

# The Gaspé Spec

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## Pamela Rooney – This show's for you

Jeanie LeLacheur

DOUGLASTOWN: - When Pamela Rooney was four years old she opened at a Saint Patrick's Day concert in her home town of Douglastown singing *Sentimental Old You* and brought down the house.

A few short years later she's doing it again and again. Different songs, different venues, but she's the same passionate girl with the voice of country music.

Pamela recently received a call that has changed her life. "I was shocked she says, a good shocked, but nonetheless shocked, when I got the call to perform for the Wheeling Jamboree."

The Wheeling Jamboree has been around since 1933 and its slogan is "The country music show with tradition like none other." The Wheeling Jamboree is the second oldest country music program (next to Nashville's Grand Ole Opry), one that since 1933 continues to lead the way in the industry.

Wheeling, West Virginia is home to the Wheeling Jamboree and is waiting expectantly on upcoming singer songwriter Pamela Rooney, who will perform on December 1.

To take the stage on the Wheeling Jamboree where all of the biggest names in country music have appeared, legends such as, Randy Travis,



Pamela Rooney

Photo: Marlene Synnott

Tanya Tucker and Reba McEntire, it is certainly the stuff that dreams are made of. The young girl who began her career long ago encouraged by her musical parents and family, and supported by a community that loves her has come a long way. Undoubtedly her biggest fan is

her son Connor, who often steals the show when he sings and autographs his name on Mom's cds.

Pamela is a country girl who wore out her car traveling to shows, singing with the boys in the band and continues to meet "new family" where ever she goes.

She is a prime example of how dreams do come true. She followed her dreams and will soon climb the same stairs that Lee Greenwood, Alan Jackson, Kathy Mattea, Charlie Daniels, Charley Pride, Tammy Wynette, Willie Nelson and Brad Paisley have climbed.

Pamela has two albums under her belt and was chosen by the Jamboree thanks to her own composition called *Moose Hunting*.

Pamela has sang with Johnny Reid's band, and will be forever grateful to Dani Daraiche for "discovering her."

Pamela loves old classic country including Merle Haggard and Dolly Parton. she often incorporates new with the old to please the crowd but says, "my heart and soul is traditional country."

"My first band, *Pamela and the Exceptions*, took the name of my parents band from back in the day, I followed my dream and

wanted to make them proud, and when the jamboree told me I would be the next Terry Clark of Canada, it was one of the proudest moments," says Pamela.

"So Mom and Dad, the Douglastown community, the Gaspé coast, and my fans from near and far who stood behind me. This show's for you!"

More information about the Wheeling Jamboree can be found at their website, website <http://www.wheelingjamboree.org/>.

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## Getting to know the workforce

Thierry Haroun

CHANDLER: - The Gaspésie Information and Communications Technology Centre, based in Chandler, is currently conducting a study in collaboration with the CIRADD (based in Carleton) that has one major objective: to have a precise picture of the workforce and the businesses related to the regional sector ICT. "This is, to my knowledge, the first study of the kind. At the provincial level you will find statistics on the ICT sector but not at a regional level, so, once we have this broad picture of our region that will help us to better target strategies, projects and better foresee the future," explains the executive director of the center, Carol Cotton. "We will have a better idea of the workforce and that's important," he adds. "Also, the workforce of our sector can be seen as a solution to the lack of workforce in many sectors of our region. Robots and other digital products can eventually compensate for the lack of workforce." Some 30 ICT businesses operate in the Percé Rock MRC such as Jolifish, 132 Prod, 40 Degrés and Gascode.

## Chandler commissions a business plan for its wharf

Ariane Aubert Bonn

CHANDLER: - The Chandler port has been closed since September 2016 and needs refurbishment, but its potential profitability must be proven. The Town of Chandler has mandated CPCS, a consulting firm, to carry out a business plan related to the commercial harbour. Mayor Louise Langlois adds that the process, like the studies that preceded, costs nothing to the citizens. "Everything is funded by Transport Canada. We should not deprive ourselves of such steps that can highlight the potential of the harbour. An active wharf is an important asset to attract investors," says the mayor. Langlois adds that McInnis Cement, which is currently doing business with Belledune, could be a potential user of the harbour.

## Work at the Chandler arena is now complete

Ariane Aubert Bonn

CHANDLER: - The \$3.5 million project to fully renovate the Chandler arena is now complete. Mayor Louise Langlois says that the aspect of the arena has changed greatly. "Finally, we have a facility worthy of 2018. I cannot wait for the population to fully enjoy it." In addition to the refurbishment of the cement slab and the refrigeration system, all the spaces reserved for the public were renovated. A VIP lounge has also been built.

## Château Dubuc is officially listed as a heritage building

Ariane Aubert Bonn

CHANDLER: - The residence of Julien-Édouard-Alfred Dubuc, one of the first investors of the North American Pulp and Paper Companies, the ancestor of the Gaspesia plant, will benefit from municipal recognition. This will help its current owner, Michel Saint-Pierre, obtain help for its protection against coastal erosion. Over the past few years the residence has been damaged by high tides and the situation is getting worse. According to Chandler mayor Louise Langlois, this building is of historical significance and it is important to preserve it. "It's important that the homeowner can get help to preserve or even move the building. It is of great historical significance for Chandler," says Louise Langlois.

## Slight tax increase to come

Ariane Aubert Bonn

CHANDLER: - The renewal of the Town of Chandler's fleet of vehicles will result in a slight increase in taxes. Many maintenance vehicles and trucks need to be replaced. The borrowing of just over \$1 million will be amortized over fifteen years and will generate an increase in taxes for homeowners. Mayor Louise Langlois says that "we are talking about trucks, loaders, snow maintenance vehicles. If we want to give citizens good service, we have to invest in vehicles." The annual cost will be \$21.04 per dwelling, \$41.07 per commercial and industrial unit and \$10.51 per cottage.

## 12 ATV related deaths since 2012

Thierry Haroun

GASPÉ: PENINSULA: - Since 2012, 12 people have died while driving an ATV on the Gaspé Peninsula. Spec obtained documents from the *Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec* (SAAQ) and according to those documents; deaths, minor injuries, as well as severe injuries following an accident with an ATV (quads, snowmobiles and so forth) are frequent in Quebec. Statistics show that 192 accidents occurred on trails between 2012 and 2017, of which 135 are considered as minor injuries, 47 as severe injuries and 10 as deaths. If we add two other accidents that occurred in 2018: one in Val d'Espoir and another in Gaspé, between l'Anse-à-Valleau and Corte Real; that brings the total to 12 deaths since 2012. The regional spokesperson for the Sûreté du Québec, Sgt. Claude Doiron commented on the issue by saying "with these vehicles that are massive and solid, they nevertheless give the driver a false feeling of security. One can easily fall over if he's not careful, especially in an isolated area where the driver may not know the path very well. So be careful when maneuvering, especially on curves. Sometimes, drivers take the curve too much on the inside and the problem is that another can be coming from the opposite direction. Reducing the speed before a curve should be automatic. Absolutely. One must reduce the speed and must also anticipate a curve. Now, I also want to tell ATV drivers to inform family and friends where they are going and at what time they expect to come back from a ride. In doing so, it's easier for rescuers, in the case of accidents, to find the person. In some cases, it's a question of survival."

**Wear your helmet and gloves:** As for the Executive Director of the Québec Quad Clubs Federation, Dany Gagnon, he insists on the importance of wearing a helmet. "It's mandatory and it saves lives. I've seen many head injuries and that's very serious. I remember a year when there were 24 deaths and 19 of those were related to a head injuries. Also wear gloves and long sleeves. It protects you," he added.

## MANPOWER SHORTAGE: Social economy enterprises seek solutions

Geneviève Gélinas

GASPÉ: - The social economy enterprises of the region are experiencing a shortage of workers and volunteers. Officials met in Gaspé on November 1, to discuss sharing their employees as a possible solution to the problem.

"It's a general concern for all economic models and all provinces. We're affected in terms of employees and volunteers. There's also a succession problem on the board of directors," says Émilie LeBlanc Laberge, director of the Gaspésie-Magdalen Islands Pole of social economy.

A social economy enterprise gives first priority to meeting the needs of its members or its community, before maximizing its profit. Each of the enterprises has an average of 26 volunteers, 145 members and five directors, says Ms. LeBlanc Laberge. There are approximately 200 social economy enterprises in the region.

Due to the lack of a workforce, "the work load is heavier for the remaining employees. It's the same thing for volunteers. There's an excessive workload on them," states Ms. LeBlanc Laberge.

"In the past, we used to choose our employees, we used to receive resumes. Today we have the opposite: the employees choose us and in order for them to choose you, you need to be good!" says André Richard, president of the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands social economy pole and director of Multi-Services, a Grande-Vallée-based home care corporation.

Most of the Multi-Services employees are women, who are often heads of single-parent families, says Mr. Richard.



Photo: G. Gélinas

Émilie LeBlanc Laberge and André Richard, director and president of the Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine Pole of social economy.

To keep them, the enterprise has to help them balance work and family, sometimes in a context of shared parenting with changing schedules.

"I think of an employee and I have to adapt her work schedule, but she's a very good employee. If I didn't adapt my schedules, I couldn't have her as an employee," he adds.

Some solutions are already being tested, reports Ms. LeBlanc Laberge. "Teleworking is used in many enterprises. There's also the recruitment of foreign workers - I think of the Coop du Cap and its newcomers." She refers to an enterprise running a farm and processing some of its produce.

The wage issue "is less important than it once was. The employees make choices based more on working conditions than wages," according to Ms. LeBlanc Laberge.

The 58 symposium participants asked to find solutions to solve the lack of employees. Many proposals were made about sharing employees. Some people suggested setting up a bank of employees, in order to meet the enterprises' needs for part-time employees

and improve the conditions of the workers, who could then have the equivalent of a full-time job.

It was proposed that the social economy enterprises communicate their needs to the *Vivre en Gaspésie* strategy, a labour recruitment body.

"We participate in 15 to 20 recruitment activities every year. We can target people who meet the employers' needs," says Christine Blanchette, recruitment agent for the strategy.

It is crucial to attract newcomers from other Quebec regions or elsewhere in the world says André Richard. "We seem to have trouble attracting people to our region. How is it possible that 70% of the jobs to fill are in rural regions, but 90% of the immigrants are in urban areas?" he asks.

As for the lack of board members, "there should be a way to value volunteering for more people to get involved," Mr. Richard states. There is a need to renew the pool of board members. "If you go from board to board in social economy enterprises, you'll see the same faces all the time."

## PUBLIC NOTICE

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS WHO ARE ENTITLED TO SIGN  
AN APPLICATION TO TAKE PART TO A REFERENDUM

### Second draft 1156-11-36 (adopted on November 13, 2018) amending the zoning by-law

NOTICE is hereby given that, following the public consultation meeting which was held on November 13, 2018, the municipal Council of "Ville de Gaspé" has accepted by resolution, on November 13, 2018 a second draft of by-law 1156-11-36 amending the zoning by-law. This second draft contains provisions that may be subject to an application made by interested persons from anyone of the zones to which such provisions apply and of the contiguous zones, to require that a by-law containing these be submitted for their approval, in accordance with the Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities.

#### 1. PURPOSE OF AN APPLICATION TO TAKE PART TO A REFERENDUM

An application relating to the following provision of the second draft:

- « Modifiant les usages autorisés dans la zone CE-271 afin de permettre comme usage spécifiquement permis dans cette zone, l'usage Vente au détail de cannabis et de produits du cannabis (5990);

Such an application is required that the by-law containing the provision to which it applies be submitted for the approval of the qualified voters in the zone to which applies this application, and in any contiguous zone from which a valid application originates.

#### 2. LOCALIZATION OF THE CONCERNED ZONES

The concerned zone (CE-271), situated in the area of York South, near super market Super C, is illustrated on the following sketch :



#### 3. VALIDITY OF AN APPLICATION

To be valid, an application to take part to a referendum must:

- state clearly the provision of the second draft to which the application refers;
- indicate the zone from which the application originates;
- be signed by at least 12 interested persons of the zone from which it originates, if there are more than 21 interested persons in that zone, or, otherwise, by the majority of the interested persons;
- be received by the Town clerk office at the town hall no later than November 28, 2018, 4:30 pm.

#### 4. INTERESTED PERSONS WHO ARE ENTITLED TO SIGN AN APPLICATION

An interested person is a person of full age, Canadian citizen and not under curatorship who, on the date of adoption of the second draft, which is November 13, 2018, is not disqualified from voting and meets one of the following requirements:

- is domiciled in a zone from which an application may originate and who has been domiciled in Québec for at least 6 months;
- is the owner of an immovable or the occupant of a business place situated on such a zone since 12 months at least.

#### 5. LACK OF APPLICATIONS

Should there be no valid applications relating to the provisions of the second draft, the said provisions may be then included in a by-law which will not have to be submitted for the approval of the qualified voters.

#### 6. CONSULTATION OF THE DRAFT

The second draft of by-law is available for consultation at the Clerk's office at the Town Hall during regular work hours, that is from 8:15 a.m. till 12 noon and from 1 p.m. till 4:30 p.m., Monday to Thursday, and from 8:15 am till 12 noon on Friday.

Given in Gaspé, November 21, 2018.

Isabelle Vézina,  
Director of legal services and town clerk

# Police report

Nearly thirty people had to resort to emergency shelters following the power failures which occurred during the November 14 wind storm in the Percé Rock MRC. The operation took place in Chandler and Port-Daniel-Gascons after several residents had no electricity for several hours. "I contacted the authorities, the Sûreté du Québec, the firefighters. We established a communication center at Leblanc House and began to go door-to-door to see if any citizens needed help," said Port-Daniel-Gascons mayor, Henri Grenier.

In his sector, approximately ten people were relocated to motels for the night. "There was a young family with a baby of three weeks; they could not be left in the cold," he adds as an example.

The same scenario occurred on the Chandler side. Residents of Newport, Pabos-Mills and Chandler neighborhoods were invited to come to the high school to warm up. "The situation returned to normal around midnight, and we were able to close the emergency center," says Roch Giroux, director general of the Town of Chandler.

Seventeen people used the emergency center. He highlights the tremendous work of the Sûreté du Québec and the fire department: "They went to meet citizens one by one in the affected areas to offer help or advice, to ensure that everyone was safe."



## NRHS Remembrance Day poster winners

Elaine Sexton

NEW RICHMOND: - To commemorate Remembrance Day, Hong Kong Veteran, Phil Doddridge, visited the New Richmond High School students who won the annual Poster Contest.

Pictured from right to left: Emma Polichuck (kindergarten), Isabella Coull (grade 1), Phoenix Condo (grade 2), Bridget Fitzgerald (grade 3), Emmory Laroque (grade 4), Heaven Condo (grade 5) and Ashlyn Jerome (grade 6).

Look for an upcoming article about Mr. Phil and author Tom Eden's visit with the students and staff discussing the war and other subjects.

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# Editorial



## Commentary

Gilles Gagné

### Labour recruitment: it's time to intensify measures applied to the region

There is a growing consensus that there is a labour shortage in the Gaspé Peninsula, although some statistics prove otherwise. Hundreds of employers are looking for manpower even though, the unemployment rate was at 13% in October, with close to 5,000 people officially seeking employment.

At first glance, there is an obvious contradiction here. If 5,000 people are looking for a job, how can there be a labour shortage? The use of the term officially is of some importance here because a sizeable portion of job seekers know that they will sooner or later be recalled by their usual employer.

They are job seekers on paper only. They have skills but those skills are required in an activity that covers only part of the calendar year, sometimes a long part. This is the case for a significant proportion of fishermen, silviculture workers, sports fishing guides, seafood processing plant workers and tourism manpower, among others.

So the nature of our economic activities tend to artificially inflate unemployment numbers. We must also note that the length of some seasonal activities has

expanded over the last decade, especially in tourism and commercial fisheries.

Some jobs are also very demanding, physically. When a woman or a man has spent twenty weeks in a fish processing plant, wearing rubber boots on a wet concrete slab and working long hours in a damp atmosphere, employment benefits are no luxury. The same reality applies to a number of forestry labourers, who have a long drive to get to their worksite and back. Those workers start while it is zero degrees in the morning and 30 degrees by noon, all while being out in the elements.

Some people will always abuse the system. However, that phenomenon, hard to assess with numbers, exists everywhere and takes different forms.

A little caution must also apply to the unemployment statistics. They are reached through surveys and historically, the error margin has regularly been off.

However, over the long term, statistics don't lie, and they indicate what the tendencies are. The number of Gaspésians and Magdalen Islanders with a job went from 31,300 people in 1996 to 36,100 at the end of 2017, despite the fact that we lost close to 12,000 inhabitants during those 21 years.

The rate of employment went from 37% to 48.4% during that 1996-2017 stretch, which is an indicator that the economic diversification of the region was successful, considering that the Gaspé Peninsula lost three large industries, the Murdochville mine and smelter, Chandler and New Richmond paper mills, in that period.

The main hurdle currently preventing the region from attracting the labour needed to maintain that economic diversification and fill the recruitment needs of our employers came between the end of 2014 and the end of 2017, when Phillipe Couillard's Quebec government nearly completely axed the *Stratégie d'établissement durable*, the organization in charge of attracting newcomers to the Gaspé Peninsula and

Magdalen Islands. The organization's budget went from \$900,000 in 2014 to a paltry \$45,000 in 2017, a 95% cut in a strategic field.

The blow came after the region had been able to stabilize its population between 2006 and 2011, in great part due to the remarkable work of that *Stratégie d'établissement durable*. The organization had been successful recruiting the people we need to counter-balance the number of regional youth leaving to attend studies outside. That amounts to a net recruitment of 300 to 400 additional people per year. That explains why during the 2006-2011 period, the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands became the first rural region in Quebec to show a positive balance in people aged 25 to 35.

We lost that surplus between 2014 and the beginning of 2018. The bottom line is that now, we need original programs to recruit newcomers, whether they come from other parts of Quebec, other Canadian provinces or other countries. The edge we had was annihilated by budget austerity.

Considering that business opportunities are more present than ever in the region, and given the the Quebec government's very poor track record and the rather insignificant record of the federal government regarding the Gaspé Peninsula, it would be reasonable to expect prompt measures from them to facilitate labour recruitment now.

Implementing pilot projects to accelerate labour recruitment of immigrants and allowing senior workers to avoid fiscal penalties when they rejoin the labour force would make a lot of sense. Something has to make up for the ineptitude of the last years.

Improving the employability of some cross-sections of the anglophone and Native population of the region is already underway, but better links have to be established in that regard too, if the region is to regain vigor in labour recruiting. The momentum is there but better cooperation must be shown by our government officials.



## Guest Commentary

Cynthia Dow

### Just what is it going to take?

Those who know me well, and even SPEC readers I imagine, know that the state of the environment is never far from my mind. For awhile I was even the spokesperson for *Éco-Vigilance Baie-des-Chaleurs*. I had to step down because I found I was angry all the time. That's not the way I want to spend my life.

On the other hand, as I now sit back on the sidelines what I feel is a gnawing fear and deepening gloom about what is happening to the planet, and even more about what is NOT happening.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has issued yet another warning about the desperate situation we are in. However, our country, like too many others, has not taken the steps necessary to live up to its commitments under the Paris Accord – and even those commitments are not enough to save us from serious environmental deterioration.

All this came to mind after attending the "Planet comes to Parliament" march in Maria on November 10. I ached to get up there at the podium and make a rous-

ing speech about what we need to do to get things back on track. It occurred to me that sitting back and watching from the sidelines is not in my DNA. I am starting to work on a new way I can approach this issue in public without losing my mind, or my soul.

I am one of those people who lives very close to Mother Nature. I spend a lot of time outdoors, alone. I notice things. I "see the little sparrow fall," as the old hymn goes. I notice how and when seasonal events unfold and when the timing is off. I notice significant changes in bird life and wildlife and flora. I notice drought and flooding, abundant harvests and poor harvests. And I can see that all these things are becoming more and more unpredictable.

It is clear that we have disturbed Mother Nature to such an extent that she is now disturbed with us. We have polluted air, sea and land, destroyed entire ecosystems, and in the last 40 years alone killed off 50% of the Earth's species. The human species has, in fact, become a blight on the landscape. It seems Mother Nature has finally taken notice and intends to do something about it.

In a way I suppose it's comforting to know that a balance will be restored again. It just feels rather uncomfortable to know that restoring balance on this planet likely means a major drop in human population. I mean our species. Us.

California wildfires have, as I write this, taken several hundred lives. This past summer the unrelenting heat killed almost 100 people right here in Québec. In

fact, I heard one health official say the death toll was likely much higher than that. Every year 7,700 Canadians die prematurely due to the effects of air pollution. The question is, just how catastrophic does our situation have to be to make governments take this crisis seriously?

Everywhere I see and hear people talking about personal gestures they can make to reduce greenhouse gases and pollution in general: driving less, buying less, growing their own food, buying local food, reducing, reusing, recycling. Bravo! It warms my heart to see how earnest people have become.

Still, the most important factor in pollution, global warming, destruction of ecosystems, etc. has not effectively been deal with. I am talking about industrial activity.

There are two ways industrial activity could be shifted to a greener, cleaner approach. One is that suddenly CEOs everywhere will wake up with a conscience, understand at a deep, spiritual level what they are doing, and take personal action to change things. This is not an impossible scenario, but highly unlikely.

The other way is that governments could suddenly stop lying about what they intend to do, and start taking real action on the crisis facing us. Pass laws to really protect the environment. Make polluters pay. Put not only a price on carbon, but tax the hell out of everything that contributes to greenhouse gases, and use that money to invest in a green economy.

To me, this seems a more likely scenario, but only if the average person out there makes environmental protection a personal, daily issue and communicates that commitment and that urgency to politicians at every level.

Right now, it seems the bottom line is all that politicians and CEOs look at. That is how us Canadian taxpayers ended up owning a pipeline to the tune of several billion dollars. It's time that kind of economic dead-end stops, and real attempts to save the planet and ourselves become a frontline activity.

It's time for people to choose: what's more important to you? The bottom line, the sidelines, or the frontline? Frankly, in the near future I am heading to the frontline again. I can't just sit back and watch what's not happening without doing something about it.



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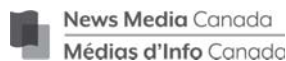
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# Grande-Vallée wharf is busier than usual

Geneviève Gélinas

GRANDE-VALLÉE – The Grande-Vallée municipal wharf is the second busiest wharf on the Gaspé Coast after the Sandy Beach wharf in Gaspé. It became even busier over the summer with the shipping of wood chips to the North Shore, on top of receiving wood from Anticosti Island which has been going on for years.

The municipality gets royalties from those activities and is considering future work to improve its harbour. Meanwhile other municipalities, including Chandler, are considering taking charge of their own wharf in part or in whole. They believe the Grande-Vallée model is worth examining.

The Grande-Vallée sawmill, called Bois Granval and owned by Groupe GDS, received 114,700 cubic metres of wood by ship from Anticosti in 2017. This year, the quantity has been slightly lower, with 89,500 cubic metres.

However, the decrease was partially offset by a new product sent by ship, the wood chips of Bois Granval. From June to September, eleven vessels full of wood chips, for a total of 18,205 cubic metres, were shipped from Grande-Vallée, most of them to the Charlevoix area. The shipping resumed on November 5, with a twelfth ship of wood chips, and Grande-Vallée was expecting a few more trips before the winter. That means a lot of activity around the wharf because dozens of loads are required to fill one vessel.

The Grande-Vallée data cannot be easily compared to the data of other wharves on



Photo: G. Gélinas

*Last summer, the Jean-Joseph was loaded eleven times with wood chips at the Grande-Vallée wharf. Those wood chips were shipped to the North Shore and to Belledune.*

the Coast, because elsewhere the shipping count is made in metric tons rather than in cubic metres.

However, it is clear that the Grande-Vallée port is busier than the Transport Canada ports located in Chandler, Paspébiac, Carleton and Les Méchins (see the chart). Only the Sandy Beach wharf is as busy as the Grande-Vallée wharf. The Matane wharf located in the Lower St. Lawrence region, is busier than Sandy Beach and Grande-Vallée put together.

A conservative assessment of the tonnage handled at the Grande-Vallée wharf would translate the 89,500 cubic metres of wood into 80,000 metric tonnes, and the 18,205 cubic metres of wood chips into 13,000 metric tonnes. Those conversion numbers were obtained after talking to Groupe GDS officials and the operator of the ship used to send wood chips away.

The wood chip shipments

“gives us additional royalties. We invested in the wharf to meet the GDS needs. We repaired the concrete slab of the wharf,” says Grande-Vallée Mayor Noël Richard. The repairs cost \$187,000. Transport Quebec paid half of that amount, the Municipality paid \$68,000 and the Côte-de-Gaspé MRC, \$25,000.

Grande-Vallée collects royalties of \$0.19 per cubic metre transhipped on its wharf, as well as docking fees. For the Anticosti wood, it means about \$35,000 per year.

## Future work?

The ship that loads the wood chips, the Jean-Joseph, is able to sail out of the harbour only at high tide. Grande-Vallée is considering dredging its harbour to facilitate shipping operations. The municipality launched a call for tenders “to evaluate what kind of dredging we need, if the sediments are contaminated and how much it

would cost,” explains Mr. Richard.

Groupe GDS and Transports Québec would participate in paying the bill.

Grande-Vallée is also looking at the potential offered by Ressources Pélican, which wants to exploit a limestone deposit close to Murdochville. If the project starts, the municipality would like the limestone to be shipped to the North Shore via its wharf.

“It would be exploited for 35 to 40 years,” Mayor Richard points out.

## Where do the wood chips go?

Eight wood chip vessels were unloaded at the La Malbaie port in Charlevoix county. Their destination was the Clermont plant of Résolu Forest Products, a mill producing newsprint. The three other vessels went to Belledune, where the wood chips are piled up to be delivered to Turkey.

Bois Granval also has bark

that could be delivered by ship to Baie-Comeau for another Résolu newsprint paper mill.

Bois Granval needed a new market for its wood chips, explains Christian Grenier, the person responsible for the file at Groupe GDS. “There was accumulation. Before, our main receiver was F. F. Soucy (a paper mill) in Rivière-du-Loup. A volume used to go to Twin Rivers in Edmundston, but sometimes, the receivers were in shutdown, or the truckers didn’t have any load to come back with.”

Bois Granval will continue to transport its wood chips by ship for the next few years, says Mr. Grenier. “It’s more profitable by ship. You deliver more for what it costs.”

Grande-Vallée acquired its wharf from the Canadian government in 2001.

In February, the same Canadian government announced a reconstruction project that will cost approximately \$20 million in Carleton, where the commercial vocation of the wharf was completely overlooked by the municipal administration, despite some potential. Carleton is also the smallest fishing harbour on the Gaspé Peninsula when the value of catches is taken into account. The marina, a municipal park and limited fishing activities will remain.

The Town of Chandler is interested in acquiring its commercial value if the Canadian government pays for its repairs, which are valued at about \$16 million. The wharf has been closed since September 2016 for safety reasons due to poor maintenance by Transport Canada. The Carleton wharf has also been poorly maintained by the same department over the years.

## Tonnage handled at harbours and ports of the Gaspé Coast in 2016 and 2017, in metric tons

	2016	2017
Sandy Beach (Gaspé)	88,546	93,704
Grand-Vallée	106,000	93,000
Chandler	131	70
Paspébiac	13,826	12,077
Carleton	0	0
Méchins	0	0
Matane	287,668	245,544

Source: Transport Canada

Note: The tonnage handled in Grand-Vallée is an approximation.

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# No movement in the Cap-des-Rosiers lighthouse refurbishment project since 2013

Geneviève Gélinas

**CAP-DES-ROSIERS:** – The Cap-des-Rosiers lighthouse file hasn't progressed since 2013, when Heritage Canada designated it as one of Canada's Top Ten Endangered Places. Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine Member of Parliament, Diane LeBouthillier, defends the owner of the lighthouse, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, by saying that it is currently prioritizing the renovation of small craft harbours.

The federal department wants to get rid of the lighthouse, the highest in Canada. It was built between 1853 and 1858 and is located on the edge of Forillon National Park. At the beginning of the summer, Fisheries and Oceans Minister Dominic LeBlanc stated that he was open to the idea of transferring the building to Parks Canada.

The statement had offered a glimmer of hope to the lighthouse defenders. In July, Jonathan Wilkinson replaced Mr. LeBlanc as Fisheries and Oceans Minister. Ms. LeBouthillier has shut down that glimmer of hope: "The Parks Canada stance is clear: it doesn't want to acquire the lighthouse," she states.

The lighthouse defenders shouldn't expect large investments on the lighthouse by Fisheries and Oceans in the short term. "We know that the ministry has major investments to do on small craft harbours. If I'm asked to make a choice, today, I choose the harbours," MP LeBouthillier states.

"We'll invest to keep the place safe and fund student jobs. We'll go on supporting them (the committee for the lighthouse) to make sure that the lighthouse remains open to the public," she adds.



Photos: G. Gélinas

*The 34-meter-high lighthouse was erected between 1853 and 1858 to avoid shipwrecks, which used to be frequent and fatal at that time.*

At the end of June 2017, the Ministry of Fisheries and Oceans asked the committee to close the lighthouse while emergency work was done. The committee lost precious days that the lighthouse could have been open in June and July. Fisheries and Oceans paid for the \$10,000 worth of work.

The lighthouse is currently safe, and less decrepit than the average federal lighthouse. "Fisheries and Oceans inspectors came at the beginning of 2018. They said that among all the lighthouses which belong to them, that's the one in the best condition," reports Lucie Bergeron, treasurer of the Committee for the Cap-des-Rosiers lighthouse national historic site, which looks after the building and organizes visits.

However, more than \$6 million is required to ensure its long-term future. Neither the committee for the lighthouse

nor the Town of Gaspé can afford to pay for that. "There are

cracks on its facing, windows that need to be changed, water

that seeps between the outer covering and the inner lining and the dome has to be rebuilt," says Ms. Bergeron.

"The committee has a lease with Fisheries and Oceans until December 2019. We don't know what's going to happen next. Are they going to renew the lease to do the work? We want to relaunch the file," says Ms. Bergeron.

The ideal solution would be that "Parks Canada acquires it, takes care of it, but signs an agreement with us to manage the tourist activities," states the treasurer.

The committee did well this year. "It was a very busy season, the best year since we've been offering guided tours. Almost 8,000 tourists paid for a guided tour and 30,000 people stopped to admire the lighthouse," Ms. Bergeron reports.

The Cap-des-Rosiers committee employs seven people, including three students.

## DOING BUSINESS WITH THE SADC IS ADVANTAGEOUS



### VITRERIE DE L'EST Gaspé

**Daniel Gagné** is an actuary by training but first and foremost, he's an entrepreneur and has been since he was a teen. He first travelled the world while owning a food-services enterprise before falling in love with Gaspé and settling here permanently a dozen years ago. François Charbonneau – mechanic, carpenter and firefighter – has lived in Douglastown with his family for eleven years. Multi-talented and involved in his community, the people around him are important to him.

Experienced entrepreneurs, the two businessmen appreciate wood, beautiful things, construction, modern materials and sustainable development. Doing things right and providing impeccable customer service are other values they share. This explains why they founded Vitrierie de l'Est, located at 17 des Cerisiers in the Augustines Industrial Park, in 2017.

They provide tailor-made professional advice, and sell and install quality doors and windows, superb and robust tempered glass or aluminum handrails and made-to-measure wainscoting. All of their services are available in English and French. François and Daniel consider themselves fortunate to have been able to count on the support of the Gaspé SADC, through its Support for small enterprises program, to build their own website. Via this financial product, the SADC can provide grants to help enterprises deal with major economic issues such as innovation, succession, sustainable development and the integration of communication technologies.



*Treasurer of the Committee for the Cap-des-Rosiers lighthouse national historical site, Lucie Bergeron, discussed the lighthouse file with MP Diane LeBouthillier in June 2017.*

# Fisherman helpers heard in Ottawa

Geneviève Gélinas

**GASPÉ:** – The Unifor union wants to mobilize the Quebec fisherman helpers and form a union. Unifor is asking the federal and provincial governments to review labour regulations in order to allow fisherman helpers to form one large union for all fishing enterprises rather than several small unions, one per enterprise.

Representatives of the fisherman helpers and of Unifor met with Sean Casey, the parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) and Rodger Cuzner, the parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Employment, Workforce development and Labour, in Ottawa on November 7.

In Quebec, there are between 2,000 and 2,200 fisherman helpers, in 800 fishing enterprises. Under the current labour regulation, “if they wanted to become unionized, it should be one boat at a time. It wouldn’t be easy, it would be a lot of work,” says André Haché, a Unifor recruitment agent.

The union is asking Ottawa to make a mass union possible. “We’re also going to make representations in Quebec,” adds Mr. Haché, because the provincial regulation would need to be changed as well.

Newport’s Gilles Albert, who represents the Gaspé Peninsula fisherman helpers, considers that the Ottawa meeting “went very well. We’ve been listened to.”

“We told them what’s happening to fisherman helpers



Photo: William De Merchant

“As soon as we want to organize a meeting or a union approach, some captains pressure their fisherman helpers not to participate,” says Gilles Albert.

(...). As soon as we want to organize a meeting or a union approach, some captains pressure their fisherman helpers not to participate. Some even sent crew members to take pictures of the participants,” Mr. Albert reports.

From year to year fisherman helpers ask for better wages and job security. The wages issue is more of a concern for crab fishing, where the revenue sharing between owners and fisherman helpers is unfair, according to Mr. Albert.

For example, he tells us that if “the captain of a helper caught 515,000 pounds of snow crab this year. The helper got \$7,000 in wages, that is to say \$1,000 per week during seven weeks.”

The snow crab landing price was about \$5.50 per pound this year. That means that the captain received approximately \$2.8 million in gross earnings and paid 0.2% of this amount to one of his helpers. Ottawa has to address this issue, according to Mr. Albert, because its fishing license system became “a machine for creating millionaires.”

Not all fishing fleets pay their helpers in the same way. Shrimp fishermen pay between 5% and 8% of their gross earnings to each helper, depending on his or her experience. For the ground fish fishermen, this percentage is sometimes as high as 13%, but their gross earnings are lower than in crab fishing. In gen-

eral, weekly wages on ground fishing boats are between \$1,200 and \$1,300.

Mr. Albert also questions another wage practice sometimes used by fishing enterprises. In this case, the owner boosts the pay cheque of his helpers so that they can receive higher employment insurance benefits. In exchange, he asks them to pay him or her back a part of their cheque, Mr. Albert explains.

Liberal Member of Parliament (MP) for Gaspésie-Magadalen Islands Diane LeBouthillier, reports that she was told about “some problems,” by fisherman helpers. That’s why she asked for the meeting with the parliamentary secretaries, a meeting that she attended. “The fisheries sector is a major economic sector and everybody must exercise the best practices as possible,” she says.

The MP, who is also the Minister of National Revenue, refuses to comment directly on the manoeuvres used to obtain higher EI benefits. “There are many situations which are not easy at all. We’ve been told that some fishermen had very good practices and that others had practices that should be reviewed.”

The file will remain active, Ms. LeBouthillier states, but she cannot say how it will be fixed. “I have some research to do.”

Asked about a potential unionization of fisherman helpers, the MP replies that the matter must be dealt with by the stakeholders. “I don’t have to take a stand (...). The law is clear: people have the right to form unions.”



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# Changes to alleviate manpower shortage

Gilles Gagné

CARLETON: – Rémi Massé, Member of Parliament for the riding of Avignon-La Mitis-Matane-Matapédia, will soon propose changes to cabinet colleagues in order to alleviate the shortage of labour in the Gaspé Peninsula and other regions.

Mr. Massé met with several Avignon MRC stakeholders on November 15 in Carleton and left the meeting with a more accurate picture of the worker shortage situation in the area. People in business, Avignon MRC officials, schoolboard and economic development organization representatives attended the meeting.

“I am supposed to submit a report on the matter but it is long and I’ll write a summary for Wednesday’s caucus meeting. I want to talk to the Finance, Immigration and Employment-Service Canada ministers. The next budget will be presented in February or March and I would like to have something ready in that budget,” says Rémi Massé.

Officially, there are 860 jobs available in the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands at the present time. Mr. Massé thinks there could be more.

“I think we can double that number. Some employers don’t use official sites and prefer posting jobs on facebook, Linked In and other social media sites,” says Mr. Massé.

Employers expressed needs in tourism, services and specialized workers for industries in a wide variety of fields. Some of them proposed interesting solutions that need some support regarding the adaptation of regulatory norms.

“Hiring retirees is one interesting option. Sharing a pool of workers was also raised as a solution. Recruiting foreign labour is highly considered, especially in tourism,” points out Mr. Massé.

The hurdles are also significant in most of those potential solutions, he acknowledges.

“Recruiting foreign workers is complex. It is costly and it is slow. As for seniors, we have to deal with the fact that here, 50% of them receive the guaranteed income supplement. They are penalized if they work and earn



Photo: G. Gagné

*MP Rémi Massé would like regulatory bodies to show more flexibility with regards to foreign workers recruitment.*

“\$20. That must be changed,” explains Rémi Massé.

The recruitment of labour from outside is also slowed down by the necessity to find work for the spouse or partner, and deal with a shortage in housing, he adds.

Seasonal work represents another reality some employers have to deal with. Rémi Massé recognizes that it is a touchy matter. Close to 5,000 were receiving employment insurance benefits in the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands in October. That number was 2,230 people in July.

“Employers receive resumes after posting jobs but when they call the candidates, they face refusals sometimes. It is a reality I don’t want to comment on. In the same breath, some employers don’t want to lose their reliable seasonal workers. Not everybody can work in fish processing plants where it is cold, damp and demanding. Those workers are statistically available but their employment period is often about to begin when they are called by other employers,” explains Mr. Massé.

He thinks that in the short to medium term, a pilot project could be carried out to simplify the recruitment of foreign labour and adapt the norms so they favour the return of seniors to the workforce without fiscal penalties.



## PUBLIC NOTICE

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS WHO ARE ENTITLED TO SIGN AN APPLICATION TO TAKE PART IN A REFERENDUM

### Second draft 1156-11-35 (adopted on 13 novembre 2018) amending the zoning by-law

NOTICE is hereby given that, following the public consultation meeting which was held on november 13, 2018, the municipal Council of "Ville de Gaspé" has accepted by resolution, on november 13, 2018 a second draft of by-law 1156-11-35 amending the zoning by-law. This second draft contains provisions that may be subject to an application made by interested persons from anyone of the zones to which such provisions apply and of the contiguous zones, to require that a by-law containing these be submitted for their approval, in accordance with the Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities.

#### 1. PURPOSE OF AN APPLICATION TO TAKE PART TO A REFERENDUM

An application relating to the following provision of the second draft:

- « Modifiant les usages autorisés dans la zone M-224 afin de permettre l'usage habitation multifamiliale et collective (H-8) avec un maximum de douze (12) logements ».

Such an application is required that the by-law containing the provision to which it applies be submitted for the approval of the qualified voters in the zone to which applies this application, and in any contiguous zone from which a valid application originates.

#### 2. LOCALIZATION OF THE CONCERNED ZONES

The concerned zone (M-224), situated downtown Gaspé, is illustrated on the following sketch:



#### 3. VALIDITY OF AN APPLICATION

To be valid, an application to take part in a referendum must:

- state clearly the provision of the second draft to which the application refers;
- indicate the zone from which the application originates;
- be signed by at least 12 interested persons of the zone from which it originates, if there are more than 21 interested persons in that zone, or, otherwise, by the majority of the interested persons;
- **be received by the Town clerk office at the town hall no later than November 28, 2018, 4:30 pm.**

#### 4. INTERESTED PERSONS WHO ARE ENTITLED TO SIGN AN APPLICATION

An interested person is a person of full age, Canadian citizen and not under curatorship who, on the date of adoption of the second draft, which is November 13, 2018, is not disqualified from voting and meets one of the following requirements:

- is domiciled in a zone from which an application may originate and who has been domiciled in Québec for at least 6 months;
- is the owner of an immovable or the occupant of a business place situated on such a zone since 12 months at least.

#### 5. LACK OF APPLICATIONS

Should there be no valid applications relating to the provisions of the second draft, the said provisions may be then included in a by-law which will not have to be submitted for the approval of the qualified voters.

#### 6. CONSULTATION OF THE DRAFT

The second draft of by-law is available for consultation at the Clerk’s office at the Town Hall during regular work hours, that is from 8:15 a.m. till 12 noon and from 1 p.m. till 4:30 p.m., Monday to Thursday, and from 8:15 am till 12 noon on Friday.

Given in Gaspé, November 21, 2018.

Isabelle Vézina,  
Director of legal services and town clerk



# Announcements...

## In Memory



### DUTHIE: GORDON

In loving memory of Gordon Duthie, who passed away on November 18, 2017 at the age of only 69. He was born in New Carlisle, Quebec on January 14, 1948, son of Audrey Sinclair and Robert Duthie. He was a wonderful husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle and friend. He was the husband of Deborah McInnis, father to Lori (Eric) and Dana; grandfather to Blake and Emma.

He started work at the Bathurst pulp and paper mill in New Richmond in December 1965, until its closing in August of 2005. He was an enthusiastic collector of old pictures and had many of the mill dating back to its beginning days in operation until its demolition.

He organized a reunion supper for past employees to commemorate the tenth anniversary of its closing. He also collected old pictures of the town of New Richmond and its surrounding areas. He was a born historian who took great interest in the early settlers and their stories. He was a founder of the Duthie's Point project and was always willing to share his knowledge with anyone looking for information about the history of the area. He was a woodworker. He loved to see the final results of his projects, and enjoyed sharing his pieces with loved ones, each one handpicked just for

them. He was a painter. Bluegrass was his music of choice. He looked forward to and enjoyed our annual festival at Duthie's Point every year. He was a volunteer who was always available to help out.

He was a fun and loving Pop to his grandchildren, Blake and Emma, who brought him great joy regularly.

Many memories were made in his shop and on Popcorn Night. He spent many Saturday nights playing cards at sister-in-law Nola's. Sunday mornings were extra special, because it meant tea time at his little sister Helen's, where brothers and sisters gathered to reminisce about the past and tell each other about their day-to-day lives, laughter guaranteed.

### Miss Me But Let Me Go

*When I come to the end of the road and the sun has set for me,  
I want no rites in a gloom-filled room.*

*Why cry for a soul set free?*

*Miss me a little, but not for too long.*

*And not with your head bowed low.*

*Remember the love we once shared.*

*Miss me but let me go.*

*For this journey that we all must take,*

*And each must go alone.*

*It is a part of the Master's plan,*

*A step on the road to home.*

*When you are lonely and sick at heart,*

*Go to the friends we know,*

*And bury your sorrow in doing good deeds.*

*Miss me but let me go.*

You are greatly missed by us all... your kindness, patience and gentle spirit will never be forgotten.

Dearly loved and remembered by Deb, Lori, Dana, Eric, Blake, Emma, Joan, Dale, Helen, Larry and families.

### Thank you

The members of the Hope Town UCW would like to thank everyone for their generous donations, food, presence and participation at our Christmas Tea and Bake Sale.

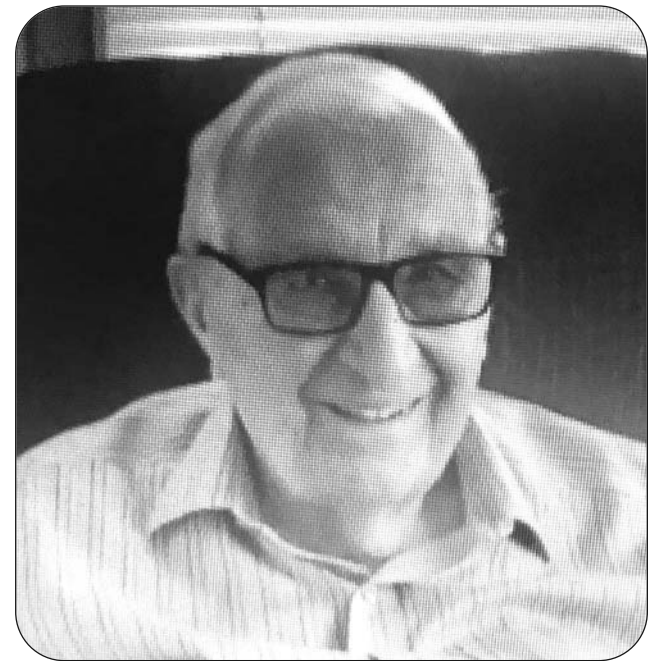
With your support, we achieved outstanding results and hope to see you all again next year. Thanks again.

*Ruth Watt-Lyall, President*

### Card of Thanks

The family of the late Evelyn LeGrand would like to thank everyone for their generosity and kindness during their recent bereavement.

*George, Glenn, Gregory and their families.*



### LEGGO: Cecil

In loving memory of our dear father, father-in-law, grandfather, great-grandfather and great-great-grandfather who passed away at 91 years of age on December 1, 2017.

*You left your tired body*

*One year ago today.*

*While we're still in earthly ignorance,*

*You're riding the next wave.*

*We love you and we miss you*

*And our hearts will hold you dear.*

*But until we meet again Dad,*

*We must continue on right here.*

You will never know how much we miss you in our daily lives and how many times we want to pick up the phone and call you just to hear your voice. xoxo your loving family.

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# On the lighter side...



## SUDOKU

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

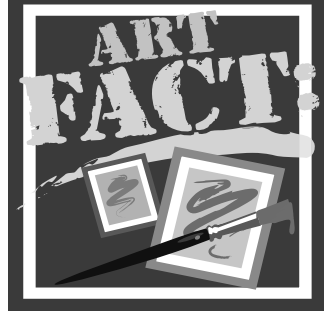
7	9	1	8	9	6	4	3	2
3	6	9	2	7	4	1	5	8
8	2	4	2	8	3	7	9	6
6	9	1	2	9	3	7	6	4
1	8	1	2	9	5	4	7	3
7	1	9	8	6	3	2	4	5
9	6	2	5	8	1	7	3	4
1	4	8	2	3	7	5	6	9
5	7	3	9	4	6	8	1	2

ANSWER:

## Spec gets around...



Ross Smith and his daughter Tracie Booth at the international plowing match in Pain Court, Ontario with their SPEC.



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ANSWER: CROCHET



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ANSWER: BACTERIA

## HOROSCOPES

### ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, you are back on track in various ways. This week friendships get pushed to the forefront. If you are looking to make new connections, you'll make them.

### TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, if you can find balance in your daily schedule, satisfaction will flow all week long. Start implementing new strategies to get on task and any stress will dissipate.

### GEMINI – May 22/June 21

Your work life may seem like it is all over the place, Gemini. It could

be because you haven't established a firm separation of career and family. Try not to overlap the two often.

### CANCER – Jun 22/July 22

Cancer, your recent plan to flex some creativity must fit in with family life. Why not get a spouse or children involved with the process? It can be a group effort.

### LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, you have to pull back and recuperate if you have been pushing yourself too hard; otherwise, your health can suffer. Economize your energy for fun things.

### VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

While you can't help but worry if you have enough material and resources to make a project suc-

ceed, dwelling too much on what you're lacking will get you nowhere fast, Virgo.

### LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, if you play your cards right the next few days, you may look back on this week with a big smile on your face. Something that has required a lot of attention is no longer a burden.

### SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, you will soon start to feel like you have the stamina and motivation to make things happen at home. Now is the perfect time to start some projects.

### SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

Wealth is not only measured in your financial resources, but also in the close personal relationships

you maintain. Surround yourself with loved ones this week, Sagittarius.

### CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Professional focus takes on a new edge this week, Capricorn. You are determined to make a mark for yourself by finishing an important task, and you have your eyes on the prize.

### AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, don't hold back this week, even if your mind starts to wonder. A vivid imagination may help you answer some questions and revitalize your spirit.

### PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

Self-doubt and confusion try to edge their way in, but you won't let them, Pisces. If you stick with

positive companions, you'll be in a good frame of mind.

### FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

#### NOVEMBER 18

Owen Wilson, Actor (50)

#### NOVEMBER 19

Adam Driver, Actor (35)

#### NOVEMBER 20

Jeremy Jordan, Actor (34)

#### NOVEMBER 21

Goldie Hawn, Actress (73)

#### NOVEMBER 22

Mark Ruffalo, Actor (51)

#### NOVEMBER 23

Miley Cyrus, Singer (26)

#### NOVEMBER 24

Ryan Fitzpatrick, Ath. (36)

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