

50 Plus Games to be held in the Matapedia and Plateaux area

Gilles Gagné

MATAPEDIA: – The 50 Plus Games will be held in Matapedia and the Plateaux area between June 13 and June 16 this year. Up to 1,000 participants in 22 sports and leisure activities are expected to participate in the games, which also require the involvement of 250 volunteers.

The selection of that area for the games caps a collaboration between the five villages of Matapedia, Saint-André, Saint-Alexis, Saint-François and L'Ascension-de-Patapédia, explains Nicole Lagacé, mayor of Matapedia.

“We started discussions about the games last year. I was finding the issue quite important because staying active corresponds to my values. It was also evident that our little village of Matapedia couldn't



Photo: Courtesy of Audrey Bastien

The 50 Plus Games offer a wide variety of sport, leisure and cultural events.

organize the games alone. We needed the five villages, as they all have their specific strengths,” says Ms. Lagacé.

Avignon MRC prefect and Saint-Alexis mayor Guy Gallant is also glad to support the four-day event.

“The games

favour a healthy lifestyle and that is part of this area's habits. In fact, people aged 50 and over are our most active citizens here,” he says with a grin.

Games board member Jacques Rivière says the event is multifold. “We have sports, but also leisure and cultural activities. It implies volunteer team work in order to achieve one goal, organiz-

ing the games. The goals are to promote a healthy lifestyle and also break some people's isolation.”

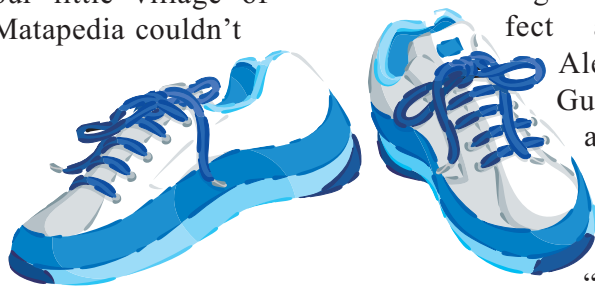
The registration period is open and will end on April 29. It is open to the residents of nine MRCs, namely Avignon, Bonaventure, Percé Rock, Côte-de-Gaspé, Haute Gaspésie, the Magdalen Islands, Matanie, Mitis and Matapedia. It is also open to

former Gaspésians living away, to the visitors of the area and to New Brunswickers.

One important aspect of the 50 Plus Games is funding, as the budget reached \$200,000. Although the organizing committee can count on a solid contingent of a dozen sponsors, some money will come from a ticket draw offering a chance to win a brand new Honda car.

“Last year, we sold 13,000 of the 14,000 tickets we had for sale. This year, we would like to sell 14,000 tickets. They are only \$6. Part of the sales, \$2 per ticket, is handed out to the region's Golden Age clubs. Last year, we gave \$24,000 to the clubs,” explains Jacques Rivière.

The coordinator of the games is Audrey Bastien. She works for *Unité régionale loisir et sport*, the organization in charge of the event. “It is important to underline that the games include a number of cultural activities. There are activities for everybody,” she says.



Gaspé mayor gets partial win regarding tourism consultation

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ: – After asking the Quebec government to hold a meeting in the Gaspé Peninsula as part of a province-wide round of consultations pertaining to tourism, the mayor of Gaspé, Daniel Côté, has obtained a partial victory.

The consultation's online calendar shows a stop in Matane on April 8 to consult with those in the Gaspé Peninsula and Lower Saint Lawrence regions in order to elaborate on the sector's economic growth strategy

for the years 2020 to 2025.

Considering the economic importance of tourism in the area, Daniel Côté had initially criticized the Quebec government's lack of respect because there was no meeting planned in the administrative region of the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands.

Matane is located in the Lower Saint Lawrence region, administratively speaking, but considered to be in the Gaspé Peninsula tourism region. After advocating his cause with Caroline Proulx, who is minister of Tourism, the situation evolved. Elected

officials and the stakeholders of the Gaspé Peninsula will have a private meeting with the minister in Matane.

“We will have a meeting directly with the minister without being paired with the Lower Saint Lawrence. For me, it is a satisfying compromise, given the circumstances,” indicates Mr. Côté.

It was too late to add a meeting date specifically for the Gaspé Peninsula. Minister Proulx is conscious of the differences between the two regions and is committed to coming to the Gaspé Peninsula over the summer.



Photo: N. Sergerie

Tourism has a \$366 million economic impact on the coast.

Discussing the regions

Thierry Haroun

GASPÉ PENINSULA: - As the Federal House of Commons recently returned to session, the *Conseil du patronat du Québec* (CPQ), a board that represents 70,000 businesses in the province of Quebec, sent a clear message to the Liberal government: make our economy more competitive.

In a January 27 press release Yves-Thomas Dorval, the CEO of the *Conseil du patronat*, said "The Federal government must demonstrate that it understands the challenges of today's businesses, in and outside the country, by implementing measures and incentives favouring a better competitive climate for our

businesses. In this electoral year, we must go from words to actions because there's so much to be done." (*The complete press release is available on the CPQ's website in French only.*) When Spec attempted to reach Mr. Dorval, he was in Europe, however, we were able to speak with the CPQ's Chief Economist, Norma Kozhaya, in order to obtain regional information in terms of economic development.

"It is clear that the development of the province goes hand and hand with the development of its regions and in respect with each region's reality, challenges and strength. It is clear that the regions have their own challenges, such as demography



Photo: CPQ

Norma Kozhaya

and workforce and when I say this, it concerns your region, the Gaspésie, where these issues are a reality," she said over the phone.

Ms. Kozhaya seemed well aware of the challenges in

terms of transportation in the Gaspé. "The best way to make sure that your economic development grows is to have adequate transportation infrastructures and a state-of-the-art web network and so forth in order to reduce distances and facilitate communications between work places."

Asked what she thought about Mexicans that work in the fishing processing plants on the Gaspé in order to compensate for the lack of a workforce in that industry during the high fishing season, Ms. Kozhaya, appeared to understand the situation. "Yes, of course, these temporary workers from other countries is a solution. It's even better if these workers can become permanent residents and

therefore stay in a region like the Gaspésie which would help the region in terms of demography and in the long-term these workers can attract other members of their families and thus build a community in your region."

Reducing premiums

Lastly, in order to encourage and financially support training in the workplace so that employees stay up-to-date with their trade, Ms. Kozhaya is asking the government to reduce the Employment Insurance Program Premiums. "In fact, we could reduce the premium paid by both employees and employers and invest that money in training programs."

GALT PROJECT: Gaspé has many questions

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ: - Gaspé is addressing a series of questions in a letter that the town sent to the Ministry of the Environment as part of the environmental assessment for the Galt project.

Cuda Oil and Gas announced at the beginning of the year its intentions to operate the site located in the forest on the unorganized territory of the Côte-de-Gaspé MRC, 20 kilometers west of Gaspé. The environmental assessment for that venture began on January 2.

The town council approved the document on February 4, although it was sent in advance in order to make the February 2 participation dead line.

"We want to be given the right time on all potential impacts, whether positive or negative and have the assurance that everything that can be done to minimize the risks associated with the implementation of such a sector is put in place," said Mayor Daniel Côté.

The elected officials in Gaspé want answers regarding the landscape, the protection of the York River, the impact on the salmon, the pro-



Photo: N. Sergerie

The town of Gaspé is asking questions about the Galt project that Cuda plans to exploit.

tection of the Bay of Gaspé, the modes of transport and storage of the extracted oil and the water and air quality.

"We are asking questions because we want it to be studied as part of the environmental impact study," states Mr. Côté.

The elected official hope that a BAPE (*Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement*) on the project will be held in Gaspé. "The elements need to be studied in greater depth. I can get verbal responses from the developer, but what guarantees do I get

that he has done his research thoroughly?" The process for a BAPE usually includes a round of public meetings during which people can ask questions and are supposed to get answers.

In an email, the Ministry of the Environment reports receiving "several hundred comments," on the consultation. Cuda Oil and Gas will receive the document on February 22. Comments will then be posted on the Environmental Assessment Registry soon after that date, the ministry says.

News briefs

Fighting for your rights

Thierry Haroun

GASPÉ PENINSULA: - *Droits et Recours en santé mentale Gaspésie-les-îles* (Mental Health Rights and Appeals) is ready to organize get-togethers in the region. The get-togethers would aim at taking stock of people's challenges, issues and other problems with health establishments. "We invite people who are faced with mental problems and who have had challenges with the health sector to talk and exchange during those gatherings. We, as an organization, can tell them how we can get involved, support and accompany them in their appeal or other complaints. We offer our services in English also," states Annick Lepage, executive director of *Droits et Recours*, located in Caplan. "We are ready to go wherever people want to meet. It could be in Chandler or Gaspé, for example. Those who are interested are invited to call us at 1- 800-463-6192," she added. For further information on the organization's services please refer to their website at droitsetrecours.org.

Chief Manon Jeannotte resigns

Gilles Gagné

GESPEG: - Chief Manon Jeannotte, who has lead the Mi'gmaq community of Gespeg for the last three-and-a-half years, has announced on her professional facebook page that she is resigning for personal and family-related reasons. It was posted on February 7 and Ms. Jeannotte has not given interviews since. She had been elected to head the 20th band council in 2015. She has not provided any additional explanation regarding her post. She mentions that her term was gratifying for her professionally and personally. She praises the collaboration and the open mind of several other leaders, non-Natives and Natives, including the mayor of Gaspé Daniel Côté, the mayor of Percé Cathy Poirier, the members of the Gespeg band administration staff, as well as the employees of the Mi'gmawei Mawiomi Secretariat and Mi'gmawei Mawiomi Business Corporation. She also expresses kind words for regional Chief Ghislain Picard of the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador.

THE GASPESPEC.COM

Attracting manpower

Ariane Aubert Bonn

GRAND RIVER: - The Percé Rock MRC will hold an employment day on April 25 in Grand River.

The arena will be packed with employers looking for manpower. The director of the Percé Rock Local Employment Centre, Caroline Marcoux, says that the needs are real. "By 2021, we will have to fill 10,600 jobs in the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands," she emphasizes.

Approximately one hundred exhibitors are expected from the Percé Rock MRC sector.



Jean-François Tapp (honourary president); Émilie Bourque-Bélanger, president of the Percé Rock Chamber of Commerce; Annie Tapp, of the Carrefour Jeunesse Emploi; Caroline Marcoux, director of the Percé Rock Local Employment Centre and Gino Cyr, mayor of Grand River.

Employees to recruit

The same reality prevails at the Percé Rock Chamber of Commerce, where president Émilie Bourque-Bélanger mentions the challenges faced by businesses looking for staff.

"Currently, many entrepreneurs are focused on finding employees instead of working on their own businesses. They

could be developing projects, but, no, they must first add members to their team. We are in a context where we have to recruit the workers, where the companies steal the employees from one another. Sometimes, without the necessary staff, the future of some companies, especially SMEs (small and medium-sized enterprises), can be compromised." The 2019

event will be chaired by Jean-François Tapp, co-owner of the Coin du Banc Base Camp. As an employer, he recognizes the importance of having an efficient team for the survival of companies, and that is why he has chosen to accept this honorary presidency. The activity will take place at the Desjardins Sports Centre in Grand River.

Concerted effort taking shape among elected officials

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ: - If development on the Gaspé Peninsula is to continue, the elected officials must work together in order to have more political clout with the governments of Quebec and Canada.

That is the message that the former Member of the National Assembly for Gaspé, now regional development counselor Gaétan Lelièvre, launched in front of the riding's Parti Québécois activists in Gaspé riding on February 1.

"Our challenge is first to mobilize, to consult and to prepare to present our strategic files to governments. We have a new government in Quebec and I think there is a nice window to re-submit our files," says Mr. Lelièvre. The consultation was undermined during the election of the provincial Liberal government in 2014. In 2015, Premier Philippe Couillard had put the axe to the CRÉ (Regional Conference of Elected Officials), including that of the Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine, in an attempt to achieve a balanced budget.

Examples of concerted effort

The Regional Conference

of Elected Officials for the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands (CRÉGÎM) permitted the region to develop its own development tools, many of which still exist today.

Working together has resulted in the development of regional tools including the intermunicipal transportation board that provides public transit and shuttle services between the various Orléans Express terminals; the intermunicipal energy board which operates wind farms with partners that pay hundreds of thousands of dollars in royalties each year to the municipalities; and the electronic communications network, a high-speed internet network that serves the Gaspé Peninsula.

"As work to be done, we must increase the number of economic players to support the current leaders. We must renew our defence level arsenal in the region and stand together to defend our stakes," said Mr. Lelièvre.

Putting the region on the right track

Former CRÉGÎM president and current mayor of Gaspé, Daniel Côté believes that after a three-year setback, the region is mobilizing once again.

He says that the regional consultation goes back to the predecessor of the CRÉGÎM, the defunct Regional Council of Concertation and Development (CRCD).

"We started from a very collaborative element that is the CRÉ with its employees and all the actors who met every month until a moment when we fell completely in the dark," says Mr. Côté.

The five prefects are working together more often now, and meetings are being held with the mayors of the primary municipalities, along with the executive directors of the MRCs in addition to setting up an annual general meeting.

"We are trying to resume the dialogue. The problem is that we do not have the money that the CRÉ had at the time to hire the staff to help the elected officials. We have one resource to take care of the entire region, whereas at the time of the CRÉ, we had 34 to take care of all the files," states Mayor Côté. He admits that Mr. Lelièvre would have been 100% right a year ago, "but we are regaining the consensus we lost."



Police report

On February 15, Randie Nappaaluk, 21, from Bonaventure appeared at the New Carlisle courthouse and was sentenced to a one-year prison term by Quebec Court Judge Andrée Saint-Pierre. She is charged with aggravated assault, uttering death threats towards her 26 year-old boyfriend and having stabbed his dog 16 times. Judge Saint-Pierre took into account the fact that every day of preventive time served counts for 1.5 day of regular time. Considering that she has been in custody since August 16 she has 89 days left to serve, starting February 15.

Judge Saint-Pierre also took into account some provisions of the law related to First Nations people and the young woman's violent childhood during which she was sexually assaulted.

Randie Nappaaluk entered a plea of guilty in the fall, an admission that convinced Crown Prosecutor Maxime Rocheville-Paradis to drop the initial charges of attempted murder and forcible confinement. Originally from Nunavik, Randie Nappaaluk will have to undergo a period of therapy in order to deal with an alcohol consumption issue once her prison term is over.

Her boyfriend received severe cuts to his back but was released from the hospital during the days following the incident. The dog was treated by a veterinarian.

Five Gaspésians were arrested on February 14 by Sûreté du Québec officers during a thorough drug operation called Oursin (sea urchin). Those five Gaspésians either appeared in court the same day or the following morning to face drug-related charges. It was the third such operation to be conducted in less than two months by the Sûreté du Québec in Eastern Quebec.

O'Neil Aubut (63), Édith Parent (54) and Kelly Aubut (26), all from Fox River, were charged with trafficking, drug possession and plotting in order to sell drugs. They appeared at the Percé courthouse and were released under conditions. They will return to court on March 11. Pierre Brotherton (40), from Gascons, also faces charges of drug trafficking, possession for the purpose of trafficking and plotting in order to sell drugs. Florian Aubut (57) from Fox River is charged with trafficking. Their first court appearance took place in Rimouski.

A total of 32 people were arrested during the February 14 operation, most of them in the Lower Saint-Lawrence area. People were also arrested in New Brunswick and one in the Lévis area. The bust resulted in the seizure of six kilos of cocaine, 232,000 methamphetamine pills, \$640,000 in cash, 23 firearms and eight vests with Hells Angels insignia. Sûreté du Québec officers are still looking for four additional suspects.

SQ investigator Guy Lapointe says that the gross revenue of that Eastern Quebec drug-selling network is believed to be approximately \$2.4 million for a period of four months. The "tax" paid to the Hell's Angels amounted to \$500,000 during that period.

The premeditated murder trial of Jérémie-Viktor Lagacé, 24, from Saint-André-de-Restigouche, will start on April 1 at the New Carlisle courthouse. He is accused of the murder of French tourist Fabrice Durand which occurred on August 22, 2017, in the Chute à Picot trail in Saint-André-de-Restigouche. The trial will start with the selection of jurors. Defence attorney Marcel Guérin has requested a second forensic assessment of the firearm that is for now considered the weapon used by the accused. That expert task should be carried out before the beginning of the trial. Marcel Guérin has also asked for and obtained the transfer of his client to the Sorel prison, as he resides in that area and such proximity will help with the preparation of his defence.





Commentary Gilles Gagné

The honeymoon is being cut short

François Legault's Coalition avenir Québec government performed well during its first 100 days of power. Premier Legault showed respect by putting emphasis on his government's capacity to listen to the people's needs.

In the Gaspé Peninsula, it meant announcing before Christmas grants that were ready for important projects such as the upgrading of the Gaspé, Grand River and Sainte-Anne-des-Monts airports. It was a promising start, especially considering that François Legault had used the region as a scapegoat to get votes in other parts of Quebec during the last campaign.

However, the last 30 days of that government have been way less promising. We could say that they were awful. The immigration file, the pre-kindergarten and some questionable statements have eroded the long honeymoon François Legault's team seemed destined for.

By wiping the slate clean of 18,000 pending immigration files, the Coalition avenir Québec (CAQ) government not only left people in complete disarray regarding projects some of them had been working on for years, it also showed a terribly unfair style of governance.

Already criticized for its goal of reducing the number of immigrants greeted annually in Quebec, the CAQ government added a layer that could translate into long term mistrust with regards to the province's immigration process, as if that system needed that. Quebec already experiences a problem of keeping immigrants more than a few years. The addition of a value test will further complicate things.

The government will spend \$18 million to reimburse the would-be immigrants swept by Bill 9's measure trashing the 18,000 pending files. Wouldn't that money be better spent by accelerating the processing of those files? The amount doesn't include preliminary work carried out by civil servants to establish that list. That undetermined amount of money was consequently spent to no avail.

So far, Premier Legault and his minister responsible for the immigration file, Simon Jolin-Barrette, have shown deplorable stubbornness at negating the relevance of instilling flexibility to their decisions. We are far from the common sense and respect recommended by the CAQ leader after appointing his cabinet

in October.

The same stubbornness seems to characterize the recent orientations taken by François Legault and Education Minister Jean-François Roberge in the pre-kindergarten file. Mr. Roberge seems to emulate former Liberal Minister Gaétan Barrette, who wanted to personally manage all of Quebec's hospitals. The new Education Minister wants to rule every school, or so it looks.

Quebec's subsidized daycare system for children aged between zero to five is envied by almost everyone in Canada's other nine provinces. The children are cared for by qualified staff in buildings designed for them while many schools are experiencing a shortage of qualified teachers.

Implementing a larger pre-kindergarten system in schools that are not adapted to those services is expected to cost \$700 million, according to the CAQ government. Some outside experts predict that it will cost twice as much.

Why show that kind of hurry then, if the cost remains unknown, if experts feel that subsidized daycares are ideal for kids of that age and if those daycares could ideally take the slack and offer improved services at a lesser cost?

If it is just to fulfill electoral commitments, it is stupid. Although everybody agrees that more emphasis has to be put on children's education, after years of under-investment by the previous governments, nobody can hold a grudge against the CAQ regime for implementing measures that would reflect the reality instead of sticking to strict political promises.

Since mid-January, the CAQ government has acted the way the Jean Charest government acted following the 2003 election and after eight-and-a-half years of Parti Québécois tenure. Voters wanted a change, but not necessarily profound change.

Jean Charest started implementing a number of reforms that had not been explained and sometimes not even mentioned in the March-April electoral campaign. Before the end of 2003, he faced such an uproar that he waved goodbye to his beloved private-public partnerships and started a round of forums in order to reconnect with the population.

In 2003, Jean Charest had won the election with a surprising electorate support of 46%. He won the March 2007 election by a small margin, and led a minority government until December 2008.

On October 1, François Legault was elected with 37.4% support. It is significantly less than Jean Charest's score in 2003. A recent study carried out by sociologist Claire Durand indicated that only 17% of the people who voted for the CAQ did so as a sign of general appreciation for the party's policies.

So François Legault is on thin ice. He won the election mainly because the electorate wanted change, because people were tired of the Liberal Party or because they voted for the lesser of the parties. There is consequently no room for arrogance and blindness in that government.

Letters to the Editor

I enjoyed reading Gary Briand's letter to the editor about Adams Restaurant, an icon in Gaspé and a bit of history about the Adams Family. Hope we can keep the restaurant for many more years. Also I wish to congratulate the Adams family for their involvement in the Gaspé economy.

Michael Sheeham,
Gaspé, Quebec

On February 5, I was reproached for only answering questions in French during Question Period in the House of Commons by a fellow francophone Member of Parliament from Quebec.

Being a linguistic minority in Ottawa is not always easy. I attend meetings where the informal conversations are mainly in English, I walk around and mainly get served in English. During my first year as MP, I made it my mission to learn English in order to be able to communicate with my English-speaking constituents. Since 2015, I have been following English courses in Ottawa on a weekly basis. I have made a lot of progress since my election and I am currently able to keep up with most English conversations, however, my English is not perfect. My understanding of the language and its nuances is growing but the notion of expressing myself in English – especially on important and complex matters that affect Canadians across the country – is not something that I am comfortable with at this time. It is just like many of my colleagues who are learning French but mainly express themselves in English in their official functions as MPs and Ministers.

About 50 years ago, the Official Languages Act came into force making French and English our two official languages. While almost half the ministerial cabinet in Ottawa is unilingual anglophone, I am the only minister who can only speak French. This is a challenge, however, my colleagues and I do not let language be a barrier to our work.

I empathize with English-speaking Gaspésians as I know that being a linguistic minority can be a struggle, nonetheless, I strongly believe that francophones and anglophones should not be divided and should not divide themselves based on language. Whether it is French across Canada or English across Quebec, it is important to promote both official languages. We all need to work together to reinforce minority-language communities, offer better access to French-language services outside Quebec, and promote bilingualism.

Since the incident in the House of Commons, my colleague from the opposition has made official apologies. I accepted the apology on behalf of every linguistic minority in Canada, as I believe that we should not be victims of personal attacks based on our language. Instead of putting someone down for struggling in a given language, we should instead encourage and support those who make the efforts to learn both of our official languages.

As a country, our diversity is our strength and our two official languages are at the heart of our Canadian history, culture and identity!

Diane Lebouthillier
MP for Gaspésie — Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine



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

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

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

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

CMCA
AUDITED
Gaspé's Home Page:
www.gogaspé.com



Publisher:
Penny MacWhirter



News Editor:
Gilles Gagné



Office Manager
Joan Imhoff

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

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

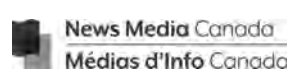


Member of:
QCNA, CARD

JOURNALISTS:
Geneviève Gélinas,
Thierry Haroun
CONTRIBUTORS:
Cynthia Dow,
Wendy Dawson,
Jeanie LeLacheur,
Diane Skinner

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

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



Drop into Spec's Book Room
Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Great second-hand books
208-B Gerard D. Levesque, New Carlisle

Would a ferry be useful for the Gaspé?

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ: - The relief vessel that the *Société des traversiers du Québec* (STQ) wants to acquire in order to replace the F.A.-Gauthier at Matane would be welcome on the tip of Gaspé Peninsula.

The saga is never ending with that ship which has experienced all kinds of failures since being commissioned in the summer of 2015. The latest setbacks date back to December when it had azimuth thruster problems. To deal

with the situation the STQ bought a temporary ship, the MV (motor vessel) Apollo, built in 1970 while waiting to get its hands on the MV Saaremaa, built in 2010, currently located in Germany.

Interest on the tip

The Saaremaa, when it is not assigned on the other routes on the St. Lawrence, could be used as a pilot project between the Gaspé Peninsula, Anticosti Island and the

North Shore. "It seems to me an idea that deserves to be studied. There is such a big saga at the *Société des traversiers*. How can we make the operations which surround the recent purchase of the latest ships profitable. I will see how we can change the file," says the Gaspé riding Member of the National Assembly, Mélançon.

The idea of using a ship

The mayor of Gaspé,

Daniel Côté, believes that the arguments are there to justify a crossing, including making Anticosti Island more accessible. The mayor reminds us that it is the STQ and the *Société du plan nord* who are managing the issue. "The tourism argument is there, the argument of making Anticosti Island more accessible is there, creating a loop between five national parks, everything is there. An additional service on the St. Lawrence will not hurt. The ball is in the camp of the Société du Plan Nord proj-

ect manager." Above all, he wants a suitable ship and not a flat-bottomed vessel like *Nordik Passeur des Groupe Desgagnés* which was used between 1994 and 1996. The experiment had ended because of a lack of profitability. "The ships were temporarily ordered for the Matane-Côte-Nord ferry. I have the impression that these are ships that could be suitable," says the mayor. The question has already been raised to the government, but Mayor Côté remains cautious.

TIMELINE:

The Matane-North Shore ferry saga

Gilles **Gagné**

GASPÉ: - The *Société des traversiers du Québec* (STQ) will most likely purchase the Saaremaa, the long term pinch hitter for the F.A.-Gauthier ferry. The F.A.-Gauthier has experienced a series of problems since its delivery by Italian shipbuilder Fincantieri, in April 2015. The building cost of that ship was \$175 million.

Up to 128 technical problems were detected during the F.A.-Gauthier's first seven months of service, some of them attributable to normal adjustments for a new ship but many troubles that are not expected from a brand new ship. The 133 metre-long vessel kept accumulating problems and the situation reached a peak on December 17, 2018, a week before Christmas, when some of the ship's azimuth thrusters were sidelined because of vibrations.

It was announced during the following days that the ship would be out of commission for weeks. The STQ indicated then that a ship from the Magdalen Islands, the CTMA



MV Apollo and CCGS Henry Larsen.

Vacancier, would replace the F.A.-Gauthier, but only on January 7 and no later than February 2. It left the users of the Matane, Baie-Comeau and Godbout ferry service without a ship during the Christmas holidays. A plane shuttle was organized between Mont-Joli and Baie-Comeau, a \$1 million temporary solution. It did not solve the problem for the people who needed their vehicles on the other side of the Saint Lawrence River.

The Rivière-du-Loup-Saint-Siméon ferry was used by a number of people, but the seasonal service ceased as ex-

pected on January 2 without any possibility of extension.

In January, the STQ announced that a temporary replacement ship had been found. Built in 1970, the Apollo, linked Saint-Barbe, Newfoundland and Blanc Sablon, Lower North Shore and was operated by Labrador Ferries. That company recently bought another ferry in Europe.

When the CTMA Vacancier left Matane as expected, on February 2, the Apollo was still running tests in order to allow the new crew to become familiar with it.

Some adjustments were also required on the ferry ramps.

Another Magdalen Islands ship, the CTMA Voyageur, took over for eleven days, but many of its trips were cancelled due to bad weather or ice conditions.

In addition to that, the CTMA Voyageur is a freight ship that can only carry ten passengers, the drivers of the trucks that crossed during that short span. So the STQ resumed the plane shuttles between Mont-Joli and Baie-Comeau between February 2 and February 13, except

during stormy days. People wanting to reach the other shore with their vehicle were forced to make a 900 kilometre detour via Quebec City. Given all the problems experienced in organizing temporary solutions, hundreds and probably thousands of drivers resorted to that option between December 17 and February 14.

In the meantime, the STQ learned that the F.A.-Gauthier will be out of service until August. The manufacturer of the thrusters is based in Finland and only had one spare. The second one will have to be manufactured since they are custom-made.

The STQ has found another ferry to replace the Apollo, the Saaremaa. That ship is based in Germany and should cross the ocean before the end of March. Chances are that she will replace the Apollo by April 20. Its capacity of 120 cars and 600 passengers is above the Apollo's 80 cars and 300 passengers, but well below the 180 cars and 800 passengers of the F.A.-Gauthier.

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



Les Pétroles C. Poirier inc.

Proud to serve you!

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

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

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



IN BUSINESS FOR 35 YEARS



Dr. Pascal Cyr
Optometrist



Dr. Stacey Starrak
Optometrist

CLINIQUE D'OPTOMÉTRIE L'ÉMERILLON

LENSES CRAFTED ON THE PREMISES

PASPÉBIAC: 104 Gérard D. Levesque Blvd West • 418-752-5553
CHANDLER: 260 René Lévesque Blvd East • 418-689-5553
MARIA: 435 Perron Blvd West • 418-759-5553

BILINGUAL SERVICE

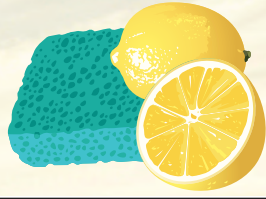
MEMBER OF

Canada's Largest Network of Optometrists

Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



Nature Cleans

What do you do during a winter storm day when you are stuck inside, after you have eaten all your Storm Chips? (By the way, Storm Chips are a real thing made by the Covered Bridge Potato Chips company in New Brunswick.) You might want to clean your house! Mother Nature, bless her, can provide the products necessary to do so. Using these cleaners might cost you less and help save the environment. It can also mean less irritation from strong odours and is gentler on your hands. Worth a try.

Lemons

Cutting boards: If your wooden or plastic cutting board is stained, slice a lemon in half, squeeze it, and rub it over the board. Allow the lemon to do its thing for 15 minutes or so. Rinse.

Taps: Lemon juice can dissolve the lime build-up around taps. Squeeze the juice around the area and leave it on all day. Place some paper towels around the taps. Then simply wipe them with a damp rag.

Laundry: Instead of bleach, add half a cup of lemon juice to the rinse cycle to whiten whites.

Hands: If you are preparing raw fish or seafood, rub your hands with lemon juice. This really works. Cooks who prepare oysters swear by it.

Plastic containers: When you store spaghetti sauce in a plastic container it often stains it. This look is less than ideal, so rub lemon juice on the stained parts.

Dishes: If you have a sink full of greasy dishes, after adding your dish detergent, add a few squeezes of lemon juice. This will cut the grease and smell lovely too.

Cooking oils, including sunflower and olive oil can be used to "renew" dried out wood furniture. It cleans and lessens the look of scratches.

Stainless steel appliances: Put a small amount of oil onto a cloth and rub away. This may keep fingerprints to a minimum as well, but will give your appliances a new, shiny appearance.

Wood furniture: Mix the juice of a lemon (lemons again!) and 2 cups of olive oil. Shake, shake, shake it. Apply to wooden furniture with a soft clean cloth. This is cheaper than most store-bought furniture polishes.

Cast iron pans: The price for these pans has dropped recently, so you might want to try one out if you have not already. First you "treat" the pan before using it. Scrub with soapy water and dry well. Spread a thin layer of vegetable oil over the pan. Place it in the oven at 375 degrees and leave it there for one hour. Allow to cool. After using, if you see cooked-on food that is difficult to remove, make a paste with vegetable oil and coarse salt. Scrub. Rinse.

Hands: If you are a messy painter, rub a little vegetable oil on your hands and then wash with soapy water.

Vinegar is an amazing product and so inexpensive!

Salt on your boots or shoes: Water alone will not get rid of the salt stains. Put some vinegar on a cloth and rub.

Coffeemaker: If you have a Keurig coffeemaker this is a must. Pour all water out of the tank and fill it half full of vinegar. Brew several cups without inserting a K-cup. Let the vinegar work inside the machine for a couple of hours. After, fill the tank with clear water and continue brew cycle until the reservoir is empty. Eventually the water coming out will be free of vinegar. This works and you will find that your machine brews hotter afterwards.

Dishwasher: Pour about one cup of vinegar into the dishwasher and run through a cycle. All surfaces will be clean and disinfected.

Drains: You can clean your drains by pouring a cup or two down a drain and allow it to sit. After a half hour flush down with hot water. For build-up in the drain add baking soda as well and allow it to fizz up. Then flush with hot water.

Floors: Add half a cup of vinegar to a pail of warm water to clean floors – but DO NOT USE on marble or wood floors.

Windows: Mix half cup of vinegar and four cups of water and a wee bit of Dawn dish soap (a personal favourite) and put in a large spray bottle. Spray windows and use newspapers, yes newspapers, to clean your windows.

Be prepared for the next time you are snowed in. Buy lemons, cooking oil and vinegar. Do not forget the Storm Chips!



Stamp honours emergency responders



Patricia Ste-Croix

PERCÉ: - Rocher Percé Legion

Branch 26, President Lloyd Roussel, received a framed

print of the Canadian Armed Forces stamp from Lisa Ducross, an employee at the Barachois de Malbaie post office.

The Canadian Armed Forces stamp is one of five postage stamps that pay tribute and recognize Emergency Responders and the life-saving work of these dedicated men and women. The collection was designed by William Lam and illustrated by Shiro Nishiguchi.

GO FOR A Modern and Affordable Well designed Quality home



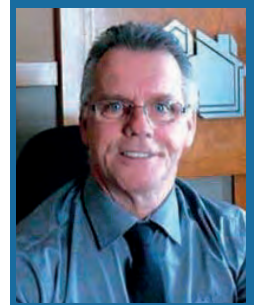
Dream it! Build it! Live it!

CHOOSE AN HMC BUILT HOUSE

Factory-built, sheltered from the weather using a method which reduces costs and production time offering the highest quality standards and the best energy efficiency

IMAGINE YOUR HMC HOME A move in ready home with the decor of your choice and designed the way you want, no hassles, no worries

Representative
Robert Bilodeau



hmc

Les Habitations Mont-Carleton

1 877 666-3168

hmcmaison.com

RBQ: 8000-7883-06



Photo: J. LeLacheur

Linda and her "all blue winter" scenes that don't make you blue at all.

I'll Tell You a Story

Jeanie LeLacheur

DOUGLASTOWN: - Douglastown's Linda Drody is about to hit the scene again with another original artistic idea.

I'll Tell You a Story is a unique literary experience illustrated using Linda's paintings. The story of the Christmas Carol Service in the Cap aux Os Church is told by a Grandmother and one sees the story unfold through the eyes and mind of her grandson David.

It includes scenes from an actual service and one might recognize some of the true to life characters who will remain unnamed (to in the name of suspense and anticipation).

It's also a walk through of the history of the Gaspé church and the early settlers and Christmas traditions including going to church with a horse and sleigh.

The book has a very specific purpose and in itself will be a gift to many. All the profits generated through book sales will go to two local cancer foundations. Linda has two in mind that she will donate proceeds to but is waiting to contact them before making it public.

Linda explains that she will assume a third of the costs related to having the book published and, as all the profits will be donated, hopes to receive some help and have it ready for sale this summer.

The storybook which she sees becoming perhaps a Christmas tradition to be shared by families is filled with love and the spirit of the season. It looks candidly at our humanness in wanting to give and sometimes being relieved when we don't have to. (As David decides his remote control car would not be useful to the baby Jesus, and decides to open his heart instead.) It takes a look at fears through the shepherds and their visit from the Angel of the Lord, and is a gentle reminder of what is important in the Christmas season.

Linda's Studio Muse art gallery which is a delightful experience of color and history is open to the public upon request and appointment can be set up by calling 418-368-4774 or an email to ldrody@globetrotter.net will allow an appointment to be set up.

Many of Linda's paintings have a special Gaspé flavour: fishing boats, horse drawn cart, barns, lighthouses, churches and the scenery that makes the coast an artist's dream. Studio Muse is worth the visit where you'll even get to see first hand her newest creation which combines Van Gogh's techniques and her own personal style. Congratulations to a talented lady who is generously giving back to her community through her time and talents.

Quentin Condo nominated for Indigenous Music Awards

Gilles Gagné

GESGAPEGIAG: - Gesgapegiag's Quentin Condo is nominated for the Indigenous Music Awards, which will be presented on May 17 at the Club Regent Event Centre, in Winnipeg, Manitoba. He is nominated in the best new artist category. The list of nominees was released on February 12 and he does not have many details about the event yet. "I'm hoping that I get a chance to perform at the award ceremony!" says Quentin Condo. Meanwhile, Gaspésians will have an opportunity to see his band, the Rez Doggz soon. "I'm doing a tour in the Gaspésie in March with other Indigenous artists. We will be on March 21 at Naufrageur in Carleton, March 22 in Mont Louis and March 23 in Douglastown, with E Scandalz from Kahnawake and Daybi from Winnipeg," points out Quentin Condo. Another interesting twist in the career of the band will occur at the beginning of the summer. "I was just contacted to open for The Snotty Nose Rez Kids in Montreal on June 21. These guys are huge in the Indigenous music scene," he adds.



Photos: Eric Brisson

Quentin Condo.

Valentine's Day

New Carlisle has awesome winter scenes of mother nature and "Valentine's Day" can touch that rich thread of warmth. When February 14 rolls around, many find kindness within their hearts. Many small towns on the Gaspé residents can capture that Valentine symbol in their hearts forever.

We must remember that the most beautiful things in the world are not seen or touched. They can only be felt within our hearts. A "Valentine" symbol of cupid, can fill our hearts on that special day. Valentine's Day is often celebrated with special moments and gifts. The best token on Valentine's Day is that true friendship and it does not have to be classic or homemade as it's cherished from one's heart. Keep in mind that a Valentine is your heart, your soul and your treasure for today, tomorrow and forever, as you are everything.

Ken Ross,
New Carlisle, Quebec

Little ways to show your love all month long

(NC) Expressing your love doesn't need to be reserved just for Valentine's Day. Show you care all month with little touches that will let that special someone know you are thinking of them. Whether it's your significant other, friend or family member, personal gestures like writing a note on their coffee cup or warming up their car can let them know they are special to you.

If you are planning a night in, make movie night pop by substituting a bowl of popcorn for a special treat like these salted caramel popcorn bars. Made with Orville Redenbacher microwave popcorn, which is made without any artificial colours, flavours, or preservatives, they are a delicious blend of sweet and salty, perfect for a night on the couch with your favourite person.

Ingredients:

- Non-stick cooking spray
- 1 bag (82 g) Orville Redenbacher simply salted microwave popcorn
- 40 small pretzel twists, coarsely broken (1 cup broken pieces)
- 2 tablespoons (30 mL) unsalted butter
- 20 caramels unwrapped
- 1 tablespoon (15 mL) water
- 1/8 teaspoon (1/2 g) salt
- 3 cups (360 g) miniature marshmallows
- 1/4 cup (30 g) peanut butter



Directions:

1. Spray large bowl, rubber spatula and 13x9-inch (33x23-cm) baking dish with cooking spray. Prepare popcorn according to package directions. Remove all un-popped kernels and place popped corn in large bowl. Add pretzel pieces to bowl.
2. Melt butter over medium heat in medium saucepan; add caramels, water and salt. Heat 5 minutes or until caramels melt completely, stirring occasionally. Add marshmallows and peanut butter; heat 1 to 2 minutes more, stirring until blended.
3. Pour caramel mixture over popcorn mixture. Toss with rubber spatula to coat. Press into baking dish. Cool completely. Cut into 24 bars.

New Richmond shop gets rare certification

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND: – New Richmond's Rail GD shop has recently received a certification from the Association of American Railways. The B-32 certification allows Rail GD to repair air brake valves.

Rail GD's management worked on getting the certification for two and a half years. Only one other independent shop in Canada has received the same certification, Red River Air Brakes of Winnipeg. The other holders of the certification in Canada are part of a limited number of railroad companies operating their own shop.

"We wanted the certification because we put emphasis on quality here, not on quantity. It was difficult to obtain. It also allows us to open doors with some railway companies. They come here for their air brake valves and end up asking us to do something else. We sold a locomotive engine to one of our customers because of the valves," explains Joey Cyr, director general of Rail GD.



Photo: G. Gagné

Joey Cyr recently showed business people the old machine bought last year in Nebraska.

The shop's primary customers as far as air brake valves are concerned are mostly mining and aluminum producers operating their own railway, like Rio Tinto and Arcelor Mittal, or a company hauling ore for a mining company, like Tshietin Railway, a firm administered by the Innu communities of the North Shore and Labrador.

Railway companies can

save a lot of money by requiring the services of certified shops like Rail GD, where locomotive or railcar valves can be repaired instead of changed.

"Our advantage, compared to other shops, is the turnaround time, not the price. It is the time elapsed between the moment a railway company sends us the valves and the moment they get them back after we have repaired them. We are faster than the shops belonging to the OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturers) members," says Joey Cyr.

So far, the certification has created four full-time jobs in a section of the Rail GD shop. Air brake expert from Montreal, Lionel Gingras, who is now retired, previously operated his own shop, Lionel Air Brakes. He provides advanced training for the New Richmond employees.

The Rail GD testing machine used to overhaul the brake valves comes with a good story.

"A brand new machine costs US\$160,000. It is a digital machine that has to be checked and fine-tuned electronically several times yearly. It was a costly option. The old mechanical machine costs less and, oddly enough, doesn't require the same monitoring from outside inspectors. We can caliber it ourselves. While looking for an old machine, we received a message from a man living in Nebraska, claiming that he had one to sell. He wanted US\$50,000 for it, payable before shipment. We checked on Google map and found out that he was living in a kind of castle on top of a mountain. We had no time to go there and check if he was telling the truth. We took a

chance and sent him the money. The machine arrived shortly after at the shop. It didn't look like much from the outside, and I am pretty sure that an average person would bet that its value didn't surpass \$300, but we installed it and it works," explains Joey Cyr.

"The only precaution we have to do with that machine is to prove to an AAR inspector when the last calibration was carried out and respect the norms. It is much simpler than with the digitized machines. The old machines are rare to find though. We know about that," he concludes.

The Association of American Railroads (AAR) is an industry trade group that primarily represents the major freight railroads of Canada, Mexico and the United States.

Meanwhile, the restoration of VIA Rail's first of four dining cars at Rail GD is progressing well. Joey Cyr recently showed the new minister responsible for the Gaspé Peninsula, Marie-Ève Proulx, and a group of Bay of Chaleur area business people the evolution of that work.

"The first car is longer because it is considered like a pilot project. There are numerous tests and plan changes. The other three cars will go much faster," explains Joey Cyr.

The VIA Rail contract is \$16.4 million for the complete refurbishment of four dining cars. It is Rail GD's biggest contract since the company built the New Richmond shop in 2012.

Never too late to prevent suicides

Thierry Haroun

GASPÉ PENINSULA: - Québec's National Suicide Prevention Week may be over, but it's never too late to talk about this social problem, says the Gaspésie Health and Social Service Centre, especially since numbers in the region are higher than the provincial rate.

The numbers

At the provincial level, there were 12.1 suicides per 100,000 habitants in 2016 compared to 18.3 for the Gaspésie and Magdalen Islands region. "But let's be prudent concerning our region because of the margin of error and our low demography (which is just over 90,000 habitants)," says Nancy Gédéon, spokesperson for the CISSS de la Gaspésie. Other numbers show that in the province there were 1046 suicides, which is 104 fewer suicides than the previous year. More specifically, 803 of those suicides were men (18.6 per 100,000 inhabitants) and 243 suicides were women (5.7 per 100,000 inhabitants). The documents, obtained by Spec, also show the suicide rate is stable for women and for adolescents aged 15 to 19. The rate is also stable and even diminishing among men aged 20 to 29. For men aged 50 to 64 the rate has been stable for the past ten years, but it remains the age group where the rate is the highest. The lowest rate concerns the youth aged 10 to 14. Another important statistic shows that approximately 28,000 Quebecers aged 15 and over have attempted suicide and 188,000 have seriously considered an attempt. The lowest rates in terms of region are the Montreal and Laval administrative regions and the highest is Nunavik, Abitibi-Témiscamigue, Chaudières-Appalaches, Mauricie and Centre-du-Québec regions.

Preventing suicide and accessing services

"First, let me say that talking about suicide saves lives. That's the theme of the prevention week," says Ms. Gédéon. "It's so important to say things as they are, to speak out. People, parents and family members have to pay attention to those who seem fragile and they should never be afraid of asking this crucial question: Are you thinking of committing suicide?"

In our region there are many services available. "Go to your CLSC and someone will help you, there are experts available for francophones and anglophones alike and please keep this number in mind: 1-866 277-3552 or simply call 811 and one last thing, there are workplace seminars that are offered called *Acting as a Sentry*. They are so helpful."

Tithe collection campaign 2019

I share to announce Jesus Christ!



Capitation (or tithing) is the traditional means through which the Church raises the money it needs to sustain its essential pastoral and administrative services in the Christian community. The tithe enables the parish to offer the following:

- Liturgical celebrations
- Baptisms
- Weddings
- Funerals
- Faith education
- Community prayer
- Accompanying the sick and the lonely
- Anointing the sick
- Help couples in their vocation
- Family and youth pastoral
- Maintenance of churches
- Maintenance of cemeteries
- Church assemblies
- Secretarial work

Your donation will first serve to proclaim Jesus Christ, make Him known and loved and served. Together, let us take the missionary turn in which we all commit ourselves for the mission that will make of our communities, living communities!

Do not forget to ask for your charity receipt from your parish.

Let's donate generously to the tithe collection 2019!

Announcements...



OBITUARIES



BILLINGSLEY: Anna Elizabeth (nee Palmquist)

Anna Elizabeth Billingsley (nee Palmquist) passed away peacefully at the Stevenson Memorial Hospital on Saturday, February 9, 2019. She was in her 85th year.

Loving mother of Kenny, Bernie, the late Frank, Michael, Maureen (Blinston), Gary and Lorrie (Poirier). She is sadly missed by her seventeen grandkids and eleven great-grandkids. Dear sister of Bill, Dorothy, Donald, Judy, the late Elsa and the late Jean. The family received family and friends at the Thomas Funeral Home, Alliston, Ontario on Tuesday, February 12, at 12 noon. A service was held in celebration of Anna's life at 1 p.m. in the chapel. In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate donations in Anna's memory to the Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation, 200 Fletcher Cres, Alliston, ON, L9R 1W7.



BOUDREAU: Carl

We are sad to announce the passing of Carl Boudreau on January 14, 2019, at the age of 90. Born in Glen Levit, New Brunswick, he spent most of his adult life in New Richmond, Quebec. He leaves to mourn his wife Carol Barter, his daughters Roxanne and Shauna, his granddaughters Micaela and Mackenzie, his sister Joyce Archibald and sister-in-law Tony Boudreau. He will live forever in our hearts.

MCLELLAN: George Brian

February 24, 1966 - December 24, 2018.

Cherished son of George and Helen of New Richmond, Quebec. Left to mourn his mum; brother, David; sister, Heather, relatives and many, many good friends. He will be sadly missed by anyone who was fortunate enough to get to know him.



IN MEMORY



BRENNAN: Carmelle (Brideau)

In fond and loving memory of my wife who passed away February 14, 2007.

*I have lost my soul's companion,
A life linked with my own;
And day by day I miss her more,
As I walk through life alone.*

Always loved and remembered by husband Frank and family.

DUMARESQ: Gail

*We little knew that day
God was going to call your name.
In life we loved you dearly.
In death, we do the same.
It broke our hearts to lose you.
You did not go alone.
For part of us went with you
The day God called you home.
You left us beautiful memories.
Your love is still our guide
And although we cannot see you,
You are always at our side.
Our family chain is broken,
And nothing seems the same,
But as God calls us one by one,
The chain will link again.*

Loved and missed always. Ron and the Family.



Card of Thanks

On January 27, 2019, our beloved mother Helene Cormier passed away. This was a very sad and unexpected way for us to begin the New Year. In the face of such an important loss in our lives, many people have shown great generosity, compassion and warmth that have helped ease our pain. To these people, we wish to express our heartfelt thanks. We will always remember the kindness that you have shown us during this difficult time.

Melanie and Heather Dixon

Order your announcement online at
thegaspec.com



Classic Memorials

Four Generations
of Monument Craftsmen

HIGHEST QUALITY - BEST PRICES

MONUMENTS, MARKERS, CEMETERY LETTERING,
LASER DESIGNS AND PORTRAITS

SALES REPS:

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



By Appointment

Richard Ste Croix

Denturologist

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

9 Adams Street, Gaspé Tel.: (418) 368-1525
Quebec G4X 1E5 Fax: (418) 368-1542



LES SERVICES INVESTORS LIMITÉE*

Gérald Bourdages Tel: 418-368-5481
Financial Planner
and Representative for Mutual Funds Fax: 418-368-1782

E-Mail: Gerald.Bourdages@Investorsgroup.com

A member company of Power Corporation

MONUMENTS P. FOURNIER



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

**WE ALSO REPLACE
FOUNDATIONS, AND
PROVIDE CLEANING
AND REPAINTING.**



Tremblay & Barriault, notaires inc
Notaries & legal counsel

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

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

**FULLY
BILINGUAL
SERVICE**

Grenier & Grenier LAWYERS



**Réal Grenier, b.a.ll.i.
Jules Grenier, b.a.ll.i.**

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

COAST ROUND-UP

POINTE-NAVARRÉ:

Shrine of Pointe-Navarre
February 25: One hour of Taizé beginning at 7 p.m. will be held at the shrine of Our Lady of Pointe-Navarre. You will experience through music, silence, songs and prayer, a time of relaxation and spiritual enrichment.

GASPE:

Gaspé Cancer Foundation AGM
February 24: The AGM for the Gaspé Cancer Foundation will be held at 1:30 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion, 197 rue Jacques Cartier. Your attendance would be very much appreciated. Thank you for your ongoing support.

GASPE:

St. Paul's Anglican Church Winter Sale
March 2: The friends of St. Paul's Anglican Church in Gaspé will be hosting a winter sale starting at 9 a.m. The sale will be held in the basement of St. Paul's Church at 216 Montée Wakeham (the yellow church). There is something for everyone including homemade baking, new and nearly new items, toys, games, etc. Free refreshments will be available.

GASPE:

Gaspé County Women's Institute
March 16: Bake sale from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Carrefour in Gaspé.

MALBAY:

Malbay ACW
July 27: All Saints by the Sea Tea, Crafts and Bake Sale at the Malbay Hall from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

DOUGLASTOWN:

Community Centre
February 22: Traditional music and dance workshop from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.
February 23: Wild Supper at 6:30 p.m. Discover the unknown meats of our forests! For this first dinner beaver will be in the spotlight. The evening will take place around a meal and discussions will focus on the life of the animal. Your host will take care

of the main course and you will be responsible for a side dish. Please confirm your participation on facebook or call 418-368-0288.

February 24: Community breakfast from 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. A contribution of \$8 per adult and \$4 per child (5-11 years old) would be appreciated.

February 24: Do In Workshop from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon. Based on the philosophy of the five elements of Chinese medicine, the DO IN offers a different perspective on the health of a human being. Voluntary contribution. Bring your mattress and comfortable clothes.

February 27: Annual meeting of the Douglstown Day Camp at Trachy Hall beginning at 7 p.m.

Tuesdays: Zumba from 7-8 p.m. \$10/class.

Wednesday: Yoga for women There are two groups 5:15 to 6:45 p.m. and 7:15 to 8:45 p.m. \$17/class (drop in). Requires minimal experience in yoga. Bring your mat.

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 Roussel at 418-645-3700 or 418-645-2786.

BARACHOIS:

Recreation Centre
March 2: The Barachois Recreation Centre will be holding an 18+ money bingo at 7 p.m. Bilingual. Over \$600 in cash prizes.

Every Saturday: From 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m, soup, hot-dogs, sandwiches, dessert, tea and coffee will be served. From 12 p.m. to 4 p.m., there will be card and board games for all ages and sliding (crazy carpets provided). Raffles held weekly. Lunch and activities free for all ages. Sponsored by: Mountain-view Golden Age Club, Legion Branch 261, Barachois and Area

Development Committee and Barachois Recreation Centre.

PORT DANIEL:

Three Star Golden Age Club
Every Wednesday: Petanque from 7 to 9 p.m. Cost \$3. Come and join the fun and learn a new game!

February 23: Military Whist beginning at 8 p.m.

March 16: St. Patrick's Day dinner.

March 18: Annual Meeting at 1:30.

March 23: Military Whist at 8 p.m.

HOPE TOWN:

Community Centre
March 9: Military whist beginning at 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.

NEW CARLISLE:

Heritage New Carlisle
February 23 and March 2: Learn the basics of quilting with artisan Violette Arsenault. During this quilting bee, which consists of three full day sessions, one quilt will be crafted by a group of people who each work on a square. The finished quilt will be auctioned and the proceeds will be donated to the Linda Lemore Brown Foundation. Cost: \$25. To register: heritagenc@globetrotter.net, by phone 418-752-1334 or facebook.

NEW CARLISLE:

Royal Canadian Legion
February 23: Cribbage tournament. Registration at 12:30 p.m. Tournament starts at 1 p.m. \$10 per person. Bring a partner.
March 5: General Meeting at 7 p.m. We are urging our members and any member of the community to attend the

next meeting. We are looking for ideas and donations that will enable us to continue to function and to fulfill our commitment to honour our veterans. We are trying our best to keep our Legion running. We have had to reduce our opening hours to Saturday afternoon and for special events. You can submit your ideas at the meeting or phone the Legion President Laura Flowers at 418-752-6799.

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:

Curling Bonspiel
The Linda Lemore Curling Bonspiel (Tournament) will be held on the weekend of **March 15-17.**

NEW CARLISLE:

St. Andrew's Anglican Church
March 5: Pancake supper from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the basement of the church. Adults \$7 and children \$4. Everyone welcome.

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:

Bookroom
Please be advised that the bookroom has reopened.

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

Bible Meetings
The community is invited to a series of Bible meetings held in the Cascapedia St-Jules Community Centre (55 Route Gallagher) on **Sunday, February 24**, at 3:30 p.m. and also on **Wednesday, February 27** at

7:30 p.m. All are welcome to come and listen to a message of hope shared from the Bible. No cost and no obligation. Contact Klinton Jacques or Steve Shultz at 438-820-2886. Call or text.

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

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.

GESGAPEGIAG:

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

ROTARY CLUB WINNERS

The winners for the week of February 10 are: Nicole Babin, Marielle Gallant, René Durette, Lyne Arsenault, Arthur & Berta Harrison, Marlène Miville and André Gauthier.

UNITED CHURCH

Sunday, February 24
10:30 a.m.. Hope Town

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

Sunday, February 24
New Carlisle
10 a.m. Morning Prayer
Port Daniel
10 a.m. Holy Eucharist

PARISH OF GASPÉ
Sunday, February 24
St. Paul's - Gaspé
10 a.m. Holy Eucharist

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

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

Forage Moreau Inc.
418-392-9501
Mathieu Mercier - Driller/Owner

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

foragemoreaumercier@gmail.com

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK - FREE DELIVERY

uniprix
CHANDLER • 418 689-3711
500-102, AVENUE DAIGNEAULT, CHANDLER, QUE.

uniprix
PERCÉ • 418 782-2550
98 ROUTE 132 WEST, PERCÉ, QUE.

The Ohmega Group Inc.
Going beyond and reliable since 1982

OHMEGA

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

Electricity - Plumbing
Automation
Industrial computing
Counter sales

On the lighter side...



CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to John Renouf who was the winner of Spec's hunting contest drawn on October 23, 2018.



Jared Flowers and Isaac Dupont-Walker who were the winners of the Halloween Colouring Contest sponsored by Family Ties.



The winner of the Trivia Contest published in the January 9, 2019, issue of The Gaspé Spec is Marlene Armishaw. Congratulations!

Roasted Red Pepper, Sun-Dried Tomato & Feta Topped Chicken

- 4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- 1/2 cup My Grandma's Greek Dressing (see below)
- 1/3 cup diced charred red bell pepper (see below)
- 1 tablespoon minced sun-dried tomatoes
- 1 tablespoon brined capers, rinsed and drained
- 1 tablespoon minced fresh flat leaf parsley
- 1/4 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/8 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 3/4 cup crumbled feta cheese
- 1 tablespoon unsalted butter
- 1 tablespoon olive oil



Preheat the oven to 350 F.

Place the chicken in a medium bowl or large resealable bag and pour the Greek dressing over the top. Marinate the chicken on the countertop for 20 minutes. (Any longer and the lemon juice will start to break down or cook the chicken.) In a medium bowl, combine the bell pepper, tomatoes, capers, parsley, salt, black pepper and feta.

In a 12-inch cast-iron or other oven safe skillet, melt the butter with the olive oil over medium-high heat. Remove the chicken from the marinade and let any excess marinade drip back into the bag. Place the chicken top-side down in the skillet and sear for 4 to 6 minutes. Turn the chicken over and divide the pepper and feta mixture over the top. Slide the skillet into the oven. Bake for 15 to 18 minutes or until the chicken is cooked through. Carefully transfer the chicken to a platter and let it rest for 5 to 6 minutes before serving.

My Grandma's Greek Dressing (Makes 3/4 cup)

- 1 large clove garlic
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano, crushed in your palm
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/4 teaspoon coarsely ground black pepper
- 1/4 cup fresh lemon juice, strained of pulp and seeds
- 1/2 cup olive oil

Pass the garlic through a garlic press into a glass jar or resealable storage container. Add the oregano, salt and pepper. Pour in the lemon juice and olive oil. Shake. Pour. Store the salad dressing in the refrigerator, but pull it out 10 to 15 minutes prior to using to warm up the solidified oil, or run the jar under warm tap water. Store in the refrigerator for 3 to 4 months.

Charred peppers:

Grill: Heat a grill to medium-high. Place a pepper (or peppers) on the grates, close the lid and let it char for 5 minutes. Rotate and repeat this process until all sides are charred. After 12 to 15 minutes, the skin should be black and blistered.

Gas stovetop: Using metal tongs, hold the pepper over a medium-high flame, rotating it to create an even char.

Oven: Preheat the broiler to high and crack the oven door. Place a washed pepper on a foil-lined, rimmed baking sheet and slide it under the broiler, rotating it every few minutes until it is charred.

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

A sense of magic is in the air this week, Aries. Some may conspire to keep you in the dark about a situation. Don't worry... it will have a pleasant culmination.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, once someone earns your love, that bond is not easily broken. You will find new ways to show your affection this week for a person close to you.

GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, sometimes your mind is too quick to speak before you fully think through your thoughts. This can get you into trouble in some instances. Find ways to address any faux pas.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22

Past relationships do not have to get in the way of current ones, Cancer. Things aren't always as complicated as you make them seem. Just go through with your daily business.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, things will seem like a piece of cake this week, so much so that you may wonder if there's a catch. There is no catch. Enjoy your good fortune and lightened workload.

HOROSCOPES

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, you may enjoy an unexpected respite in the next few days. Initially you may not know what to do with your time off. But soon enough you will figure it out.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, even if you might be afraid of confrontation, you should not use that as an excuse that prevents you from righting wrongs. You will find your voice.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, your focus and commitment to the task at hand are unrivaled. Others may not understand your passion, but all will be happy with the results.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, be there for someone who comes up to you and asks for help this week. Every little bit helps, and your generosity will be greatly appreciated.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Think about what you have to offer this week, Capricorn. Run your plan by someone you trust. You may not be ready for the spotlight.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, a string of misunderstandings will soon get worked out. All will be right in the universe once more, and you can get on with all of the plans you have in mind.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, take a few extra moments each morning or evening to slow down and think about all the good luck that has recently come your way.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- FEBRUARY 17**
- Ed Sheeran, Singer (28)
- FEBRUARY 18**
- Dr. Dre, Rapper (54)
- FEBRUARY 19**
- Jeff Kinney, Author (48)
- FEBRUARY 20**
- Cindy Crawford, Model (53)
- FEBRUARY 21**
- Jennifer Love Hewitt, Actress (40)
- FEBRUARY 22**
- Drew Barrymore, Actress (44)
- FEBRUARY 23**
- Josh Gad, Actor (38)

Motel Interprovincial owner invests \$3 million

Gilles Gagné

CROSS POINT: – The owner of Motel Interprovincial, Gratien Thériault, will invest \$3 million in the expansion of his inn. He will add 27 rooms, a spa, a conference room, a training room and will improve existing services such as the bar and a completely rebuilt restaurant.

Once the new wing will be ready, he will tear down the present Pastali restaurant. Twelve motel rooms will be torn down first because the new building will require that space, and some more.

Mr. Thériault bought Motel Interprovincial in 2002 from the Bujold family. He has been investing in it since and more importantly over the last seven years. He added 17 new rooms in 2012, and 16 more in 2015. Those two additions were added to the 12 existing rooms of the motel.

“We will tear down the old motel rooms first, and build the new restaurant and the 27 additional rooms in that space, but perpendicular to the 33 rooms we have added since 2012. The rooms will be located on the second floor. Once that new section will be ready, we will tear down the current restaurant,” explains Gratien Thériault.

He is pleased with the clientele increase he has seen in Cross Point since buying Motel Interprovincial 17 years ago.

“Our occupancy rate is 43% on a year long basis. The average in the Gaspé Peninsula is 40%. So we stand above average. Every expansion has led to a clientele increase, so we are expanding



Photo: G. Gagné

The administrator of Motel Interprovincial, Émilie Pitre, left, and motel owner Gratien Thériault, right, showed Member of Parliament Rémi Massé how the expansion project will change the setup of the motel, which will in fact become a hotel, with two storeys from one end to the other. The hotel will have the shape of an “L” when the project will be completed in July.

again. In the winter, the idea is to offer snowmobilers all the services they want under the same roof. Once their day is over in the trails, they don’t feel like going out again to have supper,” points out Mr. Thériault.

Over the last decade, Cross Point has developed its position as an important Gaspé Peninsula gateway point for snowmobilers and ATV enthusiasts.

“Between January 15 and March 15, snowmobilers compose 50% of our clientele,” states Mr. Thériault. On a week day, it is common that 20 to 25 snowmobilers will stop for lunch. There are at least as many snowmobiles in the parking lot as there are road vehicles.

The restaurant will only close for a week during the transition period between the old section and the new wing. Gratien Thériault intends to

start the construction site about April 20.

“We are getting ready in the meantime. The sections of the new wing will be prefabricated in a plant. We are launching the call for tenders now,” explains Mr. Thériault, who holds a general contractor’s licence. He is therefore able to do much of the work himself.

Motel Interprovincial will receive a \$950,000 loan from Canada Economic Development for that venture. Member of Parliament for the riding of Avignon-Mitis-Matane-Matapédia, Rémi Massé, was on hand for the February 14 announcement of the project.

“Your enterprise is located in an important area for snowmobile tourism. It is an access for snowmobilers coming from New Brunswick and other points in the Maritimes to discover the Gaspé Penin-

sula trails,” he told Gratien Thériault.

With 60 comfortable rooms and a new restaurant by the summer, he feels that he will be in a position to greet his share of the growing Gaspé Peninsula tourist clientele. “The region greets record numbers of tourists as years pass. That’s why we are investing,” adds Mr. Thériault.

Motel Interprovincial provides jobs for 40 people. “Our peak of 40 employees comes during the summer but it is


just a bit less in the winter. It includes part-time employees and students in the summer,” he says.

The expansion project will also benefit from a \$750,000 loan from *Investissement Québec*.

Canada Economic Development is also handing out \$42,900 to the *Club sportif Marquis de Malauze*, the snowmobile club based in Cross Point, for the acquisition of a third groomer.

“We maintain 180 kilometres of trails. We start in Escuminac and go west all the way to a midway point between L’Ascension, in the Matapédia Plateaux area, and Albertville in the Matapédia Valley. We also groom another trail going towards Sainte-Marguerite, also in the Matapédia Valley. It is a very good year but it is also very demanding, because of the snowfalls and some freezing rain episodes,” points out Germain Leblanc, president of the snowmobile club.

The *Club sportif Marquis de Malauze* has already acquired its third groomer, it requiring an investment of \$71,500. Like other snowmobile clubs of the Gaspé Peninsula, trail maintenance is assured by volunteers.



DRIVEN TO BE DIFFERENT
DYNAMISME À BORD

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





VILLAGE
Real Estate Agency

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

**Friendly bilingual service
from Matapédia to Port Daniel
19 years experience**




AN APPROACH THAT PAYS!

Société de comptables
professionnels agréés

ASSOCIATES

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

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



Dr. Éleine Audet
Owner

Dentistry Service in
• Neuromuscular
• Implantology
• Aesthetic
• Periodontics

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

CENTRE COMMUNAUTAIRE

AUBERGE
DOUGLASTOWN

HOSTEL

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

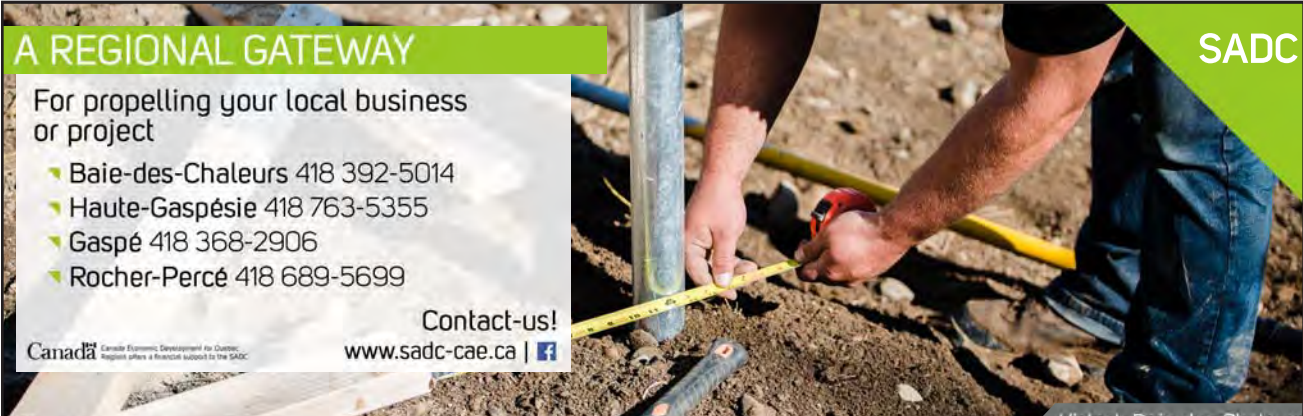
A REGIONAL GATEWAY

For propelling your local business
or project

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

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

Canada Requiert un financement subventionné par le SADC



SADC
Vistech Baie-des-Chaleurs