

Bourque: “considerable uncertainty” of the estimates

Geneviève Gélinas

GASPÉ: – The estimates published by Pieridae about the accessible oil in place on its Bourque property, between Grande-Vallée et Murdochville, should be interpreted with caution, states a geologist of the federal public service.

On November 23 Pieridae Energy, which recently acquired Pétrolia, announced that the volume of petroleum initially accessible at Bourque is estimated between 256 million barrels and 1.6 billion barrels by a Calgary-based consulting firm, Sproule Associates, with a best estimate of 827 million barrels.

These estimates are surrounded by “considerable uncertainty,” warns geologist Denis Lavoie, of the Geological Survey of Canada.

“We must always be careful about these reports. They can be extremely exact or have nothing to do with reality,” says Mr. Lavoie.

Pieridae collected data in two wells at Bourque. “One can make estimates with only one well. In Western Canada, they make estimates with 1,000 wells. The software (used to assess the potential of a well) is always going to produce numbers.”

In the Bourque case, “the bracket’s large stretch shows that they don’t have a lot of information, that there’s a considerable uncertainty,” states the geologist.

Mr. Lavoie also points out a lack of information about the type of hydrocarbons. “Their first reports were about a gas



Photo: G. Gélinas

Bourque well No. 1 is one of two wells drilled on the Pieridae property in the summer of 2012.

potential. What do they mean by petroleum? Is that really petroleum or natural gas condensation?”

SPEC asked the geologist if the Gaspé could become the new Alberta. “I don’t believe that the Gaspé will become the

new Alberta. The rocks are significantly different. In Alberta, the rocks are younger, so they have more chance of retaining hydrocarbons,” explains Mr. Lavoie.

On the Gaspé, the debates focus on the question: will it

be necessary to use hydraulic fracturing, or fracking in the specific oil jargon, to produce hydrocarbons?

“In all contemporary reservoirs, there is fracturing,” says Mr. Lavoie. In conventional

reservoirs, this method allows the increase of production. But it’s used in a different way than in unconventional reservoirs like shale gas, the geologist explains.

“In shale gas, the companies fracture at multiple locations in the drilling process, 30 or 40 times depending on the drilling length. In more conventional reservoirs like Bourque or Galt (west of Gaspé), only some areas have to be fractured.”

The industry calls that kind of fracturing “HMSF”, hydraulic multi-stage fracturing. They use less pressure than in shale gas fracturing.

Junex pretends that they won’t need to fracture to produce oil on its Galt property. “Maybe they’ve been very lucky to intercept an area with really a lot of natural fractures,” concedes Mr. Lavoie.

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Gaspé MNA criticizes lack of action by Quebec government

Gilles Gagné

GASPÉ: - Gaétan Lelièvre, independent Member of the National Assembly (MNA) for the riding of Gaspé, says he is concerned that the Gaspé Peninsula is still waiting for action in some of its most important files even though the present liberal government's term is almost over.

Mr. Lelièvre points out that the government has taken some action regarding Percé's protection of the shoreline but after that, he adds that trying to find something else is hard. He unfortunately sees a wide range of governmental inactivity, and other parts of his riding seem to have been completely forgotten, he adds.

"Whether we look at transportation, health care, tourism or demography, the conclusion is the same, barring rare exceptions. We have not significantly moved forward and we are crumbling under a multitude of studies instead of seeing our files advance," states Mr. Lelièvre.

He mentions the additional studies pertaining to the railway, about the eventual ferry service between the Gaspé Peninsula, Anticosti island and the North Shore and a wide array of studies pertaining to coastal erosion.

"Premier Philippe Couillard announced \$100 million for the Matapedia-Gaspé railroad in the spring (May 5) and

no work was carried out this year. The government called for a third study regarding the Anticosti service. A study was also called for the opportunities pertaining to the port of Gaspé. An envelope of \$3.5 million was given to the Université du Québec in Rimouski to study coastal erosion in January while another \$12.7 million was given to Ouranos in February for the same purpose. The Université du Québec à Rimouski was recently asked to conduct a third study of \$3.5 million," mentions Gaétan Lelièvre.

"The time for studies should be behind us, by and large. The Gaspé Peninsula needs a government that will initiate actions and results. Is there a real vision and a real will to support the Gaspé Peninsula in the government? If the answer is yes, it is time to show it," he adds.

"I fear that all those studies, and the delays in the realization of projects, will only be turned into electoral promises leading to the election of 2018," points out the Gaspé riding Member of the National Assembly.

Gaétan Lelièvre can't help but think that a sizeable part of his riding, the Haute-Gaspésie MRC, is almost forgotten by the current government.

"Sainte-Anne-des-Monts' Exploramer, one of the most dynamic tourist attractions on

the Gaspé Peninsula, has been waiting for stable funding for years and nothing happened. The Sainte-Anne-des-Monts airport, the addition of trades at the vocational school and repairs along highway 132 east of Sainte-Anne-des-Monts are all files that should have been dealt with," emphasizes Mr. Lelièvre.

Gaétan Lelièvre was elected under the Parti Québécois banner in 2014 but was ousted from that caucus in early 2017 due to past links with an executive of Groupe Roche, an engineering firm that has since changed its name for Norda Stella. Parti Québécois officials are ready to reintegrate the Gaspé MNA in their ranks but Mr. Lelièvre has stated that he will remain independent until the end of the term.



Chaleur Bay parishes say farewell to Rev. Nick Forte

Cynthia Dow

A series of farewell events were held in the Anglican churches along Chaleur Bay when Reverend Nicholas Forte announced he would be leaving the region after Christmas. Having arrived in 2015 straight out of divinity school, Reverend Forte was ordained to the priesthood here on the Coast in November 2015. He served five churches: St James' in Port Daniel, St Paul's in Shigawake, St James' in Hopetown, St Andrew's in New Carlisle and St Mary Magdalene's in New Richmond. "This has been a nice place to start a life of ministry," the young priest told SPEC, "because you have to face the challenges present in every aspect of ministry, but face it as a team, as a church. The relationships here make the churches what they are." Rev Forte is moving to St George's Anglican Church in Chateauguay, just outside Montreal, so he is also leaving the Diocese of Quebec. Asked what he will miss most about the Coast, Rev Forte replied, "I will miss the sea, the land, the wind, but I will miss the people most of all." In the photo above, Rev Forte is pictured with members of the congregation of St Mary Magdalene's in New Richmond: from left Joan Dow, Cynthia Dow, Rev. Forte, Ian Duncan, Shirley Duncan and Tom Duncan.



Christmas Greetings from Bishop Gaétan Proulx, O.S.M.

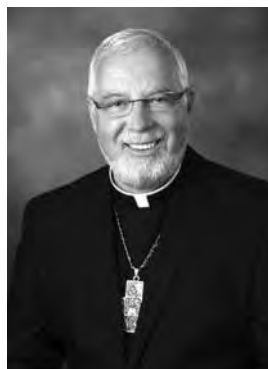


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of his love and instruments of peace.

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(Crédit, photographie Dachowski)

† Gaétan Proulx, O.S.M.
Évêque de Gaspé

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Have a safe and happy holiday!


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Chantal Horth, *Medical Secretary*

Gilles Gagné

NEW CARLISLE: - Recruiting bilingual health professionals and accessing English health services remains a challenge on the Gaspé. It is crucial to ensure that bilingual professionals are more accessible and visible in the community.

As part of CASA's Health and Harmony campaign Spec will be featuring health professionals who offer bilingual health services. The featured health professionals were nominated by members of the community.

Chantal Horth, is a medical secretary, assigned to archives who has worked in the health system for 29 years. "It is my eighth year at the CLSC in Caplan. I worked for eight years at the Centre d'accueil in New Carlisle. There were cuts in the health system and I transferred to Paspebiac, where I worked for 14 years at the CLSC there. I switched to Caplan to be closer to where I live, in Saint-Siméon."

Chantal doesn't consider



Chantal Horth, Medical Secretary.

herself completely bilingual, but while working at the Centre d'accueil, some members of the staff were anglophones,

so she decided to take an English conversation course. "I took a conversation course in Hope Town with Shirley Cha-

pados. I went for an hour, once a week. We spoke English. As the years passed, I picked up a bit more. I am no longer shy. I make mistakes sometimes but English-speaking people understand me. I use signs sometimes.

When asked why she decided to become a medical secretary, Chantal answered, "I am the sixth of seven children in my family. I didn't want to be a burden for my parents, so I decided to study at a local school. I decided to study close to home. So I attended Paspebiac Polyvalente to become a secretary. At first I wanted to be a social worker. I wanted to work with children. I have always loved children. Now, with the position I have at the CLSC, I am in touch with what I wanted to do." She finds working in archives means having a lot of contact with the public. She notes that "sometimes people are quite worried, almost in crisis at times, when they arrive here. We can do a lot to calm them down." Chantal says her work at the Centre d'accueil in New

Carlisle made her aware of a lot of things, "I used to take all my breaks with elderly people, listening to their fascinating stories. The rules changed at one point and I was not allowed to spend my breaks with them anymore. I lost something."

Chantal says in her line of work she encounters a lot of English clients, "I have to use English every day, sometimes twice or more. We serve New Richmond at the Caplan CLSC, and Cascapedia-St-Jules, as well as Gesgapegiag. People from as far east as Shigawake come here as well.

Personal notes about Chantal Horth

Chantal loves to dance to country music and accompany her daughter, Cathia-Marie Bujold, when she plays music in seniors residences, such as the Gilker Residence in New Carlisle and Lady Maria in Maria. "My daughter sings and I encourage people to dance, sometimes in their wheelchair," she points out.



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