

Matapedia flood could have been avoided

Gilles Gagné

MATAPEDIA: – The April 21 flood in Matapedia has left many business people and residents quite dissatisfied with the de-icing work carried out by the Canadian Coast Guard, which pulled its Sipu Muin hovercraft out of the Restigouche River on the afternoon of April 18 to assign it to ice-clearing duties in the fishing harbour of Shippagan, New Brunswick.

The flood was caused by an ice jam at the junction of the Restigouche and Matapedia Rivers. The water level suddenly rose between 15 and 20 feet shortly after midnight. Highway 132 was closed for about 10 hours because there was water on it just west of the village.

The 20 seniors living in the CLSC residence were evacuated at 2 a.m. as a precautionary measure. Five small buses for people with reduced mobility were needed during the evacuation. The residents were sent to Maria Hospital until the following afternoon.

Eleven other residents in the village were evacuated from their homes. The basements of many buildings on Des Saumons Street were flooded, as well as the basements of a few houses located on Riverside Drive, a road located along the Restigouche River.

“It is criminal negligence from the Coast Guard. They left on Thursday (April 18) to go and de-ice a fishing harbour while there were people here potentially on the verge of being flooded. It is like refusing to assist someone in danger. We were not as important as the crab fishermen,” says Pete Dubé, the owner of Motel Restigouche.

The driveways of his business were gouged by the ice, which left deep crevasses. Large patches of asphalt were lifted and carried over several metres. Some breaches seemed to have been made by bulldozers. Mr. Dubé has been



André and Richard Mill are convinced that the flood on April 21 could have been avoided with proper intervention of the Canadian Coast Guard hovercraft.

trying to sell his inn for years.

“I lost many opportunities because of the flooding risk. Yet, that risk should be minimal should the hovercraft be used properly. Our properties lose a lot of value when we experience a flood,” he adds.

Pete Dubé stresses that studies carried out in New Brunswick have proven that the spring water flow of the

Restigouche River rose by 450% between 1962 and 2003. “Clear cuts are the main reason behind that reality. That’s why the risk of flooding has increased so much and that explains why the Coast Guard must take the appropriate measures to be here on time.”

A few buildings away, brothers Richard and André

Mill, respectively owners of Garage Restigouche and Pièces d’auto BM, still cannot understand why the Canadian Coast Guard hovercraft left the area when the flooding risk was so high. Shippagan is located 200 kilometres away from Matapedia and it takes between four and five hours for the hovercraft to cover that stretch.

“We really think that it (the flood) could have been avoided. We know that they (members of the hovercraft crew) are doing their best but it would take someone on board who knows the river. There has been a communication problem for some years. A ship always uses a local pilot. They should do the same,” André Mill explains, calmly, but firmly.

The main floor of his store was flooded by a few inches of water. His brother Richard’s garage sustained more damage. It was flooded by close to three metres of water, so nine feet, about a metre-and-a-half less than the terrible flood of 1994.

This year, like he has done for many years now, Richard Mill, his son Greg and all the staff emptied the garage of its equipment and computers as soon as worrying signs of flooding appeared. This year, some computerized and electrical equipment of the service station were heavily damaged.

“It makes for odd operations. We are waiting for the flood and we are not fully operational,” says Richard Mill about the period that started on April 14, almost a full week before the flood.

The 1995-2007 stretch

Since the 1994 devastating flood, the Canadian Coast Guard assigns a hovercraft to the Matapedia yearly. Between 1995 and 2007 inclusively, a direct contact between the Coast Guard and a local committee of citizens marked every intervention of the hovercraft and no flood occurred during those 13 springs. The members of the Matapedia committee were familiar with the river and they provided useful tips with regards to the spots where de-icing was needed. They were often in the hovercraft during the operations.



Greg and Richard Mill in front of Garage Restigouche discuss reopening within a reasonable period of time.

Photos: G. Gagné

Good news, says seniors

Thierry Haroun

GASPÉ PENINSULA: - The Gaspésie and Magdalen Islands Seniors Federation (FADOQ) is applauding the return of the Health and Welfare Commissioner. The Quebec Government has decided to launch the process of nomination in order to hire a new commissioner.

The former Liberal government had abolished that important independent civil servant who has the mandate to assess, as an independent observer, the health system and to make recommendations. The abolishment of the Commissioner was, at the time, strongly criticized by union leader and seniors associations in the province. The decision to reinstate that position is very well received by the president of the regional FADOQ, Odette Charbonneau. "Oh, absolutely, as long as this Commissioner stays independent we know that our health system will be under good hands in terms of a yearly assessment on the way services are offered to the patients and its quality. We are very happy," she concluded.

Shuttle service for train passengers

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - Following the success of the pilot project during the 2017 and 2018 holidays, the *Régie intermunicipale de transport Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine (RéGIM)* is setting up a summer shuttle service for users of the VIA Rail train between Campbellton and Gaspé.

This additional service will allow people who travel on board the Ocean train to or from Montreal to make the connection to Gaspé. "People were asking for it. We tried it during the holidays and it worked. We will also try it in the summer and we hope that it will work," says the President of the RéGIM, Daniel Côté.

At the 2018 celebrations, 187 people had boarded the shuttle on the south side of the Gaspé Peninsula.

Mr. Côté wants a similar proportion for this summer, a hundred passengers a week. In service between June 21 and September 2, the shuttle will also offer an inter-regional service. A person who would like to take the service between Barachois and New Carlisle could reserve his place from the VIA Rail site, to facilitate travel, "as if we were taking the train," says Mr. Côté.

Competing with Orléans Express

By adding this component to the summer shuttle, this intra-regional link will compete with the services of Orléans Express, which holds an exclusive bus passenger license on the Gaspé Peninsula. "Legal verifications have been done and there does not seem to be any problems on that side. If there is a problem, Keolis will raise its hand and we will contest."

Difficult to establish an operating budget.

"We're going to talk about a few thousand dollars. We have the amount of each shuttle, but we do not know if it will run every day. If there is more traffic, there will be more self-financing. We are talking about a budget of tens of thousands of dollars," says Mr. Côté. The service is offered without assistance from Quebec since it does not fit into any program. It will be funded from the \$300,000 surplus from 2018.

MATAPEDIA:

▶ *Cont'd from cover*

Since 2008, the role of that local committee was gradually diminished, as the Quebec Department of Civil Security took over the communication link with the Canadian Coast Guard. Floods occurred in 2008, 2012, 2014 and this year, although they did not have, by far, the same magnitude as the 1994 one.

Richard Mill comments with a certain dose of disbelief regarding the April 18 decision by the Coast Guard to move the hovercraft to Shippagan,

"Apparently, they couldn't work anymore because there was not enough water for the hovercraft. We saw them work in similar conditions in the past and get near the bridges in order to break the ice jam. It was not dangerous to get there and at the same time, there was an emergency here (in the village). We don't understand their leaving to open a fishing harbour. In Beauce,

they can't do anything to prevent floods. Here, we have a solution but it was not maximized," adds Richard Mill.

Like many people in Matapedia, he was surprised to see the spots selected by the Coast Guard to intervene with the Sipu Muin on the Restigouche River. "They stayed on the lower part of the river while the problems were on the upper part, near the village," he points out.

Guyline Beaudoin, of the Canadian Coast Guard communication service, answered three days after the flood that the hovercraft was redeployed to "Baie des Chaleurs fishing harbours," before its de-icing task was completed because "the water flow of the river was not sufficient to allow the debacle."

She also pointed out that the hovercraft underwent mechanical failures upon its April 15 arrival in Pointe-à-la-Croix and the following day, as well.

The Sipu Muin arrived on April 12 in the Port of Gaspé, eight days before the flood.

The hovercraft also underwent mechanical problems on April 14. On April 12, Ms. Beaudoin mentioned to SPEC that the Sipu Muin was initially supposed to stop "in Baie des Chaleurs fishing harbours," before going to Matapedia. She didn't mention Shippagan specifically. That deployment was changed on the morning of April 15.

On April 12, Ms. Beaudoin also indicated that "preventing floods is the Canadian Coast Guard's priority, before de-icing harbours."

On April 18, when asked why the hovercraft had been sent to the Acadian Peninsula, Janique Lebrun, regional director of the Civil Security Department, told SPEC that "the main mission of the Coast Guard is to de-ice fishing harbours."

The mayor of Matapedia, Nicole Lagacé, refused to rate the work of the Canadian Coast Guard when asked to do so by SPEC. "We need to have a debriefing of the whole operation," she said.

Is the Coast Guard ill-equipped?

Gilles Gagné

MATAPEDIA: - Member of Parliament Massé Rémi wants to know more, while Minister Diane Lebouthillier admits that the Coast Guard is under-equipped

Rémi Massé, Member of Parliament for the riding of Avignon-Mitis-Matane-Matapedia, wants to know more about the factors that led to the flood on Easter, however, he has great trust in the authorities, namely the Canadian Coast Guard and Quebec's Civil Security Department.

"The decision to leave on April 18 for New Brunswick

was made commonly with the Civil Security Department, which has been present in Quebec's problematic locations. Were the best decisions made? I don't want to make excuses for the Coast Guard but I have no reason to doubt it. I can hardly conceive that a competent crew could leave an area without having done the best to prevent a flood," he adds.

Mr. Massé will nevertheless ask questions to Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, in order to verify the chain of events between April 12 and April 21 (between the arrival of the hovercraft in Gaspé and the

flood).

"I absolutely want to make sure that we will not run into the same problems over the years to come," he says.

Meanwhile, Diane Lebouthillier, Member of Parliament for the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands riding, and Canada's Minister of Revenue, admit that "the Coast Guard is under-equipped. There is a hovercraft based in British Columbia and there is no ice there."

She also plans to meet with some cabinet colleagues in order to inquire about ways to avoid a repetition of the situation experienced this year in Matapedia.

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\$42.8M now available for the future of fisheries

Nelson **Sergerie**

RIVIÈRE-AU-RENARD: - The fisheries sector can now deposit projects for the \$42.8 million envelope announced by Ottawa and Quebec in December. The announcement was made on April 24 in Rivière-au-Renard when the agreement was formally concluded.

The Quebec Fisheries Fund is a five-year collaboration agreement between the governments of Canada and Quebec where projects are developed, implemented and jointly approved to develop this economic sector. This partnership between the two orders of government modernizes and drives innovation in Quebec's sectors of harvesting and processing of fish and seafood, as well as in aquaculture. Ottawa will contribute \$30 million and \$12.8 million will be provided by the Government of Quebec.

"The collaboration of the fishermen, the industries, to make sure that this money is structuring and that the spin-offs are important, which will

eventually make it possible to get more money, if there is a beautiful consultation of the community," says Diane Lebouthillier, Member of Parliament for the Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine. Money should be used primarily for innovation. "The goal is to lay the foundation for future prosperity for the fishing industry," said Quebec Fisheries Minister André Lamontagne. Present at the announcement, the PQ critic for Fisheries and Member of the National Assembly for Bonaventure, Sylvain Roy, regrets that the agreement comes 18 months after one for the Maritimes.

Disgruntled workers

Workers from the *Crustacés de Gaspé plant*, which has been closed since March, demonstrated on the sidelines at the announcement. Half of the workers are unemployed and some have been refused jobs in other factories because of the conflict. "We put our names in at all the fish plants and when we call, we are told, 'It is because you tried to

unionize that we do not take you,'" according to the union president Lucien Gionet who supports the local labour force emphasizing that it should be favoured before subsidizing those from foreign countries.

Unifor's Quebec manager, Renaud Gagné, came to support the workers and had a message for Unipêche MDM, owner of the plant located in Grand River: "Operate or sell. We cannot leave the community like this." Mr. Gagné spoke with Minister André Lamontagne, who pointed out that it is a private business decision and a labour relations issue. "We are looking at the agreements we have with the company and seeing what their intentions are. We have sent some questions to the company and we are waiting for answers." The minister says that the plant has been modernized with assistance of more than \$600,000 from the Quebec government in recent years. Conditions are in the agreements in order to obtain assistance. The minister is verifying whether these conditions were met.

Police report

Six-and-a-half months after the death of three people in a fire that destroyed a Saint-Siméon house on October 13, Sûreté du Québec spokesperson Sgt. Claude Doiron says that the file is still active with the crime squad in Rimouski as well as the Gaspé Peninsula major crime squad.

The blaze claimed the lives of Isabelle Lepage, 40 years of age, her son Philippe Lepage, aged 14, and his girlfriend Laurence Lebrasseur, also aged 14, of Paspebiac. Philippe Lepage was living with his father, Martin Landry, in Murdochville at that time.

On the evening of October 15, Sûreté du Québec spokespersons issued a message stating that the evidence suggested a crime.

"The investigation is still active but sometimes such a file is long. Nobody was arrested. It is a file requiring a lot of work. It is progressing. Some people were met with. (...) Maximum efforts are deployed to solve the case," says Sgt. Claude Doiron, spokesperson of the Sûreté du Québec.

The mother's oldest child, Marilou Lepage, aged 18, escaped from the fire because she was sleeping on the main floor. The other victims were all asleep on the second floor.



UNIPÊCHE MDM:

Controversy after posting job advertisement

Method considered discriminatory against women

Gilles **Gagné**

PASPEBIAC: - Paspebiac's Unipêche MDM caused a major controversy on April 27 after posting a recruitment advertisement that offered a higher salary to men than to women working as labourers on production lines.

Hundreds of comments were made by people from all over Quebec and the company decided to change the ad, specifying that an equal salary is offered to women and men if the task is the same.

The initial ad mentioned that women's salary would be \$12.69 per hour compared to \$13.28 for men. That is a \$0.59 hourly difference. The publicity was posted on CIEU-FM's job billboard. Hours later, a series of comments criticized the situation mainly on facebook but also on Twitter.

Bonaventure riding Member of the National Assembly Sylvain Roy was one of the first people to react, as he requested an investigation by



Photo: G. Gagné

The Unipêche MDM plant in Paspebiac is targeted for its alleged discriminatory recruiting practices but the management of the company says that women are paid the same as men for equal work.

the CNESST, the *Commission des normes de l'équité, de la santé et de la sécurité du travail*, the Quebec-wide body charged to check if fair and safe conditions are applied in the work place.

"There seems to be a sexist hiring policy at Unipêche MDM. Based on the comments I have received over the last hours, it has been the case

for years. The CNESST has asked the Human Rights Commission to investigate the case. On my part, I have asked André Lamontagne, Quebec's Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, to change the rules linked to fish processing plants. It has to be modernized. The working conditions in some fish processing plants are insane. They come from

another era, an outdated era," points out Sylvain Roy.

He stresses that the controversy triggered by Unipêche MDM should also remind people that "there is a problem of wealth sharing," in commercial fisheries.

"It is pure nonsense that people have to work in such tough conditions while fortunes are built on a public re-

source," sums up Sylvain Roy.

The management of Unipêche MDM modified the job offer to specify that the company would pay an equal salary to women and men for equal work. In a press release issued the following day, on April 28, Unipêche MDM indicated that there was an error in the way the initial job offer was formulated.

The press release indicated that there was traditionally a production line for women and another one for men, and the tasks were different between the two lines. The "men's line" was also open to women if they could accomplish the same work. Women would then receive the same salary.

The Unipêche MDM management also emphasized that the company fulfills CNESST criteria on a yearly basis with regards to women-men salary equity. The company recognized that there was a problem in the way the job offer was

Cont'd on page 12



Commentary

Gilles Gagné

François Legault's less than stellar performance

It was observed by many political analysts that the first 100 days in power of Quebec's new premier François Legault and his government were sound, that he and his team had been able to adopt a much-needed change of tone, compared to the arrogance and insensitivity of the previous Liberal Party regime.

There seemed to be room for new ideas, for flexibility in the way the government would tackle problems and adopt solutions, and Mr. Legault's speech following the October 17 cabinet nominations was promising, as he committed to be the premier of all Quebecers, even those who had not voted for the Coalition avenir Québec. He asked his team to act accordingly through showing a capacity to listen to people's preoccupations.

Regionally, François Legault proved that he could live up to his early commitments when he showed up in Gaspé a week before Christmas to announce \$16.6 million for the Gaspé, Grand River and Sainte-Annes-Monts airports, and \$12.8 million for commercial fisheries.

The money was ready and he announced it right away, so that those projects could get underway. We had not seen that kind of swiftness under the Liberal Party regime.

The ensuing 100 days of the CAQ government proved that François Legault and his team can forget real fast too. If we stick to regional stakes, the presence of the premier and Quebec's Transport Minister François Bonnardel at the April 25 railway "announcement" seems to have been taken from a preceding government scenario.

It could hardly be more different from the December 18 visit to Gaspé. Mr. Legault came to "announce" what he and Mr. Bonnardel had repeated on many occasions since the October electoral victory, that the refurbishment of the Matapedia to Gaspé railway will continue. More accurately, both men "announced" the start of the \$100 million restoration of the line, and that the work would concentrate between Matapedia and Caplan.

By so doing, they practically undid what was so promising about the December visit. It sounded as if it was back to "let's take Gaspésians for fools" mode seen too often under Philippe Couillard's reign.

It took Mr. Couillard's government three years to realize the potential and understand the necessity of the Matapedia-Gaspé railway, and another year before making any moves.

On April 25, François Legault showed that he will likely adopt the same slow approach. First, the current premier acted as if he and his supporting cast completely ignored that \$15 million has been invested in the railway since 2017. So, there is not \$100 million left

in the envelope announced in May 2017 by Philippe Couillard, there is only \$85 million.

Secondly, the replacement of the two Cascapedia-St-Jules bridges, as emphasized by Premier Legault, is not news. Almost all Gaspesian media had reported on that at the beginning of April.

François Legault's only real news, an element that was invisible in the Transport Quebec press release, was that it would take seven years to repair the line to its extremity, Gaspé. Seven years is bad news, given that no major work has been carried out since the fall of 2013. A small chunk of the \$15 million spent since 2017 went for studies despite the fact that the line has been studied to death over the last decade.

Along the Gaspé Peninsula railway, "major" means fixing the numerous bridges located between Saint Jules and Gaspé.

Seven years is not feasible considering that practically all the line's growth potential is located along the part, between Caplan and Gaspé, that was closed to traffic in 2015.

Seven years is ridiculously too long when we think that, in Montreal, at least \$6.3 billion will be invested in three years and one quarter in the REM (*Réseau express métropolitain*), the new light train that is supposed to improve the city's commuter services. They can build it in three years and we can't repair something already existing in seven years? Let's be serious.

Mr. Legault tried to make up for our long waiting time by saying that the 170 "well-paid jobs" coming with the repairs of the Gaspé Peninsula railway will last... seven years, as if it was good news. What the region needs above all is to allow its enterprises to count on a reliable railway as soon as possible. That will create more than 170 well-paid jobs and bear more fruit for the long term.

The Quebec premier forgets that the more time repairing the line will take, the more expensive that task will cost!

There are methods to accelerate the realization of the line's refurbishment, like working in the winter, as LM Windpower's Alexandre Boulay suggested, since more contractors are free during colder weather.

The slow solution presented by François Legault sounds like deciding to send a man alone to cut 200 trees with an axe instead of allowing him to bring 10 friends all equipped with chainsaws to do the same work.

It looks as if another round of regional mobilization will be needed to make the CAQ government understand that Gaspésians deserve better transportation.

Letters to the Editor

The following letter was sent to Premier Legault. As representatives of the Anglican Church, which has been present and active in Quebec for more than 250 years, we feel compelled to respond to your open letter, published in several of Quebec's daily newspapers on Monday, April 1.

We share your conviction that "in a secular society—which we have been since the Quiet Revolution—common sense dictates that religion must not interfere with the affairs of the state. Nor the reverse." We also agree with your observation that "state laicity respects freedom of religion and freedom of conscience. Everyone is free to practice the religion of his or her choice, and is also free not to practice a religion."

However, rather than maintaining a religiously

neutral state, Bill 21, An Act Respecting the Laicity of the State, would in fact legislate the very kind of governmental interference in religion that you claim to oppose.

As Christians, we believe that the earth and its creatures have an abiding relationship to their Creator. Seeking to participate and give expression to this relationship in some form is a part of being human. For some this will mean wearing religious symbols and attire—such as a hijab, yarmulke, or cross—objects that can be intrinsic to the practice of one's faith, and which cannot be removed at a whim.

We therefore embrace the vision of Quebec as a secular state that is pluralistic, privileging no particular religion, yet creating the space in which Quebecers of whatever (or no) religious tradition can fully participate in public life and contribute to the common good, including as public servants.

We appreciate your recent call for the debate around this proposed legislation to be conducted in a manner that is respectful and not divisive, however, we know too well that proposed laws such as Bill 21 risk contributing to a climate of suspicion and fear of others—especially Muslim Quebecers—at a time when we need our government to help protect, rather than further and needlessly target, our neighbours. The horrific mass murder at the Grand Mosque in Quebec City in 2017 calls us to be mindful of how our debates might stoke the fires of fear, and put people's lives at risk.

We agree with you, Premier, that it is time for Quebec society to move forward on this matter, however, our own experience has taught us there is another way to do so. One of our church's principles of dialogue with people of other religions is to "meet the people themselves and get to know their traditions." This too is common sense and has helped us change attitudes, challenge stereotypes, and build new relationships with people of other faith communities.

We have been enriched and blessed, not impoverished or threatened, by face-to-face exchanges with these neighbours who have now become friends. It is only in encountering our differences honestly and openly—rather than hiding or suppressing those differences—that we can hope to build a truly secular and pluralistic Quebec that provides all of its citizens with the opportunity to flourish.

The Rt. Rev. Mary Irwin-Gibson, Bishop of Montreal
The Rt. Rev. Bruce Myers, Bishop of Quebec



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Seven years to complete the refurbishment of the Matapedia-Gaspé line according to Premier Legault

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND: – According to Quebec Premier François Legault, seven years will be needed to refurbish the Matapedia to Gaspé railway. That delay is considered too long by a significant number of Gaspesian economic and municipal stakeholders.

Since 2015, the 325-kilometre line has been dormant over the 200 kilometres between Caplan and Gaspé, however, about two-thirds of its freight traffic is generated by customers located along that dormant part.

That situation generates significant transshipment costs because the windmill blades of LM Wind Power in Gaspé and part of Port Daniel's McInnis Cement production have to be trucked to New Richmond in order to reach the railway section that is active. Some cement is also trucked to Nouvelle to be transferred to railway cars.

Premier François Legault was in New Richmond on April 25 to confirm announcements that were already known, the replacement of the Cascapedia-St-Jules railway bridges and additional tie replacement contracts along the line.

He indicated that “during the peak period, next year, 170 new jobs will be created, well-paid jobs, which will last seven years.”

It was the first time that an upgrading schedule was mentioned by the Quebec government since his predecessor Philippe Couillard announced on May 5, 2017, an amount of \$100 million to repair the line between Matapedia and Gaspé. Mr. Couillard had failed to give any time frame at the time.

A balance of \$85 million remains of the total amount, since \$15 million was invested between May 2017 and now.

Asked to explain how a \$6.3 billion project like the Réseau express métropolitain can be carried out in three years and three months while it will take seven years to realize a \$100 million refurbishment job in the Gaspé Peninsula, François Legault skipped a direct answer and apparently sees an advantage in such a long delay of the railway in the sense that “the 170 jobs will last longer if works takes seven years.”

Regarding that remark, Bonaventure Member of the



Photo: G. Gagné

The president of the Gaspésie Railway Society, Éric Dubé, on the right, thinks future talks with Transport Minister François Bonnardel and Premier François Legault could lead to completing the upgrading of the railway sooner.

National Assembly Sylvain Roy emphasizes that “the creation of quality jobs associated with the consolidation of the economy through the use of the railway will bear more durable prosperity. An access to mobility and transport are determining factors for a region's prosperity, more than works on the transport infrastructure itself. The delays could be shorter, it is evident, and each year of waiting time can translate into business opportunity losses for entrepreneurs whose business plans necessitate an access to rail services.”

Quebec's Transport Minister François Bonnardel, who accompanied Premier Legault during his New Richmond visit, justified the seven-year delay by saying that “there is a lot, a lot of work left,” to complete the railway upgrading.

“I know people would like to bring that (delay) to three or four years but it is impossible,” he added.

The mayor of Gaspé, Daniel Côté, finds the time needed to bring back the train in his town a bit exaggerated. He was aiming for a return of the service in 2022, not in 2026.

“I was expecting a much shorter delay than that. (...) It is fine to have 170 jobs but the 500 jobs of LM Windpower that depend heavily on the transport of (windmill) blades by rail towards Texas are more important. They are permanent (jobs),” specifies Mayor Côté.

Alexandre Boulay, who is director general of the LM Windpower plant in Gaspé,

thinks that “the pace must be accelerated. We must think in terms of winter works. There are fewer construction contracts during the winter and the contractors are more available then. In November 2016, we started the expansion of the plant at the end of November and works were carried out during the winter. We must also think of performance enhanced specifications (in the calls for tenders), a method that allows carrying out a project in a shorter amount of time.”

New Richmond's municipal councillor Geneviève Bracconier emphasizes the importance of insuring the competitive capacity of LM Windpower in restoring the service to Gaspé. Currently, the windmill blades cover 200 kilometres before reaching the transshipment point to railcars in New Richmond. It is a much more expensive means than the railway.

“We are talking about maintaining expertise. LM is a worldwide leader,” she states.

The mayor of Chandler, Louisette Langlois, also finds the seven-year delay referred to by François Legault very long.

“Four years, yes, but seven years? I am trying to relaunch my port. We have tonnage that will come from McInnis Cement. By rail, the costs are lower,” she states.

Éric Dubé, president of the Gaspésie Railway Society and mayor of New Richmond, believes that there are ways to cut the line upgrading delay. “We have to see what causes that delay. We will discuss with Mr. Legault and Mr. Bonnardel and

try to go faster.”

The Gaspésie Railway Society, an entity under municipi-

pal control, is the operator of trains between Matapedia and Caplan, the part of the line that has remained open since 2015. The line officially belongs to Quebec's Department of Transport since May 2015.

In 2018, the Gaspésie Railway Society hauled 4,323 freight cars between New Richmond and Matapedia, almost three times more than in 2015. That growth should continue in 2019 but possibly at a slower pace considering that some loads will go by transport because the rail line through the middle of the Port Daniel cement plant cannot be used.

Upgrading the railway bridges represents the bulk of the refurbishment. The VIA Rail passenger service has been suspended since September 2013. It is expected to return when the federal transporter will have a guarantee that the service can be restored to Gaspé.

RÉNO RÉGION (PRR) PROGRAM REGISTRATION 2019-2020

These programs concern all **owner-occupants** of the M.R.C. of Avignon and Bonaventure who need major repairs to their home.

Who is eligible for these programs:

- If you are the **owner-occupant** of a house in the MRC and the uniform municipal evaluation for 2018 is less than **\$115 000**.
- and you must NOT have previously benefited from a **SHQ** financial program since 2009.

Eligible work:

- Your house must require work to correct one or more major defects relating to your habitation.

All the work **must be carried out by a contractor who holds an appropriate license from the Régie du bâtiment du Québec**.

Financial assistance:

- The financial assistance can vary between 20% and 95% of the work to be done. This grant is calculated according to the income and the size of your household and can be up to a maximum of \$12,000.

Program Registration:

- If you meet all the criteria, you have to contact your municipal office.
- Registration will be held from **May 1, 2019 until May 31, 2019**.
- At the time of registration, you must present **ALL** the following documents:
 - Your 2018 municipal tax bill.
 - The proof of your **FEDERAL** income 2018 (report with T4, TP4 or other).
 - **The 2018 notice of assessment** from the Federal Government (document is obligatory 1-800-959-8281 for “C” Option) for **ALL** household concerns.

Julien DOUCET
SHQ agent

Concert focuses on ethnic mix and local history

Cynthia Dow

NEW RICHMOND: - The New Richmond High School gymnasium was packed for a concert on April 17 entitled *The Music of Time*. Portrayed as a meeting of the New Richmond Bluegrass Committee, the concert took the form of committee members observing as students, teachers and local artists, sang, danced, acted and recited poetry. The various acts highlighted one of the unique features of NRHS, the fact that the student body comes from the various ethnic groups of the region, Mi'gmaq people, Acadians, Loyalists, Scots and Irish.

The event grew out of an initiative subsidized for a total of \$10,000 by the English Language Arts Network (ELAN). Visiting artist Laura Teasdale had obviously worked very hard during the five weeks of the project as had the students, teachers and other supporters to produce an amazing show. The audience and the participants were equally thrilled with the outcome.

Allegedly watching the various acts in order to choose who would headline the Bluegrass Festival, the committee members decided that every one of the performers merited a place on the Bluegrass stage!

Originally from Nova Scotia, the multi-talented Laura Teasdale who acts, sings, and plays instruments such as mandolin, guitar and ukulele told the participants, "I don't remember enjoying a group of kids as much as you." She told the audience, "I'm so proud. These kids are so brave. Thank you for welcoming a stranger to your beautiful, beautiful home." She kicked off the evening by singing a Mi'gmaq Honour song taught to her by William Jerome.

Although traditional tunes such as *Come By the Hills* and *Skye Boat Song* were part of the program, there was also a lot of original content, including an amazing poem featuring the Grand Cascapedia River and its fundamental role in the lives of the local people. The river was represented with a clever costume of blue cloth, wound around a central actor with students on either side lifting and lowering the fabric to mimic waves.

Fancy and Grass dancers from Gesgapegiag performed just before a skit about the German Spy captured in New Carlisle. Some tiny Puglutmu'j were also on hand for a fun skit on watching strangers arrive in the area!

Even the seniors from the Richmond Manor played a part in the project as they shared stories, poems and documentation with the students to help them prepare. A group from the Manor also sang with the students during a beautiful rendition of the Philip Philips' song *Home*, a touching end to this fabulous evening.

Local artists who helped out included Jimmy Cahill, Lyne Sexton and Genevieve Parker. The latter participated in an original song entitled, *A Town Without A Mill*, an obvious nod to the local tragedy when the Smurfit-Stone mill closed in 2005.

As the Community Learning Centre technician for NRHS, Jenna Boudreau was instrumental in obtaining the grant with the help of CLC Coordinator Tammy Chatterton. "There are not many schools that have all the local communities together in one, and we wanted to highlight that. It was immediate love with Laura. She was a ray of sunshine and had a strong positive impact on the school. She exposed the kids to things they have never seen before."

Jenna explained that Laura taught them the ukulele, improvisation, and the importance of laughter. She helped Grade 6 write an amazing song about the Phantom Ship. The focus on history was no mistake: "While it's great for students to learn from books, it's a lot of fun when you learn through music and acting," Jenna noted.

"We will definitely look for more projects in the future, and we would love to have Laura back," Jenna said. "As a staff we don't have much experience in this kind of thing, but we all pulled together to help make the concert a reality. It is much appreciated."

Jenna also wanted to thank Mary Robertson, Naomi Condo, Julie Schlie, William Jerome, and Peggy Doddridge for their contributions. Naomi Condo and Josée Berthelot helped make costumes on their own time. Overall, it was a great community effort!



Grade 6 singing the "Skye Boat" song.

Photos: G. Gagné



Kindergarten to Grade 2 in the midst of their performance of an Acadian song written by Laura Teasdale.



Pre K and Kindergarten with special guest, Maggie Lebuffe, in *The River* scene.

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Kayla Drohan and La Grand Défi - Building My Region

Jeanie LeLacheur

GASPÉ: La Grand Défi-Building My Region is an initiative that encourages students to undertake projects that will both impact communities and help them develop entrepreneurial values.

Kayla Drohan is a secondary 3 student at the Gaspé Polyvalent. She is already holding down a part-time job and building her community project.

Kayla's idea involves raising money for the homeless which responds to a real need in her community and the region, and it's called Cakes 4 a Cause building on the idea that "Everyone should have a place to call home."

Accueil Blanche Goulet, a local organization that offers temporary non-institutional housing for those in need, an emergency food bank, a collective cooking program and social re-insertion will be the recipient of the profits from Cakes 4 a Cause.

The project management process



Photo: Kayla Drohan

Cake decorators stocking up on supplies.

which is an integral part of the Building my Region program is something that Kayla has taken very seriously while building her plan and activities; and taking on the brunt of project responsibilities and tasks herself. She is, however, very grateful for and quick to point out the support of her family members who have helped with

things like cake baking and setting up sites.

Her very first activity was a Bake Sale held at the Carrefour Gaspé for which Kayla did all the baking and cleared the first \$120 for her project.

A second activity "Cake off for Takeoff" took place on Saturday, April 13, at the Gaspé Elementary School and saw more than 45 community members show up with a dinner plate and a decorating spatula for the 30

minute "create a work of art cake challenge." With the help of her grandmother, Colleen Drohan, Kayla baked 30 cakes and had them frozen and ready for the big day.

Participants gathered in the gym at Gaspé Elementary on Saturday at nine a.m. where decorating materials (everything from tiny marshmallows, licorice sticks, sprinkles, food colouring and most things decorative) were waiting on a head table. After explicit directions delivered by Kayla the "1, 2, 3, GO" had participants hoping to at least place in the contest or perhaps win for the best use of decorations or even most original cake.

The "Cake off for Takeoff" was a welcome Saturday morning diversion and lots of laughter accompanied the scurrying back and forth to choose decorations for the winning cake.

Many families from the area took part and creations ranged from an LM Wind-power cake by children whose dad is an employee of

the local wind energy company, light-sabers from a Star Wars enthusiast and lots of intricate Easter-themed sheep and festive egg cakes.

All participants agreed that the family-oriented activity was a novel and creative way in which to bring community and families together with a common charitable goal. Kayla's family and extended school family are all very proud of her hard work for a great cause.

Kayla was very happy with the turnout and overall calibre of the activity that earned 250 dollars for the cause and also allowed her to enlist volunteers for her third and final part of the

Cakes 4 a Cause project. It will be a Silent Auction to be held on May 12 from 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. at the Gaspé Elementary School. Kayla would also like to say that donations are welcome. For more information about how to help you can send an email to her at Cakes4aCause19@gmail.com.



CARREFOUR JEUNESSE-EMPLOI
AVIGNON - BONAVENTURE

CARREFOUR JEUNESSE-EMPLOI
MRC CÔTE-DE-GASPÉ

Le Grand Défi

Building MY REGION

Exhibition of young builders

Entrance is FREE!

Vote for your favorite projects!

Visit the "Young Builders Exhibition" and see what projects have been carried out by participating students in "Le Grand Défi: Building My Region!", an entrepreneurial projects contest unique to the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands.

Exhibition: 1PM to 4PM • Gala: 4PM to 5PM

Carleton-sur-Mer

Saturday, May 4, 2019
Antoine-Bernard School
15, Comeau Street
Many participating schools, including New Richmond High School

Bonaventure

Saturday, May 18, 2019
Aux Quatre-Vents School
(Bonaventure Polyvalent)
143, Louisbourg Avenue
Many participating schools, including New Carlisle High School

Gaspé

Saturday, May 18, 2019
C.-E.-Pouliot School in the cafeteria
85, De Gaspé Boulevard
Many participating schools, including Gaspé Elementary and Gaspé Polyvalent (C.-E.-Pouliot)



Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



A gift to your future self

*When you do things in the present that you can see,
you are shaping the future that is yet to be.*

Tomorrow will come. Even though the philosophy “live for today” may be the mantra of many, eventually that does not serve us well. Doing things today rather than tomorrow, planning for the future, and thinking about what you want are critically important. This approach is valuable for things both big and small. Planning and actually doing things today will set you up for a better tomorrow. Don’t feel like doing the laundry today? Be good to your future self and get that laundry done. Your future self will thank you, tomorrow. Want to go on a trip? Save \$300 a month (or more or less) and in one year, you have enough to plan a pretty amazing holiday.

Doing things today that will benefit you later is insurance against the unexpected and unpredictable. People get sick. Accidents happen, however, the things you plan and do today will help in many ways. There is exactly zero chance that anybody can plan for the future with 100% accuracy, but it does not hurt to do things today, and creating plans will help to deal with the unexpected.

What happens if, down the road, you change your mind about what you have planned? No problem. We are human and we change our minds, but consider the goal of saving money for a trip one year from now. If you do change your mind you can always use the money you have set aside for some other dream. Cannot go on that vacation? Buy new appliances you always wanted. This is a way that you have planned for your future self.

The gifts to our future self involve doing things. It means you must get busy and make that plan and actually accomplish. Having a goal, small or big, is the first step. The actual doing is the next but most critical part. Dreaming of the future is all well and lovely. To make it happen you need to get working on it.

Unrealistic goals do not help. You want to lose weight and be more active? You will not lose 60 pounds in a month. You will not run a half marathon next week. Goals take time. Goals take work. Goals must be specific though. Something more specific in this case might be “I will eat well and be more active every day.” (That’s doable.) I will lose six to eight pounds every month. (Also, doable.) In about ten months you will have given your future self a huge gift of health and improved quality of life.

What are the benefits of being good to your future self? Well, the obvious one is reaching that goal whether it is big or small. The other benefits include that you become clearer about what you want or don’t want. You feel more hopeful and positive. You accomplish more in all areas because you become an achiever. You love yourself more. Your future self may encourage or inspire others to do more of the same.

Start small. Achieve some little things as a warmup to bigger goals. Do that darn laundry – today! Call a friend that you have been meaning to – today! Eat well – today! Be good to your future self. You are worth that. Make plans for the future and work that plan. Your future self thanks you.

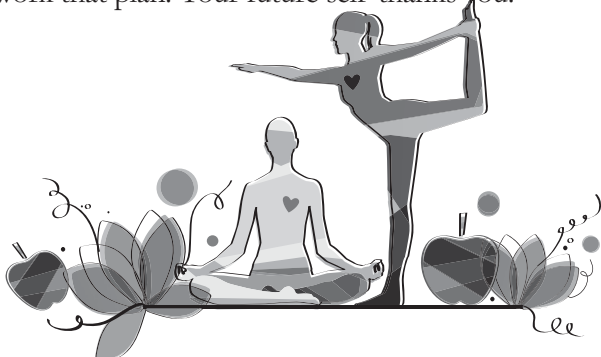


Photo: N. Sergerie

Close to 50 citizens attended the meeting to hear about Cuda’s plans to exploit the Galt site.

Cuda reiterates, there won’t be any fracturing

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ: - Even if fracking remains rooted in the imagination, Cuda Oil and Gas insists that this type of operation is excluded from the Galt project near Gaspé. This was the main issue raised on April 24 in Gaspé as the citizen consultation phase began. Approximately 50 participants were in attendance on site or via a facebook broadcast by the group *La planète s’invite au Parlement -Gaspé*.

“We come back to the same message: No fracking. We will find a way to put it in the impact study, to tie hands but, yes, the project is 30 boreholes, without fracturing,” said vice president Mathieu Lavoie.

When Pascal Bergeron from *Environnement Vert Plus* asked company leaders to position themselves for a law against fracking, the answer was no. “We must understand that, as a company, we have land outside Gaspé. We have some projects in the west where we will need fracking. As a corporation, it would be difficult for us to take a stand,” says Lavoie.

In Mr. Lavoie’s eyes, the exchanges were cordial and served to acknowledge the concerns of the people of Gaspé.

Water protection

Fears about the protection of drinking water are very important to the citizens. The Galt site is located close to the York River, a world famous salmon river, which flows into the Bay of Gaspé. Cottage owners near the site, located 20 kilometres west of Gaspé, are also concerned. “This is an issue that will be

part of an important chapter in the impact study. There will be models that will also show how we will protect the water table,” said Mr. Lavoie.

Social acceptability and economic benefits were discussed several times during the meeting.

Taking risks

“I came to settle here because of the nature, the environment, which is increasingly recognized internationally. I do not want to take that risk,” says Francine Brault, who calls for a referendum to measure social acceptability.

Daniel Rioux pointed out that the project, which realistically aims to extract 8 million barrels over 40 years, represents the equivalent of 32 days of consumption in Quebec. “Is it worth all the risk for a day of oil a year in

Quebec? Is the risk worth it? The risk, it will have to be measured properly,” says the citizen.

“This will be the question for the BAPE (*Bureau d’audiences publiques sur l’environnement*). That’s part of the debate we’re currently having,” says Mr. Lavoie.

Activa’s Environmental Impact Study will consider citizens’ comments which will be released to the public in September for validation.

Cuda aims to extract 8 million barrels by 2060, having drilled approximately 30 wells to a depth of one to three kilometres between 2020 and 2025.

The economic study of the project is based on this data while the environmental studies are done on 15 million barrels, however, the chance to release 15 million barrels from the site is estimated at 10%.



PUBLIC NOTICE

LEGAL SERVICES AND TOWN CLERK’S OFFICE

Register

By-law 1392-19 modifiant le règlement 1366-18 décrétant une dépense d’une somme de 178 060 \$ et un emprunt d’une somme de 178 060 \$ pour la réalisation de travaux de réfection de la conduite d’égout de la rue des peupliers pour augmenter la dépense et l’emprunt de 178 060 \$ à 331 875 \$.

The register will be held on May 7 and 8, 2019 at the town hall and is intended for all users of the water supply and/or sewage system. The number of applications needed in order that a referendum poll be held for this By-Law is 828 and failing this number, the concerned By-law will be deemed approved by the qualified voters.

Gaspé, May 1, 2019

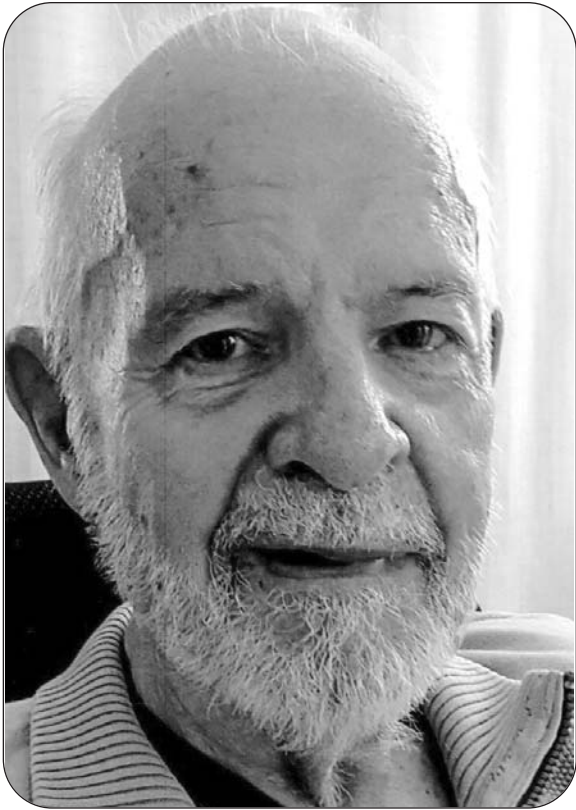
Isabelle Vézina,
Director of legal services and town clerk

In accordance with the by-law concerning the publication of public notices, the city of Gaspé informs you that you will find all of these notices on the website of the city of Gaspé at the following address: ville.gaspe.qc.ca in the public notice section.

Announcements...



OBITUARY



CABOT: Winston Henry

We regret to announce the death of Winston Cabot at 88 years of age in Huntsville, Ontario, on Thursday, April 18, 2019.

Winston leaves to mourn his brother, Floyd, along with nieces and nephews and friends. His parents, Arthur and Empress Cabot and four sisters, Dorothy, Dell, Ribby and Muriel who all predeceased him.

Winston was born in Gaspé, Quebec, on November 7, 1930, and attended Gaspé Intermediate School. He began working for the Toronto Dominion Bank at the age of 16. He retired from the bank in 1987 as Supervisor of Administration for the Eastern Division after 40 years of service.

After retirement he moved to Huntsville, Ontario. Winston enjoyed all nature in Gaspé, Huntsville and other locations.



IN MEMORY

BOURGAIZE: Nelson

In loving memory of a dear father, grandfather and great-grandfather who passed away April 29, 1985.

*Precious memories never die
As years roll on and days go by.
Deep in our hearts a memory is kept
Of someone too special to ever forget.*

Loved and remembered by Dolly, Merle, Clayton (Eleanor), Lennox, Eunice, Bradford (Shirley) and families.



HAYES: Leonard

One year after his death on May 5, 2018 we are thinking of the one we loved so much. Although we miss him every day, we are truly blessed to have so many treasured family memories of a devoted husband, brother, father, grandfather and great-grandfather who gave us all so much love and laughter for so many years. We thank God for him and we will always remember his amazing last words: "God is good."

*The Lord is good,
A refuge in times of trouble.*

He cares for those who trust in him. Nahum 1:7

All our love always, Bertha, Elsie, Wayne, Sandra, Bill, Louise, Paul, Lori Ann and all our families.

Fishermen's Prayer

*Lord, Ruler over waves and sea,
Keep your hand of blessing
Over all our Gaspesian fishermen.
Give them strength and courage
Aboard their boats
As they bring in the harvest of the sea.
Help them to help each other
In time of need,
And keep their families,
In your loving care.*

**May you be safe
and your catches plentiful
during the 2019
fishing season.**

Tremblay & Barriault, notaires inc
Notaries & legal counsel

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

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POINTE-NAVARRRE:

Sanctuary of Pointe Navarre

Tuesday, May 7: 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. **May 26:** The Annual General Meeting 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 its 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.

YORK:

York River FADOQ Seniors Club

May 4: Annual General Meeting at 4 p.m. at the Gaspé Royal Canadian Legion. Punch will be served from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Supper and dance to follow with live entertainment. Come out and enjoy supper, music and a night of dancing. Tickets are available from Ron Mundle and Alfred Cassidy. \$20 per person with a \$10 refund offered to all York River FADOQ members who attend. Bar service will be available.

DOUGLASTOWN:

Community Centre

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

Wednesdays: 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 money bingo at 7 p.m. at the Legion. 18+ only.

Every Thursday: Cards and Games from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Free. For more information, contact Lloyd Roussel at 418-645-3700 or 418-645-2786.

May 12: Mother's Day Brunch, from 8:30 a.m. to noon. Adults

\$10, children \$5, under 5 free.

May 18: Music and dance with Blondsy and Patrick Dufresne beginning at 9 p.m. Cost \$5.

BARACHOIS:

Recreation Centre

May 10: The Barachois Recreation Centre will be holding an 18+ money bingo at 7 p.m. Bilingual. Over \$600 in cash prizes.

BARACHOIS:

50 Plus/Minus Baby Boomer Reunion

The 2019 organizing committee will be hosting a dinner and dance party at the Fort Prevel Golf Course on **Saturday, July 27**. Cocktail hour: 5 p.m. (cash bar) Dinner: There will be two choices, five-course menu served at 6 p.m. Beef Bourguignon (\$25.95) or Salmon (\$28.95) + taxes and service. Live music: Performed by Jolanie Cauvier, from 5 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

The attendees from the 2018 Dinner Reunion voted to modify the criteria for the 2019. Students from Barachois and Belle Anse Schools born between 1945 and 1950 and teachers who taught students within these age groups at those schools are also invited to attend.

To be eligible to attend the dinner and dance party, you must have been born between 1945 and 1950 and have attended school in Barachois or Belle Anse. If you fit the above criteria and would like to attend, you can be accompanied by your spouse or a friend. Please confirm your attendance with Dianna Francis: diannafrancis36@icloud.com, 418-368-2427; Stanley Ste Croix: stan@csolve.net, 705-726-6132 or 705-818-6005; Lawrence McNally: lwmcnally@hotmail.com, 418-645-2300; or Gerald Girard: gerrygirard@bell.net, 450-619-9655 or 514-913-1350. Email confirmation is preferred, with your names, telephone numbers and your choices for the main course.

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!

May 4: 500 card game.

May 11: Mother's Day Tea.

PORT DANIEL:

St. James Anglican Church

May 3: Gift bingo, 7 p.m. at the Three Star Golden Age Club. \$10

per series or three for \$20. Canteen open.

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

HOPE TOWN:

Community Centre

May 11: Military Whist beginning at 8 p.m.

HOPE TOWN:

Hope Baptist Church

Hope Baptist Church welcomes you. Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 a.m. and Corporate Worship at 11 a.m. on Sundays. Prayer Meeting and Bible Study at 7 p.m. on Wednesdays. Young Peoples for grades 7-11 at 7 p.m. on Fridays. 305 Route 132 West, Hope Town, 418-752-5838.

NEW CARLISLE:

Heritage New Carlisle

May 5: Soap making, 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. with Marie-Claude Poirier, \$10.

May 10: Soup and Sweets 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the New Carlisle Town Hall, \$10. Door prizes.

May 11: Fly tying, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Learn to tie flies, cast and gain a new appreciation of fly fishing with Jean Marc Poirier. \$10.

May 14: Annual General Meeting at 7 p.m. at the Kempffer Cultural and Interpretation Centre, 125 Boulevard Gerard D. Levesque in New Carlisle. The evening's activities will include the annual report and the election of directors. Refreshments will be served. Come and join us!

May 25: Wood carving, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with Marcel Beaulieu. \$15.

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

Saturdays: Legion opens at 1 p.m.

May 4 & 5: New and almost new yard sale at the Legion. Doors open at 8 a.m. Something for everyone, - everything from screws to the kitchen sink. Please support your Legion.

May 12: Mother's Day afternoon from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. with local entertainers Kathy Gallon and Vern Huntington. \$5 entrance fee.

July 1: Mini prince and princess. If you would like to register your

child/children, call Laura at 418-752-6799. Age groups: 0-4, 5-9 and 10-13. More info to follow.

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. Hot meal at noon. Free. Donations accepted. 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.

NEW RICHMOND:

Richmond Manor

May 5: Lasagna Dinner Fundraiser, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Enjoy a delicious meal for only \$12 per adult. Includes: lasagna, caesar salad, garlic bread, dessert and drink. Take-outs available.

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.

May 12: Mother's Day Brunch from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. \$12 per adult, \$10 children 12 years old and under.

May 25: Annual Spring Bingo beginning at 1 p.m. The entrance fee is \$10 for 3 cards; additional cards are \$1 each. Welcome to all and thank you for your support.

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

Fifty Plus Club Events

May 10 and May 24: There will be jam sessions open to all musicians and spectators at the Club. Doors open at 7 p.m. and entertainment begins at 7:30 p.m.

May 12: Mother's Day Brunch from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Sausage, bacon, home fries, beans, pancakes, scrambled eggs, toast, tea and coffee will be served. The cost is \$12 for adults and \$10 for children under 12.

May 25: Annual Spring Bingo beginning at 1 p.m. Doors open at 12 p.m. The entrance fee is \$10 for 3 cards; additional cards are \$1 each. Canteen will be serving hot dogs, sandwiches, drinks, potato chips and choco-

late bars.

Advance notice: We will also be having a Father's Day brunch and barbecues in July and August.

Every Tuesday: Bingo at 7 p.m.

Every Thursday: Dame de Piques at 1 p.m.

Everyone is welcome to attend. Thank you for your support.

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

Royal Canadian Legion Br. 172

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

GESGAPEGIAG:

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 Mawiomni 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 April 21 are: Emmauuelle Boudreau, Robert Thériault, Vicky Cyr, Michel Cyr, Catherine Arsenault, Michelle Appleby and Robert McLellan.

UNITED CHURCH

Sunday, May 5
2 p.m. Hopetown

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

Sunday, May 5

New Carlisle

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Hope Town

11 a.m. Eucharist

Port Daniel

10 a.m. Morning Prayer

PARISH OF GASPÉ

Sunday, May 5

St. Paul's - Gaspé

9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer

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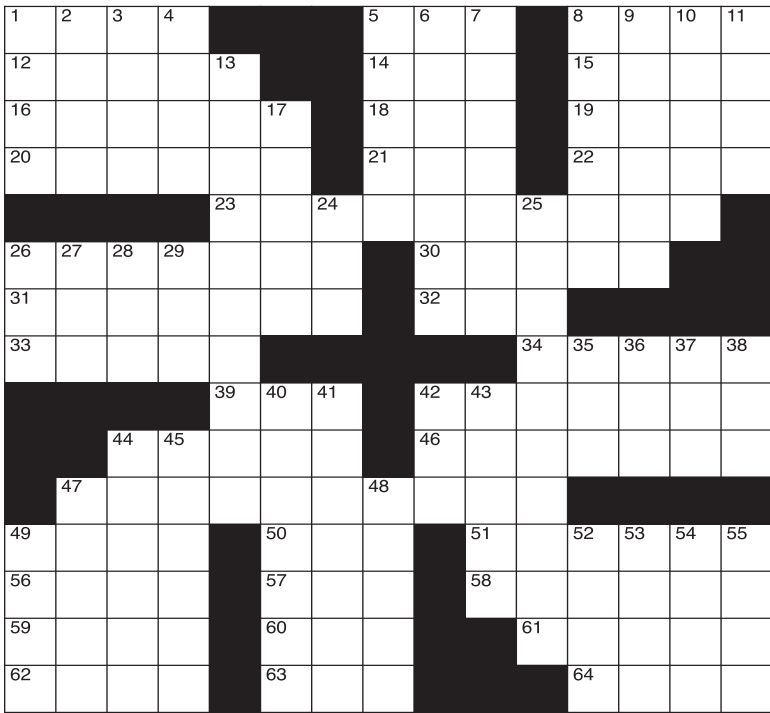


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On the lighter side...



CROSSWORDS

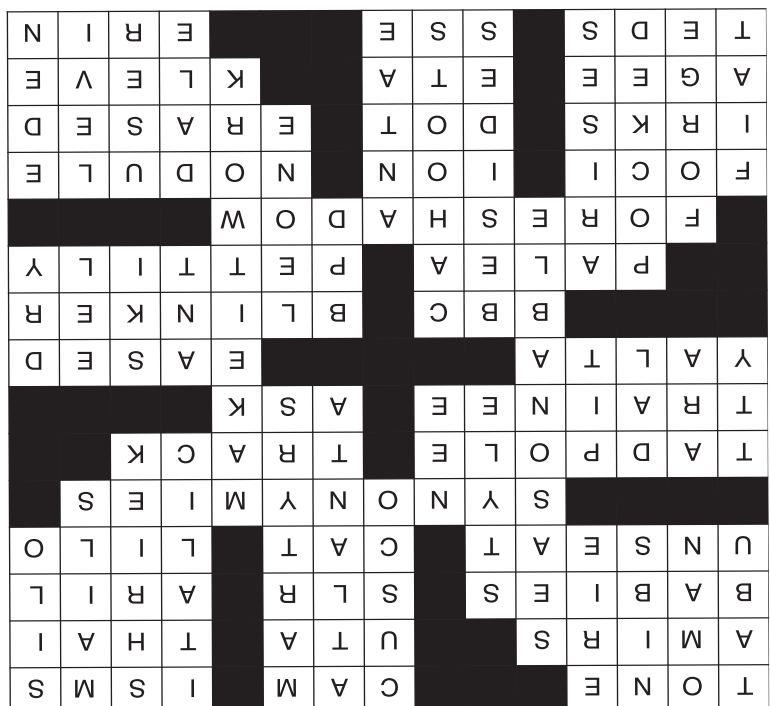


CLUES ACROSS

1. Tenor
5. Panthers' signal caller
8. Systems, doctrines, theories
12. Rulers
14. Indonesian coastal town
15. Type of cuisine
16. Kids
18. Single Lens Reflex
19. Extra seed-covering
20. Force out
21. Feline
22. ___ & Stitch
23. Semantic relations
26. A larval frog or toad
30. Sport for speedsters
31. One who is learning
32. Request
33. Famed WWII conference
34. Relieved
39. English broadcaster
42. Car signal
44. Grass part
46. Trivially
47. Serve as a warning
49. Centers of activity
50. An electrically charged atom
51. Small swelling of cells
56. Irritates
57. "___ your i's, cross your t's"
58. Removed
59. "Death in the Family" author
60. When you hope to arrive
61. German district
62. Turner and Kennedy
63. Midway between south and southeast
64. Emerald Isle

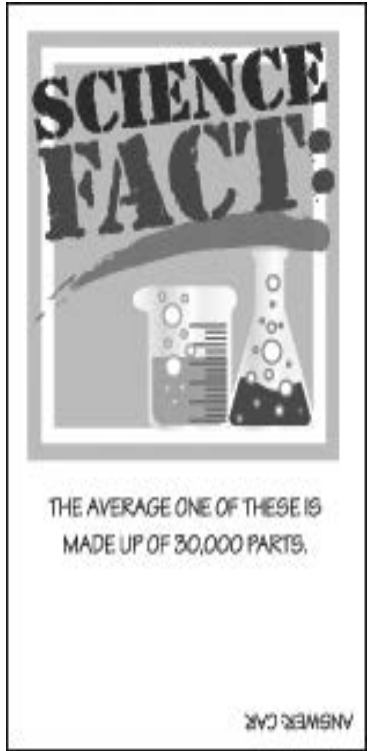
CLUES DOWN

1. Mathematical optimization search method
2. Country along the Arabian peninsula
3. Pointed parts of pens
4. Lake __, one of the Great
5. Peruvian region
6. State capital of Georgia
7. Those killed for their beliefs
8. Typeface
9. Shriek cry
10. Sends via the Postal Service
11. Holds grain
13. Occurring at a fitting time
17. Vogue
24. Born of
25. Get the job done
26. Teletype (Computers)
27. Small southern constellation
28. Decaliters
29. Area near the concert stage
35. Social insect living in organized colonies
36. Winter activity
37. Snakelike fish
38. Not wet
40. In addition to
41. In league
42. Barrels per day (abbr.)
43. Monetary unit
44. Marked
45. Emerges
47. Shape by heating
48. Early Slavic society
49. Italian automaker
52. Racing legend Earnhardt
53. A type of name
54. ___ Strauss, jeans maker
55. Famed garden



What is old becomes new again!

Don't throw out your old furniture, change it up and make something new...



ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20
Your emotions can be overwhelming, Aries. This encourages you to share your softer side with others. Embrace this sense of openness and others will reciprocate.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21
Make the most of others' cooperative spirits to get things done, Taurus. It is always good to advocate for yourself, but more effective when others are receptive.

GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21
Focusing too much on one thing is not healthy, Gemini. It is better to diversify your thinking and surround yourself with as many ideas and perspectives as possible.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22
A coworker may need your assistance in the weeks to come. You are ready and willing to put in the extra effort to help this person with no strings attached.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23
Focus on the positive things this week, Leo. Forget about what could go wrong. With the right mindset, you can accomplish

HOROSCOPES

anything you want.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22
You are always willing and able to help a friend out, Virgo. That will prove true once again this week when a loved one calls you up and needs a shoulder to cry on.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23
Lately you have been a rock that others lean on, Libra. This is a good role for you, as you are compassionate but also fair. Just make sure you take care of yourself as well.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, just when you think you have everything figured out, a new challenge presents itself. Seek a second opinion to work it out if this nut proves tough to crack.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21
A new idea could spark a big change in your life, Sagittarius. Are you ready for the adventure that is going to ensue? Look to others to join in the good times.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, many challenges have been coming your way, and you have handled them like a champion. Spend a little time pampering yourself as a reward.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18
Aquarius, when others test your patience, find a healthy way to blow off some steam. Enlist the help of a fun-loving friend to get away for a little bit.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
For single Pisces, a new romance could be on the horizon. If you are attached, the romance may be kicked up a notch.

- FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS**
- APRIL 28**
Jay Leno, Comedian (69)
 - APRIL 29**
Jerry Seinfeld, Comic (65)
 - APRIL 30**
Kirsten Dunst, Actress (37)
 - MAY 1**
Jamie Dornan, Actor (37)
 - MAY 2**
Dwayne Johnson, Actor (47)
 - MAY 3**
Eric Church, Singer (42)
 - MAY 4**
Will Arnett, Actor (49)

Married Life

When Kurt and I got married, I thought it was going to be a grand adventure. Little did I know what I had gotten myself into. It was love at first sight for both of us. They say that love is blind, but it is also deaf and stupid at times.

To me, married life was an oxymoron. For if ever two words were the opposite of each other, married and life were for me.

Kurt had been around the block a time or two. In fact he had been around so many times that his tires were bald. I, on the other hand, had never been taken out of the factory. I was so naïve and he was so experienced or so it seemed to me. He taught me things that I thought were appalling, but he said were a part of life. He was a patient teacher and, boy, did I enjoy learning from the master.

I took my marriage vows seriously but, I think for Kurt, they were just words spoken to him while he was in a stupor. We didn't have a conventional wedding because Kurt had been married and divorced. According to the bishop, we would have had to pay \$1000 for the luxury of being married in a church. Those funds were unheard of at the time. When the judge said for Kurt to take my hand and he just stood there, I knew I was in trouble.

Through many ups and downs, we managed to survive. There were many slammed doors on my part and many benders on Kurt's part, but we are still together. For better or for worse became a daily motto for me. I often thought this will get better or at times I thought how much worse can this get?

When we moved to Ontario, I worked seven days a week including filling in on my one day off for Kurt who was usually feeling bad. When we left our small apartment to come back to Gaspé, he filled up so many large garbage bags with liquor bottles that were on the top shelves of the kitchen cupboards that I could never reach. I finally found out why he felt so bad. If I knew then what I know now, I would gladly have stuffed him into one of the bags, tied the top and left him there for someone to find.

Thirty-four years later, Kurt is a lot more mellow due to the medical crises that plague him, and I am tougher and stronger now. Married life changes a person. Sometimes for the better and sometimes for the worse. There is so much give and take. You learn to compromise or you end up in prison for JUSTIFIED homicide. The experiences and trials and tribulations were worth it for me although I wouldn't have said so at the time.

Would I change anything? I often think of that. The years have flown by and I am reminded of my younger self who swore I would never get married. I was self-sufficient and always said I would depend on no man. I am still my independent self, but it's nice to know that I am not alone. It's been a journey of discovery.



For better or for worse, I am glad I said yes to sharing my life. It hasn't been all bad but it hasn't been all good either. For better or for worse, I'm happy to share my life with someone who accepts me for who I am. Don't forget he's had to live with me too and we haven't heard Kurt's side of this.

Love is strange, wondrous and an eye opener. He is my better half and sometimes my worse half, but he's the half that completes me and makes me whole.

- Bonita Baird

UNIPÊCHE MDM:

Cont'd from page 3

made.

On April 29, Unipêche MDM director general Gino Lebrasseur pointed out to SPEC that there isn't any discrimination at the Paspebiac plant, just a set of different labour positions and a specific salary linked with each type of chore, as some tasks require physically stronger people.

"We recognize the awkwardness of the job recruiting post. There was a shortage of labour. We held an open house at one point and we placed ads. There are lower and higher salaries at the plant and they are not tied to women and men. In fact, we have more female than male supervisors in the plant and those jobs are paid \$20 an hour. We get a lot of people off social assistance by hiring them and they leave after two or three years for other jobs. We hired a woman at one point who was 24 or 25 years-old and she had neither a social insurance number or a bank account. We helped her. She had some potential and she found another job later,"

explains Mr. Lebrasseur.

Quebec's Department of Labour and the department of Women's Condition will both have a look at Unipêche MDM's hiring policy.

Sylvain Roy points out that Unipêche MDM is the same company that closed the Grand River *Crustacés de Gaspé* snow crab processing plant in March when the workers were on the verge of negotiating a first collective agreement, supported by the Unifor union. The company explained the closure by a lack of profitability.

"It looks like a disguised lock out. The law says that a company can keep its processing permit even if it is operated only one year out of five. So the law opens the door to such practices and must be changed. A company closing a plant for a year should lose its processing permit," states Sylvain Roy.



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Family Ties' **Family Ties**

Annual General Meeting

May 15th, 2019
4:00 pm

Optimist Chalet, New Carlisle
18 Normandie Street

Please join us for supper following the meeting.

RSVP by May 10th at 418-752-7265
or on our facebook page