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Serres Jardin Nature to change hands *Harvest problems triggered by fungal disease*

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND: – Serres Jardin Nature, the New Richmond company that was once the largest greenhouse producer of organic tomatoes, is up for sale, due to its debt load. That debt is mainly attributable to a fungal disease which prevents the growth of up to 20% of the tomato plants.

The emergence of that fungus, called verticillium wilt, has been affecting the crops of Serres Jardin Nature since 2010-2011 but, at first, about 5% of the crop was lost. It gradually increased to 10 and 15%, and reached 20% in 2015. After a year free of verticillium wilt in 2016, the fungus came back in 2017.

“We thought that we had been able to get rid of it permanently in 2016. However, the attack was important this year and we don’t have the money to invest again in the company,” points out Christian Côté, spokesperson of Serres Jardin Nature and one of its six shareholders.

He prefers not revealing the magnitude of the debt load but concedes that it surpasses \$1 million. It is mainly owed to *Financière agricole du Québec*, the public body providing funding to an important number of agriculture ventures.

Christian Côté is confident that a buyer will intervene in order to acquire the 1.2 hectare greenhouse. The book value of the facility reaches \$4.8 million but it is unlikely that the *Financière agricole du Québec* will get as much.

The shareholders are expecting to take a loss, “con-



Photo: G. Gagné

Despite fungal disease, the surviving tomato plants in the New Richmond greenhouse are showing signs of abundance.

sidering that we have invested all our profits in the company over the last 15 years,” stresses Mr. Côté. Marketing director Germain Babin, François Bélanger, François Bouchard, Doris Boissonnault and the Solidarity Fund of the Quebec Federation of Labour are the other shareholders.

“Our main goal is to find a buyer who will accept to maintain operations in New Richmond. We have the commitment from the *Financière agricole* that they will also prioritize that option, even if they have offers to dismantle the greenhouse,” says Christian Côté.

Serres Jardin Nature was founded in 2001 and inaugurated in May 2002. The origi-

nal surface of greenhouse was 0.4 hectare, or the equivalent of 40 by 100 metres. The particularity of the greenhouse at the time was the fact that it was heated by the water used to cool down some engines of its neighbour, the linerboard mill of Smurfit-Stone.

“It allowed us to make big energy bill savings,” points out Christian Côté.

In 2004, the company doubled its surface by adding 0.4 hectare of greenhouse, and a second expansion occurred in 2006, also of 0.4 hectare to have the company reach 1.2 hectare of culture. That is the equivalent of 120 by 100 metres, almost two football fields. The annual output climbed to 600,000 kilograms

of tomatoes, sometimes almost 700,000. They were mainly sold in Quebec and Ontario to major supermarket chains and IGA and Loblaws.

A number of events complicated the task of the Serres Jardin Nature staff and management over the last 12 years though.

“The Smurfit-Stone mill closed in 2005. We lost our main source of heat. We managed to switch to forest biomass heating but ran into the forestry crisis. A lot of sawmills closed permanently or temporarily during that period (2006-2010) and finding wood fibre was hard. We were finding some but it was far sometimes and transportation costs were high,” says Mr.

Côté.

The verticillium wilt bout started eroding the production in 2011. On September 16, 2013, a fire destroyed part of the greenhouse and it ruined a sizeable portion of the crop, at the most profitable time of the year. “We rebuilt a better facility but our verticillium problem persisted,” he adds.

That problem seemed behind the company in 2016. “Our harvest was verticillium wilt free and we turned a profit last year,” says Mr. Côté.

The company was still employing 23 people over the spring of 2017. When the fungal disease reappeared in

What is verticillium wilt?

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND: – Verticillium wilt is a fungal disease that lives in the soil and that can survive there for years, even decades, before reappearing, explains Christian Côté, spokesperson of Serres Jardin Nature.

“There are visible signs, such as curling leaves, wilt, leaves that turn from green to brown, red and later yellow before dying. The fungus prevents the plant’s sap from moving up to the branches’ vascular system and leaves. There is type 1 verticillium wilt which affects strawberries, potatoes, tomatoes and a number of other plants. In many cases, plants do develop resistance to verticillium wilt. The problem with our plants is that they are affected by a type 2 verticillium wilt, due to a genetic mutation. The plants are not resistant to it so far,” says Mr. Côté.

The fungus usually appears during milder temperatures, as in the spring and the fall. Trees can also be affected by the fungus, as well



Photo: G. Gagné

Serres Jardin Nature shareholder Christian Côté believes that verticillium wilt problems could be a part of the past.

as shrubs, garden annuals, garden perennials and fruit.

According to American gardening expert Jackie Car-

roll, “verticillium wilt can’t be cured once it enters the plant. It’s best to remove and destroy small, easily replaced

plants. The disease remains in the soil after you remove the plant, so don’t plant another susceptible species in the same area.”

Jackie Carroll also writes that “you can often get rid of the verticillium wilt fungus in the soil by “solarization.” Soil solarization heats up the top 6 inches or so of soil to temperatures high enough to kill the fungus. Prepare the soil by tilling or digging and then wetting it down. Cover the area with a clear plastic tarp and bury the edges under a few inches of soil to hold it in place and keep the heat in. It takes three to five weeks of bright sunlight and warm temperatures for the soil to heat up enough to kill the fungus”.

Christian Côté explains that the Serres Jardin Nature management has made a lot of research on verticillium wilt. Following the 2015 season, during which close to half of the plants were affected at different degrees, the staff changed all the greenhouse soil and replaced it with new soil, placed in long and thin containers.

“We think that we have now found a way to stop verticillium wilt, by planting mustard and then burying it. The solarization method was applied in Brazil with good results. A temperature of 45 degrees Celsius must be reached. We can reach that kind of temperature in the New Richmond greenhouse. So it is considered,” he says.

Serres Jardin Nature is the only greenhouse in Quebec to cope with the type 2 verticillium wilt. Why only in New Richmond?

“We don’t know. We are located on a piece of land that belonged to the linerboard mill and that used to be a juniper patch of forest. We found out that before that juniper plantation, there were potato fields here. The fungus is quite common in potato fields. It is destroyed by herbicides in conventional farming but we can’t do that in organic farming,” says Christian Côté.

Hydroponic culture is a way to prevent the emergence of verticillium wilt but a lot of growers and consumers find those products less tasty.

JARDIN NATURE: Cont'd from cover

April, given that the production would be going down compared to 2016, the work force was gradually reduced to the current level of 17 employees. The harvest will be reduced by 20% this year.

In May, the management of Serres Jardin Nature entered into a mediation process with *Financière agricole du Québec* in order to address the debt load problem. That move protects the company from its creditors until further notice.

“The shareholders decided to sell the company. We don’t have the means to invest anymore. Interested buyers have until September 21 to submit a bid,” points out Mr. Côté.

He is under the impression that a buyer will show up with an offer that will be accepted by the *Financière agricole du Québec*.

“I am working hard on that option, we really want Serres Jardin Nature to live on. Three big enterprises based in Quebec and operating greenhouses have the financial means to buy us without problems; Savoura-Sagamie, Serres Demers and Serres Lefort. The September 21 date is very important because if there is to be some production next

year, some moves will have to be made in October, like buying seedlings. That is a necessary step in order to plant in November,” says Christian Côté.

Serres Jardin Nature and Savoura-Sagamie are already partners as they have worked jointly in selling their tomatoes over recent years.

“It doesn’t exclude the possibility of an Ontario firm showing interest in us. We have also received calls from Baie des Chaleurs investors ready to look at the possibility of investing in the company. It won’t be the current shareholders though,” specifies Mr. Côté.

For now, the agreement with *Financière agricole du Québec* has Serres Jardin Nature pay its creditors with the money received from selling the current harvest of tomatoes. *Financière agricole*, as the only guaranteed creditor, will keep the money received from the eventual buyer of the facility.

“Our creditors want the company to stay alive. Some of them have done good business with us over the last 15 years. We are an asset for the region. We pay at least \$1.5 million in salaries and goods bought in the area yearly,” concludes Mr. Côté.

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Police report

Michel Leblanc, 66, from Chandler, charged with eight counts of a sexual nature, will return to the Percé courthouse on October 10, 2017 to finalize his cases. In all likelihood he will enter a guilty plea on lesser and included offences.

On February 28, 2017, at the New Carlisle courthouse, the accused was charged with one count of sexual touching, two counts of invitation to sexual touching and one count of luring a child by means of a computer, with the intent of committing a criminal act. The accused appeared in New Carlisle because the offences were allegedly committed between September 2016 and February 2017 in Port Daniel-Gascons.

On March 17, the accused was charged at the Percé courthouse with indecent assault and gross indecency. The victim, a girl, was a minor when the crimes were allegedly committed between January 1975 and January 1981. A second girl filed a complaint pertaining to the same time period, and the accused is charged with indecent assault. In a third case during the same time period he is charged with one count of bestiality. These crimes were allegedly committed in Grand River.

The accused last appeared in court on August 28 in Percé for his pro forma preliminary hearing. He informed the court that he wished to settle all of the cases on October 10, 2017. He was released on bail on March 17 and undertook to respect numerous conditions, including a communication ban with his alleged victims.

A 58-year-old man from Chandler will eventually be summoned to appear at the Percé courthouse on statutory charges regarding the Revenue Quebec law on tobacco for having contraband cigarettes. On August 28, he was arrested in the Pabos Mills sector of Chandler when he was apparently taking possession of 91 cartons of cigarettes. The operation was conducted by police officers of the Percé Rock MRC detachment assisted by members of the regional squad of investigation located in Chandler. The offender was involved in contraband cigarette cases in the past.

“The bust led to the seizure of 18,200 cigarettes and a significant amount of cash,” says Sûreté du Québec spokesperson Sgt. Claude Doiron. The bust took place along the Anse-au-Canard Road, which leads to a quiet sector along the Bay of Chaleur. A second man, aged 54, from Amqui, was also arrested during the bust for possession of a small quantity of marijuana.

“They were released with the condition of attending court when they will be summoned to do so. The operation was made possible due to information provided by the public,” says Sgt. Doiron. The identity of both men will only be released following their appearance in court.



Photo: T. Haroun

As part of National Park's Day, visitors will be able to take a boat to Bonaventure Island free of charge.

Visit Bonaventure Island on September 9 free of charge

● ————— **Thierry Haroun**

PERCÉ: - On September 9, it's National Park's Day across the province. As part of the celebrations, the Bonaventure Island-Percé-Rock National Park will open its doors free of charge. There's lots to do and it's free.

“On September 9, entrance to the 24 national parks of the province is free. It's a unique occasion for the local population to discover its park and, here in Percé, we invite citizens to make it a fieldtrip day,” Remi Plourde, executive director of the Park, told Spec in a short interview. “All summer, citizens of Percé and the surrounding area are busy working in the tourism industry. Everyone's running left and right, but at this time of year, the locals have more time for themselves, so this open door event will give them the occasion to participate in the free activities organized,” he adds.


Remi Plourde pointed out that this year, two tour boat companies (*Les Croisières Julien Cloutier* and *Les Bateaux de Percé*) will charter two boats for free departing from Percé wharf at 8:45 a.m. to Bonaventure Island. “It's a direct link. The boats won't go around the islands. Once on the island there are plenty of activities to do for free,” indicates Mr. Plourde.

Here's the program and the choices offered. Departure from Percé wharf is 8:45 a.m. At 9:30, people are invited at Maison Le Bouthillier where a guide will explain how the Islanders once lived and other information on the history of the area. At 10 a.m., why not view the 100,000 gannets. “We have the chance of having


the biggest accessible bird colony in the world, so why not take a moment and discover this unique spectacle,” indicates Remi Plourde. If bird watching isn't your favourite activity, you can always try some kayaking offered free by Avolo. Reservations are mandatory (418-782-5403), mentions Rémi Plourde.

“This National Park is part of the tourism offer of our region and if citizens can make it on their own, they can become ambassadors and relay the information and therefore participate in the economic development of Percé. In terms of heritage, I'm proud to say that the houses on the islands have been renovated in respect with to its patrimonial past,” he concluded.

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THE GASPE SPEC



APPOINTMENT

The Gaspésie Literacy Council is pleased to announce that **Cheryl Henry-Leggo** becomes the Council's Assistant Coordinator. Cheryl has worked with the Council for the past fifteen years. Until recently she served as the Executive Director of Vision Gaspé-Perce Now.

Cheryl's duties will now include visits to schools and communities and participation in educational events. She will be responsible for tutor training. Until the present day, Gaspésie Literacy has been a Laubach Council since its inception in 1984. Now, new methods have gained prominence in addressing illiteracy. Cheryl will introduce all to the new methodology and recruit and train tutors.

In addition, Cheryl will continue building and maintaining the Council's website, www.GaspeLit.ca. As well, she will represent the Council at all provincial gatherings and enhance the electronic delivery of the Council's services.

Cheryl's cell phone is 418-361-2646 and the mailing address of the Council is C.P. 88, Douglastown, QC, G4X 2Y5. Cheryl will begin her work on Sept. 1, 2017.



Commentary

Gilles Gagné

Will common sense prevail?

The outcome of the trial that started on September 5 opposing Gastem and the village of Ristigouche South East could have determining effects on Quebec's municipalities' capacity to deal with the jurisdictions they have historically inherited from the Quebec government, notably providing fine drinkable water to their inhabitants.

It could go well beyond that drinkable water issue, especially if Gastem, a small exploration company by any standard, wins its lawsuit, initiated in the summer of 2013, a few months after the municipal council of Ristigouche South East adopted a regulation protecting its artesian wells. The firm is seeking compensation of \$1.5 million because the regulation "blocked" its exploration campaign.

Ristigouche South East attorney Jean-François Girard uses an imaged way to describe the "abusive lawsuit" initiated by Gastem. "It is like suing a village or a town because I am stopped at a red light and I am consequently wasting my time when I am not moving forward."

Every municipal regulation causes inconvenience to a person or a group of people, whether when it is adopted or when a person thinks of a venture, only to find out that it goes against an existing rule.

However, in Quebec, legislative entities usually try to adopt regulations that respect a set of reasonable boundaries. In 2012 and 2013, Gastem wanted to dig for oil and gas about 100 metres from the closest house and less than 100 metres from the Kempt River, which leads to the famous Restigouche, one of the most prolific salmon rivers in the world.

Considering that 100% of the 167 residents of the village rely on artesian wells to secure their drinkable water provisions, and considering that 90 of those residents had signed a petition at the beginning of 2013 voicing their concern about Gastem's eventual digging and asking the municipal council to make a move, the municipality adopted a regulation to protect water sources.

At the time, Ristigouche South East's council had just witnessed the adoption of the same kind

of regulation at the town of Gaspé. The buffer zone, the distance between the oil well and the nearest water source, was fixed at two kilometres in Gaspé, based on the report of an expert. So Ristigouche South East safely adopted the same buffer zone.

It was the reasonable thing to do, considering the necessity to deal with its population's worries. It was a fair use of the rule defined by "the king can do no wrong" expression, often referred to in law to determine the boundaries of legislations, be them municipal, provincial or federal.

Now, has Gastem been reasonable? We are talking about a company that did not challenge the regulation adopted by the municipality. Trying to contest the regulation should have been the first reaction of the company, since it was limiting its capacity to drill. The company decided otherwise.

The company alleges that the regulation blocked its drilling operation. It is false. The regulation just defines a zone where the company couldn't drill. That left a wide array of square kilometres where Gastem was allowed to dig.

Actually, the Ristigouche South East regulation somehow challenges the provincial law, which conferred no power to the municipalities before 2016 and very little now. Gastem was delivered an exploration permit on July 12, 2012, eight months before the adoption of the village's bylaw. Why didn't Gastem use the provisions of that permit to move on with its exploration drive?

Moreover, the company alleges that it had gained a status of "acquired rights entity" in Ristigouche South East and was consequently allowed to drill. If such rights exist, why didn't the company use them in order to keep going with its exploration campaign?

It looks as if Gastem didn't have the means to conduct its exploration campaign. The company sold its exploration rights to Pétrolia slightly more than three years ago. The management of Gastem doesn't return phone calls very often and at one point, the phone number of the company was no longer active. The website is rarely updated. We are not in the presence of a solid firm here.

However, given the fact that the company never challenged Ristigouche South East's regulation, it is permitted to think that the company wants above all to punish one of Quebec's smallest villages, as if to keep Quebec's municipal world on its toes and convince them that opposing oil companies is bad.

Since 2012, the Quebec government, whether led by the Liberal Party or the Parti Québécois, has been unbelievably weak in that saga, refusing to look for reasonable regulation pertaining to oil

and gas exploration, and refusing to hold general consultations on the whole stake. The Coalition avenir Québec has not fared better, through systematically supporting every venture coming from oil companies.

If common sense prevails at the end of the Ristigouche South East-Gastem trial, those three parties will scramble to find compromises and avoid looking like the oil sector valets they have personified over the last years.

Letters to the Editor

The bright summer days have passed and that gorgeous "Autumn Touch" has already knocked on our front doors. Along our beautiful winding Chaleur Bay there are magnificent charming colours of autumn which are often not recognized in everyday life because we take for granted that it's natural and only a seasonal appearance. However, on any given morning throughout our small towns we see that vast transparent morning haze which rolls in silently off our deep blue Chaleur Bay unto the empty stubble hills in the far distance. As we stop in silence our thoughts can only imagine how Mother Nature can shape so many assorted colourful leaves that fall from branches and become old, gold and crimson and fragile unto the frosty ground below. Our "Autumn Touch" may be fading when we feel that Chaleur salt water breeze inching into our bones as it's a reminder that the early morning frost is waiting for us at our back doors.....

Ken Ross,
New Carlisle, Quebec.



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Gaspésie Railway Society satisfied by progress

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND: – Luc Lévesque, director general of the Gaspésie Railway Society, expresses satisfaction following the August 30 meeting of the coordination committee put up in May after the announcement by Quebec premier Philippe Couillard that the Matapédia-Gaspé railway would be repaired over its whole length.

Premier Couillard had also announced a budgetary envelope of \$100 million on May 5th. However, he had not specified a time frame and was stating that it would take many years, maybe even ten, before getting the service back to Gaspé. That side of the announcement had left the management of the Gaspésie Railway Society and the users worried, as important transportation contracts are at stake.

“We had a very good meeting, from the customers, from the elected people that attended the (August 30) meeting and from the Gaspésie Railway Society’s viewpoint. We feel a real will from Transports Québec to do everything that is necessary to accelerate the work and meet the objectives of the customers. I feel that this is the right time,” comments Luc Lévesque.

The first meeting of that



Photo: G. Gagné

Windmill blade trains could be loaded in Gaspé instead of New Richmond in 2020, believes Luc Lévesque, director general of the Gaspésie Railway Society.

coordination committee had been held at the end of July, almost three months after Premier Couillard’s announcement and took place following considerable pressure from the customers and the Gaspésie Railway Society, who seemed to have problems convincing some representatives of Transports Québec that time was a factor.

Luc Lévesque feels that the urgency expressed by the customers and his company fi-

nally paid off.

“It looks as if our message was heard and used by the assistant deputy minister in charge of our file. It seems to reach everybody involved in our file at Transports Québec, from top to bottom. There is now a will to prioritize our project. I explained during the meeting what we could do to accelerate the return of the train to Gaspé. I saw a breakthrough. They (the authorities) are in solution mode,” adds

Mr. Lévesque.

One of the turning points of the August 30 meeting was the acceptance by the Transport Québec management that the repairs of the Caplan-Gaspé stretch can be made simultaneously instead of according to the west to east approach, or step by step, like the department officials were arguing at the July meeting.

“Several bridges can be repaired at the same time along the line. The assistant deputy

minister agreed on that point and stated that the Caplan to Gaspé stretch must be undertaken as a whole,” reports Luc Lévesque.

In May, Josée Hallée, then in charge of Transports Québec’s railway and maritime division, and a big supporter of the step-by-step approach, was declaring that many studies had to be undertaken in order to assess the state of the bridges between Caplan and Gaspé, a process that would require a lot of time, she was saying. She retired from Transport Québec in June.

Luc Lévesque points out that many studies have been realized regarding the bridges located between Caplan and Gaspé.

“The mandate now consists of updating all the information gathered during previous studies, updating the description of the work to do and updating the cost of carrying out that work. The priorities are now aligned on the needs. Transporting windmill blades between Gaspé and New Richmond requires a low bearing capacity, considering that a car carrying a blade weighs one third of a car loaded with lumber. The principle of opening the line to Gaspé for that traffic is accepted, and so is

Cont'd on page 10

A busy fall to come for the Gaspésie Railway Society

Gilles Gagné

RISTIGOUCHE SOUTH EAST: – Independently from the upcoming projects that will stem from the Quebec government’s May announcement of \$100 million, a considerable work rush awaits the staff of the Gaspésie Railway Society, as 20,400 ties will be changed between Matapédia and Caplan, in addition to the laying out of 20,000 tons of ballast and the replacement of a bridge in Ristigouche South East.

That bridge will be replaced between September 16 and 21, over the Kempt River. Preparation work started in July. Initially, the bridge was supposed to be replaced in 2016.

“A lot of work was scheduled in 2017 but I am not sure we would have benefitted from the same budget without the May announcement,” points out Luc Lévesque of the Gaspésie Railway Society.

Traffic-wise, some devel-



Photo: G. Gagné

The Ristigouche South East bridge spanning over the Kempt River will be replaced between September 16 and September 21.

opment will take place over the fall. The Saint-Elzéar Association coopérative forestière sawmill will start

shipping lumber out of New Richmond at some point in September or October. The 25 refurbished woodchip cars

leased by the Gaspésie Railway Society will be integrated to the Temrex operation around mid-September.

The Gaspésie Railway Society is working on securing other transportation deals but Luc Lévesque prefers announcing them once they are signed.

Moreover, the windmill blade traffic is about to surpass in less than 10 months the level of traffic expected in a year. The initial contract was calling for the shipment of 600 blades in 2017, including December 2016 and that mark will be surpassed before the end of September.

Other cement hauling agreements could also be reached before long. As of now, the first contract signed between McInnis Cement and the Gaspésie Railway Society calls for the shipment of 300 cars carrying 28,000 tons during the first year. It is a part of a five year agreement to haul 140,000 tons.

In 2008, the Gaspésie Railway Society was hauling between 400 and 500 carloads,

Cont'd on page 10



Photo: G. Gélinas

The River Camp participants are still camping close to the Galt property.

GALT PROPERTY: Protestors camping out

Geneviève Gélinas

GASPÉ: – Anti-oil protesters are still camping close to the Junex Galt property, 20 kilometres west of Gaspé. They ask for the end of oil exploration in the Gaspé Peninsula and accuse the Murdochville mayor and other local municipal leaders to have a bias for hydrocarbons development, as no real consultation has taken place.

On August 24, environmental group Environnement Vert Plus held an information session in Murdochville about Pétrolia’s Bourque project. Pétrolia is the company wanting to extract natural gas between Murdochville and Grande-Vallée. The group sent an invitation by mail to the Murdochville residents.

Following that, Mayor Délisca Roussy sent a letter to her citizens. “We believe that this kind of information session could be useful if the oil and gas promoters were also present to express their views,” she wrote.

The mayor reminded her constituents that the Bourque project “has the support of the municipalities concerned, including ours, and the support of the Côte-de-Gaspé MRC.”

Pascal Bergeron, spokesperson of *Environnement Vert Plus*, describes Ms. Roussy’s reaction as “infamous. What right does she have to tell her constituents who has the right to talk about these issues and who doesn’t? Is she paid by the company or is she naive enough to believe the rhetoric used by the companies? A Pétrolia employee was at the information session but didn’t

say a word,” states Mr. Bergeron.

Interviewed by the Spec, Ms. Roussy states that she wanted to reassure people, as she was participating in a meeting outside the region and couldn’t show up at the information session. “Our population is getting old. Seniors could have been there and been scared.”

About her support for the Bourque project, Mayor Roussy says that “we’re the spokespersons of our community. We know the opinion of our population. People want jobs, but they also want this development to be done according to the rules.”

Ms. Roussy says that “both parties have to be there.” Spec asked if she will invite *Environnement Vert Plus* when her municipality organizes an information session with Pétrolia. “Why not?” she replied.

Participants in the “Camp de la Rivière” (River Camp) are still camping at the intersection of Highway 198 and the access road to the Galt property. They were first invited by *Environnement Vert Plus* to support a first group which was blocking the access to Junex wells. Even if the Sûreté du Québec dismantled the barricades of the first group on August 14, the campers stayed there, a few kilometres from the barricade.

“We believe that there’s momentum. The movement is growing and we have everything to gain by staying,” states Pascal Bergeron. The campers are not blocking the access road, but they want to send a few messages to the

company, population and politicians.

“To Junex, we say: pack up all your stuff and go away. To the population: we need all possible support to get a lucid debate in the Gaspé Peninsula and get rid of that industry which will have so many negative environmental and economic impacts for so few economic benefits,” says Mr. Bergeron. He thinks that the elected people “are used as cogwheels to oil the population’s consent.”

When Spec visited the camp on Tuesday, August 29, there were approximately 15 campers, people from the Chaleur Bay and others from the Montreal region.

Samuel, a young man who only wants to reveal his first name, came from Repentigny to join the River Camp. “The environmental cause is close to my heart. I want to be into the action, not only on facebook.”

Juliette, the fictitious name she asked us to use, has just graduated and is arriving from Montreal. “I grew up in the city, I’m against oil exploitation. Once on the river side, in the forest, my relation with the territory that I’m defending makes more sense,” she says. “Juliette” was also encouraged by the visit and the support of two Mi’gmaq militants, Gary Metallic and Suzanne Patles.

A ticket for having distributed leaflets

The Sûreté du Québec gave a \$271 ticket to the *Environnement Vert Plus*

Cont'd on page 8

Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



Milestones Make Memories

It is the eve of the wedding of my youngest daughter and this milestone brings back a flood of memories - of weddings past, childhood events, births and deaths - all the events that shape our lives. Significant happenings in our lives, both good and bad, help us to become the people we are.

The major milestones come to mind very quickly: engagement, marriage, parenthood, buying a home, retirement. Thanks to social media, we are privy to the milestones of others, daily. No, when you are pouring a bath or cleaning out your clothes cupboard, this is not a milestone and neither do I want to hear about it.

Celebrating or sharing the milestones of others can be a negative or positive experience. People may feel pressure to achieve these milestones when others do. All your friends are married, except you? Friends going on a Caribbean cruise? You might think, “I better achieve that milestone soon!” But all comes in due time. Or not. You cannot marry for the sake of being married – having that ring on your finger is not the goal. Being in a loving, committed relationship is the objective. You do not take a vacation unless all the conditions for taking that vacation are met.

Clearly, milestones are personal and reflect your life’s journey. We all have positive and negative, and even neutral, experiences to reflect on. Remember photo albums? Today they are not nearly as commonplace as they once were. People print out a few photos, mostly of noteworthy events, but keep most of them on their phones and computers. But if you do get out the photo albums of days gone by, it will bring back more detailed memories of milestones you have experienced. These photos help to fill in the details: What your eccentric uncle wore at your wedding, how adorable your baby looked in a bonnet, how big and poofy your hair was in the 80s, how the sideburns you sported in your youth made you look like a pirate.

So what milestones have been important for your life? The obvious ones have been mentioned and here are a few others for you to consider; your first job, first romance, meeting a great friend, achieving a fitness goal, attaining a skill, succeeding at school, completing a training program, quitting smoking, achieving financial independence, and scoring your dream job. “Negative” milestones are just as important in shaping our lives: divorce, deaths, economic loss, health challenges, kicking an addiction. We should not ignore these experiences when we reminisce, they are just as formative as the positive ones!

So, get out there and continue to live your life. Create new milestones. Be proud of what you have been through in life. It has made you who you are. If you are a person who likes to be more formal about these reflections, you can create a “Milestone Timeline” of your life ... so far. For some cool ideas, Google personal life timeline. There are several ideas for creating your own milestones timeline. You can keep this for yourself or share with friends or family. Memories are wonderful to have. They mean you have lived, are living, your own life.

Percéides judges honour four movies

Gilles Gagné

PERCÉ: – The Percéides international film festival judges, awarded its top prize to Olivier Godin, a Meteor award, for his long movie entitled, *Les arts de la parole*, at the conclusion of the five-day event which was held between August 23 and August 27.

The judges praised Godin’s movie for its capacity “to bring the spectators where the filmmaker wanted them to go,” and “without taking them for granted.” He shows that “it is possible to be non-conventional and funny, bright and keep deeply humane values.”

The jury handed out the short movie award to *Bon Voyage*, produced by Marc Wilkins, “who was able to cover the topic of migrants in all of its complexity, without hitting obstacles such as moralization. The movie is able to put the spotlight on the powerlessness of the migra-



Credit: Antoine Amnotte -Dupuis

Jury president Jason Béliveau, Olivier Godin, winner of the “Météore Grand Prix du jury”, and other jurors Charlotte Aubin, Andréanne Vibert Trudel and Simon Gaudreau.

tion witnesses and the victims of political regimes hampering people’s individual and collective freedom.”

Alexandre Isabelle, for *La*

partie, a well-researched and very dynamic creation was awarded a jury mention, also in the short movie category.

His movie is a tribute to life,

death, to the winter, and the rebirth coming with the spring. Above all, “it is a tribute to life,” though, insisted the jury presided over by

Jason Béliveau, assisted by Charlotte Aubin, Andréanne Vibert Trudel and Simon Gaudreau.

The jury gave a second honourable mention to a third short movie, “*Slurpee*,” produced by Charles Grenier, singled out for its aesthetical side and its capacity to show some maturity.

The best Canadian documentary was awarded to Carlo Guillermo Proto, for *La resurrection d’Hassan*. The movie presents a couple of blind parents haunted by the death of their son. Another documentary, *Une autre*, produced by Nils Canele, received a mention from the jury in the same category.

The best Gaspesian film was awarded to Jonathan Tremblay, for *L’air du vent*, for the quality of its images.

Up to 100 movies from 25 countries were presented during the Percéides. Twenty-two films were selected for the competition.

Young entrepreneur to breathe new life into COB Auberge

Cynthia Dow

COIN DU BANC: - Auberge Le Coin du Banc will be taking on quite a different aura now, having been purchased by a sports enthusiast. Jean-François Tapp and his wife Pascale Deschamps have acquired the old inn at Corner of the Beach and have lively plans for its rejuvenation.

“I was occasionally a dinner guest, but living so close, we never stayed overnight,” Jean-François told SPEC, “But we do intend to try to maintain the magic of the place.” He and his young family live in Wakeham.

Well-known for his penchant for sports, Jean-François intends to use the inn as the starting-point for a number of new sports initiatives in the area, which will include mountain biking in the Percé hills, fat bikes on the beach, kite gliding, and kayaks and striped bass fishing on the sea. “I will work hard to develop the mountain biking potential of the area, with colleagues from the Percé area,” he said.

Despite the new approach to the inn, Jean-François and Pascale intend to respect the historic nature of the building and will, at least at first, run it as a B & B offering breakfast in the morning. As for the idea



Credit: J-F Tapp

Before purchasing the Auberge, Pascale Deschamps, left, and Jean-François Tapp, right, with children, Albert, Yaelle and Mattias met Lise de Guire, centre, in Pierrefonds.

of a restaurant, that will have to wait until an estimate is made to upgrade the current facilities. Jean-François explained that new norms from the MAPAQ mean that considerable investments will have to be made to bring the kitchen up to standard, but offering breakfast will not be a problem.

The new owner told SPEC that the De Guire family had removed most of the eclectic artwork collection before selling the property, but that much

of the décor remains. He is planning a garage sale before the end of September to lighten the load so they can fit the inn up with antique sports equipment, which will be more in line with the new vocation. They’d like to see old skis, antique salmon fishing equipment, and so on adorning the walls in the lounge and dining room. The Musée de la Gaspésie is helping to identify objects that may be of interest.

But the inn will not give up its vocation as a pseudo-art

gallery. The Tapp-Deschamps family intend to invite local artists to showcase their works on its walls.

With a target date of re-opening the inn by the 2018 tourist season, much remains to be done. Jean-François foresees having three of the five cabins open for accommodations, as well as the bedrooms in the inn itself, but he said that unexpected repairs are cropping up on a regular basis!

The young family does not

intend to live year-round in Corner of the Beach because there is no school nearby for their children, but they will likely move there for the summer months. Nonetheless, their aim is to offer special winter packages that will include private Christmas parties, cross-country skiing, and ice-climbing.

As for the number of employees that may be required to run the inn under its new approach, the young entrepreneur did not want to estimate. “It’s really too early to say at this time, there are too many unknowns... I do intend to have guides as well for the activities,” he noted.

It’s obvious that the future of the inn has incited a great deal of interest. A new facebook page, where the acquisition was announced, garnered hundreds of comments in just a few days. On the page, the family note: “Our goal is and remains to make you discover our beautiful Percé playground from our base camp. It is even the name we chose for our company: Camp de Base Coin du Banc, will include the Auberge, the cabins and the outdoor and adventure activity offering we will put together.” They encourage people to keep track of their plans through their facebook presence.



Cascapedia-St-Jules welcomes Father Pierre

Elaine Sexton

We welcomed our new parish priest as he celebrated his first eucharist in his new community. Father Pierre Edayé, from Africa, will also preside over the New Richmond and Gesgapegiag parishes.

Here are the words of welcome addressed to him. "On behalf of the Parish of St-Jules, we welcome you, Father Pierre to our fold. We know this is an enormous undertaking for you leading three parishes. All of us will guide you in any way you need to make your new position and home a wonderful and blessed experience for you and all of us. We look forward to the many celebrations we will have together. Welcome to our community."

Masses will be held on Sunday mornings at 11:15. Welcome to all.





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GALT:
Cont'd from page 6

spokesperson, Pascal Bergeron, because he was distributing leaflets on August 27 in downtown Gaspé. The policeman reproaches the activist to have "participated, without authorisation, to an assembly (parade, protest or other) in the streets (parks or public places) of the municipality."

Mr. Bergeron was with four other activists, in the park at the corner of Queen and Adams Streets, where a public market was going on.

The leaflet was inviting the population to information sessions and to a protest on September 4.

The ticket mentions a protest but no regulation forbids people from distributing leaflets, Mr. Bergeron points out. He adds that anyway, such a regulation "is against the freedoms of expression and demonstration guaranteed by the Canadian Constitution." Mr. Bergeron calls on the Town of Gaspé to abolish that regulation as soon as possible.

When Spec interviewed

Gaspé Mayor Daniel Côté on August 30, he hadn't heard about the regulation or about the ticket. "As far as I know, it's the first time (that the regulation is used). We're very open-minded. People have the right to protest if they do it peacefully (...). We didn't ask the Sûreté du Québec to rap the knuckles of the demonstrators."

Spec obtained a copy of the regulation. It was adopted in 1999, when Rodrigue Joncas was mayor, and it also forbids setting up a fire on the beach.



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MANOR FOLKS VISIT MONT ALBERT

Photos: Manjula Karunaratne

The seniors at the Richmond Manor visited Mont Albert with staff and volunteers from the Manor.

Joan B. Dow

NEW RICHMOND: - On August 10, many of the residents of Richmond Manor in New Richmond had a delightful day visiting the Gîte Mont Albert, the Ste Anne's Falls, and the Mount Lyall agates mine. The trip was planned and successfully orchestrated by the manager, Manjula Karunaratne, who saw to it that every senior had the best possible outing. By appealing to the Board of Directors, the Manor paid for the bus and invited the cooks and Manor volunteers to come along and aid those who needed a hand to navigate the hilly, stony terrain they had to walk along.

When the bus pulled up beside the Manor, the residents were ready for their big adven-



Myrna McCormick, our volunteer, collected géodes at Mont Lyall.

ture!! First stop was at the Interpretation Centre at Mont Albert, and the shop where a

great variety of articles, from candy to jewellery and art were for sale. Then there was a short

walk or ride over to the Gîte to relax in the lovely hotel for an hour before feasting on a delicious lunch. Most seniors chose the shrimp on skewers. Each course was very tasty and the beautiful atmosphere and good lunch companions added to the enjoyment of the meal! The next stop was at the Ste. Anne's Falls and those who could overcome their drowsiness from the large meal to walk the path to view them up close were very impressed.

Then down the 299 to the Murdochville Road which leads to the agate mine at Mont Lyall. 350 million years ago the lava gushed from Mont

Each geode is unique and is made of several minerals that intermingle and offer the most beautiful art drawn by nature! Some stayed and watched the men saw rocks in two in order to view the beautiful colours! The finished products brought many "Ohs" and "Ahs"! Some expressed their fear as they watched the dangerous task of cutting those rocks with such powerful saws, in case the stone would fall or break into pieces or the sawyers' hands would slip!

It was all over too soon and the homeward journey began. The participants were happy and greatly appreciated the



The Gîte du Mont Albert offered the seniors a special lunch.



Newlyweds Cora and Leslie Coull enjoyed their day.

Lyall when it erupted. The volcanic rock crystallized into geodes. Some seniors walked to the mine to pick up these geodes, some large, some small, to have them cut in two to see the beautiful agates, amethysts, jasper and cornelian inside.

presence of the two cooks, some helpers and two volunteers who aided many of the residents as they walked to the various sites of the day.

Manjula's thoughtfulness and presence made the day complete.

Attorney Cormier says independent assessment of bridge situation should be done

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND: – Carleton lawyer Nérée Cormier affirms that the circumstances leading to the May 8 closure of the Highway 132 bridge linking both sides of the Grand Cascapedia River should be submitted to an independent expert, considering the multiple impacts of that closure and the information released so far by Quebec's Department of Transport.

After asking for some documents regarding the bridge, attorney Cormier received a pile of various reports, including two studies realized by CIMA+ and Tetra-Tech. The CIMA+ document notably reveals that Transport Québec knew that the slab under pillar number 9 was partially undermined before October 2015.

The report also identified the effect of debris, like floating trees, that created a whirl

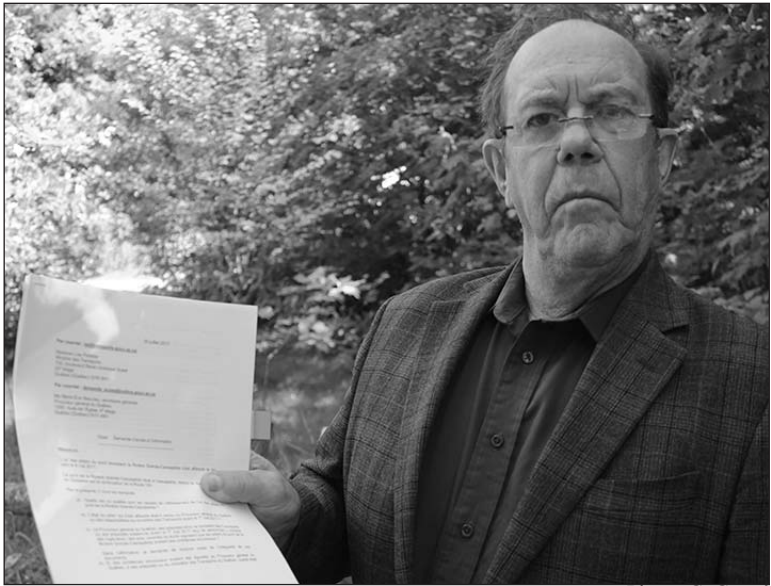


Photo: G. Gagné

Attorney Nérée Cormier criticizes the fact that Transport Québec refuses to take part of the blame for the bridge closure.

effect. Such effect accelerates undermining.

The CIMA+ document also recommended a list of measures to correct the situation and prevent further undermining. The document was not suggesting a time frame. Transport Québec authorities

decided to set up an intervention plan that called for an intervention in 2018.

"It would take an independent assessment of the situation in order to clarify one point: Could that closure have been avoided? Knowing that undermining situation, we

wonder why they (Transports Québec decision makers) did not put a crane on the bridge on top of pillar 9 in order to clear all the floating debris present at the beginning of May, in the days preceding the closure. They could have removed the debris on several occasions. They did it elsewhere, like on the bridge passing over the Little Cascapedia River, at the other end of New Richmond. It looks like negligence," affirms Nérée Cormier.

Quebec's Department of Transport's brass has not accepted any responsibility regarding the damage sustained by the Grand Cascapedia bridge. Ministry's officials essentially put the blame of the rare occurrence, once per 75 years, on the volume of rain that fell in the Bay of Chaleur area on May 6 and 7.

"That is a political answer. They won't admit anything. I

think that they are avoiding any statement that would get them legally implicated. Heavy rain is not an accident. We have seen heavy rain falls in the past and we will see heavy rain bouts in the future. That is a very poor excuse," adds Mr. Cormier.

The attorney will consult various experts over the next days in order to check if it is worth carrying the file to a further step, be it political or legal.

"A lot of people are wasting a lot of time on the 11.5 kilometre detour implemented to deal with the bridge closure. There is also the safety side, or lack thereof, related to the detour. I have to think about it. Moreover, politicians have not impressed me so far. They have not dealt with the real issues, either the time lost by users, the repair time and the safety factor," concludes Nérée Cormier.



An endangered whale in trouble off Percé

Geneviève Gélinas

PERCÉ: –A right whale entangled in fishing gear was seen on August 28 off the coast of Percé. Three days later, it had not been seen again, in spite of aerial surveys and the surveillance of a Coast Guard ship deployed in that area. Since the beginning of June, between 13 and 15 right whales were found dead in Canadian and American waters. Ottawa limited the speed of the ships in the western part of the gulf of Saint-Lawrence and closed or delayed some fishing operations. Fisheries and Oceans Canada interrupted the disentanglement attempts after the death of a New Brunswick fisherman in a similar operation on July 10. That restriction is still in force, says a Fisheries and Oceans spokesperson, Sylvi Racine. "It's too early to say what we'll do," if the whale is found again and is still entangled, she adds. The right whale is an endangered species. The Northern Atlantic population is less than 500 right whales

RAILWAY PROGRESS:

▶ *Cont'd from page 5*

the principle of increasing that bearing capacity soon after for other needs," he says.

Transport Quebec put the Caplan to Gaspé stretch in a dormant state in March 2015, upon deciding to acquire the line from the Gaspésie Railway Society, which was undergoing financial difficulties at the time. The Gaspésie Railway Society remained the operator of the line section that remains active, the Matapédia to Caplan stretch.

The partial closure of the line forces the Gaspésie Railway Society to load in New Richmond windmill blades that are made in Gaspé by LM Windpower, instead of loading them near the plant. The same transshipment obligation is applied to the cement produced in Port Daniel by McInnis Cement. It is brought to New Richmond in trucks, transferred to railcars and then delivered to the final destination.

That practice costs more to

the customers of LM Windpower and McInnis Cement and heavily cuts the revenues of the Gaspésie Railway Society. That is not counting the wear and tear imposed on the road network and traffic slowdowns.

Hauling cement between Port Daniel and Matapédia will require a much higher bearing capacity than blades, and the repairs expected to take place between Caplan and Port Daniel will take that factor into account.

Luc Lévesque is also anxious to use the New Carlisle yard, a factor that would free some space in New Richmond, where the available tracks are cramped when 72 long cars used to carry windmill blades are loaded and shunted there.

"It took us close to three hours to get five cars loaded with cement last week because of the shunting stemming from the presence of a windmill blade train. Besides, we have other transshipment projects

for New Richmond," he points out.

Other enterprises based in the town of Gaspé are expected to use the freight train to send out their output. For now, those companies are not expressing their needs publicly but they will need a high bearing capacity because what they want to deliver is heavy freight.

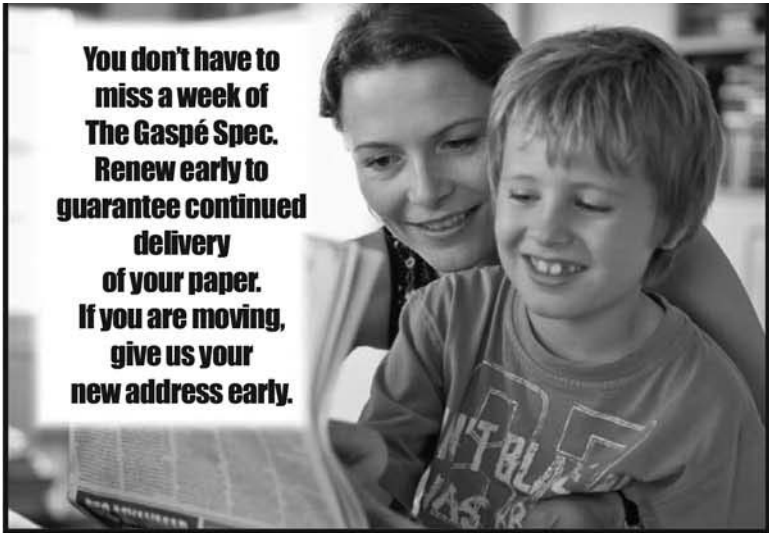
"I think that we can be in Gaspé with a train in 2020. We might not be at full capacity between Port Daniel and Gaspé by then but we will be there for the windmill blade trains. We have thorough repairs to carry out on the Port Daniel bridge located in the centre of the village. That might take two years to complete. We need environmental authorizations because there is a salmon river there," says Mr. Lévesque.

Quebec's Department of Transport has created a new railway rehabilitation division, put up specifically for the Gaspé Peninsula railway.

BUSY FALL:

▶ *Cont'd from page 5*

mainly lumber coming out of the Temrex sawmill in Nouvelle. In 2015, the transporter shipped a record 1,624 cars, surpassed in 2016 with 1,741 cars. That number will reach about 3,000 carloads in 2017 and probably 4,000 or more in 2018.



NOVA SCOTIA MI'KMAW SUMMER GAMES:

Gesgapegiag secures top ranks

Mitchell Syvret-Caplin
GESGAPEGIAG: – The Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Summer Games (NSMSG), done previously from the 1970s to the 1990s, was revived in 2010 after Mi'kmaw Chiefs across the Unama'ki district discussed the importance of bringing back the NSMSG. This event has been successful over the past seven years, being held so far in the communities of Membertou, Wagmatcook, Eskasoni, Waycobah, Potlotek and Millbrook.

This year, the 2017 Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Summer Games was held in Wagmatcook First Nation, a small yet beautiful community with a population of 800. The community had the opportunity to host athletes from all 13 Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw communities, and varying Mi'kmaw communities from across New Brunswick and Quebec.

As for Gesgapegiag, the community had been fortunate to participate for the second year in a row at the NSMSG for its youth, and is also the first year to have adult participants. Gesgapegiag registered three teams; the boys' basketball team (Midget), the girls' volleyball team (Midget) and the men's basketball team (Senior). For the boys' basketball team, some of its players were also presented at the North American Indigenous Games in Toronto, Ontario, participating in the Eastern Door and the North Teams.

The well-equipped teams included eight players on the boys' basketball team; Keishawn Bradstreet (Captain), Sheldon Bradstreet, Sebastian Caplin, Donovan Condo, Blair Gedeon, Vincent Gould, Ted Jerome, Cato Paul, along with their Coach Todd Jerome. The girls' volleyball team included six players on their roster; Mariah Allen, Alana Condo, Darcy Condo, Alicia Gedeon (Captain), Amber Jerome, Haley Jerome, as well as their Coach Bianca Martin. For the mens' basketball team which consisted of eight included Daven Bernard, Erik Bernard, Peter Scott Jerome, Todd Jerome (Captain), Walter Jerome, Dimitri Martin, Tony Martin and Jeremy Speller. To ensure that the NSMSG was a major success for all participants by coordination and administration, Bianca Martin and Mitchell Syvret-Caplin played an important role by helping out, making the experience enjoyable for all.

After many practices and games, all teams were victorious in bringing home medals, with pride, back to Gesgapegiag. The boys' basketball team took home the silver medal after playing against Eskasoni. The girls' volleyball team played hard against teams of Eskasoni and Millbrook, and took home silver against Millbrook as well. As for the mens' basketball team, they brought home gold after playing against Membertou.

This experience has been unforgettable and memorable for all, including the youth and adult players, as well as their coaches, mentors, assistants and partners.



Gesgapegiag Mens' Basketball Team (from left to right): Dimitri Martin, Todd Jerome, Jeremy Speller, Erik Bernard, Peter Scott Jerome, Daven Bernard, Walter Jerome; Missing from picture: Tony Martin; Photo Credit: Jennifer Gedeon



Gesgapegiag Girls' Volleyball Team (from left to right): Coach Bianca Martin, Haley Jerome, Darcy Condo, Alicia Gedeon, Amber Jerome, Alana Condo, Mariah Allen; Photo Credit: Mitchell Syvret-Caplin



Gesgapegiag Boys' Basketball Team (from left to right): Mentor Jeremy Speller, Coach Todd Jerome, Sheldon Bradstreet, Cato Paul, Donovan Condo, Ted Jerome, Blair Gedeon, Sebastian Caplin, Vincent Gould, Keishawn Bradstreet (front); Photo Credit: Bianca Martin

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Announcements...



In Memory

FLOWERS: Lloyd Elmer
In loving memory of a dear brother who left us suddenly, September 5, 1979, as the result of a car accident.
*Beautiful memories
Are wonderful things.
They last 'til the longest day,
They never wear out.
They never get lost,
And they can never be given away.
To some you may be forgotten,
To others a part of the past,
But to us who loved you and lost you,
Your memory will always last.*
Greatly missed and lovingly remembered by sister Carol and brother-in-law Richard.

A Celebration of the Journey of Life (and Peter's 70th birthday)

Friends of Peter Ross
(Yes, he's coming back to celebrate in Gaspé)
are invited to join him on
Sunday, October 1, from 2-4 pm
at the Seniors' Hall, St-Majorique
(directly behind the RC church).
Bring a poem, a story, a song, and /or
some words of wisdom about the Journey of Life.
(No material gifts, please!)
Light refreshments will be served.

Happy Birthday!



Happy 70th Birthday, Eileen!
Wishing you much love and happiness.
Enjoy your special day.
*With love from Edith,
Shirley, Ken, Lorna and Leila*

Card of Thanks

I would like to thank each and everyone of you from near and far who helped make my bridal shower unforgettable. I would also like to thank everyone from the bottom of my heart for the lovely gifts and cards. It is very heartwarming to know that I have so many wonderful people in my life.
Heather Imhoff

Card of Thanks



We would like to thank everyone who helped in some way to celebrate Le Beau Leo's (Fitzpatrick) life.
Thanks to those from near and far who joined us in his celebration of life. The donations to the Gaspé Cancer Society are much appreciated, as well, a donation was made in Leo's name to the SPCA.
All notes and shared stories have been read and appreciated with a warm heart. A special thank you to Mrs. Jackie Clements and Linda Drody who, with their special touch, made a fitting farewell.
*Thanks to everyone,
Ethel, Dan, and Sue*

Reconnect with the Coast

Buy a subscription to The Gaspé Spec

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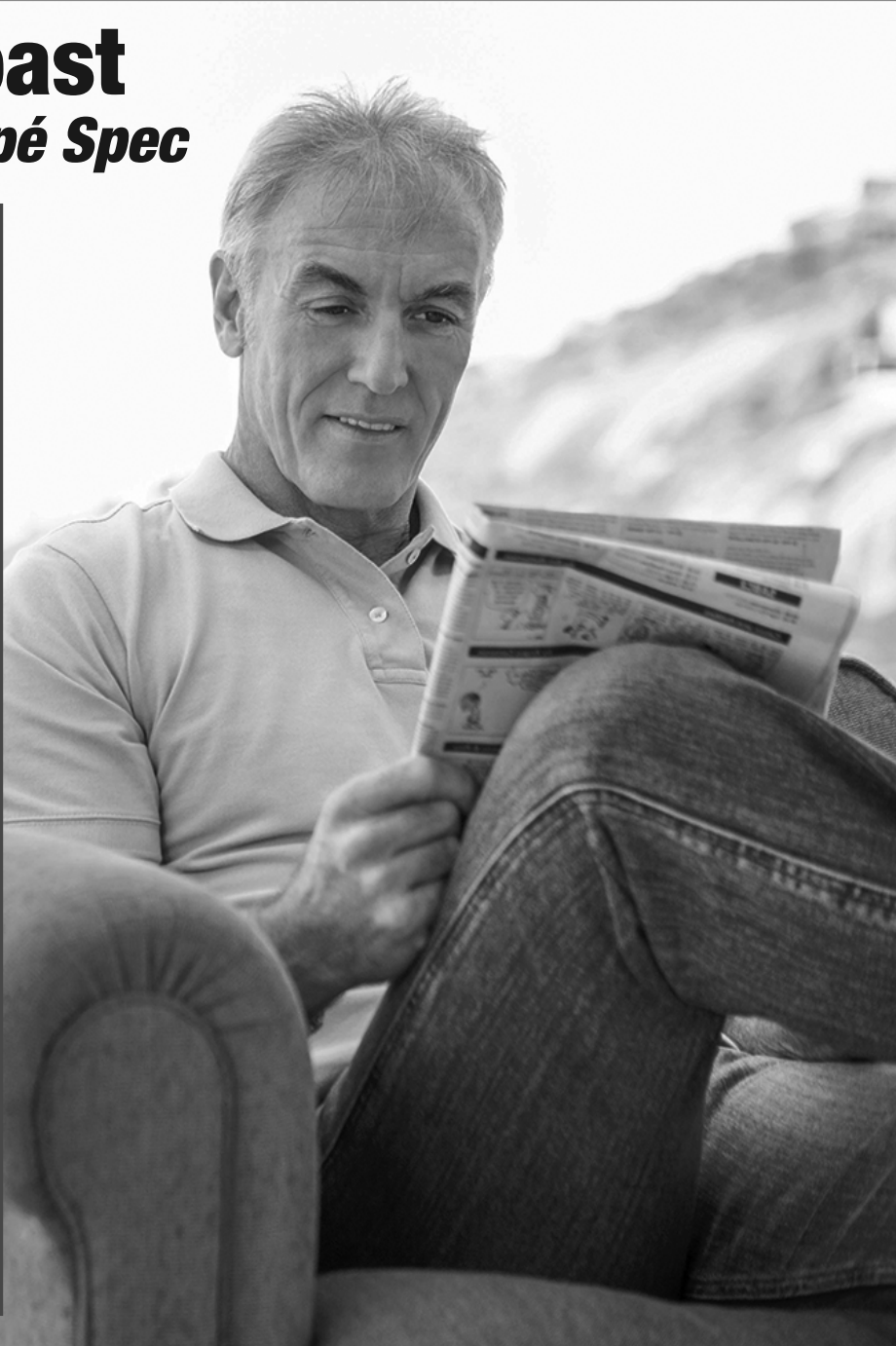
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CLASSIFIED

Land for Sale: New Carlisle: Great view of the town and Chaleur Bay 1.376 acres / 0.553 hectares in residential (white) zone; close to services. On south side of Normandy, just west of Church Street. Asking \$23,500. Serious buyers only. Call 1-819-363-2023. (S6)

For Sale: 5 1/2 room house at 246 Perron Blvd East, New Richmond. For more information call 418-392-6064. (S13)

COAST ROUND-UP

POINTE NAVARRE: Mass

You are invited to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows at mass at the Shrine of Pointe-Navarre on **Tuesday, September 12**, at 7 p.m. After the mass, we will offer to our Lord all our yearly intentions in a symbolic gesture.

GASPE:

County Fair:

The Gaspé County WI will be hosting its annual County Fair on **Saturday, September 9**, at the York River Community Hall. Doors will open to view the exhibits at 3:30 p.m. A salad supper will be served at a cost of \$10. Take-outs will be available.

GASPÉ:

Terry Fox Run

On **September 17** at 1 p.m. on the bicycle path, starting on the warf street, at Synnott's Location Shop to Boom Defense Hill and back. There will be sweaters, participating stickers and refreshments. Donations will be accepted for this worthy cause, CANCER RESEARCH. Pledge forms can be obtained by contacting Nellis Rehel 418 368 5901.

YORK:

Military Whist Tournament

The York River Seniors Club invites you to a regional military-whist tournament on **Saturday, September 23**, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Gaspé Elementary School, 234 Monseigneur Leblanc, Gaspé. The cost for the day is \$25, which includes lunch and an assortment of prizes. For more information or to register a table of 4 players, please contact Tony Patterson 418-368-3276 or Cynthia McDonald 418-368-5227.

BARACHOIS:

Legion Branch 261 Upcoming Events

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

BARACHOIS:

Pot Luck Supper

There will be a Pot Luck Supper at the Barachois Recreation Centre at 5 p.m. on **Saturday, September**

16, 2017. \$8 per person, \$5 children - 12 and under. All proceeds go to the Gaspé Cancer Foundation. For more info or to donate contact Debbie Touzel at 418-782-6455 or Carolyn DeVouge at 418-360-3651.

COIN DU BANC:

Important Notice

Notice to anyone who has family buried in St. Luke's Cemetery at Coin du Banc. The cost for cutting the grass in the cemetery last year was eight hundred dollars (\$800) and the cost of liability was another eight hundred (\$800) not to mention maintenance of the fence. Please consider assisting with these costs by making a donation, by cheque, to La société historique de Coin du Banc - Corner of the Beach Historical Society. All donations over twenty dollars (\$20) will be given an income tax receipt. The address is 350 rue de la Plage, Coin du Banc, Percé, QC G0C 2L0. Any help you can give would be greatly appreciated by the directors: Alex Virent, Shirley Boyle and Janet Harvey.

PORT DANIEL AND SHIGAWAKE:

Bible Study

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

SHIGAWAKE:

Harvest Supper

St Paul's Anglican Church And Shigawake Community Centre will be holding their annual harvest supper on **Saturday, September 9**, beginning at 4:30 p.m. at the Shigawake Community Centre (across from St. Paul's) Adults - \$15. Children under 10 - \$6. Takeout available. Everyone welcome.

SHIGAWAKE:

Cookbooks for sale

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

HOPE TOWN:

Whist Party

A whist party will be held on **Saturday, September 9**, at 8 p.m. at the Hope Town Community Centre. Come out and join us for a night of fun.

HOPE TOWN:

Bingo

There will be a gift bingo on **Friday, September 22**, at 7:30 p.m. Proceeds for replacement of rink nets and our contribution to renovation costs. Bingo will take place at the Community Center and is organized by the Sports and Recreation Club.

HOPE TOWN:

Hope Baptist Church

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

HOPE TOWN:

Terry Fox Walk

September 17 will be Hope Town's 14th annual Terry Fox Walk. Registration will be between 12 and 1 p.m. at the Community Center in Hope Town. This year again we will be walking on the 132 from Travers Lane in Shigawake to Hope's Municipal Hall which is a total of 10.7 km. Transportation is arranged from Hope Town to Shigawake to begin the walk. For more information or pledge sheets please call Linda MacWhirter at 418-752-2015 or email at linmac@navigue.com.

NEW CARLISLE:

Local Market

The market season runs until **September 23** (garlic festival). Hours are from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Come and shop locally for everything from fresh strawberries to jewellery. Be entertained as well. Contact us through our facebook page or call Sandi @ 581-233-0658 or Carol @ 418-752-8555.

NEW CARLISLE:

Corn Boil

Bay Chaleur Shrine Club will be holding a corn boil on the New Carlisle green on **Saturday, September 16**, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. \$10 per person for two corn and a chili dog. Musical entertainment will be provided by Derek Knowles, member of the New Brunswick Country Music Hall of Fame. Profits in support of the Montreal Shriners Hospital. For tickets call 418-72-8397.

NEW CARLISLE:

Julia's Tea Corner Closed

Julia's Tea Corner, located at the Kempffer Cultural and Interpretation Centre is closed until next summer. Next year, if all goes according to plan, we hope to be able to offer guests the opportunity to have tea outside on our new deck (on sunny days) Please note that the new price will be \$8. Hope to see you then!! Keep checking Coast round-Up for further activities this coming Fall.

NEW CARLISLE:

Harvest Supper

St. Andrew's Anglican Church will be holding its annual harvest supper on **Saturday, September**

23. More information to follow.

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 - 7 p.m. "You Must Be Born Again."

NEW CARLISLE:

Monthly Breakfast

The New Carlisle 50+ Club will be holding its monthly breakfast at the Heritage Restaurant on **Wednesday, September 13**, at 9 a.m.

NEW CARLISLE:

Card Games

Every first Thursday of the month, starting in October throughout the fall 2017 and Winter 2018, Kempfer Cultural and Interpretation Centre will have card games from 1 to 4 p.m. at the New Carlisle Town Hall. Play what you wish and bring your partner. Refreshments will be served. \$5 entrance fee. Proceeds go to Heritage New Carlisle.

NEW RICHMOND:

United Church

October 21: Turkey Supper
December 15: Christmas Concert.

NEW RICHMOND:

Friperie Notice

Friperie Entraide d L' E.P.E. schedule: open Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. or at other times by appointment only 418-392-5161. Free clothing for the whole family. We are changing seasons and we offer you our surplus for free. Homemade soup Saturday at noon for only \$2. At 248 Perron Blvd West, New-Richmond, at the corner of Campbell Road.

CASCAPEDIA-ST. JULES:

Corn Boil

Royal Canadian Legion Br.172 will be hosting a corn boil on **Sunday, September 10**, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 55 Gallagher Rd., Cascapedia-St. Jules. Adults: \$10 and children: \$7. Thank you for your support. Please come and join us. Everyone is welcome

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

Exhibition by Barry Le Blanc

From La Cache to the estuary, a photographic essay of the Grand Cascapedia. Landscape photographer, Barry Le Blanc, will exhibit striking images of this internationally-renowned salmon river. Throughout this exhibit, which includes interviews and a twenty minute video, he brings to light many beautiful locations, capturing the changing spirit of the Grand Cascapedia. **Closes September 15.**

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

50+ Club Activities

Friday, September 8: Music-doors open at 7 p.m.

Friday, September 22: Music-doors open at 7 p.m.

Saturday, September 16: Harvest Bingo will be held at 1 pm, 3 cards for \$10. Additional cards are \$1.00 each

Every Thursday: Dame de Pique at 1 p.m. \$5 per person.

Rotary Calendar

The winners for the week of August 27 are Marc Leblanc, Valérie LeGurun, Alain Boudreau, Dany Al-lard, Ginette Cyr, Ulysse Brideau, Isabelle Quinn.

BLANKET CLASSIFIEDS

QCNA (Quebec Community Newspapers Association) can place your classified ad into 20 weekly papers throughout Quebec - papers just like the one you are reading right now! One phone call does it all! Call Marnie at QCNA 514-697-6330. Visit: www.qcna.org. SAWMILLS from only \$4,397. - MAKE MONEY & SAVE MONEY with your own bandmill - cut lumber any dimension. In stock ready to ship. Free info & DVD: www.NorwoodSawmills.com/400OT. 1-800-566-6899 ext:400OT.

UNITED CHURCH

Sunday, September 10

2 p.m. New Carlisle

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

Sunday, September 10

Shigawake

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

New Carlisle

10 a.m. Morning Prayer

Hopetown

11 a.m. Holy Eucharist

PARISH OF ALL SAINTS BY THE SEA

Sunday, September 10

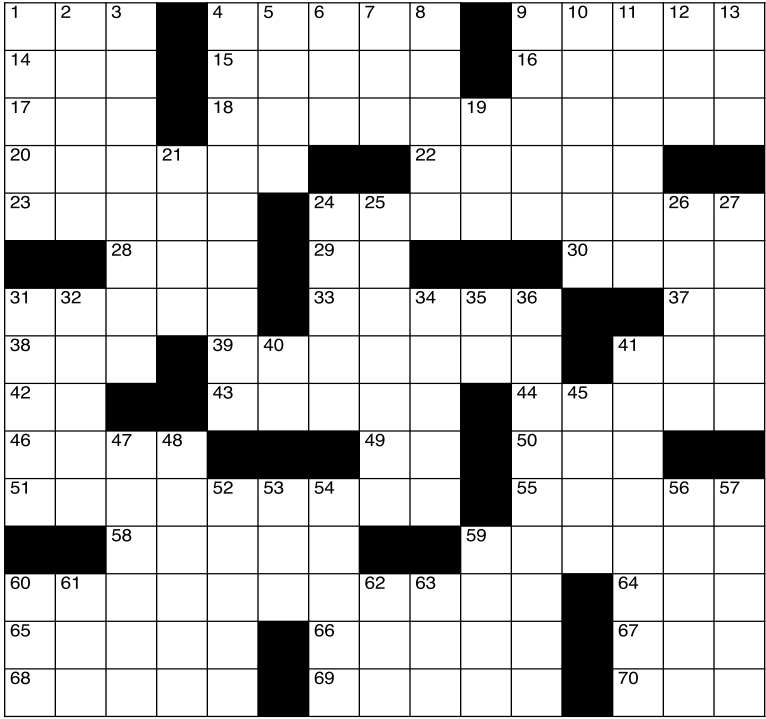
St. Peter's Malbay

11 a.m. Service

ARE YOU MOVING?

Give us your new address early so we can ensure uninterrupted delivery service of your Spec.

CROSSWORD

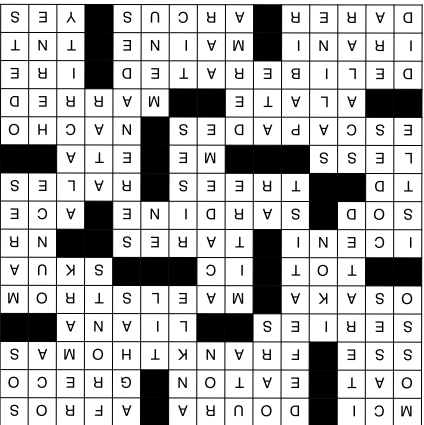


CLUES ACROSS

1. Defunct phone company
4. Rural area in Guinea
9. Hairstyles
14. Makes a good meal
15. Nats’ CFer Adam
16. El __, painter
17. Midway between south and southeast
18. Baseball’s “The Big Hurt”
20. A serialized set of programs
22. A woody climbing plant
23. Japanese metropolis
24. Whirlpool
28. Toddler
29. Integrated circuit
30. WWII British fighter Blackburn __
31. Ancient Briton tribe
33. Injurious weeds (Bib.)
37. Nonredundant
38. Turf
39. Canned fish
41. Team’s best pitcher
42. Touchdown
43. Woody perennial plants
44. Rattling breaths
46. Smaller quantity
49. Of I
50. When you’ll get there
51. Adventures
55. Type of chip
58. Having wings
59. Mutilated
60. Considered
64. Wrath
- 65 A citizen of Iran
66. American state
67. Explosive
68. One who challenges
69. __ senilis
70. Affirmative

CLUES DOWN

1. Move rapidly in music
2. Brief are one type
3. Repeated
4. Quitter
5. Paddles
6. Broadway actress Hagen



7. Politician Paul
8. Joint
9. Ottoman military men
10. Covers for illegal operations
11. Comment
12. Office of Consumer Affairs
13. Distress signal
19. ‘__ death do us part
21. S. Korean boy band
24. Bishop’s hat
25. Learning environment
26. Measurement
27. Equines
31. Hard plant fiber
32. Protocols
34. Stands up
35. Linear unit
36. Songs
40. One of the six noble gases
41. Cheerful readiness
45. Zoroastrian concept of holy fire
47. Having only magnitude
48. Containing salt
52. Chadic language
53. Fed
54. Beef or chicken intestine
56. Hill in Australia and London
57. “Waiting for Lefty” playwright
59. A list of available dishes
60. Have already done
61. Geological time
62. Swiss river
63. Twitch

Specs gets around....



Which side is better North of the Arctic Circle or South of the Arctic Circle?
At the beginning of August Rick and Helen Smollett with Andrew and Luke completed their exploration of Canada when they took a dip in the Arctic Ocean.

FRUIT-FILLED WORD SEARCH



Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

WORDS

- ACHENE
- ACKEE
- APPLE
- APRICOT
- AVOCADO
- BANANA
- BLACKBERRY
- BLUEBERRY
- BREADFRUIT
- CANISTEL
- CANTALOUPE
- CHERRY
- CITRON
- DATE
- DRUPE
- ELDERBERRY
- FEIJOA
- FIG
- FLESHY
- GOOSEBERRY
- GRAPE
- GUAVA
- HUCKLEBERRY
- JACKFRUIT
- JAMBUL
- JUJUBE
- KIWI
- LEMON
- LIME
- LYCHEE
- MANGO
- MELON
- MULBERRY
- OLIVE
- ORANGE
- PEACH
- PEAR
- RAMBUTAN

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

This week you may be very interested in technology, Aries. This interest could spur the purchase of a new technological device that you have had your eyes on for some time.
TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21
Friends may be surprised to hear you requesting things, Taurus, since you’re not usually one to ask for help. It is okay to need some assistance this week to get by.
GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21
Gemini, you may need to ask yourself some difficult questions this week if you plan to map out more of your future. If you’re looking for adventure, the goals will be different from stability.
CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22
Try to show others this week that you are a thoughtful person who has many life experiences to share, Cancer. Try to assert yourself in a calm but effective way.
LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23
Leo, trust the people you love and your close friends. There is a good reason why you hang in certain social circles. It’s not the time to doubt your



alliances.
VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22
Self-confidence and enthusiasm helps you to be a natural-born leader this week, Virgo. Show coworkers just how much you can handle and they’ll take a step back.
LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, changes to your financial status may have you looking at various ways to cut costs or ways to splurge. Research all of the possibilities before making drastic changes.
SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22
There are many changes waiting to unfold in your personal life, Scorpio. Take the time to listen to what the stars are trying to tell you and make the best decisions.
SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21
Bringing together people and socializing is what you desire this week, Sagittarius. Therefore, why not host a party or organize a night out with friends?
CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20
It is important not to let others make de-

cisions for you, Capricorn. If you feel strongly about something, speak up for yourself and others will notice your assertiveness.
AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18
Someone close to you may be having difficulties he or she is not able to verbalize, Aquarius. Be patient with this person and help work through all of the angles.
PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
Pisces, when you act as a leader your behaviors may be different from others around you. It is okay to stand out for the right reasons.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- SEPTEMBER 3
- Shaun White, Athlete (31)
- SEPTEMBER 4
- Beyonce Knowles, Singer (36)
- SEPTEMBER 5
- Michael Keaton, Actor (66)
- SEPTEMBER 6
- Swoosie Kurtz, Actress (73)
- SEPTEMBER 7
- Kevin Love, Athlete (29)
- SEPTEMBER 8
- Brooke Burke, Actress (46)
- SEPTEMBER 9
- Michael Bublé, Singer (42)

It's HARVEST Time



TO HELP USE SOME OF THOSE FRESH VEGETABLES
TRY ONE OF OUR FAVOURITE RECIPES

Best Ever Zucchini Bread

- 1 cup white sugar
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 3 eggs
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 3 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp nutmeg
- 3 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 2 cups grated zucchini
- 1 cup chopped walnuts



Grease two 8 x 4 inch bread pans or 6 mini loaf plans. Preheat oven to 325°F degrees F. Assemble your ingredients. Mix flour, salt, baking powder, soda, nutmeg and cinnamon together in a bowl. Beat eggs, oil, vanilla, and sugar together in a large bowl. Add dry ingredients to the egg mixture and stir until combined. Grate zucchini. Stir into the mixture along with the nuts until well combined. Pour batter into prepared pans. Bake for 40 to 60 minutes, or until tester inserted in the center comes out clean. Mini-loaf pans take about 35-40 minutes. Large sized loaves take about 55 minutes. Cool in pan on rack for 20 minutes. Remove bread from pan, and completely cool. Enjoy!

SCALLOPED ZUCCHINI

- 4 large zucchini, cut into 1/2-inch rounds
- 4 hard-boiled eggs, chopped
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 1 1/2 cups grated sharp cheddar cheese
- 1 teaspoon Tabasco sauce
- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1/2 cup bread crumbs

Preheat the oven to 350°F. Butter an 8" square baking dish. Layer the zucchini and eggs alternately in the pan, ending with a layer of eggs.

Mix together the cream, 1 cup cheddar cheese, Tabasco sauce and Worcestershire sauce. Pour the mixture evenly over the casserole.

Sprinkle the top with the remaining cheese and bread crumbs. Bake for 40 to 45 minutes, or until the zucchini is easily pierced with a fork and the top of the casserole is lightly browned. Serves 6

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