

## 16.7% fewer deer harvested, mainly due to tough 2017-2018 winter

Gilles Gagné

**CAPLAN:** – The number of deer harvested during the 2018 hunting season decreased by 16.7% in zone 1 mainly due to a tough winter last year, arguably the toughest in the last ten years.

The total number of deer killed by hunters reached 942 animals, including 630 males, 288 females and 24 calves. The number of harvested males in 2017 had reached 1,122, almost twice the number of the past season. Since 2017 was a year where females and calves were protected, only eight females and one calf had been killed.

“It was a tough hunting season, following a very difficult 2018 winter, maybe the toughest of the last ten years because of the way deer sink in the snow. It was an endless winter, with abundant snow falls towards the end. It is particularly tough for the mature males. They have mated the previous fall and by the end of the winter, they have exhausted their reserve of energy,” explains Martin Dorais, biologist of Quebec’s department of Forest, Wildlife and Parks.

The number of males killed fell by 43.85% between 2017 and 2018.

“It is an indication that the winter was tough. Calves and males have a lower survival rate in those conditions,” adds Mr. Dorais.

The rate of use of permits to hunt females was 62% last fall. “There is pressure from the public to protect females. The roots of that cautiousness probably goes back to the period during which deer hunting was forbidden in the Gaspé Peninsula,” points out



*Deer numbers decreased as a result of a tough winter.*

the biologist, referring to the stretch from 1992 to 2000. The moratorium was caused by overhunting, poaching and predation by coyotes.

It is too early to predict if additional deer protection measures will be implemented before the 2019 hunting season.

“It will depend on the kind of winter we have, and precisely the way deer sink in the snow. We count it with the number of days they sink in

more than 50 centimetres of snow,” says Martin Dorais.

The last thorough inventory of the Gaspé Peninsula deer population was carried out in 2009. At the time, an estimate of 6,980 deer was obtained.

“We are starting a new inventory now, with aerial surveys,” says the biologist. The results will be available before the hunting season.

The coyote factor plays a role in the assessment of the

deer population but Martin Dorais points out that trappers have been pretty efficient over recent years in their efforts to catch coyotes.

“The price of pelts has increased and we follow 32 trappers closely; they catch about 300 coyotes, year in, year out. Counting the trappers that we don’t follow, we can say that between 600 and 800 coyotes are caught yearly. We don’t know how many coyotes live in the

Gaspé Peninsula though,” explains Mr. Dorais.

The implementation of a hunting subzone to cope with the high concentration of deer in the Bay of Chaleurs area is following a normal path, says the biologist.

“It is progressing and it will happen. A file was presented at the Quebec Surveyor’s Board. It won’t be effective this year because it requires a lot of adjustments but it will be part of the 2020-2027 deer management plan,” specifies Martin Dorais.

Approximately 85% of the deer harvested during the hunting season are killed in the Bay of Chaleur area. It probably reflects the proportion of that area’s population compared to the Gaspé Peninsula’s herd size.

“The deer concentrate more and more around inhabited areas, near farms and houses. Despite the decrease in the number of deer harvested in 2018, the number of road accidents involving them remains the same. There is pressure from the public to cope with that problem, understandably, but it is too early to say what form it will take,” concludes Martin Dorais.

### 2018 Hunting Results - Zone 1

	TOTAL	BLACK POWDER	CROSSBOW	BOW	RIFLE	SHOTGUN
TOTAL	942	1	140	3	793	5
MALES	630	1	128	2	495	4
FEMALES	288		11	1	275	1
CALVES	24		1		23	

## WORKFORCE SHORTAGE:

# Provincial government has a plan

Thierry Haroun

**GASPÉ PENINSULA:** - In light of a major shortage of workforce across the province, including the Gaspé Peninsula, the Quebec government has set-up a plan in order to alleviate the problem. Spec interviewed the Québec Labour Minister, Jean Boulet.

“Of course I’m aware of the consequences of a workforce shortage in a region like yours,” he told Spec from his office in Quebec City. “There are specific sectors in your region that are faced with this issue, such as the restaurant business and the service sector. I’m also aware that some restaurants had to close their doors because there are no employees available. This is a serious problem that my government will tackle during this mandate. I made it a top priority as a minister because the lack of workforce, as you know, induces an economic slowdown,” he added.

On January 17, Minister Jean Boulet announced his plan called “La Grande Corvée” that has four major objectives.

The first objective is to integrate more people into the market place, including more Natives, immigrants and those who are disabled. Second, adapting the workforce to the need of the marketplace by offering adequate



Photo: Government of Quebec

Jean Boulet, Quebec labour minister.

and accessible training. Thirdly, to adapt the training offered to the constant evolution of the market. Finally, to increase businesses’ productivity by supporting them in terms of research and development, software equipment and information technology.

Spec asked Jean Boulet if he was aware of the problem that occurs when college students (Cegep) have to go back to school as early as mid-August, in the midst of the tourism season. Consequently, many restaurants and hotels are suddenly faced with a shortage of manpower forcing them to close certain departments. “Yes, I’m well aware of the problem and my

colleague Minister of Education, Jean-François Roberge, has been sensitized to that issue and a committee has been set-up to look into it in order to find a solution.”

### More money for welfare

Jean Boulet also announced that starting this January, people faced with a severe disability and are therefore unable to work will see their monthly welfare payment increase by \$72. Over the next five years, the increase will reach a total of \$367 per month. That measure concerns 1514 adults in the Gaspé Peninsula and 84,000 across the province.

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## News briefs

### Regional office of *Investissement Québec* in Chandler?

Thierry Haroun

**GASPÉ PENINSULA:** - In December, Quebec Premier François Legault announced that in 2019, *Investissement Québec* will have a regional office in every region of the province, including the Gaspé Peninsula. The objective is to favour, promote and support private investments in the regions’ economy.

Since that announcement, Percé Rock MRC Prefect, Nadia Minassian, with the unanimous support of all five mayors of the MRC (Grand River, Ste-Thérèse-de-Gaspé, Percé, Port-Daniel and Chandler), approached Quebec’s Treasury Board Minister, Christian Dubé, to express the importance of choosing Chandler as the head office of *Investissement Québec* for the Gaspé Peninsula. “It’s simple logic,” she told Spec. “Chandler had an *Investissement Québec* office, (Place du Havre) for years. Now, all that’s left to do is to reinvest in that bureau in terms of financing and professionals and we’re all set. It would be the natural choice,” Ms. Minassian added. Chandler mayor, Louise Langlois, fully approves. “Of course as a mayor I approve. The MRC is currently spearheading this file. If approved by the government it would create well paid jobs.”

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# Gaétan Lelièvre becomes consultant for the Côte-de-Gaspé MRC

Nelson **Sergerie**

**GASPÉ:** - The former Parti Québécois member of the National Assembly for Gaspé between 2012 and 2018 is now working for the MRC of Côte-de-Gaspé as a strategic advisor for economic development. The discussions were long between the MRC's council of mayors and Gaétan Lelièvre.

When Mr. Lelièvre chose to run for the Parti Québécois in the spring of 2012, he was the executive director of the MRC and the local employment centre. Once elected in Quebec City, the Member of the National Assembly (MNA) obtained a leave without pay for his position with the privilege of returning to office once his political career ended.

Just a few hours after the announcement, it is visible that Mr. Lelièvre was satisfied with the situation and his mandate, as he didn't want to work full-time.

"I wanted to work punctually on strictly regional development and economic development mandates. The more administrative aspect, after more than 35 years in this field, I think I've already toured the garden. I did not want management anymore," says the new consultant.

## Call for tenders

The MRC has chosen to go to tenders for this type of mandate, in order to avoid the appearance of conflict of interest. Six firms were invited to bid on an economic development



Photo: N. Sergerie

*Gaétan Lelièvre announced his retirement last June.*

mandate, particularly for the devitalized sectors of the MRC and only Mr. Lelièvre responded to the invitation.

Before making his proposal, the new consultant had resigned from his position as general manager. His contract, valued at \$77,000 will be for one year and he will report directly to the council of mayors. A sum of \$61,000 will be reserved for fees, the balance being used to reimburse travel and living expenses. The MRC had budgeted \$100,000.

Mr. Lelièvre will have to offer support to the MRC's elected officials and municipalities in various strategic stakes, particularly to help municipalities in terms of devitalization.

Prefect Daniel Côté, emphasizes that the mandate is very broad and he hopes to take advantage of the former MNA's contacts in Quebec to

advance certain issues. "We have the services of a senior advisor which will give us a big boost to once again try to leave the cycle of devitalization, particularly in the municipalities of Estran and Murdochville," said the prefect.

He states that the new consultant did not have an advantage in order to obtain the contract. "We went with a quote that touched certain specific elements. A lot of experience was required from the bidders. We did not want to end up with a junior advisor or someone we would have to train. In all the firms invited to bid, there were senior advisors. If we had wanted to favour a firm, we would have invited only two. We wanted to challenge the market." Among the firms invited were Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton and Mallette.

# Gaspé has high expectation from Ottawa for the election year

Nelson **Sergerie**

**GASPÉ:** - The federal election will be held in less than nine months and the mayor of Gaspé is putting his priorities on the table before the election is called. Daniel Côté intends to take advantage of the last few months of the Liberal government's mandate in order to settle issues that involve Ottawa

Among its priorities is the renovation of the Cap-des-Rosiers lighthouse that the federal government will keep under its jurisdiction. The infrastructure needs urgent work. The last major infra-

structure project was in 1983.

By looking closely at the lighthouse you can see that the tallest lighthouse in Canada, with its 34-metre high tower, has major cracks. Emergency work had been done in 2017 and Ottawa had assumed the bill of approximately \$10,000 in order for the lighthouse to be open to the public.

To upgrade the infrastructure, it would take approximately \$6 million. "I think there are ongoing studies. It is certain that it is a little longer. I hope it will move forward," says the mayor. "We continue to work with the community and with Fisheries and Oceans

Canada," says Diane Lebouthillier, Minister of National Revenue and Member of Parliament (MP) for the Gaspésie-Iles-de-la-Madeleine riding.

Daniel Côté's other priority is the revitalization of Fox River, the fishing capital. This project, during phase 1 is estimated at \$10 million and aims in particular at the development of a walkway, bicycle path, public spaces and an eco-museum in order to highlight the fishing industry. The idea took seed after the first major floods in 2007.

Cont'd on page 8

# Police report

Julie Laurencelle, 26, of Cape Cove entered a plea of guilty after fatally wounding a pedestrian in Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé on August 6, 2017, will return to the Percé courthouse on January 29. Luce Hautcoeur, 62, from Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé, died in that accident. During the court appearance that followed the tragedy, the department of Justice charged Julie Laurencelle for not having stopped knowing that the victim was dead or not caring that death would result from the injuries caused by the accident in the intent to evade any civil or criminal liability. A Sûreté du Québec investigation was able to quickly locate the vehicle that had been involved in the accident and arrested the accused. The accused pleaded guilty last fall. Her sentence was to be rendered on January 18 but the case has been postponed until January 29.

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Town of Chandler councillor Bruno-Pierre Godbout is publicly apologizing for neglecting to purchase an alcohol permit prior to a December 6 meeting in Newport, where a tribute was being held for community volunteers. The Sûreté du Québec conducted a vigorous operation during that evening. Councillor Godbout stresses that the Sûreté du Québec also acknowledged the operation was probably conducted drastically under the circumstances. He is satisfied that the situation has been recognized. The Morency Avocats articling firm had been mandated to defend the Town of Chandler in the file. The mandate was withdrawn as a result of the meeting between the two entities.

That December meeting between Chandler's municipal council and the Sûreté du Québec administration was held to obtain explanations pertaining to that December 6 intervention. The Sûreté du Québec sent 14 agents and seven vehicles to seize the alcoholic beverages distributed to the guests, since the municipality had not purchased a meeting permit. The Town of Chandler council members were of the view that the operation was quite vigorous for a simple permit issue.

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Quebec's Organized crime squad made a second major operation in nine days on January 17 as 125 officers conducted interventions in 18 houses and 19 vehicles in order to accumulate evidence in an attempt to neutralize a drug trafficking network in Eastern Quebec. That network is linked to the Hell's Angels, according to the Sûreté du Québec. In the Gaspé Peninsula, interventions were made in Rivière-au-Renard and Gascons. The first operation had been carried out on January 9 in Montreal, Beauce and Sainte-Anne-de-Madawaska, and in New Brunswick.

"Nobody was arrested this time around. The investigators questioned people, gathered evidence, and seized some quantities of drugs. We are talking about a long investigation here, involving police officers of the whole province. The January 9 intervention led us to the Lower Saint Lawrence and the Gaspé Peninsula, the market targeted by that network. Gathering evidence is a long process. The second operation was another step. The means deployed are significant, as 125 members of the Organized crime repression squad were involved, plus local police officers," explains Sgt. Claude Doiron, spokesperson of the Sûreté du Québec for the Lower Saint Lawrence and the Gaspé Peninsula



## Commentary

Gilles Gagné

### A delay should be allowed to register firearms

If the pace doesn't increase, approximately 25% of firearm owners, possibly a bit more, will have registered their weapon by the deadline. January 29 is the deadline set by the Quebec government to respect the new regulation. After that date, police officers will be allowed to impose fines ranging in importance between \$500 and \$5,000.

There are approximately 1.6 million firearms in the province of Quebec. As of January 14, only 317,850 of them had been registered. That's only 20% and with the deadline fast approaching the total will probably reach about 25%.

It remains a paltry proportion, considering the potential magnitude of the fines. People protesting against the registry know too well that police officers will have something else to do than storm in hundreds of thousands of Quebec houses scattered over a huge territory and ask for proof of registration, come February.

The registration law was adopted on January 29, 2018 at the National Assembly by the government of the former premier Philippe Couillard and gave non-restricted firearm owners a year to register them. That law came three years and nine weeks after a December 5, 2014 commitment made by Mr. Couillard during a tribute paid to the victims of the École polytechnique massacre, during which 14 women were killed because they were... women, and studying to be engineers, at a

time where that profession was mostly occupied by men.

No doubt, the lobby representing the victims of École polytechnique pressured the Quebec government to adopt the firearm registry, in the wake of the abolition of federal government registry by Stephen Harper's Conservative government.

However, that lobby was not alone. Most policemen will admit that it can be very useful to have information about the presence of guns upon intervening in a house or a building.

Also, a December survey commissioned by a movement close to the victims of École polytechnique, indicated that 78% of the Quebec population support the existence of a firearm registry. That support climbs to 84% in Montreal.

Although the survey was carried out by an experienced firm, Léger, there is always a way to draw questions in order to influence the answers, especially when it is not commissioned by an independent organization.

However, Quebecers, unlike other Canadians, have for years heavily supported the existence of a firearm registry. That support decreases in rural areas but it remains stronger than the opposition.

Possessing a firearm and counting on the freedom of using it is a privilege, not a right. We are not in the United States. Registering those weapons does not represent a big hassle and it can save lives. If it saves only one life yearly, it is worth it. To some people, the registry might look like an intrusion in owners' private lives but weapons are not ordinary objects.

Besides, collaborating with the creation of the registry might shake the idea of most urban citizens, who see rural inhabitants as if they are backwards hillbillies.

However, the Quebec government could postpone the coming into force of the fines related to the registry, if not officially, at least unofficially.

Deputy premier and minister of Public Security

Geneviève Guilbault seemed ready just before the Christmas break, to show a bit of flexibility before launching coercion measures. Other members of the government don't seem ready to show that same comprehension.

A three-month delay would probably be a great idea. Premier Philippe Couillard could help the cause by being more clear on that postponement point. He was clear until the end of the year but he has shown hesitation lately. The issue will never reach unanimity. He must show leadership in this case.

## Letters to the Editor

I was recently approached by an unhappy subscriber. He complained about how much the Spec cost and how few pages we now publish. I would just like to explain to our readers that we, as employees at Spec, are doing everything in our power to keep the Spec running and that means making cuts.

We've reduced the number of regular pages to 12 which amounts to \$257 in savings per week in printing costs. We are trying to fit as much interesting content in those pages as we can. We determine the amount of pages we are going to print by the amount of advertising we have each week. As most readers should know, the newspaper industry has to compete with the internet and selling advertising space is getting more difficult.

I personally have reduced my hours and pay in order to help cut expenses. We are doing our best so that readers will be able to continue enjoying the Spec for years to come.

Joan Sawyer Imhoff  
Office Manager  
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# The Crazy Cat Lady of Cascapedia

Cynthia Dow

NEW RICMOND: - I think I have been living alone with cats for too long. I am starting to think like them!

I find that this winter, as well as last winter, I have developed the same reaction to the cold weather as the cats have: I stick my nose out and if it's colder than I thought, I shake my head and draw it back in the house, slam the door, and go find something else to do that does not involve the Great Outdoors!

Same goes with the urge to hibernate. I just want to curl up on a cozy cushion, preferably in the sun, and veg out. The problem is the cozy cushions in the sun are already occupied by my brown and black tiger, Timmy Ryan, and my two tuxedos, Boogaladamooj and Jack Layton. What's a lazy Crazy Cat Lady to do?

While it's true I am not always getting the fresh air and sunshine I would normally be exposed to, I have discovered that thinking like a cat has its own advantages. Cats are the ultimate self-absorbed creatures. They are great teachers of self-love and self-care.



Photo: C. Dow

Boogie.

When a cat feels the need for a bath, any location in the house will do. They don't have to go to the bathroom and start the shower or the tub running. The amount of hot water in the tank is not a worry. They just let loose with their tongue and get the job done.

Then there are what I have come to call the Hunger

Games. When a cat feels like eating, nothing will stop them. Awake -- or, sadly, asleep -- I am bombarded with noisy cries until I respond and get their food into their dishes. They will even do relays if required, usually starting with Timmy and progressing to Jack and then Boogie. By the time the last one sets into action, I've had

it and I act.

Sometimes the crying is not sufficient to rouse me from my warm bed. In that case, Timmy will rake my Turkish bedside rug with his claws. When that does not suffice, Jack has the nasty habit of clearing off my chest of drawers. First it's usually my hairband, followed by a book or two. When he gets to shoving around the clock or reaching up to unsettle a family photo on the wall, I know I am beaten. It's either get up or face disaster.

It wouldn't be so bad if all this was not happening at 4 a.m.

Cats can bring a lot of joy, too. They are fun to watch and cuddle with, and they add a much-appreciated layer of warmth to my throws when I sit to read or watch TV. It's almost like having a hot water bottle on board!

Then there are the Play-with-me-I'm-bored games. Boogie carries around fake stuffed mice and drops them just where I am most likely to tread on them. Jack drags a stick-and-rope toy up and down the stairs and drops it conveniently within my

reach. As for Timmy, he finds play beneath him. At such times, he has perfected the Rhett Butler "Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn" look. Unless, of course, Jack is playing with me. Then Timmy wants to play, too. These games are fun for me as well, except for the occasional accidental scratch. Just where oh where did I put the hydrogen peroxide?

Then there are the frequent yoga lessons. When a cat feels like stretching, who does a better job? Jack is the yogi par excellence in this house. He stretches out to a full four feet and then twists completely so that his spine is like a coiled spring, head and front legs looking east, tail and back legs headed west. It's impressive and reminds me to hit my yoga mat. Although they hate it when I do the Downward Dog!

I say we should all be more like cats: calm and cuddly when all is well, ready to play at a moment's notice, and assertive in getting what we need when something is lacking. Seems to be a recipe for a healthy and happy life! Or nine!

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# Gaspesian Claudine Roy receives the Order of Canada

Nelson **Sergerie**

**GASPÉ:** - For her ongoing efforts to develop regional tourism and to promote the Gaspé Peninsula, Gaspé's Claudine Roy will receive the honorary title of Member of the Order of Canada. The title is awarded to recognize outstanding contributions at the local or regional level or in a special field of activity.

Seventeen years ago, at the age of 63, Claudine Roy became quite popular on the tourism scene by creating the *Traversées de la Gaspésie (TDLG)*.

The TDLG is a week-long all-inclusive event consisting of exploring the Gaspesian landscape through cross-country skiing or snowshoeing. Next month, the TDLG will be celebrating its 25 anniversary. Each year, approximately 250 people from all over the world take part in the event and discover the Gaspesian landscape.

"It's nice to receive a tribute such as the Order of Canada, but as I always mention, it's a tribute shared with all the people who embark on my sweet madness," said the recipient humbly. In addition to the TDLG, her other achievements are also highlighted by this prestigious civilian honour.

## Nomination and ceremony

A friend of Claudine Roy, Anne-Marie Hubert from Montreal, had applied for the award a few years ago and the selection committee selected the file.

The award will be presented by Governor General of



Photo: N. Sergerie

*Claudine Roy is delighted to receive the Order of Canada.*

Canada, Julie Payette, at Rideau Hall in Ottawa later in the year. Julie Payette, who just happens to be a friend of Claudine Roy, has participated in the TDLG.

"Receiving the Order from Julie is a great pleasure for me. It's really a funny coincidence. She is a woman who loves our part of the country, but Julie has nothing to do with the appointment. It's really an outside advisory board to the Governor General," says the recipient.

## What remains to be accomplished?

After receiving such a title, Ms. Roy does not intend to give up. "I still have a lot of projects. I sit on several boards of directors where I have a good voice for the Gaspésie. It's a pleasure to be a spokesperson on various bodies," says Ms Roy who is also on the board of the *Association des restaurateurs du Que-*

*bec and Investissement Quebec.*

"It encourages me to work harder! On October 20, Claudine received the Graduate Excellence Award from the *Université de Québec* in Rimouski. Having a background in Science Education, she was the 18th out of 49,000 students who attended the institution to receive such a distinction.

Claudine is a Knight of the National Order of Quebec since 2010, moreover, the *Auberge sou les arbres de Gaspé*, which she owns, was ranked last April as the top rated establishment in Canada with a rating of 10 out of 10.

Created in 1967 by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the Order of Canada is the cornerstone of the Canadian Honours System. It recognizes outstanding achievements, a person's remarkable dedication to the community, or an extraordinary contribution to the nation.

# News briefs

## Firearms must be registered by January 29

Gilles Gagné

**CARLETON:** - Firearm owners must register them by January 29 at the latest, according to the new Quebec government regulation. So far, an estimate issued by the Quebec government specifies that only approximately 25% of the province's firearms are registered. Those who had



registered their firearms as part of the federal gun registry program must take note that the Canadian government abolished that registry five years ago. The new Quebec registration program is not linked to the Canadian program, especially since the destruction of data by the previous federal government nullified any possibility of data transfer.

The new regulation has stirred up some controversy, mostly among hunters voicing their opposition against the establishment of another firearm registry. However, Alain Poitras, spokesperson for the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands Federation of hunters and fishermen, is nevertheless recommending that firearm owners respect the new regulation, even though he intends to keep advocating against it.

Parti Québécois Member of the National Assembly Sylvain Roy, who is also a hunter, voted for the implementation of the new registry but he has repeatedly asked the Quebec government, the previous Liberal Party government and the current Coalition avenir Québec regime, to postpone the submission deadline.

Mr. Roy believes that a delay could be used to simplify the form and take some unnecessary questions off. "Some aspects of the gun registry are totally useless, like measuring the length of the barrel, especially considering that nobody measures it the same way. Removing some useless questions like that would be beneficial. I also think that a delay would be greatly appreciated," he recently said.

More information can be found on the SIAF (Service d'immatriculation des armes à feu du Québec) website at [siaf.gouv.qc.ca](http://siaf.gouv.qc.ca). Applications can be made online through that website or by mailing a hard copy. Please note that you are not able to register a firearm over the phone, but you can call 1 888 335-9997 (toll free) if you require assistance in completing your application.

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# Dr. Paul Leblanc retires after 53 years of practice

## Replacement yet to be found

Gilles Gagné

MATAPEDIA – Based in Matapedia since February 1966, Dr. Paul Leblanc is currently retiring after 53 years of practice. Aged 83, he was still working full-time up until January 9. He will not be renewing his practice licence at the end of March. He has received many messages of praise and congratulations, but his retirement leaves a huge gap in services.

Despite warning the health authorities of his eventual retirement, a replacement has not been found. Up to 900 of his former patients are currently looking for a family doctor with his help.

“I have been saying for a year-and-a-half that I am going to retire. I have asked Sylvain Roy (Member of the National Assembly for the riding of Bonaventure) to convince health authorities to remove the clause forcing a doctor who would settle here to work 12 hours a week at the Maria hospital emergency room. It is a waste of time spent on the road,” says Dr. Leblanc.

“Suppose that my replacement has to go to the hospital twice a week, he or she will spend five or six hours on the road, since it is a 180 kilometre round trip. This doesn’t make sense. That doctor should spend that time in the clinic, meeting patients, or at the CLSC in Matapedia or Pointe-à-la-Croix. So far, my idea has not been accepted. Sylvain Roy agrees with my way of seeing things,” explains Paul Leblanc.

A doctor goes regularly to the Matapedia CLSC building essentially to meet beneficiaries of the seniors’ residence. The Pointe-à-la-Croix CLSC offers medical services on a part-time schedule.

Officially, he saw his last patient on January 9 but in reality, some patients are still going to his office in order to get referred to specialists for follow-ups. Until the end of March, Dr. Leblanc will still see some patients, mostly people in senior’s homes.

“Some patients have very limited mobility. So I will keep seeing them at the Villa des Plateaux in Saint-Alexis and Chez Mamie in Saint-François until the end of March,” adds Dr. Leblanc.

Over the years, over 6,500 different patients have been



Photo: G. Gagné

*Over the last 32 years, Dr. Leblanc was assisted by his secretary, Sophie Gallant, who can find the file of any patient in five or six seconds. Over the years, over 6,500 different patients have been through the doors of Dr. Leblanc’s medical practice.*

through the doors of Dr. Leblanc’s medical practice for an estimated total of 300,000 appointments. On average, around 2,000 different files were active yearly. Some people have been patients of Doctor Leblanc for the entirety of his 53 years of practice, and he has treated sometimes up to four generations from the same family.

His patients were mostly from Matapedia and the Plateaux towns, but he also had patients in Ristigouche South East, Pointe-à-la-Croix, Escuminac, Nouvelle, Saint-Omer, Carleton and about 100 to 125 people in New Brunswick.

“I don’t know why people were coming from that far to my office. In some cases, they could have found a family doctor much closer. I asked them why sometimes and they replied that they were well treated, that they liked me,” he says.

Originally from New Richmond, Paul Leblanc studied at the Université Laval. He started his degree in medicine in 1960 and finished at the end

of 1965. He first tried to settle in Bonaventure but finally opted for Matapedia. He opened his private clinic and was also assigned to work shifts at the Hôtel-Dieu hospital in Campbellton, back when two hospitals were located in that town.

“It was very different back then. At home, I had to maintain a pharmacy because there was none in the village. I had to be the pinch hit dentist because there were none close. At the Campbellton hospital, there was no anesthesiologist and they asked me to take those responsibilities. I accepted and I went away for a month or two in order to get that training. I was also doing obstetrics. I was stopped quite often by the cops, while speeding to assist a woman about to give birth,” he recalls.

Paul Leblanc stayed as an anesthesiologist in Campbellton until the 1980s. “Anesthesiology was simpler back then, it seems. As an anesthesiologist, I had to put to sleep babies that were eight-nine days old, and elderly that were 90. I didn’t flunk one case.

That is a source of pride, considering the short training I had received.”

Medicine has changed over the last half-century for other reasons than the complexity of practice. Young doctors rarely want to work the same number of hours as the old generation, and he understands that.

“I wonder where I was getting the energy to do all that, keeping my office running at home, going to houses in order to meet my patients, delivering babies, doing hospital shifts. I did have a burnout in 1980 too, I must say,” explains Dr. Leblanc.

He overcame that burnout by taking a couple of months’ rest and by adopting a habit he has applied every day since. “I take an hour for myself every day, usually a silent, meditative moment very early in the morning, as early as 4 or 4:30 a.m. Sometimes, I pray. I take another room to do that and sometimes, I go back to sleep a bit,” he says.

That is the first secret of his longevity as a doctor. “The second secret is the constant support of my wife, Georgette Sirois. I wouldn’t have made it without her. The third secret is physical activity. I cycle during the summer. I also hike in trails and climb mountains. I can still climb the Petit Chamonix hill, the ski centre in Matapedia, sometimes three times in a row.”

Dr. Leblanc also praises immensely the work of Sophie Gallant, his secretary of the last 32 years. He asks her at random to find the file of one patient, and she finds it calmly in five or six seconds. “I couldn’t have asked for more. She is efficient, in a good mood, perfectly bilingual. She is a force.”

Ms. Gallant has mixed feelings about the closure of Doctor Leblanc’s office. “He deserves it, and I am happy for him but I must refrain from thinking too much about it because I am going to cry a lot, she says.

For years, Dr. Paul Leblanc could be seen on his road bike, covering the 25 to 30 kilometres between his home and the Campbellton hospital to see his patients, and coming back once it was done. He was also an enthusiastic participant in the Transgaspeian mountain bike raid in the late 1990s and the following years. He was in his sixties at the time.

Georgette Sirois and Paul Leblanc had five children, Marie-Josée, Brigitte, Nicolas, David and Philippe, a great source of pride for the couple.

What will he do once he completely stops medicine at the end of March? “I am not exhausted. I think it is the right decision to retire. We will travel again. I will stay active physically. I will work in the house to make up for what I haven’t done over previous years,” he says.

# Chandler adopts a tight budget

Arianne Aubert Bonn

CHANDLER: - The town of Chandler is adopting a budget that Mayor Louisette Langlois describes as “extremely tight, with little room for maneuvering.”

Louisette Langlois says that the administrators of her municipality will have to keep the purse strings very tight, following the adoption of the budget. “We have included a lot of projects, leaving us with very little opportunity to review a position. In order to be able to do development, we even took some money from the small surplus of \$300,000,” she

says.

There are numerous projects and each district is getting its share. The projects that will have the greatest financial impact on the town are: the construction of a new municipal garage, worth \$5 million, the upgrading of the aqueduct and sewers in Newport, valued at \$1.6 million, and the renewal of a portion of town’s rolling stock and vehicles, estimated at \$1 million.

The list of projects includes dozens of elements in all sectors of activity, from recreation to fire safety, including administration, public works, economic development, urban planning and projects of

elected officials. Potential expenses associated with executive pay equity requests are not part of the budget. The subject is ongoing.

The 2019 budget amounts to \$11,398,617, a little over \$300,000 more than the 2018 budget. Investments in public safety, environmental health, recreation and culture show the largest increases.

Property assessments, or

municipal value, is increasing in all districts except for Newport and a small portion of Chandler. It has increased from \$425,942,600 to \$441,146,400. The tax rate remains the same at \$0.88 per \$100 value. This means that the majority of citizens will experience a slight increase in their tax bill, except in areas where property value has not increased.

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## ELECTION YEAR:

▶ Cont'd from page 3



Photo: N. Sergerie

The mayor of Gaspé would like to see the Cap-des-Rosier lighthouse renovated.

The mayor wishes to see the federal contribution improved. “We are missing some funding. It is expected to have 50% federal financial assistance as in just about every infrastructure project. Currently, the offer is 40%. We hope to have 50%. The election year is here: it’s time to untie the purse strings,” says Mr. Côté.

The projects are tabled, but Mr. Côté intends to challenge the policy. The fact that the MP for Gaspésie-Iles-de-la-Madeleine, Diane Lebouthillier, is on the cabinet could

be helpful.

“I do not want to fight between power and opposition, but it is certain that when our MP sits at the decision making table in the Council of Ministers, I think it gives a hand,” he says.

Mr. Côté recalls the happy ending in the fisheries sector when Ottawa finally announced \$30 million in December for development and research over a five-year period. This request had been made many times since aid was granted to the Atlantic provinces 18 months ago.



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# Announcements...



## IN MEMORY



### GOYETTE: Eric

June 13, 1984 - January 19, 2012

In loving memory of our son, brother and uncle.

*Beautiful memories are wonderful things.*

*They last til the longest day,*

*They never wear out,*

*They never get lost,*

*And they can never be given away.*

*To some you may be forgotten*

*To others a part of the past.*

*But to us who loved you and lost you,*

*Your memory will always last.*

Love always, Mom, Jean, Patrick, Emilie and Noémie.

### SAWYER: Doris

In loving memory of a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother who passed away January 25, 2010.

*Your last parting wish*

*We would like to have heard*

*And breathed in your ear*

*Our last parting word.*

*Only those who have lost*

*Are able to tell*

*The pain in the heart*

*At not saying farewell.*

*The depths of sorrow we cannot tell*

*Of the loss of one we loved so well.*

*And while she sleeps a peaceful sleep*

*Her memory we shall always keep.*

Lovingly remembered by her family.

## Happy 60th Anniversary

On January 17, 2019, John Kaye Walker and Lorraine Walker celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. They were married on January 17, 1959 at St. Andrew's Anglican Church in New Carlisle, Quebec.

Congratulations and many more years of laughter, love and happiness.

*Happy Anniversary*



## Happy 60th Anniversary



January 1959



January 2019

On January 24, 2019, Gerald Aubut and Germaine Duguay will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary. We send you our love on this very special day. Sixty years of giving happiness, love and loyalty to each other must not go unmarked. We wish you many more years of love and good health together. Congratulations!

*Happy Anniversary, from your friends and family.*

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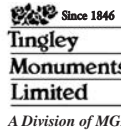
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## COAST ROUND-UP

### BARACHOIS:

#### Legion Branch 261

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

**Every Tuesday:** Sandbags, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

**Every Thursday:** Darts, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. For more information contact Lloyd Rousel at 418-645-3700 or 418-645-2786.

### BARACHOIS:

#### Legion

Card and board games every Thursday night starting on **January 24** at 7 p.m. Come on out for an evening of socializing and fun.

### BARACHOIS:

#### Recreation Centre

Every Saturday starting **January 26**, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Soup, hotdogs, sandwiches, dessert, tea and coffee will be served. From 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. Card and board games for all ages, sliding (crazy carpets provided). Raffles held weekly, Lunch and activities free for all ages. Sponsored by: Mountainview Golden Age Club, Legion Branch 261, Barachois & Area Development Committee and Barachois Recreation Centre.

### BARACHOIS:

#### Recreation Centre

**February 1 & 15:** The Barachois Recreation Centre will be holding 18+ money bingos at 7 p.m. Bilingual. Over \$600 in cash prizes.

### BARACHOIS:

#### BADC

**February 6:** General meeting as well as election of Board

members beginning at 7 p.m. at the Barachois Rec. Centre. Everyone from Corner of the Beach to Prevel is welcome. For more information please contact Janet Harvey at 418-355-4899.

### 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

### 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

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

### 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 be-

ginning 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.

### 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 CARLISLE:

#### Royal Canadian Legion

**February 14:** Valentine Supper at the New Carlisle Chalet from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. \$25 per couple, \$8 for 12 and under complete meal, dessert, tea, coffee. (choice of two meal) Tickets available by calling Laura at 418-752-6799 or Ethel at 418-751-4342.

### NEW CARLISLE:

#### Curling Bonspiel

The Linda LeMore Curling Bonspiel will be held on the weekend of **March 15-17**.

### NEW RICHMOND:

#### Flea Market

New clothing has arrived, \$1 each. Good, hot meal at noon. Free. Donations accepted. We also give away hundreds of items every week. To donate or obtain furniture, please call 418-392-5161. Open on **Fridays** and **Saturdays** from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 248 Perron Blvd, New Richmond.

### CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

#### Royal Canadian Legion Br. 172

The Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 172, meets monthly every third **Saturday** at the Legion located at 55 Gallagher St.

### CASCAPEDIA-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.

**February 23:** Potluck supper from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. (storm date: February 24) \$10 per adult and \$8 per child under 12.

### CASCAPEDIA-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 Mawiom Treatment Centre, located at 85 School Street in Gesgapegiag. Everyone welcome! For more information call 418-759-3522.

### UNITED CHURCH

**Sunday, January 27**  
10:30 a.m. Hope Town

## ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

**Sunday, January 27**  
New Carlisle

10 a.m. Morning Prayer

#### Port Daniel

9 a.m. Morning Prayer

### PARISH OF GASPÉ

**Sunday, January 27**  
St. Paul's - Gaspé

10 a.m. Holy Eucharist

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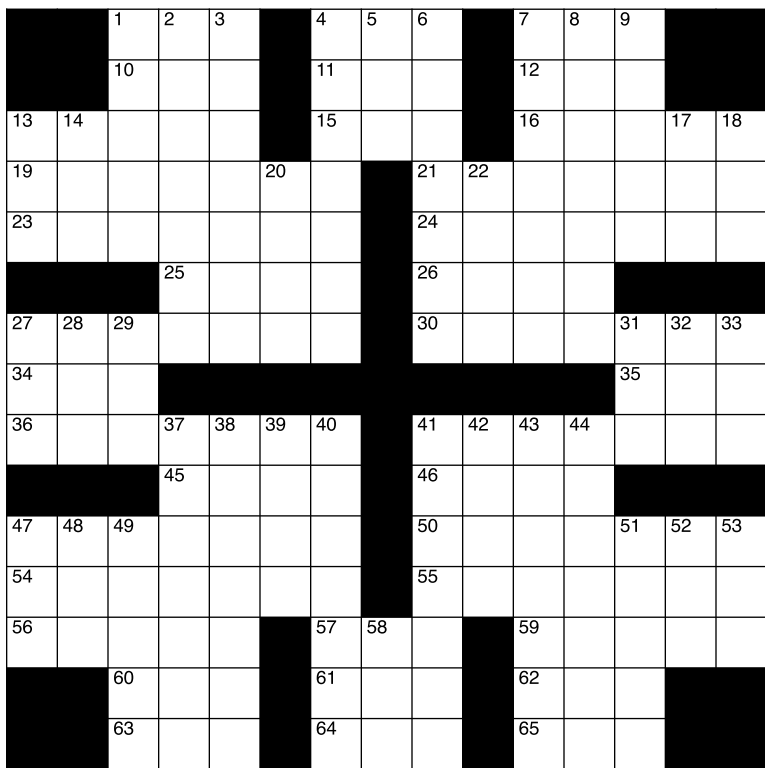
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# On the lighter side...



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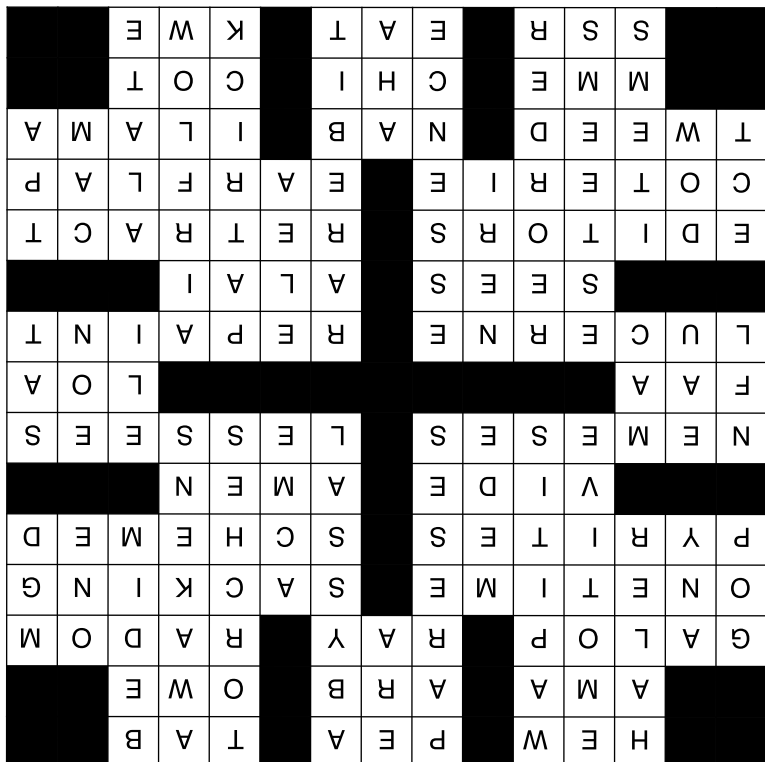
### CLUES ACROSS

1. Chop or cut
4. Green veggie
7. Bar bill
10. Doctors' group
11. One who buys and sells securities (slang)
12. Be in debt
13. Lively ballroom dance
15. Singer Charles
16. Polish city
19. Former
21. Dismissing from employment
23. Minerals
24. Plotted
25. Consult
26. After a prayer
27. Agents of one's downfall
30. Leaseholders
34. Supervises flying
35. Voodoo god
36. Alfalfa
41. Apply another coat to
45. Witnesses
46. Jai \_\_, sport
47. Ones who proof
50. Recant
54. Small group with shared interests
55. Part of warming headgear
56. Woolen cloth
57. Snag
59. Central American fruit tree
60. Woman (French)
61. The 22nd letter of the Greek alphabet
62. Type of bed
63. Soviet Socialist Republic
64. Consume
65. Japanese freight company

(abbr.)

### CLUES DOWN

1. Czech monetary unit
2. Able to arouse intense feeling
3. Elk
4. Muscular weaknesses
5. Geological time
6. Depths of the ocean
7. Burns to the ground
8. Becomes cognizant of
9. Cause to shade
13. US political party
14. Refers to some of a thing
17. Single
18. Type of beer
20. Ancient Iranian people
22. Grocery chain
27. Gridiron league
28. English river
29. \_\_ and cheese
31. Peyton's younger brother
32. Long time
33. High schoolers' test
37. Respects
38. Organize anew
39. Filippo \_\_, Saint
40. Intrinsic nature of something
41. Cheese dish
42. Ancient Greek City
43. Patron saint of Ireland
44. Produced by moving aircraft or vehicle
47. Shock treatment
48. \_\_ Jones
49. Things
51. Having wings
52. Panthers' QB Newton
53. Third-party access
58. Satisfaction



## The Spec gets around...



Glenn Moran with his wife Chantal Pomerleau and their children Zakia and Jarik Moran of Ottawa, Ontario, recently took a wonderful trip to Vietnam. Here's the family reading the Spec on a boat in Halong Bay outside of Hanoi in Vietnam.

## COLD WEATHER WORD SEARCH

S T E L L E P W Z H F I T M C L G S Z D  
 U F D E P R E S S I O N G V R U L P R M  
 U O G E F M M S L G U S T S Z U I V N  
 H P Y T L B T R E T E M O R A B Z P P F  
 Y T R A L E S H O Z C E N Z N Z P B L V  
 V E T G E R T T C A T F I O L R F U U I  
 E E S E P U F K O I T F K E E R R T B S  
 R L P R U T I S N C O D P C E Y R G Z L I  
 E S W G A A R D D G R K I E Y H A N I B  
 H C O G R R D U E U V P Z S R A O Z Z I  
 P O N A G E H O N A I I R T E I D Y Z L  
 S N S H S P I L S T N K U S T L W C A I  
 O V G Y T M W C A G E G K A T F U I R T  
 M E N H I E S T T C E Y L C I Z Z T D Y  
 T R I S C T I K I S M U L E B S L C R M  
 A G W U K O A K O A M V G R K O L R H E  
 Y E O L N V C N N U Y C G O U A N A Y L  
 Z N L S A A U O C F C O L F K S I R B T  
 Y C B R L E S C D D I S N I A R G F S N  
 P E Z B U I A S L A T S Y R C E C I P V

- ACCUMULATION
- AGGREGATE
- ARCTIC
- ATMOSPHERE
- BAROMETER
- BITTER
- BLACK ICE
- BLIZZARD
- BLOWING
- BRISK
- CLOUDS
- CONDENSATION
- CONVERGENCE
- DEPRESSION
- DRIFTS
- DRIZZLE
- FLURRY
- FOG
- FORECAST
- FREEZING
- GRAINS
- GRAUPEL
- GUSTS
- HAIL
- ICE CRYSTALS
- ICY
- MELT
- PELLETS
- PRECIPITATION
- SLEET
- SLUSHY
- SNOW
- STICK
- TEMPERATURE
- VISIBILITY

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

### ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

You can't predict how people will react, Aries. What you find humorous may bend someone else out of shape. If you suspect a joke won't go over well, keep it to yourself.

### TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

Keep your eyes open and you may just stumble into something new and fascinating this week, Taurus. Now is a good time to explore new ideas and integrate them.

### GEMINI – May 22/June 21

You are not one to walk away from a challenge, Gemini. This week you may be confronted with a challenging obstacle. Devote all of your attention to the task at hand.

### CANCER – June 22/July 22

Something will bring a smile to your face early in the week, Cancer. There is pretty much nothing that will wipe this smile off of your face.

### LEO – July 23/Aug 23

Leo, try not to push yourself too much this week. Maintain a low profile and go through with your normal routine; otherwise, you might ruffle the wrong feathers.

### VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22



### AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

You may be ready for something or someone new, Aquarius. Right now is a good time to connect with a new passion that can bring you even more success than you had imagined.

### PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

Try to focus your energies in a positive way, Pisces. You can accomplish what you set your mind to with the right attitude and perseverance.

### FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS JANUARY 20

Gary Barlow, Singer (48)  
JANUARY 21

Geena Davis, Actress (63)  
JANUARY 22

Guy Fieri, Chef (51)  
JANUARY 23

Mariska Hargitay, Actress (55)  
JANUARY 24

Kenya Moore, Actress (48)  
JANUARY 25

Alicia Keys, Singer (38)  
JANUARY 26

Eddie Van Halen, Guitarist (64)

# Light-hearted competition makes for an enchanted Christmas lights display

Holly **Smith**

SHIGAWAKE / PORT DANIEL: - Every Christmas, Gaspesians take pride in decorating their homes for the holidays. For many families, it is tradition to go for a drive to check out all the beautiful Christmas light displays.

Did you know that both the towns of Shigawake and Port Daniel have a Christmas lights competition? One of the most extensive displays could be seen along the Second Range in Shigawake and Route Benwell in Port Daniel West, just a short two-minute drive from Route 132. It is evident by the extravagant light displays that the residents place lots of time and effort into the Christmas displays.

When Spec asked several participants why they had decorated to this extent, the unanimous response was “because we love doing it!” “Ever since we can remember, Mom used to go all out, both inside and outside,” says Nikki Hottot, as Betty Ann Hottot adds, “We al-

ways said we wanted our houses to be decorated just like Mom did. It takes a while to gather the décor but now it’s a tradition passed on from grandparents to parents and to their children.”

“We’re all family: uncles, aunts, sisters, grandmothers and cousins,” says Nikki Hottot, however, when asked if it was a family competition everyone clearly replied “no.” Cheryl Benwell clarifies, “I love to decorate and I love to see the Second lit up! We don’t decorate to win. We do it because we love it.”

The 2018 winners for Port Daniel are: first place: Janet Wylie (\$100), second place: Nikki Hottot (\$75), and third place: Daniel Desbois (\$50).

The 2018 winners for Shigawake are: first place: Mary-Jeanne Benwell (\$100), second place: Julie Aubut (\$50), and third place: George Huard (\$25).

So for all of you who enjoy Christmas lights, don’t forget to check out this amazing display next Christmas.



*The home of Mary-Jeanne Benwell of Shigawake.*



*The home of Janet Wylie of Port Daniel West.*

## A new vocation for St. Andrews

Wendy **Dawson**

CASCAPEDIA: - It is 7 p.m. on a dark winter’s night and the old United Church in Cascapedia is brightly lit. Inside, Caitlin Barter has set up an informal “meet and greet,” having launched an open invitation to the community a couple of days prior for those curious about her future intentions for the building’s use.

“It definitely wasn’t part of the five-year plan to buy a house and it certainly wasn’t part of the five-year plan to buy a church,” explains Caitlin.

When asked how she ended up buying a place of worship, Caitlin explains that having known that the church had recently been decommissioned, her interest was simply in buying the pew regularly used by her grandfather and grandmother, long standing members of St. Andrews. The line that she regularly uses to explain how everything transpired is “I went in for a pew and I came out with a church.” After getting home with the pew and storing it in her parents’ barn, Caitlin decided to write a letter to the Board of Trustees, charged with the sale and future vocation of St. Andrews.

A self-admitted nostalgic,



*St. Andrews United Church, Cascapedia.*

Photo courtesy of Caitlin Barter

Caitlin felt deep ties to the building that sits in the heart of her community. “The letter included my interest in purchasing the church, explaining why I wanted it, what I wanted to do with it, what my history with the church was and my ties to the church and put all my cards on the table. I also made an offer at the time. I had a number in my head and knew what I could handle and I laid it out there. The idea of getting the church became very exciting, but I told myself if its meant to be, it’s meant to be.”

So began the process of offi-

cially buying the church. After accepting her offer and being assured that the church’s new vocation would not, for instance, see it painted bright yellow, the process began and took several months to be finalized.

In the past 15 years, more than 500 places of worship have been decommissioned in the province of Quebec. In many instances, churches are taken over by municipalities and non-profit organizations, but rarely by private owners. Mr. Denis Boucher, a project manager with the *Conseil du patrimoine religieux du Quebec*, explains that

the idea of preserving churches has changed. “Today, we speak a lot more about finding new uses for churches so that the buildings find a useful life in society and continue to convey their historical significance.”

On this Friday night, Caitlin is showing the curious around, explaining her plans, identifying the location of future walls and kitchens and bathrooms. “I will likely make a living space in the basement, and likely a commercial space for Topsy Canoe as well. How it all plays out depends on what my future looks like and if I will have a family

that will live here.” For the next few months, renovations are the focus and as is the case with many of Caitlin’s projects, it is certain to be a family affair. “I’m lucky that dad (Joe Barter) is able to do so much.” It will be a few busy months for Joe, as Caitlin hopes to move into her new home in the spring.

On the wainscoting that surrounds the main room, sun bleached outlines of the old pews remain. Caitlin Barter will build her future surrounded by the rich memories of her past.