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# The Gaspé Spec

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## CLSC likely to offer uninterrupted emergency service

Gilles Gagné

PASPEBIAC – Barring serious events, such as a blizzard, the night shifts at the Paspebiac CLSC will be filled for the months to come, according to the Gaspé Peninsula Integrated Health and Social Services Centre.

The Paspebiac CLSC has been in the middle of a rather stormy period since November 23, when a 74 year-old Bonaventure patient suffering from a heart attack was refused admission because no doctor was working the night shift, a few minutes after the intervention of the paramedics. The ambulance was still in Bonaventure when the paramedics called the CLSC.

“A commitment was made in November to the effect that all the means necessary would be deployed to keep the CLSC open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. We can say that for January, the schedule is filled,” explains Geneviève Cloutier, spokesperson for the Gaspé Peninsula Health and Social Service Integrated Centre.

The report made after the November incident revealed



Photo: P. MacWhirter

According to the CISSS, night shifts at the Paspebiac CLSC are filled for the month of January.

that the decision to send the patient to Maria hospital was the right one, despite the addition of a 35 km ambulance ride. The report also established that the patient died at his home.

However, the document also shed light on the public's worries regarding the frequent holes in the night shift schedule at the CLSC, where

a round the clock emergency service is supposed to be offered. Those worries are ones that have reoccurred often over the past few years.

On November 23, four of the eight general practitioners based at the Paspebiac CLSC were either on sick or parental leave. One of those general practitioners recently returned to work.

“Two new doctors recently settled in the Bay of Chaleur area, not specifically at the Paspebiac CLSC, but they will fill some (emergency) shifts there. We also received a positive answer from the doctors based at the Maria, Chandler and even Sainte-Anne-des-Monts hospitals, in addition to the doctors based outside the

region,” adds Ms. Cloutier, referring in the latter case to the pinch hit doctors who often come to fill the emergency schedule.

Ms. Cloutier can't predict how long the emergency service will be offered without interruption in Paspebiac but there is room for optimism.

“An interruption can always occur, like in the case of a doctor coming from away by plane, a plane that can't land because of the weather conditions,” she says.

Between June and November 23, 28 night shifts were not filled at the Paspebiac CLSC.

The Coroner's Office is investigating the November case. The paramedics criticize the fact that in Bonaventure, they are usually waiting for calls at their homes instead of at the ambulance station. That situation lengthens the intervention time. It took them 14 minutes to reach the Bonaventure patient on November 23.

In the case of a cardiac arrest, every additional minute before an intervention cuts the patient's survival chance by 10%.

## The Gaspé Spec

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Photos: T. Haroun

## PERCÉ:

# Mayor's salary doubles and those of councillors increase by 40%

Thierry Haroun

PERCÉ: - The elected representatives of Percé substantially increased their salaries at the last public meeting held at the Town Hall on January 9. The salary of the mayor, Cathy Poirier, has more than doubled. Spec was present during the vote.

The ruling concerning the salary hike was published last November and the official vote was scheduled for January 9. So, approximately 20 citizens were present to witness the unanimous vote on the matter. The salary of the mayor, Cathy Poirier more than doubled as her salary goes from \$29,855 up to \$60,000 which includes a \$16,000 expense allocation which is tax free and she is exempt from having to present any expense receipts. It should be noted that the maximum expenses allocation in Quebec is \$16,478 and that includes metropolitan centers like Montreal. As for the eight councilors they also voted for an increase of 40% of their salary which is rising from \$7,500 up to \$10,500 (which also includes an expense allocation which is also tax free with no need of proof of expenses). The amounts are retroactive to January 1, 2018. These raises total an amount of \$54,000 annually. Over a four year mandate that adds up to an increase of \$216 000 compared to the previous salaries.

The mayor, Cathy Poirier, justifies her raise by the fact that she will be working as a full time mayor. During question period the mayor was only asked two questions on the matter, as the broad



Percé mayor, Cathy Poirier.

majority of the citizens present approved the decision. This attitude pleased Ms. Poirier. "I'm very happy. I think that people understand our decision and the reality of being a full time mayor," she told Spec after the town meeting.

### Other subjects

Two other important subjects were debated during the meeting. Ms. Poirier said that concerning the future of the wharf, Quebec and Ottawa were still negotiating but that she intends following this file very closely because it's part

of her top priorities. The wharf will be totally rebuilt by Ottawa and then transferred to the Québec government. No timetable has been set yet.

Finally, the Town of Percé is in need of at least 15 volunteer firemen, the Executive Director, Félix Caron told Spec. "There are currently 30 firemen that cover the three in our town, but we need at least 15 firemen for each of those stations. We encourage people to become firemen. It pays \$15 per hour and even more for those who are highly qualified. We pay for the training. So if someone is interested just give us a call."



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## Family physicians: mission accomplished

Thierry Haroun

PERCÉ: - The Gaspé Peninsula is one of the few regions of the province that has reached the government's target of 85% in terms of family physicians. The latest numbers available published by the Quebec Health Minister show that 87.9% of Gaspésians have a family doctor. Six other regions have also reached or surpassed the government's target: The Lower St-Lawrence (89.6%), Saguenay-Lac-St-Jean (89.8%), Mauricie and Centre-du-Québec (86.7%), Magdalen Islands (88.7%) and Chaudières-Appalaches is ranked number one with 90.9%. The President of the Gaspésie Health and Social Services Center, Chantal Duguay, says that to obtain such good results a team effort is mandatory. "To make sure that most people have a family doctor it has to be a top priority and that's what we've been doing. When we can't recruit permanent doctors we find a way to attract them on a part-time basis."



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# Police report

On January 9 a head-on collision in Hope occurred, in front of a house located at 432 Route 132. Two cars were involved in that collision, and a third vehicle avoided a direct impact by hitting some debris. Two people were injured slightly.

Police officers were also asked to intervene in Shigawake, where the snowmobile trail groomer caught fire. "A mechanical failure caused the fire but we couldn't reach the groomer because it was in the woods," points out Sgt. Claude Doiron.



On January 10, at approximately at 6:45 a.m., an 18 year-old man from Chandler was seriously injured in a collision on Route 132 in Hope Town. On a straight stretch of road, the car driven by the victim veered in the opposite lane and collided with an on-coming tractor trailer travelling east.

The jaws of life was used to extricate the young man from the vehicle. "He was talking to the first responders as they were trying to pull him out of the vehicle. His multiple fractures, brain trauma, perforated lung and bladder, were considered life-threatening at the time. He was hospitalized in Chandler, stabilized, and transferred to a Quebec City hospital. His injuries are no longer life-threatening," says Sgt. Claude Doiron, spokesperson for the Sûreté du Québec.

The impact was such that one of the truck's front wheels broke from its axle. The steering of the truck jammed and the truck crossed the road and landed in a snow bank.

"The cause of the accident is still under investigation. We are trying to determine if the driver of the car was distracted by something, such as a cellular phone for example, if he was tired or if he did not adapt his driving to the conditions of the road. The truck driver had no time to avoid the collision. It was still a bit dark when the collision occurred," adds Sgt. Doiron.

As the result of the two-day snow storm of January 4 and 5 and the ensuing days of strong winds, approximately 50% of Route 132 was covered with ice in the Hope and Hope Town area that morning.

Route 132 was partially or completely blocked for six hours after the accident. The road was blocked at approximately 10:30 a.m. in order to allow the accident reconstitution technician to take all the pictures and measurements necessary for his investigation.

Jérémie-Viktor Lagacé, 23, Saint-André-de-Restigouche, now charged with the August 22, 2017 premeditated murder of French tourist Fabrice Durand, on the Chute à Picto trail in Saint-André-de-Restigouche, will return to the New Carlisle courthouse on January 22 for his pro forma preliminary hearings.

On January 8, defence attorney Richard Lavigne asked the court to delay the pro forma preliminary hearings for two weeks, due to the complexity of the disclosure of evidence he had received from crown prosecutor Gérald Maltais. On January 22, the court will possibly set a definite date for the preliminary hearings.



Photo: G. Gélinas

The adaptation of solar energy to cold and snowy climates will be part of the Techno-centre researchers interests.

## Solar plant for applied research at the Wind Energy Techno-centre

Geneviève Gélinas

**GASPÉ:** - The Wind Energy Techno-centre has recently started operating a 16-kilowatt solar plant to study its performance in cold weather. The 60 photovoltaic panels were set up on its Rivière-au-Renard experimental site.

The plant is quite modest; it would provide two thirds of the energy needs of an average household. However, that amount of power is sufficient for the study. The Techno-centre researchers will assess the performance of combining wind and solar power with diesel generators in autonomous micro-grids used on islands or in isolated communities.

The adaptation of the solar technology to cold climates, as well as the development of models for forecasting sunning (sunshine) will also be part of their research efforts.

In Quebec, no other collegial centre of technology transfer has a solar plant. "We filled a gap; we have a complementary infrastructure," states Wind Energy Techno-centre director Frédéric Côté. The cost to acquire, install and add instruments to the plant was \$314,600.

### Growing quickly

Solar energy still remains a marginal energy source in Quebec and Canada. In 2014, the installed capacity of the country was only 1,585 megawatts. However, the solar energy field is rapidly and constantly rising on the planet. Over the last decade, the world installed capacity has increased by 48% every year. The production cost has decreased by 85% during the same period.

"This energy source is becoming relevant for Quebec, even though our energy costs are low," believes Mr. Côté.

The Techno-centre partner companies while studying wind energy are also developing solar projects. The two kinds of energy have common features, Mr. Côté points out.

"Both are renewable energies, which vary depending on the weather. The challenge is to make electricity production and consumption match, with energy storage technologies."

### Good performance in the cold

Contrary to what people may think, solar panels have a better performance at low temperatures than at high temperatures. "When one looks at sunning data, Quebec looks like Germany, one of the countries with the most solar plants," Mr. Côté says.

The Techno-centre's 32 employees will keep working in wind energy but the research on solar energy "could become something quite important for the Techno-centre," believes Mr. Côté.



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## Commentary

Gilles Gagné

### Minimum wage increase is a good thing

The everlasting debate about what the minimum wage should be in Quebec and in other parts of Canada was revived over recent days because a certain number of Ontario employers, including some Tim Horton's restaurant owners, decided to axe a number of fringe benefits in order to cope with the hike to \$14 an hour of that province's minimum wage.

The Ontario government decision was unexpected until recently and the upcoming election undoubtedly played a role in Kathleen Wynne's cabinet decision to raise that minimum wage to \$14 an hour, effective January 1, and to \$15 at the beginning of 2019, if she is re-elected.

However, it also made sense because of the cost of living in Ontario. Housing costs close to twice as much there as it does Quebec. The same principles apply to day cares and fiscal measures implemented over the years to help low-income

families. They are far more advantageous in Quebec.

Over the years, various Quebec governments have usually opted for a certain socialization of labour benefits, by making life more bearable because of affordable day cares, benefits for low-income families and, although it varies a lot, lodging improvement programs.

That socialization of labour benefits means that the burden of the minimum wage hike is shared by all the taxpayers, through the money sent to the government, instead of being paid by the employers. Some consumers denounce that socialization of labour benefits but they forget that the employers will likely transfer the wage hike to their clients as they will increase the price they charge for the services offered or the goods sold, like in convenience stores or restaurants for example.

At \$11.25 since May, the Quebec minimum wage remains quite low, more so if we consider that it will only increase to \$12.45 over the next two-and-a-half years. It is almost impossible for a couple earning that minimum wage to make ends meet, if they have to pay a mortgage and a car or another form of decent transport. The cost of food is also rising.

Most economists who have studied the impact of minimum wage increases will agree on a few points. They must be gradual and they must take into account a number of other variables, like the minimum wage-average wage ratio, the impact on the other low income workers earning just a tad above minimum wage, and the impact on the number of jobs that could be lost as a result of a hike.

The minimum wage to average wage ratio should be around 50%. In Quebec right now, it is 47%. So there is room for improvement and that 50% level will probably be reached in 2020, when the minimum wage will get to \$12.45. That provides a gross income of \$500 a week to a person working 40 hours a week. It is not a lot. In a region like the Gaspé Peninsula, some side activities like hunting, fishing and a woodlot providing firewood can provide a welcome complement to that amount.

While a lot of business people will complain about a rising minimum wage, they should also look at the stability a better income might have on their staff. A happy worker will likely stay longer and be more interested in getting some training to augment his or her responsibilities with the company.

Also, a lot of firms have already started to implement an increasing automation process of their operations, in an attempt to reduce their manpower costs but also to cope with the labour shortage, currently felt in every region of Quebec, including the Gaspé Peninsula. The remaining employees will have to master a certain number of skilled tasks in the future and that requires some training. Again, the staff's reliability comes with a price, a rising minimum wage or an increased wage period.

It is also proven that low-wage workers with a higher disposable income will spend almost all of that additional money, much to the benefit of the business people currently criticizing the minimum wage increase.

Besides, a fairer society is a better and happier society.



## Commentary

Cynthia Dow

### A year of living dangerously

I wonder just how many words have been written about the uber-famous Donald Trump? And I wonder why I want to add to all the verbiage? It's been a year since Trump became the US President, and I just feel the need to share my angst.

Nothing has brought his Presidency into sharper focus for me than the recent movement to encourage Oprah Winfrey to run against him in November 2020. Can there be any greater difference between two presidential candidates? The only thing I can think of that unites them would be the fact that they are both a lot wealthier than you and me.

Otherwise, apples and oranges: here we have a rich white man from a privileged background who wouldn't know a principled action if it kicked him in the

behind, and a black woman who grew up in poverty for whom morals, ethics and personal spiritual growth have become a hallmark of her life and her actions on the public stage. I would love to see them go head to head in the next campaign.

If Trump makes it that far. Personally, I believe the man should be impeached immediately. Let me count the reasons why:

1. He is a blatant racist, and if his hateful campaign alleging that President Obama was "not a real American" was not enough to convince you, surely his recent outburst about "shit-hole" countries such as Haiti and those in Africa should do the trick. In a country where some 14% of the population is of African ancestry -- the vast majority brought by force from Africa as slaves -- this alone is enough to boot him out.

2. He is a blatant misogynist, and I for one cannot wait until some women come forward to accuse him of sexual harassment, assault and possibly abuse. Why this hasn't happened yet would be of great interest to me if I was an American reporter. Thankfully, I am not.

3. The man does not know what truth is, or why it matters. Latest count by the Washington Post is that by January 10 of this year he told 2,001 outright lies

since his inauguration last January 20; an average of 5.6 per day. He uses his lies to justify policy decisions and political stances that (obviously, if they have to be backed up by lies) are not warranted or remotely positive for his nation or the world as a whole. One glaring example: his firm belief that human actions are not causing global warming, which led to him backing out of the Paris Accord on Climate Change.

4. He has bad friends and even worse enemies. Consorting with the corrupt Russian government to win the election? Playing Russian roulette with nuclear weapons against the even crazier Kim Jong-Un of North Korea?

I could go on and on, but I am making myself depressed just writing this!

In the "truth is stranger than fiction" category, this man beats all. I mean, imagine if you sat beside someone on a plane who had been kidnapped a year ago by the Taliban and had not seen a newspaper since. If you started to explain Trump's presidency to them, would they honestly believe a word you were saying? Every day when I hear one of his tweets or some new cockamamie idea he has, I just shake my head. Is this man for real?

Perhaps the most pressing reason for impeaching Trump is something I heard about last week on CBC Radio. Dr Bandy Lee, who is on the faculty of Yale University, and about 300 of her professional colleagues have banded together in a group called The Coalition of Concerned Mental Health Specialists to warn Congress that they believe Donald Trump needs a thorough mental health diagnosis. "He is increasingly difficult to contain and is starting to lose touch with reality," Dr Lee told CBC. Her major concern is that the man is in charge of "the world's most powerful army," and apparently there is no check-point between him and the nuclear button.

Rather stressful, isn't it, knowing that a deranged, immoral and unethical man with not one iota of compassion or altruism is the most powerful man on Earth. Yikes!

I say the American people, and most particularly the Republican Party, have a responsibility to take this man off the public stage as quickly as possible. The future of our entire planet depends on it.

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# Gaspésie Railway Society experienced a banner year in 2017

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND: – The Gaspésie Railway Society experienced a record year in 2017, increasing its traffic by more than 1,000 carloads over 2016. The number of carloads increased to 2,786 carloads last year, which is 1,045 more than the 1,741 carloads of 2016. It is a 60% hike.

Two factors explain that sizable increase, the rise of windmill blade traffic and the emergence of cement hauling. Approximately 1,150 flatcars carrying 770 blades travelled between New Richmond and Matapedia last year, compared to 72 in 2016, the result in that latter case of a trial run.

As for the cement traffic, it started in July and led to the hauling of 111 cars before the end of the year, a good start considering that the Port Daniel plant was still producing at a low rate during the first months of production.

The leader in carloads, the Temrex sawmill in Nouvelle, had an average year with just under 1,500 cars of lumber and woodchips. The woodchip traffic went down a bit.

Gaspésie Railway Society director general Luc Lévesque is confident that windmill blades and cement traffic will rise in 2018, maybe enough to allow the Gaspésie Railway Society to reach a total of 4,000 carloads.

“We hauled cement with a



Photo: G. Gagné

*The hauling of windmill blades on the railway led to a significant increase in traffic between New Richmond and Matapedia.*

pool of 25 cars until December. We just received 35 additional cars. New McInnis Cement customers are served by the railway and we are benefitting from that. I wouldn't be surprised if we reached close to 1,000 carloads of cement traffic in 2018,” explains Mr. Lévesque.

The gain will not be as significant when it comes to windmill blades, considering the huge increase in 2017. “The beginning of the year will be stronger this year though. We expect two windmill blade trains in January, one in February and two in

March, compared to two trains last year for the same three months,” says Mr. Lévesque.

Each such train consists of 72 flat cars. A target of 1,400 windmill blade cars in 2018 is within reach. It could even be higher. The annual capacity of the LM Wind Power blade manufacturing plant in Gaspé now reaches close to 1,100 blades. Considering that the whole production, or very close, is exported by rail to the southern part of the United States and that three cars are needed for two blades, the number of flat cars could hover around

1,500 and 1,600.

Since the track between Caplan and Gaspé was put in a dormant state in March 2015 by its then new owner, Quebec's department of Transport, and considering that no work has been carried out since on that section despite the fact that this stretch presents the highest growth potential for the Gaspésie Railway Society, windmill blades and cement have to be trucked to New Richmond, where they are transferred to railcars.

That trans-shipment has a significant impact on the production cost of LM Wind

Power and McInnis Cement. Hauling windmill blades by truck between Gaspé and New Richmond costs between \$600 and \$700 per unit, so the additional cost for LM Wind Power and its customers amounts to close to \$7 million yearly.

Trucking cement between Port Daniel and New Richmond also costs significantly more than the tab that would be linked to loading cement at the plant. The railway passes by that plant.

“Other customers will be added as soon as we offer the service to Gaspé,” points out Luc Lévesque, without mentioning them. He specifies that thousands of carloads could then be added to the Gaspésie Railway Society annual traffic.

The addition of the Association coopérative forestière of Saint-Elzéar's sawmill among the Gaspésie Railway Society clients is expected soon. Lumber will be loaded in New Richmond as long as the line is closed east of Caplan.

The Gaspésie Railway Society is an entity controlled by the Avignon, Bonaventure, Percé Rock and Côte-de-Gaspé MRCs. The company owned the railway between 2007 and 2015, until a debt of \$4 million forced it to file for the protection of the tribunal. Transport Québec then took control of the line but the Gaspésie Railway Society remains the transporter along the line.

## RAILWAY:

# Waiting for government action

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND: – The Member of the National Assembly for the riding of Gaspé, Gaétan Lelièvre, admits “not knowing what to think, considering the slowness showed by the Quebec government regarding the repairs that must be carried out on a line it has owned for close to three years,” he emphasizes.

“One must wonder if the \$100 million announced for the railway is virtual or real (...) It is a line that has been studied over and over by engineering firms. No substantial work has been carried out

since 2013. I question the political willingness to solve the problem. I have reached a point where I question the words of Premier (Philippe) Couillard. The positive thing is the arrival of a new Transport minister to the file, André Fortin. I met him on December 7 and he seems willing to commit himself, comments Gaétan Lelièvre.

Premier Couillard announced \$100 million on May 5 in New Carlisle for the betterment of the Gaspé Peninsula railroad all the way to Gaspé but that budgetary envelope was not touched during the year, despite numerous studies completed since 2008

and pertaining to the work that must be undertaken, especially on the bridges, in order to put the line back in shape for decades.

Gaétan Lelièvre emphasizes that such inaction puts the competitive capacity of LM Wind Power and McInnis Cement at risk, “two plants that have a combined output value of over half-a-billion dollars annually.” The two plants also employ 650 people.

SPEC asked the office of the regional minister Pierre Moreau for an interview about the railway situation but the request was never answered.

The VIA Rail passenger

train service has been suspended between Gaspé and New Carlisle since December

2011 and between New Carlisle and Matapedia since September 2013.

## Chart about the freight traffic on the Matapedia to Gaspé line\* over recent years\*\*

2008:	589 cars
2012:	1,233 cars
2013:	1,537 cars
2014:	1,545 cars
2015:	1,624 cars
2016:	1,741 cars
2017:	2,786 cars

\*The line has been closed east of Caplan since March 2015.

\*\* The numbers for 2009, 2010 and 2011 are not available.

## RIGHT WHALES:

# Normal navigation speed restored in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence

Gilles Gagné

CARLETON: – Transport Canada restored normal navigation speeds in the gulf of Saint Lawrence on January 11, exactly five months after imposing a 10-knot speed in a large rectangle covering an area from the north extremity of the Magdalen Islands to Anticosti Island, in order to protect right whales.

That 10-knot speed was imposed on all vessels and boats measuring more than 20 metres in length. Twelve right whales were found dead in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence between the end of the spring and the beginning of the fall. Those whales were essentially hit by ships or died after an entanglement in commercial

the way the protected zone is applied in 2018.

“We would like a more dynamic measure, in a way that is adapted to navigation and the protection of right whales. There is a sector north of Anticosti and along the south coast of Anticosti where no right whale observations have been made. We think that the protection rectangle could consequently be reduced,” explains Martin Fournier.

He emphasizes that many navigation companies, such as, Canada Steamship Lines, Groupe Desgagnés and the *Société des traversiers du Québec* voluntarily and enthusiastically participate in a sea mammal observation program, including right whales.

A more dynamic approach

the 10 knot-speed limit. The reduced speed had a big impact on a number of passenger ships' schedules.

Fifteen cruise ship calls were cancelled in Gaspé, and 25,000 passengers didn't make it to that area. That was a little bit more than half of the expected cruise ship clientele. The lost spinoffs amounted to

\$2.5 million and it created a gap of \$150,000 in the budget of Escalade Gaspésienne, the organization in charge of greeting the passengers and promoting cruises in the region.

Between August 11 and January 11, 13 ships were each fined \$6,000 for surpassing the 10-knot speed limit of the gulf of Saint Lawrence's

protected rectangle.

As of January 12, Julie Leroux, of Transport Canada, couldn't confirm the return of a 10-knot speed limit in part of the gulf. A protected surface “could be reintroduced if the whales come back to that zone.” She was not able to confirm the date of the last right whale observed in the gulf.



Photo: G. Gagné

The October 2, *Queen Mary 2* call in Gaspé was cancelled, as were 14 others, which led to the loss of \$2.5 million in spinoffs for the Gaspé and Percé area.

fishing gear. There are only 450 right whales left in the world.

The return to normal navigation conditions is received with relief by Martin Fournier, director general of Armateurs du Saint-Laurent, an association consisting of 15 ship owners operating a fleet of 130 ships bearing the Canadian flag. The 10-knot speed limit led to operational losses of millions of dollars.

“Each company using that rectangle lost at least hundreds of thousands of dollars. We can then talk about a total of millions of dollars, I am sure of that, although the exact cost has not been calculated. We know that the measure will come back this year,” says Mr. Fournier.

Canadian ship owners using the Saint Lawrence water system were expecting a return to free navigation speeds at the beginning of December, at least a month before they were reinstated. The right whales rarely stay in the gulf after October. Ship owners are expecting changes to

applied by Transport Canada and the department of Fisheries and Oceans would mean implementing a state-of-the-art observation program including the same technological devices as the ones available in British Columbia in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

“There is passive listening using hydrophones, which catches the sounds emitted by the right whales. There are also gliders, an underwater remote control device. All these combined means send information to confirm the presence or not of sea mammals in an area. The hydrophones must have the capacity to send data in real time, as it is done in the West (British Columbia) and the east coast of the United States. This is currently not the case in the Saint Lawrence. The data is only available once the device is out of the water,” explains Mr. Fournier.

Between August and October, the Gaspé and Percé area was hit hard by cruise ship cancellations stemming from



## Alzheimer Society Gaspésie/Îles-de-la-Madeleine



Dr. Yves Turgeon

### Free English conference open to the public in Gaspé: Alzheimer's Disease and Related Diseases: Meeting the Challenge of Understanding!

When: Tuesday, January 30, 2018

Time: 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Where: Hôtel des commandants, 178, rue de la Reine Gaspé (QC)

In his conference, Alzheimer's Disease and Related Diseases: Meeting the Challenge of Understanding!, Dr. Yves Turgeon will present the different forms of cognitive diseases and their impact on a person with Alzheimer's disease and their entourage (Alzheimer's, Lewy Body, Fronto degeneration - temporal, vascular dementia and others). In addition to differentiating these diseases, Dr. Turgeon will talk about advanced research to, among other things, demystify the myths.

Dr. Yves Turgeon is a neuropsychologist at the Gaspésie Memorial Clinic. Dr. Turgeon has been practicing neuropsychology for approximately fifteen years. A native Gaspesian, Dr. Turgeon is interested in adult development and aging, particularly the identification of mild cognitive impairment, as well as the well-being of seniors in rural areas.

Thank you for confirming your presence at the Gaspé point of service by calling 418-368-1616. This confirmation will help us plan the conference.

# 2018 to be an important year regarding Town of Gaspé infrastructure investments

Gilles Gagné

GASPÉ: - Early in 2018, the Town of Gaspé will complete a significant infrastructure project. The project on the downtown drinkable water network has been worked on for almost a decade. The new year will primarily bring a number of studies regarding further infrastructure projects, and probably a few decisions in that regard.

“We will finish the work on downtown’s drinkable water system this spring. The cost of it was \$8.7 million and at last we can say that it is complete. Now we can switch to the three areas that have been waiting for the same improvements, Rivière-au-Renard, Anse-au-Griffon and Anse-à-Valleau. We will complete the studies, plans and specifications. We can envision work in 2019-2020 in the case of Rivière-au-Renard and Anse-à-Valleau. As for Griffon Cove, we are not promising anything. We have been working on the case since 2011 and we have hit many technical problems,” explains the mayor of Gaspé, Daniel Côté.

In Rivière-au-Renard, the final studies, plans and specifications pertaining to the sewerage water treatment plant should be completed in 2018 and the work should be completed in 2019.

Details about the new arena project will likely be determined in 2018 as well. “We will undertake the studies regarding the downtown arena scenario. First we are looking at a straight forward scenario, just an arena. Some

people would like us to add a soccer field with artificial turf. We will see. We are also completing a \$1 million improvement at the Rivière-au-Renard arena, including a new cooling unit. We also intend to make progress in the studies linked to Rivière-au-Renard’s revitalization project. The first phase could cost \$10 million,” says Daniel Côté.

The Town of Gaspé also intends to complete the skate park project, delayed by tenders that were double the amount of money budgeted by the municipal administration. “We are launching another call for tenders,” adds the mayor, pointing out that a budgetary envelope of \$250,000 is earmarked for the project.

In economic development, the Town of Gaspé has decided to refrain from preparing in advance large portions of the industrial park land and providing them with water and sewerage services.

“We will wait for promoters to show up. When we prepare a large piece of land with services and then the first promoter shows up needing a small space, we have to do the work all over again. We will wait for the promoters’ needs,” explains Daniel Côté.

He and the other municipal council members expect the release of the report pertaining to the potential of Gaspé’s industrial and port zone “early in the year, before spring.”

Daniel Côté hopes that the Maritime Policy launched in 2014 by the Quebec government will have provisions for

the building of a road between two of Gaspé’s three industrial parks. That Maritime Policy funded the industrial and port zone report.

“We would like to count on a road linking the Augustines industrial park, where LM Wind Power and Ohmega are located, the Sandy Beach port zone and

the railway. It would be very handy for LM Wind Power. We are talking about an industrial road passing on the hill located between the two industrial parks,” he explains.

Mr. Côté remains confident that some upgrading work should at last be carried out on the railway between Cascapedia-St-Jules and

Gaspé, where the bulk of the line restoration will eventually take place. The line is dormant between Caplan and Gaspé.

“It is far from starting but we hear that one important contract could be awarded in 2018 for the Cascapedia-St-Jules railway bridge,” he says.



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Photo: Rachelle Fournier

Artist, Marie Christine Plourde.

## Local artist holds first vernissage

Jeanie LeLacheur

GASPÉ: - Local artist, Marie Christine Plourde held what was her first vernissage recently at the Micro brasserie Cap Gaspé draft brewing company. Although still in the early stages of her artistic career this aspiring painter has already been commissioned to do paintings and has something for all tastes and budgets. Rimouski born and recently settled in the Rose-bridge area her paintings reflect the natural landscape of the coast and her love of colors in all the elements.

Versatile in style her works on display speak of solitude and the rugged beauty of the mountains and sea that can only be captured by an artist's eye and recreated by an artist's soul.

A teacher at the Gaspé Poly., Marie Christine also shares her love of art with her students; her classroom walls with the back drop of dark spruce trees against a night sky and other murals left by those who came before attest to her desire to share her talent and love of art with those who learn there.

Marie Christine who doesn't think art is "just for art class" encourages students' creativity by combining art with other subjects. A recent history collaboration had students create a board game with a Quebec history focus where students obtained marks for elements in both history and art. An outdoorsperson, animal lover and advocate for the environment and its many current challenges, Marie Christine captures her passions on canvas. For a glimpse at her work (and an awesome beer) drop in to the Microbrasserie Cap Gaspé, 6286 Blvd. York Est in Gaspé, where her exhibit will remain until January 27, 2018. You can also visit Marie Christine's facebook page called Artworkshop.mcplourde.



## Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



### 50 words for snow

In 1911 anthropologist Franz Boas claimed that the Inuit (at that time referred to as Eskimos) had an unusually large number of words to describe types of snow. This theory has been somewhat challenged, but living in an environment where snow is so abundant there are some distinctions that are helpful to recognize. It is critically important to assess the weather for survival. Some examples of Inuit words that describe snow are aput – snow on the ground, gana – falling snow, pigsirpoq – drifting snow and gimugsug – snowdrift. It seems that English does have the language necessary to describe snow in its various forms. We just add describing words, or adjectives, to the word snow and bam! We have successfully described snow!

Snow is a form of precipitation, along with rain, sleet and hail. Snow is formed when water vapour freezes into ice crystals. This happens when the air temperature is very cold. Snowflakes are a type of crystal, that start out very small and grow in size. A snowflake has six sides and may contain 200 crystals. Snow that is light and fluffy is called powder. A blizzard is a long-lasting and intense snowstorm that is accompanied by high winds. Three things are necessary to have a blizzard; cold air at the surface, lots of moisture, and lift. Warm air must rise over the cold air.

Why is snow white? Snow can be blinding because it reflects beams of white light. It does not absorb light, and the snow's structure prevents the light from shining through it. A beam of sunlight entering a snow bank is scattered by ice crystals and air pockets so that most of the light comes bouncing right back. Objects get their colours from absorbing light, but snow is white because it reflects light.

Thundersnow is when thunder and lightning occur during a snowstorm. This occurs most often in late winter or early spring, but not always. We had thundersnow here on the Gaspé just last week. Thundersnow is caused by a mass of cold air on top of warm air, then add moist air closer to the ground. The sun heats the ground and pushes the warm, moist air upward, creating unstable conditions. As it rises, the moisture condenses to form clouds, which are moved around by internal turbulence. For thundersnow to occur, the air layer closer to the ground has to be warmer than the layers above it, but still cold enough to make snow. During thundersnow the snowfall can be very heavy.

If you drive in a snowstorm, always carry a cell phone. Keep the gas tank full. Let someone know where you're going, just in case your car gets stuck. Do not overdo the shovelling, because one of the leading causes of deaths during the winter is shovelling.

The first snowfall of the year is always beautiful and magical, but by January adults may be tiring of shovelling and scraping. However, there are many who love the snow for skiing, snowmobiling, snowshoeing and tobogganing. Children enjoy snowball fights, building snow forts and snowmen. Winter sports are very important for our Gaspesian economy. Our gorgeous trails attract many tourists. We can enjoy being inside, looking out at a beautiful soft snowfall, with a mug of hot chocolate and a good book. There are so many words to describe snow, whether in Inuit or English. Poet Robert Frost's words captured the beauty of snow in the woods in this magnificent poem written in 1922.

*Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening*  
*Whose woods these are I think I know.*  
*His house is in the village though;*  
*He will not see me stopping here*  
*To watch his woods, fill up with snow.*

*My little horse must think it queer*  
*To stop without a farmhouse near*  
*Between the woods and frozen lake*  
*The darkest evening of the year.*

*He gives his harness bells a shake*  
*To ask if there is some mistake.*  
*The only other sound's the sweep*  
*Of easy wind and downy flake.*

*The woods are lovely, dark and deep,*  
*But I have promises to keep,*  
*And miles to go before I sleep,*  
*And miles to go before I sleep.*





## Book recommendations for a cozy winter evening

(NC) In this age of smartphones, tablets and television screens, many of us are putting books back onto our New Year's resolutions list. But it can be hard to know which ones will really keep you interested and stave off the temptation of digital devices. Here is a collection of books that globally minded readers committed to social justice won't be able to put down.

**Little Princes: One Man's Promise to Bring Home the Lost Children of Nepal.** In this book, author Conor Grennan shares a message of modesty for those engaged in humanitarian work. In this joyful but sometimes emotionally demanding book, he tells the story of how his time in Nepal volunteering at an orphanage led to the creation of a non-profit organization called Next Generation Nepal. Grennan explains the series of events with a sense of humour and shows that all that you need to instigate change is determination.

**A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier.** The causes of vicious conflict and atrocities often seem incomprehensible. In this book, Ishmael Beah provides unparalleled insight through his personal story, allowing readers to view the unravelling of the Sierra Leonean civil war through his eyes as a child soldier. From beginning to end, he describes the struggle for survival, desperation and brainwashing that led him to the front lines. Beah's story demonstrates that no matter how far gone a situation may seem, there is always hope.

**Confessions of an Economic Hitman.** Why do the rich stay rich and the poor stay poor? In this thought-provoking book, John Perkins recounts his role as a so-called "economic hitman," negotiating with developing country leaders to pave the way for foreign interests. He points to a system of "corporatocracy" in which government agencies work together with multinational corporations to boost U.S. interests at the expense of the global south. He also provides examples of how we can change the world for the better, including by focusing on simplicity over materialism.

Looking for more book ideas? Check out [www.amnesty-bookclub.ca](http://www.amnesty-bookclub.ca).

# Micmacs of Gesgapegiag improve financial situation

Gilles Gagné

GESGAPEGIAG: – According to a letter sent by Indigenous Services Canada to Chief Roderick Larocque and the council, the Micmacs of Gesgapegiag have significantly improved their financial situation compared to the situation that prevailed four years ago, when a "management action plan," was implemented to improve certain aspects of the band administration.

As mentioned by the management of the community on its facebook page, "Gesgapegiag is now above the threshold of two out of the three ratios used by Indigenous Services Canada.

The third ratio has also improved significantly." The message gives access to the letter sent to the chief and the council by Caroline Garon, regional director of funding for the department of Indigenous

Services Canada.

In 2015-2016, the liquidity ratio of the Gesgapegiag administration was 0.46, well below the 0.90 or more ratio recommended by Indigenous Services Canada. In 2016-2017, that ratio increased to 0.64 and reached 1.09 after the first six months of the 2017-2018, a term that ended on September 30.

The working capital to revenue ratio stood at -11.88% at the end of the 2015-2016 financial year, while a zero percent or more ratio is recommended by the federal government's department. That ratio improved to -7.65 at the conclusion of 2016-2017 financial year, and had reached 1.88% at the end of September 2017.

The sustainability ratio remains the only "unfavourable" ratio underlined by Indigenous Services Canada but Caroline Garon

mentions in her letter to the Gesgapegiag administration that it has "improved significantly," over the last three years, going from 0.16 after 2015-2016 to 0.23 after 2016-2017 and to 0.44 after six months of 2017-2018. The ministry's threshold stands at 0.50 or more for that ratio and seems within reach in a short period of time.

"Consequently, the Department will consider revising the level of intervention after the analysis of the 2017-2018 audited financial statements," of Gesgapegiag, concludes Ms. Garon. The end of their fiscal year is March 31.



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# Sugarloaf deaths: New information

Byron Christopher

CAMPBELLTON, N.B.: - For nearly a century, a pair of painted crosses on Sugarloaf Mountain in Campbellton, New Brunswick, have been a not-so-subtle reminder of how fragile life can be.

On a cool fall evening in 1924, local sisters Dorvil (Ramsay) McLean and Lottie Ramsay plunged to their deaths on the north face of the 1,000-foot extinct volcano.

Dorvil was 22. Lottie was a few years younger. The girls came from a large family; they had six siblings — two sisters and four brothers.

A light blanket of snow had fallen that fateful Sunday, November 9, making a hike up the Sugarloaf dangerous. Conditions were such that someone could easily slip and hurt themselves.

It was around four in the afternoon when the Ramsay girls set off to climb one of New Brunswick's best-known mountains. They reached the top by way of a path on the eastern spine of the massif — the same trail hikers use today.

It was getting dark when the two sisters stood on the summit. It was also a tad chilly — but the view spectacular, as always. Spread out beneath them were the lights of Campbellton and surrounding area.

We'll never know what possessed the girls to climb down the front of the Sugarloaf, a high-risk venture even in broad daylight.

We could analyze and parse this for eternity but, bottom line, no one really knows what happened. Key information is missing — and will always be missing; too much time has passed.

Dorvil, married just 14-months earlier, had a seven-month old boy at home to tend



Photo: Courtesy of Byron Christopher

*Crosses located on Sugarloaf Mountain.*

to. Little did the young mother know but she'd never see her child again. If you believe in a Heaven and a life beyond this one, mother and son would meet again — in the mid-1940s. More on that coming up.

When Dorvil and Lottie failed to show for supper, their parents, Jane and Sydney, sensed that something was amiss.

Jane was a stay-at-home mom, not uncommon in those days. Sydney was a railway fireman who earned his pay cheque the hard way ... by shoveling coal on the old steam locomotives.

Mom and dad had no idea where their girls were — and not knowing was giving them fits. Understandably, there was tension at the Ramsay household at 15 Hillside Street, down by the train tracks. A younger brother of the girls was given 'a few cents' and told to leave the house for a spell while the adults tried to make sense of things.

When Dorvil and Lottie failed to come home, it was clear that something had gone terribly wrong. No one slept well that night. Everyone dreaded that knock on the door ...

Up until now, few people (outside of family members and close friends) even knew what the Ramsay girls looked

like.

When the sun was up, a small search party set off to find the missing sisters. Several men, gingerly making their way down the face of the mountain, followed a set of footprints in the thin layer of snow. The girls' trail zigzagged here and there, as though they weren't sure where they were going.

About halfway down the mountain, hearts sank when the trail ended at the edge of a steep cliff. The men peered over the side and called out. No response. The eerie silence signaled they were no longer on a rescue mission.

Hundreds of feet below, a number of searchers — including a policeman — located the battered, bloodied bodies, wrapped them in blankets and carried them down the mountain.

Police then went around to the Ramsay house on Hillside where a grim-faced officer gently tapped on the door. He had some heartbreaking news no parent should ever hear ...

The bodies were taken to Graham's 'undertaking rooms.' There was no autopsy. There was "no need," according to the coroner, a Mr. Martin. The doctor came to the conclusion the girls had died from acute head injuries.

Dorvil and Lottie Ramsay's tombstone can be found in the

sprawling Rural Cemetery in the west end of Campbellton.

## Death certificates

Little is known about the Ramsay girls, in part because the accident happened long ago — but also because family members just didn't want to talk about it. So deep was their pain.

Death certificates now shed more light on the girls ... and how they perished.

Arabella Dorvil (Ramsay), born in Campbellton in 1902, was married to Edmund McLean. On the official statement of the cause, date, and place of death, 'Occupation of Deceased' was listed as housewife. 'Cause of Death': The skull was fractured in many places, making (a) lot of compressions.

'Contributory': Fall from top of Sugarloaf Mountain in Campbellton, NB.

Lottie Sarah Ramsay's death certificate lists her occupation as a restaurant waitress. Lottie, who was also born in Campbellton, was single. Incredibly, Lottie has three different birth dates. Her death certificate lists her date of birth as 1904. However, her birth certificate indicates she was born in 1906. Lottie's tombstone has 1905 as the year she was born. Take your pick.

Back then, vital stats — including the correct spelling of names — weren't so important.

Lottie, too, died from massive head injuries. "I don't remember having seen her before," writes Martin, who filled out Lottie's death certificate, "... I only (saw her) as a coroner."

Under 'Contributory,' the coroner noted: Feet slipped on ice on top of Sugarloaf Mountain causing fall down the mountain ...

It's interesting Martin came to that conclusion. It could be that someone — perhaps the coroner himself or a police officer — spoke with those who had followed the girls' tracks to the edge of a cliff.

As part of an investigation, members of the search party were most likely interviewed to help determine if the deaths were an accident or the result of foul play. That's standard procedure nowadays and I suspect it was like that 100 years ago.

Rumours of the girls being 'chased by a bear' ... hmmm ... that doesn't make sense. Bears had already been hibernating for a month. And if a bear was not in its den that par-

ticular evening — for whatever reason — it would have been out searching for food and water, and there wasn't a lot of that at the top of the mountain.

Keep this in mind as well. No one reported seeing bear tracks.

Some have speculated the girls may have been alive for a while after they hit bottom. That's unlikely, given their severe head injuries. Owing to the long drop — we're talking hundreds of feet here — both Dorvil and Lottie were most certainly unconscious within seconds and dead within minutes.

Their parents were forever in mourning. The same could be said for many in the small, tightly-knit community where everyone seemed to know each other. The entire town was in mourning — and in shock.

One can only imagine the number of prayers whispered for the two girls. Then and now.

In death, a waitress and a stay-at-home mom have become some of Campbellton's best-known citizens — not because of who they were — but how they perished.

## Alex Johnson, painter

Alex Johnson went beyond making devotions. On Thursday, May 28, 1925, the former World War I sniper took aim at creating a unique memorial for his dear friends.

With the help of his older brother Seely, the 26-year-old climbed the face of the Sugarloaf, carrying gallons of paint to where the bodies were found. He then pulled out a brush and began painting two rock surfaces.

It was a full day's work. Next morning, people in Campbellton woke to find a pair of white crosses on their mountain. Everyone knew what they were about.

Alex's father, an immigrant from Norway who ran a painting business in town, supplied the paint ... but his youngest son provided the manpower.

He also provided some form of closure — not only for himself but for everyone in Campbellton.

Alex painted the crosses on his own time, without compensation from anyone ... or hand-outs from charities. Back then, that's how things got done. It was, as they say, a labour of love.

Angie Johnson recalls her father talking about the 'great



Photo: courtesy of the Ramsay Family, enhancement by John Van Horne

*A rare photo of the victims: Dorvil and Lottie Ramsay.*

Cont'd on page 16

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# Announcements...

## Obituary



### HAYES: Joyce Remona

Joyce Remona Hayes, 89, of New Carlisle, Quebec, passed away January 6, 2018 at the Centre d'Accueil de la Baie.

Joyce was the only child born to Hazel Mann and Wilson Huntington on November 24, 1928. She married Lyall Hayes, and opened her own beauty salon, before dedicating her life to raising her four children. In her earlier years she enjoyed music, playing the piano and organ, being involved in her church and spending winters in Florida.

Joyce is preceded in death by her beloved husband Lyall. Her spirit and smile will be forever remembered, and sadly missed by her family. Joyce is survived by her daughter Charlene; son Bradley (Kerry); son Todd (Sandra); and daughter Teri Lee (Charlie); 11 grandchildren Kristy, Cory, Mark, Ryan, Cody, Jordan, Brody, Shauna, Kylie, Shaylie, and Boston; and nine great grandchildren Noah, Jak, Jesse, Hudson, Tate, Mckenzie, Kalea, Kaitlyn and Addison.

The family would like to thank Mrs. Marjorie Doherty who became a good friend to her. "Sitting silently beside a friend who is hurting may be the best gift we can give."

The family also wishes to extend their gratitude to the Centre d'Accueil de la Baie for their support in her final days, and to all those who spent time caring for, and loving her.



### LEBLANC: Alphonse

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Alphonse Leblanc. He passed away peacefully at the hospital Hotel Dieu in Quebec on November 28, 2017 at the age of 77.

He leaves to mourn his wife Elisabeth Mallet and his five stepchildren; Edward, Lisa (Kenny), Judy (Robin), Tammy (Cullie), Cindy (Mark), along with his seven grandchildren, and his brothers and sisters Jean-Pierre (Claudette), Edmour (Georgette), Roland, Emilie, Herve, William (Reina), and Michelle (Charles).

The wake was held on December 3, 2017, at the Henri Thibodeau Funeral Home. The church service will be held on July 7, 2018, at 11 a.m. at the Notre Dame des Saints Anges in New Richmond. All are welcome. He will be missed by his loving family, relatives, and friends.

Page 12, January 17, 2018 - Spec

## In Memoriam



### GOYETTE: Eric

June 1984 - January 2012

In loving memory of Eric Goyette.

January comes with deep regret,  
It brings back a day we'll never forget,  
But beautiful memories are wonderful things,  
They last till the longest day.  
They never wear out, they never get lost,  
And can never be given away.  
We think of you so often,  
And miss you more each day.  
Our thoughts often wander,  
To a place not far away,  
Where we left you gently sleeping,  
Six years ago today.

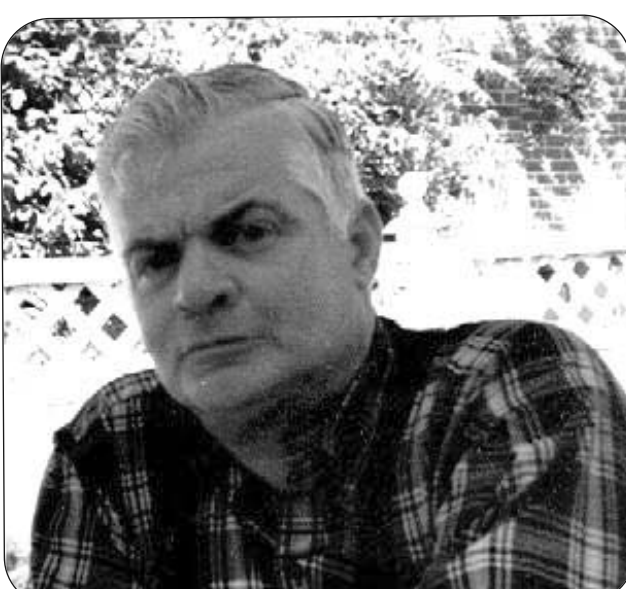
Lovingly from Mom, Jean, Patrick, Emilie and Noémie. xo

### GOYETTE: Eric

In loving memory of grandson and nephew Eric Goyette who passed away January 19, 2012.

Our dear grandson and nephew,  
You left us too soon but,  
You are still in our hearts  
and will be forever.

Lovingly remembered and loved from Grandma Alberta and Uncle Gordon.



### METHOT: Joe

In loving memory of a dear husband who passed away five years ago on January 12, 2013.

Missing you always  
You never said I'm leaving  
You never said goodbye  
You were gone before we knew it  
And only God knows why.  
In life I loved you dearly,  
In death I love you still.  
In my heart I hold a place  
That only you can fill.

It broke my heart to lose you  
But you didn't go alone  
A part of me went with you  
The day God took you home.

Your loving wife Carolyn.

### SIMON: Elson (Sonny)

In loving memory of a dear husband, father, father-in-law and grandfather who passed away January 16, 1983.

Memories are cherished thoughts,  
Kept deep within our hearts,  
Memories are all that is left.  
When loved ones have to part,  
Memories can bring a smile,  
Laughter and a tear,  
That's why those precious moments,  
Will always keep him near.

Sadly missed and remembered every day. With love Merle and family.

### WYLIE: Arnold

In loving memory of Arnold Wylie.

It has been eight year since you left us,  
We sit here and ponder how very much,  
We'd like to talk with you today,  
There are so many things  
That we didn't get to say.  
I know how much you cared for us,  
And how much we cared for you,  
And each time that we think of you,  
We know you'll miss us too.  
An angel came and called your name,  
And took you by the hand and said,  
Your place was ready in heaven, far above,  
And you had to leave behind,  
All those you dearly loved.  
You had so much to live for,  
You had so much to do,  
It still seems impossible, that God was taking you,  
And though your life on earth is past,  
In heaven it starts anew  
You'll live for all eternity,  
Just as God has promised you.  
And though you've walked through Heaven's gate,  
We are never far apart,  
For every time we think of you,  
Your right here, deep within our hearts.

Sadly missed and never will be forgotten, your loving wife Viola, children Daniel (Hélène), Diane (Joe), David (Marie), Wynita (Roger), Peggy (Tim), Shelly, Ursula (Jacques), Jerry (Sandra), all your grandchildren, great-grandchildren and your brother Anderson.

**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**

Announcements for this page should be submitted typed or printed and paid in advance.

To have your photo returned, please send a stamped self-addressed envelope.

**SUBMISSIONS FOR THIS PAGE MUST BE IN OUR OFFICE BY THURSDAY AT 4 P.M.**



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# Social notes...

Hello everyone. Happy New Year! We are very thankful that all our loved ones who ventured to travel for, over, and following the holidays have returned safely. It is hoped that the coming year will be a memorable one for all the positive and right reasons. Here we go with this week's news!

The saying "better late than never" is being applied to an overdue and sincere thank-you to Elaine Patterson and her sister Lois Bechervaise for the wonderful and fun Christmas party they held at their home on Sunday, December 10. The lively and sometimes outrageous group of mostly seniors was well taken care of from the moment they set foot into the place. An array of appetizers complemented by a delightful punch helped to loosen up the vocal chords for the Christmas sing-a-long led by Karen Briand on guitar. Then Santa made an appearance and distributed gifts. As if that wasn't enough, a full meal was also provided with all the trimmings! These ladies are so very generous with their time and they enjoy feeding folks, which they do very well. Although it doesn't seem to be sufficient, once again, thank you for the lovely afternoon.

Belated Happy 80th Birthday wishes are extended to Pat Patterson who celebrated her special day on December 18. Her daughters Trudy and Tracy organized a birthday luncheon for their mom and invited a number of her many friends. We wish you a great year with continued good health and much happiness.

Congratulations and best wishes are extended to Paula and Ricky Shannon who celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on December 19 surrounded by their loving family while they were in Ontario. The must have found the fountain of youth as they are so young in all they do that it seems incredible they are married 50 years. Paula and Ricky just returned and thoroughly enjoyed their visit with their children, grandchildren, family, and friends. It's good to have you home!

Joan Lequesne received a very unexpected and pleasant surprise for her 80th birthday on December 20. There was a knock at her door and when she opened it there stood her grandson, Jamie MacFarlane with a beautiful bouquet of flowers. Jamie lives in Kemptville, Ontario and he wanted to surprise his grandmother. He surely succeeded and they spent Christmas together.

Caroline Gavey was home from Chateaugay to spend some time before and after the holidays with her mom, Vera Simon of Sandy Beach. Caroline also spent some time with her sister Eleanor and brother-in-law Clayton Bourgaize and their family as well as her brother Garfield Simon and his wife Sandra Clark and family.

Faye Coffin got home from LaSalle in time to join her siblings, Edith, Franklin, Clarence and Doreen for the holidays. Faye joined her sister and many others in the choir for the Christmas services and regularly sings with the choir while she is in Gaspé.

Elaine and Albert Patterson from Wakeham enjoyed their visit over the holidays with their son Stacy, daughter-in-law Andrea Rooney, and grandchildren Haley and Luke from Moncton, NB.

Christine Beebe Mullin very much enjoyed having her daughter Caroline and fiancé Éric Comte Marois who were home from Montreal for the holidays.

Valerie and Manny Alexander were home from Trenton, Ontario for the Christmas holidays and into the New Year. They own the Alexander family home in Sandy Beach and are frequently home.

Carolyn and Jim Caputo and their son Andrew were home to Gaspé for Christmas and stayed with Lester Coffin, Carolyn's dad in Farewell Cove. Andrew's visit was brief yet much appreciated. Everyone has returned safely to their home in VanKleek Hill, Ontario.

Vernice and Barry Dumaresq were very pleased to have their son Dale, his wife Guylaine and their son Léon home from Sherbrooke for Christmas.

Ann and Lyall Patterson enjoyed having their daughter Patti Ann, husband Daniel Smith and their daughter Olivia home from Ottawa for the holidays. There were a number of family get-togethers and many fun outings for Olivia.

Maryann and Fred Kraenzel also enjoyed having their daughter Margaret and her children home from Matane



**Sharon Howell**

## GASPÉ NEWS

for the holidays.

Ellen Patterson was very happy to have her son, Jeremy Betteridge from Sherbrooke, visit with her over the holidays. Ellen has had a bit of a rough time this year. We wish her a better and more peaceful 2018.

Frances Kilbride was very pleased to have her daughter Joyce and husband John Madill spend Christmas with her in Gaspé this year. It had been a very long time since Joyce was home for Christmas. Joyce and John drove from Rideau Ferry, Ontario and were subjected to our icy surfaces everywhere they went. The three of them visited with us for a brief spell just a couple of days after Christmas. We were so worried about Frances walking on the icy entrance but she managed to do it safely.

Sharon Reeder enjoyed having a house full of family over the holidays. Her son Danny, his wife Lisa, and daughter Cassidy were home from St. Constant. Also home was her son Scott, his fiancée Chris, and daughter Becca from Harriston, Ontario. Scott and Chris are getting married in Gaspé this coming summer. The excitement was not yet finished as Sharon's son Randy and his girlfriend, Tracy Savidant became engaged over the holidays. They are planning to be married sometime in 2019 in Gaspé. Congratulations to both couples!

The Christmas Pageant Service was held at St. Paul's Anglican Church in Gaspé on Sunday, December 24. This year Melissa Rehel, her husband Keith Herron, and their new baby girl Abigail represented the Holy Family. Members of the community, young and old, took part in the various roles representing the people in the Christmas story. Each year, the pageant is well attended by the members of the community and very often also by their out of town guests. The organization of casting the roles and the costumes is done by Elaine Patterson and Lois Bechervaise. Karen Briand, the choir director chooses the music for the pageant and she likes to keep it lively, fresh, and child friendly so that they can feel at ease in church. This year there were three young ladies: Kylie, Marylou, and Chetna who formed a junior choir for the event. It takes considerable time and lots of practises to put the project together and each year it is well received. There was also an evening Christmas Eve service with traditional Christmas hymns.

My sister Cathy and her husband had a house full of guests over the holidays. Her daughter Cara and her three children: Isabel, Tristan, and Delaney arrived on the Saturday before Christmas and left on the following Saturday. When she left Chateaugay it was not good weather until around Lévis. On her return trip it was not very nice here until around Rivière-du-Loup. Although their visit was very brief they enjoyed visiting with Nannie Valerie Normand and playing with their cousins Dakota, Derek, Alyssa, Emma, and Owen. It was wonderful to have them with us and we can hardly wait to have them back again. Cara also enjoyed visiting with her friends Patti Ann Patterson and Margaret Kraenzel who were also home visiting with their families. The gals managed to find some time to reconnect, catch up and it allowed time for all of their children to get to know each other. Cara's cousin Dawn Eden and her boyfriend, Fred Bourget Collin visited a couple of times which allowed Cara and Dawn the chance to play guitar and sing some of their favourite pieces. The day before they returned home, Patti Ann and daughter Olivia along with Cara and the children as well as Jessica, Chuck, Emma and Owen went cross-country skiing. It was the first time for some of them and after a bit of a rough start for at least one of them, they all had a great time.

On December 29 Mr. Shaun Stanley at age 35 had an accident on his skidoo. The community has been in shock as he was so well known and loved. He was one of the three owners and operators of the company Suspendum. Shaun is dearly missed by the love of his life, Melissa Mal-

ouin and their children Jaeden, Ozalik, and Akian. He is very dearly missed by his mom, Marjorie Langlais along with his sisters Holly and LeeAnn and their families, his aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and numerous cousins, relatives, and friends. Shaun was predeceased by his father Glenn Stanley. The funeral service was held in St. Majorique Catholic Church on January 3. Rest in peace, Shaun!

Bethany, Joshua, Solomon and Rose Paetkau of Wakeham were very pleased to welcome many of the parishioners of the Parish of Gaspé at their open house on Sunday, December 31. It was a very relaxed time with lots of delicious food and delightful conversation. The Paetkau's are new to the area and we look forward to keeping in touch with them as they go along their journey in God's service. Joshua will be ordained to the priesthood on February 3 at Holy Trinity Anglican Cathedral in Quebec. Congratulations Joshua!

Our sympathies are extended to Debbie O'Brien Boulay of Haldimand and her siblings Bing, Boyd, and Sherry on the recent passing of their sister Jocelyne Breton Reinhardt. Jocelyne was just 69. Rest in peace, Jocelyne!

Leanne Alexander celebrated a very special birthday this year. She achieved the wonderful age of 50 on January 3. Each year the family celebrates her big day and this year was extra special. She had a nice visit on her birthday from her favourite guy, Dennis Drainville, along with his daughter Aurora. They brought her a lovely gift and the next time you see Leanne, you should ask her about it. Later that day, Leanne and her parents Linda and Glen Alexander, her Aunt Valerie and Uncle Manny Alexander, her Aunt Carol and Uncle Stanley Suddard went to Maestro's Restaurant to celebrate Leanne's and Manny's birthdays. The restaurant staff played music from "Grease" just for Leanne as that is her favourite music. After supper everyone went back to Linda and Glen's to have dessert. Their close friend and dear neighbour Solange Huard made Leanne a decadent and delicious chocolate cake. A belated and very Happy Birthday to both of you and all the best for the coming year!

Congratulations and best wishes are extended to Elaine and Albert Patterson on the occasion of their 57th Wedding Anniversary which was on Sunday, January 6.

The York Rink is now open. The community is very grateful for the help provided by some new people following the ill health of Brian Palmer who has looked after the rink for 25 years. Brian is recovering from a stroke. We wish him continued and steady progress. There are some recent photos on the York Rink Facebook page.

The York River Seniors are back at it, now that the holidays are over. Their first 500 Card Party of the New Year was postponed due to bad weather and it is now scheduled for Friday, January 12. A Military Whist Card Party is scheduled for Friday, January 19 at the York Hall. Please contact Tony Patterson at 418-368-3276 to add your name or to add a table of players to either game.

Please join me in wishing the following people a wonderful birthday and best wishes to you all throughout the coming year: Leanne and Manny Alexander on January 3; Jan Thompson Maloney on January 4; Andy Patterson on January 5; Ralph Kilbride on January 13; Olga Jean on January 15; Carol Jones, Terry Stanley, and Delaney Normand on January 16; Bonnie Annett and Liam Duguay LaPierre on January 22; Judy LeMesurier and Shawn Howell on January 23; Robbie Burns, the Scottish Poet (January 25, 1759 – July 21, 1796) Happy Robbie Burns Day - haggis anyone! Norma Gaul McDonald on January 26; Holly Hackett, Joyce Kilbride Madill, and Olivia Thomson (Helen Howell's granddaughter in Fredericton on January 27; Elaine Patterson on January 31.

Special honours and birthday wishes to the following "young at heart generation:" Mrs. Iona McAuley Kennedy of Victoria, BC (formerly of Douglastown) who will be 95 years young on January 19; Mrs. Lena (Phil) Bourdages of Lévis who will be 94 years young on January 22; and Mrs. Mary Miller of Sandy Beach who will be 101 years young on January 23

Please remember, if you know of some news that touches the Gaspé folk, either from here or away, please don't be shy and contact me at 418-368-3914 or via email at photo\_ops@hotmail.com. Until then, keep well.



## CLASSIFIED

**WANTED:** Trying to locate a photo, a photo of a painting or woodcut illustration of the freight and passenger steamer S.S. BEAVER which operated between Quebec and various ports on the Gaspé Coast wrecked at Pointe-Sec., near Chloridorme, in September, 1893. Contact: [bclark380@hotmail.com](mailto:bclark380@hotmail.com) (418) 985-2758. (J24)

## COAST ROUND-UP

**GASPÉ:**  
**Club Sandwich Evening**  
 The York River Senior Citizens Club will be holding their annual 5 to 7 Club Sandwich evening at the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 59 Gaspé on Friday, January 26, Please note that all proceeds are going to the Royal Canadian Legion. Please come out and join us in this activity to support the legion. \$7 per person.

**DOUGLASTOWN:**  
**Upcoming Activities**  
 The following activities will be held at the Douglastown Community Centre.

**Yoga Classes:** Yoga is back, a yoga class will be offered from **January 15 to March 19**. There will be a Sivananda yoga, open yoga class on Mondays from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. You can sign up for the entire 10-week session for \$90 or pay \$10 per course. To register or if you have any questions, please call 418-730-3280 or send an e-mail to [yogagaspe@gmail.com](mailto:yogagaspe@gmail.com). Please bring your yoga mat.  
**January 23:** Travel talks will begin and continue every second Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m. in the conference room of the Community Centre. Claudine Cabot and Jacinthe Fournier - Newfoundland Scenery A neat way to travel around the world! Most travel talks will be in French. Everyone is welcome! Voluntary contribution. February 6: Sylvio Bourget - Building a School in Haiti; February 20: Louis Morin From Rome to Canterbury: 1900 km on foot  
**Friday, January 26:** Happy Hour Special: community garden at 5 p.m.. The Community Centres' Happy Hour is a great opportunity to get together with old friends or make new ones. We will present the new project for collective seeding for the community garden. Bring your refreshments and a dish to share. A voluntary contribution of \$2 would be appreciated.  
**Sunday, January 28:** Community Breakfast at the Douglas community Centre, from 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., we welcome everyone to our monthly breakfast. \$8 for adults (12 & over), \$4 for children (5-11 years) would be appreciated (ages 4 and under, free).  
**Zumba classes** will continue in

January...every Tuesday evening from 7 p.m. until 8 p.m.

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

**BARACHOIS:**  
 Yoga  
 Start the New Year right ! A new 8-week session of Yoga starts January 20, 10 a.m. Saturdays, at Belle Anse School. Bilingual instructor Elise Dumouchel. Early Bird special rate of \$70 deadline January 18. Call Sandy at 645-2874 or email [janet.c.harvey@gmail.com](mailto:janet.c.harvey@gmail.com). Everyone is welcome!

**BARACHOIS:**  
**Bingo**  
 Friday night money Bingo continues at 7 p.m. at the Barachois Recreation Centre on **January 19, February 2 and February 16**. Everyone is welcome!

**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:**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
 The Annual General Meeting of the Agricultural Society will be held on **Monday, January 29**, at 7 p.m. at the Shigawake Municipal Hall.

**HOPE TOWN:**  
**Hope Baptist Church**  
**Friday, February 2**, at 7 p.m. Youth Rally for grades 7-11; **Saturday, February 3**, at 7 p.m.

Music Night at the Church; **Sunday, February 4**, at 11 a.m. Special Service with Music. All events for the weekend are put on from groups from the New Brunswick Bible Institute.

**HOPE TOWN:**  
**Crib Tournament**  
 A crib tournament will be held at the Hope Town Community Center on **Saturday, February 3**, at 1 p.m. \$10 per person. Please register your team by **Thursday, January 1**. Call Audrey or Linda 418-752-2015.

**HOPE TOWN:**  
**Whist Party**  
 A whist party will be held on **Saturday, February 10**, at 8 p.m. at the Hope Town Community Centre. Come out and join us for a night of fun.

**NEW CARLISLE:**  
**Gift Bingo**  
 The New Carlisle dart club will be holding a gift bingo **Saturday, February 3**, at 7 p.m. at the Legion.

**NEW CARLISLE:**  
**Kempffer Centre Games Afternoon**  
**Thursday:** We will have card games from 1 to 4 p.m. at the New Carlisle Town Hall starting **February 1**. Play what you wish and bring your partner. Refreshments will be served. \$5 entrance fee. Proceeds go to Heritage New Carlisle Kempffer Centre. People who like other games like Scrabble, Skip-bo and any game you and your friends like, come along, have a snack and enjoy the afternoon. The digital card games will be on again as well, come see how much fun it is.

**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:**  
**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](mailto:bettyasmollett@gmail.com) or call 418-752-6181.

**NEW CARLISLE:**  
**Monthly Breakfast**  
 The New Carlisle 50+ Club will be holding its monthly breakfast at the Heritage Restaurant on **February 14**, at 9 a.m.

**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.

**GESGAPEGIAG:**  
**Community Market**  
 A community market will be held in the Galgosiet building on **Saturday, January 20**, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. To reserve a table for \$5, call the band office (Bonnie Jerome) 418-759-3441.

## BLANKET CLASSIFIEDS

QCNA (Quebec Community Newspapers Association) can place your classified ad into 20 weekly papers throughout Quebec - papers just like the one you are reading right now! One phone call does it all! Call Marnie at QCNA 514-697-6330. Visit: [www.qcna.org](http://www.qcna.org). SAWMILLS from only \$4,397. - MAKE MONEY & SAVE MONEY with your own bandmill - cut lumber any dimension. In stock ready to ship. Free info & DVD: [www.Norwood-Sawmills.com/400T](http://www.Norwood-Sawmills.com/400T). 1-800-567-0404 ext:400T.

**UNITED CHURCH**  
**Sunday, January 21**  
 10:30 a.m. Hoptown

**ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA**

**Sunday, January 21**  
**New Carlisle**  
 10 a.m. Morning Prayer  
**Shigawake**  
 11 a.m. Morning Prayer

**PARISH OF ALL SAINTS BY THE SEA**  
 St. Peter's Malbay  
 11 a.m. Service

**PARISH OF GASPÉ**  
**Sunday, January 21**  
**York**  
 10 a.m. Service

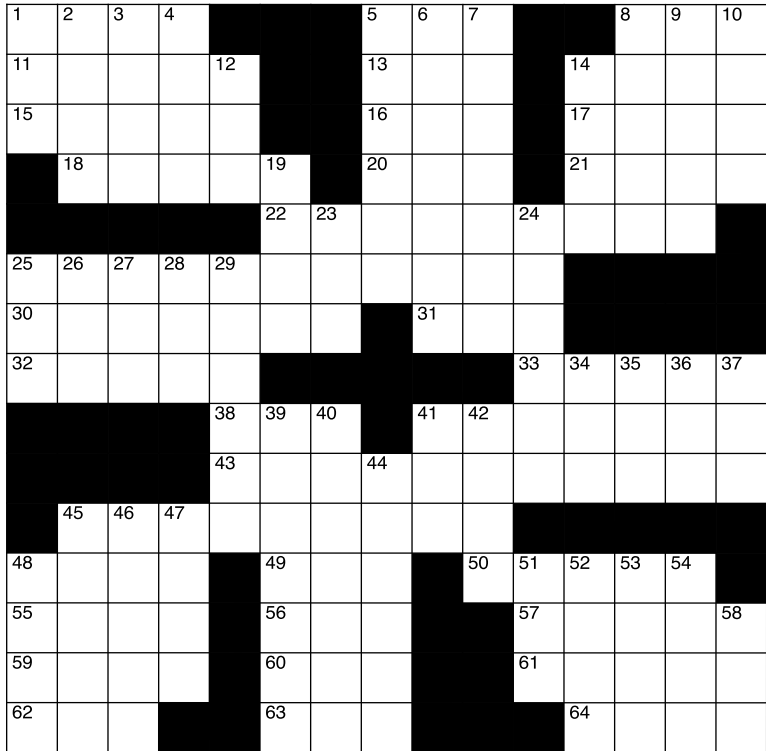
## ANNOUNCE ALL YOUR UPCOMING EVENTS HERE!

Facebook is great,  
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 If you are planning an event  
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 don't forget to put it in The Gaspé Spec!

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## CROSSWORD



### CLUES ACROSS

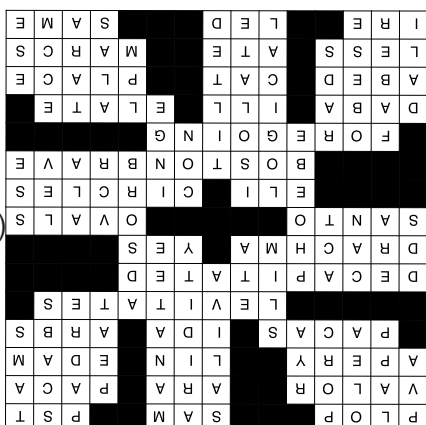
1. Fall down
5. Walmart founder Walton
8. Los Angeles time zone
11. Gallantry
13. Early Supreme Court justice Bartlett
14. One-time governor of Maryland
15. Act of imitating
16. Popular basketballer Jeremy
17. Round Dutch cheese
18. S. American rodents
20. Comic opera "Princess \_\_\_"
21. Commodities buyers and sellers (slang)
22. Hovers
25. Having had one's head cut off
30. One-time monetary unit of Greece
31. Not no
32. Beloved Cubs third baseman Ron
33. Shapes
38. Giants signal caller Manning
41. Moves all the way around
43. Babe Ruth retired as one
45. Relinquishing
48. Native religion in China
49. Not well
50. Fill with high spirits
55. In bed
56. Type of pet
57. Somewhere to go
59. Smaller quantity
60. Ingested
61. Singer and Jacobs are two
62. Anger
63. British rockers \_\_\_ Zeppelin
64. Like

### CLUES DOWN

10. Caps
12. Handwoven rug
14. Soil-like material
19. Not wide
23. When you aim to get there
24. Hold molecules
25. Tooth caregiver
26. Amount of time
27. Beverage container
28. Perform
29. Appollo's grandmother
34. Obsolete home entertainment device
35. Serbian mythological demon
36. Bulgarian currency
37. Midway between south and southeast
39. Makes sense
40. A way to single out
41. Criminal (slang)
42. Former Tigers third baseman Brandon
44. Wobbled
45. Singapore's second highest peak
46. Grossly overweight
47. Radioactivity units
48. Famed Spanish painter
51. Internet router algorithm
52. Expression of sorrow or pity
53. Druidic mother goddess
54. Electronic counter-countermeasures
58. Midway between east and southeast

### CLUES DOWN

1. Polyvinyl acetate
2. Canadian folk musician
3. Evergreen trees and shrubs
4. Meat from a pig (French)
5. Secretion
6. Quality of yielding nothing of value
7. Aquatic mammal
8. Father
9. Protective crusts



## Why do we say ...

By Gary Briand

Why do we say "Adam's apple"? We know that Adam never ate an apple in the biblical narrative of The Fall, which refers only to an unspecified forbidden fruit on the tree in the Garden of Eden. That forbidden fruit of which the Lord said, "Ye shall not eat of the fruit which is in the midst of the garden, neither shall ye touch it, lest you die." (Genesis 3:3) Now that the Garden of Eden has been found, the experts claim that "the fruit" was probably an apricot or a pomegranate. Muslims, however, insist that it was a banana!

Whatever the answer, many fruits and vegetables were in the earliest days called "apples". Pomegranates were called "Apples of Carthage"; dates, "finger apples"; potatoes, "apples of the earth". At any rate, Adam fell victim to Eve's wiles and put to his mouth a piece of "the apple" from which Eve had eaten a full bite. Adam swallowed the piece but it stuck in his throat and formed a lump that took the name Adam's apple and came to mark all males, not females, as victims of The Fall.

Modern physiologists describe the lump as developing in pubescent adolescents as an anterior thyroid cartilage. But in the eighteenth century, the earliest anatomists named the protrusion "pomum Adami" or Adam's apple. They simply could not find any other explanation for the lump in the throat that moved up and down. Eve had digested the apple but Adam, ridden with guilt, had been incapable of the swallowing reflex.

## AIR FLIGHT WORD SEARCH

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

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

### WORDS

ACCELERATION  
 ACCURACY  
 AIRCRAFT  
 AIRPORT  
 AIRSHIP  
 ALTIMETER  
 ALTITUDE  
 ALUMINUM  
 CABIN  
 CALIBRATION  
 CLUTCH  
 DEVICE  
 DIRECTION  
 ELEVATION  
 ENGINE  
 EQUIPMENT  
 FLIGHT  
 FREQUENCY  
 FUEL  
 FUSELAGE  
 GEAR  
 HELICOPTER  
 INVENTOR  
 LANDING  
 LUBRICANT  
 NAVIGATION  
 NEEDLE  
 NOSE  
 PILOT  
 PLAN  
 SEA LEVEL  
 SHAFT  
 SHUTDOWN  
 SPEED  
 THROTTLE  
 VELOCITY

### ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, if a special opportunity or circumstance comes your way, jump at the chance to be a part of it. Such opportunities might not come along too often, so enjoy the ride.

### TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, a newfound devotion to exercise may improve your life in many different ways. If you have been vacillating on whether or not to embrace a new lifestyle, just do it.

### GEMINI – May 22/June 21

An unexpected situation has put you out of your element, Gemini. For now you can simply go with the flow and see how things work out. Don't let this get the better of you.

### CANCER – June 22/July 22

Cancer, dabbling in a few different projects may give you a unique perspective and the inspiration to take things in a new direction. Keep putting out those feelers.

### LEO – July 23/Aug 23

Leo, you have just about sold one of your ideas and now it's just a matter of being patient. Soon the results will support your vision, and you can enjoy



the fruits of your labors.

### VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Let other people's perceptions roll off you like water off of a duck's back, Virgo. To get the full picture, you need to immerse yourself and make up your own mind.

### LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, take a few steps back and think about whether or not a new approach is needed regarding a specific situation. Thinking logically instead of emotionally may help.

### SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, take a day to recharge your batteries if you feel your energy stores are running low. You may not need an extended vacation to do so, just a day to relax.

### SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, looking within yourself can help you get a grasp on your situation and your future. Make the most of this introspection and use it as a catalyst for positive change.

### CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Take certain things with a grain of salt, Capricorn. Until you can

flush out the facts, there is no point in worrying or passing judgement. Be patient and things will come to light.

### AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Find more time to explore an important relationship, Aquarius. Don't overlook the importance of date night. Make time for this important person even if it requires sacrifices.

### PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, do something unexpected this week and watch as those around you are inspired by your willingness to try new things.

### FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- JANUARY 14**  
 Dave Grohl, Singer (49)
- JANUARY 15**  
 Dove Cameron, Actress (22)
- JANUARY 16**  
 Lin-Manuel Miranda, (38)
- JANUARY 17**  
 Calvin Harris, DJ/Mus.(34)
- JANUARY 18**  
 Kelly Rohrbach, Model (28)
- JANUARY 19**  
 Shawn Johnson, Gymnast (26)
- JANUARY 20**  
 Rainn Wilson, Actor (52)

**SUGARLOAF:**

**▶ Cont'd from page 10**

sadness' in town when the Ramsay girls died and that he wanted to do something special so people would never forget them. The result was a pair of large crosses that could be seen for miles.

In an ironic twist, the photo of the sisters (page 10) shows both wearing tiny crosses.

Thanks to a sturdy leather harness, Alex Johnson was able to safely paint the memorials without becoming a fatality himself.

Perhaps it didn't occur to Alex at the time — although maybe it did — but his crosses have saved lives and injuries simply by being that constant reminder.

A novice climber would think twice about scaling the north face. No one wants to be that third cross.

Johnson, a founding member of the Royal Canadian Legion in Campbellton, died in 1997. He was 98.

The man who initially painted the crosses on Sugarloaf Mountain is buried in the same cemetery as Dorvil and Lottie Ramsay.

**Ramsay family reaction**

The two crosses didn't go over well with the Ramsay family, especially Jane, the mother.

That's understandable. Seeing the two memorials day in and day out was a painful reminder for mom that her two

girls were never coming home.

**Dorvil's only child**

Dorvil had married when she was 20. Her husband, Edmund, was 22.

The young couple took their vows on August 21, 1924. They hadn't been married 18-months when Dorvil lost her life on the mountain.

Dorvil and Edmund had one child, Sterling Edmund. Edmund Junior never really knew his mother because he was an infant when she died. Before young Edmund could finish high school — like so many teens back then — he signed up at a military recruiting office, was given a uniform and shipped overseas to fight in the 'European Theatre' of World War Two.

Trooper McLean (Reg # G3906) ended up with the 28th Armoured Regiment (tanks), based in British Columbia and like so many young men, he never came home.

The young soldier was killed on April 25, 1945, when his tank exploded in Friesoythe, near Bremen in northwest Germany — only days before the Nazis surrendered.

Edmund Junior had just turned 21. Like his mother, he also died at an early age.

Trooper McLean is one of 1,382 soldiers interred in a Canadian War Cemetery in Holten, Netherlands ... about two hours' drive from where he was killed

McLean is buried with a group of young soldiers (ages

19 to 26) in a corner of the well-kept cemetery.

On the white tombstones are some touching tributes: "Far from home he died that we might enjoy life" ... "memories are treasures no one can steal; death leaves a heartache no one can heal" ... "he is not dead, he is just asleep" and ... "far from those who loved him but in eternal peace with God ..."

On the tombstone of Dorvil Ramsay's son, however, there is no personalized tribute — only a name, rank and a tiny cross.

Turns out, Sapper McLean had been engaged. In an apartment in downtown Montreal, Evelyn Gallant paced the floor, unaware of the fate of her fiancé ...

To get answers, Evelyn wrote to the army and someone (with three initials) responded on behalf of a colonel...

**An everlasting memory**

Angie Johnson, Alex's oldest daughter, lives in the small house her father built on Aucoin Street in the west end of Campbellton.

When the 73-year-old relaxes on her south-facing balcony, overlooking the mighty Sugarloaf, she reflects on the crosses, the two Ramsay girls — and her dad.

"My father ..." Angie offers, tearing up, "was such a kind man." Motioning to the crosses on the mountain, she adds, "Look at what he did! I am so proud of him ..."

**2017: The year that was**

**ANSWERS**

1. Percé
2. United States
3. 8.1 million
4. \$4.00
5. Sundance Film Festival, Utah
6. Restigouche South East, Carleton, Maria, New Carlisle
7. Daniel Desjardins, Bonaventure
8. It raised the consciousness of government and companies that workers are human beings.
9. Shipwreck of The Carricks in 1847
10. Gaspé, Sainte-Anne-des-Monts, Maria
11. Canadian (federal) government
12. Regional cuts in road budgets
13. 102%
14. Highway 132 bridge over the Grand Cascadepia River
15. \$100 million
16. He was excluded from the Parti Québécois caucus. M. Lalièvre asked for gifts and services from engineering firm Roche when he was the town of Gaspé Director General.
17. New Carlisle, Bonaventure, Chandler
18. \$6,000 to \$15,000
19. Spray chemical herbicides
20. June 1, 2018
21. Price and supply
22. 2.2 million tonnes and 1.7 million tonnes
23. About 500
24. Our children and grandchildren
25. A new gym at a cost of \$2.6 million with completion by December 2018.
26. Not increasing the frequency of trains
27. June 2018
28. Parc Forillon and Percé
29. Due to whale deaths ships had to slow down
30. 36%

This is just a small sampling of the news stories from the Gaspé Spec in 2017. Read your local newspaper and you will be more informed about the infrastructure, economy, education, environment, the police report, happenings, celebrations, politics and more! Please do not say that there is 'nothing in the paper.' First of all, not true. Secondly you are ripping yourself off for an understanding and awareness of your communities. This is all available to you for the low cost of a yearly subscription. Help us to show non-readers of Spec the importance of this paper. Give a gift subscription. Spread the word. *(Diane Skinner)*  
*No one needs to tell me about the importance of the free press in a democratic society or about the essential role a newspaper can play in its community. Robert Kennedy*

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