

## WOLFY 132: Gaspesian Musician Steven McGie

Diane Skinner

EDMONTON: - The Gaspé has produced, and continues to do so, many talented musicians including Steven McGie who is known musically as WOLFY or WOLFY 132 on Instagram and YouTube.

The artist uses WOLFY132, a tribute to the highway that circles around the Gaspé Peninsula, on YouTube and Instagram because there are so many others who use WOLFY as their name.

Steven was born in Montreal and moved to Hope Town when he was five years old. He still has several relatives that live on the Coast.

Nearly 20 years ago he decided to move to Edmonton for work. He had some uncles living there and working in scaffolding, so Steven decided that would be the line of work he would get into.

Steven tells Spec that he has loved music ever since he can remember. He recalls his mom playing the guitar in the kitchen with her friends. Steven plays mostly R 'n B right now but is not limited to one genre. He is inspired by Elvis, Conway Twitty and Michael Jackson, among others.

Steven writes most of his lyrics at home in his spare time with the help of his spouse Natalie who is also from the Gaspé.

They buy his instrumentals online from several different producers. Steven just finished his first show for RAWARTISTS. He has a second show on July 18 in



WOLFY performing at the RAWARTIST show at the Union Hall Bar in Edmonton on June 6, 2019.

Calgary. He is also busy booking more shows and festivals.

Steven's favourite song is his first single, *Out the Door* - "Driver was there we didn't even care. We were doing our thing like he wasn't even there. I was asking about you and where you call home and all along the metre kept running on and on."

Steven gets most of the covers for his singles designed by a graphic artist in the States, who is a "friend of a friend."

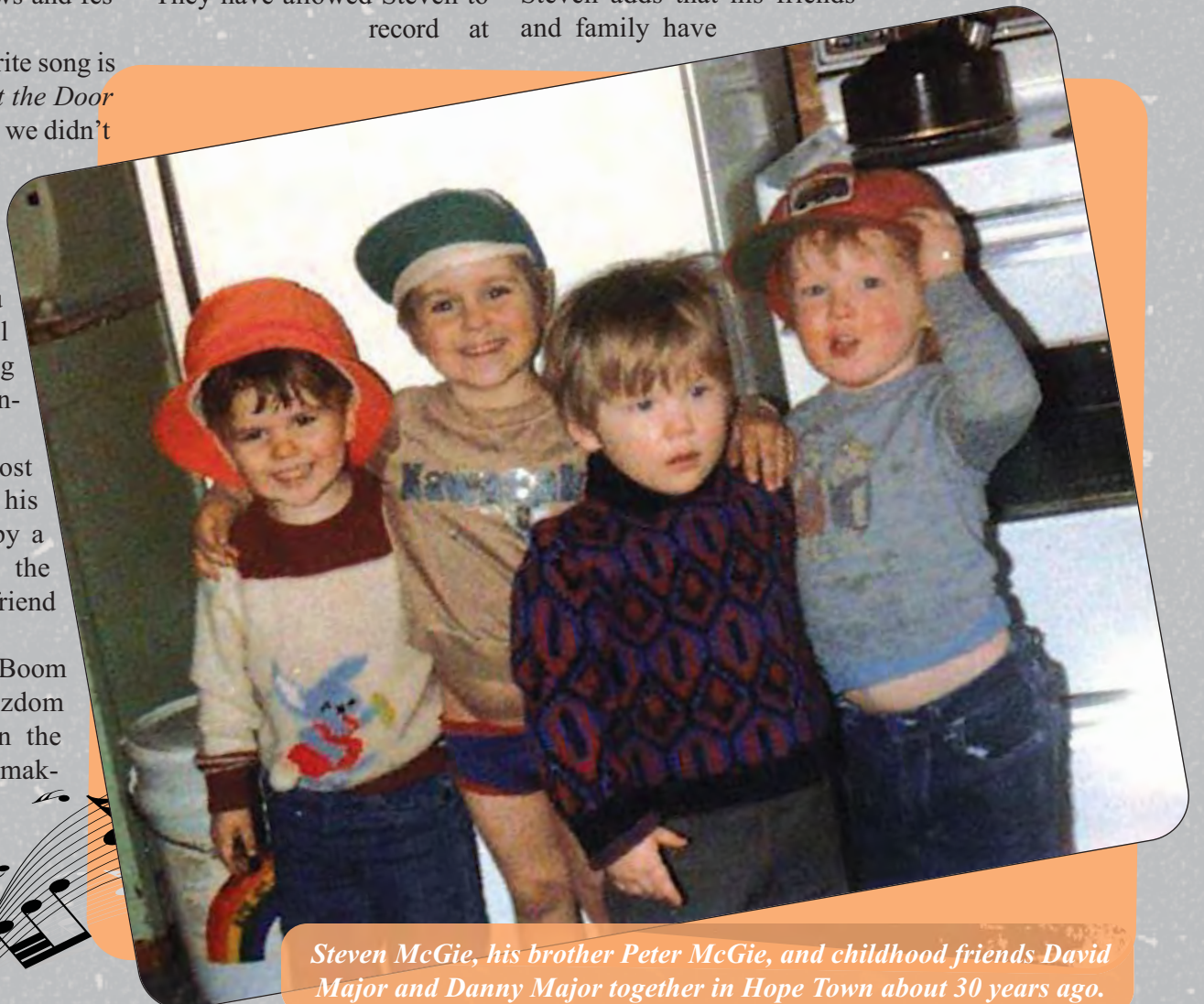
His producer, Boom and his team Wizdom Family, have been the most involved in mak-

ing his music come to life. They have allowed Steven to record at their studio in Edmonton. Steven adds that his friends and family have

been very supportive as well. He tells us that there are so many talented musicians and countless musical festivals on the Gaspé Coast and that this played a crucial part in his musical career.

If you want to enjoy Steven's music, go to his YouTube page WOLFY132. Further, his singles are available on all music platforms.

Steven a.k.a. WOLFY has some inspiring final words for Spec readers. "I am so proud of Gaspesians as a whole. We are so resilient, generous, kind and a lighthearted people - so keep being that way! Work hard and play hard and if you're passionate about something, go for it! Don't be scared to fail and when you've worked hard towards your goal and start to receive results - it's the best feeling ever."



Steven McGie, his brother Peter McGie, and childhood friends David Major and Danny Major together in Hope Town about 30 years ago.



# Port of Chandler has real potential

Gilles Gagné

CHANDLER: – Chandler's commercial wharf possesses real potential for development, especially for the unloading of dry bulk cargo, according to a business plan prepared over recent months by an Ontario consulting firm for the Town of Chandler. The traffic could reach an interval between 140,000 and 275,000 metric tonnes annually.

Prepared by CPCS, a firm based in Ottawa, the business plan identifies several types of bulk cargo that could be unloaded in Chandler, like bauxite, iron oxide, petroleum coke and de-icing salt for the roads. A potential user of those materials is known to CPCS, but officials of that firm, of the Town of Chandler and of that user are tied by a confidentiality agreement.

However, it is well-known publicly that McInnis Cement, the owner of the Port Daniel cement plant, represents a major user of bauxite, iron oxide and petroleum coke. The distance between Chandler and Port Daniel is only 30 kilometres.

"The numbers of 140,000 to 275,000 tonnes are realistic. We did not want to create false hope. It is more than the 100,000 tonnes that were transiting during the Gaspesia (paper) mill era, while about 50,000 tonnes were shipped out and 50,000 tonnes were coming in. It is also more than the ports of Gaspé, Matane and Gros-Cacouna," explains Nicolas Parent, senior consultant for CPCS.

Chandler's commercial wharf was closed in September 2016 by its owner, the federal Department of Transport, which had not maintained it to ensure its future even though the CTMA Vacancier cruise ship called there 30 times every summer.

At the time, Transport Canada had already put Chandler on a list of excess commercial wharves slated to be transferred to another entity or simply abandoned. The Town of Chandler expressed interest in saving its commercial wharf. The CPCS study is funded by Transport Canada.

Even if the name of McInnis Cement is never mentioned by Nicolas Parent of CPCS, the spokespersons of the cement plant have already mentioned publicly that there is a shortage of storage space at the Port Daniel plant.

McInnis Cement must cur-



Consultant Bruno Gagnon, Mayor Louisette Langlois, municipal coordinator Benoit Moreau and consultant Nicolas Parent (in the back) presented the Port of Chandler business plan to the public on June 20.

Photo: G. Gagné

rently use the port of Belledune, New Brunswick, to make up for that lack of storage space in Port Daniel, however, the trucking distance between Belledune and Port Daniel represents 270 kilometres, nine times the distance between Chandler and Port Daniel. McInnis Cement also uses barges to bring in some input from Belledune but that is longer too, and not feasible during the winter months.

Nicolas Parent points out that the refecton of the Chandler wharf will be a major undertaking.

"The wharf has reached the end of its useful life. Concrete is delaminated and the steel armour is finished. According to a study that remains to be completed, putting it back in shape would cost \$37.6 million. That whole amount is admissible for the wharf transfer program of Transport Canada. The staff of that department doesn't want to carry out the refecton work and then transfer the wharf. They want to sign a cheque to the taker," explains Mr. Parent.

The current length of the wharf would be maintained in the CPCS scenario but the berthing space would be relocated slightly towards the inside, so to use the existing wharf as a breakwater, a useful precaution since the storms are getting stronger over recent

years.

"Water depth is presently 11 metres. If we could increase it to 13 metres, ships of 200 to 225 metres could moor here. We would greet those ships by installing dolphins, structures that are separate from the main wharf but allowing to tie up the part of the ship that is longer than that wharf," explains Nicolas Parent.

The wharf and the space required to unload the ships would be installed on piles. The storage space would be located on the shore, close to the wharf. A set of conveyors would be used between the two points. Situated along the Gaspé to Matapedia railway, those pieces of land have already been bought by the Town of Chandler, "a smart move," adds the consultant.

The proximity of the railway would facilitate the hauling of bulk cargo between Chandler and Port Daniel. The cement plant is also located along the railroad, which will be functional in that area by the summer or fall of 2021.

"The feasibility study of CPCs, which will include the engineering plans, should be ready at the end of July or the beginning of August," emphasizes Nicolas Parent.

Another consultant, Bruno Gagnon, who is accompanying the Town of Chandler in the steps leading to an eventual

property transfer of the wharf, points out that the municipal administration will need the approval of Quebec's Department of Municipal Affairs before initiating negotiations with Transport Canada pertaining to the amount of money likely to be handed out for the reconstruction of the wharf.

"We are reaching the final stage. They (the federal civil servants) will finalize it (the agreement). They will be forced to ask for a supplemental budgetary envelope, which could slightly delay the agreement. They will not make you work and then tell you that there is no budget," says Mr. Gagnon.

According to the CPCS business plan, the Town of Chandler, or the administration body that will be created to

manage the port, could make an operational surplus varying between \$100,000 and \$500,000 per year through handling between 140,000 and 275,000 tonnes of bulk cargo.

"If the maintenance is included in the equation, that operational surplus will be brought down near zero, or there will be a slight surplus. The maintenance cost can be lowered though because there is a second budgetary envelope for that (at Transport Canada) for the wharf maintenance over 25 years and that can be negotiated too. The project must be seen like a capital management initiative," explains Nicolas Parent.

Chandler mayor Louisette Langlois points out that the Town of Chandler "wants to acquire the wharf because we can't afford losing such a developmental tool. (...) If the Quebec government sees an opportunity to integrate Chandler to the Transport Québec network that it is currently acquiring from Transport Canada, we will not object," she says.

Transport Québec has effectively decided to acquire four Eastern Quebec ports considered important for regional development, including Gaspé, Matane, Rimouski and Gros-Cacouna near Rivière-du-Loup.

The rejuvenation of the Chandler wharf for bulk cargo would create one administrative position and nine other jobs.



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# Hong Kong Association presents plaques to Legions

Cynthia Dow

CASCAPEDIA: - On Sunday, June 23, Legion President Donna Fallow welcomed Lucette Mailloux-Muir of the Hong Kong Veterans' Commemorative Association to Branch 172 in Cascapedia – St-Jules to present a plaque outlining the history of the Royal Rifles in Hong Kong.

The plaques are to be delivered to every Legion along the Coast, and another will be hung in the Chaleur Bay Military Museum in New Richmond.

Mayor Gaétan Boudreau thanked the one veteran on hand, 97-year-old Philip Doddridge, for his service: "We appreciate everything you did. It is because of you that people of my generation have not been through another World War."

Also on hand were District Commander Ross Smith, for-

mer District Commander Kay Walker, and war historian Tom Eden. The latter recounted some of the story of the Royal Rifles Regiment, which came recruiting in the Gaspé area during the summer of 1940. At that time 230 signed up: English, French and Mi'gmaq men from all along the Coast.

In total 1,976 Canadian soldiers tried to defend Hong Kong "...outmanned, outgunned, without naval, artillery or air support," Tom noted. By the end of the Battle on Christmas Day 1941, 290 had been killed outright, including ten from the New Richmond area.

The remaining soldiers were POWs for 44 months, during which another 264 died. POWs from the New Richmond area who died included Sylvestre Boudreau, Albert Clapperton, and Clément Cyr.



Legion President Donna Fallow, Hong Kong vet Phil Doddridge, Commemorative Association President Lucette Mailloux-Muir, and Phil's daughter Nancy Doddridge share a laugh as she revealed her one tattoo that her father appreciates: the Hong Kong Association insignia with her father's POW number 29986.

Photo: C. Dow

Mrs. Mailloux-Muir noted that Branch 172 has two of only seven Canadian Hong Kong vets still living: Mr Doddridge and Robert Barter, who could not attend the event.

Phil's daughter Nancy

spoke at the unveiling, noting how she has travelled with her father to many Hong Kong vet reunions, including special events in Japan. She noted that the Yokohama Commonwealth cemetery is really worth visiting.

She also shared that her father, who doesn't like tattoos, "prefers that I keep mine discretely hidden." Except for the latest one: a tattoo of the Hong Kong Vets insignia with his POW number on it. "I like that one!" he said.



The Port of Chandler was quite active until the closure of the Gaspesia mill in 1999. Activities reached another interesting level between 2004 and 2016, when Groupe CTMA used the wharf for its cruise ship, the CTMA Vacancier.

Photo: G. Gagné

## 20 years after the last roll of paper...

Gilles Gagné

CHANDLER: - The business plan presented by CPCS was submitted to the Town of Chandler administration and to the public exactly 20 years to the day after the production of the last newsprint paper roll by the employees of the Gaspesia mill. That day, the management of Abitibi-Consolidated announced the suspension of production for an undetermined period. The permanent closure of the plant was announced four months and a week later, on October 28, 1999.

Chandler mayor Louise Langlois sees "a symbolic moment for the relaunching of

our port," in the fact that the CPCS business plan is tabled 20 years after the production of the mill's last paper roll. "Chandler has become a town of services but it can still attract industries. For that, we need a functional harbour."

The negotiation process between Transport Canada and the Town of Chandler could start before the end of the summer. Permission to acquire the wharf must first be given by Quebec's Department of Municipal Affairs, since a municipality is a creation of the provincial government and taking over a port can be judged a financial load.

Bruno Gagnon, the consultant hired by the Town of

Chandler to guide the eventual negotiation with Transport Canada, thinks that the Quebec Department of Municipal Affairs will probably decide before the end of the summer if permission can be granted to the municipal administration to entertain talks with the federal government.

"From there, negotiations with Transport Canada can take eight to nine months," points out Mr. Gagnon.

About two to three years would be required to rebuild the wharf. An engineering assessment of the project, including a relatively accurate evaluation of the project cost, should also be ready over the summer.

## Dispute between a former employee and Town of Gaspé

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - Pierre Samuel, a unionized worker from the Town of Gaspé, has been fighting for 12 years to have his rights respected. The dispute is now moving to the Court of Appeal.

In November 2007, the CSST recognized that Pierre Samuel had an employment injury as a result of an unhealthy climate with a foreman, which the Town dismissed in June 2009 because Pierre Samuel refused to work for the same superior. In May 2012, Mr. Samuel won arbitration because the Town didn't make accommodations despite the decision of the CSST. Dismissed once again, Mr. Samuel won a second time in July 2018, the arbitrator noting the bad faith of the Town.

However, the Town of Gaspé challenged the Superior Court, which overturned the arbitration decision. In the judgment rendered on February 18, the court notes that "the final decision of the CSSST (...) is unambiguous, the employee cannot resume the exercise of his job, nor return to work at his employer's, the Town. In the circumstances, the Town could not and cannot usefully seek a solution to allow the employee to return to work in respect of the functional limitations established by the CSST," wrote Judge Guy de Blois.

The judge added that the arbitrator could not restore the employment relationship.

"Since the maintenance of the plaintiff's decision to terminate Mr. Pierre Samuel's employment on May 28, 2012, is the only possible solution in the circumstances, there is no need to return the file to a new arbitrator, but to make the decision that should have been made, that is, to dismiss the grievances and the complaint filed."

The CSN has chosen to appeal the decision of Justice De Blois to the Court of Appeal, which mentions his reluctance to hear the file, even if "the request for permission appeal raises issues of principle concerning the delimitation of competencies of two administrative bodies in labour law," writes Judge Simon Ruel on May 17.

In the opinion of the Court of Appeal, "this case of reinstatement of a worker who suffered an employment injury because of harassment in the workplace is fundamentally very simple in fact. The solution should be too."

The CSN does not understand the Town. "I find it unfortunate that the parties have not sat down to try to find a solution for a worker who has been harassed at work and that the Town refuses to resume his duties when he is a bit the victim in this situation," says union advisor Benoît Roy-Déry.

The Town refuses to comment since the case is before the courts.



## Commentary

Gilles Gagné

### The difference a year makes

Six right whales died between June 1 and June 27 in the waters of the Gulf of Saint Lawrence. That's a lot. It is by and large comparable to the 2017 streak that made headlines all over North America and probably beyond. That year, 12 right whales died in Canadian waters, most of them in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence. Four right whales also died in American waters.

There was panic at the Canadian government because American organizations involved in environmental stakes, as well as some trade bodies, started asking questions about our alleged lack of action regarding right whale protection, since the Canadian authorities had previously committed to the implementation of a plan to reduce hazardous practices regarding the endangered sea mammal.

In 2017, Canada was about a year late in the adoption of protection rules for the right whale. It led to a somewhat improvised plan unveiled at the beginning of August of that year. The plan mainly called for measures affecting commercial navigation, such as speed reduction, considering that commercial fisheries are mainly done in August for most species.

A month before the beginning of the 2018 season, Fisheries and Oceans Canada came up with a set of measures that shocked commercial fishermen, as most of those measures went way too far. Closing fishing zones as far as the shoreline was exaggerated since living right whales are never seen in shallow waters. The lobster fishermen were deeply affected in this case.

For a reason that remains a mystery, Fisheries and Oceans Canada also called for the closure of a huge area of 4,690 square kilometres, the static zone, effective April 28, 2018, even if not one single right whale was seen in that area before mid-May.

The result was predictable, as hundreds of commercial fishermen complained about those precautions, which created an unnecessary fishing pressure in other areas of the southern Gulf of Saint Lawrence.

At the conclusion of the 2018 snow crab fishing season, at the beginning of July, then Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Dominic LeBlanc proudly

announced that the protection measures had worked well, since not a single casualty had been seen in the population of right whales.

Several scientists, including Lyne Morrisette, a sea mammal expert living in Sainte-Luce, near Rimouski, quickly pointed out that a year was not enough to draw such optimistic conclusions about protection measures. "Science needs numbers and a year is not enough to gather scientific evidence," stressed Ms. Morrisette.

It looks as if 2019 is proving her right and proving Dominic LeBlanc wrong, although there is no reason to celebrate. Six dead right whales have marred June this year.

Basically, the same set of protection measures was implemented in 2019, compared to 2018, except that the static zone was cut by 63%, to 2,317 square kilometres this year. That static zone was effective again on April 28. Fisheries and Oceans scientists don't think that the static area reduction played a role in this year's casualties because since May, most right whales have stayed north of that zone.

The first right whale was sighted on May 13 this year, a bit earlier than the average of the last decade. Right whales were not commonly seen before 2010 in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence. They come more often now because their food, copepods, is moving towards the north, because of global warming, in all likelihood.

It is for now too early to determine the cause of death of five of the six right whales that were located floating or beached in June. We can assume that one right whale died after colliding with a large boat or a ship.

The premature closure of the static zone two weeks before the first sightings of right whales in the Gulf forced crab fishermen to multiply their search for catches elsewhere, and we can assume that it therefore artificially lengthens their season.

Dozens of crab fishermen were still at sea during the last week of June because their quota was not caught. Normally, had they been able to fish for ten days in the static zone at the beginning of May, their season would have been complete before June 15.

Could all that unnecessary travelling around by crab fishermen be taken into consideration before the 2020 season? They would gladly collaborate here.

Right whales mainly die from anthropic reasons, which means because of human activities. It would be wise for the authorities to go back to the drawing board over the next months and listen to what the fishermen have to say. They care about the sea mammals as well but they are hardly listened to.

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Photo: N. Sergerie

## Griffon Cove Wharf: Finally after two years of waiting!

Nelson Sergerie

**GASPÉ:** - After more than two years of waiting, Gaspé is finally getting permission from Quebec to rebuild the wharf at Griffon Cove.

To refurbish the wharf \$1.9 million was transferred to the municipality by Ottawa in December 2016 but the difficulties of obtaining a certificate of environmental clearance delayed the work.

"It's finally moving forward. We are a little caught up in the environmental rules. The whole question of deadlines: when we can build, and when we cannot build because we play anyway in a body of water. We hope for a start of construction in late 2019 if not more realistically 2020 for the end of the work," says Mayor Daniel Côté.

### Dilapidated wharf

Just looking at the general state of the wharf would quickly convince anyone of the need for the work.

The elected official believes he can do the work with the \$1.9 million envelope.

"We were able to put some elements to make it more beautiful than having rip-rap and floating docks. We could do better. With the passage of time, there will surely be less to do to the surroundings," says the elected official.

There is nothing in the agreement to improve the amount if the construction exceeds \$1.9 million.

Two lobster boats use the current facilities while the wharf is used mainly for pleasure boating. The Town is already accepting calls for tenders for the work.

## Municipal road network: Percé calls for more help

Nelson Sergerie

**PERCÉ :** - Percé is asking for more resources from the Quebec government for the maintenance of its municipal road network.

With \$300,000 from the province, the town is struggling to properly maintain the 110 kilometres of its network, of which 63 kilometres are a legacy of the Ryan reform in 1993. The municipality had been given responsibility for these roads, which were already in a precarious state. Until last year, Percé had to be content with \$155,000 to keep these roads passable.

Citizens have recently criticized the dismal state of Lafontaine Road, which is unpaved.

Other roads have a significant maintenance deficit throughout Greater Percé.

Plans and specifications are being prepared to obtain additional assistance from Quebec.

"We have a delay on our roads. We know it. It is very expensive. At \$300,000, it's still not enough to do the maintenance," says Mayor Cathy Poirier.

The municipality is taking steps to try to improve the situation that has been neglected in the past.

"It's going to cost millions and millions. We cannot give this tax burden to citizens. We must find solutions to do it. Our taxes are only for maintenance. There is no question of raising taxes to go into the complete renovation."

Quebec had been sensitized under the Couillard government, but everything has to be done again with the arrival of the CAQ government.

"We are in this process. We try to improve our file to have something more stifled. It's something to work on," says the mayor.



Photo: G. Gagné

The lobster catches of 2019 will set a new record.

## Lobster catches to hit a record this year, with steady price

Gilles Gagné

**SAINT-GODEFROI:** - The Gaspé Peninsula landings of lobster will undoubtedly reach a record in 2019, according to Bill Sheehan, vice-president of E. Gagnon et Fils, the biggest lobster buyer of the region.

If he is right, the 2017 record of 2,486 metric tonnes will be surpassed and so should the record for the value of catches, which was \$38.3 million, established two years ago as well.

Mr. Sheehan bases his prediction of the volumes he has seen since the May 1 season start, without accurate calculation and after eight full weeks of catches.

"It is a record year. There is no doubt. I don't have the last totals under my eyes but it is very high. We still have two weeks left and this year, we had no problems with the right whale. We didn't think that they (the catches) would come in like this," explains Mr. Sheehan.

The Gaspé Peninsula lobster fishermen were also on a record path in 2018 but the closure of a wide stretch of coast due to the presence of a right whale about 10 miles from the shore hampered or blocked the catches of 64 permit holders for the last three years of the season. Overall, the region's fishermen landed 2,302 metric tonnes, for a compounded value of \$33.1 million despite that handicap.

Since the fourth week of May, the E. Gagnon et Fils plant in Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé has assigned half of its 350 workers to lobster processing. The other workers kept processing snow crab.

The price curve of 2019 looks a lot like the curve of 2018. The price started at

\$7.50 per pound for the first week, which was shortened because the traps were put out on a Thursday; stayed at \$7.50 for the second week; went down to \$6.60; rose to \$6.91 after Mothers' Day; went down and up again after that.

"The rise of the price from \$6.60 to \$6.91 after Mother's Day was a surprise since it usually goes down after that day. We had another surprise during the fourth week as the catches increased. They were very high that week, enough to almost create jams at some points," states Janick Aubut, of Produits marins Saint-Godefroi.

She points out that after eight weeks, the total catches of the 11 fishermen delivering to her plant have surpassed the total catches of 2018, with 301,000 pounds this year compared to 268,500 pounds a year ago.

"I had 10 fishermen last year, so one less, but they

were not affected by the right whale problem. If we look at the catches per fisherman, it is higher this year already, with two weeks to go. The daily weight is going down a bit at this time of the year but it remains good. When the catches are not good on the west side, they are better on the east side," remarks Ms. Aubut.

The average price since the beginning of 2019 stands at \$6.70 per pound, so higher than the \$6.54 of 2018, with a price increase expected until the end of the season, which will be concluded around July 15 for the fishermen evolving in the subzones where fishing started a week later than elsewhere.

"There is always an increase at the end of June, leading to July 4," says Bill Sheehan, referring to Independence Day in the United States, a holiday period marked by a significant increase in lobster consumption.

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# Glory of Gardening

## David Duthie: Rows and rows of raspberries

“The love of gardening is a seed once sown that never dies.”

Diane Skinner

*Smell the air, get your hands dirty and face to the sun. Gardening on the Gaspé is a way of life going back many decades, if not hundreds of years. Traditional methods, foraging and some newer methods, such as raised gardens are widely practiced. Gardening has many benefits; economical, traditional, multi-generational, environmental and some would claim spiritual. “Gardening is cheaper than therapy, and you get tomatoes.” A 10-part series.*

David Duthie has been picking raspberries since he was five years old. He recalls that his grandfather used to have a compost pile in the garden and David thinks that is how it all started. Years ago, his mother used to garden, and David helped her from the age of five. His childhood memory is of scratched arms, the blazing hot sun and the black flies. Despite this, he loves to garden and tending to his bountiful raspberry patch every year. David is a Wildlife Protection Assistant on the Cascapedia River and a part-time janitor at New Richmond High School.

David, who is 25 years old and from Cascapedia-Saint-Jules, feels a kinship with his raspberries, and he describes it as, “It’s like the raspberries and I make a deal every spring. I will do the best I can for the garden and in exchange it will produce as many raspberries as possible. You can’t walk away from that deal be-

cause it is so worth it.”

His raspberry garden has four rows that are six and a half feet wide and 35 feet long. He also grows a mixed garden that is 20 by 25 feet in size. He describes this as his “for fun” garden. When he is asked how many raspberries he picks each season, he replies that he did not initially think of the volume of his harvest, but more like an accomplishment reached between him and his raspberries.

At first, he would have enough raspberries to make seven or eight pies a year. Now his bounty has increased to 15 pies, 10 large mason jars and lots to pick and eat when the berries are ready. David adds that he also freezes two-five-gallon pails. He also gives some to friends and family and even trades with others who may have extra vegetables or fruit from their gardens.

David does not use fertilizer or spray in his raspberries at all. In fact, he does not even need to water them. Nature does its thing. He works in the garden in the spring and then weeds once or twice in the summer. He shares that raspberries grow on a three-year cycle. The first year they grow, the second year they produce fruit and the third year they need to be clipped back. Raspberry canes grow in clusters and each cluster has between two to six canes. In that cluster some of the canes will be on year three and so do not produce fruit. Then you clip those canes out. There is a system of growth that must

be understood and respected. The raspberry root system is all connected underground.

Surprisingly David has no fence around his bushes, and he says the secret is to pick as soon as the raspberries are ready. If you do not, the deer and the birds will have a feast. From time to time he will shoo a deer from his berries. When he is working in the garden it is not uncommon for two or three deer to be watching David from a distance. He remarks that deer can ruin a vegetable garden but that raspberries are resilient.

David has a dream that communities could unite and help each other to garden and produce food locally at a much lower cost, peak freshness and no need to be transported by truck. On top of that local gardeners do not use an abundance of chemicals in their gardens. It is a win-win proposition. He reflects, “Many backyards and fields remain empty here.”

His wish is that community gardens would flourish here. The community would offer space, high poles and fencing. Perennial fruits and vegetables would be relatively easy to maintain once started. A few communities on the Coast have started to do this.

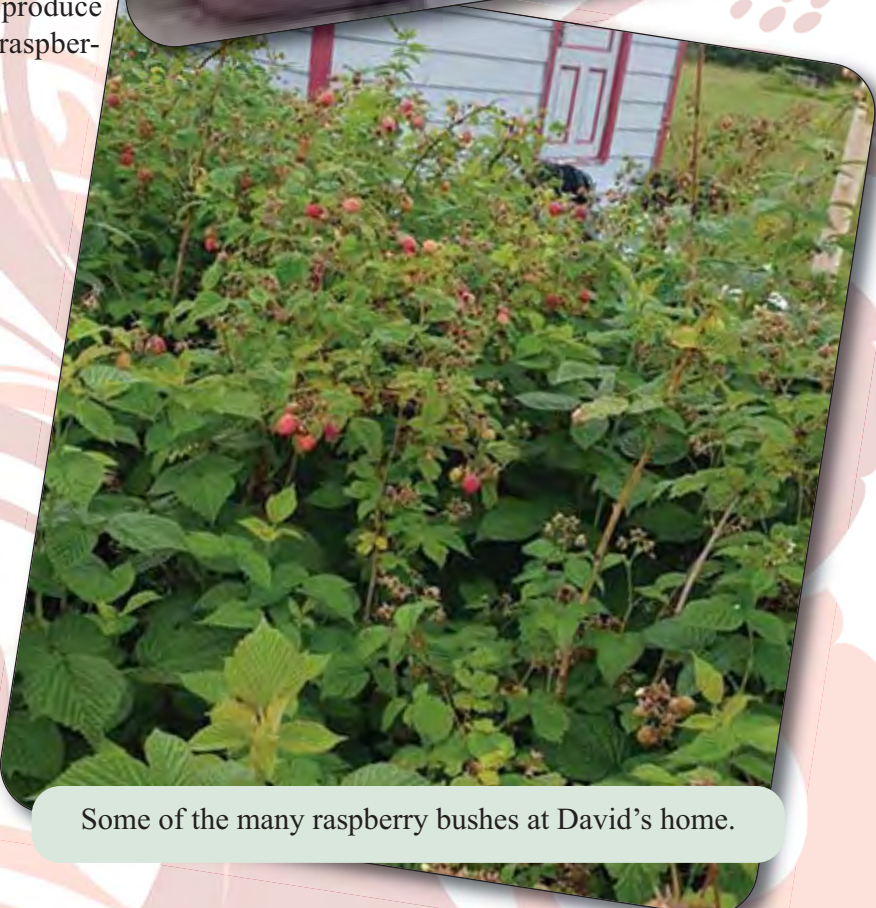
David Duthie is already doing his part by taking advantage of the Gaspé’s earth, sunshine and rain to produce gallons of succulent raspberries.



David Duthie of Cascapedia-Saint-Jules enjoying nature, standing under a “mushroom tree.”



David tells us that this day last season “was a good day, and never in my life have I ever picked so many raspberries at once.”



Some of the many raspberry bushes at David’s home.

### Old Fashioned Raspberry Cordial

(Makes about 1 gallon of cordial.)

- 8 cups of fresh raspberries
- 3 cups sugar
- 12 cups of cold water
- 1/3 cup of fresh lemon juice

1. Clean and rinse the berries and place in a very large bowl.
2. Pour lemon juice over raspberries. Stir.
3. Place water and sugar in a large pot and bring to a boil. Stir until all the sugar is dissolved. Take off the burner.
4. Pour hot water carefully over the berry/lemon mixture. Let cool for about 2 hours.
5. Cover with a tea towel and place in fridge for 24 hours.
6. Pour the cordial over a fine sieve. Push with the back of a spoon to extract more juice. Save the leftover berry mash and serve with vanilla ice cream or Cool Whip.
7. Pour cordial into glass containers. Refrigerate. Serve very cold and add water or soda water to add sparkle. If you like less sweet cordial, add more water.

# Right whale deaths now total six

Gilles Gagné

CARLETON: – In a period of less than a week four dead right whales were spotted in the Gulf of Saint-Lawrence, bringing the total so far to six. Drifting off the coast of the Gaspé Peninsula, the sixth one was observed during an aerial surveillance flight.

It was the second sighting of a dead right whale off the coast of the Gaspé Peninsula. The federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans did not specify the distance between the dead whale and the coast but it was a decent distance considering the first sighting was also described as having taken place “in the middle of the Gulf of Saint Lawrence.”

As the SPEC reached its June 28 deadline, Fisheries and Oceans Canada was “currently assessing the recovery and necropsy options,” operations that can give information about the cause of death.

On the evening of June 26, after the sighting of the fifth dead right whale on the shore of Anticosti Island, Transport Canada imposed “an interim precautionary speed restriction of 10 knots, for vessels of 20 metres or more in length travelling in the western part of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, in the two designated shipping lanes north and south of Anticosti Island,” that were not subjected to navigation speed limits.

Meanwhile, while necropsies were carried out on dead right whales 1, 2 and 3, chances are slim that such operations will be performed on dead whales 4 and 5, according to Fisheries and Oceans Canada. In fact, a necropsy was ruled out for whale 4 due to its extreme state of decomposition, pointed out Isabelle Elliot, of that department, on June 27.

As for the fifth dead whale, which was sighted on June 26 on the shore of Anticosti Island, “it is located on a beach that is hard to have access to,” states Ms. Elliot. Its position, high on the beach

would make quite difficult a towing operation towards an area more accessible to the scientific team and equipment required to perform a necropsy, she adds.

While dead whales 1, 2 and 3 carried the names of Wolverine, Punctuation and Commit, preliminary observations made on whales 4 and 5 have not been conclusive regarding the names they bare for scientific reasons. Only 400 right whales are still alive in the world, and they all evolve along the east coast of the United States and Canada.

Asked if additional navigation constraints could soon be imposed, Michelle Sanders of Transport Canada, notes that ministry officials are analyzing the situation but she excludes a ban on navigation in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence or a further speed reduction, for safety reasons on board ships.

Carried out on Miscou Island, New Brunswick, the necropsy on Wolverine did not provide clues about a possible cause of death, like a collision with a ship, an entanglement in fishing gear or a natural cause.

In the case of the June 25 necropsy performed on Punctuation in Petit-Étang, Nova Scotia, by a team from the Marine Animal Response Society, the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative and Fisheries and Oceans Canada, veterinarians point out that “preliminary findings are compatible with death due to sharp trauma, consistent with vessel strike.”

Punctuation was first observed drifting in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, north-east of the Magdalen Islands.

The necropsy on Commit was carried out on June 28 and had not yielded results when the SPEC reached its deadline.

The final detailed results of the three necropsies carried out so far will be available in the coming months.

Twelve right whales died

in Canadian waters in 2017, which prompted Transport Canada and Fisheries and Oceans Canada to establish a set of measures to protect that endangered specie. Before the beginning of the 2018 commercial fishing season, a “static,” area of protection was set up, and fishing was forbidden in that rectangle of 4,690 square kilometres, effective April 28 last year and this year.

“Dynamic” rectangles of protection were also imposed, taking the form of two-week temporary closures after a sighting of one or several right whales.

This year, the surface of the static rectangle was reduced to 2,317 square kilometres. When asked to assess the possibility that such a reduction might have had on this year’s right whale deaths, Adam Burns, Fisheries and Oceans Canada’s director general of fisheries resource management, opines that such explanation would be surprising, “because the vast majority of (live) right whales are (located) north of the static and dynamic zones.”

Since the arrival of the first right whales in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence on May 13, 280 sightings were registered from ships or aircrafts, and 78 specimens bearing a name for scientific purposes were identified.

Biologists specialized in right whales think that one third of their population now come to the Gulf of Saint Lawrence on an annual basis for feeding purposes, as they follow copepods.

Snow crab fishing ended on June 30 in the southern Gulf of Saint Lawrence. The activities of crab fishermen were complicated this year by repetitive dynamic closures of areas. In total, 16,000 square kilometres of crab fishing territory was closed permanently or temporarily during the season, which started on May 2.

## Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



## Summer: Not to be Wasted

*“Smell the sea and feel the sky.  
Let your soul and spirit fly.”*

Perhaps, two of the most beautiful words in the English language are ‘summer afternoon.’ You likely do not need this reminder, but summer goes quickly. There are about three months ahead of us and we excitedly plan how we will celebrate the season. Places to go, weather to enjoy, barbecues to eat, nature to savour – it’s all swirling in our minds. We have plans. Yet, how often do we reach the end of summer and have some tinges of regret? We did not waste those days, but we did not get out and do all the things that we had planned.

Lord spare us from children who say in the first week of July, “I’m bored.” Perhaps those children need to get outside and look around. Encourage them. If they need prompting to get out and be active, do just that. Set a good example. Just remind them to use sunscreen.

Here for your consideration is a list of activities, for you or your children and grandchildren. Nothing here is grand or expensive, just summer living. Try some of these and get in touch with your inner child. Some of my very best memories as a child were summers spent in flip flops.

**Go for a walk on the beach. Take off your shoes.**

**Look for shells and sea glass.**

**Read a book just for fun. Nothing heavy.**

**Light and fluffy is fine.**

**Sleep with your bedroom windows open.**

**Mow the grass. Smell that newly cut grass**

**Go to a baseball game,**

**Just local games played for fun.**

**Play tennis, badminton, volleyball,  
frisbee or croquet.**

**Ride a bike.**

**Go for a hike.**

**Prepare a perfect picnic.**

**(See Spec, June 26 for picnic ideas.)**

**Try kayaking or canoeing.**

**Play golf, or mini golf.**

**Go camping.**

**Go fishing.**

**Swim in a lake.**

**Pick wildflowers.**

**Take them home and try to identify them.**

**Take a chair and sit on the beach**

**and watch the sunset.**

**Have a barbecue.**

**Pick berries and make jam.**

**Make your own iced tea or homemade lemonade.**

**‘mores.**

**Build a sandcastle.**

**Try to catch fireflies in a jar. Then release them.**

**Blow bubbles. Make your own bubble mixture.**

**Get a comfy chair and enjoy the night sky.**

**Use an app to find stars and planets.**

**Watch the Northern Lights.**

**Plant a garden that will attract bees and butterflies.**

Have fun. Have too much fun. Relax and get in touch with your inner child. Just get out and smell the roses, literally or not. Summer should not be wasted.

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# Former DG Natascha Joncas clarifies things about the “family reasons” invoked by ESSB to explain her absence

Gilles Gagné

NEW CARLISLE: – The former director general of the Eastern Shores School Board, Natascha Joncas, affirms that she did not leave that position for family reasons, contrary to what chairperson Wade Gifford suggested when he was first asked by the Gaspé SPEC to explain why it was not possible to reach her during the first week of June.

On June 10, Mr. Gifford pointed out that Natascha Joncas was absent for family reasons, and that a decision or more details would be given on June 19, during the monthly public meeting of the Eastern Shores School Board (ESSB) commissioners, however, very little information came out of that meeting, except that Ms. Joncas’ contract was not renewed.

Natascha Joncas wrote to the SPEC on June 27 to give her version of the situation.

“I would like to start by saying that contrary to what Mr. Gifford mentioned in your last edition, I am not leaving ESSB for family reasons. I am leaving because



Natasha Joncas.

Photo:

Council has decided not to renew my contract. This was a unilateral decision. I cannot share the reasons for this sudden decision, but I am quite saddened by it. Mr. Gifford is somewhat correct in the fact that my boys did not enjoy the Gaspé Coast and missed their friends from NS (Nova Scotia). I had plans to move them back there alone. I was to stay at ESSB. Anyone who

knows how much I adore my boys, knows that this was a difficult decision, but that is how much I was committed and dedicated to working for ESSB,” she first mentions.

“When I decided to uproot my family and come back to ESSB last May, it felt like I was coming home. The warmth I received when visiting the schools confirmed me in my decision to return. I

truly enjoy working with all the unique communities within this vast territory. I feel like we were on our way to accomplishing great things together,” she adds.

“ESSB is in need of change. Some things have no longer a purpose or should I say “une raison d’être.” Change is never easy and takes time. Before one can change a culture, he or she must know the culture. That’s what I was doing. Taking my time to get acquainted with students, parents, staff and communities. There were some things I thought were unacceptable and voiced my concerns. These were at times, accepted and at other times, frowned upon. I can honestly say that in my every decision or action, I had nothing but the students’ and staffs’ best interests at heart. I always tried to be transparent and never had a hidden agenda. Building relationships and communication were key for me,” emphasizes Ms. Joncas,

I therefore leave ESSB with my head held high for having respected my morals and values and knowing that

my integrity is intact. It is with great sadness that I leave and truly wish nothing but the best to every amazing person working for ESSB,” concludes Natascha Joncas.

She doesn’t explain what needs to be changed at ESSB and doesn’t for now give examples of things that no longer have a purpose.

Ms. Joncas holds a bachelor’s degree of education from the Université du Québec in Rimouski (1996); a master’s degree in education (2006); a graduate diploma in school administration (2007) and civil and common law degrees from the Université de Sherbrooke (2012). She is currently enrolled at Université Laval for a doctorate in administration and policies of education.

On June 27, Wade Gifford, on behalf of the council of commissioners, announced the appointment of Nancy Doddridge as interim director general, effective as of July 1, 2019. “Ms. Doddridge’s experience in the field of education is an asset to ESSB’s progression in its future endeavors,” mentioned Mr. Gifford in a written statement.

## English Multi –Service workers train for “Unregulated Personal Care Services”

Jeanie LeLacheur

GASPÉ: - For the first time in Quebec a course is being given to English Multi-service workers in unregulated personal care services in the home.

Nine participants in the Gaspé group and six from the Chandler group have taken part in a 132.5 hour training which allows them to offer a different kind of home care within their working mandate.

Jessica Synnott of Vision was instrumental in setting up the course for the English communities of the region.

The primary goal of the Multi-Service organization is to allow community members to live comfortably and safely at home for as long as possible. The majority of those using this service at the moment are over 65 years of age

and are doing just that. This is important on two counts: the first citizens get to enjoy home life for longer and, secondly, it diminishes somewhat the plight of government institutions, many of which are currently at capacity.

Andre Richard director of the Multi-Service Corporation is quick to highlight the positive aspects of the organization both for clients and workers.

While domestic services include light housework and or housecleaning and seasonal work the successful completion of the course now allows individuals to provide added care including assisting with baths, giving medication which is prescribed and in a dispenser and assisting with compression stockings, thereby allowing Home Care to be added to the existing services.



Photo: J. LeLacheur

The course was intensive and participants agree that it required sustained effort throughout the 130 plus hours including homework and revision of notes for the multiple exams.

Christine Mullin said the course “really changed the way she does things” and she uses what she learned to make sure her actions are right for her clients, helping make their lives easier. ‘It was a lot

in a short period of time to take in but worth it.’

Ideally this training could also eventually see some of the heavy CLSC load assumed by the now qualified Multi-Service workers.

RENEW ONLINE AT THEGASPESPEC.COM



# Announcements...



## In Memory



**BOYLE: Edmund** - June 30, 2017  
**SNOWMAN: Iris** - January 23, 2018

Mom and Dad, you will forever remain alive in our hearts and memories. Though we are learning to live without you, our lives will never be the same. Your laughter, stories, and presence will be forever missed. Gone are the days of having you with us, but in our hearts, you are always there. The gates of memories will never close.

*Sadly missed,  
 The Boyle family.*

### FAIRSERVICE-HOWATSON: E. Joan

In loving memory of E. Joan Fairservice Howatson  
 Those we hold most dear  
 Never truly leave us...  
 They live on in the kindness  
 They showed,  
 The comfort they shared  
 And brought into our lives.  
 Ever missed by Harold and family.

### 90th Birthday Celebration

Alden Mitchell, the only surviving child of Walter and Myrtel Mitchell, will be in New Carlisle from July 22 until July 25 to celebrate his 90th birthday on July 24. He hopes to be reunited with some of his classmates from New Carlisle High School Class of 1947 and old friends.

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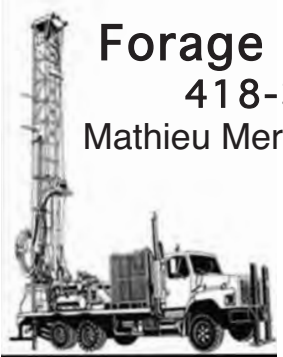


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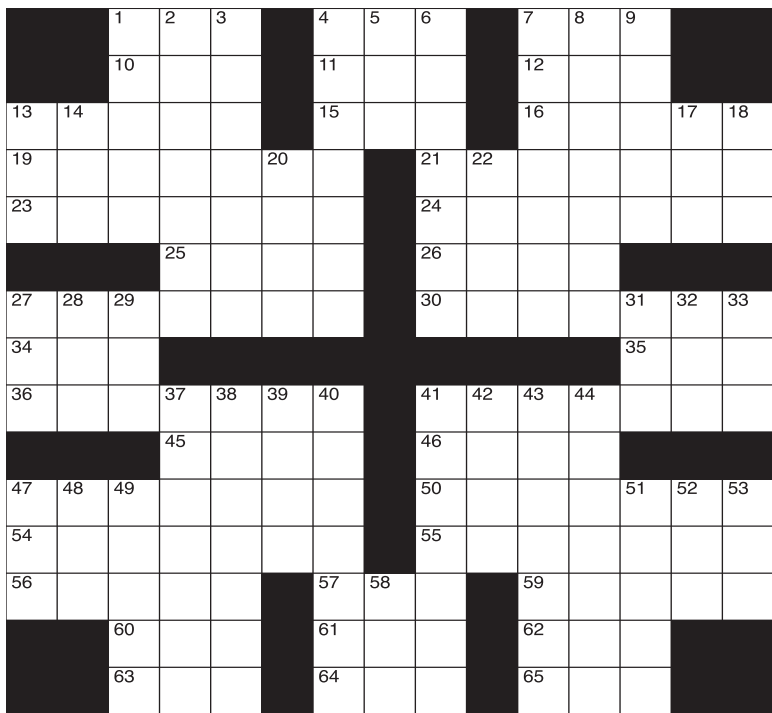
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# On the lighter side...



## CROSSWORDS

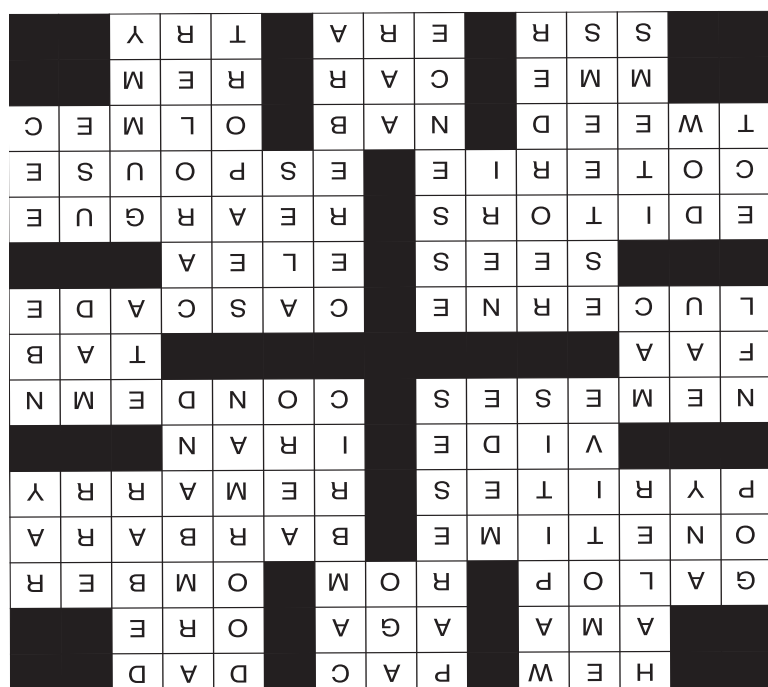


### CLUES ACROSS

1. Chop or cut
4. Political action committee
7. Male parent
10. Doctors' group
11. Ottoman military commander
12. A metal-bearing natural material
13. Lively ballroom dance
15. Male Gypsy
16. Once-popular card game
19. Occurred just once
21. \_\_\_ Streisand, singer
23. Shiny yellow minerals
24. Get hitched again
25. See (Latin)
26. Lies between the Caspian and Persian Gulf
27. Scourges
30. Sentence
34. Supervises flying
35. Bar bill
36. Alfalfa
41. Type of dishwasher soap
45. Witnesses
46. Ancient Italian-Greek colony
47. Newspapers need them
50. Discuss again
54. Small group with shared interests
55. Support
56. Wool
57. Take hold of
59. Likely the first Meso-American civilization
60. Woman (French)
61. Automobile
62. Popular Georgia rockers
63. Soviet Socialist Republic
64. A major division of geological time
65. Make an effort

### CLUES DOWN

1. Czech monetary unit
2. Able to arouse feeling
3. Elk
4. Muscular weaknesses
5. Earlier
6. Lightweight fabric
7. One who greets
8. Soldiers sometimes wear one
9. Officially prohibit
13. US political party
14. Used of a number or amount not specified
17. Make a mistake
18. Biopic starring Jamie Foxx
20. Ancient Media inhabitant
22. About aviation
27. Popular American sports league
28. Cologne
29. Partner to cheese
31. When you'll get there
32. Not pleased
33. One point east (clockwise) of due north
37. Respects
38. Shake up
39. Ethiopian river
40. Intrinsic nature of something
41. Principal parts of the brain
42. Brews
43. Where ships dock
44. One who wassails
47. Shock treatment
48. Popular average
49. Things
51. A type of "bear"
52. Utilize
53. European Economic Community
58. Swiss river



## Why do we say...

By Gary Briand

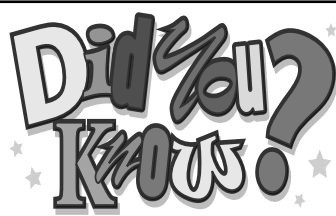
"Like it or lump it" is the emphatic put down of a loquacious opponent, a sort of finale to an argument or debate.

Before 1800 the word "lump" was often associated with sulking, possibly as a result of having to swallow something unpleasant in taste. In later years it became more linked to sugar which, by 1610, was available in cubes.

"Like it or lump it" was moved into common expression after *The Punster's Pocket Book* was published by Bernard Blackmantle in 1826. The expression there occurs in a little dialogue between a hostess and an unwanted guest who is handed an unsweetened cup of tea. The guest explains that the tea is not to her taste, upon which she is then handed a bowl of sugar cubes with the line, "... hell, ma'am, if you do not like it, you may lump it."

American author John Neal in *Down Easters* (1834) expressed the term in a more straightforward way!

"Bear it like a man, Mr. Potipher- git naiteralized right away, and let 'em lump it if they don't like it, an' squirm their hides off. That's none o' your look out - is it?"



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## SCRAMBLED

Descramble the following phrase:

**oigmwn het nalw**

HINT: IT'S A CHORE

## Driftwood treasures...

On the Gaspé we have an abundance of driftwood. Why not take something that has no use and make something artistic and beautiful for our homes...



**ARIES** – Mar 21/Apr 20  
Aries, you have a few questions but not too many answers. Seek the help of others as you try to answer your questions and be sure to thank them for their cooperation.

**TAURUS** – Apr 21/May 21  
Taurus, a friend has something to confide, so make sure you are ready to hear what this person has to say. It is alright to be a little apprehensive.

**GEMINI** – May 22/June 21  
Try to focus your thoughts on positive things, Gemini; otherwise, negativity can be overwhelming. If need be, make a gratitude journal that can help you express your feelings.

**CANCER** – June 22/July 22  
Cancer, if work has been taking up too much of your time, you may need to schedule a few days off and focus on recharging yourself. Enjoy some well-earned rest and relaxation.

**LEO** – July 23/Aug 23  
You may need to get a few people on your team in order to come out ahead, Leo. It always helps to have some extra support in your



corner and a cheering squad.  
**VIRGO** – Aug 24/Sept 22  
Virgo, you may soon realize that you are pouring a lot of energy into something that does not feel rewarding. Take some time to reconsider the path you're on.

**LIBRA** – Sept 23/Oct 23  
Libra, someone close to you appreciates all the support you have been offering, even if he or she isn't able to say it often enough. Keep on being the best version of you.

**SCORPIO** – Oct 24/Nov 22  
If it seems like you can't turn off your brain, Scorpio, you are not alone. Others may feel overstimulated, and you can seek them out for some advice.

**SAGITTARIUS** – Nov 23/Dec 21  
Tackling too many projects at the same time is a recipe for burnout, Sagittarius. This week you have to slow the pace down a bit or call in some reinforcements.

**CAPRICORN** – Dec 22/Jan 20

A new chapter in your life could be unfolding soon, Capricorn. Don't be surprised when certain opportunities come your way in the next few days.

**AQUARIUS** – Jan 21/Feb 18  
Aquarius, someone close to you may be going through a difficult situation. All you can do is be as supportive as possible over the next few days.

**PISCES** – Feb 19/Mar 20  
Explore several creative possibilities to figure out what path may appeal to you, Pisces. Once you zero in on an activity, make it yours.

### FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

JUNE 30

Cole Swindell, Musician (36)

JULY 1

Missy Elliott, Rapper (48)

JULY 2

Larry David, TV Producer (72)

JULY 3

Andrea Barber, Actress (43)

JULY 4

Mike Sorrentino, Reality Star (37)

JULY 5

Adam Cole, Wrestler (30)

JULY 6

Kevin Hart, Comic (40)



The Dougtown Café was inaugurated June 21.

Photo: N. Sergerie

## The Dougtown Café is born in Douglastown

Nelson Sergerie

DOUGLASTOWN: - A café sees the light of day at the Douglastown Community Centre.

The Dougtown Café will offer beverages and Viennese cakes, as well as a continental breakfast service for those staying at the centre, which was the former anglophone school in the community.

“It’s an idea that came into the community. There was a lack of dietary diversity in Douglastown and a central location for families and teleworking,” says Dougtown Café creative committee member Sara Ternoir.

After evaluating the experience in its first year of operation, the café could expand. “We are focusing on breakfasts for the moment. In a phase 2, we could offer meals in the evening. Will we do catering or frozen meals? It remains to be defined.”

“Phase 1 of the project requires an investment of \$20,000. Among the financial partners, the Côte-de-Gaspé MRC and the Douglastown Community Centre have been involved in the project.



Photo: C. Dow

## National Indigenous People’s Day at Wejgwapniag

Cynthia Dow

GESGAPEGIAG: - The walls of the Wejgwapniag School resounded to the sound of the drums once again on June 21st as the community celebrated National Indigenous People’s Day with a Pow-wow for the students of local schools. On hand were all kinds of vendors with tables full of beautiful arts and crafts, smudging materials, native medicines and drums. The Fire Department allowed youngsters to try on their uniforms. A BBQ lunch was served, with luskinigan (bannock or fried bread) handed around to all. There were many door prizes, including beautiful ash baskets for which the community is well known. A lucky student from Bois Vivant was one of the winners (above). Originally called National Aboriginal Day, this special celebration of the First Nations, Inuit and Métis cultures was first announced by the federal government in 1996, in part as a response to a recommendation from the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, and many calls over the years from the Assembly of First Nations and Elijah Harper’s Sacred Assembly. It was renamed by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in 2017. The summer solstice was chosen as the day to celebrate these cultures because the day held, and still holds, such an important place in Indigenous spirituality.

## First Pride Day celebrated in Gesgapegiag

Cynthia Dow

GESGAPEGIAG: - A rainbow crosswalk was painted on the road from the daycare to Wejgwapniag School in Gesgapegiag to mark the community’s first Pride Day, held on National People’s Indigenous Day. The ceremony started with the Honour Song performed by Jeannette Martin, Aline Gedeon and Donat Jerome. Then, led by a colourful banner created by the students of Wejgwapniag, the group marched through the community to the administration offices.

One of the organizers and the emcee for the Day, Mitchell Syvret-Caplin, told SPEC he was very enthusiastic about the turn-out: “We had about 60 people so that was excellent for the first event. Chief Rod Larocque said a few words. It was very inspiring and showed the inclusivity of this community, how open and welcoming Gesgapegiag is.” Mitchell said the committee he participates in is looking into a lot of different ideas for future events. “This is really important because from my own experience 10 years ago we would not have had this attention. People have been asking questions, strug-



Photo: C. Dow

Chief Rod Larocque, left, bows his head during the singing of the Honour Song at the first Pride Day celebration in Gesgapegiag.

gling with their identity, and so on; now members of the public are wanting to know more, and it’s really important to bring that awareness and bring it into the sunlight. People are generally accepting, but I didn’t know that before coming out, and I didn’t know about the resources available.” This year marks the 50th an-

niversary of the first Pride movement, started in New York in 1969 when members of the gay scene demonstrated against an unjust police raid. Since then Pride and its rainbow colours have come to symbolize the stance against discrimination and violence aimed at LGBTQ people.

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