

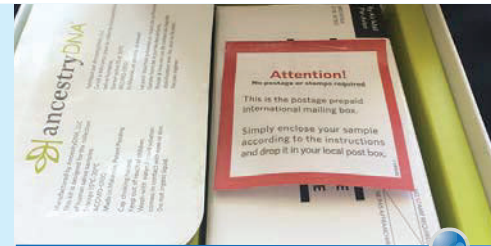
Inside  
this  
week



Nurses feel more permanent positions needed



Simdan missing required life-saving equipment



Who am I? DNA testing

# The Gaspé **Spec**

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## SOS Bats - The flight goes on

Jeanie LeLacheur

GASPÉ: - Good news on the bat front and as winter continues to hold the coast in its white embrace Gespeg and Contact Environment are looking forward and back with a flutter of hope for the small species at risk and the project designed to help them survive. The SOS Bats project, the collaborative species at risk initiative funded by the Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk which is now in its second year has seen growth and change and made some important discoveries over the past few months.

The general population has been very supportive of the project and organizers ask that they continue to be on the lookout for bats in this crucial period when white-nose syndrome wakes bats from hibernation and sends them to their death looking for food that isn't available.

All bat sightings (daytime flying or dead bats) can be reported to Contact Environment at 418-360-0438.

The Town of Gaspé has offered its support to the project with a generous gesture by Mayor Daniel Côté to buy an Anabat Express monitor. The monitor will allow the team to increase data collection. In addition, a financial contribution by municipal councillor Nelson O'Connor ensures summer monitoring activities for the species at risk initiative.

Also on a positive note, acoustic monitoring from last summer has confirmed the presence of resident and migratory bat species at many stations along the coast including wind energy farms in L'Anse au Valteau. Baseline information with data collected using recordings from the Anabat Express monitors has provided species information and presence or absence data.

Partnerships have been initiated with organizations including McInnis Ciment, the Perce Geoparc, the Town of Gaspé, Pointe a la Garde ornithological trails, and the Grotte in Saint Elzear.

Jordi Segers, the National White Nose Syndrome Scientific Program Coordinator continues to encourage the initiative and include SOS Bat updates in Bat Monday. The team is grateful to the many individuals who allowed monitors on their personal properties.

Although third year funding has not been confirmed for the SOS Bats project both the Micmac nation of Gespeg and Contact Environment are working towards the sustainability of this important regional venture and are confident that it will continue to grow and thrive.

It should be noted that data collection details will be available in the coming weeks.

If you would like more information about the project or to take part in acoustic monitoring activities you can get in touch with Contact Environment at 418-360-0438.



Devon Smith Bouchard and Abigail Adams participated in an SOS Bats awareness activity.





# Percé mayor says new budget is a “transition budget”

Thierry Haroun

PERCÉ: Percé citizens won't see a tax increase in 2018 in the budget that the new Mayor, Cathy Poirier, qualifies as a “transition budget.”

The town council adopted the 2018 budget on January 29 which is valued at \$6.6M compared to \$6.4M in 2017, a small hike of 2.98%. In terms of taxation, nothing changes as the residential tax rate stays at \$1.40 per \$100 of evaluation, the business tax rate remains at \$2.65, lodging units is set at \$1.50, industrial building stays at \$2.15. Other good news is that the residential garbage tax goes from \$250 down to \$230. In terms of revenues for the Town, the taxes represent \$4.3M (64.8%). The other revenues are provided by provincial government building taxes for a total of \$445,110, Fed-

eral buildings for a total of \$17,930 and all sorts of government transfers. As for the expenses, there's the General Administration (15.7%), Public Security (7.9%), Transport (23.6%), Sanitation (15.3%), Urbanism (15.8%), Culture (2.8%) and interests on loans (3%).

Transition, says Cathy Poirier “I would qualify this budget as a transition budget. We considered the capacity of our citizens of paying. We made that choice and I think it's good news for everyone. We can consider it as a tax decrease given that the cost of living goes up all the time. I call it a transition budget because we want to assess many things, such as working methods, different costs (related to the town management) and so forth,” explains Cathy Poirier, respected business woman in the region, who is officiating

her first mandate.

The future of Percé wharf is her top priority she confirms. “We're keeping a close eye on the negotiations that are underway between the provincial and federal governments concerning its transfer. We, of course, would like to have our say in the matter. What I hope is that this summer will be the last one with this old wharf in hopes that a call for tenders will be published next fall in order to have a new wharf in 2019.”

It should be noted that last May the Quebec government confirmed its intention to be the owner of the new wharf once Ottawa has completed rebuilding it and transfers it to Quebec.

Finally, the town council adopted a Three-Year Investment Program (2018-2020) of \$2.7M.

## Public Works Director fired

Thierry Haroun

PERCÉ: - On February 6, the Percé Town Council adopted a resolution confirming the end of the contract of the new Public Works Director. He had only filled that position since November. He was fired just three months after being hired, the probation period was supposed to last six months. The main reason behind the decision concerns the snow removal of the Town's roads. “We decided to end the contract of the new Public Works Director because the results simply weren't there. The main objective of this department is to offer a service to our citizens and in terms of snow removal citizens are entitled to have a service at the height of their expectations,” explains the Executive Director of the Town, Felix Caron. Until a new director is named, Mr. Caron will be responsible for that department.

## Let the Games begin!

Thierry Haroun

GRAND RIVER: - The 50 plus Games of the Gaspé and Magdalen Islands will take place in Grand River, June 7 to 10. The 14th Edition will include no less than 22 different disciplines in sport and leisure, such as golf, swimming, bowling, pétanque, bridge, tennis and even Scrabble.

Some 1,400 participants (mainly from our region but also from New Brunswick and the Lower St-Lawrence region) are expected to take part in the event. Yoga, music, theater and a mass are part of the program. “I'm honored as the mayor of the Town hosting the games. It's a great opportunity to exercise and start good health habits,” says Gino Cyr. “It's an activity for people aged 50 and over. The average participant is aged 62. It's a great event where people can meet and greet also,” points out the president of the event, Jacques Rivière. More than 250 volunteers will give some of their time to the event that has a budget of \$200,000 and expected spinoffs of \$400,000 for the local economy.

## Jobs available in Percé Rock MRC

Thierry Haroun

GRAND RIVER: - If you're looking for a job and you're living in the Percé Rock MRC, don't miss the Percé Rock Job Fair Day that will take place on April 12 in Grand River.

The third edition of the event will take place in the totally revamped Grand River arena where no less than 60 exhibitors will have their stands: businesses from all sectors will be represented, such as hotels, restaurants, sanitation, education, tourism, health and even Ciment McInnis will be on hand. “I've been in the region for three years now and I have since realized the vitality of the region's businesses and their desire to boost the local economy. Our enterprise has hired many sub-contractors since our operations, such as San'hy Pro, Jolifish, Duguay Sanitaire, Mauger Ford, Soudures Jones and so forth. Moreover, 80% of our workers are Gaspésians and we are proud of that,” said the Honorary President of the event Alexandre Rail, who is also Vice-President of McInnis Cement Operations. He also added “we're all looking for qualified candidates and this event is the ideal occasion to meet that goal.”

Gino Cyr is the mayor of Grand River and he had a clear message to send. “The youth are the future of our economy and our businesses. As a mayor, I want to make sure



Photo: Ciment McInnis

Honorary President of the Journée de l'emploi, Alexandre Rail of Ciment McInnis

that we have an economic environment that has the potential to maintain them here and also say to those who are studying outside the Gaspé that once they have completed their degree that specialized jobs are available here. This is a real issue, a real challenge. The event is an opportunity to share, to exchange, build bridges and show that there is a future here.”

**75% of jobs are not publicized**

Annie Tapp is the director of the Percé Rock Youth Employment Center (CJE Option

Emploi), one of the major organizers of the event. “It's important to know that more than 75% of the jobs available are not published or made public. That's why this event can be useful for many. The other good news is that the education sector will be present. They will answer questions for those who want to have a career change and get the right training to achieve their goals.” The Percé Rock Chamber of Commerce, the Town of Grand River and the Local Employment Center are also important partners of the event that will take place from noon to 7 p.m.



### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### MINOR EXEMPTION FROM URBANISM BY-LAWS

NOTICE is hereby given that the Town Council, at an ordinary meeting that will be held on March 5, 2018, at 8 pm, will consider the request for minor exemption from the land division By-Law 1157-11, presented by Mr Charles Rochefort for a property constituted by lots 4 055 257 and 4 055 258, Cadastre du Québec.

The nature and consequences of this exemption are the following:

- the nature of the minor exemption is to :
  - Lot 1 : the reduction of 12.66 m of the minimal width required by the article 5.3 of the Land division By-Law 1157-11 for a building lot of 45 m, (lot where is the house : 643, boulevard de York Sud);
  - Lot 2 : the reduction of 11,79 m of the minimal width required by the article 5.3 of the Land division By-Law 1157-11 for a building lot of 45m;
  - Lot 3 : the reduction of 15,19 m of the minimal depth required by the article 5.3 of the Land division By-Law 1157-11 for a building lot of 60m.
- the minor exemption will have for consequence to permit the subdivision of three (3) building lots, one lot with a width of 32.34 m (lot 1), a second one with a width of 33.21 m (lot 2) and a third one with a depth of 44.81 m (lot 3).

During this meeting, the Town Council will hear the interested wishing to be heard on that request.

Given at Gaspé, February 14, 2018.

Isabelle Vézina,  
The Director of Legal Services and town clerk





Photo: G. Gagné

## Significant VIA Rail contract awarded to Rail GD

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND: – Public transporter VIA Rail recently awarded an important contract to New Richmond's Rail GD for the repairs that must be undertaken on six passenger cars that were damaged during the Christmas break.

The sleeper cars were part of the Canadian train, which links Toronto and Vancouver. A severe cold snap froze the water pipes of those six cars. The pipes split open during and caused damage to some of the cars' other components. "The work will be carried out until April 2018 and includes repairs

on the split pipes and the replacement of the different components damaged by the cold," explains Mylène Bélanger, spokesperson for VIA Rail.

The damage occurred while the Canadian was travelling in Manitoba. The Canadian links Toronto to Vancouver twice a week between October and April, and three times a week from April to October. Rail GD is working on cars 8305, also called Bayfield Manor, 8307 (Blair Manor), 8013 (Cabot Manor), 8317 (Cornwall Manor), 8330 (Hunter Manor) and 8332 (Laird Manor). The president of Rail

GD Gilles Babin cannot comment on the contract because he signed a confidentiality clause with VIA Rail. He can say that his staff went from 15 employees to a number varying between 30 and 40 for the duration of this contract.

The six stainless steel sleepers were built by Budd Cars in 1954 and 1955 for Canadian Pacific. They were part of a 42 car order. They were acquired by VIA Rail when the public transporter was founded in 1977 and rebuilt by AMF in Montreal between 1990 and 1993. Forty of the original fleet of those sleeper cars remain in service to this day.

## Seven-year collective agreement for Maxi employees

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND: – The 35 unionized employees of the Maxi supermarket in New Richmond, represented by the United Food and Commercial Workers Union, recently signed a new collective agreement effective February 2. It will be valid for seven years, until 2025.

An agreement in principle was reached on October 18. The agreement came after three "harmonious negotiation meetings," says United Food and Commercial Workers' director for Eastern Quebec's unit 501, Daniel Nadeau.

The agreement calls for a yearly wage increase of 2%, a Christmas bonus increased to 2% after five years of service and a fifth week of vacation after 18 years of service.

"We are convinced that the signed agreement provides an excellent extension with regards to advantages acquired by those workers since they joined UFCW (United Food and Commercial Workers).

Moreover, the agreement gives our members security regarding financial gains for the next seven years," comments Daniel Nadeau.

UFCW negotiator Yves Dupéré adds that the company also voluntarily adjusted the salary of some employees who were just earning a bit more than the minimum wage.

"The company didn't have to do it but since the minimum wage increase, the gap between that minimum wage and the wage received by those employees had narrowed. So Maxi increased their wage a bit to keep the margin about the same," explains Mr. Dupéré.

It is the store's third collective agreement since its inauguration in 2005. Reaching an agreement took less than a month, through three meetings, adds Mr. Dupéré.

"It is a very big store and there is a shortage of manpower. The sales are probably a little less than a store the same size would bring in in a larger town," points out M. Dupéré.

The Maxi employees in New Richmond have a pension plan. They benefit from a dental care program paid by the company. They also have a collective insurance in case of sick leave. That insurance is paid half-and-half by the employees and the company.

Maxi spokesperson Jérôme Héroux says the New Richmond store also employs eight people in managerial positions. Those employees are not unionized.

Maxi is a subsidiary of Loblaws. There are 112 Maxi stores in Quebec. Loblaws' supermarkets outside Quebec bear another name. Maxi was founded by Provigo 34 years ago, before Loblaws acquired Provigo.

In Quebec, UFCW is better known under its French acronym, TUAC, which stands for Travailleurs unis de l'alimentation et du commerce. Unit 501 covers Eastern Quebec. UFCW is affiliated to the Quebec Federation of Labour, commonly referred to in Quebec as the FTQ.

In the early hours of February 7, a house situated on Route 132 in Port Daniel-Gascons, sector of Gascons west, was completely destroyed by fire. The alarm was sounded at 3:05 a.m. by a passerby but the house was already completely engulfed in flames when the firefighters and police officers arrived.

"Nothing leads us to believe that foul play could be suspected as a cause of the fire. The fire is presently under investigation. There were no tracks in the snow. Nobody was in the house at the time of the fire. The owner was outside the region," says Sgt. Claude Doiron, spokesperson for the Sûreté du Québec.

Port Daniel-Gascons fire chief, Daniel Briand, says that the house was already starting to crumble when his team arrived at the scene. "The fire was ravaging the whole house. It was the middle of the night. People are asleep at that time and it takes someone passing there to notice a fire. The cause of the fire remains unknown. We presume that it is an electrical failure. We have requested the assistance of the Sûreté du Québec in the investigation."

Mr. Briand says that the firefighters did their utmost to prevent the fire from reaching a big propane tank and the heating fuel tank situated in the back of the house. "That is why I ordered the evacuation of the two houses located on each side of the burning house. The siding of the nearest house was burnt," adds the fire chief.

The house was one of the oldest residences in Gascons. The owner, Gilbert Parisé, was away in Farnham, Quebec in the Eastern Townships. The municipal evaluation of the house was \$78,800 but its heritage value was much greater and the house contained valuable antiques. The damage to the neighbour's house is approximately \$20,000. Traffic on Route 132 was limited to one lane intermittently when the firefighters were fighting the blaze.

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On February 10 at approximately 3:15 p.m. on MacKay Road in Cascapédia-St-Jules, a head-on collision claimed the life of Huguette Cormier, 78, from New Richmond. A vehicle driven by a woman going south veered in the opposite lane and collided with an oncoming vehicle with four occupants. The victim was sitting in the back seat with a child. Despite resuscitation attempts by the paramedics, she was pronounced dead at Maria hospital. The child was slightly injured. The daughter of the victim, and the driver were seriously injured, and so was the lady driving the vehicle that deviated from its lane.

The woman in the vehicle going south was bound for Maria from New Richmond. She is a nurse and she was scheduled to start her shift at the hospital.

"MacKay Road was closed for hours. A technician in road accident reconstruction examined the scene but the conclusions are not yet drawn. Foul play is ruled out as a cause of that accident, and there was no alcohol involved either. Was the driver of the vehicle going south distracted? We don't know yet," comments Sgt. Claude Doiron, spokesperson for the Sûreté du Québec.

Since the end of September to avoid the risk of collisions in the detour, the Quebec department of Transport recommends that traffic going west to Maria use Gallagher and Patrickton roads and use MacKay Road when going east to New Richmond.

"Of course, people still have the right to use MacKay Road. Some people have stops to make along that stretch, in Gesgapegiag for example. However, we certainly wish that people who don't have to stop along the way follow the instructions given by Transports Québec," explains Sgt. Doiron.

It is the second fatal accident to occur in the detour since May 8.





## Commentary

Gilles Gagné

### The shock of ideas triggered by the Olympic Games

Every occurrence of the Olympic Games triggers a feeling of uneasiness for a number of people, whether those individuals like sports or not. Over the years, we have garnered that these "games" represent a huge political instrument for most countries holding the sixteen-day events.

The Olympic motto stating that the games are held for the "beauty of sport" has long been accompanied by political incidents, countless episodes of discrimination against women, racism, bribery, doping, nepotism and dishonesty.

It started way back in 1896 with the rejuvenation of modern-era Olympic Games. For the next decades, only a limited number of women were allowed to participate. At the Stockholm Games in 1912 for example, only 48 women entered the sports events, compared to 2,360 men.

An Aboriginal athlete from the United States, Jim Thorpe, won the pentathlon and the decathlon in Stockholm, only to lose both titles after it was found that he had made a few dollars while playing semi-professional baseball prior to the games, thus violating the amateurism rules that were enforced at the time. His titles were only recognized 71 years later, in 1983, thirty years after his death.

In 1936, Adolf Hitler, then Germany's undisputed political leader, refused to meet with Jesse Owens, a Black American sprinter, who had won an unprecedented four gold medals in the same Olympic Games' track and field races and jumps.

Closer to us, 29 countries, mostly from Africa, boycotted the Montreal Olympics in 1976 because a New Zealand rugby team had played a round of games in South Africa, thus refusing to respect a United Nations' embargo on sport exchange with a country ruled by an apartheid policy, or discrimination against the Black majority.

Over the years, other types of dysfunctions have marred the Olympic Games. Money has played an increasing role in determining which countries will hold the event every fourth year. Money has narrowed to a very happy few the number of countries with the financial capacity to organize the games.

It has been proven that many members of the Olympic Committee have accepted significant sums of money to favour a city in particular, at the

expense of a less flashy but probably just as competent, if not more, candidacy.

It has also been proven that the Olympic Committee and countless sports federations from many countries have participated in schemes to hide doping scandals. By so doing, they protected some of the Olympic Games' drawing cards, again for monetary purposes.

For example, in 2003 American sprinter Carl Lewis admitted failing three drug tests prior to the Seoul 1988 Olympics, during the United States trials to qualify for those first South Korea Games. He should therefore have been disqualified before attending Seoul by his own Olympic federation, given the international rules that organization was supposed to enforce, but that federation wanted gold medals. People aged 40 or more might remember that Lewis received the gold medal for the 100-metre dash, after the disqualification of Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson for... doping.

So the Olympic Committee stinks, just like most sports federation. Moreover, the International Anti-Doping Agency is not endowed with the means to counter finely tuned research developing drugs that are increasingly harder to detect.

Why are we watching the Pyeongchang Olympics then, considering all the cheating, the hypocrisy, the bribery and the importance money has taken in sport events?

Because a majority of athletes are still clean, and the efforts they deploy are remarkable, and because it takes thousands of hours of hard work to get to that level, drugs or not.

It is also easier than ever to feel in awe of the beauty of sporting events because of the wide array of technological means used to show them to us. The high concentration of top athletes in a vast range of events is also quite appealing.

Such a high level of prowess, regardless of drug-enhanced performances and athletes, can also be a motivating factor for a society that is spending way too much time in front of a screen, or screens. Let's just hope that the current games will trigger some movement right away for television and social media viewers. It will be too easy to fall back in our old sedentary habits once the games are over.

to park when we get there. Lineups are long, and human contact almost non-existent. I guess that's progress. Senior citizens have to dig deeper into their already government plundered pockets to find transportation money, and often are computer illiterate, so need to hire someone else to do the automatic server bit for them. We are just too tolerant! In some instances change is progress. But this current trend, in banks, large stores etc. has only one purpose, and that is to make more profit by throwing more employees out the door. If we let this continue, the next step will be the abolishment of money itself, and a credit / debit world where money will no longer exist. They already know where we spend every cent, what we do, where we go etc. all thanks to the spying done on us all by machines. So please stop trying to convince us old birds, and hopefully young people, that this is a good thing. IT AIN'T. Senior citizens have lived long enough to witness the gradual decline of what used to be called "customer service," being replaced with the grab for more profit fiasco now in high gear. And the increase in minimum wage rates sounds dandy, but will result in companies chopping employees so fewer people will be working, doing the work of all those who will have been sacked.... Gloomy picture I know, but to me that's what it looks like. Are seniors supposed to pretend this is an improvement ... I hope not.

Art MacPherson,  
Bonaventure, Quebec

Roses are red, violets are blue, and let's make this Valentine's Day ours in each home along beautiful, wintery Gaspesian scenery. First, it begins in the homes, so let's love our family, children far and near and our neighbors. We must remember that Valentine's Day can be filled with blessings and there is nothing on this earth more to be prized than that true friendship with someone who is alone, ill or may be feeling a little under the weather. Let's keep in mind that anyone can catch your eye but someone, somewhere, some place or right in our own back yard is special at "Valentine" that can catch your heart. Its difficult to find that meaning of life by ourselves and maybe this "Valentine's Day" you can make that Gaspesian happy by being there with them.

Ken Ross,  
New Carlisle, Quebec

## Letters to the Editor

**Senior's chirp:** Isn't it amazing how the banks are actually sending out letters to convince us how wonderful it will be when automatic tellers become the total wave everywhere. Many towns are being literally abandoned, and we, the clients, are supposed to think that's progress. We have to travel greater distances, and often have no place



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## DEATH OF A FISHERMAN:

# Simdan missing required life-saving equipment

Geneviève Gélinas

**GASPÉ:** – Harold Dupuis, the fisherman's helper who was lost at sea on October 15 off Tourelle, near Sainte-Anne-des-Monts, was not protected by a guardrail and was not wearing a safety harness. His captain, in spite of his efforts, didn't succeed in pulling him aboard, due to the lack of appropriate equipment, reveals the investigation report of the *Commission des normes, de l'équité, de la santé et de la sécurité du travail* (CNESST).

Around 6:30 p.m. on October 15, 2017, the Simdan captain, Irvin Jones, and his 54-year-old helper, Harold Dupuis, were only half a nautical mile (900 metres) from the Tourelle wharf in Haute-Gaspésie. The 15-metre boat, used for fishing crab, herring, mackerel and ground fish, had left the Mont-Louis wharf three hours before, to be taken ashore in Tourelle for the winter.

It was one hour after sunset and the wind was blowing at nearly 50 kilometres per hour. The waves were 2 to 3 metres high and the water temperature was 7° Celsius.

As they approached the harbour, the captain and his helper had to pull up the stabilizers. Mr. Dupuis was standing on the boat side when he grabbed a part of the stabilizer, a kind of big ring, to bring it close to its point of attachment. At this place, there is no guardrail and the bulwark is only 66 centimetres in height. A wave made the boat roll and took the stabilizer away. Mr. Dupuis didn't let it go and the ring pulled him overboard.

The captain was on the deck. He threw a rope to Mr. Dupuis, who caught it. Then he threw a buoy and the helper managed to slide an arm in it. The captain grabbed a ladder, hung it on the bulwark and went down to get near his helper. At that moment, Mr. Dupuis was looking exhausted and was no longer responsive.

The captain realized that he wouldn't be able to pull his helper up the two metres to reach the ladder. He went to the wheelhouse and made a mayday call. When he came back to the deck, Mr. Dupuis was no longer visible. His body has not been recovered.

The CNESST investiga-



Photo: CNESST

*The Simdan captain and boat owner received a statement of offence from the CNESST and the amount of the fine will vary from \$16,645 to \$66,183.*

tors identified two causes that triggered the accident. The fisherman was not protected against a fall overboard when attaching the stabilizer ring. Moreover, the employer was neither organized nor equipped for one person to recover someone falling overboard.

After only three minutes in the water, a victim can feel tiredness to the extremities of his body and experience, a lack of coordination, the re-

port points out.

The federal regulation about security on fishing vessels, which went into force in July 2017, obliges the employer to be equipped with a system to recover a man at sea without any help. "There are several systems: it can be a net or a buoy with a pole," says Michel Castonguay, the CNESST investigator who co-signed the report.

The same regulation obliges them to possess a

buoy attached to a floating rope, which wasn't the case of the Simdan buoy. It is up to the federal administration to enforce its regulation, Mr. Castonguay points out, but the CNESST will "support" the federal authority in its actions to make sure that fishermen comply with the new regulation.

In its security guide to fishermen, the CNESST recommends that the guardrails be 90 to 120 centimeters high. When there's no such guardrail, a fisherman must wear a safety harness attached to a lifeline.

"Our first objective isn't to make them float or to recover them, but to keep them on the boat," states Mr. Castonguay.

The CNESST delivered a statement of offence to the boat owner and captain, Irvin Jones. For that kind of offence, the fine can vary from

\$16,645 to \$66,183 for a first offence.

Since 2010, the CNESST has conducted four investigations about a fall overboard from a fishing boat. In 2010 and 2011, those falls cost the lives of two lobster fishermen, in Saint-Godefroi and in the Magdalen Islands. In 2014, a fisherman on the Marie-Simon, a Listuguj shrimp fishing boat, also disappeared at sea.

In spite of those accidents, Mr. Castonguay observes that the security protocol is improving among fishermen. "For fishermen in general, I've been seeing an improvement over the last ten years. They care more about safety but what happened on the Simdan could happen to other fishermen (...) Every change results in resistance. But it's slowly improving and captains are taking their responsibilities seriously."





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2018-2019  
Pre-K Registration**

Pre-Kindergarten registration for the 2018-2019 school year will be held at New Carlisle High School from February 22 to March 2, 2018, regular school hours. Please bring your child's medicare card and an original birth certificate for the child you are registering. The birth certificate must have the parents' name on it (long form). Also, an original Bill 101 form from an older brother/sister or mother/father and an original birth certificate of the parent who is registering the child. Proof of your address is also required. Ex: Driver's license. If you have any questions, please contact 752-3316. Thank you!



Les programmes des Amputés de guerre évoluent. Ils ont d'abord été au service des anciens combattants, puis de l'ensemble des personnes amputées, adultes et enfants. Il reste encore beaucoup à faire pour que les personnes amputées bénéficient des membres artificiels dont elles ont besoin pour mener une vie active. Pour y parvenir, nous avons besoin de vous!

Grâce aux dons versés au Service des plaques porte-clés, nos programmes seront là encore longtemps.



Pour commander des plaques porte-clés :  
**amputesdeguerre.ca**  
**514 398-0759 • 1 800 250-3030**

N° d'enregistrement d'organisme de bienfaisance : 13196 9628 RR0001



# Nurses feel more permanent positions needed

Gilles Gagné

MARIA: – SIIIEQ, the union representing the 1,050 nurses, auxiliary nurses and respiratory therapists of the Gaspé Peninsula, is about to start a second round of negotiations with the region's health authorities, with the goal of convincing the employer to post more permanent jobs, the most efficient way to alleviate the nurses' burden.

Quebec's nurses' exhaustion was recently highlighted by a facebook message posted at the end of January by Émilie Ricard, a young nurse. She criticized the fact that during night shifts, she doesn't have enough time to take care of the 76 patients of her seniors' residence wing. The situation of nurses has since become a major headline subject. They are often ordered to work 16 hours in a row.

SIIIEQ president Pier-Luc Bujold points out that the administration of the Gaspé Peninsula Health and Social Services Centre has some decision power in deploying the means needed to reduce the nurses' burden. Salary decisions are centralized in Quebec City and are part of province-wide negotiations but a fair proportion of working decisions are made regionally.

"We are asking for more stability in the working teams, a better way to replace absentees and the hiring of more staff in order to counter the shortage of manpower," explains Mr. Bujold.

In Quebec, a fairly high number of nurses don't apply on permanent positions posted by health centres because a permanent status forces them to accept compulsory overtime shifts, while part-time employees can always refuse a second consecutive shift. The situation differs in the Gaspé Peninsula, says Pier-Luc Bujold.

"We encourage the posting of full-time jobs here. It will reduce compulsory overtime shifts. People will apply for those positions here," he affirms.

This different approach about accepting full-time positions on the Gaspé Peninsula while some nurses prefer to remain part-time employees in a number of other parts of Quebec can be explained says Mr. Bujold.

"Up to 64% of the positions on the Gaspé Peninsula



Photo: G. Gagné

*SIIIEQ union president Pier-Luc Bujold assures us that nurses have many ideas for solutions that could alleviate their burden and improve the quality of care.*

are full-time. It is about 60% across Quebec but in some regions, it is as low as 40%. So our 64% doesn't look like a lot but it is a bit better than average. We can increase it a bit more but a certain number of nurses still prefer part-time jobs because of family obligations, or because they prefer that status. I am not sure what the ideal proportion of permanent positions is but we can handle more. Our members will tell us when it is enough," explains Mr. Bujold.

He criticizes the fact that the region's Health and Social Service Centre has not developed a better way to fill in the working shifts of nurses on sick leave or on vacation.

"Replacements are called by the day. We already know when some of the employees will take their vacation time in the summer. There must be better ways to plan for those replacements other than through a day by day approach four months down the road," assures Mr. Bujold.

Also the Health Centre has not implemented a standard way to call employees for overtime shifts. "In some places, they call the younger employees while in other places, they call the most experienced ones. Ideally, a standard way for the whole region would be better," states the union president.

Currently, 8.24% of the region's 1,050 nurses, auxiliary nurses and respiratory therapists are on sick leave. That represents 86 people. "They are not all out due to exhaustion but it is the major factor

explaining the situation," adds Mr. Bujold.

The patients/nurse ratio referred to by Émilie Ricard on facebook is also seen in the Gaspé Peninsula's seniors residences, he stresses. "It is even worse in some places. It is 92 patients per night shift at the Saint Joseph Residence in Maria and 96 at Monseigneur Ross in Gaspé," he states.

"We have been proposing ways to improve the health system for years but our suggestions have fallen on deaf ears and closed eyes all this time. A big part of the current problems in the health sector are attributable to the Quebec government's failure to listen and see. In hospitals, there is pressure to take the patients waiting at the emergency unit to the rooms, but there is also pressure to move the patients already in those rooms out of the hospital. It is just for statistical purposes, a way to reduce the waiting time at the emergency. The patients' cares are forgotten in that way of doing things," says Pier-Luc Bujold.

## Negotiations to resume soon

Before February 15, the SIIIEQ union delegates and Pier-Luc Bujold are holding 21 meetings with their members all around the coast to get suggestions to improve working conditions. Twenty-one represents the number of service points in the Gaspé Peninsula's health network, whether

Cont'd on page 9



## PUBLIC NOTICE

**PUBLIC NOTICE** is hereby given by the present that the municipal Council of the Ville de Percé has adopted its **2018** budget as well as its three-year program of capital expenditures during the meeting held on January 29, 2018.

Expenses and reconciliation for tax purposes provided for 2018 are as follows:

### OPERATING EXPENSES

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION	\$1 045 410
PUBLIC SECURITY	\$497 090
TRANSPORTATION	\$1 566 870
ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE	\$1 015 580
SOCIAL HOUSING	\$12 400
URBAN PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT	\$1 050 230
RECREATION & CULTURE	\$144 500
FINANCE CHARGES	\$202 150
	<b>\$5 534 230</b>

### RECONCILIATION FOR TAX PURPOSES

Repayment of long-term debt	\$869 200
Transfer of investment activities	\$135 000
Reserve funds	\$96 570
	<b>\$1 100 770</b>

### TOTAL EXPENSES AND RECONCILIATION FOR TAX PURPOSES

	<b>\$6 635 000</b>
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and the revenue is as follows:

TAXES ON THE PROPERTY VALUE	\$3 345 700
TARIFF FOR MUNICIPAL SERVICES	\$957 980
PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES	\$463 040
TRANSFERS	\$1 259 780
OTHER REVENUES FROM LOCAL SOURCES	\$608 500

### TOTAL REVENUES

	<b>\$6 635 000</b>
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An explanatory document on the budget is available on the City's website ([ville.perce.qc.ca](http://ville.perce.qc.ca)).

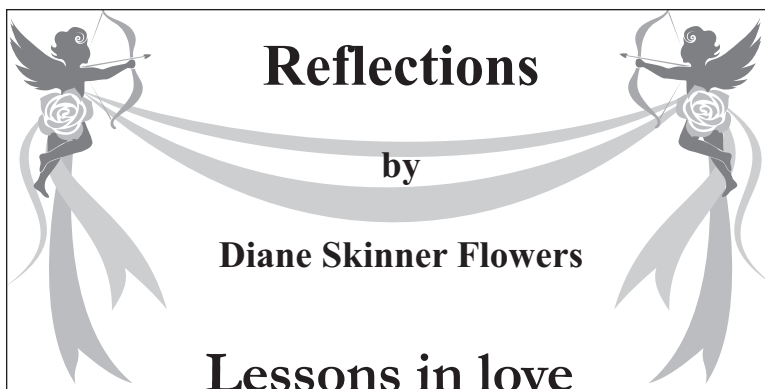
As for the three-year program of capital expenditures for 2018-2019-2020, the following projects are planned:

INVESTMENTS	2018	2019	2020	Total
<b>Administration</b>				
Percé library relocation	\$200 000			\$200 000
Layout out of the basement of City Hall	\$100 000			\$100 000
Computers	\$10 000	\$5 000	\$5 000	\$20 000
<b>Total Administration</b>	<b>\$310 000</b>	<b>\$5 000</b>	<b>\$5 000</b>	<b>\$320 000</b>
<b>Fire safety</b>				
Pumper tanker, fire station 62	\$400 000			\$400 000
Emergency vehicle			\$200 000	\$200 000
Upgrading respirators	\$10 000	\$10 000	\$10 000	\$30 000
<b>Total Fire safety</b>	<b>\$410 000</b>	<b>\$10 000</b>	<b>\$210 000</b>	<b>\$630 000</b>
<b>Public works</b>				
Backhoe	\$100 000			\$100 000
Snow removal truck	\$75 000			\$75 000
<b>Total Public works</b>	<b>\$175 000</b>			<b>\$175 000</b>
<b>Environmental hygiene</b>				
Distribution network	\$50 000			\$50 000
Replacement of fire hydrants	\$10 000			\$10 000
Replacement of pipes	\$500 000			\$500 000
<b>Sewage treatment:</b>				
Sewers	\$30 000			\$30 000
Truck	\$30 000			\$30 000
Pumping stations	\$10 000			\$10 000
Val d'Espoir filtration field	\$150 000			\$150 000
<b>Waste treatment:</b>				
Closure of the L.E.S.	\$50 000			\$50 000
<b>Total Environmental hygiene</b>	<b>\$830 000</b>			<b>\$830 000</b>
<b>Urban planning and development</b>				
Truck and trailer closed	\$50 000			\$50 000
Rénovation of community centres	\$50 000	\$100 000	\$50 000	\$200 000
Digitized matrix graphic	\$25 000			\$25 000
Côte Surprise Project			\$500 000	\$500 000
<b>Total Urban planning and development</b>	<b>\$125 000</b>	<b>\$100 000</b>	<b>\$550 000</b>	<b>\$775 000</b>
<b>Total of Investment Activities</b>	<b>\$1 850 000</b>	<b>\$115 000</b>	<b>\$765 000</b>	<b>\$2 730 000</b>

Issued in Percé, on February 8, 2018

Gemma Vibert,  
Clerk





## Lessons in love

On February 14, people exchange cards, candy, gifts and flowers with their special someone. This day of celebrating romance, Valentine's Day, is named for a Christian martyr and dates all the way back to the 5th century. To observe this loving time of the year, try to identify these famous loving couples, both real and fictional. I will have to exclude Natalie Wood and Robert Wagner due to the fact that he has been very recently named as a person of interest in her death – which happened 37 years ago. If these celebrities were married more than once, go for the most famous (or infamous) coupling.

Sonny and  
Johnny Cash and  
Romeo and  
Elizabeth Taylor and  
John Lennon and  
Adam and  
Tarzan and  
Humphrey Bogart and  
Adolph Hitler and  
Robin Hood and  
King Edward VIII and  
Julius Caesar and  
John Kennedy and  
Beyoncé and  
Katharine Hepburn and  
Johnny (Patrick Swayze from Dirty Dancing) and  
Prince William and  
Desi Arnaz and  
Kermit (Muppets) and  
Prince Charles and

### Try to identify the missing name in each duo.

20/20 - A perfect score! You are a genius about matters of the heart!

15-19 - Pretty good! You know your love stuff!

10-14 - Not bad. You definitely know what love is!

5-9 - Ooh! You know what love is, but might need to remind yourself.

0-4 - Ooh, not great. Watch The Notebook and you can add 5 points to your score!



**The Answers**  
Sonny and Cher  
Johnny Cash and June Carter Cash  
Romeo and Juliet  
Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton  
John Lennon and Yoko Ono  
Adam and Eve  
Tarzan and Jane  
Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall  
Adolph Hitler and Eva Braun  
Robin Hood and Maid Marian  
King Edward VIII and Wallis Simpson  
Julius Caesar and Cleopatra  
John Kennedy and Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis  
Beyoncé and Jay-Z  
Katharine Hepburn and Spencer Tracy  
Johnny (Patrick Swayze from Dirty Dancing) and Baby  
Prince William and Kate, Duchess of Cambridge  
Desi Arnaz and Lucille Ball  
Kermit and Miss Piggy  
Prince Charles and Diana, Princess of Wales/Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall

# Paspebiac loses \$326,000 grant

Gilles Gagné

PASPEBIAC: – The Town of Paspebiac has to write off a grant of \$326,000 that had been moved from one budget to the next by the former municipal administration. The money was initially supposed to come from the Quebec department of Culture and Communications for the renovation of the town hall, but it was never received.

In November, the new mayor of Paspebiac, Regent Bastien, started looking into matters after hearing from citizens that a receivable from the department of Culture and Communications was repeatedly delayed, probably pushed back five times, maybe more.

“After the election, I started verifying the letters sent to the Town of Paspebiac by that ministry, stating that the money would not be provided because the municipal administration had failed to respect two conditions, namely that the renovation work could not start before the official announcement by the department, and the use of certain materials in order to respect the heritage value of the building. Those materials had to be used for the siding, windows and doors. Both conditions were not respected. Some people knew

about it but I am not sure that the council knew,” explains Regent Bastien.

He does not mention who he means by “some people”. In mid-January, the director general of the Town of Paspebiac, Paul Langlois was suspended with pay because of some decisions that were made. For now, Mr. Bastien refuses to make a link between the grant and the suspension of Paul Langlois.

Regent Bastien suggests that those sitting on the former council may have thought that a political decision would eventually change the verdict of the department of Culture and Communications and the grant would eventually be paid to the Town.

“Political decisions rarely overturn civil servants’ decisions nowadays. Politicians are way more careful than before with discretionary decisions, if you watch the news,” adds the mayor of Paspebiac.

From a receivable, the amount of \$326,000 will likely be transferred to the liability column, at least accounting-wise, says Mr. Bastien.

The renovation of the town hall was part of a \$7 million project that also included the cultural centre. That cultural centre is a relatively new building that also poses a problem

for Paspebiac’s municipal administration.

“There is a crack in the main cement slab of the building. At the opening of the centre, they knew about it. The Town of Paspebiac had retained the final payment that was supposed to be sent to the contractor. That final payment is the guarantee. The contractor, JC Lepage from Rimouski, filed for bankruptcy a while ago but we are protected because we didn’t make the final payment,” explains Régent Bastien.

By “they”, he means at least some members of the municipal administration and the council. Again, he doesn’t connect that situation and the Paul Langlois situation.

The sum retained by the Town of Paspebiac amounted to \$560,000. During the court procedure held to deal with the bankruptcy of JC Lepage, Superior Court Judge Benoit Moulin ordered the town to come up with an amount of about \$100,000 in order to pay a subcontractor of JC Lepage.

In the meantime, the insurer of the contractor, Unique, and the Town of Paspebiac are also engaged in court proceedings. Unique claims that the Town of Paspebiac retained too much

Cont'd on page 9

## MICMAC CAMP: Co-owner defends his business

Gilles Gagné

GESGAPEGIAG – The co-owner of Micmac Camp, Quentin Condo, assures us that he and family members involved in that outfitting business are not making a lot of money, with all the fees linked to operating the business.

Mr. Condo is responding to a January 30 press release issued by Gesgapegiag’s band administration explaining why the band is attempting through court proceedings to recuperate the fishing rights that were delegated to Micmac Camp close to 20 years ago.

Micmac Camp pays \$25,000 per year to the band for those sports fishing rights. Quentin Condo co-owns Micmac Camp with his brother Travis and sister Naomi. It previously belonged to their father, the late Guy Condo.

“We hire between 16 and 18 people every season. We

pay our own insurance, pay for all of the equipment, source deductions, promotional costs, repairs and \$25,000 rod fees (rights) to the band for our lease,” emphasizes Quentin Condo.

He affirms that the conditions determined by the band administration regarding the lease holders of the community’s five lobster fishing licences are far more advantageous than the conditions imposed on Micmac Camp for the delegation of the sports fishing rights on the Grand Cascapedia River.

“The Chief and Council try to make it sound like we make a fortune with the fishing camp but the truth is; we barely make a fraction of what the lobster fishermen make per season. After all of our expenses and obligations, we walk away with a fraction of what the lobster fishermen make. Our operating season is from June 1 to

September 30 and our employees start in mid-May and end in mid-October. We pay for all of that,” points out Mr. Condo.

Gesgapegiag Chief Rod Larocque is one of the lobster fishing lease holders, he adds. “The lobster fishermen are provided with a lobster license, fishing boat, traps, insurance, an employee, repairs for broken equipment and on top of that the band sends a truck to pick up their catch at the dock so that the fisherman doesn’t have to even look for a market for his catch,” he adds.

“If this (the conflict between the band and the owners of Micmac Camp) truly was about generating revenues for the community, don’t you think that the elected leadership would lead by example and forfeit their lobster fishing licenses back to the community?”, he asks.

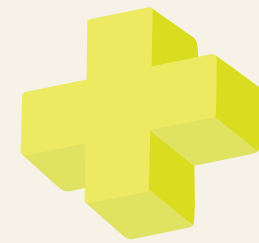
The court case will continue in March in Quebec City.



# HOOKED ON SCHOOL DAYS

FEBRUARY 12-16, 2018    JOURNEESPERSEVERANCESCOLAIRE.COM    #JPS2018

# Your actions, a + in their success



## Bright Beginnings



A shining start  
for children  
ages 0-5

### WHAT IS BRIGHT BEGINNINGS?

A group of partners who all work towards providing more services and programs in English for 0-5 year olds near you!

### OUR MAIN GOALS ARE TO:

- find out what the 0-5 year olds across the Coast need
- deliver programs that help 0-5 year olds with their school-readiness skills
- create more spaces for 0-5 year olds and their parents to share & learn
- reach as many parents & kids as possible

### Challenge for the week

you're never too young, or too old, to start reading together as a family! This week, try to take a little time every day to sit with your kid(s) and read a book together ... even if it's only for a few minutes!

INITIATED BY:



WITH THE SUPPORT OF:



REGIONAL COORDINATION:





# 101st birthday celebration

Sharon Howell

Mary Miller turned 101 on January 23. Her niece Lorna Miller had organized an afternoon tea party for the 23rd but somehow the weather got in the way so, it had to be postponed. It was rescheduled for Sunday, January 28 and there was a house full. Mary's guests included her nieces Lorna Miller, Debbie O'Brien Boulay, and Pauline Mullin Hackett; her great niece Sylvia Hackett; her great-great-niece Falan Jean; her friends: Martha Patterson; Martha's sister Ann Patterson; the Rev. Cynthia Patterson; Heather Patterson; Ivy Miller; Paula Shannon; Carol Suddard; and me. Oh, there were pictures taken before, during, and after the opening of presents. There was lots of conversation, a selection of beverages followed by sandwiches and sweets a plenty, a beautifully decorated and delicious cake that was a gift from Mary's niece Marilyn and her husband Don who live in Fonthill, Ont. The finishing touch was a delicious cup of tea in fancy china teacups. The birthday girl thanked everyone for coming to spend the afternoon with her and we all said we look forward to getting together again next year. Her many friends and relatives remembered her with gifts and cards before, on the day of her birthday, and days afterwards. How very nice and exciting for her to go to the mailbox and have real mail! Mary also received a bouquet of flowers from the Town of Gaspé and hand delivered to her by Councillor Ghislain Smith. She very much appreciated the surprise visit and gift and he was honoured to do it. Mary has set the bar kind of high for most everyone else. The common phrase from those who know her is "she's pretty remarkable." Mary loves to play cards and she knows what has been played. When she bids in 500 you can rest assured she isn't just giving you a hint – no, she's got it! She plays a pretty mean game of cribbage, too. Every now and again she comes out with a few words that might shock you a bit. All in all, she is a unique, wonderful, knowledgeable woman who knows her own mind and knows what she likes and what she doesn't like. She just might inform you on that if you haven't been paying attention. Mary usually has a knitting project on the go. It is either a pair of socks, mittens, gloves, a tuque or other woollen item that she sends out each year before Christmas in the Shoeboxes for Seafarers program. Last year she also completed a quilt that was all hand stitched. That quilt was included in the decorations at a wedding reception in Cambridge, Ont. Mary's good friends Rowena and Howard Gallichan gave it to their granddaughter for a wedding gift. Well, Mary has had to start on a new one. All of Mary's family and friends are all so very happy for her that she has been able to celebrate these remarkable occasions. Let's seize the opportunity and raise a glass to salute this remarkable woman – to Mary!



Mary Miller

## NURSES:

▶ *Cont'd from page 6*

they are hospitals, CLSCs, seniors' residences or rehabilitation centres. The next regional negotiation round will start on February 22.

SIIEQ is the French acronym for Syndicat des infirmières, des infirmiers et des inhalothérapeutes de l'Est-du-Québec. Its 1,050 members in

the Gaspé Peninsula are managed by five collective agreements, one for the Avignon-Bonaventure MRCs, as well as one each in the Percé Rock, Côte-de-Gaspé and Haute-Gaspésie MRCs. Avignon and Bonaventure are mainly served by one hospital, in Maria. The fifth collective agreement is related to the whole region's rehabilitation centres.

## PASPEBIAC:

▶ *Cont'd from page 7*

money during the construction of the cultural centre. Régent Bastien does not agree.

"We have no idea about the cost of repairing the slab of the cultural centre. It (the crack) gets larger all the time. At least four parties are involved in the court case, Unique, Béton Provincial, the designer of the slab and the Town of Paspébiac," explains Régent Bastien.

Part of the hearings in this case took place in 2017. The next court date is not yet scheduled.

"I am confident that the main slab of the building will be repaired. It is normal that we keep as much as possible before the repairs are done since the cost is unknown for now," adds Mr. Bastien.

He served as mayor during the term spanning between 2001 and 2005. At the time, his administration was planning a smaller project for a town hall and multi-purpose community hall.

"The Gaspé office of BPR had proposed three scenarios, including one of \$3 million. However, I lost the 2005 election," he specifies.

GET CREATIVE ABOUT MENTAL WELLNESS!

## Create a Logo

### WANT TO WIN \$100?

The Mental Health/Substance Use Task Force needs a logo!

We are a group of volunteers and professionals working to promote access to mental health services and support for Indigenous and English-speaking communities in the Gaspésie.

### MENTAL WELLNESS FOR ALL

We are looking for ideas that symbolize mental wellness for all.

What images does mental wellness conjure up in your mind? Use that as inspiration and draw, paint, sculpt, or design a logo for us and you could win a cash prize. The winning submission will be used as a basis for our logo.

The contest winner will be announced in April 2018

### DETAILS

The contest is open to all

Deadline: March 18, 2018

Submit your design to  
Cynthia Dow:

[cynthiadowo8@gmail.com](mailto:cynthiadowo8@gmail.com)

**ENERGY**  
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[shipenergy.com](http://shipenergy.com)  
1-866-530-9555



# Who am I? DNA testing

Diane Skinner

Who are you? What family are you from? Who are you related to? When you visit the Gaspé, people customarily ask you how you are connected to the community. If you have a common surname people look askance and ask, “Which exact family though?” Family and ancestry is extremely important to Gaspésians.

One of the hottest Christmas gifts this year was the do-it-yourself at home DNA testing kits. Priced from \$89 to \$129, you order your testing kit online and it arrives in a week or so. The AncestryDNA kit (there are other companies, such as 23andMe or MyHeritageDNA) arrives including an instruction booklet, a saliva collection tube and a pre-paid return mailer. Just place a bit of saliva in the tube and mail it away. You must not eat, drink, smoke or chew gum 30 minutes before giving your saliva sample. It is processed in a lab and you receive, about 4 – 6 weeks later, your DNA results by email. You need access to a computer because you activate your kit online. I just completed a DNA testing kit and can affirm that it is a quick and easy process.

When you receive your results, it will include information about your ethnicity, across 150 different regions. My daughter’s results were not surprising, but helped to know more fully her genetic background. Her results showed that her heritage is 80% Irish, Scottish or Welsh,

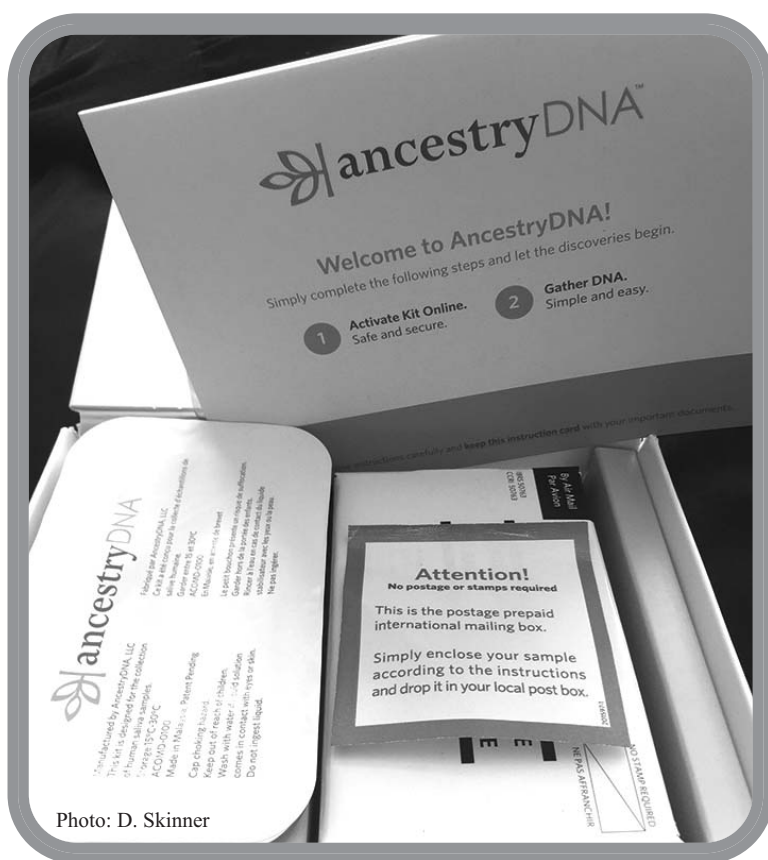


Photo: D. Skinner

The AncestryDNA kit that Diane received by the mail.

16% Scandinavian, 1.5% East European and 1.5% Nigerian. We are assuming that the Scandinavian could be Viking ancestors who raided Scotland in the 9th century. Not many people are blonder or blue-eyed than my daughter, so Nigerian was unexpected. Research explains that the genetic results can reach back hundreds, even thousands of years. One thing that DNA testing does is encourage you to check out maps more carefully and to read up on history. It’s a fascinating journey and it’s the journey of your ancestors.

DNA testing is changing the way people discover their family history. AncestryDNA is linked to the website Ancestry.ca which is reputed to

be the world’s largest online family history resource. It can provide to you, if you wish, family connections. In some cases, it can provide information about unknown relatives. They will be in the database if they have joined Ancestry.ca and have taken the AncestryDNA test. The next step would be digging deeper into your family roots. You just might find a long lost, but never known about, cousin, or even somebody who has a closer genetic link to you.

Mona Parent, Miguasha, purchased a DNA kit for her daughter at Christmas 2016 and consequently Mona and some other relatives did the testing over the past year. She found out that DNA testing “really does work. The results

determined exact relations between my daughter and myself and some close relatives.” Mona was satisfied with the test results but was hoping to find that she had more exotic genes, rather than the predictable ones, which were mostly from the British Isles. She was surprised to find she had a very close relative in Montreal who was adopted in 1950 and is trying to find further information about who his parents are.

Ethel Flowers Ward’s daughter wanted her to do the testing to see where their ancestors came from. It turns out that her background is 52% Great Britain, 20% Ireland, Scotland and Wales, 14% Europe South, and the balance from different parts of Europe. Ethel, from New Carlisle, was satisfied with the testing results as she had no information about her genetic ancestry. She has a number of 2nd, 3rd and 4th cousins that she did not know about until she did the DNA testing. Ethel adds, “Ancestry sends you a list of people that you are related to but they only know this through the people that also did the test. I have since joined Ancestry and I am creating a family tree. I thought I had Native blood but I do not according to Ancestry. I enjoyed doing this and you learn new things everyday. Ancestry keeps you up to date when you join.”

Sounds exciting and all, but there are critics of DNA testing for these purposes. Is it secure? Is it private? The Ancestry company states that

they store your DNA results and your DNA sample without your name or other identifying information. You are identified by a 12-digit number. They assure customers that they own their personal data, not the company. If you feel nervous about this, you can ask to have your test results deleted and/or your saliva sample destroyed after you receive your results. Ancestry claims not to share your data with others, unless you specifically consent to that. To test your DNA is a personal decision one must make after considering all the information. If you are comfortable with the process, then proceed!

So, is DNA testing for you? Sometimes there can be unwelcome test results. It recently revealed to a young man that he was not the ethnicity he had been told by his family. He is dark and had been told that he was French Canadian and Polish. Nope. His highest ethnic result was Syrian. Was he upset? More curious than anything.

If you want to see if you have a close family member who has taken the DNA test you need to give permission for that. People have discovered long lost relatives, family secrets and skeletons in the closet. Many are overjoyed to find relatives they had not known about. On the plus side it fills in the picture about who you are.

“Our history begins before we are born. We represent hereditary influences and our ancestors virtually live in us.”

## DNA: Your body’s blueprints

DNA is necessary for life.

All living things have DNA, including plants and animals.

DNA is like a formula or recipe which ‘tells’ our bodies how to function.

Information is carried on each section of your DNA. These sections are called genes.

Half of your genes come from your mother and half from your father.

Family resemblance? This can stretch over many, many generations.

You might look at old family photos and find that you resemble an aunt or uncle who died 100 years ago.

People may look similar based on where their ancestors came from. DNA testing can tell you about your ancestry.

In humans, DNA determines such things as how your lungs work and the colour of your eyes or whether you have dimples.

DNA can be found in hair, skin or bodily fluids.

DNA is used to catch criminals or identify someone who has died long ago. After 9-11, DNA was used to identify the deceased.

DNA is short for deoxyribonucleic acid.

About 99% of every person’s DNA is exactly the same.

If you could unravel the DNA molecules from a human body and put them end to end it would reach the Sun and back many times.

Looking under a microscope, DNA has a shape called a ‘double helix.’ It resembles two strands that are twisted together, like a twisted ladder.

DNA was discovered in 1869 by Friedrich Meischer, a Swiss biologist.

Photo: Kjpgargetter - Freepik.com



# DNA testing helps man find his Gaspesian roots

Mario Duguay

(Note: Mario Duguay contacted Spec when he read on Spec's Facebook page that we were working on an article about DNA testing and how it might impact on Gaspesians' search for their ancestry. His story was too long to integrate into the article, so here is his story, so far, in his own words.)

I responded to The Gaspé Spec facebook request for Gaspesians who had an interesting experience with AncestryDNA since I thought my story would be perfect for their article. They had asked that I tell my full story so here it is.

Just two weeks ago I received my adoption papers with all non-identifying information. It was at that moment I decided to create a facebook page with all of the information I now had and used my baby photo from my passport. I created the page on January 25. The response has been overwhelming.

## Mario's initial facebook posting

A little about me. I was born Mario Duguay on June 3, 1969 at Hotel-Dieu of Gaspé. My mom was 22 at the time, French Canadian and a housekeeper. She had black hair, brown eyes, 5'4" and weighed 125 lbs. She had two previous pregnancies before me. She completed primary school at 14. Her dad was 61 years old and a fisherman. Her mom was 59 years old and a housewife. Records show my mom had two brothers and a sister and she was the third child.

My dad was 33 years old, also French Canadian. He was a lumberman. He had light brown hair and blue eyes. The records I have state that they were in a relationship for four years when they had me and that she wanted to marry him.

I was eligible for adoption January 1, 1970 even though my parents never signed consent since after six months of care, maintenance or education of the child had not actually been assumed by the mother or father, I was placed in the social services nurseery from June 26, 1969 until April 8, 1970.

I was then placed with a foster family in Fontenelle April 8, 1970 until July 30, 1970. At this point they had moved and I was placed with



Photo: Courtesy of M. Duguay

Mario as a baby with a government of Canada stamp on his photo.

another family.

I was placed with a foster family in Cortereal from July 30, 1970 until Jan. 12, 1971. They tried to adopt me but did not succeed. I was placed with my actual adoptive family Jan. 12, 1971. I was legally adopted March, 7, 1972 by my family in the U.S.

It looks like according to the stamp on my passport I came to the U.S. July 25, 1972.

The name Mario Duguay is what appears on my birth certificate and my Canadian passport. That is also the name on all the adoption papers. I'm not sure if the last name is that of my mom or dad or given to me by the hospital or orphanage.

The documents my parents gave me say Social Services of Gaspé. The signature on the paperwork was Ginette Roy.

I also received a certificate of health and the pediatrician was Marc Andre Pouliot. I also have a document that says the agency was represented by Mrs. Annaline Oullette. The general director of Gaspé Social Services at the time appears to be Reynald Fournier. I was baptized in St. Albert's Parish, Cathedral of Christ The King on July 3, 1969 and this was signed by Michel Le Moignan.

The photo above is the youngest photo I have of myself. I would have been around 3 years old then. It was the photo on my Cana-

dian passport. I will post other photos of myself throughout the years.

I created my facebook page with the hope of locating my biological family, either parents, siblings, aunts or uncles, or cousins. I've been looking for pieces of my puzzle for years but recently received all of this information which I hope helps to continue my search.

I have done AncestryDNA, My Heritage and 23andme. I am in touch with a second cousin and a third cousin that I found through a DNA match but unfortunately, they were adopted as well.

If anyone knows anything at all, please reach out to me either on facebook or the

email I created Mario.Duguay.Gaspe@gmail.com

## Matches

The biggest help so far has come from someone they call a "search angel" on facebook. She took an interest in my story and by using the dates that I have on my adoption papers for my birth parents ages at the time of my birth and my mom's parent's ages she started using Ancestry.com to work backwards on a family tree. That, combined with DNA matches, the pieces are starting to fit together.

And that is where I am right now. All this has happened in the past couple of weeks.



Mario as a toddler.

## Job Opportunity BARMAN / BARMAID

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- Supply the bar and the reserve;
- Manager of the cash register and transactions;
- Any other related tasks.

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### Salary conditions:

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- Part time (schedule on request).

You have until March 2, 2018 at 4:00 pm to send your curriculum vitae to Ms. Elisha Simon, General Director, by email [direction@gespeg.ca](mailto:direction@gespeg.ca) or in person at the Micmac Nation of Gespeg located at 34, montée de Corte Real.



## PUBLIC NOTICE

### MINOR EXEMPTION FROM URBANISM BY-LAWS

NOTICE is hereby given that the Town Council, at an ordinary meeting that will be held on March 5, 2018, at 8 pm, will consider the request for minor exemption from the zoning By-Law 1156-11, presented by Projet Gaspé Inc. for a property situated at 7, rue Jalobert.

The nature and consequences of this exemption are the following:

- the nature of the minor exemption is to reduce of 2.3 m the minimal width of 6.5 m required by the article 21.2 of the zoning By-Law 1156-11.
- the minor exemption will have for consequence to authorized an driveway with a width of 4.2 meters.

During this meeting, the Town Council will hear the interested wishing to be heard on that request.

Given at Gaspé, February 14, 2018.

Isabelle Vézina,  
Director of legal services and town clerk



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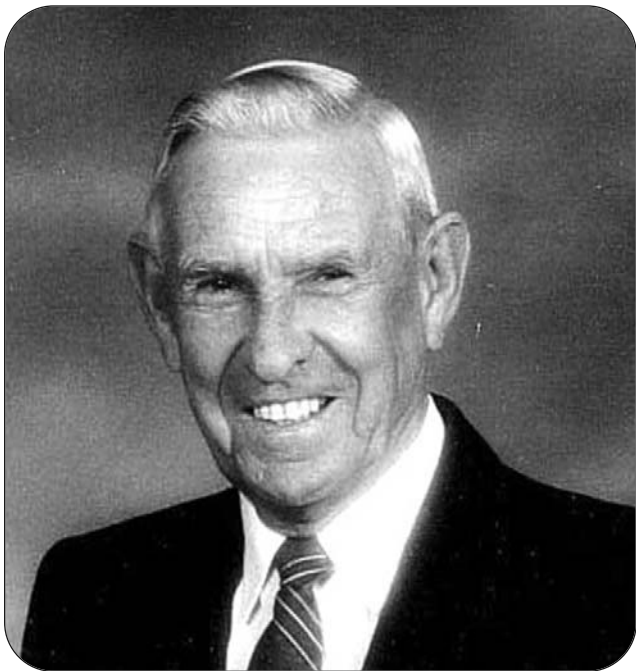
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# Announcements...



## Obituary



### DELANEY: Leonard Henry (Len)

Leonard Delaney, aged 88 years, passed away peacefully at the Kingston General Hospital on Saturday, February 3, 2018. Beloved husband, for 51 years, of Ann. Loving father of James (Jen) of Prescott, Kathryn (Dave) of Auckland, New Zealand, and Patrick (Andrea) of Thornbury. Special Poppa of Spencer, Sam, Ben, Zoe, Ayla and Luca. Survived by his sisters Bessie Brabant and Freda Lederhose of Montreal. Predeceased by his parents Ernest and Mary Delaney, and brothers Hudson, Robert, Morris, Earl, Jack and Walter, also by sisters Opal and Mary. He is survived by numerous nieces and nephews.

Friends paid their respects at the Barclay Funeral Home 137 Pearl Street East, Brockville on Friday from 7-9 p.m. The Celebration of Len's Life was held at St. Paul's Anglican Church, 12 Pine Street Brockville on Saturday February 10, 2018 at 2 p.m.

Interment will take place at Roselawn Memorial Gardens at a later date. In memory of Len, donations to St. Paul's Anglican Church would be gratefully acknowledged by the family. The Royal Canadian Legion Branch #96 will hold a Memorial Service Friday evening at 6:30 in the Funeral Home. Messages of Condolence may be sent online at [www.barclayfuneral-home.com](http://www.barclayfuneral-home.com)

### St. Jude's Novena

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the hopeless, pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us.

Say this prayer nine times a day for nine days, on the eighth day your prayer will be answered.

B. M.



## In Memory



### BRENNAN: Carmelle (Brideau)

In fond and loving memory of my wife who passed away February 14, 2007.

*I have lost my soul's companion,  
A life linked with my own;  
And day by day I miss her more,  
As I walk through life alone.*

Always loved and remembered by husband Frank and family.

### GUIGNION: Percy

In loving memory of a dear father and grandfather who passed away February 13, 1995.

*Those we love don't go away,  
They walk beside us every day.  
Unseen, unheard, but always near,  
So loved, so missed, so very dear.*

Forever in our hearts and always remembered, Janis, Judy and Graham and grandchildren.

### LEGGO: Cletus

In loving memory of a dear husband, father and grandfather, Cletus Leggo, who passed away on February 14, 2004.

*In a peaceful country setting  
Where the gentle breezes blow,  
Lies the one we love so dearly,  
Whom we lost four years ago.*

Sadly missed by wife Lee, daughters Janet and Brenda.

### PHOTO QUALITY

Please keep in mind when submitting photos of a loved one please do not send in photocopies, copies printed off a home colour printer or the cards given out at the funeral home. The quality of your photo will not reproduce well in the newspaper.



### To Jesus through Mary Prayer to the Blessed Virgin (never known to fail)

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendour of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God. Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. O Star of the Sea, help me and show me that you are my Mother, O Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of heaven and earth, I humbly beseech you, from the bottom of my heart, to succour me in my necessity (make request). There are none who can withstand your power. O Mary conceived without sin, Pray for us who have recourse to thee (3 times). Holy Mary, I place this prayer in your hands (3 times). Say this prayer for 3 consecutive days and publish, and it will be granted to you.

D.M.

### OUR RATES:

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### IN MEMORIAM:

\$30 (\$35 with picture) up to 20 lines

\$40 (\$45 with picture) More than 20 lines

**OBITUARY OR WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT:**

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Please send your announcement to:

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## COAST ROUND-UP

### POINTE NAVARRE:

#### Thanksgiving Mass

A thanksgiving mass every third Tuesday of the month: During the year 2018, we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the death of Father Watier. On **February 20** at 7 p.m. at the Shrine of Pointe-Navarre. We will give thanks to the Lord by recalling a feature of the life of Father Watier and his mission among us.

### GASPE:

#### Annual General Meeting

The public is asked to please note that the Annual General Meeting of the Gaspé Cancer Foundation will be held on **Sunday, March 4** at 1 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion. All citizens of the MRC Côte de Gaspé are invited to attend. Complimentary coffee, tea and cheese to follow.

### GASPE:

#### Membership Campaign

The citizens of the MRC of Côte de Gaspé are asked to please note that the Annual Gaspé Cancer Foundation Membership Campaign will officially begin in March. The blue registration form can be found in your March 5 Publi-sac. Membership fees are \$12 per year. New members have a 30-day waiting period before being eligible to receive their travel assistance. If you are a member in good standing, are afflicted with cancer and must travel outside the region for treatment, you are eligible for the following travel assistance: Chandler \$40, Maria \$70, Rimouski \$120, Rivière-du-Loup \$150, Québec \$160, Montreal and Sherbrooke \$220. The Gaspé Cancer Foundation has returned \$286,468 in travel assistance to its members who needed to travel outside our region for treatment

since its inception in 2003.

### YORK:

#### Annual General Meeting

The York River Community Center will hold its AGM on **Sunday February 25**, at 1:30. Everyone is welcome, two representatives from the public will be voted in as members of the committee.

### YORK:

#### Supper and Dance

**Friday, March 16:** The York River Seniors Club will hold a St. Patrick's Supper and dance (main meal Irish stew, dessert gingerbread and green whipped cream) in the York Community Center. Cocktails at 5 p.m. with music and dance to follow. Let's all get out and enjoy an Irish evening of entertainment with live music from our seniors band, along with an Irish Coffee and a green beer. Bar services available. The cost is \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Please contact Alfred Cassidy or Tony Patterson.

### DOUGLASTOWN:

#### Upcoming Activities

The following activities will be held at the Douglstown Community Centre.

**Friday, February 16:** Happy Hour Special: collective cooking at 5 p.m. Please join us to learn about the upcoming plans for collective cooking activities at the community center. Bring your refreshments and a dish to share.

**Sunday February 18:** Community breakfast with a traditional menu from 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. \$8 for adults (12 & over), \$4 for children (5-11 years) would be appreciated (ages 4 and under, free)

**Tuesday, February 20:** The next Travel Talks will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the conference room of the Community Centre. Louis Morin: From Rome to Canterbury: 1900 km on foot; **February 27:** Newfoundland Scenery.

**Saturday February 24:** Garden seed exchange from 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Bring your plant seeds of any kind to exchange with gardening enthusiasts in your community.

### BARACHOIS:

#### Upcoming Activities

**Saturday, February 17:** A pot luck supper will be held at Barachois Legion at 5 p.m., \$10 per person.

### 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 16**. Everyone is welcome!

### PORT DANIEL:

#### Upcoming Events

The following events will be held at the Golden Age Hall in Port Daniel.

**March 17:** St. Patricks Supper; **April 6:** Gift Bingo and **May 12:**

Mother's Day Tea.

### PORT DANIEL:

#### Valentine Tea

The W.I. will be holding a Valentine Tea on **February 17** from 12 noon to 3 p.m. at the Three Star Golden Age Club at 177 Route 132, Port Daniel. Adults \$7, children under 6 free. 50/50 door prize.

### SHIGAWAKE:

#### Upcoming Activities

The following events will be held by the Shigawake Community Center.

**Friday, February 16:** Valentine's dance for all high school students. Light snack served. Free, 7 p.m. till 9:30 p.m.

**Saturday, February 17:** Valentine's Day dance, \$12 per person with DJ Mark Dea starting at 8 p.m. Please note Valentine Supper previously announced has been changed to this dance.

**Sunday, March 4:** Skidoo rally/lumberjack supper. Register at 12 p.m. Rally starts at 1 p.m. Followed by supper. Door prizes. Everyone is welcome for the supper. Rally and supper \$20, supper only \$12.

**Friday, March 30:** Easter activities for children. 1 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. free.

**Monday April 2:** Easter Gift Bingo, 7 p.m. Cantine services available. \$10 or 3 for \$20.

### HOPE TOWN:

#### Winter Carnival

**Friday, February 16:** 4:30 - 6 p.m. casserole supper, 12 and up \$10, 7 - 11 \$5, 6 and under free; 7:30 p.m. Gift bingo \$10 series or 3/\$20.

**Saturday February 17:** 1:30 p.m. Games on ice; 8 p.m. Military whist \$5.

**Sunday February 18:** 1:30 p.m. Hockey Old Timers vs Young Timers.

### HOPE TOWN:

#### Upcoming Activities

The following activities will be held at the Hope Town Community Center,

**Saturday, March 3:** A crib tournament will be held at 1 p.m. \$10 per person. Please register your team by March 1. Call Audrey or Linda 418-752-2015.

**Saturday, March 10:** Military Whist beginning at 8 p.m. Come and join us for a night of fun.

### 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:

#### 80th Birthday Celebration

With pleasure we invite you to join us in celebrating the 80th birthday of Loretta Noel, on **February 17** from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Municipal Town Hall. We look forward to sharing this special event together.

### 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](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 **Wednesday, March 14**, at 9 a.m.

### NEW CARLISLE:

#### Upcoming Activities

The following activities will be held by Heritage New Carlisle at the New Carlisle Town Hall.

**Saturday, March 17:** A telethon from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.

**Friday, April 13:** Spring Soup and Sweets from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Please note There will be no card games until further notice.

**May 11:** Soup and sweets from 11:3 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### NEW RICHMOND:

#### Friperie Entraide de L'É.P.É.

Opening hours every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. We sell good quality clothing for \$1 or \$2 etc... We also offer you hundreds of free pieces of clothing and objects of all kinds every week. Come eat a homemade meal with us, free donation is appreciated. 248 Perron Blvd. West, New Richmond. Tel. (418) 392-5161.

### 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

#### Dame de Pique Tournament

The Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 172, will be having a Dame de Pique Tournament on **February 24** at 1 p.m. Cost will be \$5 per person. Everyone is welcome to attend.

### 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.

### CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

#### Potluck Supper

A Potluck Supper will be held at the 50+ Club, 319, Route 299, Cascapédia-St-Jules on **Saturday, February 24**, (if snow day, it will be held on Sunday, February 25) from 4:30 until 6:30. The price is \$12 for adults and \$10 for children under 12. Come and bring your appetite! If you cannot stay to eat, come, choose what you like and bring it home. Takeout is available

### 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.

#### Rotary Calendar Winners

The lucky Rotary calendar winners for the week of January 1 are: Sylvie Ste-Croix, Charles Guité, Conrad McWhirter, Manon Leblanc, Thérèse Landry and Diane Smith.

## BLANKET CLASSIFIEDS

GET UP TO \$50,000 from the Government of Canada. Do you or someone you know have any of these conditions? ADHD, Anxiety, Arthritis, Asthma, Cancer, COPD, Depression, Diabetes, Difficulty Walking, Fibromyalgia, Irritable Bowels, Overweight, Trouble Dressing...and Hundreds more. ALL Ages & Medical Conditions Qualify. CALL QUEBEC BENEFITS 1-(800)-211-3550. 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 us at QCNA 514-697-6330. Visit: [www.qcna.org](http://www.qcna.org).

## UNITED CHURCH

**Sunday, February 18**

2 p.m. New Carlisle

## ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

**Sunday, February 18**

**New Carlisle**

10 a.m. Morning Prayer

**Shigawake**

11 a.m. Morning Prayer

**PARISH OF GASPÉ**

**Sunday, February 18**

**Gaspe**

10 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Annual Vestry Meeting



## Limericks

Again Ginny's late for the bus,  
But no one is making a fuss;  
She's gone for a jog  
Out on the bog  
With camera, tripod and a truss.

An old politician named Lee  
Has become as rich as can be  
Though graft was suspected  
The charge was rejected,  
Soon he'll be re-elected -- you'll see.

There was a thin girl from St. Kitt's,  
Who knitted a fine pair of mitts  
Which she stuffed in her jumper  
It made her look plumper  
"I'm cheating a bit" she admits.

A wise politician named Yates  
Great support for his party creates.  
And so, we all know  
To the Senate he'll go;  
A reward each taxpayer donates.

What a wonderful person - Christine!  
Charming, efficient, serene;  
So clever, so bright,  
To all a delight,  
With a dignity fit for a queen.

John W. Westbrooke



## Why do we SAY...

By Gary Briand

Our research on troubling phrases is now delayed by the plethora of requests that we have received from students and teachers struggling to master the rudiments of English. We always tell people that English has little logic to its grammar: there are few fixed rules that do not have exceptions.

Four principal enquiries need attention. This week I shall take on silent letters. On occasion you might find a source of bother when you try to figure out the first letter of a word because ... shhh ... it's silent! Here are some common examples:

- g as found in gnat, gnash and gnome
- h as found in honest, hour, heir
- k as in knee, knob, knot and knife
- p as found in psychology, pneumonia and pterodactyl
- w as in who, whale, wrong, write

One teacher from Rivière du Loup narrated an experience with one of his students: he had articulated the word psychology and asked that the students isolate the word in their dictionaries. One student protested that the word was not in her dictionary. She had spent some time leafing through all entries under "s".

As an aid to the second language learners I would advise them to be mindful that many silent letters go hand in hand with a particular letter or letters. For instance, a silent k is only ever found before the letter n; a silent p is always found before an n, an s or a t; a silent w is always before the letters h or r.

If the dead prior to Shakespeare's day were to appear today and talk to us, we would be shocked to hear them sound out the k sound in knee, knot and knife. Over centuries those words have changed in their saying but the spelling has remained the same.

## GET WRITING WORD SEARCH

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

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

### WORDS

ACROSTIC  
ADVANCE  
ALLEGORY  
ASSIGNMENT  
AUTHOR  
AUTOBIOGRAPHY  
BALLAD  
BIWEEKLY  
BOILERPLATE  
BYLINE  
CANON  
CAPTION  
COPYEDITING  
COPYRIGHT  
DEADLINE  
DIALOGUE  
DICTION  
DIGITAL  
DRAFT  
DRAMA  
EDITORIAL  
FICTION  
FREEWRITING  
GENRE  
HOOK  
IMAGERY  
JOURNAL  
LEAD  
METAPHOR  
NARRATIVE  
PHRASES  
PLAGIARISM  
PRINT  
SUBMISSION  
SYNOPSIS  
VERSE

## Point to ponder



Why don't you ever see the headline "Psychic Wins Lottery"?

## HOROSCOPES

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

It can be difficult to focus with so many things running through your mind, Aries. Give it your best shot, especially at work where it counts the most.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

Focus on fun experiences that will pop up this week, Taurus. They will brighten your mood and make you more inclined to interact with the people you love.

GEMINI – May 22/June 21

Gemini, someone you haven't seen in a while makes an appearance in your life.

You don't know if you should be excited or just a tad cautious about what to expect.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22

Someone at work or home cannot get an accurate read on how you are feeling, Cancer. This may lead to some communication issues. Be as open as possible to avoid confusion.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, you are called on to be a leader this week, so make sure you do your homework on pertinent issues. This way you can make decisions with confidence.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, even when you think you know best, you may want to let others voice their opinions. You never know the value of another's perspective until you hear it.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Surround yourself with your closest friends and family members, Libra. These are support pillars you can lean on in tough times and the people to laugh alongside when things are good.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

The next few days provide opportunities to relax and have fun, Scorpio. With no pressing matters on the calendar, you can relinquish some responsibilities.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, getting your point across may seem like your primary goal, but you can let things simmer for a little bit. Others have things that they want

to share as well.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, romantic notions are popping into your head lately, and they may only be spurred on by the Valentine's Day magic. A relationship gets to the next level.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, you can be the voice of reason if family life has gotten a bit chaotic. You may be called on to sort things out and put a plan in place.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, whether you are attached or not, feelings of love are blooming inside of you. Romance may pervade your daily interactions.

### FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

FEBRUARY 11

Jennifer Aniston, Actress (49)

FEBRUARY 12

Tara Strong, Actress (45)

FEBRUARY 13

Robbie Williams, Singer (44)

FEBRUARY 14

Danaï Gurira, Actress (40)

FEBRUARY 15

Alex Borstein, Actress (45)

FEBRUARY 16

Elizabeth Olsen, Actress (29)

FEBRUARY 17

Billie Jo Armstrong, Singer (46)



# Nadia Lafrenière, *Registered Psychologist*

— Melissa Savidant

**GASPÉ:** - Accessing English speaking health care professionals on the Gaspé coast can be difficult. When dealing with health related matters, this can create a stressful situation. It is important that our health care system continue to recruit bilingual professionals to the Gaspé coast and create employment opportunities here.

Vision Gaspé-Perché Now's Health and Harmony campaign aims to acknowledge those health care professionals who speak English and create a safe and comfortable environment for anglophones. Featured health care professionals are nominated by fellow community members.

Nadia Lafrenière is a registered psychologist with the CISSS de la Gaspésie. She works with adults experiencing mental health problems at an outpatient clinic in Gaspé.

Nadia grew up in St. David, a small municipality just outside Drummondville. Given her proximity to Montreal, Nadia knew that a working knowledge of Eng-



Nadia Lafrenière, registered psychologist

lish would benefit her; serving both English and French populations became a priority before she even chose a profession.

Nadia says that it took her a while before she knew what she wanted to do in life. It was actually a friend who suggested psychology. "I tried it and loved it." Nadia ultimately chose the profession "to feel useful," and to "help people achieve a better

quality of life."

Nadia attended McGill University, where she was immersed in an anglophone environment and to which she credits most for her knowledge of English. She continues to participate in courses offered through McGill's language program in the workplace. She has completed specialized courses designed to prepare her to practice in English. She

explained, "you learn things, such as how to describe a range of emotions in English." Nadia has also sought out summer employment in Ontario and Manitoba in the past, where she picked up a lot of English.

Nadia was first employed in Gaspé 12 years ago, when she filled a one-year replacement position. After that, she still remained in contact with her colleagues in the Gaspé area. Three years ago, the psychologist she originally replaced for maternity leave informed her of an open position and Nadia has been in Gaspé ever since.

One-fifth of Nadia's clientele is anglophone. When asked what encourages her to speak English in her daily profession, and why she thinks it's important to do so, she answered "I want to be better able to serve the English speaking community, I believe it is easier for people to express their difficulties and emotions in their mother tongue." Even though Nadia's English is impeccable, she does not consider herself fully bilingual. She says most of her clients who

require English sessions have some knowledge of French, so on the occasions where she gets stuck, her clients are able to assist her.

Nadia is an active member of the community, doing among other things, volunteer work for the Festival Musique du Bout du Monde. She feels that the quality of life and nature experiences offered in the Gaspé region keep her here. She spends her free time cross country skiing, snow shoeing, hiking, and kayaking and she loves the cultural life. She also enjoys the sense of community in Gaspé and feels everyone has been incredibly welcoming.

She speaks with passion when discussing the bilingual initiative "One Season at a Time" that two of her colleagues Sarah Finlayson (social worker), and Chantale Cloutier (special educator), are involved in. The program fosters empowerment, social relationships, creativity, coping skills, self-esteem, and wellbeing while learning photography. Nadia is proud that this program is being offered to both the English and French population.

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