

Patient refused at the Paspebiac CLSC was already dead

Geneviève Gélinas

GASPÉ: – The death of a man refused at the Paspebiac CLSC the night of November 23 has nothing to do with the absence of a doctor on duty during that night, an internal inquiry made by the Gaspésie Integrated Health and Social Service Centre (CISSS) concluded.

According to the report, the patient died several minutes before the paramedics called the CLSC and the doctor/nurses team made the right decision by directing the ambulance to Maria hospital, (which requires 30 more minutes to reach).

“Beyond a reasonable doubt, they couldn’t save him anyway with the technical equipment that they have in Paspebiac,” stated the CISSS president and chief executive officer, Chantal Duguay. The report, signed by two managers of the Integrated Centre, was made public on December 7.

During the night of November 23/ 24, no doctor was on duty from midnight to 8 a.m., a situation that occurred 28 times between June 1 and November 17.

A 74-year-old man, from Bonaventure suffered from cardiac arrest at 11:13 p.m. The paramedics initiated cardiopulmonary resuscitation when they arrived at 11:25 pm. When they called the CLSC at 11:45 p.m., the team of one doctor and five nurses directed them to the Maria hospital, 57 kilometres from Bonaventure. Paspebiac is only 22 kilometres away.

The Health Ministry standards require a doctor to be on duty 12 to 16 hours per day at the Paspebiac CLSC, stated authors of the CISSS report. However, “the history consists of offering medical services 24 hours a day,” they add.

Ms. Duguay guaranteed a doctor to be on duty for 24 hours a day, seven days a week for the future. A recently recruited general practitioner will move to the area in January, mainly to practice in Paspebiac.

The report doesn’t analyze the 12 minutes taken by the paramedics to reach the patient’s house after the 911 call. They wait for calls from their homes, not in the ambulance or at the ambulance station. Ms.

Duguay remained vague about what could be done to reduce those delays. “The analysis has to be made with the paramedics. Then if there are requests to be made at the ministry, that’s our responsibility.”

The report was completed on November 29 but wasn’t made public before, “the time for the (Health) minister’s team to be aware of it,” stated Ms. Duguay.

“We reacted at the National Assembly and we won’t add anything else,” wrote the spokesperson of Health minister Gaétan Barrette.

A coroner investigation

The Coroner’s office is investigating the Bonaventure patient’s death as well. The inquiry, made by coroner Renée Roussel, “aims at clarifying the probable causes and the circumstances of the deceased,” wrote the Coroner’s Office spokesperson.

Health workers and the Bonaventure Member of the National Assembly (MNA) asked for an independent in-

vestigation.

“The real issue remains. Will we have, yes or no, a doctor on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week, in the future? If somebody has a heart attack and is driven (to the CLSC) by his wife, he won’t be received?,” reacted the Parti québécois Bonaventure MNA Sylvain Roy.

From midnight to 8 a.m., only patients arriving by ambulance will be received at the Paspebiac CLSC, explained the CISSS officials.

“If we had paramedics ready to react by the minute, we would improve the survival chances,” believes Mr. Roy.

“We’re lucid. The man had limited chances (of survival). But the system still gave him less chances,” says André Tremblay-Roy, vice-president of the *Fraternité des travailleurs du préhospitalier du Québec*, which represents the Bonaventure paramedics. It would have taken eight fewer minutes to intervene if the paramedics had had full-time schedules, he emphasizes.

When there’s no doctor on duty from midnight and on, the CISSS report mentions that

from 10 p.m., the paramedics have to drive the patient to the closest hospital emergency, Maria or Chandler. But the guidelines provided by the CISSS to the paramedics mention some exceptions, including a cardiac arrest. In such a case, they must go to the Paspebiac CLSC. The fact that this exception isn’t mentioned in the CISSS report is “disturbing,” states Mr. Tremblay-Roy.

“I find it deplorable that such an event was needed to get a doctor on duty at all times,” states Pier-Luc Bujold, president of the *Syndicat des infirmières, infirmières auxiliaires et inhalothérapeutes de l’Est du Québec* (SIIEQ).

The SIIEQ is asking for apologies from the CISSS to the nurse who answered the paramedics and who was suspended until November 28. “That’s a matter of acknowledgement. For a nurse who puts her whole heart into her job, that’s difficult to endure,” Mr. Bujold says.

The CISSS writes, at the end of its report, that “the facts reported by the media don’t do justice to the work of the nurses and doctors of the

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Fighting mistreatment and abuse toward seniors

Thierry Haroun

Expected deficit

Thierry Haroun

GASPÉ PENINSULA: - The Gaspésie Integrated Health and Social Services Center is anticipating a deficit this year, this was confirmed to Spec by its financial spokesperson, Jean-Pierre Collette. At the last governing board meeting that was held in Gaspé, the Financial Department of the CISSS announced that the expected deficit will reach close to \$900,000 for the financial year that ends on March 31. The organization, as for all provincial government organizations, must, by law, balance its budget. Part of the deficit is caused by the higher cost of drugs. As for solutions, Mr. Collette, says that there are a few on the table to reduce costs and balance the budget at term. "For instance, we are thinking of reorganizing departments, fusion of computing systems, to favour energy cost saving projects, and so forth." The annual budget of the CISSS is valued at \$30 million.

Oh Silent Night

Jeanie LeLacbeur

GASPÉ: Gaspé has a special Christmas tradition that is standing the test of time. For twenty-eight years now on a silent night in late November people fill a tiny church in Cap aux Os to sing the songs and hear the Old Old Story. Heated with a box stove, a remnant of a time even before electricity and illuminated by coal oil lamps which lends its air of quiet reverence to all who enter in to hear glad tidings of Him born humbly in a stable in Bethlehem.

Generations have come and gone to the service over the years and as the coal oil lamps flicker perhaps touched by some ghostly presence somehow awakened by the love and fond memories carried in the hearts of their people we remember; other years when children long since grown and moved away laughingly drank hot chocolate, ate Christmas goodies and once upset an oil lamp causing quite a stir. We remember the Sunday School classes who made the decorations for the Christmas tree, and those who brought the tree and decorated it. We are grateful for those who brought wood for the fire, and moved the snow so carolers could park. We fondly remember those who played the organ and sang, the countless people who read bible verses, the guitar and sometimes violin players and all who come to raise their voices in song. We remember the warmth from the wood stove, the hot chocolate makers and all who brought gifts of food to share.

As we look back and forward in lives sometimes too busy to appreciate the small beautiful moments, it seems the perfect time to say thank you to the dedicated community members who make the Cap-aux-Os Carol Service such an important part of our Christmas Journey, and a special thanks to Kim Simpson for her faithful dedication to this event.

GASPÉ PENINSULA: - Mistreatment and abuse of all sorts towards seniors are a reality in our society, including on the Gaspé. That's the reason why there will soon be a campaign on that issue. Spec was at the press conference of the organization that is launching this important initiative in the Percé Rock MRC.

On December 5, the round table to counter abuse towards the elderly in the MRC of Rocher-Percé gave a press conference in Chandler which was attended by many journalists from the region and those involved in community groups. "With seniors, against mistreatment" is the slogan of the campaign which will take place starting in January and continuing until the spring of 2019 (yes, an 18-month campaign).

This project is unique given that there will be some 20 presentations of a particular kind which means that everywhere a presentation is made, it will include seminars, tips, tools, debates and a sketch interpreted by two artists: Comedian Pierre-André Bujold and puppeteer, Karine Leblanc. The duo, during the conferences, will present a scene with a mother and her son in conflict. A situation where the son abuses his mother psychologically.

A short scene was presented in Chandler in front of the audience and the journalists. A very touching moment that made MRC Prefect,

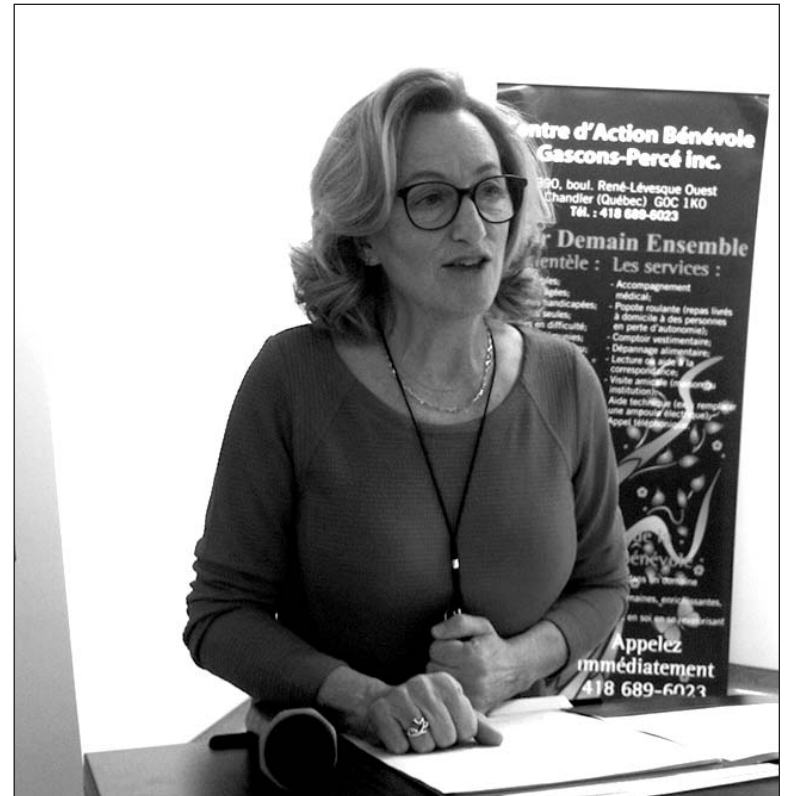


Photo: T. Haroun

The spokesperson of the table, Suzanne Bourget.

Nadia Minassian cry. The relationship that was expressed during that scene was of a serious matter.

Following the press conference, Nadia Minassian, had this to say to Spec. "We must realize that this subject has to be taken very seriously. Moreover, we, on the Gaspé, have the highest rate of seniors in the province. Mistreatment of seniors comes from where you don't expect it. Often it comes from the family and even the children on their parents. This campaign is a must and we hope that many will attend these conferences which will be presented in our MRC," she added.

The spokesperson of the Table, Suzanne Bourget, confirms that an English version of these conferences will be

available starting next spring. "It's so important to reach the anglophone community because they are also concerned by this serious issue. We will do a presentation in English in the West part of the MRC, the Port-Daniel-Gascons area and one in the East part of the MRC, in the Barachois area.. The dates are yet to be fixed but we will keep you posted," she pointed out before adding: "mistreatment can take many forms, such as psychological abuse, physical, financial or even sexual abuse. These are taboo subjects but they have to be debated in the public." The CALACS, CAVAC, Centre d'Action Bénévole Gascons-Percé, CISSS, FADOQ, CASA and the regional Alzheimer Society are some of the partners.

Work to resume soon on the Grand Cascapedia bridge

Gilles Gagné

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES: - On December 8, Quebec's Transport department announced that the main repair work on the Grand Cascapedia River bridge was stopped on November 29 and was supposed to resume on December 11 or shortly after.

The main reason for that halt was the presence of a void that was more significant than expected under one of the pillars slated for consolidation work.

The situation was first noticed by a Transport Quebec employee who then notified the *Commission des normes, de l'équité, de la santé et de la*

sécurité au travail, the CNESST, Quebec's body in charge of health and safety at the workplace.

The CNESST then requested the approval of an engineer before lifting the repair work halt, mentions Sophie Gaudreault, of Quebec's department of Transport, in a press release. Some data collecting and analysis were carried out and correction measures were applied to assure the safety of the workers assigned to repair the bridge.

The CNESST was supposed to make the final approval of the remediation measures applied to the site. It was expected to be done on December 11, as SPEC was

reaching its deadline. The bridge has been closed since May 8 due to erosion under pillar number 9.

That erosion observation was attributed to a very high water level of the river during the previous days but a report obtained from Transport Quebec showed that there was a void under that pillar already in 2015.

Transport Quebec mentions in its press release that there will be "no impact on the final delivery of the project, namely traffic resumption on the bridge, scheduled for the end of June." In reality, the ministry had mentioned that traffic would resume at the beginning of June on that bridge.



Photo: G. Gagné

Major repair work was stopped between November 29 and December 10 at the Grand Cascapedia bridge supporting Highway 132.

Fewer young people elected in municipal elections

Geneviève Gélinas

GASPÉ – A smaller number of youths aged 18 to 35 years old were elected at the November 5 municipal election than in 2013. They now represent less than 10% of Gaspesian municipal representatives. But in spite of that statistic, municipal politics experienced some rejuvenation in the region.

Two young mayors and 27 young councillors were elected on the Gaspé Peninsula and in the Magdalen Islands, for a total of 29. It's clearly less than in 2013, when 40 youths (3 mayors and 37 councillors) took the lead of municipalities.

Youths now represent 9.35% of the municipal representatives; they were 12.86% in 2013. In the general population, there are 16.65% of 18 to 35-year-old youths. More than half of the municipalities, that is to say 23 out of 44, have no young person among their representatives. Port-Daniel—Gascons, Shigawake, Escuminac, Hope and Hope Town are part of that category, as well as Gaspé and Bonaventure.

New Carlisle and Cascapédia-Saint-Jules have one councillor aged between 18 and 35 on their council. Chandler and Caplan do better with two young councillors. At the other end of the spectrum, three youths sit at the table in Percé, Carleton-sur-Mer and Grosse-Île.

The only two municipalities that elected a mayor of 35 years old or less are Carleton-sur-Mer, with Mathieu Lapointe, 31 years of age, and Cloridorme, with Denis Fortin, who is 34 years old.

"Of course, between 9% and 10% of youth is not enough (...). To have 11 fewer youth (than in 2013) may seem negative, but we also have to check the 35 to 45 year old age range, which I don't consider as old. I felt a rejuvenation, people who were less than 35 years old (at the last election) and who are now part of the next age range," says Danik O'Connor, coordinator of the Commission jeunesse Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine, the region's Youth Commission.

For example, Percé mayor Cathy Poirier is 42 years old and Gaspé mayor Daniel Côté is 38 years old.

The Commission jeunesse



Credit: Danik O'Connor

To have 11 youth less (than in 2013) may seem negative, but we also have to check the 35 to 45 years old age range, which I don't consider as old", points out Danik O'Connor, coordinator of the Commission jeunesse Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine.

has tried to recruit young candidates, Mr. O'Connor explains. "We did an awareness campaign on social medias with success stories (of young mayors and councillors). It was shared a lot on social media."

"We have to consider the reality of the 25 to 35-year-old people, at an age when they enter the labour market and start a family. It leaves them less time for involvement," Mr. O'Connor adds. "Municipal councils will have to find a way to conciliate family life and elected representatives' responsibilities and it's important that municipalities themselves promote youth involvement."

Full-time mayor offices are more likely to attract young people, believes Mr. O'Connor. "Our region is made up of several small municipalities. The mayor's job isn't paid like a full-time job even if sometimes, it's a full-time job. It's not attractive to young people who have to make a living." The Commission jeunesse coordinator points out that Gaspé and Carleton-sur-Mer, which offer full-time wages, have young mayors.

The key is also to encourage young people to get involved in their community very early, as early as 12 years of age, says Mr. O'Connor. "From this pool of young people could emerge future councillors or future mayors."

Being young is sometimes an asset

Carleton-sur-Mer has the

youngest mayor of the Gaspé, Mathieu Lapointe. Electors didn't express concerns about his age during his campaign, the 31-year-old man reports. "But I've heard that people wanted change."

Mr. Lapointe didn't worry about his age either. "I've done a term as councillor from 2013. I've been a development agent at the (Avignon) MRC. I got to know other elected representatives of the territory. It was natural for me to run."

There are two councillors younger than Mr. Lapointe on the Carleton-sur-Mer council, Jean-Simon Landry and Marie-Hélène Richard. "What is fun is that we have a good balance; younger people and older people. We have to represent the population as much as possible. We have interesting discussions."

Allyson Cahill-Vibert, 25 years-old, is the youngest of Percé municipal councillors. At the same table, there are also Andréanne Trudel Vibert, 27 years old and Nicolas Ste-Croix, 32 years old. It means that three of eight councillors are less than 35 years old.

Ms. Cahill-Vibert has noticed that the various generations listen to each other on the council. "Older persons teach us how it works and we bring new ideas," she says.

The councillor thinks that her age helped her to get elected. "In at least 60% of houses – and I visited them all in my district – I was told that it was a good thing to see young people come back. People said to we had to put aside our old issues and make room for younger (candidates)."

Ms. Cahill-Vibert obtained 79% of the votes in her district against two candidates.

18 to 35-years-olds elected per MRC

**Avignon : 8/75
Bonaventure : 7/91
Rocher-Percé : 5/38
Côte-de-Gaspé : 3/35
Haute-Gaspésie : 2/57
Îles-de-la-Madeleine : 4/14
Total : 29/310**



Police report

The *Bureau des enquêtes indépendantes*, (BEI) the police unit created by the Quebec government to investigate certain police interventions, has completed its report regarding an event that occurred in Gaspé on October 23, 2016. A 32 year-old man from Gaspé was then injured when shot at by a Sûreté du Québec police officer, in the shopping mall parking lot of Carrefour Gaspé. That man was carrying a screw driver and was walking towards one of the police officers. The police officers had previously tried to talk to the man and had maced him but to no avail.

The *Bureau des enquêtes indépendantes* has submitted the conclusions of its report to the Quebec Department of Justice, which will determine what charges, if any, can be laid against the police officers. Charges could also be laid against the man injured in that intervention. The 32-year-old man had been involved in a previous altercation with a neighbour several hours before the police intervention and was known by the police. He was not seriously injured.

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Commentary

Gilles Gagné

A long electoral campaign is starting

The December 8 end of the National Assembly session spells relief for its members, especially considering that work will only resume at the beginning of February, after about 55 days of relative break. They will certainly need that break, considering that 2018 is an election year and the poll cannot be held later than October 1, if Premier Philippe Couillard respects the electoral law.

That fixed deadline has the advantage of setting the record straight for the electors but we can see that it might lead to an unbelievably long campaign, as the last few weeks have shown that the battle has already started.

Using a budgetary surplus of slightly over \$2 billion, the Liberal government of Mr. Couillard has been distributing gifts for weeks now. Its cabinet members have announced "reinvestments" in education, in health care and, on December 10, to reduce poverty.

The irony of that latter announcement comes from the fact that since 2014, poor families and middle-class households have been the hardest hit cross sections of the population. Low-income people experienced service reductions in a number of ministries, including access to education,

specialized services and social work. Some measures that initially look like savings end up costing way more in remediation means.

Fortunately for the Liberal government, the economy of Quebec is faring reasonably well, as the unemployment rate is low and there is sustained demand for workers in the labour market. However, that reality hides some disturbing facts about the growing trend of "poor workers," people forced to fill two jobs to make ends meet or forced to revert to food banks to feed their families.

Unfortunately for the same Liberal government, the electorate seems to think that the team of Philippe Couillard is worn out. The Liberal Party of Quebec has been in power for about thirteen-and-a-half of the last 15 years. Almost two-thirds of the cabinet members have made it over the stretch, an unusually long period. No political party in Quebec has dominated the scene that way since the Union nationale of Maurice Duplessis between 1944 and 1960.

The Liberal Party was helped in the 2014 election by the incredibly inept campaign of Pauline Marois, who opted for an election without being beaten in a National Assembly vote. For a minority government, it was an unbelievably bad decision, something that fuelled the perception that the Parti Québécois was not in tune with the population. That party still hasn't recovered from that tactical gaffe and seems to fail in rejuvenating its pool of supporters.

Its third place in recent surveys, with a paltry support of 19%, spells trouble for its leader Jean-François Lisée. His leadership is not contested yet because the party cannot afford another leadership race during an electoral year. However, it would be misleading to count Mr. Lisée, a redoubtable tactician, for dead. One must remem-

ber that Justin Trudeau was in third place when another endless electoral campaign, the 78-day federal one in 2015, took off.

François Legault, a former Parti Québécois minister, is currently leading the pack, according to the latest surveys. He would be ill-advised to think that he will undoubtedly be the next premier of Quebec though. His political platform is full of contradictions and, depending on the topics, he changes his mind sometimes on the same day. His Coalition avenir Québec platform is incredibly weak in regional development matters, and he will need those regions if he is to secure a majority government. He is far from that as of now.

Chances are that Quebecers will choose a minority government between August and October 1st. Quebecers are not renowned to liking minority government but they shouldn't panic at that idea.

The best stretch of the Liberal Party tenure since 2003 occurred during the minority government of Jean Charest, between March 2007 and December 2008. Hard-pressed by the now-defunct Action démocratique du Québec and the Parti Québécois, that regime maintained a balance between social and economic measures.

The first 12 months of Pauline Marois, between September 2012 and September 2013, were not too bad either, before she got lost in her obsession for the secular charter.

Quebec solidaire will not win the next Quebec poll but in a minority government, they could play an important role, especially through forcing the other three parties in making room for social and educational measures.

People bored by electoral campaigns will probably find 2018 quite long, but political buffs will likely find it quite exciting.

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1-year (paper or digital): \$46
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Published every Wednesday by:
Les Publications de la Côte Inc.
(Sea-Coast Publications Inc.)

Publisher:
Penny MacWhirter

News Editor:
Gilles Gagné

Office Manager:
Joan Imhoff

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We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada.
We acknowledge special funding from the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications.

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Environnement vert-plus concludes that Bourque has no oil potential

Gilles Gagné

CARLETON – Environnement Vert-plus, the Gaspeian ecological group has come to the conclusion that the Bourque location has no or very little oil potential, despite the publication of a November 23 press release by that site operator, Pieridae Energy, stating that up to 827 barrels of oil are on site.

Pieridae Energy, a Calgary-based company that took control of Pétrolia, the former operator of the site, earlier this year, released that information while partially quoting a report prepared by an Albertan consultant, Sproule Associates Limited.

Pascal Bergeron, the spokesperson for Environnement Vert-plus, criticized Pieridae Energy's omissions in its press release.

"The company has omitted to mention that the same report evaluated the quantity of recoverable oil at 4 million barrels. The independent report of Alberta-based firm Sproule (also) confirms the necessity to frack in order to exploit the "deposit." Moreover, all the resources described in the report have,

according to Sproule, a very weak probability of leading to a commercial development. It is on page 29 of Sproule's report," says Mr. Bergeron.

"If we use another evaluation method, called contingency resources, the level of recoverable oil could be as low as an interval between 600,000 and 2.6 million barrels, but 600,000 barrels only represents a day-and-a-half of Quebec consumption," he says.

A look at Pieridae Energy's press release shows a brief mention of the recoverable oil notion, but it fails to refer to page 29 of Sproule's report.

It says "according to the best estimate in the report, the volume of petroleum initially-in-place contained in the Bourque reservoir is at 827 million barrels. This volume is bracketed by estimates made with 90% and 10% certainty resulting in volumes of 256 million barrels and 1,606 million barrels respectively. These estimates do not account for the amount of the petroleum in place thought to be recoverable nor the economic factors in their eventual development, both of which may be affected by the com-

pletion and production methodologies utilized in the wells."

Pascal Bergeron underlines another omission. "On September 25, 2017, Jean-François Belleau, Pétrolia's spokesperson, affirmed not knowing about the necessity to use fracking (rock fracturing) at Bourque. At that time, he already had in his hands the deposit permeability data submitted to Sproule, which are 0.01 to 0.02 micro-Darcy since the first drilling at Bourque. There is no oil deposit in the world operated without fracking with permeability lower than 0.1 micro-Darcy, which is five to ten times more permeable (than Bourque's). In fact, the development plan proposed by the company (Pétrolia, now a subsidiary of Pieridae) rests on the HMSF, which means horizontal multi-stage fracking. That is on page 26 of Sproule's report," insists Pascal Bergeron.

"We now have in our hands concrete data proving that Pétrolia has been lying to the public all these years," adds Environnement Vert-plus' spokesperson. Pétrolia conducted its first drilling opera-

tion at Bourque in 2012.

Sproule Associates rates at 26% the probability of extracting 16 million barrels of oil from Bourque. The probability is higher to extract only 4 million barrels from that location, mentions the Sproule report on page 18 and 29. It represents 10 to 12 days of Quebec consumption. We are far from provincial autonomy, points out Mr. Bergeron.

"Why is the company talking about 827 million barrels if it is not to make believers dream of it? Only presenting that number as good news while omitting all the negative conclusions is fraudulent. The managers of Pieridae act like crooks in presenting such a reality," adds Pascal Bergeron.

He mentions that the mayor of Murdochville, Delisca Ritchie-Roussy unfortunately believed in the selective numbers presented by Pieridae.

"It must be remembered that neither the Natives of the region nor the Non-Natives, or the rest of the province's population have given their consent to the Quebec government engaging in hydrocarbon development, and less so to fracking," states the

Environnement Vert-plus spokesperson.

He is surprised to see Ms. Ritchie-Roussy talking about the creation of 100 to 150 jobs in these circumstances. Those jobs have previously been mentioned on a few occasions, and linked to the liquefaction of natural gas by a potential partner of Pieridae Energy, a company named Tugliq. The liquefaction unit would be located in Gaspé if the project ever gets off the ground.

"Has the mayor of Murdochville had access to a job creation scenario and if so, how and can she make it public? Is she only dreaming about such a scenario?" asks Mr. Bergeron.

At the November public meeting of the Côte-de-Gaspé MRC, Environnement Vert-plus representatives asked the council of mayors to withdraw its support from the Bourque project and to become informed about that initiative. "The mayors flatly refused to withdraw their support," he says.

Pascal Bergeron says that fracking would imply dozens of wells near the source of two important salmon rivers, Dartmouth and York.

According to Environnement Vert-plus, mayors are being misled

Gilles Gagné

CARLETON – The elected officials of the Côte-de-Gaspé MRC and Gaspé constituency are continuing to ignore information that is available and are consequently getting entangled in requests to get the Quebec government orientations in hydrocarbon development, according to Pascal Bergeron, spokesperson for Environnement Vert-plus.

The government has a dual role in this file, as legislator and promoter, points out Mr. Bergeron, in reference to Ressources-Québec's multi-million dollar investments in the oil and gas search, including at Bourque, near Murdochville, where it has a stake of 45%. Ressources-Québec is Investissement-Québec's arm in hydrocarbons.

"The mayors and Gaétan Lelièvre (Member of the National Assembly for the Gaspé riding) are asking the Quebec government for infor-



Photo: G. Gagné

The mayors are misled if they wait for Quebec government's orientations, according to Environnement Vert-plus.

mation regarding Bourque but that government and the well operator of Bourque (Pieridae) are not independent sources of information. The government has an interest at Bourque," emphasizes Mr.

Bergeron.

"Those elected people seem to be looking for information that would comfort their previous decision to give their support to the Bourque project. They are not looking

for objective information," adds Mr. Bergeron.

"People can easily pretend that they don't have the relevant information when they refuse to meet with people having that information. We have offered to provide the mayors and Gaétan Lelièvre with the information they are seeking from the government. We have asked the mayor of Gaspé (and now Côte-de-Gaspé prefect) Daniel Côté and Gaétan Lelièvre for a meeting several times, and they told me that it would happen. However, nobody contacted me. Even (Natural Resources Minister) Pierre Moreau spent 20 minutes with us but not the leaders of our region," says Pascal Bergeron.

He reminds the mayors that the Bourque project will necessarily require fracking, based on the Sproule Associates report.

Mr. Bergeron also challenges a recent statement made by the mayor of Gaspé, Daniel Côté, to the effect that

natural gas represents a good transition fuel between oil and renewable sources of energy.

"In order to be a real transition fuel, natural gas, of fossil origin like oil, would have to lead to a greenhouse effect gas reduction for the province. However, even with a marginal exploitation scenario, underrated fugitive emissions and an underrated conversion level of carbon dioxide emissions from methane, the BAPE commissioners concluded in 2014 that Quebec's greenhouse effect gases would increase by 3% with a switch to natural gas," explains Pascal Bergeron.

The BAPE is the *Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement*, Quebec's body in charge of assessing the projects with a potential environmental impact. The 2014 conclusion stemmed from public hearings pertaining to shale gas. The BAPE conclusion is supported by international experts.

2017 another record year in Quebec commercial fisheries, including Gaspesian fishermen

Gilles Gagné

PASPEBIAC: – The value of landings made in Quebec fishing harbours reached a record high for the fourth consecutive year in 2017, attaining an astounding peak of \$331.6 million, which is \$64.1 million more than the \$267.5 million of 2016.

The amount of \$331.6 million is still preliminary, as some shrimp landings remained to be done on November 7, when that number was released by the federal department of Fisheries and Oceans. “Preliminary” could translate into an increment of several millions of dollars once the number is made official, but that won’t come before mid-2018.

The now official number for 2016 was referred to as \$258.5 million until the third quarter of 2017, before the total of \$267.5 million was released. So the increase was \$9 million between the preliminary and the official numbers.

Crab and lobster landings composed the bulk of the



Snow crab landings amounted to \$182 million this year alone in Quebec. Before 2014, that figure would have surpassed the value of all Quebec species' landings.

2017 revenues. Snow crab deliveries to the Gaspé Peninsula, North Shore and Magdalen Islands harbours amounted to an impressive total of \$182 million, thanks to a very high quota in the southern part of the gulf of St. Lawrence.

That quota rise is in an area better known as “zone 12,” it reached 103%, to 43,822 metric tonnes. The percent of Gaspesians and Magdalen Islanders in that quota was just below 25%.

The value of the Gaspé Peninsula crab fishermen

landings amounted to \$95.9 million, including some catches made in zone 17, located along the north side of the region. That number more than doubles the value of the 2016 landings, which reached \$46.3 million. The quantities, which were 75% higher than a year ago, and the price, which was characterized by a rise of at least 19%, fuelled that revenue increment.

Lobster revenues

Quebec’s lobster fishermen experienced another banner year in 2017, with total landings of 7,378 metric tonnes, for a value of \$112 million. Both numbers are absolute records since Fisheries and Oceans Canada started compiling official numbers, in 1984. It is a 42% increase for the value of catches, and a 47% hike for their volume.

The catches increased in three of the four commercial fishing areas. In the Gaspé Peninsula, lobster fishermen caught 2,486 metric tonnes, a 29% increase compared to the 1,926 tonnes of 2016.

That element, mixed with an 8% price increase, propelled total revenues to \$38.3 million. It is a 39.3% gain over \$27.5 million in 2016.

The price of lobster reached \$6.98 per pound in 2017 in the Gaspé Peninsula. It was \$6.47 in 2016. The 2017 numbers are still preliminary, says Ali Magasouba, economist for Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

“The value of Quebec lobster catches has more than doubled in three years but, considering that the value was \$35 million in 2010, it has about tripled in seven years,” he says.

The Magdalen Islands remain the top region for lobster in Quebec. After just an average year in 2016, the archipelago lobster fishermen declared catches of 4,215 metric tonnes, an all-time record and a 64.8% increase compared to the previous year. The overall revenues consequently exploded to \$64.1 million. The price paid to the fishermen only increased by 0.8%, to \$6.90 per pound, from \$6.85.

SPDS gymnasium project progresses

Gilles Gagné

NEW CARLISLE – Architects Bourbeau, Proulx et Savard, of Rimouski, has been working on the Shigawake-Port Daniel School gymnasium project for weeks now. The construction contract for the building will be awarded by the end of the winter or early spring.

The engineering contract went to LGT, a company based in Quebec City with an office in Rimouski. Bourbeau, Proulx et Savard and LGT are currently working on the plans and specifications of the new building, points out Trevor Renouf, the Eastern Shores School Board supervisor of buildings and equipment.

“Once the specifications have been completed by the professionals and then ap-



Photo: G. Gagné

The new gymnasium construction will start over the spring.

proved by the ministry (of Education), we will then be able to set up a more precise time (for the selection of a contractor and a construction start date). Our target date will be April 2018,” points out Mr.

Renouf.

Construction can only start “once the contract has been signed by all parties,” he adds.

As for the delivery date, “it will depend on various factors. However, we hope for a

December 2018-January 2019 delivery,” points out Mr. Renouf.

The tentative value of the contract will only be released later. “I cannot give a very accurate dollar figure right now

as it could potentially hurt bids,” he says.

A delivery on time for the next school year is not possible, says Mr. Renouf, because such a project can’t start “until the ground is thawed out.”

Eastern Shores School Board announced the new gymnasium on June 26. The new building will not only serve the students but also the adult population of Shigawake, Port Daniel and the surrounding communities.

An amount of \$2.6 million was allocated to the project but that sum includes a number of budgetary items, including professional services like architecture and engineering.

The project was initially submitted in August 2016 by Eastern Shores School Board.



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Shrimp and groundfish landings decrease

Gilles Gagné

PASPEBIAC – The preliminary statistics of the federal department of Fisheries and Oceans show a sharp decrease of close to 30% in the value and volume of shrimp landings in Quebec in 2017. The decrease is also noted in the overall value of ground fish species.

The landings of shrimp went down by almost 30% in 2017 compared to 2016, from 16,138 metric tonnes to just a bit above 12,000 metric tonnes. A few fishermen were still at sea when the last numbers were released by Fisheries and Oceans

Canada. That situation stemmed from a substantial quota reduction in the gulf of Saint Lawrence.

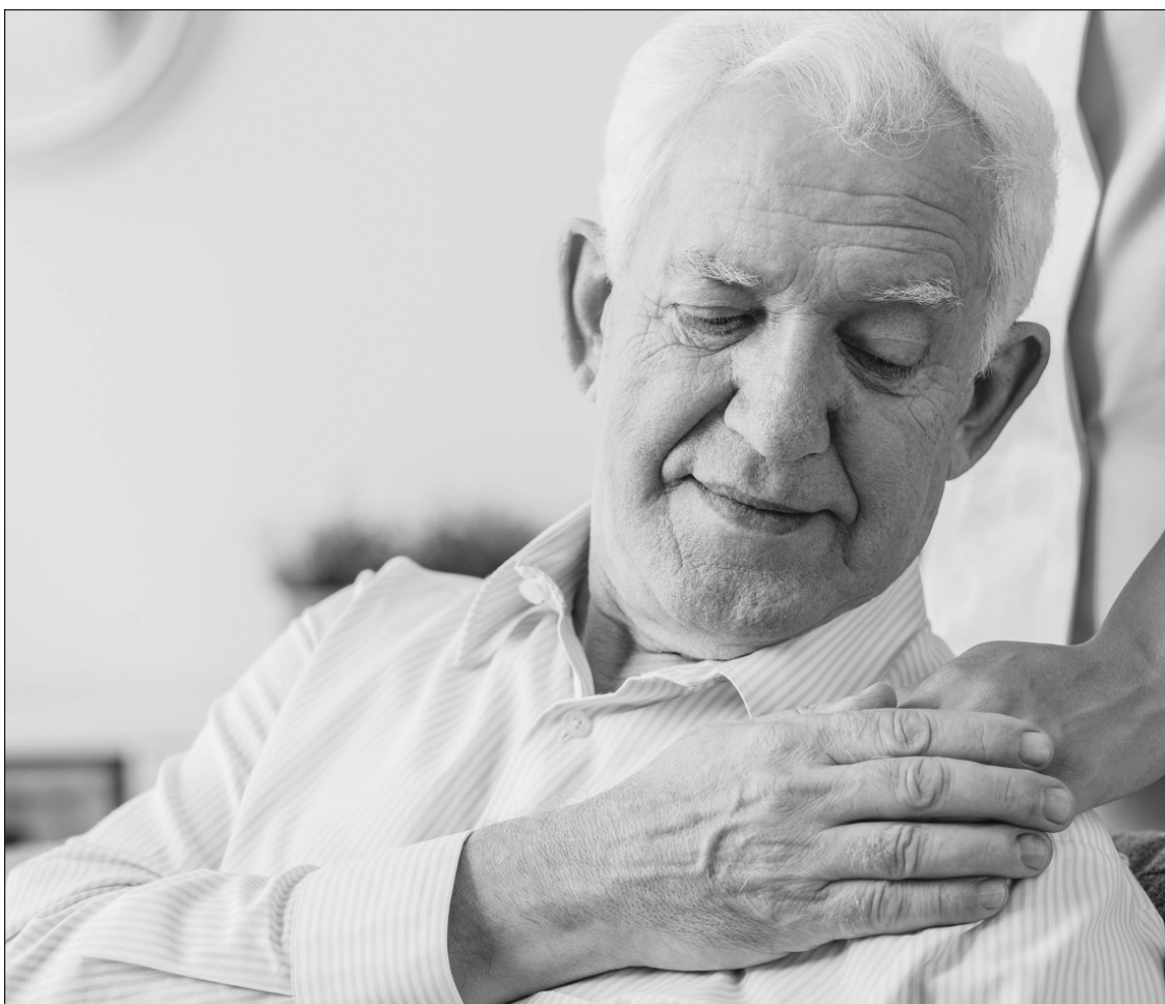
The value of those catches dropped significantly, from \$48.9 million a year ago to \$26.6 million in 2017. A 19% price drop also explains the sharp decline in revenue, points out economist Martial Ménard, of Fisheries and Oceans Canada. The bulk of shrimp landings are made by Gaspé Peninsula fishermen.

Groundfish, total revenues attributable to turbot, halibut, cod and redfish dropped for only the second time since 2010, from \$18.3 million to \$15.2 million, which repre-

sents a 16.4% drop. The number includes marginal catches of other species. That drop comes essentially from a 47% reduction in turbot catches.

Halibut revenues maintained their sharp increase, as they reached \$7.7 million this year, compared to \$6.3 million in 2016. It is a record and an 18% increase. It is also seven times more than in 2010. There as well, the bulk of those catches are made by Gaspésians.

Note: The value of landings surpassed the \$200 million mark for the first time in 2014. The number for 2017 is still preliminary.



Local respite service for caregivers of Alzheimer patients

Wendy Dawson

GASPÉ - The Alzheimer Society for Gaspésie – Îles de la Madeleine now offers a respite service for those individuals caring for family or loved ones affected by Alzheimer's disease.

People seeking this kind of support can reach out to the Alzheimer's Society for an assessment that will allow the organization to establish what the means and needs are for each patient. Once the assessment is complete, patients can be received once a week at the Gaspé Youth Centre where a

variety of stimulating activities will be offered over the course of the day.

The service has been offered since early November as the Society recognizes the impact that caring for someone with Alzheimer's can have on the caregiver. Care is often required around the clock, seven days the week. This service is

meant to offer some support and a chance for those caregivers to recharge their batteries.

More information about the service can be acquired by visiting the Facebook page of the Alzheimer Society for Gaspésie – Îles de la Madeleine or by calling Anne Minville at 418 368-1616.



PUBLIC NOTICE

To the qualified voters entitled to have their name entered on the referendum list of the entire municipality:

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given by the undersigned, Town clerk of Ville de Gaspé, that at a regular sitting held on December 4, 2017, the Town Council has adopted the following By-Law:

1343-17 :« RÈGLEMENT DÉCRÉTANT UNE DÉPENSE D'UNE SOMME DE 1 456 210 \$ ET UN EMPRUNT DE 1 456 210 \$ POUR DES TRAVAUX DE REMPLACEMENT DU SYSTÈME DE RÉFRIGÉRATION DE L'ARÉNA ROSAIRE-TREMBLAY DE RIVIÈRE-AU-RENARD »

THAT the persons qualified to vote on the By-Law on the date of December 4, 2017, and who have therefore the right to demand that this By-Law be submitted to a referendum poll will have access to a register open for that purpose from nine (9) hours to nineteen (19) hours on December 19 and 20, 2017 at the office of the undersigned, at the Town Hall in order to enter their name, address and occupation together with their signature.

IS A QUALIFIED VOTER OF THE MUNICIPALITY

A person who, on December 4, 2017, is not disqualified from voting according to article 524 of the Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities and meets the following requirements:

- a natural person domiciled in the municipality and, since at least six months, in Québec and
- is of full age and a Canadian citizen, and not under curatorship.

The non resident sole owner of an immovable or non resident sole occupant of a business place situated in the municipality who is not disqualified from voting and meets the following requirements:

- is the owner of an immovable or sole occupant of a business place situated in the municipality since at least 12 months;
- in the case of a natural person, be of full age and Canadian citizen and not under curatorship.

The non resident undivided co-owners and non resident co-occupants of a business place situated in the municipality not disqualified from voting and meet the following requirements:

- is the undivided co-owner of an immovable or co-occupant of a business place situated in the municipality since at least 12 months;
- is designated by means of a power of attorney signed by a majority of the persons who are co-owners or co-occupants since at least 12 months, as the one who has the right to sign in their name and to be entered on the referendum list of the municipality. This power of attorney must be produced before or at the signature time.

Legal person:

- have designated by resolution among its members, directors or employees, a person who, on December 4, 2017, and at voting time, is of full age and Canadian citizen, is not under curatorship and is not disqualified to vote.

THAT the persons qualified to vote on the By-Law in question must establish their identity to the responsible person for the register, by presenting, among others: a health-insurance card issued by the Québec Health Insurance Board, a driver's permit issued by the Québec Automobile Insurance Society, a Canadian passport, an identity card of the Canadian armed forces, a certificate of Indian status.

THAT the number of applications needed in order that a referendum poll be held for this By-Law is 1 211 and failing this number, the concerned By-Law will be deemed approved by the qualified voters.

THAT the qualified voters may examine this By-Law at the office of the undersigned from 8 h 15 am till 12 h and from 1 h till 4 h 30 pm from Monday till Thursday, and from 8 h 15 am till 12 h on Friday, and during registration hours.

THAT the result of this registration procedure will be announced on December 20, 2017, at 7 pm, at the office of the undersigned, 25, rue de l'Hôtel-de-Ville in Gaspé.

GIVEN at Gaspé, December 13, 2017.

Isabelle Vézina,
Director of legal services and town clerk

Another setback for the Metis

Geneviève Gélinas

GASPÉ: – Gaspesian Metis are encountering a new setback for a second time as the Superior Court of Quebec refuses to recognize them and one of their members the right to have their court costs reimbursed. The Metis community is trying to publicly finance a trial to gain recognition of their rights.

In 2010, a member of the Metis community, Éric Parent, was charged with having fished 40 flounder in the Chaleur Bay, as the limit was 15. He pleads his Metis status and his aboriginal rights to fish all year long, for food and for trading purposes. He wants his rights and the rights of the Metis community to be recognized.

To facilitate the achievement of such a goal, Mr. Parent and the Metis community asked the Superior Court to grant them advanced costs. It means that they want the opposing side, in this case the Government of Canada, to pay their judicial expenses. In a judgment released on November 20, a Superior Court judge refused.

Judge François Huot writes that neither Mr. Parent nor the Metis community are needy. Mr. Parent and his partner had revenues of \$175,000 in 2016 and the man didn't invest in the legal case, the

judge states.

The Metis community is the one paying for the proceedings. The organization's revenues were \$312,000 in 2015-2016. According to the judge, the community has the capacity to pay for the proceedings and is already paying for other proceedings.

The community's "stated goal is to finance those disputes until a court grants an advanced costs award (...). The Tribunal feels that the taxpayers shouldn't have to pay for the strategic choices of the Corporation (Metis community) or for the financial decisions of Éric Parent," judge Huot wrote.

"No evidence was submitted in regards to the seriousness of the cause," the judge adds. "The description of the life of a member of the contemporary Metis community (...) doesn't present any feature distinguishing it from the way of life of other Gaspesian citizens."

Judge Huot feels that the plaintiff didn't prove that his cause was significant to the public. "The consequences of the dispute will limit to plaintiff Parent," he emphasizes.

"It's clear that this judge doesn't want to hear anything from us. His judgement doesn't surprise me. It looks like his first judgment," says Benoît Lavoie, grand chief of the Gaspésie, Lower St.

Lawrence and Magdalen Islands aboriginal Metis Nation.

"We'll appeal the judgment. The judges (of the Court of Appeal) may choose to order a new trial or to reject the appeal. If they reject it, we'll go to the Supreme Court of Canada," adds Mr. Lavoie.

"We're 20,000 members, that's a matter of public concern," the chief believes. Neither Mr. Parent nor the Metis community can afford to pay a trial, explains Mr. Lavoie.

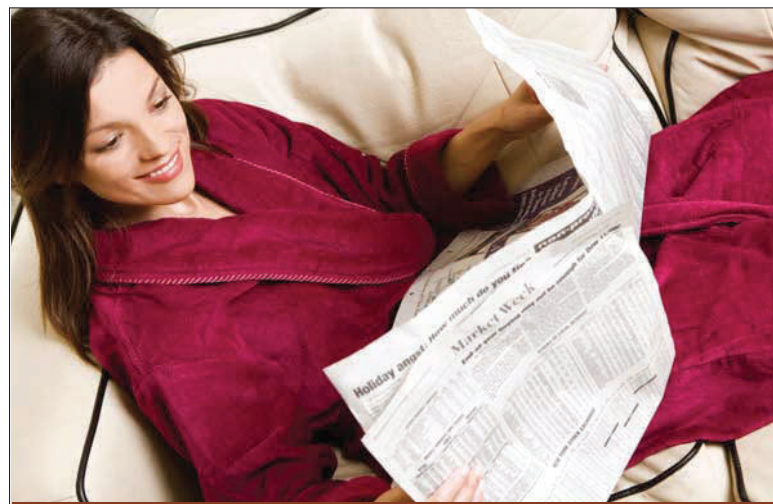
"That kind of trial could cost \$2 million. It's a community cause, not a personal cause." To hire experts to support the case is expensive, Mr. Lavoie explains.

The Nation has 20,000 members, 17,000 adults and 3,000 children. Of those, 10,000 paid their \$30 membership this year.

Until now, the Nation has spent \$360,000 in various legal proceedings. "To gain recognition of our rights, we

have no choice but to go to court (...). They (the government) make sure that it's as expensive as possible for us, they reject all our files," says Mr. Lavoie.

Judge Huot had already rejected the Metis request for an advanced costs award in 2014. The Court of appeal overturned this decision in 2016, stating that the file content should have incited the judge to be more cautious and to hear the parties on its merits.



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Enthusiastic crowd at “Noël au Village”

Gilles Gagné

VILLAGE ALLARD (NOUVELLE): – The eleventh “Noël au Village” parade took place on Sunday, December 10, in the Village Allard section of Nouvelle, with well over 10,000 children and adults present. Dozens of floats set up by various businesses and organizations as well as clowns, cartoon characters, fire eaters and animators instilled oodles of life into the parade. Freshly fallen snow added a Christmas touch that had been somewhat missing in 2016, as there was not a snowflake in sight last year. People from as far as Rimouski and Gaspé attended the event, either as attendees or

animators. Again this year, the event sponsored the *Fondation Rêves d’enfants*, as \$1,600 was raised to help sick children have their dreams come true. Since 2010, the generosity of the crowd has contributed \$14,775 to this cause. Santa Claus was of course the most coveted character of the parade, but the fire eaters impressed a lot of people too.

The parade was first organized by Ghislain Allard, a now-deceased grandfather who wanted to make sure that all the children of Village Allard would receive a gift for Christmas. It started with a single horse pulling a sleigh for a handful of children and has grown a hundred-fold since.



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- Design a development and maintenance plan with respect to all facilities.
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Qualifications required:

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- Ten (10) years of relevant leadership experience, including at least five (5) years in a senior staff position.

Profile of the ideal candidate:

- Knowledge of rural education issues and opportunities.
- Demonstrate leadership, management and strong communications skills.
- Be bilingual (English/French).
- Demonstrate competences in Information Technology (IT), marketing, public relations, pedagogy and governmental relations.
- Coordinate mandates in a complex organization which will demand: excellent interpersonal skills, ability to negotiate effectively, creativity, autonomy and possessing decision-making skills.

Remuneration: Salary will be according to the salary scale in force (108 330 \$ to 144 436 \$).

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Cathy Martin's suspension lifted

Gilles Gagné

LISTUGUJ: – The Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government has lifted the suspension imposed on councillor Cathy Martin, "with the objective to restore balance within council," mentions a press release. The same government nevertheless launches "an independent inquiry (...) to resolve internal issues."

In that written statement, the same council mentions that the decision to suspend Cathy Martin was based on a breach of the code of conduct and that it was "posed as a protective measure rather than punitive, in the interim time that a procedure could be decided on. The breach of the code of conduct could have affected the reputation of the community and employees who have contributed significantly to the progress LMG (Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government) is making on its initiatives."

Councillor Cathy Martin was suspended on November 13 for three months because of her position regarding a \$3 million investment made by the band council in Zenabis, a cannabis production plant located in Atholville. Ms. Martin was of the view that converting that investment into shares of the company required consultation with band members.

The premature lifting of Cathy Martin's 18-day suspension came a few days after a letter was sent to her by Marc Boivin, director of governance policy at the federal department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development.

Mr. Boivin wrote that the office of the chief or councillor would only become vacant upon death, resignation or conviction of an indictable offence, or by declaration of the minister. None of those conditions applied to the reasons behind the suspension of Cathy Martin but Mr. Boivin didn't specify in his letter what the power of the council

with regards to disciplinary measures was.

The reason behind the code of conduct policy "is to maintain a harmonious and mutually beneficial relationship between chief and council and the Listuguj members. The council's desire is to serve the members fairly and efficiently," also mentions the Listuguj band council press release.

It is also written that "the Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government is committed to resolving effectively and sensitively, any existing issue within the council that may hinder the council's duties to serve the people. "We are being very

proactive in addressing any internal political conflicts, internally, with the individuals concerned, and we have our community matters under control, with the best interests of our people at heart," says Darcy Gray, chief of the Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government, in the same document.

During the abovementioned inquiry, "the LMG council asks for discretion, until the situation can be investigated. Until then, council members will turn their attention to their council responsibilities for the growth and empowerment of the community."

In the meantime, council-



Photo: courtesy of Cathy Martin
Cathy Martin.


lor Cathy Martin maintains that "there was no grounds for that suspension," considering

that "the decision was made by only six people in a closed room. That was an abuse of power."


She has filed a complaint with the Sûreté du Québec, asking the police force to investigate her case. "I took legal action on November 24 (...) I was the target of criminal harassment," she simply says for now.

Ms. Martin was scheduled to meet with a Sûreté du Québec investigator during the second week of December.


The next meeting of the Listuguj band council will not take place before January, unless a special meeting is called before.




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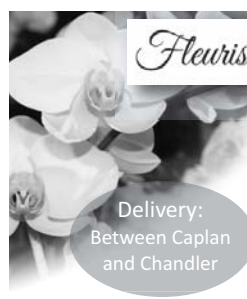
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Announcements...

Obituaries

LEGGO: Cecil Alvin

September 3, 1926 - December 1, 2017

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Cecil Leggo on December 1, 2017, at the Hotel Dieu Hospital in Gaspé.

Cecil was born in a family of five and is predeceased by his parents Elvin and Alma (nee Roberts), brothers Wesley (Grace), Embert, and Calmus, and sister Ina (Denzil DeVouge).

He joins his beloved wife Gladys (nee Ellement) (2001), his darling daughter Sheila (January 2017) and son-in-law Victor Briand (2010). Loving father of Roger (Bernadette), Harry (Cheryl), Sharon (Ozzie), Rodney (Glory), Rhonda (Don), Ivan and Alvin (Lisa). His proud legacy goes on with eleven grandchildren, eleven great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

He will also be fondly remembered and greatly missed by his special friend Phyllis Morris, his sisters and brothers-in-law and his many nieces and nephews.

Visitation and funeral was held at St. Patrick's Church in Douglastown. Visitation was Tuesday, December 5, 2 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m., and Wednesday, December 6, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. just before the funeral at 11 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, a donation to the Heart and Stroke Foundation would be appreciated. <http://www.coeure-tavc.ca>

PATTERSON: David James

Passed away at home on November 21 at the age of 84 years and 10 months, Mr. David James Patterson, husband of Mrs. Margaret Patterson from Wakeham.

The family received condolences at the Résidence funéraire Valère Fortin of Gaspé, on Thursday, November 23, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. and before the funeral on Friday, November 24 at noon.

Funeral service was held at St. James Church, Wakeham on Friday, November 24, at 2 p.m.

Interment to follow at St-James Cemetery, Wakeham.

He leaves behind: his children: Shirley (Peter); Paul; Rose-Marie (Ted); Stanton (Karen); Molly (Larry); Sam (Beverly); Clark; Alma (Adrian) and his daughter-in-law Lolene; 18 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren; one brother Walter; many nephews, nieces, cousins and many friends.

He is predeceased by his son Woodrow.

In lieu of flowers, a donation may be made to the Lung Association.

Notice

Please note that the funeral service for Sylvia Drody will be held at St. Patrick's Church in Douglastown at 10 a.m. on July 24, 2018.

In Memoriam

GALLON: Arthur

In loving memory of a dear father, father-in-law and grandfather who passed away December 18, 2000.

*Loving and kind in all his ways,
Upright and just to the end of his days,
Sincere and kind in heart and mind,
What a beautiful memory he left behind.*

Always remembered by John, Maria, Amy and Katie xoxo.



ROBERTS: Wayne

In loving memory of a dear husband, father and grandfather who passed away December 30, 2016.

*Broken Chain
Little knew that morning
That God would call your name.
In life we loved you dearly,
In death we do the same.
It broke our hearts to lose you,
You did not go alone;
For part of us went with you
The day God called you home,
You left us peaceful memories,
Your love is still our guide,
And though we cannot see you,
You are always by our side.
Our family chain is broken
And nothing seems the same,
But as God calls us one by one,
The chain will link again.*

Always loved and never will be forgotten, Nancy, Wade, Stacy, Erin, Megan, Tyson, Natalie, Alison and Hannah

Happy Birthday Dear Shane



L to R: Dennis, Bryan, Shane (birthday boy), Kerry and Sharon.

Shane Murray - Cheers to 70 years (vintage 1947) On October 28, 2017, Shane's four siblings reunited in our hometown, New Carlisle, to celebrate his milestone birthday... a memorable family time!

OUR RATES: CARD OF THANKS, BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT, PRAYER, ENGAGEMENT, BIRTHDAY, ANNIVERSARY, MEMORIAL SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT: \$30 (\$35 with picture) up to 20 lines. IN MEMORIAM: \$30 (\$35 with picture) up to 20 lines - \$40 (\$45 with picture) More than 20 lines OBITUARY OR WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT: \$40.00 (\$45.00 with picture) (Max. 300 words) Please send your announcement to: joan.spec@globetrotter.net



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Social notes...



Sharon Howell

GASPÉ NEWS

Hello everyone. It's beginning to look a lot more like Christmas these days. The time is just whipping by and soon we will be into 2018. As this is probably the last time I will be submitting news for 2017 I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and may 2018 bring you all good health, peace, joy, hope, love, and much happiness. Here is a small taste of what has been going on in the area.

Recent events and news

The York River Seniors Club held their annual Christmas dinner, party and dance on Saturday, December 2 at Gaspé Elementary School. As in previous years the catering for the delicious dinner was done by Elaine and Albert Patterson and their staff. The Club now has 293 members and this year there were 165 people who attended the dinner. The music this year was provided by Diane Bérubé and Raymond Boulay. The floor was occupied for the entire evening which inspired the musicians to keep the music going right to the very last minute. Thank you to the entire York River Seniors Club Executive Board for putting on another successful and great social evening.

The Friends of St. Paul's Anglican Church in Gaspé would like to thank everyone who helped to make their Annual Christmas Sale on Saturday, December 2, such a great success. To those who donated items for the sale, those who helped set up the tables and priced the items, those who assisted during the sale, those who baked for the sale, those who helped with the clean up afterwards, and most especially to those who came and purchased items from the sale, your hard work, dedication, and enthusiasm is appreciated more than you can possibly imagine.

There will be a Carols and Lessons Service held in St. Andrew's Anglican Church in York on Thursday, December 14, at 7 p.m. Many traditional Advent Carols will be sung that accompany the Bible readings for the arrival of the Christ Child on Christmas Day. Everyone is welcome!

The Anglican Parish of Gaspé will have two services on Christmas Eve. The Christmas Pageant or the Crib Service will be held in St. Paul's Church in Gaspé on December 24 at 3 p.m. The traditional Christmas Eve Service will be held in St. Andrew's Church in York on December 24 at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome!

It is always sad to hear about the passing of our friends and neighbours. The following people are remembered with great respect and admiration for their contributions to the community in their own unique ways. Our sympathies are extended to their families, friends and relatives.

Mrs. Ernestine Lemieux Rehel from Barachois passed away at the Pavillon Mgr. Ross on November 18 at the age of 95. She will be dearly missed by her children Lloyd, Lois, Sylvia, Helena, Gary, and their families. She will also be dearly missed by her sister Carmel, her brothers Raymond, Arthur, Kenneth and their families as well as by her many relatives and friends. Mrs. Lemieux Rehel was predeceased by her husband George Rehel, by many siblings, and a granddaughter.

Mrs. Dalilah Perry of Gaspé passed away at the Pavillon Mgr. Ross on November 29 at the age of 56. She will be dearly missed by her hus-

band Wayne Boulet and their children Pamela, Mathieu, Jason and their families. Dalilah will also be dearly missed by her father Lawrence Perry, her sister, her brothers and their families, many relatives and innumerable friends and acquaintances. She loved, adored, and was so very proud of her children and her grandchildren. Dalilah worked at the Gaspé Hospital and the Pavillon Mgr. Ross for many years. She greeted everyone with a smile. She was dedicated in her receptionist duties. She was the "go to person" who always found a solution "like, now." She was a very valued and treasured team member.

Mr. Cecil Leggo of Douglastown passed away at the Gaspé Hospital on December 1st at the age of 91. Mr. Leggo will be dearly missed by his children Roger, Harry, Sharon, Rodney, Rhonda, Ivan, Alvin and their families. He will also be dearly missed by his sisters, brothers-in-law, his dear friend Mrs. Phyllis Morris, plus many nieces, nephews, relatives and numerous friends. Mr. Leggo was predeceased by his wife Gladys in 2001, his son-in-law Victor Briand in 2010, and his daughter Sheila in January 2017. Mr. Leggo was a kind and patient man who was so well liked and well respected. For many years he worked in Murdochville and travelled to and from his home in Douglastown. He was also an avid reader and he really enjoyed a good game of cards. He and Mrs. Phyllis attended almost all the activities in and around the community. He will be greatly missed by many.

Mr. Melvin Roberts of Gaspé, formerly of Grande Grève, passed away at the Pavillon Mgr. Ross on December 4th at the age of 93. Mr. Roberts will be dearly missed by his daughters Vernice, Freda, Marlyn, Debbie, Lisa and by his sons Barry, Jerry, Kevin and their families. He will also be dearly missed by his sisters, his brother, and their families, plus numerous nieces, nephews, relatives and friends. Mr. Roberts was predeceased by his daughter Beryl and by his wife Mrs. Laura Shaw.

Mr. Frank LeBlanc formerly of Gaspé passed away at the Ste. Anne Veteran's Hospital in Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue on December 4 at the age of 95. He will be dearly missed by his daughters Valetta and Alicia and by his son Maurice and their families. He will also be dearly missed by his sisters Lina and Thérèse, his brother Zoel plus many nieces, nephews and numerous friends. Mr. LeBlanc was predeceased by his daughter Anita in 1990. The funeral will be held in Gaspé in summer 2018. He was a well-known Gaspesian and veteran who served his country during WW II. He was a very nice and very sociable person who shared many a cup of coffee with others at the Carrefour in Gaspé. Mr. Frank LeBlanc was a mentor to many people as well as being very generous; he helped many people. He will be truly missed by his many friends.

To those of you who are travelling for the holidays – either coming to Gaspé or leaving Gaspé for other parts of the country – we wish you safe journeys and that you enjoy your holidays with family and friends. We look forward to seeing you over Christmas or in the New Year.

Please join me in extending a very special "Thank You" to all the dedicated people who are involved in keeping our roads clear and safe throughout the coming weeks and months; however, at Christmas time your dedication is very much appreciated. You put the safety of others first and you often miss out on the special occasions with your family and friends. Santa had better include you on his "nice" list and reward you accordingly.

It looks like that is all that I have to share with you for this week. If you have some news to share, please feel free to contact me at photo_ops@hotmail.com. Thank you for your time.



PUBLIC NOTICE

To the qualified voters entitled to have their name entered on the referendum list of the entire municipality and who are users of the sewage system on all the territory of the town of Gaspé:

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given by the undersigned, Clerk of Ville de Gaspé, that at an ordinary sitting held on December 4, 2017, the Town Council has adopted the following By-Law:

1344-17 : DÉCRÉTANT UNE DÉPENSE D'UNE SOMME DE 670 000 \$ ET UN EMPRUNT D'UNE SOMME DE 670 000 \$ POUR LA RÉALISATION DE TRAVAUX DE RÉFECTION DE L'USINE D'ÉPURATION DES EAUX USÉES DE SANDY-BEACH ET POUR LE REMPLACEMENT D'ÉQUIPEMENTS DANS LES STATIONS DE POMPAGE D'EAUX USÉES SP-8, SP-12 ET SP-22.

THAT the persons qualified to vote on the By-Law on the date of December 4, 2017, and who have therefore the right to demand that this By-Law be submitted to a referendum poll will have access to a register open for that purpose from nine (9) hours to nineteen (19) hours on December 19, 2017, at the office of the undersigned, at the Town Hall in order to enter their name, address and occupation together with their signature.

IS A QUALIFIED VOTER OF THE MUNICIPALITY

A person who, on December 4, 2017, is not disqualified from voting according to article 524 of the Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities and meets the following requirements:

- a natural person domiciled in the municipality and, since at least six months, in Québec and
- is of full age and a Canadian citizen, and not under curatorship.

The non resident sole owner of an immovable or non resident sole occupant of a business place situated in the municipality who is not disqualified from voting and meets the following requirements:

- is the owner of an immovable or sole occupant of a business place situated in the municipality since at least 12 months;
- in the case of a natural person, be of full age and Canadian citizen and not under curatorship.

The non resident undivided co-owners and non resident co-occupants of a business place situated in the municipality not disqualified from voting and meet the following requirements:

- is the undivided co-owner of an immovable or co-occupant of a business place situated in the municipality since at least 12 months;
- is designated by means of a power of attorney signed by a majority of the persons who are co-owners or co-occupants since at least 12 months, as the one who has the right to sign in their name and to be entered on the referendum list of the municipality. This power of attorney must be produced before or at the signature time.

Legal person:

- have designated by resolution among its members, directors or employees, a person who, on December 4, 2017, and at voting time, is of full age and Canadian citizen, is not under curatorship and is not disqualified to vote.

THAT the persons qualified to vote on the By-Law in question must establish their identity to the responsible person for the register, by presenting, among others: a health-insurance card issued by the Québec Health Insurance Board, a driver's permit issued by the Québec Automobile Insurance Society, a Canadian passport, an identity card of the Canadian armed forces, a certificate of Indian status.

THAT the number of applications needed in order that a referendum poll be held for this By-Law is 434 and failing this number, the concerned By-Law will be deemed approved by the qualified voters.

THAT the qualified voters may examine this By-Law at the office of the undersigned from 8 h 15 am till 12 h and from 1 h till 4 h 30 pm from Monday till Thursday, and from 8 h 15 am till 12 h on Friday, and during registration hours.

THAT the result of this registration procedure will be announced on December 19, 2017, at 7 pm, at the office of the undersigned, 25, rue de l'Hôtel-de-Ville in Gaspé.

GIVEN at Gaspé, December 13, 2017

Isabelle Vézina,
Director of Légal Services and town clerk



COAST ROUND-UP

DOUGLASTOWN:

Douglastown Community Centre Upcoming Events

Friday, December 22: Solstice supper at 5:30 p.m. It's time to welcome the winter season! We are very proud of our traditional Christmas supper. Invite your family and friends. \$12 for adults (12 years and up), \$6 for children (5-11 years), ages 4 and under (\$3). All are welcome!

Saturday, December 31: New Years' Eve community breakfast from 8 a.m. to 10:30 am, join us for a delicious New Years' Eve breakfast. Traditional menu. \$8 for adults (12 & over), \$4 for children (5-11 years) ages 4 and under, free. It's a great opportunity to wish health, happiness and prosperity to friends and neighbours. Everyone is welcome!

BARACHOIS

Upcoming Activities

The following activity will be held at the Barachois Recreation Center.

December 22: There will be a bingo starting at 7 p.m. Everyone welcome.

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. We are collecting perishable and non-perishable food items for a complete Christmas dinner food basket. Your donation will be greatly appreciated. Gift certificates welcome. All donations can be dropped off at the Legion or by contacting the Legion president, Lloyd Rousel. Tickets on the food basket are available at the Legion.

Thursday Nights: Darts will be held beginning at 7 p.m. New players welcome. No experience necessary

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: Upcoming Events

The following events will be held at the Shigawake Community Center:

Saturday, December 16: Kids Christmas Bingo, 1-4 p.m., Free snacks, free bingo.

Sunday December 31: New Year's Eve dance beginning at 8 p.m. \$12. A light lunch will be served. For tickets contact Ann Benwell at 418-752-8361 or any member.

HOPE TOWN:

Hope Baptist Church

Hope Baptist Church, 305 Route 132 West, invites you to come and worship with us. Sunday School for all ages at 9:45-10:45 a.m., Family Worship at 11 a.m., Wednesday Prayer and Bible Study at 7 p.m., Friday 3:30-5 p.m. King's Kids (ages 5-12) and Young Peoples at 7 p.m. (Grades 7-11) All Sunday messages can be heard on our facebook page. Special Events: **Sunday December 17,** 7 p.m. Sunday School Christmas Concert (November 18 if storming); **Sunday December 24** 6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service.

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: Kempffer Centre Upcoming Activities

There will be no card games on **January 4** for the Kempffer Centre. Many thanks to all of you who

have participated in the games, enjoyed the food and friendship! The young people introduced a new game in December. The digital experience was awesome!

NEW CARLISLE: Upcoming Events at Legion

The following events will be held at the Royal Canadian Legion, branch 64.

December 16: Vern Huntington will be singing country Christmas carols starting at 8 p.m. \$5 entrance fee.

NEW CARLISLE: Calling all Girl Guides...

Were you ever a Spark, Brownie, Guide, Pathfinder, Guider or even a Commissioner? You may be interested in participating in a reunion which is just in the planning stages, to take place in the summer of 2018. The Kempffer Interpretation Centre is planning to have a small section dedicated to Guiding along the Gaspé Coast. (Gaspé, New Carlisle, New Richmond, and Magdalen Islands). We would like to have your input. We will relive those special times. Have outdoor lunch and supper, play the old games and do a craft. Best of all, have a go at those delicious smores!!!! Close with the good old camp fire (imitation); sing those wonderful songs once again. Exchange some stories and experiences. If you would like to help with this or if you are interested in coming, please contact Betty Anne at bettyasmollett@gmail.com or call 418-752-6181.

NEW RICHMOND: United Church Events

Friday, December 15: Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 17: There will be a special Advent Service at St. Andrew's United Church in New Richmond at 10 a.m. in memory of loved ones. Hand crafted angels will be sold for \$5 each and if de-

sired placed on the Christmas Memorial Tree during the service. For more information or to reserve an angel, please contact Kathleen Paquet at 418-392-4896 or Alice Jane Paquet at 418-392-5391.

NEW RICHMOND: Christmas Concert

St-Andrew's United Church will be holding its Christmas concert, **Friday, December 15,** at 7 p.m. with a freewill offering. Lunch will be served following the concert. All are welcome.

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES: 50+ Club Activities

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

Every Tuesday Night: Grocery Bingo at 7 p.m. (2 cards for \$5, each additional card \$1).

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES: Book Room

Please note that the book room is now open **Wednesday** afternoon from 1 - 4 p.m. On other days, please contact Kathleen Paquet at 418-392-4896.

GESGAPEGIAG: N.A. Meetings

N.A. Meetings held every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Mawimi Treatment Centre, located at 85 School Street in Gesgapegiag. Everyone welcome! For more information call 418-759-3522. N.A. is a non-profit fellowship of men and women for whom drugs have become a major problem. We are recovering addicts who meet regularly to help each other stay



clean. This is a program of complete abstinence from all drugs. There is only one requirement for membership, the desire to stop using.

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UNITED CHURCH Sunday, December 17

10:30 a.m. Hopetown

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

Sunday, December 17

New Carlisle

10 a.m. Morning Prayer

Hopetown

10 a.m. Morning Prayer

Shigawake

10 a.m. Lessons and Carols

PARISH OF ALL SAINTS BY THE SEA

St. Peter's Malbay

11 a.m. Service

PARISH OF GASPE Thursday, December 14

York

7 p.m. Lessons and

Carols Service

Sunday, December 17

York

10 a.m. Service

ANNOUNCE ALL YOUR UPCOMING EVENTS HERE!

Facebook is great, but not everyone is on facebook!

If you are planning an event and want to make sure everyone knows about it...
 don't forget to put it in The Gaspé Spec!



We have a great deal for you! \$60 Coast Round-Up Plan

If your organization is a frequent user of our Coast-Round-Up section of the Spec, we would like to offer you a special deal! For a flat rate of \$60 per year, we will publish all your coast round-up announcements for one year. This should prove financially beneficial and more convenient for you.

If you would like to take part in this deal, just send us your cheque for \$60, with the name and address of your organization. All you have to do is call or fax your messages without having the hassle of making individual payments each time!

Keep in mind Coast round-ups are only \$5 per week





Hurricane Hazel

At pretty Port Daniel in fair Gaspésie
This wonderful person grew up by the sea.
She could fish, she could skate,
Each endeavour was great.
She would "do all her homework" you see.

Her positive attitude, a purpose in life,
She would never be vanquished, whatever the strife.

For politics she had such a flair,
She quickly became Mississauga's new mayor.
Being clever and straight
Her support grew so great,
The people elected her, year after year.

A firm faith, social conscience, Hazel possessed,
Through trainwreck or flood her judgment impressed.

So Hazel was called "Hurricane"
Energetic, controlled and a "brain"
So few could compare
With her acumen, rare,
Her like we might not see again.

Her work ethic would many others inspire,
So many achievements! We must her admire.

by John W. Westbrook

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to medication.

S O D E G A

Answer: Dosage

A blast from the past...



View of Main Street, overlooking the Harbour in Gaspé, Quebec.

Why do we say ... By Gary Briand

We all know what "to a T" means: exactly fitting or eminently suitable as a match or replica. But what is its origin? The expression may have arisen from an old word- a "tittle" - meaning a very small, miniscule amount. Some experts claim that it is in reference to the accuracy of a draughtsman's T-square. Neither one of those explanations has firm supporting evidence. What we do know is that the term first came into English in the early 17th century, a long time before T-squares became common.

The English author James Wright was the first to use the term in English. In 1693, he wrote a satire entitled The Humours and Conversations of the Town. In this book we find:

"All the under Villages and Towns-men come to him for Redress; which he does to a T."

Although uncertainty surrounds its origin, "to a T" describes instructions followed exactly. A parent recently told me that he felt great pride when his son's teacher told him "he had everything to a T."

RESOLUTIONS WORD SEARCH

T U O K R O W O X R H X L E M U S E R E
 Y W H A P P I N E S S E M M E C K Z G V
 R O P E D U C A T I O N Z G N I T E I D
 A L F R Y K T M B Y K F E I R P Y V K H
 R L I O O S F L A T T X C E N R S N S S
 B B T U R C N Y B S P X S L A A O Z E G
 I U N F Y O R E C L S O N L U I G C X R
 L S E V C D A O L E A A O T T N R Z P
 S I S D O O F R S U E S G A I A T C O B
 T N S I A Z A R T T S A R E N T O E L H
 I E G P P T E I V D I T N I G N A S R E
 B S V E I E O S N G N N F I F I S N T I
 A S P O R N H E L E S L A I N O V A O R
 H U N A C A I A C E B S D T C G T I E D
 E T C P P R X N E R V E E I I I G A N V
 A H Y E F V O S A X N A A R D O D N B G
 L A U L O C I I K C C L R E T I N Z T E
 T U C X M A N B E F I L M T N S T O T R
 H E Z Y R U X Y S Z G R F G O U A I F Z
 Y B V T L D T R E L A T I O N S H I P F

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

WORDS

- BRAIN
- BUSINESS
- CAREER
- CLEANING
- CLUTTER
- CONCENTRATION
- CONFIDENCE
- DEBT
- DIETING
- DONATION
- EDUCATION
- EXPLORATION
- FINANCES
- FITNESS
- FOODS
- FRIENDS
- GIVING
- HABITS
- HAPPINESS
- HEALTHY
- LIBRARY
- MESSAGE
- MEDITATE
- ORGANIZE
- PROCRASTINATION
- RAISE
- READING
- RELATIONSHIP
- RESOLUTION
- RESUME
- SALARY
- SHAPE
- SOCIALIZE
- STRESS
- TRAVEL
- WORKOUT

HOROSCOPES

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, you are giving off serious relationship vibes this week, and others are sure to take notice. If you have a partner, you can strengthen the bond. If not, a good match is in sight.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, you may hit the employment jackpot this week. Those résumés you have been putting out or that promotion you were vying for will be worth the effort.

GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, the best thing you can do to rekindle a friendship is to spend some

time with this person reconnecting. Enjoy a dinner for two or involve yourselves in another activity.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22

Those around you know the way to Cancer's heart is definitely through his or her stomach. Plan an entertaining night out enjoying the newest restaurant in town.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, receiving compliments from others certainly provides an ego boost. But you may want something more substantial from a relationship this week.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, this week you may be tempted to put off some of your more challenging projects at work and focus on yourself. It's okay to have some "me" time.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, a huge turning point in your relationship is ahead. Communication will help forge a deeper connection between the two of you.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, the best ways to get what you want are to share your desires with others. They may have some solutions you've overlooked and can be sources of inspiration.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, it may take a little time to get used to a new relationship or job. After a few weeks or months, you can sort out what works and what needs some extra effort.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, expanding your horizons comes easily when you have close friends who invite you along on all of their adventures. This could prove to be a week with lots of inspiration.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Mending fences can take a while, but you have the opportunity for some real healing this week, Aquarius. Explore all of your options to get closer to someone.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

You are in an enviable position this week, Pisces. Your finances are in good order, your circle of friends has expanded, and you are happy at work.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

DECEMBER 10

Kenneth Branagh, Director (57)

DECEMBER 11

Mo'Nique, Actress (50)

DECEMBER 12

Mayim Bialik, Actress (42)

DECEMBER 13

Taylor Swift, Singer (27)

DECEMBER 14

Vanessa Hudgens,

Singer/Actress (29)

DECEMBER 15

Don Johnson, Actor (68)

DECEMBER 16

Nya Lee, Reality Star (28)

Five ways to prevent break-ins during the holidays

(NC) A season filled with travel both near and afar makes a prime time for home break-ins. To minimize your home's risk, follow these security tips.

1. Out of sight, out of mind. Wherever you choose to gather your gifts this holiday season, make sure that they are out of any sightlines to the street. Showcasing the goodies stocked under your tree will easily pique the interest of a potential thief.

2. Time your lights. If you're proudly displaying your outdoor lights all season,

one sure-fire way to compromise your home security is to turn them off. Put your lights on a timer so they go on and off at the same time each day, giving the illusion you're at home.

3. Stop the presses. Nothing screams you're not home more than a bursting mailbox. Plan to suspend your mail service while away, or ask a trusted friend or neighbour to collect it while you're gone.

4. Take to technology. Invest in home security accessories such as a video doorbell or an outdoor light with a

built-in security camera. These stealthy gadgets allow you to keep an eye on your home and will even send alerts to your phone when sensing motion or a ringing alarm, providing comfort and peace of mind.

5. Lock it down. Verify that all your home's doors and windows have functioning locks and latches and that they're in place prior to leaving. Faulty closures make home burglaries a breeze.

One final tip — make sure your home insurance is up-to-date before your holidays



begin. Esurance allows you to revise your policy online, making insurance easy so you

can get back to what matters most, spending time with family and friends.

NEW!

SHUTTLE

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AN APPROACH THAT PAYS!

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