

Pin Rouge Snowmobile Challenge a rousing success



Wendy Dawson

New Richmond – Over the weekend of April 7 and 8, the Petite Cascapedia Regional Park took full advantage of the winter season's heavy snowfall and hosted a hugely successful snowmobile event at Pin Rouge. In collaboration with RPM and Sports B.G., the Pin Rouge Snowmobile Challenge welcomed over 93 racers and 800 spectators.

Marie Nowak, responsible for communications and events at Pin rouge explains that the idea was initiated in 2017. First approached by RPM, one of the events partners, RPM provided the expertise in the planning and development of the motor event while Sports B.G. of New Richmond was the main sponsor.

Continued on page 16

Photo: Peter de Groot

Four fishermen evacuated by helicopter

Geneviève Gélinas

RIVIÈRE-AU-RENARD: – Four fishermen were evacuated by helicopter early on the morning of Sunday, April 15, after their shrimp fishing boat ran aground close to the Rivière-au-Renard wharf.

The rudder of the Joneve, a boat belonging to the Gesgapegiag Micmac community, became non-functional on April 14, as the boat was fishing off Port-Cartier. A colleague, the captain of the JD Caroline Christine, towed the Joneve from there to the entrance of the Rivière-au-Renard harbour. At that moment, at approximately 11 p.m., the towline broke and the boat ran aground not far from the shore.

Water came in the engine room after passing through the damaged hull. The wind was strong and the boat was leaning. “We had trouble keeping standing,” tells the Joneve cap-



Photo: G. Gélinas

tain, Pierre Dupuis. The Canadian Coast Guard boat, based in Rivière-au-Renard, wasn't

able to rescue the fishermen. The Coast Guard called a National Defense helicopter,

based in Halifax. Between 3:15 a.m. and 4 a.m., on Sunday, the aircraft hovered over

the boat, rescued the four fishermen and brought them back to land.

Captain Dupuis says that he didn't feel endangered. “We donned our survival suits. We weren't far from the shore, but it was dark and windy.” Those conditions prevented the crew from evacuating by themselves.

When SPEC spoke to the captain, the afternoon of April 15, the wind was still too strong to think about refloating the Joneve. “We're waiting for a lull of the wind. We have a meeting on Monday morning (April 16). We'll do everything possible to get the boat out of that,” stated captain Dupuis.

Mr. Dupuis was keeping in touch with the Canadian Coast Guard and with Environment Canada, because there was fuel in the boat.

The Joneve was on its way back from its second fishing trip of the season.

Caplan's community hall gets \$3 million facelift

Gilles Gagné

CAPLAN: – Caplan's community hall, referred to for a long time as the OTJ hall, has undergone a nine-month long transformation and is now a multipurpose hall. The new building is thanks to a \$3 million investment, including significant support from the provincial government, through a grant of \$2,127,000 and a \$500,000 contribution from the federal government. Regional organizations also played a role in the last phase of the project. Caisse Desjardins, the Bonaventure MRC and the SDEIC (*Société de développement économique et industriel de Caplan*) each contributed \$30,000. That \$90,000 was very useful in the acquisition of equipment and furniture. The Municipality of Caplan completed the project's funding.

Mayor Lise Castilloux is glad that the construction phase of the project was car-



Photo: G. Gagné

People who have not been in the former OTJ building for a while won't recognize the interior.

ried out in such a short time frame by Saint-Omer's LFG Construction, as the money from the federal government had to be spent before December 31. "It was inconceivable to demolish the building but it was in quite a bad state. We had lost some organizations because of that state.

They are coming back now," she commented. The building was expanded to provide

room for local groups.

Besides local organizations such as Caplan's flea

market and Caisses Desjardins, the multi-purpose hall is also being used as a meeting room for many events, such as the weekly bingo, and several groups, such as the firefighters, also get together there. "A committee will also recruit some activities for the hall. Our rates will be reasonable, adapted to people's capacity to pay," adds Mayor Castilloux.

Former Member of the National Assembly for the riding of Bonaventure, Gérard D. Levesque, held some of his political rallies in this building for decades. Shortly after his death, his eventual successor, Marcel Landry, also used that building for the first rally leading to the by-election of February 21, 1994.

News briefs

Very bad news

Thierry Haroun

GASPÉ PENINSULA: - The recent abolishment of the Quebec Health Commissioner by the Quebec Health Minister, Gaétan Barrette is very bad news for the patients and the health system thinks the regional President of the Retired Quebec Civil Servants Association (AQRP), Aline Smith and the CSQ Union. "In doing so, Minister Barrette is clearly showing that from now on he will take no criticism concerning his work. It's simply nonsense because the commissioner was an independent expert who used to assess the minister's work on a yearly basis and now there won't be any. How can this be? We, as an association, that represents more than 500 Gaspésians and thousands across the province think that it's a serious matter and we are very preoccupied by this situation," points out Aline Smith that Spec reached in Gaspé. Louise Chabot, the president of the CSQ Union was in Gaspé recently and Spec met her at Gaspé Polyvalent where she had a press conference to give. "Yes, it's nonsense because since Minister Barrette has been in power he has reformed the health system which is giving very bad results and the abolishment of the commissioner is sadly related to that reform."

Send us the details of your event and have it announced in the **COAST ROUND-UP** section of the **The Gaspé Spec**.

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Jobs, jobs and more jobs in the Percé Rock MRC

Thierry Haroun

GRAND RIVER: - The Percé Rock MRC Job Fair was a real success as hundreds of job seekers attended the event which took place at the Grand River arena on April 12 from noon to 7 p.m. Spec was on hand.

If you are looking for a job or want to make a career change, the third edition of the Percé Rock MRC Job Fair was the place to be. 220 jobs including summer, part-time and full-time jobs in a variety of fields were showcased in 50 different booths of many different companies. The Gaspésie Health and Social Services Center, Caisses Desjardins, The Canadian Armed Forces, the Sûreté du Québec, Gasp'Eau, Gimxport, Revenu Québec, Emploi-Québec and Nova Lumina were some of the organizations that were present. In the environment sector, the *Régie intermunicipale de traitement des matières résiduelles de la Gaspésie*, had a few jobs available, confirms its spokesperson, Sophie Désormeaux. "We are currently looking for people to work at our composting site located in St-François-de-Pabos (greater Chandler area). We are also establishing a list of names in case we need new workers for our Recycling Center located in Grand River."

Near that booth, the Côte-



Photo: T. Haroun

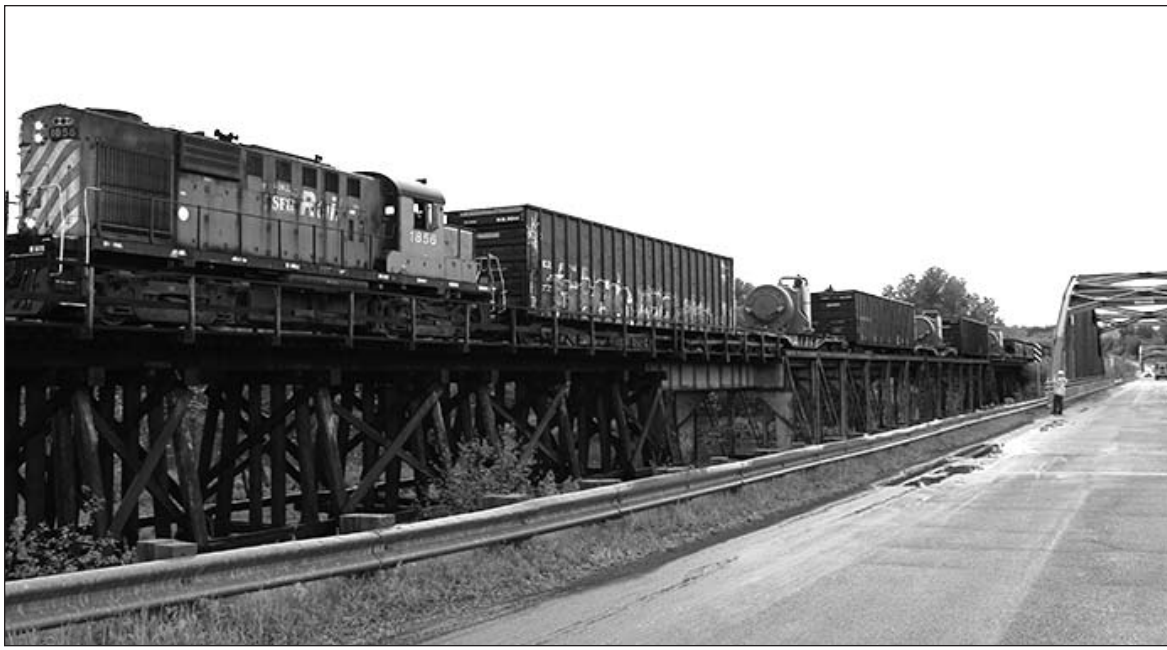
Maryse Tremblay of McInnis Cement.

de-Gaspé Training Center had one that offers many programs that are adapted to the needs of the market place, mentions its spokesperson, Pascale Malo. "There's a great demand for kitchen training, which we offer. But we also have a wide range of other programs such as welding, electromechanics, restaurant skills and so forth."

Want to work in a large factory?

Moreover, if you ever dreamed of working at McInnis Cement there are plenty of jobs still available, confirms the Communications Executive Director, Maryse Tremblay. "Now at the quarry there are a few jobs available such as mechanic, machinery oper-

ator and so forth, at the cement mill, there are also operators needed and at the storage department. In the administration sector, we need administrators and accountants. I would also like to say that 80% of our workers are from the Gaspé Coast and we think that this Job Fair is so useful." The *Centre Jeunesse Option Emploi* of the Percé Rock MRC is one the organizers of the Event. Its spokesperson, Marie-Ève Cyr points out that it was a real success. "Absolutely. We know that people have found jobs by coming here. The main goal of the event is to allow job seekers and employers to meet. We are really satisfied with the way things went and the event should return next year," she added.



Photos: G. Gagné

Despite handling heavy loads such as these grinders for the Port Daniel cement plant in June 2016, the Cascapedia-St-Jules bridges are limited to ten loaded cars of cement per week.

Cascapedia-St-Jules railway bridges likely to be completed in early 2020

Gilles Gagné

CASCAPEDIA-ST- JULES: – The March 27 Quebec budget contained no information about a time frame for the work that has to be carried out to make the Gaspé Peninsula railway functional over its whole length.

That lack of information seems a bit odd to certain observers of the railway scene, like Bernard Babin, of the Gaspesian Coalition for the return of the train, “considering that Premier Philippe Couillard announced \$100 million for the Gaspé railway 11 months ago. That was a while ago.”

The owner of the Matapédia-Gaspé line, Transport Quebec, remains discrete, mostly silent, about the time frame planned to carry out the railroad repairs.

However, the president of the Gaspésie Railway Society, Éric Dubé, is asking Transport Quebec a lot of questions and he gets some answers, sometimes. He thinks for example that Gaspésians will have to wait until the beginning of 2020 for the replacement of the two Cascapedia-St-Jules railway bridges.

“The government authorities tell us that some details of the project, for example with a central pillar or no central pillar, will be decided by the summer. The plans and specifications will be drawn by the fall and the call for tenders will follow. We can expect the work to take place during 2019 and the bridges to be ready by the beginning of 2020,” explains Mr. Dubé.

The VIA Rail service will not be back as long as the two



Éric Dubé thinks that Transport Québec will not have replaced the Cascapedia-St-Jules railway bridges within the next year.

bridges have not been replaced. The capacity to serve McInnis Cement’s plant in Port Daniel will also become increasingly difficult soon.

The Gaspésie Railway Society has already been forced to build a temporary transshipment silo in New Richmond because Transport Quebec put the line east of Caplan in a dormant state three years ago.

Due to the increasing traffic from McInnis Cement and because a limit of ten loaded cement cars was imposed in December on the two Cascapedia-St-Jules bridges by Transport Québec, the Gaspésie Railway Society must now build another temporary transshipment facility west of those structures, in Nouvelle. The weekly rail traffic of McInnis Cement will increase from ten to 40 rail cars in May.

Éric Dubé points out that the inauguration of the two new Cascapedia-St-Jules railway bridges should also be

accompanied by the line re-opening between Caplan and Port Daniel.

“There are only 45 miles between Caplan and Port Daniel. Only three bridges require work on that stretch. Two bridge pillars have to be worked on in Port Daniel. I told Transport Québec people they should get that portion of line ready during the replacement of the Cascapedia-St-Jules bridges. Then when they open, we will be in a position to reach the cement plant at the same time. I think they understand that,” he points out.

However, he can’t say for now if the same principle could apply to the Port Daniel to Gaspé stretch of the railway.

Éric Dubé didn’t get an answer from Transport Québec regarding another plausible scenario, another increase in McInnis Cement’s rail transport needs.

“What will we do if McInnis Cement needs 100 carloads a week and if both our transshipment terminals are congested? So far, they (Transport Quebec) don’t have an answer for that. Truck transport over a long distance is not an option,” he concludes.



Police report

On April 9, Jyothi-Lakshmi Pillay, 27, a resident of London, England, was found dead along the shore of Percé, near Percé Rock, by a man on a paddle board. Objects of unusual colours caught the man’s attention at first and he found the body when he got closer.

The victim was wearing a pink winter coat, black pants and green and grey hiking boots. She was carrying two back packs, one black and one blue, with a sleeping bag attached to one of them.

“We are now practically ruling out foul play as a possible cause of death. She probably drowned. Toxicological tests have to be carried out but it is now a file belonging to the coroner’s office. We have met everybody who gave her a lift,” says Sgt. Claude Doiron, spokesperson for the Sûreté du Québec.

The victim arrived on the Gaspé Peninsula a few days prior to her death. She was multilingual, speaking excellent French and English. She was originally from India. Before coming to Quebec she had visited Vancouver, where she had friends.

Bay of Chaleur residents Colleen and Kathy Dolbec gave the victim a ride the day before her body was found. They had driven their brother to the Gaspé airport and were on their way back home. “As we left the airport, there was a hitchhiker and my sister, who was driving, said: “Should we pick her up? It’s cold out there.” I looked and saw it was a young woman so I said okay. She came to the car speaking really good Parisian French. We asked where she was going and she said she wanted to go to the beach. My sister said “umm it’s freezing cold and beaches are full of snow.” She said “that’s okay. I like snow.” Kathy said “what beach do you want to go to?” and she said “it doesn’t matter, just a beach.” I suggested Percé since we were going that way and at least it’s for tourists. She said whatever as long as it’s a beach. We talked for the hour but were speaking in English since she said she was from London,” says Colleen Dolbec.

“I told her about the rock and she asked if she could walk to the rock. I said no. Rocks fall from it, it’s winter and the boardwalk is under repair. She came (to the Gaspé) from the north side so she had not seen the rock yet, so we thought about the perfect place to bring her, thinking we were doing a good deed (...) We dropped her off right beside the police station and she thanked us and walked straight to the beach. It looks like we may have been the last people to see her. It is very sad (...) That poor girl died alone so far from home,” adds Ms. Dolbec.

The Sûreté du Québec met with the Dolbec sisters and took their account of the encounter with the young lady.

On April 15 a 46-year-old man from Gaspé was very seriously injured in the fire that destroyed Motel Haldimand, also known by the name Motel Gaspé. The alarm was given at 4:44 p.m. after a fire was reported in a section of the motel. The motel houses permanent residents during the winter. “It is considered an accidental fire. The injured man sustained severe burns and was transferred to a Quebec City hospital in the evening. His injuries are life-threatening,” says Sgt. Doiron, spokesperson for the Sûreté du Québec.





Commentary

Gilles Gagné

Lac Mégantic: a public investigation commission should be created

During the second week of April, Quebec's National Assembly rallied behind the resolution submitted by opposition representative Nicolas Marceau, to the effect that the federal government should create a public investigation commission studying the circumstances of the Lac Mégantic train derailment, a tragedy that claimed 47 lives on the night of July 6, 2013.

That train was carrying 73 cars, 72 of them loaded with crude oil and one buffer car, placed between the locomotives and the loads. The Transportation Safety Board inquiry revealed a number of technical flaws, and also shed light on the fact that some of those technical flaws didn't bear any consequences, such as fines and service suspensions.

It was discovered during that investigation and during the recent trial that Transport Canada had regularly reprimanded the owner of the line at the time, Montreal, Maine and Atlantic Railway between 2004 and 2012 for violations regarding handbrake requirements, specifically for parked trains in Nantes. Those violations never led Transport Canada to fine the railway company. Nantes is the place where the unattended oil train left, crewless, and rolled downward to Lac Mégantic.

Under Transport Canada's rule, it is legal to leave a train unattended on a main line, instead of on a siding equipped with a derail, which could have stopped the train right away, at low speed. It is just as legal to leave the locomotive cab unlocked, with the engine running, alongside a public highway where it was accessible to the general public, with no additional protection. That train was full of oil, and the main line was on a slope, near a residential area.

Eight months prior to the tragedy, the lead locomotive had undergone repairs due to an engine failure. A botched repair was carried out, leaving the locomotive prone to fires because oil was accumulating under the turbocharger. That oil overheated and caught fire on the night of the derailment. The flames, after being put out by the Nantes fire department, prompted firefighters to leave the locomotive's engine shut off. That left the train relying solely on an already insufficient number of hand brakes and the cars started going down the slope between Nantes and Lac Mégantic. The rest is unfortunately history.

All this to say that the general situation that cre-

ated such negligence is the result of about 30 years of deregulation by the federal government. That deregulation notably turned fine railways into lines of low quality, where circulation speeds were reduced, a factor that doesn't eliminate derailments.

Railway companies were authorized to drop traditional safety measures because technological progress was supposed to provide them with means to maintain and even increase safety levels along the lines.

The line between Nantes and Lac Mégantic was not even equipped with a movement detector that could have warned the company or local authorities that a crewless train full of oil was circulating when it was not supposed to.

Transport Canada minister Marc Garneau quickly turned down the Quebec government unanimous National Assembly motion to ask federal authorities to hold a public investigation commission about the Lac Mégantic disaster. Mr. Garneau gave almost no explanation, except to say that the work had been done by the Transportation Safety Board.

That is misleading the public. The Transportation Safety Board investigated one tragedy. Its staff did not put the accident in the general context that has marked the last 30 years.

If Canadians want to avoid another tragedy similar to Lac Mégantic's, a thorough evaluation of deregulation must be made. As of now, we are far from any exercise of that nature.

Marc Garneau refuses to open the door to a public investigation because past Liberal governments were deeply involved in negligent deregulation decisions, as much as Conservative governments were.

People opposed to such a commission often raise the cost of holding it. The Lac Mégantic tragedy has already cost hundreds of millions of dollars, and the bill is still running, as the railway remains to be displaced.

A commission will be profitable in the long term because it will eliminate a number of deregulation-related accidents. It could also improve the efficiency of railway companies, and confirm the place of rail as the safest mode of land transport. The Lac Mégantic disaster has been casting a doubt over that title for way too long now.

all of them have been to the kitchen table, the dishpan or dishwasher, the drying rack, and a special few have even been to the dining table in the dining room. But these last are noted for their beauty—no one can dispute that (and who would care to?). But being gorgeous has turned their heads, and they've become quite insufferable, always checking mirrors for their reflections, always looking for ways to admire themselves. Doesn't really matter that each of them is a real dish—they act as if everyone else isn't, and it's hard not to take offence at their high falutin' ways.

There are small plates, side plates, that are much more modest than the dinner plates. They know that they're not essential, but they think that theirs is a civilizing influence, and this goes with a certain feeling of grandeur, too. (The fact that they're not essential keeps them in their place, brings them down to earth for those times when they're not forgotten at the back of the cupboard.)

Then there are the special dishes, those brought out at feasts and celebratory times—the platter, the gravy boat. Then there are the glasses. The tall water glasses are good fellows, straight and amiable, down-to-earth, you would say. But on the shelf above them (and that's the way they take it, too), are the wine glasses and the liqueur glasses—they're a snooty bunch, even though they're beautiful, they're delicate and can shatter in an instant, although you must never say so to their faces.

Among themselves, the dishes dispute what they're made of—china versus stoneware, their patterns, shapes and sizes, fragility or toughness. The salt-and-pepper share the cupboard with them, and they get mighty tired of hearing it all. They're really glad to have each other, and they know that no matter how important any of these dishes say they are, none of them goes to the table as often as these two.

A little distance away is the cutlery drawer, which has its own hierarchy. They live in a stratified society, each kind separated from the others. This is not a good thing. When forks and knives know nothing of each other, they tend to use their imaginations and make up stories and some of the stories are nasty ones and untrue besides. The spoons fare better, although they don't work together as much as the forks and knives, they recognize a kindred spirit and each forgives the other its size and even sometimes expresses grudging admiration. (Some spoons are silly creatures, imagining that they lose something by praising their fellows.)

The best times are the holidays. Then they all come out and are forced to interact, to work together. They must get along to get the job done, and then all these utensils and dishes discover to their surprise that they're not so different after all.

But then they go back into the cupboard or drawer until the next time, and memories are short and by the next holidays, they'll probably have to learn it all over again. Maybe one of these times, they'll remember last year and realize that being different isn't bad after all—it's just what's needed in the old cupboard, all sorts of fellows who can do different things.

Constance Brochet,
New Richmond, Quebec

Letters to the Editor

Plates and cups and saucers all in a row.

They stand on the shelf, waiting. The cups and saucers long to be together. They're a set, like twins. The bowls stand off to the side, preferring their own company. And the plates, well, the plates are dinner plates, huge, round, utterly essential, and they know it. In fact, it's gone to their heads (or perhaps faces, since that seems to be all that they have).

They're all dishes and they all live in the same cupboard although they do a fair bit of traveling. Almost



ESTABLISHED • MAY 1975

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SPEC OFFICE HOURS:

Mon. to Fri: 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

(Taxes included)

1-year (paper or digital): \$46

6-months (paper or digital): \$25

Outside Canada:

1-year paper \$165 digital: \$46



Gaspé's Home Page:
www.gogaspé.com



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Published every Wednesday by:

Les Publications de la Côte Inc.

(Sea-Coast Publications Inc.)


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We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada.
We acknowledge special funding from the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications.

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Wood Producers' Union wants better prices from Temrex

Régie des marchés agricoles will only decide in a few weeks

Gilles Gagné

BONAVENTURE: – Quebec's Régie des marchés agricoles will deliberate over the next few weeks on the request made by the Gaspé Peninsula Wood Producers' Union about getting a better price when selling logs to Temrex, a company wholly owned by a public body, Investissement-Québec.

Despite Investissement-Québec being considered the financial arm of the Quebec government, one of its subsidiary, Temrex, offers between 10 and 15 percent less for logs that come from the Wood Producers' Union compared to other lumber companies that deal with the organization representing woodlot owners.

The administration of the Wood Producers' Union finds that situation abnormal and criticizes that this situation has been going on for years. It is precisely why the arbitration request was sent to the Régie des marchés agricoles so that this administrative authority can determine a price for the wood delivered to Temrex. Arbitration hearings were held in Bonaventure on



Photo: G. Gagné

Berthold Gagné dislikes the alleged schemes deployed by Temrex to avoid buying logs from the Gaspésie Wood Producers' Syndicate.

April 10 and 11.

The Union's administration also wonders about "the willingness of Temrex Forest Products to entertain a business relationship," with them, says Damien Saint-Onge, the lawyer representing the woodlot owners.

Another Gaspesian-sawmill operator, Groupe GDS presently pays \$69 per

cubic metre to the Wood Producers' Union. It is 15 percent more than what Temrex was willing to pay up until April 6. That is when, four days prior to the start of the Régie des marchés agricoles hearings, Temrex found new financial means and raised its price to \$62 per cubic metre.

Then, during the hearings, the Temrex representatives,

Joseph Pitre and Richard Caissy, told the commissioners that they are ready to pay \$65.50 to the Wood Producers' Union for a yearly quantity of 30,000 cubic metres.

In Nouvelle, Temrex runs the largest sawmill on the Gaspé Peninsula, with a wood supply of 500,000 cubic metres annually. However, only 2.4 percent of that mill's supply comes from the Wood Producers' Union.

"The low price is why we didn't deliver any wood to the Temrex plant last year, points out Berthold Gagné, president of the Wood Producers' Union. If we had accepted the price of Temrex, we would have seen the other wood buyers come to us and negotiate downward."

He is shocked when he sees that lumber prices have increased significantly since March 2017 without Temrex adjusting its prices for logs accordingly.

"The average price of lumber went from \$528.32 per 1,000 board feet to \$646.08," he remarks. That is a jump of 22.3% in a year but the stern position of Temrex on the price of logs made the Wood Producers' Syndicate stop selling to the Nouvelle sawmill in March 2017.

Berthold Gagné complains that a company owned by a government body doesn't show more respect for the Quebec rules, which stipulate that sawmills must first buy logs on private land before relying on public land.

Groupe GDS is not the sole lumber producer willing to pay considerably higher prices than Temrex. Maibec, a Quebec company located along the Maine border, south of Saint-Jean-Port-Joli, and Chaleur Sawmill, in Belle-dune, New Brunswick, pay about the same price as

Groupe GDS when they buy logs from the Wood Producers' Syndicate.

Joseph Pitre, the Temrex representative in charge of negotiating with the Wood Producers' Union, explains the company's lower price by the fact that the Nouvelle sawmill dries a low proportion of its lumber.

"We dry 35 million board feet out of (a total output of) 130 million board feet. Green lumber generates a lower price. The competition dries all or almost all of its lumber," he specifies.

The Temrex management also states that by taking 129,000 cubic metres annually from the Dunière territory, a freehold, the company complies with the rules dictating the use of logs coming from private properties before the supplies from public land.

Berthold Gagné reacts strongly to the evocation of the Dunière argument and says that one must question the manoeuvres made by Temrex and Investissement-Québec to avoid buying logs from the Gaspé Peninsula Wood Producers' Union.

"Nobody from the top management of Temrex attended the Régie des marchés agricoles hearings. The Dunière is a territory belonging 100 percent to Investissement-Québec, through Gestion forestière Lacroix! The director of Gestion forestière Lacroix is responsible for Temrex supplies. He can adjust the price of wood depending on the company's results because he sells wood to himself. The Wood Producers' Union must not be penalized by that situation," concludes Mr. Gagné.

The Gaspésie Wood Producers' Union should sell between 400,000 and 500,000 cubic metres of logs in 2018.



Photo: G. Gélinas

Mila Rey will soon launch

Geneviève Gélinas

GASPÉ – The Forillon Shipyard in Gaspé is completing the construction of a crab fishing boat for R&R Deveau Fisheries, in Cheticamp, Nova Scotia. The boat, which was still on land on April 10, should be delivered on time for the crab fishing season. The boat is 72 feet in length and 24 feet wide. It has refrigerated live-storage holds that can contain 80 tons of sea water and 60,000 pounds of crab. The shipyard employees have been working on the Mila Rey since last June. In parallel, the 70 shipyard workers are building the second of six search and rescue boats for the Canadian Coast Guard.



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Gespeg to hire an economic development team

Gilles Gagné

GESPEG: – Gespeg wants to diversify its economic activities and to develop business partnerships. The Mi'gmaq community obtained a \$498,157 grant from the Canada Economic Development to hire two employees dedicated to that goal over three years.

Gespeg, which has 1,200 members, already owns a fleet of six fishing boats as well as the Gespeg Mi'gmaq interpretation site. It is also active in forestry activities, mostly by cutting and selling firewood. Those three sectors of activity provide employment to 53 people.

Chief Manon Jeannotte thinks that Gespeg can do better. "We want to do sustainable development. We're at the drawing board. We'll see what is going on in our environment and what the opportunities are," she states.

Gespeg isn't providing details about the kind of projects that could concretize but sport fishing is one of the options considered according to Marie-Lise Bastien, who is responsible for economic development in Gespeg.

Gespeg will hire a project manager, whose role will be, among other things, to look for public and private partnerships. "We're already receiving requests from the private sector to participate in projects," Ms. Bastien



Photo: G. Gélinas

"We're at the drawing board. We'll see what is going on in our environment and what the opportunities are," stated Gespeg chief Manon Jeannotte.

says. A junior agent in business strategy will also join the team.

Eventual benefits will be reinvested to benefit the community. "Our structural projects enable us to train people and to create jobs for aboriginals and non-aboriginals," Ms. Bastien states.

"We won't necessarily limit to Gaspé," she points out. Two thirds of the Gespeg people live outside of the Gaspé Coast. Many of them are in the Montreal region.

At the present time, lob-

ster, shrimp, crab and sea cucumber fisheries are the main revenue generators for Gespeg. The 2017 landings generated revenues of \$5.64 million. However, it was an exceptional year because of the high snow crab quota, which represented 59% of those revenues. In 2016, which was a more normal year, the revenues were \$3.56 million.



Photo: P. MacWhirter

Many St. Jorges residents are pleased to see that the fiber optic network is being installed in their community.

Fiber optic installation underway

Gilles Gagné

Telus has frustrated a number of Gaspésians over the last few years because of its failure to provide cellular phone services in many areas of the region. That situation was criticized in January and February by a number Cascapedia-St-Jules residents, led by Lloyd Willett. In two-and-a-half months of exchanges, the Gaspé SPEC has received very laconic answers, such as "Telus has decided not to invest in Cascapedia-St-Jules, Saint-Alphonse and Saint-Elzéar." Further explanation finally came on April 13 when a couple of points were added to justify the absence of cellular phone investments in the three villages, such as the "quality of the signal, the population served (its size, probably) and the economic feasibility of the company's different infrastructure projects, whether wireless or wired."

However, the company is at least investing in its fiber optic network. Many people have recently noticed the rolls of wire hanging here and there in the Bay of Chaleur area. They are conspicuous signs of the \$25 million investment carried out in the Avignon and Bonaventure MRCs to improve the internet capacity of the network. That investment was announced on December 19. Telus pays \$17.6 million of that investment, while the provincial and federal governments contribute amounts of \$4.9 million and \$2.5 million respectively. The company will soon provide further details about the project.

Jobs created by Gespeg economic activities

Fisheries	26
Forestry	7
Tourism and culture	20
Total	53

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Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



Poor Man's Pudding

Last week, the topic of this column was hygge, the ways to find comfort and coziness in our lives. This brought to mind the amazing comfort foods made in my Gaspesian grandmother's kitchen. She cooked with love, so her food was always comforting and cozy. She made bread, rice pudding, dumplings and well, pretty much everything. All of it was made from scratch and it was all delicious and memorable. But the most comforting food of all was her bread pudding.

Bread pudding, which has also been called Poor Man's Pudding, is made with common ingredients available in most kitchens. You start with day old bread, placed on a cookie sheet to allow the moisture to dry up. After that, you require eggs, sugar, milk, vanilla, nutmeg, cinnamon and raisins. Real honest food with no preservatives or chemicals. Pouding Chômeur is also referred to as Poor Man's Pudding, but that Quebec dessert uses baked batter swimming in a maple sugar sauce. Bread pudding has been around since the 11th and 12th century and was a way for cooks to make a pudding that was delicious, but inexpensive. The stale bread does not go to waste. This scrumptious dessert was hugely popular with the lower classes in England where it was first called Poor Man's Pudding. The pudding is also made in other countries, including Mexico and the Philippines. Each culture has a variation in what they use to make their bread pudding. In Hungary they add a meringue on top, in Malaysia a custard sauce is spooned over the pudding, and in Belgium apples are added to the mixture. Some cooks from Quebec use maple syrup instead of white sugar. But give me any day, my grandmother's traditional Gaspesian recipe.

Oh, the intoxicating aroma of that luscious pudding baking in the wood stove of my grandmother's kitchen. That memory will never fade. When the bread pudding came out of the oven, slightly golden on top and with a crust slightly crispy, we could hardly wait until suppertime when bowls of this would be ladled out. Now, some choose to add a splash of milk or cream to their bread pudding. Others go too far, in my opinion, and add a scoop of vanilla ice cream. For me, it is at its very best served plain so that in each bite you can savour the flavours and textures. The nutmeg and cinnamon add depth to the flavour of the creaminess of the milk and eggs. The raisins are essential because they add additional flavour and texture.

Traditional Gaspesian Bread Pudding

Ingredients:

- 10 - 12 slices of dried bread ('day old')
- 4 cups of milk
- ¼ cup butter
- 4 eggs
- 1 tsp vanilla
- ¾ cup white sugar (save a bit to sprinkle on top)
- 1 tsp cinnamon and nutmeg
- Pinch of salt
- ½ cup raisins

1. Heat oven to 350.
2. In pan, heat butter and milk until butter melts and milk is hot, not scalded.
3. Mix sugar, eggs, nutmeg, cinnamon, vanilla, salt and raisins. Add milk and butter mixture. Stir.
4. Pour mixture over bread cubes in prepared 9 x 13 inch pan. (greased) Let it sit for 15 minutes for the bread to become soaked.
5. Bake for about 40 minutes. Test for doneness by inserting a knife about an inch from edge. If knife comes out clean it's done.

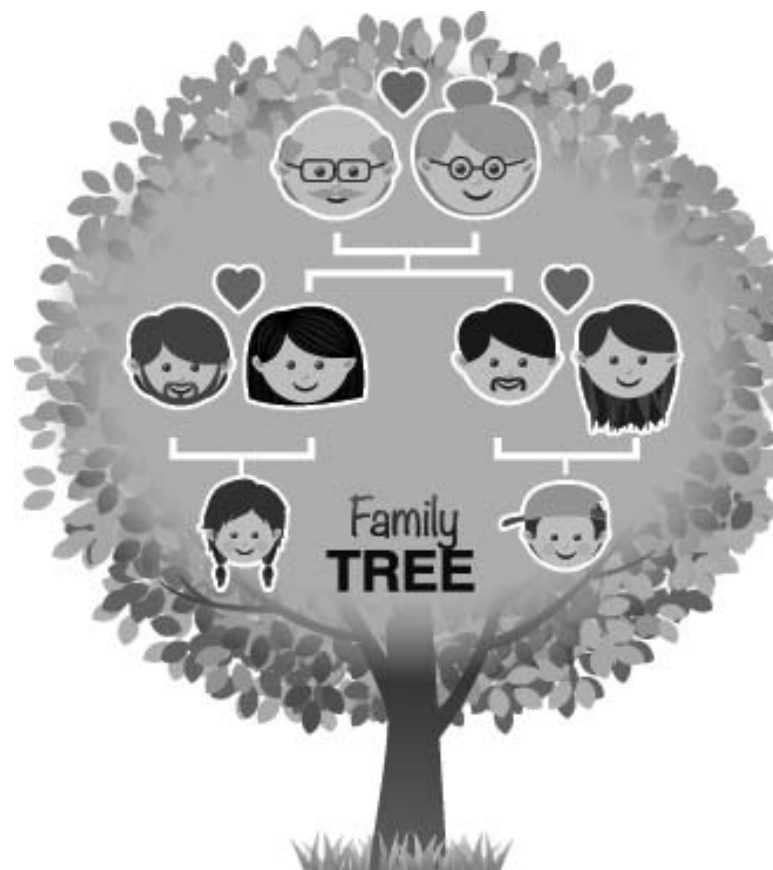
This is the ultimate comfort food. Although my grandmother is no longer with us we will always have the richest memories of her warm and loving kitchen. Besides, any recipe passed on from your grandmother is a treasure.

Your roots are showing: Researching your DNA

Diane Skinner

NEW CARLISLE: - About eight weeks ago I sent in a kit to have my DNA analyzed. The results arrived by email this week and all I can say is "Wow! Did not see that coming!" The information was unexpected. The email opened by stating, "You're about to discover your ethnicity and get a look at your family's journey through generations, and maybe even connect with long-lost relatives." I used the company affiliated with Ancestry.ca called AncestryDNA. The cost varies between \$99 and \$129. This company is a good choice because it will connect you with other people who have completed the DNA testing. Firstly, I was shocked by my ethnic background. And secondly, I have connections alright, well over 1,000 genetic matches on AncestryDNA!

My ethnic background (My DNA Story) sent me into a world of research and this is why. I always assumed my background was English and Scottish. It is. But my largest ethnic match is Scandinavian. What? I don't have family from Sweden, Norway or Denmark or even going way back over family stories there is no mention of these countries. Using the information given to me by AncestryDNA I found that Vikings (from Scandinavian countries) settled on the west coast of Scotland and Northern England many hundred of years ago. My Scottish and Northern English DNA, which showed up as a large percentage, was very likely mixed with the Vikings DNA. It makes sense. Next, I researched the town of Carlisle, England where some of my ancestors almost certainly came from because my family's home town is New Carlisle. Carlisle is 10 miles from the Scottish border. My genetic heritage was all coming together. I also have on my father's side a link to Clan McRae, who settled in Hope



Town, Quebec. The original founder of Hope Town was one of my ancestors named Duncan McRae. My father was named Duncan by his mother, Elizabeth Ida McRae of Hope Town. My roots were showing. It was all making sense. After receiving DNA results, that is when your work begins. Combine what you know about your history and what the DNA tells you and you will complete the jigsaw puzzle of who you are.

The DNA matches I received were fascinating. The list starts with the closest genetic match. It could be a parent or sister/brother. In my case it was a first cousin I had never heard of. Then 1st and 2nd cousins, then 3rd and 4th cousins, then 5th to 8th cousins and finally distant connections. A quick perusal of the surnames shows a clear connection to the Gaspé. Familiar family names abound: Dow, Craig, Assels, Billingsley, Imhoff, McRae, Flowers, Gallon and more. Remember, that these are people that have also taken the AncestryDNA testing. There are also many names I did not recognize and

some people chose not to put their last names. You view the match and you can message the person directly. My first message was simply, "Hi. I just received my DNA results and we are a close match. Just wondering how we are connected?" The research continues.

The cousin connection is interesting. First cousins share a grandparent, second cousins share a great-grandparent, third cousins share a great-great-grandparent and so on. So, some of your DNA matches can be distant but there is no denying that you share genetics!

As a result of this DNA test I am reading all about Vikings, as well as the Scottish Highland Clearings between 1800 and 1825, when my Scottish ancestors left to travel to the Gaspé and beyond. I am now interested in learning more about Clan McRae and who knows maybe a trip to my heritage lands of Norway, Sweden and Denmark! I have said it before and likely will again, "To know who you are, you have to know who you came from."



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Quest for Ancestry: DNA unlocks the past

Diane Skinner

In the February 14, 2018 edition of the Spec, we featured articles about AncestryDNA, including one on Mario Duguay's search for his biological family from Gaspé. Franceen George-Carrasquillo contacted Spec to buy a subscription and learn more about the Gaspé since her search for her biological family has led her to this area. She has agreed to talk about her search and what she knows, so far, about her Gaspesian roots.

Franceen George-Carrasquillo, born in 1951, started her search after finding out she was adopted and she has wondered about her biological family ever since. Her thoughts were those that many adoptees have; "Do I look like my family, who and what kind of people were they?" Franceen knew that she was born in Quebec and subsequently became a U.S. citizen. Looking back, she realizes this is why her adoptive family encouraged her to learn French and when she was a child they brought her to Quebec for vacations. Franceen did not know that she was adopted but began to wonder if she was, around the age of 14 or 15. Then in Science class, while studying basic genetics, she discovered that her hair and eye colour were an impossible outcome from the parents she knew. Her Science teacher told her that "Science isn't perfect," but knew full well that Franceen must be adopted. At this point other clues led her to conclude she was indeed. She found a photo of



Franceen George-Carrasquillo today. She is excited to continue her quest for her birth parents.

her mother wearing a bathing suit taken days before the birth of Franceen and she was clearly not expecting a baby. She questioned her mother who replied that the date must be wrong. Then Franceen found a set of books under her mother's bed about how to raise an adopted child. Though she was pretty certain, a family friend confirmed that she was adopted, but he added that she "was a wanted and loved child and that the family had waited for years and paid dearly for her." Franceen had so many questions and this led to some problem teen years for her relationship with her adoptive parents. She tells us, "I wanted to know more and I asked a lot of questions, none of which were answered. Searching then just wasn't possible."

Black Market Babies

During the late 1950s and through the mid 60s, the practice of "selling" babies emerged. Rich and childless American couples looked northward to adopt. A number of affluent Jewish couples were concerned about the genetic condition Tay Sachs disease which was potentially fatal to young children. The list of couples wishing to adopt was lengthy. In Quebec, young, often unwed, mothers were moved to maternity homes run by the Catholic Church, many of these in Montreal. There is a great deal of criticism of this possibly illegal "arrangement," where the woman would then give up her rights to her baby. Fingers can be pointed at the Church, and the lawyers, both from Quebec and the U.S. who facilitated these adoptions which became very lucrative for the sellers of these babies. The mothers were deprived of their rights to keep their babies and were made to feel ashamed. There were reported instances where the mother was told that their baby had died when that was not the case at all. The Montreal Gazette featured numerous articles in the 1950s and 1960s about this practice of adopting babies and when it came to light there were charges and prosecutions for some of those involved. Franceen tells the Spec that the price her adoptive parents paid for her was \$10,000 US. That is the equivalent of \$100,000 today! The exchange of money for babies

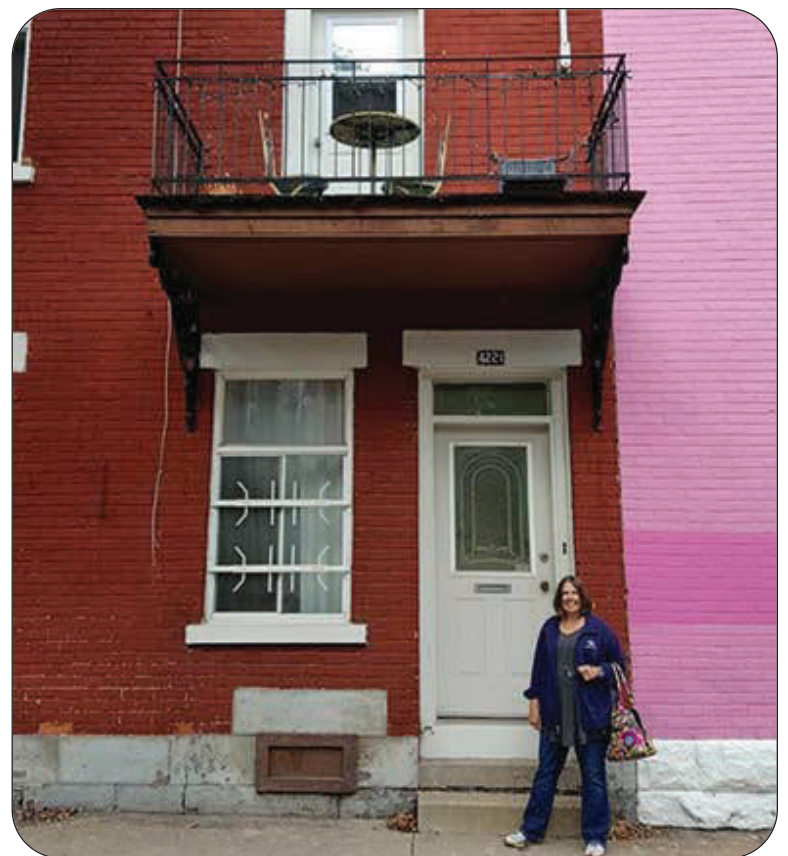
was big business.

Franceen's search

Then in the 1990s Franceen began her search in earnest, after the passing of her adoptive mother. She found two birth certificates, and the first one stated that her parents were unknown. The other with an official Seal from the Montreal Superior Court showed her adoptive parents as her parents. Franceen then called Batshaw (previously Red Feather) and Le Centre Jeunesse adoption agencies in Montreal. She was discouraged because she was told that she was a Black Market adoptee and that she had little chance of finding any information about her birth mother. Franceen did not give up. She put her information on a number of registries which can match adoptees and birth mothers, if

tions. Though he had developed Alzheimer's, Franceen knew that if he had any helpful information, now was the time to ask. Her father told her about the price he had paid (\$10,000 US) and a little about the trip to Montreal to pick her up. He recalled giving the lawyer some money and then going to a small building attached to a Catholic Church. He handed the rest of the money through a window, or perhaps a small door and then he was handed tiny baby Franceen. Franceen's father told her that her adoptive mother had tried to find out who her birth mother was, but could not get anywhere, so she ultimately gave up. Franceen tells us, "They are still very tight-lipped about it to this day."

Franceen continued to search using DNA. She had her DNA tested and joined facebook groups that are set



Photos: courtesy of F.Carrasquillo

The building at 4221 Avenue Laval, Montreal, attached to St. Jean de Baptiste Church where Franceen's adoptive father paid the \$10,000 for her.

both are searching. Nothing came from this. She then travelled to Montreal but this proved not to be very helpful.

DNA changes it all

The game changer for people searching for ancestors or living relatives was revolutionized with the availability of genetic testing, which is relatively inexpensive and accessible to all. For Franceen, DNA gave her hope that she could find out her heritage. At the same time, her adoptive father gave her more information about her past after she decided to ask him some blunt ques-

up for adoptees. She also used a "search angel" (people who assist adoptees to find their birth parents) and uploaded her DNA results. These avenues have netted some results. She knows that her ancestral genetics include some Mi'gmaq and that it is highly likely that she is from the Gaspé area. Her two closest genetic matches are Duguay/Bechard and Lefebvre. Over 75% of her matches are from Quebec and she tells Spec that she has been "Facebook stalking" her closest matches to gather any bits of information that can



Franceen when she was a baby, in 1951.

Cont'd on page 11

Fly Fishing Sexton Girl makes a Splash

Wendy Dawson

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES: – Lyne Sexton is a born and bred Cascapedia-St-Jules girl. In the charming tradition of introduction common to the Maggies, she is the Lyne, of Evan, of Lindsay, of James Ernest of Jeremiah.

Despite growing up in a community whose ties to fishing cannot be denied and a family business knee deep in the river, Lyne grew up feeling like fishing was not a hobby that was accessible to her. As she explains “It seemed complicated. It seemed expensive and it only seemed available to men.”

While Lyne spent some time working for the family business Sexton and Sexton when she was growing up, it is only five years ago that she truly caught the fishing bug.

“We were at Cime Aventure and Hooké was presenting a movie that they shot while fishing in Chili and it was just so amazing and I realized that we had the same thing in our own backyard. So the following summer, four years ago, my boyfriend and I decided it was happening. We went out, we got equipped and we started fishing. We go more and more every year and we have just become really interested in it. For sure it’s an investment, but once you have made the investment, it’s just about getting time on the water.”

Lyne Sexton has become so passionate about her experiences fishing that she wants to share it with others, especially with other women, and so in November, she started her blog. Entitled “A fly fish-

ing Sexton girl,” Lyne hopes to use the platform to write and share as much as she can about fly fishing topics.

That said, Lyne is taking her initiative one step further. This year in May, the Fly Fishing Sexton Girl, in collaboration with Orvis’ 50/50 On the Water Campaign, will be hosting a special event exclusively for women that are hoping to get a little more familiar with the sport of fly fishing. Lyne discovered Orvis’ 50/50 On the Water Campaign online, and its mission is to “make women comfortable in the sport that we all love,” promote fly fishing as much as possible and create gender parity “on the water.”

In using their guideline for planning an event, Lyne has scheduled a weekend of activities for Saturday, May 19, and Sunday, May 20, to take place at the Lady Amherst Tea Room of the Cascapedia River Society.

Over the weekend, participants will be introduced to different types of equipment, learn about flies and knots, learn casting on single hand and double hand rods as well as learn about other fly fishermen and the history of women fishing in the area. Catered lunch services by Conception Gourmand and a BBQ hosted by Topsy Canoe are also planned. Interested participants will be required to register at least two weeks ahead of time and will have to pay a fee of \$30 for the weekend’s events.

Even though Lyne maintains a busy schedule as mom/partner/teacher/blogger/event planner, she is still dreaming about the upcoming



Photo: courtesy of Lyne Sexton

Lyne’s first big catch was last summer. Here she is showing off her 21 pound female caught right in front of Middle Camp.

season on the river. “I just purchased a new rod!”

For more information, in-

terested participants can visit her Fly Fishing Sexton Girl

facebook page where you can

also find the link to her blog or contact her at 581-886-1247.



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An interactive exhibition at the Musée de la Gaspésie

Geneviève Gélinas

GASPÉ: – Observing harpoons from the time of whale hunters in a showcase, is fine, but trying to harpoon one through an interactive showcase, now that's better! The Musée de la Gaspésie mixes artifacts, 3D animation, holograms and augmented reality in its new exhibition about 15 sailing vessels telling the history of the Gaspé.

The museum worked with the firm called Beam Me up on the reality showcase project. A standard showcase protects artifacts, but in this new kind of showcase, the front glass is replaced with an interactive screen.

In this way, the visitor may look out through the porthole of a vessel entering the Naples port to deliver fish. He may play God by changing the weather for a Gaspésienne sailing off the Gaspé coast to fish cod. 3D virtual models of vessels are also presented in the form of holograms. On the harpoons' showcase, the visitor waits for the whale to surface and can push a button to throw the harpoon. Warning: the whale always wins!

According to Beam Me Up president Yan Cyr, the technologies experimented with at the Musée de la Gaspésie are more often used for marketing purposes. The helices creating holograms

“are used in shopping malls in Asia to exhibit, for example, running shoes,” he illustrates. Thanks to transparent screens, “Molson put advertisements on beer fridges (...) But there are very few touchscreen and interactive devices,” Mr. Cyr adds.

The exhibition is called The Deep blue sea. It presents 15 sailing vessels, including the Knör, on which the Vikings crossed the Atlantic and explored the Gulf of St. Lawrence around year 1,000. The visitor gets information on the seafaring canoes of the Mi'gmaq, on the caraques and caravels of French explorers, as well as the “galeons” and “chalupas” of Basque people who used to hunt whales and fish cod in the St. Lawrence.

The exhibition also revives the barges of fishermen and the schooners used for coastal shipping and to transport cod during the British regime.

The Museum showcases artifacts that have rarely been taken out of its reserves. At the entrance of the exhibition, the visitors can see a flat of the 1940s. Models of the Sainte Anne brigantine and of the White Cloud schooner are also exhibited.

The exhibition cost \$50,000. It completes the project of the Gaspésienne No. 20, restored and exhibited on the Museum land,

where it can be visited.

The Deep blue sea is set up in the two-story, glass-enclosed, entrance hall of the museum. “Prior to this, visitors used to see a large empty room on their right when they entered the museum whereas they now see the flat when they arrive. Right away they are in a maritime atmosphere,” says Jeannot Bourdages, in charge of the exhibition for the Musée de la Gaspésie.



Photo: G. Gélinas

A showcase featuring a fishing boat model also allows visitors to watch testimonies by fishermen.

And the winners are....



The winners of the Spec Colouring Contest sponsored by CASA are:

1st place - Chad Major, Port Daniel

2nd place - Zoé Poirier, Nouvelle

3rd place - Clara Poirier, Cross Point

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ADOPTION: grandparent, a great-great-grandparent and so on.

▶ Cont'd from page 8

help her. Her closest matches (and most of her more distant relatives) all hail from Gaspé and area including Rimouski, Percé, Les Méchins, Matane and nearby, but not on Gaspé exactly, Rivière au Tonnerre and Rivière Saint Jean.

The search continues

Franceen is planning to contact more of her genetic matches. Some of the other surnames which connect to Franceen genetically include Huard, Francoeur, Boudreau, Bergeron, Boucher and Arsenault. She has discovered from her closest genetic that she is almost certainly connected to the Duguay family. Experts who are assisting her search agree. At this point, Franceen is putting together the pieces from what she knows. DNA matching has made all the difference for adoptees. Franceen has over 4,000 DNA matches. Including 10 2nd cousins and very possibly two that are first cousins! Also, she has many more distant cousins. This means they likely share a great-

Franceen's hopes

Franceen will most definitely continue her search. So, she asks readers of the Spec that if they know of anyone in their family who had a baby in 1951 in Montreal at L'Église Saint Jean de Baptiste Maternity Home, she would love to talk to you.

She also encourages mothers who gave up their babies to try to find them through DNA testing. She concludes by saying that she holds no grudges, nor does she judge her birth mother. Franceen just wants to know who her mother was, and perhaps her father and siblings, if there are any. The stigma of unwed pregnancy has long past.

Franceen is feeling hopeful and says she might even be on the verge of a breakthrough. She hopes that telling her story could lead to new connections and knowing more about her beginnings. Franceen continues her quest. If you have any information that could help Franceen please contact her at franceenpgeorge@aol.com

Easter Quiz Answers

We received a great number of entries for this quiz/contest! Our readers are very knowledgeable about Easter. But there has to be one winner and that is **Mary Anna Wall of Pabos Mills, Quebec**. Congratulations and thanks to all who entered!

1. The resurrection of Jesus Christ and the promise of eternal life.
2. The date of Easter varies each year as it is based on the lunar calendar and the position of the moon. Easter is celebrated on the Sunday after the full moon following March 21
3. Lent
4. Palm Sunday.
5. The day of Jesus crucifixion.
6. The day Jesus rose from the dead.
7. Animal products including eggs were not allowed to be eaten. Hens continue to lay eggs so by Easter there were a lot of left over eggs!
8. Germany.
9. Nests! Today, children receive colorful baskets filled with eggs and candies from the Easter Bunny.
10. Halloween
11. Peeps
12. Peeps are marshmallow candies that are shaped into chicks, bunnies, and other animals.
13. The 3 basic ingredients of jelly beans are sugar, corn syrup, and pectin or starch. They may also include lecithin, anti-foaming agents, edible beeswax, salt, and confectioner's glaze.
14. Red
15. Most people eat the ears first. About 75% eat the ears first, 10% the feet first and 10% the tail first. Good grief, what about the remaining 5%? Not going to ask.
16. Cadbury Cream Eggs. But, this delectable treat has 150 calories, 5 grams of fat and 25 grams of carbs. Eat sparingly. Enjoy fully.
17. In the Christian faith, eggs represent a symbol of new beginnings, new life and renewed faith.
18. Hot cross buns. Some may remember the traditional children's ditty "Hot cross buns, hot cross buns, one a penny, two a penny, hot cross buns."
19. No, it is not. However, employers must give their employees either Good Friday or Easter Monday as a statutory holiday, though many give both days.
20. Words using all the letters in Easter: teaser, seater, resear, eaters. Also, the word aretes, which are sharp, rugged mountain ridges. I bet Scrabble players got that one!

The Genealogist's Corner

Genealogy vs. Family History

People often wonder what Genealogy is and how does it differentiate from Family History?

Years ago, Genealogy was tracing Ancestral lineage or direct bloodline, which was also referred to as a "pedigree". The Records used were generally Civil Registrations, Parish Records and census returns. Names, dates of BMD events (Birth, Marriage and Death) and locations was the information collected to trace the pedigrees. On the other hand, while Family History also traced Ancestral lineage or direct bloodline, it would also take into consideration other family members and would try to reconstruct the lives of the individuals. Today, the terms Genealogy and Family History are interchangeable. Most Genealogists also do Family History and Family Historians need to begin with genealogy and a pedigree.

While it is quite interesting to discover that Great-Grand-Pa Joe was married twice, it is even more interesting to find out that he actually owned a Business, had several acres of land, worked 6 years in Maine, USA for his cousin and that he was a soldier in the Boer war.

How can you discover this sort information? Simply by stepping out of your comfort zone. Once you have tracked down Birth, Marriage, Death Records and you have located your Ancestor in every possible Census Return and Parish Registry, it is time to search for new information.

Where should you search?

Before you hit the Archive Centers and Repositories in search of newspapers, wills, probate and court Records, make sure you have reached out to each of your family members and received all the personal records your Ancestor might have had or created himself.

Even though statistics show that most people did not know how to read or write before the enforcement of Laws regarding education in the 20th Century, some of our Ancestors could read and write and did so everyday. So, go ahead and start searching for those shoe boxes or tin cans. You might just discover years of correspondence between your Ancestor and a relative, or even that personal diary that recorded your Ancestor's life on a daily basis. Look for those family Bibles which might contain decades if not centuries of your family's story. Be aware that not all information will be primary: pay special attention to the date of the Bible and the date of the first entry. If the information pre-dates the date the Bible was published, then you should not get carried away. The names and dates were not written down when the events occurred and may contain many errors.

Perhaps you might discover some Military medals or memorabilia and allow you to discover that you have an Ancestor, or even several, who were part of something bigger than himself. This can lead you to Service files or Regimental Records, thus discovering where your Ancestor defended his homeland. Ask for pictures: everyone has pictures. One great tip: if neighbors and friends are in your pictures, you're in theirs as well. Same goes for your Ancestors. Visit your elders, ask them questions and allow them to feel free to share the memories they are comfortable with. Don't pressure them or correct them, let them speak freely, without any interruption. Memory can sometimes fail, but it can also be more alive than we think and the information is more accurate than what we think we know.

Although this part of research can require quite some time and energy, you will find that the reward of a discovery about your Ancestor is quite worth it! Life is too short not to take the time required to answer some questions you might have about those who were there before us. Searching for them is acknowledging the importance they have in our presence in the world today. Not all the stories will be roses and rainbows, but they are real and they allowed you to be here today.

Sandra Blanchette, PLCGS

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Announcements...



Obituaries



BUJOLD: Raynie

Born January 28, 1938, passed away suddenly on March 3, 2018, at Maria Hospital. Predeceased by his wife, Isabel Fairservice, father Ivan Bujold, mother Beulah Coull, and sisters Joan and Madeline.

Raynie was born in Cascapedia-St-Jules but spent most of his adult life working for the City of Toronto. Upon retirement he returned home where he enjoyed many hobbies, such as hunting and fishing, and loved a good game of cards. He will be missed by family and friends but especially by his little dog Precious.

At Raynie's request, there was no visitation or funeral. A burial will take place at a later date.



ELERKSOUSSY: Fouad

September 2, 1944 - March 26, 2018

The family of the late Fouad Elerksoussy are sad to announce his sudden and unexpected passing at his home in Magog, Quebec. He is survived by his wife of thirty years, Debra (Goss) Elerksoussy, sons Hany Elerksoussy and Travis (Anelise) Hall, his daughter Magda (Mohammed) Elerksoussy, and his sister Nagat Ellesseily. He is also survived by two granddaughters, Julia and Sofia Hall.

He was born September 2, 1944 in Cairo, Egypt where he completed his Commerce Degree. He later immigrated to Canada in 1970. He began work at Simpsons as an accountant and focused on learning French. He then had the opportunity to work at Eastern Shores School Board in New Carlisle where he became Director of Finance. It was here he met his wife Debra (Goss) Elerksoussy. He enjoyed golf, curling, computers, and was an excellent woodworker. After retirement, he spent many hours woodworking and many of his creations reside in the homes of his family and children.

He will be well remembered for his strength, kindness, generosity, love for his family, and sense of humour.



HOTTON: Floyd Smith

Passed away peacefully at his home in Burlington, Ont. surrounded by his loving family, on Thursday, January 11, 2018 at the age of 83.

Beloved husband of Joanne (nee Gray) for 57 years. Loving father of his three daughters, Sharon Hotton, Sue Bonhomme (Albert Gold) and Sam Hotton (Lanny Brass). Cherished Grandpa "Bampo" of Brogan, Cheri (Jason), late Sean, Braeden, Sloan, Remington, Evangelique "Kiki" and Great-Bampo of Matteo and Elio.

Dear brother of Selwyn (Bonnie) and brother-in-law of Melva and Bob Gray (Gail). Predeceased by his brothers Cyril, Cedrick (Barbara), Neville (Lorna), Ralph and sisters Helen (Lou), Mabel (Colin) and Wilma (Roy).

Fondly remembered by his nieces, nephews, extended family and many friends. Private cremation. A Celebration of Floyd's Life was held at 302 Silvana Cres, Burlington, on Sunday, January 28, 2018 from 2-4 p.m. If desired, in Floyd's memory, donations to Sick-kids Gastroenterology (GI) Clinic would be sincerely appreciated.)



In Memory

HARDY: Joseph Ralston

In loving memory of a dear husband Joseph Ralston born in New Richmond, Quebec on July 3, 1923, passed away on April 8, 1994. Former Hong Kong, P.O.W.

*I remember the day I met you,
And the day God made you mine.*

*I remember the day God took you,
And I will till the end of time.*

We made our vows together until death do us part.

*The day God took you from me,
My whole world fell apart.*

*If I had a lifetime wish,
One that would come true,*

I'd pray to God with all my heart for yesterday and you.

*Each time I see your picture, you seem to say, with a smile
"Don't cry I'm only sleeping we'll meet again some day"*

Missing you always your wife Barbara Menitta (Main) Hardy.

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.

B. M.

RENOUF:

In loving memory of the Renouf family: Father - Bert 1983; Mother - Sarah Annie 2006; Sisters - Nellie 1975; Ida 2006; Brothers - Lloyd 2009; Bill 2010; Aubrey 2012; and Lester 2014.

The rolling stream of life goes on,

But still the vacant chairs,

Recall the love, the voices, the smiles we shared,

Of ones who once were there.

Lovingly remembered, Mary and family xoxoxo

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

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

J.B.H.

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\$30 (\$35 with picture) up to 20 lines.

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COAST ROUND-UP**POINTE-NAVARRÉ:****Upcoming Events**

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 all invited to this meeting to receive information on the administration of the sanctuary. Welcome.

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 hand-craft 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 of all kinds. Come alone or in a group, bring your favorite 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:**Service**

Hope Baptist Church welcomes You! Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 a.m. Corporate Worship at 11:00 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

HOPE TOWN:**Upcoming Activities**

The following activities will be held at the Hope Town Com-

munity 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.

NEW CARLISLE:**Benefit Tea**

A "Benefit Tea" will be held on **Saturday, April 28**, from 3:00-6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, New Carlisle 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:**Gift Bingo**

The dart club will be hosting a gift bingo for and at the Royal Canadian Legion on **Saturday, April 21** starting at 7 p.m. \$10 a series or three for \$20.

NEW CARLISLE:**Annual General Meeting**

The 50 Plus Club will be holding its Annual General Meeting on **Wednesday, April 25**, at 9 a.m. at the New Carlisle Municipal Hall along with a breakfast.

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:**Friperie entraide de I.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.

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:**Royal Canadian Legion Br. 172****Upcoming Events**

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

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:**50+ Club****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).

Friday, April 20: at the 50+ Club, 319, Route 299, there will be jam sessions open to all musicians and spectators. Doors open at 7 p.m. with en-

tertainment beginning at 7:30 - free admission, donations accepted. Canteen service on site. Welcome to all.

Sunday, April 22: There will be a turkey supper including soup and dessert from 4:30-6 p.m. Adults \$12, children 12 and under \$10. Takeout is also available. Everyone welcome.

GESGAPEGIAG:**N.A. Meetings**

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

ROTARY CLUB WINNERS**The winners for the week of March 25 are:**

Michel Cyr, Carole Smith, Marie-Rose Arsenault, Natalie Fillion, Pascal Poirier, Jean Claude Blanchard, Gilles Gagné.

The winners for the week of April 1 are:

Leslie Coull, Danny Lelievre, Nicole Paquet, Denise Leblanc, Gaspésie Diesel, Jules Cyr, Yvette Savoie.

The winners for the week of April 8 are:

Anne McColm, Claude Boudreau, Marie-Rose Arsenault, Huguette Lemay, Stéphane Allard, Hammond McCormick, Jean-Michel Allard.

UNITED CHURCH**Sunday, April 22**

2 p.m. Hope Town

ANGLIGAN CHURCH OF CANADA**Sunday April 22****New Carlisle**

10 a.m. Morning Prayer

Hope Town

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Port Daniel

11 a.m. Holy Eucharist

PARISH OF GASPÉ**Sunday, April 22****Gaspe**

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

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Keep in mind, Coast Round-ups are \$5 per week, making this plan an even more profitable deal!

Go ahead...play with your food



What's This Artifact?



Marshall Billingsley

The artifact in the photo is a peculiar thing that some of our readers may be familiar with. What do you think it is?

It is made of metal and has an engraving on the piece before the flat edge, and looks as if it could have been used in unison with something else.

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



Thank you to Terri LeGros for sharing this artifact with our readers.

SUDOKU

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

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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!

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

ANSWER:

Guess Who?

I am a comic actor born in New York on April 3, 1961. By age 15, I started performing and creating my own standup routines. I made a name for myself in the early 1980s on Saturday Night Live, which I parlayed into a successful movie career.

Answer: Eddie Murphy

I do not have gray hair... I have wisdom highlights!

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HOROSCOPES

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, you may have to admit that the master plan you have set up has a few flaws. You don't have to abandon it, just modify. These modifications may be relatively simple.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

Pisces, you may think that you have missed an important opportunity, but don't get too worried just yet. With a few new strategies, you can regain your momentum.

GEMINI – May 22/June 21

Gemini, you may be easily swayed this week by someone who is

smooth-talking. Figure out if this person can be believed or not, but give them a chance.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22

You may find yourself in a position where you can take on a leadership role, Cancer. Do not hesitate to jump onboard because this can be just what's needed for your career.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23

Responsibilities will soon be easier to handle, Leo. Not because the tasks are less difficult, but because you have more people on your side helping you out.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Planning a vacation can be almost as fun as traveling, Virgo. When someone asks for your help drawing

up a travel itinerary, put all of your effort into the task.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Some sort of breakthrough in your life is soon to become a reality, Libra. It may be a financial windfall or a new job opportunity. Keep your eyes open to any and all possibilities.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

You can achieve great things this week, Scorpio. Ultimately, your accomplishments depend on how much you can focus on the tasks at hand. The ball is in your court.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, you are on the move this week, but it is best to have a plan and not leave things to

chance. Look ahead to all the possible scenarios that have the potential to trip you up.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, it is easy to get carried away with an idea. Just do not mistake obsession for focus. You need to pace yourself if you are going to be effective.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

You may need to postpone something you had hoped to finish this week, Aquarius. As long as it does not get pushed too far onto the back burner you should be fine.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, a setback of some kind may occur this week. Don't get too worried just yet. Adversity can be a

learning experience.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS
APRIL 15

Luis Fonsi, Singer (40)
APRIL 16

Martin Lawrence, Actor (53)
APRIL 17

Victoria Beckham, Designer (44)
APRIL 18

Conan O'Brien, Comic (55)
APRIL 19

Kate Hudson, Actress (39)
APRIL 20

Miranda Kerr, Model (35)
APRIL 21

Tony Romo, Athlete (38)

SNOWMOBILE:

▶ Cont'd from cover

Several races were held over the weekend however the weekends big event was the B.G. Hill Climb. Martin Gauvin, owner of Sports B.G. presented the first prize to Phillippe Querry, while second place went to Luc Major and third place to Alex Lepage. In all, over \$3,000 in prizes were distributed.

During their planning, the event expected to host about 100 racers. Marie Nowak explains that the number of spectators, however, was very surprising. "We anticipated approximately 400 spectators, but instead we received almost 900. It's clear that there is a real interest in the region for this type of event."

The race weekend was such a huge success that plans are already underway for next year's event. Marie Nowak explains that this will give organizers the time to think about improvements that can be made to the event as well as find new interested sponsors.

Roger Leblanc, resident of Cascapedia - St-Jules, who placed 4th in the 700 Class enjoyed the weekends events, "There were good racing conditions. The race was well organized and lots of people participated. I will be racing next year for sure!"



Photos: Peter de Groot

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