

Civil servants put forward claims

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ - Negotiations between civil servants and the Quebec government could become heated. Union organizations are sharpening their knives, wanting to get their hands on some of the large surpluses recorded in the province.

The 2,000 CSN civil servants in the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands want to improve services to the population in the round of negotiations that will begin soon.

In a press briefing in Gaspé on November 12, the president of the Regional Central Council, Serge Saint-Pierre, evokes the lack of manpower and the wage clauses to be improved in the region: "The workers fall seriously ill. We have to change

working conditions so that people can continue working," he says.

While Quebec is swimming in the surplus, the CSN wants to remind us that this nest egg belongs to Quebecers.

They are demanding an increase of \$3 an hour in the first year, according to Mr. Saint-Pierre. This will not cost the government too much. He is expecting difficult negotiations.

"Don't let him say it costs \$3 an hour. The tax is there. Look at your paycheck, how much goes to the government. It recovers a good part of it," says Mr. Saint-Pierre.

Nurses want their share

For their part, the Union of Nurses, Licensed Nurses

and Respiratory Therapists of Eastern Quebec is calling for a reinvestment in health care in the Gaspé Peninsula.

The goal is to increase the group's working conditions and improve care by drawing on the \$1.4 billion surplus announced.

Union president Pier-Luc Bujold says all sectors need an injection of money. "We consider that the government has the necessary room to maneuver in order to improve the working conditions of our members and, by the same token, improve the quality of care given in the health network in the Gaspé."

The union has yet to assess needs in the region, but this issue will be part of union demands in the negotiations to renew the collective agreement.



The president of Regional Central Council of the CSN, Serge Saint-Pierre.

News briefs



The petition was launched after the September 27 global climate march. Photo: N. Sergerie

Gaspé: a petition on the right to demonstrate

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ - An online petition calls on the Town of Gaspé to withdraw articles from its by-law concerning security, peace and order - limiting the right to demonstrate and freedom of expression in public places.

According to its initiator, Walter-Olivier Rottann-Aubé, article 12 indicates that no one can obstruct traffic and article 15 on the place, time and route of an event can slow down citizen mobilization.

The global climate march of September 27, which had been declared illegal but tolerated, was the trigger.

"If ever there are citizens who are a little more marginalized who wish to assert their rights but who are not supported by a global mobilization... It will be more difficult for them. It was as a conscientious citizen that I decided to launch this," says Rottann-Aubé.

The petition notes that similar articles in other municipalities have been struck down by different courts.



The president of the FMBM, Sophie Bourdages, the new director Steve Pontbriand, the assistant general director, Marie-Michèle Plante and the outgoing director, Stéphane Brochu.

Change of guard at the FMBM

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ - A new wind is blowing at the *Festival musique du bout du monde* in Gaspé with the arrival of a new director general.

In office for six years, Stéphane Brochu, is taking pre-retirement while remaining within the organization to ensure the transition.

A CISSS administrator, Steve Pontbriand, will take over the general management position in January. "I have been a fan since the very beginning of the festival and it joined my deep values. There is nothing healthier than working for your core values. It's a perfect match," said Pontbriand in a press briefing

to present to the media on November 29.

Mr. Pontbriand has been a member of the programming committee since 2018 and joined the team of administrators earlier this year. The new director was, until recently, director of the youth program at CISSS de la Gaspésie.

Stéphane Brochu will have specific mandates to perform during the planned transition

"To generate new partnerships and to seek new funds. I will definitely stay in this movement for the next year," says the current director.

The 17th edition of the FMBM will be held from August 6 to 9 with a pre-festival component from August 1 to 6.

In January, the festival will reveal the identity of the artist presented at the sunrise concert at Cap Bon-Ami.





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Part of the old Quebec Coliseum in Chandler

Nelson **Sergerie**

CHANDLER - Chandler will buy 500 seats from the old Quebec Coliseum at a cost of \$30 each.

The municipal council adopted a resolution to this effect in a special session on November 7.

Including transportation and installation costs at the Clément-Tremblay centre, the bill will amount to approximately \$25,000.

The arena does not currently have seats. This issue has been discussed since 2014.

"There had already been discussions with Matane when they built their new arena, but it didn't work out. Following major renovations at the centre last year, this is about continuity,"

says Newport Pro-mayor and councillor Bruno-Pierre Godbout.

Mr. Godbout presided over the meeting in Louise Langlois' absence. He is confident that the citizens will approve of the investment.

A multifunctional complex for Newport

Two projects are on the table to provide the Newport district with sports infrastructures.

The first is valued at \$4.5 million and includes a multi-use complex including indoor soccer, tennis and athletic fields while renovating the old local arena.

The second, estimated at \$500,000, would include a ball field, deck hockey and a



Photo: N. Sergerie

Seats from the Quebec Coliseum will be placed in the Newport arena

mountain bike track.

The new sports development committee will make a recommendation to the mu-

nicipal council. "We go with what the young people practice. We know that soccer and tennis are very popular

in Chandler. We want to give young people the opportunity to play sports year-round," says Mr. Godbout.

A home for adults living with autism!

Everyone has the right to live in an environment where they feel safe and comfortable

Press release

GASPÉ: – Our region is facing an alarming lack of suitable housing and accommodations for adults living with autism, placing families in situations of isolation, and feeling powerless and helpless. *DEMEURE TOI*, which held its founding meeting on October 28, 2019, is a non-profit organization that was developed out of an initiative of parents, and relatives, of people living with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) to find solutions in Côte-de-Gaspé.

The primary objective of *DEMEURE TOI* is to create a living environment adapted to people living with ASD. According to Claudine Dupuis, spokeswoman for the organization, and mother of a young adult with ASD: "People living with ASD are like us, but they have another form of intelligence. Their brains reason and treat information

differently. They perceive their environment in much more detail than we perceive it, which makes their brain quickly become overloaded with sensory information. Their senses become exacerbated and all the stimuli, noises, smells, light are amplified and can be perceived as an aggression. An unsuitable environment makes them anxious and disrupts them. It's important that institutions adapt," insists Mrs. Dupuis. "Some people experience stress when entering a health facility, imagine the intensity of that feeling if you are living with ASD."

The three major areas of focus for this adapted living environment would be on the development and reinforcement of learning in people living with ASD:

- development of personal autonomy;
- development of domestic autonomy;

- development of social autonomy

It will not be enough just to simply keep someone living with ASD occupied, it is especially important to offer them real skills adapted to their ASD (educational program adapted to their level).

Currently, a needs assessment is underway to concretely measure the target clientele's needs for accommodation, respite, educational services and intervention. This survey will provide essential data needed to identify opportunities to help achieve the mission of *DEMEURE TOI* and also to encourage the mobilization of all potential partners concerned.

Autism in the blink of an eye!

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is part of the spectrum of neurodevelopmental disorders. ASD has

two components of development: communication and social interactions, and also restricted or repetitive behaviors, activities, and interests.

The clinical portrait of someone living with ASD can vary greatly from person to person. Each person presents a unique combination of characteristics, strengths and

challenges. The degree of support needed varies with age, cognitive and behavioral characteristics and the presence of associated conditions. Characteristics can also change over time. People living with ASD represent such a heterogeneous group that it is often said that there are as many forms of ASD as people with ASD.

Did you know?

- It takes up to 11 years in Quebec to obtain housing services.
- ASD is found four times more often in men.
- 1.4% of the Quebec population lives with ASD.
- At the age of 21, services for people with ASD are almost non-existent. This age is 18 years old if they have followed a regular schooling course.

Source: Fédération Québécoise de l'autisme

The origins of eggnog

Love it or loathe it, eggnog is a holiday season tradition that has stood the test of time since the early medieval years in Britain. A PBS food blog reports that the drink, originally known as "posset," featured a number of pricey ingredients – milk, sherry, eggs, sweeteners, spices and even figs – that made it popular with the upper classes and often used in toasts to good health and prosperity. Colonists in America carried on the tradition, using milk and eggs from their own farms and replacing sherry with more accessible whisky or rum.

Not-So-Fun Fact

One cup of eggnog weighs in at 343 calories with 19 grams of fat, according to Self Magazine.





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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**

Relocation of heritage building at Forillon Park

Press release

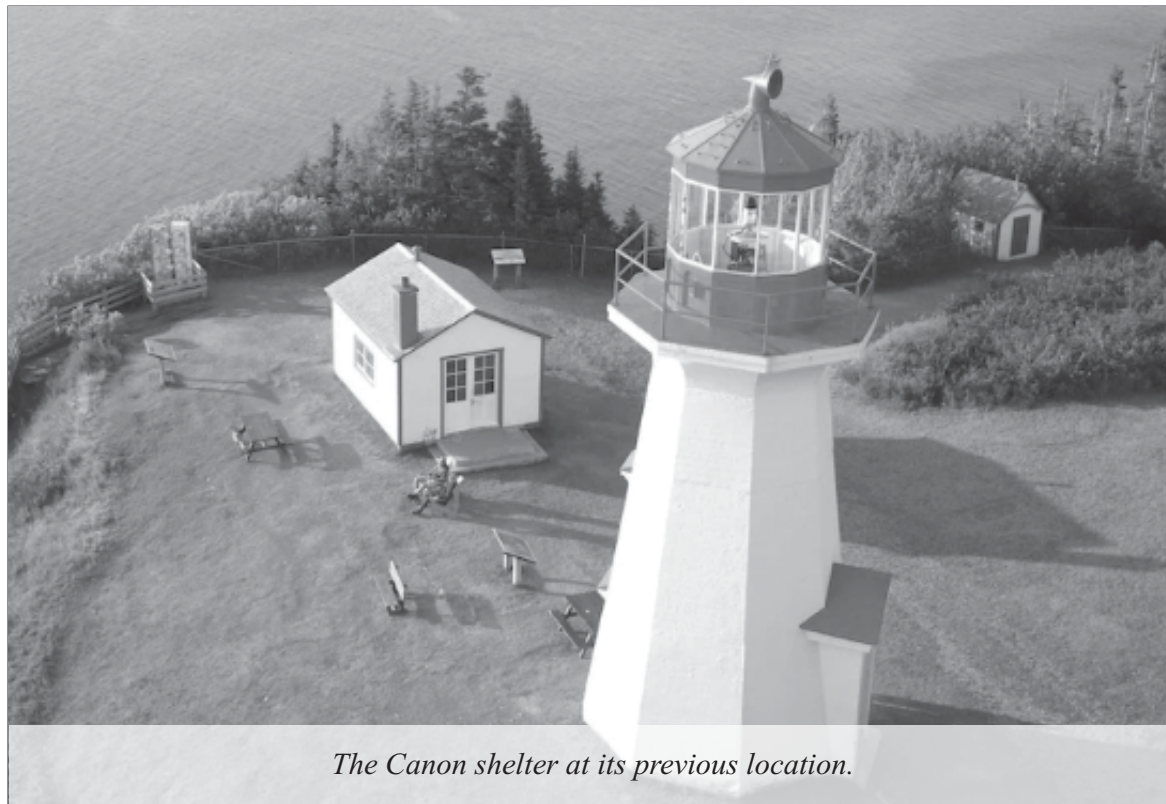
FORILLON: - The team at Forillon National Park successfully relocated the canon shelter at the Cape Gaspé lighthouse station, as it was threatened by shoreline erosion. By doing so, Parks Canada took preventative measures to ensure the protection of the heritage building, which was situated just 2.8m from the edge of the highly eroded cliff.

Built in 1883, the fragile wooden structure, measuring approximately 12 by 16 feet, was, therefore, cautiously relocated by a few metres on October 10. It is the first heritage building to be relocated in Forillon National Park.

Several elements were considered when selecting the building's new location, including its original location and orientation (a testimony to its original purpose in direct connection with Gaspé Bay/Gulf of St. Lawrence), its integration with other built elements at the station (lighthouse and fog alarm building), the impact on the cultural landscape, the quality of visitor experience on site, and the building's potential for enhancements.

This relocation will ensure the conservation of the canon shelter over the long term. It will also promote its enhancement by offering a new purpose, allowing visitors to enjoy it more fully and to better understand its importance within the history of the lighthouse station.

Climate change causes an acceleration of the phenomenon of shoreline erosion. At

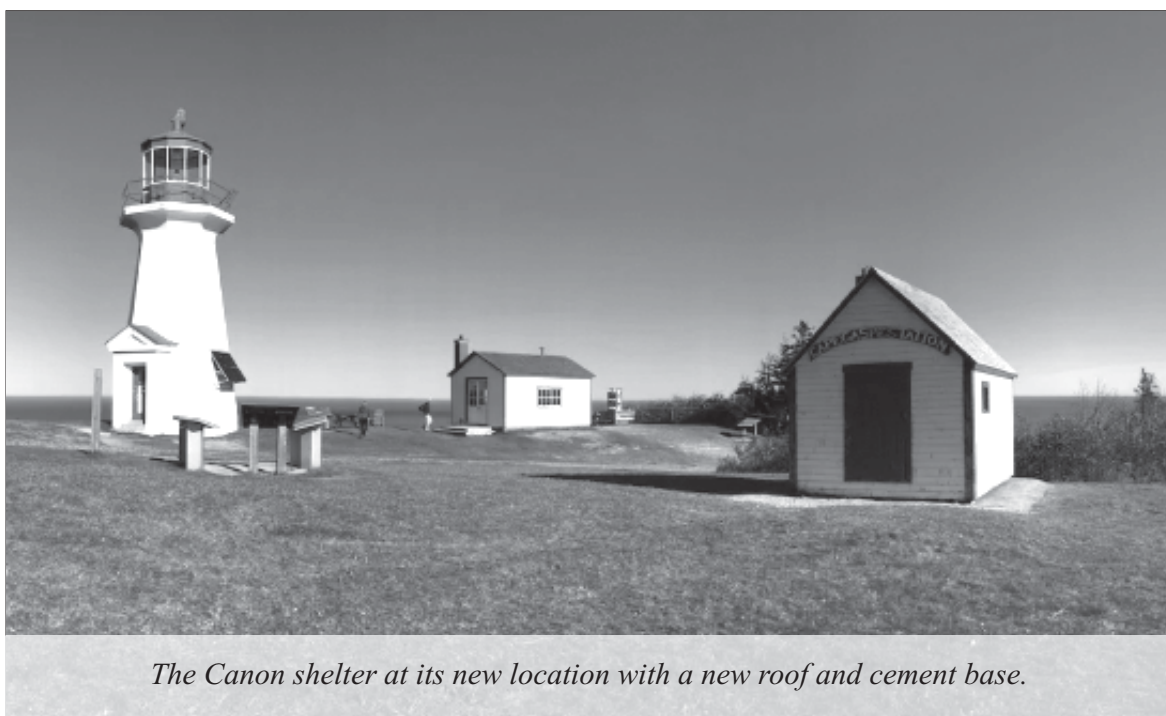


The Canon shelter at its previous location.

Photos: Courtesy of Parks Canada

the introduction of the canon as the station's sound signal. In 1894, the canon was replaced by explosive guncotton cartridges; the canon shelter's roof would then serve as a support system for the metallic structure which launched the cartridges (a structure that no longer exists today).

This building is important to the site's history, as it is the only remaining construction from the first lighthouse era. It is unique, and is also the only and last remaining witness to the modernization of buildings and the evolution of navigation techniques and equipment in the late 19th century.



The Canon shelter at its new location with a new roof and cement base.

A spectacular landscape

The Cape Gaspé lighthouse station can be accessed by the 4 kilometre Les Graves wooded trail intended for hikers and cyclists. Perched above a cape over 90 metres high, it offers spectacular views over the Gulf of St. Lawrence, Gaspé Bay, the shoreline between Gaspé and Percé, and the emblematic Percé Rock.

Since access to the site is forbidden to cars, it preserved its isolated nature and peaceful atmosphere. Hares, foxes, and porcupines are spotted regularly. The cape's cliff is also home to several sea birds, and seals can be observed from the platform at its base. Visitors can often witness whale blows and the flight of Northern Gannets offshore.

Forillon National Park, the average shoreline recession shifted from approximately 2 cm a year (before the mid 1990s) to nearly 20 cm a year in recent years.

Parks Canada has already carried out several projects to

adapt to this new reality at Forillon National Park, including restoration projects for the Penouille and Capdes-Rosiers shoreline dynamic. For more details: [https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pnnp/qc/forillon/decouvrir-dis-](https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pnnp/qc/forillon/decouvrir-discover/cote-coastal)

[cover/cote-coastal](#)

The historical importance of the canon shelter

The construction of the canon shelter in 1883 marked

GMRC Launches Interactive Salmon Cycle Game Internationally

Press release

LISTUGUJ: - The Gespe'gewaq Mi'gmaq Resource Council (GMRC) is internationally launching an interactive and educational game on the life cycle of the Atlantic Salmon. The game is being unveiled as the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO) recognized 2019 as the International Year of the Salmon, which focuses on "People and Salmon in a Changing World." Our goal is to increase awareness on the biology of salmon, cultural relationships, threats facing salmon, and human impacts on salmon throughout their lifecycle.

The Salmon Cycle Game is available in English, French

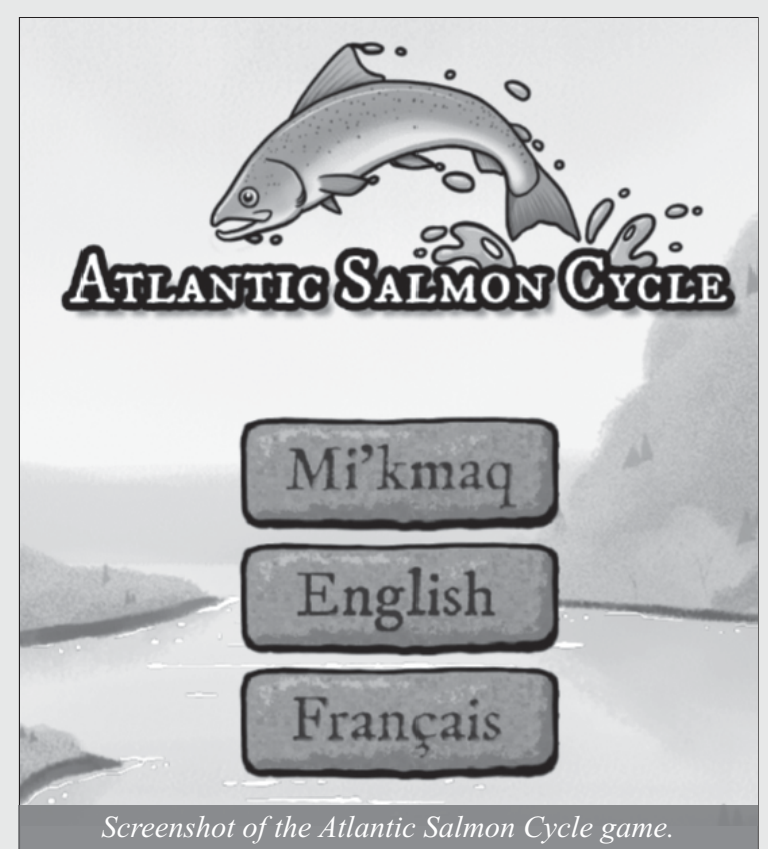
and Mi'gmaq. "It was really important to us that the salmon game be available in the Mi'gmaq language," explained GMRC Executive Director John Vicaire. "The Mi'gmaq language is critical to who we are, and how we interpret the natural environment." This unique game is being launched as the United Nations also recognized 2019 as the International Year of Indigenous Languages.

The game created in partnership with Ingenium (Canada's Museums of Science and Technology), the Gulf Region of the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and the First Nations Education Directorate of New Brunswick (EECD). The

game was created by First Mobile Education and inspired by the "Our First Catch" book.

"First Mobile Education is pleased to have partnered with the GMRC team and First Nations illustrator/storyteller Brandon Mitchell on the Atlantic Salmon lifecycle game," said First Mobile Education CEO Gary Stairs. "As a company, it is both our hope and goal to contribute to society and a better future through the creation of a restorative community where a primary question is "what can we create together."

The Salmon Cycle Game can be played on our website at <http://www.gmrc.ca/salmon-game/>



Screenshot of the Atlantic Salmon Cycle game.



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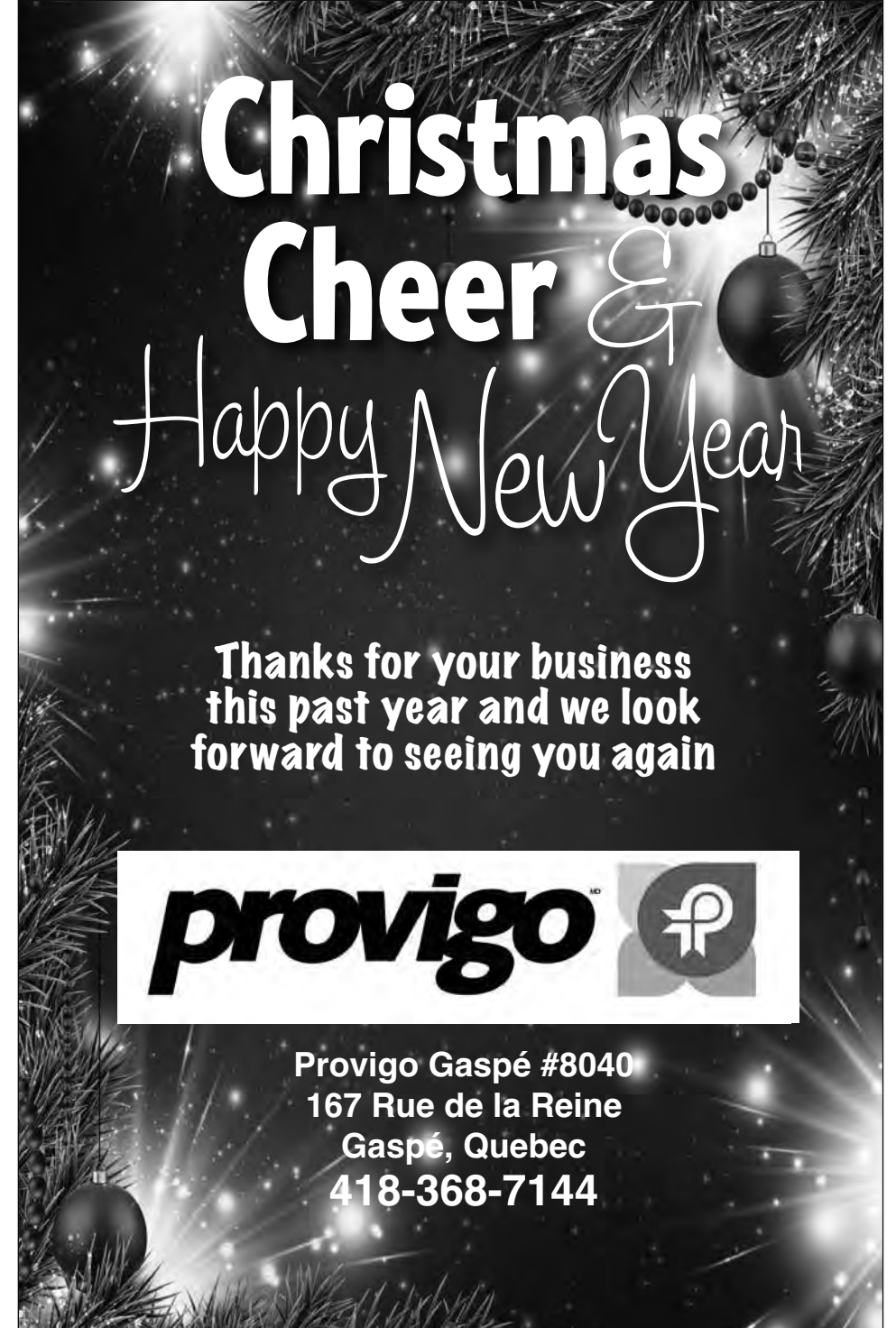


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Gilles Gagné

VILLAGE-ALLARD (NOUVELLE): – The 13th Noël au Village parade was held on December 8 in the Village-Allard section of Nouvelle. It was attended by a large crowd, of close to 1,500 people. As it has now become a tradition, people came from far to attend the event, from Gaspé to Rimouski and from many places in New Brunswick. About 25 floats participated in the parade, which was also animated by clowns, fire eaters and cartoon characters. The parade has become a source of pride for the community, and a source of entertainment for the attendees. It also constitutes a source of funding for *Opération Rêves d'enfant* of the Bay of Chaleur area. The amount raised this year was \$1,360. Since 2010, the organizers of Noël au Village have donated \$17,958 to the foundation which supports the fulfilment of a sick child's dream.



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