

Enthusiastic response to various **ART** courses

Cynthia Dow

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES: - A new CASA project, called Art for Action is now on its second round of community art workshops and is garnering a lot of attention amongst community members. The project coordinated by Jennifer Lianne Willett includes a variety of art courses, as well as a contest which is underway.

During the latest workshop, participants learned how to create colourful mandela designs on plates. The activity was held at the Cascapedia-St-Jules community hall on Saturday, January 27, and attracted more than 30 participants.

Led by Isabelle Hubert of Café Luna in New Carlisle, the workshop was free, the materials supplied and the creations taken home by the artists.

“During this series of workshops people have painted on shingles, wood, canvas, rocks, and will be making other things as well,” Jennifer explained. “The reaction has been awesome, and we have had to add some extra workshops because of the level of interest. A lot of the people coming forward are complete beginners.”

Up-coming workshops include stained glass in New Carlisle and pottery in Shigawake. The contest is all about making a work of art based on what you think your community needs. The winner, along with a cash prize, gets to initiate a project to obtain for their community what they are wishing for. Those interested in the workshops or the contest can register through CASA’s facebook page.



Photo: J. Imhoff

Vanessa Harrison painting an intricate mandela pattern.



Photo: J. Willett

In this picture you can see the morning group with their almost complete works of art.

Inside this week



Upcoming crab season sees new rope regulations



McInnis Cement: Employees file for union accreditation



LM Windpower plant workforce reaches 475 employees

RIGHT WHALE ENTANGLEMENT:

Upcoming crab season sees new rope regulations

Geneviève Gélinas

GASPÉ: – In order to reduce the risk of entangling right whales, crab fishermen in the gulf of St. Lawrence must reduce the amount of rope they use to fasten their traps. They will also have to report all lost gear. The right whale is an endangered species

Fisheries and Oceans minister Dominic LeBlanc announced these protection measures on January 23 in Moncton. They will affect approximately 250 snow crab fishing crews in the southern part of the gulf.

Twelve right whales were found dead in Canadian waters in 2017, a record number. At least two of the necropsied animals were entangled in crab fishing gear.

“We don’t want metres and metres of rope floating on the surface,” stated Minister LeBlanc. He has himself observed a “significant amount” of lost or abandoned gear, “weeks after the season concluded” in 2017.

From now on, no rope linking a crab trap to a primary buoy can remain floating at the surface of the water after the crab trap has been set. It must be ballasted to remain vertical. A maximum of 3.7 meters of rope can be used when attaching this first buoy



Photo: Krista Petersen, Fisheries and Oceans

The right whale necropsied last September in Miscou was entangled in crab fishing gear.

to the second one, which is added to help recover the gear.

The Fisheries and Oceans department also wants to track lost gear and better understand the interactions between whales and fishing gear. So fishermen are required to identify their buoys with a sequential number and mark rope with a colour specific to their fishing area.

Minister LeBlanc promised that his ministry will try to start the crab fishing season

as soon as possible, depending on ice conditions and on the icebreakers’ availability. “If the season starts earlier, it will finish earlier. That reduces the risk of interactions between fishing gear and whales.” A normal season goes from mid-April to the end of June.

The Gaspesian Crab Fishermen Association welcomed the protection measures. Preparing their fishing gear for it to comply with the new regulations could take “a few

more weeks,” says Association president, Daniel Desbois.

Cruise ships?

Dominic LeBlanc is expecting the Transport ministry to once again impose speed restrictions in the gulf of St. Lawrence. At least four right whales necropsied last year, and maybe five, died from collisions with ships.

The cruise industry in the

St. Lawrence suffered from the limits imposed in 2017. Fifteen ships with 24,300 passengers and crew members on board cancelled their stop in Gaspé because of a lack of time.

The announcement by Minister LeBlanc is one of a series of measures. He stated that in the coming weeks, his government will announce several million dollars for a technology that will better detect and avoid contact and collision with right whales.”

Dominic LeBlanc was somewhat skeptical about the cruise industry’s claim to establish a corridor where ships could sail faster. “The challenge is to make the whales understand that those corridors exist. A corridor remains an option, but it should be flexible enough to follow the presence of whales.”

The Fisheries and Oceans department is preparing a protocol to ensure the safety of people who participate in disentangling whales. Mr. LeBlanc stated that his primary responsibility is to ensure people’s safety, and that protocol should be ready in the coming months.

The ministry interrupted the disentangling attempts after the death of a New Brunswick fisherman in such an operation on July 10, 2017.

Budget: good news in Chandler

Thierry Haroun

CHANDLER: - Believe it or not, the great majority of the Greater Chandler citizens, which includes five municipalities, will benefit from a tax decrease in 2018, yes a tax decrease. Spec was at the budget presentation on January 22.

Good news, which is rare in the region so when that happens we might as well promote it especially when citizens see their tax bill decrease. Thus, with the exception of house owners in Saint-François and Pabos with a value of \$125,000 or more, all homeowners will pay less in 2018, 3% on average.

Here are some examples: For a house in the Town of Chandler worth less than \$75,000 the tax bill will be reduced by \$119. For a house worth between \$75,000 and \$125,000 the saving is \$153

For a house worth between \$125,000 and \$175,000, the owner will save \$219 and for a home worth more than \$200,000, the owner will save no less than \$286.

Part of that decrease stems from the garbage tax that dropped from \$250 down to \$230. But mainly it stems from loans that are now totally paid. The total budget of Greater Chandler is valued at \$11 million which is a hike of 1.8% compared to last year. The debt of the Town is \$9 million. The main expenses stem from the Sanitation Department (30%), Debt payment (17%), Administration (15%), Culture and Leisure (14%) and Public Security (10%). The main revenues come from taxes (65%) and Government Transfers (22%). Finally, the councillors adopted a three-year investment plan (2018-2020) of \$17.6 million which includes

an investment of \$2.5 million to redo the arena (65% public funds) and \$1.6 million for a new Town garage (65% public funds).

A happy mayor

“What also explains such good news in terms of tax decrease is that we received a surplus of \$116,000 from the Government’s Fiscal Deal, \$38,000 in royalties in 2017 from windmill farms and \$225,000 this year,” adds the mayor Louisette Langlois. “This is a good budget with great news for our citizens. We’ve been through so much since the foreclosure of the Gaspésia Mill that used to pay \$1.2 million annually in taxes. With effort from everyone over the years we can now say that we’ve achieved something important for the betterment of all,” concluded Louisette Langlois

News briefs

Looking for solution

Thierry Haroun

GASPÉ PENINSULA: - Absentees, work accidents and health problems are part of the reality in the health sector in our region. That’s the reason why the Health and Social Services Center of the Gaspé Peninsula has implemented a Strategic Committee to find solutions to this serious problem.

Michel Bond, the spokesperson on the matter for the CISSS, confirms the problem. “It’s not only in our region that we are faced with these issues in the workplace, it’s across the province. What we have decided to do, is to take action by finding our own solutions by and for our personnel. We want solutions that are adapted to our reality and not to depend on solutions that come from other regions.”

The latest statistics show that the salary insurance this year represented 8.24% of the global salary of the CISSS, a hike of 2% compared to last year.

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Police report

On August 14, 2017, Steven Gagné, 29, from New Richmond was found guilty by Quebec Court Judge James Rondeau of the July 23, 2012 hit and run accident involving the death of Donald Powell, 50, from the Black Cape sector of New Richmond.

On January 22, 2018 at the New Carlisle courthouse, Judge Rondeau ratified the common suggestion of the crown and defence attorneys on sentence and sentenced Steven Gagné to a conditional sentence (house arrest) of two years, less a day.

During sentence Steven Gagné will be under curfew, will report to a supervisor, is prohibited to drive a motor vehicle and must abstain from the consumption of alcohol. During sentence he may have paid employment. At the end of the sentence he will be under probation for 12 months and must donate an amount of \$3,000 to the Powell family in two installments of \$1,500.

The Powell family was relieved by the sentence and will now have closure.

On January 26, 2018 at the New Carlisle courthouse, Quebec Court Judge Celestina Almeida accepted to put over the case of Jérémie-Viktor Lagacé, charged with the August 22, 2017 pre-meditated murder of French tourist Fabrice Durand in Saint André de Restigouche, to February 23, 2018. The judge specified that on that date, notwithstanding the ongoing discussions between the crown and defence attorneys, the court will then determine a definite date for the preliminary hearing.

Why hoarding documents is risky and how to avoid it

(NC) Boxes of old documents, stacks of old hard drives and computers, and containers of confidential information all find themselves in storage. While you may think this will allow you to access them easily, many of us probably often end up forgetting about them and continue to stockpile even more.

This kind of storage poses health, safety and security risks. By hoarding a lifetime's worth of documents, you risk exposure to mould and bacteria, along with the added stress and tension of having to deal with so much piling up in the house. Additionally, you risk your safety by having so many items (mostly paper) in one place, which often acts as a fire hazard. It may also cause accidents if boxes fall on you or you injure yourself while accessing them.

However, the biggest risk that hoarding documents poses is one of fraud or identity theft. Having a mountain of documents may lead frustrated people to simply throw out a few boxes with the trash. But clever fraudsters are known to dumpster dive and pull documents that yield valuable personal information.

According to Shred-it, a leader in information security and document destruction, decluttering on a regular basis should be a priority. Not only does it help prevent the risks mentioned above, decluttering can also improve productivity and motivation and boosts mental health and creativity.

Use these tips to begin editing your storage:

- Tackle one box at a time. Before you know it, the pile will shrink and you will feel less stressed.
- Create a document management process to outline how you will deal with all documents from when you receive them to the time you destroy them, thus preventing a stockpile from even starting.
- Begin digitizing and reorganizing your files. You will realize there are things that you shouldn't be holding on to at all and be able to better manage your information in the long run.
- Purge your storage regularly. Trusted partners like Shred-it can help to clean out your storage on a regular basis, ensuring the mountain of files doesn't keep growing.



Photo: G. Gélinas

The Quebec Municipalities Union would like companies like West Jet and Porter to offer flights to the Quebec regions, in order to compete with Air Canada.

A mission to Calgary and Toronto to charm air carriers

Geneviève Gélinas

GASPÉ: – The Gaspé and Drummondville mayors, accompanied by tourism stakeholders, made a mission trip to meet with the chief executive officers of West Jet and Porter, two large regional air transport companies. They want to understand why those companies don't implement flights in Quebec and want to invite them to develop in our province.

The objective is to lower the high price of airfare, which is due, according to them, to the monopoly of Air Canada in several Quebec destinations.

Drummondville mayor Alexandre Cusson, president of *Union des municipalités du Québec (UMQ)* was part of the group, as well as the mayor of Gaspé Daniel Côté, who is the president of the UMQ regional air transport committee. SPEC interviewed them before they flew to Calgary and Toronto on January 25 and 26.

"First, we want to stimulate competition and make the plane ticket prices decrease. Companies dared to compete with Air Canada in Western Canada and in Ontario; why don't they do the same in Quebec?" asks Daniel Côté.

"We have to raise our hand and say: we exist, why don't you come to our province? Please explain it to us. Then, we can present potential solutions to the summit," the Gaspé mayor adds. This summit on regional air transport, organized by the Quebec Government, takes place on February 2 in Lévis.

The UMQ chose West Jet

and Porter because they are "the two biggest carriers in the Canadian market of regional air transport," says Mr. Côté.

Two representatives from the Quebec tourist industry Alliance, travel with the mayors. According to the Alliance president Éric Larouche, Quebec tourism needs regional flights to develop. "We have entrance doors which are Quebec City and Montreal. But then, how do we carry them to the rest of Quebec?" he asks

"Air carriers tell us: there's not enough volume in Quebec. That's the chicken or the egg! The tourist industry can add volume (and make prices decrease)," Mr. Larouche adds. The mission members will offer their help to market the flights. Alliance mentions, among other solutions, a project fund for promotion of intra-Quebec links.

Quebec residents take three times less domestic flights than other people from the rest of Canada. The Gaspé mayor is convinced that cheaper tickets would boost the market of regional flights.

According to a study recommended by UMQ in 2017, Quebec residents pay 55% more than other Canadians to travel by plane in their province. The monopolies present in several Quebec destinations and the high landing

fees charged by regional airports explain the difference, the study suggests.

UMQ is asking for a tax break because in Canada, an average of 43% of the plane ticket prices is made up of various taxes; it's only 14% in United States.

"We're in an era in which everything goes very fast. It's not true that driving fifteen hours for a round trip (between Gaspé and Quebec) is the same thing as flying a three hour round trip. We need a much more affordable regional air transport. It has become an essential service, not a luxury commodity that the governments can tax the way they like," the Gaspé mayor states.

According to UMQ, the airports exploited by municipalities or MRCs need investments of \$232 million in the next five years. Better support from Quebec and Ottawa would allow them to lower airport fees charged to air carriers, and as a consequence, lower the ticket prices.

On January 26, SPEC checked the price of a Gaspé-Quebec return airfare for the next day, a Saturday, and for three months later, also on Saturday. It was \$1,165, tax and fees included, in the first case and \$458 in the second case.





Commentary

Gilles Gagné

Can we use some imagination in the management of our recyclable material?

The government of China triggered a crisis in many parts of the world at the beginning of the year by starting to refuse huge volumes of recyclable material, mainly paper and glass, because of their "contaminated" state and also because that Asian country started cleaning its own backyard by increasing its recuperation standards.

Chinese authorities found out that they didn't have to import all that recuperated material if they used smarter ways of sorting out their own glass, paper, cardboard, plastic and metal. After all, a growing proportion of the country's 1.3 billion people consume almost as much on a per capita basis as the citizens of industrialized countries.

There are 27 recycling centres in Quebec. Overall, they ship 60% of their recuperated material to Asian countries, mainly China but more recently to India, Vietnam and Pakistan. Once there, that material is recycled, that is to say it is processed to produce other consumption goods.

All those Quebec recuperating centres don't have the same standards. A few of them are way better than others in producing quality material. It means that they operate devices and equipment that will separate glass from paper and cardboard, a way to increase their quality before selling it to a recycling plant.

Higher quality recuperated paper and glass will often find takers in Quebec instead of China, India, Vietnam or Pakistan, especially considering that China is not taking our recuperated crap anymore. They remain ready to accept quality recuperated material only.

What does it say about the task ahead of us? Quebec decision-makers, mainly the government and operators of recuperation plants, must upgrade their standards. The technology exists. Moreover, if the material coming out of those plants is of better quality, the price will be higher and the range of products that can be fabricated through recycling will be wider.

Right now, 80% of the paper and cardboard recuperated in Quebec is of poor quality, mainly because there is broken glass in it. The fact that it is often hauled on uncovered truck trailers between the recuperation plants and the paper mills or the export harbours causes a lot of contamination through dirt like salt and sand.

Quebec's backwards way of recuperating used

glass also poses a huge problem. Why wouldn't we impose on the *Société des alcools du Québec*, the SAQ, a public corporation, to take back all the bottles sold there?

Consignment of alcohol bottles is done in every Canadian province except Quebec and Manitoba. Liquor stores take back their bottles and give a consignment amount to consumers. Right now, Quebec rules make it more advantageous for the SAQ to hand out money and finance part of our recuperation containers. After 20 years or so of such a practice, wouldn't it be time to evolve?

There are three ways to look at recuperated material. It can be perceived as pure waste, it can be considered like cheap material for future recycling, and it can be used intelligently to produce added-value products, when the initial selection of it is done the right way.

A recent study carried out by a wide group of experts, hands on experts and researchers, reveals that Quebec could create 3,200 jobs by sorting out wisely its recuperated material and looking at ways to process it here. Different rules and minimal investment would be required.

In Montreal, a company recuperating good-quality glass has integrated glass powder in concrete and uses it to produce beautiful and highly durable sidewalks. In the Victoriaville area, park benches are made of recuperated plastic.

So the crisis triggered by China could and should lead to business opportunities for others, including Quebecers. Beside, sending our recuperated material to the other end of the world doesn't make sense either, environmentally speaking.

There is a growing trend in certain corporations to act more responsibly. It comes more often than not after rule-tightening decisions by governments. Hence, Pratt and Whitney recuperates its old aircraft engines to make new motors. Xerox does the same with copiers and other office equipment, while Michelin rents out tires instead of selling them, in some countries.

Consumers have to push in the same direction. They have to pressure governments into better behaviours regarding material disposal and what we can do with those resources. They were, at one point, pure natural resources and we know that those resources are limited.

Letters to the Editor

I read, with personal interest, Mr. Currie-Mills article "First visit to Hong Kong" (Spec issue of December, 2017). My mother's brother was killed in Hong Kong on Christmas Day 1941. The tombstone pictured in Mr. Currie-Mills article is that of my mother's brother, Uncle Ralph Eldred McGuire of

Port Daniel. Thank you sir, for sharing your visit and pictures.

Pat Roberts,
Oakville, Ontario

In the January 17, 2018, Spec: "A year of living dangerously", you muse about women coming forward to accuse tRump of sexual harassment and wonder "why this hasn't happened yet." In fact, it has happened.

Several women have accused tRump of sexual impropriety. This would have been enough to end any normal politician's career, but tRump has a legion of trolls at his service. Some women were harassed into silence, some were vilified in public media, some were paid off, and one was allegedly chased out of the country in fear for her life. (Ivana now says her rape accusation was just part of the divorce negotiations and never really happened.) tRump followers don't care. tRump fans are extremely biased and will accept anything he does as long as they think he will slow the "browning of Amerikkka"!

Some tRump fans claim to be devout Christians yet respond to tRump ...acting and talking as if he would like to bag his own daughter: "Proof he is an alpha male." sleeping with many women: "Proof that he is a successful business man." having relations with prostitutes: "Someone in his position needs stress relief." promoting violence against his opponents: "You can't expect him to take criticism without retaliating."

Despite the opinion of tRump supporters, the American media seems soft on tRump. One flagrant example of the media unbalance is the handling of Jeffrey Epstein (a convicted pedophile) in the 2016 election. Many news outlets (including CNN and MSNBC) frequently brought up the friendship between Bill Clinton and Jeffrey Epstein but rarely mentioned the friendship between Donald tRump and Jeffery Epstein. While we do not know if either of these men knew Epstein was a pedophile, why was the husband of a presidential candidate being friends with him "big" news, but a presidential candidate himself being friends was barely worth mentioning?

It is possible, and even likely, that some of the media bias in favor of tRump during the election campaign was due to the popular belief that such a vile, oblivious, blowhard could never win. Some media outlets felt they had to do what they could to make the race close (and thereby interesting) in order to sell advertising.

Now that tRump is president the situation is different. There is historical precedent to indicate American media is biased toward the president. While that can serve a purpose in normal times, it does have negative consequences. The second Iraq war would probably not have happened if "mainstream media" really did objective coverage of the president. With a dimwitted, ignorant, racist, bigoted, demagogue in the White House, this lackadaisical coverage on the part of "mainstream media", and blatant dishonesty on the part of "right-wing media", provides ample breeding ground for unfettered corruption.

Robert Muller is (apparently) trying to close in on tRump while tRump is destroying the foundation on which America was built. Amerikkka may well be a dictatorship before Muller makes a move and WWII could be the final legacy of the tRump reign.

Stanley Jones,
Belleview, Ontario




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PROVINCIAL ELECTION:

In Bonaventure, only one candidate is confirmed

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND: – The October 1 provincial election in Quebec will likely bring its share of new candidates in the riding of Bonaventure, since incumbent Member of the National Assembly Sylvain Roy, of the Parti Québécois, is the only person who has confirmed his intention to run.

It will be his fourth campaign, since he lost the by-election in December 2011 before winning the September 2012 and April 2014 elections. The victory in 2012 was relatively easy but in 2014, the lead changed repeatedly on election night.

“I am staying on the ship despite the storm,” says Mr. Roy, referring to the January 16 departure of three Parti Québécois Members of the National Assembly (MNA), the January 25 departure of a fourth one and a reflection period called for by at least one more MNA.

“There is a lot of work to do. I have not accomplished all the things I wanted to do in politics. I’ll be very happy to serve one more term. On the other hand, if the electors are not happy and get rid of me, I’ll go back into teaching,” explains Mr. Roy, a former Carleton Cegep sociology professor.

It takes a certain period of time, he adds, to become familiar with the legislative part of a Member of the National Assembly responsibilities and it also takes time to establish a solid and trustful link with the various organizations in a riding.

“Now that relationship is well developed. My assistance is required very often in a number of stakes. That is proof of the trust people and organizations have in me,” adds Sylvain Roy, who is his party’s spokesperson in forestry and wildlife matters.

The Liberal Party of Quebec’s association in the riding



Photo: G. Gagné

In March and April 2014, the Bonaventure riding candidates were Damien Arsenault, of the Liberal Party, Patricia Chartier, of Québec Solidaire, Jean-Marc Landry, of Coalition avenir Québec, and Sylvain Roy, of the Parti Québécois.

of Bonaventure is being rather discrete about the upcoming election. New president Christian Cyr says that a convention date has not been selected yet.

It is public knowledge that the prefect of the Avignon MRC, Guy Gallant, also the mayor of Saint-Alexis, near Matapedia, is interested in running at the Liberal convention. A date has not been set for the event yet, but the end of the spring is a likely period.

The former Member of the National Assembly in Bonaventure, Damien Arsenault, who served between December 2011 and September 2012, and François Whitton, who made an unsuccessful attempt to get the candidate spot at the July 2012 convention, are considered potential opponents to Mr. Gallant at this year’s conven-

tion, although none of them has commented on the situation recently. Mr. Arsenault and Mr. Roy were opponents in 2011, 2012 and 2014.

At Québec Solidaire, Patricia Chartier, who was the candidate in 2008, 2011, 2012 and 2014, is pondering the possibility of running for a fifth time, but she seems ready to give another party member the opportunity to get elected.

“I am currently reflecting on the whole thing. I was a municipal councillor until recently (in Maria) and the last few years have been really demanding. I will make my decision known in a month or two, probably in March. The presence of potential relief candidates is really encouraging. Four people have called me to express their interest in running at the convention.

They don’t want to be identified publicly yet but they are young,” explains Ms. Chartier, who works from community-oriented groups.

The Québec solidaire convention will be held at the end of May or the beginning of June but could form its electoral committee as early as February.

“We have never been able to count on such a fine situation, funding-wise. There hasn’t been an election in four years and the new electoral law is providing us with good revenues, as they are based on the number of votes received during the last election. Our financial means could even allow us to take some televi-

sion advertisements,” says Patricia Chartier, who mentions that the arrival of Gabriel Nadeau-Dubois at the National Assembly had a major effect on the party.

The Coalition avenir Québec party was not able to provide SPEC with answers to any of the questions in the eight days, between January 18 and January 26. Party spokesperson Thomas Verville took note of the questions, pertaining essentially to the organization in Bonaventure, or lack thereof, and potential candidates. He never called back despite three messages asking him to provide answers.

In 2012 and 2014, Jean-Marc Landry, then a management teacher at Carleton Cegep, represented the CAQ. He is retired now and will likely not enter a third electoral race.

“I recently wrote to François Legault and suggested that the party should have some plan regarding the Gaspé Peninsula. I think there should be a strategy to greet more immigrants in regions like the Gaspé Peninsula and a widespread infrastructure program, with faster actions regarding the rejuvenation of the railway. Mr. Legault has received my message but we haven’t held an exchange about it,” says Mr. Landry.

The CAQ didn’t get a lot of support in the two Gaspé Peninsula ridings in 2012 and 2014, with less than 10% of the votes.



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PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given :

1. THAT at a meeting held on December 4, 2017, the Town Council has adopted By-Law 1344-17 «décrétant une dépense d'une somme de 670 000 \$ et un emprunt d'une somme de 670 000 \$ pour la réalisation de travaux de réfection de l'usine d'épuration des eaux usées de Sandy-Beach et pour le remplacement d'équipements dans les stations de pompage d'eaux usées SP-8, SP-12 et SP-22».
2. THAT By-Law 1344-17 has been approved by the qualified voters during a register held on December 19, 2017.
3. THAT By-Law 1344-17 has been approved by the Minister of Municipal affairs and Land occupancy, on January 23, 2018.
4. THAT the interested can consult those By-Laws at the Clerk's office, at the Town Hall, 25, rue de l'Hôtel-de-Ville, during regular office hours.

GIVEN at Gaspé, January 31, 2018.

Isabelle Vézina,
Director of legal services and town clerk



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REFLECTIONS:

Kitchen Culture

I recall, from many moons ago, the large, cheerful kitchen of my Gaspesian grandparents. Everything happened in that kitchen. My grandmother was the indisputable matriarch of her domain. She cooked, baked, heated water in the wood stove, made her own bread, jam and so much more. The kitchen was also the social hub of the house. When visitors came, and there was a steady stream of them, they always, but always sat in the kitchen. When all the chairs were full, more were carried in from the living room if needed. Children knew to stand up and give their chair to an adult. There was a small cot behind the wood stove where children could sit and still hear the chatter from the adults. My grandfather's spot was always at the end of that cot and beside the wood stove, for easy access. He would smoke Player's Plain or Export A cigarettes and then throw his butts in the wood stove. This was long ago before we knew anything about the harmful effects of cigarette smoke.

Why did we all congregate in the kitchen? It was warm, cheerful and inviting. Everyone felt at ease. When you sit in the living room it seemed much more formal. That kitchen was the scene of so much talking, laughing and sometimes music! If someone brought a guitar, it would invariably be the kitchen where the music was enjoyed.

The seating was important. My grandmother always sat in her rocking chair. She did not sit all the time, of course. She would get up to do a variety of kitchen chores. She was so welcoming to all who visited. When people got up to leave she would always say, "There's lots of time! Stay a while." Family, friends and neighbours filled those chairs and if I close my eyes I can almost hear the hubbub of that kitchen so long ago. The chairs were wooden and in later years maybe chrome chairs with orange Naugahyde covers.

Though my grandmother baked the most delicious cookies and cakes ever, seldom did she feed the visiting hordes. People just did not expect to be fed. That's not what they came for. They wanted to socialize. Share the news. Gossip, a little. Discuss politics. Occasionally someone would have a glass of ice cold water pumped from the well. Once in a while a young neighbour lad, not a relative, who visited often, and called my grandmother "grandma" would be treated to a glass of cherry or orange Kool-Aid. The 10-year-old me did not begrudge him the cold beverage but what did bother me was that he called her grandma. That was my grandmother. Mind you I was just one of her at least 20 grandchildren. I know now her love was boundless and her heart had ample room for one more.

The kitchen was also a window on the world and when cars would drive by all heads would turn. Who was it? How fast were they travelling? I recall a truck driver passing the house and he had his left arm on the open window ledge. His chin was resting on his hand. I remember an adult saying, "Aha! He's too lazy to hold his head up." Everybody roared with laughter.

Now, this is where I blame my inclination to interrupt people when they are talking on that kitchen culture. There were so many people, all talking and multiple conversations, that if you did not ease into that conversation quickly when there was a lull, you did not get to speak at all. I think of the kitchen in those days as the Indy 500 of conversation. You don't signal and then merge at the Indy 500. You look and go for it at top speed. This is the approach you needed to take in that kitchen. Also, some have observed that this seems rather rude, to interrupt and carry on multiple conversations at once. I disagree. It improved our abilities to be in a conversation and be listening to another at the same time. It was an early form of multi tasking training.

I pine for those days when the kitchen was full of visitors. It was exciting and informative, and this was way before social media. You got your news from other human beings, face to face. Not from texting, Facebook, Instagram or Twitter. Those were the days, my friend. A different time, different ways of living and interacting. Next time people visit I plan to say something my grandmother would have said. It made visitors feel valued and welcomed. I will say, "There's lots of time! Stay a while." Thank you to the ones who went before us. They set the bar high for how to treat others.

-Diane Skinner



Photo: G. Gagné

McInnis Cement and some subcontractors' employees could get their union accreditation in February.

MCINNIS CEMENT: Employees file for union accreditation

Gilles Gagné

PORT DANIEL: – McInnis Cement, a subsidiary and employees from two of its subcontractors are filing for union accreditations in order to eventually negotiate a collective agreement. 100 employees have signed membership cards with the *Syndicat des Métallos*.

The four companies targeted by those accreditation requests are McInnis Cement, Carrière McInnis, a subsidiary that operates the limestone quarry feeding the main plant, Rénovation Marcoux, the operator of the plant's laboratory, and Somavrac, the stevedoring company in charge of unloading and loading the ships using the marine terminal adjacent to the facility.

The first steps leading to the accreditation requests were made over the fall, explains Nicolas Lapierre, coordinator of the *Syndicat des Métallos* for the North Shore, the Gaspé Peninsula, the Magdalen Islands and Lower St. Lawrence.

"Some workers of the four employers contacted us to get unionized. So we sent recruiters to see if enough employees wanted to sign a card. For each company, we need 50% of the workers plus one in order to file for an accreditation. Our recruiters were able to get that proportion for the four companies," explains Mr. Lapierre.

The recruiters met most of the 100 employees at home. "Even though forming a union is a fundamental right, recruiting is done everywhere except at the work place," adds Mr. Lapierre, implying that some employers don't like attempts

to form unions.

Without providing accurate details, Nicolas Lapierre mentions that the claims made by the workers range from better salaries to normative clauses like seniority and wage discrepancies for the same type of tasks.

Three accreditation requests are taken care of by the Tribunal administratif du travail, Quebec's labour administrative tribunal. The Somavrac request falls under federal jurisdiction because it is related to maritime activities, and is therefore assessed by the Canada Industrial Relations Board.

"They are investigating our requests. They are verifying if we have recruited enough workers, if a sufficient number of workers have effectively signed their cards, if they were not pressured to do so, if they have paid the card fee. The administrative tribunal will ask the company to send the list of employees. Some talks can take place at that stage. The employer can require that certain occupations are left out of the union. It can be a give and take process," emphasizes Nicolas Lapierre.

That negotiation step is not related to a collective agreement. "We only negotiate a collective agreement once the accreditations are granted."

In certain cases, hearings

can be called to hear both parties' viewpoints but it is rare. "The Canada Industrial Relations Board has the right to call a vote but it seldom occurs," says Nicolas Lapierre.

Following verifications by the two regulatory bodies, union accreditations will be granted or not. Mr. Lapierre mentions that the *Syndicat des Métallos* is taking the requests very seriously and he expects to have the accreditations delivered relatively soon.

"I would think that in the Tribunal administratif du travail case, it could be delivered in February but I have no control over the process," he points out.

Once the accreditations are granted, negotiations over a future collective agreement can take place.

The workers who have initiated the accreditation requests are mainly mechanics, electricians, welders, heavy machinery operators and stevedores.

The spokesperson for McInnis Cement, Maryse Tremblay, refused to comment on the situation.

The *Syndicat des Métallos* office that is spearheading the Port Daniel union accreditations is based in Sept-Îles. That union is a branch of the Quebec Federation of Labour. The *Syndicat des Métallos* is also affiliated with the United Steel Workers of America.



Gaspé riding likely to see new faces in election

Gilles Gagné

GASPÉ: The October 1 Quebec election will likely bring out several new faces in the riding of Gaspé. As of the last week of January, not a single candidate had confirmed his or her presence, including incumbent Member of the National Assembly Gaétan Lelièvre, who was elected under the Parti Québécois banner in April 2014, but is now an independent.

Mr. Lelièvre obtained 52% of the votes in the last election, more than the six other candidates combined. He was suspended from the Parti Québécois caucus in May 2017 because as director general of the Town of Gaspé, in 2008 and 2009, he had ac-

cepted gifts from Groupe Roche, the engineering firm. He accepted hockey tickets and was housed in the apartment of a company official.

Mr. Lelièvre has decided to remain an independent Member of the National Assembly (MNA) despite offers made by the Parti Québécois to reintegrate the caucus. He is not in an electoral mode for now.

“My current goal is to secure as many projects as possible for my riding before the election. There is no rush regarding the confirmation of my candidacy, or my dropping out of politics. In 2012, when I first ran, I confirmed my interest for entering the race three days before the election was called,” says Mr. Lelièvre.

He wants to push some health files, the railway repairs between Caplan and Gaspé and the reduction of flying fares between now and the summer.

However, a Parti Québécois official contacted by the SPEC pointed out that the party will ask Mr. Lelièvre to voice his interest in coming back or not way before the summer. That official wants to remain incognito for now.

Mr. Lelièvre, if he stays in politics, doesn't rule out running as an independent. “Right now, I have more wiggle room as an independent than I would have in a party. However, running as an independent requires a lot of organisational work,” he says.

According to André

Beaudin, the former MNA for the riding of Gaspé, the spokesperson of the Liberal Party of Quebec in the constituency is Sylvio Lebreux, who works at the office of Member of Parliament Diane Lebouthillier. Mr. Lebreux was on vacation when SPEC tried to reach him.

A few months ago the former industrial commissioner of Murdochville, André Lemieux, who lives in Grande-Vallée, expressed some interest in running for the Liberal Party in Gaspé but he has been very discrete since the fall.

The Coalition avenir Québec brass never called SPEC back after the paper inquired about potential candidates or organization

members. In 2014, Yvan Blanchard gathered 6.2% of the votes. He is from Sainte-Anne-des-Monts.

While it is less active than in Bonaventure, Québec solidaire maintains an organization in the riding of Gaspé. The spokesperson is Geoffrey Clayden. A meeting is scheduled at some point in February. In 2014, Daniel Leboeuf, of Percé, received the support of 5.13% of the electorate. A convention date is not set yet for Québec solidaire in Gaspé.

Option nationale presented a candidate in Gaspé in the last poll, Frédérick Deroy, who was supported by 1% of the electorate. That party was merged with Québec solidaire over the fall.

Citizens and mayors intensify their tactics to get cellular phone services

Gilles Gagné

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES – A number of Bay of Chaleur area residents, including a few mayors, are once again mobilizing in order to get cellular phone services. The main efforts are being deployed in Cascapedia-St-Jules, Saint-Alphonse and Saint-Elzéar.

In Cascapedia, Lloyd Willett is pressuring Telus again. He is also staying in touch with his neighbours and the municipal council of Cascapedia-St-Jules. Most people are convinced of the importance of resuming a battle that has been ongoing for close to a decade.

Mr. Willett resides approximately seven kilometres from Highway 132. His house is not located in the heart of the village but there are neighbours in sight. The heart of the village doesn't have cellular phone services anyway.

“People and businesses need cellular phone services here. We have sports fishermen coming in the summer and they want to use their cellular phones. They don't always want to look for a spot where it will work, like the Saint Jules church. It is also an emergency issue. It is 2018, for Christ sake,” says Lloyd Willett, who works along the river.

In 2016, Kim Barter, who



Photo: G. Gagné

Lloyd Willett is still battling to get cellular phone services in Cascapedia-St-Jules.

had just returned to the area, and Mr. Willett gathered 800 names of people on a petition requesting cellular phone services in Cascapedia-St-Jules. That is a tad above the population of the community.

“We also received 15 letters from businesses and organizations of the area,” he adds, showing the letters of A and R Decorations, Cascapedia Smokehouse, New Derreen Camp, the Cascapedia River Society, the Cascapedia-St-Jules fire department, the Fall Fest, the Cascapedia

50 plus Club and the Municipality of Cascapedia-St-Jules, among others.

Lloyd Willett has talked to a Telus representative recently but he has not been able to get a satisfactory answer about a time frame for the installation of the required cellular phone service.

“They are supposed to install small cellular towers, like the one in Saint-Siméon and near the New Richmond arena. They are setting up here and there but our town doesn't get anything. Telus

announced \$31 million to set up fiber optic (in a certain number of regions including the Gaspé Peninsula) and solve the high speed internet service. It must be possible to use that and solve the cellular phone problems,” points out Mr. Willett.

He has a cell phone he uses outside his town. He walks in his house with it. “I get one bar (a very weak signal) sometimes, depending on the spot in the house. I move one foot away and I lose it. It looks like Green Acres, the old TV program, where they had to climb up the telephone pole to use it,” he criticizes.

Lloyd Willett and the residents of Cascapedia-St-Jules are not alone in the battle. In Saint-Alphonse, Mayor Gérard Porlier recently criticized the attitude of Telus, since the company was supposed to install an antenna in the church's bell tower and informed the municipality that it wouldn't be done, due to a lack of profitability. The Saint-Elzéar and Saint-Jogues citizens are also requesting cellular phone services.

The prefect of the Bonaventure MRC, Éric Dubé, says that cellular phone services rank high on his list of priority actions.

“We just adopted, on January 22, a motion in order to accelerate the process. We also want to verify if the

amount received by Telus to install fiber optic for high speed internet purposes can be used in part to solve the cellular phone problem,” says Mr. Dubé.

“Look; demography is the main priority in the region and we will not be able to bring young families into the villages that cannot count on cellular phone and high speed internet services. It is that simple,” he adds.

The Bonaventure MRC has been contacted by Navigue.com, the Saint-Godefroi based company offering high speed internet services to some areas where Telus does not want to go. “We are talking to the Navigue people. They think they can do something for cellular phones using fiber optic,” concludes Éric Dubé for now.

The SPEC contacted Telus in order to inquire about the company's future actions in that file. Its spokesperson, Marie-Christine Houle, asked for a few days before being able to come up with answers.



A new way to see the sea

Wendy Dawson

CARLETON: – Mario Longpré was born in the Montreal region and raised in Laval. As a child, most of the family's free time, weekends and holidays, were spent in the Laurentians surrounded by nature. "We were based in Laval for the convenience of work and school, but every free moment was spent outdoors."

Mario's first exposure to the Gaspé region was at the tender age of 16, when he and a friend decided to hitchhike around the Coast. "When you are a young person hitchhiking, people are generous and bring you right into their homes. It was the beginning of my love affair with the area. We met some wonderful people and not only was I surrounded by nature, but there was also the expanse of the sea. There is something

time job in the Gaspé region would provide their opportunity to return, and so in 1979, when Valérie was offered a job with the French language school board, they settled in Carleton-sur-Mer.

After operating both an art workshop and a signage company in his early years, Mario was invited to join Medialog, in the late 80's. Medialog is a longstanding and successful local business in New Richmond that deals in communication, marketing, web design, museology and more. Mario explains that he is partially retired from Medialog and he is still handling certain Museology files, like the Espace René Lévesque to be launched in June of this year.

The benefits of Mario Longpré's newly acquired free time is that he has been able to develop his talents as an underwater photographer. Underwater is where Mario's



Photos: courtesy of Mario Longpré

Mario Longpré is an underwater photographer who lives in Carleton-sur-Mer.

nothing short of breathtaking. Mario Longpré first took up diving with his son when his

putting an elastic on him, "He was a young adult, getting ready to leave the Gaspésie. He was at an age where he found nothing interesting or appealing about the region except his hobby which was to keep aquariums. I thought to myself what a great opportunity to take a diving class, and we both fell in love with diving. So, the elastic, it worked. Every time he has time off or a vacation, he is drawn back, and he returns to go diving with his dad."

Mario Longpré becomes very animated when discussing what he has discovered over the last 13 years. As we talk, a movie plays on his computer in the background and I am amazed by the images. The specimens look like they are from another ocean front somewhere in a tropical place – some species look as if they are from another planet entirely. I ask him when he started

capturing his dives on film. "It happened rather quickly. I have always had an interest in photography," he explains.

"Every region provides a highlight on a different species. Here (in Carleton-sur-mer) there are a variety of ever changing plankton. In the Baie des Chaleurs in general all the species are smaller, as if it were some kind of nursery - and as you move out into the gulf, many of the same species are there but much larger."

This is where Mario's knowledge and interest in biology shines bright. He runs off the name of every species that comes across the screen. He explains mating patterns and movement patterns of the water. I ask him if he has ever been stumped. "I would say that every time I return from a dive, I have discovered something new. I usually have to do a little research. On some occasions I have had to get the help of experts," he gestures to a series of books on the subject which are across his dining room table.

When the conditions allow, Mario even dives in the winter time, although he explains that the ice and the winds have to favour it. By March, he says, the ocean is more accessible. He claims it is a pleasure to dive into the cold water because then he has access to species in a cycle of life that he would otherwise never have a chance to witness. He points out on the screen translucent and magical looking jelly fish. Next a comb jelly, which appears to be lit up with LED lights. "That," he explains, "is a comb jelly. It is the oldest living animal that we know of that has a nervous system. It has eight rows of lashes that digest light as it moves." I am not clear on how light gets digested, but it is mesmerizing.

Mario Longpré's passion for the water and the life in it are not lost on me. When I ask him if he has a message for the rest of us that live along the shorelines, about the importance of our waters he encourages everyone to get to know it a little better. "Its easy, get some goggles, get a snorkel and discover how marvelous the ocean is. The other thing is, we have to get involved in the protection of our oceans. The result of evolution is that we all have a



The winter weather provides Mario with a selection of species that are not around in the summer months.

magnificent about the openness of the area. About how far our eyes can travel and the quality of the light and the depth – the vision. The Laurentians are beautiful, but it's a little closed in, somewhat tunneled. But here, the way the horizon is laid out, it's like an opening on to the entire planet."

Mario returned once again to the region, this time in 1971 to teach Physics to the Secondary V students at the Polyvalent in Carleton-sur-mer. It is then that he met Valérie Allard, the woman with whom he would share his life and later build his family.

They were both required to leave the region to finish their studies, but their deal was, the first one to get a full-

formal training in Chemistry and Biology mesh with his creativity and the results are

son turned 18 in 2005. Mario explains that initiating his son Vincent to diving was like



Vincent Longpré diving while a Lion's Mane jellyfish, the type most commonly seen in the Baie des Chaleurs, dances around.

certain ownership, we are all part of the ocean. When a person dives, we feel like we are surrounded by a giant matrix, a return to the original source. A state of well-being, the weight of the water, the salt – its all there. So are the resources for our future. They too are all in the ocean. To overexploit the waters, to pollute them is suicidal. Caring for the water also means objecting to choices and actions, which includes political ones, that put our water at risk. Science points to the reality that the action we take (or do not take) over the next decade will affect the survival of humanity.”

The message is heavy, but it is real. I explain to him that my discovery of his work was a revelation to me – having no idea how many species lived in our surrounding waters. While he is playing his cards close to his chest, Mario Longpré makes reference to using his photography in an educational project planned for the near future.

In the meantime, you can keep your eyes open for one of the events that Mario Longpré, underwater photographer presents in the area. To see more of his captivating images, you can visit his Facebook page Mario Longpré photographe sous-marin.



Nudibranch, which are also known as sea slugs, can have complex forms and be very vibrant and colourful.



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Mario's daughter Mélissa can be seen diving in the background of a bed of red soft coral and sea urchins.

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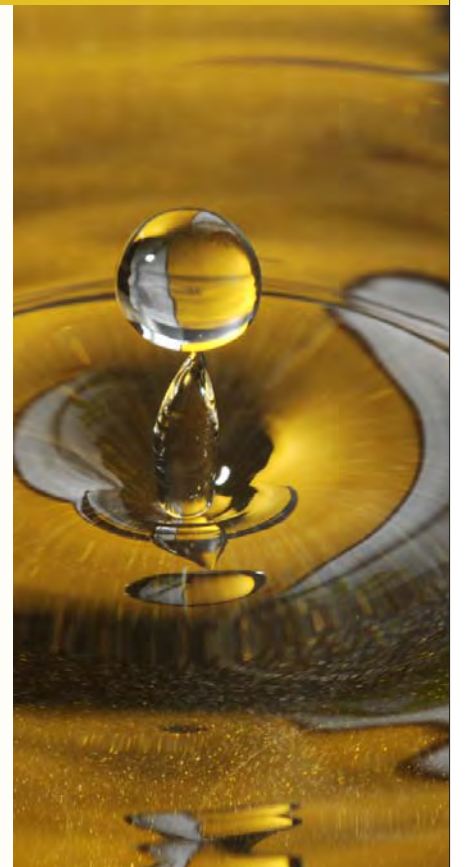
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Deloitte opens an office in New Richmond

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND: – Deloitte, one of the largest consulting firms in the world, has opened an office in New Richmond. In addition to the accounting and fiscal services the firm is renowned for, it will also offer a range of new services targeted at Gaspesian companies and organizations.

Deloitte is hiring two well-known professionals for its office in New Richmond, accountant Daniel Leblanc, who was already collaborating with the consulting firm for complementary services, and his sister Rachèle, who was already working with him in communications and as a main councillor.

Stéphane Doiron, who administers the Deloitte office in Rimouski and who is in charge of market development in the Lower Saint Lawrence and Gaspé Peninsula regions, points out that the company is well known for its accounting and tax system knowledge.

“We also offer services in finance, risk management, cyber-intelligence and management guidance, to name a few. Deloitte is a world class organization, with revenues of \$40 billion and more than 240,000 experts at the international level, including 9,000 in Canada (...) Through the Deloitte office in New Richmond, Gaspé Peninsula businesses now have access to a great network of competence,” explains Mr. Doiron.

Founded in Belgium, Deloitte is renowned for its activities in huge markets but that reality has changed over the years, adds Mr. Doiron.

“Over the last few years, our teams are following small and medium-sized companies.



Photo: G. Gagné

Denis Amiot, director of consulting services in Rimouski, Rachèle Leblanc, Stéphane Doiron and Daniel Leblanc want the New Richmond office to grow within two or three years.

Truth be told, we have had a lot of success in that field. We have served part of the Gaspé Peninsula from our office in Matane but we now want something different, some added value in our services for the region. We want to come up with an original formula. It takes people like Rachèle and Daniel. We feel a breeze of economic dynamism. There is often a pejorative twist to the comments we hear about the Gaspé Peninsula. We (at Deloitte) can compare and we see a lot more here than in some other regions. We see a lot of involvement. That's where Daniel's expertise, and the services Daniel has developed over the years, become important,” explains Stéphane Doiron.

For Daniel Leblanc, working for Deloitte is a comeback to his first employer. “It was my first job in 1991 in Montreal. I also did some book-keeping as a student.”

Mr. Leblanc returned to the Gaspé Peninsula a few years later and worked with his father Jacques for Leblanc Bourque, the Maria-based accounting firm until 2013. He then decided to offer his accounting knowledge to the entrepreneurs of the region.

“Entrepreneurs are not like other individuals. They don't come to you saying ‘here are my financial statements.’ To them, financial statements are often a necessary evil. They don't always like accounting. So I am there to help them fulfil their dreams, whether it is integrating their next of kin into the company or selling their business. I am there to guide entrepreneurs, to make

a plan. Some of them don't want to talk to their banker. I tell them: ‘You will come with me but I will talk to the banker.’ The entrepreneur often only sees the complexity of meeting a banker,” explains Daniel Leblanc.

He also collaborates with publicly-funded organizations like the Avignon MRC, GIMXport, the region's export club, and Merinov, notably specialized in fisheries research and company support.

He wants to bring his clients' companies to a higher level. He wants to make sure that entrepreneurs understand financial statements and “from there, identify their borrowing, cash flow, tax system and

other needs (...) A lot of entrepreneurs are very good in business development but not in the fiscal aspects of their company.”

Daniel Leblanc is glad to have trust in the competence of Deloitte colleagues located in Rimouski, people he worked with before joining the consulting firm.

“Rachèle and I are a bit overwhelmed if we have to deal with all the service requests alone. Now, we have a whole team of competent people to come and assist us,” says Mr. Leblanc.

“All of our clients have access to our whole network of experts (...) Regional offices have their specialties. Daniel has a shipyard building aluminum boats. I told him to call our Saguenay office, where there is expertise in aluminum processing”

“That shipbuilder is Francis Parisé (based in Newport) and we will do everything we can to help him become the finest aluminum boat builder around,” says Daniel Leblanc.

“I don't want entrepreneurs who can't make progress because they lack (human) resources (...) A beautiful journey is starting,” he concludes.

Stéphane Doiron points out that the goal of Deloitte in New Richmond is to make the team grow and expects a significant increase in clientele over the next two or three years. “We don't want to be a mailbox,” he says.

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Photo: G. Gélinas

The LM Wind Power “We are hiring” sign was seen everywhere over the last year, including on the plant’s exterior walls.

LM Wind Power plant workforce reaches 475 employees

Geneviève Gélinas

GASPÉ: – Gaspé’s LM Wind Power blade manufacturing plant has recently reached its objective of 475 employees, that is to say almost 300 more than in August 2016. One quarter of the workers, 120 people, come from outside the Gaspé Coast and moved to the region because of their new job.

The Montreal construction workers community was a good source of employees for the plant. “They tell us: we’ve had enough with being unemployed (seasonally) in Montreal. We decided to come to Gaspé and work all yearlong,” reports the plant’s director general, Alexandre Boulay.

The Rocher-Percé MRC provides 20% of the LM workforce. “Because of the schedule, the employees can organize themselves to travel together and come to work in Gaspé,” Mr. Boulay says.

The shifts last 12 hours but the employees work about 175 days per year. Most people holding year-around jobs work between 230 and 240 days annually.

The average age in the plant decreased from 43 to 38 years old. Several immigrants are part of the team. “We have individuals from approximately 20 countries: Australia, Brazil, Cameroun, Colombia, Congo, Guinea, Peru, Dominican Republic...,” enumerates the director general.

According to Mr. Boulay the marketing strategy to re-

cruit employees has been a success. LM displayed its “We are hiring” sign everywhere including on the sides of highways. They also advertised on the radio, in social media and on TV, including during the Bye bye 2016 TV show, a highly popular wrap up of the year produced by Radio-Canada.

Mr. Boulay refuses to say how much the company paid for the recruiting campaign. “We took the necessary measures to meet our challenge. We’re recovering our investment in our employees’ excellence.” In the past, he mentioned “hundreds of thousands of dollars.”

Mr. Boulay says the plant will continue hiring a few employees per month in order to replace the employees who decide to leave. The employee turnover rate is “normal” and “isn’t a problem,” he says.

NAFTA re-negotiation: no worries at LM Wind Power

The fact that Canada, the United States and Mexico are re-negotiating the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) doesn’t worry the Gaspé plant director general.

“We follow NAFTA closely but our re-powering projects are secured. And we don’t see wind energy as a target of the NAFTA (re-negotiations). We’re the only blade manufacturing plant in Canada,” says Mr. Boulay. He adds that American blade

manufacturers deliver their components to Canada.

Senvion closed its blade manufacturing plant in Welland, Ontario, in 2015. Last July, Siemens announced the closure of its Tillsonburg blade plant, also in Ontario. That is how the Gaspé plant became the only blade manufacturer in Canada for large wind mills.

LM completed a 2,700-square metre expansion in June, 2017, at a cost of slightly more than \$12 million. The employees are manufacturing 42-metre-long and 46 metre-long blades for GE. That contract makes the plant operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The blades manufactured in Gaspé replace old blades on existing wind mills in Texas. They travel by truck to New Richmond and then are loaded on flat cars to reach their destination by train.

The American market will keep the Gaspé employees busy up to 2021. Alexandre Boulay would like the Gaspé plant to manufacture blades of 80 metres or more in the future.

“For 80 metres and up, we’ll have to consider the port (to export the blades). We’re still dreaming of a direct road,” says Mr. Boulay. That road would allow the blades to be hauled to the Sandy Beach wharf without following Highway 132 and road 198.



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- Of good reputation and committed to leading a healthy lifestyle.
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- Must have a 4B Driver’s license or commit to obtaining one once hired.
- Available to work shift schedules, including some shifts in evenings and weekends.

Qualities

- Being client driven, advocating for the youth and assisting families.
- Respectful, non-judgemental and empathetic.
- Caring and attentive.
- Approachable and accessible.
- Real, genuine, sincere.
- Seeks what is best and self-developing.
- Professional and constructive in work practices.
- Good personal health, resiliency and energy.
- Positive attitude

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Deadline

February 14, 2018

Persons interested in applying for this position are invited to send their cover letter, resume, and references by email to edwalgwan@globetrotter.net to the attention of Pamela Charlong, Executive Director or by telecopy at 418-759-3064 or by mail to: Centre Walgwan Center, 75 School Street, Gesgapegiag, Qc, G0C 1Y1

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Announcements...



Obituaries



BOURGAIZE: Audrey

Passed away at CISSS de la Gaspésie - Hôpital de Gaspé, on January 23, 2018, at the age of 73, Mrs Audrey Bourgaize, wife of Mr. Francis Stanley from Gaspé.

The family received condolences at the résidence funéraire Valère Fortin, located at 86, rue Jacques Cartier, in Gaspé, on January 27 (Saturday) from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Funeral service was held at St-Paul's Anglican Church of Gaspé on Saturday, January 27, at 2 p.m.

She leaves behind: two sons: Harry (Sylvie) and Chris (Nathalie); one daughter: Fay (Anthony); her grandchildren: Sarah, Kirk, Chad, Skye, Allen and Jessie; her great-grandchildren: Lauralee, Mason, Damian, Landon and Cedric; her brothers and sisters; her brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law; her nephews and nieces; her cousins and many friends.

The Valère Fortin funeral home has been entrusted with organizing the above mentioned services.



SNOWMAN: Iris

Passed away at CISSS de la Gaspésie - Hôpital de Gaspé, on January 23 at the age of 85, Mrs. Iris Snowman, was the wife of the late Mr. Edmund Boyle from Barachois.

She leaves behind eight children: Patricia, Peggy, Sharon, Dean, Darlene, Esther, Dwight and Heather and all family members.

In lieu of flowers, a donation may be made to the Cancer Society.



STANLEY: Shaun

1982-2017

We, the family of Shaun Stanley who passed away December 29, 2017 would like to express our sincere thanks to family and friends for the moral support and comfort we received. Your presence at this time was greatly appreciated and will never be forgotten.

A special thank-you to Shane Foley, Beatrice Roberts, the Mason Brothers, the choir, Marlene Stanley and family and the Harris Gleeton Funeral Home. Also to the families and friends that gave food and their precious memories and took the time to travel to be with us. Your contribution to the hardest day of our lives made it somewhat easier. Your kindness and thoughtfulness will always be remembered.

The Stanley Family



In Memory



HARDY: Avis

In loving memory of a dear mother who passed away 30 years ago on January 24, 1988.

*God saw you getting tired
And a cure was not to be
So, he put his arms around you
And whispered "Come to me".
With tearful eyes we watched you
As you slowly slipped away
And though we loved you dearly
We couldn't make you stay.*

*Your golden heart stopped beating
Your tired hands put to rest
God broke our hearts to prove to us
He only takes the best.*

Lovingly remembered by the Hardy family.

Happy Birthday Olive Dow



Happy 96th Birthday Mom

February 6

Love Nellie & Wilson

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

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

P.D.L.



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COAST ROUND-UP

POINTE-NAVARRÉ:

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, February 6** at 7 p.m. at the shrine of Pointe-Navarre. Welcome to all.

GASPE:

Gaspé Cancer Bake Sale

The Gaspé Cancer Foundation will be holding their Annual Valentine Bake Sale on **Saturday, February 10**, at 9 p.m. at the Carrefour in Gaspé. The Gaspé Cancer Foundation is a non-profit organization that assists our local residents to travel outside Gaspé to receive treatment for Cancer.

YORK:

Lumberjack Supper

The York River Seniors Club will be holding a Lumberjack Supper as the opening event in conjunction with the Wakeham - York 48th Annual Winter Carnival on **Friday, February 9**, in the York Community Hall. First setting 5 p.m. and second setting 6 p.m. Bar Service available. Tickets available at the door, adults \$10 children, \$5. Please come out and support The Wakeham - York Winter Carnival and the York Seniors Club.

YORK:

St. Patrick's Day Supper and Dance

The York River Senior Citizens' Club will be holding a St. Patrick's Supper and dance (Main meal Irish Stew, Dessert gingerbread and green whipped cream) on **Friday, March 16** 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.

Yoga Classes: Yoga is back, a yoga class will be offered from **January 15 to March 19**. There will be a Sivananda yoga, open yoga class on Mondays from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. You can sign up for the entire 10-week session for \$90 or pay \$10 per course. To register or if you have any questions, please call 418-730-3280 or send an e-mail to yogagaspe@gmail.com. Please bring your yoga mat. **February 6:** The next Travel Talks will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the conference room of the Community Centre. A neat way to travel around the world! Most travel talks will be in French. Everyone is welcome! Voluntary contribution. **February 6** - Sylvio Bourget: Building a School in Haiti; **February 20** - Louis Morin: From Rome to Canter-

bury: 1900 km on foot; **March 6** - Sophie Bourdages and Éric Guénette: Road-trip in Iceland.

BARACHOIS:

Gift Bingo fundraiser

A gift bingo fundraiser for Makena will be held at the Barachois Recreation Centre on **Wednesday, February 7**, at 7 p.m. Beautiful prizes. All welcome 18 years old and older.

BARACHOIS:

Upcoming Activities

Saturday, February 10: a Valentine's dance with Nash will be held at the Barachois Legion at 9 p.m. Admission \$5.

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

BARACHOIS:

Legion Branch 261

Upcoming Events

Every Monday: The Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 261, will be having a bingo at 7 p.m. at the Legion. **Thursday Nights:** Darts will be held beginning at 7 p.m. New players welcome. No experience necessary.

BARACHOIS:

Bingo

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

PORT DANIEL:

Upcoming Events

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

PORT DANIEL:

Valentine Tea

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

SHIGAWAKE:

Valentine's Supper

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

HOPE TOWN:

Winter Carnival

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

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

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

HOPE TOWN:

Hope Baptist Church

Friday, February 2, at 7 p.m. Youth Rally for grades 7-11; **Sat-**

urday, February 3, at 7 p.m. Music Night at the Church; **Sunday, February 4**, at 11 a.m. Special Service with Music. All events for the weekend are put on from groups from the New Brunswick Bible Institute.

HOPE TOWN:

Crib Tournament

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

HOPE TOWN:

Whist Party

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

NEW CARLISLE:

Gift Bingo

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

NEW CARLISLE:

Kempffer Centre Games Afternoon

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

NEW CARLISLE:

Bible Chapel Services

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

NEW CARLISLE:

We have moved!

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

NEW CARLISLE:

Calling all Girl Guides...

Were you ever a Spark, Brownie, Guide, Pathfinder, Guider or even a Commissioner? You may be interested in participating in a reunion which is just in the planning stages, to take place in the summer of 2018. Thanks to all those who have been in contact with us concerning the Guiding activity. There will be quite a bit of preparation for this activity, so if

you are interested, please give your name prior to the date. We are looking at a day from 2 p.m. until after campfire (8 pm.) If you would like to help with this or if you are interested in coming, please contact Betty Anne at bettyasmollett@gmail.com or call 418-752-6181.

NEW CARLISLE:

Monthly Breakfast

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

NEW CARLISLE:

Pancake Supper

A pancake supper will be held **Tuesday, February 13**, at St. Andrew's Anglican Church from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. Price \$7. All are welcome.

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

Valentine's Brunch

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

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

Legion Meeting

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

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

50+ Club Activities

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

CASCAPEDIA ST-JULES:

Family Day

Saturday February 10: will be the annual Family Day. If you wear something red your name will be entered to win a little prize. The day will begin with registration at 10 a.m. and the activities will begin at 10:30 a.m. All activities will be taking place at the youth center.

We will have face tattoos, Minute To Win It games and build a snowman where the kids make a snowman and bring items to decorate it. We are hoping to have a snow hill so bring your sled. Hotdogs, homemade soup, sandwiches and sweets will be on sale at noon in the hall. There will be more activities after lunch including the popular egg toss and maybe a hockey game. We are always looking for volunteers to help with the games and in the kitchen, so please feel free to get in touch. You can check out the day on our Facebook Family Life page. We look forward to seeing you all.

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

Book Room

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

418-392-4896.

GESGAPEGIAG:

N.A. Meetings

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

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UNITED CHURCH

Sunday, February 4

Hopetown

10:30 a.m. Service

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

Sunday, February 4

New Carlisle

10 a.m. Morning Prayer

Chaleur Bay

Worship at Hope Town United Church 10:30 a.m.

PARISH OF GASPÉ

Sunday, February 4

Gaspe

10 a.m. Service

What's This Artifact?



Answer: Horseshoe nails. Used to hold the horse-shoe to the sole of the horse's hoof. They are hammered into the hard tissue of the horse's hoof without pain.

From the Past

Submitted by Gary Briand

Thanks to Mr. Lester Coffin for sending me this short poem by J. Clive Briand, my second cousin, who wrote prolifically for major hunting journals and wrote over five hundred obituaries over some thirty years and published them in the Campbellton Graphic. To my knowledge Clive wrote only three poems, of which this is the best:

The Gaspé Road

Up grades. Down grades, around little curves
Mountains, rivers and hidden lakes,
Unknown who do not make
The trip around the Gaspé Road.

Here a village, and there a town
Each one such a tiny mark
Held together by the road
One end forest, one end meadow!

North to South, I never care
East and West a little way!
Each direction unfolds something
You'll remember all your days
But I've put a special mark
Guiding me where'er I roam
'Tis journey's end of all my trips
My home upon the Gaspé road.

J. Clive Briand, Douglastown, QC
February 1939

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to spring.

L S T P I U

Answer: Tulips

Why do we say ...

by Gary Briand

"Keep it under your hat" - Part II

Several times after first hearing the phrase from the mouth of the dressing room supervisor, I again encountered the phrase during my high school years, and later when I taught in Listuguj, Granby, Montreal and Gaspé. These occasions had nothing to do with wet mittens sitting on the top of my head under a toque-like cap. In marked contrast, the phrase was used to convey the need to be silent about a matter told you. It committed one to not repeating what one was told. The divergence between the "mittens" and the "silence" led me to begin my research.

The phrase is specifically linked to the many battles of fifteenth century warfare. When Edward III's armies won at Crecy (1346) and Poitiers (1356), the longbow was the decisive weapon. Introduced to England by mercenaries from Genoa, the longbow displaced the crossbow as an effective weapon about 1315. The typical longbow's unstrung bow was approximately 6 meters long and tapered with the softer sapwood on the outside and a thicker layer of hardwood on the inside, a combination that gave the bow its elasticity. Nocks made of animal horn were glued at either end to hold the string and the whole bow was given several layers of wax or oil sealant.

But the bow strings, made of hemp or gut, were the major problem. In spite of waxing or oiling the string to make them weather proof, the English archer always complained that in damp or wet weather their strings lost their tautness. At Crecy and at Poitiers, Edward III ordered that his archers were not to march with string on bow. Instead, they were to detach it from the bow, wrap it in a ball and put under their helmet or hat. When the enemy appeared, the archer retrieved the string and attached it to the bow's horn. In the words of the French chronicler Jean de Venette, the English protected their strings by putting them on their heads under their chapeau.

Nowhere was the ingenuity of the English better confirmed than at Agincourt in 1415. The great Henry V- a tactical genius- had led 12,000 men across Northern France to capture Harfleur. Decimated there by dysentery, the victorious Henry took the decision to march his army from Harfleur to Calais, a distance through swamp land that stretched to 250 miles. Heavy rain beset them and the French army persisted in harassing Henry's troops constantly. His force reduced to six thousand men at arms, including three thousand longbow men, he found himself faced with an attack from 30,000 French troops. Henry gave the order that his men were to walk with longbows unstrung; "keep it under your hat" the lieutenants barked as the men trudged through mud. On October 25 his archers marked history indelibly - thanks to keeping it under their hats.

English is a language in constant evolution. Today "keep it under your hat" has nothing to do with war and warming bow strings. It serves as a pledge of secrecy for some matter told you privately. Put gossip under your hat, where it undoubtedly warms and germinates and leaps from under the hat to public scrutiny

ON THE ICE WORD SEARCH

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

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

WORDS

APPLE
ASSIST
ATTACK
BACKHANDER
BENDER
BLOCKER
BUCKET
BUTTERFLY
CAGE
CATCHER
CHECKED
CHIPPY
CROSSBAR
CROSS-CHECK
DEFENDER
DEFENSE
DELAY
DIVE
ENFORCER
FIGHTING
FORE CHECKING
FULL STRENGTH
GATE
GOAL
GOALTENDER
HAT TRICK
HELMET
NET
OFFENSE
OFFSIDE
PASS
PENALTY
POSSESSION
PUCK
STICK
ZONE



ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, positive thinking can help you overcome obstacles, and so can taking some action. You're not one for sitting idly by watching things go on around you.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, now is a good time for self-analysis. Address something that has been on your mind. You will have the complete support of family and friends.

GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, with so many changes going on in your life, you may want to share every

detail with others. But it could be better to keep information to yourself until things are more stable.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, sometimes the best way to help someone is to let him or her learn a lesson the hard way. Offer support, but resist the urge to take over.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23

Make an effort to reorganize your priorities, Leo. If you focus too much on a relatively insignificant issue, this may find you dealing with more things than you can presently handle.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, a third party might help you and your significant other see things from a different perspective. This point of view

may be just what you both need.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, don't hesitate to pursue a career opportunity that your intuition is telling you is the right move. Trust your instincts in regard to your professional life.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, this week you may need some time to recuperate out of the spotlight. Others may have been asking a lot of you, and some down time will enable you to relax.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

Accept help when it is offered, Sagittarius. Express your thanks to the one who has extended the hand. Assistance can reduce any stress that may

have been building.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

It may be time for a change of scenery, Capricorn. Consult with others if you think this change is something you need and will benefit from in the long-term.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, your spirits are soaring and you want to share your good fortune with others. Connect with friends or family members and enjoy the good times ahead.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, once your mind is set on something, it will take a monumental effort to shift it in another direction. Try to look at things from various angles.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

JANUARY 28

Ariel Winter, Actress (20)

JANUARY 29

Tom Selleck, Actor (73)

JANUARY 30

Phil Collins, Singer (67)

JANUARY 31

Portia de Rossi, Actress (45)

FEBRUARY 1

Ronda Rousey, Athlete (31)

FEBRUARY 2

Gerard Pique, Athlete (31)

FEBRUARY 3

Daddy Yankee, Singer (41)

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