

## First baby of 2020 in the Bay of Chaleur area is a girl

Gilles Gagné

CASCAPEDIA-SAINT-JULES – The first baby of 2020 in the Bay of Chaleur area is Rose Chalmers-Ottawa. She was born on January 5 at 1:57 a.m. at Maria Hospital. She weighed 7 pounds and 11 ounces and she measured 53 centimetres. She is the first child of two very proud parents, Nadia Chalmers and Charles-Andrick Ottawa. The family resides in Cascapedia-Saint-Jules.

Photo: Courtesy of Nadia Chalmers



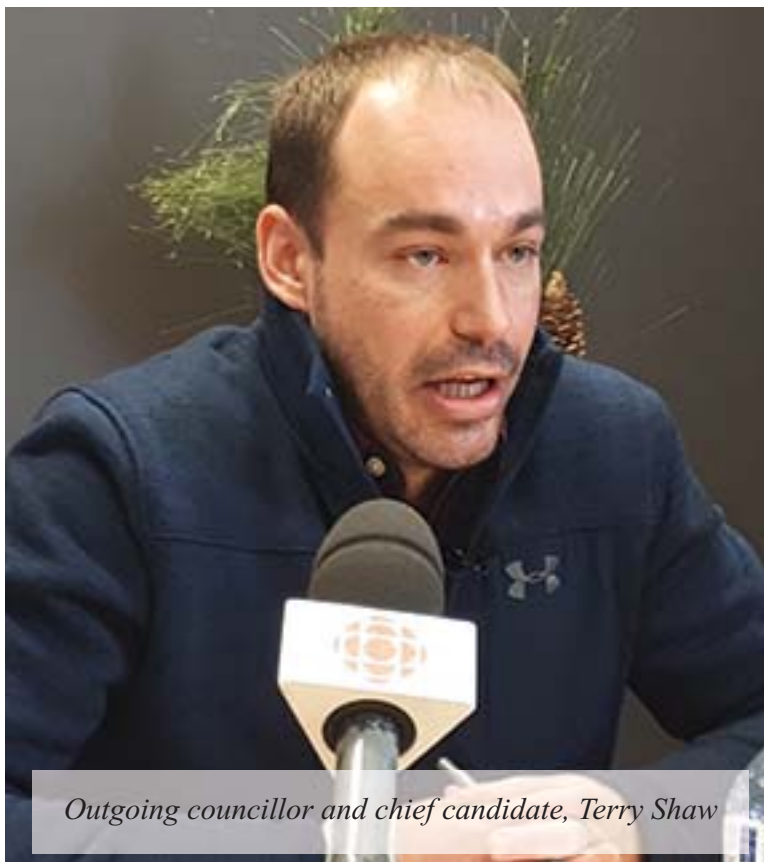
## Complaints about the electoral list in Gespeg

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ - The ex-chief of Gespeg Manon Jeannotte has filed a complaint with the Sûreté du Québec in connection with the electoral list used for the February 5 election.

Ms. Jeannotte took action on January 10 on suspicion of fraudulent manipulation of the list. "When we received the electoral list, the list of members eligible to vote, there was a huge shortage of people, both statute and non-statute."

According to the ex-chief, 99 people are missing from the list, including 17 from the same family. Ms. Jeannotte also contacted Indigenous Services Canada to try to shed light on this matter and also spoke with the returning officer, Marie-Christine Côté. The returning officer told her to work with the list filed on December 10. "There are hundreds of people already registered who are no longer there. This is a whole process to redo," says Ms. Jeannotte.



Outgoing councillor and chief candidate, Terry Shaw

### List that shouldn't have been touched

According to outgoing councillor and candidate for chief, Mark Sinnett, the list includes only Mi'kmaq with recognized status.

Traditionally, statutes and non-statutes recognized by

the Electoral Code and the Nation's Membership Code could vote.

Sinnett says the outgoing band council should not have touched the voters' list. "It's incredible. When you do things at the wrong time, that can happen. I never wanted to work on our membership list

before the election. I thought it was a bad idea. There was a mistake. There was a bad list given. Now we have to join our people to give them the chance to vote," says the man who saw members of his extended family lose their right to vote in the new list.

### The board reacts

The Gespeg band council assures that the whole list of the Nation members was sent to electoral officer Marie-Christine Côté.

In a January 16 press conference, Terry Shaw, an outgoing councillor trying to get elected for the chief position, stated that he acted according to the rules effective in Gespeg.

Close to 1,600 people are registered in Gespeg, including 998 statutes, recognized by Ottawa. Just a few members do not appear on the list, according to the outgoing council.

Moreover, 574 people are non-statutes, a list that can include minors. That explains

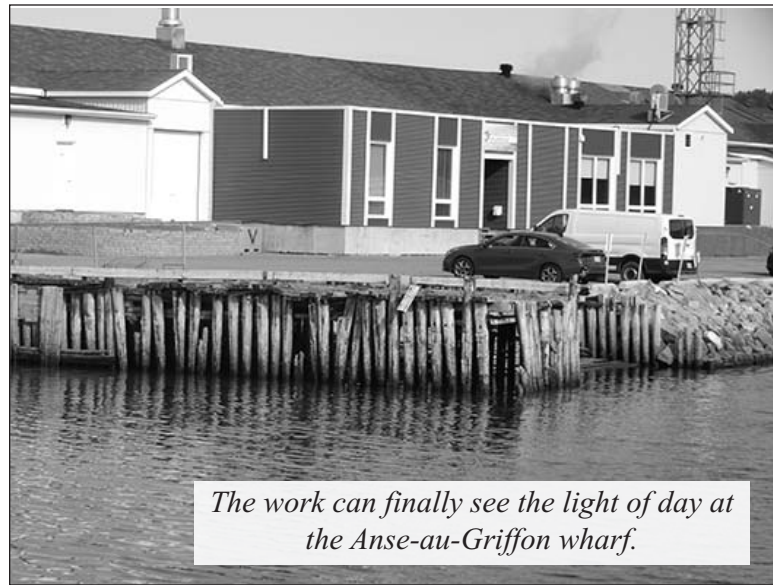
the controversy between certain members of the community.

According to the outgoing council, the electoral officer published a list including statutes only. Terry Shaw admits that revision work will have to be carried out after the election but he wants to reassure the members.

"I don't want to add to what was already said. Yes, an electoral list was published but it is not final. It is up to the electoral officer to add those who are admissible or not," says Mr. Shaw.

The Council notes that no charges have been laid to date and wishes to maintain efficient governance and to establish the facts regarding the unsubstantiated allegations of electoral fraud affecting the Council of Gespeg. The Council intends to collaborate with the authorities.

It is possible to be added to the list by contacting the returning officer. SPEC tried to speak to the returning officer, Marie-Christine Côté, but she did not return our calls.



The work can finally see the light of day at the Anse-au-Griffon wharf.

Photo: N. Sergerie

## Lower estimate for work at l'Anse-au-Griffon Wharf

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ: - The second call for tenders to repair the Anse-au-Griffon wharf has allowed for a reduction of costs.

By taking the lowest bidders for the contract which was split to try to save, the value of the site amounts to \$2.1 million, to which must be added the costs for its monitoring, an amount of a few hundred thousand dollars that the Town cannot confirm at this time since the tendering process is underway, however, the total bill for the site could be around \$2.5 million.

Ottawa paid \$1.9 million when transferring the property to Gaspé. The first tender was rejected last summer, with proposals totalling \$2.9 million.

Under the current conditions, the mayor, Daniel Côté, could go ahead but on one condition. "It is subject to the federal government paying the entire bill. We have made every effort to try to reduce costs. We will take care of all the management with our internal teams. We are doing our part within an infrastructure that has been abandoned by Ottawa. Now it's up to the federal government to do its part," states the mayor.

According to Mr. Côté, Ottawa is open to the matter.

## Gaspé launches its housing construction incentive

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - Gaspé is implementing its housing construction assistance program, which is intended to be an incentive to counter the severe shortage currently plaguing the town.

After having seen its private bill passed by Quebec before Christmas, the Town hopes to see 150 dwellings be erected over the next five years.

"It will be a five-year tax credit that will apply as much to property as to services. We hope that this will stimulate the construction of housing," says the mayor, Daniel Côté.

Each promoter can receive up to \$500,000 in credit over five years, the maximum provided for in private law.

In a similar program in effect at the turn of 2010, 110 new homes were built.

"There was a precedent created. We're repeating everything and putting it back into force. It worked at the time. We don't see why it wouldn't work now," says the mayor.

Gaspé has a vacancy rate of 1.2%, according to the latest data from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

The mayor hopes that promoters, whether local or from elsewhere in Quebec, will be there. "Normally, this is an incentive that is quite attractive for promoters. It saves on the first years when the investments are made."

The real needs would be 150 units in the short term and eventually 200 to 300 units according to the elected official.

The draft regulations will be adopted in February, but retroactive to January 1.

# Gaspé residents pay too much for their gas

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - Gas stations in the Gaspé Peninsula earned a profit margin twice as much as the Quebec average in 2019. The Régie de l'énergie's gasoline price monitoring report produced on December 19 indicates that the margin was 9.4 cents per litre in 2019 in the region compared to 4.8 cents in Quebec.

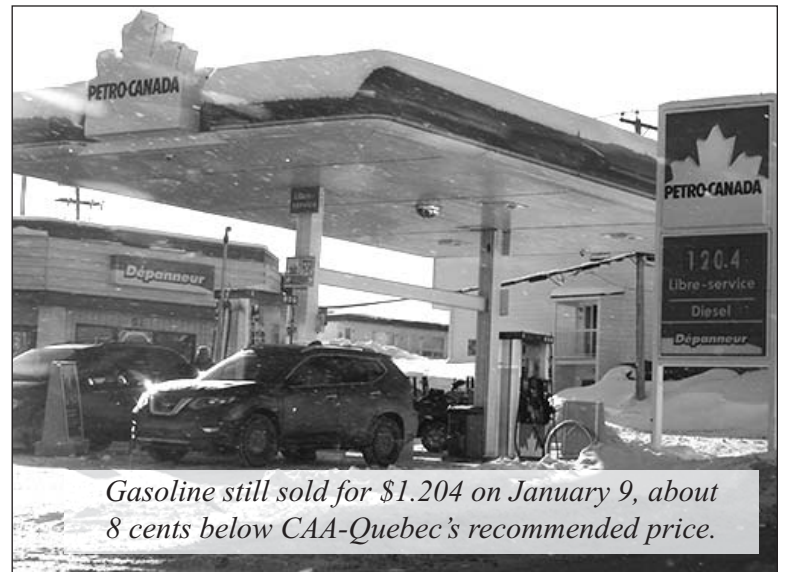
The Régie also notes that for five years, the Gaspé Peninsula has been in 19% of cases, the region posting the highest price in Quebec. For 2019, the percentage was 34%.

During the last six months of 2019, the price of gasoline in the Gaspé region was the highest of all regions in Quebec, except for Northern Quebec due to its special status.

The agency notes that since the beginning of November, the price of gasoline has dropped, following the trend observed in several other regions. This movement seems to have begun at the time when increased surveillance was started by the Régie des prix de l'essence, in the Gaspé Peninsula. In fact, the organization increased its sampling of gas stores in the Town of Gaspé, increasing the production of the Price Watch Bulletin from four to 13 stations.

In the document, the Régie notes that the cost of transporting fuel to the Gaspé Peninsula is higher than in the major centres, but the region benefits from a tax credit to compensate for this factor. The net level of the minimum price estimated for the Gaspé Peninsula "should be of a similar level to that of the whole of Quebec," notes the organization.

The Régie ends its 35-page report by stating that "the Régie cannot conclude that the higher gasoline prices in the



Gasoline still sold for \$1.204 on January 9, about 8 cents below CAA-Quebec's recommended price.

Photo: N. Sergerie

Gaspé region are caused by specific parameters establishing acquisition costs significantly higher than in the rest of the province."

### Debate launched in September

It was last September that the debate over the high price of gasoline took root when Gaspé had called for an investigation at the Competition Bureau.

At that time, a compilation by the Town concluded that the litre sold for 8.3 cents to 18.5 cents higher than the minimum price estimated by the Régie de l'énergie between June and August 26.

The Town recalled that the Competition Bureau of Canada has already demonstrated that there is a cartel in Victoriaville and Sherbrooke that artificially inflated prices. After Gaspé's gesture, the Gaspé Peninsula Prefects Table had followed suit. It was in November that the Competition Bureau followed up on the file by confirming to the Town of Gaspé that it had opened a file, but the federal agency does not publicly confirm this type of information.

Curiously, since initiated in September, the price of gaso-

line in the Gaspé has generally sold under the recommended price calculated by the Régie de l'énergie and CAA-Quebec.

Since then, the price at the pumps has remained at \$1.204 throughout the territory, however, on January 9, the recommended price of CAA-Quebec was established at \$1,272.

### Issue a priority for elected officials

Armed with this report, the region's elected officials intend to keep up the pressure. "Already we have an issue to the effect that items are often more expensive. We must ensure that the citizen is protected (in this chapter)," says the president of the Regroupement des MRC de la Gaspésie, Nadia Minassian.

After reading the report, the prefect of Avignon, Mathieu Lapointe, stated "that it makes no sense," stressing that we had to think about the actions to be taken. "It is very worrisome."

For his part, the PQ Member of the National Assembly for Bonaventure, Sylvain Roy, "dares to hope that there is no collusion. I'm asking the government to further investigate the increase that is not justified and is not justifiable."

## Asphalt: elected officials in solution mode

Nelson Sergerie

CHANDLER - The Regroupement des MRC de la Gaspésie is considering the idea of a pilot project to find a solution to the price of asphalt.

After analyzing the file that had been put together at the time by the defunct Regional Conference of Elected Officers, the president, Nadia Minassian, evokes this idea to reduce costs in the Gaspé Peninsula.

"We have to get closer to the Ministry of Transport. How are we able to optimize the work to have economies of scale? It's a dance that has to be done with several partners. This is where it gets harder to coordinate it all," says Minassian.

Once the exercise is completed, the file will be submitted to the ministry.

The bankruptcies of the Nasco firm and the company that managed Chandler's asphalt plant brought a monopoly back to the region last summer. It was in September that elected officials began to look for solutions to counter this phenomenon.

The price of asphalt increased by 30% last summer in Gaspé when Eurovia was the only company to have made a proposal.

The Member of the National Assembly for Bonaventure, Sylvain Roy, believes that the solution requires intermunicipal management.

# Nathalie Normandeau and François Roussy ask for a stop in proceedings

Gilles Gagné

Judge André Perreault, of the Quebec Court, has accepted to hear on March 16 the request made by former Quebec Liberal Member of the National Assembly Nathalie Normandeau to end legal proceedings against her because of the long delay that has characterized the case since eight charges were laid against her in March 2016. That is close to four years ago.

The former mayor of Gaspé, François Roussy, has also made a similar request. The four other co-accused in that affair have also formulated that kind of request, based on a Supreme Court decision in the Jordan case, which stipulates that a trial should ideally start no later than 18 months after the laying of charges.

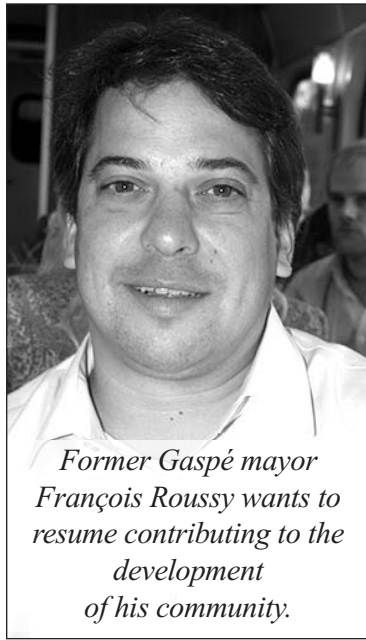
In August, five initial charges were dropped against Ms. Normandeau but she is still accused of breach of trust, fraudulent contributions to the Liberal Party of Quebec financing and corruption in the management of her Municipal Affairs Department.

The charges were laid following an anti-corruption squad investigation into the awarding of contracts in exchange for political financing. UPAC is the name of that squad.

Nathalie Normandeau's defence attorney had attempted a stop in proceedings and in March 2018, that attempt proved unsuccessful. At that time, the court invoked that the department of Justice prosecutor had simply done a thorough job of explaining the complexity of the case, without wasting time even if two years had passed since the beginning of the court proceedings. He also observed that the six accused did not seem eager to get a trial



*Former deputy premier Nathalie Normandeau wants to have a normal life again.*



*Former Gaspé mayor François Roussy wants to resume contributing to the development of his community.*

Photos: G. Gagné

date.

Twenty-two months later, former Deputy Premier Normandeau, in a written statement, argues that for three years and 10 months, her trial has taken place in the public forum instead of in a courtroom. She also emphasized that the judge in charge of the case mentioned that the trial will unlikely start before the end of 2020. By then, 57 months of procedure will have elapsed.

The former Member of the National Assembly for the riding of Bonaventure says that her decision to opt for a stay of proceedings by virtue of the Jordan decision is not what she wanted. The lengthening delays and the increasing complexity of the case, notably because it is intermingled with other court cases, have convinced her to do so.

"I have nothing to hide. I have always maintained my innocence," she adds, mentioning that since being charged, she has always wanted to explain her position in a trial.

"The delays I have been subjected to are cruel and inhumane," she states. The long journey that started in March 2016 has placed her in an unbearable personal and profes-

sional situation, she says, as it has become very difficult for her to earn a living.

Judge Perreault decided on January 13 to hear the request submitted by Nathalie Normandeau, François Roussy, Marc-Yvan Côté and the other three co-accused because if it was relevant to make a decision about a case similar to Jordan in 2018, it is relevant two years later.

Like Nathalie Normandeau, François Roussy reacted in-writing. In August, the charges of fraud and setting up a plot were dropped against him. He is still charged with breach of trust and corruption.

Mr. Roussy writes that his life has been suspended to that mega-trial for four years, and that he should never have been associated with those proceedings. For four years, he has been forced to travel back and forth between Quebec City and Gaspé in order to defend his case.

"I can't wait to shed light on the truth in our file so that people understand what we experienced as an injustice. What I want now is to forget about four exhausting years and move on to start a new life, free to work in the development of my community," he says.

## Police report

Steeve Vallée, 42, from Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé was arrested on January 14 following a thorough investigation by Sûreté du Québec police officers. The accused appeared at the Percé courthouse the following day to face charges related to sexual crimes allegedly committed against minors several years ago. The inquiry was conducted by the Sûreté du Québec detachment covering the Percé Rock MRC and the major crime squad. Steeve Vallée was remanded in custody between his arrest and his court appearance but he was released after being charged with sexual assault and sexual touching. He must respect a set of conditions before his next court appearance, scheduled for March 23. Two victims have so far filed complaints in that case. In one case, the crimes date back to the 1995-2001 period while in the second case, it goes back to the 2011-2013 stretch. A total of seven charges were laid in both cases.

A report from Quebec's Coroner Office recommends that Transport Canada should enforce the compulsory use of life jackets in boats less than six metres in length, in a report prepared following the death of Joey Harrison, a 55-year-old man from Cascapedia-Saint-Jules who drowned on August 7 in the Grand Cascapedia River in New Richmond. The victim's boat was found empty and Mr. Harrison's body was located two days later after an intense search and rescue operation. The coroner also recommends that the organizations involved in water activities should conduct awareness campaigns regarding the use of life jackets in kayaks, boats and canoes shorter than six metres (20 feet). The coroner also recommends a prevention campaign to forbid drinking on boats. Mr. Harrison had consumed alcohol before using his boat. The coroner believes that he fell in the water while trying to disentangle his boat stuck in a patch of aquatic plants that grow along the river in the area where he fell.

Four snowmobilers from the United States were rescued by a Canadian Armed Forces helicopter on the evening of January 12, about 20 kilometres south of Marsoui, Northern Gaspé Peninsula. The snowmobilers were stuck in the snow the previous day at about 9 p.m., in an isolated area. Marsoui is located about 30 kilometres east of Sainte-Anne-des-Monts. They were fortunately able to send their GPS coordinates to the emergency authorities, which prompted a Sûreté du Québec team trained in search and rescue to intervene the following day by bringing food, water and blankets to the snowmobilers, who did not sustain any injury.

A fire during the night of January 10 caused extensive damage to an apartment building located on Legros Street in Paspébiac. The alarm was given at 4 a.m.. The residents of the five apartments were evacuated. They were taken care of by the Red Cross or relatives. One of the residents went to the Paspébiac CLSC emergency service for smoke inhalation. The blaze was probably caused by a cooking fire. The building was declared non-salvageable by the Paspébiac fire fighting service.

Quebec police services conducted 3,500 operations between November 28, 2019, and January 2, 2020, to check if drivers were drinking and using drugs. While some arrests were made during the campaign because of drug and alcohol use while driving, police also used the campaign as a method to inform drivers about the risks of being impaired at the wheel.

844 drivers were arrested for impaired driving. In addition to that, slightly more than 100 drivers received infraction tickets because they had not respected the zero-alcohol consumption condition, which generally applies to youths. Moreover, up to 1,800 drivers were requested to take a substance-detection test and close to 100 of them failed the drug part of the test. The regional data will be released later by the Sûreté du Québec.



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## Commentary

Gilles Gagné

### Changes ahead between Quebec and Atlantic Provinces

About a year ago, Quebec Premier François Legault returned from Ontario trying without much success to see the positive side of a business trip that had ended by the refusal of Ontario Premier Doug Ford to opt for Hydro-Québec's future power dams to feed his province in renewable energy.

The business trip was in fact close to disastrous, as Doug Ford flatly told Premier Legault that Ontario had opted for the upgrading of its vast network of nuclear power plants.

When Mr. Ford sees the bill for that decision, he might come and knock on Premier Legault's door but, for now, Quebec has to look somewhere else so to find markets for its green electricity.

On January 13, François Legault met with the premiers and energy ministers of the Atlantic Provinces and returned to Quebec significantly happier than a year ago after meeting with Doug Ford.

The New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland-Labrador markets are clearly not as large as Ontario's but they still offer considerable growth potential, now and in the longer term. The thing is that New Brunswick and Nova Scotia rely heavily of fossil fuels to generate their electricity. Prince Edward

Island depends significantly on New Brunswick to get electricity.

Located by the sea, the population of those provinces is already witnessing the effects of climate change, and provincial administrations cannot stand still, without contributing to the global fight against greenhouse gases.

Another interesting factor is that the premier of Newfoundland and Labrador, Dwight Ball, has adopted a totally different approach than his predecessor, Danny Williams, who used the battle against Hydro-Québec over the old Churchill Falls controversy of the 1960s as a political tool. The old deals were signed to Quebec's advantage but nobody forced Hydro-Québec to do it at the time.

Dwight Ball knows that those deals have to be renewed by 2041. Hydro-Québec will need the Churchill Falls electricity, just like Newfoundland and Labrador will need Quebec as a short cut to reach new markets, and add some power coming from future power dams.

Newfoundland and Labrador will also probably need Hydro-Québec's expertise in that regard. The Muskrat Falls fiasco, marred by delays and cost overrun, is about to cause a disaster in the province's finances, to such extent that the federal government will have to come to its rescue.

Ten years after the aborted deal that was supposed to make NB Power a part of Hydro-Québec, New Brunswick and Quebec are in serious discussions again. Last week, both provinces signed a deal that will increase Hydro-Québec's sales in New Brunswick by \$100M a year.

The most important aspect of those talks is that both provinces will initiate a dialogue about the possibility of

building new power lines that would go from Quebec to the United States using New Brunswick as an entry. That factor, considering that Maine is the ideal way to reach the New England states and New York because there is less opposition there to the sight of power lines, might be the best way for Hydro-Québec to generate new business.

The completely new attitude of New Brunswick Premier Blaine Higgs regarding Quebec is another interesting point. He finally understands that the Energy East pipeline will not take place, and that it comes from a business decision more than Quebec's opposition to the project.

Mr. Higgs' viewpoint has changed so much that he now is considering a carbon tax, something he was vehemently opposed to just a few months ago.

A deal was also signed between Hydro-Quebec and NB Power for upgrades to the main power dam in New Brunswick, Mactaquac, which produces 20% of NB's electricity. It is the only major power dam in New Brunswick. Hydro-Québec's expertise will be useful, since the Quebec utility has experience in that matter, having carried out a similar job on the old Beauharnois dam.

Considering that New Brunswick and Nova Scotia will eventually have to close coal-burning and other fossil fuel power plants, Quebec's role to replace that power and offer its collaboration in other green forms of energy, such as wind power, is becoming vital.

The Quebec utility will eventually have to recognize the contribution of the Gaspé Peninsula. The power dam builders were reluctant to adopt wind farms as valuable sources of energy, but time will prove that Hydro-Québec customers will ask for that kind of electricity. In fact they already are.



## Guest Commentary

Emma Buckley

### Australia - a country aflame

On January 18, 2003, I was sitting with friends on the roof of our work colleague's house in Canberra, Australia, watching the sky glow an eerie orange. My colleague had hauled her garden hose up on the roof and was watering the roof and the walls. Several homeowners nearby were doing the same thing, calling out to each other, laughing.

Fires had been burning west of Canberra for a week. No-one was really sure how close they were, but the mood at my colleagues was lighthearted. People were making preparations but, hey, this was the suburbs. Fires burned in bushland, not in the cities. Still, we decided it would be sensible to leave after lunch, and headed back to our homes in the east of the city, further away from the danger.

By the end of that day, the fire had done the unthinkable – it had entered the suburbs of Canberra. Fanned by 80km/h winds and by 40-degree temperatures, the fire had mutated into a storm of devastating intensity. Trees didn't just burn as the firefront passed through, they exploded. Burning embers rained down on houses.

470 homes were destroyed, including a couple in my colleague's suburb. Australians looked at bushfires differently after Canberra - it seemed that nowhere was safe.

With Australia's recent bushfires, it seems that again, nowhere is safe. The area burned to date measures more than three times the size of the Gaspé Peninsula. People have lost their homes, their livelihoods and their loved ones. Entire communities have been traumatized,

but it is the widespread destruction of Australia's flora and fauna which may turn out to have the greatest impact on the country's future.

Australia's plants and animals are not only unique, they are incredibly diverse. The country has a well-established system of national parks which contain what are known as biodiversity hotspots, some of the richest areas for flora and fauna in the world. One such hotspot is the Stirling Ranges National Park, a knobby mountain range rising from the wheat fields in Western Australia. 1500 plant species, more than are found in the whole of the United Kingdom, are packed into this relatively small rectangle. Of these species, 87 are found nowhere else on Earth.

Increasingly, these precious ecosystems are like small islands stranded in a sea of sprawling development, both agricultural and urban. In light of intense land clearing in the east of the country, WWF International recently added Australia to its list of global deforestation fronts, where it sits shamefully, the only "developed" country on the list.

Now come this season's fires, unprecedented in scale and severity. They are the result of catastrophic drought and catastrophic heat in the country. Areas usually not so badly affected by fire, such as rainforests and cool alpine forests, have been scorched. The drought has transformed the usual places of refuge for wildlife – damp ravines or gullies which can slow or stop a fire – into death traps. Once the fire passes, wildlife lucky to survive have little hope, lacking water, food and shelter.

Fires have also been occurring more frequently in recent years, making it more difficult for various species of plants and animals to recover. Such is the case in the Stirling Ranges National Park, which has experienced four devastating bushfires in less than 20 years. In the last few weeks, fire destroyed almost half of the park. Some of its unique plants may be gone forever.

Australians are never far from nature. My family's home in the east of the country backs directly on to a national park boasting beautiful temperate rainforest as well as the type of dry, eucalypt forest Australians call simply "the bush". Here in my new home in Gaspésie, I still miss what we call the "bush chorus" – the strange and wonderful sounds of our birds rousing me from sleep. These include the famous kookaburra, warbling magpies, the bell-throated pied butcherbird and chirping currawongs.

When I tell people that there are kangaroos lounging around my parent's place under shady trees they think I'm pulling their leg, but I'm not. Phascogales – a type of mouse-sized possum – have been on-and-off residents in my parent's roof for years, despite various (and often hilarious) attempts at catch-and-release. Goannas measuring up to 2m long swagger slowly through our backyard and into the bush, their arrival announced by a frenzied squawking of birds. There are visits from the timid, rusty-furred pademelon (who has a liking for mum's tomato plants), and big-eyed possums rustling about in the trees at night.

These fascinating animals and their fragile habitat next to my parent's place have been spared from the fires, for the moment. So many other creatures have not been so lucky. The figure stands at a billion animals lost to date: from the tiniest of insects – some not even discovered yet - to birds of prey, from shy reptiles to koalas, already vulnerable from habitat loss. It is difficult and terrifying to try and understand just what this means for Australia's future.

Like so many people, I wonder what can I do to help? There are many different charities which direct money towards bushfire victims and communities, firefighters, and wildlife. The webpage <https://www.canada-helps.org/en/australian-fires/> provides information for Canadians looking to donate and support bushfire relief efforts in Australia.

Importantly, we can try and live in a more conscious and caring way.

We can put pressure on governments to make choices that favour the environment. We can try and stay abreast of what's happening in our communities, and aware of how local urban planning affects wildlife habitats. We can plant trees or make our garden a welcoming place for birds and insects. I am hoping to return to Australia next summer and participate in a conservation program helping to restore natural animal habitat.

Australia is not alone in suffering such terrible fires. The Amazon, California, Siberia, Indonesia – all these places are aflame in the current climate emergency. We need to realise that we don't exist in a vacuum. Our fate is inextricably linked to the fate of other living creatures who cannot speak for themselves, nor run fast enough from the flames.

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# So far, no charges laid as a result of raids on Listuguj cannabis stores

Gilles Gagné

LISTUGUJ: – Despite the extent of the raids carried out at two cannabis stores in Listuguj by the Listuguj Police Department on January 12 and the initial arrest of four individuals, as of January 17 no one has officially been charged.

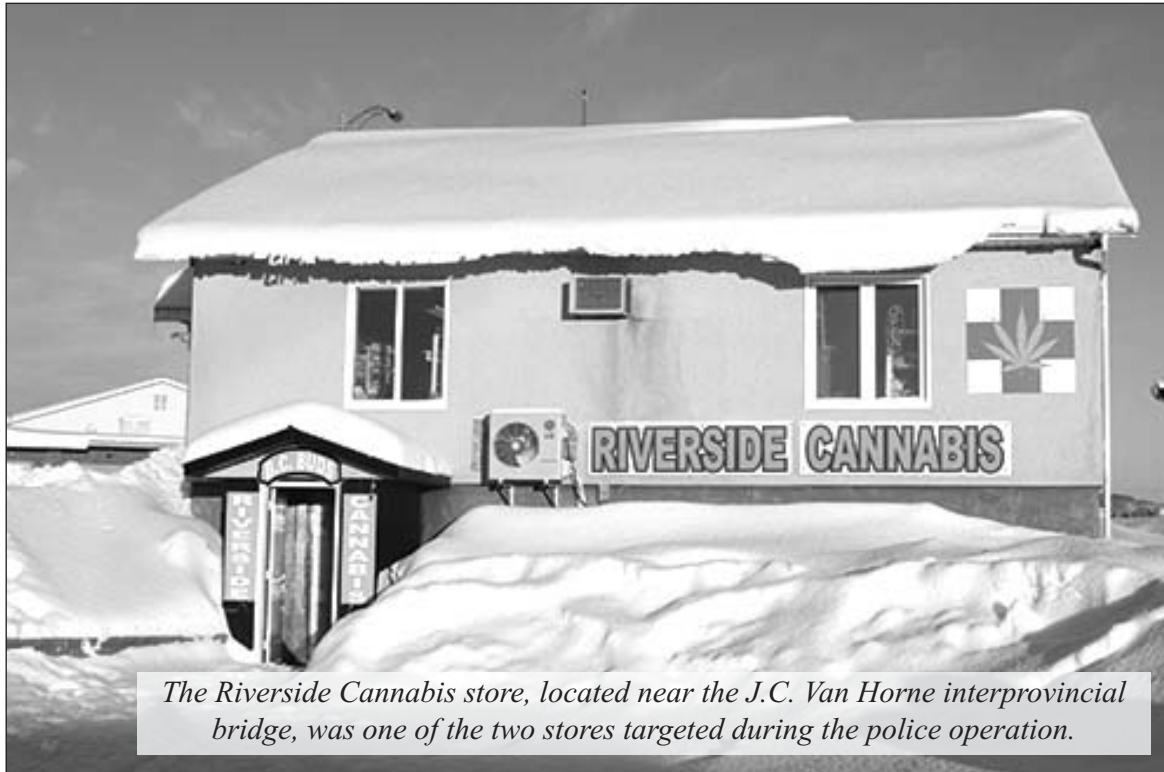
The operation stirred some controversy in the Mi'gmaq community, mostly due to the assistance of the Sûreté du Québec required by the Listuguj Police Department, an assistance that covered arrests and paper work.

The Listuguj Police Department regularly asks for the assistance of the Sûreté du Québec for certain operations but it very rarely takes the form of arrests carried out by the SQ within the limits of the aboriginal community.

Many Listuguj citizens have never forgiven the two massive interventions by the SQ in June of 1981, putting an end to the salmon fishing season of the Mi'gmaqs, still referred to as the "salmon war."

Meanwhile, criminal and penal prosecutor Gérald Maltais still has not laid charges against the four individuals arrested on January 12. They are in all likelihood linked to Smoke Shop 69 and Riverside Cannabis, the two stores where the raids took place.

A third store promoting the sales of cannabis products, Restigouche Cannabis, was not included in the raid, as its owner decided to stop selling cannabis a few days



The Riverside Cannabis store, located near the J.C. Van Horne interprovincial bridge, was one of the two stores targeted during the police operation.

Photo: G. Gagné

before the operation.

"I asked the police officers additional information to complete the investigation. We apply the federal law. We must gather the evidence about the essential elements of the infraction," states prosecutor Maltais without further comments.

The situation involving cannabis sales within the limits of aboriginal communities is particular. In Listuguj and in other First Nations communities, the federal government has not yet reached an agreement with band councils on the matter. In principle, selling cannabis would be illegal there.

In Listuguj, the band council had indicated in 2018, when the federal government legalized cannabis consumption and selling, that a cannabis control office would be created for the Na-

tive community, however, that control office which will deliver selling permits to the local stores was not founded yet as of January 12.

That explains why Smoke Shop 69, Riverside Cannabis and Restigouche Cannabis started their activities without a permit.

In a press release issued on the evening of January 12, Chief Darcy Gray announced on behalf of the band council that "temporary licences will be issued on an interim basis pending the creation of the cannabis control office."

The duration of the temporary permits will be 12 weeks and will cost \$300 weekly.

Has the transformation of an illegal activity into a legal one the following day influenced criminal and penal prosecutor Gérald Maltais to wait until charges are laid in

that affair?

"I don't know anything about that decision of the band council. I am applying the federal law," says Prosecutor Maltais.

Meanwhile, the January 12 raids prompted many members of the Listuguj community to gather in front

of the Listuguj Police Department and ask Chief Darcy Gray and Chief of Police Trapper Metallic some questions.

Chief Gray "addressed community member concerns surrounding mistaken information which stemmed from social media suggesting today's arrests were a result of SQ operations." Mr. Gray and Mr. Metallic "clarified that this was initiated, planned, organized and conducted entirely by the LPD," specifies the press release.

Chief Gray and Chief of Police Trapper Metallic have refused to comment further regarding the situation.

Sgt. Claude Doiron, spokesperson for the Sûreté du Québec, confirms that the police officers from his organization only assisted the Listuguj Police Department. "The operation was conducted by the Native police officers. We did what they asked us to do to accompany them."

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**LEGAL SERVICES AND CITY CLERK'S OFFICE**

**Enactment of By-laws**

**By-law 1405-19:** « Créant une réserve financière au profit de l'ensemble du territoire de la municipalité pour une somme de 90 000 \$ en 2020. »

**By-law 1406-19:** « Créant une réserve financière au profit du quartier numéro 1 pour une somme de 5 000 \$ en 2020. »

**By-law 1407-19:** « Créant une réserve financière au profit du quartier numéro 2 pour une somme de 13 000 \$ en 2020. »

**By-law 1408-19:** « Créant une réserve financière au profit du quartier numéro 3 pour une somme de 15 000 \$ en 2020. »

**By-law 1409-19:** « Créant une réserve financière au profit du quartier numéro 4 pour une somme de 8 000 \$ en 2020. »

**By-law 1410-19:** « Créant une réserve financière au profit du quartier numéro 5 pour une somme de 25 000 \$ en 2020. »

**By-law 1411-19:** « Créant une réserve financière au profit du quartier numéro 6 pour une somme de 21 000 \$ en 2020. »

**By-law 1412-20 :** « Règlement sur la vérification de l'optimisation des ressources par la Commission municipale du Québec »

GIVEN at Gaspé, January 22, 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.

# Parks Canada announces the 50th anniversary of Forillon National Park in 2020

## *An unforgettable year to enjoy a unique history and territory*

### Press release

Parks Canada's destinations form important cornerstones for Canada's tourism industry, and the agency is committed to providing visitors with high-quality and meaningful experiences and to support tourism in communities across the country. The year 2020 marks the 50th anniversary of Forillon National Park. The programming surrounding this anniversary, held under the theme 50 years of experiences, will allow visitors to discover the park through the eyes of those whose lives have been impacted by this magnificent territory, from the past to the present day.

Special activities and events will be held over the summer to mark this important milestone, thanks to the precious collaboration of the Micmac Nation of Gespeg and the Association of Persons Expropriated from Forillon and their Descendants. Many regional partners will also be present.

Programming will be confirmed over the next few weeks. Visitors who wish to make the most out of these activities and their visits to Forillon National Park are encouraged to plan their trip



*This water drop shaped facility offers an entirely new camping experience.*

by visiting the park's website, downloading the Parks Canada mobile app, and following the park's facebook page (ForillonNP).

As for the other events taking place in the park, their programming will be enhanced in honour of the 50th anniversary, starting with the cross-country skiing and snowshoeing event, La Traversée de la Gaspésie, on February 22. This unique experience will be followed

by the Festival Musique du Bout du Monde and the Ultra-Trail du Bout du Monde.

Thanks to a number of new features, visitors will be able to enjoy the park in new ways during this milestone year. For example, campers will be able to experience an unforgettable stay under the stars in an Ôasis. This new type of accommodation, which can house up to two adults and two children, is equipped with a convertible table/bed, a sus-

pending hammock loft, 180-degree sea-facing windows, heating and lighting. The new Information and Discovery Centre in the north area will open its doors in June, offering a new permanent exhibit, a catering service, a store, a patio, laundry services, Wi-Fi, and several recreational activities. It will also be the departure point for the new Du Banc trail. Bordering the Cap-des-Rosiers coastline, the trail offers a spectacular view of Forillon's magnificent cliffs. Since it's never too early to plan your summer and fall vacations, reservations for camping begin today. Campers can book their stay online through the Parks Canada reservation service website, or by calling 1-877-737-3783.

### Quick Facts

- ◆ In June 1970, Forillon became Quebec's first national park within the Canadian network. Located on the tip of the Gaspé Peninsula, Forillon National Park protects a territory of 244.8 km<sup>2</sup>, including a narrow strip of marine area a little over 150 m wide (4.4 km<sup>2</sup>).
- ◆ The forest, which covers 95% of the park, is home to a

large variety of plant and wildlife species, including several species at risk.

◆ Park Forillon's distinctive coastal landscape, hiking trails and campsites are highly popular attractions, as demonstrated by the 170,000 people who visited the park between June and October 2019.

◆ Its cultural heritage, which attests to the Indigenous occupation of the territory and to commercial fishing, an activity practised up until the mid-20th century, makes Forillon a unique destination.

◆ For the 2020 season, Forillon National Park will be open to visitors from May 29 to October 12. The park offers a total of 362 campsites between the Petit-Gaspé, Cap-Bon-Ami and Des-Rosiers campgrounds, which also include the five new Ôasis shelters and the micOcube. The Petit-Gaspé and Des-Rosiers campgrounds also offer 15 heated and equipped oTENTik tents.

◆ Parks Canada sites are an excellent way for youth to experience the outdoors and learn more about our environment and our history. Admission to all Parks Canada sites is free of charge for youth 17 and under.

## Songs of cheer at the Richmond Manor

Elaine Sexton

NEW RICHMOND: - Even though the Christmas season has passed, it wasn't too late for children to entertain the seniors at the Richmond Manor.

The children entertained them with a short poem and several Christmas songs.

Zoey and Aria read *A December Dream*. The residents made special requests, and participated in a sing-a-long.

Later that day Jacques Belanger played the piano for the residents and more Christmas songs were sung. Jacques sure "tickled the ivories," as they say.

On behalf of the children, Zoey, Aria, Emi, Liam, Callie, Loik, Tessa, President Dwight Coull and all the directors, we wish the seniors, manager Stephanie, and all her staff, and faithful volunteers, a happy and healthy 2020.



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## Family Ties

### Putting Pen to Paper



Elizabeth Dupuis,  
Project Coordinator

The Family Ties letter writing project, Putting Pen to Paper, has already attracted the interest of many community members of all ages. As coordinator I am pleasantly surprised and pleased by the response. It is great to see people getting involved in this project, especially those who don't usually take part in cultural activities. This is really a project for everyone, whatever their level of writing or previous experience and Family Ties is really grateful to Canadian Heritage for the funding to make it possible.

At the end of last year, one of the groups taking part in the project wrote letters about Christmas traditions. Below is one of those letters:

Dear S,

*It's the beginning of December and it's now cold outside. Snow is on the ground and the air is cool. My mom started to bake for Christmas. We bake bread together. I love the smell.*

*What are your plans for Christmas this year? Do you have any Christmas Traditions?*

*We have a tree up and it is fully decorated. We have placed milk and cookies for Santa on a small table in the living room and the Christmas stockings are full. On Christmas Eve at my house, we are allowed to open one little gift - which is awesome. The night before Christmas, my brother and I can hardly sleep. Christmas morning is so exciting. For Christmas supper, we eat turkey with gravy and potatoes, followed by sweets. We also play Christmas Carols and everyone is together for the holidays, laughing, loving and enjoying. It's magical.*

Love, K

Another series of workshops will soon take place, the workshops are open to the general public free of charge and include all the materials needed. Each session will be led by a volunteer with specialized knowledge, who will help participants learn new skills in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

Upcoming workshops include: Japanese Calligraphy with Shino Muraki, National Send a Card to a Friend Day with Elizabeth Dupuis, Postcard Designing with Kaneesha Smith, Hand-lettering & Calligraphy with Elaine Almond and Letters of the Past with Sandi Beebe.

Throughout the activities, photographs will be taken of the participants and their work. These will be published in a book. Each participant will receive a copy of that book at the end of the project along with a stationery set.



Hand-lettering and Calligraphy workshop with special guest, Elaine Almond.

For more information or to register, please contact Elizabeth Dupuis at 418-752-7265 or edupuis-familyties@hotmail.com More information about Putting Pen to Paper can be found on the Family Ties facebook page.

## Percé wants to protect the Emerald River

Nelson Sergerie

PERCÉ: - In order to protect the site, Percé created a municipal park at the Rivière aux Émeraudes.

"Increasing traffic was a concern that we had in the municipality, and that citizens also had," says the mayor, Cathy Poirier.

The town bought eight hectares last May and will proceed in three stages.

The first, with a budget of \$75,000, provides for several improvements. "Improving the trails, parking and surveillance are really things that will be part of Phase 1 of the project," adds the mayor. Fees will also be implemented to ensure a reception capacity that respects the beauty of the site.

Phase 2, which will take place in 2021, will consist of the full development of the site and the unveiling of a calendar of activities spread over the summer.

Phase 3, scheduled for 2022, will unveil a strategy to beautify the site according to an original concept. The budgets and details of these last phases remain to be specified.

The site will be added to the places of interest with the Geopark, which will participate in the animation of the new site, through a series of geo-educational activities for all ages.



Photo: Percé Geoparc



Louis-Marie Rivard of Saint-Alexis, Terry Pictou, of Eel River Bar and Listuguj's Terry Isaac have become friends over the years, while playing hockey.

Photo: G. Gagné

## Anti-racism hockey game to take place in Paspébiac in March

Gilles Gagné

SAINT-ALEXIS: - A group of hockey players from the Gaspé Peninsula and Northern New Brunswick is currently organizing an anti-racism game scheduled for March 29 at the Paspébiac arena. The project is still in the planning phase but it will likely include two games, one for youth and one for adults.

The initiative comes from players of different horizons currently active in the Restigouche Drive-Thru group, people from the Avignon MRC, including Listuguj, and from the Campbellton and Dalhousie area, including Eel River Bar, New Brunswick.

"Our group is multi-ethnic. It was formed decades ago and it has always been inclusive. Native players have always played a big role in it. There are Natives, anglophones and francophones from New Brunswick, and Natives, francophones and anglophones from the Gaspé Peninsula. (...) We play twice a week in Campbellton and we regularly hold a bunch of activities together," explains Louis-Marie Rivard.

Mr. Rivard is a Saint-Alexis

retired teacher who has been playing in the league for more than 15 years. Before being sponsored by the Restigouche Drive-Thru store, the group was known as the Hôtel-Dieu league, named after the former hospital. That group started playing together in 1970-1971 and has always found replacements as players retired over the years.

The March 29 game is an echo to the racist incident that took place at the Paspébiac arena on January 4 when players from the Chandler Goons uttered racist remarks to the Gesgapegiag Chiefs players. Native children were also targeted in the stands when they raised the flag of the Chiefs.

A petition, initiated by Gesgapegiag's Amanda Ottawa promoting the implementation of an anti-racist policy in all the

arenas of the Gaspé Peninsula, had gathered in excess of 4,500 names as of January 17. Ms. Ottawa's husband, Dave Condo, played in the January 4th game.

So far, Louis-Marie Rivard and the other organizers of the March 29th game have held one meeting to plan it. Gesgapegiag's police officer Franklin Condo greeted them at the police station on January 13 for the occasion.

"Franklin has often come to play with us, notably at the Saint-Alexis Carnival tournament at our arena. We are thinking of regrouping youths from Listuguj, Gesgapegiag and Paspébiac for that game. We might invite some Chandler players as well. Our usual gang of old-timers would then play," says Louis-Marie Rivard.

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About 30 parents, along with their young children voice concerns about the lack of daycare spots available in Gaspé.

Photo: N. Sergerie

## More day care spaces needed

Nelson **Sergerie**

**GASPÉ** - Thirty toddlers under the age of five and their parents responded to the member for Gaspé's invitation on January 15 in hopes of obtaining new childcare spaces in Gaspé.

A video was filmed in order to demonstrate to the Minister of Families, Mathieu Lacombe, the need which is estimated at 150 day care spots in Gaspé, according to a tally made by the Centre de la petite enfance (CPE) Voyage de mon Enfance.

"This mobilization is extremely important for Gaspé where the needs are desperate. With the video clip, we want to use the images to demonstrate the need," explained Member of the National Assembly Mé-ganne Perry Mélançon.

### Special needs

Quebec promises to make

spaces available and the mayor of Gaspé, Daniel Côté, requests that the minister take into account the fact that his municipality is experiencing the fastest growth in Eastern Quebec.

"There, we have faces on the figures. Growth in Gaspé is three times faster than in Rimouski. The shortage of 150 spaces is not going to disappear. The Minister may well open places in Pointe-à-la-Croix or Cap-Chat. The Minister must understand that there is specifics locally, that Gaspé is experiencing the highest growth at present and that is having an impact on the community currently socio-demographic," states the mayor.

### Impacts

Many parents have to delay their return to work for lack of childcare spaces. This is the case of Agnes Kourio, a mother of seven-month-old

twins as well as a toddler. "This is a major problem for young families and for those who work. If I cannot find childcare spaces, I will have to take unpaid leave. Three children without any pay, it starts to get complicated. I have a lot of hope that in the public sphere we can find solutions," says the mother.

Two family day cares will open in February which will ease the waiting list by 12 places. An awareness campaign to promote the profession will be carried out. The CPE Voyage de mon enfance is thinking about submitting a development project.

"Indeed, it will take up places in facilities, in CPEs, and places in family environments, which could be opened in the coming months," states the director of the CPE, Gilles Chapados, who notes that the deadlines to increase capacities in installations are 20 to 24 months.



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during the evening**

Ville de Gaspé

## Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



### Let's Make Some Soup

*Let's make some soup cause the weather is turning cold.  
Let's stir it together 'til we are both grey and old.  
Let's stir it together 'til it tells us stories of its own.  
Let's make some soup cause the weather is turning cold.*

*Pumpkin and parsnip, carrots and turkey bones,  
Bay leaf and pepper, potato and garlic cloves.  
You stir a moment while I put more wood in the stove.  
Let's make some soup cause the weather is turning cold.*

It is that time of the year when people get serious about soup-making. Yes, you can buy many kinds of soup in a can, however, homemade soup is a totally different entity. The whole process is part of the true enjoyment of the soup. The chopping, sautéing and simmering all combine to produce the most truly lovely aromas in your kitchen. Besides, a big bowl of soup warms you up from the inside on a cold and blustery evening.

Why do people prefer homemade soup to canned, besides the gorgeous smells? You can use up veggies and meats that are leftover in the fridge. No waste. You cooked a turkey? Now use the meat and bones to make turkey soup! Throw in any vegetables that you have that will suit the soup that you are making. Then add whatever else you want to make it hearty. You can add rice, barley, noodles or diced potato. Every homemade soup is different based on what the cook has available in her kitchen.

Soup is a healthy meal. Often chock full of vegetables and lean protein, it is full of nutrition. You can even add a handful of spinach or kale to raise the nourishment the soup provides. Add some fresh herbs for an extra kick of flavour. Add cilantro to chicken soup for a flavour boost. Continuing on the plus side, soup often has fewer calories than a typical 'meat and potatoes' meal.

Let soup simmer. Do not rush it. This is another bonus to making soup. It does not have to be served immediately. In fact, the longer it simmers the more flavour it will have. You have things to do? Your soup will wait for you.

Making soup can be relatively simple. It is a one-pot meal. What cook doesn't like that? Clean up is quick and easy. Once all your ingredients are in the pot, sit back and relax.

Another plus to making your own soup is cooking in large batches and freezing it in containers to have at a future meal. If you serve a baguette with butter and cheese or even a side salad you will be so grateful that you made soup. Making a large pot of soup is a solid example of doing something that is a gift to your future self.

Tracy-Lee Pelletier is planning to make soup soon with carrots that she grew last summer. She blanched them and may add some fava beans that she grew as well. She agrees that the best soups are made on a cold, stormy day. She adds, "When you use veggies you grew yourself, it's made with love."

Nothing makes you feel cozier on a winter's evening than a wood fire and a hot bowl of homemade soup. Musician Hawksley Workman had it right. "Let's make some soup because everyone feels the cold."

*We'll make enough to feed everyone that we know.  
We'll make enough to feed everyone that we don't.  
Let's make some soup because everyone feels the cold.  
Song by Hawksley Workman*



# Announcements...



## Obituary



### MEREDITH: Diane

The family of the late Diane Meredith, whose passing occurred December 16, 2019, at the age of 67, wishes to express its appreciation to those who offered such kindness, support and messages of sympathy and comfort in their bereavement.

Diane leaves to mourn, her husband James O'Neil; brothers Gilbert (Barbara) and Don (Sharon); brothers-in-law Gordon and Barry (Verna); and many nieces and nephews.

Many thanks to the people for visits, phone calls, email messages, cards, flowers and delicious treats that were made and brought to Diane in the hospital. They were greatly appreciated by all of us and especially Diane. Special thanks to the medical staff at Maria Hospital for all the comfort that you gave her while she was a patient there.

A special thanks to Pastor Kraglund for his prayers and for speaking so eloquently about Diane at her funeral service. Thank you as well to the organist and choir for your musical accompaniment which brought great comfort to our hearts.

It is deeply appreciated and will always be remembered. The Meredith and O'Neil Family



## In Memory



### GOYETTE: Eric

In loving memory.

June 1984 - January 2012

*Lonely are the days*

*Since you went away.*

*Tears they fall. They do no 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.*

Loved and sadly missed by Mom, Jean, Patrick, Emilie, Noemie and Nelly.

### St. Jude's Novena

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the hopeless, pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us.

Say this prayer nine times a day for nine days. On the eighth day your prayer will be answered.

M.B.



### SAWYER: Doris ( Hall)

In loving memory of a dear mother who passed away 10 years ago on January 25, 2010.

*Always so good, unselfish and kind,*

*Few on this earth her equal we find.*

*Honourable and upright in all her ways.*

*Loyal and true to the end of her days.*

*God saw the road was getting rough*

*And the hills were hard to climb,*

*So he closed her weary eyelids*

*And whispered, "Peace be thine."*

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## CLASSIFIEDS



**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.

**URGENTLY NEEDED:** Volunteers to deliver Meals-on-Wheels in the New Carlisle area. If you are interested, please call Rita at 418-752-5577, ext. 3.

## 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 February 26.

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

**Downtown Café, closed for January, will reopen on 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:

#### 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:

#### Community Centre

**February 8:** 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:

#### 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:

#### Book Room

**Every Wednesday:** The book room is now open from 1 to 4 p.m. For more information, call Kathleen at 418-392-4896.

### CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

#### Fifty Plus

**Every Tuesday:** Grocery Bingo at 7 p.m.

**Every Thursday:** Dame de Piques will resume in March.

### GESGAPEGIAG:

#### N.A. Meetings

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

### GESGAPEGIAG:

#### Important Meeting

This is to inform the community members of Gesgapegiag and the surrounding area that Gesgapegiag Healing Lodge (NNADAP) hosts AA meetings

and is open to everyone. If you are interested in a lifestyle free of alcohol and substance abuse and have the desire to change, you are invited to attend meetings every **Monday** at 7 p.m.

PURCHASE YOUR ANNOUNCEMENT ONLINE AT THEGASPEPEC.COM

## UNITED CHURCH

**Sunday, January 26**  
10:30 a.m. Hope Town

## ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

### Sunday, January 26

#### New Carlisle

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

#### Hope Town

10 a.m. Morning Prayer

#### Port Daniel

11 a.m. Holy Eucharist with the people of St. Paul's

## PARISH OF GASPÉ

### Sunday, January 26

#### St. Paul's - Gaspé

10 a.m. Holy Eucharist

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# On the lighter side...



## School Word Find

Find the hidden words in the puzzle.

CLASSROOM	HOMEWORK	STUDENTS
DESK	LESSONS	TEACHER
EDUCATE	PROFESSOR	TESTING
GRADES	SCHOOL	TEXTBOOK

E Y O D T G M S S Q D J  
 D R J B E N O C T R T K  
 U E Q Z X I O H N D S P  
 C B Z Q T T R O E E X Y  
 A C Z U B S S O D V F V  
 T B T H O E S L U C S T  
 E J U R O T A E T C E X  
 Y S L F K G L K S X D Q  
 X Y U T E A C H E R A M  
 P R O F E S S O R Z R D  
 K R O W E M O H M Z G Y  
 D X S Z S N O S S E L L

## SUDOKU

4	7		6					
6		2						9
	9	5		4		3		
9				8				1
				9	6			5
		7	5		2			8
	6					8		3
	3			7	4			2
2	8		9			7		

### Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Level: Beginner

### Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

2	8	4	9	6	3	7	1	5
5	3	1	8	7	4	6	2	9
7	6	9	1	2	5	8	4	3
3	4	7	5	1	2	9	6	8
1	2	8	3	9	6	4	5	7
9	5	6	4	8	7	2	3	1
8	9	5	2	4	1	3	7	6
6	1	2	7	3	8	5	9	4
4	7	3	6	5	9	1	8	2

ANSWER:

## What is old becomes new again!



## HOROSCOPES

### ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

Various opportunities may be coming your way soon, Aries. Some unique business dealings may suddenly provide some options that you never had before.

### TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, the time has come to focus on the relationships in your life, especially a romantic one. That means spending more time with a spouse or a significant other.

### GEMINI – May 22/June 21

Gemini, after many weeks of trying

to solve a difficult problem, you have a classically clever move of inspiration. The time for big changes is now.

### CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22

Put some domestic plans in motion, Cancer. Devote extra time this week to fun activities with a son, daughter or another family member. Get creative with ideas.

### LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23

A wonderful breakthrough occurs when you least expect it, Leo. If you have had real estate on the mind, it could be to that end. Enjoy your well-earned success.

### VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Brilliant insight needs an outlet, Virgo. You may have just the thing in

a plan for a book, craft project, educational experience, or much more.

### LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, you are looking for solutions, but you may be focused on short-term fixes instead of looking at the long-term picture. Don't get caught up in the here and now.

### SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Everyone can benefit from a rebranding of sorts, Scorpio. Start jotting down ideas of what you want to accomplish and how to put your best foot forward.

### SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

It's time to cut through some brain fog that has been preventing you from moving forward, Sagittarius. Start by removing all outside distractions and

getting down to business.

### CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, just when you thought you reached your quota for good ideas, you have a eureka moment later this week. Take full advantages of all opportunities that arise from it.

### AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Don't take a "wait and see" attitude pertaining to your career, Aquarius. You need to grab the bull by the horns and make your own breaks. Don't procrastinate.

### PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

Immerse yourself in a project that taps into the skills that you have long been afraid to develop, Pisces. It's good to push yourself at times.

## FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

### JANUARY 19

Shawn Johnson, Gymnast (28)

### JANUARY 20

Rainn Wilson, Actor (54)

### JANUARY 21

Geena Davis, Actress (64)

### JANUARY 22

Beverly Mitchell, Actress (39)

### JANUARY 23

Doutzen Kroes, Model (35)

### JANUARY 24

Neil Diamond, Singer (79)

### JANUARY 25

Alicia Keys, Singer (39)

# Gaspesian Notables: Gerard and Marion

*"Why remember? It's simply, yet profoundly this. The living owe it to those who can no longer speak to tell their stories for them."*

Diane Skinner

Gerard Poirier was born in New Carlisle in 1918. He enlisted in the RCAF in Moncton, N.B. Marion (Nelson) Poirier, born in 1922, enlisted in the RCAF Women's Division in Mont Joli, Que. This is where the two, who would eventually marry, first met. After training to be a pilot in PEI, Gerard was sent to serve in England. Marion also served overseas. She stated that women deserved more recognition for their service in WWII than they received.

Lieutenant Poirier was a true hero, who flew his crew back to safety after losing an engine during a mission in WWII. Lieutenant Poirier received the Distinguished Flying Cross and one report states that, "...Lieutenant Poirier has displayed gallantry in the air and exceptional qualities of leadership. On many other occasions he has shown loyalty and exceptional devotion to duty in the air as well as on the ground."

In 1942 at Harrod's Department Store in London, England, Marion bought a small woolen rabbit with a leather tummy and lining inside its ears. She gave this little fellow to Gerard to signify her love and commitment to him.

Gerard took the rabbit with him on 37 missions and he and his crew delayed one flight when the bunny could not be found. With great relief, it was eventually located. The bunny flew with him on every mission. On its leather belly and ears you will see writing which lists some of the missions and the dates of them. The men who flew with Gerard wrote these chronically their bravery and, in par-

ticular, that of Lieutenant Poirier.

Gerard and Marion returned to his hometown in New Carlisle after the war. They were married and had a family. Gerard worked as a conductor for the C.N Railway for the rest of his career. He also wrote a column for The Gaspé Spec called *Growing up in New Carlisle*. It was about growing up on the Gaspé in the 1920s and 1930s.

Cheryl Poirier, Marion and Gerard's daughter, recalls her dad allowing her to play with this "toy" as a child. He kept it in a cupboard which was close to his favourite chair in the living room, and he would bring it out from time to time to show visitors. It is a small, wee bunny but signifies something considerably more. The bunny came to symbolize the extraordinary comradeship and heroism displayed in wartime.

Later, Marion and Gerard faced the death of a child and she coped with this devastating loss using her immense creativity. Marion Nelson Poirier was a noted Gaspesian artisan and gifted seamstress. A family friend suggested to her that she should undertake a



project to help take her mind off her immense sadness. She began to make a patchwork quilt using pieces of cloth left from clothing she had made for her family over the years. Each and every piece was lovingly stitched with a different design. Beside her name, which is on the quilt, she expressed her profound sadness by embroidering the words "a trail of tears." This represented the eternal love she had for her child.

Gerard and Marion Poirier shared a great love and were married for over 65 years.

## Teachers' Guide

*(Teachers: this week's article is aimed for older students. Suggested grade level 9 – 11+)*

### Comprehension:

1. How and where did Gerard Poirier meet Marion Nelson?
2. Why is Gerard Poirier considered a true hero?
3. Tell about the little toy bunny.
4. Marion Poirier was a gifted artist and seamstress. How did she use her skills to cope with a tragic loss?

**Vocabulary:** Define: gallantry, chronicle, devastating, profound, overwhelming

**Extra:** Research the Distinguished Flying Cross. What is it awarded for?

## CASA EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



### Mary Robertson

**Position:** Mental Health and Wellness Coordinator for 1 year

**I know the best way to understand the needs of a community is by meeting and talking with them.**

Mary is from Cascapedia St-Jules. She works on several different files about mental health challenges and needs of the Anglophone community on the

Gaspé Coast. Mary develops and organizes gatherings/events with the CASA team that supports and brings people together.

Mary is a creative thinker, talker and strategist and she always tries to figure out the best way to make things happen. During her free time Mary enjoys knitting, painting, creating, playing with colours, writing and gardening. Her guilty pleasure is reading a good book with a cup of tea!

**"Kindness Matters!"**

### Krystal Duguay

**Position:** Operations Coordinator for 1 year

**I love that I work with an amazing team!**

Krystal hails from Shigawake and in her position at CASA she is responsible for planning all CASA events, organizing all virtual meetings and is a wonderful administrative support to the senior management team.

No matter the job or task the CASA team can always count on Krystal to give a helping hand!

During her free time Krystal enjoys making memories with her daughters. Her guilty pleasure is eating chocolate cake and sugar pie before bed!

**Nothing you wear is more important than your smile.**



### Amanda Crozier

**Position:** Programs and Activities Agent for 4 months

**I love making connections with community members!**

Amanda is originally from New Carlisle but has been living in Gesgapegiag for over 20 years.

Amanda works out of CASA's office in Avignon and sits on numerous committees.

Her job is to organize and facilitate activities such as Wellness Centres for seniors and families with children ages 0-8 for the MRC of Avignon. Amanda brings open-mindedness to the CASA team and is always looking for new solutions which is a huge asset. She enjoys spending time with her daughter, exercising and helping others lead healthier lifestyles. Her guilty pleasure is COFFEE!

**One child, one teacher, one pen and one book can change the world. - Malala Yousafzai**

### Jolene Starnes

**Position:** Bright Beginnings Coordinator for 4 months

**I love working with children and I'm very proud and excited to be in a position where I can really make a positive difference.**

Jolene is from New Carlisle. Her job is to organize, plan and carry out activities to support Anglophone children, ages 0-8, and their families. Her attention to detail, organizational skills and creativity are all wonderful assets she brings to the CASA team and they go hand-in-hand when working with children.

Jolene's free time is spending quality time with her family and her guilty pleasure is online shopping, as she says, "someone should take Amazon away from her!"

**"When you focus on the good, the good gets better."**

