

New gym for SPDS is a source of pride

Gilles Gagné

PORT DANIEL: – The December 6 Open house at the Shigawake-Port Daniel School (SPDS) was a great success, as over a hundred community members took the opportunity to visit the school's new gymnasium.

Following the planning and call for tenders, the building of the gymnasium was announced at the end of June 2017. It was constructed between August 2018 and August 2019 at the cost of \$2.6 million. The facility was ready for the beginning of the current school year.

Funding for the SPDS gymnasium came from a program called *One school, one gym* launched by the Quebec government in 2016.

As soon as the school administration heard about the existence of the program, they applied for the project.

"We figured that we had nothing to lose," says Ms. Hayes. With an enrolment of 70 to 75 students, the school was eligible for the program, but being such a small school their hopes of being approved for the project weren't high. "But it worked. We had nothing and they gave us something," says Ms. Hayes.

For more than 60 years Shigawake Port Daniel

School students have had their physical education classes in the room that doubles as their lunch room or outside when the weather permitted. Current students are very eager to be able to train for upcoming sporting events in their school's regulation-size gym. On several occasions SPDS students travelled to NCHS to practice for sports such as basketball since they didn't have the appropriate facilities at their school.

The outdoor sports program, including snowshoeing and skiing, which is popular among the students at SPDS will continue.

As a result of having the new gym, SPDS also has an on-staff physical education teacher. Mark Gallibois who started his teaching career 19 years ago at SPDS, has that position.

"We can do a lot of things in the gym, dodge ball, broom ball, volleyball, basketball, badminton and floor hockey. It is also big enough to do laps," points out Mark Gallibois.

The pre-kindergarten to grade 1 students go to the gym three times a week, while grades 2 to 6 go twice a week.

During the open house students and volunteers greeted visitors and showed them around. It is obvious that the gym and the other new facilities, including restrooms and



Photo: G. Gagné

Mark Gallibois, Principal Lori-Ann Hayes and John Prince greeted everyone who came for the Shigawake-Port Daniel School open house. They were not alone though, as other staff members, students, parents and volunteers made sure that every visitor had a guided tour of the new facilities.

an elevator are a great source of pride.

Visitors were invited to a lunch that was served in the cafeteria. It is hard to believe that the cafeteria doubled as the gym for decades. A powerpoint presentation of the construction project was also on display.

For now, the gym is used by SPDS students, but school principal Lori-Ann Hayes points out that efforts are currently underway to extend its schedule.

"We are still working on a school policy for the use of the gym. We want the students to use it after school, for extra-

curricular activities. The school board is also working on that aspect. We want adults to use it as well. We want it to

be a community gym. There is still a bit of work ahead but it will come," explains Lori-Ann Hayes.

Many SPDS students were proud to show their parents and family members the new gym.



Photo: G. Gagné

A special pre-open house was held for SPDS Alumni. Former SPDS students who now attend New Carlisle High School were proud to be invited back to their elementary school to play badminton and visit the facility.



Photo: Sadie Gallibois Hayes



Fewer nurses in the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands

Nelson Sergerie
GASPÉ - The number of nurses continues to decline in the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands
According to data from the Quebec Order of Nurses as of March 31, the region experienced a decline of seven professionals in the past year. This is the second year in a row that the number of caregivers has decreased after a peak of 955 in 2017.
The region currently has 922 nurses, an average decline of 2.2% over the past five years.
Nevertheless, the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands have 10.27 nurses per 1000 inhabitants, which places the region 4th in the province. Their average age is 43.1 years. 21% are over 55, but 30% are under 34 years old. 63% have a full-time position.



The two parties signed their first collective agreement in front of journalists.

Photo: N. Sergerie

A first collective agreement at the Musée de la Gaspésie

Nelson Sergerie
GASPÉ - After going through an extremely difficult year, the bridges have been restored between the employees and the new management of the Musée de la Gaspésie.
The two entities signed their first collective labour agreement on November 12, giving the 12 employees more vacation time and pension benefits.
Labour relations had deteriorated over a year as employees wanted to review the work policy under the old management.
The situation had deteriorated to the point where the group of workers had chosen to join the CSN last January.
The work environment has changed since the departure of Nathalie Spooner and the arrival of Daniel Martin last February. Mr. Martin acted as interim director until the arrival of the current director, Martin Roussy.
"It's really day and night. There was no communication between management and employees. The museum's activities had been jeopardized. It was a very dark climate, very difficult. As soon as the interim director came in, respect was paid to the employees," said union president Gabrielle Leduc.
According to the president, some 20 employees left the museum in recent years due to the toxic work climate.

NEZ ROUGE: Donates nearly \$160,000

Nelson Sergerie
GASPÉ - The Lions Club of Gaspé recently announced that thanks to Operation Nez Rouge close to \$160,000 has been donated to local organizations over the past 30 years.
Last year with 686 rides. \$8,600 was raised. Year in, year out, between \$3,500 and \$7,300 is donated to various organization including the youth centres in Rivière-au-Renard and Gaspé, Été jeunesse Gaspé and the Gaspé Elementary School.
"It's very important because it allows young people to have activities that they would not have had otherwise. There have been several organizations that have benefitted from Operation Nez Rouge. For several years now it mainly focused on four organizations only because otherwise we would be too distributed," said the treasurer of Operation Nez Rouge George Chrétien.

The only one on the Coast

This is the only Operation Rez Rouge on the Coast this year. The provincial organization of Operation Nez Rouge would like to have other operations, but finds it difficult to find partners.
"It still takes time. These are campaigns that begin to be organized in June. We have a team in place at the national secretariat to help these organizations launch their campaign," says spokeswoman Danielle Vien. "If there are any organizations that are keen to launch for next year, we would be very happy to hear from them."
The 31st edition of Operation Nez Rouge in Gaspé will be held on Fridays and Saturdays. The launch will take place on November 29 and will finish on December 28.

The mission of the Société d'aide au développement des collectivités de Gaspé is to accompany promoters in development efforts within La Côte-de-Gaspé by providing technical and financial support to enterprises and organizations.

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Police report

Superior Court Judge André Perreault refused a request by the *Bureau des enquêtes indépendantes (BEI)* for a publication ban on the evidence related to the trial of former politicians Nathalie Normandeau and Marc-Yvan Côté.

The BEI is an organization created several years ago by the Quebec government to investigate certain cases, including incidents involving police officers. In this case, the BEI is mandated with the inquiry into the leaks pertaining to certain investigations being carried out by UPAC, the permanent anti-corruption squad.

The leaks are so significant that they have been used by Quebecor to publish a book on Jean Charest's Liberal Party funding methods and articles covering at length the circumstances of Nathalie Normandeau's arrest in March 2016. Additional leaks were linked to Marc-Yvan Côté, a former minister under Premier Robert Bourassa.

Evidence will be submitted to the court by the Director of Criminal and Penal Prosecutions during the trial of Nathalie Normandeau, who is charged with fraud, breach of trust and corruption regarding the allotment of grants from Municipal Affairs.

On December 2, Judge Perreault ruled that some evidence might not be made accessible to the public and journalists, however, the BEI will have to submit publication ban requests on a per-element basis, instead of as a whole. The judge will decide per request if the divulging information could be detrimental to an ongoing investigation.

However, Judge Perreault granted a request from the Director of Criminal and Penal Prosecutions to impose a publication ban on all evidence gathered during the Joug (Yoke) and Lierre (Ivy) investigations between now and the beginning of Ms. Normandeau and Mr. Côté's trials. Those investigations led to the arrest of the two former politicians and four other co-accused, including the former mayor of Gaspé, François Roussy.

Judge Perreault decided that once the trial started, journalists will be permitted to divulge the evidence stemming from the Joug and Lierre inquiries, as it will be presented to the court but not in a block.

The Sûreté du Québec is conducting an investigation about vandalism perpetrated on heavy equipment belonging to Eurovia Inc. At the time of the vandalism (Thanksgiving weekend), the asphalt equipment was located along Road 198 between Murdochville and Gaspé. "Damage is significant. We are talking about thousands and thousands of dollars of damage, although the company did not specify the extent of it," says Sgt. Claude Doiron, Sûreté du Québec's spokesperson. "The company is offering money to find clues that could lead to finding suspects but we are not part of that step," specifies Mr. Doiron. "There are no witnesses. We initiated an investigation but with no witnesses, it was hard to find clues. Now the company is offering money to find clues. That stretch of road can be quiet at times," concludes Sgt. Doiron.

Recreational Fisheries Act convictions: Lee Anne Crozier and Alfred Element of New Carlisle were each fined \$300 for possession of clams less than 51mm in length. Rejean Bujold of Maria was fined \$300 and forfeiture of seized goods for shellfish harvesting in a closed area. Dany Leblanc of Escuminac was fined \$600 and forfeiture of seized goods for shellfish harvesting in a closed area and the possession of soft-shell clams less than 51mm in length.

Since November 28, Quebec police forces have been conducting an operation called "*Vous sortez? Nous aussi!*" (You're going out? So are we!). They are checking the capacity of drivers in regard to drugs and alcohol. Police have intensified their actions by setting up check points. The campaign will continue until January 2.

Despite the measures adopted over the years, including information campaigns, greater police presence and services such as Nez Rouge, drinking and driving has still caused on average 100 deaths per year, on Quebec roads between 2013 and 2017. That is 28% of fatal road accidents. Alcohol was also responsible for 220 serious injuries yearly on the roads over the same period, and 1,800 non-fatal injuries.

During the same period, 34% of drivers involved in fatal accidents had legal or illicit drugs in their blood and 20% of those drivers had cannabis in their blood. Moreover, 37% of drivers aged between 16 and 24 had cannabis in their blood. The proportion increases to 46% for the 16 to 19 years of age bracket and stands at 16% for the drivers aged 25 and more.

The price of snow removal has increased


Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - It will cost more for snow removal on provincial roads this winter. The Ministry of Transport has awarded all the contracts for this winter and has found that the difficult winters of the past few years have had an impact on the price submitted by private companies.

"The value of bids has increased, but we cannot say how much for the region because the value of the contracts is variable due to many factors," says department spokeswoman Claire Pouliot. At the end of the last winter the Ministry of Transport paid lump sums to compensate for the exceptional weather..

The reconstruction of Route 198 at the West exit of Murdochville is now complete. In September when the tail end of Hurricane Dorian hit, the ground became very wet and trucks got stuck. As a result the Department of Transport built a bypass until the work was completed. The schedule has been respected.

As a result of a pileup involving approximately 25 vehicles during a violent gust of wind and blowing snow in the cemetery area on January 22 last year, the Ministry has decided to install a surveillance camera. When there is blowing snow, Route 198 will be closed between Gaspé and L'Anse-Pleureuse. The camera should be operational this month and road users will be able to view the state of the road via the ministry's 511 site by January. Illuminated signs will also be installed at both ends of the road to inform motorists of its closure, if any.




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Commentary

Gilles Gagné

Quebec's political parties' last session was a major test

Despite receiving well-deserved flak following Simon Jolin-Barrette's lame bill initially destined to limit foreign students' access to some education programs and its overall management of the entire immigration file, the Coalition avenir Québec government seems to still be in the honeymoon phase with the province's population.

Fourteen months after winning the 2018 election, Premier François Legault's party has a popular support hovering between 70% and 75% with the francophone electorate, a rarity after more than a year in power.

However, the anglophone electorate and most ethnic groups are still mistrustful towards the CAQ government and it is totally justified. François Legault is trying to play the nationalist card in order to weaken the Parti Québécois and, so far, it has worked.

The CAQ has also played the economic card to affect the Liberal Party of Quebec and that too has worked.

Truth be told, the CAQ government is, above all taking advantage of those two old parties' weaknesses. It is that more than anything else.

A quick glance at the way the CAQ government performed in many fields is far from impressive.

The economy is still going well but it mainly derives from a context prevailing in most of the world's 20 most industrialized countries than because of the current government's orientations. Finance minister Éric Girard unfortunately took a bit lightly the Mouvement Desjardins leak pertaining

to the personal data of 4.2 million customers. He partially made up for that through imposing sanctions to credit agencies that are not protecting the information collected from their customers.

Economy minister Pierre Fitzgibbon has so far fared better than the rest of that government's economic team. He is all over the place, including in the Gaspé Peninsula. He seems willing to learn more about the regions and has so far showed a capacity to listen, which is not very common at the CAQ.

The environmental file, conducted by Minister Benoit Charrette, has been one of the very low points of the CAQ government. François Legault has proven, like former Liberal Party Philippe Couillard before him, that if you don't want to put the environment at the forefront of your priorities, you just have to appoint a weak minister at the helm of it. Mr. Couillard had done the same with David Heurtel.

In the CAQ case, Premier Legault seems to lag 40 or 50 years behind the world in environmental policies and competence. He said at one point over the end of the summer that the so-called "third link" between Quebec City and Lévis is a green project because it will provide an additional road for electric cars. Benoit Charette repeated that reasoning on many occasions over the following months. That it weak, considering that the multi-billion project will only encourage more people into using their car and contribution to spreading suburbs farther and farther from urbanized zones.

The transportation file is also giving headaches to the CAQ government, because of the taxi-Uber skirmish that seems to have finally been solved by minister François Bonnardel. He has however had his hands full with the problems at the Société des traversiers du Québec, a public corporation that is coming out of at least 15 years of ill-management and twisted political nominations. The clean-up operation is far from over, considering the ferry problems still experienced between Matane and the North Shore. Mr. Bonnardel has not shone either in the Gaspé Peninsula railway, considering that a

potent Transport Department should be able to give the service back between Caplan and Gaspé within the next three years, not six.

Health files seem to move in the right direction with Minister Danielle McCann. She is able to listen and has stayed away from the autocrat methods of former Liberal minister Gaétan Barrette. The Health Department eats up close to 50% of the government budget and employs in excess of 200,000 people. If you show contempt towards those employees the way Mr. Barrette did between 2014 and 2018, you can't progress. You need to build bridges with your staff in health and elsewhere. Ms. McCann looks able to understand that principle.

As mentioned earlier, the biggest ally of the CAQ government is the old parties' failure over the past few years to renew their political platform and recruit potential leaders.


The rebuilding job of the Liberal Party will be enormous. You cannot win an election in Quebec without sizeable support in the francophone community, which accounts for 80% of the electorate. You are also looking for trouble if you cut the links with Quebec City and the rural regions such as the Gaspé Peninsula. Philippe Couillard neglected those aspects to such an extent that the Liberals are now absent from the electoral map west of Montreal. In some regions, it might take a generation before people forgive them for austerity measures implemented in 2014 and lifted in 2017, a year before the election.

The Parti Québécois case is different. Former leader Jean-François Lisée acted like an arrogant schoolteacher during his 2016-2018 tenure and displayed exactly the opposite of what voters needed to wave goodbye to the Liberals. The electorate was looking for some understanding, humanity and a different tone. Interim leader Pascal Bérubé is a solid debater though but he is not interested in keeping that position over the long term. The party has received a rare good news a few days ago when former Transport Minister Sylvain Gaudreau announced that he would enter the leadership race.

The Québec solidaire situation is different. They now represent the only true left-wing option amongst the four main political parties, and that provided them with a possibility to get very close to the Parti Québécois during the last poll. Coleader Manon Massé is well-liked by social groups and her presence is a must at the National Assembly because she will never forget people suffering from poverty and exclusion. It can't be said about the other parties now, with the occasional exception of Pascal Bérubé.

So despite several lapses and a lack of thoroughness, Premier François Legault seems in a good position to stay popular over the second year of his term. However, he would make a huge mistake by thinking that he is running a Teflon government and that he and some cabinet members can show the flashes of arrogance they have displayed over recent months. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau thought the same thing over the second half of his federal government term and it almost costed him his position.

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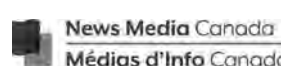
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Air Canada must improve its services in the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands, says MNA Joël Arseneau

Gilles Gagné

CARLETON — Joël Arseneau, Member of the National Assembly for the riding of the Magdalen Islands, was a passenger among the 50 people who initially tried to get to the Gaspé and the Magdalen Islands on the evening of November 29 and the following morning.

“The level of dysfunction related to Air Canada Jazz aircrafts is multifold and goes in all directions, and it includes organizational problems,” says Mr. Arseneau.

“The initial problem on Friday (the first evening) was the defrosting system and we can accept that it happens. The lack of replacement aircraft that night, however, is unforgivable, given that it happens often,” criticizes the



Pascan Aviation aircrafts reach their destination 95% of the time without cancellations, while 25% of Air Canada Jazz flights bound for the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands are cancelled for various reasons.

Photo: G. Gagné

Member of the National Assembly.

The Saturday morning flight was also cancelled due to the meteorological conditions since a windstorm was affecting the Gaspé Peninsula

and the Magdalen Islands.

“There is something wrong about asking people to board planes the following day or two, three and even four days later. Some people who were supposed to take

MNA for Gaspé affected by the canceled flight

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ: - Méganne Perry-Mélançon recounts her misadventure, once she learned that the airplane couldn’t take off.

“We arrived at the Air Canada counter to see what the other options were and when we could head home. There was a very big lack of communication with the agents in the place who seemed unaware of what was happening and they did not have access to their computer system. It is the whole question of customer service that we are criticizing,” says Ms. Perry-Mélançon.

Approximately 50 passengers were affected by the flight that was supposed to leave Quebec City on November 29-30. The passengers had to wait several days in order to have access to a seat.

“We cannot make Gaspésians and the Magdalen Islanders wait four or five extra days in Quebec without giving them any news about when they could head home,” says Ms. Perry-Mélançon.

It has been a recurring situation for a number of years, and the Member of the National Assembly for Gaspé notes that we are still in the same situation.

According to her “It’s not new. With the current technological level, a company as large as Air Canada should be able to better communicate with its passengers. It does not

make sense to me. We need to find ways to serve the regions better in terms of regional air transport.”

Could competition be the solution

Gaspé Mayor Daniel Côté believes that having some competition will solve the many problems for air travellers to Gaspé. On December 2 he commented on his adventures involving Air Canada.

Mr. Côté, who has been hammering out the message of competition for three years, does not believe that Air Canada’s desire to change things will be enough. “We can

put pressure on them by telling them to “improve the service, my friends,” but so far it isn’t working. The forceful method would be to have someone play at their feet and in their wallet. It’s called a competitor who will drive down prices and put pressure to improve the quality of service,” states Mr. Côté.

The elected official does not understand that the national carrier does not have a Plan B when a plane is damaged.

Mr. Côté pointed out that the town commissioned a study on the issue to determine the viability of having a competitor in Gaspé.

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the plane on Friday night were re-scheduled for Tuesday night for the Gaspé and the Magdalen Islands! Personally, they offered me a flight for the Islands on Monday night, but I had to be back to Quebec City on Monday night! I don’t want to complain about my case. Some people cannot afford to go to the airport in a cab that costs \$35 each time. Some people were travelling for health purposes, and others were expecting to see a dying next of kin,” says Mr. Arseneau.

He used his phone to book a flight on Saturday night knowing it would be an ordeal because of Air Canada’s poor reservation system and customer service over the phone, he adds.

The age of Air Canada’s planes assigned to the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands service is part of the problem, and their equipment is another side of the issue, he says. The Dash 8-300 were put in service in 1983 and 1984.

“I was mayor in 2005 and Air Canada was talking about replacing them. Every fourth Air Canada flight towards the Magdalen Islands is cancelled or sent elsewhere. Pascan, with the same weather, only cancels 5% of its flights. Pascan’s planes are smaller but better equipped. How do you explain that Air Canada flights are cancelled 25% of the time?” remarks Joël Arseneau.

The Dash 8-300 are not equipped with the device compatible with the LPV

(Localizer performance with vertical guidance) approach system, which allows aircrafts to land when the clouds are 250 feet above the ground, instead of 600 feet with their current and outdated devices.

“Air Canada is also experiencing staff shortages since early last summer and it doesn’t solve the problems. The planes were late all summer because of that but they are not talking about it,” deplores the elected official.

He has talked to Quebec Transport Minister François Bonnardel about those issues. Mr. Bonnardel is supposed to meet with his federal colleague Marc Garneau. Air Canada is a transporter under federal jurisdiction.

The public relations service of Air Canada replied on the second day following the SPEC request to get more information about the quality of services in the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands. The reply mentions that there was a mechanical problem on November 29 and that it was not possible to find a second aircraft for “operational reasons,” without further detail.

Air Canada admits that there are problems with the new reservation system, which required 700,000 hours of design and installation. The problems will be solved soon, but no time frame has been provided.

Pascan Aviation does not serve the Gaspé airport but serves the Bonaventure and the Magdalen Islands airports.

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Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



Grandma’s Apron

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Or to hide a crying child's face when a stranger came around.
Imagine all the little tears that were wiped with just that cloth.
Or it became a potholder to serve some chicken broth.*

Think way back. Did your grandmother wear an apron every day? My memory of my dear grandmother is vivid and I can recall her early morning routines which always included the donning of her full apron. She wore that apron until bedtime, because frankly her work was never done until she rested her head on her pillow.

Our grandmothers’ aprons were the real deal - not the half aprons, but the full aprons with a bib and pockets. The aprons tied in the back and at that point they were “ready for business.” Grandmothers wore those aprons with pride. They never looked dirty or wrinkly because they were freshly washed and ironed.

Many children today never see an apron, but for our grandmothers, it was a necessity. They owned just a few dresses so they had to protect them, however, an apron served many more functions than protecting grandma’s dresses. Just about for any chore you can think of involving the kitchen, and even children, those aprons came in handy.

An apron was used for carrying eggs from the henhouse, as a potholder to move pots around on the wood stove, bringing in kindling and carrying empty pea pods or green bean bits to the pail in the kitchen to be fed to the pigs later. Freshly picked apples were transported in the apron. Occasionally she might wipe her brow after baking bread or even dry her hands while on the move to the next chore. I have a memory of my grandmother wiping something from my cheek with the bottom hem of her apron.

The pockets were important too and served a function. The pockets were often stuffed with Kleenex and maybe a few old-fashioned peppermints. It is a beautiful memory to think of our grandmothers and how prepared they were to do all that needed to be done. They worked from morning until night, but always with uncomplaining love. The aprons they wore were symbols of who they were: nurturing, caring and hard-working.

*She probably carried kindling to stoke the kitchen fire.
To hold a load of laundry, or to wipe the clothesline wire.
When canning all her vegetables, it was used to wipe her brow.
You never know, she might have used it to shoo flies from the cow.
She might have carried eggs in from the chicken coop outside.
Whatever chore she used it for, she did them all with pride.
When Grandma went to heaven, God said she now could rest.
I'm sure the apron that she chose, was her Sunday best.*

(poem by Tina Trivett)



Linda Drody presents artwork currently on display at La Muse

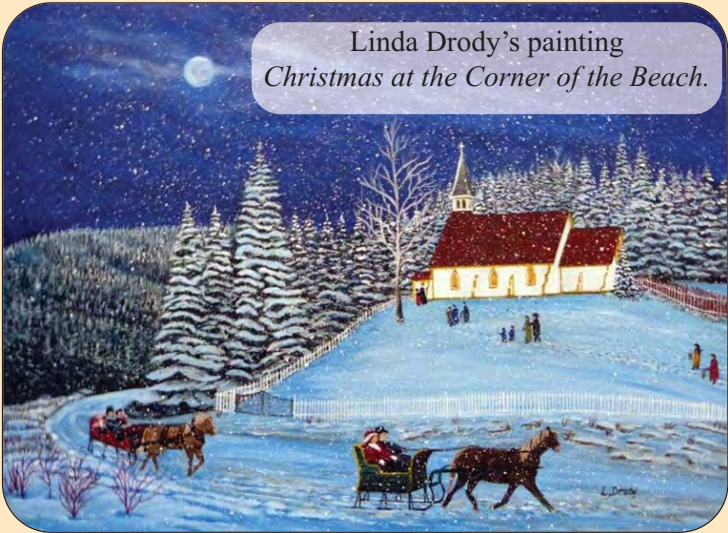
LA MUSE: Linda Drody’s artwork on display

Gilles Gagné

GASPÉ – La Muse, the art gallery of the Musée de la Gaspésie is presenting until January 5, the artwork of Gaspé artist Linda Drody. The exhibition is entitled *Noël à Gaspé/Christmas in Gaspé*. Born and raised in Gaspé, where she lives, Linda Drody developed her art skills when she was still a child. Her family initiated her to music, brush painting and drawing. Nowadays, her visual art is inspired by her childhood memories and the beautiful scenery of the Côte-de-Gaspé territory and the surrounding areas. The breathtaking Gaspé Peninsula scenery is transposed in her art, from the sand beaches to the rich rivers, including the region’s colour-changing forests.

When she started brush painting, Ms. Drody found a way to express her emotions, including darker moments. With time, her way of perceiving life changed, and she is now convinced that we must concentrate our attention on happy moments. She is now expressing joy and her sense of humour in her art

pieces. The Musée de la Gaspésie exhibition about winter and Christmas perfectly aligned to that new perception. The museum is located at 80, Boulevard Gaspé, in Gaspé. Details about the schedule can be obtained at 418-368-1534 or online.



Linda Drody’s painting Christmas at the Corner of the Beach.

Photo: Musée de la Gaspésie



Parks Canada

Parcs Canada

Canada

Business opportunities at Forillon National Park!

Become a tourism products and services provider.

Parks Canada is seeking providers (businesses, organizations or individuals) to offer their services as early as summer 2020. These include:

- Food services at the Petit-Gaspé Recreation Centre, the Penouille Visitor Centre and the new Information and Discovery Centre in the North Area of the park
- Whale-watching services from Grande-Grave
- Scuba diving and snorkelling services from Grande-Grave
- Sea kayaking services from Grande-Grave
- Quadricycle and outdoor equipment rental services in the Penouille sector
- Marine experience services from the North Area of the park
- All new proposals that aim to enhance the activities and experiences provided to visitors

You have until January 29th, 2020 at 2 p.m. to submit your project.

Interested? Contact Marie-Eve Briand, Chief, Finance and Administration:
418-368-5368 / marie-eve.briand@canada.ca



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ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20
Take some time to think a response through before saying the first thing that comes to mind, Aries. It's not easy to take the words back once they're out there.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, even though it can be difficult to cede control, sometimes you have to hand the reins over to someone else. You can still be involved from a distance.

GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21
Gemini, sometimes it can be challenging to figure out what other people are thinking. Focus on yourself instead of trying to get into the heads of those around you.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22
A focus on finances takes priority this week, Cancer. Holiday spending may force you to reevaluate your budget. It could be time to scale back.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23
Put all of your energy into one line of thought or project, Leo. This way you're fully behind the idea. You're a force to be reckoned with when you are motivated.



VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22
Time is running out to get an important job done, Virgo. This is not a week to procrastinate, but to bear down and finish your tasks. You'll breathe easier afterward.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23
Big changes are on the horizon, Libra. You may have wanted a certain outcome, but another arrived instead. It could take some time getting used to a new situation.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22
Sometimes you have to table the things you want to say in the interest of consensus, Scorpio. Focus your energy on positive things this week.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21
Sagittarius, be patient with yourself this week, as you have many different balls in the air at once. Even the most organized person may stumble here or there.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, you may need to delegate when demands at home start to feel a little overwhelming. Any free time you can muster will be put to good use.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18
Some situations are beyond your control, Aquarius. Fixating on the things you cannot change will not prove productive. Surround yourself with friends.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
Enjoy the moments that you have with family members in the weeks to come, Pisces. These are the most reliable people in your life.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

DECEMBER 8
Ann Coulter, Journalist (58)

DECEMBER 9
Judi Dench, Actress (85)

DECEMBER 10
Bobby Flay, Chef (55)

DECEMBER 11
Mos Def, Rapper (46)

DECEMBER 12
Jennifer Connelly, Actress (49)

DECEMBER 13
Steve Buscemi, Actor (61)

DECEMBER 14
Samantha Peszek, Athlete (28)



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NEVER walk, run, bike or drive your ATV on railway tracks or through the railway tunnels.

NEVER hunt, fish or jump on railway bridges. They are not designed to be sidewalks or pedestrian bridges. There is just enough free space on railway tracks to let a train to pass.

NEVER ATTEMPT to jump on board railway equipment or trains. Slipping can cause you to lose a limb or even your life.

ALWAYS ANTICIPATE THE ARRIVAL OF A TRAIN. Trains do not follow fixed schedules.

ALWAYS use the designated crossings for crossing the railway tracks.

ALWAYS obey signals at crossings. Lights and bells indicate that a train is approaching; so keep a safe distance and stay safe.

ALWAYS stop, look and listen before crossing railway tracks to make sure that it is safe.

REMEMBER - WHEN IT CONCERNS THE RAILWAY - DO NOT ENTER! STAY AWAY! STAY ALIVE!

Mayor of Chandler once again before the Municipal Commission

Nelson Sergeie

CHANDLER - Louise Langlois allegedly committed 21 breaches of Chandler's Code of Ethics and Deontology.

In a municipal ethics quote published on December 4, the Municipal Commission (Commission municipale du Québec) states that the information in their possession is likely to show that Ms. Langlois committed "several breaches of the rules set out in the Code of Ethics (of the Town)."

The breaches mentioned include the disclosure of confidential information to citizens in November 2018, March 2019 and September 2019 when the mayor disclosed the names or title of employees who made psychological harassment complaints to the CNESST. Moreover, in March and May 2019, she would have sent an email or a Messenger message to a citizen in which there were professional legal fees accounts, all contrary to Article 6 of the Code.

The Commission also crit-



Louise Langlois at the December 2 council meeting

Photo: N. Sergeie

icizes the way she dealt with conflicts of interest regarding the adoption of resolutions concerning the signing of a mediation agreement following a complaint of psychological harassment. She is criticized for failing to disclose a personal interest in the resolution, for participating in the debate and for voting on the resolutions.

The organization also accuses her of refusing to sign the minutes of this council meeting

where the resolutions were discussed.

In addition, in October, regarding the resolution requesting the lifting of the professional secrecy of the Town's lawyers in the context of an investigation by the Municipal Commission, the government institution reproached him again for not having disclosed his personal interest, to have participated in the discussions and to have voted on the resolution.

No comments

Louise Langlois refused to comment on the reproaches put forward by the commission, however, the elected official said that she intends to defend herself and consult a lawyer.

In October, the Mayor declared that no one had used the Town's mechanism related to psychological harassment.

Councilor Bruno-Pierre Godbout also declined to comment.

Ms. Langlois has already been suspended twice by the Municipal Commission.

The first time was in May 2016 when she was suspended for 30 days for having asked the Town treasurer to add \$135,000 to the 2014 budget without having respected the Town's administrative procedures.

In September of the same year, a 45-day suspension was ordered by the Commission for participating in discussions and failing to disclose her personal interests in the matter leading to the dismissal of the Town's director of urban planning, Philippe Shepherd.

A controversial garage

Chandler could lose a grant from Quebec if the Town council does not rule quickly on the construction of the new municipal garage.

In June, the council had adopted a divisional relocation to the industrial park - a \$5.2 million project paid 70% by Quebec, however, the successful contractor withdrew due to delays in decision-making.

The council must decide by December 16 on two plans: the initial project too far from the Town centre according to elected officials or a more modest garage downtown in a wetland, an expensive option according to the mayor, Louise Langlois.

"The land was too small for the garage. In addition, it was in a wetland that needed a lot of excavation for a cost of almost \$500,000. The options are hard to meet."

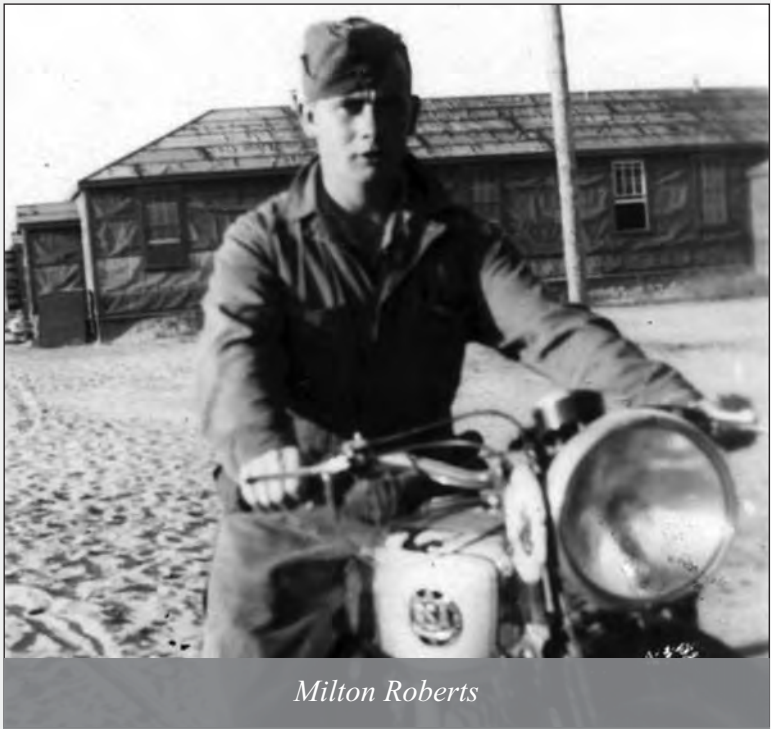
Councilor Bruno-Pierre Godbout is waiting for the council to make its decision. "We worked very hard on this issue and it is a priority," said the elected official.

The Uncle We Never Met

Brent Roberts

Samuel Roberts and Flora May Minchinton's eldest son, Milton Benjamin Roberts, was born June 28, 1922, in Grande Greve, their 5th child in a family of 5 boys and 5 girls. During the month of May 1933, tragedy struck the family with the death of Samuel Roberts. Milton stopped his schooling to work and help support his mother and 9 siblings. Kenneth, Milton's younger brother, would remember him walking along the Gaspé roads with his joyful disposition, whistling his favourite tune, *It's a Long Way to Tipperary*. Milton sported a five foot five frame, brown hair and brown eyes, and had a scar on his right index finger from a past injury. He wasn't content with remaining a logger all his life, so on March 25, 1941, Milton walked into the recruitment office in Gaspé and volunteered for service in the Canadian Army.

He was posted to the Royal Canadian Dragoons. The Dragoons was originally established as a Cavalry Unit in 1883 and saw action during the Northwest Rebellion, Boer War and WWI. In September 1939, the Dragoons were changed to an armoured regiment. Stationed in St. John's, Quebec, they later



Milton Roberts

moved to Camp Borden, north of Toronto, Ontario, during May of 1941. The next 5 months consisted of training until October when the Dragoons received orders to prepare for embarkation by November 8, with all embarkation leaves to be completed by then.

Milton travelled to Montreal for his leave and married his Gaspé sweetheart, Evelyn Ida Ellen Rabey, on October 28, 1941. A week later his regiment received their orders to ship out to England as part of the 5th Canadian Armoured Division.

The troop ship formed up with a convoy and pulled out of Halifax harbour on the 13th

of November and arrived in England 8 days later. They were unable to dock in Liverpool that day so they had to cruise up and down the Irish Sea for one more day. During 1942, Milton would continue his training and get a chance to improve his education when he was posted to the Canadian Education Company for 2 months.

Back home in Gaspé, his mother Flora was facing blackout restrictions with German U-boats patrolling off the coast. Now one of her sons, Milton was serving in Europe and another son, Arthur, was enduring the horrors of a Japanese POW camp.

Finally, in October 1943,

the 5th Canadian Armoured Division got orders that they would be shipped out. Their convoy would move out from the mouth of the Clyde River on October 27, 1943, and arrive in Augusta, Sicily, on the 7th of November. They were spared the first prolonged battle of the Italian campaign, the Battle of Ortona. Christmas 1943 would consist of track and field events for the Royal Dragoons, with a turkey dinner and Mass being held at midnight. On January 2, 1944 they arrived in Altamura, Italy.

Moved to the Adriatic Front, they would see action during May in the Liri Valley Battle. First up was the assault on the Gustav Line followed by a breakthrough of the Hitler Line on May 23. Given a rest break in June, they were brought back to active duty in July to march towards Florence for a major offense on the Gothic Line. Come mid August and a change of plans, the 5th Canadian Armoured Division was moved to the Adriatic coast to carry out their assault on that section of Gustav Line commencing on August 28. After breaching the line, they reached the Melo River by September 5, which the German Military held fast on the two-week rest period with ex-

changing of mortar and sniper fire, The Dragoons were able to cross the Melo River. This pattern of fighting up the boot of Italy and its numerous rivers would continue with the German soldiers digging in on one side, while the Canadians slowly pushed them back. Finally on October 20, the regiment was relieved and moved to Cesenatico for a much deserved rest.

December 1st, Milton's squadron was recalled to liberate Ravenna and they were able to reach the Lamone River by December 5. Two days later they were relieved by another squadron. While in reserve for three days, Milton would write his mother a letter and put it in the squadron's outgoing mail on December 10 to be postmarked on the 14. With the Canadians securing a crossing of the Lamone River on December 11, Milton's squadron was called out of reserve. December 14, 1944, recorded in the war diaries of the Royal Canadian Dragoons, it reported intermittent shelling with two other rank casualties, one being killed, Trooper Milton Benjamin Roberts.

Flora May would receive Milton's last letter on January 10, 1945. Milton was laid to rest in the Gradara British Empire Cemetery in Italy.



Jack Harrison ready for take-off.

Over the Hill...with Jack Harrison

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES: - Not for the meek and mild, 50+ go-cart racing had another exiting day on Jimmy Brown's Hill during this year's Cascapedia-St. Jules Fall Festival.

Once again, Donald Caplin won the big one. Second place went to Charlie Caplin and third to Romeo Cormier. Charlie, who built the first and second place carts, can now be declared the undisputed master of cart-builders.

It was good to see the Day brothers from Fauvel back on the hill.

Jimmy Geraghty's cart was there ready to go, but health problems kept him from racing; we'll see you next year, Jimmy.

Barry O'Neil and Kevin Willett did a real good job turning the carts around on the church hill, even with drivers still in their seats. By the time the final race came around, they were exhausted.

One quick-thinking driver avoided mishap after losing her brakes. Rather than going out onto McKay Road into traffic, she turned right, went under the fence chain at the graveyard, took a trip around the tombstone, and stopped with no damage!

Ivan and Lorna DeVouge are talking about a lighter cart; maybe they are planning to go into participation instead of competition. Two over-80-year-olds were still brave enough to race down the hill in tin contraptions reaching speeds of over 40 kmh - yours

truly and Ron Willett. Did I say "brave" enough? Maybe there is another word...

At least two of the race results are under investigation. Next year we need Larry Duthie with his camera to call the shots at the finish line. Another thing we need is an out-

house in the parking lot. As it was, many people had to head for the woods.

Thanks must be given to Melissa Harrison for getting things organized and to all the volunteers who helped out. See you all, plus many more, in 2020!



Grain inspector trainee

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The Canadian Grain Commission seeks candidates for Grain Inspector Trainee positions at its Baie-Comeau service centre. Successful candidates will take part in a 4-year development program to qualify as grain inspectors.

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- Maintaining records and compiling reports

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www.grainscanada.gc.ca



School Support Staff want to be recognized

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - More resources and an increase in the number of support staff in the schools are demanded by the Federation of School Support Staff-CSQ.

Initiating a provincial tour of the Gaspé Peninsula, Éric Pronovost underlines that recent investments in education have not filled the \$1.2 billion cut imposed by the various governments in recent years.



Photo: N. Sergerie

Éric Pronovost


The investments enabled the René-Lévesque School Board to convert several part-time positions to full-time, which allowed for a marked improvement in the quality of life of these workers.

Mr. Pronovost, who represents the support staff of the Eastern Shore School Board, hopes that other school entities elsewhere in Quebec will follow this example.

"We do not want to give permanence. Yes, we did it to René-Lévesque, but why do we do it to René-Lévesque and we cannot do it elsewhere? This is the step that will take us to give ideal conditions," says the unionist.

On Bill 40, the merger of services will have a negative impact on staff, according to Mr. Pronovost.

The union invites the Minister of Education to a real consultation.



PUBLIC NOTICE

URBANISM

Enactment of By-Laws:

By-Law 1156-11-42 « amendant le règlement de zonage 1156-11 en :

- modifiant les usages autorisés dans la zone RT-284 afin de permettre comme usage spécifiquement permis dans cette zone, l'usage Vente au détail de poissons et de fruits de mer (5422);
- modifiant les usages autorisés dans la zone RT-284 afin de permettre comme usage spécifiquement permis dans cette zone, l'usage d'Atelier de conditionnement du gibier et afin d'assujettir cet usage au Règlement sur les usages conditionnels n° 1172-12;
- modifiant la marge de recul avant minimale dans la zone M-248 et remplaçant la note 2 de la grille des spécifications de la zone M-248. »

By-Law 1172-12-11 « amendant le règlement sur les usages conditionnels 1172-12 en :

- ajoutant l'article 2.14 DISPOSITIONS APPLICABLES POUR L'USAGE* D'UN ATELIER DE CONDITIONNEMENT DU GIBIER DANS LA ZONE*RT-284. »

By-Law 1170-12-03 « amendant le règlement relatif à la gestion des règlements d'urbanisme 1170-12 en :

- remplaçant le premier paragraphe de la caractéristique numéro 5, de la cinquième exemption du troisième point de l'article 5.3 « CONDITIONS D'ÉMISSION DU PERMIS DE CONSTRUCTION.»

LEGAL SERVICES AND CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

Enactment of By-Law:

By-law 1402-19 «amendant le règlement 1190-12 règlement concernant la circulation et le stationnement en modifiant l'annexe B. »

GIVEN at Gaspé, December 11, 2019.

Isabelle Vézina,
Director of Legal Services and town clerk

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



Announcements...



In Memory

GRAY: Edward J.

Passed away in Bracebridge, Ontario, at the BBO Hospital on November 27, 2018. Ed will be missed by his wife Eleanor and sons Bob, Rick, Stephen and his family is Matapedia, Quebec. Rest in peace, my love.



ROBERTS: Milton Benjamin

75 years ago on December 14, Milton Benjamin Roberts was killed in action along the Lamone River in Italy.

At the age of 19, Trooper Roberts from Grande Greve enlisted in the Canadian Army to fight in WWII. He was assigned to the Royal Canadian Dragoons. One week before his deployment, he married his Gaspé sweetheart, Evelyn.

He was predeceased by his father Samuel in 1933. Milton was remembered lovingly for many years by his Mother Flora (nee Minchinton) and all of his nine siblings, whom have all since passed on.

Though we never had the honour of meeting our Uncle Milton, he lives on for us through the remembrances of our parents. Never forgotten, Brent Roberts

WHITE: Leo

In loving memory of a dear husband, father, father-in-law and grandfather who passed away six years ago on December 21, 2013.

*Sometimes I just sit quietly,
Reflecting for awhile,
Imagining your voice, your face,
Your warm and lovely smile.
For it's so lovely to recall,
The happy times we had
When you played such a special role
As both husband and Dad.
And at this very special time,
We only wish you knew
That we'd give you all the world today,
For one more hour with you,
But we still have our memories,
And since we've been apart,
It comforts us so much to know
That you're right here in our hearts.*

Love and missed always, wife Lorna; daughters Donna, Sandra, Valerie and families.

The New Carlisle
Funeral Association
extends sympathy to the family of
Ricky Buttle

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Happy 90th Birthday on December 14



Leslie George Coull

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Cora, the Garrett kids and their families.

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COAST ROUND-UP

DOUGLASTOWN:
Community Centre
Tuesdays: Zumba from 7-8 p.m. \$10/class. Resumes January 7, 2020.
December 13: This month's traditional square dance will be held at the Parish Hall in St-George-de-Malbaie beginning at 7:30 p.m. Voluntary contribution of \$5 would be appreciated.
December 20: The traditional solstice supper will start at 5:30 p.m. Vegetarian option available. \$15 adult and \$8 children. Tickets available in advance.
December 31: Come and join us for a community breakfast starting at 8 a.m. Voluntary contribution of \$8 adult and \$4 children (5-11 years old).
Please be advised that our offices will be closed from December 21 to January 5.

BARACHOIS:
Legion Branch 261
Every Monday: The Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 261, will be having a money bingo at 7 p.m. at the Legion. 18+ only.
Every Thursday: Cards and games from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Free. For more information, contact Lloyd Roussel at 418-645-3700 or 418-645-2786.

PORT DANIEL:
Three Star Golden Age Club
Every Wednesday: Pétanque from 7 to 9 p.m. Cost \$3. Come and join the fun and learn a new game!

SHIGAWAKE:
Community Centre
December 31: New Year's Ball beginning at 8 p.m. \$12 per person. Light lunch served, 18+, DJ (Mark Dea).

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

HOPE TOWN:
Community Centre
December 14: Military Whist beginning at 8 p.m.

NEW CARLISLE:
Royal Canadian Legion
December 14: Christmas dance featuring Tammy Adams beginning at 8 p.m. \$10 per person. Limited tickets available. Call 418-752-6799.
December 15: BREAKING

NEWS: Santa will be at the New Carlisle Legion from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

NEW CARLISLE:
Bible Chapel Services
Sunday: Breaking of Bread for Believers - 9:30 a.m.; Night service - 7 p.m.; **Wednesday:** Bible Study and Prayer - 7 p.m. "You Must Be Born Again."

NEW RICHMOND:
St. Andrew's United Church
December 20: Bring your family and friends at 7 p.m. to enjoy the singing of all your favourite traditional Christmas Carols. (Alternate storm date, December 21). Please contact Gail Martin Harrison at 256martinh@gmail.com or call 418-392-2725 if you would like to register a performance for the evening.

NEW RICHMOND:
Help Us Celebrate Joan
December 23: Joan Bisson Dow will be celebrating her 90th Birthday in January. The family is taking advantage of their Christmas gathering to celebrate with her. We'd love to see you at the tea in her honour from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the United Church Hall in New Richmond. Best wishes only, please! Hope you can join us!

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:
Royal Canadian Legion Br. 172
The Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 172, meets monthly every third **Saturday** at the Legion located at 55 Gallagher St.

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:
Book Room
Every Wednesday: The book

room is now closed until January 8. For more information, call Kathleen at 418-392-4896.

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:
Fifty Plus
Every Tuesday: Grocery Bingo at 7 p.m.
Every Thursday: Dame de Piques at 1 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend. Thank you for your support.
December 13: There will be a jam session open to all musicians and spectators at the club. Doors open at 7 p.m and entertainment begins at 7:30 p.m. Free admission and canteen service on site.

GESGAPEGIAG:
N.A. Meetings
N.A. Meetings held every **Tuesday** at 7 p.m. at the Mawiomi Treatment Centre located at 85 School Street in Gesgapegiag. Everyone welcome! For more information, call 418-759-3522.

GESGAPEGIAG:
Important Meeting
This is to inform the community members of Gesgapegiag and the surrounding area that Gesgapegiag Healing Lodge (NNADAP) hosts AA meetings and is open to everyone. If you are interested in a lifestyle free of alcohol and substance abuse and have the desire to change, you are invited to attend meetings every **Monday** at 7 p.m.

ROTARY CLUB WINNERS
The winners for the week of December 1 are: Stéphane Day, Luc Leblanc, Mario Lambert, Anik Lamirande, Francois Paquet, Jean McWhirter and Danielle Bergeron.
The winners for the week of December 8 are: Angèle Babin, Marlyne Cyr, Don Fallow, Jean-Steve Joseph, Barry

Brake, Johanne Leblanc and André Bujold.
The winners for the week of December 15 are: Joey Cyr, Nicole Babin, Patrick Boudreau, Clarence Harguail, Reinald Leblanc, Lisette Henry and Huguette Arseneault.
The winners for the week of December 22 are: Lise Poirier, Jeremy Ballum, Ghislaine Leblanc, Carol Fugère, Perry Coul, Patrick Cyr and Cécile Saucier.
The winners for the week of December 29 - 31 are: Ken Duguay, Denise Cyr-Gagnon ad Jacques Rivière.
The rotary club thanks everyone and wishes them a very Happy Holiday.

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UNITED CHURCH
Sunday, December 15
2 p.m. Hope Town

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA
Sunday, December 15
2 p.m. Lessons & Carols
Hope Town
10 a.m. Morning Prayer
Shigawake
9 a.m. Lessons & Carols

PARISH OF GASPÉ
Sunday, December 15
St. Andrews - York
10 a.m. Holy Eucharist

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Striped Skunk

*The little skunk is black and white,
So you won't step on him at night.
For if you do, I'm sad to tell,
He'll leave you with an awful smell.*

Diane **Skinner**

The skunk is an unwelcome night visitor. They will dig up your lawn searching for grubs and spray any dogs that may come near them. It is their defense and it is a pretty effective one at that.

The skunk was once considered to be part of the weasel family, but DNA tells us that they are not. Rather, they make up their own family. They are black in colour with noticeable white stripes (striped skunk) or spots (spotted skunk). Adult skunks average 50 cm long and weigh 1.5 kg. Skunks have short, stumpy legs, small heads and pointy snouts.

Skunks can be found in every province in Canada except for Newfoundland and Nunavut. They spend their days in burrows and come out at night to hunt for food. They often live in grassland areas and in mixed forests. Skunks will take over the burrow of other animals. When they dig their own, they are very adept at digging and will tunnel up to 30 cm under the ground. They will also burrow underneath a porch or shed.

Skunks have become used to humans and will scavenge for garbage, in gardens, outdoor animal food and even compost piles. They eat insects, fruit, vegetation, worms, bird eggs and, at times, small animals such as field mice. They are omnivores, eating both plants and animals. They can develop rabies, so do not approach a skunk particularly if it is behaving strangely.

They sleep through the winter months, often huddled together with a few other skunks. Sometimes, though, up to 20 will live together during the winter months. They do not actually hibernate, but are less active. They may remain in their burrow for weeks.

Males will mate with numerous females. The female will look after her litter by herself and a litter of four to six is common. The gestation period is about 60 days. At the age of two months the young skunks will be weaned and quite independent, though they will stay with their mother until spring.

If you suspect that you have skunks in your yard, check for tracks. The tracks look very similar to bear tracks, though smaller. They tend to walk flat-footed so the track should appear complete. You may see prints with five toes on the four feet. If you look closely you may see impressions of the long claws on the front feet. Snap a photo and check online to verify if it is a skunk track.

Skunks are famous, of course, for their smell which is produced in their anal glands. They can launch the secretion up to four metres. The oily musk is so strong that it can cause irritation and temporary blindness. It is difficult to get rid of the smell and the skunk is able to discharge the foul smelling spray up to six times in succession.

How do you discourage skunks from taking up residence around your home? There are a few suggestions including: Irish Spring Soap bars, human urine, citrus peels and bright lights. Do not poison them because predators will eat the poisoned carcass and be poisoned in turn.

Skunks are generally easy-going creatures. The skunk can be an annoying night visitor when they spray, dig up your lawn or move into your shed, however, they do serve a purpose when they eat insects and rodents.



Teachers' Guide

Comprehension:

1. Describe the physical appearance of the skunk.
2. What do skunks eat?
3. Describe what a skunk track looks like.
4. How can you discourage skunks from taking up residence under your porch?
5. Describe the burrowing habits of the skunk.

Vocabulary:

Scavenge, hibernate, gestation, secretion, weaned

Extra:

Research ways to get rid of skunk spray on an unlucky dog. Has your pet ever been sprayed? Tell about that experience.

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