

TOWN OF NEW RICHMOND: Cautious budget is presented

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND: – On December 17, the Town of New Richmond presented a cautious budget, expenses only increased by \$32,903, going from \$9,482,229 to \$9,516,132. That is only one-third of 1%. However, after being frozen in 2018, taxes for an average house will increase by 0.93%.

The garbage tax has increased by a mere 1.42%, which is the equivalent of approximately \$3 per house.

The total tax increase in 2019 will on average increase by \$21.53 per dwelling with a value of \$150,223.

“The increase is a tad below 1%, while the inflation rate in Canada stood at 2.4% in 2018,” remarked Mayor Éric Dubé during the budget presentation.

Mr. Dubé indicated that important decisions will be made in the coming or the following year, which might have influenced that cautious budget.



Photo: G. Gagné

New Richmond Mayor Éric Dubé presented a cautious budget on December 17.

“We will have to decide what we will do with our arena, among other things,” he emphasized that a refurbishment project that could cost between \$6 million and \$7 million. “For the moment, we can only spec-

ulate about what will happen. There is no program to fund such projects and we can’t go without major support,” he says.

The federal election in the coming year will probably lead

to the creation of a program supporting arenas in need of modernization, since dozens of such buildings in Quebec and elsewhere in Canada require major upgrading, stated Mr. Dubé.

The budgetary envelope earmarked for sports and leisure will decrease by \$407 to \$679,065. That number includes \$186,586 for the arena and \$108,116 for the swimming pool. The latter amount includes revenues of \$65,500 coming from an agreement reached with neighbouring communities.

The concert hall budget will fall to \$709,538, an \$11,848 cut compared to 2018. The operating grant coming from the town administration to operate it in 2019 will be \$174,036.

“The expenses are rising and the grants (from the Quebec government) are declining. We have a puzzle here. The revenues decreased by \$54,000 last year, to \$500,502. We are

presenting a lower number of shows. One positive aspect is that Caisses Desjardins is giving \$25,000,” explained Éric Dubé.

The debt service will increase by \$101,203, to \$3,870,718. That amount includes \$540,003 in interest fees and capital reimbursement totalling \$3,217,270. The balance consists of paying temporary financial fees linked to municipal activities.

“We have invested in some projects over the last 18 months but we knew that some loans will be paid back in 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021,” pointed out Mayor Dubé.

A large chunk of New Richmond’s debt service, \$2,249,196, comes from the Quebec government for projects admissible to such support.

Meanwhile, some good news was also presented by Mayor Dubé on December 17.

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TOWN OF GASPÉ: Taxes increase, on average by \$65 per house

Geneviève Gélinas

GASPÉ: – Owners of an average sized home in Gaspé will pay an additional \$65 on their tax bill in 2019, bringing the average tax bill to \$1,984. This represents a 3.4% increase, a hike that is partly due to the steep increase of some budgetary items such as the snow removal contract and debt payments.

The Gaspé municipal council adopted a \$26.4 million budget on December 17. In order to balance it, the council had to take more money out of taxpayers’ pockets and reduce some expenses.

Mayor Daniel Côté, who was adopting his sixth budget, states that the 2019 budget was the most difficult he’s had to prepare. It was even more difficult than in 2014 and 2015, when the Quebec government cut its transfer pay-



Photo: G. Gélinas

We had already squeezed the lemon and it was empty! We have many unexpected expenses, some contracts that will be much more expensive explains Gaspé mayor, Daniel Côté.

ments to municipalities, he adds.

This year, “we had already squeezed the lemon and it was

empty! We have many unexpected expenses, some contracts which will be much more expensive,” he specifies.

Mr. Côté refers to snow removal, an expense that is going to increase by \$363,000 in 2019, a 43.6% difference due to harsher winters.

The Town of Gaspé will make larger debt payments in 2019, a 12.4% increase amounting to \$524,000. It is attributable to the fact that Gaspé has achieved several projects over the last years.

“I don’t regret any investment we made, but we’ll be more prudent in the future,” states Daniel Côté. “Some projects may take longer or maybe that if we’re proposed new projects, we’ll refuse them,” he adds.

However, the mayor emphasizes that Gaspé will have no choice but to bring its drinking water and sewage systems up to standards where it hasn’t already been done. Improvements to the Gaspé airport, an \$11.5 million proj-

ect whose funding is complete, is also moving forward.

Mayor Côté still wants to build a new arena in downtown Gaspé, a project that should be ready in 2021, one year later than first expected. The Quebec Transport Department hasn’t yet moved from the piece of land where the new arena will be built and the municipal team hasn’t progressed as fast as expected in preparing the project, Mr. Côté explains.

Gaspé also wants to move forward with the revitalization of Rivière-au-Renard’s downtown area and build a direct road between the Augustines Industrial Park and the Sandy Beach Port.

Gaspé didn’t get any equalization revenues from Quebec this year; it had obtained \$74,000 in 2018. The mayor is

Cont'd on page 8

McInnis Cement employees sign first collective agreement

Gilles Gagné

PORT DANIEL: – In December, the 60 unionized McInnis Cement employees signed their first collective agreement. The agreement is the result of five months of negotiations between their union representatives and the management of the Port Daniel cement plant.

The three-year agreement contains a 2.6% salary increase over the first year and two 3% hikes for the second and third years of the contract, which is retroactive to December 1, 2018.

The deal also includes the payment of a \$1,500 bonus upon signature, breaks in a convenient place in the facility, a place for meals that is determined in the agreement, an increase in the night shift premium wage rate and the creation of a wage rate premium for the workers assigned over weekends.

“The agreement allows for better supervision of the working relations and will improve some aspects of working conditions, like the breaks and the premiums,” explains Dany Maltais, union representative for the *Syndicat des Métallos*, the Quebec version of the United Steelworkers of America. The *Métallos* are affiliated with the Quebec Federation of Labour, often referred to as the FTQ.



Photo: G. Gagné

The McInnis Cement employees ratified their first collective agreement in high proportions, 83% for the plant manpower and 89% for the quarry labourers.

The collective agreement applies to the cement plant and the quarry workers, but not to the marine terminal and the maintenance staff, who are hired by subcontractors. 83% of plant workers approved the agreement while 89% of quarry workers voted for it.

McInnis Cement employs 153 people, with about half being company employees and the other half being subcontractors' employees.

Union representative Dany Maltais points out that negotiations will start at the end of January with two important subcontractors, Somavrac, which employs about 25 stevedores dealing with the unloading and loading operations at the marine

terminal, and close to 60 Aluma Systems workers, in charge of various maintenance responsibilities at the plant.

“We will see how it will go. McInnis Cement relies on subcontractors in an attempt

to reduce its salary costs. Normally, the employees of Somavrac and Aluma Systems should be part of McInnis Cement staff,” states Mr. Maltais.

A working relations committee has been established

and will meet monthly to discuss labour topics. “The workers wanted to participate in the company's decisions and have their view point known,” says Renaud Langlois, president of the 9602 union section, which represents the United Steelworkers of the Gaspé Peninsula.

McInnis Cement's spokesperson Maryse Tremblay notes that the company's executives are “extremely satisfied with the agreement and that it was approved, and (satisfied) with the negotiation process. There is an element of stability in a working agreement that is accepted by our employees.”

McInnis Cement started its production in June 2017. The *Caisse de dépôt et de placement du Québec*, the organization that manages Quebecers' pension fund, is the control shareholder of McInnis Cement.

Rail GD receives \$2.5 million loan from Investissement Québec

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND: – Investissement Québec, the financial arm of the Quebec government, is lending \$2.5 million to New Richmond's Rail GD to assist the Gaspesian firm (specializing in rolling material repairs) with its recent VIA Rail contract, a \$16.4 million agreement for the in-depth refurbishment of four dining cars.

The contract was announced on October 10 and will keep the New Richmond shop busy for two years. The president of Rail GD, Gilles Babin, points out that the loan comes after years of collaboration between his company and Investissement Québec.

“The money will be used for our cash flow, when we have big contracts. We have had a business relationship with Investissement Québec since 2012. They have often guaranteed some of our previous loans contracted with conventional banks, or parts of them,” points out Mr. Babin.

“This time around, the loan comes directly from Investissement Québec. Its management has decided to be more active in that loan market,” he adds.

He explains that a \$16.4 million contract requires a lot of cash flow considering the guarantees required by VIA

Rail and the suppliers of equipment working for Rail GD. “Some amounts are frozen until the delivery of the contract, so it takes a lot of wiggle room financially to proceed and that's where the Investissement Québec loan will be useful,” further explains Gilles Babin.

The VIA Rail contract mobilizes 23 Rail GD employees and the intervention of local suppliers adds six or seven additional people to that workforce, for a total of about 30.

“We are still submitting bids elsewhere for other contracts. There is demand for our services but we must first deliver the contracts we have been chosen for,” says Mr. Babin.

Rail GD's first contract goes back to the fall of 2010 when Gilles Babin still owned Gaspésie Diesel, a firm mainly specializing in repairing trucks and supplying truck parts.

That first contract was signed with VIA Rail and was carried out in the warehouse of Fabrication Delta, which has tracks going inside the building. At the end of 2011, Gilles Babin founded Rail GD and started the construction of the current shop, located in the south part of the New Richmond industrial park.

The first major contract started before the May 2012 opening of that shop and it was



Photo: G. Gagné

Rail GD owner Gilles Babin says that the Investissement Québec loan will be used to support the company's cash flow.

carried out for Rio Tinto, which uses a passenger train for its employees between Havre-Saint-Pierre and its iron-titanium mine.

Since 2012, Rail GD has refurbished the Rio Tinto passenger cars and carried out three other important VIA Rail contracts, excluding the current one. Moreover, the Amiral tourist train of the Gaspésie Railway Society was also refurbished in the New Richmond shop.

Some locomotives have also been repaired or repainted in that shop. The Gaspésie Railway Society woodchip cars were upgraded in New Richmond. The firm is also maintaining the cement cars used by McInnis Cement.

Production at McInnis Cement sidelined for seven weeks

Gilles Gagné

PORT DANIEL: – Significant damage to the kiln at McInnis Cement forced the management of the cement plant to interrupt production for a period of six to seven weeks, effective on December 21. A shutdown was already scheduled and the company spokesperson specifies that the kiln damage only adds an extra one or two weeks to that shutdown timeframe.

The problem occurred on the evening of December 20. Company spokesperson Maryse Tremblay would not confirm that the driving shaft feeding the kiln with crushed raw material overheated and was deformed in the process. Moreover, the metal structure around the shaft was apparently damaged by heat as well, another detail Ms. Tremblay refuses to confirm.

“We don't have to further comment on our maintenance shutdown. That shutdown will be lengthened by a week or two because of the damage... That's all. Six to seven weeks of shutdown, occurring earlier than scheduled,” points out Maryse Tremblay.

The cost of the shutdown remains unknown. “It adds one to two weeks to our already planned shutdown. The whole plant is not stopped; we are still crushing cement and we keep shipping it. We are just advancing what was already scheduled in order to repair the equipment simultaneously. The impact on our activities is limited, considering the moment of its occurrence, because it is our low season,” she adds.

Winter is by and large the season where cement consumption reaches a low, compared to the other seasons.

\$16.6 million in investments for three Gaspesian airports

Geneviève Gélinas

GASPÉ: – Three airports located on the Gaspé Peninsula will lengthen or improve their runway with grants totalling \$16.6 million provided by the Quebec Government. Premier François Legault made the announcement while in Gaspé, on December 17, his first visit to the region since August 8, 2017.

The Percé Rock MRC will receive \$8.33 million to rebuild and lengthen its Grand River airport runway from 4,000 feet (1,219 metres) to 5,000 feet (1,524 metres). This work will secure the landing of ambulance aircrafts, explains the Percé Rock prefect, Nadia Minassian.

The new runway will be “interesting for developing charter flights and winter tourism,” she adds.

The owner of the Gaspé airport, the Town of Gaspé, will also rebuild and lengthen its runway from 4,500 feet (1,372 meters) to 5,500 feet (1,676 meters). The municipal administration will bring into service new approach instruments.

The airport will benefit from a \$3.58 million grant from Quebec, in a total project of \$11.5 million that also received significant funding from the federal government. With this assistance, Gaspé hopes to attract larger aircrafts and become eventual competitors to Air Canada.

The Sainte-Anne-des-Monts airport will receive a new and larger runway, thanks to a \$4.7 million grant which will also be invested in better approach instruments and aids to navigation. The runway will be certified for Quebec government ambulance aircrafts. The Sainte-Anne-des-Monts airport will also be better positioned to develop a business clientele.

Quebec also announced a \$5.06 million aid for the Matane airport, in the Lower St. Lawrence. This amount will allow the town to rebuild its runway and a new air terminal.

If one includes the Matane grant, the total amount announced equals \$21.7 million. In fact, the peninsula obtains more than 20% of the money allotted to the Program for improving regional airport infrastructures, a \$100 million envelope created by the former Liberal Party government.



Photo: G. Gélinas

François Legault made a speech in front of the Gaspé Chamber of Commerce on December 17. He hadn't visited the Gaspé during the electoral campaign. His last visit was in August 2017.

That amount should last until 2022.

The Gaspesian airports “needed love,” said the Transport Minister, François Bonnardel, who also was in Gaspé on December 17.

The Quebec Municipalities Union estimates by 2022, \$400 million will be needed to improve the infrastructure needs of the 40 regional airports in the province.

François Legault promised to get involved in the issue of high price airfare tickets if Air Canada doesn't offer reasonable prices. “They have a monopoly position. It comes with obligations,” he stated in a speech he made in front of the Gaspé Chamber of Commerce.

The premier also reported that he asked Quebec Tourism minister Caroline Proulx to prepare packages for “tourists to spend one or two weeks in Quebec, including the Gaspé Coast. Currently, they include one day in Montreal, one day in Quebec City, and then go to Niagara Falls and to New York.”

“The last time”

“Even if the Gaspé didn't vote for the CAQ (Coalition Avenir Québec), we're going to be your government. We'll make sure that it's the last time you don't vote for us!” said Mr. Legault to the Gaspesian who attended the Chamber of Commerce event.

The CAQ has no Member of the National Assembly (MNA) east of the Rivière-du-Loup-Témiscouata riding. Parti québécois MNAs represent the Gaspé and eastern

Lower St. Lawrence ridings.

Mr. Legault promised that over the next four years he will work towards achieving full employment for the Gaspé - not just a 14% unemployment rate. He counts on the “new Investissement Québec,” a transformation of this public investment organization, to contribute to that improvement.

On his own initiative, the premier talked about two positions he adopted years ago, two positions that prevented many Gaspesian from voting for the CAQ, that is to say his stance on the Port-Daniel cement plant and the wind farms.

With \$400 million of public money invested in McInnis Ciment, much more than 200 jobs could have been created, Mr. Legault declared in substance. “Now, it is built, there is no discussion of stepping back. We're going to support the cement plant and its projects,” he added.

In fact, Investissement Québec injected \$350 million in loans and in equity participation in Ciment McInnis. The *Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec* participated in equity for \$265 million. The total project cost \$1.5 billion and 153 people work for the cement plant or its main subcontractors.

As for the wind energy sector, Mr. Legault doesn't want Hydro-Québec to order new wind farms as long as there are energy surpluses, he reiterated. When the surplus will be sold, “I want to be able to develop new wind projects,” a kind of energy “that is less expensive than other kinds,” he added.

Police report

Gerry Gould, 32, from Gesgapegiag, is charged with theft of a police car following a December 31 incident which occurred in his community. Gould was apprehended by Sûreté du Québec police officers approximately half-an-hour later on Route 299.

“We received a call at our New Richmond station requesting our assistance at 1:38 p.m. following a car theft perpetrated in Gesgapegiag. The Gesgapegiag police officers were conducting an intervention in the community when their car was stolen. About 15 minutes later, the car was located on Route 299, going south and being driven erratically. There was a head on collision at low speed between that car and the SQ vehicle. The Gesgapegiag police car then got stuck in the snow and the driver was arrested,” explains Sgt. Claude Doiron, spokesperson for the Sûreté du Québec.

Nobody was injured following the head on collision, he adds. “The man was questioned and remained in custody. He appeared in court on January 2 at the New Carlisle courthouse,” says Sgt. Doiron.

Gerry Gould was charged with the theft of a police car, with having resisted to a peace officer in the execution of his duty and the theft of a case of beer at the Café du Village convenience store in Cascapédia-Saint-Jules. He will reappear in court on January 8 and could face other charges.

Six men and one woman were arrested on December 19 between Pointe-à-la-Croix and New Carlisle as part of a substantial drug bust conducted by the Sûreté du Québec major crime and organized crime units. The operation was conducted in six houses.

The seven people arrested are: Patrick Walters of New Carlisle, Mario Labrecque of Bonaventure, Mario Poirier of Caplan, Éloi Bernard and Pierrette Leblanc of Maria, Gilles Chiasson of Escuminac and Rémi Fournier of Pointe-à-la-Croix.

They all appeared the same day at the New Carlisle courthouse to face various charges of drug trafficking and drug possession for the purpose of trafficking. The bust was carried to shut down activities by a number of drug distributors in the Bay of Chaleurs area.

A significant quantity of drugs were seized during the operation including 22,000 methamphetamine pills, slightly more than one kilogram of cocaine, close to 1.7 kilogram of hashish and ten kilograms of marijuana were found by the police. Various tools used in drug trafficking were also seized. The seven people will soon be returning to court.



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Commentary

Gilles Gagné

2019 will be a year of challenges

Every new year includes its challenges but somehow, 2019 already looks like a year full of hurdles, battles and potential crises; first for Canadians, no matter where they live in the country, then, for Quebecers and Gaspésians.

Firstly, in October Canadians will vote in an election that will likely show that the country is probably more divided than its ever been in the last 30 years, possibly since the free trade debate under the Progressive Conservative regime of Brian Mulroney.

The Atlantic provinces are tired of being neglected. Ontario is led by a loose cannon, Doug Ford, who does not seem to know where to go with the country's most populated province. The Prairies, primarily Alberta and Saskatchewan, don't understand why the oil industry is not supported more. At the same time, the population of British Columbia, run by a minority government, seems well divided between the necessity of opting for environmental solutions while the other half roots for aiding polluting industries such as oil and gas exploitation.

What kind of political map will those conflictual interests draw? Justin Trudeau's Liberal Party will lose a lot of seats in Western Canada despite his government decisions to acquire a pipeline for \$4.6 billion and allot a \$1.6 billion envelope to the oil industry. He will likely lose some of the 32 seats his party won in Atlantic Canada in 2015 but might regain them in Quebec where the New Democratic Party is crashing.

Conservative Party leader Andrew Sheer is far from flamboyant, but his predecessor, Stephen Harper, was not flashy either. However, Mr. Harper was able to strike deals with other conservative movements before his 2006 electoral victory, whilst Mr. Sheer has to deal with a new party, the People's Party of Canada, founded by Maxime Bernier.

That party presents a deep right wing program that will prevent the Conservative Party from winning

many seats. It will in all likelihood facilitate Justin Trudeau's re-election but the second term might be way tougher than the first one. There will be no honeymoon this time around with the electorate.

The country is and will remain divided for years over the place the environment and the oil industry take in the society. Petroleum products do bring in some money, but not as much as they used to and their downfall will prevail, no matter how much financial resources we put into them. At one point, the banks and the insurance companies will stop funding and insuring hydrocarbon-driven ventures because the health and environmental damage is too high.

Canada will also have to deal with a dollar that has been quite unstable over the past months, which could spell the beginning of a higher interest rate policy to settle things down, no pun intended.

Canada must also deal with commercial conflicts with China and the United States. The Trudeau government's ability to deal soundly in that context could have a major influence in Justin Trudeau's capacity to get re-elected.

In Quebec, François Legault starts a first term with an apparently enviable budgetary situation. However, the surpluses of the last two years hide two decades of neglect in public infrastructure investment. Drawing a plan to cope with that problem will be one of the Coalition Avenir Québec government's main challenges.

However, the biggest challenge of that government will be to solve the manpower shortage, especially considering that Mr. Legault committed to lowering the number of immigrants coming to Quebec, a situation he doesn't even fully control due to dual jurisdiction assumed by the federal and provincial governments. The premier should choose to admit his mistake here.

The main challenges of the Gaspé Peninsula will involve finding ways to recruit newcomers and bring back of young people once their studies are complete. Coping with a labour shortage will also be a challenge. A number of regional firms have suspended investment projects or talks to get new contracts because they cannot find the workers to get the work done.

Talks to prevent the federal government from being a nuisance in commercial fisheries are already started, in an attempt to avoid the mess created by Fisheries and Oceans Canada's poor management of the right whale situation during the last two years.

The electoral context might be of some help here.

Meanwhile, the region's leaders will have to put pressure on the CAQ government in order to accelerate the repairs being made on the Matapédia to Gaspé railway, especially from Cascapédia-St. Jules towards the east. The slowness showed by Philippe Couillard's government over the last four-and-a-half years was instrumental in the Liberal Party's inability to win two seats in the region.

New SPEC journalist in the Gaspé area

The SPEC staff and board of directors would like to thank Geneviève Gélinas for her contribution to the paper as a stringer since 2004. While staying in the Gaspé area, Geneviève has decided to tackle new objectives in manpower training and is therefore leaving journalism.

Since moving to the Gaspé Peninsula 16 years ago, she has showed constant professionalism at work, developing a knack for in-depth coverage, using patience, perseverance and talent to dig useful details. She wrote her articles in French during her first years with SPEC and later was able to switch to English, showing dedication and perseverance. We wish her the best of luck in her new endeavours.

Seasoned journalist, Nelson Sergerie, will now write articles for SPEC from Gaspé. Nelson works for the CHNC radio station and has been living in Gaspé for many years. He knows the main stakes of the area. His email address is nelsonsergerie@hotmail.com. His cellphone number is 514-918-0175. Nelson is not fluently bilingual but is eager to take on this new challenge.

Don't miss a single event

Check the Coast Round-up Page of The Gaspé Spec!

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Another busy year for the Complaint Assistance Centre

Thierry Haroun

GASPÉ PENINSULA: - 2018 was another busy year for the Gaspé Peninsula Magdalen Islands Complaint Assistance and Support Centre (CAAP-GÎM). The organization assists individuals who are dissatisfied with services within the Health and Social Services sector or who have difficulties obtaining services.

The CAAP-GÎM is a non-profit organization and is composed of professionals who provide services throughout the region. This community organization is mandated by the Minister of Health and Social Services to assist and to support, upon request, individuals who wish to file a complaint concerning services received. It is funded by the Minister of Health and Social Services and produces an annual report of its activities.

Its latest report, obtained by Spec, shows that in 2018, the CAAP served 775 people



Photo: CAAP

CAAP-GÎM Executive Director, Nathalie Adams.

through its multiple services. 65% of the clientele were women. Of those 775 people served, 273 files were related to counseling and support, 107 complaints were related to services provided by a health establishment and 28 complaints were related to a

medical act. "Complaints related to an establishment could concern a hospital, CHSLD, CLSC, Youth Centre, a Health Community Group or a Readaptation Center. It could concern a non-access to a service, for instance. As for a medical complaint, that could be related to a lack of access to a physician or the attitude of a

physician who displeased a patient," explains Nathalie Adams.

Overall, the numbers provided in the 2018 report shows an increase of 55% in services provided by the CAAP. Why? "Many things could explain that increase. The age of the population in our region or the fact that 45% of the people we served were seniors," mentions Nathalie Adams.

Feeling reprisal

Ms. Adams emphasized that any complaint remains confidential. "That's important to know. We know that some patients don't want to file a complaint because they fear a reprisal (from the establishment). Even, family members of a patient fear to file a complaint also fearing a reprisal. That still exists in our health system."

Why and how to file a complaint?

As to why and how to file a complaint, all the informa-

tion is available on the CAAP's website. For instance, this is what one can read on that site. "You can file a complaint if you are dissatisfied with the services, if you believe that you have been treated incorrectly or if an institution within the Health and Social Services network has violated your rights as a user. You can file your complaint with the Complaint Examination System in the Health and Social Services and be assisted by the person of your choice and by the experienced personnel at the CAAP-GÎM."

There are various reasons for filing a complaint, such as problems concerning accessibility and continuity of services. Delays, refusal of service, transportation, premature discharge, lack of follow-up, inappropriate guidance, inadequate services, instability of the personnel, lack of services or programs, linguistic accessibility, choice of a professional or institution and so forth. It should be noted that services are available in English.

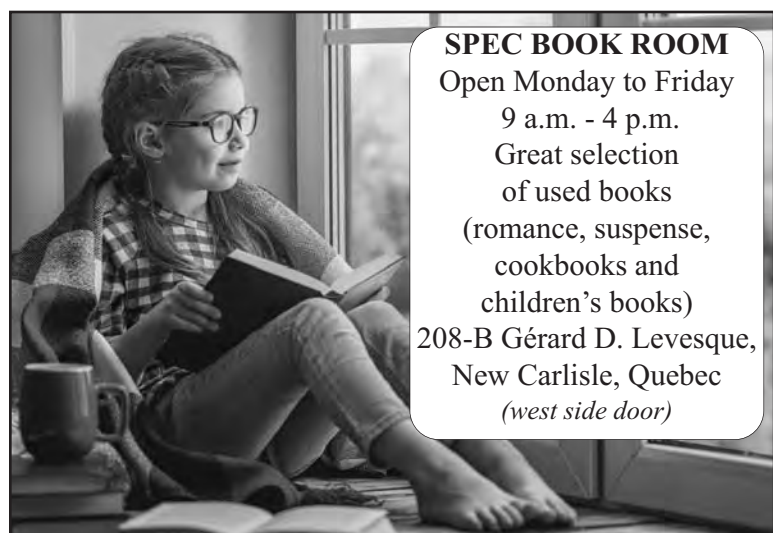
News brief

CALACS: now helping men

Thierry Haroun

GASPÉ PENINSULA: - Due to an increase in requests, the Gaspésie CALACS Sexual Assault Prevention and Help Centre has decided to expand its services to men, as was confirmed by its Executive Director, Annick Bouchard-Beaulieu. "It was a team decision and our professionals were dealing with a growing demand by men. When we looked at statistics, they show that one out of three woman will be faced with sexual violence during her lifetime and its one out of six for men. So, from now on, our services are also adapted to men," she said, adding that services are offered in English as well; "We do have anglophone clientele."

The Gaspésie CALACS is a community organization that provides help, support and accompaniment to victims of sexual assault who are 14 and older, as well as to their loved ones. CALACS offers direct help and support, prevention and awareness activities to the community, as well as advocates and participates in the fight against sexual violence. The services offered by CALACS are free and confidential. Individual support and follow-up meetings, preparation for medical and legal procedures, referrals, prevention and awareness workshops and seminars on deconstructing myths and prejudices surrounding sexual assault are some of the services offered.



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Edith's family was there to share in her special day. From left to right: Evelyn Dow, Claudia Major, Edith Carney, Minister Joshua Paetkau and Olive MacWhirter.

A great accomplishment!

HOPE TOWN: - On July 8, 2018 an award was presented to Edith Carney from the congregation of St. James Anglican Church for her 52 years of service as Minister's Warden and Treasurer's Warden. She also was very active in The Ladies Guild for several years where she served as president.



Alfred Matte with Mr. MacWhirter who served in Hong Kong.



Alfred Matte with Mr. Mullin who served throughout Europe.

WWII veterans receive recognition

Two WWII veterans from Branch 59, Royal Canadian Legion in Gaspé, were recognized for loyal and consecutive years of service. Mr. Harris Mullin and Mr. William MacWhirter were each presented with a Legion pin for their 65 and 70 years of service respectively. Mr. Mullin served throughout Europe and Mr. MacWhirter served in Hong Kong and was a prisoner of war. Thank you for defending our liberties.

Alfred Matte, President, Royal Canadian Legion, Branch #59

Lots of fun Christmas celebrations in Barachois

Patricia Ste-Croix Annett

BARACHOIS: - Christmas celebrations took place in Barachois at the Recreation Centre and the Rocher Percé Legion Branch 261 on December 15 and 16. The 2nd Annual Christmas Spirit Day and the arrival of Santa provided for a busy weekend for both children and adults.

At the Recreation Centre, the crowd joined in with the Christmas carol sing-a-long lead by Janet Harvey and Pam Rooney, followed by the students of Belle Anse School playing numbers on the xylophone. Everyone was invited inside to enjoy steaming hot chocolate, hot dogs, platters of sandwiches, fruits, vegetables and Christmas cookies. The children were entertained with crafts, games, draws and each child received a Colour Me Gaspé colouring book provided by CASA. The entertainment by DJ Steve and local musician, Vernon Annett, continued on well into the evening. Plans are already on the way for next year to include a Christmas Parade with this event.

At the Legion, over 40 children along with their parents waited anxiously for Santa to arrive. While waiting for Santa to arrive, they enjoyed hot dogs, juice, lots of cupcakes and goodies.

Santa arrived with a sleigh load full of gifts, one for each child. The happy and excited children in turn received their gift and took a picture with Santa. The beautiful gifts were provided by the Legion and were hand selected to match the age and gender of each child.



Hannah Ste Croix receiving her gift from Santa

SOS Bats partners with the Percé Geoparc

Toll free line – 1-833-877-2287

Jeanie LeLacheur

GASPÉ PENINSULA: - A third round of funding from Environment Canada's Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk program is permitting SOS Bats to make significant progress in the conservation of bats, which is a species at risk in the region.

The newest tool, a toll free number (1-833-877-2287), will help gather information during the White Nose Surveillance period from November to May. During this period, bats sometimes leave their winter quarters in search of food and as a result starve to death.

The phone line is available for the general public to use if they have any questions about bats, but more importantly it is a means for the region to report bat sightings and to request a bat pick-up, where the bat will be transported to a refuge for evaluation and/or rehabilitation before eventually being released.

Dr. André Banville, long-time veterinarian for the Gaspé region, has agreed to assist with the SOS Bats project, which is in the process of obtaining the necessary permits for possession and transportation of species at risk wildlife.



Tim Adams, animator from the MicMac Nation of Gespeg

The reasoning behind the new toll free number and pick-up service is to help with the little to no information currently available about bats during the winter. Contact Environment is hopeful that like in other areas of the province, calling in when bats have been spotted will become the norm. This would permit authorities to collect information from a data deficient area. The information could then be used to contribute towards recovery strategies and towards developing actions and management plans that would increase the possibility of saving the struggling species from potential extinction.

SOS Bats has also partnered with the Global Unesco Geoparc in Percé to install bat detectors and temperature loggers at *Trou sans Fond* and within the *Grotte de Saint Elzear*.

Bat Stories, the Christmas activity organized with the Percé Geoparc in conjunction with the Percé Polar Ice Dip on December 15, saw guide Tim Adams from the Interpretation Site animate the *Creation Story* and *How Bat Saved the Sun* to a captive audience. Gespeg's species at risk technician, Melanie Jean, provided arts and crafts, activities and presented a symbolic adoption bat and certificate to the Geoparc on behalf of SOS Bats.

The Canadian Wildlife Federation provided an array of federation gifts including calendars, magazines, bat posters and of course, the symbolic bat adoption kit. Participants also had an opportunity to see the Anabat Express acoustic monitors in action and meet a real though "not live" bat and were able to get to know bats a little better.

As the organization enters into a brand new year, it would like to express grati-



Photo: Tim Adams

Presentation of the symbolic adoption of a Little Brown Bat to the Percé Geoparc by SOS Bats. Jeanie LeLacheur coordinator - SOS Bats, Marie Claude Costisella - Geoparc de Percé and Melanie Jean - Gespeg's species at risk technician SOS Bats.

tude for all the continued support and interest in the species at risk activities of

SOS Bats. Please check the facebook pages of Contact Environment and SOS Bats

for further information about upcoming plans and activities.

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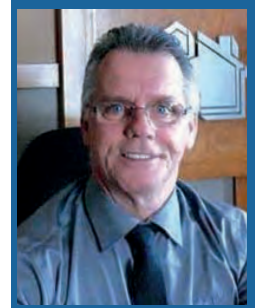
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Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



Staying warm: From the inside

Winter weather is truly upon us. Snow, wind, ice and more wind – that's typical Gaspesian weather for January. It's paramount to stay warm and cozy, whether you heat by using electricity or wood. It is important to dress for the weather, of course and even invincible teens who often do not bother to zip up their jackets, are bracing themselves for the cold days ahead.

When we sit down for winter meals, we eat a little differently in the coldest months. Many people make delicious and hearty soups in the winter. A perfect winter meal is a home-made soup and fresh bread. It warms your insides. Many Gaspesians enjoy a home-made split pea soup. Our ancestors made large pots of this relatively inexpensive to make soup, using ingredients they had in their pantry or cellar. Like home-made porridge, it could feed a lot of people with a filling and nourishing warm bowl of food. Home-made split pea soup just might be the perfect cold weather meal.

Split Pea Soup – Gaspé Style

- 2 1/2 cups split peas
- 2 medium carrots, finely chopped
- 2 medium celery stalks, finely chopped
- 1 large onion, finely chopped
- 3 tbsp. butter
- 8 cups chicken or vegetable broth (or water)
- 1 small smoked pork hock or ham bone with meat on it
- 1 bay leaf
- Salt and lots of pepper

- Split peas, do not need to be soaked. (If using whole peas, place them in a large bowl, and cover them with 3 inches of water. Soak the peas for at least 8 hours or overnight. Drain and rinse; set aside.)
- In a large pot or Dutch oven over medium heat, cook the onions in the butter about 5 minutes. Add the carrots and celery and cook, stirring occasionally until all the vegetables have softened, about 5 minutes. Stir in the broth, ham bone or pork hock, drained peas, and 1 bay leaf. Bring to a boil.
- Reduce the heat, partially cover the pot and simmer, stirring every 15 to 20 minutes, until the peas are completely soft and tender. This should take about 2 to 3 hours. The soup should be quite thick.
- The pork hock or ham bone can be removed and the meat around it chopped and put back in the soup pot. Season to taste, with salt and lots of pepper and stir well. Serve hot, with fresh warm bread.

On a dark and stormy evening there is no soup that can rival home-made split pea soup. Warm, filling and nourishing, just like our ancestors enjoyed many years ago.

\$12.8 million for Quebec fisheries

Geneviève Gélinas

GRIFFON COVE: – The Quebec government is adding \$12.8M to the \$30M Fisheries development fund that was announced by the federal government in November. Fishermen, processing plants and fish farmers will benefit from a total of \$42.8 million over the next five years.

In March 2017, Ottawa had announced a \$325M fund for the fisheries in the Maritimes. Since then, Philippe Couillard's Liberal government as well as François Legault's CAQ government have asked for a similar program for Quebec that would be proportional to the weight of the fisheries industry in our province.

On November 21, they received a positive answer in federal Finance minister Bill Morneau's fall fiscal update which included the \$30M announcement.

The \$42.8M amount will be invested to make fisheries and processing plants more productive and competitive. For example, research projects can also be granted to help the industry better adapt to climate change.

The Quebec fisheries is ask-



Photo: G. Gélinas

Premier François Legault (left) visited the shrimp processing plant Crevette du Nord Atlantique in Griffon Cove, with federal minister of National Revenue and Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine Member of Parliament Diane LeBouthillier, Quebec Transport Minister François Bonnardel (behind Mr. Legault) and Quebec Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Minister André Lamontagne (right).

ing for aid to get equipped for the return of the redfish, a ground fish whose stock is increasing in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The Quebec Fisheries Fund can be used for that purpose, emphasized the Agriculture, Fisheries and Food minister, André Lamontagne.

Premier François Legault was also at the announcement at the Griffon Cove, Crevette du Nord Atlantique processing plant. He was asked about his level of concern for the fisheries industry, which provides 8,000

jobs in Quebec. He answered by drawing a parallel with his commitment to entrepreneurs. "It's time for fishermen and farmers to be considered as entrepreneurs, equal to business people in aeronautics," said François Legault.

The modalities for the sharing of the fund haven't been decided yet. A federal-provincial joint committee is working on that procedure, stated Minister Lamontagne: "Our objective is to have the program up and running on April 1."

GASPÉ:

Cont'd from cover

questioning the government's method of calculating. "I see towns like Shawinigan, which gets \$3.6 million. (...) I'm not going to complain but we have some questions."

The Town obtains less revenue from the community wind farms owned by the Gaspesian municipalities. Those revenues declined by \$61,000 this year, a 9.2% difference.

The reason for the decrease is that the wind farms' capital stock, therefore the revenue, is shared according to the tax value of each municipality, the mayor explains. The fact that Port-Daniel-Gascons now has the cement plant on its tax value assessment roll changed the sharing of revenue: Port-Daniel gets more and the other municipalities get less.

To balance its budget, Gaspé also cut two positions that were

vacant: manager of public works and urban planner.

In 2018, Gaspé residents had experienced a 1.5% tax increase.

More demand for apartments but no more construction

As the rental vacancy rate dipped as low as 1.2% in October 2018, the number of construction permits remained within the normal range. The Town delivered 46 permits in 2018, for a total value of \$27.5M. "We need new apartments. Newcomers first search for a rental accommodation and this market is saturated," says the Gaspé mayor.

We're working with promoters but it's taking longer than we would like. In downtown Gaspé there have been small constructions, but we need bigger ones. We need investors who have projects to materialize them," Mr. Côté says.

However, according to the mayor residential sales are going well. "There are lots of houses on the market. The residential real estate transactions have been bubbling over the last months. That's what the notaries tell us," concludes the mayor.

NEW RICHMOND:

Cont'd from cover

"I want to underline that year 2018 allowed us to create \$2,668,600 in additional municipal value following the issuance of construction permits within the limits of New Richmond, which brings our total municipal value to \$315,673,480. That wealth is necessary to maintain our service base and to even improve those services to our taxpayers: that is our source of motivation," said Mr. Dubé.

Wind farm revenues have increased by approximately \$15,000, to \$200,268.

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IN BUSINESS FOR 35 YEARS

This is who I am

In a recent e-mail exchange with friends about identity, I declare exactly who I am: 1) male; 2) Caucasian; 3) anglo-phone; 4) heterosexual; 5) humanist; and 6) Canadian. I say this resolutely; I've always been those things and always will be.

Then I type an asterisk next to Canadian.

Oh, I'm a proud Canadian all right. I joke that when I bleed, I bleed Atwood, Orr and Lightfoot. But I also realize, in my regular trips to visit my mother on the Gaspé coast, where I grew up, that at times I'm more anglo-Gaspesian than Canadian.

While in the Gaspé I bring with me childhood memory and connect still to the pale yellow-headed gannets hurtling into the Gulf of Saint Lawrence off Percé, to the abandoned copper mine in Murdochville, to the serpentine hills and curves along the Mine Road, the forested highway between Murdochville and the city of Gaspé. More, I relate to the people – the anglophones, in particular.

I find myself at the city of Gaspé's groovy *Café des Artistes* or at its Tim Hortons

turning to look in the direction of anglo-Gaspésians when I hear their unmistakable accents (that's my accent, too, though modified now after years living in Gatineau-Ottawa). After so much time away, my network, social activities and intellectual connections are in the national capital but I wonder who those voices that I hear at the Café or at Tims belong to, and how or whether we connect. I may not know them but as a visiting expat, this is my past and my culture for the moment.

In a way, my roots are more tangible while I'm in the Gaspé, my identity a stripped-down version of my twin Canadian self.

Not so long ago, a news pundit was asked whether U.S. president Donald Trump's alleged sexual affairs would affect his presidency, his popularity. The pundit said no, that his tribe would continue to follow him.

Tribalism is taken as pejorative – a biased loyalty and often unreasonable connection to one's primary cultural and social group. It lies somewhere between the incendiary fervour of ethnic nationalism

and the liberal values of civic nationalism.

There's a kind of tribalism that deserves scorn but not the kind that elicits an enduring recognition of attachment to home roots – to the memory connection, the ties to family, to cultural and geographic origin.

I hear friends and former colleagues talk with expatriated warmth about Antigonish, Trois-Rivières, Timmins, Saskatoon, and Vancouver, people who make their homes in the capital, yet have a bond still with their first-known places.

Is what I feel not fully tribalism, but merely a kind of birthplace regionalism that I and others go through when we visit "home"?

I get together with my mother and mutual friends, hers and mine, at the Café. We talk and laugh over breakfast and coffee. I ask the server to take a photo. She positions herself as best as possible to capture our small group. "*Sois sûr qu'il n'est pas dans la photo* (Make sure he is not in the picture.)" I joke as I point to one of my longtime buddies. A couple of patrons smile

at the obvious joke and, I imagine, know by the accented and anglo-Gaspesian French that I'm "local."

Some 25 years ago, my then girlfriend and I drive the Mine Road on a visit to the Gaspé. We take a short break from conversation as people do on long car trips. I'm behind the wheel and like those hurtling Percé gannets, I enjoy the moment at a good speed: big July sun; York Lake; steep

hills and curves – I shift gears; the smell of balsam fir trees; Corduroy Hill; steep hills and curves – I shift gears; York River... Beaver Dam... Horse-shoe Turn...

My girlfriend smiles and looks over at me. "This is really you, isn't it?"

This essay was originally published in the Montreal Gazette on June 25, 2018.



Photo: courtesy of Mel Simoneau

Mel Simoneau, is a former writer for Parks Canada, and is from Percé and Murdochville.

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Announcements...

Obituary



CRAIG: Robert James

MWO Robert J. Craig CD (Retired) passed away on November 28, 2018 and will be deeply missed by his family. Bob was born in New Carlisle, Quebec on January 23, 1930. He joined the militia in 1947 and in 1950, enlisted in the regular Canadian Forces. He was a member of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry and the Canadian Airborne Regiment during his

military career. Bob served in Korea (including the Battle of Kapyong), Germany, Africa, Great Britain, Cyprus (twice), and Quebec during the FLQ Crisis, as well as across Canada. Bob was a small arms instructor in several of his postings and completed over 500 parachute jumps. He was based out of Edmonton for most of his career. Bob retired in 1977 from the military and worked in the oil industry and security until retiring in the mid 1990s.

Bob was an athlete in his earlier years and was a Golden Gloves contender and a Judo champion. He ran, swam and cycled. He loved to travel and spent much time in Hawaii with his wife, Nadia, and family. He was an avid reader of military history, biographies, politics and religion.

Bob was a strong family man and took great pride in their accomplishments. He offered his family guidance and wisdom with a strong sense of humour. He is survived by Nadia, his wife of over 65 years; his children, Carol, Roberta (David) and Robert (Teresa); his grandchildren, Jim (Kristina), Aaron (Chris), Matthew (Frankie), Corey, MacKenzie (Aidyn), and Ceara; and his great-grandchildren, Brooke, Kaiya and Esmé.

A celebration of Robert's life will be held at 1 p.m. on January 21, 2019 at Steele Heights Baptist Church, 5812 149 Avenue NW, Edmonton, AB. One of Bob's pleasures was good food – so please donate to your local food bank in lieu of flowers.

Thank You

The Committee of the Barachois Recreation Centre would like to express our heartfelt thanks to our volunteers, donors, supporters and community for your support over the past year. Through your generosity, the committee was able to offer many events, activities, purchase a projector and a 100-inch screen, kitchen appliances including a commercial hot dog machine. Also, we were able to equip and set up a Fitness Centre which will be open mid January.

Plans are underway for several initiatives which include more fun activities for children and families, karaoke nights, an arts and crafts club, along with plans for a Gathering Station in the event of a power outage or other situations which will cause the need for this intervention.

**Best Wishes and Happy New Year
to you from all of us.**

*Ola Tapp Lemieux, Mona Rehel,
Erica DeVouge, Helen Lucas Chicoine,
Winnie Francis Lemarquand, Robert Daniel,
Sherri-leigh DeVouge, Steve Methot,
Edith Vardon, Patricia Ste Croix Annett.*

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COAST ROUND-UP

DOUGLASTOWN:

General Meeting

January 22: The Holy Name Hall Committee of Douglastown will hold a General Meeting at 7 p.m. in the Douglastown Community Centre. The meeting is open to the public and we are encouraging citizens in 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.

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

The following events will be held at the Three Star Golden Age Club in Port Daniel.

January 26: Military Whist card game a 8 p.m.

February 15: Pot Luck Supper at 5 p.m.

February 23: Military Whist card game @ 8 p.m.

March 16: St. Patrick's Dinner

March 18: Annual Meeting at 1:30 p.m.

March 23: Military Whist @ 8 p.m.

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.

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:

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.

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 11 and 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.

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:

Book Room

Please be advised that the book room is now open.

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

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 13
10:30 a.m. Hope Town

ANGLIGAN CHURCH OF CANADA

Sunday, January 13
New Carlisle

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Port Daniel

11 a.m. Holy Eucharist

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This poem HOME, written by Kathleen Clark Schumann of Wakeham, Gaspé, Quebec, has been chosen (from many thousands of poems) by The Poetry Institute of Canada (National Library of Canada, Ottawa, ON) to be published in the Anthology Island Shores. This book will be a Hardbound Deluxe Volume of the best of today's poetry. It is scheduled to be published February, 2019.

I want to share this poem with all Gaspesians, but especially all of you, like me, who live away and still miss this place called 'HOME'.

HOME

Nestled among the mountains
Where rivers run free
There's a place that we call home
It means the world to me

Where the sky is the bluest of blues
And you can see the stars at night
And that big old full moon
Is just a beautiful sight

Foot paths in the fields
Worn bare from tiny feet
Running to see o-ur friends
Where together we would meet

Wood fires always burning
Toast made on the stove
For these smells I'm still yearning
These are the smells of home

Clothes blowing in the wind
It's the summer time
Gardens, hay making and fishing
And it's Berry Pickin' time

Our roots were so deeply planted
It's left an imprint on the soul
Of each and every Gaspesian
No matter how young or how old

How sweet are the memories
We have kept for us alone
Deep inside each and every heart
For this wonderful place we call 'HOME'

Written by: Kathleen Clark Schumann
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A look back to the past...



New Carlisle High School Grade 4, (1959-1960?)

Front Row: Sandra Beebe, Patty Gray, Charlene Hayes, Marjorie Buttler, Dawn Lynn Fraser, Reba Powers, Donna Lee Fraser, Diane Buttler, Sharon Doherty, Shirley Gallan, Maureen Renouf, Thelma Day, Marsha Ward.

Second Row: Mrs. Journeau, Leigh Manning, Ralph Sawyer, Elaine Caldwell, Christine Sinclair, Shirley Assels, Olive Carney?, Shirley Ross, Ernestine Astles. Don Munro, Lloyd Ward?, Sheldon Walker?

Back Row: Garth Gilker, Daryl Smith, George Billingsley, Bobby Huntington, Dean Tennier, ??, David Beebe, Keith Michelle, Kenneth Crozier, Dobby Marcoux, Barry LeGresley.

DIET PLAN WORD SEARCH

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

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

WORDS

AEROBICS
ANTIOXIDANTS
BODY
CAFFEINE
CALORIES
CASCARA
CATECHOLAMINE
CHOLESTEROL
COMPOSITION
DIETICIAN
DIURETIC
EPHEDRINE
FAT
GASTRIC
GLUTEN-FREE
KETO
LIVE-FOOD
LOW-CARBOHYDRATE
MACROBIOTICS
MACROS
MEDITERRANEAN
METABOLISM
NUTRIENTS
OBESITY
OMNIVEROUS
PLANT-BASED
PROTEIN
RAW
RESTRICTION
SUGARS
SUPPRESSANT
VEGAN
VEGETARIAN
WESTERN
ZONE

Guess Who?

I am a singer/actress born in New Hampshire on April 10, 1984. I have starred in many notable movies and even voiced a Disney princess. Today, I am seen on a hit NBC television family drama.

Answer: Mandy Moore



ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

Look forward to solid and passionate developments in the days to come, Aries. If you're seeking love, then sparks may soon fly. Be on the lookout.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, after some recent turbulence, rest easy knowing that calmer waters are ahead. Some tranquility and stability is just what the doctor ordered.

GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, expect some big changes in

your love life in the weeks to come. Count your blessings because you deserve all the good news that's coming your way.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22

Surprises are in store for Cancers who are willing to take some risks. If you resign from your job, you just may find a dream position shortly after — things can be that dramatic.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23

Some cosmic goodness is in store for you, Leo. Be excited about your prospects. This year can start out on the right foot, especially as it pertains to domestic matters.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, things in your domestic sector are bound to settle down in a few

days. If you planned improvements at home, you'll sail through those in no time with some help from friends.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, some pivotal changes may come into your life shortly. You may find out your family is increasing or learn that a career change is in the works. Start counting good fortune.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

A talent that you used to feel insecure about can be an avenue to earn a significant amount of money, Scorpio. Don't hesitate to monetize and share your gifts.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

While you have been in a stable relationship for some time now, both parties may be looking to shake things

up. It can go two ways: A breakup or newfound depth.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Venus, the ruler of your career sector, will point your professional efforts in the right direction, Capricorn. Your professional outlook might turn completely around.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

You may notice people in your social life are more friendly and accommodating lately, Aquarius. In fact, friends have always been there for you because they believe in you.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, if you've been waiting for seed money to start a venture, then your patience will pay off. Expect

some good news to come.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

JANUARY 6

Eddie Redmayne, Actor (37)

JANUARY 7

Jeremy Renner, Actor (48)

JANUARY 8

Carolina Herrera, Designer

(80)

JANUARY 9

Kate Middleton, Duchess (37)

JANUARY 10

Pat Benatar, Singer (66)

JANUARY 11

Cody Simpson, Singer (22)

JANUARY 12

Jeff Bezos, Entrepreneur (55)

2018

THE YEAR THAT WAS

The year 2018 is done. We cannot change what happened and we just need to look forward to a wonderful 2019. Looking to the past is not a pointless exercise, even though it's not the way we are going. We can learn from the past. We can try not to make the same mistakes. We can build upon what happened in 2018. Oh, yes. If something was definitely a blunder, miscalculation or big mistake, note to self: do not repeat!

- Diane Skinner

When you read the Gaspé Spec you are an informed Gaspesian. So, let's see how much of the year 2018 you recall whether positive or negative, that were reported in the pages of your favourite newspaper.

1. Who owns the cement plant in Port Daniel?
2. What caused the significant increase in rail traffic between New Richmond and Matapédia?
3. The sawmill in Saint-Elzéar was forced to slowdown operations early in 2018. Why?
4. Gaspé's LM Wind Power blade manufacturing plant is a major employer in our region. Approximately how many employees do they have?
5. VIA Rail awarded a significant contract early in 2018 to GD Rail in New Richmond. What was the work to be completed?
6. The English-speaking population living on the Gaspé Peninsula has declined over the past five years. In 2006 there were 9,240 anglophones and that dropped to 8,680 in 2016. However, what group grew in numbers over the same time period?
7. In 2018, two km of the Malbay salt marsh was purchased by the Nature Conservancy of Canada. Why?
8. An innovative new project was initiated to provide support to Gaspesian anglophones travelling to Quebec City for medical treatment. What support is being offered?
9. Caplan's community hall received a major "facelift" in 2018. What was the cost for these improvements?
10. Murdochville residents had to boil their water in October and were also encouraged to conserve water. Why?



The WINNER will be given a
SPEC GIFT SUBSCRIPTION

to share with the person of their choice.

DEADLINE: JANUARY 21, 2019

Please ensure your answers are printed neatly.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

NAME: _____

TEL. : _____

TEXT a copy of
your entry to:
418-752-0606

OR MAIL entry to:
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AN APPROACH THAT PAYS!

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