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Gaspésie  
Literacy Council AGM



A Gaspesian connection

# The Gaspé **SPEC**

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October 1st election:

## Recount requested in Gaspé

Geneviève Gélinas

GASPÉ – Parti québécois candidate in the Gaspé riding, Méganne Perry Mélançon, feels “quite confident” that she will be elected after the judicial recount requested by her party. A formal complaint was filed to the Quebec Chief Electoral Officer on October 3 about the surprising results of a ballot box, namely box 61.

Liberal candidate Alexandre Boulay won the provincial election on October 1 with 132 more votes than Ms. Perry Mélançon.

According to the official results, the ballot box number 61 contained 194 ballots, all of them for the Liberal candidate, and none for the three other candidates.

“Obviously, it seems that there was an error. Some of our members confirmed to us that they voted for the PQ,” states the PQ communications director, Yanick Grégoire.

Five electors of the area declared under oath that they voted for Ms. Perry

Mélançon. Box 61 covers a part of the Wakeham area in Gaspé.

Ms. Perry Mélançon states that members of her team spoke to the scrutineer, and that the official results of box 61 do not reflect reality. “Several scenarios lead us to believe that we won,” the candidate says.

A PQ victory in the Gaspé riding would have “a national impact. It would make a significant difference. The PQ would have 10 Members of the National Assembly. We would be the second official opposition in place of Québec solidaire,” Ms. Perry Mélançon points out.

Québec solidaire has ten MNAs and 16.1% of the votes. The PQ has 17.06 % of the votes but only nine MNAs. Due to its higher popular support, the PQ would step in front of Québec solidaire.

Forming the second opposition would give the PQ “more speaking rights (at the National Assembly) and more



Photo: G. Gélinas

*Méganne Perry Mélançon, defeated on October 1 by the Liberal candidate, says that she’s “shocked” by the last twists of the electoral process.*

visibility,” explains Mrs. Perry Mélançon.

Judicial recounts are supervised by judges of the Quebec Court.

Spec estimates that if the votes in box 61 were distributed in the same accordance as those obtained by the can-

didates in the Gaspé riding, it would be projected that the PQ candidate would win with a majority of approximately 60 votes, however, this is just an estimate and there is no evidence that the electors voted according to those proportions and only an official recount

can tell what really is in box 61.

As SPEC was reaching its deadline on October 5, a judge was supposed to hear Ms. Perry Mélançon’s request that afternoon. The candidate is requesting a recount on October 9.



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## LeBoutillier proud of having improved CAQ score in Gaspé

Geneviève Gélinas

GASPÉ: – The Coalition Avenir Québec (CAQ) candidate in Gaspé, Louis LeBoutillier, is proud of having improved his party's results even if he was defeated. He finished third with 19.44% of the votes. The former CAQ candidate, Yvan Blanchard, had obtained 6.19% of the votes in 2014. "I did a lot of leg work," said Mr. LeBoutillier. He thinks that "the other parties have been able to make Gaspésians believe that we are against the regions. My two Achilles heels, with four arrows stuck in them, were wind energy and the cement plant," he adds. Those two important files for the Gaspé Coast have been widely criticized by the CAQ over the last years. "If the CAQ is in power, it's because of the regions," believes Mr. LeBoutillier, who emphasizes that only a few CAQ candidates were elected on Montreal island. "Maybe Gaspésians didn't understand the message," says Mr. LeBoutillier, who wants to run again four years down the road.

## Gaspé engineer Martin Crousset removed from professional order

Geneviève Gélinas

GASPÉ: – The Quebec Order of Engineers has temporarily removed Mario Crousset from its registry for 20 weeks. The president of Kwatrøe Consultant, accepted to pay \$22,575 to Roche, another engineering firm, for fictitious professional services, before being paid back. This was part of a scheme of illegal political party financing.

Mr. Crousset pleaded guilty to having violated the code of ethics of engineers by having lent himself to shameful, or even dishonest or doubtful practices.

The incident took place in 2009, during the reconstruction of Highway 132 in Rivière-au-Renard, when Kwatrøe was conducting land surveys and site supervision for Roche.

In May 2009, Roche consultant, Martin Lapointe, asked Mario Crousset to address two invoices to Kwatrøe for a total of \$22,575, and then charge the same amount to Roche, in order to be paid back. Mr. Crousset did it.

In July 2009, Mr. Lapointe pressed Mr. Crousset to pay the amount of \$22,575. On July 30, 2009, cheques were exchanged. At that moment, it had become obvious that no service had been provided by the Roche consultant, Mr. Crousset admitted. Facing Mr. Lapointe's insistence, "we suspected that he was using the money for political purposes," Mr. Crousset stated.

In fact, the amount was used to pay Mr. Lapointe back for his donations to political parties. He was then able to get around the Election Act, which prohibits companies from giving money to a provincial party's campaign funds.

The Order's disciplinary council highlighted that even if Mr. Crousset didn't know the political purpose of the scheme at the beginning, it wasn't too late to step back when he understood it. "He failed to meet his integrity obligations and lent himself to practices he knew were dishonest, independently of the political purpose of the affair," stated the disciplinary council in its judgement.

In May 2014, the Quebec anti-corruption squad (UPAC) visited the Kwatrøe office in Gaspé to take documents. At that time, Mr. Crousset explained to SPEC that he had paid two bills to Mr. Lapointe. He also said that he "didn't suspect" that the money could be used for illegal party financing, which is different from the version given to his disciplinary council.

The Order only took proceedings against Mr. Crousset in 2015, after having analyzed the testimonies presented to the Charbonneau Commission.

The disciplinary council imposed the 20-week expulsion on January 4, 2017. Mr. Crousset appealed the decision regarding his sanction. The Professions Tribunal dismissed the appeal on September 6, 2018.

Martin Lapointe is the same engineer who offered various advantages to Gaétan Lelièvre when he was the town of Gaspé director general. Mr. Lapointe was hoping to obtain contracts from the town of Gaspé.

Kwatrøe Consultant employs about fifteen engineers. It's owned by Breuvages Gaspé (McCallum family), several Kwatrøe engineers and Mr. Crousset.

The Gaspé engineering firm isn't the only firm that has been involved in the false invoicing scheme set up by a former Roche vice-president, André Côté. Engineer Vincent Boulet, former president of Montmagny's engineering firm Noram, was also struck off the Order roll for 20 weeks in 2016. He had participated in the same kind of false invoicing scheme with Roche.



Photo: G. Gagné

Some track maintenance equipment is visible along various parts of the line, like here in Matapédia.

## Railway repairs are progressing

Gilles Gagné

MATAPEDIA: – Since the start of summer, repairs on the railway and assessment duties for bridge upgrade work have progressed at a faster pace on the line between Matapédia and New Carlisle. Some evaluation work has even been carried out between New Carlisle and Gaspé.

So far since July, 20,000 ties have been replaced between Matapédia and New Richmond, as expected in the information released by the Quebec government over the spring.

"Most of the 20,000 ties were installed between Nouvelle and Saint Jules, barring a few exceptions west of Nouvelle, where some ties were also replaced. The Cascapédia-New Richmond stretch remains to be done," points out Luc Lévesque, director general of the Gaspésie Railway Society.

That contract was awarded to a Montreal firm, AB Rail, which has a facility in Tide Head, New Brunswick.

Ballast is currently spread between Matapédia and New Richmond. "It has started. The ballast is supplied by Eurovia and we spread it with our work trains," points out Mr. Lévesque. Eurovia was formerly known as Beau Bassin.

Rails are currently being replaced east of Matapédia, over a stretch of three miles from the beginning of the Cascapédia subdivision. Conventional rails of 78 feet are replaced by continuous welded rails, which go one quarter of a mile without joints.

"The old rails required more maintenance because of their slightly different shape, compared to usual rails," adds Luc Lévesque.

### Work to be carried out east of Caplan

The Quebec government, which acquired the Matapédia to Gaspé line in March 2015, will conduct work east of Caplan for the first time since becoming the owner. Thousands of ties will be replaced between Caplan and New Carlisle this fall. The work is carried out with the Gaspésie Railway Society, the line operator.

"We were supposed to change 20,000 ties there but we will have to settle for fewer because the plants cannot supply enough ties. We expect to change about half of the expected number, so 10,000 this fall," says Mr. Lévesque.

Transport Quebec had decided to put the line east of Caplan in a dormant state upon the acquisition of the Matapédia to Gaspé line three-and-a-half years ago, a decision that proved to be controversial since most of the traffic development since March 2015 originates from that closed part. In May 2015, the Quebec government decided to reopen the line east of Caplan but that will require time.

The Port Daniel cement plant will likely generate more than 1,500 carloads in 2018, a number that can only grow in future years. The windmill blade traffic, which originates from Gaspé-based LM Wind Power plant, will surpass the 1,500 car mark as well this year.

The cement traffic would be higher if the cars could be loaded in Port Daniel as some volume is lost to trucks, like the output delivered to New Brunswick. Cement and windmill blades are brought by truck to New Richmond at a high cost for the clients. Some of the cement is also brought to Nouvelle before being transferred into railcars.

The resumption date of traffic east of Caplan remains

unknown for now but Luc Lévesque says that a lot of work is carried out this fall to assess the state of bridges in many places.

"Things are moving. We know that the Cascapédia-St-Jules bridges will be replaced by a new structure south of the existing bridge. A call for tenders will eventually be published," he says. It might take two years before the new bridges are in place but Mr. Lévesque prefers not to speculate on the time frame.

In Caplan, the Ruisselet bridge could be replaced but it is a much shorter structure than the Cascapédia-St-Jules ones and it can be done in a relatively shorter time frame.

Some work is expected on the Ruisseau Leblanc bridge, at the Caplan and Saint-Siméon limit, and two Port Daniel bridges require some work as well.

East of Port Daniel, most of the work carried out this year consists of assessing certain parts of the line that could need some protection, like places prone to rock slides.

"However, we have reached an agreement with Transport Quebec for the upgrading of the four Highway 132 grade crossings located in Chandler and Grand River," says Luc Lévesque, happy about that outcome.

A financial assessment of all that work will be available at the end of the current year.

The Gaspésie Railway Society is controlled by the municipalities located along the Matapédia to Gaspé line. It lost ownership of the railway following financial difficulties in 2015 but its services were retained as the train operator.

The Gaspésie Railway Society can count on a five-year agreement with Transport Quebec regarding the maintenance of the line, and a \$100M investment program announced in May 2017.



# Ristigouche South East interrupts steps to recoup money from Gastem

Gilles Gagné

**RISTIGOUCHE SOUTH EAST:** – The Municipality of Ristigouche South East will not initiate supplemental steps to recuperate compensation from Gasetem. On February 28, a Superior Court judgement ordered Gastem to give \$164,000 to the town.

That recommendation came from the attorneys of the village because after checking the solvency of Gastem and its president, former Liberal Minister of Mines Raymond Savoie, it became clear that any additional effort to recoup the money would either fail or cost more than \$164,000.

Judge Nicole Tremblay ruled seven months ago that the Ristigouche South East municipal council was right when it adopted in March 2013 a water protection regulation excluding work on the spot that Gastem had selected to drill an exploratory well. That spot was about 100 metres from a water source.

The judge imposed a payment representing 50% of Ristigouche South East's legal fees because, during the trial, the firm had spent too much time trying to prove that it was a good corporate citizen. That was not the purpose of the procedure.

The mayor of Ristigouche South East, François Boulay, says he is extremely disappointed that the municipality will not be able to redistribute the amount designated in the judgement.

"I had had the pleasure to think that we would be able to make gifts. That money was not ours. It belonged to the citizens who had decided to support us," says Mr. Boulay.

The municipal council had decided to donate any surplus to other organizations fighting to protect drinkable water.

During Ristigouche South East's five years of attempting to protect its water sources, the municipality raised \$344,302, thanks to province-wide fundraising. Gastem was seeking compensation of \$1.5 million. That amount represents

almost six times the village's annual budget.

Defence fees finally totalled \$377,958, which leaves the municipal administration with a deficit of \$23,656. Since 2013, the council put aside \$10,000 per year as precautionary reserve. If Gastem had paid the municipality as recommended by the judgement, there would have been approximately \$140,000 left for the water protection cause.

Mayor Boulay is convinced that Gastem didn't spend more than \$400,000, and maybe as low as \$300,000, in the preparation of its Ristigouche South East drilling site, despite claiming \$2 million in the stage that preceded the trial, and \$1.5 million when the trial started.

"There is one major culprit, and it is the provincial government. We were left alone to defend ourselves," he adds, emphasizing that Ristigouche South East only has 157 inhabitants.

He believes that "the government should have paid the bill associated with the lawsuit or could at least have accompanied the village so to avoid sweating for four years the way we did. (...) That lawsuit befell on our head because of the authorization Gastem has received (from the government)," commented Mr. Boulay.

At the outset of a long saga, he comes out of it extremely

proud of the role his village played at the provincial level.

"We contributed to the involvement of municipal competence in water protection. The case of Ristigouche South East is taught in law faculties of Université de Sherbrooke and UQAM (Université du Québec à Montréal). I found the (province-wide) solidarity remarkable. I will never forget that," he says.

François Boulay will never forget either the 2014 Superior Court decision made by Judge Lise Bergeron, who then rejected a Ristigouche South East request to dismiss Gastem's lawsuit. That opened the door to the company. "We would have saved a lot of money and a lot of sweat if she had made the right decision."

He hopes that the laws will be adapted to provide the municipalities with the power to determine themselves the size of the buffer zones between a water source and an exploratory drilling.

"There is also a necessity for the government to legislate in order to force companies to deposit a security amount that can be seized, so to avoid lawsuits initiated by empty shells like Gastem," he concludes.

Mayor Boulay will nevertheless keep an eye on that company if it is to resume any form of corporation activity in the future.

## Police report

On October 3, the second young offender charged with offering an indignity to human remains at the Caplan cemetery vault in May 2018 appeared at the New Carlisle courthouse and informed the court of his intention to plead guilty in his case. The presiding judge put the case over to December 18 and ordered a presentence report for that date. On December 18, Quebec Court Judge André Saint-Pierre will preside in this case, receive the offender's plea of guilty and hear the representations on sentence.

The young offender was 16 years old when the cemetery vault was broken into by two adults and two youths on May 4 and 5. The young offender will be the third person to enter a plea of guilty in that affair. Jean Roy, 19, from Bonaventure entered a plea of guilty on the charges of offering an indignity to human remains and break and enter. He will return to court on December 17 for sentencing. On June 1, the other young offender entered a plea of guilty to an offence of offering an indignity to a corpse and mischief. Taking into account the time spent in a supervised centre pending proceedings, he was sentenced to nine months in a supervised centre.


The second adult, Jérémy Bugeaud-Ferlatte, 25, will return to court in October.



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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**CONDITIONAL USE**

NOTICE is hereby given that the Town Council, at an ordinary meeting that will be held on Monday, November 5, 2018, at 8 pm, will consider the request for conditional use in accordance with the conditional uses by-law, presented by Taxi Porlier for the property situated at 227, York Boulevard West.


The nature of this conditional use :

- To allow the use of Taxi Transportation (4291) in the HC-267 Zone at 227 York Boulevard West.

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

Given at Gaspé, October 10, 2018.

*Isabelle Vézina,*  
The Director of Legal Services and Town Clerk



**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**MINOR EXEMPTION  
FROM URBANISM BY-LAWS**

NOTICE is hereby given that the Town Council, at an ordinary meeting that will be held on November 5, 2018, at 8 pm, will consider the request for minor exemption from the land division By-Law 1157-11, presented by Mr Norbert Dupuis for a property constituted by lots 3 146 699 and 3 409 477, Cadastre du Québec (468, rue des Colibris).

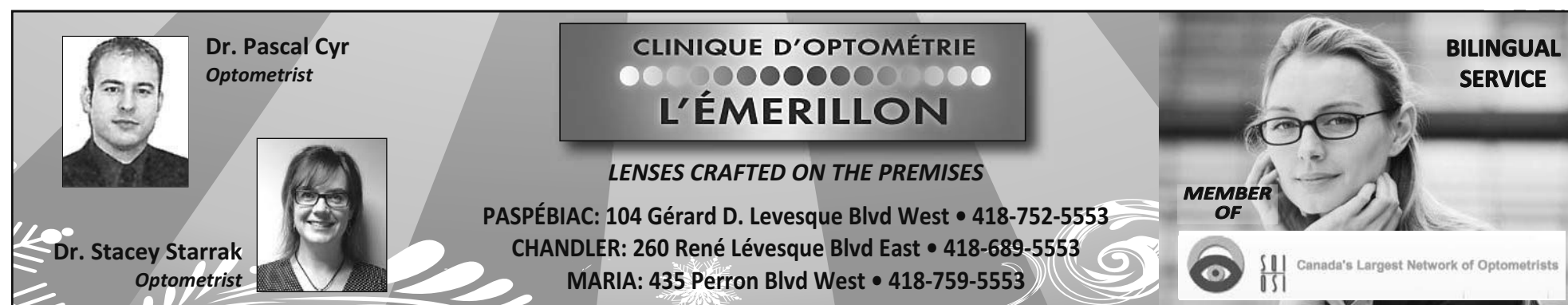
The nature and consequences of this exemption are the following:

- the nature of the minor exemption is the reduction of 1.88 m of the minimal width required by the article 5.3 of the land division By-Law 1157-11;
- the minor exemption will have for consequence to permit the subdivision of a lot with a width of 13.12 m.

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

Given at Gaspé October 10, 2018.

*Isabelle Vézina,*  
The Director of Legal Services and Town Clerk



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## Commentary Gilles Gagné

### Two parties in need of deep reflection

The October 1 election should mark the official beginning of a vast think tank that will likely develop into new versions of the Liberal Party of Québec and the Parti Québécois. Otherwise, both parties will decline at different rates, the PQ being in a more critical situation than the Liberal Party.

Numbers are often misleading but they are not in this case. The support to the Liberal Party decreased from 1,757,071 votes in 2014 to 1,001,148 this year, a decrease of 41.52% to 24.82% between the two elections, a whopping difference of 16.7%.

The Parti Québécois plunge was almost as spectacular, except that combined with the 2014 loss, it adds up to give an abysmal fall. From 25.38% and 1,074,120 votes in 2014, the rate of popular support fell to 17.06% and 687,935 votes on October 1. Considering that it was 1,393,703 votes and 31.95% in 2012, Parti Québécois supporters have serious reasons to be concerned. The number of voters has been cut in half in six years.

The Liberal Party's situation is still mathematically more sound but there are other signs of decline. The number of members only reaches about 20,000, ten times fewer than 20 years ago.

The mobilization capacity that is usually the trademark of the Liberal Party, an electoral bonus in most elections, a factor that usually makes the party fare better than what the polls suggest, didn't materialize this year. It was quite visible at the Liberal Party convention in Bonaventure in June. Despite the presence of a young candidate, François Whittom, the organization didn't include many young people.

Under Jean Charest and Philippe Couillard, the Liberal Party of Quebec had formed governments for 14 of the last 15.5 years. That is a long reign and it probably explains in part the urge for a change expressed by the electorate.

However, the Liberal Party members and the administration would be ill-advised to think that the pendulum will naturally come back and favour them in 2022.

The party symbolized hurting budgetary cuts over the last four-and-a-half years, at least in regions like the Gaspé Peninsula. Overall, the results were poor outside Montreal's West Island. Even a Liberal stronghold like the Outaouais region voted in majority for the Coalition avenir Québec. The Liberal Party was almost obliterated from the Quebec City area, barring one seat.

Moreover, the Liberal Party has not adapted well to some of today's preoccupations, such as environmental matters and new technologies.

Obsessed with the goal of reaching zero-deficit and building a pre-electoral surplus, the Couillard government lost touch with important issues like providing high-speed internet throughout Quebec and improving its environmental record. In that regard, there was a lack of action to complement the words.

The party has also lost contact with the stakes

valued by the French-speaking electorate. Only 17% of French-speaking voters opted for the party represented by Philippe Couillard. In a province made up of almost 85% French-speaking voters, it is a handicap.

Time, however, favours the Liberal Party. Pierre Arcand will fill the interim between now and the selection of a new permanent party leader. Since the next election is four years down the road and since there is a federal election that will mobilize some supporters in 2019, the leadership race might only take place at the beginning of 2020.

That leaves plenty of time to recruit some new blood to go with the members of the current team who will be interested in running in the leadership race, like Dominique Anglade. That influx of new blood is a must. It was one of the party's weaknesses over the last term.

As for the Parti Québécois, its brass must also find a way to recruit new young leaders. The party has the highest number of members in Quebec but most of them are aging baby-boomers. Jean-François Lisée's style was a repellent for young leaders like Alexandre Cloutier, who lost the leadership race two years ago by a very slim margin. The party's inability to leave some room for the next generation was instrumental in the last defeat.

The party, if it is to survive, will have to stop blaming the presence of Québec solidaire as the reason behind poor electoral showings. The CAQ and the Liberal Party are battling to get the vote of centre-right electors, and their leaders are not complaining about the existence of one another. The PQ needs inspiration in order to stay alive, not pity-pat behaviour.



## Penny MacWhirter Publisher

### Does news really matter?

I spent much of last week sending out social media posts regarding the #NEWSMATTERS campaign for National Newspaper Week (October 1-7). For much of that week I wondered if I was the only one that felt like news mattered, as my posts were not garnering the type of interest that I hoped they would.

This lead me to wonder what it would take for society to truly get on the bandwagon and voice their belief that news matters?

According to News Media Canada between 2016 and 2017 the number of Canadian community newspapers decreased from 1060 to 1032. These numbers worry me greatly, because The Gaspé Spec and many other community newspapers in Canada are experiencing financial difficulty. A decrease in advertising revenue, an aging population, along with increased postage and printing costs are making it more and more difficult for them to sur-

vive. Will The Gaspé Spec soon be one of the statistics, a title that is no longer published?

It is a REAL possibility! So, now I ask you the same question over again, does news really matter? I encourage you to take a moment to reflect, upon how would it impact your life if your community newspaper was no longer available?

I've spent a great deal of time asking myself that exact same question and I must say that as an anglophone I'm quite concerned. The anglo Gaspesian community covers a large territory but we tend to view ourselves as one large community. Losing a major link that keeps us connected will be a great loss for all of us.

Did you know that 63% of Canadians can't tell the difference between legitimate and fake news? Your community newspaper still has a vital role to play and is especially important when it is an English language minority paper.

#### There are many ways you can help keep journalism and your community paper alive:

- 1) Purchase a subscription to your community newspaper and encourage those in your circle not to share but to instead support Spec by buying their own copy
- 2) Give a subscription of your community newspaper for a birthday, Christmas or wedding gift.
- 3) Tell your political representatives that NEWS-MATTERS, especially when it comes to your community newspaper.
- 4) If you are an educator, encourage your students to get to know their community newspaper.
- 5) Make a donation to The Gaspé Spec. We are a non-profit organization.

**News does matter, now more than ever!**

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# A Gaspesian Connection

Diane Skinner

ONTARIO: - Gaspesians are loyal to their roots. Whether they live here on the Coast or live “away” the true Gaspesian always refers to this land as “home or down home.” The people of the Gaspé live all over the world. The places where the Gaspé Spec newspaper reaches weekly are far-flung. We are a diaspora, which is a group of people who have settled far from their ancestral home. We have and always remain connected and loyal to this beautiful peninsula.

Recently Sharon Campbell-Springstead contacted the Spec newspaper to relate a story about her father and another Spec reader who met because they are both Spec subscribers, from the Gaspé originally and terrific human beings.

She told Spec that Mr. Dave Journeaux stopped by to see her dad, Mr. Lawrence Campbell. Sharon recounts that on that beautiful late summer evening her dad was sitting on the front porch. Mr. Journeaux announced himself by saying “Hello, I’m the mailman.” It seems that two copies of the Gaspé Spec had become stuck together and Mr. Journeaux had received Mr. Campbell’s copy of the Spec. As many might have done Mr. Journeaux did not toss the paper in the garbage but got in his car to deliver the paper to its rightful recipient. Keep in mind that the



Photo: Sharon Campbell-Springstead

*Mr. David Journeaux meeting Mr. Lawrence Campbell after Mr. Journeaux delivered a copy of Spec to Mr. Campbell.*

two gentlemen did not know each other before this evening. Mr. Journeaux said he delivered the Spec newspaper to Mr. Campbell because he never misses an opportunity to meet people from the Gaspé coast.

The gentlemen sat and talked about the beauty of the coast, the places they remem-

bered and people that they both knew. Mr. Journeaux and Mr. Campbell’s meeting seems like a small moment, but it says a lot about the two men and the strength of the Gaspesian connection.

Mr. Lawrence Campbell was born in Maria in 1925. He was the youngest boy in a family of six children and his

childhood home still stands in Maria. He left home at 15 years of age to live and work in Montreal for a number of years. He married Mary Carroll in 1952. Mary was also from Maria and was his closest neighbour. They had 4 children and when Mary passed away and he retired, Mr. Campbell moved to Hamilton, Ontario. He is the only surviving member of his immediate family and lives independently. He still has family and friends who live in Maria and on the Gaspé coast. He returns periodically for visits.

Mr. Journeaux grew up a little further east on the Peninsula in Port Daniel. He is the son of Lorne Journeaux and Sarah McPherson. They lived on the “point” and there were seven children in the family. Only two are still living – his sister Sandra Henderson who lives in the Yukon and Mr. Journeaux. His aunt is the amazing Hazel McCallion, retired mayor of Mississauga who is now 97 years of age.

Mr. Journeaux lived in Murdochville and then at the age of 19 he moved to Burlington, Ontario. He married Joan Alexander, from Sandy Beach and they have been married for 55 years and have three children. Mr. Journeaux and his wife Joan have lots of very good memories of growing up on the Coast. They try to visit in the summer to see friends, cousins and other family members. He states that he still refers to the Gaspé as “home”.

Both Mr. Journeaux and Mr. Campbell read the Spec faithfully and say that they love to keep up with news and local happenings in the Spec. Sharon Campbell-Springstead, Mr. Campbell’s daughter, says, “I think my Dad is very proud of his roots in the Gaspé and has always wanted to remain connected to his childhood home.” The Spec newspaper provides this connection for many Gaspesian readers.

A newspaper is important to a community, whether they live beside each other or not. Newspaper readership is in decline all over the globe and this is regrettable, but they continue to be the best way of understanding what is happening in any community. There are other ways to get news, but a newspaper can go into more detail and may be more accurate and reflective of the community than Twitter, Facebook or online news briefs. Further added to this the fact that anglophones are a linguistic minority with uniquely different perspectives on their communities. The Gaspé Spec fills an important role for Gaspesians who live here or away. It keeps us connected.

The meeting of Mr. Campbell and Mr. Journeaux on a late summer’s evening is a lovely example of the importance of staying connected to others. The connection that people from the Gaspé have make this big old world feel like a small village.

## Alzheimer’s Society implements new program

Gilles Gagné

BONAVENTURE: – The Alzheimer’s Society of the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands is implementing a new program in the Bonaventure area, BrainHQ, which consists of stimulating people’s brain in order to keep it sharp, and to prevent Alzheimer’s disease.

It is a pilot project for now, as the Bonaventure office of the Alzheimer’s Society is the only regional branch with the funding to set up BrainHQ, following a \$14,000 donation from *Services ambulanciers de la Baie*, the paramedic service of the area.

“We have formed a group of five people in Bonaventure. We are offering ten workshops. We start with the pro-

motion of healthy habits, including physical activities and the Mediterranean diet (rich in nuts and olive oil) before switching to brain exercises,” explains Louise Dupuis, the employee from the Alzheimer’s Society who is offering the BrainHQ training in Bonaventure.

BrainHQ has already been adopted in many parts of the world. Up to 50 scientists have either developed the program or studied its benefits, which take the form of increased attention, memory and mobility.

Online, it is described as people’s “gymnasium where, instead of working out your deltoids, abdominals, and quadriceps, you exercise your memory, brain speed, attention, intelligence, people

skills, and navigation skills. BrainHQ brain-training program provides you with the exercise your brain requires in order to be at its sharpest.”

“Turning brain training into a way of life keeps the neurons active and even helps the creation of new neurons. It is proven that even at an advanced age, the brain can produce new neurons. The brain can still be trained late in life and it slows down its deterioration,” adds Louise Dupuis.

The Alzheimer’s Society of the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands integrated another program several years ago, *Music and memory*, that was a great success. BrainHQ is a little different.

“This time around, we are not in a curative mode, we are in a prevention mode,” em-

phasizes Louise Dupuis. Another group of five participants will be formed over the winter. The service could also be provided in English if a group shows up after the winter session.

The Alzheimer’s Society of the region has six branches and 13 fulltime and part time employees.

“There are 2,090 people suffering from neuro-cognitive problems in the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands,” points out Bernard Babin, coordinator of the Alzheimer’s Society for the region.

In Quebec, 140,000 people suffer from Alzheimer’s disease, a number that is expected to double in the next 15 years.

The organization provides

direct support to 387 caregivers and 223 people suffering from the disease. It receives \$430,000 annually from the Health and Social Service Centre, and raises about \$150,000 every year in May from the Alzheimer’s Memory Walk. Other smaller fund-raising events bring the Alzheimer’s Society’s annual budget up to a bit over \$600,000 in the region.

“Our goal is to reach \$720,000. Currently, our staff members work between 14 and 28 hours a week. Our intervention needs require full time jobs,” explains Mr. Babin.







# unting season has arrived!

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## Gaspésie Literacy Council AGM

Jeanie LeLacheur

DOUGLASTOWN: - Long time coordinator, Gary Briand lead the 2018 Literacy Council annual general meeting and handed over the reins to the new coordinator Cheryl Henry Leggo. Mr. Briand will, however, remain with the council but hold a different title. More than 20 people attended the meeting. Alfred Cassidy stepped down as treasurer during the meeting. Many thanks are extended for their years of dedicated service.

Although the Council has many success stories, the best is, without a doubt, the grandmother from the North Shore who had her two granddaughters leaving for college and had no way of keeping in touch with them. So the GLC bought her a computer, sent it over with a tutor, and taught her how to use it so she could keep that important family bond across the miles.

Those interested in the GLC and its services are invited to drop by its new location in the basement of the Douglastown Community Centre. Entry is by the west door and visitors are asked to call ahead at 418-368-5611 to make sure someone will be available to provide a tour and explain the available resources.

Details concerning the newly elected board of directors, as well as long and short term objectives, will be the subject of a future article.



Photo: J. LeLacheur

Alfred Cassidy received a token of appreciation for his 30 plus years as treasurer. It was presented by Cheryl Henry Leggo, the new coordinator, with Gary Briand and Bob Wolfe (seated).

## Terry Fox Day in Gaspé

Nellis Rebel, The Terry Fox Run Organizer in Gaspé

GASPÉ: - Another very successful Terry Fox Run Day was held in Gaspé on September 16. Participants walked, jogged, and biked along the bicycle path in Sandy Beach.

The gross amount collected was \$4,300, which will go towards cancer research. The event was successful due to everyone who collected money and made donations, especially Clarence Lemieux from Barachois, who went door to door and collected \$2,200. As usual the community has shown great generosity towards the Terry Fox campaign.

## Our community, our heritage

NEW CARLISLE: - Family Ties is happy to announce the launch of a new community based project entitled "Our Community, Our Heritage" which is funded by Canadian Heritage.

The project "Our Community, Our Heritage" was created to increase the sense of belonging and community pride of local citizens. The community will learn about local heritage through the creation of eight panels which will line the boardwalk on the beach in New Carlisle. Each panel will focus on an important time, person or location. The panels will display New Carlisle's rich history and roots.

The focal point of each panel will be decided by the citizens of New Carlisle through the establishment of eight focus groups, including one for newcomers. Each group will meet once a week for six weeks and discuss the town's history, their own heritage, links to the community and as a result gain pride in their roots as anglophones in New Carlisle.

The goal is that participants from all age groups will research significant contributions made by anglophones and create links between the present and the past. Once the panels have been installed along the boardwalk, there will be an unveiling ceremony when the community will be invited to view the panels.

Anyone interested in participating in the project can contact Brittanyflowers@hotmail.com or call 418-752-7265.



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## Forillon National Park's Projects at a Glance



Forillon  
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Since 2009, Forillon National Park has invested nearly \$90 million to protect and promote natural and cultural treasures. There will be several new and ongoing investment projects in Forillon National Park this fall. The projects aim to restore the ecosystems, improve the infrastructures, and refresh the visitor experience.

### RESTORATION OF CAP-DES-ROSIERS BEACH

This innovative project allows the local community and visitors to enjoy a healthy, vibrant coastline and exciting experiences.

- Installation of interpretive panels • Beach replenishment

Inauguration: Summer 2019

### REFURBISHMENT OF CAP-DES-ROSIERS HARBOUR

This is a major ongoing project to renovate and the renewal of the infrastructures.

- Construction of the south jetty • Renovation of the fishermen's building

End of work scheduled for: Summer 2019

### REFURBISHMENT OF THE INTERPRETIVE CENTRE INTO AN INFORMATION AND DISCOVERY CENTRE

In order to optimize information services and enhance the visitor experience, the information and discovery centre will be a hub in the north sector for activities and services.

- Renovation, expansion, and reconfiguration of the centre

End of work scheduled for: Fall 2019

### REFURBISHMENT OF THE CAMPING SERVICES BUILDING

The four service buildings at the Des Rosiers campground will be completely renovated to enhance the comfort of the campers.

- The building exteriors and interiors will be refurbished, including the roofs, sidings, doors, windows, porches, toilets, and showers.

End of work scheduled for: Summer 2019

### RECONSTRUCTION OF THE CAP-BON-AMI STAIRCASE

Cap-Bon-Ami and its pebble beach are a favourite among visitors of Forillon National Park. To ensure the safety of visitors, the staircase leading down to the beach will be rebuilt.

End of work scheduled for: Spring 2019

### RESTORATION OF JOSEPH-GAVEY HOUSE

Work will be done to preserve this heritage building of great value.

- Repairs to the foundation • Stabilization and reinforcement of the structure

End of work scheduled for: Spring 2019

### RESTORATION OF GRANDE-GRAVE WHARF

Witness of the days when cod fishing was the driving economic force in the region, Grande-Grave wharf is the boarding zone for a variety of nautical and business activities and a gathering place.

- Restoration of the east jetty

End of work scheduled for: Fall 2018

### RESTORATION OF THE BLANCHETTE BUILDINGS

The Blanchette buildings (house, barn, and cod shed), an iconic Forillon site, are getting shipshape.

- Restoration and reinstallation of artifacts

End of work scheduled for: Spring 2019

### ROAD WORKS

A culvert located between l'Anse-aux-Amérindiens and l'Anse-Saint-Georges will be replaced to increase the visitor safety.

End of work scheduled for: Fall 2019

### RECONSTRUCTION OF THE OPERATIONAL CENTRE

The operational centre will be reconstructed to improve operational and energy efficiency and provide secure access.

End of work scheduled for: 2021

Forillon National Park is committed to minimizing the impact of the work on visitors. Nevertheless, there may be noise, dust, and traffic obstructions near the worksites. Our team would like to thank the public for its comprehension during the completion of those projects.

We invite you to contact us for more information on the projects.  
regaspe@pc.gc.ca - 418 368-5505 - pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/qc/forillon



Canada

# Announcements...



## In Memory

### LEMIEUX: Sydney

In loving memory of a husband, father and grandfather who passed away October 2, 2001.

*Remembering you is easy. We do it every day.*

*Missing you is a heartache that never goes away.*

Loved and missed always by Sarah, Wayne, Linda, Gloria, Jason, Laura, Nicole and Kay.



In loving memory of those we lost so suddenly ten years ago:

**RENOUF: Charlene** (Nov. 19, 1978 - Oct. 12, 2008) our daughter, step-daughter and sister, loved and forever in our hearts and on our minds by Mom, Darin, Adam (Melody, Gideon, Sybil, Nathaniel and Calab) and Christopher (Bethany and Benjamin)

**BENWELL: Rebekah** (Oct. 4, 2001 - Oct. 12, 2008) our granddaughter and niece, cherished and dearly missed by Grandma, Grandpa, Uncle Adam (Melody, Gideon, Sybil, Nathaniel and Caleb) and Uncle Christopher (Bethany and Benjamin).

*Ones precious to our hearts have gone.*

*The voices we loved are stilled.*

*The places made vacant in our home*

*Can never more be filled.*

*Our Father in His wisdom called*

*The ones His love had given,*

*And so on earth their bodies lie,*

*Their souls are safe in Heaven.*

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**RENOUF: Charlene Ada** (Nov. 19, 1978 - Oct. 12, 2008)

**BENWELL Rebekah Joan** (Oct. 4, 2001 - Oct. 12, 2008)

In loving memory of two precious girls who left us so suddenly in a tragic accident on Thanksgiving, Oct. 12, 2008. Granddaughter Charlene Ada, age 29, and great-granddaughter Rebekah Joan, age 7.

*They went away without farewell.*

*They said good-bye to none,*

*But Heaven's gate was open wide*

*And a loving voice said "Come".*

*Beside their graves we often stand*

*Our hearts are tired and sore.*

*But through the gloom*

*There come the words*

*"Not dead" just gone before.*

*We who loved you, sadly miss you,*

*As it dawns another year.*

*In our lonely hours of thinking*

*Thoughts of you are always near.*

I will always love and remember you both. Till we meet again. Love, Nana (Pearl)

**RENOUF: Charlene Ada** (Nov. 19, 1978 - Oct. 12, 2008)

**BENWELL: Rebekah Joan** (Oct. 4, 2001 - Oct. 12, 2008)

*Ten years have passed since that sad day,*

*When the ones we loved were called away.*

*God took them home. It was his will,*

*But in our hearts they liveth still.*

*The years may wipe out many things,*

*But this they'll wipe out never -*

*The memory of those happy days,*

*Which we had spent together.*

*We who loved them sadly miss them*

*As it dawns another year.*

*In our lonely hours of thinking,*

*Thoughts of them are always near.*

*The years are quickly passing*

*Though still we can't forget,*

*For in the hearts that loved them,*

*Their memories linger yet.*

Always loved and never will be forgotten, Aunt Brenda, Uncle Donald, Steven (Jessica) and Gregory Renouf.

### RENOUF - BENWELL

Ten years ago on October 12, 2008, our hearts were broken with the sudden death of our beloved daughter Charlene and our beloved granddaughter Rebekah who died accidentally. We cherish their memories.

*Nothing can take away*

*The love our hearts hold dear.*

*Fond memories linger every day.*

*Remembrance keeps them near.*

*Not dead to us who loved them,*

*Not lost, but gone before,*

*They live with us in memory*

*And will forever more.*

Lovingly remembered, sadly missed, no one can take your place, Da (Billy), stepmom (Micheline) xoxoxoxoxo


### RENOUF - BENWELL

In loving memory of my granddaughter Charlene and great-granddaughter Rebekah who died accidentally on October 12, 2008.

*Gone but not forgotten.*

*We will always remember your beautiful smiles.*

Miss you, Na Dorais and family xoxoxoxo



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**Looking For:** If you have gently used fitness equipment which you would like to donate to the Barachois Recreation Centre, please contact: Patricia Ste Croix Annett, 418-645-3779, Erica DeVouge, 418-783-2293 or Helen Lucas, 418-782-4049.

**Wanted:** Small parcel of land in the New Carlisle area, or a woodlot. Call Carol at 705-471-0641.

**For Sale:** Four winter tires - 265-70-17 - used one winter, very low mileage. Asking \$550. Call: 418-752-6041

## COAST ROUND-UP

### BARACHOIS:

#### Legion Branch 261

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

### BARACHOIS:

#### Barachois Rec. Centre

We invite you to join our walking club, "Making Strides," on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings beginning at 9 a.m., leaving from the Barachois Recreation Centre, followed by tea/coffee social.

### PORT DANIEL:

#### St. James Anglican Church

Sunday School for all school aged children beginning at 10 a.m. at St. James Anglican Church, Port Daniel. Children of pre-school age must be accompanied by an adult. For more information please contact Stephen Dow at 418-396-3424.

### SHIGAWAKE:

#### Community Center

**October 26:** Halloween event for children, from 4:30 to 6 p.m., followed by a teen dance from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Snacks will be provided.

**October 27:** Halloween Dance

beginning at 8 p.m. \$12 per person.

**November 10:** Christmas Tea from noon till 3 p.m. \$7 per person.

**December 3:** Christmas gift bingo.

**December 10:** Christmas bake sale, tables available \$10.

### HOPE TOWN:

#### Hope Baptist Church 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. on Wednesdays. Young Peoples for grades 7-11 at 7 p.m. on Fridays. 305 Route 132 West, Hope Town, 418-752-5838.

### HOPE TOWN:

#### Community Center

**October 13:** Military Whist. Beginning at 8 p.m.

**October 19:** Gift Bingo beginning at 7:30 p.m. \$10 per series or 3 for \$20. Organized by the Hope Town Sports Club. All proceeds will be going to the Hayes Bursary Fund for continuing education. Anyone interested in donating a gift for the bingo please contact Linda MacWhirter at 418-752-2015.

### HOPE TOWN:

#### United Church Women

Hope Town UCW Tea and Bake Sale will be held on **November 3** from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Hope Town Community Center. Tea \$7.

### 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:

#### St. Andrew's Anglican Church

**October 20:** Annual harvest supper. Adults \$12, children 10 and under \$6. **Takeouts from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.** Supper from 4:30 to 6 p.m.

### NEW CARLISLE:

#### Life Association

**October 20:** Bingo beginning at 7 p.m. at The Royal Canadian Legion in New Carlisle. \$10 per series or 3 for \$20.

**November 17:** Fall tea from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the New Carlisle Town Hall. \$6 per person.

### NEW CARLISLE:

#### Heritage New Carlisle

Rug Hooking on **October 13-14** and **27-28** (two week-ends.) Learn a new skill in a pleasant environment. The artisan Mary James will share her passion and expertise in this traditional skill. Take home your finished product. Each participant will receive enough material for a 10" by 10" mat, including frame. \$30 per person. To register contact heritagenc@globetrotter.net, call 418-752-1334 or facebook.

### 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:

#### Royal Canadian Legion

**October 23:** Wise and wonderful game nights for seniors 55 years and older. From 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Everyone welcome. Free. Light lunch served.

**November 3:** Annual winter bazaar from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. crafts, baking, etc. \$5 per table. To reserve please call 418-752-6799 or 418-752-5495.

**November 11:** The November 11th ceremonies will be held at the New Carlisle High School

gymnasium at 11 a.m. Parade leaving NCHS at 10:30 a.m.

**December 1:** Annual Christmas bingo beginning at 7 p.m. \$10 a series or \$20 for three series. Bring a dabber and a friend. All welcome.

### NEW CARLISLE:

#### Shoebboxes for sailors

Shoobox gifts are handed out to over 1,000 seafarers in ports around Quebec every Christmas season. These gifts of toiletries, socks, toques, gloves, scarves and stationary are received with great appreciation. Please get your shoebboxes ready and deliver them to the Spec office in New Carlisle before **October 27**.

### NEW RICHMOND:

#### St. Andrew's United Church

**October 27:** Turkey Supper at St. Andrews United Church hall from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Takeouts from 4 to 5 p.m. only. For takeouts please contact Judy Willett at 418-392-4633 or Joyce Munro at 418-759-3534. \$13 per adult, children \$7.

### NEW RICHMOND:

#### Flea Market

New clothing has arrived, \$1 each. 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 **Fridays** and **Saturdays** from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 248 Perron Blvd, New Richmond.

### CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

#### Royal Canadian Legion Br. 172

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



### CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES: 50+ Club

**Every Thursday:** Dame de Pique at 1 p.m. \$5 per person.

### GESGAPEGIAG:

#### N.A. Meetings

N.A. Meetings held every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Mawiomi Treatment Centre, located at 85 School Street in Gesgapegiag. Everyone welcome! For more information call 418-759-3522.

### ROTARY CLUB WINNERS

**The winners for the week of September 30 are:** David Dow, Stanley & Barbara Harrison, Danielle Gallant, Monique Cyr, Diane Loubert, Yves Porlier, Michael Casey.

## BLANKET CLASSIFIEDS

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### UNITED CHURCH

**Sunday, October 14**  
10:30 a.m. Hope Town

## ANGLIGAN CHURCH OF CANADA

### Sunday, October 14

#### New Carlisle

11 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
**Hope Town**  
11 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
**Port Daniel**  
9 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
(Sunday School 10 a.m.)

### PARISH OF GASPÉ Sunday, October 14

#### Sandy Beach

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

**DEADLINE FOR THIS PAGE: THURSDAY AT 4 P.M.**

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



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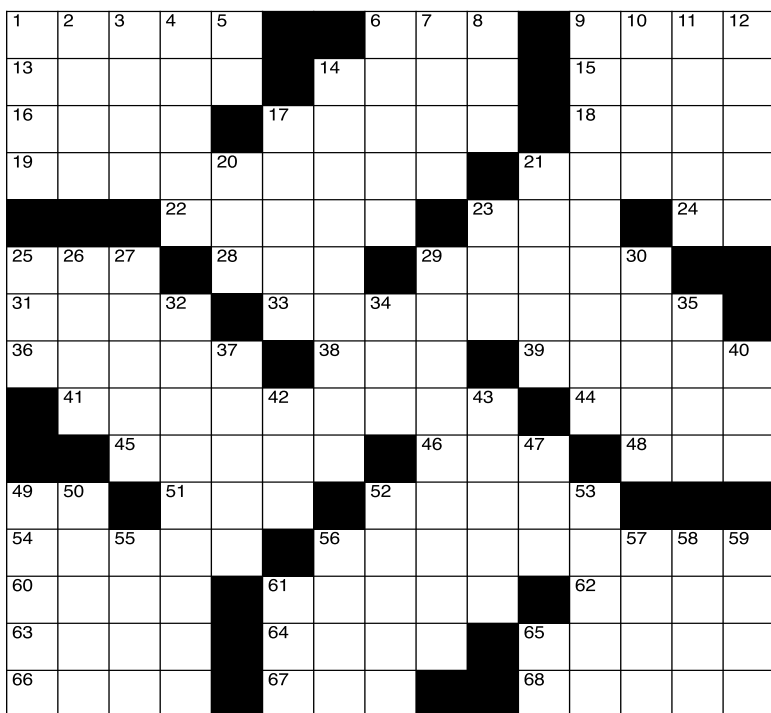




# On the lighter side...



## CROSSWORDS

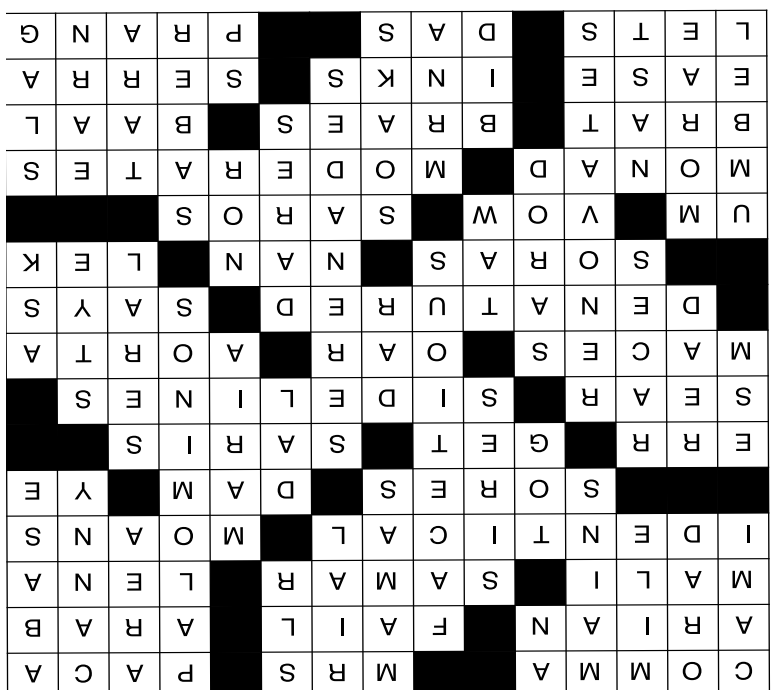


### CLUES ACROSS

1. Punctuation mark
6. Married woman
9. Nocturnal rodent
13. Suffix
14. A way to disappoint
15. Saddle horse
16. West African country
17. Philippine island
18. "Girls" creator Dunham
19. A type of twin
21. Groans
22. Infections
23. What a beaver makes
24. Thou
25. Make a mistake
28. Receive
29. Dresses
31. Burn the surface of
33. Where coaches observe
36. Ceremonial offices
38. Paddle
39. The body's main artery
41. Altered the original state
44. Alleges
45. Short-billed rails
46. Northern Thai province
48. Albanian monetary unit
49. Who the Wolverines play for
51. Oath
52. Astronomical period
54. A single unit
56. Presides over
60. Spoiled tot
61. Hillsides
62. Fertility god
63. Assuage
64. Signs a contract
65. Ancient Greek war dance
66. Allows
67. Lunar crater
68. Crash a motorcycle (Brit. slang)

### CLUES DOWN

1. Loose-fitting undergarment
2. Western Roman city
3. Unit of length
4. Type of electricity
5. Article
6. Mothers
7. Monetary unit
8. Single Lens Reflex
9. Tan-colored horses
10. Region
11. Cautious in spending money
12. Belittle
14. Sarcastic
17. Fathers
20. Clothes
21. Opera's Callas
23. Lentil dish
25. Energy-saving module
26. Make sense of a language
27. Hurries through
29. Songs to one's lover
30. Name given to plant groups
32. Improves
34. Patriotic women
35. Inflamed swelling on the eyelid
37. Instrument in Indian music
40. Request
42. Make into leather without using tannin
43. Defies
47. Neither
49. Flower cluster
50. Phonological unit
52. Leaves in water
53. Cavalry-sword
55. Famed American cartoonist
56. Messenger ribonucleic acid
57. Scarlett's home
58. Make
59. Stony waste matter
61. What to do at auction
65. Incorrect letters



**CANADA**

**HISTORY**

2016

THE FIRST CASE OF THE ZIKA VIRUS IS REPORTED IN CANADA. THE VIRUS WAS CONTRACTED BY TRAVELERS WHO VISITED AFFECTED AREAS.

### Driftwood treasures...

On the Gaspé we have an abundance of driftwood. Why not take something that has no use and make something artistic and beautiful for our homes...

### RECYCLE REPURPOSE REUSE

LOOK WHAT YOU CAN CREATE WITH USED WOOD PALLETS.

**AARIES** – Mar 21/Apr 20  
The planets will bring significant changes and breakthroughs over the next several days, Aries. Even last-minute disruptions can't derail your success.

**TAURUS** – Apr 21/May 21  
Taurus, this will be a potent week for you, as you will be called upon to solidify and strengthen others. Help individuals find the power of their purpose.

**GEMINI** – May 22/June 21  
Try stretching yourself creatively, Gemini. The results can be surprising when you think outside of the box and leave your comfort zone. With confidence, you can succeed.

**CANCER** – June 22/July 22  
Cancer, be more thorough with your communications because someone might miss the memo if you do not get the point across effectively. You don't want to repeat and follow up.

**LEO** – July 23/Aug 23  
Leo, some sunny days are ahead. Make the most of the positive situations you find yourself in, and don't hesitate to share your good fortune with others.

## HOROSCOPES

**VIRGO** – Aug 24/Sept 22  
Focus on the significance of an important task that comes your way this week, Virgo. There is meaning behind this work, and you must discover it.

**LIBRA** – Sept 23/Oct 23  
Mischief makers are in full force, Libra. You aren't quite sure if you are ready to jump into the frivolity this week. Keep your space until you decide how to proceed.

**SCORPIO** – Oct 24/Nov 22  
Scorpio, be honest with yourself and others when prompted for feedback. Your honesty will be a feather in your cap, and others will appreciate your straightforward approach.

**SAGITTARIUS** – Nov 23/Dec 21  
Sagittarius, important shifts and movements this week can turn everything you have been working toward on its head. Remain calm and patient to see things through.

**CAPRICORN** – Dec 22/Jan 20  
Unforeseen circumstances leave you feeling a bit weary, Capricorn.

You should cling to someone who has his or her feet firmly planted on the ground for support.

**AQUARIUS** – Jan 21/Feb 18  
Aquarius, build more bridges that give you access to influence. This will help you see plans through at work, and this success will spill over into your personal life.

**PISCES** – Feb 19/Mar 20  
Pisces, explosive energy can come your way if you are willing and able to welcome it. Others may be inspired by what you accomplish.

- ### FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS
- OCTOBER 7**  
Toni Braxton, Singer (51)
- OCTOBER 8**  
Bruno Mars, Singer (33)
- OCTOBER 9**  
Bella Hadid, Model (22)
- OCTOBER 10**  
Dale Earnhardt, Jr., Athlete (44)
- OCTOBER 11**  
Matt Bomer, Actor (41)
- OCTOBER 12**  
Tyler Blackburn, Actor (32)
- OCTOBER 13**  
Kate Walsh, Actress (51)



# Spectacular sights at Wood Cord Festival

Gilles Gagné

MATAPEDIA: – A simple idea can sometimes lead to amazing things. This is what happened in the Matapedia and Plateaux area. The population decided to embark on an interesting initiative, cording wood to create spectacular shapes.

The idea had been in the works for quite a while and organizers were not disappointed with the community's enthusiasm. Many families from the five villages of Matapedia, Saint-André-de-Restigouche, Saint-Alexis, Saint-François and l'Ascension-de-Patapédia participated in what can be called the "wood cord scenic route."

"It exceeds our expectations. We counted 141 families participating with wood cords, representing all kinds of objects and situations," says Sylvie Gallant, of Saint-Alexis. She was in charge of communications for the *Festival des cordes de bois* while her sister Jocelyne coordinated the event.

"We were not expecting so many wood cord sculptures, as I call them. We were not expecting so many visitors either. At one point, a week ago, it required people to manage traffic in some villages, as hundreds of visitors were coming to see the wood cords, and stopping everywhere with their cars, sometimes abruptly," she says.

Officially, the festival was held on September 21, 22 and 23 but it had started almost a month prior to that weekend and most people have left their wood cord creations up, for the moose and deer hunting season.

"We have always wanted to convince people to leave Highway 132 and come up here. We might have found a way. The event also brought some pride to the people of our villages. It showed them that we are able to organize something together, and have success," explains Sylvie Gallant.

The event brought coverage from Quebec-wide media. On September 21, the passengers of a Murray Hill bus coming from Montreal asked the driver to make the detour through the Plateaux area in order to see the wood cords.

The Wood Cord Festival will undoubtedly return in 2019, says Sylvie Gallant. "We have tons of ideas to keep it going."



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