

New school will be a source of inspiration for the students and staff, says principal

Gilles Gagné

Metis Beach: - Eastern Shores School Board (ESSB) recently inaugurated the newly renovated Metis Beach School. This 10 million dollar project was initially submitted to the Ministry of Education back in 2008 and “has truly been a labour of love for everyone involved,” says Natascha Joncas, director general of the school board.

The November 19 official opening was held in the presence of Christopher Skeete, parliamentary assistant to the Premier for Relations with English-speaking Quebecers.

Approximately 70 students attend the school from pre-kindergarten to secondary five. Those students come from a large territory spanning four of the region’s MRCs; Rimouski-Neigette, Matanie, Matapedia and La Mitis.

Natascha Joncas emphasizes that “ESSB is extremely pleased with the result. The Proulx-Savard + CCM2 Architectes consortium did a fabulous job with the exceptionally high architectural quality of the project by using warm and agreeable materials and capturing the essence of Metis Beach School and its beautiful views on the St. Lawrence. Students and staff

have access to large classrooms, a cafeteria overlooking the river, and to a gymnasium and training room, something the school could never offer in the past.”

Metis Beach School principal Brett Mitchell loves all the aspects of the new building.

“While I have found the outside of the building pleasant, it is the inside that is truly beautiful. By building floor to ceiling windows throughout classrooms, the architects have allowed for that beautiful natural lighting, and that is so much better for the students. It gives that feel that they are constantly connected to the outside, which is something our school is renowned for, given our curriculum and the fact that our physical education program sees us constantly using the outdoors,” explains Mr. Mitchell.

“This use of having the outside coming in is most evident in our cafeteria, which features a cathedral style ceiling with wooden beams and an enormous window that overlooks the beautiful bay in Metis, providing our students with an amazing and calm view during their lunchtime,” the principal adds.

He is also quite impressed by the amazing the technological features “being the



Photo: Brett Mitchell

The exterior of the new Metis Beach School.

sound-proofing of the classrooms and offices. Courses are held without any outside disturbances by other classes or visitors moving about the building, creating again, that calm feeling throughout the school, which is especially helpful for our special needs students. The colours are bright and vibrant throughout as well, but not so overwhelming for our sensory sensitive students. The high definition, touch screen smartboards are popular amongst the staff and stu-

dents, as is the integrated digital public announcement system.”

Mr. Mitchell also appreciates that “the gymnasium floor is made of soft, impact reducing material to reduce the possibilities of injuries and the emergency, safety and security systems are some of the best available. There is even an elevator for any students or visitors with mobility issues.”

The principal also points out that teachers and board consultants “were involved in the choice of furniture, which now includes a variety of seating and table arrangements that allow for all types of learners, from those who like solitude by sitting in an egg chair, those who like to stand with standing desks, those who wiggle with ball chairs and those who like to lounge around on a couch, bean bag or even the floor. Traditional desks, tables and chairs are also there.”

The new building is equipped with gender neutral and adapted bathrooms, along with change rooms and shower facilities and a weight training room.

“We are looking forward

to hosting regional events like a local inter-school soccer tournament and board-wide events with these facilities. It is a far cry from our old building with rooms that were too small to accommodate our growing classroom averages, having students duck their heads to get to the classrooms in the basement, and lockers being placed where ever we found the space, including the bathrooms. Our hope now is to make these features available to the community and host events and activities that will benefit everyone,” further explains Mr. Mitchell.

The original building was demolished. It dates back to 1919, making it almost 100 years old. Mr. Mitchell finds that outcome sad because it was a piece of local history but it was explained that the beams were black with rot, the roof was leaking and pieces of chimney were falling off, making any salvage operation very expensive.

“However, the extension that was built in 1996 was kept and is now the pre-school area and office space,” he says.



Those attending the inauguration had a chance to enjoy the beautiful view from within the school.

Town of Chandler signs Emergency Climate Declaration

Ariane Aubert Bonn

CHANDLER: - The Town of Chandler has signed the Emergency Climate Declaration. For Mayor Louissette Langlois, it was important to sign the document, as did several other cities in Quebec. She states that in Chandler, the urgency is particularly felt.

“We are experiencing climate change. We lost a lot of land, people had to move, we suffer the consequences directly,” she says.

The mayor adds that her town is doing its part for the environment. “We changed our lighting for LED lights, in order to save energy, we are among Quebec’s pioneering cities in terms of composting and recycling glass,” she adds.

Louissette Langlois wants the entire political world to follow suit and recognize the urgency of acting for the climate.

Dust reduction



Photo: A. Bonn

Mayor Louissette Langlois points out that Chandler is already suffering from the effects of climate change.

Trucks hauling wood will be diverted from downtown Chandler. For several years, the residents of the Hôtel de Ville Street have suffered from the dust caused by wood transport. The route taken by pulp trucks will be diverted next year to preserve the comfort of the citizens of Chandler.

Mayor Louissette Langlois says that “citizens have been listened to and solutions have been found.” The new road is expected to cost about \$200,000 and will be built in August 2019. Forestry companies should provide technical support, while the costs will

be covered from the excise tax on gasoline and possibly from a Hydro Quebec program.

An upcoming plan for pay equity

The Town of Chandler is looking into pay equity. Elected officials have received a document explaining the process of the *Fédération Québécoise des municipalités (FQM)*, in order to assign a value to each position and employee.

A salary grid will be submitted to the town in the coming weeks, which will allow elected officials to see if the salaries currently awarded correspond to the FQM assessment. Mayor Louissette Langlois states that the document weighs each point in a logical and neutral way.

The FQM will submit in the coming weeks a salary suggestion for each executive. Subsequently, the council may decide to change or not the income. The nine executives in

the Town of Chandler filed a pay equity application following the hiring of the director of public works for an annual salary of \$100,000.

A solution for sewer backups

Sewer backup problems in Newport will eventually be resolved. Some residences along Highway 132 in the Anse à Blondel sector undergo major sewer backups during floods.

An inspection of the pipes has allowed the town administration to pinpoint the problem, says general manager Roch Giroux. “There was a fat plug that we dislodged. We also saw a lot of breaks in the pipe,” he says. The pipe will be redone in the area at a cost of \$200,000. The amount will come from the gas excise tax. In addition, work such as the refurbishment of pumping stations will be done and could improve the situation, says Mr. Giroux.

Sexual harassment campaign at the National Assembly

Thierry Haroun

A sexual harassment campaign will take place over the next few months. Posters will be present at the National Assembly and in all 125 Minister of the National Assembly offices in the province, including the Gaspé. The campaign aims at informing National Assembly personnel about the various types of harassment including, psychological, sexual, discriminatory attitudes and incivility. The personnel targeted includes all 125 deputies, the political personnel and the National Assembly employees. That totals approximately 1200 people, Claudia Rousseau, the spokesperson of the National Assembly confirmed.

No numbers available

However, there’s a problem. When asked if there are numbers available in terms of sexual harassment complaints filed at the National Assembly, Claudia Rousseau said that there were none because there’s been no accountability related to the Harassment Policy that was established in 2015. “I don’t have an answer to your question because there are no numbers available. There was

no accountability, but starting from now, with the 42nd Québec Legislature, there is an accountability policy that will enable us to address the issue through two priorities: Prevention and Situation Management.” When asked if sexual harassment exists in the National Assembly or other related offices and employees across the province, Claudia Rousseau, says that “just like other work places in society it probably exists, yes.” It should be noted that when a complaint of harassment is filed at the National Assembly it follows a informal or a formal process. The informal process is under the responsibility of the Human Resources Department of the National Assembly and the formal process is under the responsibility of an external

mediation team that could lead to an investigation.

Sylvain Roy reacts

“I remember being stunned by the fact that there wasn’t an accountability process on the matter at the time when I was at the National Assembly governing board,” says Sylvain Roy, Bonaventure PQ MNA. “I’m glad that from now on, there will be such a follow-up given that 42% of the MNA’s of the province are women. We’ve heard rumors here and there at the National Assembly, but I have no details. He remembers telling a intern at the National Assembly, that if she was faced with a sexual harassment situation, to make sure that it is brought to his attention.

News briefs

Legalizing prostitution?

Thierry Haroun

Is the legalization of prostitution a good idea? In other words, would recognizing prostitution as a legal trade make things better for prostitutes? The debate is underway in the province between womens organization because the Quebec Womens Federation (FFQ) recently voted a resolution in that sense. Since then, three womens organizations have slammed the door on the FFQ. Spec asked the Gaspésie Women’s Group (*Table de concertation des groupes de femmes GÎM*) what it thought of this subject? “We haven’t officially took a stand on the issue but we eventually will. For the moment, our position is still the same, we believe in decriminalizing prostitutes, but criminalizing clients and pimps,” says its coordinator, Mireille Chartrand.



Ville de Gaspé

PUBLIC NOTICE

ENACTMENT OF BY-LAW

NOTICE is hereby given that the Town Council, at its ordinary meeting held on December 3, 2018, has adopted the following By-Laws:

By-law 1373-18:

« Règlement relatif au traitement des élus municipaux et remplaçant le règlement 1026-08. »

By-law 1375-18:

« Règlement amendant le règlement 1190-12, règlement concernant la circulation et le stationnement en modifiant les annexes A et B. »

NOTICE is also given that those By-Laws are deposited at the office of the municipality and that the interested may there take cognizance thereof during regular office hours.

GIVEN at Gaspé, December 12, 2018.

Isabelle Vézina,
Director of legal services and town clerk

753-6000

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No additional funding allotted for recruitment of immigrants in the regions

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND: – The December 3 budgetary update presented by the new Coalition avenir Québec government allotted no new funding for the recruitment and integration of immigrants in Quebec's rural regions, a source of disappointment for the prefect of the Bonaventure MRC, Éric Dubé.

He thinks that Premier François Legault and Finance Minister Éric Girard missed an important opportunity to send a strong and positive signal to regions such as the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands, areas where the shortage of qualified manpower is hurting the economy.

"There was nothing in the budgetary update to deal with the shortage of manpower, despite the fact that it is an important stake everywhere in Quebec. I can't pinpoint an enterprise that will close soon because of that but we will lose expansion projects because business people cannot find enough workers. They will stay like they are now instead of expanding. I already see the direction it is taking, if we don't get support to recruit manpower and greet immigrants," explains Éric Dubé.

"I saw nothing in the economic update that tells me how we will benefit from immigration, how to make sure that these people will come down here. Will we see something to that effect in the budget this coming spring? I hope so. We must feel an upward swing for the regions and I don't see that in the economic update. Yet, this government is proving that it can initiate action. I am not saying that I agree with those actions but they (cabinet members) respect their commitments so far, regarding cuts in immigration numbers, the age increase to 21 years old for legal cannabis consumption and the equalization of school taxes," says Mr. Dubé.

He is also worried about the selection process that will now characterize immigration.

"Premier Legault (François) has talked repeatedly about creating good well-paying jobs. By this he means high-ranking industrial jobs. That is fine. We have some here too but I wonder how we will fill our manpower needs in the sectors that make the base of the Gaspesian economy like forestry, fisheries and tourism. Tomorrow morn-



Photo: G. Gagné

The Bonaventure MRC prefect, Éric Dubé, thinks that the Quebec government should have announced programs to support the regions trying to cope with a shortage of manpower.

ing, what do I do to fill those basic needs? I would like to know soon how I will be in a position to integrate the immigration process," states the Bonaventure MRC prefect.

Éric Dubé favours a thorough strategy to help regions cope with the labour shortage.

"We need a different plan for each region because the needs differ from one region to another. We need a housing program, among other things. If 50 newcomers arrive in New Richmond right away, I don't have room to house them," he states.

The number of people at work has increased in the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands over the last decade, and the unemployment rate, despite remaining high by province-wide standards, has decreased sharply.

In 2006, 32,800 people were holding a job in the region, compared to 36,000 people this year. The unemployment rate was 18.4% in 2006, while it currently stands at 13.5%. The population decreased from 95,206 to 92,503 people between 2006

and 2018.

"Some numbers are good but we also lose manpower (to retirement) without replacing them. That too influenced the falling unemployment rate but it is not positive. That's why we need newcomers or we must bring back a higher proportion of our youth leaving for superior studies; 300 young people of the area leave every year to study outside but we only bring back 75 of them as soon as they finish. Some others come back later. However, we must find a way to bring in more youth, or increase the range of education programs offered in the region so they don't have to leave," says Mr. Dubé.

The prefects of the Gaspé Peninsula are leading by example in the emphasis they are putting in labour recruitment and integration as they earmarked \$700,000 of the FARR fund for that purpose this year. FARR stands for *Fonds d'aide au développement des régions*. "Demography is the priority of priorities. It was evident for the prefects to support labour recruitment," concludes Mr. Dubé.

Police report

Jeanne Chapados, 82, from Hope, died in a December 5 fire that occurred in her house. The call was received at 3 p.m. after smoke was noticed coming from the house. The firefighters rushed to the house and found the victim's remains in front of the wood stove. The house sustained damage but was not destroyed by the fire. The case is being investigated by the major crime technicians, even though foul play is not suspected. "It is standard procedure since we know nothing about what happened," said Sûreté du Québec communications officer Christine Coulombe. Ms. Chapados was living with her son, who was at work at the time of the incident. It was the third fatal fire in two months on the Gaspé Peninsula. Those fires have claimed five lives.

Pierre-Nicolas Arsenault, 28, from Saint-Siméon died on December 8 after being pinned under his mobile home. He was working under that trailer home shortly after lunch when the home shifted. The person assisting him called for help at 1 p.m. and the victim was taken to Maria hospital, where he was pronounced dead. "He was not living in the house yet and he was renovating it. It is not a working accident officially, as he was not working for a contractor. The investigation is conducted by a technician in accident reconstitution. No foul play is suspected in that incident," explains Sgt. Claude Doiron, spokesperson for the Sûreté du Québec.

On December 6, several Sûreté du Québec police officers intervened at a tribute to volunteers in Newport. According to Bruno-Pierre Godbout, a Newport municipal councillor, 14 agents in seven vehicles were sent to seize the alcoholic beverages distributed to the guests. The councillor was surprised at this abrupt end to the festivities. "They said we did not have a meeting permit. The search warrant was in my own name, while it was the town that voted an amount of money for an organization, the ADJ (Amis des jeunes), for the purchase of alcohol," he says. Mr. Godbout adds being unaware about the lack of permit issue. Mr. Godbout criticizes the turn of events, "We pay \$600,000 a year for the services of the SQ. I think there were a lot of police officers mobilized for the situation." The Town of Chandler's administration confirmed the facts stated by Mr. Godbout.

The Sûreté du Québec confirms having seized approximately 150 bottles of alcoholic beverages. In the absence of a meeting permit, the event could not allow the distribution or consumption of alcohol, even if it was provided free of charge. The Sûreté du Québec justifies the deployment of numerous policemen by the need for adequate preparation to respond to the situation, ignoring, among other things, the number of people on site and the type of intervention that might have been necessary.

Marie-Eve Beaupré, 33, from Chandler, underwent her preliminary hearing during the last term of November at the Percé courthouse. She will be back in court on December 13, where the judge will determine if the case will be sent to trial. A publication ban on the evidence was issued. Marie-Eve Beaupré is suspected of having beaten another person with a baseball bat on July 29, on Chandler beach. She is charged with attempted murder.

THE GASPÉ SPEC MAKES A GREAT CHRISTMAS PRESENT

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Commentary

Gilles Gagné

The difference four years make

You should be concerned about the relationship between the federal government and the provinces. Four years ago, most Canadian premiers were criticizing Prime Minister Stephen Harper's (Conservative Party) way of handling the relationship between the federal and provincial levels of government. Justin Trudeau, who had started his pre-campaign over the fall of 2014, promised a better dialogue, should a Liberal Party government be elected.

At the time, the Conservative and Liberal parties were neck and neck in the polls and Ontario and Quebec were both run by Liberal Party governments. In addition, the relationship Prime Minister Stephen Harper had with Kathleen Wynne (Ontario Premier) and Philippe Couillard (Quebec Premier) was about as bad as you can imagine.

A year later in October 2015, Justin Trudeau was elected with a strong majority, thanks to his commitment to get public expenses out of the headlock imposed by Stephen Harper towards the end of his term. He can also thank the NDP's awkward election campaign, as its leader, Thomas Mulcair, promised balanced budgets like Mr. Harper, an unexpected outcome for a centre-left party.

The relationship between Ottawa and the provinces played a minimal role in the results of the 2015 election, except that Trudeau was able to count on the support of a certain number of provincial Liberal parties that were in power at the time; Quebec, Ontario and New Brunswick. Shortly after the election, Trudeau also received the support of Rachel Notley, Alberta's New Democratic Party premier, who sparked the first meeting of premiers with Justin Trudeau by announcing that Alberta was ready to impose a ceiling on greenhouse gases. The limit was 100 million tonnes by 2030.

A lot of things have unfortunately happened to Justin Trudeau since 2015. The governments of Quebec, Ontario and New Brunswick no longer bear a Liberal Party banner and Rachel Notley, in an attempt to save her position as Alberta premier, is desperately trying to move the tar sands' oil to the markets, even though it is possibly the highest producer of greenhouse gases of all the world's oil deposits.

To complicate things, Justin Trudeau, who announced in May that his government was buying Kinder Morgan Canada's pipeline for \$4.5 billion, seems in no hurry to accelerate that pipeline's expansion. This reality puts pressure on Ms. Notley.

Ontario Premier Doug Ford has decisively become Trudeau's main opponent amongst the premiers, as he has decided to wave goodbye to the carbon tax Ottawa wants to impose to the provinces in order to curtail their pollution emissions.

New Brunswick's Progressive Conservative Party Premier Blaine Higgs is an ally of Doug Ford on that point, and so are Saskatchewan's Scott Moe and Manitoba's Brian Pallister. Those four premiers will undoubtedly root for the Conservative Party at the Canadian level next year, even if Mr. Moe represents

the Saskatchewan Party, with no official ties to a federal party.

Justin Trudeau also lost British Columbia's Liberal Party Premier Kristy Clark in 2017. Her replacement, NDP's John Horgan, is so opposed to the expansion of the Kinder Morgan pipeline, he might take the matter to court.

Without having to be clear on the carbon tax, we can assume that Quebec's François Legault, who has so far shown no knack for the environment, will not hustle to support Trudeau regarding the carbon tax, given that the prime minister's stand is also rather shaky. How can you give environmental lessons when you buy a pipeline with the intent of expanding it?

On December 7 and 8, in Montreal, during the meeting of the premiers and the prime minister, Trudeau looked isolated for all those reasons. He probably understands now why an autocrat like Stephen Harper hated those federal-provincial summits and only held one during his nine-and-a-half year tenure.

Environmental issues now play a major role in politics. The Conservative premiers can brag that those issues are not so important since some of them were recently elected with weak or no environmental platforms. However in most provinces, it often only takes between 32% and 39% of support to get a majority government. Underestimating the impact of ecological platforms would be misleading for Trudeau, country-wide.

That is what Justin Trudeau, who is only ten months away from an election, has in mind right now. He looks at what lies ahead between now and October 21, the date of the next election and he knows that it will be one tricky chess game. The country will be quite shaken up over the next ten months.



Guest Commentary

Cynthia Dow

TV and me

I have a love-hate relationship with TV. I don't mean the machine, I mean the content!

When I was a kid, the TV seemed to be always blaring in the house, even if no-one was watching. It was like the background soundtrack to our life.

I was also a big fan of many shows back then. Sadly mostly American, as Canadian culture was not yet at its zenith: Bonanza, The Waltons, Laugh-In. Of course, the Maritime wonder Don Messer's Jubilee was a real favourite, and later the Tommy Hunter Show.

I remember how exciting it was to get our first colour TV! It was a really modern-looking thing, at least for the 1970s!

However, for many years later all I had was a small black and white television which was tuned by turning a button like a radio! I just wasn't interested in it at all

and spent most of my downtime tuned into the radio or my music collection, or reading, reading, reading!

Since I moved back to the Coast I spoiled myself with a new fancy flat-screen and a satellite subscription. Expecting to be wowed by all the channels, I find my channel of choice to be.... CBC! Although I have fallen in love with all the fabulous British series' on PBS and, until just lately, watched The Big Bang Theory on CTV. I say until just lately because I was a huge fan until I saw an old episode that made me really angry.

Same thing with Coronation Street. I was never really interested in soap operas like that until I was sick one Sunday morning about 20 years ago and turned on the TV because reading felt like too much of an effort! I happened upon the weekly re-runs and was instantly hooked! It was so much fun back then, just a show about normal British people living their normal lives (and generally spending an inordinate amount of their time in the pub!).

Over the last decade I became more and more impatient with the number of murders, kidnappings, sexual abuse and exploitation that has sadly become an increasingly frequent part of the show. Earlier this spring I decided I had had enough. I sent a strongly worded email to the producers to tell them of my disgust. Of course, I didn't get a reply.

Now back to The Big Bang Theory. I can't remem-

ber just when I fell in love with quirky Sheldon and his pals, because I usually don't like sitcoms at all, but I fell hard. An evening without Sheldon seemed empty. I liked the fact that, although I didn't understand the science at all, at least it seemed like you needed half a brain to watch the program, while most sitcoms do not seem to require any intelligence at all.

I have to admit, I've always been mildly annoyed with the racism often displayed towards Koothrappali, and the blatant sexist attitudes towards the women on the show. What really got my goat last week was when I saw the Season 9 episode where Sheldon reveals his engagement ring for Amy and tells the story of how it came down to him from his great-great-great-grandmother. When I first heard what he said I thought I had misunderstood, but then I checked out the written version on the Internet. To quote: This (the ring) has been in my family for generations. Except for a short time when Comanches cut off my great-great-great-grandmother's finger and stole it...The Texas Rangers tracked them down to their village and slaughtered every last one of them. It was a happy ending. Well, for my nine-fingered Nana.

So some comedy writer thought that referring in such a way to the genocide of an entire Indigenous tribe was funny? The editors didn't cut it? The actors went along with this? Probably all the audience laughed as well?

No wonder the world is in such a friggin' mess. So now Sheldon will no longer entertain me. Another email is shortly to be sent to the producers. It will likely have no impact, except on me.

On the other hand, my television redeemed itself this past weekend when it provided me with the opportunity to watch the film Cry Freedom. Directed by Richard Attenborough in 1987 at the height of civil unrest in South Africa, the film tells the story of the friendship between black activist Steve Biko (played by Denzel Washington) and journalist Donald Woods (Kevin Kline).

The film ended with a long list of black activists murdered in jail by the Botha regime, and had quite an impact on white attitudes towards South Africa at that time. It may well have helped play a role in the eventual release of Nelson Mandela.

It is cheering to know that some productions can have such a positive impact. Would they all had such values to share!



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Largest concentration of right whales now in the gulf of Saint Lawrence

Lobster fishing didn't need to be suspended in June

Geneviève Gélinas

Gilles Gagné

GASPÉ: – The largest concentration of right whales in Canadian waters is usually situated in the southern part of the gulf of Saint Lawrence, from the end of April to the end of December. Previously, that concentration was mainly located in the Bay of Fundy and in the Roseway Basin, off the coast of Nova Scotia.

In addition, observations made over the last two years reveal that only one right whale was seen in a sector where water depth is less than 50 metres. The situation could cast doubts on the possibility of lobster fishing in certain areas. A measure was imposed in June to protect the right whales from being entangled in fishing gear, as the right whale is an endangered species.

On December 4, members of Fisheries and Oceans Canada's scientific team shared the data gathered during surveillance flights, boat outings and through acoustic surveillance since spring and in some cases, over previous years. They have evaluated the number of right whales present in the southern Gulf of Saint Lawrence at 190, which is close to one half of the world's total population of the species.



Photo: Grand Manan whale and seabird research station

Right whales are rarely seen at a depth less than 50 metres.

The overall total of right whales is 411 and all the remaining right whales live along the east coast of Canada and the United States. The right whale population has been declining for years. Not a single right whale birth was observed so far in 2018.

"It is a real change, not just a matter of efforts put in observation," points out Mike Hammill, a biologist for Fisheries and Oceans Canada and a whale expert. He was referring to the increasing attempts to locate right whales in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence over recent years.

The right whales tend to leave their traditional habitat, in the Bay of Fundy and the Roseway Basin, off the coast of Nova Scotia. The right whale's main food source;

copepods, are getting scarcer in those sectors. The shellfish, which is the size of a grain of rice, is also somewhat less abundant in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence, but the change is not as significant.

The first right whale spotted this year was detected on April 30 in the gulf. They spent the summer there and some are still around now in December. In 2017, the remaining whales left the Gulf of Saint Lawrence at the end of December. On average, they stay 34 days in the same area.

Lobster fishermen were right

Fisheries and Oceans Canada closed lobster fishing, effective June 17, between

Percé and Gascons, after one right whale was spotted off the coast. The closure was called for two weeks, with only two-and-a-half weeks left before the end of the season in that area. The fishermen didn't put their traps back in the water for the remaining three days.

The 64 fishermen hit by the closure evaluated their losses at \$2.77 million. Right from the first day of closure, they declared that their traps are always laid in a water depth less than 37 metres, often times even less, areas where the right whales don't go.

The data collected by Fisheries and Oceans Canada seem to prove them right. Of the 171 right whales localized accurately in 2017 and 2018 in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence, only one was spotted in water less than 50 deep.

The scientists studying the right whale lack information on the accurate coordinates of the traps, points out Mike Hammill, and for that reason, it is not possible to evaluate the interaction between those whales and lobster fishing ac-

tivities.

However, the risk "is probably not zero, but there is a lot less risk because we don't see whales in that sector," admits Mr. Hammill.

O'Neil Cloutier, director of the Southern Gaspé Professional Fishermen Group, receives that conclusion with a mix of relief and frustration.

"That is what we have been saying since the beginning. We never see right whales where we fish. We had offered (the department of Fisheries and Oceans) to fish in 20 fathoms of depth (18 metres) and it was refused. There is no lobster fishing carried out at a depth of 50 metres (...) There are no copepods where we fish," insists Mr. Cloutier.

In the talks that will be conducted over the winter, he will recommend Fisheries and Oceans Canada "to apply the American norms, which come down to closing a fishing sector only if three (right) whales are located in it at the same time."

He will also ask the officials of that federal department to adopt better measures regarding the right whales' feeding area. "They don't eat where we fish," he insists.

The \$2.77 million lost collectively by the lobster fishermen of the Percé to Gascons area come down to a loss of \$43,300 per permit holder. "Many fishermen have lost up to \$60,000," states O'Neil Cloutier.

The department of Fisheries and Oceans recently indicated that the Gaspé Peninsula lobster fishermen would not be compensated for the losses linked to the right whale protection measures.

Snow crab also affected

Geneviève Gélinas

Gilles Gagné

GASPÉ: - The right whale protection measures also affected crab fishermen in the southern Gulf of Saint Lawrence. Although approximately 99% of the quota was caught, they often had to increase their fishing effort in a restricted area to make those catches. In certain cases, some fishermen had to rent out a fraction of their quota to make sure that it would be caught. That came with a cost.

The scientists were asked about the relevance of having forbidden snow crab fishing in a 6,490 square kilometers area for the whole season in 2018. There was a concentration of right whales in that area, said

Mr. Hammill.

"There would have been a potential for a lot of interaction. (The closed area) decreased the risk of interaction," between whales and fishing gear, the scientist said.

That analysis by Mr. Hammill is not very well received by Daniel Desbois, president of the Gaspesian crab fishermen Association.

"There's no need to be a scientist to state that...We could have fished before the arrival of whales, that's what I criticize," Mr. Desbois adds.

He notices that only one whale was detected on April 30, and that others probably arrived after. He wonders if crab fishermen could fish while only a few whales are present in the Gulf. "Zero risk

does not exist. Risk must be measured. All fishermen don't fish at the same place," Mr. Desbois says.

In 2017, 12 right whales died in Canadian waters. A couple of entanglement cases were confirmed, as well as a couple of collisions with ships. Some carcasses were in such state of decay that the cause of death could not be confirmed.

Starting in August 2017, Transport Canada imposed a speed limit of ten knots in the zone where right whales were likely to be. The measure was also applied in 2018, but it started in the spring. The biologists of Fisheries and Oceans Canada opine that such a measure also reduced the number of collisions between ships and right whales.

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A \$32 million contract for the Forillon shipyard

Geneviève Gélinas

GASPÉ:- Gaspé based *Chantier naval Forillon* will build four more search and rescue boats for the Canadian Coast Guard, a \$32 million contract that guarantees work for the company's 70 employees until 2023.

"We reached an agreement a long time ago, but as long as it's not signed, it's not signed. We finally received the contract Friday (November 30)," says Jean-David Samuel, the president and chief executive officer of the shipyard. "We have a great team and thanks to them, we landed the contract," he adds.

On December 6, Ottawa announced that the Gaspé shipyard and the Ontario-based company Hike Metal Products will each build four more search and rescue boats, for a total cost of \$61.8 million.

The Forillon shipyard had signed a first \$45.8 million contract in 2015 to deliver six boats to the Canadian Coast Guard. Two boats were already

delivered, two are being constructed and two remain to be built. Six boats are also under construction at Hike Metal Products. The initial contracts of the two shipyards included options to build eight more.

In early 2017, Ottawa announced that eight more boats would be ordered, but it wasn't said who would get the contract, or even if there would be a new call for tenders. The eight boats are finally shared between the two builders.

The new Coast Guard boats are 20 metres long and six metres wide. The self-righting lifeboats will be capable of operating at up to 100 nautical miles or 185 kilometers, from the shore. They'll be used to conduct search operations at sea, respond to marine distress calls and provide assistance to disabled vessels. They can board four to six crew members, as well as up to 14 survivors.

The Ottawa announcement is made at the same time as four 24-to-35-year-old employees of the shipyard have just bought the company from its

former owner, Robert Côté.

More workers needed

The Forillon shipyard is seeking to recruit more workers, especially welders, to build its boats. "For the Coast Guard contract, it is going well. We

have a well-experienced team, but we have other projects. In order to do all of what we could do, we would need more manpower," says Mr. Samuel.

The shipyard, which has been operating since 1952, first specialized in building fishing boats. It is still building that

type of boat, but the firm has diversified its production by building commercial boats such as tugboats, barges and ferries.

In addition to the Canadian Coast Guard boats, the Forillon shipyard is building two tugboats at the present time.

NOMINATION

Alexis Tremblay Lapierre

Economic Development Counselor



The SADC of Gaspé is happy to announce the nomination of Mr. Alexis Tremblay Lapierre as Economic Development Counselor.

Holder of a bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Alexis Tremblay Lapierre worked as an economic development officer at the MRC de La-Côte-de-Gaspé prior to taking up his duties as SADC economic development officer in November 2018.

Passionate about the sustainable development of enterprises and their social responsibility, he is a member of the SADC Network's sustainable development group. In addition, he coordinates the Réseau M mentoring cell, an organisation whose mission is to assist the region's entrepreneurs by providing them with mentors. Building on his listening skills and his

understanding of your needs, he can guide you as you move ahead with your entrepreneurial projects.

Congratulations and the best of success!

The board members and the General Director.

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Tél. : 418-368-2906
Courriel : alapierre@ciril.qc.ca



Photo: G. Gélinas

The Forillon shipyard will build a total of ten search and rescue boats for the Canadian Coast Guard; two have already been delivered, including the *Baie de Plaisance*, seen here in April 2017.

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Gladys McKay turns 100 years-old

Gilles Gagné

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES: –

Gladys McKay recently celebrated her 100th birthday. When asked what her secret is for such a long and active life Gladys responded by saying “It runs in the family. My mother lived to 99-and-a-half and my father lived 97 years. They were never sick. They just died of old age. I never smoked.” she explains.

When Gladys McKay came into the world on December 6, 1918, the First World War had just ended and most of the world was fighting the Spanish flu epidemic. One hundred years later, Ms. McKay’s memory is so sharp, she can still accurately remember things that happened in the mid-1920s and, amazingly, an astounding number of events that have happened since, either in her life or in general.

She vividly remembers her first day of school. “I went in a wagon pulled by a horse. I was six and I went to the Dimock Creek School,” she told some of the numerous visitors who stopped by her house on December 6 to wish her a happy birthday.

The mayor of Cascapedia-St-Jules, Gaétan Boudreau, was one of her visitors; “Gladys, could you go another 17 years? You would have a shot at the world record,” he said, with a grin. She smiled.

The mayor told her that, “as mayor, I’ll make sure that they (VIA Rail managers) bring the passenger train back to the area.”

“I am not travelling anymore but when I was, it was such a good service,” she remarked, talking with guests about the small train station that used to serve the community near what is now the Cascapedia Society office.

The Municipality of Cascapedia-St-Jules presented her with a certificate for her 100th birthday and a selection of sweets from the nearby Café du village. “She loves sweets,” said Mr. Boudreau, as she nodded.

Her doctor, Roxanne Langlois, stopped in briefly to see her and wish her a happy birthday. “I am so useless. I just came for fun. You don’t need a doctor,” said Dr. Langlois, laughing.

Ms. McKay doesn’t only have a good memory; she delivers her sentences with alertness, without hesitation and with accuracy in details. When asked what impressed her during her lifetime, she quickly replied that “after the war (World War II), changes came quickly,” referring to technologies.

When woodworking business owner Russell Campbell stopped to offer her a basket of fruit on behalf of the 50+ Club, they started talking about their respective families, which were at the time across the river neighbours, with the McKays on the St. Jules side of the Cascapedia River, and the Campbells on the Grand Cascapedia side, where they still are.

“My father Charlie used to cross the river on the ice to visit your father. It was a thrill to pass on the river in the winter. You had a special stair case in the house, made like a spiral, and the ceiling was made of metal,” recalled Russell Campbell.

“I remember your father, yes. That ceiling was made of tin. I was born in that house,” pointed out Ms. McKay. That house eventually became Micmac

Camp, the outfitting business managed by the Condo family.

“Our first family car was a Ford T4. It lasted forever. It was so solid,” also recalled Gladys McKay.

She attended local schools until grade 10 inclusively and she wanted to get her high school diploma. “There was no high school in New Richmond. I had to go to New Carlisle or to Quebec (City) for grade 11. I went to Quebec. I taught for a while after getting my teaching certificate (from MacDonald College in Montreal),” she explains.

After teaching for a few years, she was hired by Alcan Aluminum. “I worked in the Sun Life building before Place Ville-Marie was built. The company then moved to that new building. I worked in the office, in the import-export department,” she says.

“I came back in 1976, after

retiring. We moved to this (Cascapedia) side of the river that year. My mother was still alive. She lived in this house for five years,” remembers Ms. McKay.

She is well aware that her former company was merged to another mining giant, Rio Tinto, to become Rio Tinto-Alcan. “Those companies are so huge now.” She followed that transaction closely enough to remember that the share value of Alcan was divided by four when the agreement was signed with Rio Tinto. She keeps an eye on other company news, like Bombardier.

Gladys McKay still lives in her house, and her neighbours including Ruth MacWhirter keep an eye on her. “You don’t even have an alert bracelet. This is not safe,” says Ruth, as Ms. McKay smiles. She has a walker to make her whereabouts in the house safer.

A number of people make regular stops at Ms. McKay’s house. Laurianne Lambert and Stephanie Gilker work in the house for *Entretiens Baie des Chaleurs*, an organization providing various maintenance services. “People stop by to make sure that everything is alright,” says Kathleen Paquet, who was instrumental in the organization of the birthday party.



Ruth MacWhirter, who lives close to Gladys McKay's house, comes regularly to clear snow off her porch.



The mayor of Cascapedia-St. Jules, Gaétan Boudreau, was happy to present Gladys McKay with a certificate on behalf of the municipal administration.



Gladys McKay turned 100 on December 6.

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SADC

Vistech Baie-des-Chaleurs

Gaspé pilot and businessman Michel Pouliot signs his biography

Geneviève Gélinas

GASPÉ: – During his aviator career, Michel Pouliot transported Russian sailors, dead bodies and beavers, but above all, tens of thousands of Gaspésians. The founder of Air Gaspé, who is 87 years old and has 30,000 flying hours in his logbook, has just published his biography, *Bienvenue à bord* (Welcome aboard). In an interview with Spec, he told anecdotes and criticized the air service now offered to Gaspésians.

Mr. Pouliot was born in 1931 in Cap-d'Espoir, where his father Camille-Eugène Pouliot was a doctor and the Member of the National Assembly for the Gaspé-Sud riding from 1936 to 1962. The Pouliot family moved to the Quebec City region when doctor Pouliot became the Hunting and Fisheries Minister in 1944.

Michel was 16 years old when he began his flying lessons at the Quebec City Aero-club. Minister Pouliot owned a plane and his son used to fly him to the Gaspé Peninsula on weekends, which allowed the young Michel to build up flight hours.

In the Gaspé Peninsula, Michel Pouliot would offer plane tours to Gaspésians for a few dollars. There was no airport at the time. He landed on beaches or in fields, to the astonishment of farmers.

At the Quebec City Aero-club, several pilots were veterans of the Royal Canadian Air Force and had participated in bombing raids over Germany. Others had convoyed bombers or fighter planes built in North America for Great Britain, over the Canadian Arctic, Greenland and Iceland.

After the war, those pilots remained aviation enthusiasts and founded air transport companies. "Commercial aviation really started at that time, with a lot of bush flying at first, then with established schedules," Mr. Pouliot recalls. "We've been influenced and inspired by them to offer the same kind of service in Gaspé," he adds.

In 1951, Michel Pouliot was 20 years old. He was under the legal age, which was 21 at that time, but wanted to start his air transport company. He borrowed a tie from his father and met with his banker: he was re-

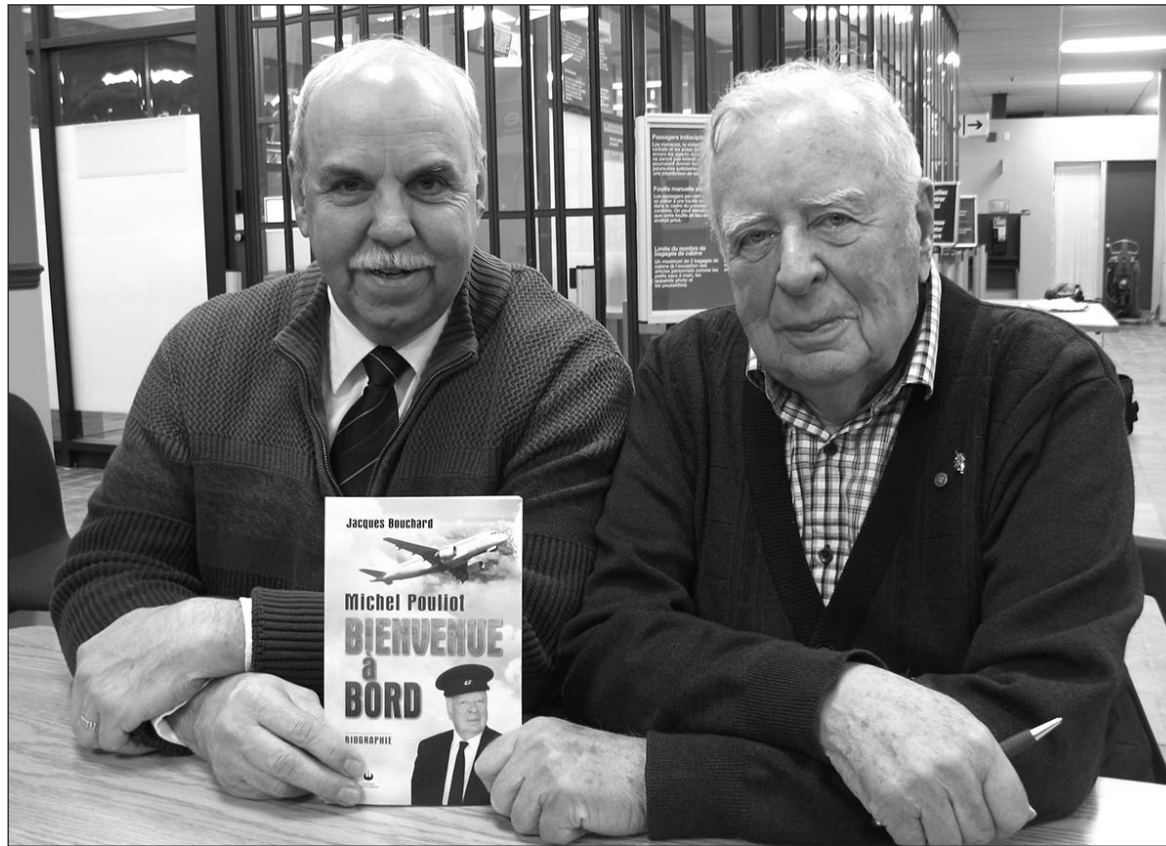


Photo: G. Gélinas

Pilot and businessman Michel Pouliot, on the right, wrote his memoirs, helped by Jacques Bouchard.

fused a loan. Then he went around the Gaspé Peninsula to convince business people to invest in his project. He came back with \$35,000, a pretty big amount at that time, and obtained the necessary funding from his banker.

So, Mr. Pouliot founded *Trans-Gaspésien Aérien Ltd*, which became Air Gaspé a few years later. His first contract was flying over the forest to spot mature trees. His planes also patrolled to detect potential forest fires. Then Mr. Pouliot transported workers to mining sites and lumber camps on the North Shore, the Gaspé Peninsula and Anticosti Island.

In the 1950s, Ghislain Dupuis was one of Mr. Pouliot's passengers. "One summer, I went to Anticosti to work as a lumberjack. I was 13 or 14 years old. I boarded with my father and his group. It was quite an adventure!"

Mr. Pouliot asked the lumberjacks to not take too much luggage, in order to limit the weight. However, some loggers hid beer bottles in their packsacks. "When we flew over the trees, we were pretty low. When we landed on Anticosti, Michel told us 'never again!'"

That was only one of several adventures for Michel Pouliot. He transported a deceased man on the passenger seat beside him to help the man's family, which was too poor to repatriate him in a coffin. He boarded beavers to reintroduce them in Northern

Quebec. Russian fishermen resting in Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon used his services to fly back to Gander, Newfoundland, near the port where their boats were moored.

Air Gaspé used to transport 80,000 passengers per year and employed 82 persons. At the end of the 1960s, two planes were taking off from Gaspé in the morning, three days a week. One was going to Bonaventure, Bathurst, Charlo and Edmundston before reaching Quebec City. The second went to Anticosti, Natashquan, Havre-Saint-Pierre and Rivière-au-Tonnerre before flying to Quebec City. In 1969, a one-way ticket Gaspé-Anticosti costed \$17. Today, many of those communities don't have a regular air transport service.

Mr. Pouliot criticizes the air services offered by Air Canada in regions. "That's not good at all. Air Canada wants to transport passengers who are going to take large aircrafts to Paris or to Florida. They're not interested in giving a service to the population, in taking care of the population," he says.

For 15 years in the Air Gaspé days, Mr. Pouliot used to fly a plane on New Year's

Day. "I used to take off from Gaspé, and go to Mont-Joli, Natashquan, Anticosti, to board people who had missed their plane and wanted to go back home. I was not charging them anything. I was doing it because they had been my customers all year long. When we arrived in their towns, women and children welcomed us. They used to give me salmon, trout, deer, meat pie..."

Mr. Pouliot is also proud to say that he trained about 250 workers in aviation, including 200 pilots who had their first job with Air Gaspé. One of them was commander Robert Piché, who became famous in August 2001 for landing an Airbus 330 after hovering during 21 minutes over the Atlantic ocean. He signs the biography's preface.

The Air Gaspé adventure came to an end in 1974, when Mr. Pouliot grudgingly accepted to sell his company to Quebecair.

Jacques Bouchard, Mr. Pouliot's notary, helped him write his memoirs. According to Mr. Bouchard, who served in the Royal Canadian Air Force, what makes Michel Pouliot special is his "cowboy go-getter attitude... You needed to be a cowboy, to land on beaches or on packed snow!"

Michel Pouliot piloted for the last time a year and half ago. "I would need to renew my medical exams, he says. At the Transport Department, they think that I'm too old, at 87 years of age! When I turned 75, I gave myself a rule: to fly with a co-pilot, if in case something happened to me. My own judgement told me that, not the Government!"



PUBLIC NOTICE

2019 CALENDAR FOR COUNCIL'S SITTINGS

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that at its regular meeting held on Monday, October 22, 2018, the Town Council adopted the calendar for its regular sittings for the year 2019, to wit:

Date	Heure
14 janvier	20 h
4 février	20 h
18 février	20 h
4 mars	20 h
18 mars	20 h
1 ^{er} avril	20 h
15 avril	20 h
6 mai	20 h
Mardi 21 mai	20 h
3 juin	20 h
17 juin	20 h
15 juillet	20 h
19 août	20 h
Mardi 3 septembre	20 h
16 septembre	20 h
30 septembre	20h
14 octobre	20 h
4 novembre	20 h
18 novembre	20 h
2 décembre	20 h
16 décembre	20 h

The regular sittings of the Town Council for the year 2011 will be held at 8:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, 25, rue de l'Hôtel-de-Ville, Gaspé.

Given at Gaspé on December 12, 2019.

The Director of Legal Services and town clerk
Isabelle Vézina



Announcements...

Obituaries



BOYLE : Arthur

Arthur Boyle, 103 of London, Ontario, passed away peacefully with family at his side, Friday, November 30, at his home in the Western Counties Wing for Veterans, Parkwood Institute.

Art was born November 2, 1915 in Gaspé, Quebec. He lived a hard life during the depression years, "riding the rail" to western Canada, to make ends meet. In 1937 he thought that the army would provide him a better income, food and a dry roof over his head and so it was then that his armed forces career began. Initially he signed up with the Royal Canadian Dragoons, a horse cavalry regiment but the beginning of the war changed everything. Still training with horses, swords and a lance in 1939 they were easily outmatched by enemy forces overseas. It was at this time that Art transferred to the 1st Hussar Tank Regiment where he spent the remainder of his army career. Art trained in Canada, England and Scotland and would eventually go ashore in a tank, at Juno Beach, D-Day June 6, 1944. Art spent the rest of the war fighting in France, Belgium and into Holland before being transferred back to England as an instructor. He survived many near death experiences being wounded a number of times. At the end of the war, Art settled in London where the Hussars were based and he met the love of his life Barbara, while delivering bread on a horse and wagon. It was soon after, he started two new roles; a long career in the construction industry as a Steamfitter and that of a parent. He was an avid Toronto Blue Jays fan and loved playing euchre and crib.

Art is survived by his three sons, Don Affleck and his wife Pat, Kenneth Boyle and his partner Lynne Kniffen and Gerald Boyle and his wife Marggie; four grandchildren, Tim Affleck and his wife Vicki Brandon Boyle and his wife Amanda Zhang, Amanda and Thalia Boyle; two great-grandchildren, Mary Affleck and Alisha McLean. Art was predeceased by Barbara Boyle nee Clemas (1984) and Hazel Boyle nee Patterson (2011).

At Art's request, there will be no funeral or celebration of life. Interment will be at Woodland Cemetery in London beside his wife Barbara.

The family would like to recognize and thank the staff of the Western Counties Wing, 3rd floor of Parkwood Veterans Care, for their care and compassion over the last two years.

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BRIAND: Melvin

May 4, 1937 – November 28, 2018.

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Mr. Melvin Briand which occurred on November 28, 2018 at the age of 81.

Predeceased by his father, Mr. Edmund Briand and his mother, Mrs. Eva Rooney, his brother Evan and his sister Rowena. He leaves behind his beloved wife Mrs. Jane Walsh; his children: Velena, Eddie, Larry (Sandy), Doris (Perry), and Loris; his grandchildren: Jessica (Xavier), David, Logan, Liam and Lexi; his sisters: Una and Ruby (Nellis); brothers-in-law; sisters-in-law; nephews, nieces and many other family members and friends.

Visitation will be held at the St. Patrick's Church on Sunday, December 30, 2018. Visiting hours will be from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Funeral service will be held at St. Patrick's Church on Monday, December 31 at 11 a.m. Please be advised that on the day of the funeral, the church doors will open at 9:30 a.m.

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Christmas stress

Lord we all expect so much from the festivities of Christmas. We always think that other people are having the perfect time with families round the tree.

But there can be so much stress, Lord. We pray for families who only see each other at Christmas: they may all want to celebrate in quite different ways. We think about the empty places at tables where loved ones no longer sit. We pray for new family groups making their own traditions; For those in the armed forces and others who have to be away from home, or just at work. Lord, help us all to relax and rejoice in the true meaning of the season.

Amen.



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COAST ROUND-UP

DOUGLASTOWN:

Douglas

Community Centre

December 21: Annual Solstice supper \$12 per adult (12+), \$6 per child (5 to 11), \$3 for ages 4 and under. All are welcome!

December 31: New Year's Eve breakfast. Traditional menu, from 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. \$8 per adult (12+), \$4 per child (5 to 11), free under 4 years old. Everyone is welcome!

BARACHOIS:

Legion Branch 261

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

PORT DANIEL:

St. James

Anglican Church

December 16: Festival of Lessons and Carols Eucharist beginning at 9 a.m. The open offering will be donated to replenish the Malcolm Evan's Pastoral Care Fund. Everyone welcome.

SHIGAWAKE:

Community Center

December 16: Kid's gift bingo for ages 4 - 17, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

December 31: New Year's Eve dance beginning at 8 p.m. \$12 per person.

HOPE TOWN:

Hope Baptist Church

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.

NEW CARLISLE:

Bible Chapel Services

Sunday: Breaking of Bread for Believers - 9:30 a.m.; Sunday night service - 7 p.m.; Wednes-

day: Bible Study and Prayer - 7 p.m. "You Must Be Born Again."

NEW RICHMOND:

United Church 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.

NEW RICHMOND:

St. Andrews

United Church

December 14: Christmas concert beginning at 7 p.m. Free-will offering. Refreshments served after in the church hall. Everyone welcome.

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. Please be advised that the book room will close **December 19** to **January 9**.

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

River Museum

January 6: King and Queen winter tea and cake party from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Prizes awarded to the crowned King and Queen. For further information call 418-392-5079.

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



Community Calendar

December

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 ✓
2 <small>Hanukkah Begins at Sundown</small>	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21 <small>Winter Begins</small>	22
23 30	24 31 <small>New Year's Eve</small>	25 <small>Christmas</small>	26 <small>Kwanzaa Begins</small>	27	28	29

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.

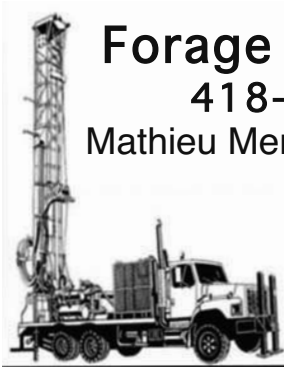
CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:
50+ Club
Every Thursday: Dame de Pique at 1 p.m. \$5 per person.

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

UNITED CHURCH
Sunday, December 16
2 p.m. Hope Town

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

Sunday, December 16
New Carlisle
11 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Hope Town
10 a.m. Morning Prayer
Port Daniel
9 a.m. Holy Eucharist



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On the lighter side...



CASA - The winner of Write on Gaspé's November contest "Growing up Gaspésian" is Cassie Henry!

Homemade Strawberry Jam

Small red curls tucked under my bucket hat,
As I patiently sat,
Waiting,
For my grandmother to take me berry picking,
Close to her home,
With plenty of field to roam.

In search of wild berries,
Hidden in the tall grass,
Hand in hand,
We walked,
Talking of the delicious homemade jam,
We were going to make,
With those wild strawberries,
My grandmother and I picked.

Find the big ones she told me,
And watch where you step,
Not to step on the red berries,
That would squish under my little shoes,
Searching,
Basket in hand,
For the biggest strawberries,
One has ever seen.

Once we had all the supplies,
We would head back inside,
To start our homemade jam,
But first, wash your hands,
She reminded me,
As I stumbled into the bathroom,
She fumbled with the jam pot.

Washing the berries,
And starting to boil them,
The house smelled of strawberries,
Sweet, yet bitter smelling,
Adding sugar to the mixture,
As I stirred the pot,
I thought,
Of the delicious breakfast,
We would feast,
The next morning.

Once the sun started to
Fade,
It took grandmother's memory with it,
Although she will never remember these
Memories,
These memories will never escape,
My mind.

By Cassie Henry



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

Before



After

Guess Who?

I am an actress born in Paris, France on April 15, 1990. I attended Dragon School in Oxford and starred in school plays. I rose to fame in the popular Harry Potter series, and was recently seen in a popular Disney film.

Answer: Emma Watson



ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, diversify your investments if you are trying to boost your bottom line. As the saying goes, "don't put all of your eggs in one basket." Boost your odds.
TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21
You need to take a day or two for yourself, Taurus. It seems like you have been doing much for others but little energy is devoted to your needs and desires. You've earned a break.
GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21
Think about how to look at a problem from a new angle, Gemini. Only

then can you get a real grasp for the situation at hand and how to tackle it. The answer may be right there.
CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22
Cancer, get together with a spouse or romantic partner and work through a running list of what you'd like to do together. It is important to spend quality moments with one another.
LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23
Leo, even though you may be tempted to draw attention your way, you may be better served by letting others grab the spotlight this week. Campaign for another's recognition.
VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22
Fitness becomes a priority for you in the weeks ahead, Virgo. Focus your efforts toward your fitness goals and

lean on others if you're tempted to veer off course.
LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, you like to play super sleuth and get to the bottom of sticky situations. Remember that not all information is accurate, and be careful what you share.
SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22
You have a strong desire to make some major changes, Scorpio. Think about an extensive vacation, a potential relocation or a large home renovation.
SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21
You may have gotten in over your head with a certain home project, Sagittarius. It just doesn't seem to be moving along as anticipated. Call in some reinforcements.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, sometimes staying silent is the best way to get notice. Others may appreciate that you take the time to think over an issue before chiming in, and that bodes well for your future.
AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18
Even though you may want to find the answers to all your questions, sometimes you have to accept what you cannot change, Aquarius. Focus your attention on something new.
PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
It will only take a few more days until your goal has been reached, Pisces. That will be an exciting time worthy of sharing with friends.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS
DECEMBER 9
Kendall Vertes, Dancer (16)
DECEMBER 10
Bobby Flay, Chef (54)
DECEMBER 11
Rider Strong, Actor (39)
DECEMBER 12
Mayim Bialik, Actress (43)
DECEMBER 13
Taylor Swift, Singer (29)
DECEMBER 14
Vanessa Hudgens, Actress (30)
DECEMBER 15
Ronnie Radke, Singer (35)

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