

# The Gaspé Spec

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## Shigawake's Drake Almond organizes Arctic inspired fashion show

NEW RICHMOND: – Drake Almond, a young man from Shigawake, organized a fashion show on November 24 in Inukjuak, a Northern Quebec community where he studies Recreation Leadership, at Nunavimmi Pigiursavik, the local vocational centre. That fashion show was a smashing success.

Drake moved up north in September 2016, after spending close to two years in Montreal. He spent a year in Kuujuaq and then he enrolled at Nunavimmi Pigiursavik in Inukjuak for an 18-month program. Recreation leadership teaches planning, organizing, leading and administering events and programs. He will graduate on December 12.

“For my final semester, it is part of the program to plan a special event in the community. I could not decide what to do, I had so many ideas. One night, I was listening to music and walking back and forth as if I was on a runway, and it hit me!

Gilles Gagné focus all the attention around Inuit apparel,” he says.

He planned everything so that the members of the community would be deeply involved in the event.

“I wanted to make an event ‘Inuit for Inuit’. Everyone who was part of the event was Inuit; the seamstresses, host, guest speakers, models, event staff, waiters and security. It was very well received by the community. The feedback from the crowd and the models has been phenomenal. Some comments were ‘Made me proud to be Inuk’, ‘Gained more self-confidence’ and ‘Hope it will become an annual event,’” adds Mr. Almond.

When he was preparing for his project, he established goals.

“I wanted to have at least 20 articles of handmade clothing submitted for the fashion show and

parts to the fashion show. In the first part, the clothing came from the local hunter support group, so it was members of the community who sold their clothing to the store and we promoted the store and the clothing available. In the second part, all the clothes shown on the runway was sewed by the models or family members of the models,” he explains.

The third goal that he wrote as part of his project includes a part that is dealing with the long term.



Host Narsuq Atagotaaluk and organizer Drake Almond gave the attendees an explanation of the event and various types of clothing.



Joshua Nathan Kettler wearing camping parka from Hunter Support.

saw other benefits stemming from the fashion show, including enthusiastic attendees.

“The attendance was amazing; we had between 180-200 people at

the event, which is amazing since the age limit was 15+. I think it was the first event where kids were not allowed to come. In Inukjuak, parents bring their kids everywhere. I was not sure how well that (the age limit) would go in the community. However, the audience loved the ambiance and loved that it was a place where parents could have a break. The community loved how they could just relax and enjoy the show without kids running everywhere,” states Drake Almond.

A lot of community members expressed the wish to see the event becoming an annual show. He is open to such an outcome.

“I definitely plan on organ-

izing another event like this. The date is uncertain at this very moment; however it would be amazing to be an annual event. My future is in recreation so I will be planning many events in my future, all different and unique in their own way,” he says.

He loves his life up north. “It is like living in my home town, the hospitality is amazing. When I lived in Montreal, I hated it. Everyone was rushing around and had no feeling of belonging. When I moved up north, I fell in love with it. My future is in the north, I plan on building my career and future in Nunavik. Up north, the mindset is not how much money you have, the mindset is focused around family values, camping and sewing. I love it so much, the liberation of just being so disconnected from everything when you are on the land.”

Drake Almond will visit his home town soon. “I will be visiting the Gaspé around Christmas time. Family is very important to me so I always make it home for Christmas. We have a big family and it’s amazing we can all find time to get together every year even in our 20s.”



Siasi Kumarluk wearing camping parka from Hunter Support.

Photos: Sylvain Paradis

Let’s have a fashion show! The event name was *Arctic Inspired Fashion Show*. The theme was arctic inspired because I wanted to

create an arctic inspired event by using white decorations and cultural elements to illustrate the theme. There were two

“The fashion show showcased the culture and got the youth more involved, in learning how to make Inuit clothing. This project will promote the beauty of their culture, as well as encourage the younger generation to start sewing and maintain the Inuit culture. In addition, this event will have an educational purpose for the students of Recreation Leadership. The event would cover all the modules in the program and give them hands-on learning, how to successfully execute an event in the community,” says Drake.

Besides the pride and self-confidence gained by the members of the community, he

# EI Program: Women are at a disadvantage

Thierry Haroun

**GASPÉ PENINSULA:** - Numbers show that only 35.2% of women are eligible for Employment Insurance Premiums, compared to 52.5% for men. Moreover, many women receive smaller premiums and for a shorter period of time. By failing to take into consideration the different reality between men and women, the current Employment Insurance Program is increasing the gap between the genders, points out Gaétan Cousineau, coordinator of

the MAC Gaspésie, who is joining forces with 70 other organizations of the province as part of a campaign to put pressure on the Federal Government to change the law. "This is nonsense. It's simply unacceptable, such a gap between men and women. It's clear that women are disadvantaged when it comes the time to get EI premiums."

### Some examples

"What I'm about to tell you is nothing new," says

Gaétan Cousineau. We've been talking about it for the past ten years. Now, we all know that women are the heart of the family. They are the ones on who we depend, especially children. They are the ones who go to school with their child to see the teachers when something is wrong or for the report cards. They're the ones who go to the doctors with their child. Consequently, they lose work hours, some lose their jobs or

see their contract shortened. All these family responsibilities have eventual consequences on EI premiums, its eligibility and the number of weeks eligible."

And there's more, adds Gaétan Cousineau. "Here's another example: there are cases when women come back to work from a maternity period of 35 weeks and when it comes the time to ask for EI premiums, the hours accumulated before the ma-

ternity are not all considered." Some of the goals in this campaign are the following: Lowering from 420 to 350 hours of work to be eligible, a minimum of 35 weeks of premiums, raising from 55% to 70% of the weekly salary on the best 12 weeks of pay and being allowed to quit a job without having any penalty. To sign the petition or to get all the information on the campaign visit [www.lemasse.org](http://www.lemasse.org)

## Helping those in need

Thierry Haroun

**MARIA:** - The Bonavignon Food Bank, based in Maria, recently received \$7,241 from the Québec Liquor Commission (SAQ) as part of a province-wide fundraiser. "It will give us a hand because there's a growing demand for families for Christmas food baskets. We've been taking names for the past three weeks already," said Suzanne Lamarre, coordinator. She added that the needy aren't only those who are on welfare but also workers. "People working part-time or at minimum wage come to our food bank for help. It's not easy these days for many and not only at Christmastime, but all year round." The Avignon Food Bank serves the communities from Sainte-Alphonse to Nouvelle.

## No more goons

Thierry Haroun

The Gaspésie Desjardins Senior Hockey League has only existed for a few weeks and already the rules have been tightened. The spokesperson of the League, Guylain Raymond, refuses to point out a specific incident emphasizing that some "minor incidents" which occurred recently are the reason for the new penalties. From now on a player who starts a fight will be suspended for two games and the team will have to pay a fine of \$1,500 after three such incidents from its players. Reached by Spec, the Vice-President of the League's Ruling Committee, the Mayor of Grand River, Gino Cyr, also refused to point out a specific incident, but did admit that "old time hockey when a player puts his gloves down once the game starts is over. We don't want that anymore. Yes, fights do happen, and we are aware of that, but instigating a fight, just to instigate, won't be tolerated. We're not there anymore," he said. The League has teams in Haute-Gaspésie, Rocher-Percé, Causapscal (Matapédia) and Gaspé.

# Police report

David Major, 37, from Hope Town, died in a November 28 car accident that occurred at 9:30 p.m. on the Wharf Road in New Carlisle. The victim was in the backseat of the vehicle when the driver lost control, hit the safety railing and slid into a 30-foot ditch. The vehicle rolled over.

“The four other occupants, including the driver, were injured, some seriously, although those injuries are not life-threatening. We are not ruling out the possibility that alcohol played a role in that accident and a blood sample was taken,” explains Sgt. Claude Doiron, spokesperson of the Sûreté du Québec. An accident reconstruction specialist was sent to the scene of the accident the following morning in an attempt to understand what occurred.

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On November 28, a fire seriously damaged a Bonaventure house located along Highway 132. The call was received at about 9:30 a.m. and the firefighters of the Bonaventure, New Carlisle, Saint-Siméon and Saint-Elzéar stations answered the call. There were 30 firefighters on the scene at one point and traffic on Highway 132 was interrupted for a while as they were trying to extinguish the fire. The fire started on the second floor of the house, which is a total loss.

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Accused of drug trafficking and possession of drugs for the purpose of trafficking, Tim Lucas, 31, from Chandler, is released under conditions. Suspected of selling methamphetamines, cocaine and GHB, the man was arrested on November 23 and has appeared at the Percé courthouse twice since then; the day of the arrest and on November 26. The accused will return to court on January 28. At the time of his arrest, the Sûreté du Québec seized 1,000 methamphetamine pills, 400 millilitres of GHB, 15 grams of cocaine, drug traffic related tools and \$160 in cash.

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Between November 29 and January 3 all Quebec police services will take part in the VACCIN operation, conducting interventions destined to curtail impaired driving caused by alcohol and drugs. The operation is conducted in collaboration with the SAAQ, the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec, and will remind drivers that taking the wheel under the influence of alcohol or drugs is not an option. The police officers will conduct various forms of interventions and deduct points when warranted. The SAAQ patrol officers will sometimes join police officers. Trucks, buses and taxis will also be targeted during the five-week long operation.

Between 2012 and 2016, collisions caused by impaired drivers after consuming alcohol led to 110 deaths, 260 serious injuries and 1,800 light injuries on an annual average in Quebec. It represented 30% of yearly fatal accidents, 15% for accidents causing serious injuries and 5% of collisions causing non-serious injuries. Of the drivers who died in those accidents, 33% had legal or illicit drugs in their blood, 19% had cannabis in their blood and 35% of the drivers aged between 16 and 24 had cannabis in their blood.



Photo: Courtesy Southern Gaspé Professional Fishermen Group

The first new group of license holders in the region and administrators of the Southern Gaspé Professional Fishermen Group are from left to right administrator Mitch Girard, permit holders Ryan Bond, Nick Rehel, Vincent McRae, Billy Mauger, John Ross, president Joel Berthelot, permit holder Alexandra Labbé and administrators Sylvain Arsenault, Alain Renaud, Jimmy Lepage and Gilles Duguay.

## The Gaspé's newly licensed lobster fishermen

— Ariane Aubert Bonn

PERCÉ: - The lobster license purchase assistance program has recruited many new fishermen in the Gaspé Peninsula.

Already eight transactions have been completed and eight more are pending approval for funding assistance. “We have fishermen from all sectors who have registered,” says the director of the Southern Gaspé Professional Fishermen Group, O’Neil Cloutier. The “relief” fishermen come from both the anglophone and francophone communities.

O’Neil Cloutier says that the price of fishing licenses makes it hard for the next generation to get started.

“For us, a new 40-year-old

fisherman is a young fisherman, because he has needed time to raise the money and buy his license,” he says.

This year, the Southern Gaspé Professional Fishermen Group, the Quebec department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPAQ) and Desjardins have set up a financing program to help fishermen acquire permits.

Between \$71,000 and \$91,000 is available in financial assistance for those concerned, the highest amount being awarded to those aged 45 and under. A sum of \$16,000 comes from a grant issued by the Southern Gaspé Professional Fishermen Group and the rest of the amount takes the form of a loan guaranteed by MAPAQ.

In the Gaspé Peninsula, 160 lobster license holders are members of the group and their average age is 58 years.

A total of 16 applications were completed, the maximum number allowed for the year. Eight applications are already approved and the others are being evaluated.

Mr. Cloutier concludes that the permit purchase program helps and that there is interest to buy new licences.

“We do not know if there will be other programs of that kind in the years to come, but this one proves that the next generation is there. We have no power over the price of permits, but we can see that financial aid really helps to make the transactions,” he adds.



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## Commentary

Gilles Gagné

### Food for thought: How about a real national transportation policy?

The next federal election will be held on October 21, 2019. Even though the election is still over ten months away, we can already tell that many parties are in election mode. This is a prime example of the advantages and the inconveniences of fixed election dates. There is some predictability time-wise but it makes for a very long pre-campaign.

There is, however, some positive in a long pre-election campaign. It gives political think tanks time to think about the many subjects requiring reflection.

Considering the declining state of long distance transportation in most of Canada's rural areas, with some effort political parties could propose an ambitious plan. The situation is ridiculous for a country that is one of the richest in the world, on a per capita basis.

The reality is that most of Canada's rural communities are experiencing a decline in their transportation capacity. Truth be told, transportation, especially the train, bus and sometimes air services, were way more efficient, reliable and present 60 years ago! The deterioration of our wharves adds to the handicap experienced by a number of Canadian regions.

There is really nothing funny about it. A look at the land transportation picture speaks volumes about the severity of the Canada-wide problem.

Since January 1990, VIA Rail's passenger service has been reduced to a fraction of what it should be in a modern country. The Gaspé Peninsula was a prime victim of those service cuts when its daily train was reduced to a three-times a week service, as if it is convenient for people to travel three days out of seven. Since September 2013, that service has been suspended because of the state of the railway, mostly its bridges.

The Maritimes have only been served three times a week instead of six times since October 2012, another silly decision by federal government-owned VIA Rail. That public transporter states that the ridership doesn't justify six trains a week, but everybody with a bit of knowledge of long distance travel knows that a daily service, daily in the sense of seven days a week, with shorter trains and a quality of service comparable to the Quebec City-Windsor corridor's would lead to a passenger increase.

Canada's Western provinces, including British Columbia are also experiencing major cuts in their bus services, as Greyhound Canada phased out almost all its services in October. The company blames those cuts on a 41% decline in ridership since 2010, persistent competition from subsidized national and inter-regional passenger transportation services, the growth of new low-cost airlines, regulatory constraints and the growth of car ownership.

If the company is right, then a government program has to be implemented. A lot of people will question putting public funds in what used to be a business but transportation is a matter of prime im-

portance. In many European countries, that matter is understood and efficient train and bus services fill the needs of the population. It is not even an issue there.

Environmentally-speaking, long-distance commuting also represents a way to reduce pollution, in a country that seems to be short on solutions in that area.

Again, the deterioration of transportation in rural areas is not normal in a developed country. It leaves social, economic and cultural needs unfilled and prevents numerous opportunities from happening.

Considering that some health and education services must be obtained outside rural areas, is it fair to say that the millions of Canadians living in those regions must keep an access to such services, given that they too are paying taxes? It is obviously fair.

Will a company plan to invest money in a community that is not served by adequate transportation needs? Most of the time, the company will back off.

Is it easier to organize a cultural event if you can't assure a swift way to move the artists and the visitors? It is not, for sure. Culture is an essential part of a quality life.

The country's politicians have been quick to point out that service cuts are justified by the demographics. That is pure nonsense in most cases. The Gaspé Peninsula is a good example of a region suffering from the "unjustified." Why would a region lose close to 100% of its train service and 65% of its bus service after losing 15% of its population in 25 years? How can you justify such service reductions in a region where tourism is booming?

The economy has diversified and rate of the population decline has greatly diminished. There is room for hope and an improvement of the situation requires decent long distance transportation. It is simple.

Transportation shortcomings prevent rural communities from fully contributing to the national economy and to society in general. It opens the door to analysts obsessed with urban issues concluding that rural areas don't do enough for the prosperity of the country. Well, give those areas the right tools and they will surprise you.

Politicians are not all leaders. This is an understatement. Most of them need to be pushed before showing sparks of inspiration and goodwill. Regarding the most important issue of rural transportation, the time has come to push our politicians, since they are lacking foresight on that issue.

**The Gaspé Spec**

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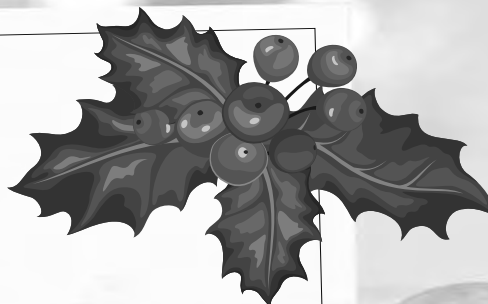




Photo: GRLCGIM

Mélanie Dufresne

## Lodging units for seniors should be ready in 2020

Thierry Haroun

CHANDLER: - If everything goes as planned, the 30-unit housing project for semi-autonomous seniors of Chandler should be ready by early 2020. This was confirmed to Spec by the *Groupe ressources en logements collectifs de la Gaspésie-les-îles*, a regional housing organization that is closely involved in this important project.

Mélanie Dufresne, is the spokesperson for this organization that has two offices, one in Gaspé and another one in Carleton. She told us over the phone, from her Gaspé office, that the architectural plans are 75% ready. Once those are completed, a call for tender should be published by the end of February or early March. When the contractor is chosen, the construction works should start by this spring. This work is expected to take 11 months or so, Mélanie Dufresne said. "That means that the units should be ready by early 2020 if everything goes as planned."

These 30 units, that could house 36 people are for people aged 65 and over. A project that responds to an important need in Chandler, she said. "Absolutely. Many people have put their name on the waiting list. That list is under the responsibility of *Les Habitations des aînés de*

*Chandler* (that is fostering the project). It has set up a committee that is currently proceeding on the admissibility of those who are entitled to be on that list. By the end of the year, that committee will be able to tell those who are eligible where they are on the list."

It should be noted that on March 23, former liberal Quebec Lodging Minister, Lise Thériault, held a press conference at Chandler Town Hall to announce that her government was granting an additional \$610,000 for a 30-unit project for semi-autonomous seniors in Chandler. The project is valued at \$6M. The amount provided by the Quebec Government totals \$4.6M through a mortgage guarantee, the *Société d'Habitation du Québec* and the Municipality Ministry. The rest of the amount is being provided by the community, including a 35-year tax break from the Town, \$75,000 from the Percé Rock MRC, \$50,000 from the Caisses Desjardins, \$90,000 Economic Development Canada and another \$90,000 from the Chandler Economic Development Fund.

"This is a great day for Chandler, for our seniors. We've worked so hard for this. It's important because we didn't have this type of service in our municipality," said Mayor Louisette Langlois.

## Nurses' union reaches agreement in principle with regional health body

Gilles Gagné

MARIA: - Up to 99% of the SIIIEQ members, the union representing Eastern Quebec's nurses and respiratory therapists, voted to approve an agreement in principle reached on October 30 between their organization and the Health and Social Service Integrated Centre of the Gaspé Peninsula.

The two groups had been negotiating for many months, since 2017 in fact. Approximately one-third of the 1,050 SIIIEQ members are based in the Gaspé Peninsula, working in the region's hospitals, senior residences and CLSCs. SIIIEQ stands for *Syndicat des infirmières, infirmières auxiliaires et inhalothérapeutes de l'Est du Québec*.

Following the October 30 agreement in principle, representatives of the union presented it to their Gaspé Peninsula members in all their work places.

"The members were met and presented with the details pertaining to the agreement, which allowed them to express their opinion through a secret vote," explains Pier-Luc Bujold, president of the SIIIEQ, a union affiliated to the Quebec-wide CSQ union, the Centrale des syndicats du Québec.

Pier-Luc Bujold explains that all the nurses currently working part-time will be offered full-time positions before April 1, 2019.

Moreover, all the part-time auxiliary nurses and part-time respiratory therapists will be offered an improvement of their working conditions before April 1, as well. It will be a so-called 7/14 schedule, which means that they will work at least seven days over a period of 14 days.

"This is a major gain for our members but also for the region. With interesting positions eliminating precarious jobs, the Gaspé Peninsula healthcare will measure up to



Photo: G. Gagné

Pier-Luc Bujold, president of the SIIIEQ union, states that the quality of care will increase, thanks to the new working agreement.

what is offered elsewhere at the national level. It will be easier to retain professionals in the region and attract more of them. These factors will help the region counter the shortage of staff," explains Mr. Bujold.

He emphasizes that in order to offer quality care on a continuous basis to the population, the stability of the working teams are necessary.

"There will be stability of the staff when a department's relief team is called. The sick leaves' replacement will be manned by the same person for the duration of the leave. Those are major gains for our members and the beneficiaries of the network," adds Pier-Luc Bujold.

His union members will no longer be asked to travel over the whole Gaspé Peninsula in order to work.

"We have obtained a fixed location as part of a position. A relief team will no longer

be asked to travel more than 50 kilometres from the main work spot. Travel time, the distance covered and meal costs will be reimbursed," adds Mr. Bujold.

Overtime has regularly plagued the working conditions of a lot of nurses and respiratory therapists of the health sector. Overworked staff members have been forced to quit because of exhaustion.

"Our goals were to reduce overtime and better organize it. We met our objectives. A joint committee will be put up with the mandate to find solutions for June 1, 2019 in order to improve the management of overtime," concludes Pier-Luc Bujold.

The next step for the nurses and respiratory therapists will be to sign the collective agreement and apply the new guidelines of that agreement for April 1, 2019. The agreement will be in effect for over three years.

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# GASPÉ PENINSULA AND MAGDALEN ISLANDS: Economic growth will slow down next year

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND: – The economy of the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands will continue growing during the rest of 2018 and into 2019 but at a slower pace than over the last five years. The growth during those years was influenced by the construction of the Port Daniel cement plant and two major wind farms.

That conclusion comes from the annual study carried out by *Mouvement Desjardins*. The construction of the cement plant required an investment of \$1.5 billion between 2014 and 2017 inclusively, and the construction of the Mesgi's Ugu's'n wind farm, in Escuminac, and the Roncevaux wind farm, in L'Ascension-de-Patapédia, necessitated cash injections of \$365 million and \$172 million respectively.

The economic growth rate of the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands surpassed the provincial rate in 2015 and 2016, as it reached 8.2% and 6.5% respectively, between two and four times the national average.

"Following those rates of 8.2% and 6.5%, the growth rate was 4% in 2017 and it will be around 3.1% in 2018. I expect 2.7% in 2019. The contribution of the big projects of the last years stays in the economy but it is not as strong as during their construction," explains Chantal Routhier, an economist at *Mouvement Desjardins*.

From \$3.15 billion in 2015, the region's gross domestic product gradually climbed to \$3.6 billion between that year and 2018. It is expected to keep growing in 2019, to \$3.7 billion. The gross domestic product is the total dollar value of all goods and services produced over a specific time period in a defined territory. In other words, it represents the size of the economy.

The total value of construction permits has decreased over the last years in the region, from a peak of \$1.3 billion in 2016 to \$416 million in 2018.

"If it sticks to the same level in 2019, about \$400 million, so if the economy doesn't fall to \$100 million or \$200 million regarding construction



Photo: G. Gagné

*The \$100M refurbishment of the Matapédia-Gaspé railway is currently the largest construction and infrastructure project in the Gaspé Peninsula. When the railway is fully functioning it will greatly benefit the transport of goods. This will allow cement and windmill blades to get loaded at or near their production plants which will greatly reduce the shipping costs of those goods.*

permits, it will be a sign of economic vigour," adds Chantal Routhier.

The unemployment rate, which increased from 11.7% to 13.5% between 2017 and 2018, should fall to 13.3% over the coming year.

"It is a market correction that happens generally after a significant loss like this year's. (...) We have an economy that is diversifying (in the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands). When an economic field passes through a difficult time, the other fields are making up for that. That's exactly what the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands have been doing over recent years," analyzes Ms. Routhier, referring to economic diversification.

A higher number of smaller and mid-sized construction projects will characterize the two coming years, unless an unexpected major venture shows up.

The construction of the Unipêche MDM seafood processing plant in Paspébiac is supposed to take place over the next months. The \$28 million project was announced in July 2012.

The bulk of the \$100 million announced in May 2017 for the upgrading of the Matapédia to Gaspé line should be injected over the next two years.

The construction of the Port Daniel-Gascons water and sewage networks, an initiative expected to cost be-

tween \$25 million and \$30 million, will likely start at the end of 2019 and be completed the following year. In Gaspé, the upgrading of the Michel-Pouliot airport will likely take place over the next two years.

In the Magdalen Islands, the erection of a \$25 million wind farm and the construc-

tion of a \$15.7 million sports complex will start soon.

Like the other parts of Quebec, the region must deal with important challenges because of demographics, which add to the difficulty of those challenges.

Regarding demographics though, Chantal Routhier ex-

pects the population decline of the 2011-2016 period to slow down significantly, based on the numbers coming from the Quebec Institute of Statistics. The population of the region, which decreased by 1.9% between 2011 and 2016, shouldn't decline more than 0.4% between 2016 and 2021.

One of the main challenges will be to replace the manpower about to retire. "That rate is 44.2%, which means that for every group of 100 people leaving the labour market, only 44 people are ready to step in and replace them. It leaves employers with the duty of finding and training 56 people," explains Ms. Routhier.

At 2%, the housing vacancy rate also represents a challenge for the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands. That vacancy rate was up to 5.1% in 2014.

"I expect 2% in 2019 but we can have surprises. Some new data is about to be released and it will be easier to make a prediction for 2019 when we have it," points out Chantal Routhier.



## COMMISSION SCOLAIRE EASTERN SHORES EASTERN SHORES SCHOOL BOARD

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Is hereby given, that in accordance with sections 286 and 287 of the Education Act, the financial statements and independent auditors report for the school year 2017-2018 ended June 30, 2018 will be deposited at the meeting of the Council of Commissioners of Eastern Shores School Board on December 12, 2018 at the hour of 10:00 a.m. at the Administrative Center, 40 Mountsorrel, New Carlisle, Québec.

Given at New Carlisle, Quebec  
November 29, 2018

Margaret-Ann Cooke  
Interim Secretary General

### FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2017-2018

FINANCIAL POSITION		STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND ACCUMULATED SURPLUS	
<b>FINANCIAL ASSETS</b>		<b>REVENUES</b>	
Cash	\$817,870	MEES operating grant	\$25,269,263
Operating grants receivable	\$3,888,957	Other grants and contributions	\$537,058
Financing grant receivable	\$4,218,557	School taxes	\$2,327,067
School taxes receivable	\$635,350	Tuition and other fees	\$546,251
Accounts receivable	\$994,767	Sales of goods and services	\$199,557
Other assets	\$82,260	Other revenues	\$184,226
		Depreciation of deferred contributions -	
		Acquisition of capital assets	\$18,191
<b>Total of financial assets</b>	<b>\$10,637,761</b>	<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>\$29,081,614</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Short-term loans	\$2,800,000	Educational Activities	\$11,580,534
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$4,252,433	Education Support Activities	\$7,730,973
Deferred Contributions - Acquisition of capital assets	\$727,037	Related Services	\$2,425,780
Deferred Revenues	\$249,286	Administrative activities	\$2,596,604
Employee future benefits provision	\$1,973,596	Activities related to buildings and equipment	\$3,110,703
Long-term debt under the responsibility of the school board	\$65,942	Complementary activities	\$897,121
Long-term debt subject to a promise of grant	\$18,663,856	Expenses related to the variation in the provision for Employee future benefits	(\$39,177)
Other liabilities	\$608,244	Gain on disposal of capital assets	(\$17,334)
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>\$29,340,394</b>	<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$28,285,205</b>
<b>Net financial debt</b>	<b>(\$18,702,632)</b>	<b>SURPLUS OF THE YEAR</b>	<b>\$796,408</b>
<b>NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS</b>		<b>ACCUMULATED SURPLUS</b>	
Capital assets	\$22,154,785	Accumulated surplus, beginning of year	\$2,795,459
Prepaid expenses	\$139,715	Surplus of the year	\$796,408
<b>Total of non-financial assets</b>	<b>\$22,294,500</b>		
<b>ACCUMULATED SURPLUS</b>	<b>\$3,591,867</b>	<b>ACCUMULATED SURPLUS</b>	<b>END OF YEAR</b>
			<b>\$3,591,867</b>

Natascha Joncas, Director General



# Young songwriter shares his story at Listuguj and Gesgapegiag events

Cynthia Dow

**GESGAPEGIAG:** - Cody Coyote knows what it's like to struggle with substance use. The 26-year-old rapper and songwriter from Ottawa turned to alcohol and cannabis in high school as an escape from relentless bullying. "Some older boys were merciless, they made fun of my long hair, my braids, and at that time I didn't even really know what it was to be Indigenous," Cody told the crowd at a Sober Gala held at the Galgoasiet hall on Friday, November 23 as part of National Addictions Awareness Week. He had also met with the youth at Listuguj's Alaqsitew Gitpu School earlier in the week.

The son of an Anishnabe man who was taken from his family as part of the Sixties Scoop, he is a member of the Matachewan First Nation near Kirkland Lake in Northern Ontario, and was introduced to his Anishnabe relatives only last year. Cody is also part Irish. His mother died in August, a loss he is still processing.

He started drinking at age 12 to deal with the abuse he suffered in school, and by 13 was also smoking pot. At age 20 he tried to commit suicide, an act which brought him into contact with the police and a special justice program for Indigenous youth. That's when he attended his first sweat lodge, and started his road to recovery. He's now been sober for six years, having taken his last drink on March 18, 2012.



Photo: Éli Laliberté

Cody Coyote,

"I don't say I've recovered, because that is a day by day thing," he shared.

He credits one of his teachers for helping him by making a safe place at school where he could be creative, away from the bullies. His father urged him to write down what he was feeling, and a songwriter was born. Over the past few years Cody has had three nominations at Indigenous Music Awards for best single, best album and best music video. He is working on his second album now. His music is powerful and infectious, and he had everyone in the

room up and dancing!

"The first trip I made to share my healing story was to my own high school," he told SPEC, "It's important to pass on what we have learned so we can help others." Cody helps others in many ways, including giving proceeds from his album to a women's shelter in Ottawa. "There's something very powerful about community, about people supporting each other."

If you want to know more about this inspiring and talented young man, check out Cody's website at [codycoyotemusic.com](http://codycoyotemusic.com).



Photo: G. Gélinas

Pieridae Energy, formerly Pétrolia, owns the oil and gas exploration licenses covering a large part of the municipality of Gaspé territory, including Haldimand, where they drilled Haldimand No. 4.

## Pieridae letter: a "technicality"

Geneviève Gélinas

**GASPÉ:** - A letter sent by Pieridae Energy to Gaspé residents and landowners around mid-November raised many questions. The letter stated that "Pieridae Energy is required to notify you that the subsoil of your land is covered, in whole or in part, by an exploration license."

In fact, there have been oil and gas exploration licenses on a large part of the municipality of Gaspé territory for years but the new Hydrocarbons Act, which came into force on September 20, requires the license holder to inform the landowners of the existence of those licenses.

"The exploration license holder must inform, in writing and within 60 days, the landowner, the Municipality and the MRC whose territory is covered by the license," one can read in article 269 of the Hydrocarbon Act.

The spokesperson of the

Quebec Natural Resources Ministry, Nicolas Bégin, confirms that the letter was "a technicality." It doesn't mean that the company can automatically access the land, Mr. Bégin explained on the air at Radio-Gaspésie.

In order to access land, "the company must obtain an access authorization (from the landowner) at least 30 days before the work," states Mr. Bégin.

A Pieridae spokesperson also confirms that the letters were sent for information, and don't mean that the company intends to start exploration work.

Pieridae Energy is the Calgary-based company that merged with Pétrolia in 2017. It owns the oil and gas exploration licenses on a large part of Gaspé's municipal territory. Junex owns oil and gas rights on a smaller area, on the St. John River non-organized territory, namely the Galt property, west of Gaspé.

## ENTERPRISING with the SADC it's POSSIBLE

### SADC - REGULAR BUSINESS LOAN - FINANCIAL AID PROGRAM

#### DÉPANNEUR DU VERSANT GASPÉ - Jennifer Jean

Since early May, Jennifer Jean has offered a smiling welcome to every client who steps into Dépanneur du Versant, her convenience store in Gaspé's Wakeham neighbourhood. Having been involved to some extent in the business world in the past, she decided to take the leap and become her own boss on a fulltime basis by acquiring the shop... a decision that has more than delighted her in the months that have passed since then. "I always wanted to have my own business ever since I was a little girl. I just love being with people and speaking with them! I already had some part-time experience working on my own but I really wanted to enjoy this adventure full time!"

While Jennifer Jean can now take pleasure in her life-long dream come true, it nevertheless took 7 months to complete all the preliminary steps and find the money she needed up front. To successfully launch her project, the new entrepreneur was able to count on technical support from the Gaspé SADC and a conventional loan extended via the agency's financial aid program. This program is specifically for people who want to start, build or acquire an enterprise. The loan is available to people of all ages and can be for up to \$250,000; and capital repayment can be deferred for the first year... an interesting option for those who, like Jennifer Jean, want to go into business "The SADC helped support me throughout the early stages as I was looking for my start-up capital and negotiating the acquisition. I greatly appreciated their services and I don't think I would have made it without them."

SADC DE GASPÉ

Canada Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions offers a financial support to the SADC



# Dining Options

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**AUBERGE**  
WILLIAM WAKEHAM

Our menu consists of fish and seafood from the Gaspésie and also some imported fish; Meats and vegetables of the Bas-St-Laurent, Gaspé and Percé; cheeses and game of the Quebec territory; organic bread of our bakery in Gaspé. All our desserts and ice cream are made here.



Open for groups of 8 or more with advance reservations for December.



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# Holiday ENTERTAINING

## The Weary Chef

By Diane Skinner

The countdown to Christmas has begun. The stores have all their Christmas wares out on the shelves. Lights are already going up. People are making their gift lists. Sometimes it can get a little hectic. Consider one way you can lighten your load and spend a little more time socializing and relaxing, while enjoying some holiday cheer. Order some of your holiday foods already made. You can order platters of cheese and crackers, sweets and treats and even main courses. There are many reasons to try this, and you can avoid being the "weary chef."

1. It gives you time. You can spend more time with family and friends and less time in the kitchen.
2. Pre-order food and cross that off your list. Less stress for you.
3. You will discover some great tasting foods.
4. It can be as economical as buying all the ingredients and making your foods from scratch.
5. Choices! There are many choices from small platters to full meals.
6. You may be able to order foods that you have never had before. Gives you the opportunity to try new things. You can sample new flavours.
7. If you wish, don't broadcast that you are serving foods that you ordered. Transfer foods to your own dishes.
8. After transferring food to your dishes place in the oven to reheat and your home will have that just-cooked aroma.
9. It's easy to order. Look around and choose the best there is to be ordered.
10. Finally, you deserve a break. Consider this your gift to yourself.

So, do not shop, decorate, wrap and cook until you are so weary that you cannot enjoy Christmas fully. Place your food order and sit down and pour yourself a glass of Christmas cheer.

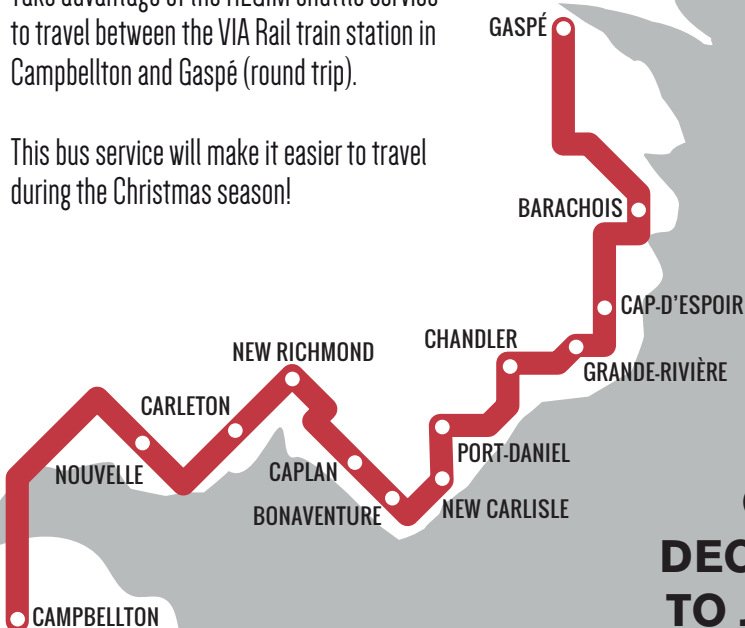
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## Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



### Nothing in the Paper

It's been said more than once. This is such a puzzling statement. Perhaps you have heard it, you may even have said it. "I don't read the Spec because there is nothing in it." Disagree, strongly. Like many of you reading this Gaspé Spec today, you see the need for a local paper that informs the readers about happenings in their own community and in English. Is there another source that offers so much in a neat and attractive format? Clearly, there is not.

This list is not for you dear Spec readers, but will give pause to those who utter those words – there's nothing to read in the Spec. Tell those folks otherwise. In the November 21 edition of Spec all of these issues were covered. Informative, readable, attractive and affordable, that is your local paper. The Gaspé Spec is a gem. Make sure to renew your subscription and buy a gift subscription for the people that you care about. Few other gifts give you as much for your money.

#### Articles in November 21 edition of Spec:

- Article about the success of Gaspesian musician Pamela Rooney
- Gaspesian workforce statistics
- Wharf improvement in Chandler
- Arena renovations in Chandler (a \$3.5 M project)
- A building designated "Heritage"
- Tax increase in one town
- ATV deaths on the Gaspé and ways to prevent tragedy
- Manpower shortage on the Gaspé
- Various Public Notices from municipalities
- Police Report
- Remembrance Day poster winners
- Commentaries on labour recruitment and the environment
- Wharf activities, including a chart that compares tonnage received, by year
- Lighthouse refurbishment (Cap-des-Rosiers)
- Fishermen helpers discuss unionizing
- Shuttle information from December 19 – January 5 offered from Campbellton to Gaspé
- Announcements (obituaries, memoriams, thank you)
- Coast Round-Up (classifieds, happenings, church services)
- On the Lighter Side (sudoku, horoscopes, fun facts)
- Ads from local businesses (Where else will you find such a treasure trove of information about the Gaspesian community?)

This paper is in English, delivered to you weekly, in either paper or digital format. Nothing in the Spec? Let's disagree with that statement. Renew or give a gift subscription today!

# A greener arena in Rivière-au-Renard

Geneviève Gélinas

RIVIÈRE-AU-RENARD: – A \$1.4 million investment has helped to make the Rivière-au-Renard arena more energy efficient and more sustainable. The former refrigeration system used 400,000 litres of drinking water per day. "This was equivalent to a pool like the Gaspé Cegep pool, that we used to flush to the sewers every day," explains Jean-François Drolet, the engineer in charge of the project for the Town of Gaspé. The new refrigeration system uses no water at all, except when used for re-circulating the heat. The Town of Gaspé removed its former refrigeration unit, which used Freon, an ozone-depleting gas, and installed an ammonia system. Ammonia acts as a refrigerant gas by extracting heat and transferring that heat to glycol and water. Then the glycol heats the arena's concrete slab (to prevent it from freezing) and being damaged) and the air in the arena, through the venti-



Photo: G. Gélinas

Town of Gaspé engineer Jean-François Drolet shows a part of the Rivière-au-Renard arena's new refrigeration system.

lation system. The warm water is used to pre-heat the Zamboni water and the water in the showers. The arena is now equipped with an LED lighting system. The changes will decrease the electricity bill by

10%, that is to say \$11,000 in savings annually. The Rivière-au-Renard arena is one of the few arenas in the Gaspé Peninsula that operates all year long, for a total of 2,900 hours per year.

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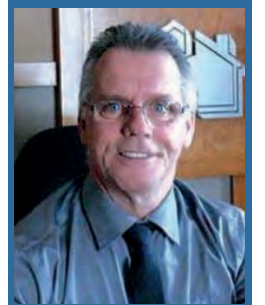
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Photo: G. Gagné

Kevin Parent and Gilles Bélanger offered a short medley of their songs during the launch of Nouvelle's 150th anniversary of the village.

## Nouvelle to celebrate 150th anniversary in 2019

Gilles Gagné

NOUVELLE: – In 2019, Nouvelle will celebrate the town's 150th anniversary. Activities including shows, exhibitions, theatre events and the publication of a book about the village's history will mark the coming year.

The organizing committee has chosen singer Kevin Parent as its official spokesperson, a task the artist has embraced with heartfelt enthusiasm. On November 8 at Miguasha Park, he personally greeted everyone who attended the official launch of the celebrations.

He explained that he received a lot of encouragement from the citizens of Nouvelle who were living or working away, in the mid-1990s. So, giving back is just normal.

"When I started singing in Montreal, I could hear "794" in the crowd. It was something original and genuine and it has lasted until today," said the singer to the crowd in attendance. More than 150

people came to that opening. "794" is the common first three digits of phone numbers in Nouvelle. It is sometimes used to identify people from that village.

Over the years, Kevin Parent has performed his shows in small communities and major cities and he has always deeply appreciated the smaller places. "We feel it when people get involved in a small place." He feels that the organizing committee of Nouvelle's 150th anniversary is driven by inspired people.

While events will be held all through 2019, the peak will be during the summer, with theater presentations called *Les voix du passé*, or Voices of the Past. This is a musical show with multimedia support called *L'eau et la pierre* (Water and Stone), presented by Nouvelle-born singer and composer Gilles Bélanger, at the Miguasha Park between July 18 and July 28.

"I have been working on the Water and Stone show since March, It is easy to ex-

plain why I called it that. Water is everywhere in Nouvelle and our history is written in the stone, when we consider the importance of fossils in Miguasha and the former limestone quarry," explained Gilles Bélanger.

A big music weekend will take place on August 2-3-4, with Kevin Parent leading the first two days with some friends, while a choir and a string ensemble will perform on the third day.

Mayor Yvan Saint-Pierre is happy about the way the celebrations are coming together. "A number of committees have been working on the Nouvelle anniversary for close to a year. I see a lot of pride," he says.



Find out what's happening on the Coast. Turn to the pages of The Gaspé Spec



### PUBLIC NOTICE

To the qualified voters entitled to have their name entered on the referendum list of the entire municipality:

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given by the undersigned, Town clerk of Ville de Gaspé, that at a regular sitting held on December 3, 2018, the Town Council has adopted the following By-Law:

1374-18 : « RÈGLEMENT DÉCRÉTANT UNE DÉPENSE D'UNE SOMME DE 948 720 \$ ET UN EMPRUNT DE 948 720 \$ POUR LA CONVERSION DU SYSTÈME D'ÉCLAIRAGE PUBLIC DE LA VILLE À LA TECHNOLOGIE DEL »

THAT the persons qualified to vote on the By-Law on the date of December 3, 2018, and who have therefore the right to demand that this By-Law be submitted to a referendum poll will have access to a register open for that purpose from nine (9) hours to nineteen (19) hours on December, 11 and 12, 2018 at the office of the undersigned, at the Town Hall in order to enter their name, address and occupation together with their signature.

#### IS A QUALIFIED VOTER OF THE MUNICIPALITY

A person who, on December 3, 2018, is not disqualified from voting according to article 524 of the Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities and meets the following requirements:

- a natural person domiciled in the municipality and, since at least six months, in Québec and
- is of full age and a Canadian citizen, and not under curatorship.

The non resident sole owner of an immovable or non resident sole occupant of a business place situated in the municipality who is not disqualified from voting and meets the following requirements:

- is the owner of an immovable or sole occupant of a business place situated in the municipality since at least 12 months;
- in the case of a natural person, be of full age and Canadian citizen and not under curatorship.

The non resident undivided co-owners and non resident co-occupants of a business place situated in the municipality not disqualified from voting and meet the following requirements:

- is the undivided co-owner of an immovable or co-occupant of a business place situated in the municipality since at least 12 months;
- is designated by means of a power of attorney signed by a majority of the persons who are co-owners or co-occupants since at least 12 months, as the one who has the right to sign in their name and to be entered on the referendum list of the municipality. This power of attorney must be produced before or at the signature time.

Legal person:

- have designated by resolution among its members, directors or employees, a person who, on December 3, 2018, and at voting time, is of full age and Canadian citizen, is not under curatorship and is not disqualified to vote.

THAT the persons qualified to vote on the By-Law in question must establish their identity to the responsible person for the register, by presenting, among others: a health-insurance card issued by the Québec Health Insurance Board, a driver's permit issued by the Québec Automobile Insurance Society, a Canadian passport, an identity card of the Canadian armed forces, a certificate of Indian status.

THAT the number of applications needed in order that a referendum poll be held for this By-Law is 1 223 and failing this number, the concerned By-Law will be deemed approved by the qualified voters.

THAT the qualified voters may examine this By-Law at the office of the undersigned from 8:15 a.m. till 12 noon and from 1 p.m. till 4:30 p.m. from Monday till Thursday, and from 8:15 a.m. till 12 noon on Friday, and during registration hours.

THAT the result of this registration procedure will be announced on December 12, 2018, at 7 p.m., at the office of the undersigned, 25, rue de l'Hôtel-de-Ville in Gaspé.

GIVEN at Gaspé, December 5, 2018.

Isabelle Vézina,  
Director of legal services and town clerk



### PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that at a special meeting that will be held at the Town Hall on Monday, December 17, 2018, at 7 pm, the Town Council will adopt its 2019 budget and its triennial program of fixed assets.

All taxpayers are invited to attend and during this meeting, a question period will be given to the taxpayers present and will only concern the budget.

GIVEN at Gaspé, December 5, 2018.

Isabelle Vézina,  
Director of legal services and town clerk

# Announcements...



## Obituary



### PREVOST: Evelyn May (néé Moulard)

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of our mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, Evelyn May Prevoist (néé Moulard), on November 6, 2018. She is survived by her seven children, Doyle (Linda), Royston (Sarah), Dianne, Kenneth (Janet), Ian (Lucinda), Allan (Jeanine) and Reginald, twelve grandchildren and five great grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband Raymond and her two children, Patricia and Robert.

Evelyn was born on June 6, 1926 in Braemore, England. She served as a nurse assistant during World War Two where she met and married a young soldier, our dad, Raymond. Her life adventure began when she sailed from Liverpool to Halifax to begin a new life with her new husband and her first child Doyle on the farm in Port Daniel, Quebec.

She went on to raise nine children, and in her spare time, she was a driving force in the Women's Institute as well as volunteering at the local school, substitute teacher, and later school secretary. Every year, she planted a massive vegetable garden and she baked the best bread and pie crust on the planet.

In latter years, our parents moved to live with our youngest brother, Reginald, in Calgary, and upon the death of our father, our mom moved to White Rock, BC to live with Dianne for the past twelve years.

She was quick with a joke and her life centered on her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. We feel blessed and grateful to have had her with us for 92 years. WE MISS YOU MOM.

Subscribe online  
at [thegaspespec.com](http://thegaspespec.com)



### LEMIEUX: Evarist

May 4, 1945 - November 20, 2018.

Mr. Lemieux passed away at the CISSS de la Côte-de-Gaspé, Hôpital de Gaspé, November 20, 2018 at the age of 73 years, after a battle with cancer.

Evarist leaves behind his sons, Darryl and Chad as well as his grandchildren. He also leaves to mourn his brothers: Melvin, Roderick, Gilles, Bruno, Osmund and sisters: Terrie, Donna, Greta, Maureen, Della and Ann.

There will be a service announced in the spring of 2019, to be held at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Barachois. Thank you to the staff of the Gaspé Hospital, CLSC and all who helped him.



## 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

The family of the late Melba Jones Patterson would like to sincerely thank everyone for their kind expressions of sympathy and thoughtfulness. It is deeply appreciated and will always be remembered by us.

Kathy, Bobby, Michael and Joanne  
and families.

## Thank you



The Cascapedia-St-Jules Day Camp would like to thank all those who made the day camp a special summer memory. On average approximately 17 children attended the Day Camp daily this summer that ran from June 24 to August 17, operating Monday to Friday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Special thanks go to Zachery Cyr, Scott Legouffe and Kelly Cochrane for all their special efforts with the children during the summer. The day camp would like to thank CASA for supplying funding to hire Scott Legouffe. He is most definitely needed at the day camp. The day camp would also like to thank the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #172 and the Cascapedia 50 Plus Club for their donation of sandwiches and sweets to the day camp during the summer. Thank you to Johanne Legouffe at Café du Village for the generous donation of Slushies on a hot summer's day. Also a big thank-you to all the parents and children who attended this summer day camp. Hope to see you all next year.



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## COAST ROUND-UP

### BARACHOIS:

#### Legion Branch 261

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

### HOPE TOWN:

#### Hope Baptist Church Service

Hope Baptist Church welcomes you. Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 a.m. and Corporate Worship at 11 a.m. on Sundays. Prayer Meeting and Bible Study at 7 p.m. on Wednesdays. Young Peoples for grades 7-11 at 7 p.m. on Fridays. 305 Route 132 West, Hope Town, 418-752-5838.

### HOPE TOWN:

#### Community Center

**December 8:** Crib Tournament beginning at 1 p.m. Registration at 12:30 p.m. Organized by the sports and recreation club.  
**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:

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

### NEW RICHMOND:

#### United Chuch Events

**December 14:** Christmas Concert at 7 p.m.  
**December 16:** Angel Tree service beginning at 10 a.m.  
**December 24:** Christmas Eve

service with Communion beginning at 7 p.m.

**December 30:** Carol Service beginning at 10 a.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 Year's 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. Nez Rouge 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. On **December 12** Tea and cookies will be served. Please be advised that the book room will close **December 19** until **January 9**.

### 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 9**  
10:30 a.m. Hope Town

## ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

**Sunday, December 9**

#### New Carlisle

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

#### Hope Town

11 a.m. Holy Eucharist

#### Shigawake

10 a.m. Morning Prayer



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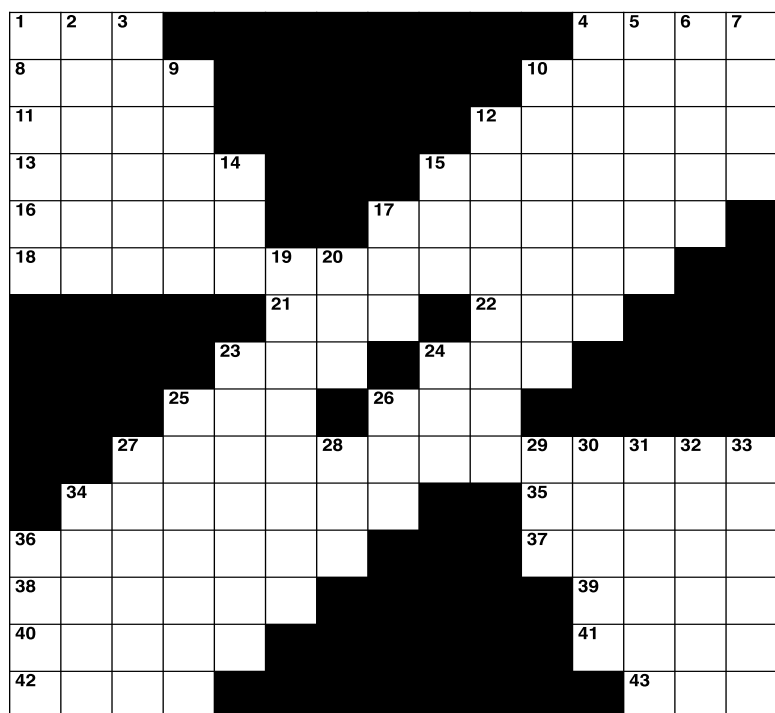
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# On the lighter side...



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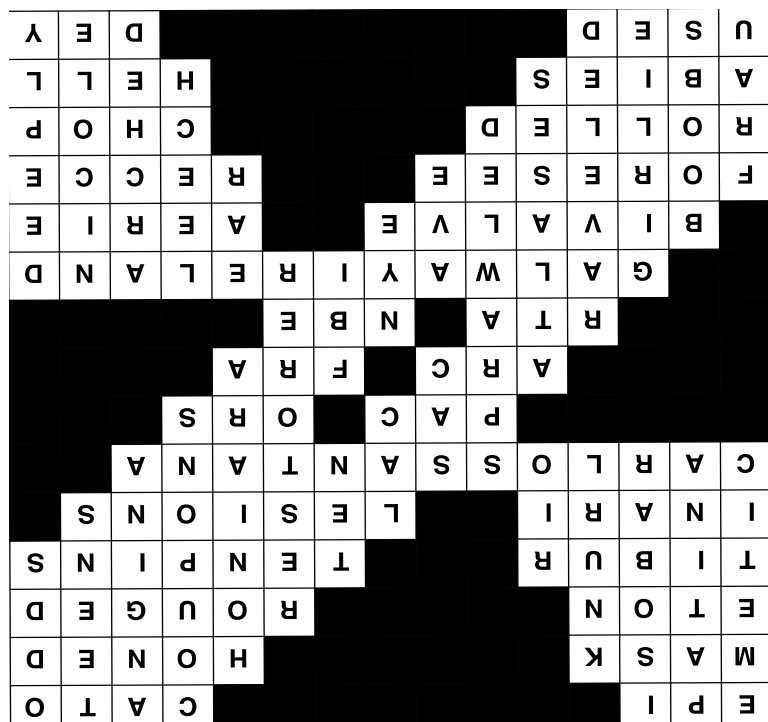


### CLUES ACROSS

1. Upon
4. Roman Statesman
8. A protective covering worn over the face
10. Perfected
11. British school
12. Colored with red powder
13. Tivoli
15. What bowlers hope to knock down
16. Finnish lake
17. Damaged regions of tissue
18. World-renowned guitarist
21. Political action committee
22. Oxygen reduction system
23. Part of a circle
24. Italian monk's title
25. Kidney problem (abbr.)
26. One point east (clockwise) of due north
27. Home to a world famous bay
34. Mollusk
35. Large nest of a bird of prey
36. Predict
37. Reconnaissance
38. Move in a particular direction
39. Cut with a tool
40. True firs
41. Heaven's opposite

### CLUES DOWN

1. Induces vomiting
2. Gloss or sheen on wood furniture
3. Meteorological line
4. Help shoppers save money
5. Heart condition
6. What tweens become
7. \_\_\_ and ends
9. Small knob
10. Island capital
12. Refinisher
14. Brazilian city
15. Pearl Jam's debut
17. Resinous substance of an insect
19. Stretched out
20. Bag-like structure in a plant or animal
23. Reference works
24. Hoover's office
25. Confused
26. The Science Guy
27. A young woman
28. Used to express good wishes
29. Body part
30. Draw blood
31. Curved
32. \_\_\_ Kidman, actress
33. Profoundly
34. Fools
36. Wife (German)



## Looking back in time....



### NCHS Staff - December 22, 1992

Back Row: (Left to right) Hilda Craig, Anne MacWhirter, Mark Franklin and Margaret Cooke.  
 Kneeling: Jannett Beebe, Mona Douglass, Irene Jacobson, Wade Gifford, Lise Loisel, Lynden Bechervaise  
 Middle front: Carol Gilker, Ruth Dugdale, Enid Bechervaise, Sharon Doherty and Steve Jellett.

## Why do we say...

By Gary Briand

Why do some people say "God bless you!" when a person sneezes? In the Middle Ages people believed that the soul could slip out of the body very easily. If this occurred, the body would be taken over by the devil. It was essential then to keep body and soul together. That's why we say "bless you" when a person sneezes. The ancients believed that with a sneeze the soul was forced out of the body through the nose and the ever present devil would take the opportunity to slip in and block the return of the soul. If, however, a friend blessed you at the precise moment that you sneezed, the devil could not enter and your soul could return to your body once again.

Your momentary holiness occurred with your friend's "bless you!"

**ARIES** – Mar 21/Apr 20  
 Take a few extra moments to think things through before making any important decisions, Aries. Kneejerk reactions are not the way to go at this time. Careful planning is the key.  
**TAURUS** – Apr 21/May 21  
 Taurus, direct all of your attention toward a certain project. Even as you worry about other things being forgotten, you realize the importance of prioritizing.  
**GEMINI** – May 22/June 21  
 Gemini, you are juggling so many things right now, and you may feel like you're being pulled in 100 directions. Slow down and figure out what takes precedence.  
**CANCER** – June 22/July 22  
 Others are eager to hear some of your words of wisdom, Cancer. You usually know just what to say in a given situation. Prepare your thoughts carefully.  
**LEO** – July 23/Aug 23  
 Leo, you may need to brush up on certain skills if you want to sail through a particular task that comes your way late in the week. Get some help if need be.  
**VIRGO** – Aug 24/Sept 22



Virgo, once you set your mind to something, there is nothing you cannot accomplish. Your attention to detail is top notch, but don't let perfection distract you.  
**LIBRA** – Sept 23/Oct 23  
 Libra, putting family first has always been your priority and that will continue in the weeks ahead. Others notice your efforts and appreciate them.  
**SCORPIO** – Oct 24/Nov 22  
 Multitasking can be your undoing, Scorpio. You want to accomplish so much, but you must try to balance your time instead. Clean the clutter from your schedule.  
**SAGITTARIUS** – Nov 23/Dec 21  
 Family affairs move to the forefront this week, Sagittarius. A spouse or a child is in need of assistance, and you must set aside the time to help amid your other responsibilities.  
**CAPRICORN** – Dec 22/Jan 20  
 Things have started to settle down a bit for you. Capricorn. That's a welcome change from the harried pace

you've been keeping of late. Enjoy the respite.  
**AQUARIUS** – Jan 21/Feb 18  
 Aquarius, it's taken a few months for you to find your groove, but you are in a zone and standing on solid ground. Enjoy the smooth sailing that's ahead.  
**PISCES** – Feb 19/Mar 20  
 Listen to what others are telling you, Pisces. You have always been good at accepting advice and now is the time to heed others' wisdom.

### FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- DECEMBER 2**  
 Charlie Puth, Singer (27)  
**DECEMBER 3**  
 Amanda Seyfried, Actress (33)  
**DECEMBER 4**  
 Tyra Banks, Model (45)  
**DECEMBER 5**  
 Maddie Poppe, Singer (21)  
**DECEMBER 6**  
 Stefanie Scott, Actress (22)  
**DECEMBER 7**  
 Terrell Owens, Athlete (45)  
**DECEMBER 8**  
 Sam Hunt, Singer (34)

# Christmas COUNTDOWN

By Diane Skinner

## Best Traditional Christmas Songs

Narrowing this list to just 10 great traditional Christmas songs was a challenge. Once you get the list to 10, you think to yourself what about Little Drummer Boy, for example. With some trepidation, here is a list of the top 10 traditional Christmas songs. What makes a great traditional Christmas song? Is it the melody? Is it the lyrics? Or is it the memories? If a song gives you a lump in your throat, it makes it onto your list of "Best Traditional Songs!" If you do not agree add your choices and we can call them "Honourable Mentions." These are in no particular order.

1. Silent Night
2. We Three Kings
3. God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen
4. What Child is This?
5. O Come All Ye Faithful
6. O Holy Night
7. Angels We Have Heard on High
8. Little Drummer Boy
9. Joy to the World
10. Do You Hear What I Hear?

Honourable Mentions: (Your choice)



# OUR TOP 10

## Favourite Christmas Cookies

Food choices are such a personal thing. Some people adore brussel sprouts. Others, not so much. Many people love old fashioned barley soup. Others will turn their nose up to a bowl of it. Let's agree that most people enjoy Christmas cookies. The favourite kinds are a personal choice, but the following list is based on an informal survey of several folks from the Gaspé. They are in no particular order, just that they were mentioned often as favourites.

1. Sugar cookies
2. Shortbread cookies, including cookies, bars and double shortbread cookies also known as Empire biscuits
3. Gingerbread cookies, including gingersnaps.
4. Jam thumbprint cookies
5. Coconut macaroons dipped in chocolate
6. Meringue cookies
7. Peanut butter cookies
8. Fruitcake cookies
9. Chocolate chip cookies
10. Spiced cookies

### Recipe for Whipped Shortbread

1 cup softened butter  
1 ½ cups flour  
½ cup icing sugar  
½ cup maraschino cherries  
Preheat oven to 325°F. Combine flour, sugar and butter and mix with electric mixer until it is light and fluffy. This may take about 10 minutes. Drop by the teaspoon onto cookie sheet. Press cherry onto each and bake for 15 – 20 minutes, until lightly golden. Makes about 3 dozen cookies.



## Contemporary Christmas Movies

There are so many contemporary Christmas movies that this list could potentially be miles long. The Women's Channel is showing made-for-tv Christmas movies 24/7 and some of them are surprisingly entertaining. But, none of those have made this Top 10 list. Neither did the movie Die Hard. There has been much discussion of whether this is a Christmas movie. Bruce Willis had the final word on this recently at an award show. He says definitively that it is not a Christmas movie.

1. **Elf** (2003) - Will Ferrell is surprisingly endearing as the Elf Buddy who leaves the North Pole to find his "real family."
2. **Polar Express** (2009) - Based on the book of the same name, Tom Hanks is featured when a young boy takes a ride on a train and discovers that Christmas never fades if you truly believe.
3. **Nightmare Before Christmas** (2007) - This movie will appeal to those who like their Christmas tales slightly spooky and untraditional.
4. **Christmas Story** (1983) - This movie is chosen by many as their favourite Christmas film. Young Ralphie Parker spends his days avoiding a bully and hoping to receive the Christmas gift of a Red Ryder air rifle. Humorous and touching.
5. **Christmas Carol** (2009) - Jim Carrey plays Ebenezer scrooge in this inventively original retelling of Charles Dickens' classic.
6. **Love, Actually** (2003) - Nine stories that portray emotional connections are interwoven in this film. Keep the Kleenex handy for this movie that is for adult viewers.
7. **Scrooged** (1988) - Nothing says Christmas like Bill Murray who is at once funny and endearing as a modern-day Scrooge.
8. **The Grinch** (2001) - A fantastic movie based on the book by Dr. Seuss. It is full of great effects and superb acting, particularly by Jim Carrey and the young actress who plays Cindy Lou Who. Max the dog is awesome!
9. **Muppet Christmas Carol** (1992) - This movie is impressive in every aspect. The Muppets, actor Michael Caine and the unforgettable soundtrack. This film scores two thumbs up.
10. **Home Alone** (1990) - Kevin McCallister is mistakenly left behind when his family leaves for a vacation in Paris. Things take a turn for the worse after Kevin initially thinks this might be a good thing. Joe Pesci and Daniel Stern are terrific as the robbers that Kevin must deal with.



## Classic Christmas Movies

One cannot compare the old classic Christmas movies to the newer ones. We like the older movies for a different reason, and that is nostalgia. Seeing how it used to be in simpler times is part of the enjoyment of the old classic movies. For purposes of separating the old from the newer, an arbitrary date of 1970 or earlier is the guideline used.

1. **White Christmas** (1954) - Set in a country inn in Vermont, Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye and Rosemary Clooney (aunt of the very handsome George Clooney) sing their way through being snowed in and perform a Christmas miracle.
2. **Christmas in Connecticut** (1945) - This oldie is a romantic comedy starring Barbara Stanwyck and Dennis Morgan.
3. **Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer** (1964) - This stop animation classic features the unforgettable voice of Burl Ives.
4. **Christmas Carol** (1951) - There are so many versions of Charles Dickens' classic book but this one starring Alistair Sim as Scrooge is perfection. "God bless us everyone."
5. **Charlie Brown Christmas** (1965) - This cartoon classic will appear simplistic to today's media savvy children, but it has unmistakable charm.
6. **The Grinch** (1967) - There are multiple versions of Dr. Seuss' book about the mean one, Mr. Grinch, but this is worth a watch, even just for the soundtrack.
7. **Holiday Inn** (1942) - This Irving Berlin film starring Bing Crosby and Fred Astaire musical has it all – sappy love songs, broken hearts, a country hotel and lots of snow!
8. **Miracle on 34th Street** (1947) - A charming film about a man who calls himself Kris Kringle who claims to be the real Santa Claus. Starring a very young Natalie Wood.
9. **It's a Wonderful Life** (1946) - George Bailey (played by James Stewart) has got nothing but problems. This is a long movie at 130 minutes, but well worth the investment of time to watch right to the heartwarming conclusion. Keep the Kleenex handy. It's that good.
10. **The Shop Around the Corner** (1940) - Have you seen the more modern movie 'You've Got Mail' starring Tom Hanks? This is the original version of that story. Instead of computer messages, Jimmy Stewart and Margaret Sullivan develop a romance through actual letters ... on paper!



# Christmas COUNTDOWN

By Diane Skinner

## Gifts That Cost Nothing

Many people are busy making their Christmas gift lists, while being mindful of their budgets. Christmas can get pricey and paying for those gifts in January and beyond is a downer. So, you might consider a gift that is free to give. Sometimes these gifts are the most meaningful of all.

1. A hand-written letter on actual paper. Fancy it up and it can become treasured keepsake.
2. A favour, something that will be appreciated by the recipient. Kindness is always appreciated in any form.
3. 12 months of special thoughts, poems, or words of wisdom that express your love. Get 12 envelopes, paper and write 12 different messages to your special someone. Label each envelope January, February and so on. On the first day of each month they can open an envelope to reveal a new message.
4. Offer to clean their car, interior and exterior.
5. Download and burn a CD which is a personalized playlist for the recipient. This could be a collection of theme songs such as "Songs We Shared Together", "Songs of Our Summer", "Christmas Songs", "Songs That We Can Dance To", and "Songs That We Can Get Romantic To."
6. *I took an ordinary box  
As empty as can be  
I filled it with a special gift  
And wrapped it carefully.  
But please don't ever open it  
Just leave the ribbon tied  
And hold it tightly near your heart  
Because my love for you is inside.*  
This is a fun project for a class or a Sunday school group. All you need to do is gather some small boxes, ribbon and perhaps a small trinket inside to symbolize your love. A piece of Gaspesian sea glass would be a perfect symbol.
7. Copy some of your favourite recipes, perhaps treasured family recipes that have been handed down to you, onto recipe cards.
8. This is a fun activity for older students or adults. Each needs a deck of playing cards. Have them brainstorm "52 reasons I love you." Some ideas might include your blue eyes, your sense of humour, your laugh, the time you helped me fix my car, your kindness... This is best done in groups so that there is an opportunity to feed off each other's ideas. Take some time to do this activity, perhaps over a week. Write each one on a piece of paper, glue onto a card. Hole punch the card and place onto a round key ring. This is a keepsake item for sure.
9. Bake a treat, perhaps a platter of mixed treats. Wrap with cellophane and a bow. Though this is technically not free, it is low cost and will be appreciated.
10. This might be the most valuable and appreciated gift of all that costs you nothing. Forgive someone. Ask for forgiveness. Forgive yourself. Go ahead, no better time than Christmas to start fresh and new. It really is the most wonderful time of the year.




# OUR TOP 10

## Best Modern Christmas Songs

This list of "Top 10 Best Modern Christmas Songs" was a challenge. There are so many that are fun, memorable and iconic, so though a Top 10 will be suggested, feel free to add more titles to your list of favourites. For example, a "Top 10 Country Christmas Songs" would be easy to fill. So below find a Top 10 Modern Christmas Song list. But it is not THE Top 10 List.

1. Do They Know Its Christmas?
2. Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer
3. Santa Claus is Coming to Town
4. Happy Christmas (John Lennon)
5. Frosty the Snowman
6. Santa Baby
7. Jingle Bells
8. All I Want for Christmas is You
9. You Make It Feel Like Christmas (Blake Shelton/  
Gwen Stefani)
10. Christmas Cookies (George Strait)





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