

Matapedia residents concerned about flooding

Gilles Gagné

MATAPEDIA: – The mild weather and heavy rainfall on December 21 and 22, along with the very early debacle on December 23 represent a constant cause of worry for the citizens of Matapedia.

Some residents remember that the same kind of early debacle occurred in 1973-1974 and in 1994. Both springs were characterized by major floods in Matapedia and Ristigouche South-east.

Richard Mill, a Matapedia garage and service station co-owner, has vivid memories of May 1974 and April 1994. He currently notices that the same conditions are in place this winter.

“The river went down on December 23. There is an ice floe many kilometres from the village and down towards Pointe-à-la-Croix. The water level of the river has remained high since that day, which means that the water doesn’t flow well towards the Baie des Chaleurs. That ice was already one foot thick at the surface. It has piled-up since. It is worrying,” explains Mr. Mill.

“It is frozen solid in the area around the village and downstream. There are other compact ice floes upstream. We went up to Indian House a couple of days ago. It is forty miles upstream. There is a potential jam there as well. We see some other places with the same kind of ice accumulation. A mild period with some rain could cause a lot of damage. We could see a flood similar to the spring ones, but in the middle of the winter,” adds Mr. Mill.

Every spring Garage Restigouche, owned by Richard Mill and his brother André, prepare for flooding. The 20 staff members relocate much of the garage’s equipment and items that cannot be moved out of the premises. They are put on special shelves to avoid damage.

“We did the same on December 23. We were ready to



Photo: G. Gagné

Kilometres of broken and piled-up ice are visible around the village of Matapedia, both upstream and downstream.

leave and put our equipment in a safe place. As a matter of fact, we still have four inches of water in the garage pit and a foot of frozen water in the basement of our other building across the street. That came in on December 23. That’s why we acted like we usually do in April,” says Richard Mill.

On December 23, 1973, a mild weather bout led to a debacle of the Restigouche River. On May 2 and 3, 1974, a major flood hit the village of Matapedia.

The same phenomenon was observed 20 years later. A January 1 debacle led to a massive accumulation of ice between Matapedia and Pointe-à-la-Croix. On April 17 and 18, 1994, the effect of three days of very mild weather caused the Restigouche and Matapedia Rivers to have massive quantities of additional thick ice.

The Deux-Rivières School, the CLSC, the Provigo warehouse and dozens of other properties sustained major damage amounting to millions of dollars.

In 1995, a practice was put in place, with good results - the intervention of the Canadian Coast Guard hovercraft.

“We avoided floods for more than 10 straight years

after that,” points out Richard Mill. Since then, Matapedia has not experi-
enced damage comparable to that in 1994. The procedure is now

slower, as the Municipality of Matapedia cannot deal directly with the Canadian Coast Guard. The number of communities that rely on the hovercrafts has also increased over the last 25 years.

“We are worried that the hovercraft will not be here on time this coming fall. I think the Quebec government should invest in the acquisition of its own hovercraft, or lease one from the Canadian Coast Guard for its own use. It is a costly solution but floods also cost a lot of money following damage to public buildings like the school, the CLSC, and to private properties, to the roads. It mobilizes a lot of people. There is also the economic impact. That is costly too,” explains Richard Mill.



Photo: N. Sergerie

A few days after the storm, many people were still clearing snow and shoveling roofs.

Gaspé hit by record snowfall

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ – The last storm that hit the town of Gaspé brought with it a record snowfall. On January 9 and during the first hours of the following day, 58.6 centimetres of snow fell on the town.

On January 9, an amount of 36 centimetres of snow was recorded at the Michel-Pouliot airport, breaking an 83-year-old record of 35.6 centimetres, recorded in 1936. The additional 22.6 centimetres that fell on January 10 came close to breaking a second consecutive record, which was 25.6 centimetres in 1997.

It is not unusual to receive abundant quantities of snow in early January, points out meteorologist Alexandre Parent, of Environment Canada. “Last year, the January 4 storm brought significant quantities of snow, blown by strong winds over the whole area. There is nothing exceptional (in the January 9-10 event),” he emphasizes.



Photo: T. Haroun

Percé Rock MRC Prefect Nadia Minassian.

Percé Rock MRC: Lots of work to be done in 2019

Thierry Haroun

PERCÉ: - 2019 will be a very busy year for the elected representatives of the Percé Rock MRC. Prefect Nadia Minassian confirmed that transportation, tourism, innovation and the environment are some of the major issues that will be tackled.

In December, Québec Premier François Legault was in Gaspé to announce that more than \$21 million was slated for four airports on the Gaspé. \$8.3 million is slated for the Percé Rock MRC airport located in Grand River West. "This is major. Let me say it this way, this announcement was extremely important for us. We've been working on this for years and the Québec Government heard our call loud and clear and to our satisfaction. What is important to retain in terms of repair and other works expected is that our runway will be extended by 1000 feet. It will therefore be 5000 feet long once all the work is completed in approximately two years, if everything goes as planned. The call for tenders should be published in a few weeks. We've done our homework and we are ready," states Minassian.

What is so important about having a longer runway? "It's about security and it's about having an airport that is up-to-date in terms of transportation capacity." She emphasizes that with all the storms and bad weather linked to climate change, having a longer runway gives a bigger margin to pilots where landings and take-offs are concerned

Other priorities

Premier Legault also said that Investissement Québec will create an office in every region that will have the mandate to favour private investments in each region. In our region, it will be called Investissement Québec Gaspésie. "I've already asked the Québec Government to open a regional bureau in Chandler. Actually, the former bureau of Investissement Québec was in Chandler (at Place du Havre). So why not just reopen it with new jobs. I think it would be the right choice for our region." The Percé Rock MRC has more projects for 2019. For instance, it intends to intensify the promotion and the development of winter tourism. It also intends to take on the lodging issue. "We know that there's an issue in terms of lodging for our citizens. Much has to be done and we will see how we, as an MRC, can work with all players involved to find solutions to this issue," said Prefect Minassian.

Making sure that the railway refurbishment will benefit the MRC, putting in place a fisheries innovation hub in Grand River, a bioagriculture hub in Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé and a green technology hub in Port-Daniel related to the McInnis Cement mill are all other projects on the table for 2019, concluded Ms. Minassian.



Photo: N. Sergerie

This map displays the Galt site, west of Gaspé.

GALT EXPLOITATION: Côte-de-Gaspé MRC keeping tabs on the project

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ: The Côte-de-Gaspé MRC will be vigilant as Québec's first oil development project sees the light of day, at the Junex Galt site, west of Gaspé.

At the beginning of the year, Québec launched an environment assessment of the project, now being held by Cuda Oil and Gas, the Alberta company controlling Junex since last August.

In the notice published, the oil company plans to "put the Galt southwest deposit into production."

The prefect, Daniel Côté, isn't yet sure how the MRC could intervene in the consultation process that is underway until February 1. "We will get involved in the process but in what form? Will it be a meeting, a telephone conversation or the filing of a brief? We will see what time allows us to do."

One thing is certain: the MRC has never been against the development of Galt. The priority given in the hydrocarbons file was to distance it from the population. In the case of Galt, 20 kilometres from downtown Gaspé, the premise is respected, however, Mr. Côté says that the role of the MRC in hydrocarbon issues is very limited.

"The environmental rules will have to be respected. Basically, the positioning must be that of the government of Québec, which is the only entity responsible for the hydrocarbon industry in Québec. MRCs or cities have virtually no power. We fall back on the government."

Protecting the environment

According to the company, its goal is to extract up to 15 million barrels by 2060 after drilling 30 wells to a depth of one to three kilometres between 2020 and 2025. The company claims that everything will be exploited conventionally, without the use of hydraulic fracturing. Drilling each well would require the use of 150,000 litres of water, according to documents released to the public.

The site located north of Route 198 is not far from the York River, one of the world's richest salmon rivers. This is why Prefect Côté wants to make sure that the site is operated safely. "What is important is to guard against the risks related to this industry. In this case, it is certain that

we will ask for a kind of model from Junex (Cuda) to reassure us about the risk of contamination of the York River. Even if you are far from the river, there are some risks. We do not want contamination, that is clear," states Mr. Côté.

The prefect also wants to know the risks of contamination from leaks under the ground. "Our job is a lot of fueling the government, working with the government to control the industry. It is also to push for each of the rules and regulations to be respected." The elected representatives are aware that zero risk is impossible, but they want to make sure that the risks are "the strictest minimum."



Employment Opportunities - Cook

Salmon Lodge on the Grand Cascapedia and The Club on the Bonaventure are two wonderful Atlantic Salmon Fishing Lodges with an amazing opportunity for you.

We are currently in the process of re-developing our kitchen teams for the upcoming 2019 season. Each lodge is looking for a dynamic and experienced cook.

For more information or to submit your resumé please contact Diane Snow at diane@campbonaventure.com

Please submit your resumé by February 1, 2019. We look forward to making you part of our teams!



Photo: A. Bonn

The Percé wharf will be rebuilt at the same location and will be finished by the spring of 2020.

PERCÉ WHARF: Users finally agree on plans

Arianne Aubert Bonn

PERCÉ: - On December 12, users of the Percé wharf finally accepted a sketch proposed by Fisheries and Oceans Canada for the reconstruction of the infrastructure.

Those involved were very upset last year when a wharf model was proposed that was so massive it hid the view of Percé Rock.

"It's understandable that the objective was to withstand the projected rise in the level of the oceans, but that could not be acceptable," said Diane Lebouthillier, Member of Parliament for the riding of Gaspésie-Magdalen Islands and Minister of National Revenue.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada resumed its work and proposed a solution endorsed by local users and elected representatives. Without giving all the details, the mayor of Percé, Cathy Poirier, is pleased with the additions to the drawings. "There will be floating docks for additional mooring space and the wharf will even accommodate a few yachts," she says.

The study commissioned by Percé and Quebec to analyze the possibility of relocating the wharf in the Anse-du-Nord sector was rejected by Ottawa. The wharf will remain at its current location. However, the recent agreement makes it possible for the project to progress.

"Now that users agree with what is being proposed, Quebec and Ottawa can begin the transfer process," says Mayor Poirier.

No delay so far

According to Cathy Poirier, for the moment, everything suggests that the wharf will be delivered on time for the spring of 2020. The work should begin in the fall at the end of the tourist season.

At the moment, it is impossible to specify a budgetary envelope related to the reconstruction. Since tenders are expected, the elected representatives will not comment on that specific subject.

Police report

Martin Langlois, 42, from Grand River, was in a fatal car accident on January 8 in Pointe-à-la-Croix, at approximately 11:20 p.m., The accident took place at the intersection of Highway 132 and Shipyard Road. The victim was heading east when his vehicle left the road and hit a pole. Mr. Langlois was killed instantly. A Sûreté du Québec technician in accident reconstruction was called to investigate the crash but an abundant snowfall had already erased the traces left by the vehicle. "There is no criminal element explaining the accident and we have no reason to think that alcohol was a factor. A mechanical verification of the vehicle will be carried out to check if the accident could have been caused by such a problem," says Sgt. Claude Doiron, spokesperson for the Sûreté du Québec.

Patrick Walters, 68, from New Carlisle; Mario Labrecque, 41, from Bonaventure; and Mario Poirier, 55, from Caplan will return to court in mid-February for the orientation of their case, following their January 8 court appearance on drug-related charges. Patrick Walters and Mario Poirier must return to court on February 18, five days after the next court appearance of Mario Labrecque.

Éloi Bernard, 80, Maria; Pierrette Leblanc, 72, Maria; Gilles Chiasson, 50, Escuminac; and Rémi Fournier, 40, Pointe-à-la-Croix will return to the New Carlisle courthouse on February 22, for the orientation of their case. The seven people were released following their second court appearance. They face various charges of drug trafficking and drug possession for the purpose of trafficking.

Gerry Gould, 32, from Gesgapegiag was released on January 8 and will return to the New Carlisle courthouse on February 18. He is accused of the theft of a Gesgapegiag police car on December 31. Gerry Gould was arrested shortly after on Route 299 by Sûreté du Québec officers who had been asked to assist their Gesgapegiag colleagues. He was charged on January 2 with theft and with having resisted a peace officer in the execution of his duty. He also faces a second theft charge, as he allegedly stole a case of beer at the Café du village convenience store in Cascapédia-Saint-Jules.

Gabriel Cloutier-Chouinard, 28, from the Saint-Majorique sector of Gaspé was arrested on December 21 and faces charges of cocaine trafficking. Police officers seized 85 grams of cocaine and 70 grams of cannabis. He appeared at the Percé courthouse the day of his arrest. He was released and is scheduled to appear in court again on January 14. A sum of \$400, various objects linked to drug trafficking and a car were also seized on December 21.

*Family Ties Presents...
Winter Wonderland
Family Literacy Day 2019*






Join us for an amazing morning of winter wonderland themed crafts, storytelling, music, and games for all ages. There will be prize draws and snacks. Hope to see you there. Please RSVP by Wednesday, January 23, 2019

Date:
Saturday, January 26, 2019
Location:
Town Hall New Carlisle







Ville de Gaspé

PUBLIC NOTICE

MINOR EXEMPTION FROM URBANISM BY-LAWS

NOTICE is hereby given that the town council, at a regular meeting that will be held on February 4, 2019, at 8 p.m., will consider the request for a minor exemption from the zoning By-Law 1156-11 presented by Mr. Michel Desjardins for a property situated at 232, rue Domagaya.

The nature and consequences of this exemption are the following:

- the nature of the minor exemption is to:
 - reduce by 32 cm the left lateral setback for a shed in accordance to the minimal lateral back margin of 1.5 m required by the article 8.8.1 of the zoning By-Law 1156-11;
 - reduce by 38 cm the rear setback for a shed in accordance to the minimal rear setback of 1.50 m required by the article 8.8.1 of the zoning By-Law 1156-11.
- the minor exemption will have, for consequence, to regularize the location of a shed with a left lateral setback of 1.18 m and a rear setback of 1.12 m.

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

Given at Gaspé, January 16, 2019.

Isabelle Vézina,
Director of legal services and town clerk



Commentary

Gilles Gagné

François Legault is still in the honeymoon phase

Quebec Premier François Legault and his new Coalition avenir Québec government have reached their 100th-day with relative ease. We can surely say that he is still in the honeymoon phase with most of the electorate.

He has several important elements going for him. He is at the helm of a majority government, and the two parties that have shared power unequivocally since 1970, the Liberal Party and the Parti Québécois, have major rebuilding jobs to do. In fact, the Parti Québécois has to assure its survival while the Liberal Party must reconnect with its Francophone base, a long-term job.

So, François Legault has the rare privilege of starting a term with time on his side. The main opposition over the next year will probably come from Québec Solidaire, a relatively marginal party until becoming equal with the Parti Québécois during the last election.

In the last electoral campaign, Mr. Legault did not eradicate those criticizing his overall lack of thoroughness in important files such as immigration, the economy, the health sector, education and Quebec's regional development.

Since being elected, there have been signs that the honeymoon phase will likely last longer than the 100-day mark.

First of all, he has shown an ability to listen and recognize errors. Following four-and-a-half years of Philippe Couillard's stubbornness and refusal to acknowledge mistakes, François Legault's typical reply to the effect of "I am ready to listen" sounds like a breath of fresh air to many Quebecers.

His willingness to listen has already led to the Department of Health increasing home-care services, something that the previous government had failed to achieve.

That capacity to listen was also evident on January 8 when Mr. Legault demoted former Environment Minister Marie Chantal Chassé, who had been unable to clearly communicate, not only with the media but also during the National Assembly debates. Seeing her struggle with relatively simple issues was similar to watching someone drown.

François Legault had clearly under-evaluated the importance of the workload at the Environment Ministry and he corrected the situation before it became embarrassing or detrimental to the government and the public it is supposed to serve.

Regionally, the premier made an interesting move when he came to the Gaspé on December

17 to announce \$16.6 million for three airports and close to \$13 million for Quebec's commercial fisheries.

The money was there and Mr. Legault announced it in a region that had not voted for his party, thus fulfilling a promise that he would be the premier of all Quebecers. We must wonder how long Philippe Couillard's government would have waited before coughing up those funds. After all, that Liberal Party government took more than three years before realizing the potential of the railway, and was unable to accelerate the Matapédia to Gaspé line upgrading before the election year. That old recipe worked 30 years ago but it exploded in Mr. Couillard's face.

For François Legault though, the honeymoon might be over if he doesn't act on some province-wide files that played an important role during the election campaign.

His Minister of Education, Jean-François Roberge, faces the task of revamping long neglected public schools without raising too much uproar from the defenders of private schools, which are only partially private because they receive generous government funding.

Secularity will likely be the most potentially explosive topic of the coming year or so, considering the debate pertaining to religious signs. François Legault and some of his ministers of Coalition avenir Québec committed to forbidding women teachers to wear a hijab at school. How do you reconcile that notion with the presence of the crucifix at the National Assembly, if Quebec is a secular state?

François Legault, a former Parti Québécois minister, has regularly presented himself as a nationalist defender of Quebec within the presence of the province in Canada. Besides taking a stand against Alberta's so called dirty oil, we know very little about his nationalist positions in other files.

An enigma also characterizes Mr. Legault's position regarding our electoral system, which he has promised to change.

He has also committed to a reduction in the number of immigrants, a cornerstone of his electoral campaign, but since being elected he has not supplied additional details about that very important issue.

If he wants to maintain some popularity, he will also have to provide better access to medical services and cut the wait time in hospital emergency rooms. He will also have to make decisions about the importance of enlarging Quebec's road network. If he is serious about prioritizing the environment, he will opt for other solutions.



ESTABLISHED • MAY 1979

208-B Gérard D. Levesque
New Carlisle, Que.
G0C 1Z0

Tel: 418-752-5400
specs@globetrotter.net
thegaspéspec.com

SPEC OFFICE HOURS:
Mon. to Fri: 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

(Taxes included)
1-year (paper or digital): \$46
6-months (paper or digital): \$25
Outside Canada:
1-year paper \$165 digital: \$46



Gaspé's Home Page:
www.gogaspé.com



Publisher:
Penny MacWhirter



News Editor:
Gilles Gagné



Office Manager:
Joan Imhoff

SPEC welcomes letters to the editor on subjects relevant to topics covered by the paper. Letters must be kept within 300 words or less and may be edited for clarity or to remove any slanderous, sexist, racist or homophobic statements. We reserve the right to reject any letters. Opinions or letters published do not necessarily reflect the editorial policies or beliefs of this newspaper. All letters must bear the handwritten signature of the writer and include the address and number(s) for verification purposes. (Address & phone number will not be printed.) The Publisher shall not be liable for slight changes or typographical errors that do not lessen the value of an advertisement. The Publisher's liability for other errors or omissions in connection with any advertisement is strictly limited to publication of the advertisement in any subsequent issue or the refund of any monies paid for the advertisement.

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada.
We acknowledge special funding from the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications.

JOURNALISTS:
Thierry Haroun
Nelson Sergerie

CONTRIBUTORS:
Cynthia Dow,
Wendy Dawson,
Jeanie LeLacheur
Diane Skinner
Arriane Aubert Bonn

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
President: Roger Wise
Vice-President: Elaine Sexton
Treasurer: Ray Venables
Secretary: Maria Chatterton
Directors: Hayden Sams,
Bonita Annett, Bethany Paetkau,
Patricia Ste-Croix Annett

Published every Wednesday by:
Les Publications de la Côte Inc.
(Sea-Coast Publications Inc.)

Canada Québec

Member of:
QCNA, CARD

News Media Canada
Médias d'Info Canada

Distributors of petroleum products: diesel, furnace oil, stove oil, gas and motor oil



Les Pétroles
C. Poirier inc.

Proud to serve you!

HEAD OFFICE:
Bonaventure
125 Route 132
Bonaventure, QC G0C 1E0
Tel.: (418) 534-2777
Fax: (418) 534-4210
csc@petrolescipoirier.com

Chandler
125 Route Leblanc
Pabos, QC G0C 1K0
Tel: (418) 689-2595

Gaspé
216D Montée Sandy Beach
Gaspé, QC G4X 2B3
Tel.: (418) 368-8777



IN BUSINESS FOR 35 YEARS



Dr. Pascal Cyr
Optometrist



Dr. Stacey Starrak
Optometrist

CLINIQUE D'OPTOMÉTRIE
L'ÉMERILLON

LENSES CRAFTED ON THE PREMISES

PASPÉBIAC: 104 Gérard D. Levesque Blvd West • 418-752-5553

CHANDLER: 260 René Lévesque Blvd East • 418-689-5553

MARIA: 435 Perron Blvd West • 418-759-5553



BILINGUAL
SERVICE

MEMBER
OF



Canada's Largest Network of Optometrists

Gaspésie Railway Society registers fourth straight traffic record

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND: – The Gaspésie Railway Society has registered a fourth freight traffic record in its twelve-year history as 4,323 carloads were hauled between Caplan and Matapedia in 2018, a 55% increase compared to 2017. Since 2015, the number of carloads has almost tripled on the line.

Between 2016 and 2017, the transporter under municipal control had also experienced a significant increase of 60% in traffic. This was attributable to the hauling of windmill blades and, to a lesser extent, to the activities of the McInnis Cement plant which opened in June 2017.

In 2018, the windmill blade traffic towards the United States kept increasing while the cement traffic went up almost ten-fold, from 111 carloads in 2017 to about 1,000 last year. Close to 1,800 cars were used to export windmill blades in 2018 and the Temrex sawmill in Nouvelle sent 1,500 cars of wood chips and lumber out of the region.

“Some growth should still happen in 2019. We should surpass 5,000 carloads. We will not be far if we don’t. We are expecting a rise in cement traffic because the McInnis Cement plant is still increasing



Photo: G. Gagné

Cement traffic increased by almost ten-fold between 2017 and 2018.

its production. The customer decides so we don’t control the transportation mode but if we keep hauling the same proportion of the plant’s production, the tonnage taking the railway will increase as well,” explains Luc Lévesque, director general of the Gaspésie Railway Society.

Between 2015 and 2018, the hauling revenues of the transporter went up about ten-fold, going from \$625,000 to a bracket between \$6 million and \$9 million. Mr. Lévesque prefers not releasing exact figures for now.

The number of carloads will increase for the forest products in 2019, considering that the Temrex sawmill drying

capacity will increase and a new customer, the *Association coopérative forestière of Saint-Elzéar*, will use the railway. That industry will ship lumber out of New Richmond at one point during the year.

“Usually, when the drying capacity increases like at Temrex, lumber is sent farther. When the distance increases, rail transport is at an advantage. As for the Saint-Elzéar sawmill, we don’t have a date yet but we know that rail shipments should start in 2019,” explains Mr. Lévesque.

The hauling of windmill blades will likely remain the same in 2019, since 100% of Gaspé’s LM Wind Power production was shipped by rail

last year. That production is still destined to the south part of the United States, mostly to Texas.

The fact that the line between Caplan and Gaspé was put in a dormant state in 2015 represents a big hurdle for the Gaspésie Railway Society growth, traffic-wise and revenue-wise. That stretch covers 60% of the Matapedia to Gaspé line. That decision to “mothball” the Caplan-Gaspé line was made by Transport Quebec, when that ministry acquired the line in March 2015. The Gaspésie Railway Society was experiencing financial difficulties at the end of 2014.

The decision to put the line in a dormant state was denounced by some of the region’s leaders in 2015 because it was targeting the portion of the railway that was expected to experience major growth. LM Wind Power was trying to get contracts in the United States at that time and the Port Daniel cement plant was under construction since May 2014. The two plants are located on the dormant stretch of line.

The blades and cement are hauled to New Richmond where they are transferred to railcars. In the case of cement, a second land terminal had to be built in Nouvelle, due to the so-called limited weekly capacity of the Cascapedia-Saint-Jules bridges regarding fully loaded freight cars. The matter is not relevant for windmill blade cars because they are light.

As long as those two bridges are not replaced, the cement will not be loaded in railcars in Port Daniel. The line passes nearby. In the meantime, the cement shipped out over shorter distances, like the volume sold to New Brunswick customers, is sent by trucks because the cost of transferring the cement in New Richmond and Nouvelle would add too much to its transportation costs.

Luc Lévesque hopes that the replacement of the Cascapedia-Saint-Jules bridges will be finished by the end of 2020.

“It is still possible but we have no control on the matter. The bridges pass over a salmon river and there are (environmental) authorizations to receive. The file is managed by the BQI (Bureau Québécois des infrastructures),” notes Mr. Lévesque.

The *Bureau Québécois des infrastructures*, a public body managing Quebec’s main infrastructure projects, inherited the Gaspé Peninsula railway file when former Quebec premier Philippe Couillard decided to authorize the upgrading of that line, on May 5, 2017, through a \$100 million envelope announcement.

Until then, his government, imposing an austerity program, had allotted minimal funding for the railroad betterment. Despite acquiring it two years earlier, the rising clientele and a need to fix the bridges were identified in 2010.

Day and night between 2014 and 2018

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND: – “We are far from running after money in order to put fuel in our locomotives.” That is how the president of the Gaspésie Railway Society, Éric Dubé, sums up the difference between the two realities experienced by the transporter if we compare the situation prevailing four years ago and the present situation.

Controlled by the four MRCs covering the territory between Matapedia and Gaspé, the Gaspésie Railway Society was kept by Transport Quebec as the operator of freight trains after that ministry acquired the railroad for the value of the transporter’s debt, approximately \$4 million. The Gaspésie Railway Society takes care of train operations and basic maintenance chores on the line.

From seven employees in 2015, the Gaspésie Railway

Society now provides work to 31 people. “We will keep hiring in 2019,” specifies Luc Lévesque.

He expects to lay close to two kilometres of new tracks over the spring in order to facilitate shunting operations in New Richmond. “We put together windmill blade trains on the main line in New Richmond. Once the traffic will be restored east of New Richmond, we won’t be able to leave a train on the main line. We will lengthen the siding enough to put a full windmill blade train on it, and we will add another siding. We will also add a track to load lumber in New Richmond and reopen a number of sidings, including Black Cape and Irish Town (Saint-Jules).”

The company has also recently bought two locomotives formerly owned by Chemin de fer de Charlevoix, the owners of the line linking Quebec City

and Clermont. The two locomotives are RS-18 models, like the four locomotives the Gaspésie Railway Society already has.

The return of the passenger train between Matapedia and Gaspé will only occur once VIA Rail has the guarantee that the line will be safe, that the speed will be sufficient to cover the distance in a reasonable time and when the return to Gaspé will be certain.

The return of the l’Amiral tourist train is also subjected to certain conditions, including the repairs of a washout between Port Daniel and Gascons and the upgrading of a few bridges.

Year	# of carloads
2015	1,624
2016	1,741
2017	2,786
2018	4,323



PUBLIC NOTICE ENACTMENT OF BY-LAW

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given :

1. THAT at a meeting held on November 5, 2018, the town council has adopted By-Law 1372-18 «décrétant une dépense d’une somme de 9 663 186 \$ et un emprunt d’une somme de 5 732 658 \$ pour la réalisation de travaux de resurfaçage et de prolongement de la piste de l’aéroport Michel-Pouliot ainsi que la confection de nouvelles approches».
2. THAT By-Law 1372-18 has been approved by the qualified voters during a registry held on November 20 and 21, 2018.
3. THAT By-Law 1372-18 has been approved by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, on January 9, 2019.
4. THAT the interested can consult that By-Law at the clerk’s office, at the Town Hall, 25, rue de l’Hôtel-de-Ville, during regular office hours.

GIVEN at Gaspé, January 16, 2019.

Isabelle Vézina,
Director of legal services and town clerk

Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



A Tremendous Thing

A friend passed away this week. She was a colleague who became a friend over time. She was a fiercely strong woman, in some ways ahead of her time. She went on, after we had taught together for a number of years, to become a very successful and respected principal. I recall a meeting where she challenged our principal at the time, when he referred to a special needs student in a less than courteous way. It was an uncomfortable moment for all, but the truth be known, she was 100% right to do so. You see, she had a daughter who was very physically and intellectually disabled. The principal's comment offended her on both a personal and professional level.

Over the years we both moved and pretty much lost touch. I regret that. Everyone has busy lives and things to do and places to go, but that's just an excuse. How long does a phone call take, a meeting up for coffee or even an email to maintain contact with a friend? We didn't do any of those so when I received the news that she had passed away, I was very shocked because she was fairly young. I was shocked because I knew nothing about her life's journey over the past decade. After reading her obituary, I discovered that her own mom passed away last January at the age of 100. My friend did not make it that far. I also know that she had nine grandchildren. These details about her life were very important milestones in her life but I hadn't known about any of them.

We are all part of a web of life. We come into the world and we have connections to the past. We become the present and after we are gone, others will keep building on that web. What we do while we are here is, in great part, dependent upon the decisions we make. We are creatures who have free will. For some this is as much a curse as a blessing.

But it is what life is about. There are times when life "grabs you by the wrist and directs you where to go." Our lives can also be propelled by things we cannot control. This may be the decisions of others, illness and environmental happenings, but the foundation of our life's direction is our own choices.

Making the decision not to maintain contact, that's a choice. I can make the excuse that I lost touch with my friend because we were too busy. Busy, well, yes, however, a brief message or phone call says so much. It says you mattered to me. I care about how your life is going. It can mean a lot to an old friend. It can mean a great deal to the person who makes that call.

After attending her memorial service, I made a promise to my future self. I will maintain contact with old friends. This, of course, does not mean every person who has crossed my path. This does not mean to re-connect with people who were harmful or negative. Let those people go, but think to yourself, 'If that person passed away today, will I have regrets? Do I wish I had called them to reminisce or have a laugh or even commiserate?' If you say yes to these questions, make a promise to start contacting those old friends today.

I am challenging you today. Make a list. Connect with old friends. Try not to feel the profound regret I am feeling this weekend. The writer, E.B. White, expressed it so well in her book *Charlotte's Web*. "Why did you do all this for me?" Wilbur asked. "I don't deserve it. I've never done anything for you. You have been my friend," replied Charlotte. "That in itself is a tremendous thing."



Photo: T. Haroun

Fishermen's helpers to regroup

Thierry Haroun

GASPÉ PENINSULA: - Unifor, a major union across Canada, will organize information sessions in our region for all 500 fishermen's helpers between Gaspé and Carleton in order to regroup them in what will be called a Unifor Community Section. The reason for the regroupment is to provide those fishermen's helpers with a better bargaining stance to negotiate their working conditions and a stronger political force when asking the Quebec government to change the work law in order to facilitate an eventual unionization of those workers. "In Newfoundland, these workers are unionized with us because the law was changed in order to make that happen. In Quebec, it's technically impossible because these 500 workers, two or three per boat, work for some 150 different enterprises (a boat with a permit is an employer). So, in the meantime, we are giving the possibility to these workers just to regroup within a section and, once that is done, we intend to negotiate with the Quebec government to change the law to favour a unionization," explains the Quebec spokesperson for Unifor, John Caluori. The sessions will take place in Fox River (Maison des jeunes) on January 22 and the day after at Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé, Newport and Paspébiac.



Credit photo : Laurie denis

The Société d'aide au développement de la collectivité de Gaspé's mission is to encourage the community to take charge of its own development. Our agency offers enterprises technical and financial services and provides support for community organizations and initiatives.

Job offer: Administrative assistant

Job description:

- Perform computerized accounting and prepare the required reports
- Write various documents: letters, minutes, memos and media releases
- Welcome and inform the clientele about the services the SADC provides
- Manage the organization's website and social media

Ideal competencies:

- Diploma of College Studies (DEC) in accounting and management technology or in office technology or a Diploma of Vocational Studies (DEP) in administration with experience
- Very good knowledge of accounting (bookkeeping, payroll, budgets)
- Mastery of the following software: Word, Excel, Sage Simply Accounting, Publisher
- Very strong French language skills and strong English language skills
- Ease in spoken and written communication
- Aptitude for team work
- Sense of organization and priorities

Distinctive benefits:

- Permanent job, 35 hours/week
- Pay scale \$33,000 to \$45,000
- Three weeks' vacation after the first year
- Benefits package (RRSP, insurance, further education)
- Place of work – downtown Gaspé

E-mail your application by January 22, 2019 to: sadcgaspe@outlook.com



VILLAGE
Real Estate Agency

Suzanne Landry

CERTIFIED REAL ESTATE BROKER AEO
418-752-0792
suzannelandry@royallepage.ca
www.suzannelandry.ca

Friendly bilingual service
from Matapedia to Port Daniel
19 years experience

NEW RICHMOND:

New *take-out* business appeals to food lovers

Cynthia Dow

NEW RICHMOND: - “I, myself, like eating all kinds of different foods: I’m a foodie! I like to travel and experiment with the cooking I have eaten during my travels,” Marissa McWhirter told SPEC. She is the owner of a new business called Ansa’s Kitchen, a food preparation business in New Richmond. Ansa is Marissa’s nickname. The concept of Ansa’s Kitchen is to provide access to food and cuisine from different cultures. “This area doesn’t have a lot of choice for exposure to different culinary traditions. It’s one of the things I missed the most when I moved here from Halifax. It was difficult to find the variety of food we were used to.”

Marissa moved to New Richmond in 1999 with her two daughters, Samantha and Taylor, and then husband Greg McWhirter. The couple has since had a third daughter, Caitlin, who still lives with her.

In the spring of 2018 Marissa decided she needed a change from her computer-based business, and had the idea to put her love of good food to the test. She had heard many people complaining about the restricted choice of meals in the region and decided it would be a good idea to offer other people the various foods she had been missing.

Having been born in the Philippines, Marissa was raised with a cuisine that is a combination of Spanish, Chinese and Southeast Asian influences. Being raised in the large city of Manila, there

was a lot of choice in restaurants but at home the family ate mainly Filipino and Chinese food.

The Spanish influence was substantial in her family’s traditional Filipino food. For example, Arroz valenciana was a favourite Christmas dish. It’s a paella-like rice dish but with pork and chicken, not seafood. In his later years, her father learned to make paella with seafood, which is now one of Marissa’s favourite dishes. Mexican adobo combinations using garlic, pepper and vinegar to flavour meat are also very familiar to her.

She has picked up many ideas on her travels and tested her prowess with friends while

entertaining. “A friend of mine was missing Indian food, so I started experimenting with that. Now I have

added classic dishes in the Korean, Japanese, Thai, Middle Eastern, and Italian traditions to my repertoire. I love researching different cuisines.”



Marissa McWhirter at work in her kitchen.

Photos: Courtesy M. McWhirter

are interpreted by different cultures.”

So this spring she was in touch with authorities to get the appropriate permits and health inspections and started making take-out meals in her home. While she is currently operating out of her kitchen, “my goal is to have a location sometime this year.”

One of the features of her international menu is tapas, a Spanish tradition involving little snacks that provide variety in the same meal. Marissa’s tapas include Indian samosas, Filipino spring rolls, British pasties, corn fritters, Mexican empanadas, and Chinese dumplings.

“Public reaction to my offer has been very interesting. People actually express gratitude and excitement for having these choices. Some people have literally thanked me for making these foods available, especially the Chinese dishes. People tend not to be so familiar with the other cuisines,” she told SPEC.

Marissa is committed to preparing dishes that are as authentic as possible, and tries to make everything from scratch. She is also very

aware of different dietary needs and offers vegetarian and vegan varieties of many dishes.

Through her Ansa’s Kitchen facebook page, she offers a diverse menu, including weekly lunch menus. “Once I have a location, I will be offering specials,” she noted.

For those who want to try food a little closer to the down-home variety,

Marissa also prepares British fish and chips and other well-known European and North American dishes. For more information, check out Ansa’s Kitchen on facebook or call or text 418-392-0519.

Bon
appétit!



Chinese, anyone?

Marissa’s favourite dishes include noodles because they offer so much diversity. “Many corners of the world have noodle dishes of one kind or another. It’s the same with rice. From paella to mujadarrah, it fascinates me to see how the same ingredients



Typical tapas meal from Ansa’s Kitchen.



Avalanche causes injuries to six skiers from the Maritimes

Gilles Gagné

MOUNT ALBERT: - On January 8, two skiers were seriously injured and four others suffered minor injuries as a result of an avalanche that occurred on Mount Albert. A seventh member of the group was unscathed. The relatively light amount of snow probably caused some of those injuries but at the same time, it prevented the off-trail skiers from being buried.

Six of the skiers were from New Brunswick and one was from Nova Scotia. Two of them were hospitalized, one for several hours. The skier who sustained the most serious injuries was transferred to a Quebec City hospital. He was in all likelihood suffering from fractures in the shoulder area. The accident occurred early in

the afternoon, and the evacuation lasted close to six hours.

The avalanche occurred in a well-known section of Mount Albert, the *Mur des patrouilleurs* (Patrollers wall), a steep area. The group was able to find a shelter before reaching out for help. The evacuation operation was conducted by Sainte-Anne-des-Monts firemen.

"The skiers stopped at the discovery centre, the place where one can find daily documentation about the avalanche risk. That's where it is possible to plan an excursion. We don't know if they were trained for avalanches but they were well-equipped to deal with one," explains Maude Alary-Paquette, an employee of *Avalanche-Québec*, the organization that prepares forecasts and trains those who

want to learn about avalanches.

"We are not there to tell people where to go or not go. We try to sensitize people to the necessity of being well-trained and well-equipped, and we make avalanche forecasts," she adds.

"At the beginning of the winter, there is less snow. An avalanche will often cause higher trauma because it leads people to hit obstacles (trees, rocks) that are not buried in snow. Later in the winter, there is more snow and the risk of being buried is higher," explains Maude Alary-Paquette.

Two skiers died in the Parc de la Gaspésie and nearby area in 2000 and another one in 2009. The three accidents occurred late in the winter or early in the spring.



PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given by the present that the municipal council of the Ville de Percé has adopted its **2019** budget as well as its three-year program of capital expenditures during the meeting held on December 19, 2018.

The budget is as follows:

OPERATING EXPENSES	2019	2018
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION	\$1 065 050	\$1 045 410
PUBLIC SECURITY	\$511 170	\$497 090
TRANSPORTATION	\$1 727 190	\$1 566 870
ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE	\$1 006 460	\$1 015 580
SOCIAL HOUSING	\$12 500	\$12 400
URBAN PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT	\$1 018 590	\$1 050 230
RECREATION & CULTURE	\$258 270	\$144 500
FINANCE CHARGES	\$309 600	\$202 150
	\$5 907 830	\$5 534 230

RECONCILIATION FOR TAX PURPOSES

REPAYMENT OF LONG-TERM DEBT	\$470 000	\$869 200
TRANSFER OF INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES	\$47 000	\$135 000
RESERVE FUNDS AND AFFECTATIONS	\$90 170	\$96 570
	\$607 170	\$1 100 770

TOTAL EXPENSES AND RECONCILIATION FOR TAX PURPOSES

	\$6 515 000	\$6 635 000
--	--------------------	--------------------

REVENUES

TAXES ON THE PROPERTY VALUE	\$3 470 200	\$3 345 700
TARIFF FOR MUNICIPAL SERVICES	\$1 005 600	\$957 980
PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES	\$470 510	\$463 040
TRANSFERS	\$874 990	\$1 259 780
SERVICES RENDERED	\$551 700	\$479 000
IMPOSITION OF RIGHTS	\$67 000	\$58 000
INTERESTS	\$75 000	71 500

TOTAL REVENUES	\$6 515 000	\$6 635 000
-----------------------	--------------------	--------------------

A more detailed explanatory document is on the City's website (ville.perce.qc.ca).

Three-year program of capital expenditures for 2019-2020-2021 is as follows:

INVESTMENTS	2019	2020	2021	Total
Administration				
Computers	\$5 000	\$-	\$5 000	\$10 000
Total Administration	\$5 000	\$-	\$5 000	\$10 000
Fire safety				
Pumper tanker truck, fire station 61	\$172 000	\$-	\$-	\$172 000
Pumper truck, fire station 62	\$422 000	\$-	\$-	\$422 000
Emergency vehicle	\$70 000	\$130 000	\$-	\$200 000
Fire station 61	\$200 000	\$-	\$-	\$200 000
Upgrading respirators	\$10 000	\$10 000	\$10 000	\$30 000
Total Fire safety	\$874 000	\$140 000	\$10 000	\$1 024 000
Publics works				
Excavator	\$150 000	\$-	\$-	\$150 000
Backhoe	\$45 000	\$-	\$-	\$45 000
Snowcat	\$40 000	\$-	\$-	\$40 000
Total Public works	\$235 000	\$-	\$-	\$235 000
Environmental hygiene				
Aqueduct :				
Replacement of pipes	\$500 000	\$-	\$-	\$500 000
Sewage treatment:				
Pumping station	\$400 000	\$-	\$-	\$400 000
Val d'Espoir filtration field	\$150 000	\$-	\$-	\$150 000
Waste treatment:				
Closure of the L.E.S	\$50 000	\$-	\$-	\$50 000
Total Environmental hygiene	\$1 100 000	\$-	\$-	\$1 100 000
Urban planning and development				
Renovation of community centers	\$75 000	\$100 000	\$50 000	\$225 000
Site of the rivière aux Émeraudes	\$70 000	\$75 000	\$30 000	\$175 000
Côte Surprise Project	\$-	\$-	\$500 000	\$500 000
Total Urban planning and development	\$145 000	\$175 000	\$580 000	\$900 000
Total of investment activities	\$2 359 000	\$315 000	\$595 000	\$3 269 000

Issued in Percé, on January 8, 2019.

Gemma Vibert,
Clerk



PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETING

NOTICE is hereby given that the municipal Council of "Ville de Gaspé", at its regular meeting held on December 17, 2018, has adopted by resolution the following draft of by-law and that a public consultation meeting will be held at the Town Hall, on Thursday, January 24, 2019, at 4:00 p.m.

Draft of by-law 1156-11-37:

The draft of by-law amends the zoning by-law 1156-11, as follows:

- « Agrandissant la zone M-224 à même une partie de la zone M-236;
- Modifiant le deuxième paragraphe de l'article 3.2.17 « CLASSE INDUSTRIE DIVERSE (I-2) », afin d'ajouter l'usage autorisé Industrie de production, de transformation et d'entreposage du cannabis (2131) dans la zone IC-269;
- Modifiant les usages autorisés dans les zones IC-161, IC-297, IC-297-1, IC-297-2 et IC-341-1 afin d'ajouter l'usage spécifiquement prohibé Industrie de production, de transformation et d'entreposage du cannabis (2131);
- Ajoutant une note 1 à la grille de spécifications de la zone IC-269 afin d'ajouter une disposition relative aux matériaux autorisés pour la construction d'une serre. »

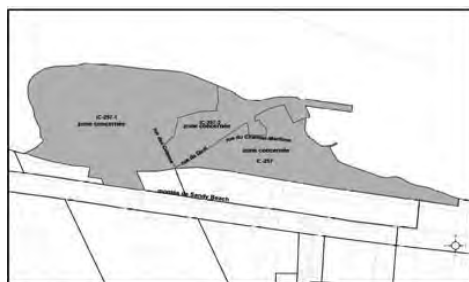
The concerned zone (M-224), situated in downtown Gaspé, is illustrated on the following sketch:



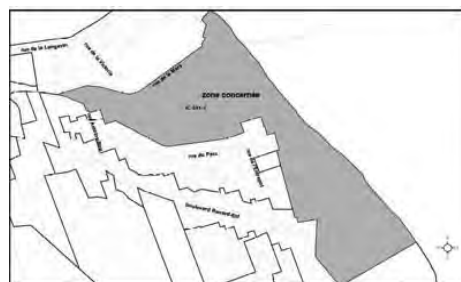
The concerned zone (IC-161), situated in the parc industriel des Augustines in Gaspé, is illustrated on the following sketch:



The concerned zone (IC-297), situated in the area of the Sandy-Beach wharf, is illustrated on the following sketch:



The concerned zone (IC-341-1), situated in the parc industriel de Rivière-au-Renard, is illustrated on the following sketch:



Draft of the by-law and the consequences of its adoption, and will hear the persons and bodies wishing to express their views.

The draft of by-law is available for consultation at the Town Hall office.

Given in Gaspé, January 16, 2019.

Isabelle Vézina,
Director of legal services and town clerk

Announcements...



OBITUARIES



BISSON: Isabel A. (née Hubert)
January 24, 1919 - November 14, 2018

In her 100th year, passed away peacefully at the Campbellton Nursing Home on November 14, 2018.

She was predeceased by her husband of sixty-eight years Hebert, brothers Allison, Harry, David and sister Elise.

Left to mourn are: son David (Ursula), daughter Nancy (Peter), five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

During her life, she will be remembered as a loving wife, mother and grandmother as well as for her love of music, flower gardens, delicious baking and little children. Isabel was active in the community as school teacher, church organist, junior choir director as well as contributing her time and efforts to various services in the area.

The family would like to thank the staff of the Campbellton Nursing Home and Dr. Inaz Jacoub who provided excellent loving care during her seven year tenure there.

Cremation has taken place and a celebration of life and interment of ashes will be held in Port Daniel, during the summer of 2019, Date will be advised at a later time.

The New Carlisle
Funeral Association
extends sympathy to the family of
Mr. Vincent Buttle



KILBRIDE: Frances: (RIFFOU: Françoise)

July 26, 1924 - December 27, 2018 - 94 years

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Mrs. Frances Kilbride (Françoise Riffou) which occurred on December 27, 2018 at the age of 94 years.

She was predeceased by her husband Mr. Joseph Kilbride. She leaves behind her children: Joyce (John) Madill, Rosemarie (Terry) Stanley, Joan Kilbride, Ralph (Mado) Kilbride, John (Kelly) Kilbride, Patrick Kilbride, Ursula (Frank) Marano; her 11 grandchildren, her nine great-grandchildren, two sisters, one brother, and many other family members and friends.

Donations can be made in memory of Mrs. Frances Kilbride to the Heart and Stroke Foundation or to a foundation of your choice. More information later.



PHOTO QUALITY

When submitting a photo for this page, please send in a digital photo (jpg) to specs@globetrotter.net.

You can also send your photo by mail or drop it off at the office.

It is essential that the photo is not a copy printed at home or by the funeral home. It will not reproduce well.



IN MEMORY

SIMON: Elson (Sonny)

In loving memory of a dear husband, father, father-in-law and grandfather who passed away January 16, 1983.

*Our thoughts are always with you
Our memories never fade,
We treasure all the years we shared,
And all the love you gave
We'll always love and miss you
With every passing day
The longing just to see you
Will never go away.*

Sadly missed and remembered every day.
With love by Merle and family.

WYLIE: Arnold

*Our lives go on without you,
But nothing is the same.
We have to hide our heartache
When someone speaks your name.
Sad are the hearts that love you,
Silent are the tears that fall.
Living without you is the hardest part of all.
You did so many things for us.
Your heart was so kind and true.
When we needed someone,
We could always count on you.
The special years will not return,
When we are all together,
But with the love in our hearts,
You walk with us forever.*

Sadly missed and will never be forgotten by your loving wife Viola, your children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and your brother Anderson.

Classic Memorials

Four Generations of Monument

HIGHEST QUALITY - BEST PRICES

MONUMENTS, MARKERS, CEMETERY LETTERING, LASER DESIGNS AND PORTRAITS

SALES REPS:

Albert Burton - New Richmond	418-391-6526
Steven Imhoff - New Carlisle	418-752-6041
Alexis Normandeau - St. Jules	418-759-3270

OUR RATES: CARD OF THANKS, BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT, PRAYER, ENGAGEMENT, BIRTHDAY, ANNIVERSARY, MEMORIAL SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT: \$30 (\$35 with picture) up to 20 lines. IN MEMORIAM: \$30 (\$35 with picture) up to 20 lines - \$40 (\$45 with picture) More than 20 lines. OBITUARY OR WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT: \$40.00 (\$45.00 with picture) (Max. 300 words) Please send your announcement to: joan.spec@globetrotter.net Announcements for this page should be submitted typed or printed and paid in advance. To have your photo returned, please send a stamped self-addressed envelope. SUBMISSIONS FOR THIS PAGE MUST BE IN OUR OFFICE BY THURSDAY.

MONUMENTS P. FOURNIER

GUARANTEED QUALITY
Tel: 418-892-5312
Cell: 418-355-4799
pfmonuments@gmail.com
641 Forillon Blvd, Gaspé, Que.

WE ALSO REPLACE FOUNDATIONS, AND PROVIDE CLEANING AND REPAINTING.

Tremblay & Barriault, notaires inc
Notaries & legal counsel

Gilles Tremblay, notary
Serge Barriault, notary
Gaël Tremblay, notary

119B Perron Blvd West, New Richmond, Que.
Tel.: (418) 392-5282 • Fax: (418) 392-6155
E-mail: gaultremblay@notarius.net

FULLY BILINGUAL SERVICE

Grenier & Grenier

LAWYERS

Réal Grenier, b.a.ll.l.
Jules Grenier, b.a.ll.l.

96 Gérard D. Levesque Blvd, P.O. Box 519
New Carlisle (Quebec) G0C 1Z0
Tel.: (418) 752-3308 • Fax (418) 752-6935

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE: 2007 Artic Cat, Model Z570, mileage 920 km. For more information please contact Andrew Rooney at 418-368-5947.

COAST ROUND-UP

DOUGLASTOWN:

General Meeting

January 22: The Holy Name Hall Committee of Douglastown will hold a General Meeting at 7 p.m. at the Douglastown Community Centre. The meeting is open to the public and we are encouraging the community to participate. The following will be on the Agenda: Review the current status of the hall. - Dissolve the current board and re-elect a new board. Varia - open to public for ideas and suggestions pertaining to maintaining the future vitality of the Hall.

DOUGLASTOWN:

Community Kitchen

January 20: Come share a delicious meal with friends and neighbours at our monthly breakfast from 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. A contribution of \$8 for adults and \$4 for children (5-11 years old) would be appreciated. Hope to see you there.

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:

Three Star Golden Age Club Upcoming Events

Every Wednesday: Petanque from 7 to 9 p.m., cost \$3.

Come and join the fun and learn a new game!

January 26: Military Whist at 8 p.m.

February 15: Potluck supper at 5 p.m.

February 23: Military Whist

Save these dates: March 16: St. Patrick's Day dinner.

March 18: Annual Meeting at 1:30. **March 23:** Military Whist at 8 p.m. **April 5:** Bingo.

April 16: Roché Percé, Division Meeting, **April 27:** Military Whist. **May 4:** 500 Card game. **May 11:** Mother's Day tea. **May 25:** Military Whist.

May 18: Yard Sale. **June 1:** 500 card game. **June 8:** Father's Day BBQ. **June 13-16:** GIM Games in Matapedia.

June 22: Military Whist. **July 1:** Canada Day hotdogs and ice cream. **July 5:** Bingo. **July 6:** 500 card game. **July 27:** Military Whist. **August 3:** 500 card game. **August 24:** Military Whist. **September 6:** Bingo. **September 7:** 500 card game. **September 28:** Military Whist. **October 26:** Military Whist. **November 16:** Christmas Tea. **November 23:** Military Whist. **December 7:** Members and guests Christmas party.

SHIGAWAKE:

Annual General Meeting

The AGM for the Bonaventure Agricultural Society will take place on **Tuesday, January 29** at 7 p.m. at the Shigawake Municipal Hall.

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.

HOPE TOWN:

Community Center Winter Carnival

February 1: Casserole supper from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. \$10 adults, \$5 (7-11 years old), free under 6. Gift bingo beginning at 7:30 p.m. \$10 per series or 3/\$20.

February 2: Games on ice (free) beginning at 1:30 p.m. Family game night (free) beginning at 7 p.m.

February 3: Hockey old timers vs young timers beginning at 1:30 p.m. Children's gift bingo (free) beginning at 1:30 p.m.

HOPE TOWN:

Community Center

February 9: Military whist beginning at 8 p.m.

PASPEBIAC

Knitters Needed

La maille de l'amitié, a group of knitters who are eager to help men, women and children who are receiving chemotherapy at Maria hospital by providing knitted hats, is looking for knitters. If needed, patterns and samples are available at the library in Paspébiac, which is also where you should drop off your knitted items. You can also include a short note of encouragement, identified by your name only. For more information contact Claudette

Whittom (418) 752-3633 or Doris Chedore (418) 752-5190.

NEW CARLISLE:

Heritage New Carlisle

January 27: Spend the afternoon learning how to make soap with Marie-Claude Poirier from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Take home a bag of soap and some bath salts. Cost: \$10. To register: heritagenc@globetrotter.net, telephone: 418-752-1334, or on facebook.

NEW CARLISLE:

Bible Chapel Services

Sunday: Breaking of Bread for Believers - 9:30 a.m.; Sunday night service - 7 p.m.; Wednesday: Bible Study and Prayer - 7 p.m. "You Must Be Born Again."

NEW 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.

CASCAPEIDIA-ST-JULES:

50+ Club

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

Every Tuesday: Bingo beginning at 7 p.m. Welcome to all.

January 25: Jam Session for all musicians and spectators.

Doors open at 7 p.m. Music begins at 7:30 p.m. Free admission. Canteen service on site.

CASCAPEIDIA-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.

CASCAPEIDIA-ST-JULES:

Book Room

Please be advised that the book room has reopened.

GESGAPEGIAG:

N.A. Meetings

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

UNITED CHURCH

Sunday, January 20
2 p.m. Hope Town

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

Sunday, January 20

New Carlisle

11 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Shigawake

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

PARISH OF GASPÉ

Sunday, January 20

St. Andrew's - York

10 a.m. Holy Eucharist

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

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



By Appointment

Richard Ste Croix

Denturologist

Construction and repair of dentures.
We also make dentures on implants.

9 Adams Street, Gaspé
Quebec G4X 1E5

Tel.: (418) 368-1525
Fax: (418) 368-1542



LES SERVICES INVESTORS LIMITÉE*

Gérald Bourdages Tel: 418-368-5481

Financial Planner and Representative for Mutual Funds Fax: 418-368-1782

E-Mail: Gerald.Bourdages@Investorsgroup.com

A member company of Power Corporation

This advertising
space could
be yours!



Forage Moreau Inc.

418-392-9501

Mathieu Mercier - Driller/Owner

- Artesian Well Drilling
- Budgetary Price
- Bilingual Service
- RBQ: 5672-1467-01

foragemoreaumercier@gmail.com

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK - FREE DELIVERY

uniprix

CHANDLER • 418 689-3711

500-102, AVENUE DAIGNEAULT, CHANDLER, QUE.

uniprix
SANTÉ

PERCÉ • 418 782-2550

98 ROUTE 132 WEST, PERCÉ, QUE.



The Omega Group Inc.

Going beyond and reliable since 1982



Electricity - Plumbing
Automation
Industrial computing
Counter sales

3 Rue Cerisiers
Gaspé, Québec G4X 2M1
Tel. (418) 368-5425
Fax (418) 368-7290
www.groupeohmega.com

On the lighter side...



CLOSE TO HOME

I see her snow covered roof tops
Enveloped by a pure white shoreline
With no waves to wash on the beach
Only the huge rock stands amidst
The cold frozen ice way out to sea
The gull flies high and free
Of all the villages so close to sea
Of all the ice lands so cold
Where all the small streets unfold
Unto the side roads amongst towering maples
She beckons her newcomers
She calls the world to observe
Only the true Gaspesian can deserve
The great umber rock so raw
Frozen in the midst without a thaw
That was where the seagull I saw
Glide towards the Bonaventure Island
Come back again, fly high above the boats
In summer days where tourists go
Here and there and everywhere
To see what's there
In this village so fair
But I see her snow covered roof tops
Enveloped by a pure white shoreline
With no waves to wash on the beach
Just the lonely snow caps that I can reach
And I know - I'm close to home

- Beverley Ann Johnson -

Why do we say...

By Gary Briand

I was driving down from Rimouski two summers ago. As it was a very humid day, I decided to stop at a roadside canteen for an ice cream. As I approached the counter, I heard a young child's voice say "one sundae." As the girl had come from a car carrying Saskatchewan plates and the counter's employee was probably a unilingual French Canadian, I intervened so I could explain to the clerk what a "sundae" was. He brought a piece of cardboard and asked me to write the word on it to use as a sign that he would attach to his canteen's wall. I wrote "sundae."

Upon arriving in Douglstown, I added it to a long list of expressions or phrases that needed research. Here are the results. It was in 1891 at an ice cream store owned by Mr. E. C. Bernier in Two Rivers, Wisconsin that the translation began. (Incidentally, Mr. Bernier was the descendant of a Bernier from Matane who had left Quebec in about 1864.)

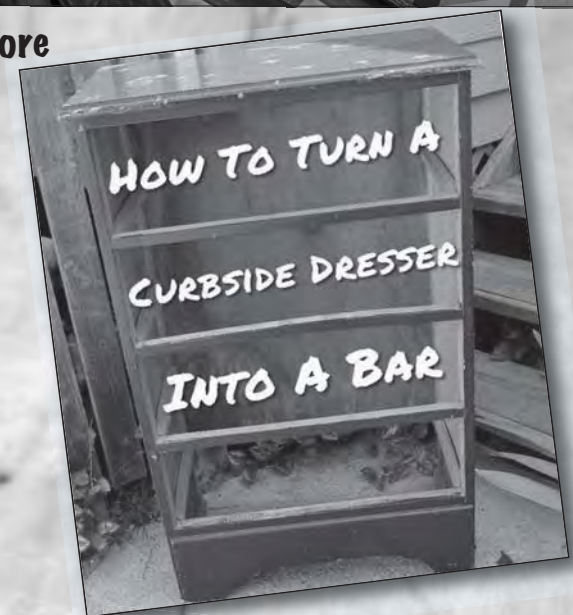
One night Mr. Bernier sold a dish of ice cream to a young boy named George Hallouer. The boy eyed a bottle of chocolate syrup which was normally used for sodas. He asked Mr. Bernier to pour some of the chocolate syrup on his ice cream. Bernier agreed. In succeeding days, the combination became very popular in Two Rivers and soon spread to other villages and towns including Manitouoc, where George Giffy began to sell it at his store. The only drawback was the expense of selling both ice cream and syrup for a nickel. All the ice cream parlours complained about losing money by selling the popular treat.

Mr. Giffy and the other owners came together and decided to sell the ice cream with syrup for 8 cents but to keep the price at a nickel on Sundays only. A short time later, a little girl came into Giffy's store and said, "I would like to have a nickel's worth of ice cream with stuff on it." Mr. Giffy replied that he sold it for a nickel only on Sundays. The little girl then responded, "this must be Sunday because I want that kind." The joke went into wild circulation and the new dish was commonly called a "Sunday." The change in spelling came about in the 1920s and was the invention of a New York merchant who worked to make the concoction more "fancy."

In retrospect, I sometimes think I ought to have written "Sunday" not "sundae" on the canteen sign. My treat cost me much more than a nickel, it cost approximately \$5.

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

Before



After



Go ahead...play with your food



HOROSCOPES

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, you may experience a few complications in regard to some big plans that you have been working on. Don't let these derail your efforts. Things will work out.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

A newfound energy can sweep you off of your feet and really jump-start goals in the days ahead, Taurus. Go with the flow until you need a break; otherwise, you'll tire yourself out.

GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, unfortunately some people

you were counting on may suddenly pull out of a plan. Make sure you have a few backups so that your plans can follow through.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, an extra boost of confidence is propelling you to embrace some changes. That means potentially jumping into a challenging project. Run with this.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, seek others' counsel on an important issue. Another's perspective or insight can help you make an informed decision. Once you're comfortable going forward, do so.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

It is not a good idea to try to mold people into what you would like

them to be, Virgo. You may become frustrated if they resist your efforts. Embrace others for who they are.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Knowledge is power, Libra. Do all you can to improve your knowledge base. This is especially important as you try to navigate financial waters.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, others may not take much notice of your emotions this week unless you exaggerate them. If you need a person to talk to, seek them out.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

Don't begin a conversation if you are not willing to see it through to the end, Sagittarius. This will only make things more difficult for the relationships you

keep.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Expect to encounter someone who is difficult to deal with this week, Capricorn. The cosmic forces are at play. Be patient and wait for better times ahead.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, make an effort to work with a colleague with whom you might not see eye to eye. Your efforts to communicate and compromise will not go unnoticed.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

Don't tie yourself in knots trying to sort through things you cannot control, Pisces. There are too many matters for you to handle them alone.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

JANUARY 13

Liam Hemsworth, Actor (29)

JANUARY 14

Dave Grohl, Singer (50)

JANUARY 15

Pitbull, Rapper (38)

JANUARY 16

Lin-Manuel Miranda, Actor (39)

JANUARY 17

Michelle Obama, First Lady

(55)

JANUARY 18

Dave Bautista, Actor/Wrestler

(50)

JANUARY 19

Dolly Parton, Singer (73)



Fox River shipyard launches first new fishing boat

Gilles Gagné

FOX RIVER: - On December 14, Entreprises maritimes Bouchard, a Fox River company, launched its first new boat, *Gaspésienne 51*. The company was acquired by new owners in the summer of 2017. Those owners added a shipbuilding branch to the company's 40-year history of doing boat repairs.

The *Gaspésienne 51*, a crab fishing boat is made of steel and was ordered by Bertrand Desbois in August 2017. Mr. Desbois, his brothers Richard and Nicol, as well as shrimp fisherman Mario Côté and director general Ahmed Kabbadj are the shareholders of Entreprises maritimes Bouchard.

"It is a crab fishing boat and it is also a lobster and groundfish boat. It measures 50 feet in length and 27 feet in width," points out Ahmed Kabbadj. The shipyard staff is completing the installation equipment for *Gaspésienne 51*. The boat will be delivered long before the coming fishing season.

Gaspésienne was the name given to a fleet of then modern coastal fishing boats built in the 1950s for Gaspesian fishermen. Approximately 50 of those boats were built. They were about 47 feet in length. *Gaspésienne 51* is the name of a restaurant in Quebec City owned by Bertrand Desbois and his daughter.



Photo: Courtesy of Entreprises maritimes Bouchard

The *Gaspésienne 51* was launched with the travel lift on December 14 in Fox River.

The Fox River shipyard employees are also already working on the completion of a second boat ordered by a fisherman, Steven Roussy, of Port Daniel. Mr. Roussy, a crab fisherman, opted for a fiberglass hull.

"The hull was made in Shelburne, Nova Scotia, but it was bare. We are doing the rest of the work here. It represents about 95% of the total work that has to be carried out on the boat," explains Mr. Kabbadj.

That second boat is 67 feet with a beam of 25 feet. To finish this boat, it will require about four more months of work. We hope to be able to deliver it before the beginning of the season, at the end of April or the beginning of May," says Ahmed Kabbadj.

The value of the first two boats has not been revealed by the management of the shipyard. Mr. Kabbadj says that it is the owner's prerogative, but most boats of that

size and use are worth between \$1.5 million and \$2 million.

Mr. Kabbadj and the management of the shipyard are looking to land other contracts with fishermen and those involved in the maritime industry.


"We can build boats that can weigh up to 300 tonnes. It is the capacity of our travel lift, which brings the boat from our shop to the water. It can be other types of boats than fishing boats," says Mr. Kabbadj.

In the meantime, Mr. Kabbadj and his colleagues are also trying to recruit welders, pipefitters and mechanics.

"We have employed up to 42 people at times last year. We have 29 employees now," he adds.

Late winter and spring are both very busy periods at Entreprises maritimes Bouchard because boat repairs are added to boat building.

The company employed approximately 10 people before the 2017 expansion, which required an investment of close to \$2 million, mainly justified by the new building housing the shipyard.



DRIVEN TO BE DIFFERENT
DYNAMISME À BORD

gaspe@shipenergy.com
shipENERGY.com | 1-866-530-9555

CENTRE COMMUNAUTAIRE

AUBERGE DOUGLASTOWN

HOSTEL

Tel.: 418-368-0288
28 St-Patrick, Douglastown, Quebec
Email: centre.douglas@douglastown.net
DOUGLASTOWN.NET




AN APPROACH THAT PAYS!

ASSOCIATES

ALPHONSE BERNARD, FCPA, FCA
CLAUDE BERNARD, CPA, CA
HÉLÈNE LAGACÉ, BAA

alphonsebernard.ca
CARLETON-SUR-MER
418-364-7471
CPA



Dr. Éline Audet
Owner

349, boul. Perron
Maria Qc G0C 1Y0
Tel. : 418 759-3640
artdent@globetrotter.net

Dentistry Service in
• Neuromuscular
• Implantology
• Aesthetic
• Periodontics

This could be
your
advertising
space.
Give us a call!

A REGIONAL GATEWAY

For propelling your local business or project

- ▶ Baie-des-Chaleurs 418 392-5014
- ▶ Haute-Gaspésie 418 763-5355
- ▶ Gaspé 418 368-2906
- ▶ Rocher-Percé 418 689-5699

Contact-us!
www.sadc-cae.ca |

Canada Service à la clientèle, Direction générale de l'information et des relations publiques du SADC