

LORAM rail grinding train spends two weeks improving tracks

Gilles Gagné

MATAPEDIA: – On November 12, a LORAM train, a rail grinder composed of two units started a series of maintenance tasks on the railway between Matapedia and New Richmond. The grinders remove irregularities on rails in order to improve their durability.

LORAM is a company based in the United States that operates many rail grinding units. Some LORAM trains are made of up to ten units, sometimes more. It is a technique that has been used since the beginning of the 20th century.

However, it is the first time rail grinding has been used in the Gaspé Peninsula in at least 35 years, maybe the first time ever.

“I have asked all our experienced track guys if they remember seeing it on our line and they are adamant that they have not (witnessed its presence). However, they have seen it occasionally on CN’s Mont-Joli subdivision,” points out Luc Lévesque, director general of the Gaspésie Railway Society, referring to the railroad linking Campbellton to Mont-Joli.

The presence of the LORAM train will cost in the vicinity of \$300,000 to the transporter but it is worth the amount, he says. It will be paid by the \$2.5 million annual envelope the Gaspésie Railway Society receives from Transport Quebec for the maintenance of the Matapedia to Gaspé line.

“It is a good example of the use of that money for a type of intervention that allows us to make corrections on the line and take preventive measures that will reduce future corrections,” explains Luc Lévesque.

“Rail grinding allows the interaction between the wheel and the rail to take place as it is designed for. The wheels are always supposed to roll on the rails with a very slight left to



Photo: G. Gagné

The LORAM rail grinding train was active in the Thibodeau curve in Carleton on the early morning of November 24. The sparks are visible under the first unit of the train.

right movement. The wheel is not supposed to pass constantly at the place on the rail. After a while, it does pass at the same place though and it creates small bumps on the inside part of the rail. It is called corrugation. Those little bumps spread along the length of the rail if they are not corrected. We have to change rails more often because of corrugation. If we correct corrugation with rail grinding, we diminish wear and maintenance costs. Rail grinding is the heart of a good preventive program for a railway,” explains Luc Lévesque.

“We could apply that prin-

ciple to automobiles. When a car is not properly aligned, the tires get worn out very fast,” he adds.

The layer of steel taken off by the LORAM train rail grinders is very thin. “In some of the Pointe-à-la-Garde curves for example, the train’s grinders are supposed to pass between 30 to 40 times to take a couple of millimetres off. Once the LORAM train has worked on a line, the noise and friction are reduced,” says Mr. Lévesque.

The LORAM train had filled a contract in another part of Quebec before being sent to the Gaspé Peninsula.

“They don’t fill calls for tenders. You take it when you hear that they are passing somewhere near your line. We would sure take it again when the line will be open east of Caplan, in 2020-2021,” says Luc Lévesque.

The line east of Caplan has not been in operation since 2015 by Transport Quebec, after acquiring the Matapedia to Gaspé line that year.

Transport Quebec had likely decided to eventually tear up the tracks but foreseeable sources of freight traffic materialized in 2016 as Gaspé’s LM Wind Power started using the railway to

ship all of its windmill blade production to the United States. McInnis Cement also signed its first transportation agreement in December of that year with the Gaspésie Railway Society for the hauling of cement produced at the Port Daniel plant.

For now, the windmill blades are trucked to New Richmond, where they are transferred to rail cars. In the case of cement, the loads transferred to railcars have to be divided between New Richmond and Nouvelle in order to deal with the bearing capacity of two bridges located in Caspédia-St-Jules.

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Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé is finally being heard

Thierry Haroun

SAINTE-THÉRÈSE-DE-GASPÉ: The saga surrounding the Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé fishing harbour may soon end. On November 16 Federal Minister, Diane Lebovillier, announced that the federal government would be investing in the harbour infrastructure in order to ensure the security of the boats entering the harbour.

The Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé wharf, located between Percé and Grand River has been of serious concern since 2016. The work on the infrastructure that was then conducted by Fisheries and Oceans Canada in the fall of 2016 has been putting the security of the fishermen in danger. The Ministry invested some \$6.5 million to redo the infrastructure, mainly the entrance of the wharf (*chenail d'entrée*) and that's where the problem was and still is. The former mayor, Léo Lelièvre, had explained to Spec back in November 2016 that there was a problem created by the infrastructure work. "The work, in my opinion, didn't take into account the needs of our fishermen. They didn't consult the fishermen and now we're faced with a serious problem given that the entrance of the wharf is shorter than it was. As a result, when there's a South-East wind the boats can't get to the wharf. All summer, when that happened the boats had to go to the Grand River wharf to unload their catch (mainly crab and lobster). The situation is very serious and something has to be done quickly, it's about the security of our men on the water!" Spec had also reached Percé Rock MRC Prefect, Nadia Minassian, who had precisely the same opinion as the mayor. "This is very serious. It's about the security of the men and a question of economic development. This harbour's activity has major economic spinoffs in our MRC with more than 60 fishermen and processing activities attached to it."

Putting pressure

Since then, these elected representatives and the current mayor, Roberto Blondin, have been putting pressure on Ottawa to reinvest and redo the work to ensure the security of the fishermen. That message was heard loud and clear by the Liberal government and Fisheries and Oceans Canada as Minister Diane Lebovillier confirmed on November 16, in Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé that work will be done to settle the problem. "It will consist in extending the entrance and doing some other work around the wharf," confirmed Mayor Roberto Blondin by phone. "This is a major announcement because the fishermen had to go to Grand River to drop their load when the wind wasn't right and these are costs and loss of money for our wharf. One must understand that this wharf is at the heart of our economy, and the heart of the Town's economic development. The fisheries sector in my town employs 1000 people including those who work on boats and those who work in fish processing plants (Lelièvre, Lelièvre et Lemoignan and E. Gagnon et Fils)," added the mayor.

He emphasized that the call for tender will be published in approximately three weeks and the work should start this summer. "We have been heard and I would like to thank Minister Diane Lebovillier."

Other investments

This said, Minister Lebovillier announced on November 16 that her government was investing \$16M in small harbours across the province and that \$14.2M will be invested in the Gaspé (including Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé). No precise amounts are available at this point in time because the call for tenders haven't been published, her cabinet told Spec in a short email. The other wharfs concerned by the announcement are l'Anse-à-Beaufils, l'Anse-à-Brillant, Mont-Louis, New Richmond, Port-Daniel East, Fox River, St-Georges of Malbay, St-Godefroi and Tourelles.



Photo: G. Gagné

When the supplies for the cement plant are delivered in big quantities, the port of Belledune is used by McInnis Cement to store the surplus.

Future of Chandler port linked to McInnis Cement

Gilles Gagné

CHANDLER: – The poor state of Chandler's port is preventing the Gaspé Peninsula from taking full advantage of the spinoffs from Port Daniel's cement plant. McInnis Cement must use the port of Belledune, in New Brunswick when its Port Daniel terminal cannot fill its needs.

The situation stems mainly from the fact that the Chandler wharf was closed in September 2016 by Transport Canada, the owner of the facility, because that ministry had not maintained it, despite the presence of regular users.

McInnis Cement opened its plant in June 2017 and buys several hundred thousand tonnes of materials which are then mixed with the limestone of its Port Daniel deposit to produce cement. The company's sheds are not big enough sometimes to house some materials, when huge quantities are delivered, which is an advantage, price-wise.

Surpluses of petroleum coke (the cement plant's fuel) gypsum, iron oxide, silica sand and bauxite are sometimes unloaded at Belledune, about 75 kilometres away from Port Daniel by ship. Those materials are later sent to Port Daniel by barge and sometimes by truck.

The mayor of Chandler, Louise Langlois, wants her town to acquire the commercial wharf and bring back to the Gaspé Peninsula the unloading of materials that McInnis Cement currently stores at Belledune.

"If our wharf hadn't been closed in 2016, those materials would pass through Chandler, I am convinced of that. The

wharf should have been maintained in the first place and modifications would have been necessary but all that would have been quite feasible," explains Ms. Langlois.

"Transport Canada wants to part with its wharves but the ministry is ready to fund a business plan and a feasibility study, including an evaluation of the cost of the Chandler wharf refurbishment. The study costs \$200,000 and the consultant we have hired, CPCS, believes that our wharf can recuperate the input volumes of McInnis Cement," adds the mayor.

When Transport Canada closed its wharf in 2016, Chandler was still receiving 30 visits annually from cruise ships CTMA Vacancier between June and September. Occasionally, de-icing salt would be unloaded there, as well as deliveries of industrial equipment, notably for the cement plant.

The Town of Chandler started discussions with Transport Canada for the wharf's ownership transfer in 2010. Those talks have not led to that transfer, so far, but Mayor Langlois stays confident that the federal department will remain open if the business plan is positive.

She sees that issue as the egg and chicken story, as in what comes first?

"The authorities are asking us if we have projects for the wharf but if we don't have a wharf, projects won't come. We have proof here with McInnis Cement," she states.

She fears some reluctance from the Quebec government, namely the department of Municipal Affairs and Transport Quebec, which have approval

power over the transfer of a wharf property to a municipality.

The surplus of McInnis Cement supplies, if they are eventually unloaded in Chandler instead of Belledune, will leave a lower environmental imprint since Chandler is two-and-a-half times closer to Port Daniel. The distance between Chandler and Port Daniel is only 30 kilometres.

Chandler offers the possibilities of rerouting the materials by barge or by rail, when the rail line is put back in working order between that town and the cement plant. The line is, in fact, available on the wharf.

In 2016, the repair cost of the Chandler wharf was estimated between \$13 million and \$16 million.

"It might cost a little more than \$20 million now," emphasizes Louise Langlois, recalling that when maintenance work is neglected and postponed, the repair cost increases more so as years pass.

McInnis Cement is open to solutions that would bring (closer to Port Daniel) the storage of extra supplies presently unloaded in Belledune.

"Here is a case of activities that could be brought back to the Gaspé Peninsula if port facilities are upgraded. From there, the logistics could be oriented towards marine, rail or road links. We are collaborating through forwarding all the required information to the promoters working on commercial wharves upgrading projects in our region," notes Maryse Tremblay, McInnis Cement's spokesperson.

The CPCS study should be ready by the end of April 2019.

Pascan Aviation schedule change causes much frustration

Gilles Gagné

BONAVENTURE: – Pascan Aviation will change its schedule for Bonaventure Airport starting on December 3. This modification leaves users without the possibility of making a same day return trip to Quebec City or Montreal.

Pascan's aircraft will still land and take off twice a day at Bonaventure airport but the order of the flights is changing. The early morning departure for Quebec City and Montreal is being replaced by a flight taking off at 11:30 a.m. and the early evening arrival is replaced by a mid-afternoon landing, at 3:30 p.m.

The company is keeping a departure for Quebec City and Montreal at 6:15 p.m. and a morning landing at 8 a.m. The company is cancelling its Saturday flight at Bonaventure but keeping its Sunday flight.

At the same time, Pascan Aviation is modifying its service between the Magdalen Islands, Quebec City and Montreal, as the morning flight will directly link the Magdalen Islands and the two cities, just like the evening return flight between those airports.

That new service, established by an agreement between Pascan and the Magdalen Islands Integrated

Health Centre for the transfer of patients, spells the end of the Bonaventure stops for the morning and evening flight.

Yani Gagnon, vice-president of Pascan Aviation, points out that the schedule changes are motivated by business decisions and the availability of aircrafts.

"The hospital agreement includes strict parameters for patients with specific needs, people with reduced mobility, people travelling with oxygen tanks sometimes and accompanied by a caregiver. We have a limited number of aircraft and that agreement is advantageous," points out Mr. Gagnon.

He insists that it is not a service reduction for Bonaventure, since the number of flights remains the same.

"Moreover, if there is sustained demand that proves economical for the company, we will reflect about it. We are reflecting on our schedule every month," adds Yani Gagnon.

The mayor of Bonaventure, Roch Audet, is frustrated by Pascan's decision to wave the same day return trip possibility mainly because he and the airport committee working at increasing ridership at Bonaventure airport were not informed about the changes.

"We have been working with Pascan for four years, trying to sell the advantages of flying. We made calculations proving that in certain circumstances, flying, despite its high fares, is cheaper than driving, when all the costs are taken into account, like meals, hotel rooms, the time spent driving and so on. In September 2017, we created a new committee of business people working at increasing the use of Pascan services. I think that we could have been informed of schedule changes that will affect the clientele. A good proportion of riders were using Pascan because they could do the same day return trip to Quebec City or Montreal. I wonder if we will work as hard in order to support Pascan," comments Mayor Audet.

"I will still work for the overall improvement of services at Bonaventure Airport. I feel less tied to Pascan though. It was not a classy move," adds Mr. Audet, referring to the lack of information forwarded by Pascan.

The company serves 11 destinations and carries about 4,500 passengers per month. Pascan Aviation filed for the protection of the tribunal in September 2015 and was able to restructure its activities after selling some of its aircraft and finding new partners.

Police report

Sûreté du Québec investigators are still very active regarding the resolution of the deadly fire that claimed three lives on the early morning of October 13 in Saint-Siméon. Isabelle Lepage, 40, her son Philippe Lepage, 14, and his girlfriend Laurence Lebrasseur, also 14, of Paspebiac, died in the house on Poirier Road.

Over the days that followed the blaze, the investigators were looking for a man who could have been an important witness in what was and is still considered a potential crime. Sgt. Claude Doiron, spokesperson of the Sûreté du Québec, remains very discreet about the inquiry, six-and-a-half weeks after the fire.

"Some people were met. The investigation is ongoing. It is still considered a potential case of arson, as some elements are leading towards that scenario. We must take the necessary time to check all the possibilities. We are not neglecting any clue and we are deploying all the necessary efforts to solve the case," says Sgt. Doiron.

The eldest child of Isabelle Lepage, Marilou Lepage, 18, escaped from the fire because she was sleeping on the main floor. The three victims were all asleep on the second floor.

Tim Lucas, 31, from Chandler was arrested on November 23, at approximately 1:30 p.m. in a house on Wall Street in Chandler, with regards to a drug bust carried out by police officers of the Sûreté du Québec. A significant quantity of drugs was seized, namely 1,000 methamphetamine pills, approximately 400 milliliters of GHB, close to 15 grams of cocaine, some tools related to drug trafficking and \$160 in cash. Tim Lucas appeared shortly after his arrest at the Percé courthouse where he was charged with possession of drugs and drug trafficking. He was to appear again in court on November 26 for his bail hearing.

A 25 year-old man from an unidentified Gaspé Peninsula location was intercepted on the evening of November 20 in the Matapédia Valley by Sûreté du Québec officers who found 1,390,000 contraband cigarettes in his truck. The cigarettes were contained in 139 boxes. The vehicle was being driven eastward, so towards the Gaspé Peninsula. The cigarettes were seized and the man was released after being questioned by the police officers. Selling cigarettes that are not stamped, contravenes the penal code and the rules of Revenue Quebec. The suspect will eventually face charges once Revenue Quebec examines the case. The Sûreté du Québec didn't reveal the origin of the cigarettes.

Survey shows preference for dog and cat sterilization

Gilles Gagné

GASPÉ: - A survey conducted among 918 citizens of Gaspé shows that a majority of them favours the adoption of compulsory sterilization for the dogs and cats living in the town limits. Also favoured is the implementation of an identification method in order to control and identify the animals over that territory, probably through the use of a microchip.

The committee was established to study the results from the survey. They will assess the situation over the next weeks and come up with recommendations.

"We also received signals regarding the need to have more places where people can walk dogs in public spaces of the town, over the way to manage dangerous dogs and about

the necessity to have parks for dogs on the territory. Those issues will be discussed as part of the exercise that will lead to the adoption of specific rules. We are confident to be able to adopt a more modern policy. We are receiving the advice of experts in that regard since the beginning of the process," points out the mayor of Gaspé, Daniel Côté.

The committee will examine the possibility of creating an organization that would be charged to enforce part of the new rules, an option that was strongly supported in the survey, emphasizes Mr. Côté.

The results of the survey are available on the Town of Gaspé website at: <https://ville.gaspe.qc.ca/consultations-publiques>.



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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 December 17, 2018, at 8 p.m., will consider the request for minor exemption from the zoning By-Law 1156-11, presented by Mrs. Line Dumaresq and Mr. Jim Kennedy for a property situated at 8, chemin du Lac-Fromenteau.

The nature and consequences of this exemption are the following:

- the nature of the minor exemption is to reduce of 6.5 m the minimal front back margin for a garage for a yacht in accordance to the minimal front back margin of 9 m required at the article 8.8.3 of the zoning By-Law 1156-11.
- the minor exemption will have for consequence to regularize the implantation of a garage for a yacht at 2.5 m of the front line.

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

Given at Gaspé, November 28, 2018.

Isabelle Vézina,
Director of legal services and town clerk



Commentary

Gilles Gagné

An awkward start by François Legault

François Legault was elected two months ago as Premier of Quebec. It is the first reigning term for his party, the Coalition avenir Québec, founded seven years ago. The expectations are huge, but Mr. Legault is in great part responsible for those expectations. He has promised over the last years, to solve many of Quebec's problems through changes in the way that society must deal with issues.

He wants to improve the education system, by making kindergarten compulsory for children aged 4. He thinks schools would be more efficient without school boards. In the health system, he vows to reduce waiting time at the emergency department and help people find a family doctor. These objectives were also targeted by Philippe Couillard's government, with questionable results.

During the 2014-2018 term, François Legault also committed to increasing the province's gross domestic product if he was elected. Quebec's per capita ranking is trailing behind five of Canada's ten provinces. Only the Atlantic provinces are below Quebec in that regard. The new premier seems to forget that Quebecers' available income is better than that of most Canadians, when the cost of living is figured into the equation.

Since returning to politics, François Legault, a former Parti Québécois high-ranking minister, has shown he is not a man of subtlety. He is prone to using numbers that fit his agenda, without looking at the overall picture.

However, he has occasionally shown that he can admit his mistakes. During the August-September election campaign, at one point he admitted, not being completely knowledgeable about the immigration file. This is despite having committed to reducing the number of newcomers a CAQ government would accept.

Since gaining power he has admitted his ignorance on most environmental issues before expressing in his October 18 Cabinet nomination speech his "sincere preoccupation for environmental challenges."

Since October 18, François Legault and Environment Minister Marie Chantal Chassé have nevertheless made multiple errors on ecological matters.

In a 2017 interview, Ms. Chassé, then an entrepreneur, talked about her dream of owning a private plane and being able to come back to her home every night after attending meetings all over North

America. It is enough to have most environmentalists reeling, as air travel is the worst cause of greenhouse gases. Private jet travel multiplies the effects on the environment.

She is also unclear about the position her government will adopt regarding the validity of submitting a lithium mine project proposal near Amos, Abitibi, to a BAPE environmental assessment. The mine would be located a few metres away from the Esker water source, which was dubbed in 2001 "the cleanest drinkable water in the world." So Quebec's new Environment minister has a lot to learn.

Her teacher will likely not be François Legault. The premier supports a methane production plant project in Bécancour, near Trois-Rivières, an initiative that would be the equivalent of adding 180,000 cars on Quebec roads. Mr. Legault is also supporting a natural gas liquefaction plant for the Saguenay area, a project that would at least double the marine traffic in the Saguenay River. This is an area where beluga whales are supposed to be protected.

The Quebec premier also vowed to build a third link between Quebec City and the Lévis area. No thorough study has been carried out and this is despite the fact that preliminary studies reveal that a third bridge or a tunnel would not solve the traffic problem between the two shores of the Saint Lawrence River.

Economically, Mr. Legault and Pierre Fitzgibbon, Minister of the Economy and Innovation, didn't impress anybody with their weak reactions following; the closure of many RONA stores, the 2,500 jobs abolished by Bombardier and the closure of the Sico paint plant in Quebec City. Furthermore, Mr. Fitzgibbon has shares in a Bombardier supplier.

During his first visit to Ontario, Mr. Legault tried to convince his Ontario colleague Doug Ford of the relevance of replacing his nuclear power plant with new hydroelectricity dams located in Quebec. He offered to share the construction work linked to those power dams between Ontario and Quebec labourers. However, this is a very unlikely outcome according to the unions and contractors on this side of the Outaouais River.

Mr. Legault's obsession with the construction of new power dams is also considered in many circles to be an attitude from past. He needs to consider the environmental damage caused by; flooded land, mercury entering the rivers, and the rising electricity costs currently associated with hydroelectricity.

That view is also a painful reminder, especially to Gaspésians, that Mr. Legault doesn't seem supportive of the development of wind energy. This is despite the fact that it is a growing industry elsewhere.

The National Assembly resumed on November 27 with opposition parties flexing their muscles. What we have really looks like a false start on the part of the CAQ, which was considered for years the party of one man.

The CAQ has a solid majority with 74 of the 125

National Assembly seats. However, only three Cabinet members have had that kind of experience prior to the last election. If the party doesn't come through over the next couple of months, many ministers and Members of the National Assembly will find politics really difficult in the sessions to come. Those politicians might think twice about seeking a second term.

Letters to the Editor

We who are living in the Chaleur Bay Area are blessed with the presence of the Maria Hospital.

When my wife, Edwina was ailing and living at home, demands on ambulance service were frequent. Calls were answered swiftly and the paramedics were most kind and patient. Reception at the hospital door was always kind, considerate and respectful.

On November 7, I was called for eye surgery. I was met at the reception by a young lady who was most kind and patient. She knew why I was there and what I needed. At the day surgery reception, the reception was equally warm and helpful.

The eye operation by Dr. Roger Morrisette was carried out in a gentle and caring way. The nurse on duty was kind and patient with my feeble movements.

Credit for the existence of the hospital goes to Dr. Benoit Martin, who started a small "hospital" in a private home in Maria. He was responsible for the erection of the hospital which has served the Bay area these many decades. Thank you, Merci, Dr. Martin. From a grateful Gaspésian.

Philip Doddridge, New Richmond

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Federal Finance minister announces \$30M for Quebec Fisheries Fund

Gilles Gagné

PASPEBIAC: – During the November 21 presentation of the Fall economic statement 2018, Canada's Finance minister Bill Morneau, announced a total amount of \$30 million over five years to set up the Quebec Fisheries Fund.

The Quebec envelope is part of a program that helps sustain Canada's wild fish stocks and the communities that rely on them. Minister Morneau also announced the British Columbia Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund. That fund and the Quebec Fisheries Fund will support the fish and seafood sectors in the two provinces.

The Quebec Fisheries Fund will favour projects oriented towards innovation, the adoption of clean technologies and infrastructure investments that will increase productivity, sustainability and safety, as well as scientific partnerships.

O'Neil Cloutier, director of the Southern Gaspé Professional Fishermen Group, reacts favourably to the creation of the Quebec Fisheries Fund, after months of tireless advocacy work in order to have a counterpart for a similar fund announced in the Atlantic provinces over the spring of 2017. He also commented on the size of the amount.

"In terms of sufficient funding, we know how it works. It is a percentage of the \$325 million allotted to Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, namely about 8 to 9% of the revenues drawn from fisheries in those provinces. It corresponds to the Quebec part. Our \$30 mil-



Photo: G. Gagné

O'Neil Cloutier emphasizes that the Quebec fisheries stakeholders have four months to define their needs.

lion will be increased to close to \$40 million with the expected contribution of the Quebec government, which should amount to 30%. It is for five years," says Mr. Cloutier.

The use of those funds remains to be determined. "Innovation plays a big role in the way that money will be spent, as well as its impact in the communities. The fund must create spinoffs at the local and regional level. Fisheries' sustainability is also an important notion. I see two important orientations; the innovative equipment must be made in the communities and the innovations must put emphasis on the long term, whether they are related to processing, fishing or aquaculture, including research and development," explains O'Neil Cloutier.

In the Atlantic provinces,

\$325 million has been divided in a set of budgetary areas.

"I know that they are working on projects to reduce the fuel consumption on fishing boats, and on measures to increase the survival rate of lobster catches, for example," says Mr. Cloutier.

It remains to be seen how the Quebec Fisheries Fund will be managed, he adds.

"It is not known yet if the fund will be administered by the federal government or a joint committee with the Quebec government. As for the stakeholders, we have four months to prepare ourselves. The details of the fund will be announced in the March 2019 federal budget. The movement is already started, as far as the fishermen and processing plants groups are concerned. We want to maximize the benefits for the Quebec regions," concludes Mr. Cloutier.



Photo: Courtesy of the Baie des Chaleurs Chamber of Commerce

From left to right; Luc Leblanc, an administrator of the Baie des Chaleurs Chamber of Commerce; Sylvie Cyr of the Group Insurance Plan of Chambers of Commerce; Ken Henry of Desjardins, president of the Chamber of Commerce; director general Maurice Quesnel, and Stéphane Forget, chief executive officer of the Quebec Federation of Chambers of Commerce.

Baie-des-Chaleurs Chamber of Commerce wins provincial award

Ariane Aubert Bonn

For the second time in four years, the Baie-des-Chaleurs Chamber of Commerce has been named Chamber of Commerce of the Year by the Federation of Quebec Chambers of Commerce.

The director general of the organization Maurice Quesnel, says that the recognition makes the organization shine beyond its territory, but it also recognizes the efforts made to improve its actions over the years. "It gives us pride, it reflects the dynamism of our region," he says.

He states that the services offered by the Baie-des-Chaleurs Chamber of Commerce are numerous and diversified. Positioning on economic issues, partnership with local MRCs, companies and media, setting up a regional consultation unit with other chambers of commerce of the region, are some examples that illustrate their function.

In addition, Mr. Quesnel says his organization offers business training, coaching programs with consultants and is working to establish a start-up fund. An amount of \$250,000 has been raised so far, with a goal of \$500,000. The Baie-des-Chaleurs Chamber of Commerce covers an area of 210 kilometres of the coast and has 465 members.

A digital tourism industry

Thierry Haroun

GASPÉ PENINSULA: - The Quebec Government is budgeting \$475,000 for the Gaspé Peninsula Tourism industry to develop digital projects. Eligible are small and medium size businesses that are officially recognized as tourism attractions and First Nations. In order to obtain funding, the enterprise must invest a minimum of 20% of the total budget of the project and a maximum of \$30,000 will be allocated. This program is available until March 31, 2020. Reached by Spec at her Mont-Joli office, the President of Tourism Gaspésie, Joëlle Ross, affirms that digital projects could be the following. "Digital projects are various. It could be totally revamping the businesses website. It could be financing a study that would assess the digital situation in terms of equipment and other tools of the business. It could also concern putting in place virtual activities and so forth. The idea of investing in that department is to make sure that our industry is up-to-date in the digital world," she concluded.

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Ville de Gaspé

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, December 17, 2018, at 8 p.m., will consider the request for minor exemption from the zoning By-Law 1156-11, presented by Mr. Guy Bouchard for a property situated at 10-A, avenue Kennedy.

The nature and consequences of this exemption are the following:

- the nature of the minor exemption is for the installation of an amateur radio antenna in front yard contrary to the standard prescribed by article 9.6 of the Zoning By-law 1156 11;
- the minor exemption will have for consequence to permit the installation of an amateur radio antenna in front yard.

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

Given at Gaspé, November 28, 2018.

Isabelle Vézina,
Director of legal services and town clerk



Family Ties Cool Collective Cooking

Melissa Mercier, Collective Cooking Coordinator

NEW CARLISLE: - Family Ties, in collaboration with New Carlisle High School (NCHS) and the Community Learning Centre, have formed a collective cooking group for Grade 11 students called NCHS Cool Cooking. These 10 students, along with their teacher, Vicky Marsh, will visit the Family Ties kitchen each month during their back-to-back French classes. During the cooking time, the students, teacher, and the Family Ties Collective Cooking Coordinator will try to communicate in French as much as possible. Their teacher hopes they will learn valuable cooking skills while at the same time improving their French communication skills. Over the next few months, the Grade 11 students will be learning easy delicious meals that they can reproduce at home or when they are away at CEGEP.

For the first cooking session, the students made homemade pizza. "It was fun. I like the social part of it and how we worked together to make the pizza," stated one student. With this collective cooking group, Family Ties is promoting a learning kitchen. Students will be taught certain essential skills that are needed in order to become self-sufficient and autonomous in regard to food and life choices. Another student commented that, "It was really cool. A good way to practice French and cooking skills." As a result, this cooking group will create a sense of accomplishment in these young people and readiness to be able to venture out on their own.



Book launch at New Richmond IGA

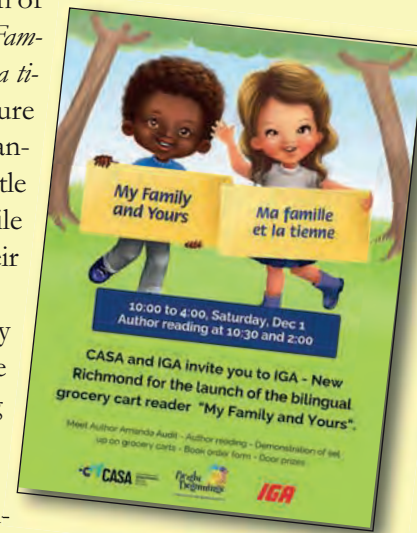
Press release

NEW CARLISLE: - A special launch for a new project called "Grocery Cart Readers" will be held at the IGA in New Richmond on December 1, 2018.

The management of IGA Arbour-LeBlanc and CASA are proud to present the launch of a local author's book *My Family and Yours, Ma famille et la tienne*. This bilingual picture book will attach to the handle of grocery carts for little ones to flip through while grocery shopping with their parents.

The goal of the grocery cart reader is to promote reading skills among young children. Simply looking at the words and pictures is a great start to helping children with early literacy.

The public is invited to visit IGA between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on December 1 to see what the new grocery cart reader looks like and to hear a bilingual book reading by the author Amanda Audit. Those attending will have a chance to win a signed copy of the paperback and a parent-child gift basket.



About the Author

Amanda Audit is a Canadian early childhood educator residing in the Baie-des-Chaleurs. She has worked in many aspects of childcare; this is her first published bilingual book. The children in her life, family & friends, and her handsome pup Bailey all helped to inspire her book and its illustrations.

About CASA

CASA works to support English-speaking children and their families by promoting early childhood development through attachment, literacy, school readiness and parenting support.

Accès Micro-crédit Gaspésie wants to improve service within the anglophone community

Gilles Gagné

BONAVENTURE: - Accès micro-crédit Gaspésie has hired Roberta Billingsley in order to expand its services to the English-speaking community of the Gaspé Peninsula.

As project manager, her role will be to create links between the anglophone community and Accès micro-crédit Gaspésie. She will update all promotional material and resources to accommodate English-speaking entrepreneurs in their language.

Accès micro-crédit Gaspésie specializes in lending amounts of \$15,000 or less, and in personally advising the owners of the small businesses that have contracted loans. Over the years, the number of loans awarded by the organization has increased steadily and the number of businesses still active five years after getting a loan reaches 75%, which is way above the average.

The project is made possible by funding from Canada Economic Development (CED), as a \$99,000 grant was



Photo: Courtesy of Accès micro-crédit Gaspésie

Roberta Billingsley is now project manager for Accès micro-crédit Gaspésie

allotted.

Roberta Billingsley has experience working for organizations involved in the betterment of the anglophone community's situation.

"We are being proactive with this initiative. An action plan is underway to not only

translate our promotional materials and client oriented documents but also to map out aspiring and established entrepreneurs in each MRC who are English. It is very important to us to connect with them, build relationships with them, so that we can better understand their

needs as anglophone entrepreneurs," she says about her new responsibilities.

"We want to accompany English promoters in their efforts to adapt to the francophone and bilingual realities of the region. Our goal is to engage the English-speaking community within our actions, so that they can take advantage of equitable opportunities to start or grow their business. With regards to expanding the investment campaign, we will be investigating the interest and engagement capacity to develop an investment fund dedicated to the English-speaking community," adds Ms. Billingsley.

Diane Lebouthillier, Member of Parliament for the Gaspésie-Magdalen Islands riding and Minister of National Revenue, was on hand for the November 15 announcement.

She declared on behalf of the Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development (ISED) and Minister responsible for Canada Economic Development for the regions of Quebec (CED-Q), the

Honorable Navdeep Bains that "the \$99,000 non-refundable contribution to Accès micro-crédit Gaspésie is excellent news for the region's English-speaking business community. This assistance is part of the Government of Canada's commitment to invest in our economy, strengthen the middle class and help those who work hard to be part of it."

Created in 2007 it started its operations the following year. Accès micro-crédit Gaspésie's mission is to contribute to the economic and human development of the community. To do this, the organization offers technical support, personalized support and funding. The micro loans are intended for individuals with limited access to conventional financial services; facilitating them to create job-generating projects.

Since 2008, Accès micro-crédit Gaspésie has granted 113 loans totalling \$663,867. The average loan amounts to \$5,875. The total investments of these loans total \$3,730,624.

Reflections by Diane Skinner Flowers

The Perfect Christmas Gift

*"The more that you read,
The more things you will know.
The more that you learn
The more places you'll go."
-Dr. Seuss*



The perfect Christmas gift is right in front of your eyes. It's only \$46 for a whole year of "little gifts" that arrive weekly. You can order it in two formats; print or digital. Of course, I am referring to a yearly subscription to The Gaspé Spec. It is such an easy to buy and meaningful gift. I know that I am preaching to the choir here because if you are reading this you are already a Spec supporter. Now spread the joy and give the Spec as a Christmas gift. A son or daughter, mom or dad, cousin, friend or neighbour; they would all appreciate your thoughtfulness. And if you know of a senior or somebody in your community who does not have the financial means to buy a subscription, give them this generous and meaningful gift. You can even do this anonymously by contacting the Spec office, if you wish.

Reasons to give the gift of the Spec

Reading is a good habit that can improve your understanding of local events. It contains information about politics, local government, the economy and business.

It supports local journalism.

Keeps you connected to your community.

It reflects the community you live in.

Reminds us of how important our own immediate world is.

Your Spec tackles global issues, such as concerns for the environment, by focusing on local events.

It can demonstrate community spirit.

We live our lives on two levels – macro and micro. Macro is the big world, macro is the world we live in when we walk out our door. Only a local paper gives you the micro world happenings.

Local news is different than national news.

People want to feel connected. The Gaspé Spec offers this.

People want to know what is going on around them.

People want to advocate for the place they live in – or come from.

Reading helps students improve their language skills.

Read the Spec and you will be an informed citizen.

Reading the Spec makes you more likely to vote!

Reading the Spec makes you more likely to get involved in activities.

Read the Spec and you will be a better conversationalist.

Studies show that seniors who read a paper regularly have a 20% less chance of developing Alzheimer's.

When you read a local paper, it triggers memories and even emotions.

Reading The Gaspé Spec may even inspire you.

You can read the Spec to find job opportunities that might not be advertised. If you see that a company is expanding; be the first to go to that business and submit your resumé.

The Gaspé Spec offers lighter reading too. The Lighter Side page is very popular.

Births, Deaths and In Memoriams keep the reader connected to the people of our area.

It reflects an English-speaking view of our world.

The Spec will send a lovely Christmas card free of charge to the person you are buying the subscription for. It's easy. It's quick. We are fun to speak with! So, call us today. You can pay by credit card or cheque. Or drop in our friendly office where you can also pay by cash. If you want this little gem to survive for future readers, this is the way to ensure that the Spec exists for them. Remember, the Spec is a not-for-profit organization, so every subscription counts. The perfect Christmas gift. Call or drop in today.



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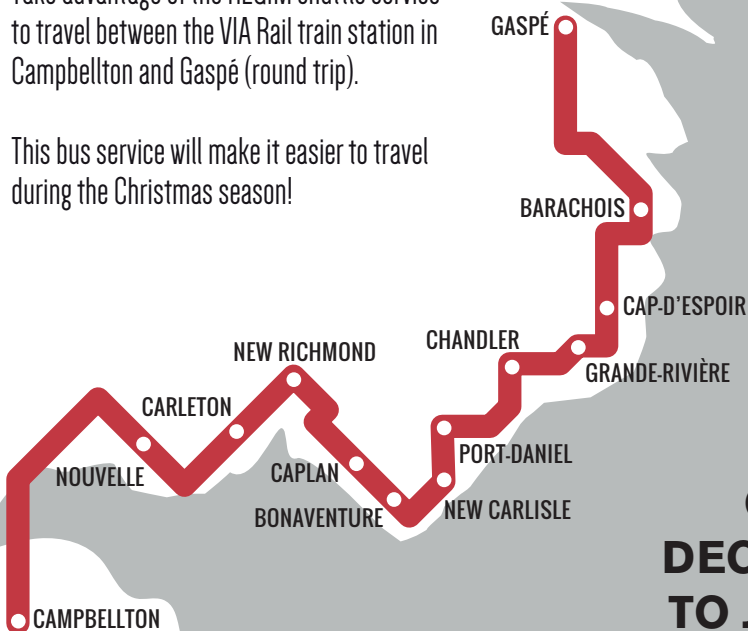
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Arena refurbishment could cost \$7.3M

Town to seek partnerships with neighbouring communities

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND: – According to a consulting firm hired by the Town of New Richmond, the refurbishment of town's arena would cost approximately \$7,350,000. However, government grant programs would only cover a fraction of that cost, about \$800,000.

Considering the lack of financial support for arenas, the mayor of New Richmond, Éric Dubé, hopes both the provincial and federal governments will implement a province-wide program to help arenas.

"It will take more financial support if we are to go ahead. A loan of over \$6M fully paid by the Town of New Richmond would face strong opposition," points out Mayor Dubé.

He doesn't think going ahead with the project by phases would be a good idea. "Replacing solely the cement slab and the cooling system would cost \$1.6M, but if we are replacing the slab, we have to take into account a heat recuperation system, which would make more sense than just sending the heat outside. If we recuperate the heat, we have to insulate the walls and the roof. We then have to strengthen the roof. The bill including that phase amounts to \$3.4M to \$3.6M. Considering the governmental support limited to \$800,000, it would mean a loan of \$2.8M charged to the municipality's debt service. The problem is that we would still have to repair the other parts of the arena relatively soon after, like the electrical system, plumbing, the dressing rooms, the entrance, the parking lot and the restrooms."

According to the mayor the arena's cement slab is no longer waterproof, a situation that is generating several operational problems. The arena was built in 1969.

Éric Dubé thinks the time is right for governments to establish funding programs for arenas. As of January 1, 2020, selling the coolant gas used by a lot of towns, freon, will be banned in Canada due to environmental concerns.

"There are 40 arenas in Quebec with restoration needs and caught with that 2020 deadline and there is a federal election in 2019. Two plus two makes four. I am pretty sure there will soon be a program for the refurbishment of arenas. Suppose that we get a grant



Photo: G. Gagné

The New Richmond arena was built in 1969 and has not been refurbished since.

covering 66% of the refurbishment cost, like it is usually the case, repairing our whole arena with our \$7,350,000 project might cost less to the town than

going with the \$3.6M option that would only allow us to get an \$800,000 grant," he explains.

If supported by a province-

wide program covering 66% of \$7,350,000, the refurbishment of the New Richmond arena would effectively cost taxpayers less, that is \$2,450,000. The other scenario of \$3.6M backed by an \$800,000 grant, which would generate a debt of \$2.8M.

According to a survey carried out by CIRADD, approximately 600 people go to the New Richmond arena each week. The building is used by 212 people, of which most go to the arena three times weekly.

Almost half of those users, 48%, live outside the limits of New Richmond. Most of those users reside in Gesgapegiag, Cascapédia-Saint-Jules, Saint-Alphonse and Caplan. The town has started holding talks with neighbouring communities in order to address the possibility of them sharing some

of the arena's annual expenses.

The New Richmond arena brought in revenues of \$37,000 last year, but its expenses amounted to \$216,000, creating a deficit of close to \$180,000. That deficit has hovered between \$170,000 and \$180,000 in recent years.

"We would like to get a total \$50,000 from the neighbouring communities. In an ideal context, we would get 48% of \$170,000 or \$180,000, our deficit," points out Éric Dubé.

If a multilevel government program supported the refurbishment of the arena in a proportion of 66%, the upgraded New Richmond arena would add \$100,000 annually to the town's debt. It will reach \$200,000 if the support stands at its actual level of \$800,000.

The other arenas

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND: - On November 12, a public meeting regarding the arena was held and approximately 150 people were present. At that meeting New Richmond mayor, Éric Dubé, the town's director general, Stéphane Cyr and Tetrattech engineer Pierre Bastien were asked many questions. One of those questions was related to the possibility of opting for a new arena, considering that Paspébiac paid approximately \$8.2M for a new building.

"In Paspébiac, they kept the old arena so that cost doesn't

include the demolition tab of that building. The operating cost of the new arena is apparently higher than expected," replied Éric Dubé.

He also said that the cost of a new arena the same size as the current one would cost \$10M, "if the demolition cost of the old arena is included. We have not assessed that demolition cost," he says.

"In Mont-Joli, they will get a new arena for \$10.4M, and the demolition cost of the old building is not included. It will bring the cost near \$12M, everything included. In Grand River, they invested \$3.2M for the slab and \$500,000 for the

roof. They had put money aside prior to making the move, though," says Mayor Dubé.

Chandler, just completed a \$3.5M arena renovation project and the town of Carleton plans to invest between \$1M and \$1.5M to upgrade its facility.

The CIRADD survey revealed that the population of New Richmond is aging. It also indicated that the people aged between 52 and 72 are staying more active than the previous generation. Also the Gesgapegiag population is very young and community representatives have already

had talks with the Town of New Richmond regarding the arena renovation project.

Turning the arena into something else "would also cost \$5M to \$6M," says Éric Dubé.

If a refurbishment project pans out, he emphasizes that "we would try to carry out the work between March and December to reduce the inconvenience, but it is often longer."

The cost of the study carried out by Tetrattech amounted to \$52,000. Mayor Dubé specifies that the population "will be consulted and informed about the upcoming stages of the file."



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, December 17, 2018, at 8 p.m., will consider the request for minor exemption from the zoning By-Law 1156-11, presented by Mr. Jean-Pierre Mainville for Buanderie de la péninsule gaspésienne Inc. for a property situated at 3, rue des Lilas.

The nature and consequences of this exemption are the following:

- the nature of the minor exemption is to allow 2 loading and unloading areas in front yard contrary to the standard prescribed by section 21.10.3 of Zoning By-law 1156-11;
- the minor exemption will have for consequence to allow 2 loading and unloading areas in front yard.

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

Given at Gaspé, November 28, 2018.

Isabelle Vézina,
Director of legal services and town clerk



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, December 17, 2018, at 8 p.m., will consider the request for minor exemption from the zoning By-Law 1156-11, presented by Mr. Robert Connolly for a property situated at 10-A, Kennedy avenue.

The nature and consequences of this exemption are the following:

- the nature of the minor exemption is to reduce of 2.07 m the minimal front back margin for an isolated private garage in accordance to the minimal front back margin of 9 m required at the article 8.8.2.2 of the zoning By-Law 1156-11.
- the minor exemption will have for consequence to regularize the implantation of an isolated private garage located at 6.93 m of the front line.

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

Given at Gaspé, November 28, 2018.

Isabelle Vézina,
Director of legal services and town clerk

Announcements...

Obituary



ASSELS: Norbert

Mr. Norbert Assels passed away at the CISSS de la Gaspésie de Chandler on October 29, 2018 at the age of 70 years and four months. He was the husband of Mrs. Paula Roussy of Port Daniel.

Besides his wife he leaves to mourn his two children: Steeve (Chantale) and Kathy (Jean-Philippe); one sister Corrine, three grandchildren Gabrielle, Emma, Thomas, many sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law as well as nephews, nieces and many family members and friends.

We would like to thank everyone for their patronage at Norbert Small Engines for the last 34 years.

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BROWN: June Eunice (née Cochrane)

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of June Eunice Brown (nee Cochrane), 73 years old, which occurred at her home in the early hours of November 11, 2018. She is predeceased by her parents David and Wona, and husband Robert Brown, and will be sorely missed by daughter Trudy (John), her cat Ozzy and her grandbuns, Basil and Rosie, as well as many friends and family.

June worked at the New Richmond Pulp and Paper mill for the entire duration of her career, which spanned 38 years. Throughout her life, she traveled as much as she could, and when she found herself with a spare moment, she would pick up her crochet hook or her paintbrush. Her artwork continues to adorn many walls, not just her own but those of family and friends.

Although she dreamed of continuing to travel after her retirement, it wasn't to be. Her retirement was instead spent addressing the many health issues of her daughter, her husband and ultimately her own. June died of cardia cancer, but that isn't to say that she didn't live her life the way that she wanted. In the last months of her life, June wanted nothing more than to walk her property, and pass away in the house in which she was born, which is exactly what she did. She will be remembered for her love of travel, of animals, her sense of humour, and finally her fierce love and loyalty of the 4th Range of New Richmond and all the people who live on it.

In Memory

CLARK: Ralph, Della and Morris


*Today recalls the memory
Of loved ones gone to rest
And those who think of them today
Are those who loved them best.
The flowers we lay upon their graves
May wither and decay
But the love for them who lies beneath
Will never fade away.*

Remembered always, loved forever. The Clark family.

Thank you

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Entre-Tiens Chaleurs for their help in providing caregivers to help with the round-the-clock care that my mother required these past couple of weeks. This respite was crucial in allowing her to remain comfortable and in her own home, as well as allowing me to rest and run errands. As always, Dr. Jacques Pelletier was an absolute blessing to our family, making daily telephone calls and house visits and ensuring that my mother and I were taken care of in every way possible. I will never be able to express my appreciation for Kathleen Paquet during this trying time; she was more than a family friend, she was our spiritual guidance, and her acceptance of performing the short funeral service that my mother personally requested will always be the ultimate gift of kindness to my family and will never be forgotten. As well, I would like to express my gratitude to the friends and family who took the time out of their own lives to bring food, spend time with my mother and myself, and did everything they could to make this as easy as it could be. I wouldn't have been able to do it without your help.

Trudy Brown



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COAST ROUND-UP

POINTE-NAVARE:

Shrine of Pointe-Navarre
December 4: The Mass of St Peregrine, patron saint of the sick suffering from cancer and long-term diseases, will be celebrated at 7 p.m. at the Shrine of Pointe-Navarre.

YORK:

York River Seniors
December 1: Annual Christmas dinner and dance at Gaspé Elementary School. Cocktails at 5 p.m. followed by dinner at 6 p.m. \$20 per person. Club members will receive a \$15 refund at the door. Please note that tickets must be purchased in advance before **November 25**. Tickets available at Photo Cassidy or from Ron Mundle. For more information call 418-368-5227.

BARACHOIS:

Legion Branch 261
Every Monday: The Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 261,

will be having a bingo at 7 p.m. at the Legion.

SHIGAWAKE:

Community Center
December 1: Christmas Bake and Craft Sale, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tables available \$10.
December 3: Christmas gift bingo beginning at 7 p.m.

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:

Craft Sale
December 1: Craft Sale from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Hope Town Community Center.

HOPE TOWN:

Community Center
November 30: Christmas gift bingo beginning at 7:30 p.m. All proceeds for the purchase of a snowblower for the rink.
December 8: Military Whist. Beginning at 8 p.m.

NEW CARLISLE:

Gilker Residence
December 8: Annual Christmas Market from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Wide variety of Christmas gifts such as knitting, jewellery,

baking, herbal soaps, arts and crafts, Enid LeGros jewellery and weaving.

NEW CARLISLE:

Christmas Bazaar
December 2: Annual Christmas Bazaar at the New Carlisle Municipal Hall from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. If you wish to reserve a table for \$10, please call Agnes at 418-752-7192.

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
December 1: Annual Christmas bingo beginning at 7 p.m. \$10 a series or \$20 for three series.

December 9: Attention boys and girls! Santa will be at the New Carlisle Legion from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

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.

December 31: Royal Canadian Legion Br. 172 and St. Jules Parish will be hosting a New Years Eve dance from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Tickets are \$20 per couple or \$12 a person. Music by DJ, bar service available with light lunch. Red Nose service available. Limited tickets. Call Michel at 418-759-3234 or Linda at 418-392-4989.

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

Book Room
Please note that the book room is open on **Wednesdays** from 1 - 4 p.m. For more details, please contact Kathleen Paquet at 418-392-4896.

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

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

December 7: Annual Christmas concert beginning at 7 p.m. Practices begin November 21 at 6 p.m. at the club.

December 8: Christmas Craft and Bake Sale from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. You may rent a table for \$10. For more information call Linda Cahill 418-392-6950. There is a limited number of tables.

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.

UNITED CHURCH

Sunday, December 2
2 p.m. Hope Town (First Advent)

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

Sunday, December 2

New Carlisle
10 a.m. Morning Prayer
Hope Town
9 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Port Daniel
11 a.m. Holy Eucharist

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

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SUDOKU

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

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: Beginner

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!

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

ANSWER:

Ground Beef and Macaroni Casserole

- 1 lb. ground beef (.46 kg)
- 1 onion chopped (two is even better)
- 1 measured cup macaroni (my family tells me that any type of pasta is OK)
- 3 or 4 cheddar cheese squares (or cut several slices off a cheese block)
- salt and pepper to taste
- 1 tin tomato soup (284 ml)

Brown meat & cook onion in frying pan. Cook the macaroni as per the container instructions

Use an ovenware casserole, such as Corningware, large enough to facilitate mixing when cooked, without too many spills.

Put the cooked macaroni in to form the bottom layer. The meat and onion form the second layer, plus salt and pepper.

Cheese slices are the third layer (do not mix). Spread the tomato soup on top and down the sides

Cook at 350 degrees for 20 to 30 minutes.

When cooked, mix thoroughly and serve. Will provide three large meals. Goes good with a piece of crusty bread and a slice of tomato.

A beauty of the recipe is that you can prepare it all a day ahead of time. Just cook the macaroni, meat and onions and put it all in the casserole. Cover it with saran wrap and put it in the refrigerator. The next day, simply add the cheddar, tomato soup, with salt and pepper and away you go. Ready in 20 to 30 minutes.

If you are nervous using a new recipe, simply put some out for the crows when it is cooked and if they fly away, you are ready to go!

AND

If the crows suffer no harm, try making a double recipe and divide the extra half into one or more dinners and put in the freezer. Comes out just like new!

For all Spec readers - GOOD DINING!
Bob Chisholm (former "New Carlisle")
Don Mills, Ontario

The Spec gets around...



Spec's Office Manager, Joan Imhoff, along with travelling buddies Nancy, Christine and Sharon Chicoine took a few moments during their recent trip to Portugal to check out the local Gaspé news.

Why do we say...

By Gary Briand

A former student now a teacher of English (langue seconde) at Levis recently contacted me to find out the origin of the phrase "ass in a sling." Ambitious in mastering English, he had gone to the University of Maine and there taken a course in linguistics with a professor who was visiting from England. The professor had arranged to meet each of his students for a half hour once a week for the six week course.

When the time came for my friend to appear at the professor's office, he was awaiting his turn when one of his classmates exited the professor's office and said to my former student, "best to cancel the appointment because he has his ass in a sling this morning." Bravely, however, the student continued the rendez-vous and found the professor down and out. The latter explained that he had recently received news from England of his mother-in-law's death.

And so it is that the expression means to appear sad or rejected or defeated and is figuratively parallel to that of a person in inconvenience when a sling supports a broken arm. How much greater the inconvenience of having one's posterior held up by a sling! Sad and defeated, certainly!

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

Try to avoid overindulgence, Aries. Too much of a good thing can start to turn sour. Learning moderation in all things is a valuable lesson to remember.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, honesty with the people you care about is important, but work to avoid being too blunt when getting your point across. Try tempering the information shared.

GEMINI – May 22/June 21

Gemini, your home can seem like a major travel hub at times, with people coming and going at all hours. Find your quiet zone and retreat there when you need to recharge.

CANCER – June 22/July 22

Cancer, you probably have a lot of running around to do this week and wonder how you are going to meet all of your obligations. Delegation can help with that.

LEO – July 23/Aug 23

Do not be surprised if many visitors pop in to say hello, Leo. Impromptu social events can be enjoyable and even perk you up when you could use a smile.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22



Spend time exercising at the gym or go on a hike this week to relieve some feelings of anxiety, Virgo. This will help calm you down and refocus. LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, an exciting communication could come your way in the next few days, sparking all sorts of changes in your life. Just weigh through all the options first.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, you may want to participate in group activities or make a few new friends but do not know where to start. It's all in the way you present yourself.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

A powerful burst of energy has the potential to turn you into a workaholic this week, Sagittarius. You must keep yourself in check so you do not burn out quickly.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, frustration can rear its ugly head when you don't need it to visit. You'll overcome this obstacle if you focus on positivity and the light

at the end of the tunnel.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

A busy week is ahead and you will need to put your head down and get to work, Aquarius. Rest, exercise and time spent with the ones you love can make it all worthwhile.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, there's a lot of work to do at home, but right now you may not be in the right frame of mind to start. Wait to start until you're ready.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

NOVEMBER 25

Christina Applegate, Actress (47)

NOVEMBER 26

James Dashner, Author (46)

NOVEMBER 27

Bill Nye, TV Host (63)

NOVEMBER 28

Judd Nelson, Actor (59)

NOVEMBER 29

Anna Faris, Actress (42)

NOVEMBER 30

Chrissy Teigen, Model (33)

DECEMBER 1

Zoe Kravitz, Actress (30)

10 things you need to know about Canada's new vertical \$10

As you may have heard, a new \$10 note will soon be making its way into your wallet. Its vertical orientation and portrait of social justice defender Viola Desmond likely caught your attention.

Here's a quick and easy list of the top 10 things to know about Canada's new \$10 bill as it gradually enters circulation:

1) It's the first time a Canadian woman appears on a regular bank note. Portrait subject Viola Desmond, a successful Black Nova Scotia businesswoman who fought against racial discrimination, is the first Canadian woman to appear on a regular bank note. She was chosen for her courageous stand for equality and social justice.

2) It features an icon of human rights and freedoms. In November 1946, she defiantly refused to leave a whites-only area of a movie theatre and was subsequently jailed, convicted and fined. Her court case was one of the first known legal challenges against racial segregation brought forth by a Black woman in Canada.

3) It's vertical. This is the first vertical note issued by the Bank of Canada. In keeping with the Bank's innovative approach to design, this sets it apart from current polymer notes and allows for



Photo: Courtesy of the Bank of Canada

The new vertical \$10 bill has been in circulation since November 19.

a more prominent image of the portrait subject.

4) It's the first time Canadians decided who should be featured on a bank note.

Viola Desmond was selected after the Bank launched an extensive public consultation to nominate an iconic woman for a new bank note. She is the first portrait subject nominated by Canadians.

5) It was a successful consultation. We received A LOT of nominations. Canadians definitely wanted to have

their say on who should appear on the next bank note.

The six-week consultation produced more than 26,000 nominations and 461 eligible nominees. These choices were then whittled down by an independent advisory council to a short list of five Canadian women. The Finance Minister ultimately made the final decision.

6) It has a theme: human rights and social justice. The back of the new \$10 note features the Canadian Museum for Human Rights in Winnipeg, Manitoba—the first

museum in the world dedicated solely to human rights. The note also includes a depiction of an eagle feather, a symbol of truth, power and freedom for many First Nations peoples in Canada. It's intended to represent the ongoing journey toward recognizing rights and freedoms for Indigenous peoples in Canada.

7) It has some bold new security features. As with all Bank of Canada notes, security is paramount, and the vertical \$10 includes several enhanced security features.

These include transparent areas, raised ink on the front of the note, detailed metallic images and symbols, and the colour-shifting eagle feather. The bold features on this note are easy to check and difficult to counterfeit.

8) Yes, it's a polymer note. The vertical \$10 is printed on a polymer substrate, as all Canadian bank notes have been since 2011. Polymer notes are more secure, last longer (about 3.5 times) and they're even recyclable!

9) It doesn't mean you need a vertical wallet. This may be the first vertical bank note in Canada, but you won't have to handle it differently. It's the same size as other bank notes and you can use it in the same way.

10) It's going to be around for a while. This is the new regular \$10 note you'll see in circulation for years to come. The Bank issues new notes to stay ahead of counterfeiting threats and keep pace with advances in technology.

Follow the Bank on Twitter (@bankofcanada) for the latest news about Canadian bank notes.

The Bank of Canada Museum is on Facebook! Follow, like and share the latest information about Canada's upcoming \$10 bank note and much more: @BoCMuseum.

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