

Rapidly declining bat population

Marshall Billingsley

REGIONAL: In recent years, there has been a major decline in the number of bats on the Gaspé Peninsula. This is due to a mushroom of European origins surfacing in Quebec in 2010. It has caused white nose syndrome which is devastating to certain species of bats in the region. In just a few years, this syndrome has decimated millions of bats across North America.

The disease can easily be identified by a fungal growth on the nose and wings of active and hibernating bats. The overall number of bats in the region is declining rapidly, leading Le Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune des Parcs (MFFP) to launch a campaign focusing on a search for maternity wards which they can actively monitor and promote the natural reproduction of the declining bat population. The MFFP is adapting by monitoring the decline of these bat populations.

They are making an effort by taking notes and monitoring sites where females congregate to reproduce. There is also an attempt to protect the maternity wards and sites already known. A local effort has risen in the last couple of years.

In partnership with Mi'kmaq Nation of Gespeg, the non-profit organization Contact Environment launched the SOS Bats project is funded by Aboriginal Funds for Species At Risk (AFSAR). Founded by Jeanie LeLacheur, Contact Environment believes that communities must act as one in raising awareness as well as working towards solutions that will last. They also believe that we must combat the environmental challenges that a changing world has unveiled. The organization received funding for the last two years and



Photos: J. LeLacheur

This bat drowned in a small amount of water. Be vigilant when leaving pails of water outside.

are waiting to see if there will be more in September.

As project manager for SOS Bats most of the technical work is carried out by Jeanie LeLacheur. Proposals, material purchases as well as inventory/monitoring plans and final reports were primarily her responsibility. Data collection using tools including the Anabat Express monitors is the primary focus of SOS Bats. Awareness and education are also an important part of the activities. She has been approached by the Percé Geoparc and the Grotte de Saint Elzéar to collaborate on conservation/restoration projects.

Ms. LeLacheur, who holds a biology degree, noticed a decline in the number of bats in recent years and asked herself how she could make a difference. It's a personal interest to preserve and protect the local bats and other species. She takes pride in her work because she believes it is important to help the bats as much as possible. She believes it is a good thing to make people conscious of the danger local bats are facing. As a whole, the key component of the project is to raise awareness of the declining bat popula-

tion in the region. She wants people to be familiar with what is happening to these little brown bats and other species. It is almost impossible to attempt to preserve and protect the species at risk without raising awareness about their endangerment. The possibility of saving these bats is increased, which is good for the overall population in the region.

"It is possible that the little brown bat could be extinct in our lifetime or in the next generation if something is not done soon. I think it's really sad that we stand by and watch a species disappear. We all need to step up to the plate and knowledge is key," says Ms. LeLacheur.

The places where bats nest and reproduce, maternity wards, are usually in attics or sometimes walls of old buildings, where heat generally accumulates, however, a majority of the places where these maternities are located within Quebec are unknown. This leads to issues when trying to locate, preserve and protect the declining species. There are many signs that can indicate the presence of bats in dwellings: various small noises such as scratches or vocalizations

and the existence of feces, commonly called guano. The feces are usually segmented, stretched, and easily crumbled and it can be seen as 'glued' to the walls or floor of an area.

For more information on SOS Bats and Contact Environment, please visit <http://contactenvironnement.ca/> but be patient

with the site, as it is still under construction. For tips on aiding local bats, you can avoid using pesticides in gardening, as they are harmful to the bats. Also, bats eat moths and insects. These insects tend to dwell in grass so try not to cut your grass extremely short. This makes it easier for the bats to find food. Bats can be easily observed and monitored, but avoid touching them due to the fact that some may carry rabies. If you come in contact with a bat, contact Info-Santé at 811.

If you know of a cottage, a house or an area in which a colony of bats is residing during the summer and fall months, you can contact Gabriel Chabot, Wildlife Technician at the Direction de la Wildlife Management, Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine, 418-763-3302 ext. 232. He can also be contacted by email at the following address: Gabriel.Chabot@mffp.gouv.qc.ca. For any additional information concerning bats, you are invited to consult <https://chauve-souris.ca/>.



The bat (on side of the pail) was later released. It is believed to have responded to the distress call of the drowning bat.

Liberal Party candidates put emphasis on demographics

Their party's government cut up to 95% of labour recruitment budget during last term

Gilles Gagné

CARLETON: – The Liberal Party candidates in Bonaventure and Gaspé, François Whittom and Alexandre Boulay, say if they are elected on October 1, they want to increase the population of the Gaspé and Magdalen Islands by 4,700 by the year 2024. However, the party they represent cut as much as 95% of the budget of the main organization dealing with labour recruitment and retention since 2014.

Between 2014 and 2016, the austerity program of Philippe Couillard's government first cut 50% of the *Stratégie d'établissement durable* budget, the organization in charge of labour recruitment in the region. That budgetary envelope went from \$900,000 to \$450,000 per annum for two years.

In 2017, *Stratégie d'établissement durable's* annual budget was slashed again, from \$450,000 to a paltry \$45,000, which brought the total cut to 95% in three years. The organization's staff went from three full-time employees to half a position, with no operational budget.

In February 2017, census numbers for the 2011-2016 period revealed that the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands had lost significant



Photo: G. Gagné

François Whittom "cannot comment at length" on the budgetary cuts pertaining to demographics.

ground in demographics, as the region's population went from 94,079 to 90,311 inhabitants. It was 4% or 3,768 fewer people.

That cut was following a rather promising period, the 2006-2011 stretch, during which the region had a decrease of only 257 inhabitants, 14 times fewer than between 2011 and 2016. The Gaspé Peninsula was the first rural region in Quebec to show a positive migratory record for youth from 25 to 35 years of age between 2006 and 2011.

When introduced to those numbers, François Whittom, Liberal Party candidate in Bonaventure, replied that he "cannot comment at length," on the budgetary cuts pertaining to demographics raised by the Spec.

He talked about "difficult decisions." Having worked for the former minister responsible for the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands, Sébastien Proulx, Mr. Whittom indicated that the government consults communities. "We prefer slashing at one

place and put that money elsewhere, to manage more efficiently."

However, he is not able to say where the \$1,755,000 cut between 2014 and 2017 from the *Stratégie d'établissement durable* was redeployed in the region's labour recruitment. He mentions "an imperfect situation."

In the Gaspé riding, Liberal Party candidate Alexandre Boulay emphasizes that the region lost the equivalent of the Gaspé town population over the last 22 years, roughly 15,000 people. He proposes to better fund the organizations recruiting people, to put up a network of Gaspé Peninsula ambassadors in Quebec, and to reimburse the travelling fees of people coming here for a job interview.

When journalists remind him of the budgetary cuts imposed since 2014, he replies "not being accountable for the decisions made over recent months, recent years."

He adds that "the circum-

stances have completely changed," compared to 2014 and that the manpower shortage hits the region's Integrated Health and Social Service Centre and the fish processing plants.

According to Quebec's Institute of Statistics, the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands have regained 122 inhabitants between 2016 and 2017, a gain of 0.13%. It is still far from the 700 people yearly needed to reach the goal set by Mr. Whittom and Mr. Boulay.

They both want to work on the establishment of a program where a certain number of university degrees would be offered in the region.

The *Stratégie vivre en Gaspésie* has regained a significant budget this year, with \$1.1 million. It is \$200,000 more than in 2013 but the cuts of the 2014 to 2015 period still leave shortcomings totalling \$1,555,000 in the region's labour recruitment envelope.

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Public Notice


Ville de Gaspé

MINOR EXEMPTION FROM URBANISM BY-LAWS

NOTICE is hereby given that the Town Council, at a regular meeting that will be held on Monday, September 17, 2018, at 8 p.m., will consider the request for a minor exemption from the zoning By-Law 1156-11, presented by Mr. Harold Dupuis for Égide Dupuis et fils inc. for a property situated at 300, York South Boulevard.

The nature and consequences of this exemption are the following:

- The nature of the minor exemption is to:
 - increase by 7 m² the area for a sign in accordance with the maximal area of 5 m², when 2 separated signs are on the main facade of a main building, required by the article 22.12.4, paragraph 1, of the Zoning By-Law 1156-11;
 - increase by 2.5 m² the area for a sign fixed to the ground in accordance to the maximal area of 10 m² required by the article 22.12.4, paragraph 3, of the Zoning By-Law 1156-11 ;
 - increase by 0.7 m the height for a sign fixed to the ground in accordance to the maximal height of 6 m required by the article 22.12.4, paragraph 9, of the Zoning By-Law 1156-11 ;
- The minor exemption will have for consequence to permit to put on the main façade of a building a sign with an area of 12 m² and a second one with an area of 5 m² and to permit to put on a sign fixed to the ground with an area of 12.5 m² and a height of 6.7 m.

During this meeting, the Town Council will hear the interested wishing to be heard on that request.

Given at Gaspé, August 29, 2018.

Sébastien Fournier,
Town clerk assistant.

Louis Lebouthillier running for the Coalition avenir in Gaspé

Arianne Aubert Bonn

GRAND RIVER: - Louis Lebouthillier will represent the Coalition avenir Québec party in the Gaspé riding. Businessman, communicator, animator and artist, Louis Lebouthillier has already tried the political milieu by campaigning to become the mayor of Grand River in the past but he was not elected.

This time around, it is in the ranks of François Legault that Mr. Lebouthillier wishes to contribute to develop his region.

At first, he intends to tackle major issues such as rail and air transport, demography, education in the regions and the seniors quality of life.

Asked whether he would honour certain Liberal commitments such as the expansion of Villa Pabos or the \$100 million rehabilitation of the Gaspé railroad, Mr. Lebouthillier said that he wholeheartedly wants those projects and does not intend to go back. However, he makes a reservation: "We'll see if the promised money is really there."

During the last electoral campaigns, the CAQ took position against the financial assistance provided to the McInnis Cement plant, among others. On this aspect, the candidate states: "I consider that



Photo: courtesy of CAQ

Candidate Louis Lebouthillier will represent the CAQ in the Gaspé riding

this money could have been invested otherwise than in a project that only creates 200 jobs."

Mr. Lebouthillier considers that a loan of an equivalent amount distributed between several companies in the region would probably have created more jobs. However, he is clear: "We are happy with the existence of McInnis Cement and we do not want to go back. We want the company to continue its activities."

He takes the same position on the wind energy industry. Mr. Lebouthillier is uncomfortable about the operating costs of wind farms. He wants

to find solutions to allow producers of components to continue their activities, particularly by targeting exports. He recognizes the contribution of the industry at the regional level, as well as the royalties for community-owned wind farms.

Louis Lebouthillier is ready to go out and meet the people of his region, both to let them know what his party can offer them. He says that if the CAQ was not particularly known before in Gaspésie, the rise of the party at the provincial level makes it a must for the Gaspésians.

Police report

Shortly before midnight on August 16, in a Bonaventure home located on the La Gare Street, near the train station, Randie Nappaaluk allegedly stabbed her 27-year-old live-in partner with a knife.

"The neighbours heard a lot of noise. There were many people on the scene when the police officers arrived," says crown prosecutor Maxime Rocheville-Paradis. One of the neighbours was sufficiently close to the door of the house to see that there was blood near the entrance. The emergency services were called.

Randie Nappaaluk was immediately arrested. She appeared at the New Carlisle courthouse the next day before Quebec Court Judge Celestina Almeida on a charge of attempted murder and she was remanded in custody.

The police furthered their investigation and on August 22 the accused appeared on additional charges of forcible confinement, uttering death threats and willfully inflicting injuries to a dog.

Judge Luc Marchildon set the bail hearing to August 28. The injured man sustained severe cuts. His injuries were not life-threatening. He was hospitalized and released a few days later. The dog was stabbed many times and was treated by a veterinarian. The couple's little baby was fortunately not injured during this occurrence.

On August 22 at the Hillsborough Courthouse in New Hampshire, USA Anthony Barnaby, 51, from Listuguj entered an "Alford Plea" on two counts of second degree murder for the 1988 deaths of Brenda Warner and Charlene Ranstrom.

The Nashua Telegraph summarized the sentence as follows: "The formula for Barnaby's sentence begins with two consecutive terms of 10-20 years each, one for each count of second-degree murder. According to the agreement, four years of each minimum sentence was suspended, leaving him a total minimum of 12 years. The parties agreed to give him credit for the 2,713 days, roughly seven and a half years, that he spent in jail during the course of the case, leaving him with four and a half years of stand committed time. Other conditions of the agreement include good behaviour, participation in any programs or counseling as recommended by prison officials, and that he return to his native Canada within 24 hours of his release from prison."

An Alford Plea in United States Law is a guilty plea in criminal court, whereby a defendant in a criminal case does not admit to the criminal act and asserts innocence, yet accepts to be sentenced for the criminal act.

David Caplan, 57, also from Listuguj, the accomplice of Anthony Barnaby, pled guilty to the same charges in February 2018, and will serve seven years of stand committed time.



2018-19 officers of Century #100 Masonic Lodge Gaspé were installed

Gary Briand

In the front row (l to r): Wor. Bro. Remi Dion, Director of Ceremonies; Wor. Bro. Tom Adams, S.W.; W9r. M. Dave Ferguson-Biard, Worshipful Master; Wor. Bro. Francis Mainville, outgoing Master; Bro. Peter Eden, Junior Warden.

In second row: Rt. Wor. Bro. Alfred Cassidy, Secretary; V. Wor. Bro. Yorkston Marion, Chaplain; Wor. Bro. Ernie Yull, Royal Edward 90; V. Wor. Bro. Ron Mundie, Junior Deacon; and V. Wor. Bro. Gray Briand, I.P.M.



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Commentary

Gilles Gagné

They are off!

So the electoral race is on, months of pre-electoral campaigning has finally ended with a fixed election date. With slightly more than a month of campaigning ahead, the Coalition avenir Québec is in the lead.

The last Mainstreet Research survey's results revealed a day before the campaign launch that François Legault's party has 28.8% support, 7.1% ahead of the Liberal Party, which gathered 21.7% of voting intentions, compared to 15.6% for the Parti Québécois, 12.1% for Québec solidaire, 3.3% for the Green Party, 3.2% for the Conservative Party of Quebec, and 2.2% for all the other parties. The proportion of undecided voters was 13% on August 22.

Those numbers represent both good news and bad news for each party. A majority of women favoured the CAQ with a proportion of 24.2%, compared to 21.9% for the Liberals, something that had not been observed before by survey experts. The CAQ is also leading with seniors, a portion of the electorate traditionally loyal to the Liberal Party. The CAQ lead here is 33% compared to 25% for Philippe Couillard's party. The bad news for the CAQ is that only 13.7% of the electorate considers that party as a good second choice. Will voters change their mind between now and October 1.

Overall the news is not good for the Liberal Party of Quebec, although 35 days represents close to an eternity in politics. That party is always performing better than the surveys predict though, because of its capacity to mobilize its supporting base, however, there is little room for improvement as voters' second choice, since only 9.5% of them were ready to switch to the Liberal Party, would they have to opt for another political party.

For now, people don't buy Premier Philippe Couillard's statements to the effect that he and his

team cleaned public finances. Quebec's schools, hospitals and seniors' residences are too often decrepit, sometimes unfit and unhealthy for students, patients and beneficiaries. Repairing them or rebuilding them will cost way more than if the job had been done earlier.

The good news is not great either for the Parti Québécois. A score of 15.6%, if it materializes, would not even match the first results of the party in its first poll, 23% in 1970! Leader Jean-François Lisée is a fine tactician but he has relied on too much tactic and not enough content since he won the leadership race in October 2016.

He made strategic mistakes by criticizing the other leaders too much instead of putting forward solutions. The only good news for the Parti Québécois is that 20% of the voters are ready to give their nod to Mr. Lisée if they change their mind before October 1. No other party can match that number. He will have to conduct an exceptional campaign to capitalize on that clue. Mr. Lisée is the leader that can hurt Coalition Avenir Québec the most because a lot of CAQ supporters are former PQ members; 38% of them would select the PQ as a second option.

Québec solidaire is making small forward strides in every election, but most of that progress is obtained in the east part of Montreal. It will be interesting to see if QS leaders Manon Massé and Gabriel Nadeau-Dubois, who have a better knowledge of regional stakes than François Legault, will take some time to campaign in the Gaspé Peninsula, the North Shore and Lower Saint Lawrence.

Québec solidaire and the Green Party are also likely to be the only parties with enough vision to raise environmental issues, which should be a daily subject of that campaign. However, environmental stakes have barely been mentioned, and they have not been debated so far.

Some realities will be interesting to follow. The CAQ is weak in Quebec's rural regions. Despite that, the Mainstreet Research survey revealed that the CAQ is leading in rural Quebec, which is surprising. The party has practically no local organizations in Bonaventure and Gaspé, for example, and the last presence of François Legault in the region goes back to the beginning of August 2017.

A CAQ wave is always possible, like the NDP's wave that swept Quebec in May 2011 but Quebe-

cers rarely vote at the provincial level the way they do in Ottawa. They like sending messages to Ottawa, sometimes contradictory messages. They are more down to earth at the Quebec level.

Surveys have been wrong on many occasions over the last decade in Canada and Quebec elections, especially the surveys conducted at the beginning of electoral campaigns. The current campaign is only starting, and a number of events can change the situation unveiled by recent surveys.

Letters to the Editor

I'm writing today about a very busy road and neglected homeowners who pay their taxes and get no satisfaction living on Church Street in New Carlisle.

If owners live where the pavement is laid they are better off than the ones who live by the gravel roads who are over looked and treated with disrespect. I myself live on Church Street and live through the hell we go through. When we asked for a street light three years ago for safety, we heard we could not get one because we need more homes built back here next to us. Then the pulp trucks and dump trucks drive by and we have to shut the windows and doors because of the dust. We have asked for calcium to cut the dust but we were told we are not in a residential area or within town limits. We have talked to the mayor and employees of the town hall and they tell us yes and we get nothing. Then why are we paying taxes? Church Street is widely used day and night but as we see it we are going to be disrespected either way so the families who live on Church Street hang on cause this could go either way, hoping the good way.

*Jeannie Dobson and Blair Gallan,
New Carlisle, Quebec*

I noticed that the cemetery on the Point by Percé Rock is in need of repair and would like to contact the person or organization responsible. Any information would be appreciated. You can reach me by contacting The Spec office and they will forward the information to me.

*Betty Shannon,
Westmount, Quebec*

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A brand new skatepark in Gaspé

Geneviève Gélinas

GASPÉ: – Skateboard enthusiasts are now able to practice their sport in a brand new skatepark in downtown Gaspé, at the York rest stop. Its construction cost \$325,000 and it has been widely used since it was completed in mid-July.

The project dates back to seven or eight years ago when a group of young people requested a skatepark from the town of Gaspé. The choice of the spot, as well as technical and financial issues, delayed its achievement.

“In 2014, we relaunched this file. The results of the calls for tenders were always too high. The municipal council finally decided to loosen up the purse strings a little. There was no question of standing still for seven or



Photo: G. Gélinas

Skateboard, BMX, roller skating and even scooter enthusiasts have been using the skatepark since it was completed in mid-July.

eight more years,” says Gaspé Mayor Daniel Côté.

The town contributed \$275,000 for the skatepark

and the Côte-de-Gaspé MRC added \$50,000.

There’s an old skatepark behind the Gaspé Polyvalent.

At first, rebuilding it was considered. “But the youth and the Sûreté du Québec wanted the skatepark to be closer to

downtown Gaspé. For the Sûreté du Québec, it was to keep an eye on the users. The piece of land close to the rest stop was okay for everybody.”

The new structure is a medium-sized, plaza-type skatepark, measuring 250 square metres. “It’s a professional grade skatepark which will suit amateurs as well as professionals who saw the plans and gave their stamp of approval to the project,” the mayor states.

Groupe Michel Leclerc, a Sherbrooke-based company, won the construction contract.

Since mid-July, skateboard, BMX, roller skating and even scooter enthusiasts have been using the skatepark. “There are people there all the time, among other teenagers who enjoy it,” observes Daniel Côté.

Increase in enrollment for English Sector of Gaspé Cegep

Overall enrollment decreases at the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands Cegep

Gilles Gagné

CARLETON: – The enrollment at the four campuses of the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands Cegep has decreased slightly this year. 1,103 students showed up for the August 16 registration, compared to 1,133 last year. It is a 2.65% decrease.

The Gaspé town campus greeted 675 students on August 20, four more than last year. The English sector greeted 118 students, three more than in 2017 and therefore contributed heavily to the Gaspé campus increase.

The Grand River campus, which houses the Fisheries School, welcomed 101 students, an increase of three compared to a year ago. The Carleton campus experienced a decrease in enrollment this year, with 188 students, 15 less than in 2017.

The Magdalen Islands experiences the biggest drop, with 22 fewer students than a year ago. The enrollment went from 161 to 139 stu-



Photo: G. Gagné

English sector shows consistent growth at Gaspé Cegep.

dents.

Julie Lépine, communications officer for the Cegep,

explains the good results of the Cegep’s English sector by “constant discussion with

people from the anglophone community. The fact that we also offer an immersion program for francophones and anglophones also helps here. Moreover, our adventure tourism program includes two groups, one in French and one in English, with a limit of 24 per group and that provides stability.”

Whether the Cegep recruits on the French or the English side, “we depend to a certain point on the number of high school graduates in the region, which has suffered from demographic drops,” adds Julie Lépine.

The Cegep administration has made up for regional demographics by recruiting heavily outside the region. This year, close to 300 students come from Quebec’s other regions to attend one of the four campuses, compared to 240 a year ago. It represents 26.4% of total enrollment.

“Some students from the

major urban centres like Quebec City and Montreal want to live another experience,” she emphasizes.

“We have also 79 foreign students, compared to 76 last year. It reassures us to have such success in international recruiting,” adds Ms. Lépine.

All those numbers are subject to change. “The numbers will only be official on September 21. We conducted a summer recruitment drive for the programs in which students could still register. We will soon see what the results are,” she concludes.

The Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands Cegep hires 435 people, including 65 part time employees.

Its operational budget stands at \$23 million annually. There is also a \$2.6 million allocation for repairs, modifications and amortization. The budget for the equipment, furniture, tools and library stands at \$1.2 million.



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QUEBEC ELECTION:

Candidates are not asking for new wind farms

Geneviève Gélinas

GASPÉ: – The Liberal Party candidate in the Gaspé riding, Alexandre Boulay, now agrees with the Energy Policy 2016-2030 of the Quebec Liberal government, which isn't planning new wind farms in the province as long as there are electricity surpluses.

When the policy was published in April 2016, he was "worried" and requested orders of 300 to 350 megawatts per year up to 2025.

Mr. Boulay was president of the *Créneau d'excellence en éolien* (wind energy niche of excellence) when he made that statement. During the course of the campaign, he's on leave without pay from his position as director of the Gaspé LM Wind Power plant, which manufactures wind mill blades.

"The context has changed. Today, I'm speaking as a Liberal candidate, not as the director of the LM Wind Power plant. The plants have been diversifying (their markets).

They've been producing more volume since I made that statement, and they're more competitive. I still think that they need a domestic market," states Mr. Boulay.

However, to provide the Gaspesian component manufacturers with local orders from the domestic market, Mr. Boulay promotes repowering projects. It means to rebuild wind farms on existing sites when the electricity purchase contracts with Hydro-Québec will expire, from 2025 and on. "We could install more powerful wind turbines on the best spots of the site. (...) That repowering could allow us to decrease the electricity cost," he says.

The Parti québécois (PQ) candidate in the Gaspé riding, Méganne Perry Mélançon, isn't stating her opinion about potential new calls for tenders from Hydro-Québec in wind energy, even if the *Spec* asked her the question three times. She simply says that her party "will go on supporting wind

energy development," but that "it's hard to predict the consumption of electricity in the coming years."

PQ leader Jean-François Lisée, when he came to Gaspé in March 2017, stated that Quebec will order wind farms but only when the province will need electricity. However, he didn't say when a call for tenders could be launched.

Alexis Dumont-Blanchet, the Quebec solidaire candidate, says that he doesn't want to express an opinion about the opportunity to order new wind farms or not. He reminds us that his party promotes the nationalization of existing wind farms through Éole Québec.

Apuiat project

Alexandre Boulay explained his position on wind energy in the context of a press invitation that he called about the Apuiat project. The North Shore Innus and the firm named Boralex are negotiating with Hydro-Québec about the

purchase of electricity to be produced by a 200-megawatt wind farm that could be built in the backcountry of Rivière-Pentecôte, 40 kilometres west of Port-Cartier.

The debate started with the statements of the Coalition Avenir Québec (CAQ) leader, François Legault, who is against the Apuiat project because of its costs. According to the Hydro-Québec chief executive officer, Éric Martel, the public society will lose \$1.5 billion over 25 years by selling the Apuiat electricity, while the province has energy surpluses most of the year.

Mr. Boulay thinks that Quebec has to go on with the Apuiat project. "There's a future for selling energy. There's demand for 15,000 megawatts to feed data centres, block chains." The Apuiat wind farm would be put into operation in 2022, and Ontario will shut down its Pickering nuclear power plant in 2023, the candidate adds, so the surplus will be "a business opportunity."

According to Mr. Boulay, François Legault isn't consistent. "The CAQ leader said (in 2016) that he wanted to create the 21st century James Bay, but he doesn't want to achieve a 200-megawatt wind farm project."

As for Québec solidaire's Alexis Dumont-Blanchet, "It looks like (the CAQ) is assessing the project by considering only its economic profitability. The social profitability has to be looked at. Will the municipalities get royalties, which could allow them to build infrastructures? And if it creates jobs for the Innus, it's a good thing," says the candidate, who insists on the fact that the North Shore people, and not him, must make decisions about Apuiat.

Méganne Perry-Mélançon says that the PQ first wants to "make sure that the regions and the communities will get real spinoffs," from Apuiat, mentioning that the project has been "poorly prepared by the Liberals."

Replacement of Maria hospital still uncertain in foreseeable future, says Health Minister Barrette

Gilles Gagné

CARLETON: – Quebec's Health Minister Gaétan Barrette says that many steps must be made before deciding when the Maria Hospital will be rebuilt. The assessment of the situation must take into account the number of hospitals that have reached the same age and state, as well as budgetary constraints, and other factors.

The main section of the Maria hospital was built in 1954, 64 years ago, and the board of the Gaspé Peninsula Health and Social Service Centre decided on June 13 to evaluate the feasibility of replacing it with a new building. Some sections have been added over the years and are probably still suitable for use over the long term. The evaluation process is only beginning.

"The investment calendar of replacement is based on a scale of obsolescence including steps A, B, C, D and E, from young to old. I don't know exactly the step reached by the Maria hospital," says Minister Barrette.

"In Quebec, 160 health buildings go back to the Duplessis governments. They



The main building of Maria Hospital was built in 1954.

were built between 1946 and 1961-1962-1963. A lot of those buildings are still used. To a certain point, they represent the bulk of our hospitals. The difficulty is that a huge proportion of those buildings have reached their expiry date," explains Mr. Barrette.

There are many hospitals with a mix of old and relatively recent wings, as the needs have increased over the years in health.

"The Rosemont Hospital has a new wing, an out-patient centre. It is billed in the A category. The main building of the hospital has to be replaced and is consequently

part of the E category. We have many buildings in the E category in Quebec. They don't always have to be replaced right away but we must at least think of it. In 1954, a surgery room was the size of a single door garage. Now, it is twice that size, or triple. The norms have changed," further explains Minister Barrette.

In constant dollars, it would take \$35 billion to fill the health sector infrastructure needs at the present time. "I don't exactly have \$35 billion. I must make decisions then, decisions based on the degree of obsolescence. I

must put the hospitals to replace in a certain order," he adds.

"Coming back to the Maria Hospital, I don't have doubts about the justification of replacing the building eventually. I must do that task through putting hospitals in the right order, according to the needs and obsolescence. If four hospitals have to be replaced, I cannot do four the same year. I cannot say now that I will do it in 2019," he points out.

The most recent announcement made by the current government in that regard was the construction of a new hospital in Lachine. "The building goes back to 1932. It serves an area with slightly more people than the sector covered by the Maria hospital and the tab will be \$80 million," says the Health Minister.

Gaétan Barrette would like the Quebec government to depoliticize investments in hospitals and other health centres.

"I wish that a government will set up a health infrastructure replacement fund, with a calendar to follow. If a hospital lasts 60 years, we should put aside 1/60th of its re-

placement budget every year and we wouldn't have to do the same arbitration exercise every year," explains Mr. Barrette.

Geneviève Cloutier, spokesperson of the Gaspé Peninsula Health and Social Service Centre, indicates that "wings A, B, C and D (of the Maria hospital) were built first and are classified with a D obsolescence level. The other wings, more recent, carry a level ranging between A and C."

The other Gaspé Peninsula hospitals are not falling in the same category as Maria's. The Chandler hospital was built in 1974-1975, while the Sainte-Anne-des-Monts hospital was inaugurated in 1972. The Hôtel-Dieu hospital in Gaspé was built between 1969 and 1972.

The Duplessis governments referred to by Minister Barrette go back to the 1944 to 1959 stretch. Maurice Duplessis was also premier between 1936 and 1939. Premier Maurice Duplessis died in September 1959 but the Union Nationale Party government lasted until 1960. Some of the hospitals built under that regime were only completed in 1963.

Junex falls under Alberta control

Geneviève Gélinas

GASPÉ – A large majority of the shareholders of Alberta-based Cuda Energy and Quebec-based Junex approved the combination of the two companies to create Cuda Oil and Gas. The new entity will develop oil projects in Wyoming, as the Junex projects in Quebec take time to evolve.

Junex and Cuda Energy held their respective meetings on August 2. The arrangement was approved by 98.9 % of the Junex shareholders who voted and by 100 % of the Cuda Energy shareholders.

Cuda Oil and Gas' new management team consists of five officers originally from Cuda and one officer originally from Junex. Former president and CEO of Cuda Energy, R. Glenn Dawson, who works in Calgary, became president and chief executive officer of the new entity.

The board of Cuda Oil and Gas will comprise seven members, five from Cuda and two from Junex.

Quebec-based Utica Resources, a subsidiary of an Austrian company, had offered to buy the shares of Junex shareholders twice in the last months. Junex' board of directors stated that this unsolicited



Photo: G. Gélinas

Cuda Oil and Gas, the entity that swallowed Junex, is awaiting an operating lease to exploit the oil of its Galt property, 20 kilometres west of Gaspé.

proposal wasn't superior to the Cuda proposed arrangement.

The new company, Cuda Oil and Gas, has just bought light oil assets in the Powder River Basin, in Wyoming, USA. Former Junex president and CEO, Jean-Yves Lavoie, who is now on the Cuda board of directors, hopes this acquisition and the merger to provide cash flow, creates value for shareholders while waiting on impactful development in Québec.

Junex wants to exploit the oil of the Galt property, 20 kilometres west of Gaspé. The firm sent an operating lease ap-

plication to the Quebec Energy and Natural Resources ministry in September 2016, but has not obtained it yet. Junex also asked the same department for a new license to drill Galt No. 6, eight months ago. The project was suspended in August 2017 the time for the Micmacs to be consulted and, in the meantime, the drilling license expired.

Last year, another Quebec-based oil and gas exploration company, Pétrolia, merged with an Alberta company, Pieridae. The new entity, Pieridae Energy, has its registered office in Calgary.

Volleyball tournament draws some of the best players in Canada

Gilles Gagné

PORT DANIEL – An August 24-25 tournament drew some of the best beach volleyball players of Canada to Port Daniel-Gascons. Organized by the sports and leisure department of the municipality of Port Daniel-Gascons, the event was held under great weather and was followed by a good number of sports fans. The SPEC will publish in its next edition a report on the tournament and the factors that favoured Port Daniel-Gascons as a host of the event.



Photo: Maika Assels

Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers

Do it anyway

"Sometimes life ain't good. And when I pray it doesn't always turn out like I think it should. But I do it anyway ... I do it anyway."

A provincial election is looming for Quebecers. The 42nd Quebec general election is scheduled for October 1, to elect members to the National Assembly of Quebec. Quebec's political parties are already trying to convince us to vote for them. For many voters, particularly anglophones, the choice will not be a clear or easy one. Do we vote for a party that has disappointed us or do we vote for a party who has clear separatist philosophy and goals? The Liberals could hang on to govern another day. The CAQ looks strong, though. The PQ could lose party status. The left-wing party Quebec Solidaire could produce some surprising results. What to do? It's not an easy decision. Change is in the wind. Vote anyway.

Martina McBride's very cool song *Do It Anyway* has some great inspirational lyrics. When I hear people say that they aren't going to vote because they don't like any politician or party I would like to say *Do it anyway*.

Why is it important to vote? Firstly, vote because it is your fundamental democratic right. This right is protected for you by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Our votes determine the people who will represent us. These people will make the laws. These people will write the policies that shape our day-to-day lives. These people will decide how to spend our money. Don't we all want a say in who these people will be?

The next reason to vote is that our votes send a clear and powerful message to the politicians who hold our future in their hands. The more that voters do get out and vote, which is their democratic right, the stronger our message is. Every vote counts.

On top of that, voting is easy. Voting is quick. Voting is free. Your vote reflects one person, one voice, but when all those voices are combined together, the message is powerful, and you are part of it!

Youth, your votes are powerful too. Politicians are aware that only one third of eligible voters 18 to 24 do get out and vote. They create their platforms and election strategies towards those groups that will vote. If you do not vote, politicians will not pay attention to your concerns and needs. You will be ignored. A big price to pay for not bothering to vote.

We live in a democracy and we should always be grateful for that. If you are not so sure about our system of government, just watch the news. Syria? Libya? Egypt? Iran?

Democracy is a system in which the ideal is to offer equality and justice for its citizens. The right to vote is the essential, most important factor which underlies this belief in democracy. History shows us many examples of what can happen when democracy fails. One example is post World War 1, when the failure of democracy contributed to the rise of Hitler in Germany.

Just about every adult in Canada has the right to vote. This was not always the case, however, it seems inconceivable that any group could be denied their right to vote – but it was not all that long ago that the women of Quebec secured that right. Women of Quebec have only been permitted to vote since 1940! Women fought tirelessly for this right. In some countries the 'suffrage campaigns' were sometimes violent. In Canada our ancestors were patient and polite. How Canadian of us! But it worked. Not voting diminishes the importance of their struggles.

Over 2,000 years ago in ancient Greece, Pericles said, "We do not say that a man who takes no interest in politics is a man who minds his own business, we say he has no business here at all."

If you choose not to vote, that is your choice, of course. But one of the most, maybe THE most important reasons to vote is how it makes you feel. It helps to define who you are in this society. You are a voter. When you walk out of that polling station after voting, stand a little straighter. Stand a little taller. Sometimes you might need to hold your nose and vote, but do it anyway. One vote may not make a difference in the outcome of a particular election – but it will make a difference in how you feel about you and your democratic rights.

"This world's gone crazy and it's hard to believe, that tomorrow will be better than today... believe it anyway."

Community gardens: bringing people together

Marshall Billingsley

NEW CARLISLE: Community is often defined as a social group whose members have a specific interest or goal. The community garden at Family Ties is a perfect example of this. Individuals young and old get together, share their common interest in gardening, while forming social bonds.

The local community garden in New Carlisle is run and operated by Family Ties. This year there are 25 families with a garden plot. Family Ties supports their gardeners as much as possible in their garden endeavours. Many of the seeds needed such as beans, carrots, lettuce, onions, tomatoes and beets are provided by Family Ties.

Family Ties also provides workshops to members of the community in an attempt to educate them on gardening. These workshops are usually focused around instructions on how to tend and take care of the garden plot and are especially useful to beginners as it directs them in a way that will en-



Wayne & Devon Small, standing in the Family Ties Community Garden.

sure that their crops grow and yield. Gardeners who have a plot within the garden are expected to tend to their own plot, which includes water-

ing, weeding and basic maintenance.

Each person grows a variety of vegetables and herbs of their own choosing, such as lettuce, cabbage, tomatoes, garlic, pumpkins, kale, radishes, garlic, zucchini, cucumbers and much more.

The overall main goal of the community garden is sustainability as a whole. When speaking to the director of Family Ties, Heather MacWhirter, she stated "The garden is full, and at its maximum capacity for now. We face other challenges concerning expansion and plans

for the future," says Ms. MacWhirter.

According to Heather MacWhirter, the biggest challenge Family Ties faces in regards to the garden is funding to hire a coordinator. "We receive funding for workshops and to provide basic seeds to the gardeners but we face a large problem finding the funding to hire a coordinator to work at the garden and teach people in the garden."

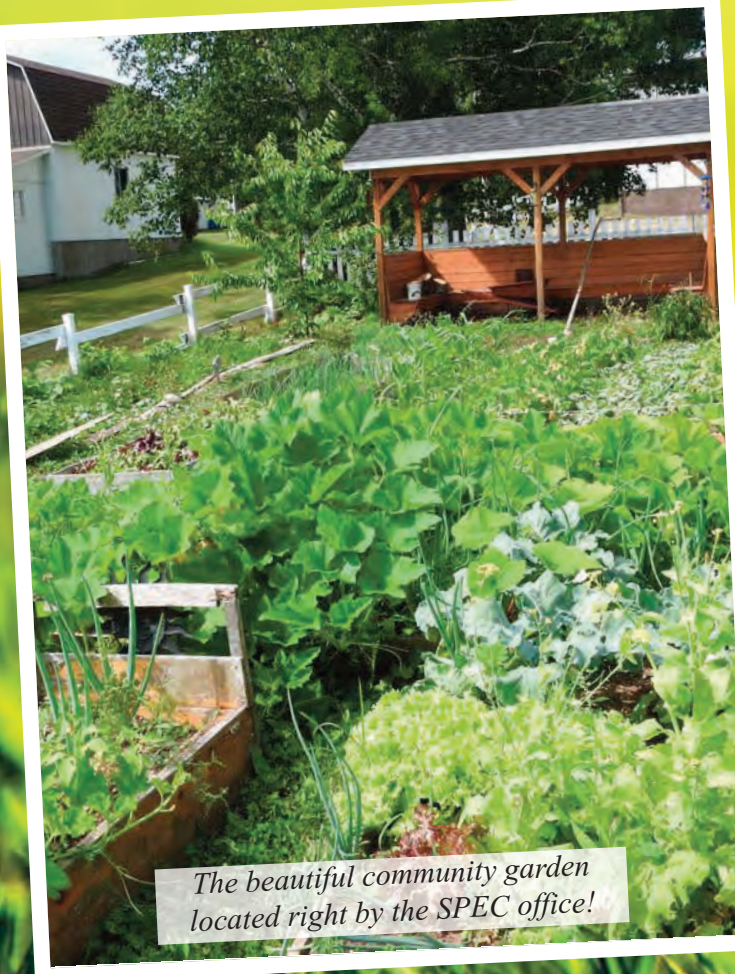
Family Ties aims to hire a student each summer to tend to the garden and watch over

it. This year's student is a member from the community; Devon Small, and is currently a student at Gaspé CÉGEP. His job responsibilities include ensuring that the garden is well maintained and helping fellow gardeners.

"I love working here with the gardeners and the local community in general. It's like a getaway for some of the gardeners, giving them the chance to grow their own things," says Devon. He mentions that his favourite part about working here is being able to see people grow their stuff and put large amounts of effort into their plots. He and his father; Wayne Small, have a plot in the garden and tend to it regularly.

Wayne goes above and beyond his own independent plot duties, coming to the garden at 4 a.m. to water his own plot as well as others in the community. "I love working in the garden and helping out. I enjoy gardening for the social aspect and it is a passion of mine for sure," says Wayne.

In order to be able to have a plot within the New Carlisle Community garden, the gardener must be a member of Family Ties, which costs \$5 annually. Becoming a member of the community garden is something that could personally benefit you by obtaining a supportive social network through your love of gardening, increasing your social circle as a whole and obtaining nutrient rich food.



The beautiful community garden located right by the SPEC office!

Tide Predictions

Paspebiac

Thursday, August 30

05:24 - 1.64m
11:34 - 0.41m
17:43 - 1.57m
23:51 - 0.39m

Friday, August 31

05:58 - 1.56m
12:01 - 0.43m
18:22 - 1.60m

Saturday, September 1

00:38 - 0.45m
06:37 - 1.46m
12:33 - 0.45m
19:05 - 1.62m

Sunday, September 2

01:34 - 0.50m
07:32 - 1.35m
13:12 - 0.49m
19:55 - 1.63m

Monday, September 3

02:42 - 0.54m
08:20 - 1.24m
14:01 - 0.52m
20:57 - 1.66m

Tuesday, September 4

04:03 - 0.54m
09:32 - 1.17m
15:02 - 0.54m
22:07 - 1.72m

Wednesday, September 5

05:22 - 0.48m
10:51 - 1.15m
16:15 - 0.52m
23:18 - 1.81m

Carleton

Thursday, August 30

05:34 - 2.04m
11:32 - 0.35m
17:54 - 1.96m
23:48 - 0.36m

Friday, August 31

06:10 - 1.93m
12:03 - 0.36m
18:32 - 1.99m

Saturday, September 1

00:32 - 0.38m
06:51 - 1.79m
12:36 - 0.38m
19:15 - 2.02m

Sunday, September 2

01:24 - 0.43m
07:37 - 1.64m
13:17 - 0.42m
20:06 - 2.04m

Monday, September 3

02:28 - 0.49m
08:33 - 1.50m
14:06 - 0.47m
21:07 - 2.06m

Tuesday, September 4

03:47 - 0.52m
09:41 - 1.40m
15:10 - 0.52m
22:16 - 2.10m

Wednesday, September 5

05:14 - 0.50m
10:58 - 1.38m
16:29 - 0.53m
23:29 - 2.18m

Chandler

Thursday, August 30

05:20 - 1.23m
11:39 - 0.42m
17:34 - 1.10m
23:41 - 0.35m

Friday, August 31

05:57 - 1.17m
12:08 - 0.44m
18:15 - 1.14m

Saturday, September 1

00:31 - 0.36m
06:38 - 1.10m
12:41 - 0.46m
19:01 - 1.18m

Sunday, September 2

01:28 - 0.37m
07:26 - 1.02m
13:20 - 0.48m
19:54 - 1.22m

Monday, September 3

02:33 - 0.39m
08:24 - 0.94m
14:08 - 0.50m
20:54 - 1.26m

Tuesday, September 4

03:45 - 0.39m
09:36 - 0.87m
15:07 - 0.51m
22:01 - 1.30m

Wednesday, September 5

04:59 - 0.38m
10:56 - 0.84m
16:13 - 0.49m
23:12 - 1.35m

Gaspé

Thursday, August 30

04:35 - 1.47m
11:00 - 0.52m
16:53 - 1.37m
23:09 - 0.53m

Friday, August 31

05:07 - 1.40m
11:27 - 0.53m
17:29 - 1.43m
23:57 - 0.56m

Saturday, September 1

05:41 - 1.31m
11:56 - 0.54m
18:11 - 1.47m

Sunday, September 2

00:53 - 0.59m
06:22 - 1.20m
12:32 - 0.56m
19:01 - 1.51m

Monday, September 3

02:02 - 0.62m
07:10 - 1.10m
13:17 - 0.58m
20:02 - 1.53m

Tuesday, September 4

03:20 - 0.64m
08:15 - 1.00m
14:18 - 0.60m
21:19 - 1.56m

Wednesday, September 5

04:43 - 0.61m
09:51 - 0.94m
15:33 - 0.60m
22:43 - 1.61m

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Canteens on the Coast – local love for local favourites

Wendy Dawson

GASPÉ PENINSULA: Taking on the task of visiting some of our readers' favourite canteens along the Gaspé Coast this summer turned out to be quite the challenge. I bit off more than I could chew - pun fully intended.

A question to local readers about their preferred summer canteens provided overwhelming response and demonstrated that folks on the Coast do love their summer food stops.

Quebec's love affair with the canteen, or the casse-croûte (which translates to break crust or to break bread) as it is often called dates way back.

According to Quebec historian Luc Nicole-Labrie, the canteen, or snack bar, first appeared in military camps and work camps throughout the province as early as the 1920s. The idea behind this type of service was to offer small affordable meals to people who had to eat quickly at their work place.

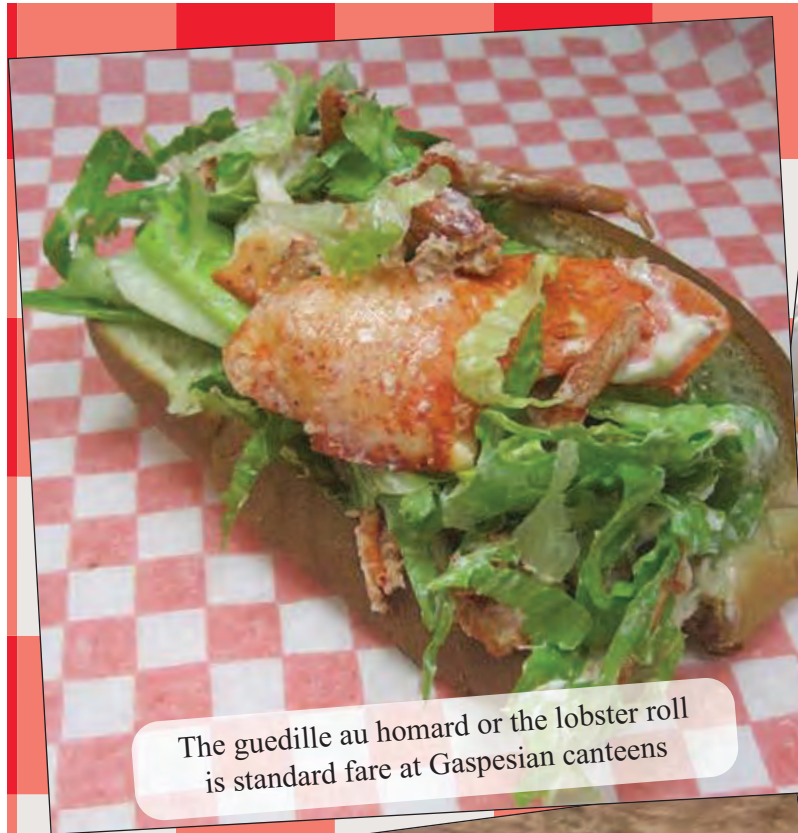
After the second world war, when cars were a more readily available commodity and road travel more common, road-side canteens became the perfect place for travelers by car to stop for a meal. The golden age of canteens was during the 1960s and 1970s, but by the 1980s, a growing interest and demand for better quality and healthier food made a dent in what had been, up until then, a food service staple.

The Gaspésie is known for its canteens, and many of those that can be found along the Coast have been operating for years, sometimes generations. With the help of some committed friends and family, I managed to visit some of your favourite stops.

Mam'zelle Maria Maria

Never mind the groundhog and his shadow. The sure sign of spring in these parts is the roadside sign installed somewhere near the end of February announcing the much-anticipated opening of this canteen, usually around the third week of March.

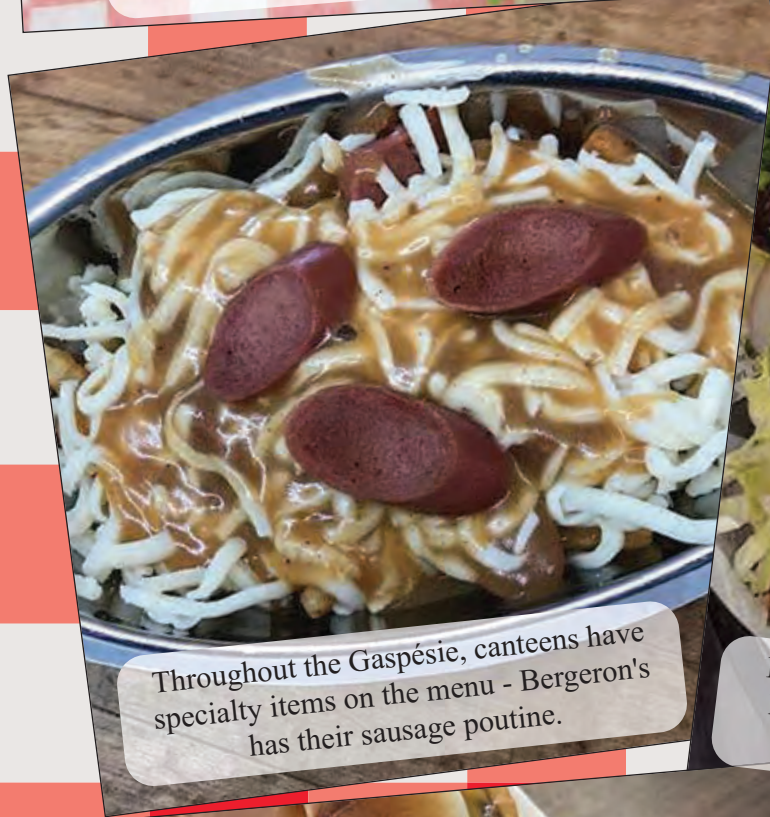
Mam'zelle Maria has been in operation for over 60 years and the current owners purchased the business in 1991. Mam'zelle's is really a local favourite. Among the full canteen style menu here you will find pizza as well as seafood and other fish items typical to Gaspesian canteens. They also have a full dairy bar available



The guedille au homard or the lobster roll is standard fare at Gaspesian canteens



Jenn's menu is full of canteen staples including barbeque chicken



Throughout the Gaspésie, canteens have specialty items on the menu - Bergeron's has their sausage poutine.



La Fourchette, the region's most popular canteen, has generous portions and the most varied menu of any of the canteens we visited.



La Banquise has perfect sized portions and personalized service.



Most canteens are family owned and operated small businesses. Kathy Dolbec, part owner, and her niece, Melina Dolbec Trudel, spend many hours working over the summer months.

Photos: Wendy Dawson

for ice cream and other frozen treats.

When I visited, I enjoyed a "guedille homard," a mixture of lobster meat, lettuce and a dressing mixture served on a white submarine style bun. Guedille au homard is typically known as a lobster roll in other

parts of the world and this one was full of big chunks of fresh tasting lobster. It was my first "guedille" ever and it was delicious.

Mam'zelle Maria has a moderately priced menu, a variety of selections and is conveniently located off Highway

132. You can eat either indoors or at one of the many outside tables and little ones can use the small enclosed playground while you wait to be served. You can enjoy this stop until Thanksgiving, when they close their operation for the winter months.

Cantine Chez Jenn New Richmond

Located right off the 132 right as you are leaving New Richmond headed west and next

Cont'd on page 10

CANTEENS:

▶ Cont'd from page 9

door to a sort of mystery shop that sells a variety of used and new items, Jenn's might be lacking a little bit in ambience. The outing, however, remains one of my favourite of the summer because I shared my dinner with two folks who shared their memories of the "cantine."

Even though Jenn's is lacking in cachet, it has stood the test of time. According to lifetime New Richmond residents Trudy Brown and John Lynd, Chez Jenn has been a part of the New Richmond summer food landscape for most of their lives. "As far back as I can remember, I remember this place."

During most of our time together we talked about food and people's canteen style preference and it was the deduction that taste is a very personal thing.

Jenn's menu is full of canteen staples and more restaurant style foods such as barbeque chicken. The prices are reasonable, and the service was very fast. This stop was a winner just because of the company.

**Cantine Bergeron
Bonaventure**

Just like its Maria counterpart, Bergeron's spring opening is always an event. I became familiar with this canteen when my children attended Bonaventure Polyvalent School. A popular go-to spot for students, it is also a favourite of locals and tourists alike.

Bergeron's is not on the main road but can be found on Beauséjour Street, the road that leads to Cime Aventure, for those who are familiar with the area.

I have to admit that Bergeron's does something unforgiveable in my opinion. They use shredded cheese in their poutines. They also use a custom sauce and, again, I'm a BBQ sauce kind of girl. I am a poutine purist, and curd cheese is an essential ingredient if I am to indulge. That said, I am a huge fan of their slim and crisp French fries.

Bergeron's has many typical canteen menu items available, but also has a large number of dishes that I would normally associate with a larger scale restaurant, including a variety of fish dishes. They also have cool novelty foods such as mac and cheese bites to try. Patrons can either sit in the restaurant side or at

one of the many outdoor tables.

You still have lots of time to enjoy Bergeron's as they traditionally stay open until mid to the end of November.

**La Fourchette
Shigawake**

AND THE WINNER IS... Easily hands down the declared fan and reader favourite, La Fourchette is located in Shigawake. Previously located at the Kenneth Duguay Park, the canteen moved this year to what was once Chez Ida/Ralphs

Patrons of La Fourchette should be referred to more as fans. When hearing them rave about La Fourchette's variety, quality and portion size, they sound like fans indeed.

I needed the right partner for this stop, so I brought my son Kade who can eat for at least two. Kade was already familiar with the extensive menu and knew what he was getting - the meat lovers poutine, while I enjoyed fish and chips and together we shared some perogies. I was pretty excited about the perogies, as I hadn't seen any on any menu since moving to the Coast 16 years ago. Fresh and homemade, everything we ate was right on the money.

Fourchette fans were right. The portion size is very, very generous and I should have taken my cue from two gentlemen who had stopped while finishing their trip around the Gaspésie and had the good sense to share an order of fish and chips. Just the same Kade

and I barreled through, but neither one of us was able to finish our order.

When you stop at La Fourchette be aware that you will need a few minutes to make



your choice. This is not your standard French Fry stop. A variety of Greek and Mexican foods as well as wraps and desserts are part of a very complete menu.

Even if Shigawake wasn't on your radar, give yourself this reason for a road trip. Open until early to mid-October, you can discover my (and dozens of others) vote for the best canteen on the Coast.

**La Banquise
Gaspé**

By the time I finally made it to the Banquise in Gaspé, it had been a while since I had stopped at a canteen. Most of the other canteens visited for this tour had taken place in the early part of the summer so, come August, I was due for a fast food fix.

On the Sunday of the last day of FMBM, Gaspé had put on her best and she was looking very fine indeed. La Banquise located atop the hill on boulevard de Gaspé just past the Polyvalent, provided us

with one of the best vantage points to soak in some of the beauty. At least half a dozen sailboats were sailing out of the marina in the Gaspé Bay. At the rear of the canteen there is a view of

Rosebridge. Even if this place had had the worst food in town, I still would have been charmed.

La Banquise advertises itself as a dairy bar and it does, in fact, have a very large variety of ice creams, frozen yogurt and even frozen tofu dessert, however, they also offer a variety of canteen staples at very reasonable prices. The owner takes everyone's order at the counter when they arrive and he greets the locals by name. He also delivers your order to your table - a nice little personalized service.

The food was good, but the portions were perfect. If you

have a Herculean appetite, order two burgers, but if you're happy to have a perfect sized burger that fits in your hand and a poutine that won't leave your feeling overly stuffed, then this is the place for you. Sometimes, less is more.

If you want to enjoy this little restaurant with a view, time is running out. The owner will be closing for the season in September.

Other mentionables

Wimpy's in New Carlisle, O'Migua in St. Omer, Jo-Ann's in Gaspé and so many other local favorites are out there and worth visiting. I would have needed at least four more months and 60 pounds less at the starting line to make it through all of the wonderful little canteens that operate in the towns and local villages along the Coast - each with their special local flare. There are still a number of weeks remaining in "canteen" season - so get out there and enjoy your local spot.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5


- 6 PM - 9:30 PM: Silent Auction
- 6 PM: Open Dart Tournament
- 9 PM: Music with **The Garage Band** in the tent. Entrance \$7 per person.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6

- 9 AM - 4 PM: Silent Auction
- 9 AM - 1 PM: Bake & Craft Sale
- 11 AM - 2 PM: Soap Box Derby
- 1 PM - 5 PM: Music in the tent with **The Appleby Family**, games for the kids, wiggle cars, and other activities at the Community Center.
- 2 PM: Washer Tournament
- 9 PM: Music with **Back Road Country Band** in the tent. Entrance \$7 per person.

SUNDAY OCTOBER 7

- 9 PM - 3 PM: Classic Car Show
- 1 PM: Guide Competition Revival
- 1 PM - 5 PM: Music in the tent with **THE BOGANS**, «Open Mic», Games for the kids, and other activities at the Community Center.
- 1 PM - 4 PM: Magician Dave Philippe

 **Public Notice**

MINOR EXEMPTION FROM URBANISM BY-LAWS

NOTICE is hereby given that the Town Council, at a regular meeting that will be held on Monday, September 17, 2018, at 8 p.m., will consider the request for minor exemption from the zoning By-Law 1156-11, presented by Mr. Robert Lagacé for a property situated at 179, rue Monseigneur-Leblanc.

The nature and consequences of this exemption are the following:

- the nature of the minor exemption is to reduce the minimum right lateral setback margin to 1.79 m instead of the 2m required by the HC-242 zone specifications grid and section 8.8.4 of zoning By-Law 1156-11.
- the minor exemption will have for consequence to allowing the construction of a carport with a lateral setback of 1.79 m.

During this meeting, the Town Council will hear the interested wishing to be heard on that request.

Given at Gaspé, August 29, 2018.

Sébastien Fournier,
Town clerk assistant

Shigawake Fair and Music Festival marked by success

Gilles Gagné

SHIGAWAKE – The 110th Shigawake Agricultural Fair and the 10th Shigawake Music Festival, which were between August 16 and August 19, at the fairgrounds, were marked by great success. The turnout was great for every activity and the organizers believe that the Friday evening shows, with Quimorucru and the Clemville Kids might have generated record crowds and revenues, as the two bands are followed by hundreds of regional fans.

By Saturday night, the revenues of the 2017 festival and fair had been surpassed, with a full day ahead. Great weather conditions prevailed all weekend while the weather was rather rainy on Friday and

Saturday in 2017.

“We had textbook weather but we could talk about textbook everything. It will take a little while before all the numbers are sorted out but it looks very good,” pointed out George Hayes of the organizing committee on the last day of the event.

Many other highlights occurred during the four days of the fair and festival. The lawn-mowing tractor race drew arguably the biggest crowd since its inception at the fair. In the 12 to 14 horsepower class, Rodney Hottot took first place, in front of Curtis Benwell and Brennan Renouf. In the 14.5 horsepower and up category, Thomas Gedeon beat Brendan Benwell and Brennan Renouf. In the two cylinder class, Alex Martin



finished ahead of Thomas Gedeon and Rodney Benwell. The crowd appreciated the play by play description of Jeffrey Vautier, who always adds a touch of humour to his

comments.

Martha Wainright's show on Saturday evening proved a very inspiring choice, before the rockier performance of Ron's Fantasy and the ever

popular Urockaoke in the Trough. The conclusion of the music festival with Canailles, a band counting eight members, was also thoroughly appreciated by the attendees.

Lama Glenn H. Mullin

Jeanie LeLacheur

“It is nearly thirty years since Glenn H. Mullin first arrived in Dharmasala and began to take an interest in the works of the Dalai Lamas. I admire the persistence with which he has pursued this interest and have sometimes wondered if he has not found out more about them than even I know. Many people have told me that he reveals an ability in his books to make things ‘Tibetan accessible and easily understood to ordinary readers.’” – H.H. the Dalai Lama

A couple of weeks ago I received a phone call from Gary Briand and, as always, he got right to the point. “Jeanie, do you have a pen? Write this number down. There is a gentleman here in Gaspé that you must interview for The Gaspé Spec, but you must do it quickly as he's leaving on Sunday morning.” So I, of course, took the number down and made the call to Glenn H. Mullin who was spending some time at Camp Fort Haldimand with his family.

Gary hadn't given me much to go on so I really didn't know what to expect when I arrived at Fort Haldimand for the interview the next day, armed with my pen and notebook.

I should say that Spec interviews typically last 15 minutes or so and a half hour is usually tops. Glenn's interview was measured in hours, allowed me to meet his brother Karl and sister Denise and even share a musical moment, but it also left me wondering how I could possibly portray the life and

times of Glenn H. Mullin, the internationally renowned Tibetologist, author and expert on Buddhist meditation in a short text.

Humble beginnings marked the life of Glenn who was born to Allan Mullin and his war bride Joan from London, England. They lived for a time in York after coming home from the war, then moved to Murdochville where Glenn, his brother Karl, and sister Denise grew up and attended school.

High school graduation saw Glenn attend Mount Allison University where he studied engineering, an excellent choice for one wanting to return to Murdochville and work at the copper mine but fate had other plans for this engineer.

So instead of Murdochville and the mine, Glenn found himself in India and the hillside city of Dharmasala, home to the Dalai Lama, taking the first steps towards a passion that would become his life's work.

At that time the Dalai Lama created an institution called Pendzokhang, the Library of Tibetan Works and Archives, to house the many books, historical records and artworks that the refugees pouring out of Tibet brought to him. A special school for Westerners was also opened in the institution having two lamas (high priest/teacher of the Dharma in Tibetan Buddhism) appointed by the Dalai Lama to teach. It was there that Glenn studied Buddhist philosophy, meditation and theology and after several years switched to the Dialectic School, a small



Karl Mullin Glenn H. Mullin and sister Denise McDougall Mullin at their parents' burial place.

monastic college the Dalai Lama had created for young Tibetans. Here, Glenn would learn to read, write, and speak Tibetan.

Even though he was a long way from home, fond memories of the powerful religious beliefs of his mother and his altar boy days still remained. “Glenn, we are Anglican,” his Mom would say, and he also remembers with a smile the pride in her words when she learned of his meeting with the Dalai Lama. “Glenn, if you die tomorrow, you could never bring a bigger honour to the family.”

For 12 years Glenn continued to train under the guidance of two great gurus of the Dalai Lama and of course attended the two months of public teaching given by the Dalai Lama every year.

In 1978 Glenn was asked by his office, the Kugi Yigtsang, to edit many of his public



Glenn receiving the Dalai Lama at Atlanta.

lectures and teachings. “Throughout this period we did three or four hours of meditation daily, and one month retreats annually. After the 12 year study I moved back to North America and, because of the numerous books that I had published, started undertaking lecture and reading tours, speaking at universities, philosophical societies, Buddhist centres, and other such places. For the past 20 or so years I travel and teach for roughly eight months a year.”

Many of Glenn's early books were on the lives and works of the early Dalai Lamas and having also studied Tibetan art under one of the Dalai Lama's painters, Glenn was also asked to curate exhibitions of traditional Himalayan art.

In 1966 he was asked to bring an exhibition of the Dalai Lama's private sacred art to Atlanta for one of the university museums there, in

Cont'd on page 12

New Richmond Agricultural Fair again held under great weather

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND – The New Richmond Agricultural Fair was held under great weather conditions once more this year, and the attendees converged to the fairgrounds in higher numbers than in 2017, or so it seemed. Since he left his position as president of the event, New Richmond's James Martin (picture) has remained an active volunteer, as well as honorary president. He still pinch-hits here and there to fix things, but he can participate in activities like he could never do before, such as playing in the washer toss tournament. Well, he also organized the tournament, but he found enough time to play. The SPEC will present more pictures of the New Richmond Agricultural Fair in next week's paper.



Photo: G. Gagné

GLENN

Cont'd from page 11

honour of the Summer Olympics that were held in Atlanta that year. He has also curated exhibitions for several New York museums.

It's difficult to convey in a few words the magic and extraordinary experiences that brought a young man from a small town in the Gaspé to India to meet and study under the Dalai Lama; a man who came back to the here and now to teach and touch lives without physical or spiritual boundaries, a man who describes himself as "an international culturist specializing in the enlightenment technology of Himalayan mysticism, and a great enthusiast for art music and humor as found in all the gentle traditions of the world." A man you may find, come

spring, leading a group of Doctors Without Borders in Nepal or Tibet, checking out the stars while sleeping in a Mongolian yurt, promoting Mongolian Buddhist artists, or maybe lecturing or leading sessions on Buddhist Meditation but, rest assured, that wherever he may be it will be with a smile and a twinkle in his eye that leaves you wondering about life and death and this earthly path we all walk in our own way.

So by now it's clear to all that a book would be a better vehicle to do justice to the depth of Glenn's international and spiritual experiences that transcend denomination but, until the Glenn H Mullin autobiography hits the stands, this glimpse is for Gary Briand and Glenn's brother Karl Mullin who are no doubt his biggest fans.



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Draw will take place on September 3, 2018

Announcements...

Obituary



POWELL: Dolly (Woodman)

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Dolly Powell Woodman who died peacefully at home on August 4, 2018, at the age of 84.

She was the daughter of Margaret Ross and Brackley Powell and the wife of the late Lloyd Woodman. Dolly leaves to mourn, her sister Dorothy along with many nieces and nephews and close friends.

The funeral was held on August 8, 2018 at Bethel Bible Chapel. A wonderful sermon was preached by Danny Dugas and Nelson Roussy followed by the burial at Black Cape Cemetery. The pallbearers were Michael Harrison, Noah Harrison, Stanley Harrison, Dean Harrison, Eldon Powell and Mark Garrett. Dolly's laughter, kindness and running footsteps will be sorely missed and forever cherished by all of her family and friends.

Dolly Powell Woodman's family.

In Memory

THOMPSON:

In loving memory of a dear father and mother, John Thompson and Laura Alberta, and my brothers and sisters.

*Today brings memories
Of our loved ones gone to rest.
They will never be forgotten
By the ones who loved them best.
The flowers we place upon their graves
May wither and decay
But love for them who sleep beneath
Will never fade away.*

Loved and remembered always, Constance Thompson Billingsley.

PHOTO QUALITY

When submitting a photo for this page, please send in a digital photo (.jpg) to specs@globetrotter.net.

You can also send your photo by mail or drop it off at the office.

It is essential that the photo is not a copy printed at home or by the funeral home. It will not reproduce well.

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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On the lighter side...



Woof, Woof!!

Gaétain Garnier found this delightful piece of driftwood and thought it resembled man's best friend. By adding two eyes, Mr. Garnier transformed the driftwood into a dog look-alike.

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



SUDOKU

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

Fun By The Numbers

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

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

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

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

ANSWER:

HOROSCOPES

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20
If you want to get out and see the sights, you have to plan an excursion, Aries. Start planning a vacation and don't forget to invite a pal along for the trip.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21
Do not be quick to accept the word "no," Taurus. If you are seeking a promotion, it may take another round of negotiations to sell your position to a supervisor.

GEMINI – May 22/June 21
Gemini, some things are at play and you may need to gather some facts.

Don't try to piece things together, but rather start at the beginning and get a comprehensive view.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22
You have to hunker down and work through tasks that hold little interest for you, Cancer. Success comes from tending to all of the details, even those that are less interesting.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23
Plenty of opportunities to make big changes are on the horizon, Leo. You need to figure out what it is you want to do with yourself and where to make change.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, sit quietly aside and let others talk while you listen. Listening can be a great way to learn about others

as well as yourself. Use this time wisely.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, indecisiveness may cost you in the days ahead. Try to come to a decision on an important situation so you can begin moving forward once again.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22
Sometimes you don't see the purpose behind certain actions, Scorpio. Don't hesitate to ask questions to clear things up. Forge ahead and things will become clearer.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21
Sooner or later, if you try different things you are bound to stumble on the right course of action, Sagittarius. It just may take longer than you ini-

tially expected.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20
Don't worry if you cannot get your act together just yet, Capricorn. You will find your groove soon enough and everything will ultimately fall in place.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18
Some things can't be avoided forever, Aquarius. If you feel like you are running away from problems or things you don't like, you may need to confront them.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
Funny things happen when you least expect them, Pisces. Just when you may have thought a situation was dire, some fun will change your opinion.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

AUGUST 26
Keke Palmer, Actress (25)

AUGUST 27
Tom Ford, Fashion Designer (57)

AUGUST 28
Florence Welch, Singer (32)

AUGUST 29
Carla Gugino, Actress (47)

AUGUST 30
Cameron Diaz, Actress (46)

AUGUST 31
Richard Gere, Actor (69)

SEPTEMBER 1
Lily Tomlin, Actress (79)

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Friday, October 5

9 p.m. - Music with The Garage Band in the tent. Entrance \$7 per person.

Saturday, October 6

1 - 5 p.m. - Music in the tent with The Appleby Family
 9 p.m. - Music with Back Road Country Band in the tent. Entrance \$7 per person

Sunday, October 7

1 - 5 p.m. - Music in the tent with The Bogans, Open Mic



A little bit about the bands...

The Garage Band

Members:
 Anabelle Landry
 Harold Landry
 Christian Landry
 Stéphane Cyr
 Jean Luc Leblanc (Boukane)
 From: Nouvelle

The Appleby Family

Members: Tony Appleby and Family
 From: Caplan

Back Road Country Band

Members:
 Jacques Lamarche, Martin Leblanc, Denis Element, Henri-Jean Cayouette.
 From: Caplan

The Bogans

Members: Troy Willett, Kevin Jones, Daniel Athot
 From: New Richmond
The Bogans are a new band this season and they played at the Music Festival at the Shigawake Fair

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