

Inside
this
week



Gaspé withdraws tourism mandate from CCTG



Jack Crusoé - Take out with a twist



Valentines Day march raises awareness of violence

The Gaspé **Spec**

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Lots of fun at 3rd annual Smelt Festival

Gilles Gagné

POINTE-À-LA-GARDE: – The third annual Smelt Festival took place on February 17 in Pointe-à-la-Garde. The festival was a great success, as families converged to the ice floe to fish, but also to have a chat, see artists sculpting compacted snow, eat maple taffy and just have a good time.

This year, the main organizer was Véronique Laplante, the leisure coordinator for the three municipalities of Escuminac, including Pointe-à-la-Garde, Ristigouche South East and Pointe-à-la-Croix.

“We are very satisfied. We had a lot of families with children in the morning. Many kids learned how to ice fish. Many people admired the snow sculptors. It was a bit quieter around mid-afternoon on the ice floe. A canteen was set up in the municipal building by the *Cercle des fermières* to allow



Photos: G. Gagné

Eugene Perkison, of Pointe-à-la-Garde, caught his 120 smelt quota in just over an hour. He was more successful than most.

people to stay warm and get some food. The evening activities also worked out very well. Smelt and potatoes were served along with pudding

and there was a dance in the evening, with the music by the Black Hats,” said Véronique Laplante.

The event received finan-

cial support of \$1,464 from the Quebec Wildlife Foundation which was used to cover the cost of fishing permits for children, as well as two sums

of \$500, one from the Bonaventure riding Member of the National Assembly, Sylvain Roy, a resident of Escuminac and an avid smelt fisherman, and the second amount from InvEnergy, the company operating three windfarms in the Ascension-de-Patapédia area.

Véronique Laplante is already making plans for the fourth Smelt Festival in 2019.

“I was hired in August by the three municipalities and organizing the festival was one of my tasks but there was no formal committee. I started with a short list of people who had been involved last year, people like Kojak (Bob MacGrath) and Sylvain Roy. We have finished with a small surplus this year and I will use it to start next year’s event. We will also form a committee, choose a date and distribute responsibilities. It can only improve from now on,” explains Ms. Laplante.



Maple taffy was very popular with both the children and adults.



Kathy Pitre sculpted a piece called High tide and rising moon.

Percé boardwalk will be ready for June 15

Thierry Haroun

PERCÉ: - On February 14 Federal Minister, Diane LeBouthillier, announced a grant of \$2.5 million for the construction of Percé boardwalk and the revitalization of South Beach located in the downtown area.

That amount is part of a total project of \$7.2 million. All in all, once completed Ottawa will have invested \$3 million for the project, \$600,000 will have been provided by the Town of Percé and the rest from the Québec Government.

The project includes an 800 metre long boardwalk, a municipal park, a public area for events and a building that will be, in part, used by the Nautical Club. "This investment will favor the growth of the tourism industry in our region and Percé is at the heart of all that," said Minister LeBouthillier. "Everything should be up and running by June 15 and we will have a beautiful waterfront," added Mayor Cathy Poirier.



Photo: T. Haroun

Chandler mayor, Louissette Langlois.

Salary increase in Chandler?

Thierry Haroun

CHANDLER: - The elected representatives of the Town of Chandler may vote for a salary increase at the next public meeting scheduled on March 12.

The question was raised at the last public meeting that took place on February 5. The idea consists of a mass salary raise totalling \$36,000. The mayor's salary would go from \$48,000 to \$60,000, an increase of \$12,000. The remaining \$24,000 would be divided equally among the six municipal councillors.

The town of Percé recently voted to raise the salary of the mayor by 100%, along with a raise of 40% for the eight councillors. The mayors of Carleton and Sainte-Anne-des-Monts have also voted to give themselves a salary hike, pointed out Louissette Langlois, the mayor of Chandler. "The mayor of Percé has a salary of \$60,000, the mayor of Sainte-Anne-des-Monts receives \$65,000, the mayor of Bonaventure receives \$63,000 and I get \$48,000 and I'm the mayor of the second most populated municipality on the Gaspé Peninsula (after Gaspé)..."

She also showed a document that compares the annual budget versus the mayor's salary in some of the region's municipalities, Chandler citizens pay \$6.36 each compared to \$10.16 for citizens of Sainte-Anne-des-Monts, \$19.35 in Percé and \$21.60 in Bonaventure.

Not so fast...The vote is yet to take place and Newport councillor, Bruno-Pierre Godbout told Spec that he will vote against it. "I'm opposed to it. That subject wasn't part of the last electoral campaign, no one spoke of a salary raise and if it has been the case I don't think we would have a seat here." A citizen that was at the public meeting also expressed his opposition to the idea during question period. "Every dollar spent by my town is money that the town takes from my pocket."

Municipality proceeds with budget despite uncertain evaluation

Gilles Gagné

PORT DANIEL: - The Municipality of Port Daniel-Gascons will present its 2018 budget on February 27 after several delays attributable to the fact that the evaluation of the McInnis Cement plant is yet to be completed. The municipal tax bill of the company could represent close to one-third of the municipality's budget.

McInnis Cement started paying municipal taxes in 2016. The company paid a lump sum of \$300,000 for that fiscal year and \$1 million for 2017, the year the facility started production. Production began at the end of June, but the municipal evaluation of the plant is still incomplete.

"Normally, we must present our budget in December but we didn't have the final evaluation for the cement plant. The people of Servitech, the evaluation firm we have hired to do the job, first thought that they would have the final evaluation at the end of December, then for January 15, and January 31 after that. It is a gigantic plant and we understand that it is more complicated than evaluating a house. There are many grey zones. So we have decided to stop waiting and present the municipal budget on February 27," explains Port Daniel-Gascons mayor Henri Grenier.

Servitech's most complicated task is determining the part of a building that is taxable and the part that is not. The equipment is not supposed to be taxable.

"However, sorting out what is a section of a building instead of pure equipment is a matter of interpretation sometimes. We prefer not rushing anything. We told the Servitech people: 'take the time required to do the work in compliance with the rules.' We are not telling them to go higher or lower (in the value of the buildings). We will see once we get the final numbers. It could still take two to three months," adds Mr. Grenier.

The final assessment of the plant's value might lead to an adjustment in the amounts paid for 2016 and 2017 by McInnis Cement.

"Those payments were based on a minimum value of the plant. They will almost certainly be adjusted upwards. We also expect an upward adjustment applicable to 2018 because we have budgeted the



Photo: G. Gagné

Assessing the municipal value of a huge plant like the McInnis Cement facility in Port Daniel is difficult, says Mayor Henri Grenier.

same amount as in 2017, so \$1 million, whilst the value of the plant increased between 2016 and 2017, because construction work was not finished at the beginning of last year," says Mayor Grenier.

At the end of 2016, a preliminary value of the cement plant was set at \$86 million. That value was not contested by the company, which had three months to do so.

The 2018 budget will reach about \$3.6 million. "It was done differently than we would have done it with the plant's real value. We remain careful though. We are not spending money that we don't have. Last year, for example, we set up a \$250,000 development fund and we increased our road maintenance budget from \$50,000 to \$250,000. Those were the two biggest budgetary increments that stemmed from the extra \$1 million we received in municipal taxes from McInnis Cement," explains Henri Grenier.

So, Port Daniel-Gascon's budget has risen significantly since the arrival of McInnis Cement as a corporate taxpayer, two years after construction start, as stipulated in the municipal code.

Mayor Grenier points out that the presence of McInnis Cement brings about many

adjustments.

"Overall, the impact is positive. The additional revenue to our budget allowed us to reduce the municipal tax rate to 72 cents (per \$100 of municipal value), compared to \$1.06 before. On the other hand, we will lose equalization revenues (from the Quebec government) and we will also have to pay more for the Sûreté du Québec services, because they are aligned on our overall municipal value. Our wind power royalties are also aligned with our municipal value. They are \$56,000 this year but we know they will increase in the years to come," specifies Mr. Grenier.

The Servitech evaluation process comes with a cost, paid by the Municipality of Port Daniel-Gascons. "I would say that it will cost us about \$200,000 to assess the plant's value," states Henri Grenier.

"It will take a year or two before we can get a clear picture of the cement plant's impact on our budget," he concludes.

The spokesperson for McInnis Cement, Maryse Tremblay prefers not to comment on the evaluation of the Port Daniel plant. "That task is ongoing so as long as it is not completed, we will abstain from commenting," she says.

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upcoming activities
in your community.

Police report

On February 14, 2018, in Hillsborough, New Hampshire, USA David Caplan, 57, from Listuguj appeared before Judge Jacary Colburn at Hillsborough County Superior Court, entered a plea of guilty to two counts of second-degree murder for the 1988 deaths of Brenda Warner and Charlene Ronstom, and was sentenced to 15-40 years in prison. The sentence will probably be served in a state of Maine prison.

David Caplan was arrested in Canada in April 2011, extradited to the USA in April 2015, has to date served a pre-trial incarceration of seven and a half years and could be released in approximately another seven and a half years. He will then be 64.

After he serves his sentence, he will be deported to Canada and not be able to return to the USA. According to the plea deal, David Caplan will be required to testify in the case of Anthony Barnaby, 51, from Listuguj also charged with two counts of the 1988 second degree murders. The case of Anthony Barnaby is set for trial in August 2018.

On February 9, at 6:30 p.m. Sûreté du Québec police officers carried out a drug bust in a Chandler apartment building located on Rehel Street. The cops seized a small quantity of cannabis and arrested an 18-year-old man.

“The investigation had revealed that a considerable number of people were going to that apartment, probably drug users. The quantity seized was not big but drug trafficking paraphernalia, including a scale, were seized. The 18-year-old man was questioned and released with an obligation to appear in court at a later date. During the drug bust, a car with people aged 18 and 17 came to the apartment building. They were arrested and a search was carried out in their car, where a small quantity of drugs was seized. The car was also seized since it was used for drug trafficking. The two individuals were also released after being questioned and will appear in court at a later date. The objective of that operation was not to seize a large quantity of drugs but to stop drug trafficking in that building,” explains Sgt. Claude Doiron, spokesperson for the Sûreté du Québec.



Sûreté du Québec officers, the Gessapegiag police and the Quebec Department of Transport held an awareness campaign on February 14 about the importance of properly using the detours in Cascapedia-Saint Jules, Gessapegiag and Maria. That campaign followed the February 10 fatal collision that claimed the life of a 78-year-old woman.

The awareness campaign mainly consisted of stopping the vehicles going west that had used MacKay Road and Highway 132 passing in Gessapegiag. Police officers and Transports Québec representatives reminded drivers going west that they should use Gallagher and Patrickton Roads, in order to lower the risk of head-on collisions. Those recommendations also include the use of Highway 132 and MacKay Road for drivers going east.

Sophie Gaudreault, of Transports Québec, points out that drivers were handed out flyers to explain why some specific recommendations are needed in that area. Sûreté du Québec spokesperson Sgt. Claude Doiron says that it is not illegal to use MacKay Road while going west without having to stop along that road or in Gessapegiag but the February 10 accident shows why the recommendations should be followed.

Haldimand risk of radon for residents equal to other Gaspésians

Geneviève Gélinas

GASPÉ: – The Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands Public Health director, Yv Bonnier Viger, opposes hydraulic fracking because of risks to drinking water, and considers that Gaspé’s Haldimand No. 4 oil drilling is too close to residences. However, as long as there’s no such rock fracturing, Haldimand residents aren’t more at risk of radon contamination than other Gaspésians, he adds.

The Public Health director was recently invited by the Together for the sustainable future of Gaspé Committee to answer the members’ questions in the presence of journalists.

Committee members worry about radon contamination and reported an extract of the study published in 2015 by the Quebec Public Health National Institute. “The literature reports an increase in radon gas emissions in the air located close to drillings,” the study mentions.

The Gaspé Coast is naturally radon-rich, reminded Dr. Bonnier Viger. “There’s radon everywhere. Once escaped, it becomes dangerous only when it concentrates. For example, there can be a crack under your house (and radon penetrates the basement). If the house is well ventilated, there’s no problem. Often, there are problems in new and very well insulated houses.”

In the situation of oil and gas exploration, “if there’s no fracturing, the radon will come out from the drilling and from existing fractures. But there won’t be more radon in your home or in my home. We encourage people to measure radon in their residences. But for the Haldimand people, their risk is equal to the risk of other people on the Gaspé, as long as there’s no fracking.”

Radon is produced by the decomposition of uranium. It’s carcinogenic; it’s the second leading cause of lung cancer. The Quebec Lung Association offers tests to measure the radon rate. Everybody should measure it at least once, unless one doesn’t use his basement, Dr. Bonnier Viger recommends.

Yv Bonnier Viger reminds



Photo: G. Gélinas

The Together for the sustainable future of Gaspé Committee and its president Lise Chartrand invited the Public Health director, Yv Bonnier Viger, to a meeting in the presence of journalists.

us of the stand made by the Quebec Public Health Departments. “Oil and gas exploitation carries a high risk for people’s health and for the environment. In hydrous environments, an error somewhere can cause widespread damage (...) The risk/benefit ratio is much too high.”

The Haldimand No. 4 drilling is “much too close to residences. Even the minister (Pierre Moreau, or Energy and Natural Resources) is considering imposing stricter limits,” says Dr. Bonnier Viger. “If fracturing was allowed, we would probably be very much against it, because of the drinking water issue.”

By answering the journalists’ question, Dr. Bonnier Viger made it clear that his opposition to fracturing, as a Public Health director, is not only for Haldimand or for hydrous environments, but for the whole Quebec territory where there are houses.

The president of the Together for the sustainable future of Gaspé Committee, Lise Chartrand, wasn’t totally reassured by Dr. Bonnier Viger’s statements. “Our independent experts tell us that because of cleaning operations using acid, some gas like radon and methane are more likely to rise to the surface.”

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Commentary

Gilles Gagné

The spark

It is a sad thing to say but there is a generation of students in the United States that has only known schools as a place where shootings can likely occur. Since the spring of 1999 tragedy at Columbine, in Colorado, most American schools have gradually implemented drills to teach students how to react if someone comes into the school and starts shooting.

There is a reason for that. Over the last 25 years, more than 300 mass killings have occurred American schools. Yearly, shootings claim between 11,000 and 12,000 lives south of the border, if we include the other types of mass killings. Only a handful of civil wars claim that many lives in the world. Officially, the United States is not supposed to be experiencing a civil war.

The February 14 murder of 17 high school students and staff members of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School of Parkland, South Florida was received by most people with various com-

ments along the lines of “not again”, followed by “when will it stop?” and then a very demobilizing and disheartening “nothing will change”.

“Nothing will change” might sound fatalist but what are you supposed to expect from a society that has not moved over the last quarter-of-a-century in gun control, except, like president Donald Trump did in 2017, to increase access to firearms?

A number of Americans, and Canadians, thought that things would change after the December 2012 Newtown massacre, which claimed 27 lives, including 20 elementary pupils of Connecticut’s Sandy Hook School.

Overall, things didn’t change and repeatedly cynicism has taken over since. Implementing better control over firearms that can shoot hundreds of bullets per minute has monumentally failed in the United States.

However, the situation could be different this time around. A generation of now graduating high school students, people that are currently becoming young adults who have only known schools with drills set up to help them react in case of mass killings, is now standing up. The current situation is not normal and those students know that.

They have therefore developed an increased degree of sensitization to gun control advocacy and some of them can talk very eloquently about the whole issue, just the way Emma Gonzalez did in a Fort Lauderdale demonstration that followed the Parkland tragedy.

No young survivor of a school mass killing has ever expressed with that kind of emotion and talent the refusal to accept the politicians’ responses to such tragedies, responses stating that stricter gun control cannot save lives. She opposed a deeply felt “bull shit” to that reply from Donald Trump.

She also denounced the president’s reply to the effect that “we can’t help it” and asked him to refuse the National Rifle Association’s \$30 million contribution to the Republican Party. “Shame on you”, she shouted at all the politicians who have accepted money from the National Rifle Association.

Emma Gonzalez is fortunately not the only eloquent spokesperson of a youth movement that could change the reality of Canada’s neighbour.

It is arduous to generate social change in the United States because of the size of the country, strong conservative values and a very low degree of citizens’ participation in various movements or elections. Americans are under the impression that they cannot change their society.

That society has nevertheless changed a number of realities over the last 50 years. The situation of Black Americans, although still far from ideal, has progressed since the 1960s, for example.

The number of firearms is still increasing in United States but the number of people possessing a gun or a revolver is decreasing. There lies a political reality that could spark change. If non-armed Americans can get their point across, make it known loud and clear, things will change for the better.



Commentary

Cynthia Dow

Canada’s dirty little secret

We all like to feel good about ourselves, and in this country in particular we seem to have embraced the myth of the “polite Canadian.” Remember the ad about “the Canadian stand-off” where two men try to buy each other lunch?

Nice sentiment, but not always true. The fact is that Canada is a racist country. I’m not saying every Canadian is consciously racist, but I am saying that Canada’s very foundation was poured over the complete disregard of the human rights of Indigenous peoples from sea to sea to sea.

Canada is a nation of apartheid. The Indian Act is based on the racialization of all those diverse groups who lived here before the European settlers arrived. It dictates what kinds of rights “Indians” can exercise and where, and how their status can be de-

nied. This is all based on their genetic make-up: not their abilities, nor their education level, nor their economic status. It is racism writ large and it divides the population into “us” and “them,” and hurts us all.

My heart often feels heavy from the constant barrage of negative images, stereotypes, and unhappy outcomes with which Indigenous people are bombarded day after day. “Why do they hate us so much?” an Aboriginal friend said to me recently.

The conscious and unconscious discrimination that is the result of policies such as the Indian Act is played out in many different ways every day across this land. It was played out when Brian Sinclair died in a Winnipeg hospital waiting room because the health care staff assumed he was drunk. It was played out when teenager Neil Stonechild was left by police to freeze to death in a field outside Saskatoon. It continues to be played out in the outrageous number of unsolved cases of murdered and missing Aboriginal women and girls.

The recent outcome of the Gerald Stanley case, when the non-Indigenous Saskatchewan farmer was found not guilty in the death of a young Cree man, Colten Boushie, is another case in point.

The actual facts of the case, which are in dispute as usual, hardly matter. The problem is the way the entire tragedy was handled, from the day it happened, to the police investigation, to the choice of

jurors. According to various reports the RCMP, far from being compassionate to the Boushie family when they told them that Colten was dead, treated them like criminals. Then they lost important evidence in the case.

Now to the courtroom and the choice of jurors: Every Indigenous-looking person was rejected by the defence attorney, no reason given. Under the current rules of the justice system, this was entirely legal. Not acceptable, certainly not moral or ethical, and incredibly cynical, but nonetheless legal.

Let’s see how this feels: Let’s say an Indigenous person shoots a white person in the head. Let’s say the defence team rejects every white person who steps forward for jury duty, no reason given. Let’s say the Indigenous person is found not guilty by a jury of 12 Indigenous persons. Wouldn’t that make white people question the role of race in the system?

We are hardly conscious of the many advantages and privileges non-Indigenous and non-coloured Canadians are endowed with, so we often deny any accusation of racism in our country. We don’t see it because we don’t suffer directly from it. But I heard a person of colour say on the radio the other day: “My family doesn’t have the luxury of avoiding the question of racism, because my children face it every day.”

Truth and reconciliation calls for the truth. And the truth is that the European settlers forcibly removed the Indigenous inhabitants from their lands, denied them access to resources, and tried to wipe out their cultures. This sad history has created what anthropologists have called a “soul wound” in our fellow human beings that stretches far back into the mists of time – but that continues to ache almost every day.




Having benefited so much from the structural racism which caused this pain, non-Indigenous Canadians have a duty to be part of the healing process. And that means changing our racist policies and structures to create a truly level playing field for all of those living in what we now call Canada.

We need to move forward with faith in the human reality that unites us all. But first we have to stop believing in the myth of “the polite Canadian” and start recognizing the racism, both conscious and unconscious, that is deeply ingrained in our country.

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Grande-Grave's Joseph Gavey house to be renovated

Geneviève Gélinas

GRANDE GRAVE: – Parks Canada will renovate, at a cost of \$720,000, the Joseph Gavey house. This house is one of four Grande-Grave heritage houses located in Forillon National Park that is not interpreted and cannot be visited. The federal agency is also “working on a plan” to renovate the three remaining houses, uninhabited since their expropriation, almost 50 years ago.

“We did an inspection in August. There are problems with the foundation, the structure, the exterior siding and the roof. It’s a foundation made of field stones and it’s getting old. We’re going to work on that and on the drainage,” explains the interim director of Parks Canada for the Gaspé Peninsula, Mathieu Côté. The house is located on a hillside and the drainage problems accelerate the foundations’ deterioration.

The renovation cost “includes the inspection expertise and the plans and specifications made by engineering and architecture firms. We’re working on heritage houses. There are certain weaknesses and we have to respect the historic cachet,” Mr. Côté states to explain the cost. The renovation will take place from June to October, 2018.

“At the same time, we’re working on a plan for the house to be part of the visi-



Photo: Parks Canada

The work on the Joseph Gavey house will include repairs to the foundation, the stabilization and reinforcement of the structure, and repairs to the roof and the building's exterior.

tors’ experience,” Mr. Côté adds. In 2015, students from the Laval University, with local communities, explored possible vocations for the three Gavey houses (Joseph, Daniel and Elias Gavey houses) and the Charles Phillip Bartlett house.

Parks Canada will start from those findings to see what is “possible and feasible,” states Mathieu Côté. “The (Laval University) team came up with a number of options, from accommodations to a teahouse.” The options also included a day camp for youth and residences for artists.

The last intervention on the Gaveys and Bartlett houses dates back to the 1970s. The four houses have been uninhabited since the

park’s creation in 1970. Their owners were expropriated, like 225 families in Forillon Park. Most of the expropriated houses were destroyed, but Parks Canada kept a few in the Grande-Grave area.

The renovation of the Joseph Gavey house is a priority because of its condition, but the three other houses also require renovations “in the medium term,” says Mr. Côté. “We have no funding for working on the three other houses. But it’s part of our plans. We have not thrown in the towel.”

An overdue request from expropriated people

Eleanor Bourgaize, a former resident of Indian Cove who was expropriated in

1970, thinks it is a good thing that the Joseph Gavey house will be renovated. Her wish was that the houses be “kept up” and be “more open, that people could visit them.”

Her son Trevor Bourgaize, a Gaspé resident, reminisces that his uncle was raised in the Joseph Gavey house. “We’ve been waiting for an announcement like this for a long time. It is fascinating. I’m so happy,” he says. Mr. Bourgaize hopes for all the homes to be renovated and open to visitors, so that they can learn about their history and archi-

ecture.

Mr. Bourgaize would also like the antiques collected by Parks Canada to be returned to the houses they came from. For example, there’s a grandfather clock on display at the Manoir LeBoutillier in L’Anse-au-Griffon which should take its rightful place in the Joseph Gavey house, he illustrates.

The Joseph, Daniel and Elias houses bear the names of three brothers whose father, John, established in Grande-Grave in 1865. As for the Charles Phillip Bartlett house, it was built by a bookkeeping clerk at Fruing Company.

The four houses are recognized as federal heritage buildings. The architectural value of the Joseph Gavey house is described in the federal directory of designations. “The Joseph Gavey house is a good example of a vernacular form that is especially common in Gaspé, where Quebec domestic architecture is influenced by the design of the neoclassical New England house. The building consists of a storey-and-a-half timber house, with a gable roof and façade with three openings, one of them a monumental entrance topped with a gable dormer.”

Construction dates of the four heritage houses in Grande-Grave:

Joseph Gavey house:	1865-1867
Elias Gavey house:	1889-1890
Daniel Gavey house:	1915-1916
Charles.P.Bartlett house:	1906-1907

Gaspé withdraws tourism mandate from Chamber of Commerce

Geneviève Gélinas

GASPÉ: – The Gaspé Chamber of Commerce and Tourism will no longer have the mandate of promoting the Gaspé and welcoming tourists. The Town of Gaspé municipal council has decided to remove that mandate from the Chamber, as well as the \$240,000 attached to it. Another organization, Escale Gaspésie, will inherit that responsibility and will supervise a new committee, Destination Gaspé.

Gaspé mayor Daniel Côté states that there was “a pretty generalised discomfort” with how the Chamber of Commerce and Tourism managed its resources. Some players in the tourism industry felt “slowed down” when they wanted to work with the Chamber, says the mayor.



Photo: G. Gélinas

Gaspé Chamber of Commerce and Tourism director Olivier Nolleau and president Marie-Christine Côté ensured that their organization will continue its work with its members

“The big straw that broke the camel’s back was the abolition of the position in tourism

development, last spring,” points out Mr. Côté. The Chamber of Commerce de-

ecided to hire one person dedicated to its two mandates, commercial and tourism, instead of one dedicated to tourism. In addition to that employee, the Chamber has a director general and an administrative assistant.

“There’s also a fundamental problem of governance. The Town has one vote out of eleven, even though the Chamber manages public municipal funding,” Mr. Côté adds.

The mayor says that he gave “clear enough signals” to the Chamber. He ceased to sit on the Chamber board when the tourism position was abolished. In the last municipal budget in December, he didn’t specify which organization would obtain the \$240,000 amount paid for promoting Gaspé and welcoming tourists.

Most of that money will be granted to Escale Gaspésie this year, explains Mr. Côté. The Chamber of Commerce could keep a part of it for three years, to help it in the transition. That proportion remains to be discussed. “Our objective isn’t to see the Chamber of Commerce perish. We’ll go on supporting it.”

Escale Gaspésie promotes the Gaspé Peninsula tip with the cruise lines and manages the cruise ship visits in Gaspé and Percé. The organization will oversee Destination Gaspé. It will get its guidelines from a new tourist committee formed by members of the tourism sector, representatives of tourist organizations and representatives of the municipality.

Cont'd on page 11

Listuguj women spread awareness of Colten Boushie case

Gilles Gagné

LISTUGUJ: – Two groups of Listuguj women organized two demonstrations in three days to inform the local population about the case of Colten Boushie. Boushie, a 22-year-old Native from Saskatchewan was shot in August 2016 by a farmer. On February 9, the farmer was acquitted of murder by a judge and jury.

The first demonstration took place on February 13 in the form of a small evening gathering organized by Sherry Condo. Half-a-dozen people attended the prayer and chant, including Rosanne Martin, her sister Karen Metallic and Ms. Metallic's granddaughter, Tori Metallic.

Two days later, Listuguj teacher Madeleine Metallic organized a lunch-time "Day of action" activity near the intersection of Restigouche Drive and Interprovincial Boulevard. About 40 people attended the hour-long demonstration of solidarity for the Boushie family. It was also an occasion to pass on messages to courts and governments that Natives de-



Photos: G. Gagné

Mabel Metallic leads pupils on the drums at a gathering of about 40 people at the February 15 "Day of action" in Listuguj.

serve fairer treatment in tribunals and in other walks of life.

"I decided to get involved because I wanted the government to acknowledge the fact that we support each other. I didn't have to come from Saskatchewan to be hurt by the event. We need to show future

generations that we can stand up for our opinions and our people," explained Sherry Condo.

Madeleine Metallic organized an event on February 15 with the collaboration of several others.

"We wanted to show that even if we are far from Saskatchewan, we can express our support to Colten's family, that it is an injustice, that what happened to him was not legal. The jury selection was lopsided. The system must be reviewed. It doesn't mean that the Non-Natives have to leave our land. We have to be acknowledged. It won't happen overnight," commented Ms. Metallic.

One of her co-organizers was Rosalie Labillois, an Eel River Bar native who now shares her time between that northern New Brunswick community and Listuguj. She was hurt by the verdict that acquitted Gerald Stanley, the farmer who shot Colten Boushie.

"There are a lot of racial factors explaining the verdict.

We are disappointed in the verdict. It (that kind of outcome) has happened for years and years," she pointed out.

"We hear that Canada is a great country but we see a lot of injustice (...) There is still a lot of collateral damage but we still have to rise up," she added.

Photographer Karen Mar-

tin, who is also the wife of Listuguj chief Darcy Gray, spoke to the crowd to explain that her husband was outside the area and couldn't attend the gathering. He nevertheless supported the group. Ms. Martin was shocked when she realized that Colten Boushie "was about the same age as my son. We need to change things (...) However, I feel as if the whole country is mourning this."

Fred Metallic also talked to the crowd and condemned "the kind of case we have seen too often (...) The life of an Indigenous person doesn't count."

Madeleine Metallic and her friends encourage people "to get informed about this (Colten Boushie) case and spread awareness." She also encourages people to sign a petition at Change.org – Justice for Colten Boushie. A second petition can also be signed at Change.org – GoFundMe Remove Campaign for Gerald Stanley Reimbursement for Legal Fees in Murder Trials.

Donations can also be made on Colten Boushie's GoFundMe page: www.gofundme.com/justice4colten.



Rosalie Labillois sang to bring attention to the need of putting an end to injustice. In the photo she is accompanied by Madeleine Metallic.



"We need to change things (...) However, I feel as if the whole country is mourning this," says Karen Martin, shown here with Madeleine Metallic.



Sherry Condo, Karen Metallic, Tori Metallic and Rosanne Martin were the first ones in the region to hold an event to spread awareness about the Colten Boushie case.



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Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



You're Only Old Once

(CAUTION: DO NOT READ THIS COLUMN IF YOU ARE UNDER 40. YOU WON'T UNDERSTAND IT...YET.)

When I get together with friends and family the conversation invariably ends up, in some form or another, on the topic of aging. We all lament getting older, the fact that our bodies aren't the perfect specimens they once were and how time is now passing at a breakneck pace. A day seems like nothing and the months and even years are going so quickly that it becomes bittersweet to look back. We shake our heads, even sigh, about what a short time we have on earth and how we should all live for today, because there might not be a tomorrow. Depressing? If we let it become so.

Might I suggest that we embrace our aging as a thing of beauty and satisfaction? Laugh lines mean that you have laughed a lot. Furrow lines between the brows show that you have cared deeply about someone. Wrinkles could mean that you are at the age where you are wise and could help the younger ones with advice on how to live. If they would listen. Besides, did we listen?

We get tired more easily and no part is as supple as it once was. We have pains and aches and maybe a wonky hip or poor vision. Some have arthritis in their hands; hands that perhaps endured the freezing waters of the Bay and years of fishing. Backs get tired, for after all, we have done a lot of work. Tending to the children, maintaining the house and tending gardens has made our bodies tired. Gaspesians have cut and hauled wood in amounts over the years too big to calculate. It all takes its toll. Maybe your feet aren't as soft and delicate as they once were. You need a warm-up for most activities and a rest and a cup of tea after.

But, let's be grateful. We have lived and loved all these years. We have had heartbreak and joy. We have cried and we have laughed. We have helped others and we have despaired and hoped for better. So, when looking back let's be really happy that we have all those wonderful years to look back on. Now look forward. You know the expression, I am sure, "Getting old can be difficult, but consider the alternative."

I am not going to tell you to make a list of the 10 things that you want to do before you die. That seems so artificial. After all, by a certain age, you know yourself and you know how you want to live. But be good to yourself. So, what if you are 40 or 50 or 60 or 70 or more. You can still indulge in most of the things that make you happy. You just might have to modify, a little. Perhaps stop to take a 'breather' as they call it on the Coast.

After all, aren't you and I just "a candle in the wind?" Here for a brief and glorious visit and then gone? Burn bright. Light up the lives of others. Laugh. Love. The rest is just filler.

Have a beautiful week of aging gracefully – just don't forget to moisturize.

The Little Boy and the Old Man

Said the little boy, "Sometimes I drop my spoon."

Said the old man, "I do that too."

The little boy whispered, "I wet my pants."

"I do that too," laughed the little old man.

Said the little boy, "I often cry."

The old man nodded, "So do I."

"But worst of all," said the boy, "it seems

Grown-ups don't pay attention to me."

And he felt the warmth of a wrinkled old hand.

"I know what you mean," said the little old man.

-Shel Silverstein

Hope Town Winter Carnival 2018

Linda MacWhirter

HOPE TOWN: - Hope Town held a very successful winter carnival. The carnival started on Friday night with the annual casserole supper which had a great variety of food for the main course and also an endless supply of desserts as usual. The attendance was great and many take-outs were also served. Many compliments were received during the supper and after. It was so nice to see so many people out. Following the supper the hall was filled with participants for the gift bingo.

Saturday afternoon was games on ice. It was very cold but they are a tough group so the activities were held. Ute Schule organized the games on ice and also a triathlon of skating, snowshoeing and skiing. Despite the cold, the children did the skating games and then the triathlon began.

Children and adults participated in the triathlon. Skating had a different number of laps depending on the age group beginning with 6 for the youngest group and 15 for adults. Participants who didn't have skates had three to do with their boots. After the skating was the snowshoeing with laps depending on age group. The course had arches which the participants had to go through. It was interesting to see the adults trying to go under some of the arches, not mentioning any names but some went to the side. Next some were able to try out cross country skiing. It was a great afternoon and the youngest participant Lauren Walker amazed everyone with her perseverance after skating, and completing her snowshoe laps she continued with the adults while they did theirs. A fun afternoon organized by Ute.

Saturday evening had a great turnout for the military whist with a delicious lunch to end the evening.

Sunday snow was falling and it looked like it would do so all day so we cancelled the Old Timers vs Young Timers game. However the snow stopped and a volunteer group began showing up to prepare the rink for the game. Gabriel Larocque brought his 4 wheeler for Nicholas Larocque to scrape the ice, Brandon Benwell used the Sports Club blower. Robbie Hottot was one of the first ones on ice scraping and the members of both teams continued showing up and the

rink was cleaned off in no time ready to go. The weather was beautiful, one of the rare occasions when the players were not playing in freezing cold. There was no referee but info received is the Young Timers beat the Old Timers in overtime. Great game everyone. Many players stayed and continued playing and enjoying the beautiful day outside.

Upstairs during the hockey game the children attended a gift bingo with a snack after. Everyone received a prize. Following the bingo the children and parents participated in an action activity challenge.

It was a great weekend with amazing participation whether donating prizes, food, time helping out or attending activities.

Many people helped out to make this possible. Volunteers during this weekend were Catherine Woods, Betty Hottot, Anne MacWhirter,

Amanda Kennedy, Audrey McWhirter, Rachel MacWhirter, Brittany Major, Alexis White, Alex Lebrasseur, Stephanie Fram, Nancy MacWhirter, Freda Major, Donna Major, Leon Dubé and Gordon MacWhirter. I apologize if I forgot anyone, it was a very busy weekend.

The rink employee Michael McGie was very sick and unable to help out during the carnival, however, thanks to his hard work and great ice we were able to have all our activities. We hope he is feeling better very soon.

Also unable to attend due to illness were two of the members Sherry Major and Linda McGee. We wish you both a speedy recovery.

It is great to see our community join together along with the participation of many from neighbouring communities supporting the events.



Old timers team.



Young timers team.



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Sisters donate hair to charity

HOPE: - Sisters Chloe and Zoe Rideout recently went to hairdresser Vanessa McGee, in Hope for a very special haircut.

About a year ago the sisters watched a video on the internet about a girl who lost her hair due to cancer and learned they could help by donating their hair. The girls then asked their mother if they could donate their hair. Their mother Susan Main said "The girls were very patient and waited for their hair to be long enough for donation. They were very excited to finally reach their goal of 12 inches and made an appointment with their hairdresser right away." The donated hair went to Angel Hair For Kids (A child's voice foundation).

Angel Hair For Kids provides recipients wigs and hair systems at no cost to the child's family. According to the foundation's website it takes between 10 and 12 donated ponytails and \$1000 to sponsor one child.

Information on the criteria needed to make a hair donation can be found at <https://www.acvf.ca/hair-donation-guidelines>.



Chloe and Zoe Rideout.



Heartwarming Valentine delivery

NEW CARLISLE: - Mr. Reid Sawyer recently received some very special valentines as part of the *Valentines for Vets* campaign.

Mr. Sawyer, 97 is a resident at the Centre d'Accueil in New Carlisle and a World War II Veteran.

The valentines were a complete surprise and brightened his day.

Included in the envelope was a letter from Veterans Affairs Canada explaining that the goal of the campaign is to ensure veterans are remembered on Valentine's Day and that school children, community organizations and individuals across Canada volunteer to make the valentines. "The valentines are distributed to recognize the contributions that these Veterans have made to Canada. The words of thanks, appreciation and remembrance on the valentines are a special way to tell Veterans that their valiant sacrifices are remembered," says the letter.



Photo: Mark Franklin

Good Samaritan Lodge #68

NEW CARLISLE: - Rt. Wor. Bro. L.G. Bechervaise and Rt. Wor. Bro. D. Coull (Master of Good Samaritan Lodge) presenting Worshipful Bro. I.C.K. Gilker with his Past Master's Jewel after being Master of the Lodge for 2016 and 2017.

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Valentine's Day march raises awareness about violence

Gilles Gagné

GESGAPEGIAG: – About 40 people attended the Valentine's Day march in Gesgapegiag. The event is becoming an important symbol to raise awareness against violence perpetrated at the expense of women, children and men. The February 14 march covered the distance between the Galgosiet building and Gesgapegiag's youth centre.

At the event people were reminded that the murder of Linda Condo remains unresolved, more than 29 years after the passing of the Gesgapegiag woman. The march was also an opportunity to raise awareness about the Missing and murdered Indigenous women and men movement.

The activity started with a short speech and prayer by Bernard and Ramona Jerome. Mr. Jerome emphasized that the murders of Indigenous people have deprived thousands of victims "of their future and of future generations."

At the conclusion of the march, Darlene Jerome explained that an activity like this has more than one goal. "It is not just the awareness about the bad effects of violence; it is the healing that comes with people coming together (...) Women and men are working together to heal."

Darlene Jerome has been deeply involved in the Gesgapegiag march against violence since 2013 because "I am a survivor of violence myself. My children and I are survivors of violence."

That violence forced her to leave Gesgapegiag and live in the United States for 18 years before returning. During that healing period, "I met a lot of beautiful people."



Photos: G. Gagné

Women participating in the Gesgapegiag activity to denounce violence showed a statue of Linda Condo prior to the march. Ms. Condo was murdered in October 1988 and her case remains unresolved.

She therefore feels the need to help other people, hence her involvement in the march.

"We have members here who have been victims of domestic violence, in fact not just do-

mestic violence but all forms of violence (...) That is why it is important to raise awareness



About 40 people walked between the Galgosiet building and the Youth centre to raise awareness about violence.

of what is going on, of justice (...) If we can spread that awareness, it is a step towards healing," says Darlene Jerome.

Awareness regarding violence also means not forgetting about the importance of solving the murder of Linda Condo.

"She has children who want answers, who are trying to get justice. We are people too. We deserve peace. We fully deserve peace and justice," she concludes.

Linda Condo was murdered in October 1988. Her body was found by a hunter on October 25 of the same year along a road in a Miguasha wooded area. At the time, she had been missing for 15 days.

The Sûreté du Québec investigation has established that she had returned from the United States on October 8, and that she had talked to one of her cousins over the phone two days later. The investigation revealed that she was seen with a small group of men during that period. She often hitchhiked from one place to another.

A suspect was questioned on several occasions by police officers in the years that followed Ms. Condo's death. The polygraph, or lie detector, was used during one of those examinations but it proved non-conclusive. That suspect is still alive.



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Jack Crusoé – Take out with a twist

Wendy Dawson

BONAVENTURE: - Sylvain Ste Croix took something of a gamble setting up his business in Bonaventure, but he was no stranger to gambling. Sylvain had been a croupier for 18 years at the Montreal Casino, all the while continuing to develop his interest and talents in cooking – his true passion. Despite having no formal culinary training, Sylvain describes having a certain ease and instinct with cooking. “It is something that I always loved doing, and that I did in parallel to my other job. I developed recipes, I even wrote recipes for La Presse’s XY magazine for over a year.”

Near the end of his 40s, Sylvain started looking ahead, “I was soon going to be 50, and I wondered what the next 20 years might have in store for me, assuming of course that I will be lucky enough to live to 70!”

While Sylvain Ste Croix was raised in Montreal, both the families of his mother and his father have Gaspesian roots. His mother’s grandparents hailed from Grand River



Photos: W. Dawson

Sylvain Ste Croix, owner and operator of Jack Crusoé Bistrot Traiteur Rural

while his father’s heritage is firmly established in the region of Barachois. As is the case for many of those with Gaspesian roots, Sylvain spent several summers in the region. “When my project was ready, I had a choice to either set up in Montreal or here, and I had to consider where I would have a better

quality of life – so, I chose the Gaspésie. I discovered Bonaventure by chance. I had stopped over during one of my visits, I liked the location, the town. When it came time to move, everything just came together so beautifully. I found the house (where his home and business are both located) on the internet – two days later I came down and made my offer. Everything was notarized within a month and I took a sabbatical from my casino job.” By the end of September 2015, he was in Bonaventure. It was for him however, time for some rest. “There was so much going on in my life, my father was in the beginning stages of Alzheimers disease, I had to take care of him and that involved moving him on a couple of occasions. I was going through a break-up. There were lots and lots of things going on at that point,” he explains. For six weeks, he “rested” although the rest included major renovations to the house that he had purchased on Grand-Pré, the main street in Bonaventure. The result is a bistro and kitchen area that is quite beautiful. With clean lines, the use of upcycled materials and concrete counters, clients can eat in, but the business itself is based on taking out.

The Jack Crusoé concept is genius in it’s simplicity. Sylvain offers a variety of products that are almost all vacuum sealed with some fresh salads thrown in the mix. Whether simply refrigerated or frozen, no one product takes more than 10 minutes in boiling water before it is ready to eat. “I

wanted to ensure that there were no complicated directions. The idea is to pour a pot of cold water, put the items in the water and start timing 10 minutes from a rolling boil. This way it doesn’t matter, even if two people are eating two different things, it will be ready at the same time.” It is a concept that he developed primarily to simplify eating while on canoeing excursions. “We would start settling in and we would be eating within minutes while all those that accompanied us would be having to get into laborious meal making, and dishes.”

The business name is also inextricably tied to a memorable canoe trip. Sylvain’s previous girlfriend had a young son, a boy named Tristan who struggled with learning disabilities and ADHD. Sylvain decided to introduce Tristan to cooking, as a means of connecting with him, but also because Sylvain believed that it would be a valuable tool in helping Tristan manage

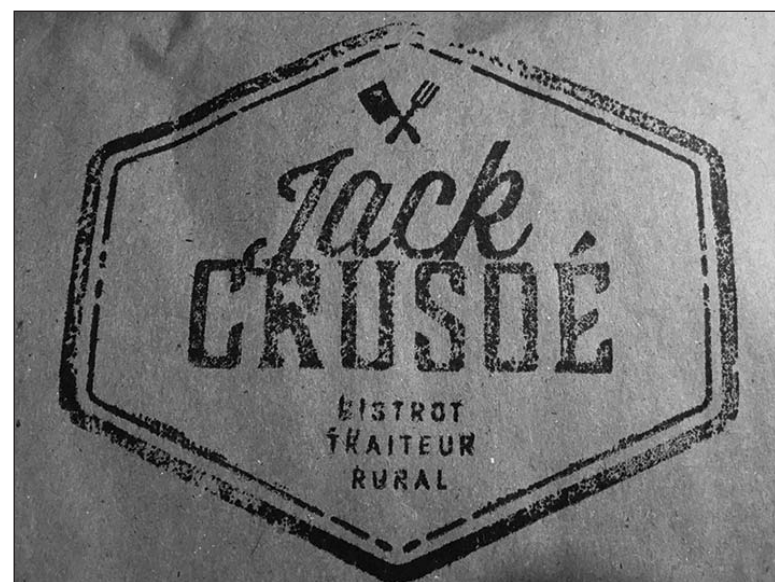
and as it turns out so did Jack’s love of cooking as he will be attending culinary school upon graduation this year.

Those that stop into Jack Crusoé will be welcomed by Sylvain’s easy smile and enthusiasm, especially when discussing food. In addition to picking up a quick meal, patrons can pair with a great bottle of wine, also available at the bistro. Those that are just passing through on a camping trip or on their way to a picnic can quite literally pick up everything they need, including a pot, a small camping stove and an extra bottle of propane! In addition to his takeaway concept, Sylvain Ste Croix has done catering for a number of events in the region and has hosted private 5 à 7’s for smaller groups in his cozy store front.

When speaking with Sylvain Ste Croix, it is clear that he puts a tremendous amount of time and energy into his business, but as he explains,



Jack Crusoé offers a great variety of products - everything you need for a complete meal. All products are vacuum sealed and require only 10 minutes in boiling water - from pot to table.



some of the challenges of his learning disabilities by forcing him to think ahead, to prepare by making lists and to help him build confidence. During one of their “cooking sessions” together, Tristan admitted to Sylvain that he really disliked his first name, and that very evening the family gathered to formally rename Tristan by his chosen name Jack. Fast forward about a year on a canoe expedition with a group of friends, Jack was inadvertently left behind on a small island where the canoers had stopped for a rest. After discovering he had been forgotten, the paddlers struggled up river for an hour and a half to rescue young Jack, twelve years old at the time. When re-visiting the river map at the end of the day they renamed the island Jack Crusoé (a play on the story of the shipwrecked Robinson Caruso). The name stuck –

“The first year was a major adjustment all around, but now, I have had a chance to perfect a number of things. Plus I love it. I enjoy what I am doing, I do it at my rhythm on my terms.” After two and a half years, Sylvain has found a balance in his life. He has made friends and found love and he has had a chance to start enjoying the great outdoors that was of course one of the main reasons for his moving to the region.

I ask him if he is happy about the first part of the next twenty-years. “Extremely,” is his answer.

You can find all of the delicious products we sampled at Jack Crusoé, located on de Grand-Pré in the heart of Bonaventure. You can also get more information about the bistro and catering services by visiting the facebook page at Jack Crusoé Bistrot Traiteur Rural

Cegep student raises money, food and gifts for food bank

Gilles Gagné

CARLETON: – Caplan's Audrey MacWhirter, who studies at the Carleton Cegep, made a significant contribution to the Baie des Chaleurs community over recent weeks by donating food and gifts to Maria's La Source food bank and capping her action by giving a \$500 cheque to that organization.

The gifts and the food were donated before the Christmas break while the money was given out on January 30. Audrey MacWhirter's community initiative was part of the *Jeune mobilisateur volontaire*, a program spearheaded by the *Carrefour jeunesse-emploi* of the Avignon and Bonaventure MRCs.

Her goal was to motivate her fellow students and the staff to help out people in need of some basic goods. She was inspired by a similar campaign conducted by the staff of her high school, École aux Quatre vents in Bonaventure, a few years ago.



Audrey MacWhirter (right).

"I wished to do the same at the Cegep level since no similar drive was in place before my arrival. However, I proposed something new; in addition to offering perishable food, I invited them (students

and staff members) to offer a gift to people who are alone at Christmas," she explains.

Audrey planned her food and gift drive, helped by precious collaborators, and she did the promotion. The food

and gifts were also given to the Source alimentaire for the final distribution step. She hopes that future Carleton Cegep students repeat the drive every year.

The amount of \$500 is the allocation handed out by Carrefour Jeunesse-emploi for a Jeune mobilisateur volontaire project. The allocation usually covers the fees of a project. Audrey MacWhirter decided to give the whole amount to La Source alimentaire Bonaventure.

The *Jeune mobilisateur volontaire* program promotes civic expression for young people aged between 18 and 35 by supporting their efforts in the steps leading to community mobilization and raising awareness.

"This is aimed at implementing community-based projects that promote youth engagement and the appropriation of local issues," explains Cécile Martel-Robitaille, the volunteer project manager at the Carrefour in a press re-

lease.

Four other volunteer initiatives are currently supported by the Carrefour, the implementation of composting in an elementary school, a network to support the parents of sick children, an initiative to make people more familiar with municipal politics and the organization of an exploratory day about non-violent communication. The projects are taking place in the Avignon MRC because the *Carrefour jeunesse-emploi* has not received the necessary funding to hire someone to cover the Bonaventure MRC.

The Carrefour jeunesse-emploi Avignon-Bonaventure guides young people aged between 16 and 35 in employment, educational and professional quests. It also supports youths' entrepreneurial aspirations and commitment in the community. In the Avignon MRC, CJE also takes care of greeting newcomers through SANA (welcoming committee).

Career Day in Gaspé

Geneviève Gélinas

GASPÉ: – The Gaspé Chamber of Commerce and Tourism is organizing a Career Day on March 14 at the Hôtel des Commandants.

As of February 13, 16 businesses and organizations had registered but the Chamber hopes to get at least 40 employers to participate. The Career Day is "for active job-seekers, students and retired staff," says Chamber of Commerce director, Olivier Nolleau. "For one year, I've been visiting businesses. Every time, I ask them what their concerns are. Their issue is to recruit employees. The lack of a workforce is a brake to the development of our MRC," he adds.

In the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands, the unemployment rate went from 15.8% in October 2013 to 12.2% in October 2017. The social assistance rate has also decreased, from 9.9% in September 2013 to 8.2% in September 2017.

TOURISM:

Cont'd from page 5

"There's a strong expertise (at Escale Gaspésie) and we can benefit from it. I didn't want to create a new organization," explains Mayor Côté.

At the Gaspé Chamber of Commerce and Tourism (CCTG), president Marie-Christine Côté says that when she became aware of the municipal decision, she was "astounded and disappointed." The CCTG "will continue its work with its members," she states.

CCTG director Olivier Nolleau insists that the "management of the funding granted by the town was rigorous." Tourism increased by 33% from 2015 to 2017, he notes.

"We're concerned about the tourist sector because the

tourist season is about to begin," Mr. Nolleau says. The Gaspé tourist brochures, prepared by the CCTG, are at the printing phase and the Chamber of Commerce is preparing economic objectives to extend the fall tourist season, he illustrates.

"This move by the Town will have negative impacts on the whole economy (...). My grandfather used to say: if you spit into the wind, it only ends up back on your own face."

"What I heard from the community isn't what you've been told (by the mayor). There were a few unhappy people, but not the whole tourist sector," says Mr. Nolleau.

The CCTG took over the responsibility of tourism in 2009, when it merged with the Gaspé Tourism and Convention Board.



Photo: E. Sexton

Cascapedia-St-Jules Family Day

Elaine Sexton

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES: - Another great family day was held in Cascapedia-St-Jules. Juliana Beebe and Lynda LeBlanc attended the event and provided crafts and face painting respectively. Many volunteers helped make the event a success by making soup and desserts. Donations were made by both IGA and MAXI. The next big event is St-Patrick's weekend on March 16. Look for an article in an upcoming issue of the paper.

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COAST ROUND-UP

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 12 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:**Advance Notice**

Wakeham ACW will be holding its annual summer sale and tea on **Saturday, July 7** at York River Community Hall. We will have baked goods, a handicraft table, white elephant table, and mystery parcels. Afternoon tea will be served (\$5). Doors open at 2 p.m.

YORK:**Annual General Meeting**

The York River Community Center will hold its AGM on **Sunday February 25**, at 1:30 p.m. 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.

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.

Tuesday, February 27: The next Travel Talks will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the conference room of the Community Centre. Newfoundland Scenery.

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.

PORT DANIEL:**Upcoming Events**

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

March 17: St. Patrick's Supper;

April 6: Gift Bingo

May 12: Mother's Day Tea.

SHIGAWAKE:**Upcoming Activities**

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

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. Canteen services available. \$10 or 3 for \$20.

Monday, May 13: Mother's Day Brunch, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. \$10, 7-12 years old \$5, children 6 and under free.

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:**Gift Bingo**

The New Carlisle Dart Club will be holding a gift bingo for the Legion on **March 10** at 7 p.m. Proceeds will go to the New Carlisle Legion. If you would like to make a donation, you can drop it off at the Legion or call Darlene at 418-752-4312.

NEW CARLISLE:**Bible Chapel Services**

Sunday: Breaking of Bread for Believers - 9:30 a.m.; Sunday night service - 7 p.m.; Wednesday: Bible study and prayer - 7 p.m. "You

Must Be Born Again."

NEW CARLISLE:**We have moved!**

To all members of the Linda LeMore-Brown Foundation. We are pleased to announce that 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 Levesque, New Carlisle (Old Laurentian Bank). For any other information, please call 418-752-5995! Thank you for your understanding!

NEW CARLISLE:**Calling all Girl Guides...**

Were you ever a Spark, Brownie, Guide, Pathfinder, Guider or even a Commissioner? You may be interested in participating in a reunion which is just in the planning stages, to take place in the summer of 2018. Thanks to all those who have been in contact with us concerning the Guiding activity. There will be quite a bit of preparation for this activity, so if you are interested, please give your name prior to the date. We are looking at a day from 2 p.m. until after campfire (8 pm.) If you would like to help with this or if you are interested in coming, please contact Betty Anne at bettyasmollett@gmail.com or call 418-752-6181.

NEW CARLISLE:**Monthly Breakfast**

The New Carlisle 50+ Club will be holding its monthly breakfast at the Heritage Restaurant on **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.

May 11: Soup and Sweets from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Please note There will be no card games until further notice.

NEW CARLISLE:**Fundraiser Potluck Supper**

A fundraiser potluck supper for Howard Chedore who is currently receiving treatment at Rimouski Hospital will be held **Saturday, February 24** at the Royal Canadian Legion from 4 to 7 p.m. Price: \$10 per person.

NEW RICHMOND:**Annual General Meeting**

Duthie Point, formerly known as British Heritage Village, will hold its Annual General Meeting on **Tuesday, March 27** at 7 p.m., at the New Richmond Town Hall, 99 Place Suzanne-Guité in New Richmond. The agenda will include the financial statements as well as a presentation of the actual development plan, the past year's investments, projects and activities. Refresh-

ments will be served. Everyone is welcome. Come and join us!

NEW RICHMOND:**Ham and Scalloped
Potato Supper**

The United Church will be holding a ham and scalloped potato supper on **April 14** from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Adults \$10, Children under 12 \$6. Takeouts available starting at 4 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. A freewill offering 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 Galagher 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 p.m. 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 re-

covering 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 7 are Josette Martin, Jean-Eudes Landry, Philippe Landry, Jean-Marie Perreault, Réjeanne Bélanger, Pier-Lee Bourque and Martin Duguay.

The winners for the week of January 14 are Lyne Cormier, Maryse Brunelle, Carl Garrett, Wendy Martin, Mona Leblanc, Jean-Yves Berthelot and Jules Cyr.

The winners for the week of January 21 are Lucille Ferlatte, Daniel Leblanc, Bryan Smith, James Martin, Nelson Marcheterre, Jonathan Fyfe and Steve Marsh.

The winners for the week of January 28 are Josée Barlow, Claire Routhier, Harold Howatson, Serge St-Pierre, Marie-Claude Leblanc, Lucienne Gauvreau and Louise Roy.

The winners for the week of February 4 are Lyne Appleby, Darlene Munr, George Ferlatte, Laurent Auclair, Pierre égayé, Pascal Poirier and Marlene Willett.

The winners for the week of February 11 are Brigitte Grenon, Jenna Boudreau, Town of New Carlisle, Léo Duguay, Donna Harrison, Claude Harrison and Réal Babin.

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**UNITED
CHURCH**

Sunday, February 25
10:30 a.m. New Carlisle

**ANGLICAN
CHURCH OF
CANADA**

Sunday, February 25
New Carlisle
10 a.m. Morning Prayer
Shigawake
11 a.m. Morning Prayer

PARISH OF GASPÉ
Sunday, February 25
Gaspe
10 a.m. Morning Prayer

What's This Artifact?



What do you think these are? They are made of metal with some sort of wooden handles.

The answer will be in next week's issue of The Gaspé Spec.



Thank you to David Sawyer for sharing this artifact with our readers.

Coffee Crisp

- 6 egg yolks
- 8 tablespoons sugar
- 2 tablespoons instant espresso or coffee powder
- 1 1/2 cups heavy cream
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract



Preheat the oven to 300°F.

In a medium bowl, whisk egg yolks and 6 tablespoons of the sugar for 1 minute, or until smooth and pale yellow in color. Reserve.

In a second medium bowl, add espresso granules and 1/4 cup of the cream. Whisk until smooth, then add remaining cream and vanilla, and whisk until well blended. Very gently, fold espresso cream mixture into egg yolks.

Use a ladle to pour custard mixture into espresso cups, filling them three-fourths of the way to the top.

Place cups in a baking dish or roasting pan and transfer to oven. Fill a pitcher with warm tap water. Before closing oven door, pour water into pan (but not into the cups themselves!) until it reaches halfway up the sides of the cups.

Bake for 40 minutes, or until the custards jiggle just slightly when you shake the pan. Remove pan from oven and leave out on counter, allowing the residual heat of the water to finish the cooking process.

When custards have fully solidified, refrigerate for 2 hours. Just before serving, sprinkle 1/2 teaspoon of sugar evenly overtop each custard. Use a small blowtorch to caramelize the sugar. Alternatively, place cups 1 inch below oven broiler under a watchful eye for approximately 2 minutes, or until sugar caramelizes.

Go ahead...play with your food



Why do we say...

By Gary Briand

In 1955 I left home for boarding school in Chatham, NB. Upon arrival, I submitted to a series of tests which would determine in what grade I would find myself. The results found me superior in French, English and Mathematics. Note I was found woefully lacking in any knowledge of science. I found myself in grade ten for all subjects except for physics which I undertook at a lower level. With October tests looming, I prepared for the physics examination but failed miserably. A letter was sent home. I had to "pull up my socks" or I would not be welcome at St. Thomas in January, 1956. Upon a response from my mother, STC assigned me a tutor who would meet me for an hour a day after class. Mr. Toner was very thorough with his explanations. At the end of each session, he would pass me a written problem and say, "strike while the iron's hot."

His technique of tutor-and-then-test worked. I went on to succeed and to graduate from grade twelve in 1958. But the expression stayed with me long after. Where did it come from?

Clearly, this is not the iron that you use on delicate shirts, but, rather, the old blacksmith sort. When the blacksmith shapes a horseshoe from iron, he first must heat it and then bend it while it is still hot.

The great Geoffrey Chaucer was the first to use it as did Mr. Toner - when circumstances are just right for a desired outcome, then action should be taken immediately. In the Tale of the Melibee, in 1386, Chaucer wrote:

*"whil that iren is hoot, men sholden smyte
(while the iron is hot, strike)"*

The expression is particularly poignant to me!

HOROSCOPES

FeARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

Keep your eyes on the prize, Aries. Hard work is the key to success, and your hard work will be rewarded in time. This may be a week of transition, so be ready to jump if necessary.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

There is strength in numbers if you align yourself with the right team, Taurus. Collaboration is the name of the game this week. Jockey for your position, but share the work.

GEMINI – May 22/June 21

Gemini, if you are approaching an

emotional overload, you will need to schedule time to decompress. Find an activity that relaxes you and delve into that to clear your head.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, you are the eternal optimist this week. As a result, you may not be able to accurately assess all situations. Ask a friend for advice before making any big decisions.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, even if you have been relatively good at managing money, you may need to tighten the pursestrings for the next few weeks. Financial discipline now will pay dividends later.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Contradictions should not surprise you this week, Virgo. Focus on fixing

as much as you can while you have an opportunity to do so. It's a big job.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, you make friends easily, and this week your social circle figures to expand even further. Embrace this opportunity and enjoy beginning a new relationship.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, some of your most innovative ideas may be met with lukewarm responses. Do not let this derail your plans. You just need to be a little more persuasive.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

You are very good at giving others credit, Sagittarius. But this week people may be singing your praises. It's fine to be modest about it, but

don't downplay your contributions.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, do not fear if you seem to be falling out of sync with a close friend. There will be ample opportunities to rekindle the relationship. Right now you may need a breather.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, a romantic relationship can be taken to a new level when buried desires come to the surface. Give yourself plenty of time to pursue these feelings.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, this is a week when you want to double-check everything that you do. Be sure to dot every "i" and cross every "t." Details matter.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

FEBRUARY 18

Matt Dillon, Actor (54)

FEBRUARY 19

Millie Bobby Brown, Actress (14)

FEBRUARY 20

Cindy Crawford, Model (52)

FEBRUARY 21

Ashley Greene, Actress (31)

FEBRUARY 22

Lea Salonga, Actress (47)

FEBRUARY 23

Francesca Simon, Author (63)

FEBRUARY 24

Floyd Mayweather, Boxer (41)

Marie-Josée Lapointe, *Ass. Head Nurse, Maternity Ward*

Kim Harrison

NEW CARLISLE: – Recruiting bilingual health professionals and accessing English health services remains a challenge on the Gaspé. It is crucial to ensure that bilingual professionals are more accessible and visible in the community. As part of CASA's Health and Harmony campaign, Spec will be featuring health professionals who offer bilingual health services. The featured health professionals were nominated by members of the community. Born and raised in New Carlisle, Marie-Josée Lapointe completed her nursing studies through the Université du Québec à Rimouski in 2012.

She eventually chose to work in the maternity ward at Maria Hospital, where she herself was born, and would become an assistant head nurse.

When asked why she chose to work in maternity, Marie-Josée said "It's a wonderful job. A baby's delivery



Marie-Josée Lapointe, assistant head nurse

is a very special and intimate event; it's a privilege to be with the patient during this time."

Although working with babies and new mothers is wonderful, it can be demand-

ing. "There are times when I have had to revive a newborn – you want the mother and baby to be ok, of course. It is stressful, but very rewarding, and I can't see myself anywhere else. At night, I often

rock the babies so the mother can sleep. I don't have children yet and holding the babies is a treat for me."

Marie-Josée feels that it is important for patients to be served in the language that makes them feel comfortable.

She estimates that 25% of her patients are English-speaking and while patients receive all the health services they need from the hospitals staff, she knows that not having someone in the room who speaks English can add to the patient's stress. "We have ten nurses in maternity, and they all try their best to communicate in English, but sometimes new moms need someone they can just talk to and I am always happy to help out. Usually as assistant head nurse, I don't follow the labour process, but last week an anglophone patient needed assistance, so I stayed to help. Speaking English is especially important when preparing new mothers to go home and we have to cover important aftercare and safety topics."

The first-time mother who nominated her for the Health and Harmony award wrote "I got to know Marie-Josée quite well when I had my first child. She was exceptional - friendly, funny, reassuring and most of all she knew how to get me through one of the hardest and best days of my life. Her dedication to her job and to English-speaking people such as me made my experience at Maria Hospital so much easier. She was meant to do what she does... knowing someone is there who will understand you fully makes it easier and reassures you. She was there before, during and after the birth of my child - I hope that other young mothers get to experience how great she is."

In her spare time, this Gaspesian gets outside as often as she can. Walking, jogging, gardening and four-wheeling are her favourite outdoor pursuits. She also continues to support mothers, telling them to text any time they need help fitting into their new roles as moms.

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