

The Gaspé Spec

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Photo: courtesy of the Geopark

From a suspended glass platform, visitors can have a view of Percé village and the surrounding geologic formations.

Percé Geo-park becomes a UNESCO Global Geopark

Geneviève Gélinas

PERCÉ: – The Percé Geo-park joins the group of Global Geoparks, recognized by UNESCO for their geological heritage of international importance. It becomes the first global geopark in Quebec and the third in Canada, after Stonehammer in New Brunswick and Tumbler Ridge in British Columbia.

“That’s very good for the geopark’s image. We’re going to display it everywhere we can. A certain type of clientele looks for activities recognized

by UNESCO,” states Renaud Camirand, director general of the Percé Geo-park.

The geopark cooperative filed its request to obtain the designation in 2016. The geoparks network has 140 members in 38 countries. Two UNESCO evaluators visited the site in August 2017. UNESCO stands for United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

The new designation “requires us to improve our educational activities and our popular scientific information, because when you get that ac-

creditation, you don’t get it for a lifetime. We still have work to do,” says Mr. Camirand.

The geopark, opened in 2016, has an exhibition on geology called “Tektonik”, a game room, a suspended glass platform, a zip line and hiking trails. The cooperative also manages a campground.

In 2017, approximately 50,000 visitors participated in paid activities. By adding the people who hiked the trails (a free activity), the number of visitors totalled more than 100,000.

“We trust that the 2018

season will look like the 2017 season. We’re experiencing a good increase in campsite reservations,” reports Mr. Camirand.

The geopark preserves and leads people to discover 23 geosites, among them the obvious Percé rock and the Bonaventure island cliffs, but also canyons, caves and faults scattered in the mountains behind Percé.

The yearly operation budget of the geo-park is about \$500,000, including the campground. It hires 40 people.

Inside this week



Shortage of bait has fishermen worried about future



Coast Guard will deploy a larger boat in 2020

Class of 2018



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Gaspé residents will soon be able to compost

Thierry Haroun

GASPÉ: - As of May 28, Gaspé residents will be able to compost. It's good for the environment and for the economy, points out Mayor, Daniel Côté.

The idea was in the Town's plans for quite some time and was officially announced last December in the theme of its Waste Management Plan. So, starting May 14, brown bins will be distributed to every door in Gaspé. There will be a guide in it explaining how to proceed as well as a small container for the kitchen. When the small container is full, citizens will just have to empty it in the brown bin. The first pick up is set for June 4.

An information campaign is underway by the Town and four information sessions will take place in Gaspé, Fox River, Saint-Maurice, St-Majorique and Douglstown. The dates and times will soon be available on the Town's website and



Photo: T. Haroun

The new brown composting bins.

facebook pages. They will also be announced on Radio-Gaspésie, in the Pharillon and in The Gaspé Spec.

For further details, one can call the *Régie Intermunicipale des matières résiduelles de la Gaspésie*, based in Grand

River (418 385-4200) which is managing the composting service. It manages the composting site located in St-François-de-Pabos (greater Chandler area) and the Grand River Recycling facility. Moreover, the Town of Gaspé will have an information booth during the *Salon Gaspésien de l'Habitation* on April 27, 28 and 29.

A convinced mayor

There's no doubt that Mayor Daniel Côté is convinced of the importance of this project for environmental and economic reasons. "When you look at how well the composting service is done and operating in the Percé Rock MRC for the past few years, it surely is convincing to take that option. In fact, it only has advantages. First, all the food and other compostable products (paper, leaves, small branches, etc) that citizens are used to throwing away can be reused

and useful for the environment (earth for agriculture projects, etc) instead of just throwing them away," points out Daniel Côté in an interview with Spec.

On the economic front, Daniel Côté, confirms that the waste tax will stay the same for this year and probably next year. If people participate greatly in the composting project, the tax bill will be reduced just as has been the case in the Percé Rock MRC where the waste tax was reduced over the past three years. "The more people that get into it, the more money we save. For example, sending material to our waste management site costs \$150 per ton buried. For the compost, it costs only \$85 per ton which is sent to the composting site (in St-François-de-Pabos) and on top of that is reused. We're talking about added value stemming from people's waste. I just hope that people will participate and people can get all the information needed," he concluded.

Coast Guard will deploy a larger boat in 2020

Geneviève Gélinas

FOX RIVER: - In 2020, the Canadian Coast Guard will deploy a larger search and rescue boat to assist the Fox River fishing fleet. For some time the fishermen in that area have said that the current Coast Guard boat is not appropriate, however, after the grounding of the *Joneve*, which the Coast Guard was unable to prevent, they are even more adamant.

The Fox River Coast Guard team uses the NGCC *Cap d'Espoir*, a 14.7 metre long search and rescue lifeboat. It "looks like a mosquito" next to shrimp fishing boats, which are on average 20 to 24 metres long, says Captain Herman Synnott, who has been fishing for 60 years. He has worked with the Gesgapegiag crews for more than 15 years.

"It's almost a farce," adds Captain Pierre Dupuis, who has been fishing for 49 years.

The Fox River fishermen have been asking the Coast Guard for a more appropriate boat for "at least 20 years," says Mr. Synnott. "Every time a fishing boat breaks down, the Coast Guard has a problem: a lack of power, a lack of fuel (which means a shorter range), or there's too much wind."

On April 14, the rudder of the *Joneve*, a shrimp fishing boat belonging to the Ges-



Photo: G. Gélinas

The Cap d'Espoir, the Coast Guard search and rescue boat, has been on dry land since it struck shoals by trying to prevent the Joneve from grounding.

gapegiag community, became non-functional, while the boat was fishing off Port-Cartier. A colleague, the captain of the *JD Caroline Kristine*, towed the *Joneve* from there to the entrance of the Fox River harbour, where the towline broke.

The boat drifted away and ran aground on rocks not far from the shore. The four-man crew was shaken up by the wind and the waves for four hours before being evacuated by a helicopter from the National Defense.

"There was no loss of life.

We were lucky. But there could have been a loss of life," says Mr. Synnott.

It was only once the towline broke that the Coast Guard boat crew left the shelter of the harbour, with the intent of throwing a new towline to the *Joneve*. The crew wasn't able to achieve that goal as the NGCC *Cap d'Espoir* struck shoals twice and had to head back to the harbour.

A new boat

Gaspé's Forillon Shipyard

is building six of the future search and rescue boats for the Coast Guard, which will be 19.5 metres long and 6.9 metres wide. The *Cap d'Espoir* is 14.7 metres long and 4.3 metres wide. "Our objective is to base one of these units in Rivière-au-Renard, in 2020," states Stacy Dufour, the person responsible for maritime rescue in the centre and Arctic region at the Canadian Coast Guard.

"It had already been announced," Mr. Dufour adds, implying that the *Joneve*

grounding has nothing to do with that decision. He also stated that between now and 2020, the *Cap d'Espoir* is "an appropriate unit to meet the needs."

"To stabilize situations which could get worse, we do towing. But our first mission is to save lives. If a boat requires a towing, we'll ask a Good Samaritan or a private company to do it," says Mr. Dufour. This procedure will remain the same with the new boat, he explains.

The captains of the *Joneve* and the *JD Caroline Kristine* didn't ask the *Cap d'Espoir* to tow the boat from Port-Cartier to Fox River. But they wanted the search and rescue boat to go out of the harbour earlier to secure the operation by tying a mooring to the *Joneve* stern. The *Joneve* was less than 30 metres from the wharf when the towline broke. Stacy Dufour says that the *Cap d'Espoir* crew was about to go out from the harbour at that moment.

Hubert Desgagnés, a retired officer of the Coast Guard who keeps himself informed of the fleet development, explains that the size of the new boat won't make it a tugboat. "The new boat being larger and heavier, its towing capacity will slightly increase. But its goal is to go fast, to save people. A tugboat is slower."



Photo: G. Gélinas

The director general of the Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles, Yves Galipeau, and the director general of the former Wind energy Techno-centre Frédéric Côté, reveal the new name of the organization.

The Wind energy Techno-centre is renamed Nergica

Geneviève **Gélinas**

GASPÉ: – The Wind energy Techno-centre has changed its name to Nergica, in order to better reflect the diversification of its expertise.

“Wind energy remains at the heart of our mission, but also solar photovoltaic energy and the integration of renewable energies, through micro-grids and energy storage,” explains Frédéric Côté, director general of Nergica.

“Our name didn’t allow us to effectively communicate all of our expertise,” adds Mr. Côté. Furthermore, renewable energy is used in combination more and more. Nergica has 33 employees with three of them working full-time on solar energy. In December, the organization started operating a 16-kilowatt solar plant in Fox River, on the experimental site where there are also two large windmills, two 126 meter high meteorological towers and a micro-grid including small wind turbines, diesel generators and energy

storage systems.

Nergica has a \$5 million yearly budget. Half of that money is operating grants from the Quebec and federal governments. The second half comes from the sale of electricity produced in Fox River and contributions from companies conducting projects with Nergica.

New research study option at the Cégep

Nergica is also a college centre for the transfer of technologies (CCTT), attached to the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands Cégep. The director general of the Cégep, Yves Galipeau, took the opportunity of the Nergica press conference to announce that his college is working on a research study program.

“It will work like a sport-study program or as our outdoor adventure study program. It will be an immersion in research environments for our students. We’ll

reserve time in their schedule for research activities,” Mr. Galipeau explains.

The program should be available for the 2019-2020 school year. “First, we thought of our pre-university programs, in English and in French, but it’s not impossible to extend the research study program to our technical programs,” says Mr. Galipeau. By offering the new option, which doesn’t exist elsewhere in Quebec, the Cégep de la Gaspésie hopes to attract more students.

The participants in the research study program will benefit from the Nergica activities, among others. The Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands Cégep has two more college centres for the transfer of technology (CCTT): the Introduction to research and support to sustainable development centre (*Centre d’initiation à la recherche et d’aide au développement durable-CIRADD*) and Merinov, an innovation centre in fisheries and aquaculture.

Police report

Four of the five men charged on March 28 and 29, 2018 with various counts related to drug trafficking entered a plea of guilty on April 9 at the Percé courthouse. Three of them received sentences ranging between five and six years, which will be served in penitentiaries. A fourth man will be sentenced in July.

Michael Boudreau, 27, a Gaspesian living and arrested in the Laval area was sentenced to five years. Jimmy Briand, aged 26, who was already incarcerated at the New Carlisle detention centre on previous drug related charges, was sentenced to 5-and-a-half-years. Jean-François Cyr-Landry, 32, from Newport, was sentenced to six years.

Maxime Lelièvre-Poulin, 29, living in Chandler, also entered a plea of guilty, will only be sentenced on July 18 and was released on bail until then. He and Jimmy Briand are considered the leaders of that drug trafficking network.

Twenty-three people were arrested and questioned following the Pagaie (Paddle) operation conducted on March 28 and 29. The drug bust involved the participation of close to 40 police officers. The arrests are the result of an investigation that began in 2015. Other charges will likely be laid in that file. Except for two suspects in Laval, the other suspects were arrested in the Bay of Chaleur area between Paspebiac and Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé.



PUBLIC NOTICE ENACTMENT OF BY-LAW

- PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given:
- 1.- THAT at a meeting held on April 16, 2018, the Town Council has adopted by-law 1156-11-28 by-law amending By-Law 1156-11 "en modifiant les usages autorisés dans la zone AF 185 afin d'y permettre l'usage Foresterie (A-3); creant la zone AF-163-1, a meme unepartie de la zone AF-163, dans le but d'inclure les lots 4 054 44 7, 4 054 448 partie, 4 054 450 partie, 4 054 451 partie, 4 054 481 partie, 4 054 482 partie, 4 054 483 partie, 4 054 544, 4 055 753, 4 055 754 partie, 4 055 831 partie, 4 055 832 partie, 4 055 833 partie, 4 055 834 partie et 4 817 670 partie, cadastre du Quebec; ajoutant l'article 17.2.3 DISPOSITION APPLICABLE A LA ZONE AF-170, modifiant les usages autorisés dans la zone AF-170 afin d'y permettre l'usage Foresterie (A-3) »;
 - 2.- THAT by-law 1156-11-28 has been approved by the council of the regional county municipality La Cote-de-Gaspé, on April 11, 2018;
 - 3.- THAT an assessment of conformity has been issued by the Secretary-treasurer of the regional county municipality La Cote-de-Gaspé in respect of by-law 1156-11-28 on April 16, 2018;
 - 4.- THAT by-law 1156-11-28 came into force on April 16, 2018, according to the Act respecting land use planning and development;
 - 5.- THAT the interested can consult this by-law at the Office of the Town clerk, at the Town Hall, 25, rue de l'Hotel-de-Ville, Gaspé, during regular office hours.

GIVEN at Gaspé, April 25, 2018.
Isabelle Vézina
The Director of legal services and town clerk

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Editorial page



Commentary

Gilles Gagné

Trudeau lacked leadership in the Trans Mountain pipeline issue

During the 2015 electoral campaign, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau promised that Canada could be a strong environmental leader and still drive the economy with vigor. He thought that his government could conciliate both fields.

Canada's economy was already going relatively well and it maintained the pace, mainly due to a favourable world-wide situation and the need to find workers to replace a significant amount of retiring baby-boomers.

Environmentally though, Canada has failed to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions. They are in fact increasing and Justin Trudeau has also made it easy for the country by sticking to Stephen Harper's former targets, about the least restricting among the industrialized countries.

Justin Trudeau's government has been very busy bragging about its environmental values, but it has failed to move and translate those words into results.

Other countries such as Sweden have opted for

ambitious environmental targets, like zero emissions attributable to oil consumption by 2030. That is less than 12 years down the road. Sweden will probably succeed in reaching that target. The country and its enterprises will in the meantime sell carbon credits to the polluters of other countries, and develop technologies that will also be sold at an even higher price. That is an intelligent way to reconcile the economy and the environment.

In Canada, Justin Trudeau's government has opted for a go-ahead to a pipeline project, Trans Mountain, owned by Kinder Morgan. That project would almost triple the old pipeline's capacity, from 300,000 barrels to 890,000 barrels a day. The investment required hovers around \$7.4 billion. That oil would come from Alberta's tar sands, often referred to as the most costly and polluting hydrocarbons in the world.

However, the Canadian government has until recently forgotten to play the arbitrator role in a battle that is pitting Alberta and British Columbia. The Albertan government certainly wants the pipeline venture to materialize, whilst the minority government of British Columbia was elected after promising to block it. The Kinder Morgan terminal is located in Burnaby, at the upper end of Burrard Inlet, and tankers have to pass through a wide range of fragile spots when they move, loaded, out of Vancouver.

Recently, Kinder Morgan put a deadline on discussions by stating that the expansion project would be abandoned as of May 31 if final approvals were

not received.

Nobody at the federal level conducted the file the way Chrystia Freeland had driven the free-trade agreement issue with Mexico and the United States, for a reason that remains unknown. Canada is facing its most intense constitutional crisis over at least 20 years and it looks as if nobody saw it coming.

Alberta wants to impose oil export quotas on British Columbia, a resort that would penalize the oil industry, whilst British Columbia is taking the Canadian government to court in order to prove that BC can be the decision-maker in environment stakes. Canada is pretending to have the right to solve a dispute between provinces, but has failed once more to consult the First Nations in the first stages of the Trans Mountain expansion project.

Chances are that the expansion will fail. Kinder Morgan, like Trans Canada in the Energy East venture, might find that investing \$7.4 billion in a project that has not been legally cleared, considering the strong opposition showed by a majority of First Nations members, doesn't make long term business sense.

At first glance, a \$7.4 billion investment looks like a good deal for Alberta. However, the oil industry is responsible for 50 percent of the greenhouse emissions of the country. Hoping to reduce Canada's overall emissions without downsizing the oil industry is a lure.

At one point, those emissions will have a negative impact on the country's economy if we can't control them. We have done too little research in that regard and eventually, some of our products will be boycotted internationally because we will have failed to address that issue. Being a leader in the environment will soon be quite advantageous, economically but we seem to fail to recognize that.



Guest Commentary

Cynthia Dow

Small "p" politics: very small indeed

I was perplexed, to say the least, when I heard a few weeks ago that Pope Francis has refused to apologize for the suffering caused by the role the Roman Catholic Church played in the residential school fiasco in this country. Perplexed and even somewhat amazed because this Pope has always appeared to me to be the epitome of compassion.

Here he is, the first Pope born in the Americas! Known for his humility and concern for the poor, not to mention his encyclical about the impact of climate change, I've been a fan.

Call to Action # 58 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission states: We call upon the Pope to issue an apology to Survivors, their families, and communities for the Roman Catholic Church's role in the spiritual, cultural, emotional, physical, and sexual abuse of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children in Catholic-run residential schools. We call for that apology to be similar to the 2010 apology issued to Irish victims of abuse and to occur within

one year of the issuing of this report and to be delivered by the Pope in Canada.

Both the Assembly of First Nations and our two latest Prime Ministers have asked the Roman Catholic Church for a formal apology.

The Pope's stand on the requested apology really astounded me, so I did some research to see why he had made this decision. I googled the Catholic Conference of Bishops to see if I could figure out what this stance is all about.

In a letter to Indigenous peoples of Canada released on March 27, the President of the Conference of Bishops noted that "...after carefully considering the request and extensive dialogue with the Bishops of Canada, he (the Pope) felt that he could not personally respond. At the same time, sharing your pain, he has encouraged the Bishops to continue to engage in an intensive pastoral work of reconciliation, healing and solidarity with the Indigenous Peoples and to collaborate in concrete projects aimed at improving the condition of the First Peoples."

Basically, it's all about politics. Small "p" politics. Petty church politics, as far as I am concerned. The argument appears to be that it was not the Vatican that decided to participate in the establishment and running of residential schools, but the individual dioceses that were approached by the federal government to participate. A backgrounder on the Conference website on the issue notes that "...each Bishop, aware of local needs and aspirations, is

best positioned as the principal faith leader and pastor of his diocese to take concrete steps toward reconciliation."

So the Vatican and its chief spokesperson, the Pope, have no apology to offer. Hmm, by that logic I guess any large institution has no authority over its constituent parts and therefore is not accountable for what may or may not be carried out in its name. A very convenient way to dodge responsibility! Imagine if our governments operated in that way! School boards not responsible for how schools operate? Bus companies not responsible for whether or not their drivers are trained to drive safely? It's patently ridiculous.

Other churches involved in the residential school scandal have already issued formal apologies: The United Church in 1986, the Anglicans in 1993 and the Presbyterians in 1994. To be fair, these apologies were made by the Canadian church leadership, and not an international figure like the Pope.

But it gets worse: considered by many to be the richest organization in the world (and having seen St. Peter's Basilica, I can well believe it) the Roman Catholic Church has still not scraped together the money it had promised to support survivors of the residential schools and their communities.

So I feel the Pope, as the head of a church which played such a crucial role in Colonization throughout the planet, has a special duty here. That includes the duty to formally rescind the Papal Bulls creating and enhancing the Doctrine of Discovery which, from the 1400s on, served as justification for the invasion of foreign lands, subjugation of their peoples, genocide, cultural destruction, slavery and other forms of exploitation on every continent. To give him some credit, in 2015, while on a visit to Bolivia, Pope Francis issued an apology to Indigenous peoples in the Americas for the "grave sins of colonialism." So I guess he thinks his job on that issue is done.

It's inconceivable to me that the spiritual leader of the largest Christian denomination in the world has turned down this request. Nothing but a full and heart-felt apology will do in this case, as well as living up to the financial investment promised. A full embrace of the pain, suffering and sorrow caused to -- and still lived by -- Indigenous communities in Canada served by the Catholic residential schools. Get past the petty politics, Pope Francis, and do what is right.



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Shortage of bait has fishermen worried about future

Gilles Gagné

SHIGAWAKE: – The rising problem of finding bait locally and buying it at a reasonable price is becoming a growing concern for dozens of Gaspesian lobster and crab fishermen, according to Shigawake coastal fisherman Jeffrey Vautier. More than half of the bait used in the Gaspé Peninsula is imported, he says.

Mr. Vautier fears that over the long term, the scarcity of mackerel and herring for bait will increase and might represent a handicap in the fishermen's capacity to feed people.

He is calling upon the federal minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) Dominic Leblanc and Prime Minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau, to make changes before the whole matter deteriorates further.

"In 2017, 60 percent of our bait came from outside the country. Our log book, or E-log (electronic logbook) asks us the origin of our bait. I have checked with other fishermen and that proportion is right. Imported bait comes from Europe and Japan. We are talking about mackerel in my case," explains Jeffrey Vautier.

Mackerel and herring are used by Gaspesian fishermen. Spring herring and summer mackerel have become increasingly difficult to catch over the years, which led a number of bait suppliers to rely on imported fish to supply the fishermen.

Predators

The scarcity of herring and mackerel can be linked to two factors, points out Jeffrey



Photo: G. Gagné

O'Neil Cloutier criticizes that DFO administration doesn't seem to understand that mackerel and herring have a value far greater than their landing price.

Vautier, who goes for bait in July, after his lobster season, in an attempt to secure his bait reserve for the following year.

"The main predators of herring and mackerel are grey seals. There is a quota of 360,000 grey seals available to hunters but the department of Fisheries and Oceans doesn't provide the means to catch them. There is another important predator, the Bluefin tuna, the species of tuna that is fished here but the quota is too low to have an impact (a positive impact on mackerel and herring stocks)," explains Mr. Vautier.

Only 220 grey seals were caught out of the quota of

360,000 specimens last year. "The conditions are not there to harvest them. In the Magdalen Islands, for example, it would take sound mufflers on rifles to hunt grey seals but it is forbidden," he emphasizes.

An intensified grey seal hunt would come with conditions. "We don't want to flatly kill grey seals. We want to harvest them. We want to sell the skin, the meat and the bones. We have to find a way to reduce their number, to re-establish a balance in the sea. Right now, they (federal administrators of commercial

fisheries) don't give us the tools to do it," explains Mr. Vautier.

As for Bluefin tuna, "Fisheries and Oceans Canada has increased the quota slightly in recent years but not enough. Their number is high now and they eat a lot of fish," he adds.

He suggests Gaspesians should write to their Members of Parliament, Diane Lebouthillier and Rémi Massé, to the Fisheries and Oceans minister Dominic Leblanc and to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and sensitize them to the reality of fish used to make bait and the impact of depending on imports.

"Suppose that we eventually depend 100 percent on imported bait, and that we are refused imports, and that we are told by bait producers that they will fish our species for us, we will lose the capacity to feed our people," he states.

O'Neil Cloutier, director general of the Southern Gaspé Professional Fishermen Group, agrees 100 percent with Jeffrey Vautier regarding the bait issue.

He thinks the proportion of imported bait "is probably higher than 60 percent. On my boat, I used Chinese, Japanese, Australian and European bait last year. It has become a major problem and we have been talking about the situation for a long time," he says.

"The price of bait reaches \$1.10 per pound for mackerel. I use between 20,000 and 25,000 pounds of mackerel every year. It has become a major expense," adds Mr.

Cloutier. "Five or six years ago, the price for mackerel bait was 65 cents per pound."

It means that the price of mackerel used for bait has increased by 85 percent in half-a-dozen years.

A neglected species

"Mackerel is a neglected species. Nobody cares much about it. We are asking the department of Fisheries and Oceans to tighten-up sport fishing catches of mackerel. In fact, it is not regulated at the present time. In the summer, we see people from Toronto's Chinese community come here with freezers, fishing on the wharves and going back home to sell mackerel \$5 each. Moreover, there is control over commercial mackerel catches along the American coast, and none in Newfoundland as well. Gaspesians are the only ones to make declarations about mackerel catches," states Mr. Cloutier.

Quebec's department of Agriculture and Fisheries research branch, Merinov, is carrying out a project to develop artificial bait but it has not panned out so far.

"Research about alternative bait has been conducted on and off for 30 years. We will let the research progress but I am not holding my breath. The previous project was conducted at the end of the 1990s and around 2000; it was abandoned. Natural bait will be used this year and for the years to come," he concludes.

Action plan in place to improve mackerel stock

Gilles Gagné

GASPÉ PENINSULA: Regarding mackerel in 2017, Fisheries and Oceans Canada has implemented several measures in order to improve the monitoring of landings in certain regions. In this case as well, a working group involving Fisheries and Oceans Canada representatives and members of the industry was created to develop an action plan destined to improve the stock.

That working group has held two meetings to identify realistic management objectives taking into account the present situation. An electronic log book will be available in 2018 to improve data on landings and the overall compilation of fishing data, emphasizes Michel Plamondon, of the department of Fisheries and Oceans. More information regarding the size of the stock and protection measures will eventually be released by the ministry.

According to DFO herring stock is increasing slightly

Gilles Gagné

GASPÉ PENINSULA: - According to the federal department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), the stock of reproductive herring in the southern part of the gulf of Saint Lawrence increased slightly between 2016 and 2017, from 11,744 metric tonnes to 12,446 metric tonnes. Those numbers are based on biennial evaluations.

"After every assessment of the stock, the ministry makes adjustments

regarding the total allowable catches while taking into account the scientific and socio-economic factors before issuing recommendations. With regards to herring, the formation of a working group including the industry and the department of Fisheries and Oceans was proposed at a recent meeting in order to identify complementary management measures that would re-establish the stock," explains Michel Plamondon, spokesperson for Fisheries and Oceans Canada, in an email.

He says that no quota specific to 2017 was determined for grey seals and that 1,600 were caught last year.

As for Bluefin tuna, Canada will get 22% of the West Atlantic quota in 2018, which represents 515 metric tonnes. It will be a 13 percent increase compared to 2017. Last year, the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands tuna fishermen caught 69 of those large fish, for a total of 21 metric tonnes.

Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



G is for the Gaspé: An Alphabet of the Gaspésie

*You know who you are.
You are Gaspesian, be proud.
Yell it out. Don't be shy.
Yell it out loud.*

In 2011 the book *G is for the Gaspé* was published. The book was a collaborative project by the Canadian Heritage Cultural Development Fund and CASA. About a year from conception to published book, numerous steps were carefully planned and implemented. These included creating templates, establishing committees, locating artists, researching and writing text and layout of the book.

Artists generously donated their art to be used in this book, a different artist for each letter of the alphabet. Twenty-one of the artists were adults and five of the artists were students from the Eastern Shores School Board. The students were asked to submit entries for the letters G, A, S, P and E. Over 130 entries were received from the students. The adult artists represent the anglophone, francophone and Mi'gmaq communities. The pride of the artists shines through every piece of art they submitted. Please support our Gaspesian artists. The writers, steering committees and proofreaders all volunteered their time and effort. They all believed in this important project. The project coordinator and head writer was Diane Skinner and the porte-parole (artist spokesperson) was Linda Drody, whose painting graces the cover of the book.

The book is intended for a wide audience. The younger child can discover the Gaspé through the art and the original 4-line poems on each page. Items that are in the illustrations are bolded so that the child can search the page to find them. The older student can learn about the Gaspé from the text at the bottom of each page. The book is also valuable for students of art who can use it as a resource for studying various genres of art.

A sample of the artists who so generously donated their art to be used in this book are Gloria Hayes, Ethel Bradbury, Gwenda (Bunn) Sirois, Elise Kohl, Michael Caplin, Gilles Côté, Normand Desjardins and Linda Drody. Additional features in the book include Gaspesian Notables and a map of the Gaspé. A teachers' guide was offered with numerous teaching and learning activities.

Here are a few of the poems that can be found on each page:

*B is for boat,
Berries, beach and Bay,
Barachois, bonfires,
Bears and bales of bay.
F is a letter
For Forillon Park.
Forests, fossils and fiddlebeads.
Fogborns sounding at dark.
M stands for meadows
Mi'gmaq and maple,
Mussels, marshes, museums.
Molasses was a staple.*

The hope is that the reader will find the book useful, beautiful, enlightening and meaningful. English speaking Gaspesians have lived here for well over 250 years. This book may help to give us a sense of who we are and who we were. Every Gaspesian child / adult should own a copy of this important book. (You can buy *G is for the Gaspé* from CASA offices in New Carlisle. 168-170 Boulevard Gérard D. Levesque, New Carlisle, QC G0C 1Z0 (418) 752-5995. The cost is \$10 and you can buy a copy at the office in person or have a copy mailed to you for additional mailing costs of about \$5.00, depending on where it is going.)

You are Gaspesian, be proud!

ESSB working on project to upgrade or replace NCHS *No decision before 2020*

Gilles Gagné

NEW CARLISLE: – There are talks and reflection about the modernization or the replacement of New Carlisle High School (NCHS) by a new building but any prediction or details about the outcome of that reflection exercise would be premature, points out Howard Miller, director general of the Eastern Shores School Board (ESSB).

“We are in the early stages of analysis and probably two years away from any decision-making on the manner in which we would approach extensive building repairs,” explains Mr. Miller.

Rumors are persistent about the replacement of the old building by a new school, with the students moving to either Paspebiac or Bonaventure for a period of two years, the time required to build a new school. The fact that 2018 is an election year seems to feed that rumour.

However, that rumour doesn't affect the cautiousness expressed by Mr. Miller.

“I'd rather not talk about the future of the building right now. All work on this major dossier is preliminary and to talk about it now lends the impression that things will happen sooner rather than later. The NCHS building requires extensive repairs, which means that there is a need for much planning and



Photo: G. Gagné

Eastern Shores School Board director general Howard Miller points out that it is “too soon to tell when things will take place and how we will eventually respond.”

consultation with architects and government officials. This process takes lots of time,” he explains.

“In the interim, we are pleased that we were able to effect minor but, nonetheless, important building improvements over this past year. These included replacing three main water fountains, the installation of new classroom blinds throughout the school, a ramp to assist handicapped persons reach the main floor, handrails outside the school building, which were long overdue, and the impending purchase of new

curtains for the gym were just approved. The total spent in 2017-18 is approximately \$75,000. That's all that I can say about the NCHS building at this time,” emphasizes Mr. Miller.

He insists that it is “too soon to tell when things will take place and how we will eventually respond. (We are) probably still a couple of years away from decision-time.”

New Carlisle High School was built in 1914. The 2017-2018 enrolment is 141 students. Next year's projected enrolment is 137 students.

The Joneve could stay grounded until mid-May

Geneviève Gélinas

FOX RIVER – The Joneve, the Gesgapegiag shrimp fishing boat that ran aground on April 14 in Fox River, could be salvaged only around mid-May. “We finished removing polluting materials aboard on Sunday afternoon (April 22). We're going to move to phase two, by considering various plans to move the boat out of there,” explains Sylvain-Luc Dufresne, owner of the company Électro-Démarreur, who is in charge of emptying the boat of its diesel. On April 23, the company was also

preparing to remove the 11,000 pounds of shrimp still in the boat, and other perishables.

The next big high tides are expected on May 16, 17 and 18. If the boat is to be refloated by pulling it toward the bay, it will probably be done at this time, Mr. Dufresne expects. If the Joneve is to be pulled on dry land, the operation could take place earlier. First the operator will have to get authorization from both the federal and provincial Environment ministries, Mr. Dufresne points out.

Joneve captain Pierre Dupuis is retiring a few months earlier than expected. “I'm 66 years old and I've been fishing for 49 years,” he states. The two fishermen helpers who are Natives of Gesgapegiag will be moved to other Gesgapegiag boats. Those boats will also fish the quota that the Joneve was supposed to catch.



Federal government provides funding for Skills Link

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND – Members of Parliament Diane Lebouthillier and Rémi Massé recently confirmed that the federal government will be providing \$704,324 for young people living in the Bay of Chaleur region to acquire professional skills and practical work experience.

The sum is divided into two amounts, \$255,370 and \$448,954. The smaller amount will go to the Bay of Chaleur SADC and is intended for their new hiring program to assist young people to overcome barriers in finding employment. The program is available to young people between the ages of 16 and 30 living in the Bonaventure and Avignon MRCs and who have difficulty finding a job. For a three year period, employers who hire an individual from this program will benefit from income support of 85% of the minimum wage for a 12 to 26 week period.

Also in the Skills Link program, the federal government is providing an amount



Photo: Alain Lavoie

The mayor of New Richmond, *Éric Dubé*, the director general of CASA, *Cathy Brown*, Member of Parliament for the riding of Gaspésie-Magdalen Islands, *Diane Lebouthillier*, the director of SADC Baie-des-Chaleurs, *Lyne Lebrasseur* and *Rémi Massé*, Member of Parliament for Avignon-La Mitis-Matane-Matapédia, were on hand for the Skills Link announcement.

of \$448,954 to CASA (the Committee for Anglophone Social Action), as its staff provides part of the training needed to address the problem of barriers to employment through making a successful transition into the

workforce or returning to school.

Five groups of eight young people will receive a 9-week training regarding basic knowledge related to the work place. “We are talking about time management,

stress management, communication skills, budgeting, self-esteem and self-awareness. Every group is different,” points out Kathy Gallon, who coordinates that part of the training.

That 9-week training period is then followed by a stage (practical work experience).

A first group has already finished the nine week training and the ensuing 16-week stage period. These stages were provided by a number of Paspébiac businesses, such as the Dixie Lee restaurant, the BMR hardware store, Tim Horton’s restaurant and the IGA supermarket. In New Carlisle, the Town and the Gaspé SPEC also provided stages.

Three members of the first group found jobs following the stage and three more will

be returning to school. A second group of eight candidates has already started. The stages are designed “to match the individuals with a field of interest,” points out Kathy Gallon.

The stages are paid and the revenues are insurable earnings. The nine weeks of training do not bring in insurable earnings.

Participation in the program is not mandatory. “The whole program, with the five groups, will last 92 weeks. It is done on a volunteer basis,” adds Cathy Brown, of CASA.

Diane Lebouthillier, Member of Parliament for the Gaspésie-Magdalen Islands riding and minister of National Revenue, is confident that the Skills Link project will be successful.

“Those youths have dropped out of school and have stayed at home for a while. It is then more difficult to return to the workforce. I would say that 90 percent of our enterprises are looking for manpower. I know that some business people are putting a hold on investment projects because they are not sure of finding workers. That (Skills Link) project will sure help in that regard,” she comments.

Her colleague Rémi Massé, Member of Parliament for Avignon-La Mitis-Matane-Matapédia agrees.

“Strengthening our communities and the economy necessarily means integrating young people into the workforce. Our government is proud to support local organizations to give young people access to training, develop their skills and get to work,” he says.



Photo: J.Imhoff

Agnes McRae (fulltime employee at Tim Hortons), coordinators *Kathy Gallon* and *Candice Dort*, *Katia Allard* (starting Home assistance program at the Anchor), *Taylor Gallan* (Academic upgrading), *Colleen Major* (fulltime employee at Dixie Lee Paspébiac), *Christian McGregor* (fulltime employee at BMR), *Zandy Benwell* (Returning to school for Welding program). Missing from the photo are *Dawson Wellman* (Industrial Maintenance, Gaspé Cegep) and *Hunter Wellman* (relocating out of the province).

Skills Link program - a great success

Joan Imhoff

NEW CARLISLE - The 2017-2018 Skills Link program sponsored by CASA held its completion ceremony on Thursday, March 29, at the New Carlisle Municipal Hall. Eight students attended nine weeks of courses and training followed by a 16-week work placement. The program allows students to receive valuable on-the-job experience. This year’s candidates excelled with several being hired full time by their employers.



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Photo: J. Imhoff

Art for Action Coordinator Jennifer Willett, 1st place winner Mario Boulianne and CASA Programs Manager Fay Gallon.

Winners of Art for Action contest revealed

Joan Imhoff

NEW CARLISLE: - On the evening of March 28, CASA announced the winners of the Art for Action project. Out of the 15 projects submitted, the 1st place winner was Mario Boulianne \$500, 2nd place winner was Josh Philbrick \$250 and 3rd place winner was Tracy Major \$150.



Photo: J. Imhoff

Coordinator of the project, Melissa Savidant, displays the finished product.

CASA launches Colour Me Gaspé colouring book

Joan Imhoff

NEW CARLISLE: - CASA launched its newest project, a Gaspesian colouring book for all ages, at its new office on Wednesday, March 28. Beginning in September 2017 Gaspesians were invited to submit photos representing culture and heritage along the coast. The photos were judged by a panel of judges and 35 were chosen and were then transformed into colouring pages.

The top three winners were: 1st place David Girard of Saint-Georges-de-Malbaie \$150 and a digital cameral, 2nd place Darlene Dimock \$100, New Richmond and 3rd place Debbie Sams of Gaspé \$75.



Perfect your perennial garden this spring

(NC) Repairing your garden after an extreme winter can take some time and effort. But consistency is key to keeping your blooms fresh and full year after year. Mark Beaty, live goods merchant at The Home Depot Canada, shares tips on how to prepare your garden and help your perennials thrive.

Preliminary cleanup. Fluctuating temperatures, frost and salt can all damage your garden throughout the winter, so you want to act quickly to help your plants recover. Once the ground has thawed, clean up any fallen branches, twigs and debris from flowerbeds. Remove any frost-burned leaves and, on a warmer day, soak the soil in your garden with a hose or sprinkler to help flush the salt and any lasting winter residue.

Picking your plants. Perennials can be planted as soon as the ground is workable. Each variety has a distinct blooming period lasting several weeks, so choose plants with different bloom times to ensure continuous colour. While regional assortment varies, some of our most popular perennials are hostas (easy to grow and perfect for shaded gardens), lavender, daylilies (great for attracting hummingbirds and butterflies), dianthus, iris and phlox (with a beautiful fresh fragrance).

Maintaining your perennials. In the first few weeks, newly planted perennials require daily watering to thrive. Keep soil moist to one inch below the surface by watering every day before 10 a.m. or after 6 p.m. throughout the summer. Prune older, dried flowers to encourage new growth, and at the end of the season, cut your perennials back to 6 to 12" above the soil level. This will help encourage growth the following season.

Find more information and determine the perfect perennials for your garden online at homedepot.ca/garden-club.

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Three ways to overcome the stigma of dementia

(NC) For many people living with a health condition, dealing with stereotypes and myths can be a significant challenge. Stigma can also prevent people from receiving an early diagnosis, seeking treatment, and having the best quality of life possible.

Dementia is a loss of mental function that affects daily activities. It happens when cells in the brain die or when important nerve connections break down. Symptoms can include memory loss, behavioural changes, judgement and reasoning problems, and changes in mood and communication abilities.

Fortunately, there are some things people living with dementia, especially in the early stages, can do to overcome stigma.

Be open and direct. Talking to other people about dementia can help spread awareness and help people better understand the condition. Sometimes it can be hard to talk

about your own struggles, but you can engage with others in a less personal way by discussing prevention, sharing accurate information from trusted resources, and addressing inaccuracies and myths about dementia.

Seek a support network. Staying connected with others and engaging in meaningful activities is essential to maintaining your quality of life. Don't pull away from your family and friends — talk openly about what kind of help you need, find new activities you can do together, and keep doing as many of your favourite activities as you can, adapting them to suit your needs if necessary. You can also search for a local support group to connect with others who are going through a similar experience.

Participate in the solution. Actively helping to address dementia can help to encourage positivity and to reduce stigma beyond your social cir-

cles. You can connect with organizations that advocate for people with dementia, join clinical trials, and participate in local fundraisers.

The federal government is working on a national dementia strategy that will complement existing initiatives to promote awareness, reduce stigma and support those affected and is committed to helping improve the quality of life for people living with dementia and their caregivers.



Early signs of dementia, when to see your doctor

(NC) It's normal to forget some things as we get older. According to the Alzheimer Society of Canada, almost 40 per cent of people over age 65 experience some type of memory loss. Dementia and related conditions like Alzheimer's disease are more than just forgetfulness.



Dementia is a loss of mental function that affects daily activities. It is caused by a loss of cells in the brain and the breakdown of important nerve connections. Since early diagnosis may help to slow the progression of the condition, it's essential to know when to see your doctor.

Use these signs to understand if what you or a relative is experiencing is age-related or something more. The symptoms below are only signs, so if you have doubts see your physician.

Memory loss: This symptom becomes a warning sign when it affects your everyday life, like if you're forgetting things often or struggling to retain new information.

Behavioural changes: Severe mood swings can be a sign, as well as changes to your personality, or if you are feeling paranoid and threatened.

Judgment and reasoning problems: This can be some-

thing as simple as wearing heavier clothing on a warm day, or a more serious issue like not realizing a medical problem needs attention. Difficulty with abstract thinking — like not understanding what numbers mean on a calculator or how they're used — can also be cause for concern.

Trouble communicating: It's okay if you occasionally can't find the right words, but if you notice yourself needing to frequently pause or find substitutions when searching for words, this could be an early warning sign of dementia.

The federal government is working on a national dementia strategy that will complement existing initiatives to promote awareness, reduce stigma and support those affected and is committed to helping improve the quality of life for people living with dementia and their caregivers.

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Navigate.com wins provincewide award for regional economic development

Gilles Gagné

SAINT-GODEFROI: – Navigate.com, the Saint-Godefroi-based provider of high speed internet and computer services, won a provincewide award at the Mercuriades, the April 19 prize presentation organized by the Federation of Chambers of commerce. The Gaspé Peninsula enterprise won the regional economic development award, in the small to medium sized enterprise category.

The jury recognized Navigate.com's innovation, ambition and daring in business development, as the company made breakthroughs in high-speed internet services in areas neglected by major companies such as Telus.

Company president Jean-Marie Perreault says he owes the award to his team and the clientele, which have been loyal since the foundation of the company in 2006.

"It is not solely linked to our performance in 2017, I would say. The fact that we have put emphasis on areas like second and third ranges, where high-speed services



Photo: Courtesy of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce

The Bay of Chaleur Chamber of Commerce president Ken Henry with Navigate.com president Jean-Marie Perreault.

were not available, and our social role in the community, the volunteer involvement of our staff all contributed to that award," says Mr. Perreault.

In order to qualify for the Mercuriades, Navigate.com had to win a regional award, which was done over the fall at the Bay Chaleur Chamber of Commerce gala.

Navigate.com will complete its 12th year of activities in 2018. The company now employs 40 people and is still growing. The gross revenues of the company have now surpassed the \$5 million mark and are nearing \$6 million.

However, 2018 could be a tough year, acknowledges Jean-Marie Perreault, due to

the installation of a larger network of fiber optic by Telus.

"We expect a bit of downsizing in 2018 because we didn't receive the money we were expecting from the two levels of government. We were expecting some money but we received nothing. Telus received the whole amount handed out by the

governments. So instead of investing \$10 million, we will invest \$4 million to deploy our own fiber optics. We have reached the pre-engineering stage," explains Mr. Perreault.

Telus will receive a grant of \$31 million to serve the Lower Saint Lawrence, the Gaspé Peninsula, the North Shore and part of the Chaudière-Appalaches region. Along the south shore of the Gaspé Peninsula, the company will receive \$7.4 million alone from the federal and provincial governments.

Mr. Perreault was hoping to get a grant representing at least the market share of his company, 7%, and maybe a bit more considering that Navigate.com serves areas where the population density is low.

"Telus is already trying to recruit some of our clients and they succeed sometimes but we will hang tough. We are not giving up. Telus tried to buy us and we refused. We know why they want to buy us; they want to raise the cost of the service. It bugs them that we are charging less than them," says Mr. Perreault.

Feral Cats – help is here

Jeanie LeLacheur

GASPÉ: – A sharp increase in the local feral cat population has prompted Joanie Normand owner of *À chacun sa bête inc.* to take positive action in her Gaspé community.

The rescue operation which was formed about a year ago has already sterilized and found forever homes for approximately 350 feral cats from the area. The non-profit group is yet without an official name as they work out the legal aspects of the non-profit organization. Ms. Normand was quick to point out the distinction between *À chacun sa bête inc.* which provides grooming services and sells pet food and accessories in the Gaspé area and the rescue organization. "We don't sell any animals here at *À chacun sa bête inc.* and any money we receive as donations when people bring animals in goes directly towards sterilization vet care and maintenance costs for rescued animals," she says

The most recent and heart wrenching case was of a



Photo: Joanie Normand

Lucienne is up for adoption.

mother cat that was transferred from a nearby rescue group who were sadly already at capacity when she showed up at their door.

The mother cat had five kittens shortly after arrival but was in such a state of ill health that she had to be taken to local veterinarian Andre Bainville where she

was diagnosed with Feline Immunodeficiency Virus Infection (FIV) or Feline Aids. It was decided that euthanasia would be the kindest course of action, so her kittens are being fostered at the moment and will be available for adoption soon.

Two more kittens were found in a wooded area just

days after this interview had taken place and were picked up by the group, a third kitten, in Joanie's words "did not get this chance," as it had already succumbed to the elements. Whether the kittens were born in the isolated area is questionable but the gravity and or criminal implications of dumping any animal off to die of starvation, freeze to death or be eaten by predators is clearly evident.

The feral cat situation is growing and although individuals want to help, feeding them is not always the best approach, explains Joanie. One area had 45 cats living on it last year, a problem that will likely get worse before it gets better. The answer is of course sterilization and responsible pet ownership which is why the municipality is working towards regulations that will see owners take responsibility for the animals in their care.

Regulations could include mandatory microchips which would mean that abandoned animals would be traced back to owners, and laws that

would prohibit the sale of unsterilized animals by pet stores and call for mandatory sterilization for individual pet owners.

The rescue group is supported by local veterinarian Andre Banville who provides vet care and sterilization for the rescued animals at a discounted rate. Locals are being asked to refrain from feeding the feral cat population, although understandably there are those who would argue against that. A long term solution could include a catch and release plan that has individuals sterilized and marked; this coupled with mandatory sterilization and microchips would certainly help with overpopulation.

Spec has kindly offered to highlight one rescue per month for the Gaspé rescue group to help find forever homes. For more information about the group, to make a donation or if you'd like to rescue an animal, visit the facebook page or visit the store *À chacun sa bête inc.* in person. Until there's none rescue one.



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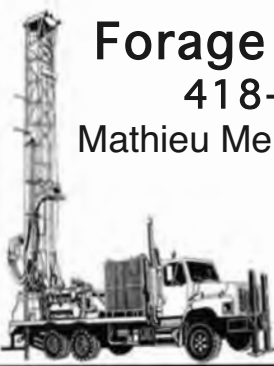
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Obituaries



DOIRON: Evangeline

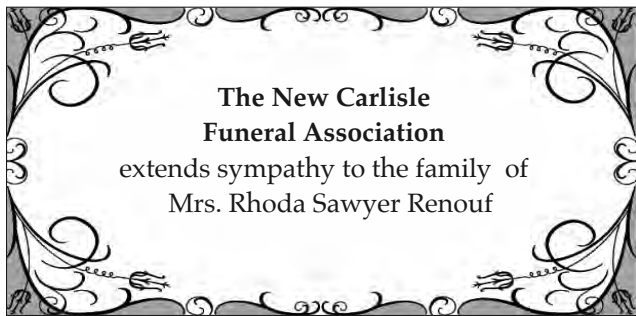
Mrs. Evangeline Doiron, wife of Mr. William (Bill) MacWhirter from Gaspé, passed away at CISSS De La Gaspésie Hospital of Gaspé, on April 9 at the age of 88.

The family received condolences at the Résidence Funéraire Valère Fortin Inc., located at 86 Jacques-Cartier St., in Gaspé, on Thursday from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. and before the funeral on Friday, April 13 at 1 p.m. Funeral service was held at the funeral home at 2 p.m. Friday, April 13.

Mrs. Evangeline Doiron leaves behind: her husband Mr. William (Bill) MacWhirter, son William (Champ) MacWhirter (Jann Pierce), daughter Jo-Ann MacWhirter (Mick Kennedy), two grandchildren Dylan Kennedy, Jenna Kennedy, one great-grandchild Bridget Bauer, two sisters Rina and Rita, one brother Fernand, one sister-in-law Shirley. Many nephews, nieces, friends and her beloved dog Sophie.

In lieu of flowers, a donation may be made to the Gaspé Cancer Foundation or to a foundation of your choice.

The burial will take place in Hope Town this summer.



WILLETT: Ralph James

July 1, 1949 - May 12, 2017

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing away of Ralph James Willett of New Richmond, Quebec, which occurred at the Maria Hospital on May 12, 2017 at the age of 67 years and 10 months. He was the son of the late Percy Willett and Sarah "Sadie" Helen Mercier. He was predeceased by his brother, Raymond Mercier on December 6, 2011, sister-in-law Shirley Mabel Cormier Mercier on June 16, 2012 and David McDavid in 2000.

On October 25, 2016, Ralph was diagnosed with Glioblastoma, an incurable brain tumour. This was very hard on him. The last week of March, things became worse, he had trouble seeing and walking around, he had no strength to do anything even to get up. Then he couldn't even walk. He was unable to lift his right arm to feed himself. His ability to talk got worse, as you know it was not like Ralph not being able to talk. It was really difficult to watch this happen to him but in our minds, we were hoping that the radiation and chemo would work, but no, the end was coming. His body developed other problems with blood clots and then an abscess on his large intestine which burst due to the meds being taken for too long a period of time. You start to mourn when a person is first diagnosed with this cancer. We knew what the outlook was and what it would bring. Enjoy your family "live, love and laugh"; we can choose good things. Life is too short.

Ralph loved nature, he loved being in the woods,

working with wood and travelling in the woods. He was always a joyful person, always full of energy, worked hard, was relaxed at what he did - you could say "an easy going guy". Ralph was well known for his story-telling. People enjoyed conversations with him and the way he expressed himself during these conversations. He would laugh when he gave an impressive detailed description of his story. He was very good at his story-telling.

Ralph leaves to mourn his loving friend, Marilyn Campbell, of over 46 years, his nieces and nephew; Sharon Mercier McDavid, (the late David) of Edson, AB and now of New Richmond, Quebec, Patricia Mercier LeBlanc (Jacques), Brenda Lee Mercier Appelt (Dave) all of Edson, AB and Kevin Mercier (Kathy St. Onge) of New Richmond. He leaves many great nieces, great nephews and cousins. Ralph became a big part of the Campbell Family and will forever be in the hearts of them; Viola (Nick Kosman), Bertha (Leonard Hayes), Pauline Warren (the late Bernard), Betty Acker (the late Keith), Irvin (Patsy Cleary), Cranston (Kathleen Casey), Osburn (Anna Kowakowska), the late Everett, Grace (the late Bill Brown), Ruby (Ron Beckett), Mitchell and Ralph (Denise Dugas) as well as Marilyn's nieces and nephews. He will also be sadly missed by the owners and his co-workers at Lorne Cottage and many other friends he knew.

The funeral service was held at the Full Gospel Church (Pentecostal) at the corner of Perron Blvd. and Campbell Road in New Richmond, Quebec on May 19, 2017 with Pastor Jean-Louis Beauchamp officiating and Marie-Paule Gill Beauchamp providing the music. The Scripture Reading was read by Denise Dugas. The Hymns were, *What A Friend We Have In Jesus* and Ralph's favourite - *When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder*. The Eulogy was given by Lucy Jane Casey-Campbell and Memories of Uncle Ralph were spoken by his niece, Sharon Mercier McDavid. A Special Gospel song was played *I Want To Stroll Over Heaven with You* and the departing hymn was played - *Each Step I Take*.

The pallbearers were Cranston Campbell, Ralph Campbell, Vern LaBrecque, Robert LeBuffe, Conrad LeGouffe, Ricky LeGouffe and Hamon McCormack.

The most important thing Ralph did, a couple of months before he passed away, was to rededicate his life to the Lord Jesus Christ.

The burial took place in the Black Cape Cemetery immediately following the service. A friendship tea was held in the church basement following the burial.

Thank You

We, the family of the late Ralph James Willett, wish to express our sincere thanks to all our relatives and friends during our bereavement. We would like to thank those who made telephone calls, sent lovely flowers, the donations to different charities, sympathy cards and the visit to the funeral home. It was all appreciated.

We want to take this opportunity to thank the doctors and nursing staff on the fourth floor, the Oncology department of Maria Hospital for the compassionate care Ralph was given during his short stay there.

A special thank-you to Pastor Jean-Louis Beauchamp for conducting the funeral and Marie Paule Gill Beauchamp for the organ music and leading the singing. Special thanks to Sharon Mercier McDavid, his niece for preparing and delivering "Memories of Uncle Ralph" and helping to choose and scanning the pictures. Lucy Jane Casey-Campbell for doing the eulogy. A very special thank you to Lucy Jane for designing and placing the order for the beautiful church bulletins and doing up the picture presentation. Lucy also designed the "Thank You" card and ordered them. She did a great job. Thank You, Lucy.

To the Pallbearers, Cranston Campbell, Ralph Campbell, Vern LaBrecque, Robert LeBuffe, Conrad Legouffe, Ricky LeGouffe and Hamon McCormack, a very special thanks and an honour to you all. Thank you to those who opened and closed the grave; to the Funeral Home, Doris and her helpers for the wonderful service that was given to us during our bereavement, many thanks. Thank you to those who prepared the delicious lunch for after the funeral service and burial. Thanks to each and everyone, your thoughtfulness and kindness were deeply appreciated. Sorry for being so late, but had a reason for it.

Marilyn Campbell,

His nieces, Sharon, Pat, Brenda Lee and nephew Kevin and their spouses and families



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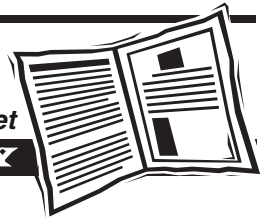
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COAST ROUND-UP: \$5 per week

CLASSIFIED: \$6 per week

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DEADLINE FOR THIS PAGE: THURSDAY



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For Sale: Seventy-two 13" x 13" ceramic tiles for floor or around bathtub, beige. Asking \$60. Call 418-752-6041 or during the day 418-752-5400.
For Sale: Four Mitsubishi 17" rims from 2012 RVR. Asking \$100. Call 418-752-5815

COAST ROUND-UP

POINTE-NAVARRÉ:

Upcoming Events

The Mass of St Peregrine, patron saint of the sick suffering from cancer and long-term diseases, will be celebrated on **Tuesday, May 1** at 7 p.m. at the Shrine of Pointe-Navarre.
Sunday, May 6: The Annual General Meeting of the Sanctuary of Pointe-Navarre will be held at 1:30 p.m. at the church. You are invited to this meeting to receive information on the administration of the sanctuary.

Monday, May 14: You are invited to an Evening Taizé, between 7-8 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Prayers in peace, songs and music in the spirit of Taizé.

Tuesday, May 15: We will celebrate the 50th anniversary of death of Father Watier at 7 p.m. at the Shrine of Pointe-Navarre, we will give thanks to the Lord by recalling the life of Father Watier and his mission among us. Welcome!

YORK:

Annual General Meeting

The York River Senior Citizens will be holding their Annual General Meeting on **Saturday May 5**, 4 p.m. in the Royal Canadian Legion. Punch will be served from 5 to 6 p.m., supper at 6 p.m. and a dance to follow, live entertainment. Come out and enjoy the music of the Band. The cost of the evening is \$20, with a \$10 refund being offered to all York River Senior Club members. Bar services will be available.

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 handcraft table, white elephant table, and mystery parcels. Afternoon tea will be served (\$5). Doors open at 2 p.m.

DOUGLASTOWN:

Upcoming Events

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

Thursday, May 3: at 7 p.m.

Board Games Evening every first Thursday of the month, come and have fun at an evening of board games. Come alone or in a group and bring your favourite games. \$1 grilled cheese and new games from Alpha's library in Gaspé are waiting for you.

Wednesday mornings: Healthy Walks. You are welcome to join an informal group to walk about 4 kms every Wednesday morning in Douglstown's ranges. We will meet at 10:30 a.m. in front of the Community Center.

Wednesdays at noon: from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. you are welcome to savour a soup at the Community Center. Voluntary contribution of \$3 would be appreciated. You are welcome to play your favourite game in the Community Center living room starting at 1 p.m.

BARACHOIS:

Legion Branch 261

Upcoming Events

Every Monday: The Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 261, will be having a bingo at 7 p.m. at the Legion.

Thursday Nights: Darts will be held beginning at 7 p.m. New players welcome. No experience necessary.

PORT DANIEL:

Upcoming Event

The following event will be held at the Three Star Golden Age Club in Port Daniel.

May 12: Mother's Day Tea.

PORT DANIEL:

Upcoming events to support St. James Anglican Church

April 27: Gift Bingo at the Three Star Golden Age Club in Port Daniel at 7:30. All proceeds will go to St. James Anglican Church Port Daniel. Single card \$10, series 3/\$20. Get your dabbers ready! Canteen service and 50/50 available as well.

June 30: Canada Day Entertainment Evening

July 28: Annual Bazaar

October 6: Harvest Supper

November 10: Casserole Supper and Auction

PORT DANIEL:

Strawberry Social

The Marcil Women's Institute will be holding its annual strawberry social on **Friday, July 27**, from 12 noon to 2 p.m. at the Three Star Golden Age Club at 177, Route 132, Port Daniel West. Entrance \$7, children under 6 free; door prizes, bake table, sales table, 50/50, more information call 418-752-8152.

SHIGAWAKE:

Upcoming Activities

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

Saturday, June 23: Fish Cake supper \$12 per person

Saturday July 7: Country Hoedown. Live Music, D.J. light lunch. Dress up in your best country outfit.

SHIGAWAKE:

Tea, Bake and Craft Sale Change of Date

A tea, bake and craft sale will be held at the Shigawake Community Centre (across from the Anglican Church) on **Thursday, July 12**, from 12 noon to 2 p.m. Adults \$7, children 6 and under free. Door prizes, prizes, 50/50.

HOPE TOWN:

Upcoming Activities

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

Saturday May 5: A crib tournament. 1 p.m. \$10 per person. Please register your team by Thursday, May 3. All Proceeds for the Alzheimer Walk. Call Audrey or Linda 418-752-2015.

May 12: Military Whist.

HOPE TOWN:

Service

Hope Baptist Church welcomes You! Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 a.m. Corporate Worship at 11 a.m. Wednesday 7 p.m. Prayer Meeting and Bible Study; Friday 7 p.m. Young Peoples for Grade 7-11, 305 Route 132 West, Hope Town 418-752-5838

PASPEBIAC

Knitters Needed

La maille de l'amitié, a group of knitters who are eager to help men, women and children who are receiving chemotherapy at Maria hospital by providing knitted hats, is looking for knitters. If needed, patterns and samples are available at the library in Paspébiac, which is also where you should drop-off your knitted items. You can also include a short note of encouragement, identified by your name only. For more information contact Claudette Whittom (418) 752-3633 or Doris Chedore (418) 752-5190.

NEW CARLISLE:

Benefit Tea

A Benefit Tea will be held on **Saturday, April 28**, from 3-6 p.m. at the Town Hall, for Judy Buttle who is in need of a double lung transplant. Please come out and support this worthy cause.

NEW CARLISLE:

LIFE Association upcoming events

May 5: Mother's Day Tea from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. At the New Carlisle Town Hall. \$5 per person.

June 16: Bingo at 7 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion in New Carlisle. \$10 series or 3/\$20.

NEW CARLISLE:

Upcoming Activities

May 11: Soup and Sweets from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please note There will be no card games until further notice.

NEW CARLISLE:

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 RICHMOND:

Flea Market

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 items every week. To donate or obtain furniture please call 418-392-5161. Open on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. At 248 Perron Blvd. New Richmond.

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

Royal Canadian Legion Br. 172

Upcoming Events

The Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 172 meets monthly every third **Saturday** at the Legion, located at 55 Gallagher St.

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

Book Room

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

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

50+ Club

Upcoming 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).

GESGAPEGIAG:

N.A. Meetings

N.A. Meetings held every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Mawiommi 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, April 29
10:30 a.m. New Carlisle

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

Sunday April 29

New Carlisle

10 a.m. Morning Prayer

Hope Town

10 a.m. Morning Prayer

Shigawake

Worship with United at New Carlisle United Church 10:30 a.m.

PARISH OF GASPÉ

Sunday, April 29

Gaspé

10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

REMEMBER:

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Why do we SAY...

By Gary Briand

A friend of mine is enamored of buying Loto tickets. He plans on going around the world - if he wins. Recently a de-panneur owner suggested "don't count your chickens before they are hatched."

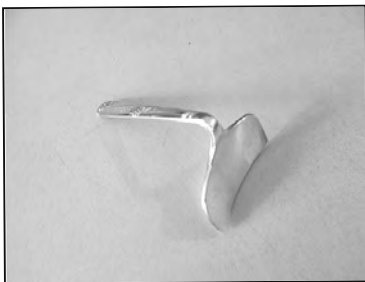
What is the background to that admonition? Obviously, the meaning is quite simple: don't count on profits until you have them in hand. The expression first appeared in English in 1579:

"I woulde not have him counten his chickens so soon before they be hatcht."

It seems that the background for the expression goes way back to Aesop's Fables. There we meet a woman who brings her eggs to market in a basket. She bounces that she will buy a goose with the money she will get from the sale of the eggs; she will sell the goose eggs and buy a cow - but in the excitement with all her plans for a bright future she falls over the basket and breaks all her eggs.

Such is the origin of our enigmatic expression. For the full details, go to "The Milkmaid and her Pail."

What's This Artifact?



Answer: Food pusher utensil, could be used in unison with a fork to practice "fine dining."

FUN NIGHT OUT WORD SEARCH

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

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

WORDS

APPETIZERS
BABYSITTER
BILL
CHEERING
CITY
CLUB
DANCING
DATE
DESSERT
DINING
DOWNTOWN
DRINKS
ENJOYMENT
ENTERTAINMENT
EVENING
FAMILY
FESTIVE
FORMAL
FRIENDS
GAME
GROUP
HOSTESS
LAUGHING
MEAL
MUSIC
MUSICAL
PARTY
PLAY
POPCORN
RESTAURANT
SPORTS
STADIUM
TAXI
THEATER
TICKETS
TOURIST

What is old becomes new again!
Don't throw out your old furniture,
change it up and make something new...

Before



After



Turn an old dresser that still has some flair into a gorgeous functional bench with storage.

DID YOU KNOW?



The largest lobster ever recorded was caught in Nova Scotia. It weighed over 20 kilograms and was estimated to be 100 years old!

Exploring fun facts about Canada is just one of the many ways to celebrate Canada at 150. We invite you to join us in celebrating what makes Canada unique and special to you as we mark this historic milestone anniversary!

HOROSCOPES

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

This is an excellent week to get out and be active, Aries. Whether you hike, walk or go cycling, take some time to enjoy the great outdoors. This will benefit the mind and body.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, take charge of your health because it is the most important way to stay on top of your game. Don't forget to include emotional and spiritual health in your regimen.

GEMINI - May 22/June 21

It's time to tap your creativity, Gemini. If there is some piece of artwork or a

craft you like but find too expensive, there's a good chance you can create an excellent replica.

CANCER - June 22/July 22

Some fresh air and sunshine can do you a world of good, Cancer. Especially if you have been a little stagnant in your career or personal life. A new perspective can help.

LEO - July 23/Aug 23

The energy in the air can do surprising things when you are feeling frustrated, Leo. A change of scenery can help you rebound fast and get back on track.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, organize a group activity with friends and family members this week. This is a good opportunity to

reconnect with loved ones you may not have seen in some time.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, if you are lacking regular exercise, take this week to make a new fitness plan that works for you. Start slowly and build up as you grow accustomed to exercise.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

Put your ambitions into action, Scorpio. It's one thing to give lip service to ideas, but it's another to get started toward goals. The latter may lead to a more fulfilling life.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

Don't hesitate to take on projects or make plans this week, Sagittarius. The more quickly you get involved, the better. Write down all of your

plans to stay organized.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Work goes quite well for you this week, Capricorn. But you're having difficulty finding traction at home. Take a day to catch up on projects at home to quiet your mind.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, if you have been feeling creative and ambitious, consider giving a new hobby a try. An artistic project is fitting, but anything that inspires you will suffice.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

There is a good chance that you will start the week with vigor, and it will continue for the next several days, Pisces. Channel that energy.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

APRIL 22

Marshawn Lynch, Athlete (32)

APRIL 23

John Cena, Wrestler (41)

APRIL 24

Kelly Clarkson, Singer (36)

APRIL 25

Renee Zellweger, Actress (49)

APRIL 26

Melania Trump, First Lady (48)

APRIL 27

Martha Hunt, Model (29)

APRIL 28

Jessica Alba, Actress (37)

The Gaspé Spec is looking for a stringer in the Percé/Chandler area.

You would be responsible for occasionally covering community events in the area. This could be in the form of a short article or providing a photo with caption.

If you have an interest in writing, current affairs or photography, please contact specs@globetrotter.net for more information



Class of 2018

If you are from a household that has an active subscription to **The Gaspé Spec**, you are invited to apply for the **SPEC BURSARY**

One \$500 bursary will be awarded to the **high school graduate** showing the greatest **academic improvement** on their transcript between **Grade 9 and Grade 11** and who will be continuing their academic studies at a post-secondary institution.

Applicants must be from one of the following schools:

Escuminac Intermediate, New Richmond High School, New Carlisle High School, Chandler Evergreen or Gaspé Polyvalent

APPLICATION PROCESS

The applicant must include in their application the following items:

GRADE 9, GRADE 10 **AND** GRADE 11 transcripts.
The transcripts must show improvement.

Proof of involvement in community volunteer activities.
This would include letters from community leaders attesting to community volunteer work over the last three years.

Acceptance letter from the post-secondary institution you will be attending.

Applicants failing to provide **ALL** of the above mentioned items will be disqualified.

Student's address must match the address of an active Spec Subscription.

Applications must be submitted by May 11, 2018 at 4 p.m.

Send your application and all required documents to:

The Gaspé Spec / Spec Bursary
208-B Gerard D. Levesque
New Carlisle, QC
G0C 1Z0

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