

UNIPÊCHE MDM:

Emploi Québec posted jobs despite the discrepancy in wages

Gilles Gagné

PASPEBIAC: – In 2014, Emploi Québec posted a Unipêche MDM job offer despite the discrepancy between wages for men and women. The difference for labourer positions five years ago was the same, 59 cents per hour. Numerous people found the gap in the wages of the job ad that made headlines on April 27 discriminatory.

Simon Henry, originally from Bonaventure and now living in Quebec City, read the Emploi Québec post back in April 2014 and wrote to that governmental department asking “why they were advertising a sexist and discriminatory job offer.” He kept a copy of that advertisement.

“In April 2014, I was looking at the Bay of Chaleur job postings and, out of curiosity, I looked at some I was not interested in. I saw the Unipêche MDM job offer for the fish processing plant. It read that a woman will get \$11.03 per hour while a man will receive a salary of \$11.62 per hour, a difference of \$0.59. It is the same difference as in the ad published last week (April 27). When I saw that, I felt angry and incomprehensible. How, in 2014, can an employer offer a salary based on the gender and post it on a governmental site, the Emploi Québec one at that, without thinking that it could be discriminatory? Why did Emploi Québec post that advertisement knowing that salary equity is effective in Québec?” asks Mr. Henry.

From there, he decided to write to the *Commission de l'équité salariale*, the Quebec body that enforces salary equity. He informed that body of the situation prevailing at Unipêche MDM and Emploi Québec's apparent collaboration.

“I never received an answer to my email which is

Visualisation de l'offre d'emploi :
ouvrier/ouvrière d'usine de traitement du poisson

Cet employeur invite les personnes de 55 ans et plus à poser leur candidature.

Nombre de poste(s) à combler : 15
N° de l'offre : 4072071
REGROUPEMENT DES EMPLOYEURS SECTEUR BIO-ALIMENTAIRE 2011

Lieu de travail

3ème rue
Paspébiac (Québec) (Québec)
G0C2K0
Précisions sur le lieu de travail : Transformation et congélation de crabe des neiges.

Principales fonctions

Personnes possédant des aptitudes manuelles, bonne condition physique.

Exigences et conditions de travail

Niveau d'études : Secondaire
Non terminé
Années d'expérience reliées à l'emploi : aucune, ou information non disponible
Langues demandées : langues parlées : français et anglais
langues écrites : français et anglais
Autres langues ou précisions : pas de préférence soit anglais ou français
 Salaire offert : à discuter
Nombre d'heures par semaine : 50,00
Conditions diverses : 15 postes sont offerts dont : 10 femmes et 5 hommes. Le salaire des femmes est 11,03\$/heure Le salaire des hommes est 11,62\$/heure
Statut d'emploi : saisonnier
temps plein
jour, soir, sur appel
Durée de l'emploi : 1 à 3 mois
Date prévue d'entrée en fonction : 2014-04-07

Communication

Nom de la personne à contacter : Horth Steven (Directeur de production)
Moyen(s) de communication : en personne : 3ème rue, Paspébiac, Québec
Précisions additionnelles : Se rendre directement sur place afin de compléter une demande d'application à l'usine Unipêche M.D.M. situé à la 3ème rue, Paspébiac (Québec)

Simon Henry kept a copy of the Unipêche MDM job offer posted by Emploi Québec back in 2014.

usually the thing to do. To a written message, you answer in writing. I remember talking to a person, but I am not sure if it was someone from the *Commission de l'équité salariale* or someone from the Human Rights Commission. It happened five years ago and I was not aware that it would eventually become news. I remember that the person told me that it was not possible to intervene because it was a matter that had to be dealt with by Emploi Québec. After that, an Emploi Québec employee called me in order to learn about my story. I was told that verifications would be made. I was not informed about the follow up,” says Mr. Henry.

He isn't aware if the Unipêche MDM job posts from 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 were also posted on Emploi Québec's job site. So he can't say for sure if the situation was corrected by that ministry.

“Following the recent controversy, I am pretty sure that

a cleanup was made if that kind of ad was still posted,” he says.

On April 27, the minister responsible for Emploi Québec, Jean Boulet, stated

that an investigation would be conducted regarding the Unipêche MDM case. Spokespersons from the Human Rights Commission and the *Commission de*

l'équité salariale also committed to checking the situation, however, those statements were made before Simon Henry contacted SPEC to explain what had happened in April 2014.

Spec asked those organizations to comment on the situation but they had not reacted officially as the SPEC reached its deadline.

The law on salary equity was adopted in 1996 in Quebec, after years of advocacy from numerous groups.

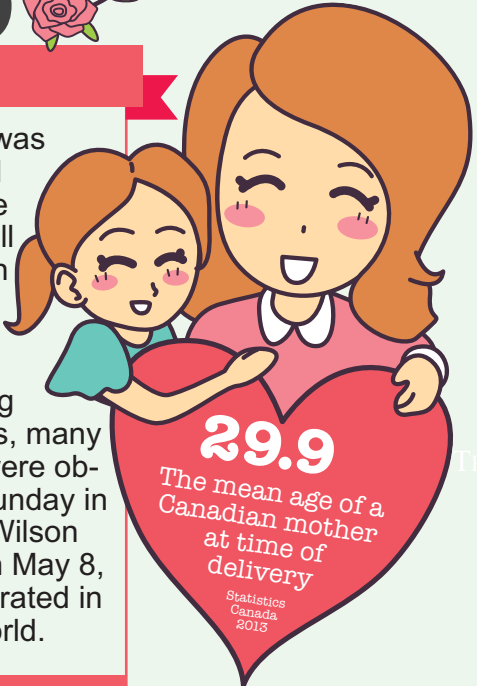
This year, Unipêche MDM triggered a controversy by posting job offers where the wage rate was again higher for men than women. Women were offered \$12.69 per hour, compared to \$13.28 for men.

Company director general Gino Lebrasseur apologized for the formulation of the job offer and explained the situation by the heavier tasks required on the men's production line. He said that women able to do the job are accepted on the men's line and offered the men's wage.

Photo: Courtesy of Simon Henry

Mom's the WORD

The idea of creating a Mother's Day was first proposed by American poet and activist Julia Ward, who in 1870 wrote the Mother's Day Proclamation as a call to unite mothers against losing children to war. The concept of Mother's Day gained renewed traction in 1908, when Anna Jarvis began campaigning to create a day honoring mothers and peace. Within a few years, many U.S. states and Canadian provinces were observing Mother's Day on the second Sunday in May. American President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed it an official U.S. holiday on May 8, 1914, and today Mother's Day is celebrated in dozens of countries around the world.



29.9
The mean age of a Canadian mother at time of delivery
Statistics Canada 2015

LOTS OF GREAT MOTHER'S DAY READING IN THIS ISSUE



Photo: T. Haroun

Marie-Ève Cyr.

Hundreds of participants

Thierry Haroun

GRAND RIVER: - It is estimated that 330 people participated in the *Journée de l'emploi du Rocher-Percé* (Percé Rock MRC Job Day). The fourth edition of this annual event took place at the Grand River arena. Approximately 60 exhibitors (restaurants, McInnis Cement, Alzheimer's Association, etc.) were on hand offering jobs or training programs. Benny Jones, a Marine Mechanics Teacher at the Grand River Fisheries School (EPAQ), was the person responsible for the school's stand. "We offer programs concerning professional fishing and marine mechanics and in 100% of the cases, the students, after graduation, will find a job," he told Spec. "We offer part-time jobs for those who want to help and support people faced with Alzheimer's disease and even the caregiver," said Suzanne Bourget, spokesperson for the *Société Alzheimer Gaspésie-Îles-Îles*. "We are very happy with the turnout and the bridges that were built between workers looking for a job and employers," said Marie-Ève Cyr, spokesperson for the event.



Photo: T. Haroun

Labour rally in Chandler

Rally in Chandler

Thierry Haroun

CHANDLER: - A little more than 20 people rallied, on May 1, in solidarity with workers of the Gaspé and around the world in front of Chandler's Revenu Québec Call Centre in the theme of International Labour Day.

Mainly women from community groups have voiced their priorities that promote a better society. "We want better public services, accessible and free. We want better working conditions for workers that are unionized or not. We want job security and a society that favours diversity," Regional President of the SFPQ Union Céline Bonneau spoke through her megaphone. The rally was under the surveillance of three members of the SQ. Other rallies took place at the same time (during lunch time) in Gaspé, Maria and Sainte-Anne-des-Monts



Photo: T. Haroun

Chandler Hospital.

30 Gaspésians have asked for medical assistance with dying

Thierry Haroun

GASPÉ PENINSULA: - Since the enactment of the of Act Respecting End-of-Life Care, 30 Gaspésians have requested its service. Of those, 24 were accepted. Spec looked into this delicate issue.

First, what does the official documentation indicate in terms of the legal framework and its description? The Quebec Government website informs us that the Act Respecting End-of-Life Care is designed to provide a framework for palliative care and medical aid in dying. End-of-life situations can be difficult. Despite quality care and support given to patients at the end of life, in a minority of cases, palliative care may not be sufficient to relieve suffering in a satisfactory manner. The Act Respecting End-of-Life Care allows an additional option to be offered to these persons for whom all therapeutic, curative and palliative options have been deemed unsatisfactory and who would rather die than continue to suffer.

Further, a person can also read: "Medical aid in dying consists of a doctor administering medication to patients at the end of life, at their request, in order to relieve their suffering by bringing about their death. This care is available in all institutions in Quebec's health and social services network and in a few palliative care hospices. A person may also ask to be provided with medical aid in order to die at home. Medical aid in dying is an exceptional intervention with very restrictive conditions. The use of this intervention is governed by strict guidelines set out in the Act. Requests for medical aid in dying are still rare. In some countries where this possibility exists, and

where access criteria are different and less restrictive than in Quebec, it is estimated that medically assisted deaths represent about 2% of all deaths."

In the province and the Gaspé

The latest report shows that since the inception of the Act in December 2015 until March 2019, more than 2,462 patients across the province have asked for its service, of which 1632 were accepted. Of those 87% were aged 60 and over, 78% had cancer and 90% had six months or less to live. Moreover, 67% have died in a hospital, 20% in their home, 10% in a CHSLD and 1% in a palliative home. For those who have been refused or didn't receive the medication, here are some of the reasons why: the patient died before receiving

the medication or he/she changed his/her mind. On the Gaspé Peninsula, 30 patients requested its service, of which 24 have received the medication. Maxime Bernatchez, the spokesperson for this Department at the Gaspésie CISSS had this to say: "In our region, we don't publish the number of cases per year because the numbers are so low that people can be identified, and these things are confidential actually. Now, if a person wants to make a request, the patient has to fill a form. Two independent doctors assess the situation of the patient. They then decide if the person responds to the criteria of the law. As for the act itself, the patient doesn't feel any pain. Lastly, between the request and the intervention by medication, there's a minimum of 10 days that has to be respected."



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Police report

A young woman from Caplan, Dalhya Bujold, died in a fire that occurred on May 1, destroying her home located on Perron Boulevard. The alarm was given at 2:10 a.m. by one of the five occupants of the house. The other four occupants were able to escape from the blaze. A male occupant was slightly injured when he jumped from the second floor window.

The victim was told to jump because it was the only way she could be rescued, but she refused. "The body was found in the rubble of the house and was sent to the forensic laboratory in Montreal for identification and an autopsy," explains Sgt. Claude Doiron, spokesperson for the Sûreté du Québec.

A judicial technician and investigator concluded that a cooking fire was the cause, ruling out any foul play. The house was demolished about six hours after the fire was extinguished because of the risk of collapsing. The identity of Dalhya Bujold cannot officially be confirmed until the results of the autopsy are available, points out Sgt. Claude Doiron.

Two men from Grand River, Danny Cyr-Athot, 26, and Adam Blais, 25, were arrested on April 24 with regards to a February break and enter and theft in a Saint-Georges-de-Malbay building located on Highway 132. That building houses the office of a campground. Eight firearms were stolen, five of them were found after the arrest of the two suspects. They appeared at the Percé courthouse where they faced charges of break and enter and theft.

Two other men and a male minor were also arrested and questioned during the operation conducted by the Sûreté du Québec detachment of the Percé Rock MRC. The three other individuals were released without being charged. Danny Cyr-Athot and Adam Blais were also released but they will return to court on May 27. Other charges could be laid against them. Sûreté du Québec officers are still trying to locate the three missing firearms.

The body of a Montreal man was found in a brook located along Road 198 between Murdochville and Anse-Pleureuse on April 29. Someone passing by noticed the body under the ice. Firefighters were called to recuperate the body. "The man committed suicide. We usually don't provide such details but since the case was made public, we have to provide a short follow-up. The case was transferred to the City of Montreal police department. The vehicle of the man was found nearby, on a side road," explains Sgt. Claude Doiron, Sûreté du Québec spokesperson.

Pierre-André Langlois, 56, from Maria was arrested on the morning of April 30 following a drug bust at his home on Francis-Cyr Road. The drug bust involved Sûreté du Québec police officers from the New Richmond detachment, accompanied by the canine squad. A certain quantity of cannabis, hashish and cocaine, as well as tools generally used in drug trafficking were found and seized in the house of the suspect who appeared the same day at the New Carlisle courthouse.

Initially he only faced charges of negligent storage of a firearm and failure to register a firearm, however, he was remanded in custody until May 3. "He doesn't have a big criminal record but other charges could be laid against him at one point," states Crown Prosecutor Florence Frappier-Routhier. Langlois will return to court on May 27.



Photo: N. Nelson

The CTMA Vancancier will be in Gaspé again this summer.

Escale Gaspésie slowed down by right whales

● Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - Navigation restrictions due to the right whales in the Gulf of St. Lawrence weigh heavily on Escale Gaspésie. 35 stopovers are planned this year, including 24 international ships and 11 domestic calls with the return of the CTMA Vacancier for a third consecutive summer at the Sandy Beach wharf, which is a decrease from one year ago. In addition, the ships are smaller averaging capacities of less than 1,000 passengers, which suggests a total of 21,330 cruise passengers by the end of the season, scheduled for October 19. "We realize in 2019 that the trend in place for two years is becoming a reality. There is no surprise in this regard," illustrates Escale Gaspésie's director, Stéphane Ste-Croix.

New ships

Five ships will be on their first visit to the Gaspé Peninsula. "It remains important. The destination must be able to renew its customers. They are ships that come, in some cases, out of shipyards," said Mr. Ste-Croix. Large ships with capacities of 2000 or more passengers like Queen Mary II no longer come be-

cause of the 10-knot speed limit imposed to protect right whales." Those planning the route have taken for granted that the speed limit will be the same for the next few years. We have fewer cancellations. We had 13 last year. We have five cancellations this year. The idea is that access to the destination is no longer feasible as before, but we are confident that over time, we will find our place with large ships," add Mr. Ste-Croix. Escale Gaspésie had sought to have Ottawa recognize the idea of a navigation corridor to Gaspé Bay, but the sugges-

tion was not accepted in 2019.

The decrease in passenger volume no longer makes it possible to generate independent revenue. The impact is \$200,000 on Escale Gaspésie's budget.

In 2018, 18,000 cruise passengers had not been able to visit the Gaspé Peninsula because of the limitations imposed by the presence of the right whale, however, Escale Gaspésie had welcomed its 200th ship and its 200,000th passenger on the occasion of its 10th anniversary. The season started on April 29 with the Hurtigruten.

ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR	NUMBER OF SHIPS	PASSENGERS
2019 (PROJECTED)	35	21,330
2018	36	15,044
2017	32	18,930
2016	30	20,674

A large hole in the bridge

Nelson Sergerie

CHANDLER: - The Highway 132 bridge spanning the Petit Pabos River in Chandler is undergoing major repairs. The bridge, built in 1965, underwent a general inspection last August and it requires major work that is planned for 2022. On May 1 around noon, a hole of about 30 centimetres was observed, forcing the bridge's closure. Traffic was able to resume alternately in the evening. The hole was repaired on May 2.



Help us learn more about the reality of print media in Quebec.

QCNA has received funds from the Secrétariat aux relations avec les Québécois d'expression anglaise to conduct a study on the effects of the closures of community newspapers in Quebec.

As such you might receive a request to participate in our upcoming survey about community newspapers from invitation@web.som.ca. We thank you for taking the time to respond.

This project is funded by the Government of Canada
Ce projet est financé par le Gouvernement du Canada





Commentary

Gilles Gagné

Leadership candidates are being shy, based on Liberal Party general council

As of now, there is a list of four potential candidates for the leadership race of Quebec's Liberal Party, which will be held in a year from now, based on a decision made during the May 3 to May 5 Drummondville general council. Those potential candidates are, in alphabetical order, Dominique Anglade, Gaétan Barette, Sébastien Proulx and Marwa Rizky.

The word potential is important here because none of them has confirmed officially his or her intention to run. Seven months after a historically humiliating loss to the Coalition avenir Québec party, it is understandable that the Liberal Party leadership spot is not as coveted as it has been in the past.

First, there is the time factor. There is no hurry to decide now about running since the leadership convention is 12 months down the road.

Second, a lot of people think that François Legault will head a government for another term after the current one. Since the Liberal Party is tough on its leaders when they don't win, reflection might be a good idea for now. Claude Ryan and Daniel Johnson Junior were not offered a second electoral chance after one electoral loss.

Third, the party is or should be looking for a leader that will have the capacity to reconnect with francophones and the regions (the major reasons behind the October 1 disaster) while keeping strong ties with the anglophone and allophone communities. The level of support among francophones was a tad under 10% in the last election.

Since the 1960s, and until Jean Charest, the party had generally been able, albeit sometimes awkwardly, to have provisions for Montreal and for the regions of Quebec. Former premier Philippe Couillard failed miserably in that regard. His austerity measures were applied with way more zeal in rural regions than in Montreal.

The relative honeymoon experienced by François Legault since October might explain the relative shyness of potent leadership candidates like Dominique Anglade, Gaétan Barette, Sébastien Proulx and Marwa Rizky, although the two women seem more affirmative in their intention to run. Being a transition leader, someone who would spend the 2022-2026 term in the opposition, is far from tempting.

When facing that question of transition leadership, current interim leader Pierre Arcand quickly replies that at the federal level, a lot of people were seeing Justin Trudeau as Canada's prime minister for the next decade. Three-and-a-half years later, Mr. Trudeau is far from a sure re-election shot. Although

he is not elected yet, five-and-a-half months away from the federal election, Andrew Sheer, who was probably chosen as some sort of transition leader by Conservative Party members, has a decent chance of being Canada's next prime minister.

Back to Quebec now, three of the four candidates, Dominique Anglade, Gaétan Barette and Sébastien Proulx, favour a flexible approach regarding Bill 21 on the use of religious signs in the public space. In that regard, their viewpoint is closer to the CAQ position although not as restrictive. Marwa Rizky is the only potential candidate to stick to the traditional position adopted so far by the Liberal Party, which is total freedom regarding the use of religious signs.

Oddly, Dominique Anglade is a former president of the Coalition avenir Québec, while Gaétan Barette ran for that party in the 2012 election before switching to the Liberal Party in 2014. Sébastien Proulx was a Member of the National Assembly for Action Démocratique du Québec in 2007. Action démocratique du Québec was the main party behind the formation of the CAQ after the departure of Mario Dumont. It looks as if now, they gather that the CAQ approach is better aligned with Quebecers' orientations.

On the other hand, if the next leader adopts a nationalist line of thoughts, then what will be the difference between the CAQ and the Liberal Party of Quebec?

If the members opt for Marwa Rizky, they will stick to the current approach of the party, the total freedom of religious signs use defended by Philippe Couillard and currently protected by interim leader Pierre Arcand. It is also an approach that cost the party an enormous number of votes on October 1.

It used to be much simpler for the Liberal Party when it simply had to be a non separatist party. Now, the CAQ is there as well.

Letters to the Editor

Hello to Diane Skinner-Flowers and congratulations for all your articles and reflections. I find them all very interesting and educational. My main reason for writing you these few lines is to tell you something about your article on wood ash. My ancestor Thomas Shearer arrived in upstate New York and made potash for a living. My mother (when we were young and living in Campbellton) would take some wood ash, plus some flour for making bread and mix this with water and sometimes add some other materials. She would mix it until it became quite thick, like cement. She would use this to make what we called a "collar" around the last length of stovepipe that was connected to the chimney. This would become very hard and make the chimney airtight for the next winter. I cannot recall that collar not staying in its place. Keep up the good work. Thank you.

Garnet Shearer, Quebec City.

Mystery Solved! I am writing to thank you for Forrest Buckingham's obituary in the February 27, 2019, issue. I have wondered for years what he did

after he retired. Doctor Buckingham was my staff contact/mentor when I enrolled in 1980 as a first year student at the University of Toronto. He made my return to school after years in the workforce as uncomplicated as possible. I was one of those who had the good fortune to meet him and probably would have had some more interesting conversations had I known he also had a connection to the Gaspé. As I reread the obituary I realize that his memorial service was held this afternoon in Toronto. His family and friends are saying goodbye to a truly great person; may he rest in peace in Paspebiac.

Randy Ford, Englehart, Ontario

Mr. Gagné, With regard to your commentary on the editorial page of The Gaspé SPEC, March 13, «Leadership needed!», a commission of inquiry is an expensive ordeal; plus it is clear Ms. Wilson-Raybould, as Minister of Justice, was in on all drafts pertaining to an amendment to the criminal code of Canada. There is no controversy. There was a lack of confidence by the Prime Minister in his former minister of justice.

As well, the former Minister, Ms. Wilson-Raybould, failed to file her complaints in writing. Yes, if we were talking about a junior law clerk erring in some minor clause, it would not be relevant. This was not the case, we have a Minister who attempts to deflect the blame under the guise of inappropriate behaviour. An experienced, former public prosecutor, leaves no paper trail; however, the Globe and Mail gets hold of the story? Wouldn't we just love to know who leaked this drama?

As far as the SNC-Lavalin deal overthrowing the government, October is a long way off and news is short-lived, as becomes obvious with the crash of a Boeing 737 Max 8, plus the attacks against Muslims at worship in New Zealand. Food on the table, money for school supplies, a roof over the head, a job, health and a safe environment will preoccupy the voters far more than whether or not a deferred prosecution agreement (DPA) is granted to a private corporation.

Voters realize politics is a nasty game. Jody Wilson-Raybould overplayed her hand. Now the question is whether or not she'll stay on as a Liberal. Then, if PM Trudeau is defeated, will his leadership be challenged? If so, we all know who Ms. Philpott will vote for.

*Vivian Anne(tt) Beebe,
New Carlisle, QC*

Mother's Day

A mother is your first friend, your best friend and your forever friend. Whether in New Carlisle or elsewhere many are thankful for the "Moms" they've had in their lives.

A mother is filled with unconditional love. Her power from God gives her daily strength, guidance and protection. She often speaks with softness, wisdom and dignity to her children.

A mother's heart is fueled to do the impossible and at times the unexplainable. Mothers' hearts are filled with pure gold and they can take the place of all others but whose place no one can take or be replaced. Thank you "Mom" for your loving kindness along with your beautiful smile and tender loving. Love your mother.

*Ken Ross
New Carlisle, Quebec*

The Gaspé Spec

ESTABLISHED • MAY 1975

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



Gaspé's Home Page:
www.gogaspé.com



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We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada.
We acknowledge special funding from the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications.

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Published every Wednesday by:
Les Publications de la Côte Inc.
(Sea-Coast Publications Inc.)

Forage Moreau Inc.
418-392-9501

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Gaspé doesn't have enough biogas

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ: - It is practically unthinkable to see the Gaspé town landfill supply Quebec with natural biogas. This is affirmed by the president of the *Régie intermunicipale de traitement des matières résiduelles de la Gaspésie*, Daniel Côté. Quebec wants to obtain a source of 5% renewable natural gas by 2025.

Created in 1998, the board is owned by the MRC of Rocher-Percé and the Town of Gaspé. It manages the technical landfill site for waste in Gaspé, the recyclable sorting centre in Grande-Rivière and

the composting and treatment centre for septic tank sludge in Chandler.

Despite receiving waste from many municipalities on the Gaspé Peninsula, the technical landfill does not have enough waste to generate biogas from methane emitted by the site. "It was analyzed before composting. What generates a lot of methane is compostable matter. Currently, we are under composting platforms to reuse them as soil or fertilizer," says Côté. The arrival of the brown bin therefore slows down the possibility of producing biogas.

Difficult to meet the need

A few years ago, odour problems at the site, located along Highway 198 west of the Wakeham neighbourhood, led the authorities to carry out work to capture the methane following the closure of the cells from the landfill site. The gas is captured and burned on the site itself to heat the buildings in the landfill. "Despite the size of the cells, it's marginal as biogas comes out of there. We barely have enough to produce heat and heat our buildings," says Côté. The

elected representative recalls all the difficulties that the Town of Rivière-du-Loup, in the Lower Saint Lawrence, had making its bio-methanation plant profitable. The plant had been trying for two years to produce liquefied natural gas. Despite a population base much larger than the Gaspé, the site lacked waste. The plant will produce compressed natural gas, but will have to invest more than \$2 million to get it done. "They had come as far as Gaspé searching for waste to make it profitable. It takes a lot of volume to make the installations profitable," says Daniel Côté.



Photo: N. Sergerie

The landfill located in Gaspé.

Harmony Intercommunity extends activities to Gesgapegiag

Gilles **Gagné**

GESGAPEGIAG: - Seventeen years after its creation in the Listuguj-Pointe-à-la-Croix sector, the Harmony Intercommunity project is expanding geographically and educationally. A branch of Harmony Intercommunity is being formed in Gesgapegiag and an educational guide will be prepared for other Quebec schools where this kind of initiative could also flourish.

The Gesgapegiag initiative consists of the collaboration of the Carleton-based research centre CIRADD, the Eastern Shores School Board, the Wejgwapniag School of Gesgapegiag, the René-Lévesque School Board and the Harmony Intercommunity Project.

The research and transfer project will lead to the conception and realization of a guide for schools and communities in Quebec that would like to duplicate the Harmony Intercommunity initiative.

The guide will provide the necessary tools and instructions on how to implement this initiative or similar projects elsewhere in the province, where aboriginal communities live alongside other communities.

A pilot project to test the guide will take place during the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years. The pilot project will involve children from the Wejgwapniag Elementary School in Gesgapegiag and from two primary schools in the municipality of New Richmond: École le Bois-Vivant (francophone), and New Richmond High School (anglophone).

Mi'gmaq teacher Roger-



Photo: G. Gagné

Sheila Gedeon, principal of Wejgwapniag School in Gesgapegiag, says that the Harmony project is like a piece of music. Each instrument is important. She is flanked here by Pierre Vicaire of Listuguj who started the Harmony Intercommunity initiative 17 years ago.

Lee Martin, of Gesgapegiag, will play an important role in the transfer of cultural elements for the new guide. The coordinator of the Gesgapegiag-New Richmond branch of Harmony Intercommunity is has not yet been selected.

Pierre Vicaire and Annabel Francoeur are the coordinators of Harmony Intercommunity in the Listuguj area. Paul Vicaire explains that in 2002 the implementation conditions for the project were tough.

"There was a skate park in Pointe-à-la-Croix and the Listuguj youths wanted to go there but couldn't. It started with a call from Dominique Bouchard who was in charge of the youth house in Pointe-à-la-Croix. She told me that it was time to change things. I was managing a truck stop then and I decided that it (changing things between Natives and non-Natives) would be the challenge of my life," he says.

There was a lot of vandal-

ism committed by groups of youths at the time and a survey was conducted in Pointe-à-la-Croix. "The people in Pointe-à-la-Croix were saying that the 'Indians' were doing the vandalism. If the survey asked people what was beautiful, ugly, what was stinking and if it was bad, the Indians would be pinpointed. The problem was deeper than a skate park," says Mr. Vicaire.

He initially wanted to start a project with high school students. "I presented my project at the Deux-Rivières School in Matapédia. I was almost kicked out of the meeting. I decided to start with very young children."

At first, activities were organized between the kids of Alaqsitew Gitpu in Listuguj and École Père-Pacifique of Pointe-à-la-Croix. Those activities were organized to create bonds and foster connections between the elementary pupils of the two schools and were eventually extended to the ele-

mentary section of École des Deux-Rivières and the Saint-François d'Assise School of the Plateaux area.

As a result of the project, young people from primary school in Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities were brought together to develop their knowledge of different cultures in mutual respect and being mindful of the acceptance of others and their differences.

In Gesgapegiag, Sheila Gedeon, Wejgwapniag Elementary School principal, starts the Harmony Intercommunity initiative with enthusiasm.

"I was born here and raised in French. Like Pierre, I don't have the typical traits of a Native with my blue eyes. During my life, I heard not too pleasant remarks towards francophones, anglophones and Natives. The Harmony project is like a piece of music; each instrument is important. Kids don't see a barrier," she says.

New Richmond High School principal Mike Isaac, a Mi'gmaq from Listuguj, thinks the project extension to another area is "very important simply because it brings three peoples together: anglophones, francophones and Mi'gmaq. They have worked separately for too long."

Mr. Isaac is particularly glad about the integration of Native notions in the school programs, especially in science and history. "Education is the best way to reconnect. Education took that away (the presence of Native content in programs). Education will bring it back. I am excited to be part of this team."

Pierre Vicaire thinks that

patience will be needed when implementing the Harmony Intercommunity project in a broader geographical context.

"It took us 400 years to be where we are. It will take 400 years to restore things," he says.

The goal of the educational guide is notably to ensure the sustainability of the Harmony Intercommunity Project and its transfer to other regions of Quebec. At the end of the project, the implementation guide will be accessible to all Quebec elementary schools, particularly those located in areas where Aboriginal communities exist.

It could also be used to improve relations between other cultures present in Quebec. The project is funded by Quebec's Ministry of Education through a \$174,000 grant.

CIRADD stands for *Centre d'initiation à la recherche appliquée en développement durable*, which means Centre for Introduction to Research and Support for Sustainable Development. The organization supports through applied research and innovation, organizations, businesses and communities by offering activities and services that contribute to sustainable territorial development.

The Centre works in the field of territorial development, paying special attention to the challenges of rural communities like social inclusion, employability, mobility, sustainable development of natural resources and communities. Affiliated to the Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles, CIRADD is part of a network of 59 college centres in Quebec.

Too many moose at Forillon Park

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ:- Due to an overabundance of moose in Forillon Park, management is establishing a plan to reduce the herd and ensure an ecological balance. The last inventory made by park authorities in January 2017 revealed 35 moose per 10 square kilometres, whereas in 2009 the park counted half as many with 18 animals per 10 square kilometres. "It's a density that we consider high. We can even call the population superabundant, which means that in the medium term, the impact on the vegetation could be problematic," explains Mathieu Côté, Conservation Manager at Forillon Park.



A moose eating young shoots in the Forillon Park.

The Quebec Ministry of Wildlife targets a density of 10 moose per 10 square kilometers on public lands in the Gaspé Peninsula. "That's what we're evaluating and that's why we're writing a second moose management plan in the park. In park conditions, the population should be between 10 and 20. The exact figure is

not yet determined," says the manager.

How to reduce the herd

Returning the population to an acceptable level will be a challenge and will be determined by the management

plan. "One of the possibilities that has already been used in other contexts is a conservation hunt, but there are also other ways that will be analyzed as a possibility, such as sterilizing or moving animals. There are all the socio-economic aspects in addition to

the conservation aspects that must be considered." Despite this large number, the population is healthy, however, what the park authorities fear in the medium term is the effects on the vegetation, the animal feeding on young shoots. "This could have an impact on

the future of the park's forest," says Côté.

No predators

Moose have no real predators in the park ecosystem. Coyotes and bears can help some, however, their ability to control the level of the moose population is unpredictable. Since these predators mainly attack young moose, it is not enough to decrease the numbers.

Consultation in the fall

The management plan being worked on is in collaboration with various partners. If all goes well, the park should hold public consultations in the late fall or winter. "We want to have the opinion of the general population," says the manager. It should be in use in the spring of 2020. "We should be fixated on the means to be taken and in what time frame we will carry out these actions," concludes Mr. Côté.

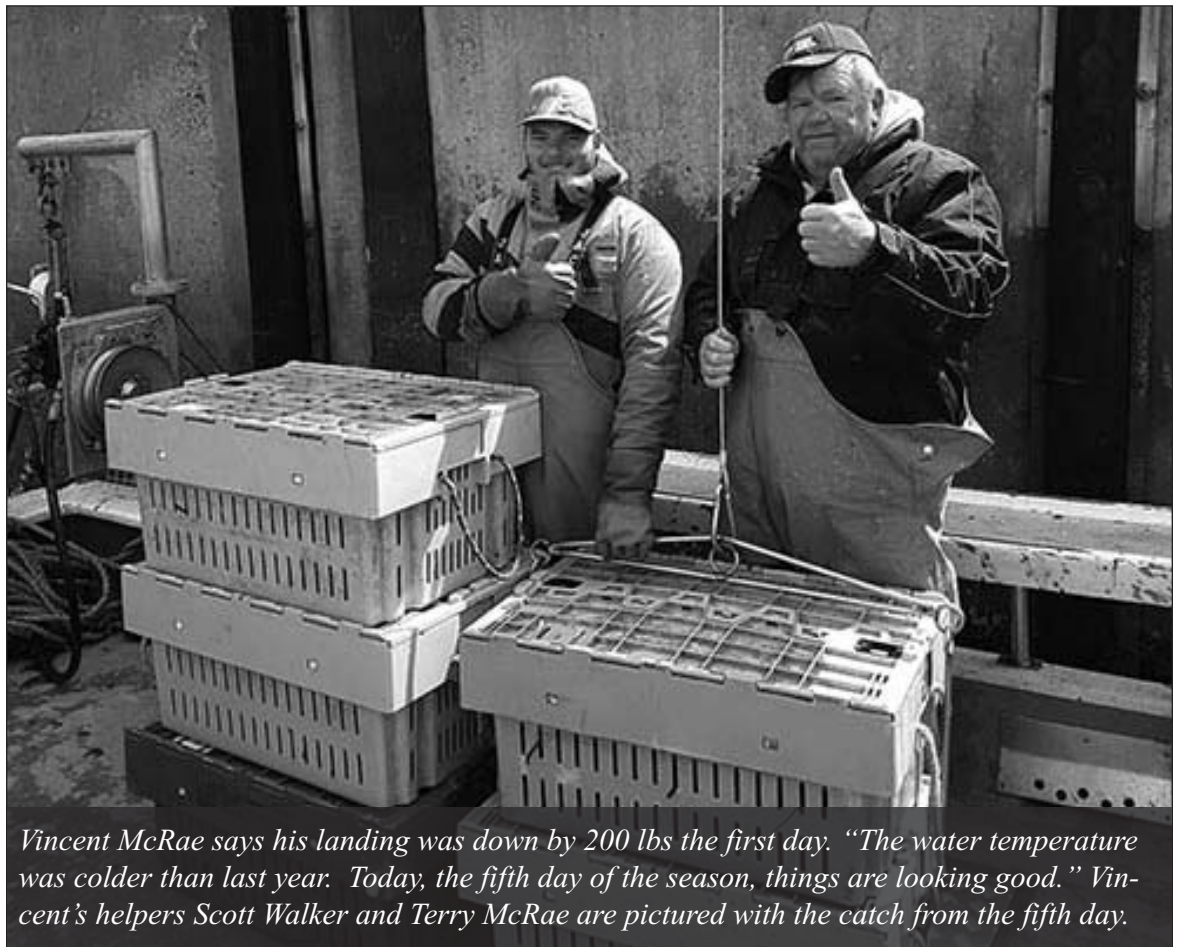
The Gaspé Spec

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Vincent McRae says his landing was down by 200 lbs the first day. "The water temperature was colder than last year. Today, the fifth day of the season, things are looking good." Vincent's helpers Scott Walker and Terry McRae are pictured with the catch from the fifth day.

Photo: Vincent McRae

So far lobster landings are comparable to last year

Gilles Gagné

SAINT-GODEFROI – Lobster fishing started on May 1 in the Gaspé Peninsula, four days later than scheduled because of the strong winds at the end of April. In fact, fishing started first between Percé Rock and the western limit of New Carlisle, and a day later east of the rock and west of New Carlisle. "Overall, the catches are similar to last year's after four days. It was a bit down compared to last year on day two but day three and four were stronger. A couple of fishermen are getting fewer lobsters, and some are doing better. It is not a long period to assess a season start. Catches similar to last year are a good sign because we would have shattered the record without the closure of significant part of the fishing area, due to the right whale," points out Bill Sheehan, vice-president of E. Gagnon et Fils, the largest lobster buyer of the Gaspé Peninsula. As for the price, it could also be similar to what was paid at the beginning of 2018. "The first price paid last year was \$7.70 per pound. We still don't have a price after four days. The catches were down in Nova Scotia earlier this year but they hastily sold some volumes before our season. I can only say that it will be higher than \$7 and lower than \$8," adds Mr. Sheehan. Since 2017, the price of lobster from the Gaspé Peninsula is determined by transaction prices occurring the prior week. That system was first adopted in the Magdalen Islands years ago.

Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



Time for Mother

*Once upon a memory
Someone wiped away a tear,
Held me close and loved me,
Thank you, Mother dear.*

This Mother's Day, Sunday, May 12, try to spend some quality time with your mom. Honour your mom for all that she has done for you by spending time with her. Some of these suggestions are low or no cost, however, if you also want to buy your dear mother something sparkly, go right ahead. She deserves it. Give your mom, if you are able to, the present of your presence.

1. Arrange a photo session for the family, inside or outdoors. Colour coordinate outfits for an impressive look.
2. If the weather agrees, take a long walk together. You can hike in the woods or stroll on the beach. Just be together.
3. Make your mom supper or take her out for a meal.
4. Treat your mom to a pedicure, massage or facial.
5. Buy her a plant that she can replant into her garden.
6. Buy your mom some knitting supplies and spend an evening knitting together. (crochet or needlepoint)
7. Go for a scenic drive together. Listen to her favourite music. Grab a coffee, sip and have a heart to heart talk.
8. Have a tea party and invite other friends and family. Make it special by using china cups and saucers, and serving mini sandwiches and a fruit tray.
9. Go shopping together, no children. Just browse the shops and enjoy.
10. Weather permitting, make a picnic and enjoy the great outdoors.
11. Have a movie night. Her choice of movie, even if it's The Notebook for the umpteenth time. Make gourmet popcorn by adding seasonings like dill pickle, a squirt of lime juice or a drizzle of truffle oil.
12. Clean her house or make a repair. Paint a room for her.
13. Enjoy some favourite wine and a cheese platter together.
14. Clean her car, inside and out.
15. Prepare her garden or lawn for the new season.
16. Pick up a restaurant meal and bring it to her. Sit and enjoy a nice meal together.
17. Bake together. Learn to make those wonderful ginger-snaps she has always made for you.
18. Buy her a new jigsaw puzzle. Spend the afternoon working on it, but together.
19. Have a board or card game afternoon or evening. Don't forget snacks and drinks, of her choice.
20. Do these things for your mother throughout the year. Not just on Mother's Day!

\$107 Average Mother's Day spending per person

68% of Canadians plan to buy a Mother's Day gift

45% of Canadians plan to buy Mother's Day flowers

38% plan to take Mom to a Restaurant

47% of Canadians plan to buy a Mother's Day card

According to a Pollara poll for the Bank of Montreal 2013, updated by The Globe and Mail 2015 based on most recent Census figures

BABY AND ME: Socializing and learning

Diane Skinner

Sometimes a new parent can be overwhelmed, or need an opportunity to get out of the house and network with other parents. For over six years Family Ties, New Carlisle, has offered the Baby & Me program for new parents, mostly moms. The group is led by Amie Major and Carolyn Taylor.

The Baby & Me program helps to support parents of babies aged 0-12 months through sharing information and spending time together in an enjoyable setting, leading to the development of healthier babies. Parents gather to socialize, support one another, share information, and learn from professional resources. The group regularly goes on outings to nearby baby-friendly locations as well. The size of the group varies. Most of the moms and babes are from New Carlisle and surrounding areas.

One of the participants, Brandy Gallon has one child: Wesley McDavid, who is six months old. Brandy says "the best thing about being a mom is all the unconditional love you receive from a little human that lights up your world every day. The hardest part of being a mom is all the worries and stress that goes along with raising a child. You ask yourself things like am I raising him right and is he eating enough? Our life hasn't really changed with



Photo: courtesy of B. Gallon

Brandy Gallon, Jordan McDavid and their son Wesley McDavid. Brandy and Wesley attend the Baby & Me program at Family Ties, New Carlisle.

Wesley - it just takes a little more time to get ready to go anywhere and to do things but I wouldn't change it for the world. My one piece of advice to a new mom would be to love your baby unconditionally because you can't spoil your child on love." Brandy enjoys going to Baby & Me at Family Ties because "it is nice to sit down with other moms and just chat and be able to socialize and the babies can be with one another." Baby & Me is an important and valued program that supports parents in a meaningful way.



9.8 million

Canadian women are mothers

Statistics Canada 2011

79% of lone-parent families are headed by women

Statistics Canada 2011

444,700

The number of stay-at-home moms with at least one child under 16

Statistics Canada 2016



Carnation

The official flower of Mother's Day Anna Jarvis handed out carnations, her own mother's favorite flower, to churchgoers in the early years celebrating Mother's Day.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that at a regular council meeting that will be held on Tuesday, May 21, 2007, at 8 p.m., the Treasurer will deposit the financial report and the auditor's report for the year 2018.

GIVEN at Gaspé, May 8, 2019.

Isabelle Vézina,
Director of Legal Services and town clerk

Mother of Multiples: Dealing with the Unexpected

Diane Skinner

PORT DANIEL: - Sometimes life throws the unexpected at us. That is exactly what happened to Holly Smith-Couture and her husband Michael Couture. Five years ago they already had three sons, when Holly discovered that she was pregnant again. She found the side effects were very strong, unlike the pregnancies for her three sons. It felt different.

At about eight weeks into her pregnancy she was visiting her sister when the railing to her sister's deck let go and she fell so hard that she could not move or walk. Concerned that the baby might have been injured she made an appointment to see her doctor. Mike and Holly drove to the doctor's office and she went in while he waited outside in the truck. Holly chatted with the doctor and said that though the pregnancy was not planned that a family with four children would be terrific, but that would be all! The doctor replied jokingly, "Well better hope it's not twins"

The Unexpected

After the examination, the doctor turned the screen towards Holly and said, "I am sorry." The first thought Holly had was that the baby had been injured when she had fallen at her sister's house. That was not it at all. The doctor said, "Two sacs, two placentas, two heartbeats. You are definitely having two babies." Holly started to laugh and cry, but she wanted to let her husband know right away. So, she quickly took out her cell phone and texted Mike while he was sitting out in the truck. She recalls that she quickly texted, "Babe, there's two in there!" He texted back immediately, "Two in where? Are you ok? Why are there two doctors there with you?" She replied to him that it was two babies! They had an emotional drive home during which Mike commented, "At least one of those babies better be a girl." At around 20 weeks into her pregnancy, Holly went for a scan to see what gender the babies were. Mike and Holly were so excited to be blessed with not one, but two girls.

Carrying twins means that you are automatically considered higher risk, so she had to make more visits to the doctor. Holly says, "Most people were amazed at the size of my belly. I looked huge from probably 26 weeks on. At 29 weeks, I was measuring at full term." She

also told Spec that some people would say, "I'm glad it's you and not me!" She would politely reply by saying, "I'm glad it's me and not you, too."

The Births

Holly was induced at 38 weeks and she says that the twins honestly did not want to come out. Holly and Mike agree that Chandler Hospital was great. She was told that she would have to have the twins in the operating room, in case she needed an emergency C-section, however, that's not what happened. Holly started out in a hospital room and there was no time to take her to the operating room. So, she had her twins in her room surrounded by her husband Mike, three obstetricians, eight nurses, the anesthesiologist, and the x-ray machine because they had to make certain that the second baby did not flip and was still head down. The deliveries were quick and just six minutes apart. Lucy was Baby A and Leah was Baby B. Leah was born too fast after Lucy and did not have enough time for the contractions to take water off her lungs, Leah was sent to Quebec City by airplane almost immediately after delivery because of her breathing and because there is no neonatal unit which can that case in our area.

The stay in the hospital was about the same as Holly's other pregnancies, two days, but it was a difficult time because baby Leah was in Quebec City. Holly was only able to hold her for a few minutes before she was rushed to Quebec. Mike didn't even get a chance to hold her. Leah was in Quebec for 11 days. It was the right decision, as hard as that was on Holly and Mike, because her lungs had collapsed. It was an emotional time for the whole family but the medical staff set up videos for the family and they could watch Leah from the hospital at home for one hour a day. Holly recounts that she called Quebec a lot and they were probably tired of her by the end of those 11 days.

Finally Home

Did they find that once both girls were at home that it was a challenge? Holly says that the hardest part was nighttime. Her family would come often to visit and help. Her niece Emily would visit every day after school and even had a path worn down from Holly's house to hers. Mike left for work in Alberta when the girls were around 4 weeks and returned 4 months later so Holly had to



Holly Smith (centre) with her twin daughters Lucy (left) and Leah (right).



Lucy and Leah found comfort in each other after being reunited.

manage without Mike there. She is grateful that she had family close because it made life a little easier during the day.

Holly and Mike did not have to buy much for the new baby girls, because they had plenty of baby items from their three sons. They did have to buy another high chair and car seat. She comments that the number of diapers they went through was crazy. Clothes were not too difficult because the girls could share when they were very young.

Leah and Lucy have just

celebrated their fourth birthdays and Holly says it is fascinating to watch them. One is more dominant and will speak for her sister. Although now, the quieter twin will speak up and tell her sister to be quiet because she can speak for herself.

Holly says they are alike, but they are their own beings. She does not dress them alike just for that reason. Sometimes they argue but will stick up for each other if their brothers bother them. They have a special bond that Holly describes as "tag teaming." She feels

blessed that they will always have each other in times of need.

Advice

What advice do they have for other parents of twins? Holly says, "Be proud of yourself, regardless of messy hair days and a messy house because honestly none of that matters. It does not get easier, just different challenges, just as when you are raising one child. I recall that once they started to sleep through the night, then boom! Teething! Then when they started to crawl you need extra eyes. Then there is walking, biting, potty training and so on. My girls just turned four and every morning they wake up and ask for their brothers. Then they tell me and my husband that we are the best mommy and daddy in the world ever and give us kisses and hugs. We try our best to make them feel loved, wanted and that we are there for them when they need us."

When asked if there are any funny stories to share, Holly says that more than once she has been asked if the girls are twins and she replies yes and then is asked how old and she tells the person four. Then she is asked how old is the other one? Holly and Mike know how to laugh and look at the positive side of raising their daughters and sons. Ultimately this is the greatest quality you can possess when faced with any of life's unexpected challenges.

Forillon National Park Parc national Forillon

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Arianna's Story: An Allergy Journey

Diane Skinner

Every child is special. Every child is precious and parents try to do their best, but sometimes a parent must deal with the unexpected. This is what happened for Shannon Marsh. Her daughter, Arianna, aged 11, has a life-threatening allergy and dealing with this has become what Shannon terms their "allergy journey."

Shannon reflects that her daughter Madison, now 12 years old, had an intolerance to milk when she was a newborn and suffered from colic. This is no small thing to deal with, as any parent whose child has had colic can attest to. When Arianna was born in the hopes of preventing another baby with colic, Arianna was put on a soy milk formula immediately. Looking back, Shannon questions if a dairy free diet affected Arianna in some way.

Then one day an incident alerted the family to the fact that Arianna was dealing with something more serious than colic. When Arianna was about five months old, she was given a little taste of maple walnut ice cream on her lips. Within 30 seconds her face had puffed up and was full of hives. Their "allergy journey" had begun.

Arianna's pediatrician recommended extensive allergy testing when she was a one year old. The results were alarming. Arianna tested positive for allergies to dairy, eggs, tree nuts and peanuts. Later an allergy to penicillin was confirmed after being treated for an ear infection. Because her allergies were so severe her reactions are termed anaphylactic. Anaphylaxis is a serious allergic response that often includes hives, swelling, lowered blood pressure and, in severe cases, shock. If this is not treated immediately it can be fatal.

Shannon says that, "We spiralled into a world of fear because Arianna's allergies were so severe." It became Shannon's mission to educate not only herself but all the people around her about this condition. As time went by, Arianna developed more allergies and the list of danger foods became longer. Living her life, as all children do, she was invited to birthday parties, friends' homes, and camp, but the more Arianna was part of the bigger world, the more the stress increased on the family.



Arianna (right) and her sister Madison (left) promote food allergy awareness at a community event.

Planning ahead and informing other adults and friends about food allergies was a necessity. All the while, Shannon was busy educating herself and the rest of the family about food allergies.

Shannon tells Spec that she must always be prepared for the worst and be vigilant about what Arianna eats. Arianna carries her EpiPen wherever she goes. (An EpiPen is a hypodermic device that administers a dose of epinephrine as an emergency treatment for acute allergic reactions.) Community support has been amazing. Many places became peanut free and adults are supportive by watching what foods they offer her. Shannon mentions how wonderful her daycare provider, Sally Huntington, was when Arianna was aged one to four. Madison, her older sister, has been a huge support to Arianna at school by explaining to others about her sister's allergies. "Madison would be our eyes and ears when we couldn't be there," says Shannon. She is proud and excited to say that Arianna even attended camp, with the support of her grandmother, Shannon's mom. She would go to camp during meal times and help to prepare food. The camp even

adopted a nut free policy. Shannon would like to mention that her mom has been her rock through everything – calm and always there when needed. Her mom encourages her to remain positive.

Arianna is a happy and active young lady who discovered her love for baking at the age of 8. She develops her own recipes, created a cookbook that is allergy free and has entered a competition called the "Grand Défi." This is her own idea and she calls this project "Allergy Awareness."

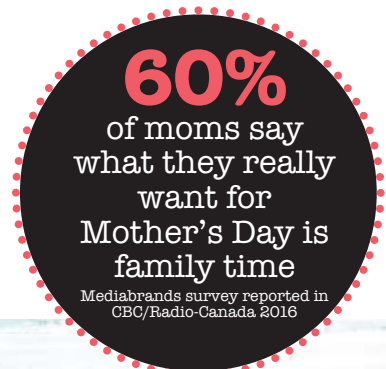
Arianna has annual testing and the family is currently awaiting the results for that testing to determine if there has been a decrease in her milk allergy. On the positive side, her allergy to eggs has decreased. There are more tests to come and this will likely always be part of Arianna's life. Shannon says, "This is our reality, and we have chosen to make it positive by educating, promoting and accepting what comes her way. She is a positive and smart girl

that amazes me every day. Her dream is to open a bakery that is safe for everyone, and I believe one day she will."

Shannon is very accepting of Arianna's unexpected challenge, but it is life's challenges that make us who we are and challenges make us stronger. Shannon's dream is that one day a cure for peanut allergies will be found. It is a constant fear for those affected by life threatening allergies and their families and friends.

Madison says, "My sister is so brave, but we are all in this together. She has us and we always make sure she is safe."

Giving Arianna the last word, "There are many kids with food allergies and I am not alone. I wish sometimes I didn't have them because I worry, but it could be worse, and I HATE allergy testing!"



Memories of Mother

Mothers should be loved and revered. When our mothers pass, the love we hold for them seems to intensify. Often, it is when they are gone and we look back that we realize how important and special that mother - child bond can be. For some, we gain insight about why our mothers were the way they were. We understand and, in some cases, forgive. After all, mothers are only human and, like most people, they did the best job they could at the time with the resources and knowledge they had. Some Gaspesians share their Memories of Mother.

Linda Drody – I loved my personal time with my mother: cooking and singing together, listening to her humorous sayings, stories of her life and lessons on being self-sufficient. She was a wonderful mother and friend. My mother was full of fun and loved to laugh. She had a gift of taking the most miserable story and turning it into a comedy. When she talked about her childhood and having no money to buy a necessity, she would say, "Poverty is not a disgrace but it's terribly unhandy." She brought laughter wherever she went. That's my mother.

Betty Anne Smollett – My mom's mother passed at the age of 36, during childbirth. That left my mom at the age of 6 to take care of her siblings, ages 8, 5, and 3. She had a hard life. My mother baked the best bread I have ever eaten, and every Christmas, she would make raisin bread with cinnamon in it. She never used a recipe book. I feel blessed that I did not have to experience what my mom endured as a child, because I truly believe it made her who she was. This would never happen in today's world.

Jessie Watt's Family - Attributes our amazing mother lived by: Strive for independence. Show respect and work hard. Be kind and caring. Treat others the way you want to be treated. Laugh often and always look at the bright side. Most importantly, make sure there is plenty of food for unexpected, welcomed guests! We miss you, Mom!

M. J. Connors - Lately, as I select family photos for the Les Souvenirs de Nouvelle website (150th anniversary of Nouvelle) I have been thinking a lot about my mom. In the photos of her, I see a woman standing tall and proud, a very strong woman! Her unforgettable advice to me when terrified of high

school bullies - "Remember, J. the bigger they are, the harder they fall." Only a mother would know the right words. She always did! Love you!

Anne MacWhirter – When I remember my Mom, I always think of her wisdom, kind and generous spirit and her ability to make everyone she met feel special. Her hospitality was unequalled except perhaps by her amazing cooking, involving lots of tasty, but maybe not so healthy, ingredients. One grandchild said that if Grandma could have put another skin on a chicken, she would.

Lynden Bechervaise – My mother, Evelyne Pearl Hall Bechervaise, was an extremely kind and giving person. She would never speak bad of anyone. She regularly nursed folks in their homes and was a regular medical adviser to the community. (She graduated from Soldiers' Memorial Hospital in Campbellton.) In the 40s, during the war, she started a Girl Guide Troop, and took the girls to a summer camp at Cape Cove. Her church was very important to her and so were events at the Parish Hall.

- Diane Skinner

WHY I LOVE MY

MOM

I love my mum like the big blue sky.
I love my mum like the deep blue ocean.
I love my mum like the blueberries I eat.
I love my mum like the blue jays in the sky.
I love my mum like my big blue eyes.
I love my mum like the color blue in the rainbow.
*Alyssa Keating, Grade 3,
Grosse Ile School, Teacher: Dorothy Taker*

Mom I love you the pinkest.
I love you more than my favourite colour pink.
I love you more than my pink Harry Potter sweater.
I love you more than my pink pencil case I use every day.
I love you more than the pink bleeding hearts you plant every year.
I love you more than the pink blanket I use every day.
I love you more than the pink six foot charger I use every night.
I love you more than the pink sneakers I use every day.
I love you like the pink roses.
I love you more than the pink pedal bike I use.
I love you more than my nail polish.
Mom I love you the pinkest.
*Love, McKayla, Grade 6
Grosse Ile School, Teacher: Dorothy Taker*

I love my mom because she is the one that gives me food every day and shelter too.
I love her because whenever I get sick she stays with me until I get better.
I love her because we always go to Grindstone and on trips together.
I love her like the birds love the sky.
I love her like the animals love the ground.
*Mom, I love you. Bradley, Grade 5
Grosse Ile School, Teacher: Dorothy Taker*

I love my mom because she loves me. I love my mom because she cares for me. I love my mom because she is there for me. I love my mom because she encourages me. I love my mom because she plays with me. I love my mom because she is considerate. I love my mom because she is kind. I love my mom because she keeps me in line. I love my mom because she helps me when I need help. I love my mom beyond words.
*Amelia, Grade 6,
Grosse Ile School, Teacher: Dorothy Taker*

I love my mom because she makes us our favorite breakfast on Sunday. She takes care of me when I'm sick. She supports me. She encourages me when I go to volleyball tournaments. Every time we play sports she always pushes me to do my best. If we lose she will say, "Did you have fun?" She makes me laugh. I love my mom because she is competitive, kind, funny, and generous. I love my mom to the moon and back.
*Serena, Grade 6
Grosse Ile School, Teacher: Dorothy Taker*

She cooks for me and her food is amazing, especially macaroni and lasagna. Also I love her for everything she did for me especially when she got my PlayStation. I love my mom just like my favorite colour lime green. I also love her even though she can be a pain sometimes. I also love her because she helps me get through rough times.
I love you, Mom, always and forever.
*Kalub Lohnes, Grade 6
Grosse Ile School, Teacher: Dorothy Taker*

Mom I love you the bluest. I love you more than the nice water at the beach. I love you more than my blue lead pencil at school. I love you more than the beautiful blue sky. I love you more than my blue pencil case. I love you more than my blue Under Armour sweater. I love you more than the blueberries I eat. Mom I love you the bluest.
*Carson, Grade 4,
Grosse Ile School, Teacher: Dorothy Taker*

Dear Mom, I love you the reddest. I love you more than the red roses in the summer. I love you more than my red pencil I write with at school. I love you more than my soft red blanket I cover up with. I love you more than the red crayon I colour hearts with. I love you more than the red strawberries I eat in the morning. I love you more than my red hand sanitizer that cleans my hands.
Mom I love you the reddest.
*Madison, Grade 6
Grosse Ile School, Teacher: Dorothy Taker*

I love my mother because she is my biggest supporter whether it's with tests, exams and sports. She also has my back 110%. I love my mom because she always takes care of me when I am sick. She gets my medicine and hugs me tight. I love my mom because she cooks the best food ever and makes yummiest sweets. My mom watches movies with me and stays up late. My mom is the best person in the world, I love my mom sooooo much. I'll love you forever, I'll like you for always as long as I'm living my mommy you'll be.
*Kimberly Pealey, Grade 6
Grosse Ile School, Teacher: Dorothy Taker*

I love my mom because she doesn't complain if I watch anime. Because she buys me books and she actually listens to what I have to say. I love that she isn't depressing and actually believes that I can do anything if I really try. I love her cooking. I love that she doesn't make fun of me (sometimes) and makes everything funny. I love that she spoils me because I'm her youngest child. She actually reads my stories I write and that makes me happy. Sometimes she can get annoying and be a pain but I still love her.
*Paige, Grade 6
Grosse Ile School, Teacher: Dorothy Taker*

My mom carried me for nine months. She spoils me by buying me ice-cap and coffee. Sometimes, I bake with my mom. She makes a very nice crusted pizza with cheese, pepperoni, mushrooms and peppers with sausage on top. We go to the beach in the summer to swim. My mom lets me do what I want to as long as I don't burn the house or shed down.
*Landon, Grade 6
Shigawake Port Daniel School*

My mom gave me life and she's been my father's wife. I gave her a hug and a Freddy Krueger mug. I love her so much, since her first touch. I give my love and all of the above.
*Arianna Major, Grade 6
Shigawake Port Daniel School*

She gives me permission to play on my tablet. She is funny. She always takes good care of me and gives me a hug and kiss when I go to bed. She lets my best friend come over to play at the house. She makes me my favourite pizza. I love my mom.
*Eathen Merrick, Grade 5
Shigawake Port Daniel School*

My mom spoils me. She brought me to Las Vegas for my sister's wedding. We might go to Australia or Hawaii. She gets me PlayStation cards. She makes food and brings it to me. She said I'm allowed to eat in my room. She's really kind, but sometimes I can get on her bad side.
*Nathan, Grade 5
Shigawake Port Daniel School*

One of the reasons I love my mom is because she gave me an unusual name. She spoils me by giving me love, food, clothes and a bed. Half the time she does goofy things to make everyone in the family laugh. I love that she works in my school. She always prepares my lunch for me. She is the best, most loving and kindest mom in the world.
*Shaelyn Smith, Grade 5
Shigawake Port Daniel School*

My mom is the best mom because she shows me love. She takes me places to play and brings me to school because I don't like the bus. Mom brought me an unusual gift. I asked for a gallon of glue to make slime, also a thing of Tide to activate the slime.
She knows me really well.
*Rebecca, Grade 5,
Shigawake Port Daniel School*

My mom is the best one in the world because she is always doing things for me. She does my laundry and cooks supper every day. She buys me everything I want. I think I'm a little spoiled sometimes. I have three pets for now, but I want more. I wouldn't trade my mom for anything in the world.
*Lacey, Grade 5
Shigawake Port Daniel School*

Dear Mom, I'm so happy you gave birth to me. I like it when you read to me. I'm happy that you named me Molly. I like it when you watch TV with me. Mom, you always make delicious food for me. I know you love me because you hug and kiss me. Thank you for taking care of me.
*Molly, Grade 6
Shigawake Port Daniel School*

My mom is the best because she carried me for a long time and gave me a good name. I like everything she cooks for me. Sometimes I help her make cookies by mixing the ingredients. Mom takes me shopping at Canadian Tire and I sometimes buy a new knife or a new pair of work gloves.
*Wyatt Major, Grade 5,
Shigawake Port Daniel School*

I love my mother so much. She is my hero. She gave me life. She cheers me up when I'm sad. She takes me shopping and lets me choose my own clothes. She does my hair all nice for school. She gives me good advice for things that happen at school. She tells me to be there for my brother, and soon I'll be there for my sister too. She makes the most delicious meals. She will always be my hero.
*Zoey A., Grade 6
Shigawake Port Daniel School*

She gives me love and great food! She puts clothes on my back and she takes good care of me. She is a great mother. She always lights up my day!
*Love, Nathan, Grade 4
Shigawake Port Daniel School, Teacher: Mr. Prince*

She buys what I like and what I need (presents too). She cooks for me when I'm hungry. She takes me swimming, shopping and visiting. She takes me to restaurants for a treat.
*Leamon, Grade 3
Shigawake Port Daniel School, Teacher: Mr. Prince*

She is my mom. She is the best mom ever. She is the best cook ever!
*Love, William Wylie, Grade 3
Shigawake Port Daniel School, Teacher: Mr. Prince*

She is a very good cook! She makes good treats like peanut butter balls and peanut butter cups. I love my mom so much. My mom is also very good at making cakes – yummy!! And, almost every time I ask her for something I get it even though I begged her!
*Love, Brady Major, Grade 3/4
Shigawake Port Daniel School, Teacher: Mr. Prince*

Nanny gives me good food all the time, especially when I get home from school. She even gives me dessert too! Nanny loves me so much that Nanny even gets me a lot of treats too.
*Love, RJ, Grade 4
Shigawake Port Daniel School, Teacher: Mr. Prince*

She does everything for me. She is a great cook! She buys me what I need plus some extra things like a tablet. She allows me on my games sometimes and my mom is an angel!
*Love, Nicholas McWhirter, Grade 3,
Shigawake Port Daniel School, Teacher: Mr. Prince*

She is kind, smart and pretty. She loves me. She takes good care of me and she helps me a lot. She buys me lots of chocolate bars too!
She lets me have friends over sometimes.
*Matthew Prince, Grade 4
Shigawake Port Daniel School, Teacher: Mr. Prince*

She is kind and she puts me in my right spot when I'm being bad!
*Emilie Sullivan, Grade 4
Shigawake Port Daniel School, Teacher: Mr. Prince*

She braids my hair perfectly! She is the best cook in the universe. She is the best mom ever and she buys me the clothes I need!
*Love, Alexia Cormier, Grade 3
Shigawake Port Daniel School, Teacher: Mr. Prince*

She is the best cook on Earth! She is very loving and sweet but, most of all she gave birth to me and my siblings and that is the best thing about her – being an extraordinary mother!
*Samantha Major, Grade 4
Shigawake Port Daniel School, Teacher: Mr. Prince*

I love my mom because she's always there for me whenever I'm sick or need her. I also love her because she gives great big hugs! She makes me breakfast. She never ever leaves me. She's awesome and super funny!
*Addisyn Renouf, Grade 3
Shigawake Port Daniel School, Teacher: Mr. Prince*

I love my mother because she loves me a lot. She gives me hugs all the time and kisses too!
*Sidney Benwell, Grade 4
Shigawake Port Daniel School, Teacher: Mr. Prince*

She is as sweet as sugar and as nice as an angel. She looks at me with sparkling eyes and the best thing about her is when she kisses me because it makes me forget all my pain. When she hugs me it feels like I'm in Heaven. She's better than any other mother. She is extraordinary!
*Connor Burton, Grade 3
Shigawake Port Daniel School, Teacher: Mr. Prince*

"I love my nanny because my nanny used to buy Savy and I candy. Nanny brought us other places. Nanny brought us to parks, to the pool and my aunt Tiffany's."
*Felicia, Grade 3
Shigawake Port Daniel School, Teacher: Mr. Garrett*

WHY I LOVE MY

MOM

My mom is fun. She skis with me. She plays soccer with me but I'm teaching Mom how to play soccer. She is fun to talk to and we love to watch movies together. We have fun when we play together and that why I love my mom so much.

*Oliver Kinghorn, Grade 5,
Belle Anse School, Teacher: Mr. Mark*

I love my mom because she always supports me in any way possible and Mom loves to play with me all the time. Mom will do anything to help me with lots of things. Thank you for raising me to be a good boy.

*Love Connor Boyle, Grade 5,
Belle Anse School, Teacher: Mr. Mark*

Without my mom I would not be the person I am today. She always tries to support all the decisions I make. She is an amazing artist. One day I hope I am as good as her.

I love my mom and I couldn't imagine a world without her.

*Sara Dyck, Grade 6,
Belle Anse School, Teacher: Mr. Mark*

She is beautiful, always happy and is always full of joy. She is kind to me and when I want to go on the rollercoaster but at the same time I don't want to go on the rollercoaster. She encourages me to do the rollercoaster.

My mom encourages me to follow my dream job and I really hope it works.

*My mom is the best mom in the world.
Rylan Lejeune, Grade 5,
Belle Anse School, Teacher: Mr. Mark*

I love my mom because she brought me into this life and I feel that I can talk and I trust her. I feel safe with her and I feel I can talk to her. She also helps me with any work or if I need to study. She is always there for me and she even tries to learn about sports because she knows I like sports.

*Anthony P. Chicoine, Grade 5,
Belle Anse School, Teacher: Mr. Mark*

I love my mom because she is the only reason I am here right now. She gave birth to me and every time I get sick or hurt she is worried about me and makes sure I feel better. Without my mom I would have died because she buys my food, bought my house and makes sure I'm healthy. She is the only thing keeping me together.

(Also I think I'm her favourite)

*Madison Touzel, Grade 5,
Belle Anse School, Teacher: Mr. Mark*

She gets me lots of stuff but thanks to her I am alive and I like helping her. I do complain when I have to do the dishwasher. Then she says she will. Then I do it but I still love her. She does a lot for me and I try to do lots for her but it doesn't feel like I do enough for her.

*Jesse Laflamme, Grade 5,
Belle Anse School, Teacher: Mr. Mark*

She takes care of me, feeds me, she loves me and she buys stuff for me. I play board games and watch tv with her. She raised me. She is really nice and that is why I love my mom.

*Mathew Chicoine, Grade 4,
Belle Anse School, Teacher: Mr. Mark*

I love my mom because she is a really good teacher. When I'm having trouble with my homework, she is always there to help and sometimes my dad. My mom also helps me sometimes at school. I love my mom even when we read books together but when she gets mad at me it does not make me hate her. I still love my mom.

*Dylan Lemieux, Grade 4,
Belle Anse School, Teacher: Mr. Mark*

I love my mom because she is so positive and kind. She makes the best of things. She is always talking about health and the way we eat. My mom is just so amazing. She is pretty and thinks of people. She makes everyone feel good and safe. She is the best mom ever. She is very funny. She always makes me feel good.

*Cole Colin Lucas, Grade 4,
Belle Anse School, Teacher: Mr. Mark*

She's always been there for me. She's taught me everything I know and I don't know what I'd do without her here for me. I'm so thankful for my mom and how smart she is, and how she taught me to never give up and keep doing what I love. I am so happy to have her here with me. xoxo

*Caeley Chicoine, Grade 6,
Belle Anse School, Teacher: Mr. Mark*

She helps me pursue my dream of being a professional hockey player. She helps me with my schoolwork. She encourages me with my hockey and the other things I want to be. She also helps me understand the other things in life as I grow up.

*Wyatt Lemieux, Grade 6,
Belle Anse School, Teacher: Mr. Mark*

I love my mom because she is strong. She takes care of two kids and is soon going to own a quarter of Chez Ron. She is amazing even though she has some insane rules. She still lets me walk alone to the mailbox and back. She is fun. When my little brother leaves, me and my mom start a movie and finish it during the week.

She also gave me life.

*Alyssa Perron Grade 5,
Belle Anse School, Teacher: Mr. Mark*

She's kind, she's funny, she's a loving person, she's beautiful and she's very helpful and she does everything for me. If it weren't for my mom I wouldn't be here today on this earth and I'm very thankful to have a mom, especially one like mine.

*Robyn Syvret, Grade 5,
Belle Anse School, Teacher: Mr. Mark*

She gives me a home, food, water and things to do. She's there for me when I need her.

*Chase Quirion, Grade 6,
Belle Anse School, Teacher: Mr. Mark*

She helps me with my homework. She is always nice to me. She makes us dinner and she is forgiving. My mom likes to spoil us and she is always there for me. Her food is great! She is very crafty and she is amazing.

*Lucas Calvin Mission, Grade 6,
Belle Anse School, Teacher: Mr. Mark*

I love my mom because she is awesome and cool. She cooks good and lets me cook with her. When I am sick she cooks me chicken noodle soup. When I fall down she puts a band-aid on. I love my mom because she gave me a baby sister.

*Kendall Rehel, Grade 4,
Belle Anse School, Teacher: Mr. Mark*

She makes Easter cookies even when it's not Easter. She plays soccer with me. She helps me clean my room. She buys me stuff. She watches movies with me.

*Cheyenne Emily Wylie, Grade 4,
Belle Anse School, Teacher: Mr. Mark*

I love my mom because she helps me with my homework. She is always with me if I get hurt. My mom is nice to me. She is also brave. She is beautiful. Once I couldn't do my homework because I didn't know what to do and she helped me. She spends a lot of time with me. She is forgiving. Her food is delicious. She does this glass thing. It's really cool.

*Nathan Mercier Mission, Grade 4,
Belle Anse School, Teacher: Mr. Mark*



*Lucilla, 1 1/2, Shigawake
Family Ties*

*Isabella, 2,
New Carlisle
Family Ties*

*London, 3,
Paspebiac
Family Ties*

*Karlee, 3, New Carlisle
Family Ties*

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

Reconciliation is important, Aries. That's especially so if you know you have been in the wrong. Others will respect you much more for your ability to make up and move on.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

It's time to showcase all of your talents to an authority figure who can push you toward success, Taurus. All you need is a little reinforcement.

GEMINI – May 22/June 21

Fresh experiences are on the way, and you are craving an opportunity to broaden your horizons, Gemini. Sign up for classes or get a new hobby to open your eyes to new things.

CANCER – June 22/July 22

Sharing deep feelings with others can be healing, Cancer. Just be sure to choose your confidantes wisely, as the right mentor can make all the difference.



LEO – July 23/Aug 23

Spending quality time with a particular person who is close to you will brighten your week, Leo. It's just the change of pace you need to put a smile on your face.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

You are more than willing to take on extra work that needs to be done to get a project completed, Virgo. Your team-first attitude is not going unnoticed or unappreciated.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Creative things catch your eye this week, Libra. Make it a point to stroll through an art gallery or catch a foreign film. Your appreciation for the arts will only grow.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Calling your own shots is perfect

for you. The idea of working independently is very attractive to you this week. Give it some thought.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21
Hobbies and leisure time activities with friends will provide a welcome break from work, Sagittarius. Use these opportunities to reconnect with people you care about.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, you are considering a financial undertaking that takes you out of your comfort zone. Don't hesitate, as there's no reward without a little risk.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18
Speaking your mind is par for the course, as Aquarians tend to be opinionated. You have the ability to win over others without making them feel pressured in any way.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
Enjoy a few hours of hibernation this week, Pisces. Expect to feel recharged in no time. Relaxation for two also can fit the bill.

Go ahead...play with your food



Avignon MRC prepares by-law to protect parts of territory against mining

Gilles Gagné

POINTE-À-LA-CROIX: – The Avignon MRC Council of Mayors adopted on April 9 a project that will eventually identify the parts of its territory that will be withdrawn from mining activities.

Avignon will become one of the first MRCs in Quebec to take advantage of a law that confers those MRCs the right to adequately protect some parts of their territories from mining ventures.

The mayors have identified a set of norms and pinpointed

signed with Quebec's Forest, Wildlife and Parks Department places where extensive recreational activities take place, territories where conservation activities are held, as well as all the artesian wells and water sources, including a sufficient buffer perimeter.

The bylaw project will be tabled for analysis by the Quebec government.

"We think that we respect the rules put in place by the Quebec government. I have no idea about the time it will take (for the authorities to come back to the MRC)," says Avi-

our bylaw or not. If they don't react within 60 days, it is like approving it," explains Mr. Bernatchez.

The mining bylaw is a rehearsal for an oil and gas exploration bylaw that should be assessed by the MRCs sometime in 2019, once the Quebec government clearly defines what the municipalities can

and cannot do while protecting some parts of their territory.

"I expect something relatively similar to the mining bylaw. It should be much easier for us to prepare the oil bylaw because the research is already done. The mining bylaw project required months of work," says Gaétan

Bernatchez.

While waiting for the assessment to be carried out by the government, the MRC has asked the Department of Natural Resources to suspend temporarily all the mining claims located in the territories likely to be protected by the bylaw. That request has been in effect since December 13, 2018.



Photo: G. Gagné

Guy Gallant

a number of areas where mining will be forbidden. Those zones include a buffer zone of one kilometre around all the urbanized perimeters of the MRC.

Outside urbanized areas, all the sets of at least five premises with a house on each of them will be protected by a buffer zone of 600 metres.

The Avignon MRC will also protect from mining activities all the pieces of land that bear a historical, cultural or heritage value, as well as scenery with cultural and heritage value.

The eventual bylaw will also protect agricultural land, maple groves on public land that are bound by a lease

gnon MRC prefect Guy Gallant.

Most of the Avignon MRC is under oil and gas exploration claims, but the number of mining claims is limited.

"We will soon have a more accurate idea about the claims that will be renewed or that have already been renewed," adds Mr. Gallant. That update will come from the Department of Natural Resources.

Avignon MRC director general Gaétan Bernatchez points out that the bylaw will be adopted in June, whether the Quebec government has approved the bylaw project or not.

"Then, the government will have 60 days to react to



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Announcements...



Obituaries



HOWATSON: Shirley Sylvia Cormier

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Shirley Sylvia Cormier Howatson who passed away on February 2, 2019, at the hospital in Rocky Mountain House, Alberta. The family would like to thank Dr. Jean Peloquin and the hospital staff for taking care of her. She lost her battle to cancer so any donations please make to the cancer society. There will be a celebration of her life held at a later date and time.



MILLER: Merle

February 20, 1922 – April 24, 2019

Mrs. Merle Miller passed away peacefully at the age of 97 on April 24, 2019. She was predeceased by her husband Mr. Elvin Coffin and her daughter Flo. Left to mourn are her children: Connie and Morris; her grandchildren: Cindy (Scott), Lisa (Jeff), Steven (Melanie), Brandon (Mary Kay); her great-grandchildren: Alyssa, Nicholas, Dillon, Keira, Kolby, Sam; her great-great-grandchildren: Aiden, Logan; her sister: Lois (Ev); nieces; nephews; and many other family members and friends.

Visitation was held at the Funeral Home Valère Fortin in Gaspé on April 25, 2019. The funeral service was held at the funeral home on April 26, 2019. Interment took place at St-James' Cemetery in Wakeham.

Donations can be made in memory of Mrs. Merle Miller Coffin to the Breast Cancer Society or the Fondation Hôtel-Dieu de Gaspé.

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In Memory



JOSEPH: Girard

1957-2016

*We thought of you today
But that is nothing new.
We thought about you yesterday
And days before that too.
We think of you in silence.
We often speak your name.
Now all we have are memories
And your picture in a frame.
Your memory is our keepsake
With which we never part.
God has you in His keeping.
We have you in our hearts.*

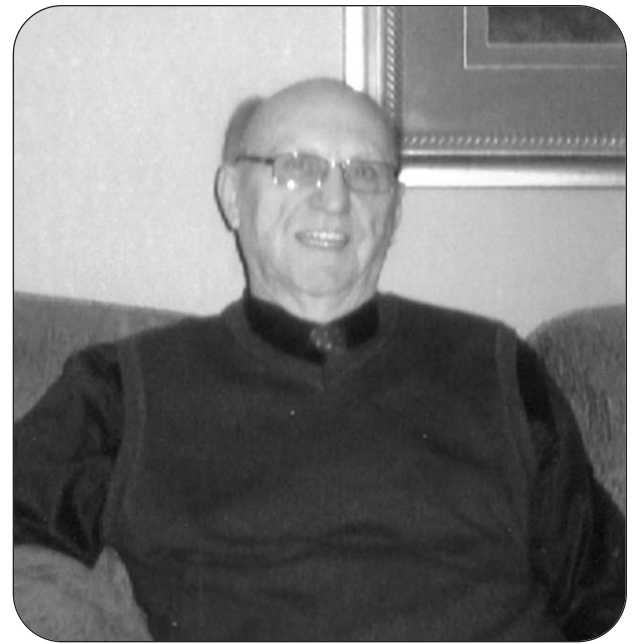
Greatly loved and sadly missed by your parents, brothers and sisters.

LANGLOIS: Leonard

In loving memory of a loving husband and grandfather who passed away March 10, 1998.

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

Love and miss you. Forever in our hearts, Iona and family.



PATTERSON: Francis

April 25, 1934 to May 6, 2018

One year has passed. You are loved and missed every day and forever in our hearts.

*In a little country graveyard
Where the gentle breezes blow
Lies the one we love so dearly
And lost one year ago.
To your place of rest we travel
And say a silent prayer
But no one knows the heartache
As we turn and leave you there.
Time goes on with many changes:
Joy and sorrow, smiles and tears,
But your memory we will always cherish
With the passing of the years.*

Blenda, Everett and Claire, Anthony and Emma and Darren.

ROBERTS: Earl and Beatrice

In loving memory of Mum and Dad. Dad, April 6, 2000, and Mum, February 16, 2003.

*Those we hold dear never leave us.
They live on in kindness they showed,
The examples they set,
And the love they brought into our lives.*

Loved and missed, Iona and family.

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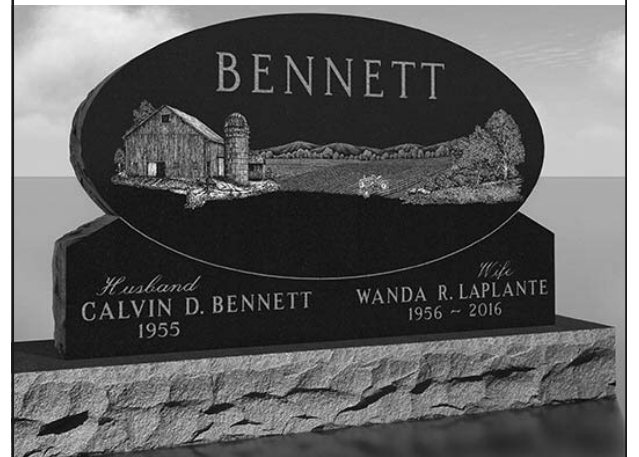
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The applicant must include in their application the following items:

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The transcripts must show improvement.

Proof of involvement in community volunteer activities.
This would include letters from community leaders attesting to community volunteer work over the last three years.

Acceptance letter from the post-secondary institution you will be attending.

Applicants failing to provide **ALL** of the above mentioned items will be disqualified.

Student's address must match the address of an active Spec Subscriber.

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May 24, 2019 at 4 p.m.**

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