

## SOUTHERN GULF OF SAINT LAWRENCE: Snow crab quota increases by 32.9%

Gilles Gagné

**PASPEBIAC:** – The Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) has announced a 32.9% increase for 2019 compared to last year in the total allowable catches of snow crab in the southern Gulf of Saint Lawrence. The total quota for the four zones will reach 32,480 metric tonnes compared to 24,439 tonnes in 2018.

That hike doesn't come as a real surprise for the fishermen and the management of the processing plants because the scientific assessment carried out in the summer of 2018 had revealed an abundant stock, both for mature crabs or juvenile specimens. The exploitation rate of that stock was set at 40.9% of the adult biomass of 80,746 tonnes, a normal rate considering that abundance.

Crab fishermen from New Brunswick, Quebec, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia, fish in the southern Gulf of Saint Lawrence, benefiting from various quotas depending on the historical status of the fleets.

Gaspésians and Magdalen



The first landings in the southern Gulf of Saint Lawrence should take place before the end of April.

Islanders benefit from approximately 30% of the overall quota.

Daniel Desbois, president of the *Association des crabiers*

*gaspésiens*, confirms that since the release of the scientific reports in February, the fishermen and the processing plant owners knew that the quotas

would be significant.

"It is really exceptional in the sense that we were not expecting it a year ago. Adult crab recruiting was very high," says Mr. Desbois.

He suggests that the precautionary management approach over the last years is probably reducing stock fluctuations.

Daniel Desbois remains hesitant regarding the price that will be given to the fishermen by the processing plants. "When we look at what is happening on the north side of the peninsula, it is encouraging though."

He refers to the price obtained by the fishermen active in zone 17, between Trois-Pistoles and Rivière-à-Claude, east of Sainte-Anne-des-Monts, where the season started on March 28. Prices surpassed \$7 per pound over the first few days, a frequent phenomenon due to the excitement stemming from the landing of fresh crab.

Mr. Desbois remains just as cautious with regards to the season beginning date in the southern Gulf of Saint Lawrence. "The gulf was

cleared of ice faster than expected but it is the (ice) congestion in the New Brunswick harbours that is the determining factor in this case. It is still uncertain."

In 2018, the fishing season started on April 28. It could be a few days earlier this year. A committee will assess the ice conditions in New Brunswick harbours and make that decision.

Recently, Bill Sheehan, vice-president of E. Gagnon et Fils, the largest processing plant of the Gaspé Peninsula, indicated that he was expecting a price of about \$5 per pound for the crab fishermen in 2019.

If the price averages \$5 per pound or slightly more this year, the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands crab fishermen based in the southern Gulf of Saint Lawrence will obtain overall revenues of approximately \$100 million, before the value added in processing plants.

A portion of the total allowable catch for snow crab goes to the Gaspésian lobster fishermen. The details of that allocation will be released later by DFO.

## Fisheries and Oceans Canada Minister overturns initial decision and restores 2018 shrimp

Gilles Gagné

**GASPÉ PENINSULA:** - The Federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), Jonathan Wilkinson, changed his mind and restored the shrimp quotas of 2018 in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence eight days after announcing on March 25 an overall cut of 18.27% for 2019.

So instead of decreasing to 14,170 metric tonnes, the overall quota of the Anticosti, Esquiman, Sept-Îles and Estuary zones will remain at 17,337 tonnes. Minister Wilkinson just issued a second fishing plan and did not explain why he was maintaining the 2018 quotas.

In the Anticosti zone, the quota will stay at 6,871 tonnes this year instead of declining by 15%. In the Esquiman zone, where a 15% cut was also initially announced, the quota will remain at 5,980 tonnes.

The Sept-Îles zone was supposed to be hit the hardest with a 37.7% quota cut but it will actually stay at 4,267 tonnes.

The Estuary was to benefit from a quota increase, however, the quota will stay at 239 tonnes in 2019 instead of experiencing a 153.5% hike to 606 tonnes.

The change announced on April 2 by Jonathan Wilkinson was well received by Patrice

Element, director of the *Office des pêcheurs de crevette de la ville de Gaspé* (Town of Gaspé Shrimp Fishermen Board). The board represents the fishermen in their negotiations with the town's two processing plants.

"It is greeted favourably but we are aware that not everybody agrees with the new fishing plan. The shrimp fishermen catching effort is lower than with the red fish or some other species. Overall, maintaining the quota won't make a big difference. Red fish will eat in one week the quota increment that we were allowed. A lot of people had doubts that the initial quota reduction was a useful precau-

tion, even some biologists," states Mr. Element.

He admits that the electoral context at the federal level might have influenced Jonathan Wilkinson's decision. "It is not certain that the electoral benefits are positive overall though. It is sure well received in the Maritimes but it could represent a handicap in some cities where people keep an eye on the protection of sea resources."

Meanwhile, negotiations between the fishermen and the processing plants had not led to an agreement in Gaspé, as of April 8.

In 2018, shrimp fishermen received prices of \$1.68 per

pound for large specimens, \$1.35 for average sized ones and \$1.14 for smaller ones.

"The average price was \$1.38. The prices on the international market are still high and we should receive a good price in 2019 again. There is a mediation process this year that sets a price during our negotiations. Just a few shrimp fishermen have gone to sea so far since the beginning of the season on April 1 but it is mainly due to the weather conditions," adds Mr. Element.

According to the mediation mechanism currently in effect, the prices of 2018 apply as long as an agreement is not reached or imposed.



**DEADLY WORK ACCIDENT:**

# Traffic management is the cause

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ: - Deficient traffic management is responsible for the death of a worker at the Jourdain quarry on September 21 in Cap-Chat. That is the main cause chosen by the *Commission des normes, de l'équité, de la santé et de la sécurité du travail*

(CNESST) to explain the death of Mathieu Simard, a loader operator for Les Entreprises Mont-Sterling.

Noticing that the loader's tire needed to be inflated, the operator descended from the machine when a semi-trailer transport, going in reverse, struck the vehicle, crushing the victim. The worker was

pronounced dead at the scene of the accident.

"There are all kinds of preventive measures that can be put in place to ensure the safety of a worker but, effectively, it is the traffic manage-

ment that has the best chance of eliminating at the source the coexistence of pedestrians and vehicles, therefore, avoiding this type of accident," says Inspector Jean-François Bernier Synnott of CNESST.

Following the accident, the employer complied with the requirements of the CNESST. The government agency could fine the company up to \$67,176 if found at fault.



Photo: courtesy of the CNESST

The truck and loader involved in the accident.

## News briefs

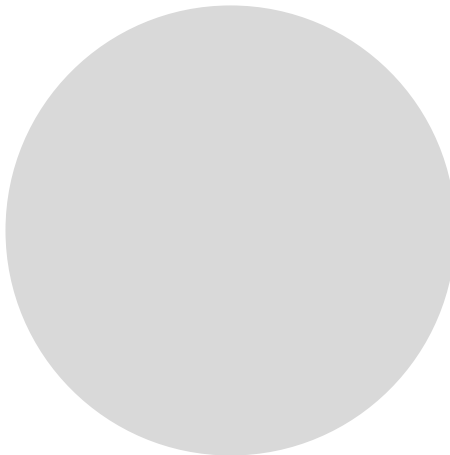
### Much more than expected!

Thierry Haroun

GASPÉ PENINSULA: The Gaspésie and Magdalen Islands United Way 2018 fundraiser raised more money than expected. The objective to raise \$520,000 was surpassed by \$20,000.

The total contributions can be broken down as follows: public servants and retirees from the public service donated \$275,000 which represents 51% of the total donations; Hydro-Québec employees donated a total of \$109,132, an increase of 6% compared to the previous campaign; LM Wind Power employees donated \$12,285; the Gaspésie Health and Social Services Centre employees raised \$6,045; and the Super C in Gaspé and in Chandler donated \$8,720 and \$4,449 respectively. The Magdalen Islands Mines Seleine raised \$7,925, the CISSS \$5,436 and the Commission Scolaire \$3,568.

Other activities and partnerships with regional organizations raised another \$47,000, including pizza sales, jam sales, draws and other breakfast fundraisers. "Gaspésians and Magdalen Islanders have once again displayed a great generosity by supporting the most vulnerable people of the region," mentioned Stephan Boucher, Executive Director of the organization.



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## Jérémie Viktor Lagacé not admissible for parole before 2030

Gilles Gagné

The Côte-de-Gaspé detachment of Sûreté du Québec conducted an operation in a house and a car that led to the seizure of 198 cartons of contraband cigarettes in the Haldimand sector of Gaspé. The investigators initiated the bust following information received from the public. A 53 year-old man living in the Haldimand house was questioned and released. He will likely face penal charges in the coming weeks or months, since contraband tobacco contravenes with the rules pertaining to income tax. The cartons contained 39,600 cigarettes.

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A November 18, 2015 anti-poaching operation in the Gaspé Peninsula led to the imposition of fines totalling \$74,375. Initially, 18 people were questioned by the Department of Forest, Wildlife and Parks investigators and game wardens who conducted "Operation LTS" in ten different locations. Up to 68 people participated in that operation which put emphasis on night hunting, over hunting, illegal possession of deer and the use of forbidden weapons. The trial took place at the Percé courthouse between July 23 and July 25.

Ludger Després from Percé received the largest fine, \$28,725, for hunting deer at night, shooting a deer from his vehicle, illegal possession of big game, hunting deer without antlers, hunting deer with an illegal weapon and communicating wrong information when registering an animal. He was also found guilty of illegal hunting of migrating birds. He will be forbidden to hunt for two years.

Michel Després of Murdochville was found guilty of hunting deer at night, illegal possession of big game, hunting too many big game, shooting a deer from a vehicle and communicating false information while registering big game. He was fined \$22,075 and will be forbidden to hunt for two years.

Murdochville's Martin Poitras was fined \$5,475 for illegal possession of moose and hunting deer at night. He will not be allowed to hunt for two years

Jean-Yves Labrecque of New Richmond sold moose meat which is illegal and refused to reveal information about the origin of that meat. He was also fined \$4,150 and will be forbidden to hunt for two years.

Raymond Dagenais of Saint-Alphonse was found guilty of hunting deer at night and of selling moose. He was fined \$3,650 and will be forbidden to hunt for two years.

Denise Labrecque of Percé was forbidden to hunt for two years because of illegal possession of deer meat and for communicating false information while registering big game. She was also fined \$2,325.

Alexandre Vallée of Sainte-Anne-des-Monts was fined \$2,325 for shooting a deer without a permit and hunting deer at night. He is also forbidden to hunt for two years.

Stéphane Labrecque of Matapédia sold deer and moose meat. He must pay a \$1,825 fine and will not be allowed to hunt for two years.

New Richmond's Patrick Gagnon was fined \$1,825 for buying moose. He will not be allowed to hunt for the next two years.

Percé's Réal Turcotte was fined \$900 for hunting deer without a permit. He is also forbidden to hunt for two years.

Sébastien Dupuis of Sainte-Anne-des-Monts who hunted deer without a permit cannot hunt for the next two years. Mr. Dupuis is fined \$500.

Jonathan Dupuis and Pierre-Luc Dupuis of Sainte-Anne-des-Monts are each fined \$300 for communicating false information when registering their game.

NEW CARLISLE: – On April 4 at the New Carlisle courthouse, Judge Louis de Blois, of the Superior Court, imposed a sentence of at least 13 years of prison to Jérémie Viktor Lagacé for the August 22, 2017, non-premeditated murder of French tourist Fabrice Durand.

The judge agreed with the position suggested on April 2 by Crown Prosecutor Guy Loisel and Defence Attorney Catherine Mercier. Initially charged with premeditated murder, Jérémie Viktor Lagacé had entered a plea of guilty on March 28 on a reduced charge of non-premeditated murder. The trial was supposed to start on April 1 and was therefore cancelled.

That plea of guilty meant that he was condemned to a life in prison term without being admissible for parole before 10 years and possibly as long as 25 years.

During the April 2 representations on the sentencing, Crown Prosecutor Guy Loisel and Defence Attorney Catherine Mercier agreed on a minimum prison term of 13 years before being eligible for parole.

Judge de Blois found the common "suggestion adequate, confirmed by jurisprudence," which means former court cases of the same nature. He emphasized extenuating factors similar to those noted by the crown prosecutor and the defence attorney. Those factors included Jérémie Viktor Lagacé's early years spent in a Russian orphanage, and the fetal alcohol syndrome he suffered from because his mother was an alcoholic and a drug addict.

The judge also emphasized that the 24-year-old man was intimidated in school and that he is still young.

He remarked that Lagacé was also taking medication for his depressive state, but that he was no longer taking it during the stretch that preceded the shooting of Fabrice Durand.

The 23-year-old man from France was killed by a bullet that reached the base of his skull. At the time he was walking in the Chutes à Picot trail in Saint-André-de-Restigouche, the village where Lagacé was living.

Judge de Blois also indicated that the plea of guilty entered by Lagacé also represented an extenuating factor in the determination of parole admissibility.



Defence Attorney Marcel Guérin



Photos: G. Gagné

Defence Attorney Catherine Mercier.

The judge mentioned that other factors were not in the accused favour including the gravity of a crime and that it "destroyed lives." The criminal record of the young man was also mentioned, because he broke a five-year court order, a period during which he was not supposed to use or possess a weapon. While studying in Mont-Joli, he killed the dog of his former teacher. He also stole ammunition in Rimouski.

Judge de Blois decided that Lagacé must officially register his DNA. He will also be forbidden to possess and use

firearms for the rest of his life.

He is also forbidden to communicate with the Durand and Marcoux families, except for the mother of Fabrice Durand, Séverine Andronnet. She authorized him to write her a letter in the case he would want to explain why he shot her son.

Outside the courtroom, Crown Prosecutor Guy Loisel explained that Lagacé will not automatically be free after 13 years of prison. "He will have to prove that he has progressed" in order to get parole.

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## Commentary Gilles Gagné

### Let's just calm down...

Bill 21, the bill pertaining to the so-called neutrality of the Quebec government, is raising a lot of controversy since the release of its wording at the end of March. It is normal, but it would also be normal for everybody to calm down on that issue, including the Coalition avenir Québec government, which is spearheading Bill 21.

The matter of the importance religious symbols have in Quebec society has been debated with quite some intensity for the last 12 years. That is since the Hérouxville municipal council made headlines for adopting a municipal bylaw aiming to control the hypothetical behaviour of Muslims choosing to settle in that community.

The Hérouxville incident came after a controversy that occurred in the fall of 2006, when a group of Orthodox Jews asked for the installation of opaque windows at a Montreal YMCA where women were training in t-shirts and shorts.

A bunch of other incidents marked the following weeks to such an extent that the Liberal Party government of Jean Charest decided to put up a commission to study the secular status of Quebec and suggest a set of reasonable accommodations that could be used as a guide for society.

The Bouchard-Taylor Commission, its most

common name, was born and issued a set of recommendations that were... put on a shelf by Premier Charest.

This led the ensuing Pauline Marois government to opt for the issuance of another proposition, the secular charter. The Parti Québécois premier was so enthusiastic about the whole exercise that she decided to call an election focusing on that secular charter.

Ms. Marois was so ill-advised, or stubborn, that her minority regime became the first Quebec government in about 100 years to obtain power and lose it only 18 months later.

The Liberal government of Philippe Couillard replied with Bill 62, for which they were heavily criticized because it was considered too "weak." That "act to foster adherence to State religious neutrality and, in particular, to provide a framework for requests for accommodations on religious grounds in certain bodies," was nevertheless adopted on October 18, 2017. Current premier, François Legault, was one of Bill 62's greatest critics. It is therefore not surprising to see the interim leader of the Liberal Party, Pierre Arcand, trying to get even with Mr. Legault until the adoption of Bill 21. It is retaliation time.

Premier Legault has committed to holding public hearings regarding Bill 21, but those hearings will be limited to a certain number of experts and groups whose reflections are considered relevant.

Large hearings such as the ones that were organized by the commission presided over by Charles Taylor and Gérald Bouchard are being ruled out because some 2007 moments were embarrassing and because of the time frame. Premier Legault wants the bill adopted during the current session, which ends in June. He is ready to impose an end to the National Assembly debates on the

matter if necessary, something a majority government can always do.

François Legault committed to solving the secular society issue during the 2018 electoral campaign. He knows that it is easier to deal with controversial bills at the beginning of a term. The controversy has been ongoing for twelve-and-a-half years. He wants to put it behind him.

Now, will the CAQ government show some understanding on certain issues, like the obligation for teachers to remove religious symbols? François Legault has adamantly refused to open that door so far, even if he should at least listen to a wider range of viewpoints.

Some points of Bill 21 really need to be reviewed, fine-tuned and changed, partially or wholly. Linking an acquired right, such as wearing religious symbols, to a place or a function is useless and unjustifiable pettiness. Why would a female school principal wearing a scarf be deprived of a promotion or of moving to another school?

Premier Legault must show a form of reasonable accommodation in the whole debate. He must use subtlety, not elephant manners in a porcelain-selling shop.



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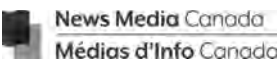
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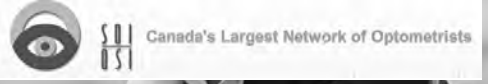
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## Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers

### Making Do

Gaspésians are a resourceful lot. We are descendants of the hearty folk who settled here hundreds of years ago. Many arrived with nothing, though the Indigenous population had been here much longer. They had already made the best of the beautiful Gaspesian environment and were skilled hunters and fishermen. The Europeans who settled here brought their ways, ideas and beliefs with them. They too made the best of the often-harsh living conditions on the Gaspé. Though the land and waters supplied many resources, the harsh weather was always a challenge. They managed, because if they did not, they perished.

In 2019 we do not have to hunt and forage for everything we require. Though, Gaspésians do remain avid hunters, fishermen and foragers. We still love to pick berries and make jam just as our ancestors did. We love fresh fish from the bay and rivers. Partridge, deer and moose remain a source of food for Gaspesian families. We do not waste these resources. It is in our DNA. It is historically who we are.

How many times have we heard *waste not, want not*? It is said not as often now as it was 60 years ago because we have, to a great extent, abandoned the wisdom of our ancestors in this regard. Currently, there is a lot of waste because that is who we have become culturally and economically. Children have way too many plastic toys that are basically disposable. Toys are rarely passed on to other children. Either they do not last or the child wants the newest, hottest toy. They want what advertisers tell them they should want.

A recently published study showed that a huge cause of waste is the so-called disposable clothing we purchase. This refers to poorly made and inexpensive clothing that lasts one season or is no longer deemed fashionable. Then we get rid of it. This is not what our Gaspesian ancestors would view as progress. They would say it's a waste. They would be correct because these items end up as literal waste or garbage.

Should we want to stop contributing to the earth's massive garbage? Should we try to live a more sustainable lifestyle? Do we want the Earth to exist and sustain life for future generations? Of course, that is what we want but we get so many messages to buy more and more of what we do not need. Let's push back. Let's channel our Gaspesian ancestors. Let's prolong the life of this precious planet. How can we take steps to do this?

The concept of "global issues, local action" might be just about the right way to look at this. We know that the oceans are full of plastic and the landfills are filling up at an alarming rate. What can one Gaspesian do? Their best. That's what we can all strive for. Make a difference in your home and therefore your community. That's how a revolution starts.

**So, let's start today to see the future in a more responsible way. Concrete changes that you can make include:**

**Do not buy a child any plastic disposable toys. Buy wooden toys or quality books that can be passed to other children.**

**No child needs a room full of plastic toys.**

Give a shared experience, not stuff.

Take a friend out for a meal or an outing!

Take a child to experience maple sugaring.

Create memories, not waste.

**Buy less. You do not need another sweater when you already have 20.**

Reuse items. Try to give old things new life.

If you are getting rid of clothing, donate it to a church.

Everyone benefits.

**Try to buy less plastic in all forms. Even straws are killing our ocean life. Buy paper straws or reusable, washable straws.**

**Use reusable shopping bags.**

Plant a garden. Fresh vegetables would make your Gaspesian ancestors happy.

Compost. It's helpful for your garden, or a friend's garden.

There are many more steps you can take, beginning today. Our ancestors would be proud of you if you **waste not**. Be a friend to yourself and the future. Make do.

LAGACÉ:

▶ *Cont'd from page 3*

"He will have to be followed for the rest of his life." Marcel Guérin, the other defence attorney, greeted the judge's decision favourably.

"It was a very reasonable suggestion, formulated and thought about for two weeks and delivered by two experienced lawyers. He (the judge) had to approve," added attorney Guérin, referring to the common sentence suggestion. "In order to get a 15-year prison term, one would have had to prove that it was the worst crime, committed by the worst criminal."

Regarding the threat Jérémie Viktor Lagacé represents to society, Marcel Guérin points out that even if his action of shooting Fabrice Durand was "deliberate, it was not premeditated," and he consented in admitting it.

Does Marcel Guérin know why his client fired the fatal shot on August 22, 2017? "I



Crown prosecutor Guy Loisel

am under the impression that we will never know. It will probably be the first question the parole board will ask him, 'Why, Mr. Lagacé, did you commit that act?'"

Jérémie Viktor Lagacé is the father of two kids. He wrote a short message to the victim's families. The message was read

to the tribunal after the April 2 representations on sentence hearing. He said that he was "sad," that he felt "bad down deep," and he had "huge regrets."

Ludivine Marcoux, the girlfriend of Fabrice Durand, and her parents attended the April 2 and April 4 court hearings.

## Emotional testimonies

Gilles Gagné

NEW CARLISLE: – The April 2 court day was scheduled for representations on the sentence that was to be imposed to Jérémie Viktor Lagacé but it was preceded by two emotional testimonies, one by Ludivine Marcoux, the girlfriend of the victim, and Étienne Lagacé, the father of the culprit.

Ms. Marcoux said that she has been extremely affected mentally, physically and economically by the death of her boyfriend, and that she is still receiving various medical treatments in order to cope with the stress and anxiety that are still characterizing her daily life and "to forget the damaged face of Fabrice. (...) I wanted to come here because I needed it. I wanted to represent Fabrice until the end. I will live with that trauma all my life."

An outdoors enthusiast living in a rural region of France, she mentioned that she can hardly walk in the

woods anymore and must cope with frequent anxiety attacks and nightmares. She had to stay away from work for a lengthy period after her return to France in August 2017.

"We wanted, upon our return and after finding work, to buy a house and have children," she declared, before bursting into tears.

Étienne Lagacé, Jérémie Viktor's father, also made a heartfelt testimony, indicating several times that the sadness of his family doesn't compare with the sorrow of the victim's families but he admitted that "it was a quite difficult event for us as well."

Mr. Lagacé explained how he and his wife fell in love with the three-year-old boy who had spent most of his life in a Russian orphanage from the age of three months. They received details about his fetal alcohol syndrome later. At first, the consequences were not visible.

"As years passed, we came to understand that this

trouble is aggravated during adolescence," added Étienne Lagacé. He also mentioned that services were lacking in the region to treat fetal alcohol syndrome.

The lack of discernment and judgement are the main characteristics of an adolescent suffering from fetal alcohol syndrome, noted Mr. Lagacé. Adulthood did not solve the problems and the parents tried to keep an eye on their son the best way they could.

Jérémie Viktor Lagacé was on the verge of breaking up with his girlfriend, the mother of their two kids. He had lost his job days before the fatal shot and he was not taking his medication to counter the effects of depression often associated with fetal alcohol syndrome.

"I could see the problems accumulating," pointed out Étienne Lagacé, who assured the tribunal that he and his wife will be there to help their son once he gets out of prison.



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*Sincere thanks to all our volunteers who contribute their time, talents and effort to keep our faith community alive.*

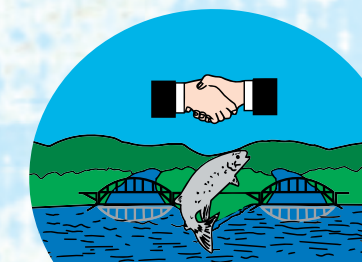


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There was zero visibility on York Blvd. East the morning of April 4. Photo: N. Sergerie

## Violent winds paralyze the Gaspé

Nelson **Sergerie**

Gilles **Gagné**

GASPÉ - The Town of Gaspé was completely paralyzed on the afternoon of April 4, as strong winds causing blowing snow forced the closure of the bridge over the York River in the downtown core. Authorities shut down the town's main road link because a dozen vehicles were stuck in snowdrifts on York Boulevard East between the bridge and the Mauger Ford dealership. Strong winds carrying fresh snow from the April 3 storm caused conditions of zero visibility.

Despite the poor conditions, the Sûreté du Québec says there were no injuries during the storm. "The bridge in downtown Gaspé is never closed. It may have already happened but nobody remembers it," said Mayor Daniel Côté who asked some older residents. The detour was major for motorists who had to use the bypass around York, Sunny Bank and Wakeham, a half-hour drive, which normally would only take a few minutes.

### Another record beaten

The 26.4 centimetre record in 1977 was surpassed by April 3, 2019, snowfall of 33.2 centimetres measured at Gaspé Airport. This is nothing exceptional since similar storms occurred in 1995 and 1982. The absolute record in April was made on April 9, 1986, with 44 centimetres. So far this winter, 533 centimetres have been recorded in Gaspé.

"Winters with over 500 centimetres are not common. One-and-a-half metres more snow than average, that's noticeable," says Environment Canada's Meteorologist Alexandre Parent. The average is 372 centimetres and the absolute record is 590 centimetres, established in 1994.

In the Bay of Chaleur area,

the April 3 snowfall was of moderate importance, and most of the snow was sticky and wet before switching to fluffy snow late in the evening. The wind picked up in the early hours of April 4 and a stretch of Highway 132 was completely closed to traffic between Carleton and Maria at 8:05 a.m.

The municipal administration of Maria opened an emergency station at the Community Centre for those needing to secure a place to sleep and eat. The town of Carleton opened the town hall for people who were stranded by road closures.

The second range of Maria and Carleton was also closed to traffic, as drivers that used it in the morning remained stuck in the snow.

Highway 132 between Carleton and Maria remained completely closed for 13 hours and traffic was only restored through convoys about 9:15 p.m. It took between 75 and 90 minutes to get from Maria to Carleton, waiting time for the convoy included. Those convoys remained the way to get between the two towns until late in the morning on April 5.

Effective shortly after 11 a.m., Highway 132 was also closed for several hours on April 4 in Bonaventure between Fauvel and Grand Pré Street due to the lack of visibility on the road and snowbanks. A small collision between a police car and a truck convinced Transport Quebec to close that stretch. No major accidents were reported in the Bay of Chaleur area.



Photo: G. Gagné

The Cascapedia-St-Jules bridges date back to the 1890s. They are regularly inspected.

## CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES RAILWAY BRIDGES: Transport Quebec launches call for tenders

Gilles **Gagné**

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES – Quebec's Department of Transport has now issued the call for tenders related to the construction of two railway bridges in Cascapedia-St-Jules. The suggested value of the contract is between \$20 million and \$25 million.

Interested contractors must submit their bid before 3 p.m., on April 29. The call for tenders was published on March 29. It was following another call for tenders related to the supervision of the bridges' construction work.

The two new bridges will replace the two old bridges which limit to ten the number of fully loaded freight cars circulating between New Richmond and Matapédia. Cement cars loaded at two-thirds of their capacity can circulate on the old bridges which were built in the 1890s.

Transport Quebec stipulates that the contract related to the two new bridges must be carried out in 35 months, which is three years less a month.

Luc Lévesque, director

general of the Gaspésie Railway Society, the company under municipal control operating the freight trains on the line, admits that such a period is longer than the time frame most people had in mind.

"The 35 month-period includes the demolition of the old bridges. Because it is a salmon river, the contractor can only work on one of the two legs of the river at a time. The pillars on the first leg will likely be in place this year, and the pillars on the second leg will be installed in 2020. After that, the spans will be installed. That's why we can talk about two addi-

tional years, and maybe 30 months for the construction part," explains Mr. Lévesque.

The new bridges will be located just south of the old ones, which will still be used until the new structures are up and running.

Will traffic be restored between Caplan and Port Daniel once the two Cascapedia-St-Jules bridges are rebuilt?

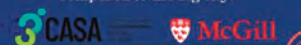
"I certainly hope so but I have no control over that. The line belongs to Transport Québec and there is a process determined by the ministry to repair the other bridges situated between Caplan and Port Daniel," says Mr. Lévesque.

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**RACHEL MARCOUX**  
Social Work Technician

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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# Announcements...



## IN MEMORY



**CHICOYNE: Stan (1907 - 1987)**

**CHICOYNE: May (1920 - 1999)**

In loving memory of dear parents, grandparents, great-grandparents and great-great-grandparents, Stan Chicoyne and May Chicoyne.

*Those we hold most dear*

*Never truly leave us.*

*They live on in the kindnesses they showed,*

*The examples they set,*

*And the love they brought into our lives.*

Greatly loved and sadly missed by Verna, Shirley, Carol, Phyllis, Stan Jr. and Sharon.

**GALLON: Ellison Howard**

In memory of Ellison Howard Gallon who passed away on April 8, 2005.

*It's lonely here without you.*

*We miss you more each day.*

*You were someone we could talk to,*

*Before God took you away.*

*You were always someone special.*

*It still hurts to hear your name.*

*We'll be thinking of you a lot today*

*And our silent tears will fall.*

*For what it meant to lose you,*

*No one will ever know.*

*We know you're walking beside us*

*Every second of every day,*

*And when our life is over,*

*We pray that God will take our hands*

*And lead us straight to you.*

Forever loved by wife Eleanor; son Clyde; Vicky and family.

**WARD: Wilma Beatrice (Huntington)**

In loving memory of our mother, mother in law, grandmother and great-grandmother who passed away on April 8, 1990.

*Time slips by and life goes on,*

*But from our hearts you're never gone.*

*We think about you always.*

*We talk about you too.*

*We have so many memories,*

*But we wish we still had you.*

Always loved, always remembered and never forgotten by your loving daughter Frances (Bernie); grandson Mark (Erin); great-grandsons Reid, Cole and Benn; grandson Kevin (Courtney); great-granddaughters Avery and Carys; sons Ken (Chris), Everette and Wayne (Monique); grandson Dave (Josiane); great-granddaughter Julia; great-grandson Elliott; and grandson Brian (Catherine).

[thegaspespec.com](http://thegaspespec.com)

**Burial of Ashes**

The Burial of Ashes for Mr. Vincent Buttle will take place of June 1, 2019, at 1:30 p.m. at the St. James Anglican Church in Hope Town, Quebec. Lunch to follow at the Hope Town Municipal Hall.

**PHOTO QUALITY**

When submitting a photo for this page, please send in a digital photo (.jpg) to [specs@globetrotter.net](mailto:specs@globetrotter.net).

You can also send your photo by mail or drop it off at the office.

It is essential that the photo is not a copy printed at home or by the funeral home.

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**The New Carlisle Funeral Association**

extends sympathy to the family of Mr. Jarvis Flowers

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## COAST ROUND-UP

### POINTE-NAVARRÉ:

#### Sanctuary of Pointe Navarre

**May 26:** The Annual General Meeting of the Sanctuary of Pointe-Navarre will be held at 1:30 p.m. at the Church. You are invited to this meeting to receive information on the administration of the Sanctuary. Everyone welcome.

### WAKEHAM:

#### Advance notice

Wakeham ACW will be holding their annual summer sale on **Saturday, July 6**, at the York River Community Hall. There will be a bake sale, handicraft table, white elephant table and mystery parcels. Afternoon tea will be served, \$5. Doors open at 2 p.m.

### 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:

#### Recreation Centre

**April 12 and 26:** The Barachois Recreation Centre will be holding an 18+ money bingo at 7 p.m. Bilingual. Over \$600 in cash prizes.

### 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.

### PORT DANIEL:

#### Three Star Golden Age Club

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

**April 27:** Military Whist beginning at 8 p.m. Admission \$5. Light lunch served.

### PORT DANIEL:

#### St. James

#### Anglican Church

**April 14:** Brunch from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Three Star Golden Age Club. \$8 for adults or \$5 for children under 12.

**May 3:** Gift bingo beginning at 7 p.m. at the Three Star Golden Age Club. \$10 per series or three for \$20. Canteen open. Great prizes to be won

**July 27:** Annual Bazaar at the Three Star Golden Age Club. More details to come.

### SHIGAWAKE:

#### Community Centre

**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:

#### Royal Canadian Legion Upcoming Events

**April 14:** Annual breakfast at the New Carlisle Chalet. 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. \$10 brunch, \$8 #2 breakfast and \$7 #1 breakfast. All are welcome.

**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 27:** Cribbage tournament. Registration at 12:30. 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:

#### 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:

#### Heritage New Carlisle Advance Notice

**May 10:** Soup and Sweets from 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 CARLISLE:

#### Life Association Mother's Day Tea

**May 4:** There will be a Mother's Day Tea from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the New Carlisle Town Hall. \$6 per person.

### NEW RICHMOND:

#### Flea Market

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

### CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

#### Bookroom

Please be advised that the bookroom has reopened.

### CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

#### 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:

#### 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.

### 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 24 are:** Martin Gauthier, Claudine Poirier, Richard Robichaud, Lina Landry, Pierre Édayé, Sylvain Audet and Réjean Pelletier.

**The winners for the week of March 31 are:** Roland Leblanc, Yves Arsenault, Mariette Arsenault, Benoit Cyr, John Gedeon, Gaétan Loubert and Patrick McWhirter.



### UNITED CHURCH

**Sunday, April 14**  
10:30 a.m. Hope Town  
Palm Sunday

## ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

### Palm Sunday

#### April 14

#### New Carlisle

11 a.m. Holy Eucharist

#### Hope Town

10 a.m. Morning Prayer

#### Shigawake

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

### Maunder Thursday

#### April 18

#### New Carlisle

7 p.m.

### Good Friday

#### April 19

#### New Carlisle

1 p.m.

#### Shigawake

3 p.m.

### PARISH OF GASPÉ

### Palm Sunday

#### April 14

#### St. Paul's - Gaspé

10 a.m. Holy Eucharist

### Maunder Thursday

#### April 18

#### St. Paul's - Gaspé

7 p.m. Holy Eucharist

### Good Friday

#### April 19

#### St. Paul's - Gaspé

11 a.m. Holy Eucharist



### ALL SAINTS BY THE SEA

#### All services at St. Peter's Malbay Palm Sunday

#### April 14

11 a.m. (with Godly Play)

#### Maunder Thursday

#### April 18

2 p.m. Holy Eucharist

#### Good Friday

#### April 19

11 a.m.

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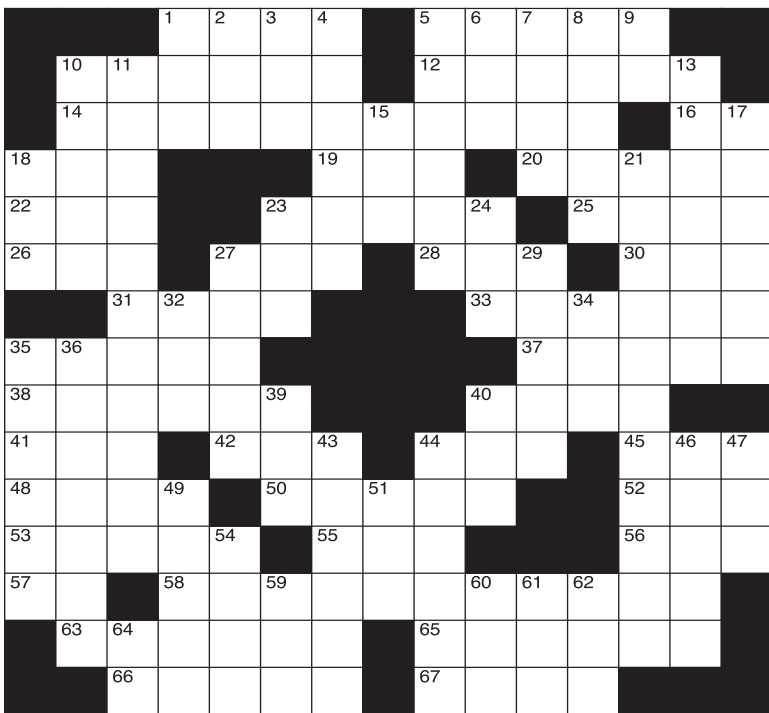
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# On the lighter side...



## CROSSWORDS

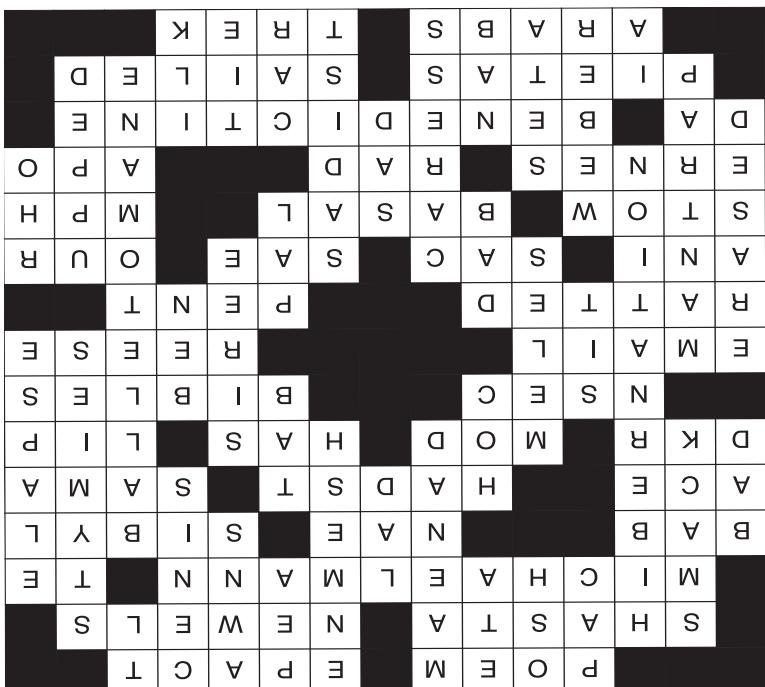


### CLUES ACROSS

1. Often romantic composition
5. Lunar term
10. California mountain
12. Spiral staircase pillars
14. "Heat" director
16. Tellurium
18. Gateway (Arabic)
19. No (Scottish)
20. Greek prophetess
22. A team's best pitcher
23. Bard's way of saying "have"
25. Indigenous group of the Philippines
26. Danish krone
27. Type of squad
28. Possesses
30. Part of the face
31. Very small amount of time (abbr.)
33. Churches have lots of them
35. Modern day "letter"
37. Della \_\_, singer
38. Informed upon
40. Type of house
41. Folk singer DiFranco
42. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
44. Car mechanics group
45. Belonging to us
48. Pack neatly
50. Forming the bottom layer
52. How fast you're going
53. Sea eagles
55. Cool!
56. Military mailbox
57. Type of lawyer
58. Type of monk
63. Respect due to an ancestor
65. Took to the sea
66. Members of a Semitic people
67. A way to march

### CLUES DOWN

1. Political action committee
2. \_\_kosh, near Lake Winnebago
3. When you hope to get there
4. Woman who followed Bacchus
5. Cause to become entangled
6. Green veggie
7. Stiff bristles
8. Pass in Alps
9. Atomic #81
10. A sharp blow
11. Bears engage in it
13. Prevents progress
15. Young boy
17. A way to go on
18. Not good
21. A ballet enthusiast
23. Ad \_\_
24. Bar bill
27. A genus of badgers
29. "No \_\_!"
32. Get off your feet
34. Franklin was one
35. Removed
36. Used to catch poachers
39. Hit lightly
40. Crony
43. Stroke
44. One who obtains pleasure by inflicting pain on others
46. \_\_ the ante
47. Greek letter
49. "Wings" actor Steven
51. Unhappy
54. Hair-like structure
59. Pick up
60. Type of transportation
61. Worn with a suit
62. Something similar to another already referred to
64. Farm state



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## CANADA



## HISTORY

1904

THE GREAT TORONTO FIRE DESTROYS MUCH OF THE CITY'S DOWNTOWN. MIRACULOUSLY, THERE ARE NO FATALITIES.

## Why do we say...

By Gary Briand

I met a friend in Gaspé who asked me where "O.K." originated. "Is your gas O.K.?" (Do you have enough gas?) "Are you O.K. after your operation?" (Have you recovered after your surgery?)

I really surprised my friend by telling him that "O.K." was not native to England, and was very uncommon in Canada until after 1900. The expression originated in 1840 during the American election campaign. The Democratic candidate, Martin Van Buren, was nicknamed "Old Kinderhook", the Hudson Valley village in which he had been born. Several of his supporters began to form groups that called themselves "the Democratic O.K. Club". Other supporters of Van Buren picked up the term "O.K." as a sort of slogan and crowds of Democratic supporters used it as a sort of war cry in their attempts to break up the Republican (whig) rallies. The phrase caught on in the general speech of people and came to establish itself as synonymous with the feelings of the original club members that they and their candidates were "all right" or "O.K."

**ARIES** – Mar 21/Apr 20  
Curiosity is a useful tool, Aries. Keep a handle on it this week. Do not go delving into situations that do not involve you, or you could end up in trouble.

**TAURUS** – Apr 21/May 21  
Taurus, if a certain person's boastfulness is causing concern, you may need to speak up or simply avoid that person for the time being. He or she may just be blowing off steam.

**GEMINI** – May 22/June 21  
Gemini, save yourself a lot of frustration and accept the way things are right now. Focus on the positives in your life and count your many blessings.

**CANCER** – June 22/July 22  
The universe has an important lesson to teach you, Cancer. It involves giving up a little bit of control so you can benefit in unknown ways. This is challenging, but worth it.

**LEO** – July 23/Aug 23  
Leo, think twice before you commit to any projects or confirm appointments with others. You have to have all of the details worked out in advance before you can proceed.



**VIRGO** – Aug 24/Sept 22  
Virgo, if relationship issues are confusing you, it might be the right time to distance yourself and go it alone for a little while. This will help you get your bearings.

**LIBRA** – Sept 23/Oct 23  
Reach out to your friends this week and ask them for advice on your current situation, Libra. They know you well enough and may have some important insight.

**SCORPIO** – Oct 24/Nov 22  
Scorpio your creativity is easily channeled this week and you are bound to surround yourself with others who are eager to brainstorm ideas. This can prove beneficial.

**SAGITTARIUS** – Nov 23/Dec 21  
You have set goals and your feet are firmly planted on the ground. These are assets that will serve you well, and others will soon look to you for inspiration.

**CAPRICORN** – Dec 22/Jan 20  
Try a different approach if you want to see results, Capricorn. Doing the same thing over and over again

hasn't worked for you thus far as it pertains to your relationship.

**AQUARIUS** – Jan 21/Feb 18  
Take the scenic route if you are going on a trip, Aquarius. Getting sidetracked is the goal this time around, and you can wander off to parts unknown.

**PISCES** – Feb 19/Mar 20  
Support a friend who needs a strong shoulder to lean on, Pisces. This person isn't likely to ask for help, so reach out.

### FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- APRIL 7  
Peyton List, Actress (21)
- APRIL 8  
DeJ Loaf, Rapper (28)
- APRIL 9  
Leighton Meester, Actress (33)
- APRIL 10  
Mandy Moore, Singer (35)
- APRIL 11  
Alessandra Ambrosio, Model (38)
- APRIL 12  
Brendon Urie, Singer (32)
- APRIL 13  
Ty Dolla Sign, Rapper (34)



## Adeline

I wish you could have known my sister, Adeline. She is the person I so wanted to emulate. She loved being surrounded by people; she would be the first person on the dance floor; she loved singing along with her karaoke machine and she could talk on the telephone for hours. I, on the other hand, am an introvert. I can't dance to save my life, I love to sing but not with a machine and if I'm on the telephone for more than fifteen minutes, I get antsy.

We came from a family of eight, but due to circumstances, we became a family of two. We shared our hopes and dreams and like most of us, we had our ups and downs. We loved each other but, boy, did we have our arguments.

I was the older, but she always referred to me as her baby sister or her little sister (in height not in width).

We spent years apart as I went to university and later my husband and I moved to Ontario and then on to New Brunswick while she preferred to stay at home.

She married before me and I thought it was a means of escape but she was quick to assure me that she married for love. Her plan was to have two children as close in age as possible and this dream came true when she had her two sons. They became her world.

I found it amazing to see the love she bestowed on her sons. The years passed so quickly and that love never faltered.

When she became sick, I had no idea because we had had another of our arguments. She was not alone as she had the support of her many friends. She called me just as I was about to call her to say that we had been wasting time not talking. It was as though time shrank to hear us talking on the phone. We met and she told me of her illness. To this day, I don't know where she found the strength and the courage to deal with the cancer which was to take her life. I was so angry and I thought she should be too that this should happen to her. When I said this to her, she said, "What's the use? It won't change anything."

Through round after round of chemo and so many doctor's appointments, I hoped and prayed that something would happen to alter the path that she was travelling. I tried bargaining with God to take me instead of her. When the pills she was taking were not strong enough and the pain increased, I took her to the hospital that cold, windy night with the promise that they would increase her medication and in my heart, I believed this is what would happen. I had no idea that it was to be a one way trip for her.

My once energetic and vibrant sister was gone and I couldn't shed a tear for her. I became numb and for such a long time it didn't seem real even though I was there when she left.

There are times when a smell, a sound or someone's laugh will remind me of her. I start each day with her and before I go to sleep, I tell her how my day has been. It's been over seven years now and the pain of her leaving remains with me.

All I can say now is that I miss you so much, Adeline, and I love you, too. I hope someday to see you again as you were when you had so much to live for. I hope you're happy.

-Bonita Baird

## Percé Rock MRC Health Establishments

### MEMORY CLINIC: Treating Gaspésians

*Thierry Haroun*

CHANDLER: - The Gaspésie Memory Clinic, located in Chandler, has been treating and supporting patients faced with Alzheimer disease and other cognitive related diseases since 2012. Spec met with two of its specialists to see if the clinic has reached its objectives

"My role is mainly to coordinate our personnel across the region, to make sure that services are adequately offered at people's homes, the CHSLD, Medical Family Groups (GMF) and Intermediate Resources. I come in support in terms of better understanding the disease and I have a mentoring mandate towards our professionals," Hélène Chagnon, Territorial Clinical Nurse at the Clinic, told Spec who received us in her office located in the SEGA (see previous article). The SEGA is located between Chandler Hospital and the local CLSC. She's been working for this clinic since its beginnings and she confirms how useful this establishment is for the community. "We realize how much this clinic is central for patients faced with Alzheimer disease and other related diseases."

The Gaspésie Memory Clinic offers many services such as an evaluation form, a clinical nurse, evaluation from a neuropsychologist, evaluation from a doctor working in an external geriatric centre, pharmacological evaluation, follow-up from a social worker, an ergotherapist, home services, and supporting caregivers. It also offers other sorts of assistance including legal aid.

#### The specialist

After speaking with Ms. Chagnon, Spec's journalist knocked at Dr. Yves Turgeon's door, the clinic's neuropsychologist, who has been with the establishment since its beginning. "We have the chance in our region to have such a clinic for those faced with a cognitive disease. In that I mean that there's a corridor of services that could go up to three health service lines. The first line of service is the relationship between the family physician and the patient with a follow-up at home, with a social worker, a nurse and so on." The second line of service is with Dr. Turgeon, if need be. That means that if the first line of service is faced with a problem and a difficulty of having the right diagnosis, that's when he can intervene. "I can spend a minimum of three to four hours with a patient in my office where there will be different tests in terms of the patient's attention, focus, etc." Now, when a case is even worse than expected, the patients will be transferred to a Multidisciplinary Clinic based in Quebec City. "These three line of services is something our health system in the Gaspé should be proud of," he concluded.



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