection and track maintenance vehicles travel in groups. The size of the groups range mostly between 20 and 30 vehicles when they come to the Gaspé Peninsula. Such groups came in 1998, 2001, 2006 and 2011 notably.

This time around, the two men wanted some quietness and they picked the end of August for a couple of reasons, including the scenery.

Cont'd on page 11



Douglas Brenner and Alan Freed benefitted from great weather during their Gaspé Peninsula journey.

# Transport-Canada to close Chandler wharf at the end of September

Gilles Gagné

CHANDLER: - Transport Canada, a federal department, will close the Chandler wharf at the end of September because the infrastructure is not or will not be safe at that time.

However, that notice will not prevent the Town of Chandler from pursuing its attempt to acquire the wharf if Transport-Canada hands it out in a good state, which could require an investment ranging between \$13 million and \$16 million.

The mayor of Chandler, Louisette Langlois, points out that, since 2010, her administration has been discussing acquiring the wharf from Transport Canada, a ministry that has not maintained its property well enough to keep it open over the long term. Transport Canada is trying to part with dozens of commercial wharves all over Canada.

"It is a deep seaport, free of

ice in the winter. We feel responsible for the future generations. It would be easy to say: 'Put rocks around it,' but it would be irresponsible. If it is damaged, nobody will want to use it (...) We rule out letting it go while Chandler has developed major tourist attractions like Nova Lumina," says Ms. Langlois.

The will to acquire the wharf rests on the presence of a regular user, CTMA, a Magdalen Islands company making 30 stops in Chandler between mid-June and the end of September. Its cruise ship, the CTMA Vacancier, links Montreal and Cap-aux-Meules, Magdalen Islands, by virtue of a same week return trip. The stops in Chandler occur on Saturday evening Wednesday morning.

CTMA was advised by Transport Canada on August 17, like the Town of Chandler, of the situation concerning the wharf. CTMA considers using

the port of Gaspé in 2017 in order to maintain a port of call in the Gaspé Peninsula. Thousands of passengers use that stop to make visits to Percé or Chandler, or to board the ship for the Magdalen Islands.

Louisette Langlois can understand the strategy of CTMA but she intends to keep the transporter in her town next year or the year after, and for longer.

Cont'd on page 11 ())

# **News** briefs



Défi Têtes representative Émilie Gagné.

### For a good cause in Gaspé

Thierry Haroun

GASPÉ: - Émilie Gagné is the MRC Côte-de-Gaspé's representative for the Défi Têtes à prix. All profits go to the Eastern Quebec Cancer Association. This event invites people to collect \$100 and then get their hair shaved during a special event that will take place at Carrefour Gaspé on October 15. In an interview with SPEC, Émilie Gagné, a well-known and respected radio host at Radio-Gaspésie, said how important this activity is to her. "At the age of nine, cancer took away my father at the age 44. That really marked our family. So I feel that it's really important to get involved in this activity to inform people about the importance of research, the importance of supporting people faced with cancer. We don't choose to have cancer, but we can choose the way we intend to fight it."



#### Grandparent's Day 2016

Elaine Sexton

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES: - Grandparents' Day, Sunday, September 11, is a day set aside exclusively for your grandfather and grandmother, who have played a very influential role in your family. It is a family get-together time when every member of your family is present to extend his/her token of love and gratitude for them. Grandparents Day is the perfect opportunity for them as well to spend time with their children and grandchildren to tell their stories and relive your favourite

Since its declaration in 1973, National Grandparents' Day is celebrated annually in various ways by people everywhere. If you are lucky enough to have your grandparents still with you, take the time to wish them a great day.

In the community of Cascapedia-St-Jules, there will be a special Eucharist Celebration at the Catholic Church on Sunday, September 11, at 11:15 a.m. with Father Juan Carlos Londoño. The children from our Catechism classes will be there to give thanks to the grandparents in attendance.

It is not too late to do something in your community or place of worship. Enjoy every minute with your cherished family.



# Your household waste bins... soon to be monitored via microchip

Thierry Haroun

ROCHER-PERCÉ: To improve the monitoring and traceability of waste transport, the MRC du Rocher-Percé will be adding radio frequency identification devices (electronic microchips) to the rolling bins and containers used for household waste, recyclables and organic matter.

The project, at a cost of approximately \$60,000, will be conducted by the Régie intermunicipale des matières résiduelles de la Gaspésie, confirms its director, Nathalie Drapeau. "We have two main objectives. The first one is to improve the follow-up in regards to the collection of all the bins in order to better answer citizens' inquiries. We receive questions by citizens who did not know if the truck would pass because of a snow storm

or they want to know why it was late and so forth. With these new devices that will be installed over the next few weeks, we will be able to know where the truck is at all times, at what time it will pass in each sector, or if there's a problem. We will soon be able to quickly answer those types of questions."

The second objective, she adds, "is to assess the participation rate every time there's a pick-up of bins. Therefore, we will be able to better intervene in terms of informing and educating certain sectors and citizens. More people recycle and compost, which is good because it keeps the cost down. Using the green bins is more expensive. The electronic devices will enable us to know what's going on in every sector, in every season and at every moment," she adds.

#### More information and recommendations

The *Régie* team will be visiting all residences to add microchips to the bins. You will not be required to be home at the time. You need to place all your bins together in the same place on your property, so that they can be seen from the street and accessible (access not hindered by a fence, bins taken out of the garage, etc.). Each microchip associated with your address (for the blue, brown and green or black bins) is recorded in the data base. The truck will read the chip when it arrives to pick up the material (household waste, recyclables or organic waste) and confirm that pick-up has occurred and at what time. If your bin does not have a microchip, an error will be recorded in the file. The Régie will then contact you.

# **Avoid the worst** places for keeping a will

your loved ones. But once you've had these important life documents prepared, where should you keep them?

Among the worst options is one that may surprise you — a safety deposit box at a bank. Although this option offers high physical security, heirs may need a court order to access the contents, a process that adds cost and inconvenience during an already stressful time.

Another poor option lies at the opposite end of the security spectrum — storing your life documents among your general possessions, such as in

Gilles Gagné a nightstand drawer. This kind dividuals have access. The of storage can leave your doc- main downside to this choice (NC) Creating a will and pow- uments vulnerable to spills, is that heirs may not know ers of attorney can create valu- fires, and even tampering. Be who your lawyer is. The other able peace of mind for you and mindful that digital-only ver- concern is that the firm could sions of life documents are a relocate or even close if your bad idea, as the law currently requires paper copies of wills and powers of attorney.

Better options include a well-organized, lockable filing cabinet or a home safe. In both of these cases, it's important to be sure that a trusted individual, such as your executor, has access to the combination or

Others opt to leave the original copies with the lawyer who prepared them. Many law firms have special storage for important client documents. Storing them there will also ensure that only authorized in-

will is stored for many years. However, lawyers generally make efforts to return documents to clients if this hap-

Whichever option you choose, discuss the documents' location and general contents with your executor in order to minimize confusion when they're needed. You should review your documents every two years and after significant life events like marriage, divorce, the birth of a child, death of a family member, or — if you should be so lucky — that big lottery win.



The passengers of the CTMA Vacancier want to visit Percé, which makes the choice of Gaspé for 2017 almost unavoidable.

# CTMA needs a functional wharf for 2017, Gaspé more than likely to greet CTMA Vacancier

Gilles Gagné

CHANDLER: - The CTMA absolutely wants to maintain a port of call in the Gaspé Peninsula and Gaspé is currently the only option suitable for the Magdalen Islands transport cooperative owning and operating the CTMA Vacancier cruise ship, which currently stops in Chandler twice a week.

CTMA's spokesperson, Claudia Delaney, says the imminent closure of the Chandler wharf leaves little wiggle room for the company's administrators.

"Our passengers are very pleased with a stop that allows them to go to Percé. From Chandler, it is handy, considering the shuttle service. Gaspé offers the same possibilities and the distance factor is possible, when comparing Gaspé and Chandler," mentions Ms. Delaney.

When returning from the Magdalen Islands, the CTMA Vacancier moors in Chandler between 6 a.m. and noon on Wednesday morning. That routine is effective for 15 weeks in a row. The vessel also stops for an hour on Saturday when linking Montreal

to the Magdalen Islands.

The Wednesday stop allows passengers to either take part in an excursion to Percé or visit Chandler. During each of the two Chandler stops, between 40 and 50 people use the Chandler wharf to start or finish their trip to or from the Magdalen Islands.

Claudia Delaney doesn't know for now how many of those passengers take their cars to the Magdalen Islands. There is a roll on/roll off ramp in Chandler, but there is none in Gaspé.

Since the long term fate of Chandler's wharf remains uncertain, as the town mayor, Louisette Langlois, is putting pressure on Transport Canada, the owner of the port, to repair it, Claudia Delaney stresses that the long term strategy of CTMA is not defined yet.

"We have no decision power regarding Chandler. It is evident that we cannot return there in 2017. For the long term, we will see," she

Matane is also interested in greeting the CTMA Vacancier, a ship that used to make a stop there years ago.

There is a loading ramp in Matane. The CTMA administration is not looking for that option, though. "It is simple; we cannot offer excursions to Percé from Matane. Our clients want to go to Percé," says Claudia Delaney.

SPEC asked Diane Lebouthillier, Member of Parliament for the Gaspésie-Magdalen Islands riding and Minister of Revenue, for an interview regarding Chandler wharf issue. Four days were offered to the minister. Her press secretary, Chloé Luciani-Girouard, answered that it was not possible to talk to the minister that week, due to the fact that Ms. Lebouthillier was travelling and had a busy schedule.

Ms. Luciani-Girouard said that Minister Lebouthillier's "priority and that of all government members remains first and foremost the safety of the people. The Chandler wharf has reached the end of its useful life because of the advanced degradation state of its structure and it is not possible to carry out temporary works in order to lengthen its life. The file is followed closely by Transport Canada's personnel."



# Police report

The Sûreté du Québec is investigating acts of vandalism twice perpetrated on the statue of René-Lévesque in the New Carlisle municipal park. During the night of August 24-25, the vandals stole the surveillance cameras and the electronic device that is attached to them and applied white paint to the statue of the former premier of Quebec. The statue was moved to New Carlisle 15 years ago after having been on display in Quebec City.

The statue was cleaned the following day but the vandals returned two nights later and again applied white paint to the statue. The municipal employees carried out another cleanup on Saturday, August 27, which was witnessed by the attendees of New Carlisle's public market.

The coordinator of the Kempffer Cultural and Interpretation Centre, Maxime Huot, saw the condition of the statue while setting up his booth at the public market. "It was embarrassing. It is a matter of respect for René Lévesque, for the political and cultural memories of Quebec," he said.

Mr. Huot points out that René Lévesque was influential in Quebec and Canada. He nevertheless thinks that the vandalism acts don't have a political connotation. "The vandals didn't write a message. It would have been different had they left a message," he added.

Dominique Goineau, 37, an Ontario resident who had temporarily moved to Murdochville, fell from a windmill in Murdochville on the morning of August 30. He was a skilled technician often called for difficult repairs at the employ of NextEra Energy, a Florida based company who is the owner of the Mount Copper Wind Farm.

Mr. Goineau fell to his death from the top of tower number 19, which has a height of 67 metres. "He was pronounced dead by the paramedics. His body remained on site for a while as our investigators had to determine if foul play had something to do with the death (...) There was no foul play," explained Sgt. Claude Doiron, spokesperson for the Sûreté du Québec.

The Quebec Commission des normes, de l'équité, de la santé et de la sécurité au travail (CNESST), who deals with health and safety in the work place made some observations on site, after the police intervention.

"The first observations do not show shortcomings regarding professional safety, whether it is related to procedures or equipment," pointed out Maxime Boucher, spokesperson for the CNESST. Was the fall a deliberate move by the victim? "It will be up to the coroner's office to determine the exact cause of the fall," replied Mr. Boucher.

Geneviève Guilbault, spokesperson for the coroner's office, pointed out that "it is too early to come up with any conclusion. The conclusions will be included in the report. A coroner's report usually takes an average of eleven-and-a-half months before being completed and released."

The co-worker who accompanied the victim was questioned by the SQ officers following his hospitalization for nervous shock. Both men were supposed to make repairs in the nacelle, the top section of the windmill which houses the turbine. The testimony of the coworker will only be made public in the coroner's report.

Steven Stengel, spokesperson for NextEra Energy, refused to comment on the situation and issued a press release. "We are deeply saddened by the loss of a member of the NextEra Energy Resources family, a wind technician working at the Mount Copper Wind Energy Center. While a formal investigation has been launched, we have received early indications that this is not a safety-related matter. Our thoughts and prayers are with our colleague and his family during this very difficult time."

Since the creation of the first major wind farm in the Gaspé Peninsula 18 years ago, "we have no account of a fatal accident or a serious injury due to a safety-related matter during maintenance work," points out Maxime Boucher of the CNESST.





# Editorial page



Commentary Gilles Gagné

# A far too important issue to pass

The most incredible aspect of the upcoming complete closure of Chandler's wharf is that we are talking about an active port, where a ship makes 30 calls a year, an infrastructure that other ships could use and did use on occasion over the last 15 years.

How can a federal government ministry, Transport Canada in this case, be negligent to the point that a fairly active wharf can be neglected to the point of complete closure?

The context is worsened by the fact that Transport Canada has been entertaining regular talks for the property transfer of the wharf with the Town of Chandler. How serious can Transport Canada's management team be if the said wharf is forced into closure in the middle of the talks?

We all understand that the federal government is or was the owner of hundreds of wharfs and ports all over Canada. It is acceptable that some of them were not maintained in a top state because there was no traffic. It didn't justify the expenses.

The Chandler case is different. The current wharf was built in 1970 to replace an old wharf that was posing a problem because of the rising size of the cargo liners coming to load newsprint produced at the Gaspesia mill. The mill closed in 1999 and the ensuing modernization project

failed in 2004, the year the wharf's current user, Groupe CTMA, started mooring its CTMA Vacancier cruise ship there in order to take additional passengers bound for the Magdalen Islands or leave clients that had already been to the archipelago.

The wharf was never inactive in 46 years. It was certainly a bit quieter between 2000 and 2003 but the activity increased in 2004 with the arrival of CTMA.

Moreover, Chandler, as a partner of Escale Gaspésie, the body in charge of promoting cruise ships in the Percé Rock and Côte-de-Gaspé MRCs, also had ambitions to attract small to midsized international cruise ships, a likely occurrence with the opening of Nova Lumina, the town's new tourist site. It has drawn more than 20,000 people since its July relatively discrete

The Chandler stop of the CTMA Vacancier is really appreciated by its clientele. It is close to Percé where a lot of people go during the Wednesday morning six-hour call. The Quebec government has also invested \$4.5 million in a ramp that allows travelers to get on board or off in Chandler.

While Transport Canada cannot maintain all its wharves, considering the proportion of inactive infrastructures, it would make sense to keep the active ones in working order for several reasons: It is a service that has to be provided to a community making thorough efforts to rejuvenate its economy, the town of Chandler is interested in becoming the owner of the wharf, and municipal administration will only accept a sound and functional infrastructure. Besides, it will cost more to repair it, between \$13 million and \$16 million, because it is no longer in working order. Waiting for something to break always costs more than repairing small problems as they appear.

The Gaspé wharf offers a pinch hit solution but that port could be significantly more active in the years to come with the export of windmill blades. It remains to be proven that a cruise ship and a loading cargo liner can moor safely at the same time on the same wharf.

As for the Matane wharf, it could pinch hit too, considering that there is a roll on roll off ramp there, but it cannot replace Gaspé or Chandler as a spot to reach Percé.

The refusal of Gaspésie-Magdalen Islands riding's Member of Parliament, Diane Lebouthillier, to comment on the situation is worrying and unjustified. We gather that she is Canada's Minister of Revenue and that she is busy but she should have been able to find a few minutes to express her viewpoint on the Chandler wharf situation.

On November 28, 2011, as prefect of the Percé Rock MRC, she participated actively in a written exchange about the importance of the wharves in the Gaspé Peninsula and advocated for the rehabilitation of the Chandler wharf, which was "also in a poor state and (...) also a priority. It is the only deep sea port free of ice in the region."

Or course, her role is different but the relevance of the Chandler port has not changed. We live in a maritime region. Keeping a fit commercial wharf in each of the region's five MRCs is perfectly normal. It is an issue far too important to pass over it.

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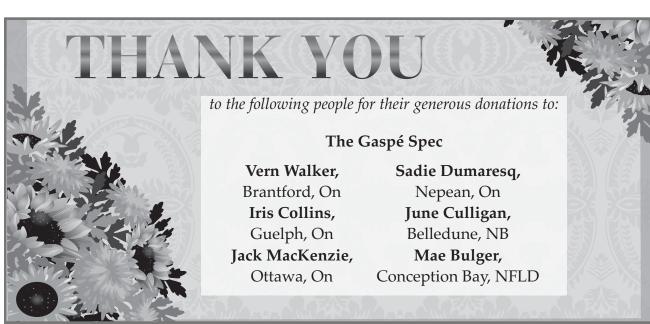
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Penny MacWhirter

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# Little Cascapedia Regional Park on its way to make a profit for 2016

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND: – The Little Cascapedia Regional Park, the operator of the Pin Rouge ski station and the Taylor Point campground, is following a path that could spell profits for the first time since its creation in 2003. This summer's numbers are primarily the reason behind those potentially good results.

The last ski season permitted the park's administration to declare a small surplus of \$2,000. However, the 2016 summer is making a big difference and that is essentially because of the rentals for the 32 cottages located at Pin Rouge.

"In 2015, we rented out our cottages for 390 nights. This year, it has increased to 1,565 nights. It is almost four times more. Our presence on about ten reservation websites like Bookings and ChaletsauQuebec.com made that big difference," explains Benoit Trépanier, director general of the Little Cascapedia Regional Park.

The summer revenues for



Photo: Courtesy of the Petite Cascapedia Regional Park

Splash pad area at Pin Rouge.

Pin Rouge as of September 4 reached \$125,000, compared to \$43,000 for the previous summer. In 2015, the Pin Rouge expenses stood at \$10,000 for a surplus of \$33,000. This year, the expenses rose to slightly more than \$50,000, which will leave a surplus ranging between \$70,000 and \$75,000.

Those numbers exclude

the campground revenues. "Our net revenue at the campground was \$90,000 last year and it will be \$90.000 in 2016," points out Mr. Trépanier.

"At Pin Rouge, if you rent a cottage in the summer, you can have access to our trails for free and renting a mountain bike is also included in the package. The pool is free for our clients as well. We hired lifeguards this summer. The cost was between \$5,000 and \$6,000 but we started attracting a new clientele, the locals. They generated \$4,000 in revenues and we are confident that number will increase in the future," he adds.

The animation was also enhanced at Pin Rouge this

summer, either during the day or at night, with games for children and evening activities such as movies, storytelling and local food tasting. Some day camps from the region spent a day at Pin Rouge as well.

Mr. Trépanier points out that the communication and marketing strategy initiated since the hiring of Marie Nowak also generated additional revenues last winter, even if there was less snow than the previous winter.

"In 2015, we had revenues of \$312,500 compared to expenses of \$354,482, for a loss of \$42,000. In 2016, we increased our revenues to \$356,786, and our expenses remained about the same, at \$356,451, for a small profit (of \$2,335). Between now and the end of the year, our revenues will diminish because September is much quieter, tourism-wise," explains Mr. Trépanier.

He and his team will nevertheless make a fair effort to draw a higher number of

Cont'd on page 11 ()

# Muin triathlon entices youth to a healthy lifestyle

Cynthia **Dow** 

GESGAPEGIAG: - For the second time, Gesgapegiag Health and Community Services has hosted the Muin (Bear) Triathlon for youngsters aged 8 to 17. The event was held on Saturday, August 27, beginning at Gallagher Lake in St-Jules and ending at the Galgoasiet Natural Re-

sources building. The seven young athletes swam, cycled and ran their way to medals handed out by organizer Walter Jerome Jr.

Alexia Pietrantonio from Maria won in the 12 to 17 age category. Kylie and Kyanna Ste-Croix from Gaspé came first and second respectively in the girl's 8 to 12 category, with Amber Jerome finishing



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Christine Bérubé-Martin.



Alexia Pietrantonio from Maria, Kylie and Kyanna Ste-Croix from Gaspé, Logan Gallon from Cascapedia-St-Jules, Jonah Condo, Amber Jerome and Cedar Larocque (in front) from Gesgapegiag.

third. For the boys, Cedar Larocque claimed the gold medal, Jonah Condo took silver and Logan Gallon from Cascapedia St Jules took the bronze because the chain on his bike broke! Before the event began, the youngsters heard from Christine Bérubé-Martin, a 28-year-old member of the Gesgapegiag commu-

nity, who began foot races about three years ago. She told SPEC she originally started to get fit in order to lose weight and quit smoking, but now she takes on marathons, half-marathons and even the 50-kilometre Mont Albert Ultra-trail to burn off her high energy. "I do it to be grounded, to be alone, to relieve stress. It

makes me feel good and gives me confidence. I can see my progress and develop a feeling of accomplishment."

She told the young people to find out what they loved the most in order to develop a positive lifestyle. "That helps you treat yourself and others better, to believe in yourself."



### One for sorrow

As I sit typing this column I can hear the incessant cawing of a single crow, or is it a raven? Here on the Gaspé we have an abundance of these very vocal black birds. In fact both are found throughout most of North America. Apparently what we usually term crows may in fact be either crows or ravens. So, how can you tell the difference? There are a number of clues which can assist us in determining which bird we are observing.

The very strongest clue for identifying these birds is the voice. Crows make that traditional sound that we term 'caw.' Most often there is one loud caw followed by a few shorter caws. The crow is mostly high pitched and loud with a sound that can best be termed harsh. A raven's call is deeper and makes a sound that can be less unpleasant to our ears, often consisting of 2 parts, such as 'croak – croak.'

There are more clues. One is size. The raven tends to be larger than the crow. Crows weigh over 1 pound (just over half a kilogram) and ravens can be weigh twice as much, up to 2 ½ pounds (1.1 kilograms). Wingspan varies – the average crow wingspan is 36 inches (90 cm) and the average raven wingspan is 50 inches (125 cm). So that 'super crow' you are observing is likely a raven. Another clue is the tail which is fan-like on the crow but more like a wedge on the raven. More subtle clues include the neck in flight which appears longer on ravens. The bill of a raven is larger, with a curve in it and may have a tuft of feathers on top of it. The raven's feathers are shiny and appear almost wet.

The two birds behave differently. Ravens usually hang out in pairs. Crows like to be part of a larger group. In general crows like to live around humans and ravens prefer less inhabited areas. Ravens tend to be more wary of humans. Crows live to be about 8 years old and ravens live up to 30 years. The birds have different diets with some overlap. The crow eats fruit and nuts, eggs and birds, frogs, mice and dead things. The raven will dine on birds, frogs, and small animals. Both birds will eat human garbage.

Both the raven and the crow are highly intelligent and are very clever at obtaining food and in some scientific studies, for example, a crow can problem solve in some situations as well as a child of up to 10 years old. And ravens can be as clever as chimpanzees even though their brains are considerably smaller. Both birds can bond with humans. They can identify human faces and can easily tell humans apart, particularly ones that feed them or ones that have killed a raven or crow. Crows and ravens have been observed having funeral type behaviour for a bird that has died or been killed by a human. Locally, a crow was shot and a group of crows returned daily for months to caw noisily at the home where the death occurred.

When I was a young child my Gaspesian grandmother would recite this version of the nursery rhyme for me and to this day I never like to see one solitary crow:

One crow sorrow,
Two crow joy,
Three for a girl,
Four for a boy,
Five for silver,
Six for gold,
Seven for a secret,
Never to be told.
Eight for a wish,
Nine for a kiss,
Ten for a bird,
You must not miss.

# York — An important part of the past and the present

Wendy **Dawson** 

YORK: - Recently celebrations were held to mark the 150th Anniversary of what was once recognized as the Municipality of York.

Seeking sovereignty from the joint council that York had held with Gaspé Bay South since 1842 and recognized as the "Municipality of Gaspé Bay and South and York", the citizens of the area submitted a petition to the Legislative Council and Assembly of Lower Canada requesting that their territory be recognized simply as the "Corporation of the Municipality of York".

The request was swiftly acknowledged and soon after the submittal of the petition, the people got their wish. On August 15, 1866, almost a full year before Canada was even considered a country, York was recognized as its own municipality.

The first mayor was James Fitzpatrick and along with seven councillors, formed York's first independent government.

The territory of York was quite expansive, covering an area described in Statutes of the Province of Canada 1866 as being a territory that was "bounded on the North by the York River and Gaspé Basin, on the East by the Township of Douglas, on the South by the southern limits of the said Township of York and to the West by the Western Limit of the said Township of York."

York's first request for its own post office in 1898 was refused since a post office



Photos: Courtesy of Andy Patterson

Making hay in the 1920s or 1930s.

bearing the name of York already existed in Ontario. The Municipality made a second request the following year, under the name of Sunny Bank which was approved and the Municipality of York's first post office was housed in the home of John Mullin. In 1900, the post office was moved to its present day location.

Sunny Bank became the common name of the territory covering the western section of York that contained the most concentrated number of citizens from the Municipality. Over the course of the 20th century, the Sunny Bank location was host to St. Andrew's Anglican Church, four general stores, the post office, a four room school house, four skating rinks, a hockey team and a fish hatchery.

Despite the amalgamation of the Municipality of York to the Municipality of Gaspé in 1971, what was the vast territory once known as York still continued to grow and today contains some of the most important infrastructures and businesses in the town of Gaspé.

The St. Augustine Monastery, the Hotel Dieu hospital and the Cantin pavilion, Carrefour Gaspé shopping centre,

several automobile dealerships, the train station, the marina and cruise terminal and the Gaspé airport are all included within the boundaries of what was formally known as the Municipality of York. Furthermore, the Industrial Park in Gaspé which houses numerous businesses, including LM Wind Power, the most important year-long private employer on the Gaspé Peninsula.

It is clear that the heritage of York has had a continued impact on the growth of the Municipality of Gaspé as a whole and the spirit of the early citizens of the area has carried forth through generations. During the recent celebration marking York's 150th anniversary, Bonita Annett, who initiated the event, ended her presentation to the crowd by saying "Let us hope we will continue to grow and prosper for many more years to come."

Those that are interested in learning more about the history of the Municipality of York can visit gogaspe.com to access the online book entitled "Sunny Bank – Our Ancestral Home," written by Andrew Patterson, a proud resident of Sunny Bank who lives in a home built there by his great-grandfather.



Girls hockey team in the mid-1950s Paulet Patterson, Donna Patterson, Erlene Patterson, Marilyn Jones, Ivy Patterson and Emily Patterson.



The participants of the consultation sessions expressed a number of priorities.

# Housing needs of Gaspé seniors put into focus

Wendy **Dawson** 

GASPÉ: - In late 2015 and early 2016, Seniors Action Quebec (SAQ) conducted a number of regional surveys among Quebec Anglophone seniors. The organization's project sought to identify and establish priorities and critical issues affecting the quality of life of English speaking seniors in Quebec.

Seniors Action Quebec's initiative was a follow-up to the Quebec Community Groups Network project that ran from 2012 to 2015 and included a series of meetings with community groups and seniors to help identify top priorities of English speaking seniors in Quebec.

The four areas identified as a priority for seniors included centralized information in English on local services and events for seniors, home support and living arrangements, access to health programs and services in English and transportation.

On Tuesday, August 30, Vision Gaspé-Percé Now in partnership with the Côte de Gaspé MRC and Seniors Action Quebec (SAQ) held the first of two planned focus groups, the main purpose of which was to get feedback from local seniors regarding their take on one of those points, the home support and living arrangements of seniors living in Gaspé.

Eighteen people participated in the focus group ranging from 59 to 90 years of age. Participants were broken into three groups and they were supported by a group of animators from both Vision Gaspé-Percé Now and the MRC. Jessica Synnott from Vision Gaspé-Percé Now who coordinated the event states, "They were a really good group and the animators really got them talking." The groups were asked to respond to a series of three questions which were:

- 1. In a perfect world, what kind of housing do you see yourself living in as a senior? What services are you receiving that help you achieve this?
- 2. What services exist to assist seniors in living safely at home? What are some barriers to these services?
- 3. What, in your opinion, are the three most urgent things to do to improve the quality of life for seniors in Gaspé?

Ms. Synnott explains that the variety of responses from participants provided great insight into the needs of local seniors.

While some of the answers were already known and expected, others remained a little surprising. For example, while there were varying opinions on the type of housing that seniors might seek, one thing was almost overwhelmingly certain. "They want to stay close to their English communities and their social network." says Jessica Synnott when discussing the feedback from participants. This was the case even when the immediate family, children and grandchildren of the contributors, lived outside the re-

As for the areas that were identified as urgent among the group, most agreed that they include more seniors' residences, temporary respite locations, services for seniors such as cooking and cleaning, companionship and transportation.

Those surveyed also explained that cost and language barriers can also affect Gaspé seniors' access to many services.

Vision Gaspé-Percé Now, SAQ and the MRC will now begin to compile the information and start generating a report that will be used to inform their local partners about the needs of Anglophone seniors in the region.

Ms. Synnott indicates that Vision Gaspé-Percé Now will be holding a second focus group session in Barachois early this fall.



# **GASPÉSIE RAILWAY SOCIETY: Experienced marketing** coordinator hired

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND: - The Gaspésie Railway Society recently hired Lucie Rioux as the transporter's marketing and sales coordinator. She is a former director general of the Matapedia and Gulf Railway, when the Quebec Railway Society owned the rail lines east of Rivière-du-Loup, including the Matapedia-Chandler stretch, and in northern New Brunswick.

Ms. Rioux also worked for Canadian National as an account manager. She has a lot of experience in railways and a good knowledge of the Eastern Quebec territory. The Quebec Railway Society was created in 1994 and bought several CN lines located in Charlevoix, the Gaspé Peninsula, Lower Saint Lawrence, northern and eastern New Brunswick. CN bought back those lines in 2009, except the Charlevoix one.

"She has the mandate to develop markets, to increase our traffic and reach the potential identified in the Canarail study, which means going further east. She will also be our main link with CN, and between our customers and CN. She knows the game," explains Éric Dubé, president of the Gaspésie Railway Society.

The Canarail study was released at the beginning of March. One of the conclusions of the document is that if the line is upgraded east of Caplan, potential traffic could reach 5,700 carloads by 2020. It was 1,624 carloads in 2015, and 1,500 of them came from the Temrex sawmill in Nou-

Since the Quebec government announced its intention to buy the Matapedia to elor's degree in administra-Gaspé line in March 2015, the trains are confined between Matapedia and Caplan. Transport-Québec officially bought the line in May 2015 and the line east of Caplan is in a dormant state.

However, the biggest development potential lies east



Lucie Rioux.

of Caplan, as the Saint-Elzéar Cooperative, a sawmill, McInnis Cement and LM Wind Power in Gaspé have expressed an interest in using the railway to ship a percentage of their production.

In the meantime, the management of the Gaspésie Railway Society is trying to convince the Quebec government of upgrading the line's bridges. Their bearing capacity often represents a limiting factor in the development of traffic.

The Gaspésie Railway Society remained the operator of the line after losing its property in 2015.

Éric Dubé is currently negotiating an agreement with Transport-Québec so that the Gaspésie Railway Society remains the operator for the next year and possibly more. The organization was created by the municipalities of the Avignon, Bonaventure, Percé Rock and Côte-de-Gaspé MRCs in order to acquire the Matapedia-Chandler portion of the line, threatened by abandonment in the fall of 2006. The Chandler to Gaspé section had already been acquired in March 1997

Lucie Rioux holds a bachtion from Université du Quebec à Montreal and a master's degree in business administration (MBA) from Université de Sherbrooke. She will also contribute to strategic initiatives in the business development of SCFG.



People of the quilt

Diane **Skinner** 

NEW CARLISLE: - This all began over 100 years ago. It centers on a quilt, but so much more. This is a story that spans over a century, families from Matapedia to Gaspé, and beyond, the history of the church and especially the curiosity and devotion of one woman finding out the stories of this very special quilt.

The cast of characters is huge, over 71 families, and the historical value is significant. Betty Anne Smollett, New Carlisle, realized when she found the quilt in a trunk after her father passed away that the quilt was too important to leave packed away. She felt that the quilt had many stories to tell and those stories needed to be shared. But first Betty Anne needed to do a great deal of talking, researching in books and online, visiting those with long memories and family connections, pouring over documents and piecing it all together. The quilt is a literal piecing together of many, many, Gaspesian families who lived here 100 years ago. Most of these family names are represented here today.

Legacy is a big part of this story. Legacy is that part of a person that lives on after they are gone. It is the 'story' of a person or people which is preserved in some way so that they are not forgotten. These stories can set an example for the future and inform us about our past. We are responsible to build a legacy for the generations which follow us. This is the quilt's legacy and that of Betty Anne's perseverance. The Kempffer House, New Carlisle, is historical museum where the quilt will eventually be on permanent display, but first the story of the quilt.



Photos: Marshall Billingsley

## The quilt and the church

The quilt, or quilt cover actually, measures approximately 2 metres by 3 metres and is not flashy at all. When we hear the word quilt we have images of colourful Amish type quilts or our grandmothers' pieced quilts made from scraps of material left over from making clothing. That's not this quilt. It's a natural linen colour with pink embroidery on it and is comprised of 71 squares sewn together. Each square measures about 20 cm. On each square are family names, mostly, which were stitched by a family member. A few squares contain favourite scripture passages. The Presbyterian Church in New Carlisle organized the making of the quilt, likely as a fundraiser or in some way to support the war effort. Each family likely donated what they could to the church and received a square. When you examine the quilt closely you can see that the stitching has been done by many different hands because of the variety in style. Around the edges of the entire quilt is cross stitching, all done by hand. It is quite possible that the parishioners held a quilting bee.

In 1913 Reverend George Philip Tattrie, Presbyterian Minister, New Carlisle from 1905-1913, would have likely been the organizer of this project. Betty Anne researched and found information online about the years that Reverend Tattrie lived here. In fact the Tattrie family headstone can be found in the Presbyterian cemetery in New Carlisle. Prior to that Reverend Sutherland was the minister in New Carlisle from 1891 - 1905.

The history of the quilt is also part of the history of the Presbyterian Church. In 1925 the Presbyterian Church became the United Church but not all Presbyterians agreed with this. In New Carlisle the Presbyterian Church and the United Church still stand across the street from each other. Some Presbyterian parishioners just would not agree to amalgamate. The church still has services during the summer once a month and it is the only active Presbyterian Church on the Gaspé.

Very important to the history of the Gaspé is the coming of Charles Robin in Paspébiac, a major employer of the time. Many of the families who are represented on the quilt worked for Robin's and were United Empire Loyalists or came from the Channel Islands. Betty Anne has traced many of the families and has spoken to the descendants of these people. She continues her quest for the story of the families and right up until the publication of this article she is speaking to people about their ancestors and searching for more information.

Recently I had tea at Betty Anne's home with Rhonda Billingsley, daughter of Ronald Howard Billingsley, whose ancestors are well represented on the quilt. Rhonda says that her hobby is genealogy and she was able to supply a great deal of family history. She currently has about 1500 pages of information and many pho-

tos of her Gaspesian family and ancestors.



## Repatriation of the quilt

So what happened to the quilt? It left the Gaspé and ended up in the United States. Exactly when and how is unclear but there are some clues which help to piece it all together. Annie Caldwell (Billingsley) was the daughter of Ronald Billingsley and Elizabeth Sawyer and Betty Anne's great aunt Annie. Annie and her husband had moved to Minnesota from New Carlisle in 1905. They became turkey farmers there but Betty Anne is unsure exactly why the family left the Gaspé to live in Duquette, Minnesota. Through research online Betty Anne discovered that people were enticed to settle in Duquette, which was established in 1905, by the granting of 40 acres of land and 200 turkeys. Perhaps that was the incentive to move. Her husband's brother, also from the Gaspé, and his family settled on the land adjacent to Annie and her husband. Through research, Betty Anne also found that there were a number of French Canadians who had settled there so there may have been another connection from the Gaspé.

Shortly after 1913 Annie become the lucky custodian of the quilt, perhaps won by a draw? Betty Anne states, "I'd like to think that receiving this quilt from home would have given great comfort to this young couple as they began their life's journey." Annie had been living in Duquette for eight years before the quilt was made so it is most likely that Annie's square of the quilt would have been stitched by her sister Myrtle, (Mrs. John Gilker), who was Betty Anne's grandmother. Betty Anne examined the quilt and the squares are done in an identical style of stitching, so likely Myrtle completed both squares. Good detec-

When Betty Anne was 10 or 11 years old she and her parents visited her great aunt Annie Caldwell (Billingsley) in Duquette, Minnesota. While visiting her great aunt Annie, who was born in 1880, she said to Betty Anne and her mom, (also named Annie after her namesake aunt), "I'm going to give you something." She brought out the linen quilt. Great aunt Annie had no children so she told Betty Anne and her parents that when she passed away nobody living in Duquette would know any of the people on the quilt. So Betty Anne's parents brought the quilt back to the Gaspé. It had returned to its roots.

For many years Betty Anne's family kept the quilt safely packed away in a trunk. After her father passed away Betty Anne found the quilt. Immediately she remembered visiting her great aunt in Duquette, Minnesota when she was a young girl and bringing the quilt home. As an adult the quilt took on a new significance. She sat and read over all the names and found it fascinating. She quickly realized it was a 'Who's Who' of a significant portion of the population on the Gaspé, then and now. Betty Anne was intrigued and her quest began.

# QUILTING





### The quilt's future

The quilt is a legacy that has been brought to life - reanimated by the tenacity and vision of Betty Anne and the memories of many people. Each square of the quilt represents real lives and wouldn't it be wonderful if those squares could tell their own stories of life and death. What's really important are the stories of people's lives, and stories are wondrous

things. We Gaspesians are all connected - not just as all humans are connected by 6 degrees of separation. Many of us here are literally genetically connected going back beyond the year of the quilt's creation, 1913. Looking over the family names on the quilt we can discover that some family names have died out. They no longer exist here on the Gaspé Peninsula. When you read over the list and find your family's name, it makes you feel a sense of pride. If your family name is not there they may not have been members of the Presbyterian Church or a friend of a church member.

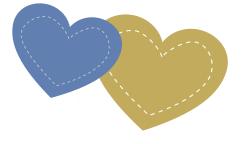
Annie

Billingsley Caldwell

Perhaps a church might consider this project today? Not so much as a fundraiser, but it could be, but for the preservation of history. A legacy for generations to come so that they can appreciate and remember. Their quilt could be hung in the church or brought out as a time capsule in the future.

The quilt will be donated to the Kempffer House Museum in New Carlisle for all to see. Maxime Huot, museum coordinator, is looking forward to having the quilt as part of the Kempffer House Museum's collection by the second week of September. This will perfectly coincide with a new exhibition based on historical and contemporary fabrics that the Kempffer House Museum is planning. You will have the opportunity to go and see the quilt and check out the family names there. A booklet will be available where visitors can see exactly what is written on each square. Maxime is very grateful for this donation but Betty Anne is quick to point out that she too is grateful for the many people who have given their time and memories to help identify the family connections. She is particularly grateful to Eleanor Billingsley, Anne Billingsley (Minnesota), John Billingsley, Rhonda Billingsley, George Le Grand, Lois Hayes and Wilfrid Hocquard. Rhonda Billingsley who contributed so much to understanding the family connections on the quilt stated, "It's funny. I never liked history in school, but I love researching about genealogy!"

Betty Anne has learned so much about the 'families of the quilt' that there is not adequate space to write it all here, but her search for the stories about the people of the quilt continues. This is clearly a labour of love and respect for the past. In doing so she has become one of the people of the quilt.



Family names on the quilt

Almond, Anderson, Anez (Agnes), Assels, Beebe, Billingsley, Bisson, Blanchet, Bond, Bossy, Blampir, Briard, Burns, Caldwell, Camiot, Cates, Childs, Chisholm, Clark, Collas, Cooke, Couillard, Crawford, Cuthbert, Day, Dow, Duncan, Ferguson, Flanders, Garrett, Gavey, Gilker, Godfrey, Hall, Hocquard, Hottot, Kempffer, Kerr, LaLeLievre, Larson, Leach, LeBas, LeBrocq, LeGrand, Louir, Major, Mann, McGlennon, McLeech, McNeil, Mills, Mitchell, Morrison, Moore, Ollivier, Patterson, Poirier, Pratt, Reid, Roberts, Ross, Sanders, Scott, Sheppard, Sherar, Smith, Starnes, Sullivan, Sutherland, Tattrie, Thompson, Tibault, Tomlin, Tozer, West, Willis, Wilson, Wellman and Young.

# Hill Billie Ranch passes on a passion for horses

Wendy **Dawson** 

NEW RICHMOND: - In the kitchen at Hill Billie Ranch, Darlene Milligan-Meredith and Bill Meredith can finally take the time for a morning coffee together after a full and busy couple of weeks running the Hill Billie Horse Camp.

The Hill Billie Horse Camp is an initiative born of Darlene's love of horses and Bill's support of his wife's passion. Together they built and founded Hill Billie Ranch in 1981. Bill Meredith farmed both cattle and sheep for a number of years and during that time was often approached by people looking for a location to board their horses.

Horses have always been an important part of the Meredith lifestyle, having at least three horses at any given time, a number that grew over the years as their three girls, Tanya Lee, Tara Lynn and Samie Joe, developed their own passion for horses.

"When I came into this world, there were horses," says Darlene. "My mom and dad got me my first pony when I was six years old. A brown and white Pinto named Molly." She proudly shows off her first saddle that she used on that pony, still beautifully maintained and showcased in the family's living room.

In September of 2009, the Merediths decided to realign their agricultural operation. Bill had already made important changes to his production and Darlene for her part believed that they would be providing a really important service to horse owners looking for a place to board their horses. It was then that they decided to make the switch to horse boarding on a full time basis.

Five years ago, Bill and Darlene's youngest daughter, Samie Joe, was approached by several parents looking for riding lessons for their children. Samie Joe took on eight students. Her youngest was only



1

Drill Team Jr. Gymkhana.

Driii Team 31. Gymunane

three years old at the time and took his lessons with Samie Joe using a "buddy saddle."

When Samie Joe decided to head out to Saskatchewan, Darlene was forced to decide if she would take over where Samie Joe had left off. A level II rider herself, Darlene had never really taught before, although all of her girls had brought friends home over the years that Darlene was happy to help introduce to riding.

However, with 12 of their own horses on the ranch, plus all of the necessary equipment, Darlene couldn't imagine letting go of any of it and didn't have the heart to let down the students, so she decided to carry on with the weekly lessons. "It was something that so many of the children loved, and there was no one to continue it, and I did have the horses," she explains.

The number of riding students at Hill Billie ranch rose to 12 over the fall, winter and spring of 2015 and in the summer of that same year, Darlene and Bill decided to continue into the summer months by offering a week of equestrian knowledge of a very different kind to the students.

Darlene explains that students after they start riding will want to acquire a horse, but Bill is quick to point out that they do not necessarily understand the kind of work associated with keeping a horse.

Darlene agreed to embark on a second year of hosting the Hill Billie Horse Camp because her students pleaded with her to do so. The weeklong camp is held at the New Richmond Fairgrounds and days start at 8 am. Students begin with morning chores that include feeding and watering the horses as well as cleaning out the stalls. Younger, less experienced riders ride in the morning and are mentored by the older camp participants.

When the older students ride in the afternoon, young camp goers support the older riders in the paddock, raking and setting up barrels. While campers surely have fun and participate in a variety of activities in addition to riding,



the focus of the camp is safety, responsibility, discipline and team work, elements that the Meredith's feel are essential to good horsemanship.

The teamwork component of Hill Billie's approach is probably the one that has the most impact on the camps participants. After the camp is over, Hill Billie campers of all ages continue to come together the week before the Agricultural Fair in New Richmond to volunteer their time by helping to prepare the site for the fair weekend. Chores can include decorating, table washing, sweeping or grass trimming. In exchange for their support, the kids are afforded additional riding time in the evenings, a privilege that they all look forward to.

There were 17 young riders

at the camp this year, ranging in ages from six to 16. Hill Billie was able to accommodate all of the campers thanks to the support of Catherine "Rusty" Johnson, who provided the additional horses and equipment required to support the larger group.

All of Hill Billie's campers participated in one of the four different age categories of the junior Gymkhana at the New Richmond Agricultural Fair. During that event held on the evening of August 26th, 14 of the campers participated in the drill team and all 17 of the Hill Billie Campers participated in the Gymkhana's other contests. The trophies and prizes for the Junior Gymkhana were sponsored by both Hill Billie Ranch and Mic Mac Camp.

Bill and Darlene Meredith dedicate hours of their time to make Hill Billie camp a reality, but they both believe that there is a real need for that type of recreation. In addition to her young students, Darlene also works with other riders looking to learn harness riding, driving a sleigh or doing corrective work. Additionally, she will participate in clinics throughout the year, acquiring information that she can pass on to her students.

One thing is certain, even after this particular morning's more leisurely pace, there is no real time off at the Hill Billie Ranch as Bill Meredith prepares to make hay and care for the boarded horses and Darlene begins to plan for their students' autumn training schedule.





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Cont'd from page 5

hunters over the fall. "We already have some reservations. We expect to do better than last year." he states.

The annual financial results of Pin Rouge are aligned with the calendar year. "There are September, October, November and December left. If we get snow in December and if we avoid a snag, like a major repair to one of our main pieces of equipment, we should show an overall profit," he says.

It would be the first real profit since the creation of the Petite Cascapedia Regional Park in 2003.

"The only break-even year was 2006 and it was in part due to a \$200,000 special budgetary item that was added to the revenues," points out Mr. Trépanier.

He is confident that a good marketing campaign between now and the beginning of 2017 will secure the flow of revenues and even increase them for the next financial year.

"We take advantage of the three March break weeks, the Quebec one, the New Brunswick one and the Nova Scotia one. Our efforts to reach the Halifax clientele explains in part our good results at Pin Rouge last winter. I will go to Halifax this fall and participate in a CTV show," explains Benoit Trépanier.

This fall, Pin Rouge will invest \$195,000 in the optimization of its snowmaking equipment and in preventive maintenance work on the lift. The Little Cascapedia Regional Park will receive grants totalling \$105,000 for that project.

The town of New Richmond, which owns the Little Cascapedia Regional Park, has agreed to contribute \$150,000 annually to Pin Rouge for the next 20 to 25 years in order to reduce the long term debt of the ski centre. Since a payment of \$1.4 million by the Quebec government, an amount long overdue, that debt stands at \$3 million and is related to past projects.

The Petite Cascapedia Regional Park has an annual budget of \$1.4 million. Up to 40 people work there in the winter, compared to 15 in the summer. Yearly, it pays \$600,000 in salaries.

# CHANDLER WHARF: Cont'd from cover

"We are asking Transport-Canada to check if temporary repairs can be made for next year. It is the west extremity of the wharf that poses a problem, the last two caissons being in a bad state. The CTMA Vacancier is mooring at the east end," she says.

Louisette Langlois believes that the negotiations between the town of Chandler and Transport-Canada still have good chances of fruition. In the worst case scenario, "it will take two years to repair the wharf. CTMA could come back. We have a ramp that cost \$4.5 million in 2004. There is none in Gaspé. The vehicles could not roll on or off in Gaspé."

Moreover, the mayor emphasizes that there is one year left on a five-year agreement assuring the presence of CTMA in Chandler. "It is our intention to renew that agreement next year for another period of five years," she says.

How does she interpret

Transport-Canada's position to close an infrastructure in the middle of talks pertaining to its property transfer?

"I don't know. They don't give money as long as the property transfer procedure is not completed. It is the 'nobody or everybody' principle. If they do it at one place, they will be expected to do it everywhere. They were maybe waiting for a final agreement with us," she suggests.

Louisette Langlois notes that negotiation-wise, the exchange with Transport-Canada is going well. "They are paying for studies that are leading toward a property transfer. There is more than \$200,000 invested by them."

Traditionally, the Chandler wharf was used to serve the Gaspesia paper mill and sometimes to fill other regional needs, such as receiving salt for the roads. Mayor Langlois says that the salt traffic was transferred to Paspebiac this year due to the insufficient bearing capacity of Chandler wharf's west section.

IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!

**HI-RAIL:** 

#### Cont'd from cover

"We also came to get some cooler weather but it is really hot," explained Alan Freed with a smile. He is from Virginia while Douglas Brenner hails from California. When SPEC met the two rail fans in Saint-Omer on August 26, the temperature was at least 26 degrees in the shade and above 30 degrees under the sun!

Alan Freed is familiar with the Gaspé Peninsula. "This is the second trip in the Pontiac. I have also taken a round-trip from Truro to Sydney in the Pontiac. It is hard to say how many times I've come up on the train to Gaspé, probably at least six or seven. My family members have made the round trip at Christmas time at least three times and I remember coming to Gaspé on the train in the early days of Via when the train was still using blue CN sleepers. Around Christmas time, they would put a Park car on the back of the train and a full diner. We especially enjoyed coming up in the winter and found the ride to be spectacularly beautiful at that time of year," he says.

Alan Freed is a retired locomotive engineer. He also operated a business in the military.

Douglas Brenner operates an automotive and motorcycle suspension business.

"We met through car racing," points out Mr. Brenner, who was not a rail fan and who didn't have a particular interest in trains originally.

It is quite different for Alan Freed, who is 68. "I come from a family of railway workers dating back to the Civil War (1861-1865). My great-great grandfather, my great grandfather and my father worked for the railroad. My father was an executive type. He was disappointed when I showed interest for working as a brakeman first, then as a locomotive engineer," he explains.

Alan Freed became a rarity

www.remax-quebec.com

when he was appointed as a locomotive engineer at 24 years of age, in 1971. "In the United States, you usually get that position in your forties, sometimes late forties and early fifties. I enjoyed it. It is a complete occupation. You meet different people. Nothing compares to it."

His 1957 Pontiac Hi-Rail is a rarity as well. Only 14 such cars were built for the needs of Northern Pacific.

"There are only two left. One is in Wisconsin, in a museum, and there is mine. It was mostly used for inspections", he stresses.

The Pontiac was in a rail-way scrapyard when he bought it in the mid-1990s "but in OK order. It was working. To improve it, I took it to Massachusetts where a team of people stripped it to the frame and rebuilt it. It took six months. It took a lot of money to repair it. It had been inactive for 10-12 years. It burns some gas too, as we cover five miles to the gallon. It weighs 7,000 pounds," he points out.

He was part of the NAR-COA excursion to the Gaspé Peninsula in June 1998. The group was consisting of 22 railcars and his 1957 Pontiac. About 50 people were on board. NARCOA means North American Railcars Operators Association. They have more than 1,000 members in the United States and Canada.

The railcars are small, cube-like, diesel-propelled vehicles used in the past for maintenance and inspection purposes. They were gradually replaced by pickup trucks, more versatile with the capacity to circulate on the rails and the roads.

Railcars and hi-rail cars became gradually available to potential buyers in the 1970s and the 1980s when railroad companies started to rely on pickup trucks.

During their trip to the Gaspésie Peninsula, Alan Freed and Douglas Brenner were accompanied by a crew of the Gaspésie Railway Society, for safety purposes. Mr. Freed prefers not to discuss the cost of the passage rights he has to pay.

Since he only had time for the one-way Matapedia-Gaspé trip, he left his 1957 Pontiac in Matapedia before taking the train to return to Virginia. "I will come back later this fall, probably in October, and take the road to Gaspé and come back on the railway."

He is aware of the threat pending on part of the Gaspésie railroad. "This line is a treasure. It has to be reopened over its whole length. It is part of the community and country's heritage. You can't replace its value. It costs \$10,000 per mile to scrap it but it would cost \$10 million (per mile) to rebuild," he says.

Mr. Freed operates a well-known organization in the United States. "Alan L. Freed Associates specializes in the design and development of non-partisan Public Policy Seminars for senior managers and executives from the Defense and Intelligence communities," says the web site.

It is also mentioned that "In 1976, Alan L. Freed Associates founded and developed the original Capitol Hill Workshop and White House Workshop. Since then more than 800 executive-level policy seminars have been conducted in Washington, D.C., and more than 100 programs presented at various military bases around the United States."



The Gaspé Spec keeps families connected



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## In Memory

#### FLOWERS: Lloyd

In loving memory of our cherished and beloved son and brother who left us suddenly as the result of a car accident on September 5, 1979.

We do not need a special day To bring thoughts of you to mind. For the days we will not think of you Will be very hard to find. We think of you in silence, We often speak your name, All we have are memories, And your picture in a frame. Our hearts will ache with sadness, Our silent tears will flow For what it meant to lose you, No one will ever know. On the day you left us, You did not go alone, For part of us went with you, The day God called you home.

Too dearly loved to ever be forgotten.

Love Mom, Dad, brothers Clyde and Wayne and sisters Carol and Darlene.

#### FLOWERS: Lloyd Elmer

In loving memory of a dear brother who left us suddenly on September 5, 1979 as the result of a car accident.

A beautiful life
That came to an end.
He died as he lived
Everyone's friend.
In our hearts a memory
Will always be kept
Of the one we loved
And will never forget.
It's just a little
But it means a lot;
To say dear brother
We haven't forgot.

Lovingly remembered by sister Carol and brother-in-law Richard.

#### LAFLAMME: Oneil

September 6, 2015

I thought of you with love today but that is nothing new. I thought about you yesterday and days before that too. I think of you in silence, I often speak your name. All I have are memories and your picture in a frame. You may not be around in person but your spirit will live

on forever in our hearts.

We miss you. Raymonde, Onella, Jean-Robert, Raymond, Nora and our families.

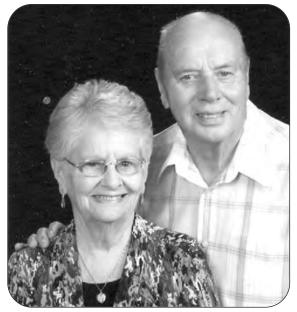
#### St. Jude's Novena

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the hopeless, pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us.

Say this prayer nine times a day for nine days, on the eighth day your prayer will be answered.

D.M.

#### **60th Anniversary**



Happy 60th Anniversary
September 15, 2016
Charles and Rita MacNaughton
All our love Debbie and Paul, Bruce and Lisa,
Cynthia and Bill, Tess, Sarah, Selena and Jade.

### **Wedding Announcement**



Congratulations to Jeffery Major and Jennifer Flowers who were married in Hope Town on August 19. Jeffery is the son of Clara and the late Wayne Major. Jennifer is the daughter of Timothy Flowers and April Main.

The ceremony was conducted by Jennifer's brother, Chris Flowers. The reception followed at the Community Centre in Shigawake.

Jeff and Jen's four daughters were in the wedding party: Lilly-Anna, the ring bearer, Samantha and Arianna, flower girls and Faith was a junior bridesmaid. The maid of honour was the bride's sister, Brittany-Anne; the bridesmaids were Angie Walters, Melissa Mercier and Penny MacWhirter. The best man was the groom's brother, Gregory; the groomsmen were Jonathan Kruse, Roger Kruse and Colin Major. The ushers were Josh Flowers and Reiley Walters Crozier.



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\$40.00 (\$45.00 with picture) (Max. 300 words)

Please send your announcement to: joan.spec@globe-trotter.net

Announcements for this page should be submitted typed or printed and paid in advance. To have your photo returned, please send a stamped self-addressed envelope.

SUBMISSIONS FOR THIS PAGE MUST BE IN OUR OFFICE BY THURSDAY.



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# **DEADLINE FOR THIS PAGE: THURSDAY**

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**FOR SALE OR RENT:** 5 1/2 room house at 246 Perron Blvd East, New Richmond. Call 418-392-6064. (S21)

**FOR SALE:** Scooter for sale. 2011 Model. Call 418-752-7347.(S7)

**FOR SALE:** 2003 Ford Explorer Sport XLT, 4 Michelin X Ice tires with rims (235/60/R16), 4 Yokohma summer tires (235/50R/18), 2 Auroro summer tires (P225/60R/16), 1 General MS with rim (P195/75R/14), 2 car shelters (11x20 and 11x16), 1 Poulan chainsaw, 1 Horse sleigh with feet, and 1 Strong door, 34 ". Call 418-392-4001.(S8)

#### **COAST ROUND-UP**

#### **POINTE NAVARRE:** Mass

You are all invited to celebrate The Feast of our Lady of Sorrows at the mass at the Shrine of Pointe-Navarre, **Tuesday**, **Sep**tember 13, at 7 p.m. After the mass, we will offer to our Lord our yearly intentions in a symbolic gesture. Welcome to everyone.

#### ST. MAJORIOUE: **Military Whist Tournament**

The Parish of St. Majorique will be having its annual military whist card tournament on Saturday, **October 8,** from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the St. Majorique Municipal Hall. The cost for the day is \$25 per person including lunch. For more information and/or to reserve a table, please call Laurette at 418-368-0256. Prizes awarded to winning tables.

#### GASPÉ:

**Fair Exhibition Registration** Last chance to register as a public exhibitor for the 2016 Fair. The Fair will be held on **Saturday**, September 10 at the St. Marjorique Hall. Contact Rhonda Stewart (rhondala@hotmail.com)

#### **GASPÉ:**

#### **Gaspé County WI Fair**

to register. Registration is \$15.

The Gaspé County Women's Institute will be hosting its annual fair on **Saturday, September 10,** at the St. Marjorique Community Hall. Everyone is invited to come and view the exhibits beginning at 3:30 p.m. Entrance is free. A cold buffet supper will be served beginning around 4:45 p.m. at the cost of \$10.

#### YORK:

#### **York River Senior Citizens' Club Upcoming Activities**

Thursday, September 8: Mini Putt 10 a.m. at Fort Ramsay. Saturday, September 24: Regional Whist Tournament at Gaspé Elementary School from 9

a.m to 3 p.m. Cost is \$25 which

includes lunch, winning prizes and

door prizes. To register, please contact Tony Patterson at 418-368-3276 or Cynthia McDonald at 418-368-5227.

Sunday, October 2: Meet and Greet at York Community Center from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. This is also Seniors' Appreciation Week, so come out and join the celebration. You will also be able to pay your annual dues of \$25 (FADOQ card which expires in 2016, check your card for expiration date). This is a great opportunity for those 50+ in the Gaspé area to join the club and take advantage of all that there is to offer. There are also financial benefits received when using your card at a number of businesses in the Gaspé area. Contact Tony Patterson at 418-368-3276 or Alfred Cassidy at Photo Cassidy in Gaspé.

#### GASPÉ:

#### **Terry Fox Run**

The Terry Fox Run will be held in Gaspé on Sunday, September 18, at 1 p.m. on the the bicycle path in Sandy Beach. We will have sweaters, stickers, & refreshments. Come & support a great cause for cancer research. For more information, call Nellis Rehel at 418 368 5901 or email albertr@globetrotter.net

#### **BARACHOIS:**

**Royal Canadian Legion** Monday nights: Come out for a fun night of Bingo starting at 7 p.m.

#### SHIGAWAKE:

#### **Harvest Supper**

St. Paul's Anglican women and the Shigawake community center will be holding their annual harvest supper on Saturday, September 10 at 4:30. Cost is \$15 for adults and \$6 for children under 10. Take-outs also available. Everyone welcome!

#### **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 Route132, HopeTown.www.hopebaptistchurch1.com. 418-752-5838. Pastor Paul Bedford BTh. MTh.

#### **HOPE TOWN:**

#### **Whist Party**

The Hope Town Community Center will be holding the next whist party on Saturday, September **10,** at 8 p.m.

#### **HOPE TOWN:**

#### **Super Gift Bingo**

The Hope Town Sports Committee

is hosting a super gift bingo with great themes to please all ages at the Hopetown Log Cabin, Saturday, September 24, at 7:30 p.m. Canteen service available. Bring a dabber and a few friends. Proceeds go towards the NCHS 2018 grad trip.

#### **PASPEBIAC:**

#### **Trip to Jersey in the Fall**

Trip to Jersey in the Fall -Paspébiac Fishing Banks 250th Celebrations. To celebrate this anniversary, the Historic Site of the Paspébiac Fishing Banks, in conjunction with the Gaspé-Jersey-Guernsey Association, organizing a trip to Jersey this fall. For information, please call 418-752-6229.

#### **NEW CARLISLE:**

#### **Local Market**

The New Carlisle Local Market will take place every Saturday until September 24 which will also be the garlic festival. Interested in selling your produce or homemade items at the market? Call Carol at 418-752-8555 or Sandi at 581-233-0658. An interesting setting for buskers too. Don't forget to like us on facebook.

### **NEW CARLISLE:**

#### Walk-a-thon

Mark your calendar for this year's fall fundraising event for the Linda LeMore-Brown Foundation's Walka-thon - Sunday, October 2. Registration is at 12:30 p.m. at the Optimist Chalet in New Carlisle. Pledge sheets and information will be available August 30 at the CASA office at 208B Gerard D. Levesque, New Carlisle.

#### **NEW CARLISLE:**

#### **Meals on Wheels**

Your Centre d'Action Bénévole St-Siméon/Port Daniel wishes to inform seniors of the municipality of New Carlisle that there are still places available for those who want to receive Meals on Wheels. It's a hot and balanced meal delivered to your door by volunteers. For more information, contact Rita Maldemay or Sindy at 418-752-5577.

#### **NEW CARLISLE:**

#### **Bible Chapel Services**

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

#### **NEW CARLISLE:**

#### St. Andrew's Church **Harvest Supper**

There will be a Harvest Supper on Saturday, September 24, from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Take outs available between 3:30 and 4:30 p.m. Price \$13; children under 10, \$7.

#### **NEW CARLISLE:**

#### 50+ Club

The New Carlisle 50+ Club will be

starting its new year with a breakfast at the Heritage Restaurant on Wednesday, September 14, at 9 a.m. All members and their partners are invited to attend. The club will contribute \$5 towards each member's breakfast. Mrs. Rita Maldemay (C.A.B.) will be attending and will discuss the very affordable frozen food service that is available. This is in addition to the Meals on Wheels program. The bean bag toss season will begin on Thursday, September **15,** from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and continue every week at the municipal hall in New Carlisle. Everyone is welcome.

#### **NEW RICHMOND:**

#### "La Boutique"

Please be advised that "La Boutique", New Richmond, QC, will close for the season at 4 p.m. on Saturday, September 10. Artisans are asked to pick up their items on Wednesday, Septem**ber 14,** from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. We wish to thank all who participated in "La Boutique" in any way.

#### **NEW RICHMOND: Cadets**

#### After an exceptional summer with the participation of the cadets in summer camps in Canada and the United-States, the local activities of the cadet corps will resume on Friday, September 2, in New-Richmond. There are a lot of fun activities planned such as canoeing, sailing, forest expeditions, music, sports and our regular Friday training nights. The cadet corps is presently taking applications. If you would like to take part in the adventure, you can contact us at 418-391-2507. You can also visit our web site www.cadets.ca.

#### **NEW RICHMOND:**

#### St. Andrew's United Church **Upcoming Events**

Saturday, October 22: Turkey Supper.

Friday, December 16: Christmas Concert.

#### **NEW RICHMOND:**

### **Friperie Notice**

Friperie Entraide de l'É.P.É. is

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#### **CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES: Royal Canadian Legion Upcoming Events**

Saturday, September 10: The general meeting of the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 172, will be held at 1 p.m.

Saturday, September 24: The 70th Anniversary celebration will be held at 1 p.m. with a washer tournament, music and supper at 4 p.m. Everyone is invited to this special event.

Saturday, November 25: Roast beef dinner.

### **CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:**

#### **Bookroom Change**

The bookroom will be closed until October 5. Any questions, please contact Kathleen at 418-392-4896.

#### **CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:** 50 + Club

Cascapedia 50+ Club will be holding a jam session on Friday, September 9, and again on Friday, September 23. Entry is free and canteen services available.

#### **GESGAPEGIAG:**

#### **Community Market**

A community market will be held at the Galgosiet building on Saturday, September 10, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Rain or shine.

#### **ROTARY CALENDAR**

The winners for the week of August 28 are: Pierrette Campbell, Pier-Lee Bourgue, Ethel Sexton, Claude Allard, Ralph Mc Cully, Jeremy Ballum and Barry Campbell.

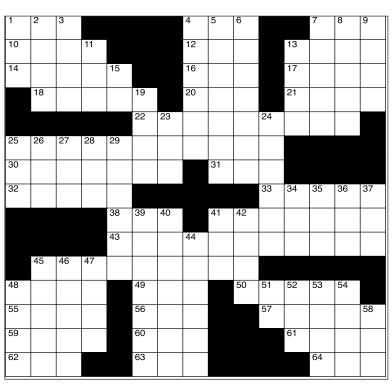
## **ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA**

#### **Sunday, September 11 New Richmond**

3 p.m. Holy Eucharist All churches are invited to attend

# the lighter side

# **CROSSWORD**



#### **CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. And so forth (abbr.)
- 4. Used to be United
- 7. Upper left keyboard key
- 10. Invitable ruin
- 12. Consumed
- 13. N.H. Maine river
- 14. Sen. Thurmond
- 16. More (Spanish)
- 17. Oh, God!
- 18. Designed chairs
- 20. Insect living in organized colonies
- 21. Anglo-Saxon theologian, c.700
- 22. Ecclesiastics
- 25. Magic incantation
- 30. Swan Lake and Don Quixote
- 31. Affirmative
- 32. Conspiracy
- 33. Citizen of Stockholm
- 38. Light brown
- 41. Roman judge
- 43. Sonny & Cher classic
- 45. Chopped mixture for stuffing
- 48. Am. Nobel physicist Isodor
- 49. Maya \_\_ of Vietnam Veterans Memorial
- 50. Expressed pleasure
- 55. In bed
- 56. Finnish
- 57. Canacol Energy stock symbol
- 59. Leather strap for hawks 60. UA fraternity est. 3-9-1856
- 61. Low, sideless cart
- 62. They
- 63. Single Lens Reflex
- 64. Point that is midway between N and NE

#### **CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Murrow, Sullivan & Koch
- 2. Carrying bag
- 3. Countess of Grantham
- 4. Key fruit
- 5. One kept in readiness
- 6. Bring back to normal
- 7. Avid
- 8. Lots of
- 9. Formal close (music)
- 11. Dad's partner
- 13. Point that is one point E of SE
- 15. Myself
- 19. Minor disagreement
- 23. Promotional materials
- 24. Bahama capital
- 25. Rudiments of a subject
- 26. Bleat
- 27. Right linebacker
- 28. Flower petals
- 29. Early culture of Gr. Britain
- 34. Worldwide internet 35. 7th Greek letter
- 36. When born (abbr.)
- 37. Before
- 39. Existing forever
- 40. About name
- 41. Myanmar monetary unit
- 42. Island north of Guam 44. Soft
- 45. \_\_ Castell, makers of pens
- 46. Excessively fat
- 47. Eliminates
- 48. A Hindu prince or king in India
- 51. Carrier's invention
- 52. Possessed
- 53. Deserve through action
- 54 Doven
- 58. A way to change color

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# What's This **Artifact?**

Marshall Billingsley

This artifact in the photo is a peculiar thing that some of our readers may be familiar with. What do you think it is? Can you solve this mystery?

This object is in its original and rare form, the glass is narrowed in the middle, and it is quite thick and heavy. The bottle is covered with a wire mesh. serving as cosmetic or for safety purposes.

The answer will be in next week's issue of The Gaspé Spec



Thanks to Jewell Roy for sharing this artifact with our readers.

### Why do we say ... By Gary Briand

The standard expression "to eat crow" is generally meant to designate an activity that is extremely disagreeable to do or perform.

The expression first appeared in print in 1877. The best explanation of its origin is found in the periodical Atlanta Constitution in 1888. According to language experts who write the explanation of the phrase, the expression dates back to the War of 1812. At the end of the American-Canadian conflict a weak truce was declared. One day an American soldier out hunting mistakenly crossed the Niagara River and wandered over the British Canadian line. Finding no game of value, the soldier shot a crow, but a British soldier heard the shot and sprang out of the woods to order the American to drop his gun. With that accomplished the British soldier told the American that he had violated the truce line. He would go free if he agreed to eat the dead crow which was at his feet! The American complied and took a bite. The Canadian returned the rifle and told the man to leave the area, but the American pointed the gun at the Canadian and ordered him to eat the remains of the crow! Nothing else came from the incident other than that both soldiers became terribly stomach ill.

This story appears to be the only explanation of the "eat crow" expression. It is based upon the assumption that crows do not make good eating, but is that an unfounded allegation? The Remington Rifle Company published in 1909 a recipe book for frontier men. You simply skin the crow, salt it well and cut it into pieces. Parboil until tender and then fry with fat and an abundance of onions. Judging from the quality of crow I've seen on my hill this present season, I would venture that there must certainly be a wild animal which would provide a better meal.

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, once you have your mind set on something, it is hard to get you to think about anything else. This dedication can be an asset at

work in the days ahead. TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, you are in good spirits this week and it could be due to some good news that provides you with extra energy. Tackle some tasks at hand and then have fun.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21 Gemini, it may be time for a change of scenery, especially if

you feel like you need recharging. Plan a getaway that allows you to unwind free of distractions. CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

Accept help when it is offered, Cancer. Doing so will considerably cut down on your workload and put you in a better frame of mind. Someone has a proposition that's promising.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23 Leo, though you often enjoy being the center of attention, you will enjoy a much-needed break from the limelight in coming days. Use

the time to reflect. VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22



Virgo, when a job opportunity pops up, jump on it without delay. This could be the break you're looking for, so don't pass up the opportunity to get on board.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, recognize that some things are beyond your control, no matter how hard you try to influence the outcomes. Do your best and things will work out for you.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22 Scorpio, sometimes the best way to help someone is to refrain from offering advice and let him or her work it out. This week you'll be put to the test in this line of thinking.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21 Sagittarius, do your best to address a financial issue in the weeks ahead. It may take some time, but use this week to lay the groundwork for your future financial security. CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20 Capricorn, a pleasant surprise has you wanting to share good news

with anyone and everyone. How-

ever, it may be wise to keep things

hush-hush for a while until you know all the details.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18 There's no time like the present to perform a self-analysis in an effort to better yourself, Aquarius. Expect the support of family as you look to make positive changes. PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20 Pisces, positive thinking and taking action can help you overcome

difficult obstacles. Good news is

coming your way.

**FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS AUGUST 28** Shania Twain, Singer (51) **AUGUST 29** William Levy, Actor (36) **AUGUST 30** Cameron Diaz, Actress (44) **AUGUST 31** Jeff Hardy, Wrestler (39) **SEPTEMBER 1** Gloria Estefan, Singer (59) SEPTEMBER 2 Mark Harmon, Actor (65) **SEPTEMBER 3** Stefan (Redfoo) Gordy, Singer (41)

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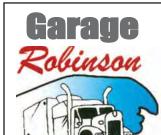
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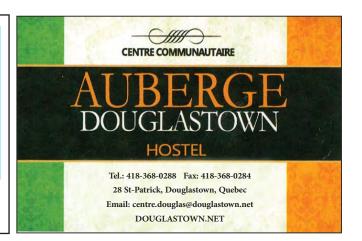
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