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Celebrating 180 Years: St. Andrew's United Church, New Richmond

Diane Skinner

NEW RICHMOND: - St. Andrew's United Church, New Richmond celebrated 180 years since the initial laying of their cornerstone to signify the establishment of the church.

This important event occurred on St. Andrew's Day, 1839. On Saturday, November 30, the church marked, on the very same date, this important church anniversary. The church was named for the patron saint of Scotland, St. Andrew. Many of the original parishioners were of Scottish heritage so the choice of the name was particularly fitting, and particularly so because the original cornerstone was laid on St. Andrew's Day.

Historically beautiful, this cathedral style church is situated beside the waters of the Chaleur Bay. The land which the church sits on was donated by the Doddridge family. The cemetery beside the church is at capacity so the church now uses the Black Cape Cemetery.

St. Andrew's United Church, New Richmond, built in 1839, remains a beautiful building in which to worship. Attached is a lovely parish hall where luncheons and other celebrations can be held.



Alice Montgomery with escort Dwight Coull



Irvin Meredith, Mariah Allen and Olivia Lynd.



Sharon Mercier McDavid escorted by Bruce Willett.

Photos: Darlene Dimock

The very first moderator of the United Church of Canada, George C. Pidgeon from 1925 to 1926, worshipped at this church growing up and there is a plaque on-site honouring him.

The current minister, Ray Kraglund, is a retired supply minister and has come to New Richmond to serve this church community where he is kept busy with services, both in New Richmond and Hope Town, including funerals and

weddings.

To celebrate this historic milestone, a wonderfully memorable evening was held on Saturday, November 30. Alice Dell tells us that the focus of this enchanting evening was the presentation of vintage church wear, including wedding gowns which were modelled by members of the church. The "fashions through the years" was a highlight and included a slide show/video presentation in the background

which included many photos of church members going back over the years. Some of the vintage fashions were borrowed from the Loyalist Village in New Richmond.

Afterwards all were invited, close to 100 people, to the parish hall to enjoy some birthday cake and other refreshments. The delicious cake was provided by Café du Village in Cascapédia-Saint-Jules. It was a wonderful opportunity to socialize and reminisce. Kathleen

Paquet says that it must have been a difficult task 180 years ago to lay the cornerstone, but adds that in those days people organized working bees and all helped each other.

Last Saturday evening this is exactly what the committee volunteers did, in keeping with the church community spirit. They helped together, both behind the scenes and in front, to plan and host a delightful and memorable evening.



Mrs. Peggy Stewart, Rev. Ray Kraglund and Mrs. Blanche Fallow preparing to cut the cake.



The committee worked both in front of and behind the scenes. Shown here are Irvin Meredith, Shirley Campbell, Delilah Hardy, Irene Burton, Blanche Fallow, Dwight Coull, Alice Montgomery, Sharon Woodman, Delina Powell, Bruce Willett and Alice Campbell Dell.



Percé has a new councillor for the Barachois area

Gilles Gagné

PERCÉ – Jonathan Côté is the new councillor representing seat number 7 for the Town of Percé. That seat covers the Barachois area. Mr. Côté won the December 1 by-election, receiving 86 ballots compared to 40 for former councillor Anita Collin. The third candidate, Guillaume Arbour, did not receive any ballots. One vote was nullified. The participation rate was 38.5%. Out of 330 admissible voters, 127 voted. The seat was left vacant earlier this fall following the departure of councillor Robert Daniel who left the area to go back to the Montérégie region.



Photo: N. Sergerie

Daniel Côté and Michel Pouliot broke ground.

Diane Lebouthillier remains minister in Trudeau's cabinet

Nelson Sergerie

OTTAWA: - In her first press conference after being reappointed to Justin Trudeau's cabinet, Diane Lebouthillier said her first choice was to remain Minister of National Revenue.

The Honourable Member for Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine indicated that she did not really have a second choice when questioned by the team responsible for forming the cabinet.

"I would never have thought in 2015 about having the Revenue Agency. It was a challenge and a learning experience. What I said to the Prime Minister's people is where do you think I can do a job that will be good for Canadians. Everything interests me. Of course I have an interest in everything related to the region. That's why I work with my colleagues," says Ms. Lebouthillier.

Criticized for her work on tax havens, she points out that it is a long process. In fact, the member states that an additional \$1 billion has been added to redo the teams in order to fight effectively.

Regional priorities


On regional priorities, the environment comes at the top of the list. "We can see that this has a major impact in the Gaspésie and the Magdalen Islands. It is a concern for people in the fisheries sector, at the level of oceans and climate change. We see it in the infrastructure files with the erosion of the banks," she says.

Labour files with the shortage of workers "isn't science fiction in the county." The forest, tourism, and agriculture are also issues that "must continue."

The Cap-des-Rosiers lighthouse continues to inspire passion as local elected officials pursue the claims of a restoration of this Canadian heritage.

"This is the only commitment I made to work for the region. The Cap-des-Rosiers lighthouse will remain open for the next four years. To stay open, there will be jobs. There was an evaluation of the lighthouse and I am convinced that the lighthouse will survive longer than I will!"

The first council of ministers was held on November 21 in the afternoon.



PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that at a special meeting that will be held at the Town Hall on Monday, December 16, 2019, at 7 p.m., the Town Council will adopt its 2020 budget and its triennial program of fixed assets.

All taxpayers are invited to attend and, during this meeting, a question period will be held for the taxpayers present and will only concern the budget.

GIVEN at Gaspé, December 4, 2019.

Isabelle Vézina,
Director of legal services and town clerk

Construction is underway at Gaspé Airport

Nelson Sergerie


GASPÉ - The groundbreaking ceremony for the extension and repair of the Gaspé airport runway was carried out on November 19 in the presence of Gaspé's Father of Aviation, Michel Pouliot.

The \$9.3 million project consists of adding 1,000 feet to the runway for a total length of 5,500 feet. Ottawa is contributing \$3.54 million for the reconstruction of the current runway. Quebec will invest \$3.58 million, paying 75% of the cost of for the runway extension and new approach equipment. The Town of Gaspé assumes the difference.

The idea of extending the track is not new. Fifty-three years ago, the project was already on the table when Lester B. Pearson was prime minister.

"It will make landing easier for planes. Currently, if the cloud ceiling is below 600 feet, landing does not occur. The ceiling will decrease to 250 feet with the extension of the runway and approach equipment. (...) With the runway, the Government of Quebec's Challenger ambulance aircraft will now be able to land virtually at all times," said Daniel Côté.

The terminal and parking will be the next step. "We have very preliminary estimates, but before we communicate them, we will go further. I will tell you within a maximum of three years, maybe two years, depending on the openness we have in the programs and the funding we will put in," says Côté.



RESSOURCES MINÉRALES

PÉLICAN

Public Invitation Open House

Ressources minérales Pélican plans to operate a calcium carbonate deposit located approximately 15 km northeast of Murdochville, along Rivière Road (Route G-103), in the MRC of Haute-Gaspésie.

The project will involve the establishment of a processing plant, a port infrastructure, the modification of the forest road and the use of storage areas in the Grande-Vallée sector.

Tuesday, December 10, 2019
Between 6:30 pm and 9 pm
 5, rue Saint Francois Xavier E, Grande-Vallée
 Clarence Minville Room

For additional information:
 Lisa-Marie Gagnon : 418-408-0155 or lmgagnon@pescaenv.com.

A light snack will be offered. Looking forward to meeting you.

An invitation from David Canuel,
 Ressources minérales Pélican President

Province announces support for two projects in Gaspé area

Nelson **Sergerie**

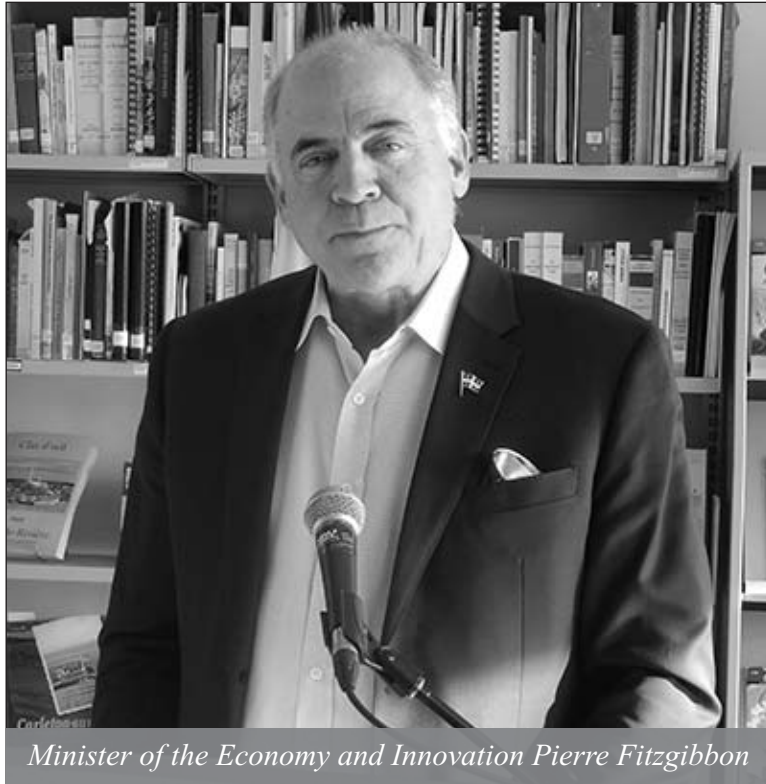
GASPÉ: - Investissement Québec is supporting two expansion projects by providing \$4.7 million in loans to Marinard Fisheries in Rivière-au-Renard and Hôtel Plante in Gaspé.

Marinard Fisheries will be able to process 40 million pounds of frozen shrimp from Greenland within three years, creating 75 new jobs. Quebec is providing a \$ 2.7 million loan for maturation and thawing equipment.

“This diversification will stabilize current jobs, create 75 new jobs over three years and increase our export sales, not counting our markets in Quebec and the United States,” says President and CEO of Marinard, Benoît Reeve.

The expansion of Hotel Plante is in full swing in downtown Gaspé. The property will be expanded to 63 rooms upon completion and an indoor pool and spa will be added as part of the expansion project. Quebec is contributing \$2 million in loans and a grant of \$100,000 will come from the FAIR program.

“The fisheries and tourism sectors are at the heart of the Gaspé economy and represent the region's main employers. With the reform under way at Investissement Québec, we want to exploit the key sectors of the regions,” said Pierre



Minister of the Economy and Innovation Pierre Fitzgibbon

Fitzgibbon, Minister of the Economy and Innovation, at the announcement on November 18 in Gaspé.

During the visit to the Gaspé, the Minister of the Economy and Innovation took the opportunity to remind everyone that its department will be merged with Investissement Québec to create a one-stop shop for entrepreneurs.

Pierre Fitzgibbon wants to lessen the procedures in the building of a project: “It is very complicated now at the government. We are talking about the environment, work permits, immigration and employment - all kinds of permits. We want Investissement Québec to be the one-stop

shop.”

In the Gaspé Peninsula, there are different structures devoted to development in each of the MRCs. The minister wants to improve them.

“We will announce in the spring an upgrade in human capital and capital finances. We will maintain what works in the regions because otherwise we will start from scratch and we do not want to do that,” says Fitzgibbon.

According to the Minister, the forestry industry, tourism, environment and wind will be the vectors of economic development in the Gaspé Peninsula. Mr. Fitzgibbon wants to maintain, even increase the jobs in his department in the region.

Police report



On November 27, the BEI investigators spent many hours trying to understand what had happened the previous day in the Caplan East house.

The Quebec independent investigation board (*Bureau des enquêtes indépendantes - BEI*) mandated with conducting investigations into serious incidents involving police officers, sent a team to Caplan on November 27 in order to shed light on an incident that took place the prior evening. The incident in question involved the death of a 47-year-old Caplan resident during a Sûreté du Québec intervention.

On November 26 at 3:10 p.m. the Sûreté du Québec was called and informed that a man living in Caplan East was displaying suicidal intentions. The police officers went to the man's home and installed a security perimeter that included Highway 132. The police was able to locate the man and tried to negotiate with him. The man exited the house on several occasions sometimes with a firearm, while uttering threats at the police officers.

On one occasion, according to a press release issued by the BEI, the man fired a shot outside the house. The police officers initiated a net operation at about 7 p.m. but at 7:04 p.m., the man shot himself.

A net operation, in police jargon, consists of intervening when an individual is isolated and is a threat. Such an operation requires the involvement of a relatively high number of police officers in order to assure the safety of the neighbourhood by setting up a security perimeter. It is carried out to confine the suspect and obtain voluntary surrender.

The BEI is mandating verifying if the preliminary information, received from the Sûreté du Québec, is valid. Eight investigators were sent to Caplan for two days. They started their work at 8 a.m. on November 27. They were assisted by two forensic technicians from the Quebec City police force.

The BEI is also requesting the assistance of witnesses who might have seen something that could be useful in that investigation. Information can be provided through the www.bei.gouv.qc.ca website. For now, the BEI will not release any additional information about that case. It usually takes several weeks or several months before releasing a report on such incidents. The Sûreté du Québec is not commenting on the case.

The mission of the BEI consists of investigating cases when someone is seriously injured or killed by a shot fired by a police weapon or during his detention during a police intervention.

Opening of the SQDC in Grande-Rivière

Nelson **Sergerie**

GRANDE-RIVIÈRE: - The first Gaspesian branch of the Quebec Cannabis Society opened on November 26 in Grande-Rivière.

The SQDC is not disclosing its expectations for this 29th branch. The public agency has a target to have 43 branches open by the end of March.

The goal is to stop the black market with the establishment of the network at the Quebec level.

“The Grande-Rivière branch is another one that helps us fulfill our mandate of migrating the black market to the legal market,” says Fabrice Giguère, spokesman for the SQDC.

The SQDC cannot indicate if other branches will be opened in the region by next March.

“We are still working on the network deployment plan. We are in discussion with several municipalities in Quebec. I am unable to confirm or deny anything to the region.”



The SQDC in Grande-Rivière opened its doors on November 26.

Photo: N. Sergerie

On November 29, Simon Synnott, 39, from Gaspé was sentenced by Quebec Court Judge Richard Côté to a five-month prison term, a two-year probation as well as other conditions. On June 27 the accused had been found guilty of sexual assault and assault causing bodily harm. The crime had taken place in Gaspé in December 2015. The accused was arrested in June 2018 and was not remanded in custody during the court case. At the time of the crime, the victim, a woman, was 22 years old. Mr. Synnott was the manager of the bar La Voûte in Gaspé.

A pedestrian was hit by a car at about 3:10 p.m. on November 28 in Ristigouche South East. The pedestrian sustained a serious leg injury. The paramedics were called and he was rushed to the hospital. The Sûreté du Québec is conducting an investigation in order to shed light on the circumstances of this accident.

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Commentary

Gilles Gagné

A well-thought CN privatization would have spared Canadians many problems

The Canadian National Railways strike could have had a significantly less important impact had the privatization of the transporter been done intelligently in 1995, or if the Canadian government had simply decided at the time to keep ownership that public corporation founded 100 years ago, in 1919.

Discussions about that privatization started to leak in 1989, after years of rumours. The Progressive Conservative Party government of Brian Mulroney gave the go-ahead to the process in 1992 and the ensuing Liberal Party regime of Jean Chrétien made the process concrete in 1995.

The fundamental mistake was to sell CN wholly, the railroad network included. Only the locomotives, the cars, some buildings and pieces of land should have been sold.

The federal government would have been better advised to keep that rail network and make it available to more than one transporter, CN included of course. Canadian provinces do the same everyday with their roads, making them available to numerous trucking companies.

Had the federal government kept the tracks formerly owned by CN, that company, once privatized, would have used them through paying passing rights but also with the thought that another railway company can use them.

One advantage of that model would have been, in case of a CN strike, to make that network available to other transporters to provide essential services, something CN did not do between November 19 and November 26. The population of Canada suffers from CN's enormous power during a strike or a lockout, the power of deciding what circulates and what doesn't.

During the strike, CN only kept 10% of its trains running, giving the priority to intermodal transport, or container hauling. CN's management likely dragged their feet regarding the hauling of propane, as it became a tool to put pressure on the union and break it, if possible. Canada's farmers were sort of blackmailed.

The problem with CN since its privatization is that public entities have very little control over a vital

player in Canada's transportation needs related to the country's output and imports.

Since 1995, the management of CN has shown staggering greed for profits, to the detriment of public interest. It has become year in year out the most profitable railway company in North America. It is literally a machine to print money. In 2018, CN generated \$4.3 billion in profits, out of revenues of \$14.3 billion. It represents a yield of 30.2%. How many investments give an interest rate of 30% legally? It is very, very rare.

So this profit generating machine is deciding about the transportation priorities of Canada? Some people find it normal but some others rightfully ask questions and criticize the situation, even if the expropriation of CN's railroads is not on the agenda of any political party.

As CN accumulates profits and hands out top dividends to its shareholders. Parts of its network are underutilized. That is not counting the dozens of lines that were flatly dismantled prior to 1995 to make the company "sexy" for its privatization. There again, the public interest was waived because when railways were abandoned, the taxpayers paid billions of additional dollars to repair a much-maligned road network, or their battered vehicles.

The current model of CN is appreciated by its shareholders, no doubt, but it doesn't maximize users' services, or potential users. When CN wants to make a 30% profit rate on a transport deal with its customers, it leaves behind hundreds or thousands of potential clients that would use the railroad for a transporter satisfied with a profit rate of 10, 15, 20 or 25%. That happens at the expense of our road network and the efficiency of our economy. Those transporters unfortunately have no access to CN's network.

Moreover, the number of places in Canada that can count on the service of two railways is limited. The other alternative, most of the time, is CP Rail, also famous for its high profit rates.

Average Canadians, those who don't own CN shares, pay a high cost for CN's privatization every day. The VIA Rail case is one example. The federal government "forgot" in 1995 to make sure that VIA Rail would keep a real priority right on the country's rail lines. It would have been simpler for the government to keep that network but at least, for the people, making sure that we have an efficient passenger transport service would have been relatively easy. That, too, was waived.

The inconvenience for freight transport would have been minimal and could have been avoided completely with the lengthening of sidings where trains meet. VIA Rail's reality is a complete opposite of that, as that public corporation must deal with a dwindling number of sidings, which multiplies delays, reduces passenger trains' reliability and, not surprisingly, hampers ridership increases.

Lastly, and it might be the most important point, CN's greed relegates safety to a rank or two below profits. CN has been involved in numerous deadly accidents over the last 20 years that were caused by negligence and safety flaws. The strike undertaken by yard and train agents was fully justified as it pertained to safety. Nine CN employees have died over the last two years in the exercise of their duties.

Obsessed with profits, CN's management is too often stretching the rubber band until it breaks. Employees are exhausted and the consequences for the public could make quite possible another tragedy such as Lac-Mégantic's.

A ride on a VIA Rail train in the Quebec-Windsor corridor will easily convince you that safety is not CN's priority. Is it normal to sit in a passenger train that has taken the siding to make way for a freight train passing at full speed, with cars weighing 130 or 140 tonnes, loaded with various products, including oil and chemicals, less than five metres from the VIA Rail train? A single broken rail or a broken wheel would create a catastrophe.

When used properly, a railway represents the safest land mode of transport. When used wildly though, it can be risky. It has nothing to do with train crews. The CN way of managing trains follows 40 years of deregulation and responsibility shedding from our governments.

If the CN strike made some people aware of the imbalance between an almighty transporter and a soft government, it was a successful conflict.

It will be interesting to see how Canada's Transport Minister Marc Garneau will now question CN's pre-strike decision to axe 1,600 employees, considering that the workers on strike were worried about safety issues. If a staff of 24,000 employees was not enough to operate safely, how will 22,400 workers succeed? Yes, we can be worried.

If it is hard for now to make up for Brian Mulroney and Jean Chrétien's lack of vision, it is nevertheless time for a deep reflection about the safety of our transportation mode, all of them.

Marc Garneau, a former astronaut who seems lost when dealing with issues located under 10,000 metres in altitude, could redeem himself a bit by keeping a close eye on CN's safety practices. He could also pass on a couple of messages regarding the determination of priorities for the railway.

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208-B Gérard D. Levesque
New Carlisle, Que.
G0C 1Z0
Tel: 418-752-5400
specs@globetrotter.net
thegaspespec.com

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Publisher:
Penny MacWhirter


News Editor:
Gilles Gagné


Office Manager
Joan Imhoff

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Diane Skinner
CONTRIBUTORS:
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Arthur Houde, former CHNC owner, dies at 84

Gilles Gagné

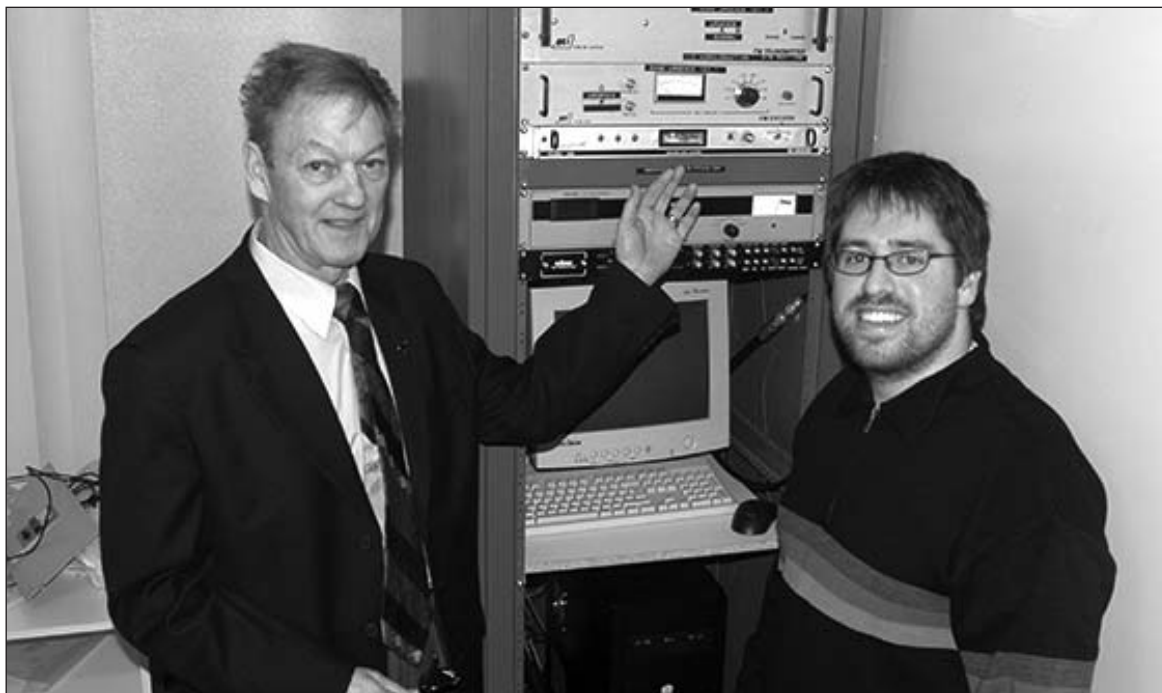
NEW CARLISLE: – Arthur Houde, the former owner of CHNC, New Carlisle's radio station, died on November 26 at the Centre d'Accueil in New Carlisle from complications linked to Alzheimer's disease. He was 84 years of age.

Arthur Houde was the son of Charles Houde, a dentist who had developed a passion for the radio, enough to found CHNC in 1933. At the time, it was only the second predominantly French radio station in Quebec. CHNC broadcast some English programs right from the start though and maintained some of them in its schedule for decades.

Arthur Houde was literally raised in the New Carlisle radio station, since he was born in the building and it was the home of the family for a long time. He studied to become a technician in electronics. He took over the management of CHNC in 1975 and was assisted in that duty by Réginald Poirier. "Mr. Arthur," as he was affectionately called by some members of the staff, remained in that position until selling the radio station to the employees in 2007. At the time Arthur Houde was 72.

"I remember going to New Richmond in order to sign the transaction papers with him and the accountant and I could tell that he was sad. He was very fond of CHNC. It was his life. On the way back to New Carlisle, he was not talking and he had a tear in the corner of his eye. I was driving and I touched his knee and I told him: "Don't worry. We will take care of the radio station." He told me later that he was glad to see the employees taking over," remembers journalist Michel Morin, who presides over the workers cooperative that bought the radio station.

The employees turned what had occupied the 610 AM and 1150 AM frequencies into an FM radio station with half a dozen frequencies to cover the huge territory of CHNC. That move required an investment of close to \$350,000 and coincided with efforts to erase the accumulated debt of CHNC. The cooperative invested again in excess of \$300,000 two years



Arthur Houde was invited by then director Francis Rémillard to turn on the switch that made an FM radio station of CHNC. Photo: G. Gagné

ago to revamp the antenna network.

Arthur Houde was invited to make the official switch to the FM frequencies on De-

ember 23, 2008, the very day of CHNC's 75th anniversary on the air.

He was also invited by the employees to the 85th an-

niversary of the radio station in December 2018.

"He loved telling stories about the history of the radio station. He was starting to be

a bit confused last year but we were more worried about his physical health. We are surprised by the fast progression of Alzheimer's in his case," adds Mr. Morin.

In 2008, in an interview with SPEC, Arthur Houde talked about the days when CHNC was one of the few radio stations in Eastern Quebec and the Maritimes. The staff would have Christmas contests and draws and they'd receive ballots from people living in Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland, the Lower North Shore, New Brunswick and on a few occasions from Iceland and London, England.

Because of the "skip" phenomenon, AM radio waves, already travelling far during the night, make leaps to reach far locations, he said at the time.



Commission scolaire Eastern Shores Eastern Shores School Board

PUBLIC NOTICE

Is hereby given, that in accordance with sections 286 and 287 of the Education Act, the financial statements and independent auditors report for the school year 2018-2019 ended June 30, 2019 will be deposited at the meeting of the Council of Commissioners of Eastern Shores School Board on December 17, 2019 at the hour of 9:30 a.m. at the Administrative Center, 40 Mountsorrel, New Carlisle, Québec.

Given at New Carlisle, Quebec
November 26, 2019

Margaret-Ann Cooke
Interim Secretary General

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2018-2019

FINANCIAL POSITION		STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND ACCUMULATED SURPLUS	
FINANCIAL ASSETS		REVENUES	
Cash	\$355,531	MEES operating grant	\$29,063,252
Operating grants receivable	\$4,801,061	Other grants and contributions	\$600,047
Financing grant receivable	\$4,045,861	School taxes	\$1,706,468
School taxes receivable	\$545,860	Tuition and other fees	\$128,845
Accounts receivable	\$1,049,291	Sales of goods and services	\$172,719
		Other revenues	\$211,644
		Depreciation of deferred contributions -	
		Acquisition of capital assets	\$20,152
Total of financial assets	\$10,797,605	Total revenues	\$31,903,126
LIABILITIES		EXPENSES	
Short-term loans	\$8,600,000	Educational Activities	\$11,891,358
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$3,636,710	Educational Support Activities	\$8,668,024
Deferred Contributions - Acquisition of capital assets	\$712,208	Related Services	\$2,489,223
Deferred Revenues	\$511,930	Administrative activities	\$2,622,823
Employee future benefits provision	\$2,073,622	Activities related to buildings and equipment	\$3,525,225
Long-term debt under the responsibility of the school board	\$50,709	Complementary Activities	\$893,697
Long-term debt subject to a promise of grant	\$18,108,950	Expenses related to the variation in the provision for Employee future benefits	\$100,026
Other liabilities	\$466,176	Loss on disposal of capital assets	\$83,524
Total liabilities	\$34,160,306	Total expenses	\$30,273,901
Net financial debt	(\$23,362,701)	SURPLUS OF THE YEAR	\$1,629,225
NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS		ACCUMULATED SURPLUS	
Capital assets	\$28,485,190	Accumulated surplus, beginning of year	\$3,591,867
Prepaid expenses	\$98,603	Surplus of the year	\$1,629,225
Total of non-financial assets	\$28,583,794		
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS	\$5,221,093	ACCUMULATED SURPLUS END OF YEAR	\$5,221,093

Hugh Wood, Director General

SELL IT FAST
IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!

TOURISM:

Gaspé Peninsula has excellent performance in 2019

Gilles Gagné

CARLETON: – Preliminary numbers indicate that the number of tourists increased again in the Gaspé Peninsula between May and September inclusively. Up to 535,000 people came to the Gaspé Peninsula during those five months, and their presence generated spinoffs of \$271 million.

It was the fourth consecutive record for summer attendance. The occupancy rate of inns, hotels and motels also reached a record during those five months, at 64%. That number was enhanced by a higher occupancy rate at the beginning and the end of the season. For example, gains were made in June, as 50% of the rooms were filled in the region, a 1.7% hike compared to 2018.

Moreover, the occupancy rate records of July and August were also beaten, with 81% and 85% respectively, a 4% improvement since 2015.

“It was a very good season.



Photo: G. Gagné

We were expecting something like 2017 since 2018 had been exceptional. We can't always beat records but 2019 was again better than the previous year, even if the weather in August was a little cooler at times. Since 2015, we have increased the number of visitors by 22%. It is a lot,” explains Joëlle Ross, director general of the Gaspé Peninsula Regional Tourist Association (ATR).

“Before 2015, we had declined a bit. We realized that we were not getting many youth (young adults). They

were going everywhere in the world but we were not seeing them here. We focused some of our publicity efforts on them and they are coming now,” adds Ms. Ross.

“We are also putting emphasis on the fact that if you are coming to the Gaspé Peninsula in July or August, better reserve your lodging in advance, even if the occupancy rate is not 100%. Yes, there is room still but depending on the moment, if you don't want to sleep in your car or in a place where you didn't want to go,

you should reserve,” she says.

Joëlle Ross is aware that the Canada-US exchange rate is one reason Quebecers vacation within the province. Travelling to the United States is more costly when you take into account the exchange rate.

“The exchange rate and the weather are big factors explaining our success in attracting tourists in the Gaspé but it is not the only factor. People are better equipped to travel when the weather is not so nice. It is especially true when we are talking about planned vacation. You have reservations so you go even if it rains. People get proper clothing and they adapt,” she points out.

Eighty percent of the Gaspé Peninsula tourist clientele are Quebecers. It used to be more than that but the Regional Tourist Association and some of its members have worked to improve the proportion of international visitors. It is a long-term effort, says Joëlle Ross.

“The foreign clientele come here when it is their second or third trip to Quebec, usually. In

that regard, our improved aerial services in Mont-Joli and Gaspé will help,” she underlines.

The Regional Tourist Association is confident to beat the overall numbers of 2018 this year, once the year is over.

“The 2018 records are 784,000 visitors and spinoffs of \$360 million, when we take into account winter tourism. Considering that our May to September attendance was 535,000 people, a tad over the 2018 statistics, we should surpass last year's number even if we won't reach 800,000 visitors,” says Ms. Ross.

Campgrounds were popular in 2019 with an attendance increase of 6%, which is slightly above the province-wide increase.

The Regional Tourist Association management is also glad about the results of the advertisement campaign surrounding the 90th anniversary of the Gaspésie Tour. The road around the Peninsula was opened in 1929 over its whole length.

CASA EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



Kim Harrison

Position: Development Officer

Currently I am CASA's Development Officer, meaning I work with CASA management, staff and partners to develop and design new activities and programs for the community.

There is no “typical” day at the office; work can range from writing action plans and project applications, to meeting with partners and brainstorming with staff. What I like about my job is that I get to take great ideas and help transform them into programs that will assist the community. I am lucky to work with incredibly dynamic people, so there is never a shortage of ideas to choose from!

In my free time I enjoy the outdoors, there is nothing like a hike up a mountain or a walk on the beach to clear your mind. I'm now grateful to be living in the very town I grew up in, with my parents around the corner and my two sons free to roam as they please.



Madelyn Hayes

Position: Senior Wellness Coordinator for 10 years

I like getting together with all the wonderful people I've met through the Wellness Centres and seeing all of the preparation come together.

When Madelyn isn't preparing, researching trivia or calling individuals for the nine senior Wellness Centres CASA has to offer, she is ON THE ROAD! No matter what activity or event is happening within CASA, we can always count on Madelyn to lend a helping hand. She is super organized and a quick thinker which is just a few of the great qualities Madelyn has to offer.

Madelyn enjoys spending time outdoors but also likes to relax by watching TV. Her guilty pleasure is chocolate!

"BE YOUR OWN HERO"



Ashley Renouf

Position: Administrative and Communications Agent for 5 years

I love being able to help and give back to our communities!

Ashley is from **Good Ole' Carlisle!** Ashley's honesty is one of her best qualities. She never holds back whether you want to hear it or not. Ashley is a multi-tasker who works in many different areas of CASA, from greeting you at the front desk, CASA communications (designing ads, social media), supporting CASA staff and the Linda LeMore Brown Foundation.

Ashley's free time is dedicated to her family, as she says “family time is the best time.” Her guilty pleasure is sweets, lots and lots of sweets!

You don't always need a plan. Sometimes you just need to breathe, trust, let go, and see what happens." - Mandy Hale



Shannon Marsh

Position: Youth/Employment Coordinator for 9 years

I know and see the challenges our youth face and I get the opportunity to help change those situations with guidance and support.

Shannon's job allows her to keep "in tune" with the community and be involved with the youth. She works specifically with a group of young adults on a daily basis providing them support and guidance in obtaining set goals and objectives. Shannon also serves the community by helping individuals with resumes and job searching.

Shannon's passion for our community to thrive and her positivity are two major strengths she brings to the CASA team. You'll often find Shannon combing the beach for sea glass or on the softball field!

"The cure for anything is salt water - Sweat, Tears or the SEA!"

Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



Be Prepared

*"It's the most wonderful time of the year
With the kids jingle belling
And everyone telling you be of good cheer.
It's the most wonderful time of the year."*

It's the most wonderful time of the year! So says the tune first sung by Andy Williams in 1963. The song describes the wonderful activities that we associate with Christmas time. These include visits from friends, sledding, sharing stories, parties and roasting marshmallows, however, there can be a downside to this season and that is driving. During the summer if your vehicle breaks down it can be a problem, but in the cold weather and storms of winter it can be a matter of life and death.

Just in case this should happen, having an emergency kit can make a huge difference. You can buy kits already packed with some items or you can make your own. A kit should include a set of reflective triangles. These can be purchased through Amazon.ca for \$39.99 and include three triangles to place around your vehicle to warn other drivers that your disabled car is there. A quality set of jumper cables may come in handy if your battery is needing a charge. You should include a powerful flashlight and do not forget to check the batteries in it at the beginning of the winter season. A bag of sand or kitty litter can be just what you need to gain traction if you are spinning your tires on ice. A small shovel would be helpful if you get stuck in a snowdrift. Of course, you should always travel with a spare tire, a jack and a lug wrench. It may be helpful to keep a warm blanket in the car particularly if you are travelling with children. Some people choose to include bottled water and granola or protein bars, but I am hoping that none of you end up stuck for that long, however, it can happen. Being ready for any eventuality is a positive thing.

Stay in touch with your family. Make sure that your cell phone is charged, particularly so if you are heading out in a storm. Let your family know where you are going and message them when you arrive.

If you happen to be involved in a collision and not a breakdown, there are a few things to keep in mind. Stay calm and look around. If you are injured, stay put. Call for help. Call 911 if anyone has injuries or if the damage to your vehicle is substantial. This is important to do if you suspect the other driver is impaired. If it is safe to move your vehicle, try to pull over to the side of the road or into a driveway, if accessible. Never admit fault. Never make any promises to pay for any damages to the other person's car or truck. You may not be thinking clearly or you may even be in shock. Of course, contact your insurance company as soon as you are able to. For this it might be helpful to record information on your phone or even snap a few photos. Jot down the time and date, where it occurred, your speed and particularly the road conditions.

We all hope that we never need to access our emergency kits or report an accident, but being prepared is vital. Since it is the *Most Wonderful Time of the Year* consider assembling or buying an emergency car kit for someone you love. It would be an essential and thoughtful gift.

TOURISM INDUSTRY

System to determine level of services available in English

Gilles Gagné

CARLETON: – The Committee for Anglophone Social Action (CASA) and the Gaspé Peninsula Regional Tourist Association are working on an initiative that will lead to the development of a classification system in order to determine the capacity of a business to serve visitors in English.

The members of the Regional Tourist Association will receive a survey this winter asking them to determine their level of English and to express their needs, if they want to improve their skills.

The mandate to prepare the survey and the follow-up on this initiative has been awarded to Rural Project, the consulting firm founded by Jennifer Hayes and her husband, Dave Felker, of Shigawake.

"One of the primary concerns of the English-speaking visitors coming to Quebec is that they don't think they will be served in English. I am originally from Ontario and before coming here, I had misconceived the kind of services I would get," explains Dave Felker.

The classification or coding system will give tourists a good idea of the type of English services they will receive when they come to the Gaspé Peninsula. There will be a green code for a business whose staff and documentation are fully bilingual, for example. The yellow code will be given to a business able to provide services in English, but with an incomplete documentation.

The orange code will be given to a business having a difficult time providing services in English, but still able to get by. A grey code will go to a business that is 100% French.

"The second part of the survey will identify the business with an interest in improving their services in English. They will be asked to determine the kind of service they want to improve," adds Dave Felker.

Those services could be the translation of documentation, and training to improve written or spoken English. CASA and the Regional Tourist Association will then choose how to fill those needs. There is a model that both or-



Dave Felker of Rural Project.

Photo: Courtesy of Dave Felker

ganizations can use as inspiration, the *Alberta Réseau de développement économique et d'employabilité*, which has already carried out the same kind of venture in order to provide services to French visitors.

"Our next steps will be to get a branding and get the survey out. There are 700 members at the ATR (Regional Tourist Association of the Gaspé Peninsula) and that is where we are going," he says.

ATR's director general Joëlle Ross supports the initiative with enthusiasm.

"We don't know what will be the participation rate in the first year of the survey, because we often see that our members don't answer to ours but I am quite sure that after the first year, when some businesses will wonder why they don't have the colour code pertaining to English services, they will answer the second time around," she says.

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This project is funded in part by the Government of Canada's New Horizons for Seniors Program

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Gespeg: Difficult reform of the electoral code

Nelson **Sergerie**

GESPEG: - Members of the Micmac Nation of Gespeg are criticizing the lack of transparency on the reform of the electoral code.

Nathalie Basque, who initiated the movement, represents some 250 members who demand, among other things, a constant presence of councillors representing members living outside Gespeg, elected officials who are not administrative directors, and an account of the activities of the council.

According to Ms. Basque, the Band Council refuses to explain to the members why they disagree to these electoral code changes.

"We feel reluctance. A lot. They (the band council?) were asked to work with the lawyer who was working on the code change. We feel that there is no willingness," states Ms. Basque who is a member who lives in the Quebec City area.

The Gespeg Band Council wants to regulate the details of



Councillor and spokesman Terry Shaw.

Photo: N. Sergerie

the code in order to organize elections early in 2020. Their mandate was extended in order to reform the electoral code. The mandate must, in theory, end in December.

The current code provides for one advisor per 100 members. With 1,500 members, the next election would be on a base of 15 councillors and a leader, while the current council has eight councillors.

The outgoing council says it wants to refer to its members

to decide this issue. "The council takes the responsibility to see the members and provide them with proposals. In the short term, we want to adjust these elements before finalizing the code, but it will have to be approved by the members," says council advisor and spokesman Terry Shaw, who does not want to speculate on what will be proposed.

Currently, a councillor can hold a job within the Nation. A

review will be made to revise this practice to avoid conflicts of interest, without concrete commitment contrary to what some members claim.

Is there intimidation on the Gespeg board and administration? It is difficult to get a clear picture on the issue.

Ms. Basque says that there is, indeed, in the administration. "There were notices and letters asking members not to

speak on behalf of others. Employees are bullied but they do not want to talk because they are afraid for their jobs."

Band Council spokesperson Terry Shaw denied the allegations. "The director general did not have any complaints. Of course, there are frictions for some people. The work environment for some may have been a bit more difficult. Yes, it happened, but bullying as such: no," says the spokesman for the Band Council.

Former head Manon Jeannotte says the opposite. Jeannotte resigned last February for family reasons. In a statement sent to The Gaspé Spec following the Band Council press conference on November 22, Manon Jeannotte stated that she believes the press release contains false allegations related to a political vendetta.

For the former head, it is more than necessary to hold elections in order to have a council that wants to adopt good governance.

Fallout from CN strike could last several weeks

Gilles **Gagné**

NEW RICHMOND: - The CN strike, which took place between November 19 and November 26 inclusively, will have consequences on the railway traffic in the Gaspé Peninsula for a minimum of two to three weeks, according to Luc Lévesque, director general of the Gaspésie Railway Society, the operator of freight trains between Matapédia and Caplan.

The cement traffic delivered by the Port Daniel plant is the most affected because the turnaround of railcars is off its normal pace, points out Mr. Lévesque.

"For example, one of McInnis Cement's clients operates a siding with a capacity of 15 cars maximum. We send them two series of 10 to 15 cars weekly to allow them enough time to unload without saturating their siding. When CN stopped, the deliveries there stopped too and then CN showed up with 45 cars in one shot. Of course, it jammed in the freight yard before its delivery. Imagine that scenario repeated with thousands of clients," explains Mr.

Lévesque.

"So it will probably take two to three weeks before a normal cycle is restored. Cement will be impacted more at the outset and I don't think we will recuperate all the traffic lost," he adds.

"Regarding windmill blades, it delayed the (incoming empty) train by a week, a week-and-a-half, but we should not be too affected. We will make up for the lost time in December," states Luc Lévesque.


The difference between cement and windmill blade trains is that cement leaves the New Richmond silo installed for McInnis Cement on a daily basis, while windmill blade trains leave New Richmond every second week, which provides some wiggle room for the delivery.

The windmill blades are made in Gaspé by LM Wind Power and they are trucked to New Richmond because the line east of Caplan is under repair. Cement also has to be trucked to New Richmond and Nouvelle before being transferred into railcars.

The woodchip traffic out of the Temrex sawmill in Nouvelle was not affected by the strike because the line east of Rivière-du-Loup is manned by people from another union than the Teamsters. The Mont-Joli crews were therefore not on strike. The woodchips are delivered to the Rivière-du-Loup paper mill.

"As for the lumber traffic (coming from Temrex too), the traffic is slow since the summer so the loss is not too important on that side," concludes Mr. Lévesque.

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Canada

Announcements...



Obituaries



ASTLES: Mary Elizabeth

April 8, 1939 - October 11, 2019

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Mrs. Mary Beth Astles (née Hocquard) on October 11, at the age of 80.

She is survived by her husband Raymond Astles, her children Dean and Sandy and her five grandchildren Amber, Cody, Ryan, Gabriel and Isabelle.

Mary Beth was a sister to the late Billy and Wilfred Hocquard and is survived by her third brother, Jim Hocquard.

Mary Beth was an active community volunteer in New Carlisle, a beloved friend, wife, mother and grandmother who will be dearly missed by all.

The funeral service was held on October 25 at St-Andrew's Anglican Church in New Carlisle. The family would like to thank everyone for their kind messages, donations of food, friendly visits and their generous contributions to the Linda Lemore Brown Foundation, St. Andrew's Memorial Fund or an association of their choice.

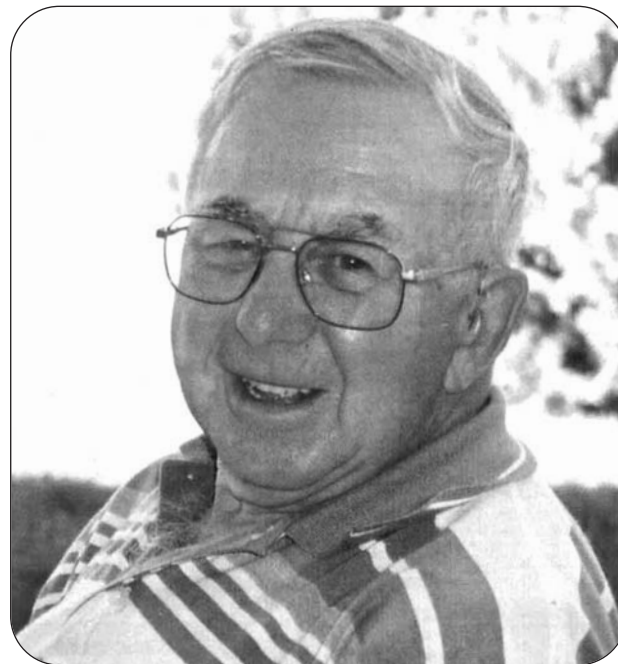


MACKENZIE: Warren William James

Warren William James MacKenzie, born in Shigawake, Quebec, on May 3, 1931, passed away peacefully at the Centre d'hebergement in New Carlisle on September 25, 2019, at the age of 88.

Predeceased by his parents Earl MacKenzie (1983) and Annie Young (1988), his sister Iona Beebe (2005) and his brothers Colin (2006) and Elwyn (2003). He leaves to mourn his beloved wife Edith MacMillan, their son Warren, his sisters Shirley Williams (Montreal) and Sheila Hocquard (Paspebiac) and many nieces, nephews and friends.

The funeral service was held at 2 p.m. on September 30 at St. Paul's Anglican Church. Donations to his memory may be given to St. Paul's Memorial Fund or to the Linda LeMore-Brown Foundation.



MILLER: Ivan Lawrence

Born January 30, 1926, in Sunny Bank, Gaspé, Quebec, and passed away September 23, 2019, in Sherwood Park, Alberta.

Ivan was the seventh child of ten born to Ernest Stillman Miller and Elma Phyllis Miller. Ivan and Virginia were married in Edmonton, Alberta, on June 30, 1970.

He is lovingly remembered by his wife, Virginia; in-laws Doreen Long (Hal Kitchen) and Norman (Helen) Blue; as well as many nieces; nephews; other relatives; and friends.

Ivan enjoyed life - family and friends were very important. The places he loved most were the Gaspé and the Jasper mountain area. He was a longtime member of the Belvedere Golf and Country Club in Strathcona County and also the Royal Canadian Legion.

His memorial service was held on October 19, 2019. Cremation has taken place and he will be interred in the Mausoleum at the Edmonton Cemetery.

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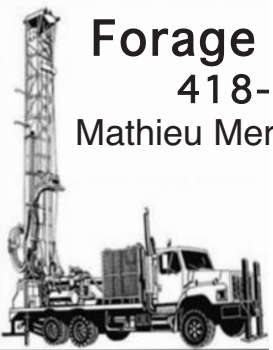


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In Memory



JEAN: Lionel 1928 - 2009

My Pappy

Clearly not a "fashionable" man
 Wearing the same old button-up shirts every day,
 A face that seemed to be slumping daily,
 Eyes that seemed as heavenly as heaven itself.
 In his presence, you noticed immediate safety.
 You'd often find him in a rocking chair,
 Slowly rocking his days away,
 Focused on a bright coloured wheel
 That spun on the television.
 We see this wheel now, and we are unsure how to feel.
 You'd head into the house,
 And immediately hear Bob Barker.
 He always spoke very loudly,
 Since the volume was at its maximum.
 When he wasn't watching the wheel being spun,
 His eyes wandered towards a hummingbird
 That would be near his bright red and yellow feeder.
 Once they were out and about, all you heard.
 Was the subtle chirps of one bird.
 Walking to his home is now deafening,
 Hit by a storm of emotions:
 Sadness, happiness, most often pure joy.
 The slightest things bring back all the memories.
 Even the look of one oddly shaped toy,
 Or the shine of a new loonie, that he loved to share
 With whichever grandchild that was there that day.
 Christmas was always his favourite holiday.
 For him it wasn't the gifts,
 Or the food that made it enjoyable,
 He loved having his whole family under one roof.
 When everyone was together,
 His smile seemed to be bigger and brighter than the sun.
 He often appeared to radiate happiness.
 He is somebody you could never not miss,
 Somebody who shared all the love he had,
 Somebody that I am glad
 I had the chance to spend six short years with.

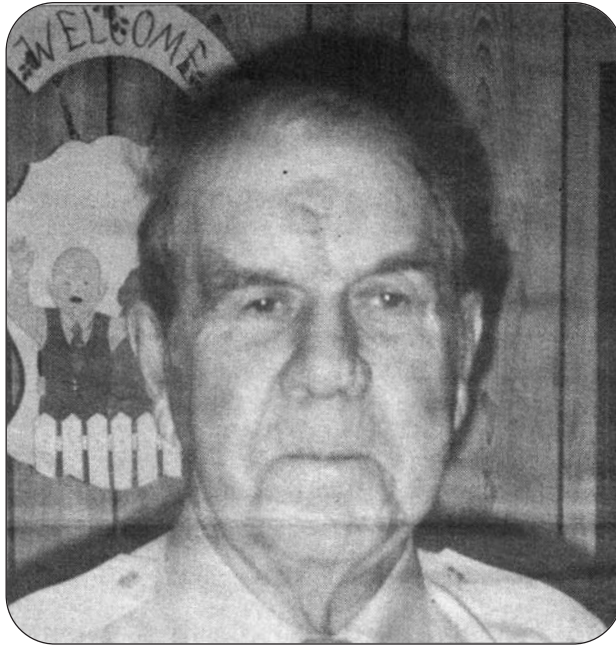
By: Tori Fournier (Granddaughter)

Ten years have passed, always loved and never forgotten. Gertie, children and grandchildren.

MILLER: Austin

In loving memory of my husband who passed away November 8, 1991.

*What would I give to clasp his hand,
 His happy face to see,
 To hear his voice and see his smile,
 That meant so much to me.*
 Your loving wife, Mary.



RENOUF: Hughie

In loving memory of a dear father, father-in-law, grandfather and great-grandfather who passed away 15 years ago, December 3, 2004.

*Your end came sad and sudden,
 No time to say goodbye,
 You were gone before we realized,
 And only God knows why.
 There will always be a heartache,
 And often a silent tear,
 But always precious memories,
 Of the days when you were here.
 Those special years will not return,
 When we were all together,
 But with the love that is in our hearts,
 You will walk with us forever.*

Sadly missed and always remembered by your son Robert, daughter-in-law Glenna, grandsons Troy (Sheryl), Trevor (Jessica) and grandchildren Hayden, Joseph and Mariah.

PHOTO QUALITY

When submitting a photo for this page, please send in a digital photo (.jpg) to specs@globetrotter.net.

You can also send your photo by mail or drop it off at the office.

Thank you

The family of the late Warren MacKenzie wishes to thank all those who supported them during his hospitalization and funeral with special thanks to the staff and doctors at the Maria hospital and the Centre d'hebergement in New Carlisle. Thank you to Catherine Buttle for her professionalism in handling the funeral arrangements; to Rev. Joshua Paetkau; to organist Lois Hayes and to the choir. We especially appreciated having niece Doreen (MacKenzie) Johnston travel from Port Lambton, Ontario and kindly consent to present the eulogy. Also happy to have Phillip MacDonald and his wife Kathy from Cross Creek, New Brunswick, attend the funeral. Calls, cards, messages of condolence and donations of food were appreciated as were donations to St. Paul's Memorial Fund, the Linda LeMore-Brown foundation or a charity of their choice.

May Warren rest in peace with the loved ones who have gone before him.

The MacKenzie Family

Thank You

Sincere thanks to former students, former parents and friends and acquaintances for the "welcome back" greetings. I have received visits, telephone calls and greetings in public. It is most humbling and greatly appreciated.

Eurda Hoorweg-Lodge
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YORK:

York River Seniors' Club

December 7: The York River FADOQ Seniors' Club will be hosting its annual Christmas Supper and Dance. 5 p.m. for cocktails and supper at 6 p.m. Music to follow. \$20 per person with club members receiving a \$15 refund at the door.

DOUGLASTOWN:

Community Centre

Tuesdays: Zumba from 7-8 p.m. \$10/class. Resumes January 7, 2020.

December 5: Discover our board games or bring your own beginning at 5 p.m. Families welcome. Free

December 7: Cookie making beginning at 9 a.m. Activity led by grandparents for children. Come and make holiday treats. Bilingual activity. Free. Max 15 children.

December 8: Come and join us for a community breakfast and Christmas market. Breakfast starting at 8 a.m. Voluntary contribution: \$8 adult, \$4 child (5-11) From 9 a.m. to noon, come and encourage your local artisans. To reserve a table please call 418-368-0288.

December 13: This month's traditional square dance will be held at the Parish Hall in St-Georges-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 the

office 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.

December 7: Supper and Kitchen Party. Club sandwiches and hot chicken will be served. \$12 per adult and \$6 for children under 12. Take outs from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sitings beginning at 5 p.m. Music with local talent will begin after the supper.

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!

December 7: Members and guests Christmas party.

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:

Community Centre

December 14: Military Whist beginning at 8 p.m.

HOPE TOWN:

Hope Baptist Church

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

132 West, Hope Town, 418-752-5838.

NEW CARLISLE:

Royal Canadian Legion

December 7: Annual Christmas gift bingo beginning at 7 p.m.

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:

Christmas Bazaar

December 8: Christmas Bazaar for St. Andrew's Anglican Church from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the New Carlisle Town Hall. Anyone wanting a table, please contact Agnes at 418-752-7192.

NEW CARLISLE:

Gilker Residence Christmas Bazaar

December 7: Christmas Bazaar at the Gilker Residence from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome. Support our local artisans as well as the Gilker Residence by attending this Christmas Bazaar.

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 CARLISLE:

Christmas Bazaar

December 7: Enid Legros-Wise is inviting you to come by

her table at the Christmas Bazaar at the Gilker Residence from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. More new items in her porcelain jewellery and greeting cards for the season.

NEW RICHMOND:

St. Andrew's United Church

December 20: Bring your family and friends to enjoy the singing of all your favourite traditional Christmas Carols beginning at 7 p.m. (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:

Richmond Manor Christmas Bake Sale

December 7: Richmond Manor will be having a bake sale from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at 196 Blvd Perron O, New Richmond. Assorted baked goods for everyone to enjoy over the holidays.

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:

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 7: The annual

Christmas concert beginning at 7 p.m. Practices for children will be held at 6:30 p.m. on December 5 at the 50+ club. If you would like to donate your talent and perform, please call Kelly Cochrane at 418-392-6870. Welcome to all.

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.

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.

UNITED CHURCH

Sunday, December 8

Worship with Anglicans in Port Daniel at 10 a.m.

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

Sunday, December 8

New Richmond

3 p.m. Holy Eucharist

New Carlisle

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Hope Town

11 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Port Daniel

10 a.m. Morning Prayer

PARISH OF GASPÉ

Sunday, December 8

St. Paul's - Gaspé

9 a.m. Morning Prayer

Get Involved in YOUR community

Become a LINGUISTIC MENTOR TODAY!

WHAT?

Mentoring is a one-hour session, once a week for 12 weeks. YOU will be helping a community health worker improve their English!

WHEN?

Anticipated start date - January 2020

WHERE?

The Baie-des-Chaleurs area

WHY?

Improving a health worker's English improves services for us all - share your knowledge and learn more about another culture while having fun!

Contact Jennifer at CASA for more information today!
418-752-5995/418-391-4187 or jennifer@casa-gaspe.com



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Caribou of the Gaspé

“We all have a responsibility to protect endangered species both for their sake and for the sake of future generations.”

Diane Skinner

In 1984, the caribou of the Gaspé Peninsula were determined to be a threatened species. The threatened species has declined in numbers and is likely to become endangered in the future. It is estimated that there are fewer than 200 left, although some estimates are as low as 75 on the Gaspé. The caribou live on the Chic-Choc and McGerrigle Mountain Range in the Gaspé Provincial Park. It is the only herd of this species still living south of the St. Lawrence River.

At one time the caribou were plentiful and could be found all over Eastern Canada. Historically, Indigenous people hunted them but with utmost respect. They used all parts of the animal: meat, bones, skin, antlers, fat and pelts. These hunts did not cause the caribou to decline significantly in numbers. The arrival of the Europeans in the 19th century was disastrous for these animals. The new hunters were looking only for pelts and discarded all the rest of the animal. They hunted with firearms so the caribou were killed in great numbers.

By 1940, the number of caribou had dropped to an estimated 1,500. A ban was enacted which prohibited the hunting of any caribou. Today their natural predators include black bears and coyotes.

The clear cutting of trees in some areas has also contributed to the decline of the caribou.



Photo: SEPAQ

They love to feed on lichen which grows on mature trees.

Currently the ban on hunting caribou continues and the number seems to be stable, though small. Their continued existence on the Gaspé is not a cer-

tainty. They are rightly considered a species at risk.

In 2018, wildlife agents in the Gaspé investigated a shocking death. A caribou was found eviscerated. This was about 30 km south of Sainte-Anne-des-Monts in the Gaspésie Provincial Park. A hunter discovered the animal and reported it. The antlers and fur were still present; however, the body had been ripped apart and the organs removed. The wildlife agent stated that he was shocked at the scene and commented that “every caribou counts.”

The penalties for killing a caribou is a fine of up to \$20,000. The slaughter of this animal appears to have been by a human and is out of the norm for hunters. Hunters are usually very respectful of animals and are well aware that the caribou is a threatened species. There is a phone line where you can anonymously contact the Ministry about poaching. The number is 1-800-463-2191. The agent adds that someone somewhere saw or heard something and that information would be welcome. It is never too late to do the right thing.

Teachers' Guide

Comprehension:

1. Where are caribou found on the Gaspé?
2. What parts of the caribou do indigenous people use?
3. Who are the natural predators of the caribou?
4. Tell about the shocking death of a caribou in the Gaspésie Provincial Park in 2018.
5. What caused the huge decline in caribou herds beginning in the 19th century?

Vocabulary: Define these words:

Prohibited, lichen, eviscerated

Extras:

Research and compile a list of animals which are native to the Gaspé Peninsula. Include birds and sea life. Try to determine if any of them are threatened or endangered.



ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

Do your best to put power struggles at work or at home into proper perspective, Aries. Looking at things through a new vantage point can serve you well.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, you are ready to break out of a rut that has kept you in neutral for some time. You may have to sacrifice some comfort to get up and moving.

GEMINI – May 22/June 21

Gemini, you are outgoing in the days

ahead, and the stars are aligned with your interpersonal relationships. This combination could prove rewarding.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, take some time this week to do something that makes you feel good. Don't just focus on the physical; concentrate on your emotional well-being as well.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, you do not need a reason to be self-indulgent this week. Just step out there and go get what you desire. You're a hard worker and have earned the privilege.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, you may be compelled to drop by a friend's or family mem-

ber's house unannounced this week. Better to pick up the phone and talk things out first.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, it is time to spread your wings and try something new this week. You'll get restless tied behind a desk. Take some time off to indulge your wanderlust.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, loosen up the purse strings a little bit this week, as you have been quite disciplined with your finances lately. If you are ahead of the game, splurge.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

Don't try to rein yourself in this week, Sagittarius. The cosmos are certainly against it. Pour your heart out to

someone or take on a grand project.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Take your foot off the gas pedal this week, Capricorn. You have a funny way of always being on the move. Sometimes you need to scale back and do nothing.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Sometimes the most exciting things happen when you allow them to develop organically, Aquarius. Let things unfold without too much oversight in the days ahead.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, many people see you as gentle and cooperative. These are valuable traits that can benefit you and those around you in the coming weeks.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

DECEMBER 1

Zoë Kravitz, Actress (31)

DECEMBER 2

Aaron Rodgers, Athlete (36)

DECEMBER 3

Amanda Seyfried, Actress (34)

DECEMBER 4

Jay-Z, Rapper (50)

DECEMBER 5

José Carreras, Singer (73)

DECEMBER 6

Thomas Hulce, Actor (66)

DECEMBER 7

C. Thomas Howell, Actor (53)

CENTRE COMMUNAUTAIRE

AUBERGE DOUGLASTOWN

HOSTEL

Tel.: 418-368-0288
28 St-Patrick, Douglastown, Quebec
Email: centre.douglas@douglastown.net
DOUGLASTOWN.NET

abca⁺

Société de comptables professionnels agréés

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ASSOCIATES

ALPHONSE BERNARD, FCPA, FCA
CLAUDE BERNARD, CPA, CA
HÉLÈNE LAGACÉ, BAA

alphonsebernard.ca
CARLETON-SUR-MER
418-364-7471
CPA

STUDIO DENTAIRE

Art-DENT

Dr. Éline Audet
Owner

349, boul. Perron
Maria Qc G0C 1Y0
Tel. : 418 759-3640
artdent@globetrotter.net

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