

# The Gaspé **Spec**

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## Extreme downhill skating in Percé

— Arianne **Aubert Bonn**

PERCÉ - On February 2, for the first time ever, Percé held a “downhill crashed ice” race. Serious consideration is already underway about the possibility of holding a second edition of the event next year. It looks promising.

Approximately sixty professional and amateur athletes performed on the track, about 30 in each category.

Nearly 700 visitors bought admission tickets on Saturday while on the other days, the admission to the site was free. The surroundings of the track were packed with spectators despite very cold weather.

According to event organizer Jerry Sheehan, it took more than a month to design and build the track, as well as an investment of \$15,000.

Access to the track was given to all types of skaters, young and old. Anyone over the age of sixteen was allowed to take part in the competitions. “The goal is to introduce people to this sport and attract participants for the years to come,” says Jerry Sheehan. He also paved the way for professional competitions by making the first run on Saturday with his son

Raymond and niece Megan.

### Community involvement

Jerry Sheehan says that he is unable to count exactly how many volunteers participated in this event, because there were simply too many. “Of course, my right-hand man, Jocelyn Nicolas, has been with me every step

along the way and I thank him, but I think that was also the job of a whole commu-

nity,” he says. He is grateful for the participation of many sponsors for a very first such

event, a sign that the community believed in his project.

### The results

#### Professional Women’s category

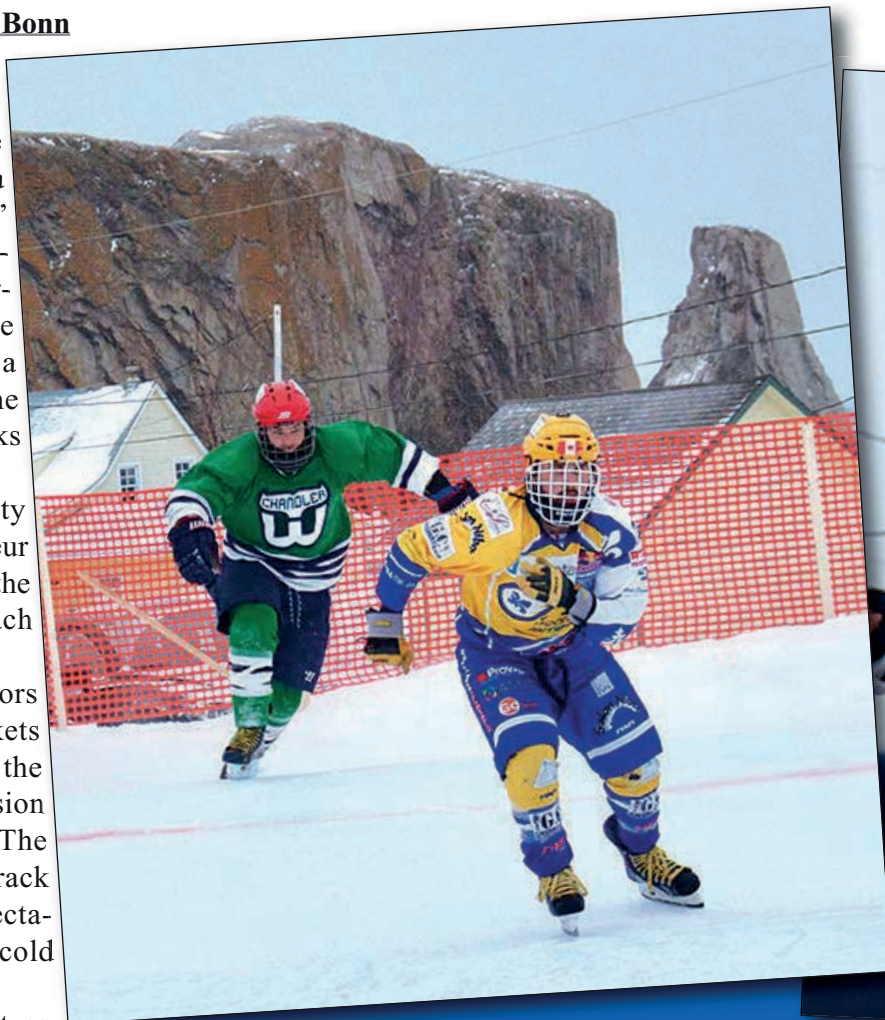
- 1st - Monica Boudreau (N.B.)
- 2nd - Marie-Michelle Gionet (N.B.)
- 3rd - Marie-Pier Lambert (N.B.)

#### Professional Men’s category

- 1st - Samuel Nadeau (N.B.)
- 2nd - Steven Rioux (Que.)
- 3rd - Olivier Larouche (Que.)

#### Amateur category

- 1st - Maxime Rehel (Que.)
- 2nd - Jimmy-Lee Bourget (Percé, Que.)
- 3rd - Alexis Bernier (Gaspé, Que.)



*In spite of the extreme cold, many spectators watched the extreme race.*

Photos: A. Bonn

### Natural

### wonders



Photo: Brandice Duguay

*No need for digital entertainment, nature always provides the best show! Alexa Rail, age 7, is enjoying watching the deer line up in front of her home in Port Daniel.*

# Gaspésians invited to help inspire commemorative artwork

Gilles Gagné

ESCUMINAC: - Gaspésians are invited to participate until March 1 in the conception of a commemorative artwork installation to honour the region's Veterans. The artwork will be produced in Escuminac by local artist Caroline Dugas and will be installed at the Pointe-à-la-Garde rest area.

The initiative is spearheaded by the Municipality of Escuminac, which wishes to call upon the Gaspé Coast population to help inspire the creation of that project. The concept will be both artistic and immersive and will pay homage to the thousands of Gaspésians who served during World War I (1914-1918), World War II (1939-1945), the Korean War (1950- 1953), in NATO and UN missions, and in Afghanistan.

NATO stands for North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Up to 29 countries, including Canada and the United States, are part of that agreement and have been asked over the years to participate in a number of missions and drills. UN stands for United Nations. Canada is a member of the United Nations and has participated in a number of missions for that organization as well, including peace keeping missions.

Canadians served in the Korean War during the combat phase, which ended in 1953. Canadian soldiers stayed in Korea until 1957 though because they played an important role as peace keepers.

The project was inspired by an idea that was brought forward by a citizen of Escuminac, Michel Perkinson, prior to the 2017 municipal election.

"The Municipality of Escuminac wishes to see this project through to its completion while continuing along the path of citizen participation. It is therefore a project that originates in all parts of the population, and in which we want to put forth inspiration from francophone, anglophone, and First Nations communities, a call to brotherhood between these three cultures which share a common historical bond," explains Bruce Wafer, mayor of Escuminac.

The installation of the artwork at the Pointe-à-la-Garde rest area "will be part of the larger beautification project," for that sector, also points out Mr. Wafer.

The budget will be approximately \$75,000. "We are in the process of seeking funding," adds the mayor.

Caroline Dugas is also known as *La Fée Couleur*

and she will base the artwork on the theme of the poppy, the symbol of remembrance. On each flower, scenes honouring the service and sacrifice of Veterans or the impact of conflict on Gaspésian communities will be represented.

Ms. Dugas has participated in several projects that have attracted public attention over recent years, including the New Richmond mural completed with the students of New Richmond High School, the Escuminac Tank Festival and the beautification of the Saint-Omer rest area.

Members of the public are invited to put forth, either in writing or through a drawing, representations or elements of inspiration that illustrate themes such as gratitude towards the service and sacrifice of Veterans, reconciliation, lessons to be learned from war, values that unite francophone, anglophone, and First Nations cultures and so on. The text must not exceed 100 words.

Following this public participation, a number of scenes will be illustrated on the poppies, with an unveiling planned for the fall of 2019.

Those who wish to participate are invited to send their texts or sketches to [monumentgaspésien@gmail.com](mailto:monumentgaspésien@gmail.com) before March 1, 2019.

## Major renovation work at Hôtellerie Omer-Brazeau

Thierry Haroun

RIMOUSKI: - Gaspésians faced with cancer often have to be treated at Rimouski Hospital. Most of them stay at Hôtellerie Omer-Brazeau, located nearby. Major renovations are currently underway at that important lodging facility in order to better serve the clientele.

Hôtellerie Omer-Brazeau has played an important role for Gaspésians faced with cancer and their families. The hotel that has 75 beds in 38 rooms was built 23 years ago. Every year about 2000 patients from all parts of Eastern Quebec (Lower St-Lawrence, the North Shore, the Magdalen Islands and the Gaspé) stay at that facility. Gaspésians and Magdalen Islanders represent 70% of the clientèle at Hôtellerie Omer-Brazeau on a yearly basis. The reason why

this hotel plays an important role for these people is related to its low rates. For one person, it costs \$26 per day, which also includes breakfast and dinner. It also provides a wide array of services, such as personnel available 24 hours per day, guidance, psychological support, laundry service, a balcony and other leisure facilities.

### Cozier and friendlier

Daniel Bénéteau, the President of the Eastern Quebec Cancer Association (building owner) says that the hotel was due for a major revamping. No less than \$1.3 million in work is currently underway. If everything goes as planned, the renovations should be complete in June. This said, part of its clientele is relocated at the Hôtel des Navigateurs (located nearby) while the ren-

ovation is underway. "Our clientèle shouldn't worry at all. Our services and hotel are always open but it's preferable that people reserve in advance so that our team conducts all the operations (between both hotels) adequately," adds Mr. Bénéteau.

In terms of renovation, every room will be revamped as well as the public areas such as the kitchen, the reception hall, the dining room and the daycare centre. "With these major renovations, we want to make sure that the areas are cozier, friendlier and intimate at the same time. There will be new furniture and better access for the disabled. All this is made possible thanks to the generosity of our contributors over the years. In the coming weeks we will organize a fundraiser in the theme of these works," concludes Mr. Bénéteau.

## News briefs



Photo: T. Haroun

## Living on the Gaspé

Thierry Haroun

GASPÉ PENINSULA: - *Vivre en Gaspésie* (Living in the Gaspésie) is part, until February 8, of the *Semaine des régions* (Region's Week) that is taking place in Montreal and Quebec City. "There are so many jobs available in our region to fill and that's why we have to take part in this important activity," explains Migration Agent for *Vivre en Gaspésie*, Christine Blanchette. On the organization's website more than 500 jobs are currently published, such as the windmill sector, civil servants, health and restaurants. "We target the youth aged between 18 and 35 who have graduated or who are finishing their studies. We are telling them how much our region is a great place to live and to work. And by experience 50% of the youth that we have convinced to participate in an internship job (stage) over the years have decided to stay permanently in our region," she added, "There many financial incentives for those who decide to try the adventure of working in our region."

## Coming-out: a crucial time

Thierry Haroun

GASPÉ PENINSULA: - When a member of the LGBT community decides to "come-out," it's a crucial moment. Therefore, and in that perspective, the *Centre d'initiation à la recherche et d'aide au développement durable* in collaboration with the Chaleur Bay LGBT Association and the UQAM Homophobia Research Chair have started a study pertaining to the "coming-out" of people aged between 15 and 30 in the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands Region. The research which will be based on a survey and other testimonies from family and friends should also be published in June of 2020. "This research is so important to us and to our community because the moment someone decides to come-out, things change for the best or the worse depending on how the first person to whom it was confessed to, receives it. The strength of this study is that it will be based on real experiences with people who are interviewed in our region," explains Brian Carey, spokesperson of the Chaleur Bay LGBT Association.

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# Police report

Julie Laurencelle, 27, from Cap d'Espoir, will spend six months less three days in prison. During the fall of 2018, the accused pled guilty to a fatal hit-and-run offense and having not immobilized her vehicle after the accident. Following the August 2017 hit-and-run accident, Sûreté du Québec officers were able to quickly trace her involvement. Luce Hautcoeur, 62, from Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé was the victim of that accident, which occurred at night while she was walking on the yellow line.

Given that Julie Laurencelle has no criminal record, her driver's license was not suspended by Quebec Court Judge Janick Poirier. The sentence was rendered on January 29 at the Percé courthouse.

On January 28 at the Percé courthouse, Tim Lucas, 31, from Chandler, entered a plea of guilty to all six counts of drug trafficking and possession of methamphetamines, cocaine and GHB that were laid against him following his arrest on November 23. A pre-sentencing report will be produced over the next months. Quebec Court Judge Janick Poirier scheduled his next court appearance for May 27. Tim Lucas was released under certain conditions following his November arrest.

Quebec Court Judge Guylaine Tremblay will render a verdict on March 27 following the three-day trial of Renée Toupin, 54, from Trois-Rivières. She is charged with criminal harassment against Gaspesian singer Kevin Parent.

The trial was held at the Trois-Rivières courthouse. The four harassment incidents allegedly took place on June 24, 2015, in Val Bélair, near Quebec City; on July 31, at the marina in Carleton; on February 10, in a Shawinigan church; and on July 14, 2017, at a Joliette concert hall.

It is Renée Toupin's third criminal harassment trial related to her attempts to get close to Kevin Parent. She notably broke and entered the singer's house in Carleton in 2004 and again in 2007. She was sentenced to three months of prison following the 2004 incident but she was judged non-criminally responsible for the 2007 intrusion in Kevin Parent's private life. Over the years, she has repeated many times to many people that she was dating the singer, which was never true.

Following the verdict linked to the 2007 case, Renée Toupin increased her opportunities to meet with the singer and actor. She even moved to Carleton in 2012-2013. The name of Kevin Parent is tattooed on her neck.

During the January 28-29-30 trial, crown prosecutor Catherine Lacoursière tried to prove that Renée Toupin's behaviour was a threat to the singer, given the number of times she has harassed him, the numerous police interventions that were triggered by her acts and by Kevin Parent's will to have her stop trying to contact him. He testified at the beginning of the trial.

Defence attorney Bertrand Jacob asked Kevin Parent if the accused has threatened him during the four occasions she saw him between 2015 and 2017. The singer admitted she did not utter threats but he added that he fears for his safety. He also remarked that the harassment goes far beyond the acts of a groupie, considering that she entered his house on two occasions in the past, the second one in the middle of the night. She sat on his bed on that occasion. Kevin Parent also mentioned that Renée Toupin contacted his former girlfriend at one point. The girlfriend was scared by that approach and eventually left Mr. Parent.

The singer mentioned during the trial that he just wants her presence around him to stop. He emphasizes that he has tried to reason with her many times in the past, using different tones, different approaches, to no avail. He said that he only wants to feel safe and regain his quality of life. He wants to be able to sleep well at night and present his shows without thinking that she will be around. He doesn't wish her bad luck. He just wants the harassment to stop so he can move on to something else. (With information provided by Radio-Canada and iheartradio.ca)

## Quebec government announces modifications to the gun registry

Gilles Gagné

MATAPEDIA: – On January 23, Quebec's Minister of Public Security, Geneviève Guilbault, announced minor measures to simplify the gun registry, however, those measures didn't include a delay in the deadline (January 29) that was initially set by the previous government.

The three new measures touch on points that had been identified by hunters and other stakeholders as major points of aggravation.

The obligation to notify the registration system of any trip exceeding 15 days for the permit holder and his or her weapon will be modified but the length of that period has not yet been determined.

Secondly, the serial number of the firearm will be the only required registration number. So the rule forcing firearm owners to obtain a second registry number will be dropped.

Thirdly, the owners of firearms will no longer be asked to measure the length of their weapon's barrel.

The changes won't be in place until the original law is modified during the National Assembly session that started on February 5. This means that the registration form must be filled out and filed under the previous standards.

As of the January 29 deadline, only 23% of Quebec's alleged number of firearms had been registered.

Minister Guilbeault remains vague regarding the

measures that will be taken against the firearm owners who did not respect that deadline. To complicate the matter, the Public Security Department's computer system that deals with the registry was marred by a number of bugs on deadline day.

Alain Poitras, of the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands Federation of Hunters and Fishermen, is relieved that some new measures were adopted and will soon be put in force.

"We remain adamantly opposed to the gun registry and we will keep battling against it though. Already, 34 municipalities have adopted motions to oppose the gun registry and it is far from finished," he emphasizes.



## Seniors Tea and Cultural Afternoons

Melissa Mercier,

New Horizons for Seniors Coordinator, Family Ties

NEW CARLISLE: - In partnership with the New Horizons for Seniors program from the Canadian government, Family Ties organized Tea & Cultural Afternoons for seniors. Seven monthly sessions took place between April and December 2018. The seniors took part in a variety of activities including: acrylic painting, container gardening, basket weaving, a guided tour of the Kempffer House, herbal remedies, Christmas card making, and a lunch with Christmas musical entertainment.

In total, 66 seniors attended these activities, with 14 of those seniors being new to Family Ties. Additionally, 14 student volunteers from grade 5/6 at New Carlisle High School served snacks and beverages, took photos, and helped the seniors with the activities. The seniors thoroughly enjoyed having the young students there and were pleased to get to know the children.

Many of the seniors have expressed how much they enjoyed the activities and how they found the workshops "fascinating." Overall, the participants were impressed with the activities and how through those activities they've gained new skills, become involved in the community, created an intergenerational link, have acquired new acquaintances and become reacquainted with others in a relaxed and fun atmosphere.

Unfortunately, the Tea & Cultural Afternoons are now over but Family Ties is happy to announce that new activities for seniors will be starting soon, so keep an eye out in the SPEC and on Family Ties' facebook page.



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## Commentary

Gilles Gagné

### Making environmental, social and economic sense

The Supreme Court of Canada ruled that the trustee of a bankrupt company cannot walk away from that firm's obligation to render abandoned wells environmentally safe. The decision was made public on January 31 and it makes ecological, social and economic sense.

That judgement is based on a case that had lingered in court over four years. A company called Redwater Energy Corporation went "belly-up" in 2015. Its bankruptcy trustee, Grant Thornton Limited, considered the decontamination of Redwater's wells as a secondary liability. Grant Thornton decided that the reimbursement of banks came foremost.

The Alberta energy regulator disagreed and ordered Grant Thornton to comply with end-of-life requirements to render the firm's abandoned properties, including the wells, environmentally safe. Instead of complying with the rules, Grant Thornton decided to challenge the regulator's action in court.

At the end of the process, Alberta's Court of Appeal favoured Redwater and Grant Thornton, which prompted the Alberta regulator to submit the case to the Supreme Court of Canada in 2016.

Five Supreme Court judges opted for the importance of public interests over the necessity to reimburse banks first in case of insolvency. Two other judges favoured Grant Thornton's stand.

The case can be considered a major momentum shift. The Supreme Court upheld the polluter-pay principle.

Alberta and other parts of Canada are far from out of the woods yet. An estimated 155,000 wells have been abandoned or left inactive without proper decontamination over the years in Alberta alone. A sum of \$57 billion, yes, \$57 billion, is required for the cleanup while the money reserved for that duty by the industry only amounts to \$1.2 billion. Who is going to pay for that decontamination? Alberta's tax payers will, despite the fact that in general they are reluctantly accepting any increment in their tax bill.

The pressure is nevertheless gradually coming from important groups of Alberta citizens, especially the farmers, who have to deal with the negative health effects of gas leaks and an oil contaminated watershed. Health authorities are starting to see those effects as well, and it could well only be the tip of the iceberg.

Since Alberta's Court of Appeal chose to support Grant Thornton's position, the number of abandoned wells in Alberta has risen from less than 100 five years ago to 3,200, according to the C.D. Howe Institute, a body that isn't known for being recognized as pro-environment.

Another assessment mentions 1,800 abandoned wells over the last three years, with a decontamina-

tion cost exceeding \$100 million.

Orphan Well Association's last annual report mentioned that low oil prices meant a sharp increase in the number of unprofitable wells it has had to take on from bankrupt firms.

In the oil industry, there is fear that the last Supreme Court decision will complicate the search of funding for hydrocarbon exploration and exploitation projects considering that in the case of bankruptcy, the interest of taxpayers will come first, instead of the banks.

It might lead to an increase in the prices of oil and gas but at the same time, the price of renewable energies is decreasing. Meanwhile, the investments related to those less polluting sources of energy are increasing.

Quebec will also have to support the burden of some abandoned oil and gas wells over the years to come, if the province's authorities are serious about cleaning up those holes. Up to 950 wells have been dug in Quebec since 1860, many of them in the Gaspé Peninsula, and the Department of Natural Resources doesn't have a clue about the location of hundreds of them.

The task of finding and neutralizing the oil and gas leaks is apparently underway, but chances are that the public's pressure will have to be maintained so that cleanup is carried out before 2050 or so.

## Letters to the Editor

*I thought I would write this note on real paper and send it by snail-mail, as inspired by Diane Skinner.*

I would like to thank Ms. Skinner for all her articles in the Spec; poems, recipes, history lessons, positive thoughts, etc. The articles are interesting, informative and inspiring.

So thank you for giving this reader good reading and food for thought.

*E.M. Wedge,  
New Richmond, Quebec*

*Letter sent to Listuguj Chief, Dary Gary by Patrimoine Gaspésien president Jean-Marie Fallu*

### Fate of the Busted House go beyond the memory

As an organization dedicated to the preservation of the Gaspesian heritage, we wish to express our concern about the fate of the Busted House, which has divided the members of your community, since it was originally built on Native land. Also, as part of the reflection process that you have on the future of this heritage property, we want to bring a point of view that is intended to be constructive to your community and to all Gaspésians.

In 2012, the Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government, of which you are the current chief, acquired the Busted House from the federal government, a heritage building that was classified by the Government of Quebec in 1987. Built in 1800 by Thomas Busted, the house stands out as the oldest residence on the Gaspé Peninsula. The classification has been attributed to this building because of its significant heritage interest in its historical and architectural values, however,

this house, which has been kept in a state of neglect and vandalism, now requires urgent renovations.

Why preserve the Busted house? Apart from the fact that this house has a historic and heritage value recognized by the law, a question arises: what interest and what contribution does this house represent for your community as well as for non-native communities?

At first glance, we can understand that for the members of your community this house has a negative meaning, many seeing it as a symbol of dispossession, outrageous colonialism and usurpation of your ancestral rights. As your community is divided on the subject, it follows that the preservation of this house puts you in an uncomfortable situation.

However, you could turn the situation to your advantage, because the land where Busted house is located is a place with a rich history that could be highlighted. The area was frequented by your Mi'gmaq ancestors and archaeological digs that have been done in the area have found several Native objects that bear witness to this. In addition, the house is located on the tip of Bourdeau, formerly named Pointe Bourdon, where there once was a French military post in the spring of 1759, a year before the Battle of the Restigouche.

We cannot deny or forget the story. Heritage buildings are visual reminders that deserve to be preserved to testify for both the present and the future. Preserving the Busted House on its original site should be a reminder of the different facets surrounding the past of this place and a way for you, the Mi'gmaq of Listuguj, to reconcile with a painful part of your story and project you towards the future.

Through your public statements we see that you have an open mind and you understand that nowadays we can no longer live isolated and manage in silos. When it comes to communications and transparency, you look for outside collaborations and partnerships, which you seem to advocate and help break the barrier of prejudice. "The cooperation between the municipalities and the Listuguj community is improving every day, every week."

We note that your community is experiencing a boom in the field of fisheries and windpower. The time is therefore right to continue this momentum, particularly in the tourism sector which is growing in the Gaspé Peninsula. Magazines such as National Geographic and Lonely Planet recently identified the Gaspé as one of the world's top tourist destinations. While these tourists seek out the beauty of the landscape, they are particularly fond of cultural and heritage attractions, as well as Native history and culture, however, the history of the Mi'gmaq nation is not well known to visitors and Gaspésians.

Go beyond the memory. You could take advantage of the preservation and enhancement of the Busted House by creating a "Mi'gmaq Space," a place of commemoration and interpretation of your story by recounting both the painful past that this house represents as a symbol of colonialism, but also dealing with the care of your history, your culture and your development in connection with non-native communities.

In this sense, the case of Paspebiac can be a revealing example in terms of heritage. In the 1960s and 1970s, some people from this municipality wanted to see the Robin Company buildings demolished, many of which represented a symbol of exploitation. By preserving these buildings, the community of Paspebiac has preserved forever the material traces of this system of exploitation in order to remember forever this history. Today, the historic site in Paspebiac is a tourist attraction and an economic contribution for this municipality.

Also, the file of the Busted house should be a good time to reflect on the meaning to be given to a heritage property from the point of view of its historical representation, but particularly in an up-to-date perspective of your intercommunity and intergovernmental relations (Cross Point and the governments of Quebec and Canada). On the basis of a reflection rather than a reaction, we invite you to lead this issue on the basis of values that are dear to you, such as the need for healing and reconciliation with the past and the desire to live together.

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208-B Gérard D. Levesque  
New Carlisle, Que.

Gaspé's Home Page:  
www.gogaspé.com

Tel: 418-752-5400

specs@globetrotter.net  
thegaspéspec.com

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### JOURNALISTS:

Geneviève Gélinas,  
Thierry Haroun

### CONTRIBUTORS:

Cynthia Dow,  
Wendy Dawson,  
Jeanie LeLacheur  
Diane Skinner

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# Gaspé Peninsula wants to attract snowmobile enthusiasts

Nelson Sergerie

CHANDLER: - The Gaspé Peninsula prefects want to bet on the “white gold” and attract more snowmobilers to the region. Rocher-Percé prefect, Nadia Minassian, has made the development of this industry a priority for her region.

“When I spoke with my fellow prefects, I soon realized that all the MRCs on the Gaspé seem to have the same preoccupation about the importance of developing winter tourism. There’s no doubt that it’s done through the snowmobile,” says the prefect. She says winter must be used as an advantage. “We always want to develop our natural resources. Snow! We have a lot of it! I think we should use that



Photos: N. Sergerie

*Prefect Nadia Minassian wants to further develop the snowmobile industry on the Gaspé.*

to our advantage to develop a beautiful snowmobile circuit with economic benefits that will be interesting,” she says with a smile. The economic

spinoff from snowmobiling is estimated at \$40 million yearly.

## The competition

New Brunswick is particularly aggressive with their promotional campaign this year. They have an attractive television campaign that shows the landscapes of the neighbouring province. Other regions in Quebec are also trying to tap into this industry, including the Saguenay with its Valins mountains and significant amounts of snow. “We can see that ATR (Tourisme Gaspésie) does a lot of work on winter tourism and snowmobiling. I think that even at the MRC level, we can do more. As a region, we can do more. I think

we have something to consider and elected officials must get involved to develop this important niche,” said Ms. Minassian.

“We need the snowmobile industry to be pushed forward as a destination in its own right to make it a growing industry,” added Stéphane Boudreau, President of the Hostellerie Baie-Bleue located in Carleton-sur-Mer. Mr. Boudreau also indicated that snowmobile enthusiasts can drive in the forest and proceed to finish their circuit on the seaside with exceptional views all around the peninsula.

## A good start to the season

Snowmobilers are once

again out and about on the Coast. Those clients are already stopping in at many Gaspésians hotels, including the Caribou Inn in Rivière-au-Renard, at the Fraser Hotel in Chandler, at Francis in New Richmond and at Carleton’s Baie-Bleue and local promoters point out that this season promises to be comparable to the last one.

“February’s bookings are excellent and March is here. With the large amount of snow we have received, we are still expecting an exceptional season,” says Mr. Boudreau.

Snowmobile tourists from the United States are particularly present this year. At the Baie-Bleue, 75% of the clientele come from the United States.

# Modernization plan at Saint-Elzéar sawmill progressing well

Gilles Gagné

SAINT-ELZÉAR: - The modernization project at the *Association coopérative forestière’s* Saint-Elzéar sawmill is “progressing,” according to director general Mario Pouliot who hopes to be able to announce it this coming spring.

The management of the cooperative (ACF) has reviewed the project since presenting its main aspects in January 2018. Back then, the expected cost of revamping some sections of the plant was \$10 million. Mario Pouliot now talks about an initiative that could cost between \$6 million and \$8 million.

“We have revised our project. We have looked at all the aspects of the plant, our input, our guaranteed wood supplies, the planer section and what we must do on our production line. The modernization will mainly concentrate on our planer line. The sawing line will only require about \$1 million out of an \$8 million project,” explains Mr. Pouliot.

According to Mr. Pouliot, the planer line has required an upgrade for many years.

“Our employees are still piling wood outside. It is -20 degrees today (January 29) and we might be the only sawmill of that size in Quebec to have people working outside at the end of the planer line. I must put my staff inside if I want to keep them. It is already hard enough to find workers,” says Mario Pouliot.

He remains discreet about the funding package that has to be put together in order to secure the modernization of the plant.



Photo: G. Gagné

*The Gaspésie Railway Society will install a siding for the Saint-Elzéar cooperative in New Richmond this spring. The rails were brought to the location in November.*

“We will contribute some capital ourselves but we need outside support. The funding arrangement will include loans and, we hope, some grants as well. We have approached the Quebec government but also the federal government, as Canada Economic Development has a program for our kind of project,” says Mario Pouliot.

“We really need that plant upgrading. If the sawmill stays as it is now, we won’t survive the next economic slump,” he adds.

The cooperative was, nevertheless, very profitable in 2018. “We were profitable but all the sawmills in Quebec were last year. The prices were very high for the better part of the year, for example, we received \$750 per 1,000 board feet for quite a while. The price then plunged fast by 40%, to \$450 but we already hear that prices are about to pick up. It

has already started in some markets. We prefer when there is more regularity, more predictability in prices,” states Mr. Pouliot.

Even if the official results of 2018 are not available yet, as the ACF financial year just ended on January 31, the cooperative makes annual sales of approximately \$25 million. Once the books will be audited, the official results will be communicated to the 180 members at the end of April.

The supply of the Saint-Elzéar sawmill hovered between 170,000 and 180,000 cubic metres of wood last year. The guaranteed supply from public land reached 110,000 cubic metres, while between 30,000 and 40,000 additional cubic metres were bought through the public land’s auction process.

The *Association coopérative forestière* is one of the main customers of the

Gaspésie Wood Producers Syndicate, with wood acquisitions totalling an average 40,000 cubic metres annually.

“Our plant is designed to process 250,000 cubic metres of wood yearly, however, we only process 170,000 cubic metres or so but we have the same fixed costs, the same municipal taxes to pay whether we process a larger volume or a smaller volume of wood. That is why I would like to increase our supply for 2019 to 200,000, maybe 210,000 cubic metres. It would improve our production cost,” explains Mario Pouliot.

Besides being confident to land the modernization project this year, he is confident that the lumber markets will be good as well.

“We have settled a couple of issues regarding our by-products. We have reached agreements for our wood chips with the Twin Rivers mill in Edmundston and the AV Cell

Mill in Atholville, New Brunswick. We are also selling all our sawdust and shavings to the Uniboard plant in Sayabec and we have reached an agreement with AV Cell for the bark. So the by-product situation has really evolved quite a lot,” points out Mr. Pouliot.

The cooperative management wants to expand its markets in 2019. “Over recent years, we have mainly sold our wood to the Maritimes and Quebec, and a bit less to Ontario. We have avoided the United States because we are penalized by their tax on import. We will sell more to Ontario this year because we will start using the railway. There is a shortage of trucks and it is cheaper by rail over long distances. In fact, we might use the railway even if we send some of the lumber to Montreal,” states Mr. Pouliot.

The Gaspésie Railway Society will install a siding for the Saint-Elzéar cooperative in New Richmond this spring. Originally, the firm’s lumber was supposed to be loaded in New Carlisle but the project ended when the line was put in a dormant state east of Caplan by Transport Quebec four years ago.

The *Association coopérative forestière* of Saint-Elzéar provides work to 130 people directly, 70 at the sawmill, about 40 in wood harvesting, transport and measuring, and close to 20 people in silviculture duties. Those latter jobs are going from the end of the spring to the fall. Close to 100 additional jobs depend indirectly on the cooperative’s activities.



Photo: Kayla Major

## Inventory of deer population began on January 25

Gilles Gagné

HOPE TOWN – On January 25, Quebec’s Department of Forest, Wildlife and Parks started the inventory of deer on the Gaspé Peninsula. Two helicopters, a gray one and a blue one, are used in the procedure. The first three days of the inventory were carried out in the Bay of Chaleur area, notably in Hope Town (photo). The ministry’s crew then moved to the Gaspé area. At times, the helicopters could be seen passing at a very low altitude.

The first observations confirm some previous conclusions drawn by biologists; fewer and fewer deer are present in the deep woods and are more commonly seen around towns and villages, especially near farms.

The biologists are seeking three main goals with the inventory: getting an update about the geographical distribution of deer in the Gaspé Peninsula, checking if it is still relevant to maintain protected areas for deer on public land and to evaluate the total size of the herd. On public land there are approximately 40 protected areas for deer. It will take weeks before the assessment and the analysis stemming from the count are ready to be released.



Photo: A. Bonn

## Fred predicts a late spring

Ariane Aubert Bonn

VAL-D’ESPOIR: – Fred, the Gaspesian groundhog predicted a late spring on February 2 at the Val-D’Espoir’s 10th Groundhog Day. For the last time of his “career”, *Gros-Fred*, the very first groundhog to make that kind of prediction in Quebec, saw his shadow, which means a late arrival of the spring.

He is making way for his son, *Petit-Fred*. *Gros-Fred* is now ready for retirement, says his owner and founder of Groundhog Day in Val-d’Espoir, Roberto Blondin. “The normal life expectancy of a groundhog is eight years and Fred is now ten. He has a white ring of fur now. It will be a well-deserved retirement,” said Mr. Blondin, following the prediction.

He talked to Fred for a few seconds before communicating the prediction to Méganne Perry Mélançon, the Member of the National Assembly for the riding of Gaspé, who announced it to the crowd. Up to 400 people attended the ceremony and the pancake breakfast that followed at the village’s church. As years pass, the event attracts a growing number of visitors from outside the Percé area and the Gaspé Peninsula.

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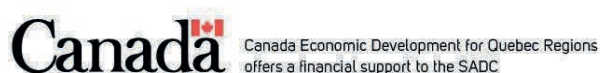
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**Gaétan Denis**, an entrepreneur, but also an experienced mentor

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**Marco Fournier**, astute businessman, but also a mentee

A Clinique de Physiothérapie Arsenault Joncas Fournier shareholder since 2008, Marco is being coached by Gaétan, a Réseau M mentor. “Our meetings have not only helped me fine-tune my critical thinking and my capacity to resolve problems, they have also helped me build my negotiation and communication skills. He encourages and motivates me. He asks me the right questions. I feel less alone and more confident. I recommend the Réseau M business mentoring service offered by the Gaspé SADC.” For more details, call 418-368-2906 or visit [www.sadcgaspe.ca](http://www.sadcgaspe.ca)



# 102 and never owned a mop!

Jeanie LeLacheur

SANDY BEACH: - Mary Miller née Patterson was born on January 23, 1917. One hundred and two years later she's an inspiration and a vibrant part of her Sandy Beach and Wakeham communities.

She's seen many changes over one hundred years: a one room schoolhouse heated by wood, housing grades one to seven. She played hide and seek and kick the can with her friends (no technology then) and used a horse and buggy to get around or went on foot.

She remembers having a garden and pigs, cows, hens and sheep from which they used the wool for yarn and all the work that went with this lifestyle. She lived through the war, kept boarders during those years, and worked at a shirt factory in later years. Mary also raised a family and two of her nephews: Allan and Boyd Young from a very young age. As her niece Lorna says, "She is just so kind. I remember when my youngest brother died very suddenly, I was young with two small children of my own and Aunt Mary and Uncle Austin came to the house and just took over. Another time when my little girl was sick they came to the hospital and insisted Larry and I go home to rest." Debby Boulay remembers when her mom had tuberculosis and Aunt Mary brought her home to nurse her back to health.

Lorna made a toast to her aunt at the birthday party, saying her long life was no doubt due to her determination, independence, good eating habits and doing what she wanted to do and not what others suggested.

At 99, Lorna says, she was still walking every day on the road chatting to people along the way, but always called me before she left and when she got back so I wouldn't worry.

Consideration for others and kindness are other qualities that make Mary special to her family and friends.

Mary, on the other hand, says modestly that she's not sure about her secret to a long and healthy life, but on-lookers and those closest to her would agree that her fierce independence is one factor. At 102 Aunt Mary, as she is affectionately called by most, related or not, lives happily at her home in Sandy Beach. She still does her own cooking and gets along fine

with just a bit of outside help. Carole, the lady who goes in once a week to help out, says it is the only house where she washes the floors on her hands and knees and she does so knowing full well that if she doesn't, Mary will.

Up to a couple of years ago, Mary still walked outside every day and tended her garden but an unfortunate fall had her family put a stop to those two activities deemed too dangerous for a one hundred-year-old.

She may not get out to walk anymore but she certainly still gets out.



Mary Miller recently celebrated her 102 birthday.

Photos: Sean Costello



Many family and friends came to celebrate with Mary.

Playing cards is one of Mary's favourite pastimes and she does so at least once a week.

Cynthia Patterson, her minister, says Mary tells her who needs what in pastoral care in her community. When it comes to prayers and communion during which people can stand, sit or kneel, it's always "a full kneel" for Mary. Cynthia smiles and adds, "during our coffee get togethers she lines up rides to the whist card parties.

Mary who is still quilting

at 102 has taught half the community to quilt. Madeleine says Mary taught her how to make heels on socks and her best memory is when she came to spend the winter with her brother, Joe Patterson, and they needed wood to make a fire and Mary insisted on going to the basement to get it.

Heather Patterson, who does Aunt Mary's hair, also remembers her homemade bread and as she no longer makes her own, brought her a loaf for her special day.

Debby tells the story of

ways ready to give back to her friends, family and community and has spent a lifetime as a member of the ACW Anglican Church Women and the Guild.

One memory shared was from back in the day when it was forbidden to dance on Sundays and New Year's Eve happened to be on Sunday. Aunt Mary and her family waited and watched the clock and started dancing at the stroke of midnight.

Family and a close knit circle of friends from the community attended Mary's birthday party. One of her nieces, Martha, came all the way from Ottawa with her son Sean Costello who is a photographer, especially to take pictures.

There was lots of laughter and reminiscing. Perhaps the funniest moment of the afternoon was when the ladies were preparing lunch in the kitchen. Mary's comment was, "If I was out there I'd have that going by now."

So the secrets to long life are forging relationships through the years that last, sharing your time and your talents, teaching others to knit and quilt, being a part of community suppers and card parties, and having a spiritual community as well. Last, but not least, Mary thinks what may help is her habit of having a small drink of brandy and cranberry juice every night before bed.

Happy 102 birthday to an incredibly independent, resourceful and kind lady. May you continue to bring laughter and joy to those around you.

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# Route 198: Murdochville wants changes

Nelson **Sergerie**

MURDOCHVILLE: - The mayor of Murdochville, Délicia Ritchie-Roussy, is asking the Quebec's Transport Ministry to take action to prevent the recurrence of incidents such as that of January 22. During that incident 25 vehicles remained stuck on Route 198 in the cemetery area. Mayor Délicia Ritchie-Roussy is asking the Transport Ministry to find solutions. "It can be nice elsewhere, but when you get to that spot, you can't see the sky or the ground when it is windy and snowing. I think the Department of Transport should plant trees. It would prevent such large winds," claims the mayor. The Department of Transport has heard the message. "We will take the time to analyze the situation in terms of the environment, the shape of the road and everything in order to see

what would be the best way to meet the needs," says the MTQ spokesperson for the Bas-Saint-Laurent-Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine, Claire Pouliot. In addition to the configuration of the road, the ministry will also be looking at possible measures to minimize blowing snow such as a windbreak hedge, installing snow fences or any other element that could prove to be effective.

## Cellphone signal

Fortunately, the cellular network works in this area, allowing motorists to call for help, however, if the incident had occurred a few miles from Murdochville, people would have been left to their own devices. "We asked for it two years ago. It has become essential. Tomorrow morning, I will be on Route 198. It's extremely dangerous because



Photo: N. Sergerie

This bend in the road is often troublesome during poor winter weather conditions.

you cannot communicate with anyone," says Ritchie-Roussy. The president of the *Regroupement des préfets de la Gaspésie*, Guy Gallant, discussed this issue with the re-

gional minister during his visit to New Richmond on January 24. Marie-Ève Proulx indicated that Quebec is ready to invest in improving cellular coverage, provided

that Ottawa makes it a priority.

The 25 vehicles remained prisoners in the snow on January 22, only a few kilometers from Murdochville. Winds and blowing snow had reduced visibility to zero. The turn near the cemetery at the eastern entrance of the town is known to be problematic in winter and snowdrifts often form when it's windy. On January 22, the situation could have been catastrophic when a young motorist got stuck in the snow along this turn. Fortunately, she only had minor injuries, but the other vehicles on the road had to stop and became stuck in the snow.

The police had difficulty getting to the scene to help because the visibility was only three to four metres.

## More snow in Gaspé than anywhere else in Quebec

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ - More snow has fallen in Gaspé than anywhere else in Quebec. Since the beginning of the winter, 328 centimetres have been recorded at the Michel Pouliot Airport, the location where Environment Canada conducts meteorological surveys. The usual amount of snowfall for a winter is approximately 372 centimetres. At this rate, the region could exceed the record of 590 centimetres recorded in the winter of 1993-1994. "At the end of January 1994, we were at 296 centimetres and now we are at

328. We are about thirty centimetres ahead. If we look at the months of February and March 1994, we had amounts close to exceeding 100 centimetres. It's quite possible, but it will depend on the trajectories of the different depressions to come," says Environment Canada's meteorologist Alexandre Parent.

### Record for January

It is not a surprise that January is going in the record books for the amount of snow received. During the month of January 185.4 centimetres was

recorded at Michel Pouliot Airport, more than twice the normal average of 80 centimetres. The previous record of 153 centimetres was registered in 1969, however, in 1936, 186 centimetres had been recorded, but the station was located downtown. "When you change stations that are not in the same place and the technology is not the same, it's difficult to compare," says the meteorologist.

Although January seemed very cold, the average of the month was -11.3 degrees Celsius while the norm is -11.6 degrees Celsius.

## Barchois Community Liaison

Jessica Synnott

BARCHOIS: - Vision Gaspé Percé Now has hired Patricia Ste. Croix Annett to fill a new position within the organization: Community Liaison for Barchois and surrounding areas. The official name of the project is The Villages of Malbaie. Following consultations with partners and community members, it became clear that a community liaison in the area would be beneficial in supporting local organizations and to determine the needs of the community.

Patricia is definitely up to the challenge! A resident of Barchois, she is familiar with the community and her extensive experience and training make her perfect for this position.

One of Patricia's tasks will be to produce a plan for how Vision and organizations in the Villages of Malbaie (from Saint Georges de Malbaie/Bougainville to Corner of the Beach) can improve and strengthen the area. She will be using a lot of different skills in her new position: working with individuals, committees, and partners; recruiting volunteers and encouraging people to participate in events; helping to organize and advertise community events, classes, and workshops; helping francophone organizations increase their ability to reach English-speakers and develop appropriate programs; develop an information centre; and more! This will create a one-stop shop for residents of Barchois and those who work within the community. In a nutshell, the Liaison is working to make the community a more inclusive and vibrant place to live.

Please feel free to contact Patricia for assistance. If she is not able to help you directly, she can direct you to someone who will! The Vision satellite office is located at the Barchois Recreation Centre in the Allison Aubut Library (1062 route 132 east, Barchois). Contact information for Patricia and the Liaison Office is - Phone Number (mobile): 418-360-3989; and e-mail: p.stecroix-annett@vgpn.ca. The creation of the Community Liaison is thanks to funding from the Secretariat for relations with English-speaking Quebecers (SRQEA) and the Community Health and Social Services Network (CHSSN).



Patricia Ste. Croix Annett, Community Liaison for Barchois

## RéGIM shuttle service gets slightly better results than a year ago

Gilles **Gagné**

CARLETON - The number of passengers using the RéGIM shuttle service to take the VIA Rail train in Campbellton fell slightly over the Christmas and New Year's Day break compared to the corresponding 2017-2018 period but the occupancy rate increased slightly.

In 2017-2018, 204 passengers had used 21 shuttles between Gaspé and Campbellton, compared to 187 people in 15 shuttles over the last holidays. The occupancy rate of the bus went from 18 to 24% between 2017-2018 and 2018-2019.

The RéGIM management considers that traffic increase

a success and praises VIA Rail's collaboration, which was "a key element in the success of that project," says Marie-André Pichette, director general of the *Régie intermunicipale de transport de la Gaspésie et des Îles-de-la-Madeleine*, or RéGIM.

"For a second year, the results are positive and show that there is demand for that service. The shuttles fill a need of the population. We also gather that through the numerous positive comments made by users and the encouragement of the organizations linked to the service. The budgetary objectives of users' revenues were even reached this year," points out Daniel Côté, president of RéGIM.

The president of VIA Rail, Yves Desjardins-Siciliano is glad that the shuttle service coupled by his corporation's Ocean train satisfied the users.

"That excellent intermodal option allowed people to leave their cars at home, avoid the stress of winter driving and have a good time on board," he said.

Since 2010, RéGIM has offered a weekday shuttle service in the five MRCs of the Gaspé Peninsula, as well as in the Magdalen Islands. The company also offers special services on certain occasions, including the VIA Rail shuttle during the Christmas break. RéGIM carries approximately 100,000 people yearly.





Photo: G. Gagné

The state of the Busted house has deteriorated considerably over the last decade.

## Patrimoine Gaspésie questions the future of the Busted house

Gilles Gagné

CROSS POINT – Jean-Marie Fallu, the founder of Patrimoine Gaspésie, an organization that aims to protect Gaspesian heritage, has written to the chief of Listuguj, Darcy Gray, because he is worried about the future of the Busted house in Pointe-à-la-Croix.

Built in 1800 by Thomas Busted just west of Listuguj, the Busted house is arguably the oldest residence on the Gaspé Peninsula. William Busted, a member of the family's sixth generation to live in the house, sold it in 2009 to the federal government. It was in very good state at the time.

The property was transferred to the Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government in 2012. The house hasn't been lived in since it was sold in 2009 and is now showing signs of vandalism. Windows have been broken and replaced by plywood panels. Beams have been added to support parts of the verandah's roof.

Over the years, the population of Listuguj has been divided about the Busted house. It is considered by many people to be a symbol of colonialism. Some documents dating back to the 1890s show that several pieces of Native land in Cross Point were used by non-Natives as farmland, woodlots and to build properties. Thomas Busted bought his piece of land from a local owner but the property title has been contested several times.

Jean-Marie Fallu does not want to tell the people of Listuguj or Chief Darcy Gray what to do, but he wants to start some kind of dialogue and make useful suggestions.

"I want to support Chief Gray. I understand the controversy about the perception

linked to the past, about the house being considered by many as a sign of oppression. However, we cannot collectively let go or demolish all the signs of oppression that are present around us. In Paspébiac, in the 1960s, the question of demolishing the Robin buildings was considered because they were an old symbol of the oppression imposed by the owners of the company, even if that oppression was rooted in a distant past. The Paspébiac buildings were finally preserved and the reality of the oppression is presented there," explains Jean-Marie Fallu.

"So the Busted house could be the place where the history of the controversy surrounding the house is presented. It would be a way to make peace with the past and not forget," he adds.

The Busted house is protected by the classification issued in 1987 by the Quebec Department of Culture and Communications. Officially, that department is supposed to protect the house, however, the matter is somewhat touchy

because it was acquired by the Canadian government and is therefore considered to be part of Listuguj, a territory under federal jurisdiction.

Over more than two centuries, controversy has risen on several occasions as to whether or not the house was built on Native land.

"For example, a surveyor by the name of Fafard issued a report in 1899 stating that properties near the Busted house were used by non-Natives despite being located on Native land," points out Jean-Marie Fallu.

If the house is of very little or no interest for the Listuguj Mi'gmaq government, could it be moved?

"When a heritage protected house is moved, its status is denatured through altering its integrity, which affects its authenticity because the integrity of a building is closely linked to its original premise," says Mr. Fallu.

*SPEC is waiting for a reply from other stakeholders and will publish their viewpoints on the fate of the Busted house in an upcoming issue.*

### No concrete plans for Busted House yet

Statement from Listuguj Chief, Darcy Gray

LISTUGUJ: - We understand that the house is important to Gaspésians and we are sensitive to their concerns, however, it is necessary to remember that the Busted House does not have the same meaning for the Listuguj community. For us, this building bears witness to a heavy colonial legacy.

Our community has recently recovered rights allowing access to its ancestral lands, after being stolen from us for decades, also, our community is still hurting and is in the process of healing. Thinking about the future of this building is not an easy thing for us yet.

Listuguj takes care of the maintenance of the building and we draw from our budgets to finance its maintenance. Listuguj is responsible for the heating and electricity. We do everything in our power to monitor the premises.

The building is currently barricaded to protect it from vandalism while the Listuguj Council is in the process of contemplating its future. Projects such as a healing centre, a cultural centre or tourism are being considered, but we have no date or announcement to be made at this time.

## Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



### Winter Blues

Perhaps your favourite thing about winter is when it's over. Even those of us who shiver at the thought of the frigid wind whipping around our heads can see some beauty in winter. The first snow, "diamond" snow when the ice crystals reflect the light, snow-covered trees, the quiet after a raging snowstorm, these can all be appreciated by those who do not adore winter, however, there is a fairly common malady that affects a great number of people in the darker and colder months. The winter blues are very real for many people. According to researchers approximately six percent of people have SAD (Seasonal Affective Disorder) and another 14% suffer from what is termed seasonal mood changes. This is known as the winter blues. That is a pretty significant percentage of the population that feels "down" in winter.

Studies back up the notion that this is a real condition and attribute it to this time of year when there is less natural sunlight. The lack of sunlight causes our body rhythms to get all confused because of the reduced sunlight. This leads to a lack of serotonin, which we get from vitamin D. Serotonin is known as the "feel-good" brain chemical. On top of that very cold and icy weather means that we may not get outside as much. This adds to a feeling of sadness. Not getting out can also mean that we are more isolated. All of this is not beneficial for our mental well-being.

Should we fight these feelings? Can we fight these feelings? Well, yes, we should because many find that their winter blues cause them to sleep more, crave carbs and thereby gain weight. This does not help improve our mood at all. If you have SAD or a case of the winter blues, try these ideas to boost your outlook. Of course, if you are feeling extremely down, perhaps depressed, speak to a health care professional.

**1. Get busy.** Find things to do so that it takes your mind off the winter blues feeling. You could find a new hobby, make a list of books you want to read, take a course, go to the gym, or deep clean your cupboards.

**2. Embrace winter.** That's right, get outside and find something you enjoy doing. Skiing is too much for you? Try snowshoeing. Go skating. Play outside with a child and build a snowman or make snowangels. Have a snowball fight. Build a snowcastle. Everyone benefits.

**3. Listen to music.** Find the music that you love. Turn up the volume and dance around the room like nobody is watching, just not at night with the curtains open. If you have no neighbours close by, do as you wish! Music can lift your mood.

**4. Smell something good.** Certain scents are believed to lift your mood. Aromatherapy can be a powerful factor. Scents that are recommended include lavender, citrus and peppermint. An aromatherapy candle or a diffuser are available in many scents. Choose one that lifts your mood.

**5. Try a light box.** These can be purchased online and are lights that you use to restore your "happy" brain chemicals. Plug it in and sit in front of the lights. We know that there is a connection between sunlight and depression. This light therapy lamp may be effective after about a week, in sessions of 30 minutes or so.

**6. Take vitamin D.** People over 50, in particular, have lower levels of vitamin D which is said to be mood elevating. Supplements of 400 to 600 i.u. daily seem to be the suggested dosage but do ask your doctor or pharmacist. On the days when the sun is shining, get outside and get your vitamin D the natural way, as well.

Years ago, I heard this message for winter. "Dear Winter, I am breaking up with you. I think its time I start seeing other seasons, besides, summer is hotter than you." Resist those winter blues. Fight against that "down in the dumps" feeling. One day, this winter will be over and the sun will shine.

# Announcements...



## IN MEMORY

### GUIGNION: Percy

In loving memory of a dear father and grandfather who passed away February 12, 1995.

*The love you gave us for many years  
Will never from us part,  
Though you have gone beyond our reach  
You are always in our hearts.*

Forever loved and sadly missed by Janis, Judy, Graham and grandchildren.

### KIROUAC: Laura

In loving memory of our mother and grandmother who passed away February 6, 1990.

*As years roll on and days go by  
Loving memories never die.  
Deep in our hearts a memory is kept  
Of the one we loved and will never forget.  
Asleep in God's beautiful garden  
Sheltered from sadness or pain  
Safe in God's keeping, till we meet again.*

Still missed and loved, Phyllis and family.

## Happy Birthday



Birthday wishes to Olive Dow who celebrated her 97th birthday on February 6.

*Love Nellie and Wilson*

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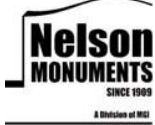
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## COAST ROUND-UP

### YORK:

#### York River Seniors

**February 16:** In conjunction with the Wakeham-York Winter Carnival, the York River FADOQ Seniors' Club will be holding a Lumberjack Supper at the York River Community Hall. A first sitting will be at 5 p.m. with a second one at 6 p.m. No take-outs. \$12 for adults and \$6 for children 10 and under. Some of the items on the menu include stew, corn beef hash, baked beans, shepherds' pie, turnip wack, baguettes, and cottage pudding. Bar service available.

### 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 7:** Board game night from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.  
**February 8, 22:** Traditional music and dance workshop from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.  
**February 24:** Community breakfast from 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

### 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

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

### BARACHOIS:

#### Recreation Centre

**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 & 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 15:** Potluck supper at 5 p.m.  
**February 23:** 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.

### Hope Town

#### Winter Carnival Date Change

**Friday, February 8:** 4:30 - 6 p.m. Casserole supper, 12 and up \$10; 7 - 11 \$5; 6 and under FREE. 7 p.m. Gift Bingo \$10 series or 3/\$20.

### HOPE TOWN:

#### Community Centre

**February 9:** Military whist beginning at 8 p.m.  
**February 16:** Crib tournament beginning at 1 p.m. Registration at 12:30 p.m. \$10 per person.

### NEW CARLISLE:

#### Heritage New Carlisle

**February 9:** Woodcarving from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Learn to carve on wood with specialist Marcel Beaulieu and take home a finished product. Cost \$15.

#### February 16, 23 & March 2:

Learn the basics of quilting with artisan Violette Arsenaault. 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:

#### Bible Chapel Services

Sunday: Breaking of Bread for Believers - 9:30 a.m.; Sunday night service - 7 p.m.; Wednesday: Bible Study and Prayer - 7

p.m. "You Must Be Born Again."

### NEW CARLISLE:

#### Royal Canadian Legion

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

### NEW CARLISLE:

#### Curling Bonspiel

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

### NEW RICHMOND:

#### Flea Market

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

### CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

#### Royal Canadian Legion Br. 172

The Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 172, meets monthly every third **Saturday** at the Legion located at 55 Gallagher St.  
**February 10:** Valentine brunch from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Adults \$12, Children (under 12) \$8. Bring your sweetheart and join us for a great meal.

### 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:

#### 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 3, 10, 17, and 24** at 3:30 p.m. and also on **Wednesday, February 6, 13, 20, and 27** at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome to come and listen to a message of hope shared from the Bible, at no cost and with no obligation. Contact Klinton Jacques or Steve Shultz at 438-820-2886. Call or text.

### GESGAPEGIAG:

#### N.A. Meetings

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

### UNITED CHURCH

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

## ANGLIGAN CHURCH OF CANADA

**Sunday, February 10**  
New Carlisle

10 a.m. Morning Prayer  
**Shigawake**  
9 a.m. Morning Prayer followed by vestry meeting

## PARISH OF GASPÉ

**Sunday, February 10**  
St. Paul's - Gaspé  
10 a.m. Holy Eucharist followed by vestry meeting

Support Local Events

## ANNOUNCE ALL YOUR UPCOMING EVENTS!

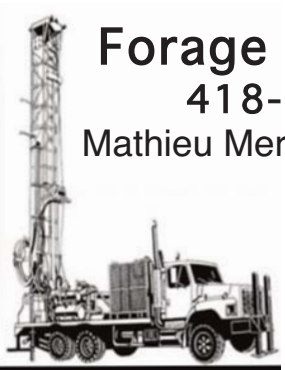
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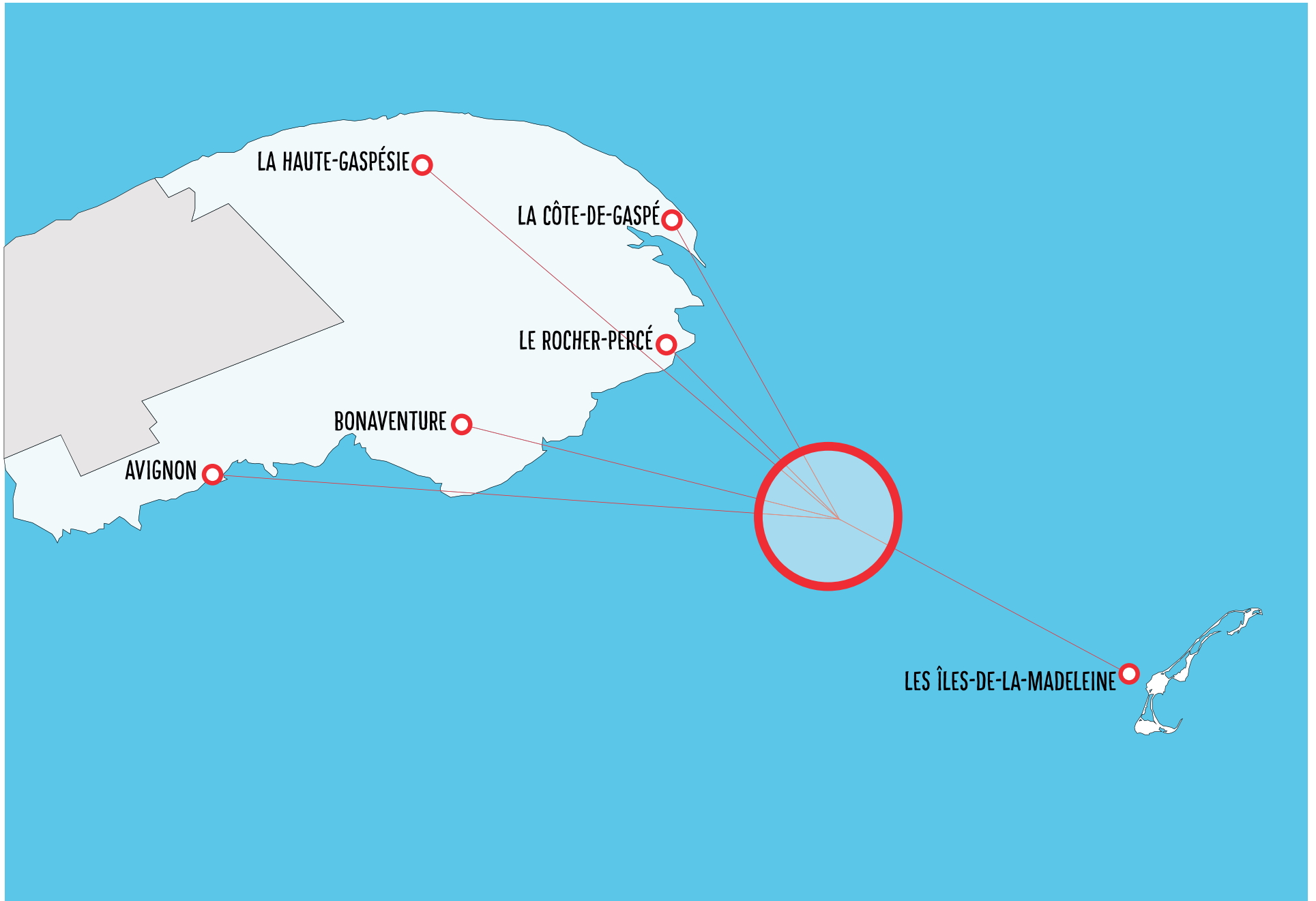


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