

Soap nuts - Mother Nature's detergent

Jeanie LeLacheur

GASPÉ: - Approximately 8.3 billion metric tons (9.1 billion US tons) of plastic has been produced since plastic was introduced in the 1950s.

Virtually every piece of plastic that was ever made still exists in some shape or form (with the exception of the small amount that has been incinerated).

91% of plastic waste is not recycled. 500 million plastic straws are bought every minute around the world. Less than half wind up being recycled.

One million plastic bottles are bought every minute around the world. Less than half wind up being recycled.

There is more micro plastic in the ocean than there are stars in the Milky Way and if plastic production isn't curbed plastic pollution will outweigh fish pound for pound by 2020. (Earth Day Network)

At a time when the earth is being impacted by humans in unimaginable ways and as many try to live minimally and shrink their environmental foot prints, we dutifully fill up the blue bins and some-



Photo: J. LeLacheur

Rachel Fournier, Ben Baird and Louise Misson show lots of enthusiasm for the environmentally friendly soap nuts!



times wonder if it's really helping our planet or just making us feel like we're actually doing something to help Mother Earth as she sinks to her knees to mourn not only the losses including her pollinators but also the 60% decline of all wildlife populations in just 40 years.

That being said, local teacher Ben Baird, (originally from Prince Edward Island), has moved away from com-

mercial laundry detergents and instead is using all natural soap nuts for his family's laundry needs.

Soap nuts are actually fruit taken from the soapberry tree *Sapindus mukorossi* and are used the world over as cleaning agents. Harvested in India and Nepal they have been in use in Southeast Asia for centuries and in Europe for decades. More recently in North America it has been rec-

ognized as a natural powerful cleaning alternative to the harsh chemicals found in detergents and other household cleaners.

The chemical compound Saponin is what makes soap nuts sudsy and it is a legitimate green alternative to commercial detergents.

Ben has only good things to say about soap nuts, their cleaning ability, the money his family saves, and their low

impact on the environment. They are biodegradable so they don't negatively impact plants, animals, or eco systems in general and since they are antimicrobial they actually help break down grey water in septic systems. There is no need for a rinse cycle so many gallons of water are saved per year and the fact that even used nuts can be returned to the earth as compost.

Another environmentally conscious decision for Ben was to switch from disposable diapers (babies on average use more than 5000 from birth to potty trained) to cloth taking into account the gentle cleaning and non irritating factors for his children.

Ben usually orders his soap nuts online from Amazon and then mixes up a big batch which can be frozen and used a little at a time. He also says it's not unlike commercial brands of laundry soap. Sometimes tough stains must be treated before washing. Soap nut and hydrogen peroxide will get out most tough stains and lemon juice or hydrogen peroxide will also help brighten white clothes and for those who would like to have a scent he suggests adding a natural essence.

So soap nuts come highly recommended by Ben and his family, and it may just be an economical way to help the

Federal government funding supports seven Bay of Chaleur organizations and businesses

Gilles Gagné

PASPEBIAC and GESGAPÉ-GIAG: - A federal government body, Canada Economic Development for Quebec regions, announces \$695,000 for seven Bay of Chaleur projects, spearheaded by three businesses and four organizations. Four contributions are grants while the other three are loans.

Those ventures will lead or have led to total investments of \$2 million. Hôtel Le Francis, Cime Aventures and the

Château Blanc hotel in Bonaventure are the private businesses receiving loans. The organizations receiving funding are the Micmacs of Gesgapegiag, the Banc-de-Paspébiac historic site, the Committee for Anglophone Social Action (CASA) and the Gaspesian Bluegrass Music Association.

The Francis Hotel was awarded a \$250,000 loan for an \$800,000 upgrading project. The money was to renovate the lodging units and the conference rooms.

CASA will receive a grant of \$155,616 out of a total investment of \$258,463. The project will implement the 2018-2023 Regional tourism action plan for the English-speaking community of the Gaspé Coast and the Magdalen Islands. It will encourage greater economic integration of anglo-Gaspésians in tourism. The contribution will cover the two coordinators' salaries, including mandatory employer-related costs and expenses pertaining to concept develop-

ment for the marketing program.

CASA director general Cathy Brown thanked minister Diane Lebouthillier "for the continued support of the government for tourism development."

The Gaspesian Bluegrass Music Association, which organizes the annual Bluegrass Festival in New Richmond, receives a grant of \$66,600 out of a total investment of \$293,900. It involves marketing activities targeting out-of-province tourists. The

contribution will cover project expenses specific to the out-of-province marketing strategy.

Festival president Mike Geraghty points out that the event "attracts 50% of its attendees from outside Quebec and from as far as North Carolina. The festival was supposed to last one year or two and we have now been there for 15 years."

The Micmacs of Gesgapegiag Band will receive a grant

EI Program: unfair for women

Thierry Haroun

GASPÉ PENINSULA: - The MASSE, an organization that defends the rights of the unemployed, is asking for equality for women, given that only 35.2% of women are eligible to the Employment-Insurance Program compared to 52.5% for men. It's in that context that MASSE presented an online petition with more than 2000 signatures to the Canadian Parliament asking the Liberal Government to adapt the program to women's reality. "The problem, discriminating women, goes back as far as 1996 when the government of Canada changed the qualifying criteria from weeks to hours. That changed everything for women who for the most part work part-time, therefore, it's more difficult to qualify. This has to change," mentions Sylvain Lafrenière, coordinator of the MASSE. "The other problem for women is when they have to leave for maternity. When they come back, they have to start all over again to qualify. There's much injustice for women and we intend to make sure that the government gets the message," he added. Another petition, a paper version, is available in women's organizations which will be presented to Minister Jean-Yves Duclos in Ottawa on May 23.

2018 was another great year for Fall Festival

Press release

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES: - The Fall Festival committee is very happy to announce that once again the festival was a huge success. The profits for 2018 were \$16,115.94 with 14,033 of this amount donated to non-profit groups. Among those receiving financial assistance were: Eagles Club \$1,500; Royal Canadian Legion Dart Club \$1,500; Fifty Plus Club \$1,500; Volunteer Fire Dept \$1,500; Royal Canadian Sea Cadets New Richmond \$300; New Richmond Figure Skating Club \$300; and the Youth Centre for the purchase of flooring \$7,433. Each of these groups contributed to the Fall Festival by volunteering at a certain event. The Fifty Plus group was responsible for the car show; the Eagles Club took care of the admissions; the Dart Club was responsible for the Washer Games, Dart Tournament and the 50/50 draw; the Volunteer Fire Department provided security at the Go-Cart Races; the Royal Canadian Sea Cadets had presentations during the festival, and the Skating Club provided bar tenders during the weekend. The Rotary Club had a beautiful breakfast on Sunday morning and the Grand Cascapedia Women's Institute hosted a traditional turkey dinner. These groups made a reasonable profit from their events to assist their groups.

The Cascapedia-St-Jules Fall Festival is very proud to announce that between 2005 and 2018 the Festival Committee has been able to donate over \$145,923.00 to the community.

Priest commits to resuming Saint Jules church services "soon"

Gilles Gagné

SAINT JULES: - Saint Jules Catholic Priest Pierre Édayé assures that he and his pastoral group are taking the appropriate measures to promptly restore church services in that parish.

Those services were suspended on March 2 for an undetermined amount of time, due to financial matters and organizational issues. The parishioners were asked to use the churches of Gesgapegiag or New Richmond for the masses, baptisms and funerals in the meantime.

Priest Édayé isn't providing many details about the reasons behind that suspension of services, talking, mostly in general terms.

"I called a meeting for the church wardens. We will talk about the new structures that must be put in place. We have problems to solve and once those problems will be solved, the services will resume. (...) It will be solved soon," explains Father Édayé.

Although he has mentioned publicly that a sum of approximately \$25,000 is apparently missing in the account of the Saint Jules parish, Father Édayé preferred not divulging any amount this time around or identifying a period during which some money started to disappear from the account of the parish or when deposits started to get smaller.

"It is not only a matter of money that led me to stop church services. There are pastoral and administrative issues to solve. I am working diligently at finding solutions," he added.

MENTAL HEALTH:

Tough to find a psychologist

Thierry Haroun

GASPÉ PENINSULA: - It can take up to a year or longer for Gaspésians to have access to a psychologist. Solutions do exist. It's simply a question of reorganizing health departments, says *l'Ordre des psychologues du Québec* (OPQ).

The journal *La Presse* recently published an article proving that at least 477 patients are on a waiting list in Montreal East to see a psychologist.

The OPQ reacted to that article denouncing the fact that the problem is not the lack of psychologists in the province, it's a question of organization. The province of Quebec has 8,700 psychologists which represents half of the psychologists working in Canada. The OPQ added that Quebec has the highest ratio per capita in North America.

Spec reached the president of the OPQ, Christine Grou, to verify if such a problem does exist in our region. "Yes, it does. In your region, the waiting list is between three and 18



Photo: OPQ

Dr. Christine Grou

months," she confirmed over the phone.

The problem, she states, concerns specifically the public sector: "In the private sector, if a patient wants to see a psychologist, there's no problem, but there's a cost to that. The patient could pay up to \$140 an hour for a consultation. The problem is in the public sector. It's very important to say that since 2012 the law allows a patient to see a psychologist without having to see a family physician in the

first place and that stands for the private and the public sector, but it doesn't seem to be applied in the public sector."

When asked why, she replied, "It's just a question of organization. That's why we're going public to sensitize the government and health sector governing boards to consider changing the way things are organized within departments and to take stock of the law that was passed in 2012. If so, it would be for the betterment of the patients because there are consequences. The government has all the tools to act."

Concerning the consequences of a waiting list to consult a specialist, Ms. Grou had this to say: "Mental health problems are invisible. When a person is on a waiting list, the patient's problem can worsen and it could eventually be dramatic for his or her life and family. Did you know that mental health problems are the first cause of work absenteeism and the first cause of hospitalization for youth? Something has to be done," she concluded.

Northern shrimp removed from Smarter Seafood list

Nelson Sergerie

SAINTE-ANNE-DESMONTS: - Smarter Seafood, a program run by *Fourchette Bleue*, has removed the northern shrimp from its 2019 list, a decision that crustacean fishermen find hard to understand. The decision was made by the Exploramer Museum in Sainte-Anne-des-Monts who, since 2009, has promoted a Smarter Seafood program geared towards the sound management of the St. Lawrence marine resources providing consumers with information regarding sustainable development and biodiversity.

In addition to northern shrimp, caplan and Greenland halibut have also been temporarily removed from the list. "For preventive purposes, all three species were removed, as time will tell how the stocks react. We know that there were stock declines this year. We are not taking them away forever. For now this is a cautionary measure," says the director of the Exploramer museum and the person responsible for the Smarter Seafood program,

Sandra Gauthier.

Smarter Seafood still encourages consumers to choose northern shrimp rather than shellfish from Asia.

Species removed
Northern Shrimp
Mackerel
Greenland halibut (Turbot)

Species added
Atlantic Redfish
Marlin Spike Grenadier
Egg wrack (algae)
Black Whip Weed (algae)

Incomprehensible

The shrimp fishermen are surprised by this decision. The

Shrimp Fishermen's Office in the Town of Gaspé respects the decision made by Exploramer, saying that the Gulf is an ecosystem dominated by groundfish. The resurgence of redfish in particular and the other species adds pressure on crustacean stock as it is part of their larder.

"When you talk to Fisheries and Oceans biologists, fishermen or others, there is no one who thinks the northern shrimp is threatened. Management is under the precautionary approach, so management is done very, very carefully. There is no danger to the northern shrimp biomass in the Gulf," says the director of the board, Patrice Element.



VILLAGE
Real Estate Agency

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

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

Police report

Jordan Isaac, 38, from Listuguj was granted bail on March 15 by Quebec Court Judge Celestina Almeida. He is charged with assault with a weapon, assault causing bodily harm and assault. The case involves a January incident Isaac was indirectly involved in. The accused is suspected of having carried a weapon that was used later by another person. Judge Almeida opted for his release because he plans to go to therapy, has already made the initial steps to obtain that help, and has agreed to live with his mother for a while. Certain conditions have been imposed including a curfew.

He is also charged with assault causing bodily harm, assault with a weapon, uttering death threats, two counts of obstructing justice and assault against police officers in connection to a case that occurred on February 17 in his Listuguj home, where his former girlfriend was injured. Both cases will be heard at the New Carlisle courthouse on April 8.

The Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) imposed fines to 13 fishermen who failed to respect the Fisheries Act last year. The fines imposed to those Gaspé Peninsula and Saint-Roch-de-l'Achigan fishermen total \$20,510.

André-Albert Dupuis (Sainte-Anne-des-Monts), Richard Arrelle (Saint-Roch-de-l'Achigan), and André Sarrasin (Saint-Roch-de-l'Achigan) are each fined \$870 for catching and possession of more than the allowable amount of cod in one day during the recreational groundfish fishery. Dany Daraïche (Cap-Chat) and Jean-Paul Sohier (Marsoui) are fined \$1,650 and \$825 respectively for the same offences. Richard Tanguay (Sainte-Anne-des-Monts) is fined \$300 for shellfish harvesting in a closed area. Jean-Guy Cassivi (Cap-aux-Os) is fined \$1,600 and will receive a 2-day suspension of his fishing license for derogation from the conditions of his lobster license by having ropes floating on the surface. He is also fined \$1,000 for failing to maintain his tag record. Two other lobster fisherman, Serge Cloutier (Rose Bridge) and Charles Element (Cap-des-Rosiers) are each fined \$1,500 for derogation from the conditions of their lobster license by having ropes floating on the surface. Jeannot Denis (Rivière-au-Renard) is fined \$2,525 for possession of snow crab under the legal size limit. Norbert Bond (Saint-Georges-de-Malbaie) and Dylan Leggo (Douglastown) are respectively fined \$1,500 and \$1,000 for having fished snow crab in a closed area. Jacques Huet (Cloridorme) is fined \$2,000 for derogation from the conditions of his shrimp fishing license by landing fish without the presence of a dockside observer, \$500 for failing to record bycatch in his logbook and \$2,000 for having processed shrimp to such an extent that it is difficult to determine the size.

H & S Tax Return Services

As in most years, there are several changes to the tax laws. **Revenue Quebec requires extra documents to continue to qualify for the Solidarity Tax Credit, such as the new Relevé 31 or your town tax bill.**

To make sure you obtain maximum tax savings, trust your tax returns to **H & S Tax Return Services.**

For fast, accurate service at competitive rates, rely on over 35 years experience in tax preparation.

Appointments can be made in the following ways:

- Call Donna Harrison or Louis Sexton at any time in Cascapedia-St-Jules at (418) 759-5790.
- Call the Spec office on Tuesdays at (418) 752-5400 address: 208-B Gérard D. Levesque, New Carlisle (front west entrance) from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at (418) 752-5400.
- Email taxes.serviceshs@gmail.com

We look forward to serving you!



Services d'Impôts H & S
H & S Tax Return Services

MAPAQ wants to leave the Rivière-au-Renard Industrial Park

Nelson Sergerie

RIVIÈRE-AU-RENARD: - A file that is almost a quarter of a century old is being re-launched, since once again the Quebec government wants to leave the Rivière-au-Renard Industrial Park by selling it to the Town of Gaspé.

The facilities are owned by the Quebec Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPAQ). The department's first attempts to transfer the property to the Town date back to 1996. The latest discussions between the government and the Town date back to 2014.

At that time, the Gaspé riding Member of the National Assembly, Gaétan Lelièvre, was minister delegated to the Regions under Pauline Marois's Parti Québécois government. A press conference was held in Rivière-au-Renard to announce the

resumption of discussions. "We were almost at the point of reaching an agreement but required an upgrade to all the infrastructures. It was a basic request we had at the time. The work has never been done," said Mayor Daniel Côté. This upgrade would have required \$4.3 million.

The Conditions

The industrial park is managed by the Town. Quebec has been providing \$50,000 a year since 1996 for snow removal, maintenance of the pumping stations, etc. This amount has never been indexed and no longer reflects today's costs. The mayor believes the amount indexed to 2019 could reach \$75,000 or \$100,000.

Quebec has been in default since 2018 and currently owes \$100,000. A clear message is

being issued to the ministry: "Before we start discussing municipalization, pay us what you owe us. We will not accept municipalization at any price. When they have paid, we will discuss it," adds Mr. Côté.

The mayor does not want to take any risks: "between MAPAQ doing the work itself or transferring money to the Town, we prefer MAPAQ to do the work."

The saltwater pumping stations, water mains and streets belong to the MAPAQ. "MAPAQ is asked to upgrade engineering studies that establish costs and we will begin to discuss once this is done." The Rivière-au-Renard industrial park includes three fish processing plants, a shipyard, a wintering slip and a marina. Docks are also located there but are under the jurisdiction of the federal government.



Have you received health services at Rimouski Hospital?

If you or anyone you know from the Baie-des-Chaleurs area has had to travel to Rimouski for health services in the last two years, we would like to hear from you!

- Share your experience to help us to better understand your needs and concerns.
- Discuss how CASA can best support you in the future.

Please contact the CASA office at 418-752-5995 or Mary Robertson at 418-759-5496 to talk or to arrange a meeting.

CASA is focused on improving access to services for English speakers who must travel out of region for health care services. By working together, we can lessen the challenges you face.





Commentary

Gilles Gagné

If your telecommunications are expensive, then you must be in Canada

By stating that the company is not throwing in the towel on the Gaspé Peninsula fibre optic file, the executives of Navigue.com showed a lot of guts on March 13 when a \$1.2 million investment was announced, because they are pitted against a giant, British Columbia based Telus, that is heavily subsidized to install the same equipment.

Heavily subsidized is an understatement. Telus is receiving \$31 million in grants to connect 7,386 households located in six regions of Quebec. The Quebec government is providing \$20.7 million to Telus while the Canadian government adds \$10.3 million to that pot. Telus kicks in \$13.5 million of its own funds, which amounts to 30.3% of the total investment of \$44.5 million.

Simply put, the grant of \$31 million represents \$4,197.13 of public money per household.

A company collaborating with Navigue.com, *Télécommunications de l'est*, had submitted a bid for installing the fibre optic network in the three easternmost MRCs of the Lower Saint Lawrence for \$1,560 of public money per household. The Navigue.com bid for the Gaspé Peninsula was along the same lines. That is almost one-third less!

The federal and provincial governments apparently opted for Telus because they presented a global solution for six regions: the Gaspé Peninsula, the North Shore, Lower Saint Lawrence, Chaudière-Appalaches, Mauricie and the non-served areas around Quebec City. The two levels of government were also confident that a giant such as Telus had the technical capacity of conducting the project from A to Z.

Governments are often like that. Their homework

is often botched because of preconceived ideas. Bigger is better for government officials. If it is big, then it must be good. If we know the company, it must be reliable. Developing regional competencies is not governments' forte.

With "ifs" like that, no wonder there is less competition in this country's telecommunications world than in most industrialized countries, and even third world countries.

With "ifs" like that, we don't have to wonder why Canadians pay some of the highest costs in the world for their phone, internet and television services.

With "ifs" like that, it is not a surprise to see the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission, the CRTC, taking years to assess situations that are dealt with in weeks in other countries. Succeeding governments have failed to modernize the way that commission works, and they have failed to appoint a majority of commissioners with up-to-date knowledge and a modern vision.

So, since the December 2017 government announcement to the effect that Telus gets a \$31 million grant to install fibre optics in six regions, wireless service providers like Navigue.com have suffered a setback. Online services reaching houses through fibre optics are faster than wireless ones, and hundreds of clients have switched to Telus.

Having diversified its activities since 2017 through the acquisitions of Infocom and Solutions Infomédia, respectively specialized in security systems and web sites, Navigue.com no longer heavily depends on internet services financially. Its management was able to "put a knee on the ground," as its president Jean-Marie Perreault says, only to resume the battle, with Gaspesian competences.

It will not be an easy fight. The amount of \$1.2 million invested by Navigue.com is strictly private money. Over the next 15 months, it will only allow the company to compete against Telus over a small fraction of the Gaspé Peninsula, the Hope Town to Gascons stretch.

In an ideal context, the CRTC would have been quick enough to decree that owners of fiber optic networks like Telus and the *Réseau collectif des*

communications électroniques, a regional entity, have to share their wire with users like Navigue.com. This would have been repeating an old and wise decision that forced telephone companies to share their copper wire networks with competitors, for pre-determined rates.

However, the CRTC is still studying the matter, while it is a "fait accompli" in certain countries since the end of the 20th century.

Like the company did for IP (Internet protocol) phone services, Navigue.com will likely come up with cheaper fibre optic rates than Telus, despite not being subsidized. In the meantime, we will pay too much for those services.

Letters to the Editor

I was somewhat surprised to read the short article by Nelson Sergerie in the March 6 edition of *Spec*, referring to our Federal Member of Parliament and Canada's Revenue Minister, Diane Lebouthillier, not being overly concerned regarding the debate surrounding SNC-Lavalin.

I have been personally involved in politics, both Provincial and Federal for many years and there was never an occasion when I would take the presumed results for granted.

After having spent many hours watching, if I may say, the repetitious antics of various members of the judicial committee, I am of the opinion that if SNC-Lavalin was unable to bid on construction projects in Canada for at least ten years, it would undoubtedly have a drastic effect on the Canadian economy.

SNC-Lavalin is one of the world's largest international construction companies. It has projects - some minor, some major in practically every province in Canada, and in many other countries of the world.

My greatest concern is that we must be realistic as I am certain the majority of us are, when we take into consideration the loss of eleven thousand jobs.

England has expressed an interest in having the SNC-Lavalin head office relocate to London if it were to leave Quebec. Such a move would prove difficult with the present EUSN and BREXIT situation.

John F. Le Gresley,
New Carlisle, Quebec

Enclosed is a cashier cheque for \$400.00 (USD).

Ms. Joan Sawyer Imhoff's letter to the editor that appeared in the *Spec* recently incentivized me to make this contribution. I admire the mission of the *Spec* and applaud your effort.

Here in western Colorado where I reside, our daily local paper, that has been around since 1893, is struggling. They recently went to an online edition on Monday and Tuesday of each week to cut cost and avoid lay-offs.

The *Gaspé Spec* has an important role in your region and I would like to see it remain viable.

Paul Currie-Mills
Snow Mesa CT., Grand Junction, CO, USA

ESTABLISHED • MAY 1975

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

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

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

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

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.

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.)

Member of:
QCNA, CARD

Médias d'Info Canada

Dr. Pascal Cyr
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

Dr. Stacey Starrak
Optometrist

NEW RICHMAND ARENA: Anglophone community voices its concerns

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND: – The anglophone community of New Richmond expressed its views about the future of the local arena on March 13 and while there is concern about the effect its modernization would have on the municipal tax bill, a slight majority of the 10 people who attended the meeting favour that upgrading.

The meeting was organized specifically for the anglophone community. A short presentation of the situation was made by town councillor Geneviève Braconnier and director general Stéphane Cyr. Mayor Éric Dubé and two other town employees were also in attendance.

The arena needs \$7,350,000 in renovations and upgrades. The roof, the plumbing, the electrical and cooling systems, the cement slab and a number of other equipment components have to be changed. The dressing room and the restrooms have to be rebuilt. The structure of the building also has to be strengthened because of the new roof, which will include better insulation.

Councillor Braconnier made it clear that the municipal administration will not go ahead with the upgrading project “if we don’t benefit from a grant covering at least 66% of the total bill.”

She added that a 66% grant from the federal government would require the Town of New Richmond to pay \$2,450,000 of the project, which would have an impact of 3% on the taxpayers’ bill.

“We have a scenario with 66% percent support from the government. Will it be 70% or 80%? We don’t know,” pointed out Ms. Braconnier.

The meeting was considered private by the Town of New Richmond in the sense that the citizens could voice their concerns without being identified. SPEC was allowed to attend but a couple of citizens preferred not being quoted.

One person suggested the municipal administration should waive the upgrading of the arena because of its cost; or charge the users, since they want an arena; or reach an agreement with a neighbouring town, like

Bonaventure, considering that that community will have a new inside rink by the spring of 2020.

Pamela Dow, who accepted to be quoted, reminded the citizens that “there is not enough ice time in Bonaventure to include us.” She also said that reaching a deal with other municipalities might not translate into a lesser cost. In regards to charging only the users of the arena, Ms. Dow emphasized that “we will live in a society where costs are shared.”

Another man expressed being ambivalent about the whole issue. “I am paying almost five grand in municipal taxes. I grew up in an arena. I find it extremely important for a town but I am maxed out in taxes. I can’t afford a rise.”

Geneviève Braconnier pointed out that the town is discussing the matter with the community of Cascapédia-St-Jules and those discussions include Cascapédia-St-Jules paying a certain portion of the operating costs.

She also emphasized that while the population is aging in New Richmond, the population of Gesgapegiag is young, and could spell greater needs in the future.

“We do have concerns for all people’s needs,” concluded councillor Braconnier, who also said that another meeting will take place at one point over the next months to do a whole wrap up of the situation.

The New Richmond arena, like 40 other arenas in Quebec and many more elsewhere in Canada, is dealing with the January 1, 2020, deadline, when it will be prohibited to buy Freon in Canada. (Freon is the gas used in the other arenas’ cooling system.)

Mayor Éric Dubé is confident that the federal government will come up soon with an infrastructure program tailored for those arenas. “The timing couldn’t be better. It is an election year. So far, the Quebec government is offering \$800,000 for the replacement of the cooling system but if the federal government comes with a program, we cannot use both. We have to choose and I am pretty sure that the Ottawa program will be more advantageous.”

Navigue.com invests \$1.2M to install fibre optics network

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND: – Navigue.com is investing \$1.2 million over the next 15 months to install fibre optics between Hope Town and Port Daniel-Gascons in order to compete with Telus. The installation will begin over the next few weeks.

Customers located east of the Highway 132 bridge in Hope Town and in Saint Godefroi will be among the first to benefit from the Navigue.com network. They should have access to the service by the beginning of summer. Shigawake customers will follow next winter and the Port Daniel-Gascons households will be connected during the summer of 2020.

The \$1.2 million investment represents Navigue.com’s answer to the \$31 million grant announced for Telus in December 2017 to install fibre optics in 7,400 households located in 148 communities from six regions of Quebec, namely the Gaspé Peninsula, the North Shore, Lower Saint Lawrence, Chaudière-Appalaches, the Quebec City area and Mauricie.

Navigue.com had submitted a bid for that program but the Canada and Quebec governments preferred supporting Telus, which received \$20.7 million from the provincial government and \$10.3 million from the federal government. Telus is investing \$13.5 million in that \$44.5 million venture.

The president of Navigue.com, Jean-Marie Perreault, says that the Telus project affected the clientele



Photo: G. Gagné

Maurice Quesnel, president of the Baie des Chaleurs Chamber of Commerce; Jean-Marie Perreault, Navigue.com president; Gilles Arsenault company shareholder; Félix Perreault, director of networks and systems; Andrée Côté of Caisses Desjardins, and Marc Wayne Addison, director general of Navigue.com are confident that the \$1.2 million investment made by the company will bear fruit.

base of his company because the Telus network was installed first and provided speed that the wireless system of Navigue could not match.

“We lost clients to Telus because of the grant (...) It made us more fragile but it is not because we put a knee down that we are dead. We are going at a pace we can afford,” says Mr. Perreault.

“It is a must to compete with Telus in order to reduce the price of telecommunications in the Gaspé Peninsula,” he adds.

Twelve years ago, Navigue.com started to compete with Telus in high speed internet and telephone services by installing towers that provided those services in sectors that the telecommunications giant did not want to cover.

Mr. Perreault thinks that Navigue.com’s fibre optics will attract 600 new cus-

tomers located between Hope Town and Port Daniel-Gascons inclusively. There are about 1,200 households in those communities.

They will add to the 500 new customers Navigue.com has recruited over recent months in the Mauricie in the Quebec City area. These are people who could not convince companies like Bell and Telus to cover their areas. Those new customers made up for the losses experienced in the Gaspé Peninsula because of Telus’ subsidized fibre optic network.

The Navigue.com team is confident in succeeding in its new initiative because “our network, called Fibre G, is 100% conceived by Gaspésians. That money will stay in the community. (...) We are also aware that we must stay competitive, less costly, if our clients are to opt for us,” adds Jean-Marie Perreault.

Musée de la Gaspésie unionizes

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ: - Musée de la Gaspésie employees want to unionize. The request was filed January 28 by the CSN (Confédération des syndicats nationaux) but the parties do not agree on the workers targeted by the accreditation. A labour policy that outlines the working relationship between management and workers has been in place since 1999 and was to be updated this year.

“We had discussions in the fall to review the work policy. We ended up forming a committee. But the employees felt they wanted to go more towards the (unionization) process,” says museum director Nathalie Spooner. The museum doesn’t intend to oppose the approach of its workers.

The CSN isn’t saying much, preferring to wait before commenting on the approach. However, in a comment sent by email the union says it looks forward to starting negotiations for the good of its members. The museum management says it wants to reveal this information for the sake of transparency towards its members. “It’s important that our members know about it. It’s something that was important to say,” concluded Ms. Spooner.



“I didn’t know what to say, but it helped to talk about it.”

TALKING ABOUT SUICIDE SAVES LIVES

HowToTalkAboutSuicide.com

For you or someone you care about, call
1 866 APPELLE (277-3553)



Association québécoise
de prévention du suicide

In partnership with



Mental Health
Commission
of Canada

Commission de
la santé mentale
du Canada

QUEBECOR

CHSSN
Community Health
And Social Services Network

SAVE THE DATE

Details will follow in future issues of the SPEC and on various social media sites. For further information, please contact **CASA** at 418-752-5995.

Mental Health and Wellness Fairs for the English-speaking community will take place later this year.

OCTOBER 19 at the Galgoisiet Hall in Gesgapegiag and **OCTOBER 26** at the Gespeg Centre in Gaspé.

Eginamasi Migmewei - I am learning Mi'gmaq

Gesgapegiag: Future of the language in good hands!

Cynthia Dow

GESGAPEGIAG: - The United Nations has chosen 2019 as the Year of Indigenous Languages, and Gesgapegiag is one Indigenous community that will not be left behind!

Thanks to recent grants from the *Ministère de la culture et de communications*, the Gesgapegiag Band is working on a cultural policy and taking initiatives to strengthen the use of the Mi'gmaq language within the community – and perhaps outside the community as well.

“We started with a survey which we had never done before,” Melissa Bryan told SPEC, “Erica Marchand-Gedeon did it for us, going door to door, and talking to elders.”

The results show that Mi'gmaq is spoken by about 50% of the respondents, who were mainly from the older age groups. All respondents, even if they don't speak Mi'gmaq, noted that the language is either extremely important, very important or somewhat important to them.

“We are developing lan-



Photo: C. Dow

Alex Jerome and Melissa Bryan are working to encourage interest in learning Mi'gmaq.

guage tool kits for each house. These would include stickies with vocabulary for household items such as fridge, stove, kettle, etc,” Melissa explained.

“We are also trying to reach those who live elsewhere, because about half of the Band members live outside the community. So we'll use our facebook page and our Youtube channel to show videos.”

The Band is also aiming to use the language more in the Band office, putting up posters

and translating position titles.

Along with Melissa, Alex Jerome is working on the technical aspect of the project, preparing video material with the help of language teacher Roger Lee Martin and some youthful volunteers. “We are

hoping to be able to stream his language classes online,” Alex explained. Besides teaching Mi'gmaq to the children at Wejgwapniag School, Roger sometimes offers an adult class in the late afternoons.

“We're trying to break the stigma around speaking Mi'gmaq, encouraging people to relate to the language differently. It needs more exposure. The greatest barrier is that elders don't feel that comfortable teaching the language. They just want to use it. So we intend to offer them lessons in coaching so they can teach others. Secondly, people get discouraged because the grammar is so different from English,” Melissa explained.

The young lady knows about learning another language. While living in the US she picked up Spanish and her daughter is now learning

French. She is proud that her grandparents, Ernestine and Wallace Condo, speak Mi'gmaq at home and she's slowly picking it up herself.

As the Communications and Policy Manager for the Band, Melissa is hoping the initiative to develop a cultural policy will result in the coordination and centralization of efforts to use and teach the language. “For example, we have been working with the Public Works Department and now the stop signs are in Mi'gmaq,” she explained.

The policy will also outline protocols for meetings in the community which will begin with traditional prayers. “We are awaiting funding for a cultural coordinator now and are hoping to post it soon.”

Watch SPEC for future articles about learning the Mi'gmaq language!

Orléans Express modifies its schedule

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ: - There is good news for users of the Orléans Express coach service. As of March 24, a schedule change will result in passengers saving 1 hour and 15 minutes on the Montreal to the Gaspé trip. The bus will leave Montreal at 7 a.m. instead of 6 a.m., which will reduce the waiting time in Quebec City by one hour and in Rimouski by 15 minutes. Westward departures won't be modified due to interconnections with other networks.

Last fall a petition of 1800 signatures was initiated by Martine Thibault of Sainte-Anne-des-Monts and filed with Keolis Canada, Orléans Express parent company. “The basic goal was to improve the service in general, but I was told that going west was too complicated because of all the connections that meet. I'm glad to see a big company like that listened,” said Ms. Thibault. The member for the National Assembly in Bonaventure, Sylvain Roy, is also satisfied with the decision of the carrier: “When citizens take charge and criticize a situation or demand improvement, it works,” he said. Some people continue to complain that the bus leaving the Gaspé in the morning does not arrive until late in the evening in Montreal.

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

ENERGY
TRANSPORTATION GROUP

DRIVEN TO BE **DIFFERENT**
DYNAMISME À BORD

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

Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



Earth - Air - Water

Is the climate of our planet really changing? Despite recent controversies in the public domain about whether climate change is real, we cannot deny that scientists are producing data that supports this premise.

First, let's be certain to make the distinction between climate and weather. It is critical for understanding what is happening. Weather is local. Weather is temporary and short term. Weather forecasters predict the weather, with some mixed results. Meteorologists predict snow, rain, wind, blizzards – this is weather.

Climate is something different based on observations of weather. Climate is based on data and carefully recorded numbers. This includes temperature, snowfall, rain, wind and other weather events BUT over a long time and over a larger area. For example, today it is raining in Caplan, with a high of 5°C and a low of 2°C. However, statistics gathered over many years tell us that this is an anomaly. Most days in early March see snowfall in our region. This is climate.

Is the climate of the Earth really changing? The answer is yes. This is not an opinion. This is based on a great deal of data. This is based on numbers collected over a hundred years and more. The Earth is getting warmer. This is no small thing. The effects are already being seen and they are catastrophic. The average climate of the planet is warming up. This is not my opinion. This is according to scientists who gather and analyze data, and scientists are very worried.

The Earth provides all living things, including humans, with air, water and food to survive long term. All living things are connected to the Earth, but currently the balance of life has been shifted. Again, let's look at the big picture. Humans have drastically impacted the balance of living things on our planet. We also can look at our global climate. This is the overall health of the Earth. It is changing. What happens in one region can affect another. It is like we are one big biosphere and things are changing and not for the better.

Scientists have pretty much concluded that humans have caused a change in the Earth's balance. In the past 100 years, the overall climate has risen one degree. Don't mistake this as a one degree rise in weather today. The rise in overall climate of the planet has already started a massive change in our world. Admittedly, the Earth has had changes in its climate before. We have had several ice ages. During these times, a great deal of the Earth was covered in ice. After time, the planet warmed and most of the ice melted.

Global warming may be caused by volcanic eruptions, increased solar activity or carbon dioxide. The last one is caused primarily by human activity. Air pollution is the factor that produces carbon dioxide. That's on us. Humans and their lifestyle produce this. Fossil fuels is a large contributing factor. Cars, planes, and factories spew carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. It is affecting the balance of the world's climate. As the climate warms, the waters warm. Animals change their habitat to seek cooler water, for example. Polar bears are losing their habitat at an alarming rate. The disappearance of any species upsets the balance of the world.

So, climate change deniers examine the facts. Don't consider opinions. This planet is fragile. Can we change this catastrophe in the making? Yes. But sooner, rather than later. The question is, "Do we want the Earth to have a healthy and viable future?" If not for us, then we should want this for future generations. This is no small thing. It's

Gaspé mayor receives positive feedback about transportation file

Gilles Gagné

GASPÉ: - In late February the mayor of Gaspé, Daniel Côté, met with Quebec government ministers and high-ranking civil servants to discuss essential issues for the town, the Côte-de-Gaspé MRC and the Gaspé Peninsula.

Mayor Côté says that he was "wearing my four hats," during that business trip, as he is also the Côte-de-Gaspé prefect, president of the Régim (Régie intermunicipale de transport Gaspésie – Îles-de-la-Madeleine) and president of the aerial services committee for the *Union des municipalités du Québec*.

"The aerial infrastructure problems are solved since the new government made an announcement over the fall," says Daniel Côté, referring to the \$8.33 million announced in December for the Grand River airport, the \$3.58 million slated for the Gaspé airport and the \$4.7 million earmarked for the Sainte-Anne-des-Monts airstrip.

He also points out that a year ago the former government adopted the partial reimbursement measure for users, which can translate into a \$500 or 30% reimbursement of plane tickets annually.

"Now, we must tackle the price of tickets and improve the fiscal measures (for airport operators). The previous government had created a national (Quebec-wide) committee supposed to take care of those aspects. The committee members never met. In fact, its creation remains to be completed. Now, the first meeting will take place. I was offered a date pretty soon, as in next week. I will try to make some time for that but it is not sure yet. We can say that things are moving," explains Mr. Côté.

It often costs more to fly between Gaspé and Montreal than between Montreal and Europe, a situation criticized by numerous organizations and individuals since that situation also prevails in other Quebec regions.

Rail transportation was also covered during Daniel Côté's visit to the Quebec Transport Department.

"The orientation of the new government remains the same," says Daniel Côté. He is referring to Coalition avenir Québec minister François Bonnardel's statement to the effect that the \$100 million budget announced on May 5, 2017, by

former premier Philippe Couillard for the Gaspé line will be invested as expected.

Is a date for the return of trains to Gaspé set? "It officially remains 2022 but as long as the studies are not completed, it is a tentative date. They (Transport Quebec officials) don't want to say too much. We sometimes hear that the service could be restored by the end of 2021 but I am cautious with that," says Mr. Côté.

"One of the problems that marked the past years is that the MTQ (Quebec's Ministry of Transport) had no railway engineer, someone with a thorough knowledge of infrastructures. Many (government) people were saying whatever they want because the level of knowledge was very low at that department. Now that they have hired some engineers, things are going in the right direction," he comments.

As president of the Régim, Daniel Côté approached Transport Quebec's management in order to ask them if it is possible to accelerate the annual confirmation of the commuter service's regular funding.

"It takes between 12 and 18 months before getting confirmation. We always get the funding but it is so complicated. The accountability reports are also very complicated to fill," he points out, confident that his message was heard.

Régim had a good year, with an increase in ridership from 113,000 to 116,000 users between 2017 and 2018. That number is including adapted transport for handicapped people.

"Our regular annual grant amounts to \$600,000. The gas tax reimbursement brings in between \$1.1 million and \$1.4 million yearly and the rest comes from the ticket sales, for a total budget of \$3 million," says Mr. Côté.

The property transfer of the port of Gaspé from the federal to the Quebec government will require some patience, says the mayor of Gaspé, after exchanges with Transport Quebec officials.

"It is up to the federal government to move. To put it short, it is not progressing fast. I wanted to make sure that the Quebec government has not changed its mind regarding the acceptance of the port's property. We also wanted to make sure that if a stake is not clear in Quebec City, they can always call us to get information. We told them that the access road to the port and the underground pipes all belong to the federal government," explains Daniel Côté.

In what kind of state is the port? "We know nothing about it. The port was rebuilt 34 or 35 years ago. It is well-protected from the storms. It looks in fine shape but it requires an assessment. Ottawa has never been able to tell us anything about its state. We don't know either how things will proceed if repairs are necessary. Will Ottawa do the work and then transfer the property or will Ottawa transfer the property to the Quebec government with a sum of money for the repairs, which will then be carried out at the provincial level? I could bet on the second option," concludes Mr. Côté.



CALL FOR TENDERS

SUPPLY SAND, GRAVEL & OTHER MATERIAL

Ville de Gaspé requests tenders to supply sand, gravel, crushed gravel, rock abrasive, top soil, black ground, asphalt and cold patch.

The necessary documents are available at the Town Hall's public works department during regular office hours situated at 25, rue de l'Hôtel-de-Ville, Gaspé.

Whichever mode chosen, the tenders, to be valid, must be received at Ville de Gaspé's Clerk office, in sealed envelopes, before April 10, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. with the following inscription on the envelope "Soumission – Sable, gravier & autres" to be publicly opened the same day, at the same address, beginning at 2:01 p.m.

Ville de Gaspé does not bind itself to accept the lowest nor any of the tenders received.

Gaspé, March 20, 2019

Isabelle Vézina
Director of legal services and town clerk

Announcements...



OBITUARIES



BOURGAIZE: Elizabeth (Morrison)
1938 - 2019

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Betty on February 15, 2019, at the age of 80. Beloved wife of Weston. Mother to Lori and the late John, her grandson Shane, his mother Ingrid and her sister Hazel. Betty also leaves other close relatives and friends. Betty will be greatly missed and fondly remembered by all who knew her.



CAMPBELL: Goodwill

Goodwill Arnold Campbell ("Goodie") passed into the presence of His Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ on Tuesday, March 5. Beloved husband of Daphne, loving father of George and Tedd (Marla), and proud grandad of Rowan and Melody. Predeceased by his parents George and Lottie Campbell and sister Faith Delaney (Bruce).

Goodie was privileged to host "The Gospel Hour" radio program on CHNC for many years. Goodie loved the Gaspé Coast and its people, calling it the "Holy Land" because Percé Rock (the pierced rock) reminded him of how the Lord was pierced for our transgressions.

Goodie liked to say that he was born twice on the Gaspé: once physically at birth and again spiritually at age 14, when the truth of Bible verse John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life," dawned on him. He believed and received the Lord Jesus Christ as his Saviour.

Goodie is remembered by his aunt Ruth Starnes, cousins Ivan and Shena Starnes, and cousins Loring and Shirley Campbell, who visited often. He will be missed by his nephews Rex and Glen Delaney and their families, and by extended family members and friends too numerous to mention but no less loved.

A memorial service was held for Goodie on March 9 in Kemptville, Ontario. Interment will be in the spring at Bishop Mills Cemetery, Bishop Mills, Ontario. Those who wish may make a memorial donation to Fairhaven Bible Camp.



LANGLOIS: Cecile

January 6, 1932 - March 8, 2019 - 87 years old

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Mrs. Cecile Langlois which occurred on March 8, 2019, at the age of 87 years. She was predeceased by her husband Mr. Clifton Langlois. She leaves behind her children: Dorna (Denis), Gillis (Mike), Kevin, Clyde (Jennifer); her grandchildren: Stephane, Stephanie, Kayla, MacKenzie, Jeffrey, Kent; her great-grandchildren: Liam, Jayden; one sister: Hilda; nephews; nieces and many other family members and friends.

Visitation was held at the Sanctuaire Notre-Dame de Pointe-Navarre on Monday, March 11, 2019, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. The funeral service was held at 3 p.m. the same day. Donations can be made in memory of Mrs. Cecile Langlois to the Sanctuaire Notre-Dame de Pointe-Navarre.



MACWHIRTER: William

January 10, 1924 - February 28, 2019 - 95 years old

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Mr. William MacWhirter which occurred at the age of 95 years on February 28, 2019, at the Hospital Hôtel-Dieu in Gaspé. He was predeceased by his wife, Mrs. Evangeline Doiron. He leaves behind: son William MacWhirter Junior "Champ" (Jann); daughter Jo-Ann MacWhirter (Mick Kennedy); grandchildren Dylan and Jenna Kennedy; great-granddaughter Bridget; brothers-in-law; sisters-in-law; nephew and nieces.

Visitations was held at the Valère-Fortin Funeral Home located at 86 Jacques-Cartier Street in Gaspé, on Saturday, March 2, 2019, and on Sunday, March 3, 2019. The funeral service was held at the Cathedral Christ-Roi in Gaspé on Sunday, March 3, 2019, at 2 p.m.

Interment will take place during the summer in Hope Town. Donations may be made to the Cancer Society or the Legion. Following the funeral service, there was a light snack served at the Gaspé Legion. The Valère Funeral Home was entrusted with organizing the above mentioned services.

thegaspespec.com

MAIN: Jim

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Jim Main on March 11, 2019 at the age of 79 years. He was born on March 4, 1940 in New Carlisle, Quebec.

Jim is survived by his loving wife of 13 years Leone; children: Shawn (Sam) Main, Christian Main, Carla (Rod) Allen, Shawnee Main; grandchildren: Monica (James), Nicholas (Lizanne), James, Graeson, Kaylan; Uncle Ronnie (Marg) Main; and nephew Darin. Jim is predeceased by his parents, Henry and Adela Main; brothers: Henry and Doug Main and Uncle Leonard and Aunt Jean. A memorial service was held at the Sundre Gospel Centre, Sundre on Friday, March 15, 2019. Heartland Funeral Services Ltd., Sundre entrusted with arrangements. 403-638-4393 www.heartlandfuneralservices.com

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Holy Spirit, you who makes me see everything and who shows me the way to reach my ideals. You who gives me the divine gift to forgive and forget from all that is done to me and you who are in all instincts of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank you for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from you. No matter how great the material desires may be, I want to be with you and my loved ones in your perpetual glory.

A person may pray this prayer three consecutive days without asking for their wish. After the third day their wish will be granted, no matter how difficult it may be and promise to publish this dialogue as soon as your favour has been granted.

C.D

The New Carlisle
Funeral Association
extends sympathy to the family of
Mrs. Virginia Huntington

Card of Thanks, Birth Announcement,
Prayer, Engagement,
Birthday, Anniversary,
Memorial Service announcement:
\$30 (\$35 with picture) up to 20 lines.
\$40 (\$45 with picture) for more than 20 lines

In Memoriam: \$30 (\$35 with picture) up to 20 lines
\$40 (\$45 with picture) for more than 20 lines

Obituary or Wedding:
\$40 (\$45 with picture) (Max. 300 words)

**SUBMISSIONS FOR THIS PAGE
MUST BE IN OUR OFFICE BY THURSDAY.**

CLARK
SCOTT B. CLARK
1948 - 2012
HUSBAND OF
CAROL A. TEED
1947

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



IN MEMORIES



HOCQUARD: Francis George
December 31, 1944 - March 24, 2009

Ten years have passed and with heavy hearts we remember you, Fran, a loving brother, brother-in-law, uncle and great uncle and we cherish the memories of our time shared with you.

*You had a nature we could not help loving
And a heart that was purer than gold
And to those who knew you and loved you,
Your memory will never grow old.*

Loved and missed everyday. Forever in our hearts. Barry, Thelma, Debbie and Jayden.



HARDY: Murray
September 6, 1928 - March 22, 2009

*Your gentle face and pleasant smile
With sadness we recall.*

*You had a kindly word for each,
And died beloved by all.*

*The voice is mute and stilled the heart
That loved us well and true.*

*Ah, bitter was the trail to part
From one so good as you.*

*You are not forgotten, loved one,
Nor will you ever be.*

MALONEY: Cynthia Mitchell
February 5, 1919 - March 24, 2017
*We think of you in silence.
We often speak your name.
What would we give to hear your voice
And see your face again.*

Forever in our hearts is Dear Mama. Sybil, Glen, Desi, Marlene, Diane, Ron and families.

Deepest Sympathy

To the family of the late Jimmy Barter, who passed away in Whitby, Ontario, in February 2019. Special thoughts are sent to his beloved wife Joyce Brash, their family and to all who knew the family.

*From the Campbell girls;
Edna, Blanche, Gertrude, Isobel and Jean*

Card of Thanks

A sincere thank-you to my family, friends and staff of the second and fourth floors at the MGR. Ross Sanitorium who made it possible to celebrate my 90th birthday.

Many thanks for the lovely gifts, flowers, best wishes and food I received and the delicious lunch.

Vera Roberts Simon and family.

Order your announcement online at
thegaspespec.com

MONUMENTS P. FOURNIER

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

Since 1846
**Tingley
Monuments
Limited**
A Division of MGI

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

**Nelson
MONUMENTS**
SINCE 1939
A Division of MGI

Grenier & Grenier LAWYERS



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

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



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**



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 Fax: 418-368-1782
Mutual Funds

E-Mail: Gerald.Bourdages@Investorsgroup.com

A member company of Power Corporation

**This advertising
space could
be yours!**



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



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

foragemoreaumercier@gmail.com

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK - FREE DELIVERY



CHANDLER • 418 689-3711

500-102, AVENUE DAIGNEAULT, CHANDLER, QUE.



PERCÉ • 418 782-2550

98 ROUTE 132 WEST, PERCÉ, QUE.



The Omega Group Inc.

Going beyond and reliable since 1982



**Electricity - Plumbing
Automation
Industrial computing
Counter sales**

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

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



**Les
Pétroles
C. Poirier inc.**

Proud to serve you!

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

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

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



IN BUSINESS FOR 35 YEARS

COAST ROUND-UP

YORK:

500 Card Party

Please note that the York River FADOQ Seniors Club 500 card party previously scheduled for April 5 will be held on Friday, March 29 at 7:30 p.m. at the York River Community Hall. \$5 per person. Call Tony Patterson (418-368-3276) to register or for more information.

DOUGLASTOWN:

Community Centre

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

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

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.

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

PORT DANIEL:

Three Star Golden Age Club

Every Wednesday: Pétanque from 7 to 9 p.m. Cost \$3. Come and join the fun and learn a new game!

March 23: Military Whist beginning at 8 p.m. Light lunch served. Admission \$5.

April 5: Bingo beginning at 7 p.m. \$10 per series or 3 for \$20. Canteen open.

SHIGAWAKE:

Community Centre

March 30: Supper/Ski-doo rally/dance at the Shigawake Community Centre. Registration from noon till 1 p.m. Supper beginning at 4:30 p.m. Dance beginning at 8 p.m. Rally \$10, supper \$10 and dance \$12 or \$25 for all three events. Prizes to win. All welcome.

HOPE TOWN:

Hope Baptist Church

Hope Baptist Church welcomes you. Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 a.m. and Corporate Worship at 11 a.m. on Sundays. Prayer Meeting and Bible Study

at 7 p.m. on Wednesdays. Young Peoples for grades 7-11 at 7 p.m. on Fridays. 305 Route 132 West, Hope Town, 418-752-5838.

HOPE TOWN:

Community Centre

April 13: Military whist beginning at 8 p.m.

April 26: Gift bingo beginning at 7 p.m. \$10 per series or three for \$20.

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:

50+ Club

March 28: Annual general meeting beginning at 5 p.m. at the New Carlisle town hall. Followed by a free lunch.

NEW CARLISLE:

Royal Canadian Legion

March 23: Afternoon cribbage tournament. Registration at noon. Tournament begins at 1 p.m. \$10 per person. Bring your partner. All welcome. For more information contact Norma at 418-752-6214.

April 19: New Carlisle Legion presents Tammy Adams from 8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. \$10 per ticket. Limited number of tickets will be sold.

Saturdays: Legion open at 1

p.m.

NEW RICHMOND: Flea Market

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

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

Royal Canadian Legion Br. 172

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

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

Bookroom

Please be advised that the bookroom has reopened.

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

50+ Club

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

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

GESGAPEGIAG:

Important Meeting

This is to inform the community members of Gesgapegiag and the surrounding area that Gesgapegiag healing lodge (NNADAP) hosts AA meetings and is open to everyone. If you are interested in a lifestyle free of alcohol and substance abuse

and have the desire to change, you are invited to attend meetings every **Monday** at 7 p.m.

GESGAPEGIAG:

N.A. Meetings

N.A. Meetings held every **Tuesday** at 7 p.m. at the Mawiomi 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

March 10 are: Raynald Ritchie, Simone Young, Sophie Bergeron-Leblanc, Éliane Malett, Laval Cyr, Line Arsenault and Adrienne Poirier.

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

Sunday, March 24

New Carlisle

11 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Port Daniel

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

PARISH OF GASPÉ

Sunday, March 24

St. Paul's - Gaspé

10 a.m. Holy Eucharist

HOROSCOPES

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

Your mind is receptive to innovative ideas, Aries. You may feel inspired to try out many new things in the days to come. Catalog those that make you happy.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

Turn off the logical part of your mind for a little while, Taurus. Let your fantasies run wild. Trying to manage everything down to the minute can short-circuit your brain.

GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, a truckload of new ideas is coming your way. These may serve as catalysts for new hobbies, projects and even developing new friendships along the way.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22

You may not be entirely sure what's holding you up this week, Cancer. Once you put your finger on it, you'll be able to work through the issues that much more readily.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23

You have carte blanche to hibernate for the week if you feel you need some alone time, Leo. But try to put your self-imposed exile to some good use around the house.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, why slip quietly into a party when you can make a grand entrance? Don't be afraid of pointing the spotlight on yourself for a change. Then enjoy the rush that

comes from it.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, home is where the heart is, especially this week. Spend as much quality time as you can with loved ones in the days to come. Find a cozy spot to read and unwind as well.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, might you be so fixated on a problem that you're overlooking the simplest solutions? Take a step back and refocus. The answer might be simpler than you think.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

You are always ready to take on more, Sagittarius. This week you may have to set some limits or you may burn out. An adventure with a BFF is doable.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

It is possible to accomplish much in stressful situations, Capricorn, but sometimes you don't realize when you need to take a step back. This is the time.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, a long-held belief might be holding you back or preventing you from moving forward. Once you let it go, you'll feel emancipated and ready to take a step in the right direction.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, a bad mood need not dictate how you approach the day or even the week ahead. Call up a friend and beat the funk.

SUDOKU

	1	3		6			5	2
4			1				3	
9						6		
8		5			2		4	
			5					
	3			7		9		1
5					3			
	2	9			4			

Level: Advanced

Fun By The Numbers

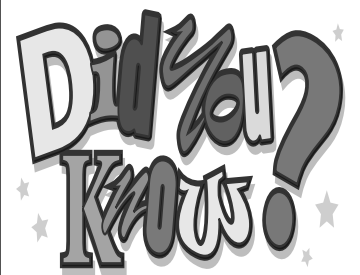
Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

5	7	3	4	8	6	2	1	9
6	2	4	3	9	1	8	7	5
1	8	9	5	7	2	4	3	6
8	6	1	2	7	9	5	4	3
7	9	6	5	4	1	2	8	3
3	8	2	7	5	1	9	4	6
9	4	5	6	1	2	8	7	3
2	8	9	4	6	5	3	7	1

ANSWER:



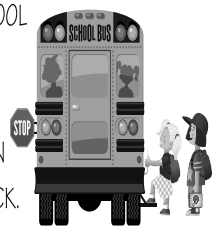
THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION SAYS TRAVELING BY SCHOOL

BUS IS SEVEN

TIMES SAFER

THAN RIDING IN

A CAR OR TRUCK.



What has teeth but can't eat?

(a com e)

FUNDING:

▶ Cont'd from cover



Photo: G. Gagné

The representatives of the Bonaventure MRC organizations and companies were glad to get funding confirmation from Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands Member of Parliament Diane Lebouthillier.

of \$113,779 to develop and implement a tourism strategy. The organization will carry out two projects, the first one consisting in hiring a tourism manager with a mandate to develop a long-term tourism strategy.

The second project involves restoring the community's pow wow site by setting up a new structure for the drums, and adding permanent seating, an outdoor fireplace and washrooms, and new signage. It will also involve the modernization of three 18-foot tipis and the Micmac medicinal plant interpretation hiking trail. Finally, a website specific to the tourism sector will be set up and new sound equipment will be installed.

Hollie Larocque, director of economic development and lands in Gesgapegiag points out that those projects

“are building sustainability in the community.”

The Banc de Paspébiac Historic Site gets a \$30,000 grant for a project totalling \$298,804. The money will be used to cover the costs associated with the new exhibit's English-speaking community component.

Cime Aventures receives a \$45,000 loan for a total of \$119,715. The money will go towards a project for an aerial adventure course, the fit-up of a free zone for river rafting activities on a section of Bonaventure River and the purchase of equipment. It will create three jobs.

The Château Blanc of Bonaventure will use a loan of \$45,000, out of a total investment of \$98,000, to renovate and modernize the hallway and the eight premium rooms, as well as purchase banquet equipment.

**RENEW ONLINE AT
THEGASPESPEC.COM**



Vincent Sexton-Goulet, Emma and Elijah McNeil, Eliane Sexton-Goulet, Edward and Josephine Sexton played their various “instruments” for the audience!



Riley McLeod mesmerized by John Gideon's performance

Cascapedia – St-Jules: St Pat's concert provides quality music

Cynthia Dow

The rain and fog seem to have dampened spirits on Friday, March 15, as only about 30 people turned out for the St Patrick's Concert at the 50-Plus Hall, but the music was great! Stalwarts Jimmy Cahill and John Gideon played their guitars and sang, and siblings Dan and Lyne Sexton did two numbers, including *Wild Mountain Thyme*. A real treat was the song *Come By The Hills*, with the first verse sung in Irish Gaelic by Laura Teasdale who is undertaking a project at NRHS for ELAN. The whole evening started off, of course, with a delightful series of songs and dances with the children, directed by Elaine Sexton. The little leprechauns included Vincent Sexton-Goulet, Emma McNeil, Elijah McNeil, Eliane Sexton-Goulet, Edward and Josephine Sexton and a tiny, reluctant Riley McLeod! The supper was held on Sunday, March 17, at the community hall and there was a great turnout in support of the Mutual Aid Society and \$3,000 was raised for the church.

CENTRE COMMUNAUTAIRE

AUBERGE DOUGLASTOWN

HOSTEL

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

abca⁺
Société de comptables professionnels agréés

AN APPROACH THAT PAYS!

ASSOCIATES

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

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

STUDIO DENTAIRE
Art-DENT
D^{re} Éline Audet

Dr. Éline Audet
Owner

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

Dentistry Service in
• Neuromuscular
• Implantology
• Aesthetic
• Periodontics

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

A REGIONAL GATEWAY

For propelling your local business or project

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

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

SADC

Vistech Baie-des-Chaleurs