

English-speaking population declines significantly in five years

Geneviève Gélinas

GASPÉ :- The Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands anglophone population decreased by 7.2% between 2011 and 2016, according to the last census data. The decline is faster for young anglophones between 25 and 35 years old, whose number has decreased by 22%.

The drop-off would have been much higher without the contribution of the Aboriginal population, which now represent almost one third (30.5%) of English-speaking Gaspésians.

Spec asked Statistics Canada to count the regional population whose first official language spoken is English, and among that population, the number of people with Aboriginal identity.

In the region, anglophones

went from 9,350 people in 2011 to 8,680 in 2016, a 7.2% decline. Over the same period, the number of Aboriginal-anglophones increased from 2,475 to 2,650. Without the Aboriginal numbers, the anglophone population would have decreased by 12%.

The Aboriginal contribution is still more significant among young anglophones. English-speaking Mi'kmaq represent 41.8% of the anglophone population aged between 25 and 35 years old.

It's worth noting that the population of Listuguj was probably underestimated in the 2016 Census. The Statistics Canada data suggest that there would have been a 19% decrease of the Listuguj population between 2011 and 2016, which is highly doubtful according to local observers. One can wonder the

impact of that underestimation on the anglophone population.

The English-speaking population is decreasing faster than the general population, which decreased by 4% between 2011 and 2016. There again, the underestimation of

the Listuguj population hampers that loss.

Between 2006 and 2011, the number of anglophones had increased by 1.2%. The Aboriginal contribution made the difference between that slight increase and a steep decline of 11%.

First official language spoken: English, by Aboriginal identity and age group

	2006	2011	2016
Total number of anglophones	9,240	9350	8680
Anglos 25-35 years of age	930	1095	850
Anglos with Aboriginal Identity	1515	2475	2650
25-35 years Aboriginal Identity	200	380	355

Source: Statistics Canada, custom table

CASA says collaborating with existing organizations is part of the solution

Geneviève Gélinas

GASPÉ – Kim Harrison, of the Committee for Anglophone Social Action (CASA), is not particularly surprised by the decline “because the population has been decreasing for a while. We have an aging population and a low birth rate,” she points out.

The population of seniors (55 and over) of the Gaspé is the second highest among the Quebec English populations, Ms. Harrison points out. The migration of young people, who leave the Gaspé Coast, is another reason.

CASA is aware of the growing importance of the Aboriginal population, which is increasing because of its higher birth rate. “All our programs are open to First Nations community members, including our youth programs,” Ms. Harrison says.



Photo: courtesy of CASA

Fay Gallon and Kim Harrison from CASA are not surprised by the decline in the English-speaking population.

The job question is crucial to attract and keep young anglophones. Compared to their French-speaking counterparts, Gaspé Peninsula and Mag-

dalen Islands English-speaking youth aged 15-29 in the region are more likely to be unemployed (34.4% vs 15.3%), according to figures

compiled for CASA. Their number one barrier to employment is French language

Cont'd on page 3

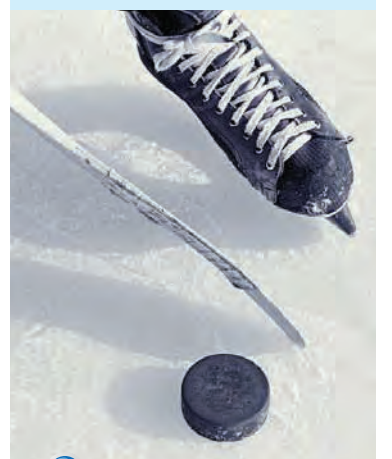
Inside this week



A fresh start for the frozen meals program



Rev. Joshua Paekkau: “A journey of discernment”



Desjardins Cup to take place in Paspébiac



Photos: G. Gélinas

A fresh start for the frozen meals program

Geneviève Gélinas
GASPÉ: – Since November 2017, the involvement of five partners, coordinated by Vision Gaspé Percé Now (VGPN), has led to the delivery of about 780 frozen meals to clients’ homes in the Gaspé area, from Grande-Vallée to Corner of the Beach, including Murdochville.

The project has resumed after a suspension of a year and a half. The meals are cooked at the Villa des Buissonnets, a seniors’ residence in Gaspé. The town’s Municipal Housing Board manages the Villa and its kitchen is operated by Multi Services.

Le Hauban Volunteer Centre stores the Frozen Meals which are distributed by its volunteers. L’Accueil Blanche-Goulet, a shelter for people in distress, also participates in the project by providing lasagna prepared by a group of volunteers four times a year.

Approximately 50 regular

clients, seniors and people who are in a vulnerable situation benefit from the frozen meals. The partners didn’t fix a target in terms of increasing the number of meals delivered to clients. They want the project to resume at “a smaller scale, with a hope of fast and sustainable growth,” says Jessica Synnott, executive director of Vision Gaspé-Percé Now (VGPN).

From 2014 to 2016, VGPN distributed more than 8,000 frozen meals. At that time, the organization was alone in the project. There was a lot of demand and it grew too big for VGPN which had to suspend the program in June 2016.

The solution was to “find a way for multiple partners to share the responsibility,” explains Ms. Synnott.

The goal of the partners is to have a self-sufficient program funded by the clients who pay \$4 per meal.

They don’t know yet how much each meal costs but “the fact of preparing the frozen

meals from an existing menu lowers the cost. The frozen meal choices are the same as the choices of the Buissonnets residents. When it’s the frozen meals production day, the cooks just have to double or triple the recipe. For the purchases and the production, it’s clearly an advantage,” explains André Richard, director of Multi services.

The Frozen Meals are meant to “keep seniors at home as long as possible. More and more seniors are isolated and don’t have a strong support network,” Ms. Synnott observes. This isolation can result in depression, undetected diseases or poor nutrition. The distribution of meals is also an opportunity to visit the seniors.



Chef for the Villa des Buissonnets kitchen, Jean-Sébastien Wood, cooks meals for the Villa residents and frozen meals for clients at home.

Absenteeism costing the CISSS millions

Thierry Haroun

GASPÉ PENINSULA: - Absenteeism in the workplace is costing the region’s health system millions of dollars, however, everything is currently being done to contain or, even better, alleviate the problem, assures the Gaspésie Health and Social Services Center (CISSS).

During the 2017-2018 fiscal year, the Gaspésie CISSS paid \$7.9M in salary-insurance because of absenteeism in the workplace. That represents 8.24% of the organization’s annual gross salary. It’s a hike of \$800,000 compared to the previous fiscal year. Also, since 2015, there has been a rise of 2% per year in terms of absenteeism, according to the latest numbers that the CISSS sent to Spec.

This situation is related to staff who work more than they should, confirms the Conseil Central CSN, a union that represents many health workers in the region’s health network. Vice President Serge St-Pierre had this to say to the regional press in a recent news conference organized at Gaspé Hospital: “We are currently faced with a vicious circle. The health personnel that we represent has an overload of work. That has consequences, such as fatigue, stress, psychological and

physical problems. They have to go on sick leave, therefore, for those who stay at work, they are faced with an overload of work and the vicious circle goes on and on. This has to stop because, in the end, the patient doesn’t receive the services that he is entitled to receive.”

Working on the problem

Well aware of the problem related to absenteeism in the workplace, the spokesperson for the CISSS, Michel Bond, had this to say: “There are many things that have to be taken into account. The problem can stem from the workplace or from private situations. Now, the psychological health issue is increasing in the industrial world in North America. It’s not a specific problem of the CISSS. This said, we take this problem very seriously because there’s not only a financial cost to all this but, more importantly, there’s a human cost behind it. We know that our personnel is fully dedicated to the patient and they love the work they do.”

In that context, he concluded, the CISSS has put in place a strategic committee that will assess the situation for the next two years in order to find long-term solutions.

2018 Tithe Collection Campaign

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Beatrice Coffin, GCF Vice President, Ron Mundle GCF Treasurer, Carolyn Devouge and Deborah Touzel.

Gaspé Cancer Foundation hosts successful fundraiser

Ron Mundle

GASPÉ: - Once again the Gaspé Cancer Foundation (GCF) hosted a very successful Christmas Tea at the Royal Canadian Legion in Gaspé. A total of \$5,683.85 was collected during the afternoon. A total of \$2,221.81 was raised during the afternoon of entertainment with tea, coffee and sweets. As well at this event, Debbie Touzel and Carolynn Devouge presented the Gaspé Cancer Foundation with a cheque of \$3462.00 that was raised from different activities in the St. George de Malbaie and Barachois communities. The Gaspé Cancer Foundation is grateful to all volunteers who helped make these activities such a success and to all community members who supported the foundation by attending each of the fundraisers.

Take a...Walk for Alzheimers

Thierry Haroun

PERCÉ: - The citizens of the Percé Rock MRC are invited to participate in the Walk For Alzheimers event that will take place in Chandler on May 27. The 11th edition will start at 10 a.m. at the MRC head office. Walkers that have registered will then walk three km around Vachon Lake, located downtown. The basic fee is \$10. But to be considered as an Elite Walker one has to raise \$200. Last year, the event in Chandler raised \$17,000. This year, the objective is to raise the same amount or even more, mentions the spokesperson for the region's Alzheimer Society, Suzanne Bourget. "What is important to say is that the money raised in Chandler will be entirely reinvested in the MRC. It's such a good cause. For further information, people can call me on my cell phone at 418 680-2161." The other walks will take place the same day in St-François-d'Assise, Maria, Paspébiac, Cloridorme and Sainte-Anne-des-Monts. In Gaspé, the walk will take place on May 26.

CASA: Cont'd from cover

skills, for 79.7% of anglophone youths, revealed a 2016 study conducted by Youth Employment Services, a provincial service for English-speaking Quebecers. Young anglophones have limited access to employability programs, CASA points out; and as a community organization, CASA must often fill the gaps in service. In the last three years, CASA has assisted 38 youth by delivering job readiness programs and over the last year alone, CASA has given direct services to 120 young anglophones who came to its New Carlisle office to get help with their job search. Anglophones who study in the health sector can also

apply for the McGill bursary program, managed by CASA in the area, if they commit to pursue their careers in the region for at least one year after their studies. Since 2013, a total of 20 bursaries has been awarded to students. Eight recipients are currently employed in the region, and the remainder of student recipients continue to pursue their studies. "These actions help to increase youth retention, but we must continue to do more," admits Fay Gallon, Programs Manager at CASA, "and we must work in collaboration with our francophone neighbours." The Gaspé Peninsula has organizations that are working on demographic issues, such as the *Stratégie d'établissement durable* (Sustainable set-

tlement strategy) and the *Carrefours jeunesse emploi* (one per MRC). "We just want to make sure that anglophones are included," states Ms. Harison. For example, the *Carrefours jeunesse emploi* (CJE) of Avignon and Côte-de-Gaspé have bilingual staff, but not the Carrefours of Bonaventure and Rocher-Percé. "We are working with the CJE to assist them in their outreach efforts to young English-speakers," says Ms. Gallon. CASA is currently working with the Community Health and Social Services Network to compile 2016 statistics and present an updated profile of the community, as well as an in-depth profile of English-speaking youth. The profile should be ready this fall.

Police report

On February 23, 2018 at the New Carlisle courthouse, Quebec Court Judge Celestina Almeida set the preliminary hearings of Jérémie-Viktor Lagacé, charged with the August 22, 2017 premeditated murder of French tourist Fabrice Durand in Saint-André-de-Restigouche to June 19 and 20, 2018. The accused is also charged with the illegal possession of a firearm. He had been prohibited to possess and handle a firearm in a prior case. On February 23, Defence Attorney Richard Lavigne declared in court that the evidence presented by the crown during the June 19 and 20 preliminary hearing will be sufficient to order the accused to stand trial on a charge of premeditated murder. He, however, wishes to cross-examine the crown witnesses in order to prepare the defence of the accused. The accused will stand trial on May 8 in another case on charges of theft, mischief and breach of conditions ordered in a previous trial.

Five things to do immediately after your identity is stolen

(NC) If you keep up-to-date with popular movies and newspaper headlines, then you probably are aware of extreme versions of identity theft. But if this were to happen to you in real life, would you know what to do? Identity theft is when scammers acquire and collect your personal information for criminal purposes. Identity thieves are eager to steal your credit card information, bank account details, full name, date of birth, social insurance number, full address, mother's maiden name, online usernames and passwords, driver's license number, signature and passport number. If you fall victim to this sneaky scam, here are the steps you should take:

- 1. Confirm.** The best way to find out if your identity has been stolen is to monitor your financial accounts and your credit card statements frequently. If you're getting calls from collection agencies about unfamiliar accounts or your credit applications are turned down unexpectedly, investigate further.
- 2. Contact your financial institution.** If you think someone has gained access to your personal financial information, call your financial institution immediately so they can suspend your accounts and limit the amount of money you lose. Credit card companies may also be able to reverse a transaction if they believe your card was billed fraudulently.
- 3. Use the right contact info.** Never use the contact details of financial institutions that appear in emails or websites you are suspicious of — they will probably be fake and lead you to a scammer. You can find legitimate contact details in the phone book, on your account statement or on the back of your card.
- 4. Report it.** By reporting the scam to authorities, they may be able to warn other people and minimize the chances of it spreading further. The best places to report this are the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre and the Competition Bureau.
- 5. Protect yourself.** Take steps to keep this unfortunate scam from happening. Be wary of unsolicited attempts to extract personal or financial information, shred documents before recycling them, shield your PIN when using your credit or debit cards, and notify the post office and your financial institutions when you change your address. Familiarize yourself with the billing cycles of your credit and debit cards, double checking all statements for irregularities. Find more information at www.antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca.

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Commentary

Gilles Gagné

Indecent catching up for medical specialists

Quebec's 10,000 medical specialists will earn \$4.7 billion this year. It is simple arithmetic - revenues of \$470,000 for each specialist. It is roughly 10 percent more than Ontario's specialists, who have to deal with a significantly higher cost of living.

In 2023, the same specialists will earn \$5.4 billion collectively, or \$540,000 per specialist. Quebec specialists will undoubtedly stay ahead of their Ontario colleagues. The discrepancy will likely stay around ten percent. To the advantage of the Quebec specialists even the cost of living in Ontario is easily 25 percent higher, if not more.

That is not enough. Based on an agreement covering the 2015- 2023 period, an adjustment of \$2 billion must be added to the above-mentioned pay, and will likely take the form of a \$50,000 annual payment, repeated over the next years.

The deal is generating an uproar in the population for many reasons that will haunt the current Quebec government until the next election scheduled for October 1.

First, the current deal was negotiated in great part by Health and Social Services Minister, Gaétan Barrette, a specialist himself (radiologist). Secondly, Mr. Barrette had negotiated the previous deal when he was presiding over the *Fédération des médecins spécialistes du Québec*. He was, at that time, a nightmare for previous governments' health ministers and premiers. He was the main man behind the catching up operation for Quebec doctors compared to Ontario's.

Thirdly, the current Quebec premier, Philippe Couillard, is a specialist. He is a neuro-surgeon. Mr. Couillard is trying to present the sugar-coated side of the 2015- 2023 deal by saying that his government saved \$3 billion through not handing out to the specialists further salary hikes, the ones that will be applicable to the civil servants.

That is taking people for idiots. The specialists were already benefitting from raises civil servants couldn't even dream of. The specialists' pay raise should have stopped upon reaching par with Ontario, but no such mechanism was enacted in the agreement, a great incoherence.

The deal with the medical specialists is so exorbitant that a growing number of doctors, specialists but also general practitioners, refuse to take their salary increase, out of embarrassment, shame, common sense and fairness.

Legally, a deal remains a deal and the Quebec government will apparently have to respect its signature. One might remember that a government's signature was not so important in 2014 when thousands of municipal employees lost some of their pension plan because of a law imposed by the Philippe Couillard regime. That odious decision was imposed on municipalities that had to deny their signature. Those municipal employees are suing their employer and the court case is scheduled for this coming fall.

The deal with the specialists is so wobbly that it doesn't guarantee any improvement of Quebecers' access to health care.

At the other end of the spectrum, Quebec apparently doesn't have the means to provide fair services to other categories of citizens and health sector employees. The nurses might be in a position to get what they want, and rightfully so, because the health system rests on their shoulders as much as on the doctors' but caregivers hardly get the recognition they deserve.

The quality of food served in the seniors' residences, the quality of home care provided to other seniors still living in their home, our decrepit schools, the quality of the education system, the victims of criminal acts, the necessary increase in public health organizations, the only way to eventually reduce the cost of operating our hospitals, could have benefited from the billions of dollars uselessly handed out to doctors that didn't need them.

That topic must absolutely stay in people's minds between now and election day.

Letters to the Editor

Of victims and perpetrators

These days, so many accusations are flying, and, I feel sure that many, if not most, of them are valid. But not all. It's the "not all" that worries me.

Women have every right to demand to be treated as equal human beings. In some areas of the world, we've yet to be treated as people and live under appalling conditions with few or no rights. In the more "liberal" areas, we've been second-class citizens far too long. Many are our valid complaints. One particular injustice has been the refusal to believe or take seriously those who've complained of sexual aggression or abuse—a terrible further injury.

But now I fear we may err on the opposite side. Originally, it was surmised that women who came forward were placing themselves in dire situations and would not do so lightly, and so all accusations were taken as valid complaints. Now women who come forward are commended and applauded, their bravery exclaimed over. It has become a vile thing

to dare question even the degree of harm, much less the validity of the complaint.

The accusations are as varied as they are numerous: sexual assault (penetration/rape, touching or exposure of intimate body parts), sexual harassment (a hostile working environment that includes inappropriate sexual innuendo/joking, looks/body language that make someone feel harassed, and (undefined) unwanted sexual advances. All of these are received without context and treated as virtually equivalent--

It's not surprising that so many women feel like victims—many have been victimized by sexual aggression, and their charges are legitimate, and those women should definitely speak up and seek redress.

Anyone can become a victim, but some accept victimization as an identity. They see themselves as powerless and live in fear of others, sometimes to the point of being unable to speak or act to defend themselves. Such a condition surely must carry a weight of rage and resentment, and could result in a desire to muzzle others, to have them act according to a set of proscribed behaviors, and to see them punished when they fail to tow the line.

Others feel so deserving and entitled that almost anything that doesn't suit them is interpreted as a form of abuse. The seemingly powerless can wield power in ways that are not overt but are nonetheless effective. They garner sympathy and convince the world of their innocence and the evil of others—a black-and-white world that bears little resemblance to reality where human beings are fallible and hurt one another, making us all simultaneously victims and perpetrators.

Mental and emotional illness, wanting to belong, seeking fame, seeing an opportunity to exercise power or get even—who knows why someone would conflate a situation or blatantly lie, but people do.

But now, too often, reputations are ruined and jobs are lost because of it, so let's pause a moment before we accept all accusations as equal and valid. There are truth and lies, and within aggression of any kind, degrees of injury.

Let's remember the human tendency to assume the guilt of anyone accused—an accusation is not evidence. Victims can and do become abusers and let's guard against that happening by realizing that people are fallible and subject to a multitude of motivations. Let's not rush to demonize the accused, but rather keep an open mind until we can determine the facts, lest we accuse the wrong party and ruin an innocent life.

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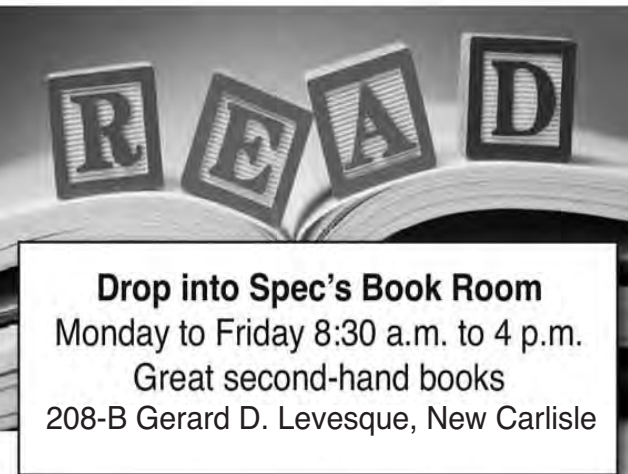
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McInnis Cement limited to ten cars per week because of bridge restrictions

Company expects to transport 40 carloads per week

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND: – Transport Québec is imposing a weekly limit of ten loaded railcars to McInnis Cement, apparently because of the wear and tear effect those cars have on the two Cascapedia-St-Jules bridges. However, McInnis Cement's operational needs will increase to 40 carloads in May and the Gaspésie Railway Society wants to haul that traffic.

That limit, imposed last fall, has so far not really hurt McInnis Cement because 10 weekly cars correspond to the recent rail deliveries of the company. The Cascapedia-St-Jules bridges are located between New Richmond where the cement is loaded in railcars, and Matapédia where those cars are transferred to Canadian National for the final delivery to customers located in Ontario, Nova Scotia and the United States.

The president of the Gaspésie Railway Society, Éric Dubé, intends to clarify the situation with Transport Québec as soon as possible. He doesn't see the logic of setting up a limit of ten cars per week.

"A study was conducted and they are explaining for now the notion of metal fatigue. I can understand that concept. You use an infrastructure and there is wear and tear attached to that. But if our bridges can bear the stress of ten cars the same day, something we are authorized to do, how is it that the bridge needs a rest the following days until the next week? I don't understand that part," says Mr. Dubé.

"We are not talking about passing the 40 loaded cars the same day. We can spread the load to five trains of eight cars each per week, for example," he adds.

Éric Dubé knew, since the end of the fall, that Transport Québec was seeing the frequency of heavy trains as a problem. There was even a question of completely closing the two Cascapedia-St-Jules bridges at one point. Those bridges were built in the 1890s but other bridges of that age are still functional in North America.

The study commissioned by Transport Québec was in



Photo: G. Gagné

The Gaspésie Railway Society must deal with constraints in its operations, such as putting an empty car between each loaded cement car in order to reduce the concentration of weight when the train goes over the Cascapedia-St-Jules bridges. That situation requires a lot of shunting in the New Richmond and Nouvelle yards.

fact undertaken and realized by Norda Stelo, an engineering firm formerly called Groupe Roche. Its results are scheduled to be released during the first week of March.

"We will then know what kind of repairs we can carry out on the bridges in order to avoid limiting McInnis Cement's shipments by rail. Our orientations are simple. There is no way we will lose rail traffic because of those bridge restrictions, and there is no way McInnis Cement will pay one additional cent per tonne in order to send its cement by rail if a pinch hit solution has to be put up with," says Éric Dubé.

The pinch hit solutions exist, he insists. "If we have to add a silo in Nouvelle, we will do it. We have a piece of land that could be used there. We could load ten cars in New Richmond and load the 30 others in Nouvelle. If the study says that we can put \$4 million on the two (Cascapedia-St-Jules) bridges and they will then last the two years it will take to replace them, no problem. The government will have to cough up the money. It is a crucial matter. We need it for the development of the region and for the Gaspésie Railway Society. If the management of McInnis Cement comes in July and asks us to haul 60 more cars per week, what will I tell them?" asks Éric Dubé.

On May 5, 2017, Premier Philippe Couillard announced \$100 million for the refurbishment of the Matapédia to Gaspé railway. A few small repairs carried out in 2017 were apparently taken from that envelope, for a total of \$4 million. For example, the \$1 million replacement of the Ristigouche South East bridge in September was taken from that sum, although that work was initially scheduled to take place in 2015. The information regarding the remaining money is slow to come.

"There is money available, considering last year's announcement and that money has to be used to facilitate our operations. We are in full development mode but it is slowed down because of the government's administrative procedure, or for reasons we don't understand," points out Mr. Dubé.

The Matapédia to Gaspé railroad is in a dormant state between Caplan and Gaspé, which correspond to almost two-thirds of its length. The decision to abandon that section of the line was made in March 2015 by then Quebec Transport Minister Robert Poëti. Even if the Port Daniel cement plant was under construction and would need rail transport, McInnis Cement's administration was not very clear about using it at the time.

The line passes a few feet from the plant silos but is still

not in working order. Cement has to be trucked to New Richmond and transferred to railcars. The same scenario would be set up in Nouvelle if a second silo is installed there.

The Gaspésie Railway Society installed the New Richmond silo at its own expense during the spring of 2017 to accommodate McInnis Cement. A contract to haul 28,000 tonnes of cement had been signed in December 2016. It is the equivalent of

about 300 carloads per year, or six cars weekly.

However, that contract is followed by other transport deals. A volume of 40 cars per week amounts to about 2,000 carloads annually or about 200,000 tonnes. It is close to 10 percent of the Port Daniel plant's yearly output.

The Gaspésie Railway Society already has to deal with constraints in its operations, such as putting an empty car between each loaded cement car in order to reduce the concentration of weight when the train passes on the Cascapedia-St-Jules bridges. That situation requires a lot of shunting in New Richmond and in Nouvelle, once the train has passed on the bridges. That shunting eats up a lot of time and money that could be used for more efficient duties. There aren't many railroad companies in North America dealing with that kind of operational constraint.

Some of the plant's input could also be brought by rail but the current context doesn't favour that in the short term.

"Building a silo in Nouvelle would cost \$450,000. A ballpark figure for the extra transportation cost between New Richmond and Nouvelle could amount to \$40,000 a

Cont'd on page 6

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MNA Gaétan Lelièvre is concerned with the lack of action in the railway file

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND: – Considering Transport Québec’s slowness in dealing with the railroad’s refurbishment, the Gaspé riding Member of the National Assembly, Gaétan Lelièvre, believes that the Quebec government is treating Gaspésians like second-class citizens and lacks interest in their region’s economy.

Mr. Lelièvre, who is now sitting as an independent Member of the National Assembly (MNA), and Parti Québécois MNA for the riding of Bonaventure, Sylvain Roy, are so worried about the government’s lack of action in the railway file that they both wrote a common letter to Quebec’s Transport Minister, André Fortin, on February 16, in order to express their concern and ask him when concrete moves will be made, especially regarding the replacement of the Cascapedia-St-Jules bridges.

“We haven’t received an answer. We (he and Minister Fortin) briefly crossed at the National Assembly and he told me that he will consider it a priority. I have also contacted Regional Minister Pierre Moreau. I am asking Premier Philippe Couillard to intervene. It is now close to ten months after his \$100 million



Photo: G. Gagné

Hauling of windmill blades was the first source of revenue for the Gaspésie Railway Society a year ago and cement will take second place in May. However, those spinoffs could be much higher if the blades and cement could be loaded in Gaspé and Port Daniel respectively.

for the railway and hardly anything has moved,” explains Mr. Lelièvre.

The fact that Philippe Couillard decided to give the control of the railway’s upgrading to the *Bureau des grands projets*, the body managing Quebec’s main infrastructure initiatives, explains some of the delays.

“Everything converges to the *Bureau des grands projets*’s incapacity to start some movement. It is hard to believe that Transport Québec has no

power over that body,” adds Mr. Lelièvre.

He uses the example of a railway bridge that collapsed on January 13 in Brompton, near Sherbrooke, following a sudden rise of the Saint-François River.

“The government reacted immediately. Member of the National Assembly, Karine Vallières, and cabinet members intervened to say that there would be support to solve the problems as soon as possible in order to protect the

economy. They are moving already. Here, we have problems with the railway. We have governmental organizations that have invested \$615 million in the Port Daniel cement plant and the Transport Ministry doesn’t move to facilitate the hauling of cement. It looks as if the left hand doesn’t know what the right hand is doing. Only \$4 million has been secured since Philippe Couillard’s \$100 million commitment. There is a lack of political will to solve our problem,” believes Mr. Lelièvre.

Sylvain Roy emphasizes that building a second silo in Nouvelle will considerably increase traffic on Highway 132 between New Richmond and

Nouvelle.
“So instead of repairing the line and the bridges with money that has already been announced, the Quebec government’s inaction will only lead to additional damage to Highway 132 and transport inefficiency,” he criticizes.
“LM Wind Power and McInnis Cement don’t need hurdles that reduce their competitiveness,” concludes Gaétan Lelièvre.

The Gaspésie Railway Society could almost double its revenues linked to cement hauling and almost triple its revenues related to hauling windmill blades if that freight could be loaded in the town where it is produced. It represents millions of dollars in transportation revenues annually. The shippers, McInnis Cement and LM Wind Power, would also save millions of dollars in transportation fees if they could load their output in Port Daniel and Gaspé, respectively.

In the case of LM Wind Power, the additional cost of hauling windmill blades by truck between Gaspé and New Richmond amounts to about \$7 million yearly.

The total value of production for LM Wind Power and McInnis Cement hovers around \$600 million a year. In the case of LM Wind Power, the sales are all made in the United States and McInnis Cement sells essentially outside Quebec. LM Wind Power employs 480 people while McInnis Cement provides work to 153 people.

TRAIN BRIDGES:

Cont'd from page 5

week, or about \$1,000 per railcar. It is a lot of money for a temporary solution. Transport Québec has to pay that bill,” states Éric Dubé.

In his discussions with Transport Québec’s management, Éric Dubé was told by the government representatives that if its managers find the bridge safe, they would take the full responsibility of assuming the consequences in case of accident.


“If they give us those responsibilities, we will take all of them, including the bridge’s refurbishment or reconstruction and the money going with it and we will proceed fast,” concludes the president of the Gaspésie Railway Society.

The spokesperson of McInnis Cement, Maryse Tremblay, only says for now that the company “collaborates with the ministry and the Gaspésie Railway Society to apply a safe solution that will

allow an increase in the number of railcars.”

So far, Transport Québec has not replied to the questions asked by SPEC. That ministry has been favouring for years the replacement of the Cascapedia-St-Jules bridges. Those new bridges

could be built parallel and close to the existing structures in order to keep train circulation open in the meantime. Despite being aware of the bridges situation for close to a decade, Transports Québec has only carried out studies in that file.



PUBLIC NOTICE GENERAL COLLECTION ROLL

According to articles 503 and 504 of the Loi sur les Cités et Villes (L.R.Q., C. c-19), PUBLIC NOTICE is given that the general perception roll for the year 2018 is completed and deposited at my office and that the tax bills will be sent out on February 28, 2018.

That the tax bills equal or superior to three hundred dollars (300 \$) are payable in four (4) payments falling respectively on March 30, 2018, on May 29, 2018, on July 28, 2018 and September 26, 2018.

That a thirteen percent yearly interest fee (13 %) will be charged on all the taxes due.

Any taxpayer who has not received his tax account in ten (10) days following their issue is asked to notify the treasurer.

GIVEN at Gaspé,
This 28th day of February 2018

Dave Ste-Croix, treasurer



Call For Tenders

SUPPLY SAND, GRAVEL & OTHER MATERIAL

Ville de Gaspé requests tenders to supply sand, gravel, crush gravel, rock abrasive, top soil, black ground, asphalte and cold patch.

The necessary documents are available at the Town Hall's Public works department during regular office hours situated at 25, rue de l'Hôtel-de-Ville, Gaspé.

Whichever mode chosen, the tenders, to be valid, must be received at Ville de Gaspé's Clerk office, in sealed envelops, before March 22, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. with the following inscription on the envelop "Soumission – Sable, gravier & autres" to be publicly opened the same day, at the same address, beginning at 2:01 p.m.

Ville de Gaspé does not bind itself to accept the lowest nor any of the tenders received.

Gaspé, February 28, 2018

Isabelle Vézina
Director of legal services and town clerk



Photo: G. Gagné

In 2012 commercial activities of various types were still present at the Carleton wharf.

Transport Canada to transfer Carleton wharf to DFO

Gilles Gagné

CARLETON: – Transport Canada will transfer the property of the Carleton wharf to another federal department, Fisheries and Oceans, a ministry that will carry out a significant refurbishment that could reach \$20 million.

Parts of the Carleton wharf have been unusable to varying degrees since the spring of 2007. Cement blocks were placed in some areas to prevent users from getting past those sections because of the limited bearing capacity of the infrastructure. Fences were also installed over the years.

The majority of the work will mostly consist of building a dyke to protect the commercial fishing and marina sections, exposed to strong west and south-west winds. Commercial fishermen and recreational boat owners use the interior side of the wharf. That side will be solidified. Floating docks, similar to some other Gaspesian fishing harbours, will be installed along that wharf. The small perpendicular dock will be removed.

The extremity of the wharf will be ceded to the town of Carleton. A recreational space will be set up there, allowing mackerel sports fishermen to practice the sport.

Member of Parliament for the Avignon - La Mitis -Matane-Matapedia riding, Rémi Massé, assures that work will soon start. “It will begin this coming fall and it should be completed during the summer

of 2019.”

When the announcement was made on February 21, Listuguj councillor Wendell Metallic was on hand. Lobster fishermen from his community use the Carleton wharf. “We are satisfied that the wharf will be upgraded,” pointed out Mr. Metallic.

The town of Carleton has been defending a wharf project of \$23.4 million since the spring of 2015. When asked how much Carleton will receive for that project, MP Rémi Massé simply said that it will be “many, many millions of dollars,” maybe close to \$20 million.

“We want to stay discrete about the amounts, given that there will be a call for tenders process,” Rémi Massé says.

Mussel farmer, Éric Bujold, who also presides over the harbour administration, points out that the fishermen will make a big gain in efficiency due to the refurbishment.

“We often had to put four or five boats side by side because of the lack of space. Now, we will be able to have two boats side by side, which is normal,” he explains.

Carleton is not a major fishing wharf, landings wise. Between ten and fifteen fisherman use the ramp to put their boats there for the win-

ter and prepare them for the spring. Beside the lobster fishermen of Listuguj, only one lobster fisherman and two fish farmers use the wharf.

The project announced on February 21 apparently spells the end of the commercial vocation of the Carleton wharf. Those activities have ceased in 2016 due to the state of the wharf. The last ships that used Carleton were cargo liners that unloaded salt in 2015. Steel for Fabrication Delta in New Richmond and wood for the Groupe GDS were also unloaded there between 2010 and 2015.

The current project calls for the replacement of steel boards by rocks on the north-west side of the wharf.

Rémi Massé points out that “the needs related to commercial transportation were not expressed.”

Yet, several stakeholders have expressed over the last decade the necessity to protect the commercial vocation of the Carleton wharf.

They all refrained from commenting on the current situation but intend to make one last pitch in order to convince federal authorities to protect the commercial side of the wharf before the plans and specifications are determined.



PUBLIC NOTICE Public Consultation Meeting

NOTICE is hereby given that the municipal Council of "Ville de Gaspé", at its regular meeting held on February 19, 2018, has adopted by resolution the following draft of by-law and that a public consultation meeting will be held at the Town Hall, on Monday, March 19, 2018, at 4:00 p.m.

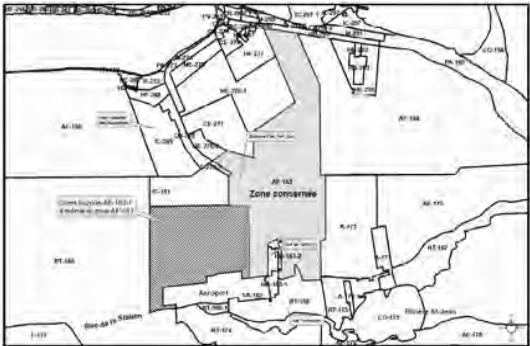
Draft of by-law 1156-11-28:

The draft of by-law amends the zoning by-law 1156-11, as follows:

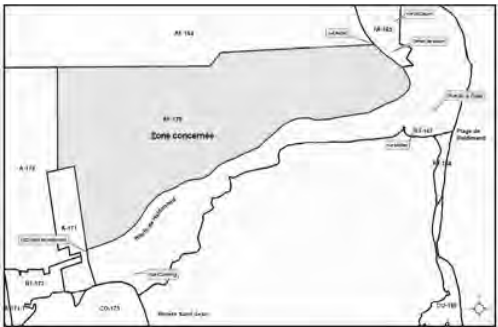
- « Modifiant les usages autorisés dans la zone AF 185 afin d'y permettre l'usage Foresterie (A-3);
- Créant la zone AF-163-1, à même une partie de la zone AF-163, dans le but d'inclure les lots 4 054 447, 4 054 448 partie, 4 054 450 partie, 4 054 451 partie, 4 054 481 partie, 4 054 482 partie, 4 054 483 partie, 4 054 544, 4 055 753, 4 055 754 partie, 4 055 831 partie, 4 055 832 partie, 4 055 833 partie, 4 055 834 partie et 4 817 670 partie, cadastre du Québec;
- Ajoutant la grille de spécifications pour la zone AF-163-1;
- Ajoutant l'article 17.2.3 DISPOSITION APPLICABLE À LA ZONE AF-170;
- Modifiant les usages autorisés dans la zone AF-170 afin d'y permettre l'usage Foresterie (A-3); »

The concerned zones are illustrated on the following sketches:

AF-163-1, situated in the airport area:



AF-170, located North of Haldimand Road and RT-167 zone and North of the properties between 826 and 1302, Haldimand Road:



AF-185, located South of Douglas boulevard and PA-184 zone and South of properties between 1654 and 2058, Douglas boulevard:



During this meeting, the mayor or another council member designated by him, will explain the draft of by-law and the consequences of their adoption, and will hear the persons and bodies wishing to express their views.

The draft of the by-law is available for consultation at the Town Hall office.

Given in Gaspé, February 28, 2018.

Isabelle Vézina
Director of legal services and town clerk



Cabin Fever

The calendar tells me Winter’s nearly over
But the weather man says snow is on the way.
My friends can’t wait to start mowing the clover
But the shovel is more practical today.

We’ve got snow in drifts up to our armpits, brother,
And our noses look like cherries on the tree
People saying it’s a winter like no other
Or the coldest snap in living memory.

People walk from pane to pane to check the weather
And there’s nothing worth the watching on TV
It’s getting hard to keep one’s sanity together
And the munchies get us munching frequently.

Our clothes it seems somehow are fitting tighter
Have they shrunken in the closet? Oh dear me!
I wonder will we feel a wee bit brighter
When we finally waddle out, a sight to see.

We’ve been wheezing, sneezing, coughing and a blowing
As we try to fight the flu and winter’s blues.
It will be so nice to see the grass a growing
And the heat waves in the headlines of the news.

But for now we keep our fingers crossed and wishing
That our cabin fever breaks, and Spring takes hold.
And dreams of playing golf and going fishing
Replace the winter snow banks and the cold.

A.MacPherson, March 13, 2015



IMPORTANT NOTICE

Please take note that obituaries,
in memoriams, classifieds etc,
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Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



Who Has Seen the Wind?

*Who has seen the wind?
Neither I nor you:
But when the leaves hang trembling,
The wind is passing through.
Who has seen the wind?
Neither you nor I:
But when the trees bow down their heads,
The wind is passing by.*
- Christina Rossetti

Do not despair on a windy day or night when the house shakes and loose things blow around the yard. This weather phenomenon has been significant to our ancestors, to people living here now and will be for future generations.

Very simply, wind is air in motion. Wind is caused by air which flows from an area of high pressure to an area of low pressure. Because of the rotation of the Earth, the wind does not always go directly from a high pressure to low pressure area, but veers off to the right, if you live north of the equator. When high and low pressure areas are closer together, the stronger the winds will be. The wind is a two-edged sword because though it is of such vast importance, it can also be harmful and even deadly.

Wind speed is measured in kilometres (or miles) per hour and the Beaufort scale is used to identify the intensity of the wind. Here on the Gaspésie we see the effects on land and on the water. Descriptions for water conditions caused by wind vary from calm and rippled all the way to exceptionally high waves and sea completely white with driving spray. On land, the conditions are described from calm and wind visible in smoke to widespread structural damage. We have pretty much experienced the whole scale here on the peninsula.

Many of the explorers and fishermen who travelled here hundreds of years ago did so in ships powered by wind and sails. Later the people who colonized the Gaspé also travelled here using the power of the wind. The wind assisted their voyages but they were also hampered by the lack of wind. On days when there were little or no winds the long passage became even more so.

The wind was, and continues to be, an important method of drying clothes. Today we hang out our laundry because it is more environmentally friendly and because the smell of the laundry when you bring it indoors is intoxicatingly aromatic. Newly dried sheets are a special treat that first evening that they are on the bed. You can close your eyes and be grateful for the clean environment. If you live close to the water the smell of the bay or gulf is a distinctive and evocative experience.

We should have gratitude for the wind because without it we would not have waves! We would surely miss the mesmerizing and relaxing sound of the water lapping on the shore. The wind is also a powerful cause of erosion and those who live right beside the water know full well that the wind is a powerful agent for change. People who have lived here many years can attest to the changes in our coastline caused by wind and water. The wind offers loads of recreational opportunities. Sailboats need wind. So do parasailers and kite flyers. Windsocks, flags and wind chimes would be fairly irrelevant without the wind. Weather vanes would be inconsequential.

The wind is such a bountiful source of poetry and memorable song lyrics. *Candle in the Wind* by Elton John, *Wayward Wind* by Tex Ritter, *Dust in the Wind* by Kansas, *Wind Beneath My Wings* by Bette Midler and *Summer Wind* by Frank Sinatra are a few fine tunes which mention the wind. The word is also contained in the title of books such as *Gone with the Wind*, *Wind in the Willows* and *Who Has Seen the Wind?*

The future of wind here on the Gaspé Peninsula is wind turbines. Wind turbines are the fastest growing source of electricity in the world. On the positive side it has the potential to be one of the least expensive sources of power available and it is, of course, renewable. No dangerous waste is left behind. On the flip side, the environmental impact is still a source of debate.

I think that we could call the Gaspé the “Windy Peninsula” but in a good way. Like all of you I have had a mouthful of sand on a windy day at the beach. I have also laughed heartily at a pedestrian whose umbrella flips inside out in the wind. But don’t complain too vociferously, the wind has been, is now, and will continue to be, an important part of our lives.

thegaspespec.com

Rev Joshua Paetkau: “A long journey of discernment”

Cynthia Dow

GASPÉ: - The Anglican parishes of Chaleur Bay are looking forward to welcoming a new priest this month. The Reverend Joshua Paetkau will work part-time until the end of the school year when his young family will join him in New Carlisle.

The young man has worked in the Gaspé for about six months, and came to the Chaleur Bay area last summer to help then-incumbent Rev Nicholas Forte with the vacation Bible Schools held in Port Daniel and New Carlisle, so he is not unfamiliar with the area. He was ordained a priest on February 3 at the Cathedral in Quebec City. “It was a lovely day,” he told SPEC, “There were quite a few people from the area there, and my sister and her family came.”

The call to serve as a minister came through what the young man described as a “long journey of discernment, through the people in my life, and through studying scripture.” Born in Alberta, he spent his formative years in Bolivia where his parents managed an orphanage. “Their work and ministry were anchored in their faith,” he said. His

mother and father now live in Winnipeg and still serve on the board of directors of the orphanage. Although raised in the Mennonite faith, Rev Paetkau attended the Anglican Church while at university and he found it a “warm, welcoming, active community, involved in social issues and wrestling deeply with questions of faith.” He particularly likes the Anglican liturgy which he describes as including the “historical memory of the Church.”

It was a close friend at university who ended up in the Diocese of Quebec and who planted the seed for the Paetkau family to come to the region. “My wife and I had hoped for a rural setting, and we feel blessed to work in a place as beautiful as the Gaspé. We also enjoy the cross-cultural experience with the English and French communities.”

Having grown up on a dairy farm, and having worked in conservation, contact with nature is important. “I feel passionate about serving rural communities. There are a lot of needs to support, and I like the idea of reviving traditions.”



Photo: Courtesy of J. Paetkau

Reverend Joshua Paetkau and family.

He currently lives at the rectory in Wakeham with his wife Bethany and their two children, Solomon, 9 and Rose, 6. They will be moving to the New Carlisle rectory in

June or July. Bethany has a background in music and working for non-profit organizations, and loves community gardening.

Rev Paetkau told SPEC his

objective for his time in the Chaleur Bay area is simply to “encourage the work that is already happening and see to the needs and desires of the people.”



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Desjardins Cup to take place in Paspébiac

5,000 spectators expected to attend games

● Gilles Gagné

PASPEBIAC: – The 41st Desjardins Cup, regional minor hockey championship, will take place in Paspébiac, at the new arena between March 28 and April 1.

A minimum of 5,000 spectators is expected to attend the tournament.

Fourteen teams from the region's four zones will try to win a spot for the Dodge Cup, the Quebec-wide minor hockey championship, which will take place in the Outaouais region three weeks

later. Up to 233 hockey players from four different levels, (Atom, Pee wee, Bantam and Midget) will participate in the event.

“Our goal is to have them live the most beautiful sport experience of their lives. We want to go beyond what they will live on the ice,” says Christian Grenier, president of Paspébiac's Desjardins Cup.

The Atom and Pee wee categories will be represented by one team from each of the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands' four zones; Fo-

rillon, Rocher, Baie des Chaleurs and Magdalen Islands.

“As for the Bantam and Midget categories, we have three teams. The Bantams of Forillon and Rocher zones are forming one team while the Midgets of the Baie des Chaleurs and Rocher zones are playing together. The level of hockey is very, very, very high,” adds Christian Grenier.

Contact was reintroduced in the Midget category this year. It requires two referees per game in addition to two line judges. While the number of hockey players is lower than it was years ago, “it has increased by 2% this year,” says Hockey Gaspésie president, Renaud Langlois.

Approximately 350 parents and supporters from the Magdalen Islands are expected with the four teams. They will find lodging in the area between New Richmond and Chandler.

“They haven't used the ship (the CTMA Vacancier) in the last three years. It increases the spinoffs of the hosting area. It sure represents a logistic challenge, regarding food and lodging (...) We are very happy to greet them,” points out Mr. Grenier.

Paspébiac last held the Desjardins Cup in 2006 at the former arena. At that time there were only four locker rooms. Now, there are six in the new building, a factor that should make the tournament run more smoothly. There is

also a training room at the arena and a press room.

“There is not a bad seat in the arena. The view is excellent everywhere. We have six large locker rooms, 801 seats and between 200 and 400 additional seats on the mezzanine. It gives us a minimum of 1,200 seats plus the spots where people can stand (...) The temperature inside is 16 degrees, no matter the temperature outside,” explains Christian Grenier.

The organizing committee requires the close involvement of 20 people and close to 80 additional volunteers. The games will be aired on the web.

The budget of the event hovers between \$50,000 and

\$65,000. Caisses Desjardins is providing \$3,500 for this year's Desjardins Cup.

Christian Grenier admits that one of the big sponsors sought for the event, the Town of Paspébiac, has yet to confirm its participation.

“We would like to avoid the rental cost of the arena. Our request was sent to the council in December. We haven't received an answer yet. I am not worried but I am eager to get an answer,” he explains.

Paspébiac has a new mayor, Regent Bastien, who was elected in November. There are also some new councillors on the municipal council. Some of them did not favour the new arena project.



Photo: G. Gagné

Desjardins Cup president Christian Grenier is not worried yet about the silence from the new municipal administration regarding the support expected from it but “I am eager to get an answer.”

HOT OFF THE PRESS!

FIND OUT WHAT'S HAPPENING ON THE COAST.
TURN TO THE PAGES OF
THE GASPE SPEC!

**PUBLIC NOTICE
Enactment of By-law**

NOTICE is hereby given that the Town Council, at its special meeting held on February 19, 2018, has adopted the following By-Law:

By-law 1361-18:

« Règlement modifiant le règlement 1356-17 pour imposer de nouveaux tarifs pour les services d'aqueduc et d'égout et pour l'assainissement des eaux en remplaçant l'article 4.10... »

NOTICE is also given that this By-Law is deposited at the office of the municipality and that the interested may there take cognizance thereof during regular office hours.

GIVEN at Gaspé, February 28, 2018.

Isabelle Vézina,
Director of legal services and town clerk

RÉNORÉGION program

Inscription period

The town of Gaspé wishes to inform the household owners that they can subscribe to the RÉNORÉGION program from **February 19th to March 9th of 2018**. The program provides financial assistance in the form of a grant that varies, depending on household income, between 95% and 20% of the cost of eligible work.

People who are interested may make an appointment with the responsible to fill in the registration form.

For the appointment, you must have in your possession:

- Notices of assessment federal and provincial for 2016 of EVERYONE who lives in the house;

Admissibility criteria

TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR A 95% ASSISTANCE RATE, OCCUPANT OWNERS SHALL MEET THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

- Have an annual household income not exceeding (according to the 2016 assessment notices):
 - 24 000 \$ for a household of one (1) person or couple
 - 29 500 \$ for a household of two (2) to three (3) people (except for couple)
 - 33 000 \$ for a household of four (4) to five (5) people
 - 38 500 \$ for a household of six (6) people or more;
- The municipal evaluation of the residence cannot exceed 115 000 \$;
- Not having received financial assistance from the RénoVillage or RénoRégion Program during the last 10 years ;
- Not having received financial assistance from the Réparation d'Urgence Program (PRU) during the last 5 years.

To make an appointment, please contact the Urbanism department of the Town of Gaspé at 418-368-2104 extension 8530.

N.B. Other eligibility conditions may apply and the granting of financial assistance is conditional on the sums being allocated for this program by the Québec government to the Côte-de-Gaspé MRC.

2017 Report of the de Gaspé Chapter IODE

NEW CARLISLE: - Another year of effective and fruitful activities have been accomplished in our chapter. It was all done with the efficient guidance of our President, Mrs. Olive Smollett, and her able committee members. Ms. Valerie Gilker agreed to be our Honourary Regent for the year. Our membership remained at twenty-one persons. We held one executive meeting, one annual, and seven regular meetings. Also we participated in an afternoon tea and two dinner meetings.

In January, the executive members met to finalize the annual reports, while the February meeting was concerned with other issues. Thank-you notes and cards were read from those shut-ins who received food baskets, poinsettias or chocolates during the Christmas season.

In March our honourary regent was selected and in April, we were encouraged by our National Chapter to give a “good citizenship” awards

to celebrate the IODE 150th anniversary. The criteria was set up for this and \$150 worth of books was divided between two students - one from NCHS and one from SPDS. The recipients of these awards went to Jasmine Larocque of SPDS and Addyson Renouf of NCHS.

Brochures were prepared in May with the express purpose of distribution to potential members to our chapter. At the same meeting, members voted to place a large pot of flowers at the outdoor main entrance of the Gilker Residence. The reason for this gesture is to thank them for the use of their dining room for several of our meetings.

Our June meeting was held at the Chateau Blanc Hotel in Bonaventure. A delightful dinner was enjoyed by members and their invited guests. The de Gaspé Chapter bursaries were presented at graduations of NCHS and the Paspébiac Polyvalent. Recipients were Simon Huard of Paspebiac and Eleanne Lan-

glois of NCHS. The Jean Foster Bursary was awarded to Allison McGregor.

A rare get-together was held in July with a special purpose in mind. It was an afternoon tea at the Kempffer House in recognition of members who live elsewhere, but were home for the holidays.

It was back to work in September. A donation of \$500 was given to the Gilker Residence for bingo prizes.

Also, we arranged, as in other years, to have two members help with registration at the Terry Fox Run in Hope Town.

In October and November, our meetings were largely taken up with regular business. These are plans which are needed to be made for Christmas and for 2018, which is our chapter’s 90th birthday.

Our year ended with a festive turkey dinner at the Her-

itage Restaurant in New Carlisle. Our usual practice of a gift exchange was substituted with a free-will offering, which was donated to the Royal Canadian Legion to buy gifts for their Children’s Christmas Party. Also, \$100 was sent to the Labrador Snack Pack and \$75 to the Canadian Disaster Fund.

*Elizabeth LeGros
Communications Secretary*

Cozy up to winter reading with this inspiring book club idea

(NC) Curling up with a great book during the chilly, snowy months is an experience that many of us look forward to. And what better way to kick it off than by joining the Amnesty International online book club? Launched in 2014, the project encourages readers, libraries and book clubs to read beyond the book. This means the club not only features excellent literature, it also shares interactive author interviews, podcast episodes, challenging discussion questions and rich background on the human rights aspects of popular novels. The beauty of this virtual community is the access to it all from your personal web-enabled device — you can discuss the books online on the Goodreads discussion group, read the guide to delve deeper into the books, learn more about current human rights issues, and take action by signing a petition or writing a letter if you choose to, all free and from the comfort of your home. You can also choose to use the material in your own book club if you already belong to one.

The book club newsletter has over 6,000 subscribers and is emailed monthly with the latest news in books, actions, reflective essays and a special discussion guide. Books recommended by other writers are also included on the list, such as Monkey Beach by Eden Robinson, Funny Boy by Shyam Selvadurai, 419 by Will Ferguson, Laughing All the Way to the Mosque by Zarqa Nawaz, and A Recipe for Bees by Gail Anderson-Dargatz.

If you're looking for a no-commitment, comprehensive, high-quality book club with a take on human rights, then the Amnesty International book club is for you. With more exciting books coming this year, it's a great time to join. Learn more or join the book club at www.amnesty-bookclub.ca.





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Page 11, February 28, 2018 - Spec

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Announcements...



Birth



GREEN: Arlo

Born to Cam and Lauren Green, December 31, 2017 in Minden, Ontario. Grandson to Dawn and Trent Ogilvie and great-grandson to Verna Gray Chicoyne, formerly of Barachois, now residing in Oakville, Ont. Lauren is Vera's grand-daughter, and Dawn is Verna's daughter. He's beautiful!



Obituaries



BOUDREAU LEBLANC: Gisele

At the Residence Saint-Joseph de Maria, Mrs. Gisèle Leblanc Boudreau, wife of Mr. Roger Boudreau of New Richmond, passed away February 2, 2018, at the age of 85.

She leaves to mourn, her husband Roger, children Manon (Therry), Marc, Caty (Gilles); her grandchildren: Jean-Marc, Jason, Justin, Alexandre, Gabriel (Ammie) Olivier; also Piero and Charlie; her great-grandchildren, Lou and Adèle; her brothers, sister and many nephews and nieces. She was predeceased by her son Michel.

Her funeral will be held in August to accommodate her family members. The family thanks all the staff at the Résidence Saint-Joseph for their attention and the quality of their care.

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.



COFFIN: Alexander (Sandy)

With sadness, the family of Sandy Coffin announces his sudden passing on November 12, 2017. Sandy was born in Gaspé in 1944, son of the late Alexander and Marion Coffin. He is predeceased by his wife of 48 years, Kathy Coffin, and his brother Leigh Coffin.

Sandy is survived by his sons, Alex and Marc (Jennifer); and daughter, Maggie (PJ), all of the Saint John area. He is also survived by his sisters Myrna Landers and Marilyn Miller (Russell); six grandchildren: Alexandra, Lily, Jesse, Ella, Benjamin and Eric; and, extended family throughout Canada.

Sandy grew up hunting, fishing and travelling the roads of Gaspé. These interests remained close to his heart his whole life, frequently returning to Gaspé to commiserate with family and friends. He learned his steady work ethic under the watchful eye of his father at the family's carpentry business, Atelier Coffin. His early success as a student pushed him to be a solid educator in his own right, following in the footsteps of his mother.

Sandy graduated with his B.A. from Mount Allison University; B. Ed. and M.Ed. from UNB. With his education, Sandy embarked on a career spanning over 30 years as teacher (NB and NL), Vice Principal (NB) and finally, Principal (NB).

Following retirement, Sandy enjoyed all things related to literature, cars and hunting. Sandy and Kathy relished their over 40 years of happy times spent with friends and family at the Coffin PEI cottage and the Gaspé Coffin homestead. He enjoyed a reputation as a fair and reasonable man, dedicated to his wife. When not with Kathy, Sandy could be found cackling with his loyal best friend, Mac. He was a voracious reader and, like his father before him, a sharp conversationalist with an intellectually gifted mind.

Sandy will be laid to rest with Kathy on PEI in spring 2018.

Card of Thanks

St. Andrew's Anglican Church, New Carlisle members would like to thank everyone who came to the pancake supper on Tuesday, February 13. Also thanks for donations from those who were not able to come. A huge thank-you to those who helped prepare and cook pancakes, sausages, fruit salad and beans and those who donated prizes and especially those of you who worked at this event. Your help was greatly appreciated.



In Memory

BILLINGSLEY: Ellen Karen

September 6, 1958 - March 5, 1977

In loving memory of dear daughter who was killed suddenly March 5, 1977.

*In the glory of youth you were taken,
When many things were planned,
No wonder our hearts are broken,
It's something we can't understand.
We shared so many happy days,
We shared some sad ones too,
But the saddest time of all,
Was the night that we lost you.*

*If we could have life's dearest wish,
And all earth's treasures too,
Or pick from heaven what we could,
Dear Karen we would ask for you.
We miss you so much, our hearts are sore,
As time goes on, we miss you more,
Your loving smile, your gentle face,
No one can fill your vacant place.*

Loved always, remembered always, sadly missed by mother, Constance, sisters Cynthia, Landis, brothers Todd, Jan, Richard, John and George.



MCWHIRTER: Lindsay

In loving memory of a dear husband, father and grandfather, Lindsay McWhirter, who passed away on March 2, 2016.

*Time speeds on, two years have passed,
Since death its gloom, its shadow cast.
Within our home where all seemed bright,
And took from us a shining light.
We miss that light and ever will,
His vacant place there's none to fill.
Down here we mourn but not in vain,
For up in heaven we will meet again.*

Forever loved, remembered and sadly missed by wife Viola and family.



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COAST ROUND-UP

POINTE NAVARRE:

Mass of St. Peregrine

The mass of St. Peregrine, patron saint of the sick suffering from cancer and long-term diseases, will be celebrated on **Tuesday, March 6** at 7 p.m. at the Shrine of Pointe-Navarre. Welcome to all

GASPÉ:

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.

GASPÉ:

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:

90th Birthday Celebration

Gosh and b' glory, Bridget McDonald, is about to reach her 90th year. So please join us for a wee bit of blarney and a lot of Irish cheer. We will celebrate this milestone birthday with Bridget on **Saturday, March 17** from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the York River Community Hall. Best wishes only. Gift her only with the honour of your presence.

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:

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.

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. Patricks 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 Levésque, New Carlisle (Old Laurentian Bank). For any other information, please call 418-752-5995! Thank you for your understanding!

NEW CARLISLE:

Calling all Girl Guides...

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

NEW CARLISLE:

Monthly Breakfast

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

CASCAPEDIA-ST. JULES:

Cribbage Tournament

The Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 172, will be having Cribbage Tournaments on **March 11, and March 25**, at 1:30 p.m. at the Legion. The cost will be \$10 per person. Everyone is encouraged to attend these events.

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

50+ Club Activities

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

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

Book Room

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

GESGAPEGIAG:

N.A. Meetings

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

Rotary Calendar Winners

The lucky Rotary calendar winners for the week of February 18 are Ghislaine Bourdages, Janine Porlier, John Homorowsky, Jean-Pierre Cormier, Jean Beaulieu, Jean-Claude Blanchard and Ian Gilker.

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UNITED CHURCH

Sunday, March 4

Worshipping with Anglicans
Shigawake 11 a.m.

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

Sunday, March 4

New Carlisle

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Shigawake

11 a.m. Holy Eucharist

PARISH OF GASPÉ

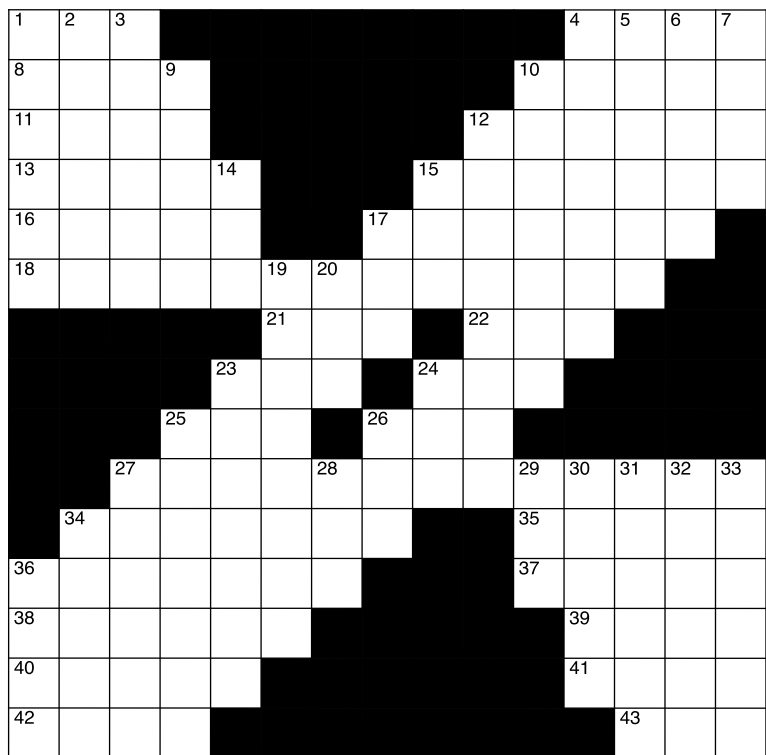
Sunday, March 4

Gaspe

10 a.m. Morning Prayer



CROSSWORD

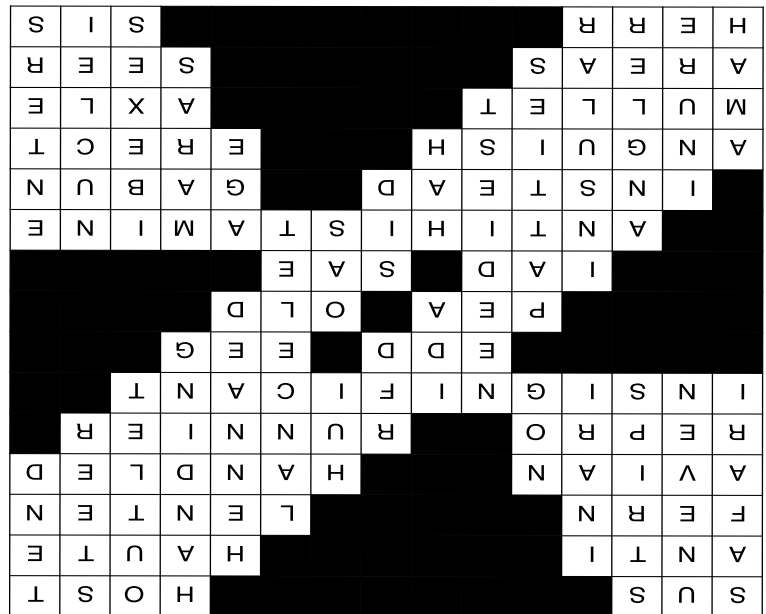


CLUES ACROSS

1. One-time Moroccan kingdom
4. One who entertains
8. Not in favor of
10. Couture
11. Nonflowering plant
12. Of Christian fasting season
13. Of birds
15. Dealt with
16. Duplicate
17. More liquid
18. Inconsequential
21. Doctor of Education
22. Electroencephalograph
23. Partner to the carrot
24. Not young
25. Discontinued Apple advertising platform
26. Car mechanics group
27. Treats allergies
34. Rather
35. African nation (alt. sp.)
36. Suffering
37. A way to raise
38. Hairstyle
39. Vehicle part
40. Subject matters
41. One who can see the future
42. German courtesy title
43. Female sibling

CLUES DOWN

1. Jungle vacation
2. Off-kilter
3. Takes off
4. Passing
5. Where to plug in devices
6. Drive
7. Take care of
9. City in Finland
10. Dyed
12. Small invertebrate
14. Holiday beverage egg ____
15. Hawaiian club
17. Rural Free Delivery (abbr.)
19. Most impoverished
20. British romance novelist Pollock
23. Burgers
24. Organization of American States
25. Lacking contact with other people
26. Sex Pistols bassist Vicious
27. One who uses a rod and line to fish
28. Expression of surprise
29. Get older
30. Rooney and Kate are two
31. Wild goats
32. Cores
33. Walks into
34. A way to accustom
36. Wet nurse



You are never too young....



It is never too early and you are never too young to learn to read. Five-month-old Arizona Grace Lee is checking out what’s new in her community. Thank you to her grandparents Sheri and Fred Lee of New Carlisle for submitting this endearing photo.

DID YOU KNOW?



Quebec City is the only walled North American city north of Mexico, and was the first city in North America to be designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site!

Exploring fun facts about Canada is just one of the many ways to celebrate Canada at 150.

We invite you to join us in celebrating what makes Canada unique and special to you as we mark this historic milestone anniversary!

What’s This Artifact?



Answer: These gauges are slipped under an attached wooden clapboard and locked. Having been pre-set to the desired exposure of the weather, the new clapboard is inserted in the upper slot and is nailed. With two or even three units, one person could install wood clapboard to a guaranteed level by himself.

HOROSCOPES

- ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, you may need to muscle your way through some projects, especially if your energy levels wane. Put your nose to the grindstone and work your way through things.
- TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, you are not one for letting obstacles get in your way. In fact, you find a way to go over or under any roadblocks. This makes you an asset to any team.
- GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, if you have been forgetful about keeping tabs on your finances, you may be in for a surprise. Make an effort to more closely monitor your financial situation.
- CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22

Don't be so quick to write off someone you thought was out of your life, Cancer. This person may play an integral role in your life this week.
- LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23

You might need to channel some newfound excitement, Leo. Perhaps there is a special project brewing or a party on the horizon. Keep up the good cheer.
- VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, everyone makes mistakes, and those who move forward learn from their past errors. If you stumble, dust yourself off and get back into the game this week.
- LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Don't consistently doubt yourself, Libra. Be confident that you can make decisions that will ensure your family's success and happiness for years to come.
- SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Juggling too many items at once often ends with one of the balls dropping, Scorpio. Call on your support network to lend a helping hand when the juggling act gets too difficult.
- SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

Friends may flock to you and your jovial attitude this week, Sagittarius. Beat the winter blues by hosting a party, and it can be a win for all involved.
- CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Loosen up the reins on something you have been holding onto tightly. This may mean giving a child a little more freedom to explore or involving others in a work assignment.
- AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, it's time to put some new ideas in motion. Channel your energy into projects that will showcase your talents and vision for the future.
- PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, creative endeavors may need to be shelved for a little while as you focus on practical tasks. It won't be long before you can return to them.
- FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

FEBRUARY 25

Sean Astin, Actor (47)

FEBRUARY 26

Nate Ruess, Singer (36)

FEBRUARY 27

Josh Groban, Singer (37)

FEBRUARY 28

Ali Larter, Actress (42)

MARCH 1

Kesha, Singer (31)

MARCH 2

Rebel Wilson, Actress (38)

MARCH 3

Ronan Keating, Singer (41)

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