

# 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.

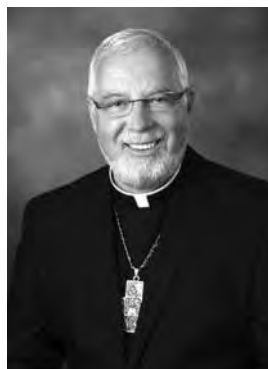


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of his love and instruments of peace.

On the occasion of this feast of Christmas, I invite you to take all the personal initiatives necessary that could help to bring peace in our various living environments: at school, at work, in our families, our social and Christian communities. In doing so, we will be signs of the Kingdom of God among us.



(Crédit, photographie Dachowski)

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

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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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# New Richmond High School hosts Christmas concert

Wendy Dawson

NEW RICHMOND: - During the afternoon of December 14, the primary students and staff of New Richmond High School hosted a Christmas concert for friends and parents of the students. Originally scheduled for the evening of December 13, bad weather forced a cancellation. Despite the change in schedule, the gym was almost full of spectators. Students from kindergarten to grade six performed a variety of songs and skits including classics such as *Santa Claus is Coming to Town* and more modern takes such as *Hip Hop Reindeer*. Door prizes donated by a variety of businesses from Cascadia-St-Jules were drawn and the graduating class used the opportunity to raise funds for their year-end trip with both a bake sale and gift draw. It was a happy launch into the Christmas season!



Photos: Darlene Dimock



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# Yes Virginia.....there is a Santa Claus

Wendy Dawson

NEW RICHMOND: - One thing is certain, for those of us that celebrate Christmas, the existence of Santa Claus is undeniable from our very first realization of his magic until the age of 8. From ages 8 to about 11, that belief wanes, until it is reborn again at around the age 12 until we see through our final Christmas.

The young mind is a sharp mind, and so of course logic forces its way through the whimsy and begins to create doubt when a child begins to wonder how can Santa possibly make his way to the home of everyone in 24 short hours? How can he be ageless? Flying reindeer, really? And how, exactly, can one person eat so many cookies?

Sinterklaas (as Santa Claus is known in some parts of the world) apparently comes from Turkey and seems to have appeared sometime in the third century. He was originally called Nicolas the Miracle-worker because he is said to have saved a town from starvation and was generous with the poor, placing coins and gifts in the shoes that people left outside their homes. It is said that he eventually moved to Spain, but where and why is a little unclear. While in Spain, Sinterklaas began to keep notes in a large red book (probably his original naughty and nice list) and he began to travel about on a dapple grey horse named Amerigo – his helpers in Spain, called the Pieten, helped him deliver presents through the chimney. While those are his origins, Santa Claus, has many forms and many traditions around the world. In Denmark, Julemanden (Christmas Man) travels by reindeer and works



Francis Pharcellus Church  
courtesy of Newseum

with elves. In Poland, Swiety Mikolag (St. Nicholas) works with other gift givers including Gwiazdor (the Starman) – who will beat bad little children with a birch-rod! In Iceland, mischievous little boys called Jolasveinarnir come down from the mountains to leave gifts for children in the shoes that they leave on their windowsill. Naughty children will get a potato and a note that tells them to be good.

Growing up, Santa Claus came to my house on Christmas Eve and we would leave him a beer, some cookies and carrots for the reindeer. In our home there was no naughty list, but there was Black Peter, a blacked caped, grey bearded man who delivered coal, although thankfully, he never had to come to our house.

At about the age of 8, when I questioned the existence of Santa Claus, my dad felt the best way to deal with my question was with a letter – a letter written by an Editor of New York's "Sun" newspaper. This letter was a response to an enquiry that had been sent to the Editor by an 8-year-old girl named Virginia O'Hanlon – the exchange took place in 1897 and has stood the test of time. Unsigned when it was published, the letter was the



Virginia O'Hanlon courtesy  
of Newseum

work of a journalist named Francis Pharcellus Church and is among one of the most reproduced newspaper items of all time. It has stayed with me always, and for those that are not familiar with the exchange, what better place than to share it than in a newspaper! Wishing you all a magical Christmas.

**DEAR EDITOR:** I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, 'If you see it in THE SUN it's so.' Please tell me the truth; is there a Santa Claus? VIRGINIA O'HANLON. 115 WEST NINETY-FIFTH STREET.

**VIRGINIA,** your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, VIRGINIA, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as cer-

tainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary as if there were no VIRGINIAS. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished. Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see.

Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You may tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, VIRGINIA, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

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*To all our residents  
best wishes for this  
holiday season and  
health, peace and happiness  
for the new year!*

## Spec's Spectacular Christmas Quiz - ANSWERS

Hope you enjoyed testing yourself and researching the answers you did not know. Congratulations! You are a winner for even trying to answer the questions!

- |                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Jacob Marley.                                                                                                               | 14. Blitzen                                                                                                                                                       |
| 2. The Grinch.                                                                                                                 | 15. The Nutcracker is the most well known Christmas ballet.                                                                                                       |
| 3. Pacific Ocean or Indian Ocean                                                                                               | 16. 'Underneath the mistletoe last night.'                                                                                                                        |
| 4. White Christmas by Bing Crosby is still the best selling Christmas song. (According to the Guinness book of World Records.) | 17. He says, "Bah, Humbug."                                                                                                                                       |
| 5. Brenda Lee was rockin' around the Christmas tree.                                                                           | 18. Traditionally Santa had 8 reindeer. They are Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donder, and Blitzen. Rudolph was not added until the 20th century. |
| 6. Rudolph is not mentioned in 'Twas the Night Before Christmas.                                                               | 19. We Three Kings of Orient Are                                                                                                                                  |
| 7. Elvis sang about a Blue Christmas.                                                                                          | 20. Cabbage Patch Dolls                                                                                                                                           |
| 8. A Christmas carol was first published in 1843.                                                                              | 21. Kevin                                                                                                                                                         |
| 9. There were eight maids-a-milking.                                                                                           | 22. Christmas (December 25) is day # 359.                                                                                                                         |
| 10. Bing sang about a White Christmas.                                                                                         | 23. Not once. St. Nicholas/St. Nick is mentioned four times.                                                                                                      |
| 11. Vixen.                                                                                                                     | 24. Tiny Tim                                                                                                                                                      |
| 12. Two Front Teeth!                                                                                                           | 25. \$46 for a full year of reading, information, analysis, stories, politics, humour, recipes, contests, items for sale, events and more!                        |
| 13. You should kiss.                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                   |

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CHRISTMAS  
& Happy New Year!**

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and employees*

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## Let's have a round of applause! Yea! Hip Hip Hooray!

Sharon Howell

As a member of The Board of Directors of The SPEC I would like to acknowledge everyone who plays a role in the development, production, and distribution of our treasured English newspaper.

Let me begin by extending to Penny MacWhirter and Joan Imhoff a tremendous thank you for all of their hard work, dedication, and enthusiasm in making sure the paper is prepared, published, vibrant, and viable. They wear many hats and perform impressive and successful juggling routines daily to make sure that our well-respected paper appears each week. In addition to their regular duties they are constantly trying to find ways to initiate more readerships and to seek out more interesting articles for the paper. Most everyone is aware that due to many factors but predominantly financial constraints, there has been a big decline in the publications of newspapers and magazines throughout our country. The SPEC, like many other papers also struggles to stay in print. Penny and Joan are constantly trying to find avenues to keep getting the paper to you.

It is important to also acknowledge the valued contribution of Gilles Gagné for his willingness to cover a story at a moment's notice on top of his regular editorial work. The paper also relies on many others including the journalists: Thierry Haroun, Geneviève Gélinas; the regular contributors: Wendy Dawson, Cynthia Dow, Jeanie LeLacheur, and Dianne Skinner Flowers; as well as other writers including Gary Briand in his "Why do we say ...," the Social Notes contributors, Donatien Grenier who is responsible for the Police Report and other individuals who submit very well written and appropriately timed articles.

Appreciation and acknowledgement is also extended to the proofreaders Carol Gilker and Jewell Roy whose attention to detail is a valued skill. Without the valuable assistance of the volunteers: Lee Leggo, Mary-Beth Assels, Ann Hall, and Elaine Almond who label and sort the papers in record time, then the deliverers: Daryl Beebe, Wayne Guignon, Marguerite and Dennis Palmer wouldn't be able to get the paper to you each week.

Each individual is important to the team in the production of the only English newspaper on the Gaspé coast. It is also important to acknowledge the contribution that you, our readers and regular subscribers play in keeping this paper in circulation.

To everyone my family and I wish a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and best wishes for a peaceful, joyous, healthy, and Happy New Year!



Photo: D. Wellman

Chance Reid enjoyed Santa's visit.

## A jolly event

Dawson Wellman

NEW CARLISLE: - On December 10, many people turned out to see Saint Nicholas, good ole Santa Claus at the Legion in New Carlisle. It was a wonderful event! Smiles upon smiles were seen all around during the event. Children received a bag of goodies and a toy of their choice.



## Santa and Tree Lighting Day

Elaine Sexton

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES: - The annual tree lighting ceremony and Santa Day was once again a success, with more than 30 children attending. It was a nice, mild day, so Mr. and Mrs. Claus had no trouble arriving with their faithful pilot Jim Geraghty.

Many people helped make the event a success including the cute couple; Nikki Snow-Legouffe and Daryk Legouffe, the elves, Darlene Sexton, Sarah Nellis and her friend Emma (all the way from Australia!)

This year Linda Leblanc did face painting, and from CASA, Juliana Beebe and Tracy Major, had beautiful crafts and donated Christmas books to all the children. A truly wonderful gesture.

To all those who made the delicious cookies, Lena Carroll, Therese Gallant, Shauna Boudreau, Darlene Sexton, and those who set up the hall and tree and helped clean up afterwards your help was greatly appreciated.

Reverend Raymond Kragland attended the event again this year and officially blessed the tree, the community and the children.

The Eagles Club appreciates your support and wishes all of you a wonderful Christmas.



## 30 years of Christmas cheer

Elaine Sexton

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES: - The 30th Christmas concert held at the Fifty Plus Club was once again well attended and showed how talented that everyone is. As the performers and audience arrived, they were treated to some hot cider. There was a bit of snow on the ground, so the warmth of the beverage warmed everyone from the cold.

The children once again got the evening under way with a special 30 year welcome poem ending with *Happy Anniversary to Us*, *Jingle Bells*, *Frosty*, *There's a Little Elf* and other fun ones including *The 12 Days of Christmas*. The Sexton Santa's, Jim, and Elaine also had solo performances. The Little River Band had everyone tapping their feet. The children ended the evening with the *ABCs of Christmas* and Santa arrived right on time to give his treats and ask the children what they wanted for Christmas. The door prizes included, two Christmas centrepieces donated by A&R Decorations, and a turkey and gift certificate from IGA, all donated from the Fifty Plus Club. Many helped make the event possible including faithful musicians Elaine Cochrane and Jim Cahill, and singers, Susan Sexton, Mackenzie Tourout and Lena Carroll. Elaine spoke of how this tradition began with the founder of the Club, Charlie Campbell. Delilah Hardy, Dorothy MacWhirter and Linda Hardy decorated. Linda Cahill and the ladies helped with the hot apple cider. To the men who set up, my sidekick Darlene Sexton and all the parents who came out to the practices, my heartfelt appreciation.

Congratulations to all the wonderful young performers. A fantastic job as always.

"I see my own children in many of these songs as they were singing ones that we sang through the 30 years." If you would like to be part of this great tradition write it in your agenda as the new year begins. On behalf of President Russell Campbell, we wish all the best of health and happiness in 2018.

Merry Christmas from the Fifty Plus.