

## RACISM IN ARENAS:

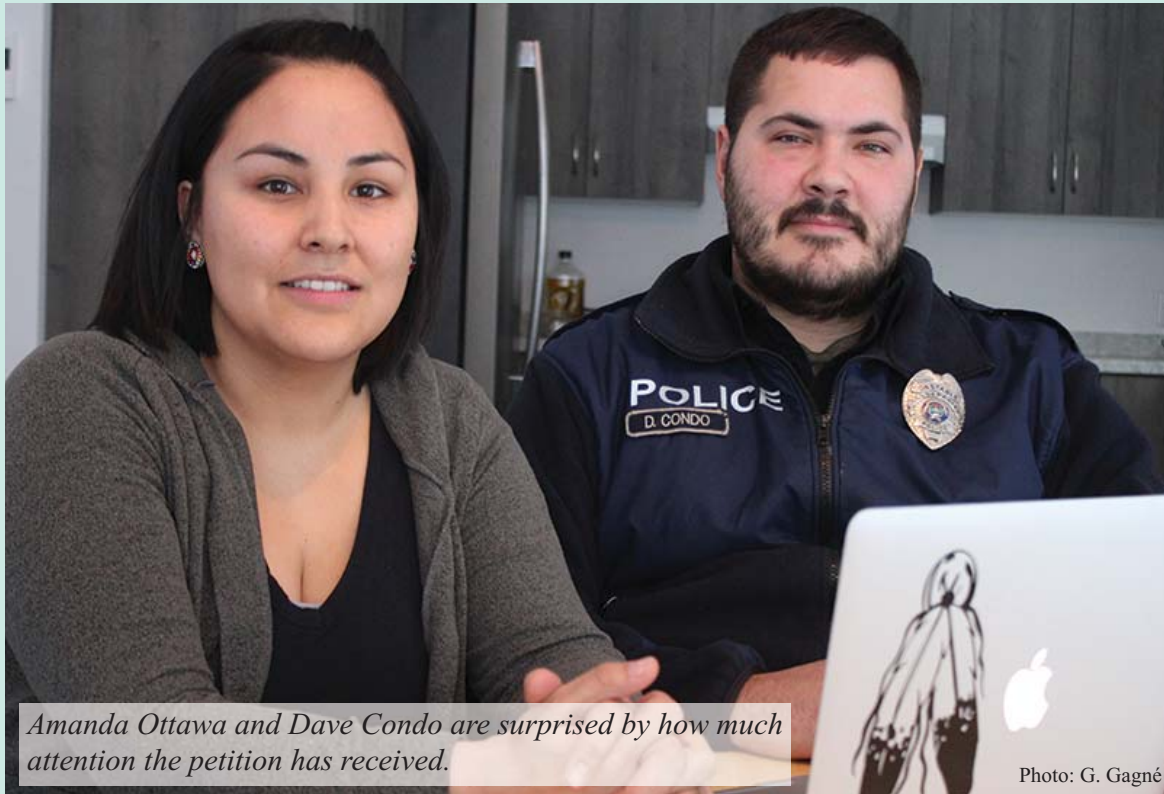
# Petition nears 4,000 signatures

Gilles **Gagné**

**GESGAPEGIAG:** – The petition started by Gesgapegiag’s Amanda Ottawa to eradicate racism in the Gaspé Peninsula arenas has gathered close to 4,000 signatures. She started the petition on January 5, the day following an incident that took place at the Paspebiac arena during and after a game between the Gesgapegiag Chiefs and the Chandler Goons.

The hockey game that took place on January 4 was marked by racist remarks uttered by some Chandler players. There was some minor physical contact, including pushing and shoving at the end of the game, during and after the handshake. The racist remarks targeted the Mi’gmaq players.

Amanda Ottawa and her husband, Dave Condo, who



*Amanda Ottawa and Dave Condo are surprised by how much attention the petition has received.*

Photo: G. Gagné

played in that game, are glad to see that the petition has reached people from outside the region.

“At the beginning, I wanted to target the Gaspé Peninsula.

After, it will spread elsewhere, I think. Racist remarks are not only made in the Gaspé Peninsula. In Lanaudière, it happens all the time,” she says.

“As the file progresses, we

see that it fills needs that exist outside the region,” adds Dave Condo.

She hopes that Hockey Québec will take the petition into consideration and adopt a

code of conduct that will include anti-racism measures.

Dave Condo has initiated steps to get a motion ratified by the Gesgapegiag band council. “I will send a letter from our team asking for the support of the council. A Gesgapegiag councillor will then accompany me with the band support motion and it will be easier to go and convince the municipal councils of the Gaspé Peninsula to adopt an anti-racism policy in the region’s arenas. I want them to take my bus, so to speak,” he explains.

The couple has received messages of support from all over Quebec, from Natives and Non-Natives, including people from Kahnawake, who experience difficulties when playing hockey in the Montreal area.

**Cont'd on page 6**

## AIR CANADA:

# Lack of communication, prohibitive fares and a coffin that made a long detour

Gilles **Gagné**

**GASPÉ:** – A Gaspé family recently went through a difficult experience because of Air Canada and Transport Canada policies. As a result of their experience, that family is asking the Quebec and Canadian governments to intervene in order to implement “real and adapted solutions” so that Gaspésians and Magdalen Islanders can access decent aerial services.

Yvette Thériault, while grieving the death of her mother, Marie-Claire Arseneau, which occurred on December 12, underwent a difficult time while trying to respect her mother’s wishes.

Ms. Arseneau, who resided in Gaspé for many years, wanted to be buried in the Magdalen Islands.

A few days before Ms. Arseneau’s death (the end-of-life



*Yvette Thériault, centre, was assisted by Gaétan Lelièvre, left, and Michel Pouliot, right, in her saga with Air Canada and Transport Canada.*

Photo: N. Sergerie

protocol was launched on December 7), Ms. Thériault had difficulty securing tickets for herself and five other family members who wanted to be present at the funeral. She also attempted to make arrange-

ments with Air Canada to transport her mother’s body to the Magdalen Islands on the same flight as the family members.

“We had no communication with Air Canada. I was

never able to speak with a person and I was never able to leave a message on an answering machine. We just heard computerized messages,” criticizes Ms. Thériault.

There was more bad news

awaiting the Arseneau Thériault and Pouliot families. “We learned from the funeral home that the body had to pass through Quebec City,” adds Yvette Thériault.

Since 2016, any remains being transported by plane must be embalmed by a funeral home certified by Transport Canada.

The closest certified funeral home is located in Quebec City. That detour cost the family a little over \$2,000, including the plane ticket from Quebec City to the Magdalen Islands, with a stop at the point of origin, Gaspé!

In addition, it was impossible to obtain from Air Canada a commitment to allow the family to travel with Ms. Arseneau’s remains.

Yvette Thériault and her family were taken aback when

**Cont'd on page 6**

## Few flu cases so far

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - Influenza is hitting the Gaspé region later this year. Only two cases have been identified so far by the Public Health Department.

“It is certainly starting later. Last year, in October, we already had several cases. There are little or almost no calls to Info-Santé regarding flu symptoms in the community. There is not much going on in influenza activity,” says Medical Officer Dr Ariane Courville.

There is no evidence to suggest that there will be a marked increase in cases in the coming weeks.

Some 15,000 influenza vaccines were administered so far in the region, similar to last year’s number. Vaccines are still available for those who would like to have one.

## New reflections regarding electing a prefect

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - The Avignon and Bonaventure MRCs have started thinking about a prefect elected by universal suffrage.

The prefects of Bonaventure, Éric Dubé and de la Côte-de-Gaspé, Daniel Côté, were re-elected by their peers in November for a two-year term. The question is on the table in Bay of Chaleur with the upcoming municipal election.

“Do we want a full-time prefect? It sure has an impact on the budget of the MRC and in some cases on the way the function is played,” commented the prefect of Avignon, Mathieu Lapointe.

Regarding the Bonaventure MRC, the administrative part has already been analyzed by general management. It remains to validate the political component.

“We meet colleagues who have made the gesture of adopting the prefect by universal suffrage or MRCs who have decided, after reflection, to maintain the formula of the prefect elected by peers,” explains prefect Éric Dubé.

### No changes on the Côte-de-Gaspé

The Côte-de-Gaspé has no debate on this issue. The prefect, Daniel Côté, recalls that the case was settled in 2017 and no significant development has occurred since. Mr. Côté pointed out that the situation in the Côte-de-Gaspé is unique.

“The town centre occupies a significant weight in the MRC. This is more than 85% of the population and more than 92% of the land wealth. When you have a giant like that, the concept of prefect elected by universal suffrage does not arise in the same way as in other MRCs,” says Mr. Côté.

## CHANDLER: The municipal garage is moving to the industrial park

Nelson Sergerie

CHANDLER: - The municipal garage will be built in the Pabos industrial park. After obtaining a one-month extension of \$3.5 million in assistance from Quebec, the council voted by majority in favour of the \$5.2 million project in Pabos despite the reluctance of councillors Gaétan Daraiche and Bruno-Pierre Godbout who want the garage to be located downtown. The two elected officials want soil tests and analyses of the costs for each of the options.

“This is probably one of the files I have been most disappointed with since I was elected. We wanted to assess the operating costs. We don't know how much it will cost in Pabos. We still have to respect democracy,” said Councillor Godbout.

The mayor, Louise Langlois, is delighted with the turn of events. “Reasoning has won. We are here to make the best choice for optimizing our services and the best choice for the citizen’s pocketbook.”

Tenders will be launched in January.

## A unanimous motion for the development of the Gaspé

Nelson Sergerie

QUEBEC CITY - The National Assembly unanimously adopted on December 4 a motion by the Parti Québécois to recognize the Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine as a region with significant particularities.

**The member for Bonaventure, Sylvain Roy, read this text to parliamentarians:**

*“That the National Assembly recognize the Gaspésie – Îles-de-la-Madeleine as an administrative region with significant particularities;*

*That it emphasizes that these particularities bring significant challenges, taking into account, in particular, the extent of the region, its remoteness and the island reality of the Magdalen Islands;*

*Let it recognize that the Gaspésie – Îles-de-la-Madeleine region has lagged behind in recent years in terms of public funding for health, transportation, education, culture and environmental protection;*

*That it recalls that this situation had its share of consequences on the economic development of the region and on its capacity to set up its own institutions in several fields of competence of Quebec;*

*Finally, it stresses the importance of supporting the Gaspésie – Îles-de-la-Madeleine region by considering these important particulars.”*

“We wanted to remind the government that the Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine is a very distinct region and has very specific needs because of its size and distance from the major centres. We talk about isolation when the services are not adequate,” Méganne Perry-Mélançon Member of the National Assembly for Gaspé said in a press briefing moments after the adoption of the motion.

The prefects of Avignon, Mathieu Lapointe, Bonaventure, Éric Dubé and Haute-Gaspésie, Allen Cormier, were present at the National Assembly when this motion was tabled.

## Saint-Hyacinthe... a remote region?

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - The way Quebec wants to relocate 5,000 public service jobs to the regions raises many questions for elected officials in the Gaspé region, especially after a government agency opened an office in Saint-Hyacinthe, in the Montérégie region.

The Municipal Commission is opening an office in this Montérégie city located barely 60 kilometres from Montreal, a gesture described as “the desire to settle outside major centres is part of the government's vision to ensure occupation and vitality of the territories and to resolutely place its action at the service of the regions,” the commission wrote in a press release on November 26.

Gaspesian prefects hope that this vision will benefit all of Quebec’s regions.

“What I want is that the 5,000 jobs are not decentralized to the outskirts of Montreal and then we will say that we have decentralized to the regions. I hope that each region of Quebec, including the outskirts but also the remote regions, will be able to experience real decentralization of jobs,” states the chair of the table, Nadia Minassian.

The member for Bonaventure believes that the government and public servants do not know their geography. “I think we will have to invite them more often to the Gaspé to show them what a region is. I do not think that Saint-



Regional Minister Marie-Ève Proulx.

Photo: N. Sergerie

Hyacinthe has the same challenges, issues and problems as the Bay of Chaleur or the North Shore. It is a short-sighted, atrophied vision of the needs of the regions. It's ridiculous,” states Sylvain Roy.

The minister responsible for the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands, Marie-Ève Proulx, agrees that the challenges of Sainte-Anne-des-Monts, for example, are miles from Saint-Hyacinthe.

She explains that Quebec has set up a working committee to relocate jobs to regions where devitalization is significant.

“Obviously, in the Gaspé, especially on the north side, there are needs for this purpose. Mayors tell us about it every time we are in the

Gaspé, but the government is thinking about how it will be done,” she said.

“The Gaspé can count on me to defend its interests in this regard since we know the situation very well,” reassures the minister.

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# Police report

Gérald Le Guédard from Gaspé is contesting a City of Montreal parking ticket specifying that he was in the east part of the city when, in reality, he was at home watching a hockey game with his son, 900 kilometres away from Montreal.

According to the information written on the infraction ticket, his vehicle was supposedly at the corner of Sainte-Catherine-East and Darling on October 16. That vehicle was allegedly parked at 12:20 a.m. within five metres from the street corner. The fine was issued on November 20 and amounts to \$170 (\$100 plus the administration fees).

"I was stunned. It is just about impossible!" says Mr. Le Guédard. "The last time I went to Montreal was about three years ago. I was driving a Dodge Caravan... I had gone to watch a hockey game at Bell Centre."

In the written testimony sent to Montreal's municipal court, his son Israël mentions that "on the evening of October 15, I was watching a hockey game with Mr. Gérald Le Guédard in his home (...), a game between the Montreal Canadiens and the Tampa Bay Lightning."

Gérald's brother Alain also sent a written testimony to the effect that "On October 16, 2019, I, Alain Le Guédard, and my brother, Gérald Le Guédard, were walking in the afternoon on the beach in Haldimand. It is therefore impossible that his car was in Montreal because we were close to 1,000 kilometres away from the place of the infraction."

Gérald Le Guédard also sent a receipt showing that on the afternoon of October 16, he made a transaction in a Gaspé store in the early afternoon.

Yet, the licence plate number of Mr. Le Guédard appears on the infraction ticket. "I am waiting on the tribunal's answer. If they send me to court, it will cost me more than \$170. I will go for my honour. It is a principle," he concludes.

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The number of fatal accidents decreased on the roads patrolled by the Sûreté du Québec between 2018 and 2019, from 237 to 216, and the number of victims went from 252 to 232 provincially, the lowest number since statistics have been collected in that field. Some accidents caused more than one casualty. In the Gaspé Peninsula, Magdalen Islands and Lower Saint Lawrence, the number remained the same - 28 people died in road accidents each of the two years. The numbers are not official yet.

Over the last decade, the number of fatal collisions in the territory served by the Sûreté du Québec (SQ) has constantly diminished despite the rising number of vehicles on the roads. In 2010, slightly more than 340 people died on the same road network. The SQ attributes improved analyses identifying locations, time, conditions leading to fatal accidents and the behaviour causing them. This way, the police is able to determine strategies to target interventions and diminish risk factors.

In spite of the dwindling number of fatal accidents, the SQ specifies in a press release that the habits of drivers remains a concern despite all the campaigns held to prevent such fatal accidents.

Speeding remains the main cause of fatal accidents even if the number of casualties linked to speeding went from 71 to 64 between 2018 and 2019. That is about 30% of the total.

Impaired driving, triggered by the use of alcohol, drugs, or both, went from the third to the second cause of road casualties. It likely caused slightly more than 10% of those accidents. On the average, police officers still arrest 17 people every day for impaired driving.

Distraction at the wheel, including the use of a cellular phone, was also a significant cause of road casualties, as 17 people likely died from such accidents, which represents close to 8% of the total.

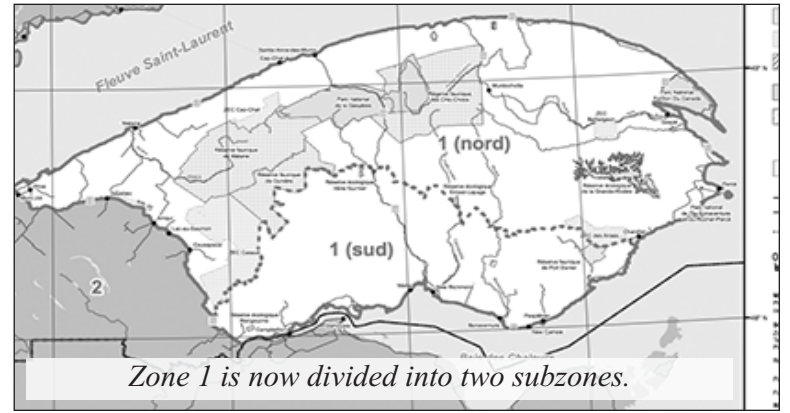
Wearing your seat belt, something the SQ has campaigned about for decades, remains difficult for some drivers and passengers. Twenty-five of those who died in road accidents in 2019 were not wearing their seat belts. It is, however, an improvement from the 2018 number when 45 people died after failing to fasten their seat belt.

## DEER MANAGEMENT PLAN: New subzones in the Gaspé Peninsula

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND: – Following a decision made public on December 18 by Quebec's Department of Wildlife, the Gaspé Peninsula deer management zone is now divided into two subzones. Subzone 01 south and subzone 01 north take into account the wide discrepancy in the population of deer which is much more abundant in the south part of the region.

That decision fulfills a long-time claim by a wide range of organizations. The difference in the concentration of deer was creating management problems regarding the relevance of applying the same rules on both sides of the peninsula. Deer hunting was practically nil in the part of the region that is now called subzone 01 north.



Zone 1 is now divided into two subzones.

Photo: courtesy of the Ministry of Wildlife

Meanwhile, Quebec hunters are now authorized to kill two deer per season, however, they will have to acquire two permits to do so and the hunting will have to be carried out in two different zones, except in zones 5 and 8 where it will still be authorized to kill two deer.

To prevent the spread of diseases, the new management plan also specifies that using natural deer urine will no longer be permitted. Using

bait will only be authorized between September 1 and November 30 except for salt blocks and minerals which are allowed all year long.

The acquisition of a hunting permit will now take place on a per-zone basis. The bow and crossbow hunting period will be extended from nine to 14 days. In addition a two-day hunting period between bow and rifle season will take place for young or new hunters.



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du Canada

### Canadian Navigable Waters Act

Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC) hereby gives notice that an application has been made to the Minister of Transport, pursuant to the *Canadian Navigable Waters Act* for approval of the work described herein and its site and plans.

Pursuant to paragraph 7(2) of the said Act, PWGSC has deposited with the Minister of Transport, on the online Navigable Waters Registry (<http://cps.canada.ca>) and under registry number **2006-200610**, a description of the following work, its site and plans:

#### Repairs and strengthening of the J.C. Van Horne Bridge over the Restigouche River, from Pointe-à-la-Croix, Quebec, to Campbellton, New Brunswick

Comments regarding the effect of this work on marine navigation can be sent through the Common Project Search site mentioned above under the Comment section (search by the above-referenced number). If you do not have access to the Internet, you can send your comments directly to:

Transport Canada – Atlantic Region  
Heritage Court  
P.O. Box 42  
95 Foundry Street  
Moncton, New Brunswick E1C 8K6

Comments will be considered only if they are in writing (electronic means preferable) and are received no later than 30 days after the publication of the last notice. Although all comments conforming to the above will be considered, no individual response will be sent.

Canada



## Commentary

Gilles Gagné

### Some wishes for the new year

A new year often brings a need to do a wrap up of the year that just ended, as well as the need to predict what could happen in the 12 months to come. So, it's a good opportunity to make some wishes for the people living in a region like the Gaspé Peninsula.

So here are some wishes for 2020, in no particular order. Some of them target geographical areas, while others are directed towards groups of people. Sometimes, they apply to the region as a whole.

For those residing in the Avignon MRC, let's wish for better health care services provided by the Campbellton hospital, especially to the residents of the western portion of the MRC. Campbellton is their designated hospital and the Quebec government pays more than \$10 million annually to the New Brunswick government in order to ensure a good quality service for Gaspésians living between Nouvelle-West and the villages of Matapédia and the Plateaux area. The current situation could also create an opportunity to improve the so-called first line of services, which can temper hospitalization needs when it is done properly.

For the population of the MRC of Bonaventure, we can wish for an acceleration of the repair or reconstruction work on the railway bridges located between Cascapédia-Saint-Jules and New Carlisle. This development, coupled with an accurate evaluation of the repairs that must be carried out on the line between New Carlisle and Gaspé, could spell an earlier than expected return of the VIA Rail passenger

train to New Carlisle. VIA Rail officials have been repeating for years now that the passenger train could return to New Carlisle first. The condition is simple: before any return of VIA Rail east of Matapédia, a date for the return to Gaspé will have to be set. Everybody understands that the line will be ready in New Carlisle before Gaspé. Other conditions imposed by VIA Rail make sense, namely a safe railway and reasonable train speeds, comparable to the ones prevailing 15 years ago, for example. Our economy, our environment and our people need the train back as soon as possible.

For the Percé Rock MRC, we wish an early start to the crab season for fishermen in the Southern Gulf of Saint Lawrence, so to reduce the possible interactions with right whales. The Canadian Coast Guard has failed miserably in fulfilling its commitments in 2018 and 2019 for an early opening of snow crab fishing. The initial call was for the beginning of April. Truth be told, the last few winters have been tough, weather-wise, but the Canadian Coast Guard was ill-equipped for the de-icing operation necessary to open the New Brunswick harbours. New Brunswickers have always lead, number-wise, in the Southern Gulf of Saint Lawrence and they have always convinced Fisheries and Oceans Canada of the relevance of waiting for them before giving the green light to the season. That situation could change in 2020, although nothing is decided yet. It would be a good thing for Gaspésian crab fishermen though, because our harbours are free of ice early, most of the time by the end of March.

For the Côte-de-Gaspé MRC, we can hope for an extension of the Bonaventure MRC wish, an acceleration in the assessment of the work and a start of the railway repairs. It is feasible. The problem so far is the slowness of the Bureau Québécois des infrastructures, the body in charge of the railroad repairs. It is a big machine, moving at a low pace, and characterized by a lot of red tape. Forcing that body to accelerate the march will be a huge test for the Coalition avenir Québec government. It works sometimes in Montreal though so it is possible to move faster here, where the obstacles are

not as numerous.

Regarding the Haute-Gaspésie MRC, we sure hope that the protection of Highway 132 east of Sainte-Anne-des-Monts will also be accelerated. Three years after the devastating storm of December 30, 2016, the residents of that area, and the people passing by there, are still waiting on a plan to upgrade road protection or to move that road in some places.

As mentioned above, some wishes apply to the whole region. We certainly hope that all Gaspésians will realize that our region's Native communities don't need and don't deserve the racist remarks made during a hockey game on January 4. A province-wide movement to counter racism could well start here in that regard.

Meanwhile, Gespeg, Gesgapegiag and Listuguj have progressed quite well in the fields of commercial fisheries and wind energy over the last two decades. Further development in wind energy seems to be blocked by the CAQ government but the Natives are making progress in tourism and forestry. We wish them success in those endeavours.

The region must also convince the CAQ government to take immigration in the Gaspé Peninsula more seriously. Previous governments have often waived that possibility, out of ignorance regarding our capacity of integration. The CAQ has certainly failed in the immigration file since the October 2018 election but members of that government have clued in since the mistakes made over the fall, especially in the Quebec Experience Program. The regional leaders will probably have to often remind the CAQ government that we can be very successful in greeting immigrants and that it is a necessity. We need the economic, cultural and social interactions with newcomers. We were all newcomers at one point.

Wildlife-wise, we wish for a betterment in the caribou situation in the Parc de la Gaspésie and surrounding area. Their number is lower than 100 caribou now and we will eventually be judged by the quality of our efforts to save them.

## To send a Letter to the editor THEGASPESPEC.COM



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# Fracking is not totally banned in the Gaspé

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ - Fracking is not completely prohibited in the Gaspé, which leads the Member of the National Assembly for Gaspé, Méganne Perry Mélançon, to demand a clear government position on hydrocarbons once and for all.

The debate was revived following a question from the member for Gaspé in the National Assembly on October 23. Ms. Perry Mélançon asked Quebec's intentions regarding the Galt project near Gaspé.

Natural Resources Minister Jonatan Julien said that the hydrocarbon regulations were strict and did not allow fracking which went against the regulations adopted in September 2018 by the Liberal minister at the time, Pierre Moreau.

After multiple approaches to Mr. Julien, the Gaspé Spec invited Regional Minister Marie-Eve Proulx to clarify the government's position.

"Hydraulic fracturing is prohibited in shale or in a well located in an aquatic environment and less than one kilometre from the surface. Any gas activity is prohibited within an urbanization perimeter or within one kilometre. It is prohibited in certain specific areas such as Gaspé Bay and within a host of separating distances," says the minister.

While other laws have prohibited fracking, Ms. Proulx replied that the regulatory framework largely protects the Gaspé.

When commenting on this new development, the member for Gaspé calls on the

Legault government for a clear position on hydrocarbons.

"We cannot be in a gray area. The CAQ must reassure us by telling us that there will be no exploitation of this resource in Quebec," says Ms. Perry Mélançon.

The spokesperson for Environnement vert plus, Pascal Bergeron, says it's an odd time for Quebec to choose to clarify its position.

"The fact that it isn't admitting it publicly and that they make their rectification from below, that sets the tone for what is happening on the hydrocarbon file in the Gaspésie and everywhere in Quebec."

## Favourable survey

A survey carried out on behalf of the Montreal Economic Institute released on December 11 indicates that Quebecers are open to the exploitation of their petroleum resources.

They also prefer western Canadian oil to foreign oil, according to Leger's poll conducted on the web from November 22 to 25.

Some 45% of Quebecers want the province to exploit its own petroleum resources rather than continuing to import the oil they consume (26%). 28% of people consulted do not know.

"Quebecers are much more open to hydrocarbons than one might think; they are aware that we need oil and that the energy transition will not be snapped," said Luc Vallée, chief economist and director of operations at the institute.



## PUBLIC NOTICE

**PUBLIC NOTICE** is hereby given by the present that the municipal Council of the Ville de Percé has adopted its 2020 budget as well as its three-year program of capital expenditures during the meeting held on December 18, 2019.

The budget is as follows:

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>		
• GENERAL ADMINISTRATION	\$1 151 700	\$1 064 050
• PUBLIC SECURITY	\$512 370	\$511 170
• TRANSPORTATION	\$1 868 630	\$1 727 190
• ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE	\$1 013 300	\$1 006 460
• SOCIAL HOUSING	\$13 000	\$12 500
• URBAN PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT	\$1 103 920	\$1 018 590
• RECREATION AND CULTURE	\$281 880	\$258 270
• FINANCING EXPENSES	\$296 100	\$309 600
	<b>\$6 240 900</b>	<b>\$5 907 830</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION FOR TAX PURPOSES</b>		
• REPAYMENT OF THE LONG-TERM DEBT	\$492 000	\$470 000
• TRANSFER OF INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES	\$200 000	\$47 000
• RESERVE FUNDS AND AFFECTATIONS	\$152 100	\$90 170
	<b>\$844 100</b>	<b>\$607 170</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES AND RECONCILIATION FOR TAX PURPOSES</b>	<b>\$7 085 000</b>	<b>\$6 515 000</b>
<b>REVENUES</b>		
TAXES ON THE PROPERTY VALUE	\$3 523 350	\$3 470 200
TARIFF FOR MUNICIPAL SERVICES	\$1 015 700	\$1 005 600
PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES	\$477 400	\$470 510
TRANSFERS	\$1 155 050	\$874 990
SERVICES RENDERED	\$772 500	\$551 700
IMPOSITION OF RIGHTS	\$66 000	\$67 000
INTERESTS	\$75 000	\$75 000
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$7 085 000</b>	<b>\$6 515 000</b>


A more detailed explanatory document of this budget is available on the City's website ([ville.perce.qc.ca](http://ville.perce.qc.ca)).

Three-year program of capital expenditures for **2020-2021-2022** is as follows:

INVESTMENTS	2020	2021	2022	Total
<b>Fire safety</b>				
Buildings (fire stations 61-62-63)	\$1 070 000	\$500 000		\$1 570 000
Vehicles	\$60 000	\$500 000		\$560 000
Upgrading respirators	\$160 000			\$160 000
Other equipments	\$112 200	\$20 000	\$75 000	\$207 200
<b>Total Fire safety</b>	<b>\$1 402 200</b>	<b>\$1 020 000</b>	<b>\$75 000</b>	<b>\$2 497 200</b>
<b>Publics works</b>				
Vehicles	\$429 000	\$250 000	\$436 000	\$1 115 000
Other equipments	\$35 000	\$30 000		\$65 000
Garage improvements	\$60 000			\$60 000
<b>Total Public works</b>	<b>\$524 000</b>	<b>\$280 000</b>	<b>\$436 000</b>	<b>\$1 240 000</b>
<b>Environmental hygiene</b>				
<b>Aqueduct, Sewage treatment</b>				
Vehicles	\$36 000	\$36 000		\$72 000
Bringing equipment up to standard (TECQ)	\$439 500			\$439 500
Replacement of water line	\$1 600 000			\$1 600 000
<b>Total Environmental hygiene</b>	<b>\$2 075 500</b>	<b>\$36 000</b>		<b>\$2 111 500</b>
<b>Urban planning and development</b>				
Creation of an industrial zone	\$100 000	\$25 000		\$125 000
Development of a parking lot	\$10 000			\$10 000
Rivière-aux-Émeraudes municipal park development	\$75 000	\$50 000	\$50 000	\$175 000
Development of the Coin-du-Banc beach site	\$30 000	\$15 000		\$45 000
Renovation of the Le Pratto building	\$70 000			\$70 000
Renovation of the building located on rue du Quai	\$80 000	\$40 000	\$40 000	\$160 000
Côte Surprise Project		\$250 000	\$250 000	\$500 000
<b>Total Urban planning and development</b>	<b>\$365 000</b>	<b>\$380 000</b>	<b>\$340 000</b>	<b>\$1 085 000</b>
<b>Total of investment activities</b>	<b>\$4 366 700</b>	<b>\$1 716 000</b>	<b>\$851 000</b>	<b>\$6 933 700</b>

Issued in Percé, on January 6, 2020

Gemma Vibert,  
Clerk



## PUBLIC NOTICE

**URBANISM**

Minor exemption

**96, rue Jacques-Cartier:** permit temporary the presence of 7 colours on the exterior siding.

**960, route de Haldimand:** permit the subdivision of a lot to create 2 building lots with a width of 43.55 m each.

GIVEN at Gaspé, January 15, 2020.

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](http://ville.gaspe.qc.ca) in the section of public notices.

## MCINNIS CEMENT: New president and chief executive officer

Gilles Gagné

PORT DANIEL - The McInnis Cement board of directors announces the appointment of Baudouin Nizet to the position of president and chief executive officer of the company. The appointment came into effect during the first week of January.

According to a press release issued by McInnis Cement, "Mr. Nizet has a long track record in the cement industry, including working at CRH Canada/Holcim Canada as senior vice president for Quebec and the Atlantic Region from 2006 to 2013 in Montreal, then in Toronto as president and chief executive officer from 2013 to 2017."

He was until recently senior vice president at Stuart Olson Building Group, an important construction company based in Calgary. In addition to serving as a director of the Cement Association of Canada for several years, he also served until 2017 as vice chair of the board of directors of the Canada Green Building Council, responsible for LEED certifications in eco-responsible constructions.

The press release specifies that the McInnis Cement board of directors is convinced that "Mr. Nizet will be able to lead McInnis through its next growth stages while enhancing our corporate vision of producing quality cements in a sustainable, profitable and responsible manner."

Baudouin Nizet replaces Jean Moreau, who has served as interim president and chief executive officer since August 2018. Meanwhile, McInnis Cement also announces the nomination of a new chief operative officer at the plant, Alex Wojciechowski. He has 30 years of experience as a manager in the cement industry in Canada and in the United States. He has held "various positions ranging from maintenance manager to plant manager to industrial manager. His expertise covers both cement operations and constructing and commissioning industrial equipment investment projects," adds McInnis Cement's press release.

Alex Wojciechowski replaces Alexandre Rail, who is leaving the company.

McInnis Cement does not publish numbers about its volume of production. Company spokesperson Maryse Tremblay simply says that in 2019, the Port Daniel plant produced 30% more cement than in 2018.

The company target production when the plant was inaugurated in September 2017 was 2.3 million tonnes annually. The yearly production was slightly over 1 million tonnes in 2018. The Port Daniel plant hires about 150 people, including the main subcontractors

## AIR CANADA:

▶ *Cont'd from cover*

they learned of the cost of tickets for a return trip to the Magdalen Islands from Gaspé, a trip of 300 miles, or 480 kilometres.

"It was in excess of \$1,000 per person, taxes included, for a return trip of 45 minutes," says Ms. Thériault. She and five other family members finally travelled on December 14 and 15 to reach the Maggies.

"In an ideal context, we would have liked to be reassured about having somebody travelling with the remains. My niece, who was taking the plane in Quebec City, only found out when she saw the casket being loaded on the plane. Paying the big price is one thing. Not being considered enough to take the plane together is really something else! We remain a number, as it is impossible to talk to somebody (from Air Canada). In the 1970s, we would not have experienced something like that in aerial transport even with limited means (...) and with inferior technology. It could have been simple (in December). We were simply going to the Islands from Gaspé," she states.

Her uncle Michel Pouliot, aged 88, is one of the pioneers of aviation on the Coast. Gaspé airport even bears his name. For 25 years, until 1974, his company, Air Gaspé, carried hundreds of thousands of people in Eastern Quebec, the North Shore and Anticosti Island included. He trained 250 pilots during his career. "The government must intervene in order to improve aerial services in the regions. We must kick Air Canada out," he states.

He also emphasizes that Quebec government aid provided to passengers in order to stimulate ridership, a yearly sum not exceeding \$500, will not change people's habits since that sum will be burned in one trip, considering the current price of tickets.

"The money must go to a regional transporter, given to

companies that are owned by local interests. We (the aerial company owners of his generation) made a living like everybody else. It is not because it is aviation that we must hand out millions of dollars to Air Canada. They bribe civil servants with points (like Airmiles) to the detriment of public money," says Mr. Pouliot.

He carried remains on his plane several times - "sometimes for free because the families could not afford to pay."

The Canadian Aviation Security Regulations adopted in 2012 require that air carriers only transport cargo that has been screened under one of Transport Canada's approved screening methods. In 2016, the Canadian Aviation Security Regulations were enhanced to allow Canada's air cargo industry to have more options to determine where within the supply chain authorized participants can screen cargo including coffins to make it secure for air transport on flights carrying both passengers and cargo. Certain funeral homes have opted to register and become part of Transport Canada's Air Cargo Security program in order to facilitate the transportation of human remains on board flights.

Asked to comment on the situation experienced by the Arseneau and Thériault fami-

lies, Air Canada replied in writing that certain members of the family were able to get a discount attributed to people forced to travel following the death of a next of kin. "None of the tickets exceeded \$550 for a return trip," mentions the note.

Gaétan Lelièvre, the former Member of the National Assembly for the riding of Gaspé, has been helping Yvette Thériault in her saga with the transporter and he is infuriated by Air Canada's stand regarding the cost paid by the family of Marie-Claire Arseneau.

"The discount program Air Canada refers to is completely invisible on their website. Three people, including Pierrot Pouliot, a retired computer programmer, tried to find a reference to that program on Air Canada's website, and could not. Yvette Thériault would probably have been able to benefit from it had she been able to talk to someone from Air Canada, but she only hit computerized messages. Talking to someone would have helped. If they paid \$550 for each of their tickets, it is because they used their Air Miles points and Aero-Plan credits. Air Canada is dishonest in that statement. The fact that Ms. Thériault and her family members used their discount points that time around will prevent them from using them for another trip," states Mr. Lelièvre.

## RACISM:

▶ *Cont'd from cover*

"They are called damn savages. This must stop, however, receiving those messages of support makes me feel good. Native people are talking about it. They don't keep it inside like they used to. Chief John Martin received a message from a man in France who wants to organize a game against us, over there maybe. With our SQ colleagues, we are thinking of playing an anti-racism game at the end of March, probably in Paspebiac. Overall, things will start moving next week, physically. For now, most of the things have come in writing," points out Dave Condo.

Meanwhile, the spokesperson of the Chandler Goons, Félix Albert, has called the SPEC to say that the racist remarks uttered on the ice should not have been said.

"Our player apologized and

the Gesgaapegiag player said that it was OK. Our players had been hit on occasion by the Chiefs. They also uttered death threats at the end of the game," said Félix Albert.

Dave Condo assures that no apology was offered to John Mallette Jr. after he was called "Christ d'Indien" on the ice, and no death threat was uttered at the end of the game. "We just went to their dressing room to tell them that there was no room for racist remarks in 2020."



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## Reflections

by

Diane Skinner  
Flowers



### Cozy

It's a dark and stormy evening on the Gaspé. It is January so expect a whole lot more of the same. The wind is howling and the snow is drifting across the highway. Meanwhile, keep the fire on and if you don't have to go out and drive, stay home and be cozy.

When you hear the word cozy, what comes to mind? Warmth, blankets, hot cocoa, a good book, a movie, a glass of wine, cookies warm out of the oven? This all qualifies for sure, but if you want to take your cozy quotient up, you might want to read *The Little Book of Hygge: Danish Secrets to Happy Living* by Meik Wiking. This little bestseller is based on the Danish word "hygge" (pronounced hoo-gah or hue-gah). The word does not have an exact equivalent in English, but means basically comfort, togetherness and warmth. The word cozy sums that up pretty well. The author has put in years of research at The Happiness Research Institute in Copenhagen, Denmark. Yes, such a place actually exists. Before you discount this notion, be mindful of the fact that Danish people are often ranked happiest in the world. Could being cozy contribute to this?

The notion of hygge reminds us of the importance of little things in life and it's not just about things. It includes the notion that spending more quality time with friends and family is vitally important. The book goes into more depth about real ways to increase your happiness. There is nothing shockingly new in the book but little techniques and reminders help the reader to focus on happiness.

Maybe you already practice hygge but have not called it that. Do you have a favourite throw or blanket that you drape over yourself on cold evenings? Do you wear warm fluffy socks while reading? Do you light a candle (or a battery-operated one) and it makes you feel instantly calm? Do you brew a perfect cup of tea and relax and enjoy it slowly and mindfully while hugging the mug? That's hygge!

So why not pursue more of these moments of comfort and contentment?

#### Here are some ideas:

1. Make warm drinks, such as hot chocolate, chai teas or other aromatic tea blends. Hug that mug.
2. Play music that relaxes you.
3. Use soft blankets, pillows and throws. Wear fluffy slippers.
4. Take warm baths or showers with eucalyptus bath bombs, followed by using big, fluffy, 'warm out of the dryer' towels.
5. Serve family and friends a meal with the intent of talking, sharing and laughing. Eat slowly. Dim the lights.
6. Get rid of any objects in your home that do not make you happy or bring you joy. Think minimalism.
7. Surround yourself with meaningful objects: gifts from friends and family, antiques, old family objects, and items from your travels.
8. Install dimmer switches and use table lamps rather than overhead lighting.
9. If you have a fireplace, real or electric, pull up your chair and enjoy. A flickering fire relaxes you instantly. Put out candles, however, battery powered candles are safer.
10. Bring nature into your home. Have plants around which also clean the air! Even touches of wood or stone or sea glass that you gathered last summer help to make your space more welcoming and grounded.

Appreciating the small joys in life is not a new concept but hygge reminds us all to make life simpler. It helps us to slow down and make our moments, whether with friends or alone, meaningful and peaceful. The world of technology has made our lives so fast and immediate. Let's aim to slow down, relax and get cozy. Hygge can help that transition. Say to yourself, "Today I choose cozy."

## 207 passengers on board VIA Rail train were bussed to Montreal

Gilles Gagné

The January 5-6 VIA Rail train bound for Montreal was stopped in Drummondville on the morning of January 6 because of a power failure of one of the two locomotives' generators.

Many Gaspésians were on board that train since it was the second Halifax-Montreal train after New Year's Day. Almost all the 207 passengers on board were bused to Montreal a couple of hours after the stop. The two locomotives were pulling 20 cars.

The spokesperson for VIA Rail, Karl-Philip Marchand Giguère, explains that the generator failure stopped all the electrical power on the train, including the heating system.

"A train of such length necessitates the generators of the two locomotives in order to function in winter conditions, when the electricity needs for the heating system are multiplied by 10," he says. So the



generator of one locomotive were not filling the train's needs.

The stop in Drummondville took place after an attempt made by the train staff to repair the failure, at Saint-Wenceslas, a short distance away. The stop was justified for "safety reasons," writes Mr. Marchand Giguère. "VIA Rail is sorry for the inconvenience caused by the situation and is offering the passengers who wish a travel credit valued at \$100 if it does-

n't exceed the (initial) value of their ticket," he adds.

The people who were supposed to take another train in the Quebec City-Windsor corridor were also admissible to a credit applied to trains that are late by more than an hour.

More information is available at VIA Rail's customer service. The phone number is 1-888 VIA Rail (1-888 842-7245) or 1-800 268-9503 for the people with a hearing impairment.

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# Mouvement Desjardins annual regional economy report reveals improvements, and some concerns

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND: – The economy of the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands improved on many fronts in 2019, especially when it comes to total investments and gross domestic product, according to an assessment made by Mouvement Desjardins, however, there are still concerns because of the shortage of manpower and certain demographic aspects.

Total investments went from \$403 million to \$460 million between 2018 and 2019, a 17% increase. That upward swing follows two years of decreases. The investments made in 2016, totalling \$1.3 billion, plunged to \$710 million in 2017 and to \$403 million a year later.

“It was foreseeable that the \$1.3 billion total of 2016 would be followed by a decrease. At that time, the Port Daniel cement plant and three windfarms were under construction. We can expect more “normal” numbers now. In 2016, the economic growth of the Gaspé Peninsula was close to 6%. It was double the Quebec average and the region was leading Quebec in that regard. What is encouraging in 2019 is that it is going up again and we can expect another increase in 2020,” explains Chantal Routhier, senior economist for Desjardins.

She also notes that the type of investment changes in the Gaspé Peninsula. “We don’t see construction sites of the same magnitude, It is often a good sign because the economy depends less on big projects. McInnis Cement added silos this year (2019) but we also see investment in the rail infrastructure and many small projects. When we add up those projects, we see that the private sector does the work. We are starting to see the effect of the economic diversification,” adds Ms. Routhier.

“The tourist sector is quite vigorous, the fisheries are doing well and the shipyards are all active. It is slightly more difficult in forestry and agri-

culture,” she also notes.

Agriculture and tourism are affected by international trade tensions characterizing imports and exports between Canada and the United States, as well as between China and North America.

The nominal gross domestic product followed the same path as the investment curve over the last four years, but with lesser discrepancies. From a peak of \$3.32 billion in 2016, the gross domestic product fell to \$3.2 billion a year later, and to \$3.13 billion in 2018 before rising to \$3.22 billion last year. Desjardins expects another rise to \$3.3 billion this year.

Other statistics are evolving in the right direction for Gaspésians and Magdalen Islanders, including the 19.8% increase in the average price of houses. It also means that buying a house in the region is more difficult but it remains highly affordable considering the average price provincially, which is more than double.

The weekly average remuneration also increased by 17% in that case between 2016 and 2017, before stabilizing in 2018. The data for 2019 is not yet available.

Employment is more of a concern, considering it has diminished since the large construction contracts of 2016 and 2017. About 35,000 people were employed in the region in 2016 and 37,000 in 2017. Employment settled at 34,000 in 2018 and 2019 but according to Desjardins it could go down to 33,000 people in 2020.

“I expect another downward movement, a consequence of a higher productivity and the difficulty of replacing the workers leaving for retirement,” states Chantal Routhier.

At the end of 2019, up to 600 positions were available in the region, according to Emploi-Québec numbers. That list is not complete since some employers use other means to recruit their labour force.

The Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands represent one of the rare regions of Quebec to show a positive migra-

tory balance over the last years, in particular in the 25 to 35-year-old people, however, its age pyramid leads to a greater number of mortalities than births on a yearly basis.


According to Quebec’s Statistics Institute, the population of the region could diminish to 82,209 people by 2041, compared to 90,396 people currently.

“We must be careful with

demographic data. There is room for flexibility,” remarks Chantal Routhier.

The region’s organizations such as *Stratégie Vivre en Gaspésie* have often proven demographers wrong. In 1995, some demographers predicted that the population of the region would be around 80,000 people by 2020, and it is more than 10,000 people higher than the forecast.


The migratory balance in the 25-35 age group was positive for the first time in 2002-2003. That balance was positive 14 times over the last 16 years. The overall migratory balance of the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands has been positive four times in the nine years spanning between 2009-2010 and 2017-2018. The 2019 data is not yet available.



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# Announcements...



## Obituary



### SCHOBER: Kathleen (Renouf)

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Kathleen Agnes (Renouf) Schober. Kay or Kissy as she was fondly known by her family, passed away December 27, 2019, at the Lakeshore General Hospital, Pointe Claire, Quebec, at the age of 83. Her loving family was by her side.

Kay was born in New Carlisle, Quebec, on December 5, 1936, to Arnold and Mamie (Buttle) Renouf. She leaves behind her husband of 60 years, Bernard Schober; children: Kelly (Alain) Iranian, Scott Schober (Robyn), and Kimberly (Gregory) Bellas; sister Sharon; brother Brent; adored sister-in-law Olga; and sister-in-law Nancy. She was a loving grandmother to Madison, Brooke, Cole, Adam and Paige and was an aunt to Geoff Huber, Shane Farrell, Jessica Nanowski and Jennifer Renouf.

Kay left the Gaspé Coast at the tender age of 17 in search of new opportunities and ended up meeting her husband and marrying him in 1959. Unfortunately because of his illness with dementia, Bernie was unable to be by her side at the end. Kay raised three children and although Montreal was her home, the Gaspé was her happy place and she returned each summer to visit family and friends. She loved her family, friends, music, dancing, curling, being a member of the Red Hats, going to the Casino and her outings to Gibbies for scampies.

Although we are left with a hole in our hearts, we will hold our memories of Kay close. A celebration of her life will be held July 7, 2020, in New Carlisle, Quebec, where she will be laid to rest beside her parents and close to her beloved Bay of Chaleur.

*Rest in Peace, dear Kissy.*



## In Memory

### SIMON: Elson (Sonny)

In loving memory of a dear husband, father, father-in-law and grandfather who passed away January 16, 1983.

*Today we recall the memory  
Of a loved one gone to rest,  
And those who think of him today  
Are those that love him best.  
In our hearts your memory lingers,  
Always tender, fond and true.  
Not a day goes by  
That we do not think of you.*

Loved and sadly missed by Merle and family.

### To Jesus through Mary Prayer to the Blessed Virgin (never known to fail)

O, most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendour of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God. Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. O Star of the Sea, help me and show me that you are my Mother, O Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of heaven and earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succour me in my necessity (make request). There are none who can withstand your power. O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3 times). Holy Mary, I place this prayer in your hands (3 times). Say this prayer for 3 consecutive days and publish, and it will be granted to you.

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

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

It is essential that the photo is not a copy printed at home or by the funeral home.

### WYLIE: Arnold

In loving memory of Arnold Wylie.

#### SINCE YOU WENT AWAY

*If we could call heaven,  
We'd call you today.  
We'd tell you how much we miss you  
Since you went away.  
We miss your smile, your laugh,  
Your comical ways. We miss your voice.  
Lonely are the days  
Since you went away.  
Tears they fall. They do not stop.  
The day you left our hearts dropped.  
So we try to keep memories near  
Our hearts since we've been apart.  
We treasure them so dear  
Since you went away.  
We still sit and grieve,  
The pain inside does not leave.  
Sometimes it's hard to carry on,  
It seems so long since you've been gone.  
If we had one wish for tomorrow,  
We'd take away all the sorrow.  
So for now we've got to go.  
We just wanted to let you know  
How much we love and miss you so  
Since you went away.*

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**LAND FOR SALE:** Completely serviced lot in New Carlisle, Quebec, located on Church Street, south of Route 132. Lot number 6041558. Asking \$28,000. For more information please contact Richard at 905-299-3695.

## COAST ROUND-UP

### DOUGLASTOWN:

#### Community Centre

**Tuesdays:** Pleasurably painful, strengthening and stretching with Estelle Nauroy from noon to 1 p.m. Free. Sessions from January 21 to February 25. Zumba with Nathalie Dumaresq from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Sessions: \$70 - adults and \$40 - children. Drop-ins: \$10 - adults and \$6 - children. Sessions from January 7 to March 10.

**Wednesdays:** Workout class 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. (with baby), stretching and foam roller with Isabelle Provencher, \$70/session, \$8/drop-ins. Sessions from January 22 to March 25. Gentle Yoga with Isabelle Martin from 5:30 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. \$60/session, \$12/drop-ins. Sessions from January 22 to Feb-

ruary 26.

**January 18:** Wood carving at 9 a.m. Come to create a sculpture with Robert Gauthier. Class in the morning and at your own pace in the afternoon. Materials included. For information or registration, call 418-368-0288.

**January 18:** Zero-waste workshop at 10 a.m. Learn how to make your own eco-friendly cleaning products with Isabelle Martin. \$5. To register, call 418-368-0288.

**January 19:** Yoga and meditation workshop with Magalie Larochelle from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Complimentary tea offered after the workshop. \$20.

**January 21:** Travel talk at the Dougtown Café beginning at 7:30 p.m. Explore Iran with the Soucy-Landry family. Voluntary contribution.

**January 26:** Community breakfast from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Voluntary contribution, adults \$8, children 5 to 11 \$4.

**January 30:** Girls - Thursday beginning at 5 p.m. find out about a new project based on self-development for school-age girls. Mothers and daughters welcome. For information and to register, call 418-368-0288.

**Dougtown Café, closed for January, will reopen February 1 at 9 a.m.**

### 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!

**January 25:** Military Whist beginning at 8 p.m. \$5.

**February 7:** Bingo.

**February 15:** Pot luck supper.

**February 16:** Breakfast.

### SHIGAWAKE:

#### Bonaventure Agricultural Society General Meeting

**January 28:** The Bonaventure Agricultural Society will be holding their annual general meeting at 7 p.m. at the Shigwake Town Hall.

### 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

### REMEMBER:

NOT EVERYONE IS ON FACEBOOK!

FOR ONLY \$5 PER WEEK YOU CAN ADVERTISE YOUR EVENT ON THIS PAGE. IF YOU WANT PEOPLE TO ATTEND YOUR FUNCTION, THEY HAVE TO KNOW ABOUT IT.

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

### 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."

### 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 will resume in March.

### 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.

### GESGAPEGIAG:

#### N.A. Meetings

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

### UNITED CHURCH

#### Sunday, January 19

2 p.m. Hope Town Holy Communion

### ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

#### Sunday, January 19

##### New Carlisle

11 a.m. Holy Eucharist

##### Hope Town

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

##### Port Daniel/Shigawake

Worship with United in Hope Town at 2 p.m.

### PARISH OF GASPÉ

#### Sunday, January 12

St. Andrews - York 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Please be advised that in future cheques must be made payable to **THE GASPÉ SPEC**

## ANNOUNCE ALL YOUR UPCOMING EVENTS!

### We have a great deal for you! \$60 per year Coast Round-Up Plan

If your organization is a frequent user of the Coast Round-Up section of Spec, we would like to offer you a special deal! For a flat rate of \$60, we will publish all your Coast Round-up announcements for one year. This should prove financially beneficial and more convenient for you.

If you would like to take part in this deal, just send us your cheque for \$60, with the name and address of your organization. All you have to do is call, email or fax your messages without having the hassle of making individual payments each time! Keep in mind, Coast Round-ups are \$5 per week, making this plan an even more profitable deal!

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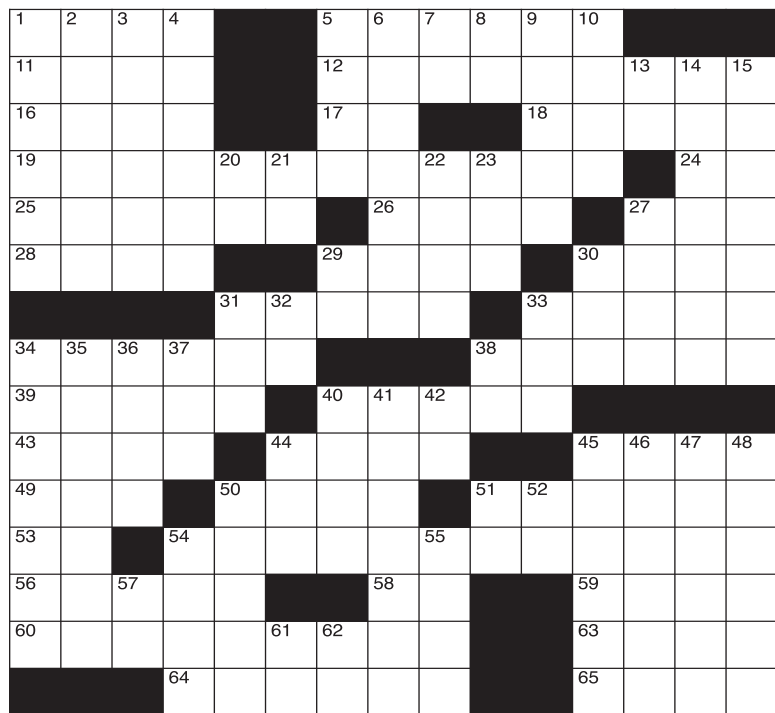


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# On the lighter side...



## CROSSWORDS

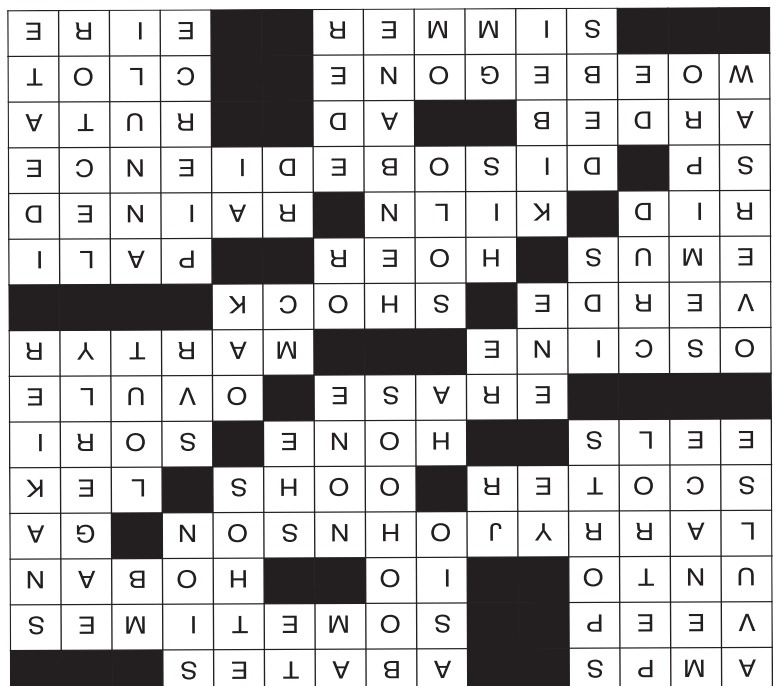


### CLUES ACROSS

1. Guitarists use them
5. Makes less intense
11. Julia Louis-Dreyfus series
12. Once in a while
16. Up to the time of
17. A moon of Jupiter
18. "Riddley Walker" writer
19. Basketball's "Grand-mama"
24. Gallium
25. Stocky sea duck
26. Expressions of delight
27. Albanian monetary unit
28. Some are electric
29. Refine
30. Clusters
31. Get rid of
33. Female body part
34. Passerine bird
38. One who is killed for their religion
39. Green (Spanish)
40. Partner to awe
43. Flightless, running Aussie birds
44. One who breaks up the ground
45. Sacred language of some Hindu texts
49. Get free of
50. Furnace of burning
51. Sent in large quantities
53. Type of medical patent (abbr.)
54. Failure to follow the rules
56. Egyptian unit of capacity
58. A public promotion of some product or service
59. Strongly scented sub-shrub
60. Miserable in appearance
63. Coagulated blood
64. Boil at low temperature
65. Republic of Ireland

### CLUES DOWN

1. Pull or tear away
2. Dennis is one
3. Gas
4. Popular rec activities
5. Owl genus
6. Cries
7. Morning
8. Pass catcher
9. Spirit of an era
10. Suffix
13. Megabyte
14. In an expectant manner
15. More curving
20. Plural of thou
21. Son with the same name
22. Not one
23. The woman
27. Uncouth man
29. Laugh
30. Sustained viral response (abbr.)
31. Between northeast and east
32. In the matter of
33. A tree that bears acorns
34. Supervised
35. Not quite a full earner
36. Unpleasant substance
37. Some are fake
38. Hammer is a famous one
40. Type of cup
41. Poisonous Eurasian plant
42. An alternative
44. Belongs to he
45. Bond actor's real name
46. Ring-shaped objects
47. One who reads in a church service
48. Conceive
50. One educated in Japan
51. Rural delivery
52. Robot smarts (abbr.)
54. Women
55. German river
57. Delaware
61. Automaker
62. Mystic syllable



## SCHOOL DAYS

We urge all teachers on the Coast to please send or email their old class pictures to share with our readers.



Shigawake-Port Daniel School 1987-88  
Grade 2-3

Back Row: Lorna Duguay (Teacher), Penny MacWhirter, Joanne Ross, Donna Major, Natalie Hayes, Nancy Dea, Cindy Carney, Gail Hottot and Christine Smith.  
Front Row: Terry Sweetman, Billie-Joe Major, Tammy Major, Christina Dow, Mathew Ross, Holly Chatterton, Danny Major and Travis Hall.

CANADA  
Calendar  
HISTORY  
1960  
EDUCATORS BEGIN TEACHING FRENCH IN SCHOOLS OUTSIDE OF QUEBEC.

Point to ponder  
Good people are like candles; they burn themselves up to give others light

**ARIES** – Mar 21/Apr 20  
The stars pull you deeper into the cocoon of your mind, Aries. This may help you as you work on a project or work through thoughts and emotions.  
**TAURUS** – Apr 21/May 21  
This is a week to take inventory of any goals that you may have put on a shelf, Taurus. Dust them off and create a plan of action because the time to pursue them is now.  
**GEMINI** – May 22/June 21  
Gemini, an ambitious week is on the horizon. Your professional house is booming, and you are ready to perhaps move your career to the next level.  
**CANCER** – June 22/July 22  
This week will get off to a social start, Cancer. Expect friends to bring other friends along if you are hosting a party. This is an exciting opportunity to expand your network.  
**LEO** – July 23/Aug 23  
Leo, put all of your cards on the table and begin discussions with others who are influencers in your life. Only then can you come up with a strategy to get things done.

### HOROSCOPES

**VIRGO** – Aug 24/Sept 22  
Make a point of being direct if you are upset, Virgo. Others need to know if they have stepped on your toes, even if it was accidental so they can make things right.  
**LIBRA** – Sept 23/Oct 23  
Now is a key time to boost your bottom line, Libra. If you don't already have a job, it's time to get one. If you're employed, you may need to seek out new revenue streams.  
**SCORPIO** – Oct 24/Nov 22  
Various ideas are swirling around in your head, Scorpio. You're not sure which ones you want to see the light of day just yet. Partner up on a trial project first.  
**SAGITTARIUS** – Nov 23/Dec 21  
Sagittarius, if stress has been ruling your universe, it might be time to step back and reevaluate your priorities. Find out which tasks you can shed from your daily list.  
**CAPRICORN** – Dec 22/Jan 20  
Deep soul-searching and a sharing

of hidden emotions might be on the docket this week, Capricorn. It is brave to own up to your feelings. You'll find support in friends.  
**AQUARIUS** – Jan 21/Feb 18  
A deep cleaning or decluttering is in order, Aquarius. Start with one room in the house and then work your way onward as time permits. Decluttering can be liberating.  
**PISCES** – Feb 19/Mar 20  
You may soon encounter some awkward moments with some people you interact with regularly, Pisces. This will blow over quite quickly.

- FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS**  
**JANUARY 12**  
 Zayn Malik, Singer (27)  
**JANUARY 13**  
 Natalia Dyer, Actress (23)  
**JANUARY 14**  
 Dave Grohl, Musician (51)  
**JANUARY 15**  
 Dove Cameron, Actress (24)  
**JANUARY 16**  
 Kate Moss, Model (46)  
**JANUARY 17**  
 Jim Carrey, Actor (58)  
**JANUARY 18**  
 Dave Bautista, Wrestler (51)

# Gaspesian Notables: Paul Almond

*“Imagine you're on a British man-o-war, anchored in an estuary of the Gulf of St. Lawrence around 1800. Behind the high red cliffs lie hundreds of miles of uncharted wilderness. If you jump ship and are caught, you will be branded a deserter - subject to death by one hundred lashes. If you jump, the icy waters could freeze your body and claim your soul. This is your one chance for a life in the New World. Do you jump?”*

-Paul Almond

Diane Skinner

Paul Almond was a noted director, screenwriter, producer and author. He was born in 1931 in Montreal but spent much of his life on the Gaspé Peninsula. He attended McGill and Oxford Universities. Upon returning to Canada, he worked for the CBC as both a producer and director. He also worked for the BBC in England where he created and directed the documentary *Seven Up!* After he left the BBC, the series continued. Then he moved on to making feature-length films. Later in life he became an author whose 8-part series is set on the Gaspé Peninsula.

Paul Almond, until his passing in 2015, had an ancestral family home in Shigawake, QC. He received the Order of Canada and was greatly respected for his many accomplishments in film and television as well as his 8 volume Alford Saga set on the Gaspé.

## Isabel

His most famous film, *Isabel*, was filmed on the Gaspé in 1968, in the community of Shigawake. Paul Almond, a great and talented director chose to use the Gaspé as the setting for his masterpiece. At the time, it was felt that Almond was a genius for using locals to enhance the film. It was felt that residents of the area heightened the sense of realism in *Isabel*. The

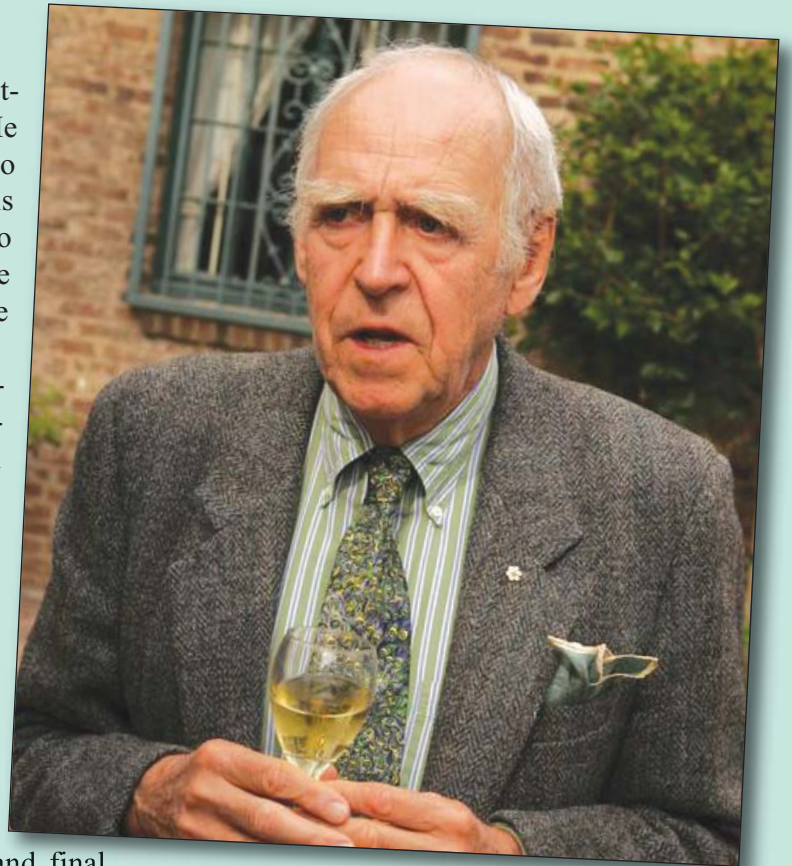
film was a huge success among film critics when it was first viewed in 1968. He also wrote, directed and produced two other films and this trilogy all starred his wife at the time, Geneviève Bujold, who was 25 years old. Her sweet appearance made her very appealing as Isabel, the main character.

The scenes of the Gaspé are breathtakingly beautiful and moody. A reviewer remarked, “One can almost feel the winter cold and wind, the drafts in the old farmhouse, the stickiness of the mud in the barnyard.”

## Alford Saga

After working in film and television for over 30 years, Almond wrote eight historical novels set in the Gaspé. The Alford Saga novels are loosely based on Almond’s ancestors. The eighth and final novel is a semi-autobiographical about the ‘life, loves, achievements and awards of a prestigious Canadian movie producer, director and author.’ The books are a worthwhile read for anyone with an interest in the Gaspé during the past two centuries.

By all accounts he was a mystic, romantic and



passionate about all the projects he worked on. Paul Almond was a notable Gaspesian and we should all know about his legacy. “It is important that you know as much about your Gaspesian heritage as you can. I have said it before. We can’t know who we are unless we know about those that came before us.”

## Teachers’ Guide

### Comprehension:

1. Where and when was Paul Almond born?
2. He received the Order of Canada. Why?
3. His most famous film is *Isabel*. Tell a few facts (at least 5) about the film.
4. What is the Alford Saga?
5. Tell about his final novel in the Alford series.

### Vocabulary:

Define: documentary, masterpiece, semi-autobiographical, prestigious

### Extra:

Research and list the titles of the eight novels in the Alford series in correct order.

Do you agree or disagree with the statement, “We can’t know who we are unless we know about those that came before us.” Explain your answer.

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