

Right whale now haunts lobster fishermen, says their representative

Gilles Gagné

PASPEBIAC: – “Exaggerated” measures to protect right whales are creating a “psychosis” that is affecting the lobster season, because some areas could be marked by the temporary closure of catches.

Gaspesian lobster fishermen, like their colleagues from the Magdalen Islands and from the North Shore, had an outstanding year in 2017.

In the Gaspé Peninsula, their catches of 2,950 metric tonnes brought in \$45.4 million, a clear record following consecutive record years. In the Magdalen Islands, the fishermen earned \$67.1 million collectively, a record too, just like on the North Shore, where they brought in \$3.7 million. The Quebec total of \$116 million therefore represents an absolute record, 52.3% higher than the previous one just set in 2016.

So there was room for optimism this year but that was before the implementation of rules to protect right whales, rules that are considered exaggerated by O’Neil Cloutier, director general of the Southern Gaspé Professional Fishermen Group. He vigorously criticizes the management of the situation by Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

“Minister Dominic Leblanc creates a psychosis among fishermen. He is upsetting a whole industry. The lobster fishermen find themselves on the accused side while we have never had any interaction with whales, right whales or other types of



Photo: Michael Couture

Although it was foggy, the weather was nice Saturday morning when Port Daniel lobster fisherman William (Tony) Dow started off the lobster season.

whales. We sure hear them, we see them way off the coast but we never had them entan-

gled in our fishing gear,” explains Mr. Cloutier.

In 2017, two cases of right

whale entanglements in fishing gear were noticed. This explains some of last year’s

12 casualties in Canadian waters. One of the two entanglement cases was certain while the second one was highly probable. In both cases, the entanglement took place in crab fishing gear.

Crab fishermen were targeted before lobster fishermen and they have to stay out of a 14,000 square kilometre rectangle (see side article on page 8). The situation should be quite different in the case of lobster fishermen, points out O’Neil Cloutier.

“We fish in shallow water, one mile from the coast at most. This is not right whale territory,” he emphasizes.

He was also infuriated by the lack of accuracy in the initial documents sent to the Gaspesian lobster fishermen. The documents made very few references to the right whale situation or protection measures, but they included a map where a large part of the Gaspé Peninsula coast was subject to lobster fishing closures because of its relative proximity to the Miscou Island area in New Brunswick, which is considered a feeding zone for the right whales.

“If we apply the rules already announced in New Brunswick, they could apply a dynamic closure in part of an area covering the coast from Port Daniel-Gascons to Malbay River, in Percé, for 15 days if only one live right whale is seen,” says Mr. Cloutier.

In the case of lobster fishing, a dynamic closure, a term selected to signify that it is not permanent, would



Photo: P. MacWhirter

Lobster fisherman George Skene leaving Shigawake harbour early Saturday morning.

Cont'd on page 9

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Getting out of the black hole

Thierry Haroun

GASPÉ PENINSULA: - The *Mouvement Action Chômage de la Gaspésie*, a regional organization that defends the rights of the unemployed, has made a rare positive statement concerning a recent federal decision regarding the Employment Insurance Program. "After two months, we finally received clear answers from the government that confirms that all the unemployed that have been faced with the black hole will be eligible to receive an allocation between \$300 and \$547 per week, retroactively, to February 27. This is a step in the right direction, but it doesn't settle this black hole problem in the long term," mentions the organization. These special premiums are destined to those who will accept to follow a training program offered by Emploi-Québec and that were faced with what is called the black hole, which is a period without any revenue between the end of their EI premiums and the start of their summer work season. That period can last between 8 to 10 weeks. For further information, you can contact your Local Employment Center. There's one located in Gaspé, Chandler and Bonaventure.



Photo: ROCGIM

Community organizations are exhausted

An additional \$13 million needed for our region

Thierry Haroun

GASPÉ PENINSULA: Employees of community organizations are faced with exhaustion and precariousness: an unbearable situation! That's the headline of a recent open letter made public by community organizations in the province. The organizations are asking the Quebec government for better financing. This includes the 80 community groups of the Gaspésie and Madgalen Islands.

"Working in the community sector is like being in a constant emergency situation. It's helping people that are abandoned by society. It's playing an essential role to those in need but it's not valued by the government as it should be. To compensate for such a lack of recognition and resources, many community workers entirely devote their time to their respective organizations and community to a point that their own health is being put in danger," is stated in the letter. "Despite that situation, these workers who have a minimum of working conditions don't declare all their working hours. The burden for these people is getting heavier and heavier with consequences in terms of social, economic and psychological

problems," mentions the letter. In that context, the Quebec Independent Community Organizations Group representing 72,000 workers is asking the Quebec government to add \$475 million to these organizations on an annual basis so that they can keep up with the growing demand.

Spec reached Geneviève Giguère, the coordinator for the ROCGÎM which represents 80 community organizations mainly in the health sector in the Gaspésie and Magdalen Region. Of the \$475 million asked on the provincewide scale, \$13 million is needed for our region on an annual basis so that these groups could make ends meet and, at the same time, offer decent working conditions to its workers. "What workers are faced with across the province is also observed

in our own region. The daily reality is the same," points our Geneviève Giguère.

"Did you know that we are so underfinanced that 75% of my members must stop their operations (for a few weeks) every year so that they can balance their budget? Moreover, I have in mind two community workers that left our sector because they were totally exhausted and fed up with asking themselves if their organization would be able to balance its budget, find the personnel, find financing and so forth. These two people were devoted workers. Managing a community group is also about accounting, doing some representation, finding volunteers, mobilizing a governing board, etc. Working in our sector is an extraordinary challenge but it's very stressful," she concluded.

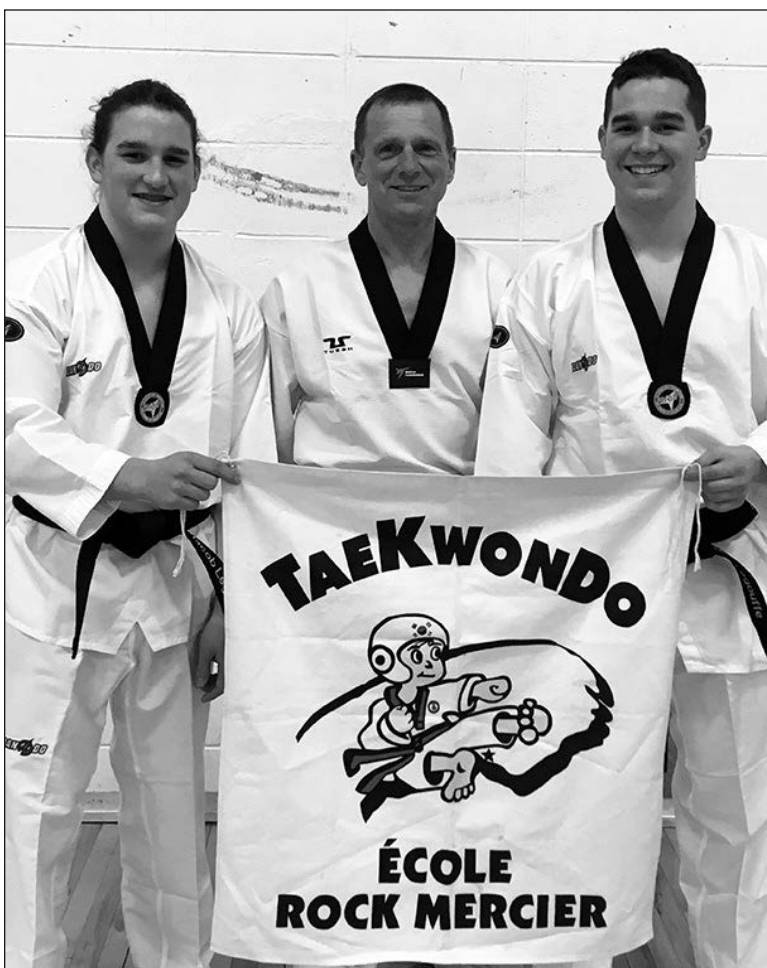


Photo: courtesy Rock Mercier

Jake Legouffe, Rock Mercier and Scott Legouffe.

A great achievement

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES: - Two students from Cascapedia-St-Jules recently proved that with much perseverance, effort and dedication we can achieve our goals. On April 14, Scott and Jake Legouffe obtained their black belt in Taekwondo.

Obtaining a black belt in this sport is not just defined by the colour of a belt but also by an attitude and the two brothers are a great example of what is required to be a black belt.

Under the supervision of Master Bernard Provost and Rock Mercier they demonstrated to the public the result of many years of practice and hard work. "For many years now, I've had the chance to see them grow and become better individuals and I am more than proud of them," said Rock Mercier.



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Photo: G. Gagné

Until mid-June, up to 25 loaded cement cars will be allowed to circulate west of New Richmond, which includes passing over the Cascapedia-St-Jules bridges.

Transport Quebec increases bridge capacity to 25 cars/week

Gilles Gagné

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES – The Gaspésie Railway Society is now authorized to haul up to 25 loaded cars of cement on the two Cascapedia-St-Jules bridges. At the beginning of December, a limit of ten such cars had been allowed due to the alleged uncertainty of those structures' bearing capacity.

Transport Quebec, the owner of the line, imposed criteria involving a limit of ten loaded cars per week, which is a mystery to some in the railroad industry, especially when talking about a risk factor associated to with the number of cars passing in a week.

Last fall, engineering consultant Norda Stelo carried out a study and determined, according to Transport Quebec's specifications, that passing with ten loaded cars on the bridge was less risky than passing with 50.

A second study was carried out early this spring and an increase in the number of loaded cars was allowed after the report was issued.

"A complete inspection was carried out on April 5 and 6. The report was issued on April 12 by Norda Stelo and the risk analysis was released the following day. We received permission to increase the traffic to 25 loaded cars on April 16," explains Luc Lévesque, director general of the Gaspésie Railway Society.

Mr. Lévesque knew that the ten-car limit had been imposed because the conditions

of the Cascapedia-St-Jules bridges remained unknown.

"Those elements were unknown because they couldn't be inspected visually. So they (Norda Stelo's staff) used ultrasounds and issued another report stating that a higher number of loaded cars could pass on the bridge weekly," points out Luc Lévesque.

Other regular inspections will be carried out over the next few months in order to keep an eye on the bridges which were built in the 1890s.

"For example, we will have a regular look at the abutments, the place where the bridges are supported. We will check if the abutments move. So far, they are not. If they do, we will carry out work to stabilize them," further explains Mr. Lévesque.

The limit of 25 loaded cars will likely be valid until mid-June when the Gaspésie Railway Society will have completed its cement transshipment facility in Nouvelle.

That cement originates from the Port Daniel plant. The railway passes through McInnis Cement's facility but that part of the line is in a dormant state.

That situation forced the Gaspésie Railway Society to build a first transshipment terminal in New Richmond, where a portion of McInnis Cement's production is sent by truck and then transferred into rail cars after being stored in a silo.

However, the needs of McInnis Cement are increasing and have now reached about 25 cars per week. They will gradually increase to 40

cars at one point during the summer, which has forced the Gaspésie Railway Society to build a second transshipment terminal in Nouvelle. In that case, no silo is planned.

The cement loading pattern will change when the Nouvelle terminal is functional.

"We will put 56 (metric) tonnes in each of the cars loaded in New Richmond, and we will put a truckload in Nouvelle, as a trailer can haul 39 (metric) tonnes," explains Luc Lévesque.

The Gaspésie Railway Society can circulate with cars weighing up to 268,000 pounds, which is equivalent to 134 short tonnes or 122 metric tonnes. Most empty cement cars weigh around 26 metric tonnes. A short tonne weighs 2,000 pounds while a metric tonne weighs 2,200 pounds or ten percent more.

The current restrictions on the Cascapedia-St-Jules bridges impose a sizeable shunting constraint to the Gaspésie Railway Society. An empty car must alternate with each loaded car in order to reduce the weight concentration on those bridges. This time-consuming practice is also duplicated in Nouvelle, as the empty cars must be taken off the train before their delivery to Canadian National in Matapédia.

Luc Lévesque does not know if using idler cars, or empty cars, between loaded cars will be imposed by Transport Quebec once 56 tonnes will be put in cement cars at the New Richmond terminal.

Police report

On April 25 a road accident claimed the life of Lucie Saint-Armaud, 75, from the Fleurant Point part of Escuminac. The accident occurred shortly before 7 a.m. on the main road of Fleurant Point as the victim was driving east, near her home. She had left Rimouski about three hours prior to the accident. "Her car left the road, took the ditch and hit a culvert. The car landed on its roof, in the water. The victim was found in the car... She probably drowned," explains Sgt. Claude Doiron, spokesperson for the Sûreté du Québec. A technician was called to reconstruct the accident. It is possible that the victim lost consciousness or fell asleep while driving.

On April 25, Dominick Terry Beaudin, from Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé, appeared at the Percé courthouse on charges of aggravated assault, criminal negligence causing bodily harm, assault and assault with a weapon. The victim is an infant, only a few months old. Following the appearance the accused was remanded in custody and his bail hearing was set to May 28.

The events date back to February 2018 and were investigated by the major crime squad points out Sgt. Doiron. The alleged crimes were committed in the household where the victim was living with his mother. Because of the nature of his injuries the victim was hospitalized outside the region. Information regarding that case is the object of a publication ban. The accused is not the father of the baby.

On April 26, Karine Smith, 31, from Gaspé, appeared at the Percé courthouse and was charged with fraud following a Sûreté du Québec investigation pertaining to a woman that was soliciting money door-to-door, alleging that her car had run out of gas and that she would soon return to reimburse the money.

"Some people called the police to lay complaints and others just notified us of the situation. It is possible that the accused repeated the scheme about 30 times," says Sgt. Claude Doiron, of the Sûreté du Québec. The investigation took a certain time before resulting in an arrest because the police had no clear description of the accused and had to determine if obtaining money the way the accused did constituted a crime.

Luc-Reno Fournier, 61, from Gaspé, will stand trial on October 23 and 24, 2018 on charges of sexual assault on an intellectually handicapped man, assault with a weapon and forcible confinement. The preliminary hearing was held on April 26 at the Percé courthouse. According to CHNC, the accused is suspected of having touched the genitals of the victim and of having prevented the victim from fleeing by putting his arms around him. The accused also threatened to hit the victim with a ski pole during an outdoor excursion.

On April 30 at about 7:25 a.m., a truck and trailer tipped on MacKay Road, ending its course in the ditch. The two occupants of the truck were able to get out of the cabin after the accident and were not injured, says Sgt. Doiron, spokesperson of the Sûreté du Québec. As SPEC was reaching its deadline, the Sûreté du Québec was warning the public that traffic would eventually be hampered by the towing operations to pull the transport out of the ditch.

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Commentary Gilles Gagné

When women are targeted, prevention measures must be developed

The April 23 tragedy in Toronto during which ten people were killed and 18 more were injured represents a painful reminder that more must be done to prevent violent acts against women, considering that eight of those ten murder victims were women.

The investigation gradually reveals that the accused was in all likelihood targeting women. It is highly disconcerting in our so-called modern society and we must wonder how to avoid that kind of mass murder. We sure must avoid any kind of mass murder but since a disproportionate number of such violent acts seem to aim for women, that problem requires special attention.

In Quebec for example, year in year out, about

30 women and children are assassinated in or following family disputes. Based on statistics released by the Quebec Department of Public Security, a proportion of 90 percent of women murders are perpetrated by their husband, boyfriend or former husband or former boyfriend.

It shows that some men are unable to discuss or cope with a break up. They will either use violence in the spur of the moment or, in about three-quarters of the time, premeditate it.

Over the years, our society has organized a number of tools to help women, such as houses to protect them after violent acts or tumultuous break ups. Police officers are now trained to better deal with crisis and interact with the victims of violence.

It is nonetheless clear that more efforts have to be deployed since the number of murdered women and children has been stable over the last 12 years in Quebec, at 27 or 28 yearly. The other unacceptable part of the problem is that such a stable tendency goes against the overall decline of crime in Quebec and in Canada.

Mass murders usually make governments move quickly, towards increase security measures and even preventive measures, however, the same haste doesn't characterize their actions in the case of murdered women and children because they are scattered over the course of a year, in a number of different regions. They are isolated from one another. They will make the headlines for a day or two, and a year or two later

when the trial will take place. The danger comes from the possibility that the public gets used to these isolated murders and doesn't make a move to stop them.

There are solutions though. They are not flashy but they usually work. It is called prevention. It starts in day cares and at the elementary school level. Studies have proven that children who are victims of violence carry with them a higher risk or becoming violent once they reach adulthood. Therefore, significant attention needs to be given to these individuals.

There are also organizations that deal with violent men, trying to defuse potential crises before they erupt. Those organizations are often overlooked and have not benefited from regular budgets over the years. Yet, their role should be better recognized and it should be understood by our governments that working in prevention with potentially violent people is one of the best ways to avoid murders and assaults.

Prevention is often depicted as a costly way to deal with problems. Those who say that, are only looking at the numbers over the short term.

When one considers the cost of police interventions after violent acts, the tab linked to the judiciary system and the prisons, a prevention budget is undoubtedly a cheap deal.

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Flowers not only bloom on Mother's Day, and that's because a mother carries that beauty within her and it stays permanently deep in her heart. How many times did she carry that love, kindness and tender care. We must remember that her pathway will never be forgotten and how many times she taught us right from wrong. A mother is a cushion to all her children and she helps us in time of trouble and she forever supports us whenever we call on her. There is no other bond so strong in the entire world and no love so instantaneous and forgiving as a mother. A mother's own reflection in life is like a shining stream as she loves you as you are and not for what you become or do. We must remember that a mother holds her children's hands for awhile but their hearts forever. In closing: One thing for sure I will always be proud to say "that you are the best of the most and the top of the rest."
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Saint-Godefroi Caisse Desjardins will close effective June 9

Gilles Gagné

SAINT-GODEFROI: – The board of the Caisse Desjardins du Centre-sud gaspésien will close the Saint-Godefroi service point on June 9. The Newport service point will also close but an automatic teller will remain open in that case.

The decision was made at the April 23 annual general meeting of the Caisse Desjardins du Centre-sud gaspésien and communicated to the population with letters in the mail the following days. The director general of that Caisse, Marie-Claude Kearney, explains that the closure was unavoidable and can hardly be perceived as a surprise.

“We have had discussions about that subject over the last four years. It is a decision made by the board. The members of the board are appointed by their peers in the commu-

nity (...) We must adapt to the new reality of financial services,” explains Ms. Kearney.

“The business hours had been gradually reduced over the years,” she adds. “About 95 percent of people’s transactions are made through Accès D, Accès D phone services and with computers, so elsewhere than at counters. That is valid for the whole Caisse Desjardins du Centre-sud gaspésien network,” points out Ms. Kearney.

Approximately 200 people from the Saint-Godefroi area are members of that Caisse. The service point is open ten hours a week until June 9. “Forty-five of those members use counter services, for two transactions a month on the average,” she says.

The staff of Caisse Desjardins du Centre-sud gaspésien will accompany the members in the development of solutions that will satisfy



Photo: Holly Smith

Caisse Desjardins Saint-Godefroi.

them. “We want to find solutions for them. It could be something like having volunteers offering a shuttle to our other service points,” she adds.

Two meetings will be organized on May 8 for the Newport clients and on May 9 for the Saint-Godefroi customers in order to provide information and solutions to the people in-

convenienced by the service reduction.

The Caisse Desjardins du Centre-sud gaspésien will keep three service points in Chandler, Gascons and Paspébiac. The closure of the Saint-Godefroi service point leaves the stretch between Paspébiac and Gascons without banking services.

“We are considering looking for some kind of arrangement with a store maybe,” points out Ms. Kearney.

For the financial year that ended in December, the Caisse Desjardins du Centre-sud gaspésien declared an asset of \$350 million, a \$25 million increase compared to the previous year.

MNA continues to ask questions about rail service Government fails to provide concrete answers

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND: – The independent member of the National Assembly (MNA) for the riding of Gaspé, Gaétan Lelièvre, is asking the provincial government to divulge a schedule of work in order to ensure the return of train services along the full length of the Matapédia to Gaspé line.

Mr. Lelièvre first asked to receive a time frame for the work through a motion based on the fact that it will soon be a year since Quebec’s Premier Philippe Couillard announced \$100 million for the refurbishment of the railway. That was on May 5, 2017, in New Carlisle. Most of the work must be carried out on the bridges between Cascapédia-St-Jules and Percé.

The notice-less motion was presented on April 25 at the National Assembly and was supported by all the opposition parties, however, the Liberal government did not support the Gaspé riding representative’s motion.

Mr. Lelièvre changed his strategy the following day by asking questions directly to premier Couillard. In addition to a working schedule, the Gaspé riding Member of National Assembly also asked to obtain details about where the work will be carried out and about the type of work.

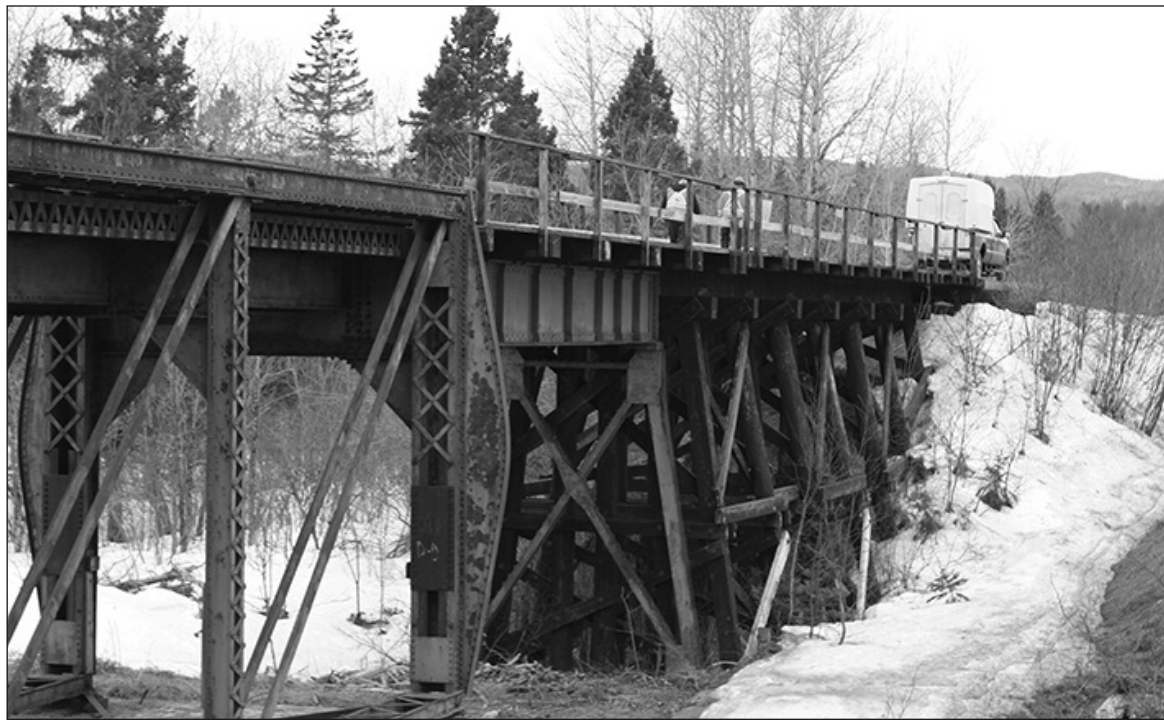


Photo: G. Gagné

Regular inspections will be conducted on the Cascapédia-St-Jules bridges.

In his introduction, Mr. Lelièvre reminded government officials that Transport Quebec has been the owner of the line for three years, that a plane ticket to get to Montreal costs \$1,500 and that Gaspeians have lost 50 percent of their bus services in recent years.

Mr. Lelièvre also mentioned that the 500 employees of LM Windpower in Gaspé are waiting for the return of rail service closer to their Gaspé plant. McInnis Cement also requires it in Port Daniel.

At first, he was answered by Natural Resources minister Pierre Moreau, who is also

minister responsible for the Gaspé Peninsula. Mr. Moreau first said that a recent report was allowing McInnis Cement “to move more equipment out.”

Mr. Moreau later added that the line is divided in three sections and that “work will be carried out along the Matapédia to Caplan line.” The two other sections are “studied as opportunity files.”

Gaétan Lelièvre came back with two complementary questions, and asked them specifically to Transport Minister André Fortin, who had remained quiet on the railway issue at that point.

“How can you explain that

the \$6.4 billion REM project (commuter light train for Montreal) will be realized in three years while a schedule of delivery cannot be obtained for a \$100 million line refurbishment project?” asked Mr. Lelièvre.

Minister Fortin didn’t reply to those points. He just mentioned that premier Couillard was right in announcing \$100 million last year. He added the project “must pass through steps and that a solution was found for McInnis Cement.”

Gaétan Lelièvre came back with a second complementary question. “A year after Premier Couillard’s an-

nouncement, can you explain why there is no schedule a year after the premier’s announcement. There is no work done, no cost breakdown, no details about what will happen?”

Again, Minister Fortin only provided vague answers, saying that Premier Couillard, Minister Moreau and himself headed the file and that the project must go through steps. He also mentioned that the unemployment rate has gone from 17.5% to 11.1% in the Gaspé Peninsula in recent years.

In a press release issued shortly after those exchanges, Gaétan Lelièvre once more questioned the will of the Quebec government to restore passenger and freight rail services along the whole line.

He wonders why the Quebec government is waiting to get some repair work started and asks if that government is interested in the fate of LM Windpower, McInnis Cement and many more potential shippers that have not talked about the situation.

He fears that the Gaspé Peninsula rail file will be an electoral stake during the next campaign.

“It is a blatant example of unfairness and lack of leadership of that government regarding the support of regions like the Gaspé,” he concludes.

Floods hamper traffic in some parts of the coast

Gilles Gagné

CASCAPEDIA-ST JULES – Floods triggered by a combination of melting snow and rain blocked roads in several parts of the Gaspé Peninsula, mainly on the south side of the region. The most conspicuous signs of floods were found in Cascapedia-St. Jules, Chandler, Maria and Carleton.

In Cascapedia-St. Jules, two locations were still hampered by floods as the SPEC was reaching its deadline, namely Road 299 and Patrickton Road. On April 26, Road 299 was completely cut off at the 14th kilometre north of highway 132. Trout Brook became quite inflated because of melting snow and rain. The strength of the current, trees, branches and sediments ate through Road 299.

As a consequence, two houses and two sugar camps were isolated from the Baie



Photo: Barry O'Neil

Trout Brook pushed its way through Route 299 on April 26. The strength of the current and the pressure applied by trees, branches and sediments made their way through the culvert and ate the road up.

des Chaleurs area but the situation was under control, as the residents of the area and the sugar camp operators are used

to spring caprices and are prepared to wait until traffic is restored.

Patrickton Road was also

affected on April 26 about four kilometres north of highway 132. Water was passing on the road near the railway crossing and the situation still prevailed on April 30. The damage didn't seem as bad as in the Trout Brook area, from what was visible then.

In Maria, 16 people were evacuated from the Cyr and Deschênes Roads and brought to the community centre, due to the April 26 sudden rise of Green River. Damage to

houses was minimal though. Four days later, most of those people were still not in their home.

In Saint-François-de-Pabos, an intervention made by Sûreté du Québec officers probably saved the life of a resident living in the Little Pabos River area.

“The police officers were making a routine patrol along Petit Pabos Road and ventured into a side road called Du Pont. There, a man standing in the rear part of his pickup truck was preparing to make an attempt at crossing an inflated brook. His wife was standing along the side of the brook. The pickup was moved by the current. The two policemen tried to throw a life-line to the man but couldn't reach him. They finally got in the water to get closer and were able to throw the life line to the man. They showed him how to tie it safely and pulled him out of there,” says Claude Doiron, spokesperson of the Sûreté du Québec.

In the Saint-Omer part of Carleton, five people living along Bélanger Road were also evacuated on April 26 and hadn't returned to their homes four days later, because of the water level of Stewart River.



Photo: G. Gagné

Transport Québec workers repairing damage caused to Route 299 near the kilometre 8 sign.

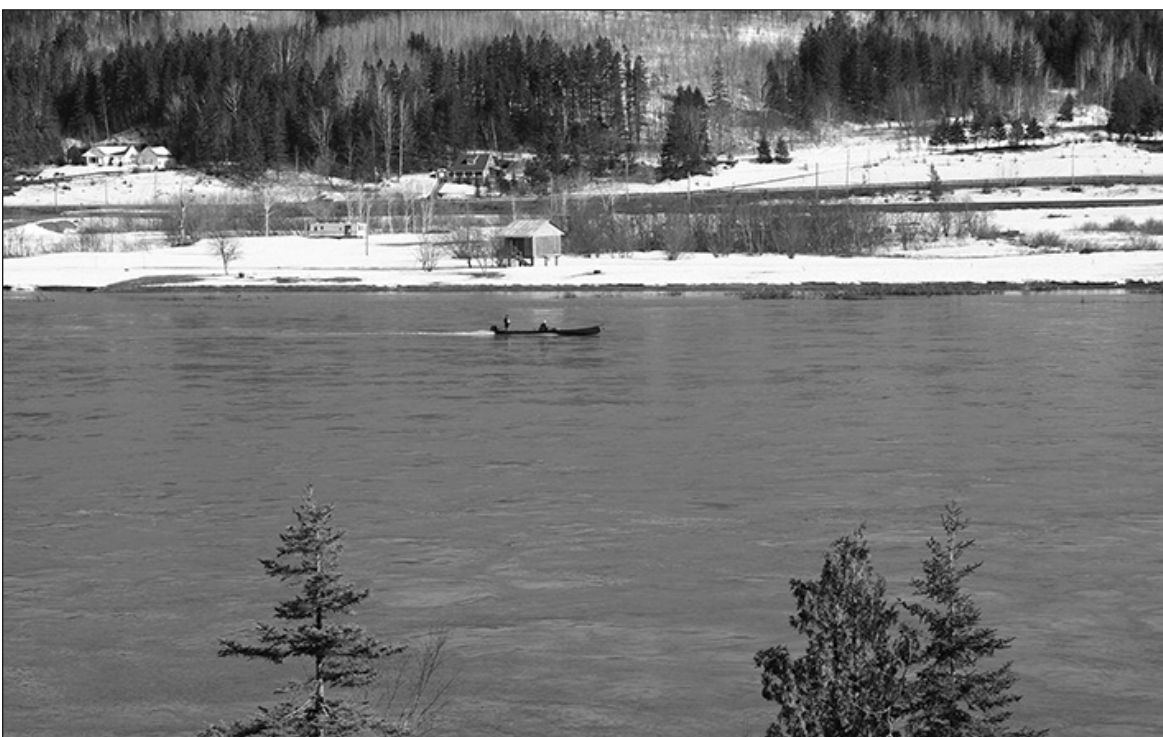


Photo: G. Gagné

In the Matapedia area, people had the rare occasion to watch a very quiet thaw as the ice gradually melted in April. The water level of the Matapedia and Restigouche Rivers increased gradually but most of the remaining ice was too soft and small to create real jams. The Canadian Coast Guard hovercraft Sipu Muin came twice but its interventions were mainly precautionary measures.

Heritage New Carlisle Welcomes New Coordinator

Heritage New Carlisle is starting 2018 by welcoming a new member to its team this month! Originally from New Carlisle Amelia Desjardins brings with her a unique professional skill set of experiences, having recently returned to the Gaspé after studying and working in Scotland.

Amelia graduated from Edinburgh College of Art in 2014 with a Bachelor's Degree in Performance Costume and subsequently completed a Master's at the University of Glasgow in Dress and Textile Histories. She gained her curatorial training during an internship at the Burrell Collection in Glasgow where she specialized in the research and display of historical garments. An internship in restoration was completed at the Moulin Rouge in Paris. Amelia has also worked in theatre, opera, museums, film and television and most recently as a period costume assistant on Netflix's *Outlaw King* and *Outlander*.



Brimming with ideas and enthusiasm, Amelia's unique creative background, combined with her knowledge of the town's history, is sure to make for an exciting season at the Kempffer Cultural & Interpretation Centre!

Sea aquaculture: there will be help in case of hard blow

Geneviève Gélinas

GASPÉ: – Sea aquaculture businesses will be compensated for their losses up to \$150,000 in case of exceptional natural events. It's one of the measures announced in the Quebec 2018-2025 action plan for the sea aquaculture industry.

Until now, an aquaculture entrepreneur whose mussels were devoured by ducks or whose equipment was swept away by high tides could go bankrupt. It takes several years between the moment mollusks are put into water and their harvesting, and a lot of bad luck can happen during that time.

Sea aquaculture entrepreneurs have been asking for some guarantees for at least ten years. "A risk management program was required," admitted Quebec Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Minister, Laurent Lessard, who was in Gaspé on April 27 to an-

nounce the plan.

The program covers the losses of mussels, oysters and scallops as well as the losses and damages to culture structures, caused by exceptional biological or climatic events.

The entrepreneurs could be paid back 40% of the projected sales value and 75% of the expenses to repair or replace his or her structure, for a maximum total of \$150,000.

Funds to prepare future harvests

As part of the Quebec plan, the *Société de développement de l'industrie maricole (SODIM)*, which has operated at a reduced level over the last years, launches a new program to provide cash flow to sea aquaculture businesses while their stock grows large enough to be sold.

"The production cycle is measured in years; it takes between three and seven years.



Photos: G. Gélinas

The president of the *Société de développement de l'industrie maricole*, Marc Cayouette and the Quebec minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Laurent Lessard, were in Gaspé on April 27 to present an action plan for sea aquaculture.

That's difficult to support. It takes support," explains the SODIM president, Marc Cay-

ouette. The SODIM will fund up to 40 % of the harvest "realistic selling prices."

The program terms encourage a moderate growth. "The maximum aid will be 50% of the previous year's production in the funded species," Mr. Cayouette points out.

The Ministry will hand out \$85,000 to sea aquaculture entrepreneurs to be used to restart their association, the *Regroupement des mariculteurs du Québec*. Quebec will also support the marketing of the

Quebec sea farming products. This aid could reach \$100,000 for a joint application.

The Ministry also commits to supporting the research and development in the sea aquaculture sector, through Merinov and Innovamer.

There are about 20 sea farming companies in Quebec, most of them in the Gaspé Peninsula and in the Magdalen Islands. In 2016, the production sales value was \$1.9 million. This industry provides 80 jobs.



There are about 20 sea aquaculture companies in Quebec, most of them in Gaspé (in the picture), in the Bay of Chaleur and in the Magdalen Islands.

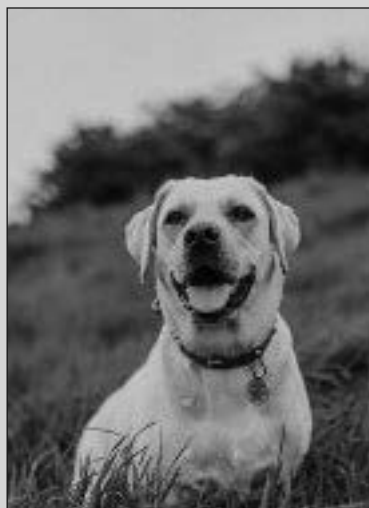
Warm weather brings tick risk for the whole family

(NC) With warmer weather comes the risk of ticks, which can affect everyone in the family, including your pet.

As a dog owner, you want the best for your four-legged friend. An important part of their care is protection against fleas and ticks, but are you armed with the knowledge you need to protect them?

Fleas and ticks are more than just uncomfortable annoyances. They can lead to serious discomfort and diseases, such as tapeworm or Lyme disease, which can be dangerous for both your dog and your family.

Although peak flea and



tick season starts in the summer, fleas can survive indoors during the winter and ticks thrive in cooler temperatures, so it's important to continue to

protect your dog year-round.

There are multiple options available to help prevent and control fleas and ticks depending on your needs. It doesn't have to be an unpleasant or difficult experience for you or your dog either. For example, you can choose a once-a-month chewable flavoured to taste like a treat, so it's fun to give to your dog. The once-a-month chewable ensures your pup is flea- and tick-free throughout the year.

Talk to your veterinarian about flea and tick treatments that will keep your pet and your whole family healthy, happy and safe all year long.

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Gaspé hotel scores a perfect ten on hotels.com

Geneviève **Gélinas**

GASPÉ: – *Auberge sous les arbres* in Gaspé, a small hotel with 15 bedrooms and a three star rating, is the only hotel in Canada that received a perfect rating of ten from travellers, in a classification prepared by the booking website Hotels.com.

Claudine Roy, the owner of *Auberge sous les arbres* (which means inn under the trees), believes that “the human warmth of the reception” explains the customers’ satisfaction.

“My sister Mimi is there in the afternoon to welcome people. She pours them a small glass of Radoune gin (made in Gaspé), and she tells them: ‘You arrived in the Gaspé: you must rinse your mouth!’ My sister Denise cooks all the breakfasts, with homemade jam like my mother used to make. It’s not a rigid place,” reports Ms. Roy.

“There’s a fireplace where we make a fire in the afternoon, and a small dining room. If the customers don’t

want to go out in the evening, they can eat take-out there. When you’re away from home for two weeks, you want to feel a little like at home.”

The hotel is located in downtown Gaspé, on Queen Street. It consists of the Carter House, built in 1865, and of a modern section added approximately ten years ago.

“Bookings are already quite good for the summer,” says Ms. Roy, “but the phone hasn’t stopped ringing,” she said on the day after the classification was published, April 19.

The customers themselves, and not experts, rate the hotels and decide to give a score or not to their hotel. Twenty-two hotels worldwide obtained a perfect score.

To be part of the classification, the hotels had to obtain a rate of at least 9.4/10 and at least 50 customer ratings, from December 2016 to November 2017. Throughout Canada, Montreal and Quebec City received the most significant number of hotels meeting the criteria, with 17 and 12



Photo: courtesy of Auberge sous les arbres

Claudine Roy has been the owner of the Auberge sous les arbres for three years.

Snow crab fishing finally opens in Gulf of Saint Lawrence’s southern part

Gilles Gagné

PASPEBIAC: – On the afternoon of April 27, the federal department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) finally announced that snow crab fishing would start on April 28, at 11 p.m. in the southern part of the Gulf of Saint Lawrence, also referred to as zone 12. That announcement came quite late since Fisheries and Oceans Minister Dominic Leblanc had committed in March to have snow crab fishing start early in April. That commitment was made to allow crab fishermen catches in a 14,000 square kilometre rectangle designed to protect right whales. Those fishermen will consequently not have access to that area, since it was closed 23 hours before the April 28 go-ahead of crab fishing.

Crab fishermen had previously criticized the imposition of that protected area because it was set-up before the first sightings of right whales in the gulf last year. This year, for the whole southern part of the Gulf of Saint Lawrence, the quota was set at 24,613 metric tonnes. It represents a 43.4% decrease compared to last year’s contingent, which was exceptionally high. The price remains high this year. Gaspé Peninsula and Madgalen Island crab fishermen mainly share that zone with New Brunswickers. The share of Quebec fishermen hovers around 30 percent of the quota.



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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SADC
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d'aide au développement
de la collectivité
ROCHER-PERCÉ

WHERE : BASE PLEIN AIR DE BELLEFEUILLE

70, chemin de la Plage, Pabos Mills

DATE: Wednesday, May 30, 2018

SCHEDULE : 8:15: Reception
8:20: Annual General Meeting (a breakfast will be served)
10:30: End of meeting

Invitation to the residents of the Rocher-Percé MRC. At this general annual meeting directors of the Corporation will be elected, Therefore in accordance with the regulations 5.03 of general rules and regulations, a period for nominations will be open from April 25, 2018 to 16:00 (4:00 o'clock) May 25, 2018.

Positions to be filled are in the following sectors:

- **Primary:** One director representing economic activities pertaining to the processing of raw resources into consumer goods, namely: Agriculture – Forest – Fishing – Mines – Associations, Representatives and others from the sector.
- **Secondary:** Two directors representing economic activities comprising the transformation of primary resources into service products or consumer goods: Wood processing- Fish processing – Bio foods processing – Non-metallic mineral products - Associations, Representatives and others from the sector.
- **Tertiary :** Two directors representing socioeconomic activities comprised in the distribution or sale of goods, products or services, notably: Tourism – Unions – Businesses – Associations, Representatives, Chamber of Commerce and others.

All proposed candidates must complete the appropriate application form, within the dates posted above, and send or bring it to the head office of the Corporation at 129 Boulevard René-Lévesque West, Office S-101, Chandler (Québec) G0C 1K0. **The application form and general regulations are available at the SADC office and also on the website: www.sadcrp.ca under the heading « Annual Report and Publications ».**

For the Board of Directors,

Pauline Boulay
Administrative support
418-689-5699 extension 200

Canada Canada Economic Development supports financially the CFDC

Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



Lobsters: Coming out of your shell

When life gives you lemons, order lobster!

Lobster season has begun in the region and people are talking about having their “feed” of lobster. Many treat their mothers to this delicious crustacean for their special day on Sunday, May 13. Lobster is a true maritime pleasure.

Imagine the first person who looked at a lobster and thought, “I wonder if this can be eaten?” Well, yes, they can and it’s a wonderful treat. Lobster has its own, very unique flavour, with a slightly mild and sweet taste. Crab and shrimp are ‘cousins’ in flavour but lobster triumphs over those two in the flavour department. You might be tempted to buy a large lobster, but many people find that a smaller lobster, about one-pound, tastes the best. You can buy live lobster and cook it yourself or purchase it pre-cooked. Your choice.

Lobsters were not always a highly prized food. In the 1800s lobsters were considered a food for the poorest people only. It was fed to prisoners and servants. Not today. The cost of lobster is higher at the beginning of the season, ranging from about \$11.95 to \$13.99 a pound.

Lobster can be served in a number of ways, but the simplest way is the best of all. Serve it with small containers of warmed garlic butter. On the side, offer a crispy green salad, fresh lemon wedges, a crispy baguette and a glass of chilled white wine and you have the makings of a perfect Gaspesian meal. Some like to make a lobster club sandwich and, though I have not tried it, others enjoy a lobster poutine.

Lobsters are very strange in appearance. Imagine if they were the size of a whale? Nobody would go into the water. The lobsters in our waters are clawed lobsters and are found in cold waters. The other kind of lobster is the spiny lobster, which has long antennas instead of claws and they live in warm waters.

Clawed lobsters have two claws, one bigger than the other which is used for catching and cutting its food. Lobsters have 10 legs, the same as crabs and shrimp. It is protected by a hard shell. The shell cannot grow as the lobster grows so it sheds its shell and hides while a new shell is forming around it. This happens once a year. The tail of the lobster looks like a fan and is made up of seven pieces. Many people think that lobsters are red in colour. But they are actually brown or olive-green. They turn red after they are cooked. Lobsters, like snails and spiders, have grey or clear blood.

Do not think of lobsters as simple creatures at all. They have a simple nervous system and brain, a heart, stomach and intestines! Lobsters have an excellent sense of touch and smell. What about the green stuff inside the body which some diners call the paste? Well technically, it’s called tomalley. It is actually a digestive gland that includes the intestine, liver, and pancreas. If you find red things in your lobster, those are eggs or roe.

Lobsters eat worms, fish, algae, sea plants and shellfish. During mating season, the female gets rid of her shell. After mating, she will grow a new shell. Of 10,000 eggs only 10 will survive to become adult lobsters. The lobster takes seven years to grow into adult size. Lobsters can live up to 100 years, but many do not because they are caught in nets or eaten by predators such as bottom feeding fish such as cod, flounder, eels and crabs. Of course, lobster are cannibals and feed on each other.

Lobsters are caught using one-way traps that are baited. Lobster is normally fished in water between 2 and 900 metres. Cages, or traps, are plastic coated steel or wood. There have been attempts to establish lobster aquaculture, or lobster farming. This has not been successful because lobsters eat each other and the lobster takes so long to grow into adulthood.

So, lobster season has begun. Plan to have your lobster supper soon and enjoy the sweet, rich flavour of freshly caught Gaspesian lobster.

LOBSTER:

▶ *Cont'd from cover*

cover a central rectangle of six by ten miles, and eight surrounding rectangles of similar size. Lobster fishing season only lasts ten weeks.

A day after O’Neil Cloutier talked to the SPEC, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans announced that the potential closure of areas due to right whales would also be applied in the Gaspé Peninsula, not only in New Brunswick.

The right whale issue took so much room in Mr. Cloutier’s mind that he had no clue about the lobster price that could be expected from the plants at the beginning of the season. “It should be between \$7 and \$8.” The average price in 2017 was close to \$7 per pound on the Gaspé Peninsula.



Photo: P. MacWhirter

Saint-Godefroi harbour was a bustling place on Saturday morning as lobster fishermen started their season.

Grand River harbour

In Grand River, the day before the opening of lobster season, the harbour became blocked by a floe of ice coming from the Grand River debacle. The presence of ice in

the port and around it was complicated by the presence of floating trees in the floe, a factor that could have caused damage to boat hulls and propellers. Approximately 30 lobster fishermen had to delay their season opening.

DFO press release says...

Gilles Gagné

QUEBEC CITY: - “Quebec Region announces the implementation of a protocol for the dynamic management of fisheries in 2018 when the presence of North Atlantic Right Whale (NARW) is confirmed. This protocol will allow the DFO to temporarily close specific areas to fishing activities carried out with fixed gear in order to prevent incidents with NARW, such as entanglements.

If NARW are present in the Estuary and Gulf of St. Lawrence, the DFO will close fishing grids that are

used for closing the snow crab fishery according to the soft shell crab protocol, among other uses.

These measures could be adapted as needed during the season. Observations inside a potential foraging area when at least one NARW is sighted means that the DFO will close a total of nine grids to create a buffer area around the sighting location to account for whale movements.

Closures will be in force for a minimum period of 15 days and will be extended by 15 days from the last NARW sighting in the closed area. If no NARW are seen in the closed area during at least

two aerial surveillance flights during the 15 days period, the nine closed grids will be automatically opened at the end of the period. Closures and openings will be regulated through Variation Orders and Notices of Closure, among other tools.

When licence holders are notified of a closure by a notice issued on a commercial or maritime radio station, by a notice transmitted electronically or by a notice given orally by a fishery officer or a fishery guardian, he will have 48 hours to retrieve fishing gear from the area prior to closure.”



Open House

Please join us to celebrate the launch of CASA's new office building and to learn about what CASA is doing in the community.

Friday, May 18
2:30 to 4:00



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Everyone welcome

For further information, please contact Ashley at 418.752.5995

Social notes...

Hello, everyone. Yes, your eyes are not deceiving you – there is some life yet to report about in good ole Gaspé. I know! I know! It has been awhile! Let's see if there is something here that you might like.

Recent events and news

Yes, there will be a Pioneer Days Festival again this year and its dates are Wednesday, July 25, to Sunday, July 29, at Camp Fort Haldimand. To kick things off there will be the annual Mother's Day Bake Sale on Friday, May 11, at the Carrefour in Gaspé commencing at 9 a.m. There will be notices in the Coast Roundup regarding the activities to be offered during the festival. As usual, we are looking forward to meeting with family and friends at Fort Haldimand to catch up and reconnect.

Linda Alexander is recovering from her second knee replacement surgery that was done on April 3. Once again, her husband Glen has been kept pretty busy taking care of his gals on top of his regular busy schedule. Linda is still experiencing a lot of pain, however, she somehow manages to find the bright side of things wherever possible and keeps going. These days she is contacting people in the various communities around the bay in preparation for the Pioneer Days Food Sale on May 11. Thank you, Linda, for your dedication to all of your volunteering activities – you are a treasure! When it comes to volunteering, Glen is no slouch either. He has devoted a great deal of his time for many years in his position as one of the Church Wardens at St. Paul's in Gaspé. Besides that he has helped many people in the community by keeping an eye on their properties when they are away for the winter months and he has helped them open and close up their summer homes. Linda, Glen and many more people from our beautiful area have been raised to give of their time and talents to others. This dedication is very much appreciated and hopefully is not taken for granted.

Rowena and Howard Gallichan are hanging in there. Rowena had a bad fall earlier this year and she broke her ankle. She is getting around quite well now but she is still not driving her car. Rowena certainly appreciates the kindness of her friends and neighbors who make sure she gets to her appointments and to visit with Howard at the San.

On April 7 the Parish of Gaspé held a Rummage Sale and Bake Sale in the basement of St. Paul's Anglican Church in Gaspé. They raised approximately \$2600. These proceeds are all for the Chaplaincy Foundation of Gaspé. The residents at the Pavillon Mgr. Ross (aka "the San"), the Manoir St-Augustin (aka "the Monastery"), the hospital, and the Foyer Notre Dame receive visitation by a chaplain, the Rev. Douglas Johnson on a regular basis. A grateful thank you is extended to all who at-



Photo: Ann Patterson

Let's give a toast to this quiet and fun loving lady – "Cheers and congratulations, Mrs. Elsie!"



Sharon Howell

GASPÉ NEWS

tended and to all who helped in any way which contributed to the success of this event.

Recently many people in the community were subjected to a nasty bout of the gastro. A few of them became very dehydrated and ended up in hospital for a brief time. Some others have been dealing with pneumonia this winter. Thankfully everyone is on the mend and some of them are now enjoying a lovely Caribbean cruise.

Mrs. Elsie Mullin Patterson turned 100 years young on April 15. Her family organized an afternoon tea party for her in the Seniors' Room at the Wakeham School. Her out-of-town guests included her second eldest son Dale and his wife Hilda from Montreal as well as her third son Lynn and his wife Josie from Quebec City. Mrs. Elsie's son Reid and his wife Martha, their daughters Jan and Jennifer along with their families were instrumental in organizing the event. Mrs. Elsie's neighbour and long-time friend, Mary Miller and their mutual friend, Rowena Gallichan, were delighted to share in the celebration. Mrs. Elsie received her many nieces, nephews, cousins, and visitors from many other communities around the area. What a treat to have another octogenarian in the community.

A follow-up on Makena Noble and Ryan Sams who have been receiving treatments for leukemia; both of these brave and strong young people have received stem cell bone marrow transplants on April 17 and 19 respectively. They are doing well but are going to have some rough times yet. On facebook Ryan keeps a blog and photos of his journey and that of his family in this battle for his life. Makena's mom, Julie, also keeps us informed on facebook of Makena's progress and Julie is a strong supporter for Ryan. Please continue to keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

We are so very thankful for the doctors at the CHUM in Montreal who recently performed surgery on Gary Briand. Gary is doing well and we look forward to seeing him soon.

Our congratulations and best wishes are extended to Sarah Shin and Nicholas Stanley of Toronto who were married in a private ceremony at the Grand Canyon on Wednesday, April 24. Nicholas is the son of Rosemarie Kilbride and Terry Stanley who are Gaspésians through and through. Their respective parents are Frances Kilbride and the late Joe Kilbride and the late Nita and Blaney Stanley.

Our sympathies and condolences are extended to the family of Mrs. Julia Clark who passed away on March 22 at the age of 86. Mrs. Julia will be dearly missed by her large family and her many friends. She was predeceased by her husband Lawrence Clark many years ago and recently by her eldest son. Mrs. Julia was well-known and highly regarded in the community. The funeral service was held at St. James Church in Wakeham and it was well attended. Rest in peace, Mrs. Julia!

Our sympathies and condolences are also extended to the family and friends of Melanie Hill Smith who passed away on March 22 at the age of 69. Melanie will be dearly missed by her husband Charles Smith. She will also be dearly missed by her sister Debbie and brothers Rodney and Danny and their families as well as her many friends and neighbours. Rest in peace, Melanie!

Our sympathies and condolences are extended to the family and friends of Lyall Patterson who passed away on April 3rd following a brief illness. Lyall was diagnosed with pancreatic and liver cancer in January and his family and friends are still in shock and disbelief that this could happen to him and that he would be taken so quickly. Those of you who knew him will remember his big smile, his big voice, and his matter of fact way. His dedication to his family and theirs to him was evident throughout his brief illness. Lyall was 67 years old, just

a couple of months shy of his 68th birthday when he passed away. He will be forever missed by his devoted and loving wife Ann and their family. Lyall is also dearly missed by his sisters Linda Jean and Leila Harbour and their families. When Lyall received his diagnosis, their daughter PattiAnn, her husband Daniel and their daughter Olivia relocated to Gaspé to spend as much time as they could with him. Their son Richard along with his wife Crystal and their children Isabel and William travelled from Ottawa to Gaspé numerous times to be with Lyall, Ann, and all the family. Ann and her children made sure that Lyall received the very best care possible. Ann and Lyall appreciated all the kindness and help from their families and friends, particularly from Martha, Reid, Jennifer, and Jan Patterson. Lyall was the kind of guy who seemed to know a lot of people. He worked in Murdochville at the Mines and that alone would incorporate a lot of people. He was also very dedicated and involved in looking after the church in Sandy Beach and there too he met many people. Ann has a large family and Lyall lived among the big Alexander clan on "the hill" in Sandy Beach. When the funeral was held in that little church in Sandy Beach, it was filled to capacity. The funeral was a very respectful and loving tribute to a man who was well loved. Rest in peace, Lyall!

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Please join us in wishing much happiness and good health for the coming year to the following Gaspésians: Christine Beebe Mullin and Laura Gaul (May 2); Charlene Eden, Peter Suddard and Tony Patterson (May 6); Valerie McCallum Dobbin of Peachland, BC (May 8); Olivia Rehel (May 11); Faye Howell Walsh (May 12); *Faye is married to William (Billy) Walsh formerly of Douglastown. They live in Cambridge, ON. Faye is the daughter of the late Lona Roberts and the late Albert Howell of Gaspé;* Paulette Eden Patterson and Susan Holland (May 12); Nadine Eden Cassidy (May 15); Kellie-Ann Briand (May 18); Curtis Patterson (May 19); Tristan Howell Normand (May 20); *Tristan will be turning 9 this year. He is the son of Cara Howell and Bruce Normand. He also is the grandson of Valerie Normand of Douglastown and of Cathy Howell and Denis Lavoie of Sandy Beach;* Caleb Alexander McKeigan of Ottawa (*Linda and Glen Alexander's grandson*) turns 15 this year (May 21); Cora Donovan (May 22); Keith Vibert (May 24); Velma Coffin, Kerrilee Drohan, Patricia Ste. Croix and Brian Normand (May 24); *Brian is the son of Valerie Normand and the late Damien Normand.* Bruce Norman (May 25); *He is the son of Valerie Normand and the late Damien Normand.* Darleen Jean – May 26; Bev Vibert and Angie-lynn Levesque – (May 26); Ivy Coffin Miller and Lorna Clark Miller (May 28); Barb Howell (May 30); *Barb is originally from Sandy Beach and now lives in Kitchener, Ontario. She is the daughter of the late Dora Howell and the late Ambrose Howell and the granddaughter of the late Annie LaCovée and the late Godfrey Howell of Sandy Beach.* John Eden (May 30); *John is the eldest son of Helen Howell and the late Arthur Eden. John lives in Prince Edward Island.* Vivian McKoy and Caleb Donovan (May 31); *Caleb is Myrna and Dale Jean's grandson. He lives in Cambridge, Ontario.*

Happy anniversary wishes are extended to Sylvia Hackett and Sammy Jean whose anniversary is on May 6.

Please join me in sending belated happy birthday wishes to some of our experienced birthday celebrators. We wish you all the joy, love, peace and happiness each day throughout the coming year: Mrs. Bridget McDonald who turned 90 (March 17), Mr. Morris Kennedy 97 (March 27), Mrs. Teresa Nellis Briand 94 (April 8), and Mr. Sydney Jean 92 and his cousin Armand Quiriple 90 on the same day (April 21).

Well, folks, I have some news to share with you that you may or may not like. This is my last social notes submission. Please know that it is not an easy decision to make but one that has been thought out carefully. It has been a pleasure to provide you with a bit of the local news and hopefully a little humour to brighten your day. "Hope springs eternal" that someday, someone will take up the keyboard and once again give you that connection to the home of your heart. Adieu!



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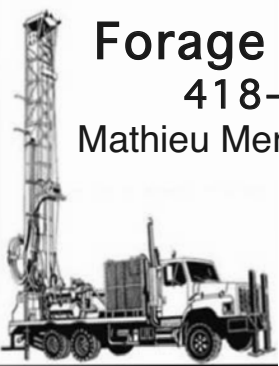
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Announcements...



Birth



WARD-OGILVIE: Liam

Born March 15, 2018, to Alex and Sean Ogilvie, great-grandson to Verna Gray (Chicoyne) of Oakville, Ontario, and Barachois, great-great-grandson to May and Stan Chicoyne of Barachois (1907-1987 and 1910-1999).



Obituaries



BARTER: Francis Donn

Passed away peacefully at home on April 17, 2018, in his 88th year, now in the presence of the Lord. He leaves behind his faithful and dedicated wife of 67 years, Anna, as well as his three children: Richard (Karen), Judy Dean (Bryan) and Karen Middlekoop (Jack). He also leaves to mourn his three grandchildren, Christine, Kimberley and David, as well as two great-grandchildren. A private family service will be held at a later date.

In memoriam donations can be made to Hope Baptist Church, Hope Town, Quebec. Condolences and sharing memories can be made at kellyfhwalkley.sharingmemories.ca.

PHOTO QUALITY

Please keep in mind when submitting a photo of a loved one, please do not send in photocopies, copies printed off a home colour printer or the cards given out at a funeral home. The quality of the photo will not reproduce well in the newspaper.



BENWELL: Iva (Dow)

Iva passed away peacefully Wednesday, April 4, 2018 at her home with her son Richard by her side as he has been for the past three-and-a-half years since her illness.

Iva was predeceased by parents Joseph Dow and Celia Huntington, her beloved husband Peter Benwell, her daughter Marilyn, great-granddaughter Rebekah, sisters Alvena and Hazel and brothers Cecil and Ralph.

She leaves to mourn her son Richard, daughter-in-law Beulah, daughters Marina and Erlene, grandson Chris (Stephanie), granddaughter Rachel, sister Inez, brother Benjie and many nieces and nephews.

The body rested at Rejean Belanger funeral home in Shigawake and funeral took place April 6 at St. Paul's Anglican Church, Shigawake. Deacon Patsy Hayes officiated. Pallbearers were Daniel Assels, Cally Benwell, John Prince, Dennis Ross, James Almond and Wade Benwell. The flowers were carried by her cousin and close friend Celia Smith.

*We watched you suffer,
We heard you sigh,
But all we could do was just stand by.
God in his mercy called you home,
Erased your pain and made you whole.*



In Memory

BILLINGSLEY: Albert (1923-1982)

In loving memory of a dear husband and father who passed away May 4, 1982.

*In the quiet of the evening,
I sit and think of you.
Turning the book of memories,
Of the things we used to do
And, as I turn the pages,
My eyes are filled with tears
Knowing I have the memories,
But can't turn back the years.
So thank you, Albert and Dad,
For the years we shared.*

Sadly missed, always remembered and loved by your wife Constance, daughters Cynthia and Landis, sons Todd, Brett, Jan, Richard, John, George and families.

Fishermen's Prayer

*Lord, Ruler over waves and sea,
Keep your hand of blessing
Over all our Gaspesian fishermen.
Give them strength and courage
Aboard their boats
As they bring in the harvest of the sea.
Help them to help each other,
In time of need,
And keep their families,
in your loving care.*

**May you be safe
and your catches plentiful
during the 2018
fishing season**



CLARK: Jessie

*What I would not give to clasp her hand,
Her dear, sweet face to see,
To hear her voice, to see her smile,
That meant so much to me.
You left behind an aching heart,
That loved you most sincere.
I never did, nor never will,
Forget you, mother dear.*

Loved and missed always, the family.

GIRARD: Joseph

In loving memory of a loving son and brother who passed away May 5, 2016.

*An understanding heart,
An intelligent mind,
We miss you, Joe,
You were one of a kind.*

Always loved and remembered by Mom, Dad and family.

Thank you

We must begin with thanks to Dr. Pierre Morissette for his dedicated and excellent care, and the many different home-care nurses from the C.L.S.C. We thank Mr Belanger for his considerate and sympathetic way he carried out our wishes for the funeral arrangements.

Our special thanks to Deacon Patsy Hayes for her prayers at the funeral home and her wonderful comforting service at the church. Thanks to Lois Hayes for playing the organ, all the members of the choir, and the men who shovelled and did snow removal.

Thanks to the pallbearers and to Celia for carrying the flowers. Our sincere and heartfelt thanks goes out to Alvena and Shirley who came from Bathurst to be with us at this difficult time and to all the many relatives and friends for their expressions of love and sympathy, to those who sent flowers and cards and to the Hope Baptist Church ladies group for the lovely fruit basket.

*Thank you all and God Bless,
The family of Iva Dow Benwell*

OUR RATES:

CARD OF THANKS, BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT, PRAYER, ENGAGEMENT, BIRTHDAY, ANNIVERSARY, MEMORIAL SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT: \$30 (\$35 with picture) up to 20 lines.

IN MEMORIAM: \$30 (\$35 with picture) up to 20 lines - \$40 (\$45 with picture) More than 20 lines

OBITUARY OR WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT: \$40.00 (\$45.00 with picture) (Max. 300 words)

Please send your announcement to: joan.spec@globetrotter.net

Announcements for this page should be submitted typed or printed and paid in advance. To have your photo returned, please send a stamped self-addressed envelope.

SUBMISSIONS FOR THIS PAGE MUST BE IN OUR OFFICE BY THURSDAY.



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Classified

COAST ROUND-UP: \$5 per week

CLASSIFIED: \$6 per week

Please send your ad to: joan.spec@globetrotter.net

DEADLINE FOR THIS PAGE: THURSDAY



CLASSIFIEDS

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

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 and 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 the 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!

GASPÉ:

Mother's Day Bake Sale

There will be a food sale on **Friday, May 11**, at the Carrefour Gaspé, beginning at 9 am. Tickets will also be sold on a gift basket. The draw will be held at the end of the sale. All proceeds will go to Fort Haldimand Camp. The bake sale is organized by the Parish of Gaspé Anglican Church and the Parish of All Saints by the Sea Anglican Church in Malbay.

YORK:

Annual General Meeting

The York River Senior Citizens will be holding their Annual General Meeting on **Saturday, May 5**, at 4 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion. Punch will be served from 5 to 6 p.m., supper at 6 p.m. and a dance with live entertainment to follow. Come out and enjoy the music. 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.

DOUGLASTOWN:

Upcoming Events

The following events will be held at the Douglastown 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. 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 Douglastown'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 may play your favourite game in the Community Center living room starting at 1 p.m.

BARACHOIS:

Barachois Reunion

The 2018 organization committee, Gerald Girard, Dianna Francis and Stanley Ste Croix will be hosting a bonfire on **Friday, July 27**, at the Barachois beach starting at 8 p.m., as well as a dinner at the Fort Prevel Golf Course on **Saturday, July 28**, starting with a cocktail hour (cash bar) at 5 p.m. Dinner served at 6 p.m. There will be a two-choice, five-course menu: \$22.95 for chicken or \$27.95 for salmon +taxes. The criteria has been modified to include students from the Belle Anse School born between 1945-1948. To be eligible to attend the dinner you must have been born in one of the following years 1945, 1946, 1947 or 1948 and have attended school in Barachois or Belle Anse. If you fit the above criteria and would like to attend, you can be accompanied by your spouse or a friend. Please confirm your attendance ASAP by contacting Gerald Girard: gerrygirard@bell.net, 450-619-9655 / 514-913-1350 or Dianna Francis: diannafrancis36@icloud.com, 418-385-2427. Email is preferred, including your name, telephone number and menu choice. Please spread the word about the reunion to former Barachois and Belle Anse students.

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 from 12 to 2 p.m.

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 with live music, D.J. and light lunch. Dress up in your best country outfit.

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.

May 18: Gift Bingo at 7:30 p.m. organized by the Hope Town Sports and Recreation Club.

HOPE TOWN:

Service

Hope Baptist Church welcomes you. Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 a.m. and Corporate Worship at 11 a.m. on Sundays. Prayer Meeting and Bible Study at 7 p.m. Wednesdays. Young Peoples for grades 7-11 on Fridays at 7 p.m. 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:

Royal Canadian Legion

Upcoming Events

May 5: Music night with Vern Huntington and friends from 8 to 12 p.m. \$5 per person.

May 13: Mother's Day treat with music by Vern Huntington from 2-4 p.m. \$5 per person.

May 19: Crib Tournament, \$10 per person. Starts at 1 p.m. To register team please call 418-752-6214 or 418-752-5495.

May 28: Registration and ticket pickup for prince/princess/mini-prince/mini-princess - 5-6 p.m. Everyone welcome.

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:

Bible Chapel Services

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

NEW CARLISLE:

Upcoming Activities

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

NEW CARLISLE:

Bake Sale

Saturday, June 2: The ladies of Hope Baptist Church are having their annual bake sale starting at 9 a.m. at the New Carlisle Town Hall. All proceeds will be used to send some children to Bible Camp and the Youth Ministries of the Church.

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.

May 27: BBQ 11:30 am to 1 p.m. \$10 per adult and \$7 per child. Washer Tournament begins at 1 p.m. at a cost of \$5.

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

Concert Fundraiser

for the Catholic Church

May 5: Beginning at 7 p.m. you are invited to join us for a benefit concert at our Catholic Church. Admittance is \$5 per person, and you will hear many local musicians and singers performing some of your favorite songs. Raised funds will be used to help pay for a new fence

around our cemetery. If you would like to sing or need any further information, you may call Richard Boudreau at 418-392-5830. We look forward to seeing you there.

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 Mawioni 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

April 15 are: Margaret Imhoff, Micheline Morin, Ghislaine Leblanc, Jerry Legouffe, Jean-Yves Cronier, Claude Nadeau, Yvonne Huard.

The winners for the week of

April 22 are: Bernard Landry, Brian Brake, Sylvain Loubert, Josée Loubert, Alyre Leblanc, Carol Normandeau, Ann McColm.

UNITED CHURCH

Sunday, May 6

2 p.m. Hope Town

ANGLIGAN CHURCH OF CANADA

Sunday, May 6

New Carlisle

10 a.m. Morning Prayer

Hope Town

10 a.m. Morning Prayer

Port Daniel

10 a.m. Morning Prayer

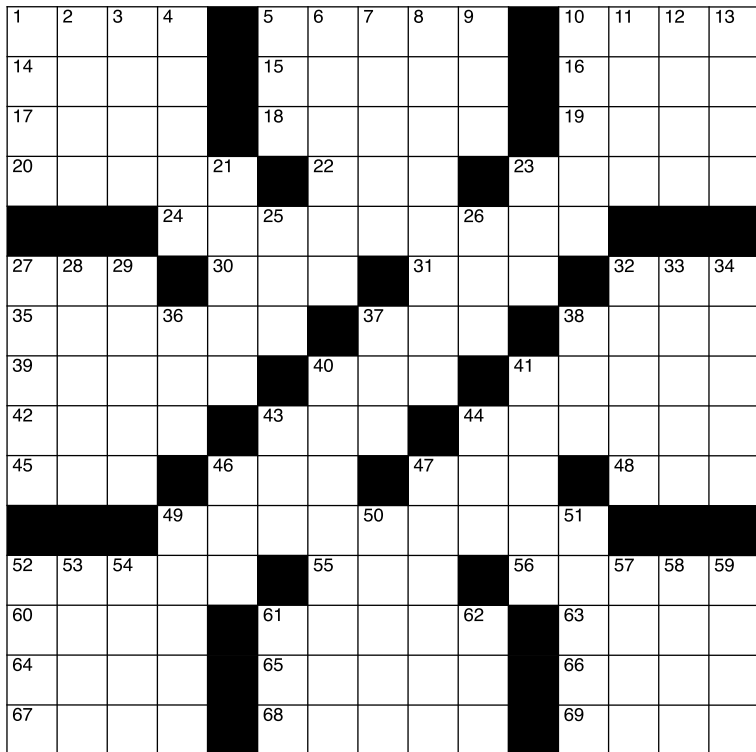
PARISH OF GASPÉ

Sunday, May 6

Sandy Beach

10 a.m. Morning Prayer

CROSSWORD

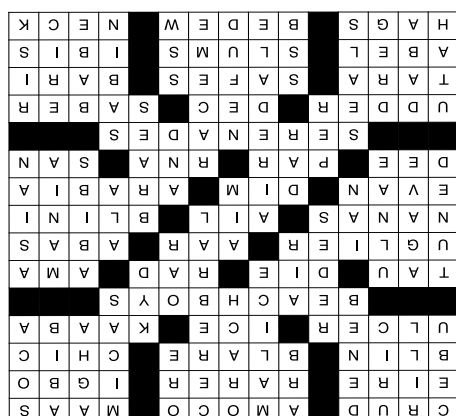


CLUES ACROSS

1. Unpleasant substance
5. Oil group
10. One-time Yankees rookie sensation
14. Ireland
15. Less easily found
16. Southeast Nigeria people
17. Bridgeline Digital stock designation
18. Play loudly
19. Elegantly fashionable
20. Open sore
22. Frozen water
23. Sacred Islamic site
24. "Kokomo" rockers
27. Follows sigma
30. Cease to exist
31. Cool
32. Doctors' group
35. Less attractive
37. Swiss river
38. Greek sophist
39. Grandmothers
40. Afflict
41. Russian pancake of buckwheat flour and yeast
42. Actress ___ Rachel Wood
43. Not bright
44. Western Asia peninsula
45. Baseball speedster Gordon
46. Golf score
47. Transmits genetic information from DNA to the cytoplasm
48. Diego, Francisco, Anselmo
49. Songs to one's lover
52. Cattle's mammary gland
55. Having ten
56. Fencing sword
60. Scarlett's home
61. Hold valuables
63. Italian Seaport
64. Cain and ___
65. Bad places to live
66. Large, wading bird
67. Witches
68. Cover with drops
69. Props up the head

CLUES DOWN

2. Shallow channel
3. Type of acid
4. Cygnus' brightest star
5. One who buys and sells securities (abbr.)
6. Ill will
7. Plant of the goosefoot family
8. Intellectual
9. Mineral
10. Shiny silicate minerals
11. Ottoman civilian title
12. What you wear when eating BBQ (2 words)
13. Soul and calypso song
21. Advises
23. "The Spanish Tragedy" playwright
25. Surrounds the earth
26. Paddle
27. Adjusted
28. Succulent plant
29. Forearm bones
32. Belonging to Egyptian ascetic Apollo's colleague
33. Type of mental illness
34. One from Asia
36. 007's creator
37. Direct toward
38. Pie ___ mode
40. Large terrier
41. Hillsides
43. Patriotic women (abbr.)
44. Connects words
46. For each
47. Flower cluster
49. Closes a deal
50. Arabian desert
51. Vaccine against poliomyelitis
52. American state
53. Religion practiced in China
54. Type of sediment
57. Hall of Famer Ruth
58. "Layla" singer Clapton
59. Gamble
61. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
62. Midway between south and southwest



CLUES DOWN

1. Philippine province
2. Shallow channel
3. Type of acid
4. Cygnus' brightest star
5. One who buys and

Specs gets around....



The Sexton girls, Karen, Darlene, Susan, my sister Darlene and I (Elaine) are with the SPEC at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, Tennessee. It took us a while to get there because of the ice storms, a two day delay in Toronto, but we made it. Where are you and your SPEC going this year? Please share.

What's This Artifact?



What do you think they is?

The item looks like a tool that was used for something important at one point in time.

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



Thank you to Gaetan Garnier for sharing this artifact with our readers.



PAYING ATTENTION TO FOOD LABELS AND CALORIE CONTENT IS IMPORTANT. TO LOSE ONE POUND, THE AVERAGE PERSON HAS TO REDUCE THEIR FOOD INTAKE OR BURN OFF HOW MANY CALORIES?

ANSWER: 3,500

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, take a step back and analyze your current situation before making any other moves. You may be barking up the wrong tree, and you will need a new approach.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, there may be many things you wish to say to someone special, but you just do not know how to find the words. You can convey much more through actions.

GEMINI – May 22/June 21

Gemini, if you have your hand in three or more projects, you may need to step back. It's hard to devote your full attention to each task when you're juggling so much at once.

CANCER – June 22/July 22

Cancer, it is good to have a sense of humor, and you may need a little extra patience at work this week. When times get tough, surround yourself with lighthearted people.

LEO – July 23/Aug 23

Leo, you may have to take someone's word on something or put your ultimate trust in an individual this week. It may be challenging, but let

HOROSCOPES

down your guard.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

You need to find firm footing in your career, Virgo; otherwise, you may suffer from lack of direction. Start putting out feelers and begin networking.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Don't underestimate your abilities, Libra. As a general people-pleaser, you have the ability to smooth over many situations with a calming word.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

It's in your nature to want to get to the root of every problem and find out the answers to all the puzzles, Scorpio. This can be tiring, but when you're determined it's essential.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

Various factors may be clouding your decision-making skills, Sagittarius. If you're not sure what to do, trust someone else who has always supported you.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, finances have been draw-

ing your attention in your life a lot lately. Pay attention to the subtle clues to get your assets in order.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Swimming against the tide will only tire you out, Aquarius. If the battle isn't worth waging on something trivial, just go with the flow. Save your energy for bigger issues.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

There are some very interesting opportunities coming your way, Pisces. Just be sure to grab onto them fast.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

APRIL 29

Jerry Seinfeld, Comic (64)

APRIL 30

Gal Gadot, Actress (33)

MAY 1

Jamie Dornan, Actor (36)

MAY 2

Dwayne Johnson, Actor (46)

MAY 3

Eric Church, Singer (41)

MAY 4

Erin Andrews, Sportscaster (40)

MAY 5

Adele, Singer (30)

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



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



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