

Quebec budget confirms money for the railway

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND: —The stakeholders pushing for a faster upgrading of the Gaspé Peninsula railroad are pleased that the *Coalition avenir Québec* government has announced to the effect that \$85 million is earmarked in the March 21 budget for the restoration of the Matapédia to Gaspé line.

The government wrote down \$85 million for the Gaspé Peninsula railroad repairs in the 2019-2020 budget document. The amount surprised a lot of people, thinking that new money was poured in the railway file. That sum is in reality the balance of the \$100 million announced in May 2017 in New Carlisle by former Quebec Premier Philippe Couillard.

The prefect of the Côte-de-Gaspé MRC and mayor of Gaspé, Daniel Côté, knows very well that the users of his area will not see trains circulate this year or in 2020 because a number of studies must be completed before that outcome can be envisioned but he sees an acceleration of the railway file since 2018.

“It is the budget of continuity. The sum of \$85 million comes from the initial \$100 million less the \$15 million invested last year. The return of trains to Gaspé is on paper but the paperwork must be updated before getting the money necessary to carry out works. What we see is an accelerated process, under the new government,” says Daniel Côté.

In 2015, when Quebec’s Department of Transport ac-

quired the Matapédia to Gaspé line, the Couillard government decided to put in a dormant state the stretch between Caplan and Gaspé, which represents 200 of the line’s 325 kilometres.

However, the Port Daniel cement plant was under construction at the time and LM Wind Power was negotiating for important agreements related to windmill blade exports. The result is that the blades from Gaspé and the cement from Port Daniel are circulating over long stretches of road, as to reach a transshipment point with the railway, mainly in New Richmond, despite the presence of the railway at or near the points of origin.

Éric Dubé, president of the Gaspésie Railway Society, also sees an acceleration of railroad upgrading. That firm is under municipal control and was the owner of the railroad until the beginning of 2015, when maintenance costs proved too high. Among other responsibilities, the firm remained the operator of freight trains.

“Since the money was put under the responsibility of the *Bureau Québécois des infrastructures*, it is not submitted to standard budgetary constraints; it is there to be used as projects are ready,” emphasizes Mr. Dubé.

At least two major developments are expected to unfold in 2019, the first one being the replacement of the two Cascapédia-St-Jules bridges, a project that could get its environmental approval soon. The two new bridges could cost between \$20 million and \$30 million,



Photo: G. Gagné

Traffic on the Gaspé Peninsula railway could triple again once the line is reopened to Gaspé.

maybe more. Close to two years will be needed to replace the bridges.

“Through building the new bridges beside the two old ones, the cost will be reduced because freight traffic won’t have to be interrupted. There is no need to build the two bridges in six weeks,” points out Mr. Dubé, referring to the obligation of not stopping rail traffic over a long period.

Currently, the two older bridges slow down freight traffic because Transports Québec limits to 10 the number of fully loaded cement cars that can pass on the old bridges weekly. The problem

is partly solved because the cement cars are only loaded at two-thirds of their capacity in New Richmond, the other third being loaded at a second terminal located west of the bridges, in Nouvelle.

There is no limit for the number of cars loaded with windmill blades because they are light.

The second important development of the year will take place between Matapédia and Port Daniel, as Transports Québec launched on March 20 a call for tenders implying the replacement of 30,000 to 40,000 wooden ties.

The reopening of the line between Caplan and Port

Daniel could take place before the end of 2020. That would be the best scenario. Côte-de-Gaspé MRC prefect Daniel Côté believes that the railway will be reopened to Gaspé in 2022.

Freight traffic almost tripled between Matapédia and Caplan between 2015 and 2018, from 1,624 to 4,323 carloads. That increase comes essentially from the part that was put in a dormant state by the previous government. It therefore requires a costly transshipment from trucks to rail.

That traffic could likely triple once the line is reopened to Gaspé.

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Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands, the only rural region in Quebec to have a positive migratory balance

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND: – For the second year in a row, the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands represent the only so called “remote” region of Quebec to have a positive migratory balance in inter-regional movements. The region attracted 238 more people that they lost in 2017-2018.

That number, compiled by the *Institut de la statistique du Québec* between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018, follows another positive balance of 122 people for the corresponding dates of 2016 and 2017. It is the fourth positive balance of the region since Quebec’s Statistics Institute started compiling that kind of numbers, in 2000.

“Our main gains are in the 25 to 44 year-old people. They are the people we mainly target with our actions,” explains with enthusiasm Danik O’Connor, coordinator of Vivre en Gaspésie, the organization recruiting newcomers and trying to convince young Gaspésians to come back home after their studies. The organization used to be called *Stratégie d’établissement durable* (sustainable establishment strategy).

Mr. O’Connor perceives several factors explaining the good showing of the region, including the sound economic performance of the town of Gaspé over the last years.

“I see the Gaspé factor playing a role but at the Quebec-wide scale, all the remote regions experience labour shortage. If it was just an economic factor, all the regions would show a positive (migratory) balance. The employment matter is an important factor for sure, when we consider that the job bank offers 400 vacant positions right now. The decisive factor comes however from the way we recruit people with a regional approach with all the organizations, like the Service

d’accueil des nouveaux arrivants (SANA), Place aux jeunes and others. We had a migration team meeting recently and there were 15 people around the table. In other regions, they function through a per MRC approach, not a regional one,” explains Mr. O’Connor.

Recruitment missions are targeted according to certain needs, and they include employers. Vivre en Gaspésie also supplies financial support to potential newcomers traveling to the Gaspé Peninsula for job interviews or stages, points out Danik O’Connor. He sees another important recruiting factor.

“What we offer as a region appeals. There are people who want to stay away from traffic jams, from danger and who want to get closer to what they consider attractions. That is “living differently,” the slogan we use. We offer a quality of life and when we add that jobs are available, it works,” he emphasizes.

The Côte-de-Gaspé MRC presented the best migratory balance of the six MRCs of the region with plus 102 people, followed by the Magdalen Islands with 94 people. In the Côte-de-Gaspé MRC, the LM Wind Power windmill blade manufacturer created 300 new year-around jobs between August 2016 and mid-August 2017.

The five other « remote » regions of Quebec all presented negative migratory balances in 2016-2017 and 2017-2018. The North Shore sustained the biggest losses both times, in absolute numbers and percentage. That region had a decline of 1,092 people two years ago and 905 people last year, which respectively correspond to -1.19% and -0.99% of its population.

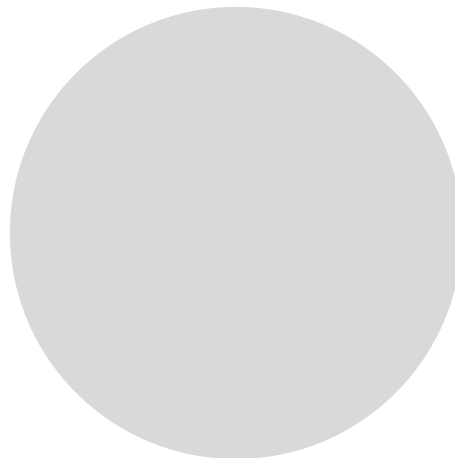
The Lower Saint Lawrence region had a decrease of 132 people last year, compared to 168 in 2016-2017. Saguenay-

Lac-Saint-Jean decreased by 554 people due to migratory movements while Abitibi-Temiscamingue sustained a drop of 406 people. Northern Quebec lost 94 people last

year. In Quebec, the island of Montreal is the biggest loser in absolute numbers. The city’s migratory balance showed a drop of 19,869

people in 2016-2017 and even more last year, with 23,663. That 2017-2018 drop was Quebec’s largest loss in

Cont'd on page 15



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Police report

Sûreté du Québec and Royal Canadian Mounted Police officers are investigating a break and enter case that occurred in a Nouvelle house on the evening of March 19. A couple, in their seventies, was assaulted, tied and left in that position after the departure of the two men who stormed into their living room at 10 p.m.

“The alert was given at 10:23 after one member of the couple was able to untie the rope. We immediately started an operation to locate the perpetrator’s vehicle. We extended the alert to the RCMP in New Brunswick. A slightly damaged vehicle was located by RCMP officers near Dalhousie shortly after and it corresponded to the description we had received,” explains Sgt. Claude Doiron, spokesperson for the Sûreté du Québec.

For now, Sgt. Doiron isn’t releasing additional information, including the origin of the licence plate, list of items stolen and details about the two men (height, weight, accent). In regards to the items stolen Sgt. Doiron said, “We can say that those objects had some value.”

“The victims of the robbery were not injured but they were certainly in shock after the event,” adds Sgt. Doiron. Asked if the criminals were wearing a mask, he replies that “it is a detail left to the investigators for now.” He adds that the inquiry is progressing well due to clues related to the car found near Dalhousie.



PUBLIC NOTICE

To the qualified voters entitled to have their name entered on the referendum list of the municipality.

NOTICE is hereby given by the undersigned, town clerk of « Ville de Gaspé »,

THAT at a special meeting held March 18, 2019, the town council has adopted the following By-Law :

1390-19 : RÈGLEMENT DÉCRÉTANT UNE DÉPENSE D’UNE SOMME DE 2 000 000\$ ET UN EMPRUNT DE 2 000 000 \$ POUR LA RÉALISATION DE TRAVAUX DE RAPIÉÇAGE MÉCANISÉ SUR DIVERSES RUES DE LA VILLE DE GASPÉ.

THAT the qualified voters entitled to have their name entered on the referendum list of the municipality on the date of March 18, 2019, if it concerns natural or legal persons satisfying the requirements of the Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities may demand that By-Law be submitted to a referendum poll according to the same law. The persons qualified to vote on the By-Law in question will have access to a register open for that purpose from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on April 2 and 3, 2019, at the town clerk’s office at the Town Hall in order to enter their name, address and occupation together with their signature.

CONDITIONS TO BE A QUALIFIED VOTER ENTITLED TO HAVE HIS/HER NAME ENTERED ON THE REFERENDUM LIST OF THE MUNICIPALITY

A person who, on March 18, 2019, is not disqualified from voting according to article 524 of the Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities and meets the following requirements:

- a natural person domiciled in the municipality and, for at least six months, in Quebec and
- is of full age and a Canadian citizen, and not under curatorship.

The nonresident sole owner of an immovable or nonresident sole occupant of a business place situated in the municipality who is not disqualified from voting and meets the following requirements:

- is the owner of an immovable or sole occupant of a business place situated in the municipality for at least 12 months;
- in the case of a natural person, be of full age and Canadian citizen and not under curatorship.

The nonresident undivided co-owners and nonresident co-occupants of a business place situated in the municipality not disqualified from voting and meet the following requirements:

- is the undivided co-owner of an immovable or co-occupant of a business place situated in the municipality for at least 12 months;
- is designated by means of a power of attorney signed by a majority of the persons who are co-owners or co-occupants for at least 12 months, as the one who has the right to sign in their name and to be entered on the referendum list of the municipality. This power of attorney must be produced before or at the signature time.

Legal person:

- have designated by resolution among its members, directors or employees, a person who, on March 18, 2019, and at voting time, is of full age and a Canadian citizen, is not under curatorship and is not disqualified to vote.

THAT the persons qualified to vote on the By-Law in question must establish their identity to the responsible person for the register, by presenting, among others: a health-insurance card issued by the Quebec Health Insurance Board, a driver’s permit issued by the Québec Automobile Insurance Society, a Canadian passport, an identity card of the Canadian Armed Forces, or a certificate of Indian status.

THAT the number of applications needed in order that a referendum poll be held for this By-Law is 1 211 and, failing this number, the concerned By-Law will be deemed approved by the qualified voters.

THAT the qualified voters may examine this By-Law at the office of the undersigned from 8:15 a.m. till 12 noon and from 1 p.m. till 4:30 p.m. from Monday to Thursday, and from 8:15 a.m. till 12 noon on Friday, and during registration hours.

THAT the result of this registration procedure will be announced on April 3, 2019, at 7 p.m., at the office of the undersigned, 25, rue de l’Hôtel-de-Ville in Gaspé.

GIVEN at Gaspé, March 27, 2019.

Isabelle Vézina,
Director of Legal Services and town clerk



PUBLIC NOTICE

MINOR EXEMPTION FROM URBANISM BY-LAWS

NOTICE is hereby given that the Town Council, at a regular meeting that will be held on April 15, 2019, at 8 p.m., will consider the request for minor exemption from the zoning By-Law 1156-11, presented by Mr. Martin Jean-Dubé for a property situated at 449, Forillon boulevard.

The nature and consequences of this exemption are the following:

- the nature of the minor exemption is :
 - o to increase by 62 m2 of the area for an isolated private garage in accordance to the maximal area of 100 m2 required by the article 8.8.2.2 of the Zoning By-Law no 1156-11;
 - o to increase by 1.42 m of the height for an isolated private garage in accordance to the maximal height of 6.5 m required by the article 8.8.2.2 of the By-Law no 1156-11.
- the minor exemption will have for consequence to permit the construction of an isolated private garage with an area of 162 m2 and a height of 7,92 m.

During this meeting, the Town Council will hear the interested wishing to be heard on that request.

Given at Gaspé, March 27, 2019.

Isabelle Vézina,
Director of legal services and town clerk



Dr. Pascal Cyr
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Dr. Stacey Starrak
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Commentary

Gilles Gagné

Two budgets make a lot to digest

Quebecers were served two government budgets within 48 hours: the federal budget on March 19 and the Quebec budget on March 21. It is a lot of information to digest, and it is understandable that the budget of Canada Finance Minister Bill Morneau already looks as if it was presented a month ago.

Mr. Morneau and the Liberal government cabinet opted for a deficit of \$19.8 billion for the upcoming financial year which is \$4.9 billion more than the year ending on March 31.

Considering that the total budget will increase to \$294.5 billion in 2019-2020, a deficit of \$19.8 billion might seem reasonable. It also sounds as if the Trudeau government, submitted to a major storm following the back-to-back Cabinet resignations of Jody Wilson-Raybould and Jane Philpott during an elec-

tion year, tried to make up for popular support losses.

At the same time, Canada, with a total debt of about \$750 billion, has the lowest per capita debt among the world's main industrialized countries. The country's debt service, which is the amount in the budget earmarked to pay the country's total debt, currently represents only 8% of the total expenses of the government. It is the lowest proportion in almost 100 years. It is even slightly lower than the 8.1% of 2016. The deficit is increasing, but Canada's debt load remains under control.

We must also keep in mind that in 1996, 23 years ago, the total debt was quite a bit higher than now, at \$889 billion. Considering the inflation rate, the 1996 debt was probably three times higher than now in indexed numbers.

Politically, the federal budget was focusing on the long term. Justin Trudeau and his team are betting that the Wilson-Raybould-Philpott controversy will ebb away. The government has occupied a lot of space on the budgetary spectrum, enough to bug the New Democratic Party and the Green Party.

Bill Morneau has made announcements that could have been thought of by the New Democrats, such as measures to make it easier for young couples to buy a house. He also kept some money reserves for future announcements in commuter transportation. He will play on the Green Party field then. Trudeau's

strategy is to cover as much centre and centre-left field as possible, ideologically speaking and leave the right to Andrew Sheer and Maxime Bernier.

Andrew Sheer has not been impressive lately. If his party is rising in polls, it is mainly because of Justin Trudeau's leadership lapses. The party's attempt to ruin Bill Morneau's budget presentation through verbal obstruction was a throwback of the 1970s. That way of doing politics is a thing of the past.

In Quebec City, Premier François Legault and Finance Minister Éric Girard presented a budget that was more thought-out than Bill Morneau's. It is easier to do when a Finance Minister can start a term with a surplus of close to \$4 billion.

However, the CAQ government also decided to cover a wide spectrum of political ideologies in that budget, like social measures closer to left-wing and interventionist regimes as well as business-oriented programs generally favoured by right wing politics. The Liberal Party and Parti Québécois leaders must be caught off-guard by such budgetary decisions.

The CAQ government will have to be very careful though. The surplus inherited from Philippe Couillard's Liberal Government covers up the fact that the two most important departments, expense-wise, must be improved. It will require significant efficiency to succeed.



Guest commentary

Cynthia Dow

Tearing at the fabric...

As a resident of Cascapedia-St-Jules, it is hard for me to remain silent when I see my community being torn apart by gossip, judgment and mean-spiritedness.

This is a community which I happen to think is one of the best on the Coast – and in the country – in terms of people pulling together. For an example of how that can happen, just look at the recent event held to help little Gavin Caplin and his family.

So it's disappointing to see and hear the unbelievable amount of gossip and drama and stress that is being stirred up about recent events within the Roman Catholic parish of St Jules.

I'm not going to go into details, as I am not privy to all the information anyway, but since lots of other people who don't know the details appear to have no problem commenting at great length, I guess it's alright for me to comment as well.

The major thing I have to say is that, for a community the vast majority of whom profess to be Christians, I don't see or hear a lot of Christian values in evidence these days. What I see and hear is mean-

spirited judging, labelling, and even libeling.

What allegedly happened at St. Jules Church is wrong but there is a legally constituted group, the Fabrique of the church, that is responsible for handling this situation. Apart from the Fabrique and the parishioners of St. Jules, the details of exactly what happened and how it's all going to be worked out is really nobody else's business.

It is certainly not the business of the municipal government. Don't we live in what our current Premier likes to call a "secular state"? The church and the municipality are two different things.

Essential to keeping any small community like ours vibrant and lively is the hard work of the countless people who take on all kinds of volunteer tasks. We are blessed to have so many willing volunteers in Cascapedia – St.-Jules who keep all kinds of activities happening all year round.

Perhaps the saddest thing right now is all this condemnation is being aimed at people who are very active in the community and who take on volunteer jobs that nobody else seems willing to tackle.

It is hard enough in small communities to put yourself out there and take on these thankless tasks. It's even harder when you know that there is every chance you will be pilloried in public if anything should happen to go wrong. What brave souls are going to be ready to step forward to do these things in the future?

The development of trust over years and even generations is what keeps the fabric of community life whole and strong. When that trust is being tested, it is

indeed a challenge to the future viability of the community, but destroying that trust even further through wanton gossip and senseless drama is much worse. It's detrimental to every aspect of community life.

We should be cultivating compassion and kindness in our hearts for those who have done wrong. They require our understanding and our help, not our condemnation.

During one of his greatest public speeches, the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus told his followers: "Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. For you will be treated as you treat others." Those of you who are taking delight right now in judging, labelling and libeling might want to give that some thought.

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Unipêche MDM closes Grand River plant

Gilles Gagné

GRAND RIVER: – The management of *Crustacés de Gaspé*, a subsidiary of Paspébiac's Unipêche MDM, is closing its Grand River snow crab processing plant for 2019, and probably for a longer period than a year. That facility had a workforce of 80 people in 2018.

The company invokes the impossibility of making profits at that plant over the last four years as the main element justifying that closure.

Moreover, "the closure of fishing zones in 2018 due to the presence of right whales was making the perspective (of turning a profit) in 2019 even darker," points out Gino Lebrasseur, director general of Unipêche MDM.

"This year, with the ice conditions, we could benefit from only seven or eight weeks of fishing. We cannot guarantee enough work, hence the recruitment problem. We don't process other species in Grand River. We had to rely on labour training programs at the end of the season in order to keep our workers," adds Mr. Lebrasseur.

He isn't calling it a permanent closure of the Grand River plant, but he admits that "our plan is not to open the facility next year either. For the moment, we're working with Emploi-Québec in order to find jobs for our workers in other plants," he notes, specifying that the plant is not for sale either.

The lack of manpower in other plants facilitates Unipêche MDM's task. Approximately 20 workers have already found jobs in other plants, according to Gino Lebrasseur.

An anti-union move?

The employees of *Crustacés de Gaspé* regrouped in 2018 in order to form a union affiliated with Unifor. They were trying to negotiate a first collective agreement over the last few months. Their representative, John Caluori, firmly believes that the unionization of the employees played a



Photo: Ivan Whittom

The Grand River snow crab processing plant will remain closed in 2019 and probably for a longer period.

major role in Unipêche MDM's decision to close the plant.

"We think that it is a low blow to get the union out of the plant," states Mr. Caluori. He says a negotiation meeting was scheduled for March 18. The union was informed of the closure on March 14.

The snow crab processed in Grand River comes from the southern part of the Gulf of Saint Lawrence, mainly from zone 12, a sector that will likely benefit from a 35% increase in quotas in 2019. The landing price of snow

crab was about \$5 per pound for the fishermen last year, which is considered one of the highest prices ever. It is expected to remain about the same in 2019.

"There is no moratorium on catches. We are not talking about a sector of fisheries that is experiencing a crisis! We are not talking about an obsolete plant. The company invested money to assure traceability of the products. One can see when a plant is not invested in and this was not the case. They (plant management) had told us on Feb-

ruary 25 that the plant would be operating this year and that we had to prepare for recalling the staff. We could see that a collective agreement would

not be reached before the processing season," explains Mr. Caluori.

He met the employees on March 18 as expected, but not for a negotiation round. He had to prepare the follow-up in regards to the closure.

Gino Lebrasseur assures us that the Unipêche MDM decision was not an anti-union move. "It is a business decision, an economical move."

The volume of snow crab processed at the Grand River facility in 2018 amounted to 800,000 pounds, under the breakeven point, according to Gino Lebrasseur. The crab delivered in 2019 will be rerouted to the Paspébiac plant, the company's main facility.

"That plant didn't work at full capacity either last year," points out Mr. Lebrasseur. Approximately 300 people work in the Paspébiac plant.



PUBLIC NOTICE

MINOR EXEMPTION FROM URBANISM BY-LAWS

NOTICE is hereby given that the Town Council, at a regular meeting that will be held on April 15, 2019, at 8 p.m., will consider the request for minor exemption from the zoning By-Law 1156-11, presented by Mr. Christopher Egger for the lot 6 125 831, cadastre of Quebec

The nature and consequences of this exemption are the following:

- the nature of the minor exemption is to:
 - Lot 1 : the reduction of 2.72 m of the minimal depth required by the article 5.3 of the land division By-Law 1157-11 for a building lot of 60 m;
 - Lot 2 : the reduction of 2.87 m of the minimal depth required by the article 5.3 of the land division By-Law 1157-11 for a building lot of 60 m;
 - Lot 3 : the reduction of 2.77 m of the minimal depth required by the article 5.3 of the land division By-Law 1157-11 for a building lot of 60m.
- the minor exemption will have for consequence to permit the subdivision of three (3) building lots, one lot with a depth of 57.28 m (lot 1), a second one with a depth of 57.13 m (lot 2) and a third one with a depth of 57.36 m (lot 3).

During this meeting, the Town Council will hear the interested wishing to be heard on that request.

Given at Gaspé, March 27, 2019.

Isabelle Vézina,
Director of legal services and town clerk



PUBLIC NOTICE

ENACTMENT OF BY-LAW

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given:

- THAT at a meeting held on February 8, 2019, the Town Council has adopted the following by-law:

1156-11-37: règlement amendant le règlement 1156-11 en

- Agrandissant la zone M-224 à même une partie de la zone M-236;
- Modifiant le deuxième paragraphe de l'article 3.2.17 « **CLASSE INDUSTRIE DIVERSE (I-2)** », afin d'ajouter l'usage autorisé Industrie de production, de transformation et d'entreposage du cannabis (2131);
- Modifiant les usages autorisés dans les zones IC-161, IC-297, IC-297-1, IC-297-2 et IC-341-1 afin d'ajouter l'usage spécifiquement prohibé Industrie de production, de transformation et d'entreposage du cannabis (2131);
- Ajoutant une note 1 à la grille de spécifications de la zone IC-269 afin d'ajouter une disposition relative aux matériaux autorisés pour la construction d'une serre;

- THAT this by-law 1156-11-37 has been approved by the council of the regional county municipality La Côte-de-Gaspé, on March 13, 2019;

- THAT an assessment of conformity has been issued by the Secretary-treasurer of the regional county municipality La Côte-de-Gaspé in respect of by-law 1156-11-37 on March 18, 2019;

- THAT this by-law 1156-11-37 came into force on March 18, 2019, according to the Act respecting land use planning and development;

- THAT the interested can consult this by-law at the Office of the Town clerk, at the Town Hall, 25, rue de l'Hôtel-de-Ville, Gaspé, during regular office hours.

GIVEN at Gaspé, March 27, 2019.

Isabelle Vézina
The Director of legal services and town clerk



Harassment - situation confuses mayor

Arianne Aubert Bonn

CHANDLER: - The Town of Chandler has accepted mediation agreements in two cases of psychological harassment recognized by the CNESST. The mayor says she isn't aware of anything in regards to those cases.

The presentation of the agreements took place on March 14, just before the special meeting during which they were adopted. Mayor Louise Langlois was absent from that meeting and says she does not know anything about the contents of the files that were discussed. She has not changed her stand since July, when she also said she had not received any documentation confirming the filing of complaints.

In the summer of 2018, councillor and deputy mayor Bruno-Pierre Godbout said: "It was confirmed that there was evidence of harassment by Ms. Langlois towards the entire management team. The psychological health of our



Photo: A. Bonn

Mayor Louise Langlois says she has no information about the complaints.

directors and executives is very precarious and there could be threats of resignation or sick leave." A few days later, Mr. Godbout reported the filing of formal com-

plaints.

On March 14, 2019, Louise Langlois presided over an extraordinary municipal meeting where the council adopted, not without

debate. The details of the mediation remain confidential. Through a videoconference, lawyer Philippe Gosselin of Morency Avocats assisted the council.

Asked if the complaints were directed solely at Louise Langlois, councillor Bruno-Pierre Godbout was reluctant to answer directly, given the confidential nature of the file.

"You can draw your own conclusions. The complaints were against the Town of Chandler," he says, however, he adds that those files have been at stake since July, following verification by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

Louise Langlois did not moderate her words when she was called to preside over the vote, after being excluded from the presentation pertaining to the mediation.

"It's like being in the Soviet Union," she said. Councillor Denis Pelchat added, "It's pretty Machiavellian as a strategy."

Richard Duguay, who could not attend the presentation, expressed his discomfort in regards to the vote. He said he wants to put the fire out in this case once and for all, but he still voted against it.

The other four councillors voted to accept the proposed agreements, and it was a majority vote. "They made the Town responsible," said Mayor Langlois, following the adoption of the confidential agreements.

The mayor cannot understand the situation. "We have a policy against psychological harassment at the Town of Chandler. If there are victims of psychological harassment, they never used the policy, she says. I said that I felt as if we are in the Soviet Union because I was never made aware of the complaint and whether it was founded or not. It's only hearsay."

The mayor also claims she does not know if she is really involved in the complaints, having never seen any document.

Federal budget increases infrastructure funds for municipalities, including arenas

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND: - The March 19 budget presented by Canada's Minister of Finance Bill Morneau includes a \$1.1 billion increase in municipal infrastructures, which brings total federal transfers for municipalities to \$2.2 billion annually. The news was well received by New Richmond Mayor Éric Dubé and Gaspé Mayor Daniel Côté.

Éric Dubé pointed out that such an increase, which brings Quebec's share up to \$500 million, could be good news for his town's project to modernize the arena, built in 1969 and in need of \$7,350,000 in improvements.

"The money is there. Now, it is transferred to the Quebec government. It will therefore depend on the Quebec government criteria. That government often decides to choose a third-third-third sharing of the project's funding," explains Mr. Dubé.

That approach would mean that the federal and provincial governments would each pay one third of the arena upgrading project,



Photo: G. Gagné

Éric Dubé thinks that we might only know in June if there is enough money in Quebec for infrastructure ventures like the New Richmond arena refurbishment project.

while the town of New Richmond would contribute the last third. Municipal authorities have already decreed that the town would not pay more than one third of the project.

Daniel Côté emphasized that in the budget, Ottawa has

"expressed a preference for earmarking 80% of the \$2.2 billion transfers for water and sewerage projects. It would leave 20% for other ventures."

It would mean \$100 million over the coming year for

projects like arenas in Quebec, with \$400 million going to water and sewerage projects.

Éric Dubé wonders how Quebec will in fact use that money. "We might only know what will happen in June, once the credits of the (Quebec) government are announced - how it will be divided between education, sports, leisure and so on."

Is he worried about the arena project? "No. There are forty arenas in Quebec with the same problem as ours, with a must to replace Freon as the coolant used. We will see 40 arenas either close or being repaired," he states.

The refurbishment of the New Richmond arena encompasses more than just changing the cooling system. The roof has to be changed and insulated which means structural improvements. The cement slab has to be replaced, just like the plumbing and electrical systems. The rest rooms and the locker rooms have to be rebuilt.

Daniel Côté sees "decent amounts of money for municipal infrastructures, for sure.

Is it sufficient? No."

He would also have wished for an increase in federal money for air transportation and maritime infrastructures such as wharves.

"The amounts of the last years were fairly good. I interpret the current amounts as pursuance of the last years' efforts until further notice," he concludes.

Also Daniel Côté sees positively Ottawa's announcement to the effect that retirees with low income won't be penalized if they go back to work. "There are still people with fine energy there. They must be supported."



Congratulations McGill Bursary Recipients!



ALLYSON HOCQUARD
Nursing

My name is Allyson Hocquard and I am currently studying nursing. I will be completing my course in May 2019. I chose to study in this field because I know how important it is to take care of people. Ever since I was a child, I knew this job was meant for me. I am currently completing my studies in the city, but I will come back to the Gaspé coast once my studies are completed. As a future bilingual nurse, I hope to give the best care to our community!



NICHOLAS WILLETT

Masters of Science in Physiotherapy

I am very thankful to have received the McGill Bursary as it will greatly help my dream of becoming a physiotherapist. The reason I have decided to pursue a career in physiotherapy is that I have always been fascinated with the human body and how it works. I also wanted a career that will allow me to make a difference in people's lives by restoring their function and reducing the amount of pain they experience from day to day. When I finish my degree, and become a certified physiotherapist, I look forward to returning to the beautiful Gaspé Coast after having been away for so long and serving my community that has done so much for me.



SARAH LOISEL
180A0- Nursing

I am studying in the field of nursing because helping people is what I love to do most. I would love to come back to my region of the Gaspé coast because that is where my home is. My neighbours are the ones who helped me grow into who I am today, therefore, I want to give back to them.



ROXANNE MARCOUX

Social Work Techniques

I am studying in my second year of Techniques de Travail Social at the Cegep de la Gaspésie et des Îles. As a child I always knew that I wanted to help others in some way. I originally thought that it would be in the health care sector with nursing or radiology but quickly switched paths when I realized my true passion was for counselling. I enjoy working with others by giving advice, listening and problem solving. Working in the field of social work will give me the opportunity to explore and realize my passion. After my studies are completed I intend to stay and work in my region because I believe that bilingual services are necessary to support the needs of our communities. I also want to stay in the region because I have close knit ties with my family and I prefer small town living compared to the big city.



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Banking on experienced workers and immigrants to increase labour market participation

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More than \$1 billion for transportation electrification and the fight against climate change

Indigenous artists experience success during tour

Gilles Gagné

CARLETON: – Indigenous artists Quentin Condo (Q052) and Rez Doggz, both from Gesgapegiag; Will E Scandalz from Kahnawake; and Daybi from Winnipeg, toured the Gaspé Peninsula on March 21, 22 and 23. The March 21 show was presented at the Naufrageur Microbrewery in Carleton in front of a packed room.

Their performances were greatly appreciated by those in attendance. Many people from the Mi'gmaq, anglophone and francophone communities enjoyed the show. "This is a historical moment," summed up one attendee, Luc Potvin, who meant that those communities do not often share the same venue in Carleton. Marianne Boudreau, who hosted the event on behalf of the Naufrageur, indicated that "the evening was rich in meets and a success, music-wise." The event was organized by Maggie Lévesque as part of a Carleton Cegep week-long activity aiming for a better knowledge of the Indigenous realities, and by local show presentation body, Maximum 90, led by Samuel Téguel. The show was presented in Mont-Louis and Douglastown over the two following nights. In the picture, Quentin Condo faces times with one of his sons, seconds before he started his performance.



Laura Teasdale visits NRHS

Jenna Boudreau

NEW RICHMOND: - Laura Teasdale, an actor, singer, playwright and teacher is in New Richmond for an exciting project. She is originally from Antigonish, Nova Scotia, and has been living in Quebec for 25 years. The event is being sponsored by the English Language Arts Network (ELAN) and the New Richmond CLC. Laura is working with students at New Richmond High School and together they will create a show based on the history of New Richmond, Gesgapegiag, and Caspédia-St-Jules. The children will be gathering stories and songs from parents, grandparents and family members; and interviewing seniors at the New Richmond Manor.

The goal is to collect stories from all the cultural backgrounds that make up this wonderful area, creating bonds between the students and community members. Laura and the students will then turn the stories into a musical play that the community will be invited to attend. The backdrops and costumes will be created by the students. The scripts and songs will be completed in workshops, and guest artists will be helping the students.

As the "artist in residence" for this month, Laura will be presenting workshops in laughter, comedy and music to the community.

Teasdale says, "I really want to get the three communities involved as much as I can. I am putting out a call to volunteers who might be willing to be in a band for the show, and any artists who are willing to help with creating sets or making costumes. Anyone who wants to help out in any way will be welcome, and can contact Jenna at the school. It's about taking pride in ourselves and the history that brought us here. Celebrating the music and cultures that make us diverse can also bring us together."

The show will take place at New Richmond High School in April and details about the event will be available in the Spec and at local businesses.



Engagement & Wedding Announcements

Announce your Engagement or Wedding in The Gaspé Spec

Engagement Announcement:
\$30 (\$35 with picture) up to 20 lines

Wedding Announcement:
\$40 (\$45 with picture)
max. of 300 words



Gratitude Shout-Outs



Shout-out to my teacher who is always encouraging me to do my best.

Shout-out to my boss who's there for me even on my worse days.

ASK PRUDENCE...

Dear Prudence,
What is the proper monogram format for newlyweds?
-Confused Gift Giver

Dear Confused Gift Giver,
I understand why you would be confused. Monograms are confusing even for the best of us. Monogram rules depend on the marital status of the person.

Single female: first, last (larger), middle initial
Married female: first, middle, last (all initials the same)
Single or married male: first, middle last (all the same size)
Married couple: Wife's first initial, husband's last name initial (larger) and then the husband's first initial. The lady's initial always goes first.

Just remember a monogrammed item is for life, and if you're lucky, so is your spouse.

Advice and answers to life's ponderings

Please

May I

THANKS

PARDON ME

Visit The Gaspé Spec's facebook page and click on the Ask Prudence link to submit your question or to send a gratitude shout-out. Please do not include any names.

*All items will remain confidential and anonymous.

Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



Check this out

This year the official first day of spring was on March 20 at 5:58 p.m. It may not seem very spring like when you look out your window, but remain hopeful. It will come, just not yet. This year the spring equinox coincides with a full moon called Full Worm Moon. Not only that, it will be a super-moon. The last time that happened was 19 years ago. The next time this will occur is 11 years from now. Makes us wonder all that will happen in our lives in the next 11 years.

Official spring might be here but we gauge spring by what we see, hear and feel. On the Gaspé, these signs come a little later, so here are a few of those signs to watch for. Clip out this list, and check off the signs as you see, hear or feel them.

Checklist

- (Saw a robin, a swallow or a Canada goose.
- (Heard birds chattering.
- (Melting snow and the sound of icicles crashing off the roof.
- (Potholes.
- (Tapping of maple trees.
- (Spring rain.
- (Mud. Lots of mud.
- (Worms. (Hence the name Full Worm Moon!)
- (Warmer weather or at least a few days of above 0 weather.
- (Smell of spring – that earthy smell of musky, damp ground wafts through the air.
- (Longer daylight hours.
- (Buds on trees.
- (Crocus, daffodils or tulips bloom.
- (The first day you drive around with your car window open.
- (Put away the mitts, winter coats and shovels.
- (Saw somebody riding a bike.

Spring is the season of new life and renewal. It gives us hope. Many feel more energized and optimistic with the longer hours of daylight. Even the anticipation of spring fills us with happiness. So, watch for the signs, check them off. One day spring weather will arrive and no doubt we will complain about the weather being too hot. It's what we do. It's part of being human.

Percé Rock MRC Health Establishments

SEGA: Many services for all

Thierry Haroun

CHANDLER: - Located in Chandler, the External Geriatric Ambulatory Service (SEGA) offers many services in its facilities and at people's homes.



Background

In 2013, a government announcement confirmed that \$4.5 million was slated for the construction of the SEGA building to be located between the hospital and the CLSC in Chandler. In the summer of 2015, construction began and in January 2016 the official inauguration was made by former Liberal Minister, Sébastien Proulx, who was also responsible for the Gaspé Peninsula Region.

Services

Since its opening SEGA has served hundreds of seniors living in the Percé Rock MRC. When asked if SEGA has met its objectives, Marlène Bécu who is in charge of the Social Work Technicians at the SEGA said, "Absolutely."

"We offer a variety of services. If a senior needs our help, the person must call 418-689-2572, extension 2572. The person is then transferred to the right department. It could be to the Nursing Department or the Social Worker Department. Once that is done, the process starts in order to accompany the patient and see what could be done and we therefore adapt our service to the person's situation. We also have health auxiliaries that can go to the patient's home and they are available seven days a week, from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m."

Ms Bécu says that the SEGA's clientele is mainly seniors with a loss of autonomy. "By going to one's home we can have a better idea, up to a point, that the person is not autonomous and we can then make a follow-up adapted to that person. We can also refer that person to our Day Centre where he or she can receive physiotherapy services, nurse assistance and so forth. By coming to our Day Centre it has the advantage of breaking their isolation. One last thing, at people's homes we provide hygiene, insulin and drug services."

SEGA also has a medical equipment rental service.

Employees needed

Jean-Saint-Pierre, Executive Director at the SEGA's Seniors Support Department, confirms that SEGA is currently recruiting. "As in any other sectors, we are faced with a lack of personnel, therefore, we are in need of nurses, auxiliary nurses and health auxiliaries who can provide hygiene services at people's home." SEGA employs 50 people and pays \$5.4M annually in salaries.



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Young businessmen acquire Pit Caribou micro-brewery

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND: – Two young businessmen from the Bay of Chaleur area, Jean-François Nellis and Vincent Coderre, are buying the Pit Caribou microbrewery, located in the Anse-à-Beaufils sector of Percé. The co-founder of the company, Francis Joncas, will remain an employee of Pit Caribou for the next three years.

The amount of the transaction was not revealed but Pit Caribou is the largest microbrewery in the Gaspé Peninsula by a fair margin. It was founded in 2007 by Mr. Joncas and his then partner, Benoit Couillard, who left in 2014 to found Auval, a smaller microbrewery located in Val d'Espoir, about ten kilometres from Pit Caribou.

Pit Caribou won several national and international awards for the quality and originality of its products in its 12 years of existence. It is well-known throughout Quebec among fans of small



Photo: Ariane Aubert Bonn

Francis Joncas is a pioneer in Gaspé Peninsula beer production, having founded Pit Caribou in 2007 and having received a permit to produce wild yeast beers in 2017.

breweries.

Holding diplomas in management and finance re-

spectively, Jean-François Nellis and Vincent Coderre were looking for a business

opportunity in the Gaspé Peninsula for the last two years. Mr. Nellis is the financial controller of Rail GD for a few more weeks while Mr. Coderre was working until recently for Caisses Desjardins.

“In 2017, we decided to go ahead. We started looking for a food-oriented business to satisfy our pleasure and epicurean side,” points out Jean-François Nellis, who is also a municipal councillor in Caplan.

In August, Francis Joncas was considering an acquisition offer from a company based outside the Gaspé Peninsula, when he was approached by Mr. Nellis and Mr. Coderre to buy Pit Caribou.

“Francis was bound by a confidentiality agreement until November 30 (with the potential buyer of the time). During that period, we worked on our file in parallel before starting talks with him,” notes Mr. Nellis.

The company employs 30 people in three locations, the

microbrewery and the boutique in Anse-à-Beaufils, the pub located in downtown Percé and the Rachel East Street Pub in Montreal.

Francis Joncas will remain the owner of the two pub buildings. The pubs will be managed by Jean-François Nellis and Vincent Coderre. Mr. Joncas is selling the microbrewery building.

“I will be a full-time employee of Pit Caribou during the first three months and I will gradually reduce my working schedule during the next three years,” explains Mr. Joncas.

A pioneer in the development of spontaneous fermentation beers, also called wild yeast beers, Francis Joncas is already working on another project called Brett et Sauvage.

In 2017, after long discussions with the federal authorities, he was able to get a permit to produce wild yeast beers, thus becoming the first permit holder in Canada for those products.

He didn't want to be an administrator

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND: - “I had reached that point. It was too big for my management capacity. It would have required me to become an administrator and I am a hands-on guy. I boosted the sales and it was going well but I was alone now and I was supporting millions of dollars of debt after having assured the growth of the microbrewery.”

Francis Joncas, the former owner of Pit Caribou, the first Gaspesian microbrewery, describes in that way the reasons that convinced him to accept the acquisition offer made by Jean-François Nellis and Vincent Coderre, two men in their early thirties.

So the artist side of Francis Joncas prevailed over his capacity to turn into a manager? “Yes and with 30 employees, we are talking more about a

medium-sized enterprise than a small one, as far as I am concerned, and that requires a lot of administration. I want to keep creating beers and staying at the helm of the company would have meant spending time elsewhere, up there, in an office,” he explains.

“When I was approached by those two men, those youths, I first asked them if they knew that it was not a hairdressing salon but I saw that they were all business and we reached an agreement over a price. I am happy that the property stays in the Gaspé Peninsula for the employees but also for the Gaspesians. I see it in people's reactions,” underlines Francis Joncas.

On social media, numerous people have effectively expressed satisfaction in the fact that Pit Caribou remains under Gaspesian control.

Who will keep playing the innovative role at the Anse-à-Beaufils microbrew-

ery? “I will still be there for three years and Francis Joncas was not the only creative person at Pit Caribou. There are beer recipes coming out of here that I don't know,” says Mr. Joncas.

Pit Caribou was founded in 2007 by Francis Joncas and Benoit Couillard. Five additional Gaspesian microbreweries were founded between 2008 and 2016: Naufrageur in Carleton, Auval in Val d'Espoir, Malbord in Sainte-Annes-Monts, Frontibus in Rivière-au-Renard and Cap Gaspé in Gaspé. The former associate of Francis Joncas, Benoit Couillard, is the man behind Auval. He wanted to run a smaller company as well when he left Pit Caribou in 2014.

One of the potential buyers of Pit Caribou was Boéale but the talks initiated last summer didn't pan out.

News briefs

Gaspé Peninsula MPs are loyal to the PQ

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - The Bonaventure and Gaspé Parti Québécois Members of the National Assembly remain loyal to their party despite the decision made by the PQ member for Marie-Victorin, Catherine Fournier, to slam the door on the sovereigntist movement.

The PQ member for Bonaventure sees contradictions in Catherine Fournier's decision. The young elected official believes that the sovereigntist movement has ceased to attract and renew itself and that Quebecers no longer listen to it.

For Sylvain Roy, the party is reflecting on its future following the scathing defeat in October and does not understand the gesture of the member. “What is paradoxical is that Ms. Fournier had a good place in the Parti Québécois and had the opportunity to say what was wrong. She could have made some transformation proposals, but she did not do it,” said the member for Bonaventure.

His colleague from Gaspé, Méganne Perry-Mélançon, does not believe the argument that the Parti Québécois is failing to attract young people. “This is not the announcement that will make a complete generation turn their backs on us. I do not believe it at all. On the contrary, I believe in the future of the Parti Québécois.” Faithful to the PQ, the two members of the National Assembly do not intend to leave the sovereigntist movement. Sylvain Roy wanted to make an update on the Twitter feed, following many rumours circulating in Quebec City. “Some rumours suggested that some MNAs would have an interest or talk to the Coalition avenir Québec to transfer. I just want to say that is not the case for the member for Bonaventure.” Mr. Roy intends to remain with the PQ until the end of his term. “I'm not going anywhere and I remain in the centre of the Parti Québécois,” adds Méganne Perry-Mélançon.

THEGASPEPEC.COM

Not on my “bucket list”

No, it was not the day the earth stood still, but was the day the earth moved, the earth shook. Boom and the lights went out, there the shaking and quaking and the fear rose in me, and I yelled out to my daughter, who quietly took my hand and said “Mum, it’s an earthquake,” as it rolled me off my bed. The drawers in the the furniture opened and shut, the closet doors banged back and forth. I trembled as the hotel moved back and forth. We were on the 7th floor of the Sheraton Hotel in Anchorage, Alaska where my daughter Julie was attending a conference in education, which was part of her job, being in charge of a program for children who require extra schooling. This was to

be her last day. On Friday, November 30, 2018, at about 8:25 a.m., the phone rang, telling us to get out of the hotel - which meant walking down many flights of stairs, noticing some damage as we descended, and arriving at a parking lot across the street. It was cold and some people had wrapped up in the hotel blankets and sheets.

Fortunately, we had an interesting gentleman who directed us on what to do. Soon we all were welcomed to a French café out of the cold where they served us all snacks, treats and water. We were grateful.

Before long we were allowed to return to the hotel lobby on the 1st floor. Because they had propane burners they served breakfast and

coffee until the propane ran out.

Eventually we were allowed to go to our rooms for our luggage. Since there was no elevator service Julie had to pack up both our stuff and lug it all back downstairs.

Meanwhile my other daughter, Kathy, was on her way trying to find roads that were not damaged and take us to her place for food and rest. Then she drove us to the airport where we would be on our way back to Juneau to Julie and Dave’s and safety.

Surviving this massive quake 7.0++ had not been on my “Bucket List,” so I added it, and then crossed it off.

*Shirley Chicoyne (Leary),
Laval, Quebec.*

A description of Me

As far as I recall when I was born, it was the beginning of my downfall. I weighed between 40-60 pounds and I wore glasses. (My poor mother!)

Many people have told me that it is a good thing to laugh at yourself, so here we go.

We’ll start at my head which isn’t much to look at. I used to dye my hair but there was always a white part in the middle which reminded me of a skunk. My hair is now grey, white and a dirty yellow which makes me think that I did have a run-in with a skunk at one time.

My forehead used to be low, but since my hair is thinning, it is much higher. I was thinking of doing a comb-over as the men do to cover my baldness.

My eyes are sinking toward the back of my head, but no one notices since I wear glasses.

I have a nose like Bob Hope which is to say that it tilts up at the end like a ski jump.

My lips are scary. They used to be there, but now have grown so thin that there is just a hole there with nothing around it.

The neck is like that of a weightlifter or a boxer I have seen—short and very thick.

Now for the body—don’t be scared. You may want to stop reading now or you may have come too far and you are curious about the rest.

To see me, one would think of a snowman who has

spent too much time out in the sun. All of my parts seem to have run together and there isn’t much separation. No amount of spandex or elastic has done much for my shape except to make it look more of a blob. Some nice folks have said, “Bonnie, you look like you’ve lost weight.” I am quick to tell them, “No, I haven’t. Everything is heading south at an alarming rate.” There isn’t much to do but to hold on.

My legs are short and my husband has told me on more

than one occasion that if I get shorter, as we all do with age, I will be able to walk around under the table without bending over.

My feet were all right but are getting wider and remind me of duck’s feet. That might explain my height and some of the yellow hair, but I don’t have a fluffy butt—yet.

My intention was to provide you with a laugh when sometimes life seems so harsh and cold. Enjoy your winter.

Bonita Baird



PUBLIC NOTICE

MINOR EXEMPTION FROM URBANISM BY-LAWS

NOTICE is hereby given that the Town Council, at a regular meeting that will be held on April 15 2019, at 8 p.m., will consider the request for minor exemption from the zoning By-Law 1156-11, presented by Mtre Isabelle Simard, notary for a property situated at 541, boulevard Pointe-Navarre.

The nature and consequences of this exemption are the following:

- the nature of the minor exemption is to reduce by 0.48 m the minimal distance required of 9 m from the front back margin required by the zoning By-Law 1156-11.
- the minor exemption will have for consequence to regularize the location of a detached single-family dwelling with a front back margin of 8.52 m.

During this meeting, the Town Council will hear the interested wishing to be heard on that request.

Given at Gaspé, March 27, 2019.

Isabelle Vézina,
Director of legal services and town clerk

2018 annual report of DeGaspe Chapter IODE

Elizabeth LeGros, IODE Communications Officer

NEW CARLISLE: - Our 90th Anniversary year has come to an end, highlighted by a formal dinner held on September 15. It was a very grand affair, catered for the members and many invited guests. It was September, 1928, when Mrs. John Hall Kelly, the first Regent of our founding Chapter in New Carlisle, held their first meeting and we are continuing their goals ninety years later. The work the original chapter started we have continued through the years to the present day. Our modern day Chapter concentrates its work on youth, seniors, charity and citizenship.

As to our Chapter’s interest in youth, we have several members who work with children at Family Ties and others who teach at local schools. One of our involvements with children, which has become an annual event, is the Christmas party at the Legion. We provide funds for the Legion to buy gifts for the attending children.

Our largest disbursement of funds is the long-standing awarding of bursaries to deserving students of the local schools. Two bursaries of \$500 dollars each went to Justine Grenier of the Paspebiac Polyvalent and Jasmine Gifford of New Carlisle High School. A third bursary of \$200, the Memorial Bursary in memory of Bessie Campbell, a long-time member, was awarded to Britany Major of Hope Town.

In 2018 the deGaspe Chapter maintained many long-standing activities. We again laid a wreath on Armistice Day, but with inclement weather, it was an indoor event. Also again this past year, Christmas letters were sent to local servicemen.

Our interest continues with working with our seniors. Many members take time to visit individuals at the local centres, where they play bingo, sing, or just visit friends. Christmas flowers and chocolates were delivered to shut-ins during the holiday season.

Our 90th Anniversary year proved to be a very diverse year. We worked hard planning and operating our second “Gramma’s Attic Sale, but we did take time for a dinner meeting for members in June. We presently have 21 paid-up members and have functioned well with our regular body of officers under the able leadership of our President, Mrs. Olive Smollett.

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Wedding in The Gaspé Spec

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Wedding Announcement:
\$40 (\$45 with picture)
max. of 300 words



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MINOR EXEMPTION FROM URBANISM BY-LAWS

NOTICE is hereby given that the Town Council, at a regular meeting that will be held on April 15, 2019, at 8 p.m., will consider the request for minor exemptions from the zoning By-Law 1156-11, presented by Mrs Julie Dubé for a property situated at 895-F Haldimand Road.

The nature and consequences of this exemption are the following:

- the nature of the minor exemption is to increase by 41.5% the percentage of the expansion for derogatory use of a mobile homes compared to the 50% enlargement percentage required by the article 25.1.4.1 of the Zoning By-Law no 1156-11;
- the minor exemption will have for consequence to allow the construction of an extension of 79 m² of the existing mobile home representing an enlargement percentage of 91.5%.

During this meeting, the Town Council will hear the interested wishing to be heard on that request.

Given at Gaspé, March 27, 2019.

Isabelle Vézina,
Director of legal services and town clerk

Announcements...



OBITUARY



SAWYER: Reid Alexander

October 4, 1920 – February 16, 2019

Reid Alexander Sawyer peacefully passed away on February 16, 2019, at the Centre D'Accueil in New Carlisle at the age of 98 years and 4 months.

Reid was predeceased by his loving wife of 64 years, Doris Hall, in January 2010. He leaves to mourn, his three children: David (Ann Ross), Ralph, and Joan (Steven Imhoff); four grandchildren: Terry (Theresa) Sawyer, Maxine Sawyer (Tony Greco), Jonathan Imhoff, and Heather Imhoff (Richard Almond); two great-grandchildren Celena Sawyer and Meghan Greco.

Reid was predeceased by sisters Audrey, Hannah, Eva, Hazel and Ila and brother Ray. He is survived by his brother Garnet and sister Olive and many nieces and nephews.

Reid was a proud member of the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 64, for 73 years. He served overseas with the 82nd Regiment during World War II and saw action in England, France, Holland, Africa and Italy. Upon his return home he was hired by Canadian National Railways as a fireman and through the years worked his way up to engineer, retiring in 1978.

Reid lived his life with integrity. He was an honest and generous man supporting many charitable organizations.

Family and friends gathered to pay their respects at the funeral parlour on Thursday, February 21, and the funeral was held on Friday, February 22, at St. Andrew's Anglican Church in New Carlisle at 2 p.m. A lunch was served in the church basement following the service.

Interment of ashes will be held in the summer.
Old soldiers never die. They just fade away.



IN MEMORY

BOUDREAU: Jean (Buttle)

March 23, 1945 - March 22, 2005

*The depths of sorrow we cannot tell
Of the loss of one we loved so well,
And while she sleeps a peaceful sleep,
Her memory we shall always keep.*

Always yours, your loving husband, Fred and family.



WATT: Jessie (Munro)

In loving memory of a dear mother, mother-in-law, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister-in-law and aunt who passed away March 27, 2017.

*You were taken without any warning;
Your passing left us in pain,
Even though we dealt with the mourning,
In our hearts you will always remain.
You will never be forgotten,
Nor ever shall you be,
As long as life and memory last,
We will remember thee.
What would we give your hand to clasp.
Your beautiful face to see,
To hear your voice, to see your smile,
As in the days that used to be.
Some sweet day we'll meet again
Beyond the toil and strife,
And clasp each other's hand once more
In Heaven that happy life.*

Loved and remembered everyday by your children and their families, sisters-in-law, nieces and nephews.

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A prayer to St. Jude to be said in cases despaired of

St. Jude, Glorious Apostle, faithful servant and friend of Jesus the name of the traitor has caused you to be forgotten by many but the true church evokes you universally as the patron of the things despaired of. Pray for me who is so miserable, pray for me that finally I may receive the consolations and the succor of heaven in all my necessities, tribulations, sufferings, particularly (here make your request) and that I may bless God with the elect throughout eternity. Amen St. Jude, Apostle, Martyr and relative of our Lord Jesus Christ of Mary and of Joseph intercede for us.

A.W

Card of Thanks

We would like to thank everyone for their kind expressions of sympathy during the recent passing of our father, Reid Sawyer. Special thanks for food, cards, phone calls, donations, visits to the funeral parlour and attendance at the funeral.

Thank you to Branch 64 of the Royal Canadian Legion for their participation at the funeral parlour and the funeral.

Thank you also to Cyrus Journeau for performing the service, organist Enid Becher-vaise and the choir for the lovely music.

Thank you to the nurses and workers at the Centre D'Accueil for their excellent care of Dad during his stay there.

The Sawyer Family

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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: gael.tremblay@notarius.net

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COAST ROUND-UP

POINTE-NAVARRÉ:

Shrine of Pointe-Navarre
April 2: The mass of St Peregrine, patron saint of the sick suffering from cancer and long-term diseases, will be celebrated at 7 p.m. at the Shrine of Pointe-Navarre.

April 8: You are invited to a Tiazé Evening, between 7 and 8 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Prayers in peace, songs and music in the spirit of Taizé.

YORK:

York River Seniors 500 Card Party

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 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!

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

April 6: Military Whist beginning at 8 p.m. Admission \$5. Light lunch served.

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.

April 22: Easter gift bingo beginning at 7 p.m. \$10 per series or three for \$20. Canteen service available.

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.

HOPE TOWN:

Hope Baptist Church

Hope Baptist Church welcomes you. Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 a.m. and Corporate

Worship at 11 a.m. on Sundays. Prayer Meeting and Bible Study at 7 p.m. on Wednesdays. Young Peoples for grades 7-11 at 7 p.m. on Fridays. 305 Route 132 West, Hope Town, 418-752-5838.

NEW CARLISLE:

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

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.

April 27th 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.

Open Saturdays at 1 p.m.

NEW CARLISLE:

Heritage New Carlisle Advance Notice

May 10: Soup and Sweets beginning at 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the New Carlisle Town Hall.

May 14: Heritage New Carlisle Annual General Meeting at 7 p.m. at the Kempffer Cultural and Interpretation Centre.

NEW RICHMOND:

Richmond Manor

March 31: Roast beef dinner from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Richmond Manor, 196 Blvd Perron. Adults \$12. Children 12 and under \$8. Takeouts are available.

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. Everyone welcome.

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.

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

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

GESGAPEGIAG:

N.A. Meetings

N.A. Meetings held every **Tuesday** at 7 p.m. at the Mawioimi 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 17 are: Danny Lelièvre, Jason Boudreau, Chantal Deraiche, Maison des Jeunes, Armand Gallant, Gérard Henry and Stéphane Alard.

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UNITED CHURCH

Sunday, March 31

11 a.m. Shigawake
Service with Anglicans

ANGLIGAN CHURCH OF CANADA

Sunday, March 31

New Carlisle
9 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Shigawake
11 a.m. Holy Eucharist

PARISH OF GASPÉ

Sunday, March 31

St. Paul's - Gaspé
10 a.m. Holy Eucharist

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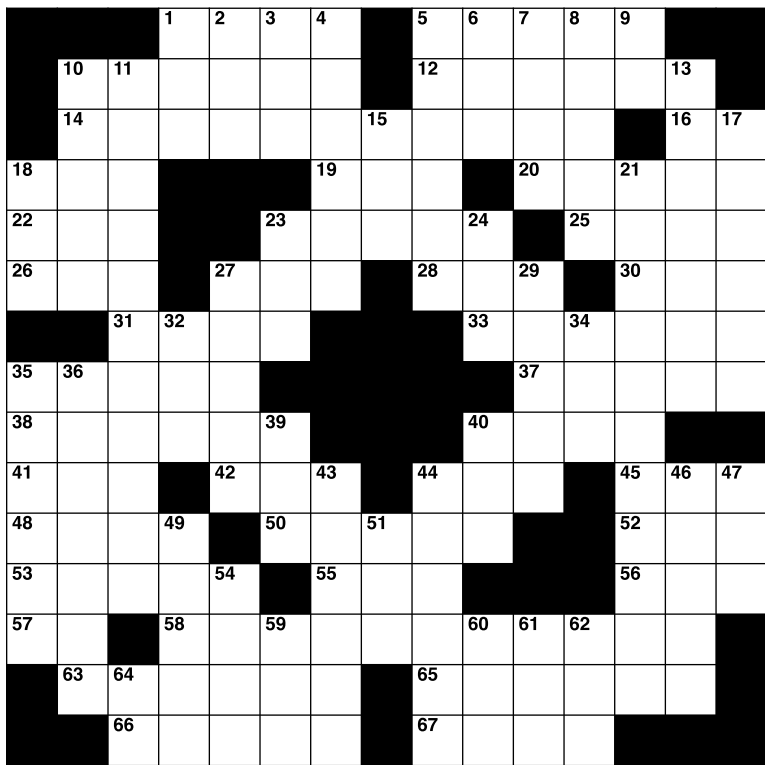
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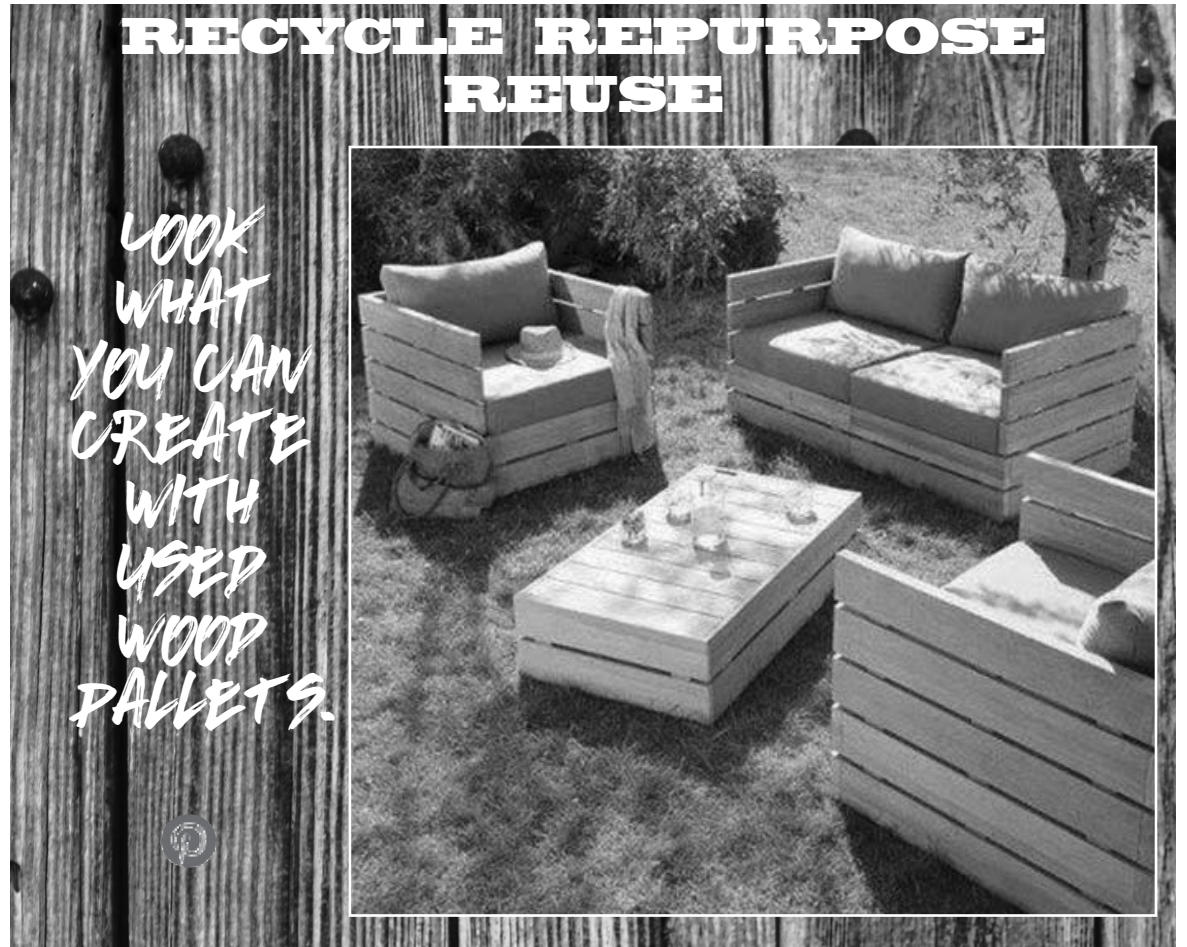
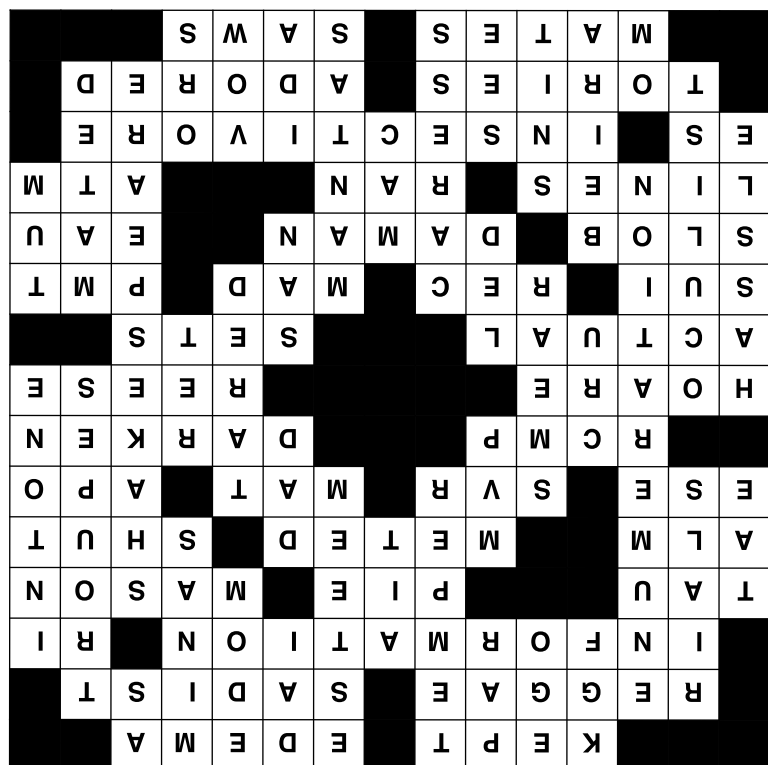


CLUES ACROSS

1. Maintained possession of
5. Dropsy
10. Type of music
12. One who is deliberately cruel
14. 411
16. Rhode Island
18. Follows sigma
19. Baked dessert
20. Craftsman
22. Austrian river
23. Distributed
25. Close
26. Midway between east and south-east
27. Thunderstorm code
28. Where wrestlers work
30. Away from (prefix)
31. Canadian law enforcers
33. Shade
35. Sir Samuel ___, Brit. statesman
37. Della ___, singer
38. Existing in fact
40. Tennis matches have at least two
41. Reunifying Chinese dynasty
42. Not just "play"
44. Angry
45. Photomultiplier tube
48. Slovenly person
50. ___ and Diu
52. Cologne
53. What actors deliver
55. Campaigned
56. Cash machine
57. Spanish be
58. Animal that eats insects
63. Colonists who supported the British
65. Loved
66. A pair of people who live together
67. Work tools

CLUES DOWN

1. Kilogram force (abbr.)
2. Your consciousness of your own identity
3. Score
4. A way to modify
5. Respect
6. Midwife
7. Region near the Dead Sea
8. ___ Gerais: gold-rich state of Brazil
9. Equally
10. Monetary units
11. The mentioning of things one by one
13. Traveling entertainers
15. Small island
17. A way to sing
18. ___-bo: form of exercise
21. "The Bard"
23. The best player
24. Male parent
27. Harm the reputation of
29. Allow for the tare of
32. Grand ___: wine classification
34. Soak
35. Bother
36. Ophthalmologist
39. Preceded
40. ___ Francisco, California
43. Touch gently
44. Lithuanian given name
46. Matched
47. Stomach
49. Mother of all gods in Scots' Celtic mythology
51. Partner to cheese
54. Fit of irritation
59. Visit
60. Suffragist Wells
61. Swearing to the truth of a statement
62. Old Red Sandstone
64. Sacred Hindu syllable



Why do we say ... by Gary Briand

It is 2018. I find myself convalescing from surgery at my daughter's home in Blainville. Memory seems to insist that I had dealt with this phrase before but I have no way of checking with Archangel Joan at SPEC, so I'll take a chance with that "son of a gun."

While awaiting my operation at CHUM (formerly St. Luc's Hospital, Montreal) I had left on my bed table several articles already printed in SPEC. The lady who kept the room immaculate recognized my name on the articles. We began conversing. She was a Franco-Ontarian by birth and her grandfather lived with her parents near Hawkesbury. Now at ninety-two, the old gentleman often struck his thigh after receiving a visit from a younger friend who was fond of telling the older gentleman tall tales of escapades from his youth. After the visitor left the house, the older gentleman would recall some of the narrative and apply "son of a gun" as a compliment to his visitor.

Prior to 1862 women were often found on board British Royal Navy ships. When in port the sailors would regularly bring girls on board a ship: The gun decks were the usual place of debauchery. Women remained on board and, well hidden away, often delivered their children at sea. Male children born on the water were called "sons of the gun" in reference to the gun deck.

Literature records a description of such a child (1834): ... begotten in the galley, born under a gun, every hair a rope yarn, every finger a fish hook, every tooth a marlin's spike and their blood right good old Stockholm tar ... "

One of the most celebrated "sons of the gun" was named Tom Bowline who died of sword wounds in 1790 and was buried at Haslar. He was born in 1773, went ashore for the first time in 1790, his death year.

Now in this twenty-first century, the expression has shifted in meaning. Today it is used to describe a person - usually male - who performs the unusual or who can tell a tall tale.

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

You might have to make a few concessions in the short-term if you are eager to make real progress in the long-term, Aries. Eventually all things will even out.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

Put exercise to the forefront of your list of things to do, Taurus. If you have not been physically active lately, work slowly and diligently to build up your endurance.

GEMINI – May 22/June 21

Important decisions cannot be made in a matter of minutes, Gemini. You really have to work through all the angles. Seek opinions from trusted friends.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22

Make a list of things you need to accomplish this week, Cancer. If you let it all sit in your head, you are bound to get overwhelmed and forget something.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, there are a few ways a situation at work can go. Not every path may meet with your utmost approval. But you may have to swallow your pride and compromise.

HOROSCOPES

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

If illness has been going around, Virgo, do your best to avoid getting sick. Be diligent in handwashing and other preventive measures.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Even the most doting parents can use some downtime once in a while, Libra. Plan an adults-only date night and enjoy some well-deserved conversation.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, illnesses or medical obstacles can have many sources — from the foods you eat to your emotional wellness. Start jotting things down in a journal to figure out how to feel and look your best.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

Your perseverance is a source of inspiration to others, Sagittarius. Don't be bashful when others share these thoughts with you. Accept their well wishes and give thanks.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Hold tight to those friends who have your best interests at heart through

happy and trying situations, Capricorn. These are the people you can call upon this week.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

For so long you have been doling out advice to other people and helping them improve their lives, Aquarius. Now you are the one who could benefit from some counsel.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, a recent birthday celebration could have you feeling like you need to make drastic changes, but small ones can fit the bill as well.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

MARCH 24

Val Chmerkovskiy, Dancer (33)

MARCH 25

Danica Patrick, Athlete (37)

MARCH 26

Diana Ross, Singer (75)

MARCH 27

Jessie J, Singer (31)

MARCH 28

Lady Gaga, Singer (33)

MARCH 29

Elle Macpherson, Model (55)

MARCH 30

Chris Sale, Athlete (30)

Citizens' group calls for a big spring cleanup

Arianne Aubert Bonn

PERCÉ: - The *Brigade Verte du grand Percé* is born. The citizens' group joins forces with the UNESCO Global Geopark for a major cleanup of Percé's outdoor spaces on June 8.

The Brigade Verte spokesperson, Marie-Claude Costisella, says that the same type of operation has existed in Gaspé for more than five years: "In the first year, about 50 people took part in our cleaning activities. Last year, there were more than 150, with the participation of several organizations, including Forillon Park." This year, the movement is expanding its activities in Percé in collaboration with the Geopark.

Brigade Verte du grand Percé's first activity will take place on June 8. The population is invited to organize groups and participate in the chore in all neighbourhoods. "People can clean their own grounds, but also public spaces such as streets, parks and shorelines. Bags and gloves are provided," says Ms. Costisella. She adds that the bags of waste will then be collected by the Town of Percé, which will dispose of it.

MIGRATION:

▶ *Cont'd from page 2*

percentage, at -1.24%. However, the people leaving Montreal mainly stay in the vicinity of the metropolis' zone of influence, like Laval, the Laurentides region, Lanaudière and the South Shore.

Those migratory balance numbers don't include the births-deaths balance, the other big factor in demographics.

"In the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands, we see 300 more deaths than births annually. So we still have to improve our migratory balance in order to stabilize our population and even increase it," concludes Danik O'Connor.



Photo: A. Bonn

The call is launched by the *Brigade Verte du grand Percé* to form teams everywhere in Percé.

After the cleanup day, the Geopark management invites everyone to a party. The di-

rector, Renaud Camirand, believes it is important for his organization to be involved:

"It's part of our mission. We are going to invite the whole population to take part in the

cleanup, and then we organize a small party." Mr. Camirand adds that the involvement of the Geopark in citizen initiatives is important, and that this one, oriented towards the environment, fits precisely in the values of the organization.

The call is launched by the *Brigade Verte du grand Percé* to form teams everywhere in Percé. The communication line goes through the facebook page of the same name. Participants are expected in large numbers for the major cleanup of the town. "We are going to make the place beautiful for the tourist season," adds Ms. Costisella.

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Canada



2019 LLB CURLING BONSPIEL

The Linda LeMore-Brown Foundation held its annual curling bonspiel on the weekend of March 15, 16 and 17, at the New Carlisle arena and St. Patrick was cooperative with great weather. Thirteen teams hit the ice to see who would take top honours. "A" champions were Skip Allen Richards, Brent Hocquard, Trevor Bechervaise and Remi Whittom.



Some of the players, volunteers and spectators on Sunday afternoon.



"A" Series Champions: Brent, Allen, Trevor and Remi.



The arena was a buzz of activity all weekend.



Some teams dressed up for the occasion.



Although George Henry, Lynden Bechervaise, Denis Joseph and Earl Gallon had over 300 years in life experience, they lost in the "D" finals to a much younger team.

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