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week



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Dr. Pierre Morissette



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director general with pay**

The Gaspé Spec

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Shortage of labour slows down Saint-Elzéar sawmill operations

Gilles Gagné

SAINT-ELZÉAR: – Saint-Elzéar's Association coopérative forestière gets enough wood annually to operate on two shifts most of the year. However, a shortage of workers is currently preventing the company from doing so, and that comes with a cost, as the profits could be considerably higher than they are now.

"The demand for lumber is good and the prices are good but we cannot benefit 100% from that because we have a shortage of labour. We have enough wood for two shifts at the present time but we can only find enough workers for one. We need between 10 and 15 additional workers to put together that second shift. About 20 and 22 workers are required for a second shift but we can't reach that number. We are talking about jobs that are far better paid than the minimum wage. We pay between \$18 and \$24 an hour. It is a cooperative. The workers are also part owners of the company. A ristourne (share of profits) comes with that and we are profitable," explains the coop director general, Mario Pouliot.

The Saint-Elzéar sawmill has a public land supply of 109,000 cubic metres and an agreement with the Gaspé Peninsula Wood Producers Syndicate for the delivery of 40,000 to 50,000 cubic metres of logs from private woodlots. Another agreement

with forestry groups brings in 55,000 cubic metres of logs after commercial thinning operations on various forest areas. Year in, year out, the cooperative participates in auctions related to public land wood volumes and gets between 30,000 and 40,000 cubic metres from that process as well.

"Our limited processing capacity forces us to slow down that wood acquisition process," points out Mario Pouliot, a Beauce native who has 37 years of experience in the forestry industry, with big and small companies.

Railway to be used in 2018

For several years now, the Association coopérative forestière Saint-Elzéar's management has been talking about using the railway to ship lumber to its customers.

"It is something that will happen in 2018. In fact, it would have happened in 2017 without the tariff imposed on lumber by the American authorities. It stopped our shipments to the United States because we are penalized now if we export there. We are now sending wood to the rest of Canada and the distance is shorter but we will send some lumber by rail at one point. Besides, Canada will likely be successful with the trade agreement. I have developed a solid network of contacts in the United States and most

buyers want our wood. There is a shortage down there. Tariffs increase the price for everybody and American wood buyers don't want that", analyzes Mr. Pouliot.

In the 1990s, the Saint-Elzéar sawmill used New Richmond as its departure

point for some lumber sold to various destinations. Rail presents a big advantage over long distances, notably American markets. Trucks are often used for shorter deliveries. New Richmond is expected to be the departure point of the Saint-Elzéar lum-

ber. New Carlisle would be the optimal departure point for rail cars in this case, but the line is currently closed east of Caplan, a decision made by the Quebec government.

(More on the Saint-Elzéar sawmill on page 6)

Moose on the loose, not camera shy

Penny MacWhirter

Hope Town: - Over the past few months, a moose roaming the fields and marsh in Hope Town has become quite popular with amateur photographers. It is not unusual to occasionally spot a moose in the area, but this moose is making daily visits and is becoming a regular attraction of those passing by.



thegaspespec.com

Photo: Alison MacRae

Alzheimer's: Don't hide it

Thierry Haroun

CHANDLER: - January is Alzheimer's Awareness Month, an opportunity to reflect on our growing understanding of Alzheimer's and other dementias, and our need to listen to, and learn from, people living with the disease, mentions the Mental Health Commission of Canada in a press release. At the invitation of the Gaspésie and Magdalen Islands Alzheimer Society, Spec met Aurélien Hautcoeur, in Chandler. He lost his wife because of Alzheimer's. He was her caretaker for almost 15 years.

What is this disease? Alzheimer's disease is irreversible and destroys brain cells, causing thinking ability and memory to deteriorate.



Photo: T. Haroun

Aurélien Hautcoeur.

Alzheimer's disease is not a normal part of aging. It's fatal and it eventually affects all aspects of a person's life: how they think, feel, and act. Each person is affected differently. It is difficult to predict symptoms, the order in which they

will appear, or the speed of their progression, according to the Alzheimer's Society of Canada. In the Gaspé and Magdalen Islands, some 1,600 are faced with this terrible disease and Aurélien Hautcoeur who we met at Chandler's

Ambulatory External Geriatric Service (SEGA) knows what it's all about. My wife died last February, she was 79. The first symptoms started when she was about 65. The first signs are when a person cannot complete a phrase. She started forgetting words and I had to compete her phrase to make sure that it was what she meant. My mother who had Alzheimer had the same problem so when it happened to my wife I knew that it was the disease that was appearing," he said with a lot of emotion.

Aurélien Hautcoeur, is almost 80. He was born in Pabos, near Chandler. He worked for Gaspé Copper Mine in Murdochville, in the underground and outdoor mine for 20 years. He was also involved in union activities at

the time. "The most important thing I would say is not to hide the disease. I took my wife out everywhere, to restaurants and bingos where she could make friends. Holding one's hand is also important, show her your love, it's so important. It will give the person faced with Alzheimer's a secure feeling," he added.

Suzanne Bourget, is a volunteer for the Gaspésie and Magdalen Islands Alzheimer's Society. "At the SEGA once a week we organize a day for people faced with the disease: we do dinner, we sing and dance and so forth. That day allows the caretaker to have a day off, it's so important."

For further information, call Ms. Bourget at 680-2161.

EI PROGRAM: Social Development Minister confirms the problem

Thierry Haroun

"The delays Canadians experience during the appeal process at all levels at the Social Security Tribunal (SST) are unacceptable." That's the official declaration made by Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Social Development. Spec Reached him at his office in Ottawa for further comments.

In our January 12 edition, we wrote about the Social Security Tribunal of Canada that had many flaws and that it didn't meet the expectations of those who appeal their cases concerning the Employment-Insurance Program. That was in light of an article published in Le Devoir that had exclusive access to part of the report produced by the firm KPMG. It mentioned that the Tribunal, set up under the Conservative Government of Stephen Harper, is more "legalistic," more "distant and formal," than the previous system. It therefore results in a process that does not meet the fundamental principle which is to put the client at the center of the system. Since that article, the Minister of Social Development, Jean-Yves Duclos published the document.

Spec asked him if that was directly linked to Le Devoir article. "No not at all. We were in the process of publishing it, but we were waiting



Photo: Government of Canada

Ministre Jean-Yves Duclos.

to make sure that we did things properly and we had to consult people in the Ministry before and so forth..."

"The Report recommends a number of changes that reflect what Canadians have said through extensive consultations across the country. I am committed in making significant and meaningful changes to the recourse process. That includes placing Canadians at the heart of the process by responding to concerns related to reconsideration and all levels of appeal. These changes will focus on new support to assist people with their appeal, a process that will be shorter, particularly for Employment Insurance (EI) cases, and timely decisions which clearly ex-

plain why benefits are granted or denied and what other recourse is available to Canadians," said the minister without detailing the number of civil servants that will be added to meet the expectations.

He also pointed out that before the Harper reform of the Tribunal, "it took, on average, 44 days between an appeal and a decision, now it takes 228 days and that's unacceptable. It frustrates people and it's understandable. Things must change for the better for the unemployed. Our government is committed to doing better and we will do so with transformative actions to support a recourse system that will be more efficient, fair and transparent," he also added.



Shirley Duncan, Laura Leblanc Poirier, Haley Gallon and Therese Gallant

Scholarship winners

Elmina Wedge

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES: - Congratulations to Laura Leblanc Poirier, daughter of Ann Leblanc and Luc Poirier from St. Alphonse and Haley Gallon, daughter of Shelly Sexton and Kevin Gallon from Cascapedia- St-Jules.

Scholarships were presented to the winners by Shirley Duncan branch education convenor, and Therese Gallant branch president of the Grand Cascapedia Women's Institute.

Congratulations to the two young ladies and best wishes for continued success.

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Photo: G. Gélinas

Segma Recherche questioned the Côte-de-Gaspé residents about three oil and gas projects, including the Junex project producing oil on its Galt property, close to Gaspé.

CÔTE-DE-GASPÉ:

Nine out of ten people want a BAPE on oil and gas

Geneviève Gélinas

GASPÉ: – A solid majority of Côte-de-Gaspé residents want BAPE hearings on oil and gas projects and they want those hearings now, without waiting for eventual exploitation, a survey ordered by the MRC shows. The results were disclosed during the third week of January.

Depending on which project, between 88.5% and 91.6% of the respondents consider it essential that the *Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement* (BAPE) assess the impact. A 79.9% proportion wants this process to be conducted before or during the exploration phase, which is currently taking place on the Côte-de-Gaspé territory.

“That’s what we’ve been saying for years,” states Yannick Desbiens, of the Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine Regional Environment Council (CREGIM). Mr. Desbiens thinks it would be best to have a BAPE on oil development for the whole Peninsula, similar to the BAPE done on the shale gas industry which took place in 2010-2011.

The fact that no such process took place on the Gaspé Peninsula is “unfair in regards to people’s health and security,” he states.

Depending on the project either, Haldimand, Galt or Bourque, between one half and two thirds of the respondents state that they’re ill-informed or that they don’t know the project.

“We’re reiterating the need for the Quebec Government to give all required information. We’re asking again for information sessions and ultimately, public consultations,” says the prefect, Daniel Côté.

Since 2015, the Town of Gaspé has been asking for a BAPE on Pieridae’s Haldimand project in Gaspé. Pieridae acquired Pétrolia in 2017. One of the Haldimand drillings is located 350 meters from a residential area. The Quebec Government hasn’t called for BAPE hearings for this project until now.

In addition to the Haldimand project, the respondents were questioned about the Pieridae project to extract oil and gas from its Bourque property, between Murdochville and Grand-Vallée. The survey also addressed the Junex oil production project on its Galt property, 20 kilometers west of Gaspé.

For or against?

The survey interpretation triggers sparks between the MRC and some environmental groups. The mayors consider that an “important majority” of the population is in favour of the Galt project (69.6%) and the Bourque project (70.2%) while the Haldimand project “polarizes the population,” (46.7% for

and 49.6% against, a difference which is within the margin of error).

However, a significant proportion of people support the projects only if the companies extract oil and gas without using hydraulic fracturing, also known as fracking. If they use it, the support falls to around 25% for Galt and Bourque and to 12% for Haldimand.

Pieridae is considering using fracking at Bourque and Haldimand, while Junex managers think that they can do without that method in Galt, but have never excluded it.

The CREGIM expressed its “surprise” and “disappointment” in regard to the MRC interpretation. “They did an amalgam of numbers. They should have made the distinction. Fracturing is considered, it’s not banned,” Mr. Desbiens points out.

Water is also a sensitive issue in the Côte-de-Gaspé MRC, the survey shows. More than half of the respondents stated that they would withdraw their support from the projects if a risk of contaminating ground water, drinking water or rivers was demonstrated.

The survey, conducted by Segma Recherche from October 30 to November 8, 2017, questioned 400 respondents and has a 4.9% margin of error.

**SELL IT FAST
IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!**

Police report

Aristide Huet, 79, from Murdochville, died on January 16 in a Quebec City hospital following a January 15 tragic ice-fishing accident in Gaspé, near the Birthplace of Canada site. For a reason that is being investigated, Mr. Huet was fishing in his shanty when he suddenly rushed out asking for help, as his clothes were on fire, between his waist and knees.

Other fishermen came to his rescue. The paramedics were called and they transported him to the Hôtel-Dieu hospital. “He was in a lot of pain but kept talking to the paramedics during his transfer to the Gaspé hospital. He was stabilized, put in a medically induced coma and transferred to the *Centre des grands brûlés*, a specialized hospital in Quebec City. He died the following day,” says Sgt. Claude Doiron, spokesperson for the Sûreté du Québec.

The investigators are attempting to determine if a defect in the heating system of the shanty might be the cause of the fire that resulted in his death. “It is also possible that he spilled some fuel on his clothes while being close to a source of heat,” suggests Sgt. Doiron.

The investigation is being conducted by the major crime squad of the Sûreté du Québec in Pabos even though no foul play is suspected in the accident. The investigation is more complex because the police officers were not called by the emergency services when they received a call to send the paramedics to the ice fishing site.

In the meantime, Sgt. Doiron is asking ice fishermen to be careful in shanties. “We are talking about limited spaces, sometimes with little ventilation and a source of heat. People must be cautious,” he says.

The number of fatal collisions in Quebec increased by 1.7% in 2017 compared to 2016, from 240 to 244. The number of people who died in these collisions increased by 3.5%, from 260 in 2016 to 269 in 2017. These statistics apply to the territory covered by the Sûreté du Québec. A regional breakdown will be available later this winter.

Collisions caused by speeding have decreased from 89 in 2016 to 76 last year, but speeding is the cause of 30% of all fatal accidents.

In 2017, for the first time ever, distractions at the wheel which include a cellular phone while driving caused more fatal accidents than alcohol and drugs. Distractions caused 9.8% of all fatal accidents, despite the fact that Sûreté du Québec officers issued close to 10,000 tickets to drivers using their phone while driving. Sûreté du Québec arrested 19 drivers per day for driving while their ability to drive was impaired. Alcohol and drugs caused 9% of all fatal accidents.

The Sûreté du Québec management points out that accidents do not only occur at night and weekends. 63% of the fatal accidents occurred between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. 17% of all fatal accidents occurred on a Tuesday.

There was also a sharp increase in the number of young drivers aged between 16 and 24 who died, 57 in 2017 compared to 39 in 2016, a 46% increase. The number of passengers in that age group who died increased from five to 15.

The number of people who died in car accidents while not wearing their seatbelt decreased by 50% in 2017.





Commentary

Gilles Gagné

NAFTA: the writing seems to be on the wall

The North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) seems destined to end this year, considering the attitude of the United States' negotiators, greatly influenced by the most unpredictable and contradictory president in the country's history, Donald Trump.

The litigious points seem endless for the United States' two partners, Canada and Mexico. For now, the main topics bugging the Americans seem to hover around the abolition of quotas in agriculture, the increase of American content in cars and the abolition of an independent arbitration system to resolve disputes, to the benefit of regular courtrooms.

Canada and Mexico are not ready to surrender ground in those three fields, as a backward move would lead to total domination by the United States.

In agriculture, our quota system certainly represents a protected market for our farms, but that form of support is outmatched by the grants, direct or indirect received by American farmers, who are

represented by extremely powerful lobbies in Washington.

The dwindling American content in the cars produced in the United States mainly stems from the relatively poor productivity that has been marring that economic field over the last 30 years. American companies have failed to evolve according to the needs and growing trends seen in neighbouring markets, like the emphasis on smaller cars. Due to a low hourly wage, Mexico has hurt the United States way more than Canada has. In fact, Canada has also suffered, but to a lesser extent, due to a slightly better turn towards low gas consumption vehicles.

The abolition of independent trade tribunals to rule over conflicts between the three countries would spell the end of Canadian exports south of the border for many industries. Recently the United States department of Trade imposed two successive tariffs of 220% and 79.82% on Bombardier regarding the aircrafts produced in the C Series program. This is completely ridiculous, considering that the initial complaint had been filed by Boeing, a heavily subsidised company that is not producing aircrafts similar in size to the models developed by Bombardier.

Like a number of elements from that saga, the current Montreal round of NAFTA talks sounds odd because today or next week, Donald Trump can call an end to the agreement. The Canadian government strategy looks a bit confused but can we blame the members of that team, considering the extremely wide variety of positions adopted by Donald Trump? Within days on Twitter, the Ameri-

can president called NAFTA the worst trade agreement in the world but said soon after that negotiations could possibly last until July!

Up to \$2 billion worth of goods cross the Canada-United States border every day. A responsible approach for Canada consists of planning an after-NAFTA context. There were export-import exchanges before NAFTA, which was signed in 1994, six years after a first agreement including only Canada and the United States. There will be trade deals after, even if they are hit by tariffs.

Canada will in all likelihood switch to the rules of the World Trade Organization after the end of NAFTA.

According to a study carried out by BMO Capital, the automobile, aeronautics, textile, electronics, food and beverages industries will likely suffer from the end of NAFTA. The study concludes that our gross national product will grow at a slower pace then, 1% less than expected. Our unemployment rate will probably increase by 0.5%. It is not the end of the world.

Moreover, it will force us to strike deals with other countries. Depending less on the United States might prove fruitful over the long term, even if it requires effort to do so.

Donald Trump won't be there forever. Canada has more allies in the United States than he thinks. The gains the United States might make through cutting some links with Canada and Mexico will likely be countered promptly by imported products coming from Asia. The president will realize too late that he favoured his opponents at the expense of his North American allies.



Commentary

Cynthia Dow

Canada's dirty little secret

I have always been proud to wear a maple leaf on my backpack when travelling abroad. Despite our many imperfections, I truly do believe that this country is the best in the world, and once we appropriately tackle the many issues facing indigenous people, and get a real grip on environmental protection, we'll be a model country for all others to emulate.

Except maybe for the issue of corporate responsibility. There, alas, corporate greed still holds far too much sway. Thankfully, the federal government recently announced measures to ensure that Canadian companies clean up their act – at least, outside our borders.

Canada has created what will be known as the Canadian Ombudsman for Responsible Enterprise (CORE), and this is the first of its kind in the world. The idea is to help Canadian companies solve disputes with communities in which they op-

erate around the globe.

You may think this is hardly necessary given our reputation for being kind, polite and even apologizing too much! Sadly, this kind of move is overdue, as Canadian companies have, in fact, a very poor record operating overseas, in particular when it comes to neglecting human rights, and polluting.

A 2010 report by the Canadian Centre for the Study of Resource Conflict indicates that, in fact, Canadian resource extraction companies have the worst record in the world when it comes to human rights violations and environmental degradation: 34% of incidents over the previous ten years had involved Canadian companies. This is frightful, given our very small proportion of the world's population.

And the impact of Canadian resource extraction companies is not negligible: the federal government reported in 2013 that companies headquartered in Canada comprised over half of the world's exploration and mining companies and « These 1,500 companies had an interest in some 8,000 projects in over 100 countries around the world.» Wow!

Sadly, a good number of these companies have been the subject of complaints, citizen movements and lawsuits in the countries in which they operate, often in conflict with indigenous communi-

ties. If you want to get an idea of some of the issues, why not Google the following: HudBay Minerals in Guatemala, Nevseen Mining in Eretria, Chevron in Ecuador, Eco Oro in Colombia, Eldorado Gold in Greece. Seems they've been creating a reputation for Canada, for sure... but for all the wrong reasons.

The CORE's creation is part of «a commitment to advance human rights and assist Canada in fulfilling its international human rights obligations» the Industry Canada website says. At first, the organization will focus on what are considered the most problematic sectors: mining, oil and gas, and garment companies, but apparently it will move on to other sectors to watch over «important sustainability issues such as resource efficiency, impact on local communities, treatment of employees and responsible supply-chain management.»

Hmmm, now if we could only get a CORE to work here within the country!

Let's take, for example, the situation at Grassy Narrows where, for about a decade Reed Paper dumped mercury contaminated water into the nearby Wabigoon River. Ever since, the people of Grassy Narrows have been suffering from mercury poisoning. Plans are finally underway to clean up the watershed – at taxpayer's expense. But this should have been done years ago, at the company's expense. Why should taxpayers clean up a situation that hugely benefited a private corporation?

Then there's the recent sad saga of some Tim Horton's franchises rolling back employees' benefits after an increase in the minimum wage in Ontario. For shame! It's hard enough to make a living on minimum wage without having to give up breaks and other benefits!

And don't even get me started on all those retailers who refuse to hire people full-time in order to avoid offering benefits at all.

Yep, it seems to me that we need a CORE right here at home. In the meantime, I think consumers should be their own ombudsman... if you don't like the way a company operates, don't support them. They'll soon learn how important human rights and environmental protection are when it starts to hurt their bottom line: it's the only place, apparently,

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David Philippe and his father make lasting impression on *Face au mur* TV show

Gilles Gagné

MARIA: – Gaspesian magician David Philippe and his father Lucien made quite an impression for the first broadcast of *Face au mur*, the TVA network adaptation of *The Wall*, a well-known American trivia show that is now aired in 18 countries.

The TVA network show was first aired on January 18. David and Lucien Philippe won \$137,231 after answering almost all the trivia questions asked. The game is also based on some random elements but chances of earning a higher amount of money increase with the number of good answers. The father and the son only missed one answer.

Face au mur management first contacted David Philippe in the fall. At the time he was in Quebec City attending a book launch for *Le Soleil*

columnist, Mylène Moison. She was releasing a book featuring a story about David Philippe.

“I was selected to launch the show. I am not supposed to say this publicly. The producers of the show wanted to feature people who give to their communities. The lady researching for the show reached me on my cell phone and left a message, explaining briefly that they wanted me to appear on a show called *Face au mur*. I thought “Oh, here is another show where I’ll go and cry my life story.” Later that night, I talked to the woman and she explained what the show is all about,” says David Philippe.

The Magic Man, as he is often referred to by English Gaspesians, successfully fought lung, brain and bone cancer over the last decade. During those years, he kept an

infallible good spirit, like presenting magic tricks to other Quebec City hospital patients shortly after undergoing brain surgery.

TVA was expecting an audience of 970,000 viewers for the first presentation of *Face au mur*. “They reached 1,355,000 viewers. The decor is incredible. It was assembled in the largest studio in Quebec’s history. It required 28,000 man-hours of work. It was first assembled in a plant in Longueuil before being transferred to the TVA building in Montreal. They had to make changes to the roof of the studio to fit it,” explains David Philippe.

He and his father had to hide all the facts about the shooting of the show, which occurred in mid-December. “Even my children didn’t know about it. It was a condition imposed by TVA and I understand,” he says.

The show also features personal aspects of the contestants’ life. That part was shot at the beginning of November, the municipal election weekend during which David Philippe became a Maria councillor. “They took footage of my father during the sunrise. I almost forgot about the municipal election,” he says.

When they asked the magician which aspect of his community life he would like to show, he immediately thought of Gesgapegiag.

“The Gesgapegiag people blocked Highway 132 to raise money and help me when I was fighting cancer (in 2013). They helped a unilingual white guy. I’ll never forget that,” says David Philippe. Later he was able to visit Stephen Jerome’s basket-making shop and meet with a group of young people.

He is glad to have earned 50% of \$137,231. “In fact, I came back with two-thirds of the amount, as my father gave me part of his prize. It totals a

little more than \$90,000. So I don’t have a mortgage anymore. We are also putting part of the money aside for a new vehicle and we will also take the children to Walt Disney World.”

However, the most beautiful memory of the show journey is not linked to money.

“I made the most beautiful father-son trip you can think of, with all the emotions coming with it. We enjoyed our time on the set, with the television crew. I did magic tricks for the makeup ladies. Picking my dad as my partner for the show was evident. I knew he

would be good at a trivia game. We had a lot of fun and had no expectations about the money aspect during the whole shooting. We wanted to make Gaspesians proud though. My father gave 10 good answers out of 11 questions.

Show host Maripier Morin later told us that engineers didn’t score as well as my father who is a carpenter. We have received many messages since the show. I get a lot of satisfaction when people tell us that we made Gaspesians proud,” concludes David Philippe.



Photo: Courtesy of TVA

Lucien and David Philippe performed very well at *Face au mur*.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

ENACTMENT OF BY-LAWS

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given:

- 1- THAT at an ordinary meeting held December 19, 2017, the Town Council has adopted the following By-Laws:

By-law 1346-17:

« Créant une réserve financière au profit de l'ensemble du territoire de la municipalité pour une somme de 90 000 \$ en 2018. »

By-law 1347-17:

« Créant une réserve financière au profit du quartier numéro 1 pour une somme de 5 000 \$ en 2018. »

By-law 1348-17:

« Créant une réserve financière au profit du quartier numéro 2 pour une somme de 11 000 \$ en 2018. »

By-law 1349-17:

« Créant une réserve financière au profit du quartier numéro 3 pour une somme de 10 000 \$ en 2018. »

By-law 1350-17:

« Créant une réserve financière au profit du quartier numéro 4 pour une somme de 8 000 \$ en 2018. »

By-law 1351-17:

« Créant une réserve financière au profit du quartier numéro 5 pour une somme de 23 000 \$ en 2018. »

By-law 1352-17:

« Créant une réserve financière au profit du quartier numéro 6 pour une somme de 21 000 \$ en 2018. »

- 2.- THAT By-Laws 1346-17, 1347-17, 1348-17, 1349-17, 1350-17, 1351-17 and 1352-17 have been approved by the persons qualified to vote during the register opened for that purpose January 8 and 9, 2018.

- 3.- THAT the interested can consult these By-Laws at the Clerk's office, at the Town Hall, 25, rue de l'Hôtel-de-Ville, during regular office hours.

GIVEN at Gaspé, January 24, 2018.

Isabelle Vézina,
Director of legal services and town clerk

Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



Don't look to the past: That's not the way we are going

I was busy reminiscing about the way "it used to be" just recently, when a friend cautioned me about that. She said, "Don't long for a place and time that no longer exists." Of course, she meant not just a physical place, but a time in life that would not be coming around again, no matter how much it is pined for. Not ever.

She was right and it made me realize that many of us do just that. We recall another time and place, and how it used to be, and wish that we could go back to that time. Those memories can make us feel melancholy because we realize that obviously those times are not coming around again. The trick may be this. Just be glad that those memories are yours and nothing can take that away. Remember and be glad. Remember and be grateful.

Nostalgia, or a yearning for the past, is a curious human fixation. When we look at the past we tend to do so with rose coloured glasses. Everything was better then. People were kinder, food was tastier and there was more fun to be had, at little or no cost. Children respected their elders and the streets were cleaner. And, this one is 100% true, gas was cheaper. But beware – it wasn't all better back in the day. There were no shelters for abused women, social assistance or equal opportunity for women and minorities.

Do you agree with this statement? "The children now love luxury; they show disrespect for elders and love to chatter in place of exercise. Children today are tyrants, not the servants of their households. They no longer rise when their elders enter the room. They contradict their parents, chatter before company, gobble up sweets at the table, cross their legs and tyrannize their teachers."

Well, it was written by Socrates over 2,400 years ago. Every generation seems to look back and lament about today's youth. I guess we are no different today.

It is important to acknowledge the past because, after all, it has made us who we are. You may have heard this expression, "I am part of all those that I have met." This is true and our past lives on in us. In the person we are. We learn from the past. Or at very least, we ought to. It is surprising how many times we have to experience something in order to learn from it but we are never too old to learn. This confirms that every experience has some value, even the negative ones. Former U.S. President L.B. Johnson cautioned, "We can draw lessons from the past, but we cannot live in it."

The past is over. Done and gone. Rejoice about all the happy memories, but do not live in them. Besides, if you live in the past you might miss out on the joy of living in the present. When we think about a loved one who has passed on, we sometimes say we wish that we had them back or had them for a longer time. True. But also remind yourself about how blessed you were to have had them in your life at all. This strategy helps me when I think about loved ones. Say to yourself, "At least I had them in my life."

Remember the past. Appreciate the past. Talk about the past. Just be mindful of this... "You can clutch the past so tightly to your chest that it leaves your arms too full to embrace the present."



Photo: Courtesy of Marie-Ève Poirier

The Saint-Elzéar sawmill needs to be optimized in order to stay profitable.

\$10 million modernization plan for forestry cooperative

Gilles Gagné

SAINT-ELZÉAR: – The Association cooperative forestière in Saint-Elzéar is currently planning a \$10 million modernization investment to make its sawmill more efficient and in a better position to deal with an eventual market downturn.

The sawmill is currently profitable because the North American prices of lumber are excellent, says its director general, Mario Pouliot, who replaced Sébastien Roy at the beginning of August. However, the kiln, installed 20 years ago, and the planer need to be replaced, as well as some computerized equipment.

"We have to reduce our operating costs. We need to improve the yield of a log and reduce the volume of woodchips, sawdust and shavings generated by the sawmill. We have to reduce the downtime caused by computer bugs. Those computers were installed 10 years ago. We cannot find updates for the software. It is no longer made, as is the case for some of our household appliances," explains Mr. Pouliot.

Since the closure of many pulp and paper mills in the Gaspé Peninsula, in New Brunswick and in Lower Saint Lawrence, the number of woodchips, sawdust and shavings takers has greatly diminished for the Gaspesian sawmills.

"We sell our woodchips to the Edmundston and Atholville pulp and paper mills, and to Panval, the panel board maker in Sayabec. With Groupe GDS, we also export woodchips to Turkey, using ships that dock at the port of

Dalhousie. We get about \$5 per tonne, net, whilst years ago, we could clear \$130 per tonne. That is why it is so important to increase the yield of a log. Lumber nets good prices presently and the smaller lumber sizes we could get by recuperating a larger portion of a log are also selling well. We could even process finished and semi-finished products here but we need some modernization for that step," adds Mr. Pouliot.

The Association coopérative forestière of Saint-Elzéar operated all of 2017 without interruption, except for the summer vacation, moose hunting week in October and the Christmas break. Its gross revenues reached \$25 million last year. Mr. Pouliot hasn't divulged the amount of profit.

However good the profit margin was, it was not enough to finance a \$10 million modernization.

"We can take on a significant share of the financing but not the whole project. We will need some support, grants and loans, from the programs designated by various governmental organizations for the forestry sector. It will be a good opportunity to test the importance given by those organizations to the Gaspesian forestry industry," commented Mario Pouliot, aware that 2018 is an election year.

Five years ago, the Saint-Elzéar coop reached a deal with its creditors to eliminate a certain part of its debt. A lot of forestry companies carried out the same exercise at that time or before. The Saint-Elzéar coop has only one debt now, a \$4.5 million loan owed to Investissement-Québec and reimbursed gradually with a

share of its profits.

"We have started getting support from local and regional bodies, like the municipalities and the MRC in preparation for our modernization project. We would ideally like to start work over the summer and be ready to use our upgraded mill by the fall," emphasizes Mr. Pouliot.

He adds that "the current production capacity of the mill is limited by the equipment. We processed 170,000 cubic metres of wood in 2017 but our capacity reaches 250,000 cubic metres. We had the right to harvest more wood but some of it stayed in the forest because our mill was not in a position to take it, the equipment being one reason but also because of a labour shortage."

A sizeable proportion of the sawmill's yearly supply comes from private woodlot owners. The cooperative annually buys between 40,000 and 50,000 cubic metres of logs from the Gaspesian Wood Producers Syndicate.

The Saint-Elzéar sawmill and its forestry operations employ 120 people directly, as cooperative members, and they provide 30 additional jobs in wood harvesting and transport.



Tipsy Canoe Paddles out West

Wendy Dawson

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES: - When SPEC first profiled Tipsy Canoe Designs, it is fair to say that the company was in an embryonic state. In October of 2016, Caitlin Barter owner of Tipsy Canoe Designs and the artist behind the custom designed canoe paddles, had only just begun her operation. With about a dozen paddles under her belt at the time, Caitlin did not expect that little over a year later she would have such a success on her hands. When asked if she has been surprised by the popularity of her designs, Caitlin explains, "I kind of am. I wish I weren't so surprised."

It is mid-Sunday morning and Caitlin is working from her family's dining room table in Cascapedia-St-Jules. On the property of her family home, an old tack stable has been moved and it will be repurposed into a work shop for Caitlin in the months to come. For the time being, however, the family dining room table and dining room are where the action happens.

Caitlin's mother, Sue Willet Barter comments on having to move past some paddles to reach a chair. "That's how we usually have to eat our dinner. At one-point Joe (Caitlin's father) and I were sitting in the living room and counted 47 paddles, that we could see! The ones that we couldn't see brought the total to 60 – in progress – in the house!" That was a little before Christmas time. Sue asked Caitlin to make one promise, "that Christmas dinner, we could have supper and sit at the table...without any paddles."

Caitlin who studied English Literature at Bishops and who has, since her return to the region worked as both an English and Art teacher for Eastern Shores School Board started Tipsy Canoe as a means to pay back some student loans and to provide a little fund for travel. It has certainly surpassed the 'side-line' status. "I made myself a to-do list the other day and I realized this could actually be a full-time job."

Caitlin designs each paddle with inspiration drawn by either the end user or by the surrounding geography. The number of local clients means that we can expect more colour on our rivers during the upcoming fishing season. Some, however, deem her work too beautiful to dip in



Photo: W. Dawson

For the time being, Caitlin's work is done primarily at the dining room table, but plans are underway for the construction of a workshop which she plans to be working from in the summer of 2018.

the water. "If you knew how many times I heard someone say "It's so beautiful, I am going to hang it in my living room," explains Caitlin, "But these paddles are meant to be used, they are meant to be in the water and get banged up. When I first started that was my vision although I am glad that people consider them

beautiful enough to be an art piece."

The beauty of her art is precisely why Caitlin Barter's work was commissioned for two large projects on the West Coast. Studio Art Direct is a Corporate Art consultant located in Portland, Oregon. It is through her Etsy Store, that the group became familiar

with Caitlin's work. The CEO contacted Caitlin to advise her that they were interested in commissioning her work for the largest medical facility in the Western U.S., located in Portland. The themes for the decor of the institution were to be wilderness, nature and the Portland landscapes and they felt that Caitlin's paddles were

a perfect fit. Caitlin had six weeks to plan, design and handpaint 22 paddles for her client. Caitlin explains that 22 paddles is what she normally would have expected to finish in a year. Despite the challenge Caitlin did not want to pass up the opportunity to be part of an actual art installation. After the arrival of the contract in the mail, Caitlin was able to negotiate a 12-week delay for delivery. While the size of the paddles and the scope of the colour palette were selected by the Art Consultant, the rest of the process for Caitlin remained the same. With some research and guidance, she drew up 30 designs and was given carte blanche to use those that she wished.

With what she describes as a "fantastic network of family and friends," under Caitlin's supervision, they managed to help her complete and deliver her project on January 3.

On this day, in addition to working on part of her "Canada" collection (a two-part collection recognizing the original inhabitants of this land), three additional paddles, including Caitlin's first attempt at a kayak paddle, sit in her living room awaiting varnish. These are part of her second large West Coast

Cont'd on page 11

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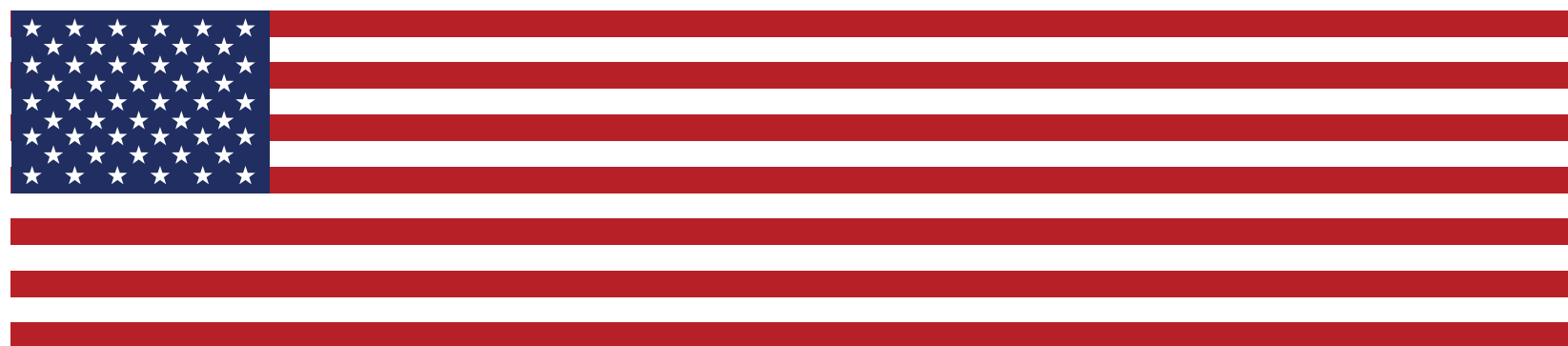
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Dr. Pierre Morissette, *General Practitioner*

Gilles Gagné

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

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

Dr. Pierre Morissette is a family doctor, also referred to as a general practitioner. He has been working in the health field since June 1967, a little over 50 years.

Dr. Morissette says he decided to become a doctor because his sister was a nurse and he had an aunt who was a nurse as well. "I was more influenced by my sister."

When asked if he always wanted to be a doctor, Dr. Morissette said "I only chose to be a doctor during the last year of my "cours classique" (Before big changes were applied to Quebec's education system, at the end of the 1960s. The "cours classique" was equivalent to high school and Cegep training, students were ready for university studies thereafter). The *Séminaire de Rimouski*, where I studied,



Dr. Pierre Morissette, General Practitioner.

put emphasis on training priests but I was never interested in priesthood. I had no particular passion for a profession before making up my mind on medicine."

When asked what encourages him to continue speaking English at work on a daily basis, he answered, "I first saw that there was a fair share of anglophones in the area during a practicum in the summer of 1964 at Maria hospital. My English was not good. I hail from Bic, near Rimouski, an area where there were very few, if any, anglophones. Some summer residents in Bic were anglophones. I picked up English very gradually over the years. While studying at

Université Laval, we did shifts at the Veterans Hospital, now known as the CHUL. A few friends from Rimouski were also studying medicine with me and they would come to me when they had to deal with anglophone patients. "Pierre, could you come and help me. I understand nothing." When I moved to the Paspébiac/New Carlisle area in 1967, I, of course, started meeting with anglophone patients. I told them that my English was not perfect and asked them to correct me when I made mistakes (...) Overall, I would say that my biggest progress was made during the summer of 1964, spent in Maria."

"The anglophones proba-

bly make up 40% of my clientele, so I speak English every day. My clients come mainly from Shigawake, Hope Town, Hope, Paspébiac and New Carlisle. There are more francophones but the English-speaking clientele is very, very present. I still ask them to correct me when I make mistakes."

Personal notes about Dr. Pierre Morissette

His mother was an elementary teacher who didn't return to teaching at school after giving birth to her children. So she taught her kids. "I started school at 5, already knowing how to read. So I finished elementary school at 11 and was ready for the "cours classique" at that young age instead of 13 or 14 for most other students," he explains.

He had only been to the Gaspé Peninsula once at 13 or 14 before accompanying a Université of Laval friend, Newport native Leslie Keighan, who was also a medicine student, over the long weekend in May in 1964. "It started at a baseball game we attended in Quebec City. Leslie was talking about spending a weekend in the area. Lobster fishing had started and he knew that I liked trout fishing and we could go to a lake near Newport for that (...) We ended up

in Newport for the long weekend. We went fishing and we ate lobster. At the same time, Leslie was receiving calls from people in the area asking him to come back and practice medicine here. The problem was that we had signed up for summer jobs in Quebec City. I was supposed to conduct corpse dissection workshops for other students (...) A few days before starting those jobs, we talked to our superior about the possibility of doing a summer practicum at Maria hospital and he accepted to change our summer commitments. He knew that it was important to help hospitals in far regions," he explains.

Having established good connections in the Bay of Chaleur area during his 1964 summer stage, Pierre Morissette decided to settle in the Paspébiac/New Carlisle area once his studies were finished, in 1967. "I was not the type of guy to live in the city. I am a sports fisherman, a hunter."

On January 15, he turned 75 and intends to work a few more years. He is the family doctor for 1,650 people. "I still work about 70 hours a week. I have patients close to 14 hours a day on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Wednesday is reserved for paper work and I visit patients on the weekend. I'll inform my patients a year prior to retirement," he promises.

Record success for moose hunting

Geneviève Gélinas

GASPÉ: - Gaspesian hunters shot a record number of moose in 2017, with a harvest of 4,533 animals, excluding the wildlife reserves. It's 13% higher than in 2016. The previous record was 2014, when 4,439 animals were shot. The hunting results for female moose allowed the region to beat that record. The hunters registered 1,419 females, that is to say 339 more than last year. The Quebec Wildlife Department gave 4,100 licences to kill females, 850 more than in 2016.

In that way, the government wants to reduce the imbalance between males and females, a phenomenon observed during an aerial sur-



Photo: Quebec Wildlife Department

In 2017, Gaspesian hunters killed more adult females, less calves, but about the same number of adult males as in 2016.

vey carried out during the winter of 2017. Adult males

represented 13% of the Gaspesian moose population,

and adult females, 64.5%.

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Paspebiac municipal council suspends director general with pay

Gilles Gagné

PASPEBIAC: – Paul Langlois, who has been director general of the Town of Paspebiac for about a decade, was suspended with pay following the regular monthly meeting on January 15. The motion to suspend him was adopted unanimously but the reasons, “for some of his actions in certain files,” remain relatively vague.

The motion stipulates that the town council was apprehensive about the way the municipality was administered, mainly regarding “the decisions made by the director general in many files.”

The municipal council only issued only a press release on January 19, four days after the public meeting. The interview requests were ignored to that point and were ignored after. The press release mentioned that the mayor and council members would only comment on the situation “once a permanent decision was made,” regarding the status of Paul Langlois.

The Town of Paspebiac is now being led by mayor Régis Bastien, who returned after a hiatus of several terms.



Photo: G. Gagné

Paul Langlois is suspended with pay as director general of the Town of Paspebiac.

The press release emphasizes that the council “wants to shed light on the administration of the town.” The document also mentions that article 52 of the Municipal law stipulates that the mayor has a surveillance right and is entitled to investigate and keep all the municipal departments and the municipality’s employees under control.

The press release also men-

tions that the mayor can suspend an employee, including the director general, but that mayor must prepare a report for the next meeting of the municipality.

The press release also says that Paul Langlois will soon be invited to meet with the council to answer some questions. That meeting will likely take place before the end of January.

Cont'd on page 7

custom order. A family member of a friend who was in the area over the Thanksgiving weekend called Caitlin to see if he could come over and see some of her paddles. He and his father dropped in and on the spot commissioned an entire set of paddles, one of every size that Caitlin makes, to be installed in the new part of the Bowen Island Pub, located in Snug Cove of Bowen Island, British Columbia, a 40-minute ferry ride from Vancouver. All of the designs, themes and colours for the Bowen Pub set were based on the Vancouver and Bowen Island vicinity. The client wanted to include as many local influences as possible.

While Caitlin Barter hopes to make a trip out West with a friend this summer to visit both installations, she will have to squeeze it in between the many facets of her expanding business. An on-site workshop may get the production out of the dining room; however, it seems a necessary next step for this ambitious young business woman.

While she plans her future marketing and distribution, her creativity remains inspired by her surroundings as she plans the second part of her “Canada” paddles series, developed with the collaboration of Indigenous women as well as the “Fly Tyer” series, which

will highlight six wet fly designs by local fly tyers.

We are sure to see more Topsy Canoe products and designs in the future. In the meantime, you are likely to see the colour and creativity of Caitlin’s designs on a local river this season.



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Haldimand No. 4 drilling: water samples comply with standards

Geneviève Gélinas

GASPÉ: – Underground water was not contaminated close to the Haldimand No. 4 drilling, located 350 meters from houses, in Gaspé. That conclusion was reached following two analyses commissioned by Pétrolia and obtained under the Access to information act. The water from three observation wells was sampled in November 2016 and September 2017. The rates of methane, petroleum hydrocarbons, benzene and chlorides, among others, complied with the Quebec standards for water not intended for drinking, but which will show up in bodies of water. The Quebec water taking and protection regulation requires companies to sample and analyze underground water once a year in their drillings’ surroundings. Pétrolia had neglected to do it in 2015 and received a non-compliance notice from the Quebec Environment Ministry.

RéGIM’s shuttle service used by 204 people

Gilles Gagné

CARLETON: – A total of 204 people used the shuttle service offered by RéGIM which allowed the population located between Gaspé and Pointe-à-la-Croix to take the passenger train at VIA Rail’s station in Campbellton, New Brunswick during the Christmas break. The bus service was offered between December 20 and January 4. Daniel Côté, president of the Régie intermunicipale de transport of the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Island, is satisfied with the results obtained during the pilot project because it was a last minute decision and there was very little time to market the shuttle service. He says that the service proves that people are still interested in taking the train to get to Gaspé and the other way around. It is too early to determine if the service will return in the summer or during the next Christmas break. The cost of the project amounted to \$34,500. Users brought in revenues of \$8,000 and the balance of \$26,500 came from a government grant to run the test. The revenue shortage “is also linked to the fact that there was very little time to sell the service.” Regarding its potential profitability, Mr. Côté points out that it must be seen as a service, like other transportation modes, and it might break even at one point with a longer period to make it known. Buses and sometimes cabs, depending on the number of customers, were used during the two-week service.



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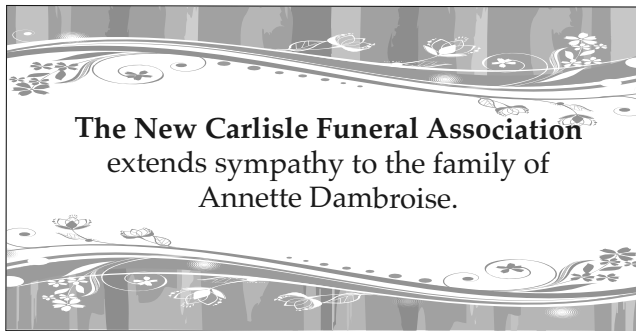
In Memoriam



DEA: Mathilda

In loving memory of Mathilda Dea who passed away January 21, 2016.
Always in our hearts,

Husband Olaf, sons Robert (Amanda), Daniel, grandchildren Sabastien, Allison, Courtney, Landen and Mason. We all love you.



LEBLANC: George Leronzo

In loving memory of a dear husband, father and grandfather, George, who passed away three years ago, February 1, 2015.

*We do not need a special day,
To bring you to our minds,
We think of you in silence,
We often speak your name,
If we could bring those good old days,
Back when we were all together
For what it meant to lose you,
No one will ever know,
We will love you from heaven,
As we loved you on earth.*

Your loving wife Gertrude, son James, daughter-in-law Pat, grandson Dustin (wife Nicole), granddaughter Michelle (husband Angus).

Congratulations!



Family and friends of Annetta Grant congratulate her on being awarded a Ph.D. by Queen's University on November 14, 2017. Annetta, the daughter of Raymond Grant and Flora Dion, attended elementary, high school and CEGEP at Gaspé. She graduated with a B.B.A. from Université de Sherbrooke. She worked for Shell Canada in Alberta and then completed her Master's degree at Queen's. Her Ph.D. thesis is entitled "There's no space like home: Examining the cultural complexity of creating the space of home."

To this writer's knowledge, Annetta is the second Douglastowner to have achieved a Doctorate. Only Michael Foley preceded her. Annetta now teaches at Bucknell College at Lewisburg, Pennsylvania. A remarkable achievement from this inquisitive and altruistic person. Annetta: you make us all proud!

Social notes...

Sincere sympathy to Don Huntington and family of Cornwall, Ontario, whose wife, Betty, passed away October 31, 2017.

Sympathy to the family and friends of Garry Lovatt who passed away January 14.

Sincere sympathy also to Ann Kelly and family on the recent passing of her mom, Phylliss Iona Kelly.

Lynden and Enid Bechervaise went to Mississauga, Ontario to spend Christmas with their son Scott, Valerie and their boys. Their son Trevor Bechervaise also came up from Rowayton, Conn. to be with them all. Lynden and Enid had to stop in Dummondville because of the storm on their way to Mississauga. The next day they made their way to Belleville and visited with Lynden's brother Kenneth Wayne and family.

They enjoyed Christmas dinner at the home of Nathalie and Kirby Journeaux, where they were joined by Enid's brother Hugh and Audrey Journeaux, Debbie Journeaux and her daughter Katherine. They also enjoyed supper one evening at the home of Enid's aunt, Hazel McCallion.

They went to Cambridge to watch grandsons Matthew and Daniel Bechervaise, play hockey in a tournament. On their way back to the Coast, they stopped at Enid's brother Dean's home in Montreal for New Years Day dinner and then stayed overnight at Enid's brother Noel's in Beaconsfield. The next morning they visited with Arlene Imhoff in Laval before making their way home.

Steven and I were happy to have our son Jonathan home from Rivière-du-Loup for a few days during the Christmas holidays.

Elaine Almond was pleased to have her son Christopher Almond, Montreal, spend the Christmas holidays with her.

Sincere sympathy to the family and friends of Mrs. Joyce Hayes (wife of the late Lyaal Hayes) who passed



Joan Imhoff

NEW CARLISLE NEWS

away January 6 at the Centre D'Accueil in New Carlisle.

Sympathy to the family of Annette Dambroise who passed away January 15, 2018. She was the wife of Romeo LeBlanc who used to work at the License Bureau.

A 90th birthday party for Mary Graham is being planned by her daughter Monica on March 10, 2018 at Smith Rock Chalets in Scotsburn, Nova Scotia. Happy birthday from all your friends on the Coast.

It's so nice to see the Optimist Chalet open again for the winter months. It's a great place to meet up with friends and enjoy some delicious food.

Janice and Garry Sylvestre were happy to have their son Tyler and his fiancé Juliana Langen home for a week to celebrate Christmas with them. Tyler is attending Utrecht University in Utrecht, Netherlands studying for his Masters in Business and Science Administration and Julianna is studying for her Masters in Design and Engineering at Eindhoven University of Technology in Eindhoven, Netherlands.

Lee Leggo spent Christmas with her daughter Brenda and family in Petawawa and New Years with her daughter Janet and family in Belleville, Ontario.

Sharon Farrell spent Christmas with Shane, Monique and Molly Farrell, Sudbury, Ontario, and went on to Welland, Ontario, to spend New Years with her brother Brent and Olga Renouf.

Jewell Allen Roy is back in town!! In November, she spent 3 1/2 weeks with her son Steven; his wife Lily; and their children Gabriella, Jayden, and Mason. They live in Amaranth, near Orangeville, Ontario. Steven sprained

his ankle the night before she arrived so she had to do all the driving for him. She learned to back his truck into the garage "his way," turn sharper, etc. She thought she was a good driver, but now she is excellent!!

After spending a few weeks at home, Jewell took the bus to Quebec City where Lucien and Louise Bourque picked her up at the bus terminal, took her to their home for the night, and took her to the airport the next day. (It is certainly a big help to have relatives in Quebec City.)

From there Jewell flew to Raleigh, North Carolina where her daughter Johanna, husband Eric, their daughter Christina, and Jewell's son Paul, his wife Rose, and their sons Alexander and Benjamin reside. Her brother James and his wife Avis came from South Carolina for a couple of days. She visited for 3 1/2 weeks with all of them. At all these homes, many games (including cards, of course) were played. She is back for the winter and resting up for her next adventure.



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New Carlisle and surrounding areas



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 (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. Please bring your yoga mat. **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:

Bingo

Friday night money Bingo continues at 7 p.m. at the Barachois

Recreation Centre on **February 2** and **February 16**. Everyone is welcome!

PORT DANIEL:

Upcoming Events

The following events will be held at the Golden Age Hall in Port Daniel. **February 10:** Music Night; **March 17:** St. Patricks Supper; **April 6:** Gift Bingo and **May 12:** Mother's Day Tea.

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.

SHIGAWAKE:

Valentine's Supper

A Valentine supper will be held on **Wednesday, February 14** from 4:30 to 7 p.m. at the Shigawake Community Center. More information to follow.

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, February 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:

Cribbage

The Royal Canadian Legion in New Carlisle will hold an afternoon cribbage tournament on **Saturday, January 27**, at 1 p.m. Come bring a friend and register by phoning 418-752-5495 or 418-752-6214. Cost \$10 per player.

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:

We have moved!

To all members of the Linda LeMore-Brown foundation. We are pleased to announce that as of January 8, 2018 we have moved to a new building. We will be happy to serve you at our new and improved building located at 168, Gérard D Levésque, New Carlisle (Old Laurentian Bank). For any other information please call 418-752-5995! Thank you for your understanding!

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. Thanks to all those who have been in contact with us concerning the Guiding activity. There will be quite a bit of preparation for this activity, so if you are interested, please give your name prior to the date. We are looking at a day from 2 p.m. until after campfire (8 pm.) If you would like to help with this or if you are interested in coming, please contact Betty Anne at bettyasmollett@gmail.com or call 418-752-6181.

NEW 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:

Valentine's Brunch

The Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 172, will be having a Valentine's Brunch on February 11, from 8:30 - 11 a.m. Cost will be \$10 per adult and \$7 for a child under 12 years. Everyone is encouraged to attend this celebration.

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

Legion Meeting

The Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 172 meets monthly on a regular basis every third Saturday at the Legion, located at 55 Gallagher St.

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:

Family Day

Saturday February 10: will be the annual Family Day. If you wear something red your name will be entered to win a little prize. The day will begin with registration at 10 a.m. and the activities will begin at 10:30 a.m. All activities will be taking place at the youth center. We will have face tattoos, Minute To Win It games and build a snowman where the kids make a snowman and bring items to decorate it. We are hoping to have a snow hill so bring your sled. Hotdogs, homemade soup, sandwiches and sweets will be on sale at noon in the hall. There will be more activities after lunch including the popular egg toss and maybe a hockey game. We are always looking for volunteers to help with the games and in the kitchen, so please feel free to get in touch. You can check out the day on our Facebook Family Life page. We look forward to seeing you all.

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

Book Room

Please note that the book room is now open **Wednesday** afternoon

from 1 - 4 p.m. On other days, please contact Kathleen Paquet at 418-392-4896.

GESGAPEGIAG:

N.A. Meetings

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

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UNITED CHURCH

Sunday, January 28

Hopetown

2 p.m. Service

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

Sunday, January 28

Shigawake

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Hopetown

11 a.m. Holy Eucharist

New Carlisle

10 a.m. Morning Prayer

PARISH OF ALL SAINTS

BY THE SEA

St. Peter's Malbay

11 a.m. Service

PARISH OF GASPÉ

Sunday, January 28

Gaspe

10 a.m. Service

ANNOUNCE ALL YOUR UPCOMING EVENTS HERE!

Facebook is great, but not everyone is on facebook! If you are planning an event and want to make sure everyone knows about it... don't forget to put it in The Gaspé Spec!

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Michael Briand, co-founder of the O'Dwyer distillery Distilling the essence of the Gaspé

Geneviève Gélinas

In the coming weeks, The Spec will present young anglophones who have settled on the Gaspé Coast.

GASPÉ: – As a child, Michael Briand used to dream of ending his days on the Gaspé Coast, where his family roots are. He achieved his goal earlier than expected. He is 30 years old and is the co-founder of the first distillery in the region. He lives in Douglstown, the village of his ancestors, where he is raising his two children.

Michael Briand grew up in Sudbury, Ontario, and Brisbane, Australia, where his father, an engineer, developed mining projects. He used to visit his father's family in Douglstown. "Since I was six years old, I've been telling my grandmother that I would like to end my days in Douglstown," he says.

At 19 years old, he took his first step: he enrolled in industrial electronics at the Gaspé Cegep. "You have the mountains, the sea, the rivers and no traffic and with the internet, nothing prevents you from staying



Photo: G. Gélinas

Michael Briand and his associate make Radoune gin by re-distilling corn alcohol with wild mushrooms from the Gaspesian forest.

here," he says.

Michael Briand left Gaspé for Montreal after Cegep to begin engineering studies. He came back because he missed his wife and his daughter too much. He has spent 2015

working on a business plan for the O'Dwyer distillery. Dwyer is his father's name.

He then met with Frédéric Jacques, who has a doctorate in chemistry and who was also considering a distillery

project. The duo made a good team; they decided to become associates. Michael is the dreamer, good at marketing. Frédéric performs quality control functions and plays the devil's advocate.

Michael Briand wanted to prepare a mushroom gin, which is a first: "I conducted the first tests by macerating, Fred tasted and told me: "there's a reason why there's no mushroom gin. It's because it doesn't taste good!"

The team worked on the recipe. They were so successful that last fall Radoune gin was ranked second among 16 gins in a blind tasting organized by the *Protégez-vous* magazine. O'Dwyer uses a corn alcohol and distills it a second time with wild mushrooms from Gaspesian forests.

Michael started feeding expectations about the Radoune gin on social media even before having distilled one drop of it. "People wrote to the SAQ to ask: where is the Radoune? When are you going to offer it?"

It worked so well that the SAQ ordered 1,200 bottles before tasting it. "Then we sent a sample and the order was increased to 4,800 bottles," says Michael. The max-

imum objective of producing 20,000 bottles during O'Dwyer's first year was achieved within six months.

A whisky project

Michael Briand and Frédéric Jacques could ride the waves of the Radoune success, but they have another project. "We plowed a four-acre field in Douglstown. We're going to sow barley and rye next spring, to make whisky, a single malt and a Canadian," explains Michael.

The whisky must barrel-mature for three years. O'Dwyer will keep part of it to drink sooner, a product named "moonshine". "In the 1920s, bootleggers used to transport moonshine from St-Pierre-et-Miquelon to the Gaspé Coast. They used to hide it in cod crates," says Michael. The O'Dwyer immature whisky will be named St-Pierre, in memory of that time.

When Michael Briand thinks about what he's doing and where he's living, at 30 years of age, how does he feel? "I cannot believe it. I feel as if I have won the lottery. But this is not chance, those are choices."

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