

## Ristigouche South East wins court battle against Gastem

Gilles Gagné

CARLETON: – Superior Court Judge Nicole Tremblay, dismissed Gastem’s suit to obtain \$1 million in compensation from the municipality of Ristigouche South East. In March 2013, the municipality adopted a by-law to protect its sources of drinkable water, establishing a 2 km buffer zone between an artesian well and a hydrocarbon exploration well.

According to Gastem that by-law stopped an exploration campaign that was supposed to lead to drilling several wells. In May 2013, Gastem sent a formal letter of demand to the municipality for an amount of \$2 million, that amount was amended to \$1.5 million at the end of August of the same year and amended again to \$1 million during the September 2017 trial.

In the judgement, Judge Nicole Tremblay wrote that the municipality respected the rules leading to the adoption of a water protection regulation. She also wrote that contrary to the arguments raised by Gastem, the councillors did not act hastily. The municipality made verifications regarding scientific arguments supporting its by-law, more than 50% of the citizen’s signed a petition and there was no evidence that the municipal council was greatly influenced by environmentalists.

“A municipality has the duty to enforce the precaution principle over its territory,” wrote Judge Nicole Tremblay.

She also ruled that Gastem “abused legal procedure,” by trying to prove during the trial what a good corporate citizen the company was, which was not the purpose of the case, since the company was trying to obtain financial compensation. Judge Nicole Tremblay emphasized that the trial could have been concluded in four days, but the

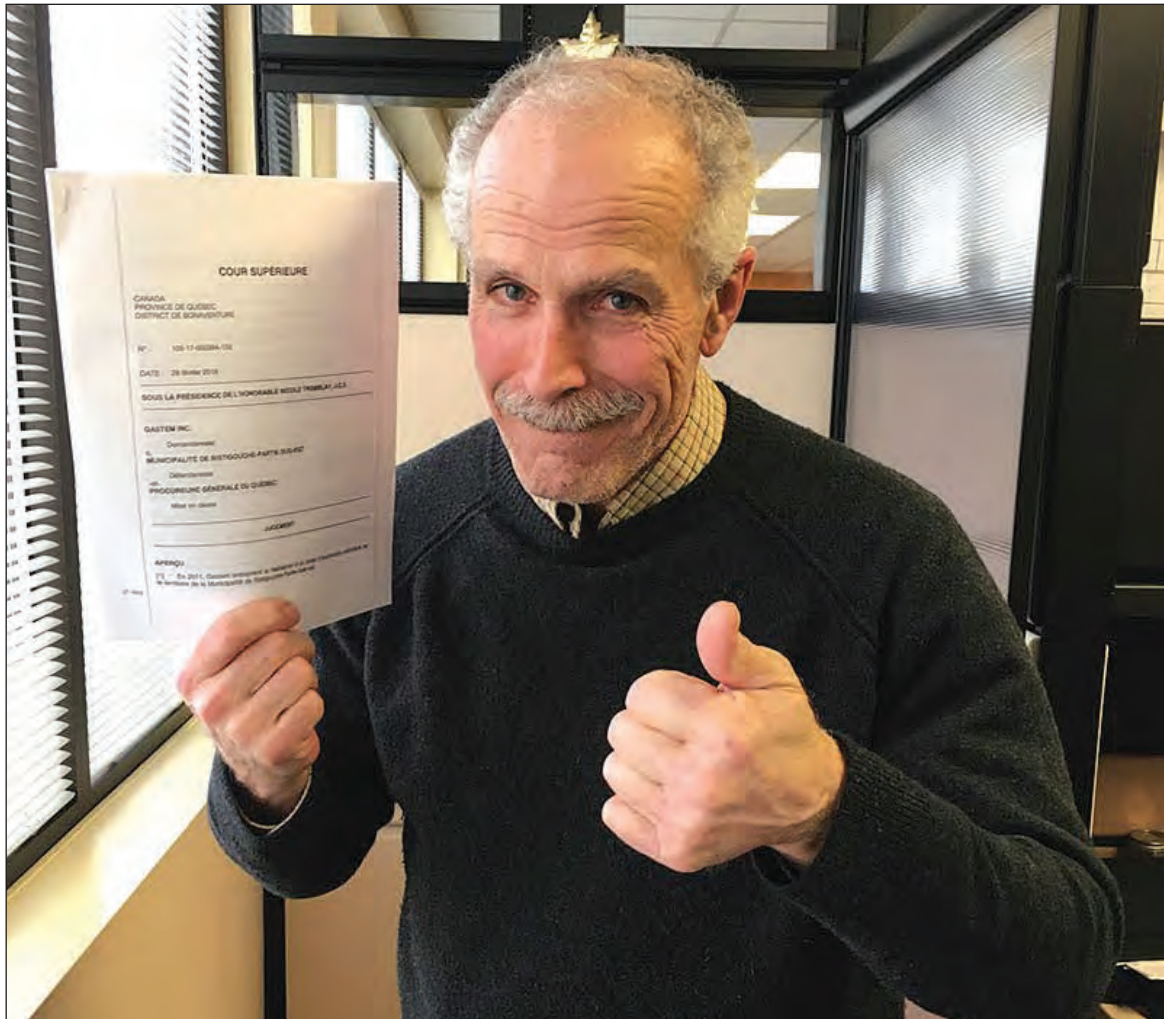


Photo: courtesy of François Boulay

Mayor François Boulay couldn’t hide his satisfaction when he received the Superior Court judgement.

company stretched it to nine. Judge Tremblay ordered the company to reimburse an amount of \$154,000 to the municipality, which represents 50% of the municipality’s legal fees. Gastem will also have to pay an amount of \$10,000 to Ristigouche South East in partial reimbursement of the costs incurred to hire a public relations firm to assist the municipality in its fundraising campaign.

The mayor of Ristigouche South East, expresses his deep relief following the judgement. It concludes more than five years of intense battle against the threat oil drilling represents for the municipality of 160 citizens. He started the battle as a simple citizen in January 2013, mainly because all the village’s houses depended on artesian wells or surface water.

“It provides us with a swing to continue the battle,” he says, aware that Quebec’s municipal world still has a lot

of convincing to do before the Quebec government aligns its norms with the position adopted by 333 cities, towns and municipalities of Quebec.

Bringing together close to 4 million people, these municipalities are trying to convince the Quebec government to allow them to have derogations in regards to the buffer zone. The Quebec regulation, adopted in 2015, stipulates that a distance of 500 metres is sufficient between an oil well and a drinkable water source. The 333 municipalities want a two-kilometre buffer zone.

“It is a major victory for me. We will see over the next few days what the nuances of the verdict are. The seniors of Ristigouche South East have been living with the weight of that case, with a situation that stagnates, wondering if they will be able to sell their houses one day,” explains Mr. Boulay.

He insists that there is still

a lot of work ahead in order to insure the protection of water in Quebec, considering that the Superior Court judgement certainly confirms the duty of municipalities on their territory, but doesn’t say if a town’s by-law has priority over provincial rules.

“The principle of subsidiarity is not solved. Will I have the right to adopt a regulation that is stronger (than the province’s) if I am not satisfied? It is a judgement about compensation and interest covering a period where there was no provincial regulation. Now, there is a provincial regulation stating that the buffer distance (between a water source and an oil well) must be at least 500 metres. Could Pétrolia-Pieradae, now the owner of the former Gastem claims, drill at 510 metres? The judgement makes no reference to that kind of question,” explains Mayor Boulay.

Cont’d on page 2

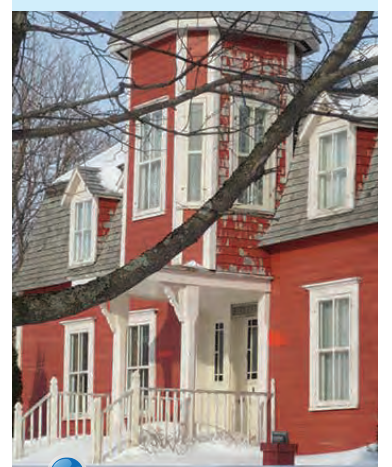
### Inside this week



**Right whales: no newborn sightings**



**Right whales: Crab fishermen worried about recent DFO decisions**



**Cutting the red (duct) tape: Preserving our history**

## RISTIGOUCHE SOUTH EAST: Judgement receives favourable reaction from two opposition parties

Gilles Gagné

RISTIGOUCHE SOUTH EAST: - Two opposition parties, the Parti Québécois and Québec solidaire, reacted very quickly after the judgement dismissing Gastem's attempt to get \$1 million from the municipality of Ristigouche South East. The Coalition avenir Québec ignored the judgement.

"It is lucky that we have the people of Ristigouche South East to fight oil companies. We will remember for a long time that the Liberal government preferred to dissociate from the population and leave the small municipality with the heavy lawyer fees to defend the case," emphasizes Québec Solidaire leader Manon Massé, Member of the National Assembly for the Montreal riding of Sainte-Marie-Saint-Jacques.

Parti Québécois Member of the National Assembly for Bonaventure, Sylvain Roy,



Photo: G. Gagné

*The location where Gastem was preparing an exploration well was located less than one-hundred metres from this closed house and from Kempt River.*

also heavily criticizes the government led by Philippe Couillard. "The judge clearly determined (...) that municipalities are recognized as a government and must take control of their environment protection responsibilities in their territory. The Couillard

government, through its silence, gave full support to Gastem, which is administered by a former Liberal Party minister."

Gastem president Raymond Savoie was effectively minister of Mines during the first half of the 1990s.

## McInnis Cement workers get two union accreditations

Gilles Gagné

PORT DANIEL – The Tribunal administratif du Québec has recently granted two accreditations to the McInnis Cement and McInnis Quarry employees who had requested the creation of their union in the fall of 2017.

McInnis Cement operates the cement production plant in Port Daniel while McInnis Quarry, a parent company, operates the limestone quarry feeding the main facility. The two groups of workers are now members of the Syndicat des Métallus, a union affiliated with the Quebec Federation of Labour. The Métallus in Quebec are the equivalent of the United Steelworkers of America.

Those workers represent the two largest groups of employees at the Port Daniel plant and its surrounding operations. The number of unionized workers slightly exceeds 50 so far. There are mechanics, electricians, welders and heavy machinery operators among them.

Over the fall of 2017, four

McInnis Cement related groups filed for union accreditation. The laboratory employees were one of the groups. Rénovation Marcoux, despite its name, is the company hiring them.

Union spokesperson Gilles Ayotte points out that the laboratory employees are not covered by the two recent accreditations while McInnis Cement's spokesperson Maryse Tremblay says they are.

Mr. Ayotte, points out that additional meetings will take place from now on in order to form a negotiation committee.

"From there, we will start

talks in order to get a first collective agreement", stresses Mr. Ayotte.

The fourth accreditation request was sent to Canada's Industrial Relations Board, which deals with stevedores, a federal jurisdiction. Those workers are in charge of loading and unloading ships at the McInnis Cement marine terminal, adjacent to the plant. In the case of stevedoring, Somavrac is McInnis Cement's subcontractor.

About 150 people work for McInnis Cement, including the management. McInnis Cement directly employs 78 people and its subcontractors hire 75 employees.



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## News briefs

### No more long distance fees please...

Thierry Haroun

GASPÉ -The Côte-de-Gaspé MRC is asking Telus to abolish long distance fees within the MRC in order to have equity among citizens. There's a long distance fee between Grande-Vallée and Fox River but there is none between Grande-Vallée and Gaspé which is 20 km further. That's unfair for the citizens concerned, points out Prefect, Daniel Côté. "I was informed of the issue by the mayors of our MRC, specifically in the Estran area, Petite-Vallée, Grande-Vallée and Cloridorme. It's really not logical and simply unfair. We spoke to Telus about the situation but they referred us to the CRTC to settle the problem, which we will do. It could take quite some time though before we get the final answers." Spec called Telus for details, and the company confirmed by email that it concerns the CRTC and once the federal institution makes a decision, "we will comply to it."

### RISTIGOUCHE SOUTH EAST: Money will go to water protection causes

Gilles Gagné

RISTIGOUCHE SOUTH EAST: Since the summer of 2014, Ristigouche South East has collected \$342,299.14 from the public for its defence against Gastem. A portion of that money was used to organize the social funding campaign.

Close to \$310,000 was used to pay lawyers and expertise fees. If Gastem pays the \$164,000 ordered by Judge Nicole Tremblay, the surplus amount will be

slightly above that amount. What will the municipality do with that money?

"We said right from the start that any surplus fund would be transferred to a cause defending drinkable water. I don't know if there is such a case currently pending in tribunals but we will check that information," explains the mayor of Ristigouche South East, François Boulay.

No decision will likely be made in that regard until Gastem files an appeal or not, before the March 29 deadline.

RISTIGOUCHE:

Cont'd from cover

He seems to have little trust in the Quebec government's capability to protect water properly.

"I forgot about Pierre Moreau a long time ago. It was quite insulting," he says, reminiscing about the refusal of the then minister of Municipal Affairs in September 2014. Moreau ruled out supporting a municipality fighting against a company seeking damages representing six times the annual budget of the municipality.

Mayor Boulay received hundreds of thankful messages in the hours following

Nicole Tremblay's judgement.

"I must also say thanks to a lot of people, to the thousands of people who have supported us in our fundraising campaign, through organizing activities, shows among other things. It was a long journey. Sometimes, we forgot about the case but the reality hit us quickly in those moments. The breaks were short. I'll never forget people's support. It made a big difference," says François Boulay.

The president of Gastem, Raymond Savoie, refused to comment about the judgement shortly after its release. The company has until March 29 to file an appeal.

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Photo: G. Gélinas

Marie-Claude Trudel, a Gaspé citizen, believes that chaining a dog 24 hours a day, seven days a week, "isn't an acceptable practice."

## Petition to prevent dogs from being tied 24/7

Geneviève Gélinas

**GASPÉ:** – Some Gaspé citizens are asking their town administration to prohibit dog owners from tying their animal 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Marie-Claude Trudel has initiated a petition signed by 365 people.

"It's not an acceptable practice. It's cruel. It prevents a dog from behaving naturally," states Ms. Trudel, a Gaspé resident and high school teacher.

"I understand that it's necessary to keep dogs tied when nobody is there to watch them. But someone sensible won't keep a dog tied 24 hours a day, seven days a week," she insists.

The Gaspé regulation, adopted in 1999, doesn't prohibit dog owners from keeping them tied all the time. Rather, it stipulates that "every animal kept outside a building must be held by means of a device (tie, leash, fence, etc.) which prevents it from going outside its field."

The physical and psychological well-being of the dog is at stake, says Ms. Trudel. "It's a social animal, needing contact with humans or other dogs. (Permanently chained dogs) can develop serious problems of boredom, psychological problems, for example, dogs that always repeat the same movement. They cannot use up their energy but they need to move."

It's a public security issue, Ms. Trudel adds, because permanently chained dogs can become aggressive and more likely to bite. "It's also a nuisance because a dog that gets

bored will yelp or whine. It's disturbing for neighbors."

Ms. Trudel got the idea for the petition in the last months, seeing dogs attached all the time. She was supported in her efforts by Josée Legris, co-owner of the Paradis des chiens, a daycare service for dogs in Corte-Real.

They collected 365 signatures on a paper petition and about 430 people signed an online petition. The paper signatures were presented to the municipal council on February 19.

Ms. Trudel would be in favour of a regulation that would limit the number of consecutive hours that a dog can be chained.

The Town of Gaspé is preparing to update its regulation, confirms Mayor Daniel Côté. "First, our regulation isn't up-to-date. Secondly,

there is no enforcement or very rarely, for parts of the regulation."

The same regulation prohibits Gaspé inhabitants from owning certain breeds of pit bulls. It forces dog owners to acquire a licence and regulates the impoundment of roaming dogs or cats.

Beyond the chaining of dogs, the regulation revision will address several issues raised over the last years, including roaming cats and dogs, the ownership of pit bulls and the movement of pets in places like the boardwalk or the beach, explains Mr. Côté.

A working committee, which includes representatives from the Gaspé veterinarian clinics, held a first meeting on February 27. The process will lead to a new regulation which will be in force before the end of 2018, states Mayor Côté.

## Police report

On February 28 at approximately 5:30 p.m., Riley Laakso, 19, from Campbellton, NB appeared at the Carleton courthouse on a charge of armed robbery. The accused allegedly stole a bottle of alcohol at the Société des alcools du Québec (SAQ) store on Sarto Street in Pointe-à-la-Croix.

"The man came to the counter and when the cashier asked him to pay, he showed a weapon and left without paying. He left on foot. The police departments of the area, the Sûreté du Québec, the RCMP and the Listuguj Police Department were informed of the robbery. In the following hours, he was arrested by the RCMP officers in New Brunswick and the custody of the man was transferred to the Sûreté du Québec in Matapédia," explains Sgt. Claude Doiron, spokesperson for the Sûreté du Québec. Sgt. Doiron says that the accused never threatened the SAQ cashier but only showed him his weapon. The type of weapon was not revealed by Sgt. Doiron but it was not a firearm.

On the morning of March 2 at approximately 7:30, a 25-year-old woman from Lithuania was rescued in the Cascapedia Lake area, Parc de la Gaspésie, after sustaining a serious leg injury the previous day.

"She had fallen in the afternoon and had been able to contact the camp where she and her group were to spend the night. The following morning however, intense pain was mounting and she was even fainting because of the pain. A rescue operation was organized, police officers, firefighters, paramedics and SÉPAQ staff were mobilized to reach Cascapedia Lake and bring her down to Route 299. She was finally transported with a snowmobile in an evacuation sleigh, was driven to the Sainte-Anne-des-Monts hospital, where a double fracture of the leg was diagnosed," explains Sgt. Doiron.

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PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given :

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2. THAT By-Law 1358-17 has been approved by the qualified voters during a register held on January 22 and 23, 2017.
3. THAT By-Law 1358-17 have been approved by the Minister of Municipal affairs and Land occupancy, on February 28, 2018.
4. THAT the interested can consult that By-Law at the Clerk's office, at the Town Hall, 25, rue de l'Hôtel-de-Ville, during regular office hours.

GIVEN at Gaspé, March 7, 2018.

Isabelle Vézina,  
Director of legal services and town clerk



## Commentary

Gilles Gagné

### Federal budget: More losers than winners

The February 27 budget presented by Canada's Finance minister Bill Morneau leaves a greater number of unhappy taxpayers than happy ones or, in other words, more losers than winners, considering that a number of people have not covered the content of the document, and never will, despite its bad effects on them.

There is nothing in the budget to correct the monumental fiscal unfairness of not making online giants like Google, Amazon, Netflix, Ali Baba and Facebook pay their fair share of taxes, like other companies and taxpayers, with the result that smaller firms and ordinary people pay for the web giants.

Other countries have started imposing taxes on Google, Facebook and others with some success, and that success will only grow if the effort to reach normality spreads over the highest possible number of countries.

The Netflix case is pathetic. That company gets a free ride from taxes because its management has convinced Justin Trudeau's government that a \$500 million investment in film production would bring more benefits to Canada and the amount of taxes that should be imposed on firm's sales and profits.

Any fiscal expert can easily demonstrate that Canadians are being fooled in the process, that the taxes Netflix users would pay on their bill would be far outweighed by the collective benefits of a good corporation citizen paying its dues.

There is also an important matter of principle raised by the online giants. Where do you draw the line? Online transactions will only grow in the future and duplicates of Google, Facebook and Netflix will emerge. Worse, they will become models and the government will find itself in front of similar models being treated differently. It will become unmanageable. It would be so simple to say that in Canada, you pay your share of taxes. Other countries have held their own in that field and won.

Fiscal evasion was also forgotten by Minister Morneau, who has been walking on egg shells for a year because of the links he has presumably maintained with his former company and the role that possibility could have on some of his governmental decisions. Canadian taxpayers are tired of seeing rich people transfer some of their money to tax shelters, whether it is legally or illegally. Despite occasional references to the effect that the Liberal government is

deploying efforts to diminish fiscal evasion, evidence to prove it is scarce.

The business sector in general is also losing to a certain extent because minister Morneau did not announce any transitional measures that could help them cope with the fiscal reform implemented in the United States by President Donald Trump. Copying the American model was far from necessary but a tax break for firms committing to investments in productivity, something that would place Canada in a better competitive position than the United States, would have been appreciated.

Smokers are again targeted by the federal government as the excise tax is increasing by \$2.20 the price of a cigarette carton. Low income taxpayers will suffer more than others here, again, and the budget so far says nothing about progressive measures that could help people stop smoking, like popular education. Once more, we are under the impression that the government is caught in some kind of short-sighted conflict of interest, hoping to get \$375 million in additional tobacco tax revenues, without counting the terrible effects of smoking of the country's health bill.

People working to improve affordable housing must also be disappointed in that budget, as no increase to accelerate building projects in that regard was announced. That sector has been neglected for years by the federal government.

There is also very little money for community-oriented written media. Presenting that topic in a paper is always a delicate matter but Justin Trudeau had promised to allot some money to protect the plurality of media sources in the country. An envelope of \$50 million over five years will do very little to curtail the revenue problem experienced by papers. There are 1,200 community papers in Canada. It means \$8,500 per paper yearly. It is very little.

Researchers must be happy with the budget though as they will benefit from a total of \$3 billion over five years in two programs. It follows a 12-year drought mainly imposed by the previous Conservative government.

Women too have some reasons to cheer because of the measures announced to reach salary parity and better entrepreneurship support.

Without downplaying the importance of that announcement, we have heard so many good intentions in that field over the years, just like Aboriginal issues, and very little action. We will not hold our breath for now. Patience might again be required.

## The Flip Side

by

Art MacPherson

Having spent many years in the service of the public, I just want to inform those who have never been in that position what it's like "on the other side of the counter." It may look like "being there" for the public is an easy job, well I beg to differ.

To name only a few servants of the public, shop keepers, cashiers of all kinds, medical professionals, civic employees, law enforcers, educators, care givers, receptionists, and many others, are often taken for granted. After all that's their job!

Well there are human factors, which we sometimes forget. These people all have families, health issues, financial issues, and a million other issues which they must put aside every day at work, so they can be "at your service." The majority of these people put aside their personal problems, and put on a good face at work, hoping to please, and efficiently serve their clients.

Those of you who don't have to deal with serving the public on a daily basis should whistle while you work, because you don't know how lucky you are. Granted there is a good portion of society, which are pleasant to serve, but believe me there are a lot who are not. Chronic lamenters, whiners and groaners who somehow just never seem to have a good day, take out their problems on those "on the other side of the counter," so to speak. People working in the service of the public need a pat on the back occasionally, and a word of appreciation doesn't take up much of your time. Say thank you. It won't cost you a cent, and will perhaps make someone's day a little brighter.




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# Right whales: no newborn sightings

Geneviève Gélinas

GASPÉ: – Bad news keeps piling up for North Atlantic right whales. No calves were spotted among the 65 whales that recently entered the Cape Cod Bay. In addition, there were no calf sightings off Georgia or Florida, where females calve between January to March.

Scientists believe, this absence combined with the 18 whales found dead last year, paints a bleak picture that confirms the urgency to act.

“We’re very hopeful that they had babies somewhere else,” says Tonya Wimmer, director of Marine Animal Response Society, in Nova Scotia. Since the monitoring of right whales, the combination of so many deaths and the absence of newborns at this time of year has never been seen.

“Is it possible that these animals changed their pattern of winter movements?”, wonders Robert Michaud, scientific director of the *Groupe de*



Photo: Krista Petersen, Fisheries and Oceans

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

*recherche et d'éducation sur les mammifères marins* (GREMM). If the absence of calves is confirmed, “it would be catastrophic,” he says.

“We must take this situation seriously. At a global level, few

species of large mammals are as endangered (as right whales) in the near future. We have a huge responsibility,” Mr. Michaud adds.

Last year, 18 right whales were found dead in eastern North America, that is to say 12 in Canadian waters and 6 in US waters. There are only about 450 North Atlantic right whales left, with approximately 100 being adult females.

Last year, only five calves were spotted. The average has

been 17 over the last 23 years.

The interval between two pregnancies reached ten years in 2017; it was between 3 and 7 years in the nine previous years. “It’s interpreted as a result of the stress level. When a female is entangled in fishing gear and she untangles herself, or that she’s untangled by humans, she isn’t able to refill her energy over the next months,” explains Mr. Michaud.

The biomass of copepods, the right whales’ main food, is also decreasing in their tradi-

tional summer habitats. The females get less fat and don’t have enough energy to breed.

There have been more sightings of right whales over the last few years in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, maybe as a consequence of food scarcity in their traditional habitat.

They are victims of two threats, collisions with ships and entanglement in fishing gear. Measures were put in place to reduce the risk of collisions, “maybe even at an acceptable level,” notes Mr. Michaud.

In 2017, Transport Canada reduced the speed limit for ships in a wide rectangle in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, a reduction that should be renewed this year. Along the East coast of the United States, waterways were moved to avoid right whales.

“The problem with fisheries is more difficult to solve,” says Mr. Michaud. “If the right whales keep coming (to the Gulf), we have a major conflict. It’s almost as if we need to choose between right whales and crab fishermen. Crab fishing means that hundreds of kilometres of ropes are placed in the path of right whales. If someone can find a solution, it’s a fisherman himself.”

## \$167 million to protect whales

Geneviève Gélinas

GASPÉ: – Scientists are asking the federal government for millions of dollars announced to protect whales be used for long term programs, and not only for “sexy” projects to fix trendy problems, such as the increasing transportation of oil by ship.

In the budget presented on February 26, the Liberal Government announced \$167 million spread over five years to help endangered whales to recover, among them the St. Lawrence Estuary beluga and the North Atlantic right whale. This includes funding for research as well as actions.

That’s “music to our ears,” says scientific director of the *Groupe de recherche et d'éducation sur les mammifères marins*, Robert Michaud. However, he doesn’t know if it is new money or if it is part of the \$1.5-billion Oceans Protection Plan, launched in November 2016.

“I hope that part of this funding will be spent on basic research, in the long term,” Mr. Michaud warns. The scientists know almost every whale by its name and can say that “Mrs. So-and-So didn’t calve this year,” because they have spent “thousands of hours,” on the water, observing whales. They also try, with limited means, to document the whales’ carcasses that wash up.

“It’s sexier to say: we sent drones. It calms public discontent down so we can send our oil tankers,” states Mr. Michaud.

Fisheries and Oceans Minister Dominic LeBlanc said that he will soon announce an investment in a technology to better detect right whales and to avoid collisions with ships.

Last summer, submarine drones sailed through the Gulf of St. Lawrence to locate and identify the species of whales that were present through their calls. It was a project conducted by Dalhousie University, in Halifax.

“Those are important things, which address current issues, linked to Canada’s intention to export hydrocarbons. But in parallel, we want them to not forget the basic programs, to measure the level of contaminants in belugas, every year,” Mr. Michaud says.

## Town of Gaspé to revise its regulation regarding demonstrations

Geneviève Gélinas

GASPÉ: – This year, the Town of Gaspé is going to revise the regulation that requires protestors to obtain authorization from the municipal council before holding “assemblies, parades or demonstrations (...) in the streets, parks or public venues in the municipality.” On August 27, the *Sûreté du Québec* gave a ticket to *Environnement Vert* plus spokesperson, Pascal Bergeron, who was distributing leaflets in a downtown Gaspé park. “For road closures, for using a public municipal space, it will require an authorization,” says Mayor Côté, who refuses to comment about the case of distributing leaflets. “There are good things in this regulation, which regulates, among other things, the use of alcohol,” he states. Other elements are not up-to-date, like the article prohibiting fireworks, the mayor adds. Mr. Bergeron’s \$271 ticket was invalidated because the Town of Gaspé decided not to present evidence in court, thus avoiding a debate and useless legal expenses, the Town of Gaspé lawyer explained.

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## Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



### #PressforProgress Women's Day 2018

International Women's Day 2018 theme is #PressforProgress. In 2017, the World Economic Forum released their Global Gender Gap Report findings. It is depressing. It predicts that gender parity in all areas is over 200 years away. The struggle is real and that's why we need to continue to #PressforProgress. This issue is highlighted by movements like #MeToo and #TimesUp. People are actively working to change the social landscape where sexual abuse in all forms is hushed up, where women are paid less than male counterparts and where the message we give young girls is limiting their potential. The time has come and it is now.

We are all aware that gender parity won't happen quickly, but do not be discouraged. In many areas of the world women are making positive gains slowly, but surely. Women are increasingly advocating for themselves, pressuring politicians and supporting each other. Men are not the enemy here. Many men are vocal about this need for change. Many men are respectful of this need for change. Everyone benefits in a world that is fair and respects all people. It is the historical imbalance of power that is being challenged, and for the better.

So, we can be encouraged by the progress that has been made but cannot be content. There is more work to be done. We all need to continue to #PressforProgress. This is a great example of "Think globally, act locally." We can all address inequity in our communities and in our own homes. Do we have the same expectations for our daughters as our sons? Do we elect women to positions of responsibility? Take a long, hard look at ourselves. Do we actively encourage and promote women? It starts right here and right now.

Let's be specific about how this might look in your community. The #PressforProgress goals have been presented in the media.

They include:

- nominate women for opportunities
- always include and support women
- aim for "50/50" as the goal
- question assumptions and challenge statements that limit women
- select women as spokespeople and leaders
- call-out inappropriate behaviour in men and women
- be a role model for equality
- believe achievement comes in many forms (a woman can be her successful self being a stay at home mom)
- value women's individual and collective successes
- ensure credit is given for women's contributions
- celebrate women role models
- support awards showcasing women's success

"The story of women's struggle for equality belongs to no single feminist nor to any one organization but to the collective efforts of all who care about human rights," says Gloria Steinem. International Women's Day is all about togetherness, reflection, advocacy, celebration, and action. Women's Day could be meaningless hype, if we let it be so. We should continue to support Women's Day celebrations. They are important. They promote discussion and action. Men can be involved too. Men have wives and daughters and granddaughters who they cherish. Every member of a society benefits by #PressforProgress. Make a difference today.

(Note: For those who are on Twitter,  
#PressforProgress is currently very active.  
Loads of interesting tweets and calls for action.)

## RIGHT WHALES: Crab fishermen worried about DFO decisions

Gilles Gagné

CARLETON: — Gaspesian crab fishermen are very worried following the recent declaration of a few Fisheries and Oceans Canada staff members to the effect that snow crab fishing could be completely closed if one dead right whale is found this spring in the gulf of Saint Lawrence.

The fishermen learned about that possibility during the February 28 yearly meeting of the snow crab advisory committee, in Moncton, New Brunswick. This committee deals with the crab fishermen in the southern part of the gulf of Saint Lawrence. Other dark scenarios were also presented by Fisheries and Oceans, but not as drastic.

"There are two options, including one stating that it would take one dead right whale to shut fishing down," says Daniel Desbois in disbelief, he is the president of the Gaspesian Crab Fishermen Association.

Mr. Desbois and other fishermen were stunned that Fisheries and Oceans Canada representatives discussed the possible closure of snow crab fishing without documentation, "without warning, coldly," he says.

"In order to prevent that (total closure), they are studying another option divided into two possibilities, a "static" one that would consist of closing the same wide rectangle as last year, a surface representing 50% of Anticosti Island, on May 15, the date of a first live right whale sighting last year. There is also a "dynamic" proposal, consisting of closing smaller rectangles for two weeks, based on right whale sightings. For example, if three whales are seen, a rectangle could be closed for two weeks. The size of the rectangles has not been determined yet," explains Daniel Desbois.

In 2017, the death of one right whale was directly attributable to entanglement in snow crab fishing gear and biologists think that it could have been the cause of a second death as well.

Daniel Desbois has another question for Fisheries and Oceans Canada. "How will you prove to us that you have seen right whales, or that you have not seen the same one two or three times?"



Photo: G. Gagné

*Snow crab spinoffs are huge in the Gaspé Peninsula and provide work to close to 1,500 people.*

He fears that Fisheries and Oceans' "strange system," if it is implemented, will not favour collaboration with the fishermen, who often notify the authorities of whale sightings.

"We don't want harm for the whales. It is clearly not in our interest," he sums up.

The situation described by Daniel Desbois made the headlines on March 1, a situation that prompted the office of Fisheries and Oceans minister Dominic Leblanc to issue a declaration stating that "the thought of completely closing snow crab after the death or the entanglement of only one whale is completely erroneous."

He emphasizes that his department is able to make targeted adjustments that would make the protection of right whales possible without affect-

ing commercial fishing and its spinoffs.

Snow crab fishing is economically huge in the southern part of the gulf of Saint Lawrence. In 2017, the value of the landings in that zone reached approximately \$480M. That value doubles once the crab is processed.

This year, the quota will likely be cut by 44%, from 43,475 metric tonnes to 25,286 metric tonnes. It is therefore returning to an average year after the giant quota of 2017. The value of landings will nevertheless reach close to \$280M if the price stays high, which is expected.

Gaspesian snow crab fishermen usually catch about one-third of the southern part of the gulf quota, which could amount to \$90M in catches and \$180M, once that volume is processed.

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# TAXI FORTIN: One of a kind taxi service goes out of business

Geneviève Gélinas

CLORIDORME: – “We used to drop people off at their door, take their suitcase to the third floor and place it on their bed. It was quite a service!” says Denis Fortin, owner of Taxi Fortin. This long distance taxi service, unique in Quebec, closed its doors after having transported passengers from the Gaspé to Quebec City and Montreal for almost 70 years. The Cloridorme-based, four-employee business, doesn’t want to fight Keolis, as the multinational bus company has filed formal complaints against Taxi Fortin for not respecting the territory defined in its permit.

Taxi Fortin, founded in 1949, provided the service with two 11-passenger minibuses. It picked up customers at their door and brought them to their exact destination. No other company in the province has that kind of special taxi licence.

Agatha Cabot, from Cloridorme, used to take Taxi Fortin to visit her children in Montreal and get to medical appointments. “It was pleasant to travel that way, and quite friendly. There are no words to say how much (the closure) affects us. It’s a huge loss. No other company can provide that (a door to door service).”

It’s difficult to make passenger transport profitable, explains Denis Fortin. “Financially, I was running out of steam,” he says.

“I need to replace my vehicles this year and I would have needed to invest money in the lawsuit. I don’t have enough financial and psychological courage. I am throwing in the towel to preserve my health,” Mr. Fortin adds.

The businessman has already dealt with Keolis, the mother company of Autocars



Photo: Jacques-Noël Minville

*The financial situation of Taxi Fortin doesn’t allow the company to commit to a battle against Keolis, says its owner Denis Fortin, who is also the mayor of Cloridorme.*

Orléans Express, when he asked the *Commission des transports du Québec* (CTQ) to expand its territory in 2015, which was refused. Mr. Fortin had little hope to win. “I saw the way they operate. It’s drastic, they’re rock solid. It’s a multinational.”

Taxi Fortin is authorized to load and unload passengers from Gaspé to La Martre, and then in Quebec City or Montreal. Mr. Fortin admits that sometimes, he deviated from those rules by taking customers in Sainte-Anne-des-Monts, or dropping them off in Mont-Saint-Hilaire, Drummondville or Laval. The company carries between 3,500 and 4,000 passengers per year.

Keolis filed a complaint to

the *Commission des transports* stating Taxi Fortin’s non-compliance with its licence conditions, on a route served by Orléans Express. No date has yet been set for a hearing.

The closure of Taxi Fortin is “a situation that we find regrettable,” states the Keolis Canada vice-president, Marie-Hélène Cloutier. “Taxi Fortin decided to close its business on its own initiative, even before being heard by the Commission. We refuse to bear responsibility for that,” she adds.

The Taxi Fortin operations had an impact on the Orléans coaches ridership, at a time when “it’s important to do everything we can for our operations to survive,” says Mr.

Cloutier. “Beyond the ridership, what is important is that the CTQ rules must be respected.”

As of January 2015, the CTQ authorized Orléans Express to reduce its number of departures from two or three per day to one. The number

of stops also went from 44 to 7 between Rimouski and Gaspé on the north shore of the Gaspé Peninsula, and from 47 to 9 on the south shore.

The same year, Taxi Fortin asked the CTQ to expand its territory, by providing the service on the south side of the peninsula, and by adding stops west of La Martre on the north side. The CTQ refused because the way Taxi Fortin operated wasn’t fitting in with the Transportation act as it now, notably because it is a taxi doing collective transport with more than one vehicle on its licence.

The MRC Côte-de-Gaspé wants to save the Taxi Fortin licence, an “appreciated and important service, which meets a need of the population,” says its director general, Bruno Bernatchez. “We want to tell the CTQ: give us time to present you with a project.”

The ownership of Taxi Fortin has changed several times since its foundation in 1949, before it was bought by Denis Fortin in 2010.

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# Cutting the red (duct) tape: Preserving our history

Diane Skinner

NEW CARLISLE: - Local residents and passersby may be wondering why the Kempffer Cultural Interpretation Centre in New Carlisle, has red duct tape on its exterior. The tape was recently placed there by Betty Anne Smollett, President of Kempffer, her husband Curtis Anez and Maxime Huot, past coordinator. The tape is to protect the historical building from water damage. Normal recurring costs, such as hydro, telephone, alarm system and advertising already require an outlay of funding. The building, nearing 150 years old, requires some repair work that cannot be covered by the operating budget.



Photo: Betty Anne Smollett

Kempffer Cultural Interpretation Centre.

## Heritage New Carlisle

Heritage New Carlisle (HNC) is a not-for-profit organization registered for charitable purposes. Board member Sandi Beebe says it was legally constituted on November 13, 2000, and was set up to save the Kempffer house, built in 1868, from demolition. Its mission is to safeguard and promote the cultural, social and physical aspects of New Carlisle's unique heritage. In 1868, Sarah Jane Langler (1832-1907) and her husband, Robert Henry Kempffer (1822-1901) built their house, that was to become, in 2008, the Kempffer Cultural and Interpretation Centre, located at 125 boulevard Gerard-D.-Levesque The Kempffer Cultural and Interpretation Centre, which was relocated in April 2004 and fully restored officially opened its doors on June 8, 2008 to promote the history of New Carlisle.

During July and August, tea is served every Wednesday with the help of dedicated volunteer Sharon Guignon. This space is called Julia's Corner, named after an ancestor of the Kempffer family. Board member Jacqueline Mallet crafts beautiful jewelry which is sold on-site to help fund activities. Concerts have been offered since 2012 at St. Andrew's Anglican Church in a variety of styles. In the fall of 2011, the Board unanimously voted for a lifetime Kempffer membership for \$20. To date, HNC has more than 250 members. Consider joining.

## Required Repairs

Last Summer the windows

were leaking on the east side of the building. Unfortunately, the insurance policy does not cover water damage. Betty Anne tells Spec, "At this point, the company arrived and took pictures of the building, I mean everywhere. They informed us that first of all the back deck was not safe. At this point we cut off one section to visitors and had the railings reinforced to get through the summer season. We asked for bids to replace the deck and make it smaller and discovered there was no need to have such an added expense when it had not been used that much up until now. The contractor was able to save the frame underneath mainly because it was made of treated lumber. The top structure was just plain spruce lumber. Therefore, we used cedar, this time in hopes it will last longer." The new deck cost \$7,888.35.

About the same time the committee learned that the building itself has never been insulated, meaning there is no vapour barrier on the exterior walls of the building, so they are losing heat and the moisture is getting inside. Years ago, dedicated volunteers insulated the area above the ceiling. The next area of concern is the siding. There are huge holes in the shingles and in the cedar clapboards and slashes in the cedar clapboards. This was allowing the water to go in and then go down into the basement of the building. The shingles were not good quality and there wasn't any flashing over the windows. Maxime Huot, past co-ordinator, Betty Anne and

Curtis Anez, applied the famous red duct tape to cover the spray foam. To their surprise it has worked thus far. No water has come in and the insurance is still valid.

## Raising the funds

Heritage New Carlisle is applying for funding from the Canadian Heritage Legacy Fund to re-do the whole exterior of the building. The building is 150 years old this year and therefore qualifies for this fund. The estimate for needed repairs is \$97,153, with a few other added expenses. Canadian Heritage will pay 50% of the total amount. Heritage New Carlisle has been trying to get the provincial government to contribute as well. Provincially, there is a program that will match a portion of the required funds, but Heritage New Carlisle will need to raise about \$28,000 to match this. Part of Heritage New Carlisle's mission is to preserve our Gaspesian history. Betty Anne shares a quote from a book by Bob Chisholm where he states, "We need to write about the things we should remember. How can you know where you're going if you don't know from whence you came?"

Heritage New Carlisle (HNC) is optimistic about receiving their funding. The job will take four weeks to complete. Betty Anne adds, "We are insisting on good quality material as we feel this building must last for many years to come. It has many stories to share with the future generations on the Gaspé and for

visitors and tourists. There are very few Loyalist museums left so we feel this is an important project." HNC has a Soup and Sweets event organized for April and May. The Committee has already reached out to members out of town and some have been very generous with their donations and some have written very encouraging notes, which means so much. Any amount is appreciated, big or small!

## Loyalist Legacy

"Kempffer is more than the big red house on the hill, and the house with the red tape all over! It holds the basic history of many ancestors of folks on the Gaspé Coast, believe it or not. Our ancestors arrived here with nothing, they were given a piece of land and a few chickens or turkeys and then they were on their own. I cannot imagine a young person in this day and age being able to handle a situation such as this," Betty Anne reminds us.

The Kempffer has received letters from young people who are writing books

about famous people from the Gaspé, wanting to know more about the Loyalist past. There is much archived information available at the Kempffer. Over the past year Betty Anne has contacted Laurence Kempffer, the son of Guy Kempffer. Guy was one of the younger children of William Langler Kempffer and Julia Smollett, original owners. "Laurence is 83 years young and an ex-military man. He and his family hope to visit the area this summer. We hope they will be able to help celebrate the 150th anniversary of the building and also the 10th anniversary of Heritage New Carlisle. We would be honoured to receive them," says Betty Anne.

## The future

Heritage New Carlisle would like to see the Centre being used for activities in the community. It has space for meetings, and numerous exhibits that would interest many people. The Kempffer could even offer office space to rent, if needed. Betty Anne concludes, "We welcome all people. When it comes to heritage we should know about and honour the past. It is a shared past that Gaspésians deserve to know about. We do have so much to be thankful for. Let's start by thanking our ancestors."

Support this worthy project. Please consider a donation, big or small. All are appreciated. The goal is \$25,000. The telethon will take place at the New Carlisle Town Hall on March 17 from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Heritage New Carlisle is hoping to have drivers available that day who can pick up donations at people's homes, if they wish. If you miss the telethon, donations may be dropped at the New Carlisle Town Hall. Tax receipts are provided for donations over \$10.

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## New General Manager

The SADC de Gaspé is pleased to announce the appointment of **Dave Lavoie**.



We are certain that Dave will bring all his skills and his considerable professional experience acquired over the years, notably during the five years he served as general manager of the Quebec Wind Energy Cluster, with him.

His knowledge of the issues and potential that exists in the MRC de La Côte-de-Gaspé and in its business community, is a major asset for the entire district.

His tremendous involvement in the community and his passion for the region's economic development make Dave a beneficial resource for both our organization and society.

**Congratulations; we wish you all the best as you take up your new duties!**

*Board of Directors*



Regular investment fund  
Youth strategy fund  
Express loans

**Sandy Beaulieu**  
*Financial Analyst*



Local Development Fund  
Small Business Support Initiative  
Youth Employment Strategy  
Business Mentoring

**Carole Gingras**  
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*Enjoy your retirement, Mario!*

The SADC would like to announce the departure of the man who was at the helm of our organization for the last 29 years, **Mario Cotton**. He contributed unstintingly to the creation, development and outreach of the Société d'aide au développement de la collectivité, making it what it is today. He is a passionate developer, driven by local issues. Over the course of his career, he made it a priority to encourage the economic development actors in his community to work in concert. His legendary geniality and his ability to connect with people made him a most appreciated colleague. We wish him the very best as he enters the next marvellous phase of his life, retirement.

## Cascapedia St-Jules St.Patrick's weekend

Elaine Sexton

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES: - With spring comes, for the Irish descendants, Saint Patrick's Day. In Cascapedia-St-Jules there will be a concert this year. There hasn't been one for the past two years, so organizers are looking forward to restarting this tradition that has been a staple in the community for over 50 years .

The weekend will begin with the concert on Friday, March 16 at the Fifty Plus Club, at 7 p.m. Then on Saturday, March 17 a special Eucharist celebration will be held at the Catholic Church with Father Pierre Edaye at 4 p.m. On Sunday, March 18, there will be a delicious pot-luck supper from 5 to 7 p.m. The door to the legion opens at 2 p.m. with bar service. We hope to see all the familiar faces as well as meeting new ones. Welcome to all!



Photo: T. Haroun

Gilles Roy of Habitation des aînés de Chandler.

## Trying to save a project of 30 units in Chandler

Thierry Haroun

CHANDLER: - If the Quebec Government doesn't soon slate \$900,000 for a housing unit project for seniors, this community initiative could well be just another souvenir and simply be abandoned by its governing board.

It's been exactly eight years since this project was put on paper in hopes of constructing a 30 unit building that would house 36 seniors considered as semi-autonomous. It would be located close to the Art Workshop, near the former Gaspésia Mill. The project is under the patronage of *Habitation des aînés de Chandler*. The good news, is that the *Société d'Habitation du Québec* (the Québec Housing Department) gave its go-ahead for a 30 unit project. The bad news is that the project of \$5.8 million is still missing \$900,000 in order to begin construction. That amount is directly linked to the cuts made by Philippe Couillard's Liberal Government in terms of lodging grants for regions such as the Gaspé. Those cuts occurred in 2015. So now it's up to the local community to raise that money. An impossible task, according to Mélanie Dufresne of the *Groupe Ressource en logements collectifs de la Gaspésie-les-îles*, a regional board that is also a partner in the project. "The community cannot raise that amount. It has already invested enough and demonstrated its will to make this project happen." She is referring to the 35-year tax break the Town is offering, \$75,000 from the Percé Rock MRC, \$50,000 from the Caisse Desjardins and more than \$90,000 from the Chandler Economic Development Fund.

### The mayor comments

For Mayor Louissette Langlois, this project has to become a reality after all the hard work that took place over the years. "We've been working on this very special project for eight years. I cannot imagine that it won't be built. Recently, I personally went to Quebec City to meet with cabinet members of Minister Lise Thériault. They told us that they are looking closely at the project. This is major because we don't have any such units in our municipality. It's important given that our population is growing old."

Spec met the Vice-President of the *Habitation des aînés de Chandler*, Gilles Roy at his home. He showed us documents related to the project and the work that had been done over the years. "I've been on the governing board for the past four years and I can tell you that if the government doesn't slate the money needed to complete the construction by this May, we will simply abandon it. But I'm confident that the government will gather the money."

## The Genealogist's Corner

### Defining Genealogy and the Profession of Genealogist

People often wonder what Genealogy is and is being a Genealogist a real profession?

Genealogy is the number one hobby worldwide. People all over the world are intrigued, curious and wanting to learn about their ancestry. The reason for embarking is different for each individual, but the quest is the same.

Let me begin by giving you the definition provided by two major Dictionaries:

**Oxford Dictionary:** A line of descent traced continuously from an ancestor.

**Cambridge dictionary:** The study of the history of the past and present members of a family or families.

However, what the dictionaries don't mention is how incredible the search is and how rewarding the hunt can be. For me, genealogy is like putting a puzzle together. It is reconstructing the life of an individual, it is not only finding dates such as birth, marriage and death (BMD), and it is also finding their next to kin, their business relations, their relations with neighbours, with the church and the local businesses. It is searching for military records, land records, wills and estate files, probate and court files, newspapers, directories, census returns, parish and church records, migration files (immigration and emigration), and so many others.

It is discovering their occupation/profession, the migration patterns through maps and boundary changes, studying the laws of the time, searching Institutional records, understanding the social context, political context, economical context, religious context, military contexts and events of the era. Finding where and how they lived. It is done by using pictures, documents, books, diaries and memorabilia. It is the analysis of the information found and the sources used. Each piece of information is a part of the puzzle which is not finished until each piece is put in its rightful place.

### But what about Genealogist and the Profession?

When I began genealogical research in 2010, I did not think I would become a Professional Genealogist. Not everyone will aspire to change career, but everyone can be professional in their research. When I began my studies in genealogy in 2015, with the National Institute for Genealogical Studies in Ontario, a definition was offered as to what a great Genealogist was and the attributes required:

"The attributes of a genealogist.

A good genealogist has an innate pride in family and country, and recognizes his duty to search out and record the truth. He becomes, first of all, a full-time detective, a thorough historian, an inveterate snoop, and at the same time, a confirmed diplomat, a keen observer, a hardened skeptic, an apt biographer, a qualified linguist, a part-time lawyer combined with quite a lot of district attorney, a studious sociologist, and- above all- an accurate reporter." (Source: WILLIAMS, Ethel W., Know Your Ancestors: A Guide to Genealogical Research (1960: reprint, Rutland, Vermont: Charles E. Tuttle Co., 1976), p13.)

The Profession of Genealogist may not be fully recognized in Canada as of yet, nor acknowledged by the different Governments such as the profession as Historian, but it is recognized on an International level. The profession has evolved tremendously in the last 30 years, and even more so in the last 15 years. The profession of Genealogist is now rigorously conducted under certain International rules and Regulations such as the Genealogical Standards and the Code of Ethics established by the Board of Certification for Genealogists (BCG) and the Code of Ethics and Professional Practice of the Association for Professional Genealogists (APG). Even though not all Genealogist abide by these rules and regulations today, it is quite easy to distinguish the real from the false. Professional Genealogists will most likely be part of an Association, have learning in the field of genealogy or even have a Certification or an Accreditation.

Sandra Blanchette, PLCGS

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# Port Daniel-Gascons adopts budget and plans many projects for 2018

Gilles Gagné

PORT DANIEL-GASCONS: – The municipal council of Port Daniel-Gascons adopted a budget of \$3.6 million on February 27 as planned. That budget is not complete because the value of the McInnis Cement plant remains under evaluation, but this factor hasn't prevented the town administration from spearheading a number of initiatives that could get a head start in 2018.

The Cement McInnis plant will bring in more than \$1 million yearly to the town but the facility's evaluation will only be known later this spring. It was supposed to be in December, then in January which caused the municipal council to ask for delays before submitting its budget.

The main project spearheaded by the municipality will be the Gascons area sewer and drinkable water networks, an initiative that has been talked about for close to 30 years. All of the 390 Gascons houses rely on artesian wells and septic tanks for the drinkable water and used water respectively.

"We are fine-tuning the cost of the project. It has been presented to the civil ser-

vants. It is now a political matter. We think that 95% of the system should be paid by the Quebec government. We are talking about a \$30 million project. We favour solving the drinkable water system at the same time as the sewerage network because if we only take care of sewer, we will never have an opportunity to get a drinkable water network in the area. It is no more complicated installing two sets of pipes," says mayor Henri Grenier.

The municipal administration doesn't give a time frame for that project but Mayor Grenier thinks that another venture will generate a quick answer from the Quebec government, the moving of the municipal garage to the old arena.

"It is a matter of days before we get an answer. The project would cost \$2 million and we could get 75% of support from the government. We could turn the spot where the current garage is into our tourist information booth, with large windows on both sides, including the sea side," he says.

Henri Grenier is also confident about announcing soon the location for a seniors' residence for autonomous people,



Photo: G. Gagné

The Anse-à-la-Barbe wharf could be transferred to the municipality.

a 24-unit building under the supervision of the *Société immobilière du Québec*, and 12 additional units for people with low income. "We could announce it before March 31 if we settle the piece of land issue," he simply adds.

## Marcil road to be upgraded

Henri Grenier also specifies that an agreement in principle has been reached with Quebec's department of Trans-

port for the realization of several road improvement projects. "Marcil road is included and the whole road would benefit from the project. The call for tenders should be out soon," he points out. The municipality would get funding covering 75% of those projects.

The part of the Port Daniel wharf that is under the municipal administration responsibility is also supposed to benefit from improvement in 2018. "It needs repair. We will know more about it soon," says Henri Grenier.

The mayor is also confident that the Anse-à-la-Barbe fishing wharf, heavily damaged over the last decades and neglected by Fisheries and Oceans Canada, will be upgraded and transferred to the municipality.

"We saw in the federal budget that there is an envelope of \$250 million over two years slated for the small boats harbours. We think the Anse-à-la-Barbe wharf can be repaired for \$2 million. We are expecting a quick answer. Six or seven lobster fishermen would still use the harbour and it has some tourism potential as well," concludes mayor Grenier.

# Sylvain Roy criticizes federal budget

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND: – The Member of the National Assembly for the riding of Bonaventure, Sylvain Roy, is criticizing the lack of concrete measures in the federal government budget to help seasonal workers and support Quebec's fisheries industry.

Mr. Roy emphasizes in particular the unfairness of a federal government envelope supporting the Atlantic provinces' fisheries with \$325 million over five years, while that industry in the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands won't be receiving a similar program.

He blames Diane Lebouthillier, Member of Par-

liament for the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands' riding, as well as minister of Canada's Revenue Agency, for her lack of action regarding her region's important files.

"The black hole experienced by many employment insurance recipients is nothing new; it is recurrent. In addition to that, the erroneous unemployment rate used to calculate the benefits increases the number of weeks without revenue. The federal government was questioned several times in order to solve that problem and unfortunately, no significant help was announced, barring an unclear intention to work with the Quebec government on pilot projects. Minis-

ter Lebouthillier has no influence over Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who obviously doesn't understand the particular situation of employment in the region. The federal government collects \$21.7 billion in employment insurance premiums but only spends \$20.7 billion in benefits. Where is the missing billion?" asks Sylvain Roy.

He points out that his party, the Parti Québécois, submitted a motion that was adopted unanimously by the National Assembly to denounce the unfairness of the situation between Quebec and the Atlantic provinces, considering that the federal government is allotting \$325 million over the next five years for the development

of the New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland fisheries.

"The motion was in fact acknowledged by the region's fishermen associations. We were expecting some measures to correct the situation in the last budget. Unfortunately, our regional minister (Diane Lebouthillier) did nothing in that file as well," criticizes Sylvain Roy.

He also criticizes the federal government's inaction in the fight against the spruce budworm.

"Unfortunately, as in the case of fisheries, the federal support is only directed towards the Atlantic provinces. However, the epidemic has been present in Quebec for

years now, notably in the Gaspé Peninsula. Quebec is once more left behind by Ottawa," states Mr. Roy.

The coordinator of *Mouvement Action-Chômage Pabok*, Gaétan Cousineau, agrees with Sylvain Roy regarding the black hole. He dubs "crumbs" the 2018-2019 envelope of \$80 million for the whole country slated to solve black hole problems.

Mr. Cousineau admits that the \$150 million earmarked for year 2019-2020 "should enable more workers to lengthen their working period and qualify for employment benefits," although he worries about the necessity for the older workers to go back to school.

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# Announcements...



## Obituaries



**BISSON (BIARD): Patricia (Pat, Patsy)**  
1937 - 2018

It is with great sadness that we announce the sudden passing of our adored Patricia Bisson, of Percé, Quebec in the Chandler Hospital on February 9, 2018 at 80 years of age.

Pat was the beloved wife of the late Lorne Bisson and much-loved daughter of the late Charles LeBas Biard.

She is survived by her mother Ethel Cass, her aunt Françoise (late Alfred) LeCocq, her sisters-in-law Jean Seale, Eileen Bisson (Bud) and Betty Anne, as well as her many cousins and friends.

Visitation was held at her house in Percé on Wednesday, February 14, and Thursday, February 15, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

A celebration of Pat's life will be held in Percé on July 24, 2018. Memorial donations to St. Paul's Anglican Church, Percé, or the charity of your choice would be gratefully acknowledged by the family, which can be contacted by email at, [jill.dumaresq@mail.mcgill.ca](mailto:jill.dumaresq@mail.mcgill.ca).



**LACIRENO: Victoria**

Mrs. Victoria Lacireno, wife of the late Mr. Denis Alexander Lemieux from Barachois, passed away at home on February 24, at the age of 78.

The funeral will be held this summer; date yet to be announced.

She leaves behind, three sons, six daughters, many grandchildren and many great-grandchildren, as well as three brothers, a daughter-in-law, sons-in-law, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nephews, nieces and all her friends.

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



## In Memory

**CAMPBELL: Mary**

In loving memory of a dear wife, mother and grandmother who passed away on March 21, 1992.

*Loving and kind in all her ways,  
Upright and just to the end of her days;  
Sincere and true,  
In her heart and mind,  
Beautiful memories,  
She left behind,  
Close in our hearts,  
You will always stay.*

Loved and remembered every day by husband Lawrence, children Sharon (Jack), Marilyn (who sadly passed away on May 26, 2004), Wayne (Judy who sadly passed away on July 29, 2015), Sandra (Paul) and grandchildren Shayne, Patrick and Timothy.

**DUMARESQ: Gail**

*We your family miss you,  
In the house where you used to be,  
We wanted so much to keep you,  
But God willed it not to be,  
Now you are in God's keeping,  
You suffer no more pain,  
So dear God take care of her,  
Until we meet again.*

Miss you always, love you always, your family.

**FLOWERS: Alma**

In loving memory of a precious grandmother who passed away March 2, 1983.

*We had a grannie with a heart of gold,  
Who was more to us than wealth unfold;  
Without farewell, she fell asleep,  
With only memories for us to keep.  
Treasured thoughts of one so dear,  
Often bring a silent tear;  
Thoughts of scenes long past,  
Years roll on but memories last.  
Unseen, unheard but always near,  
Still loved, still missed, still very dear.*

Lovingly remembered and cherished forever by Carol and Richard Smollett.



**O'REILLY (INGROUVILLE): Mary**  
1923 - 2016

In loving memory of our dear Maw, Nan, sister and friend who passed away February 27, 2016.

*Remembering her is easy,  
We do it every day,  
Missing her leaves an ache,  
That never goes away.*

Love from all the family.

**SMOLLETT: Robert**

In loving memory of a very dear brother who passed away March 2, 2014.

*As time unfolds another year,  
Memories keep you ever near;  
Silent thoughts of times together,  
Hold memories that will last forever.  
Your presence we miss,  
Your memory we treasure;  
Loving you always,  
Forgetting you never.*

Lovingly remembered by brother Richard and sister-in-law Carol.

## Happy Anniversary!



**Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Flowers**

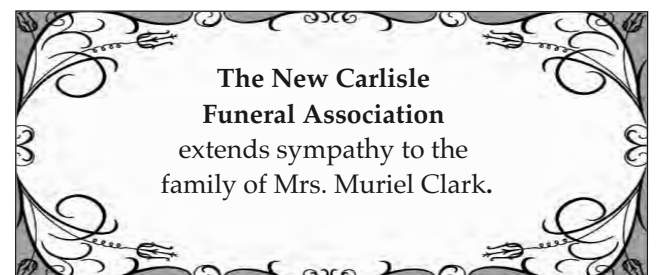
On February 17, this lovely couple celebrated 64 years of marriage. Wishing you many more years of happiness.  
*Love your family xoxo.*

### St. Jude's Novena

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

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

L.E.



The New Carlisle  
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extends sympathy to the  
family of Mrs. Muriel Clark.



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## COAST ROUND-UP

### 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.

### GASPÉ:

#### Bake Sale

The Gaspé County Women's Institute will be having a bake sale at the Carrefour in Gaspé on **Saturday, March 17**. Hope to see you there.

### YORK:

#### Birthday Celebration Cancellation

The 90th birthday celebration for Bridget McDonald scheduled for March 17th at York Hall is being cancelled. This is simply a preventive measure to reduce the risk of contracting the seasonal flu for Bridget and family and friends. On March 17, please raise a glass to Bridget's continued good health as you celebrate St. Patrick's Day.

### 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 Paterson.

### DOUGLASTOWN:

#### St. Patrick's Day Activities

The following events will be held at St. Patrick's Church on **Saturday, March 17:** 4 p.m. Mass; 5 p.m. Supper - On the menu: roast pork

loin with vegetables or Irish stew. Adults \$10, children \$5. Takeouts available at 4:45 p.m. Everyone welcome.

### DOUGLASTOWN

#### March Activities

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

**Sunday, March 11:** Community breakfast, 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., Prices are \$8 for adults (12 & over), \$4 for children (5-11 years) and it's free for kids age of 4 and under.

**March 12:** Mini-soccer There are still some places left! Please register in the first week of March for the session starting on March 12. Please also note that some changes have been made on the schedule: - Monday between 4 to 5 p.m.: for kids 4 and 5 years old; - Tuesday between 4 to 5 p.m.: for kids 8 and 9 years old; - Thursday between 4 to 5 p.m.: for kids 6 and 7 years.

### 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:

#### Barachois Reunion

Following-up from the August 2, 1996 - 50 Plus/Minus Baby Boomer Reunion, the 2018 organization committee, Gerald Girard, Dianna Francis & Stanley Ste Croix will be hosting a dinner at the Fort Prevel Golf Course on **Saturday, July 28, 2018** starting with cocktail hour (\$ cash bar) at 5 p.m., dinner served at 6 p.m. There will be a two choice five course menu served at the cost of \$22.95 for chicken or \$27.95 for salmon + taxes. In keeping with the same Baby Boomer age group, the committee has decided to modify the criteria which will include the students from the Belle Anse School who were born within the years 1945-1946-1947. To be eligible to attend the dinner you would have to be born within the years of 1945-1946-1947 and have attended school in Barachois or Belle Anse. If you fit the above criteria and would like to attend, you can be accompanied with your spouse or friend. Please confirm ASAP that you will attend by contacting Gerald Girard: gerrygirard@bell.net 450-619-9655 / 514-913-1350 or Dianna Francis: diannafrancis36@icloud.com. 418-385-2427 with your names, telephone number and your choice for the main course (Salmon or Chicken) The committee thanks you all for your support and asks that you help to spread the word about the reunion to the former Barachois and Belle Anse students who were born within the years of 1945-1946-1947.

### PORT DANIEL:

#### Upcoming Events

The following events will be held at

the Golden Age Hall in Port Daniel. **March 17:** St. Patrick's Supper; **April 6:** Gift Bingo **May 12:** Mother's Day Tea.

### SHIGAWAKE:

#### Upcoming Activities

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

**Friday, March 30:** 1st annual Easter Carnival Spring Fling 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Carnival games, face painting, burst the balloon, fishing booth, carnival photo booth, ring toss, etc. Canteen services. Entry is free, bring the whole family. Great fun for all.

**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 activity will be held at the Hope Town Community Center.

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

**Saturday, April 7:** A crib tournament will be held at 1 p.m. \$10 per person. Please register your team by April 5. Call Audrey or Linda 418-752-2015.

### NEW CARLISLE:

#### Gift Bingo

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

### NEW CARLISLE:

#### Bible Chapel Services

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

### NEW CARLISLE:

#### We have moved!

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

### NEW CARLISLE:

#### Saint Paddy's Day

Come celebrate St. Pat's on **Friday, March 16** from 8 p.m. to 12 midnight at the Royal Canadian Legion. \$10 cover charge. Party with Landsmen and friends performing St. Paddy's themed favourites and a vast array of upbeat music.

### NEW RICHMOND:

#### Jam Session

On **Friday, March 9 and 23** at the 50+ Club, 319, Route 299, there will

be a jam session open to all musicians and spectators. Doors open at 7 p.m. with entertainment beginning at 7:30 - free admission, donations accepted. Canteen service on site. Welcome to all!

### NEW RICHMOND:

#### Friperie entraide de L.É.P.É.

New spring and summer clothing has arrived. On sale at \$1 each or more. Good hot meal at noon, free donations accepted. We also give away hundreds of things every week. (contact for furniture to give or receive) Open on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. At 248 Perron Blvd. New Richmond. 418 392-5161.

### 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.

### 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:

#### Dames de Pique Tournaments

The Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 172 will be having Dames De Pique Tournaments on **March 10 and March 24** at 1 p.m. at the Legion, 55 Galligher Road, Cascapedia- St. Jules. The cost will be \$5 per person and everyone is welcome to attend this event.

### 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 Mawiomni 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.

## UNITED CHURCH

### Sunday, March 11

10:30 a.m. New Carlisle

## ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

### Sunday, March 11

#### New Carlisle

10 a.m. Morning Prayer

#### Shigawake

9 a.m. Morning Prayer

### PARISH OF ALL SAINTS

#### BY THE SEA

St. Peter's Malbay

11 a.m. Service

### PARISH OF GASPÉ

#### Sunday, March 4

#### Gaspe

10 a.m. Holy Eucharist

**REMINDER**  
Notices received after **Thursday** at 4 p.m. will not make the next paper and will be held for a future edition.

## SUDOKU

		1	5					
		3		4		2		
				8			4	
				9	1			4
						6	2	
	2				4		9	
9						8		7
				7				
6		5				1		

### Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Level: Intermediate

### Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

6	7	5	4	2	8	1	3	9
3	1	8	9	5	7	4	6	2
9	4	2	3	1	6	8	5	7
5	2	7	8	6	4	3	9	1
1	9	4	7	3	5	6	2	8
8	3	6	2	9	1	5	7	4
2	5	9	1	8	3	7	4	6
7	8	3	6	4	9	2	1	5
4	6	1	5	7	2	9	8	3

ANSWER:

## Why do we SAY...

By Gary Briand

About two years ago I came to a stop in Matane and took a motel for the night. It was high July. The next morning I visited the lobby to pay my bill. The clerk, who knew me well from my frequent overnights at the same motel and who was acquainted with my column in The Gaspé SPEC, posed the following question after telling me the following: the previous morning, a very sultry day, an older American couple came to him and announced that they would be staying at the motel an extra night. The gentleman, who had gone for a brief walk in the morning, had decided that the day was too heavy with humidity for him to continue driving to Gaspé. He mentioned to the clerk that he could not cope with "dog days". Baffled by the expression, the French Canadian clerk nodded in agreement. He asked me to explain the phrase. After returning home, I wrote him the following:

"Dog days" originated with the Romans and the Latin equivalent of the term was "canicularis dies" for "days of the dog" and was an astronomical expression that referred to the dog star Sirius. The Romans associated the rising of the dog star, the most brilliant star in the constellation, Canis Major, with the sultry summer heat, believing as they did that the star added to the extreme heat of the sun. "Canicular days" or "dog days" have nothing to do with heat from the dog star but the ancient expression remains in vogue after more than twenty centuries.

## What's This Artifact?



What do you think this is? The answer will be in next week's issue of The Gaspé Spec

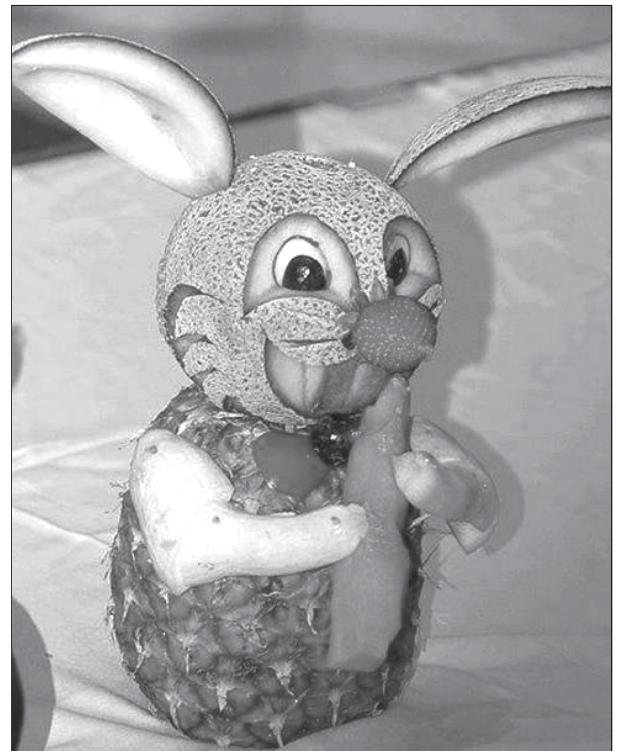
Thank you to Bruce Patterson for sharing this artifact with our readers.

## Guess Who?

I am a singer born on January 10, 1953 in New York. I quit my bank teller job when I saw Liza Minelli in concert and became a singer. I sang opera before gaining fame as a rock singer.

Answer: Pat Benatar

## Go ahead...play with your food



## DID YOU KNOW?



Canada's Wasaga Beach is the longest freshwater beach in the world!

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

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## HOROSCOPES

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, you are inspired and ready to take on the world. Make the time to thank the people who spurred your motivation, then get moving toward your goals.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, your positive outlook can help not only you, but also others. Where some people only see problems, you see all the possibilities lying ahead of you.

GEMINI – May 22/June 21

Gemini, everyday things seem magical to you this week. This may be because

you're looking at the world through the haze of happiness spurred on by new love.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, you have been biding your time, but the moment to take a calculated risk has finally arrived. Since you have done some thorough research, it should be smooth sailing.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23

Transparency is your middle name this week, Leo. Others know just what is going on in your life and in your head. This may encourage others to be more open.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, since you don't want to be misunderstood in any way, you need to be very careful in how you express

your thoughts this week. Clarify details, if necessary.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Chances for success in all areas of your life are magnified by your innovative spirit, Libra. Keep the good ideas flowing and bring others into your future plans.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Confidence is on the rise, Scorpio, and that may lead you to take a few risks. There may be great gains to be had, or not much change. However, it can be worthwhile to try.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

Intentions aimed at distant goals may keep you busy in the long run, Sagittarius, but this week direct your focus to items that will provide the

most immediate results.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, you have enough sense to balance your imagination with reality. Take your clever ideas and figure out a practical way to make them work.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, although the destination is in view, you have not yet developed a plan to get there. Be sure you include integrity in your decisions and skip shortcuts.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, conformity is certainly not your thing. But at some point this week, you'll need to go with the flow. Find a way to make it your own.

### FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

MARCH 4

Draymond Green, Athlete (28)

MARCH 5

Eva Mendes, Actress (44)

MARCH 6

Connie Britton, Actress (51)

MARCH 7

Bryan Cranston, Actor (62)

MARCH 8

Brooke Butler, Singer (15)

MARCH 9

Brittany Snow, Actress (32)

MARCH 10

Carrie Underwood, Singer (35)

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