

PERCÉ:

Some of the best skaters in the world to attend Red Bull Ice Cross

Gilles Gagné

PERCÉ – For the second consecutive year, Percé will host an extreme skating race and some of the best skaters in the world. The Red Bull Ice Cross will take place between January 30 and February 1, just a few dozen metres away from Percé Rock.

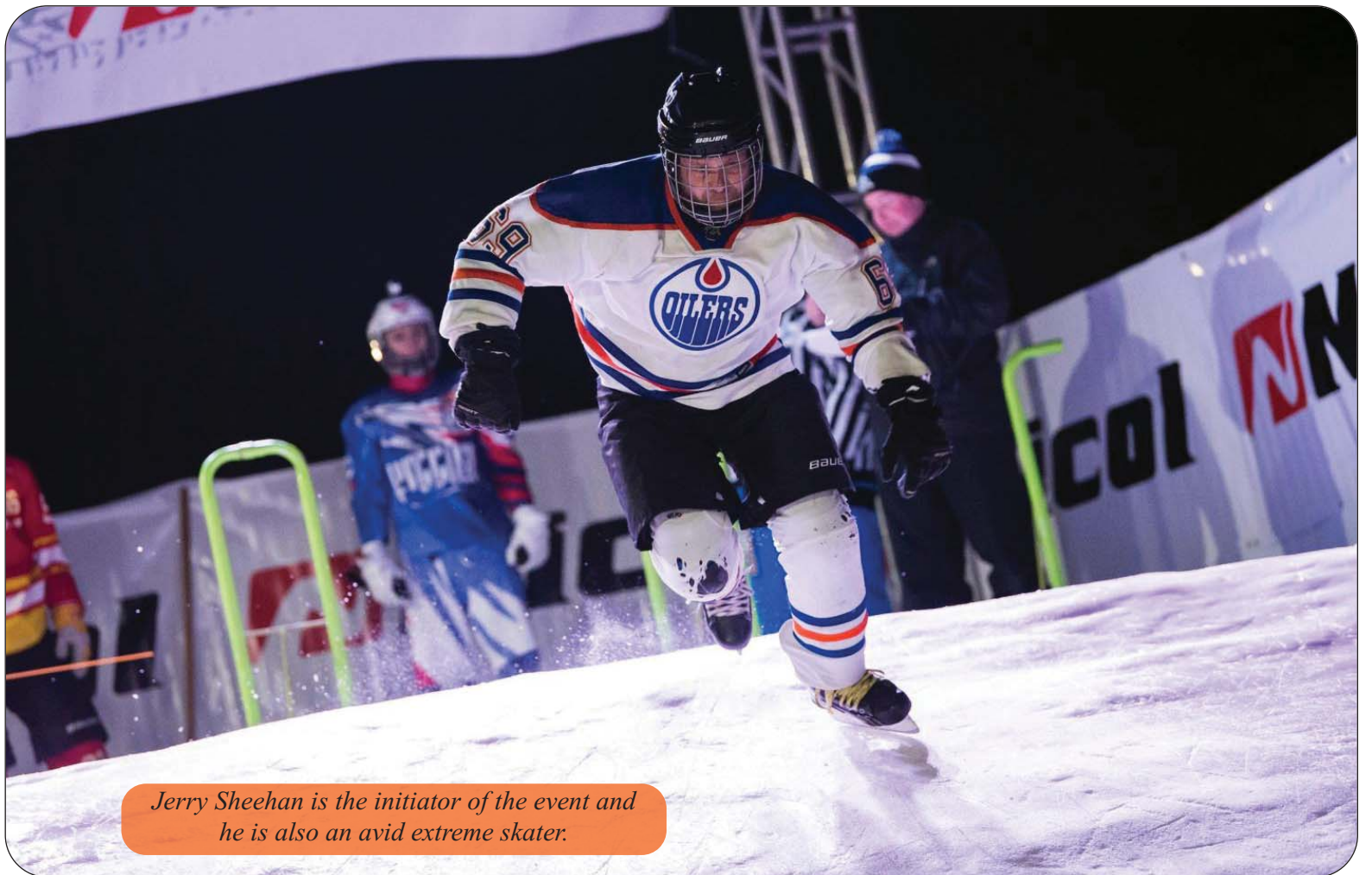
Replacing the Xpress Race held in 2019, the Red Bull Ice Cross, classified as an ATSX 250 event, has a place in the official calendar of Red Bull races. The competition will be held on the town hall premises.

The track was built in accordance to the rules, under the supervision of Jerry Sheehan, a Percé-based fan of extreme skating and the initiator of the idea. He works with two experts, Chantal Caron, who designs extreme skating race tracks and is recognized by Red Bull as an expert in structure; and Steven Cox, a Quebec City professional extreme skater.

Like last year, Jerry Sheehan can also count on the collaboration of a New Brunswick athlete, Bruno Richard, who took part in the famous Red Bull Crashed Ice race circuit for a decade. He co-versed and co-founded Xtreme races in Bathurst and Memramcook.

“I participated in over 40 races in my career and Percé can certainly count as one of the most beautiful sites I have seen. Moreover, the people are extremely warm and friendly. We all loved our 2019 experience and that is the reason behind our return to the Gaspé Peninsula over the coming weekend,” says Mr. Richard.

This year again, many stars of extreme skating will come to Percé. Some of the favourites are Ontarians Kyle Croxall and John Fisher, American Michael Iulianello, Quebecer Shayne Renaud



Jerry Sheehan is the initiator of the event and he is also an avid extreme skater.

Photo: Mark Roe

and last year's champion Samuel Nadeau of New Brunswick.

In the female category, Canadians Jacqueline Légère, Myriam Trépanier and Maxie

Plante, as well as American Amanda Trunzo, will sure battle for the title.

Up to 120 racers can enter the meet and 90 people are already registered. The qualifi-

cation rounds will take place on Thursday and Friday nights, and the finals will start on Saturday at noon.

The competition site will be coordinated by the Festi-

Plage de Cap d'Espoir crew this year. The crowd will benefit from the services of a canteen, a bar, souvenirs and a heated lodge. There will be a show at the Pit Caribou pub.

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Chandler: a petition against the municipal garage in Pabos

Nelson Sergerie

CHANDLER - A petition with approximately 200 signatures asks for Chandler Town Council to reconsider the construction of the municipal garage in the Pabos industrial park.

"The project is judged by a large number of citizens as being very exaggerated. Their reasons for the petition include: the location chosen for the construction; exorbitant construction costs of \$5.5 million and lack of studies on the best location. We are asking the council to take all measures to make this garage as inexpensive as possible," stated Luc Gionest, who tabled the document with the council on January 13.

Mr. Gionest invites elected officials to use the example of Rigaud which built a garage at \$180 per square foot while that of Chandler would cost \$540 per square foot.

In response, Mayor Louisette Langlois said that the municipal administration conduct certain verifications.

In December, after obtaining from Quebec an extension of \$3.5 million in assistance for its production, the majority of the council decided that the \$5.2 million project would be located in Pabos, rather than downtown. It is expected that construction tenders will be issued shortly.

Back to square one for the Mary Travers site

The Mary Travers site known as La Bolduc de Newport is again looking for a buyer.

The promoter chosen last June who had offered \$30,000 to make the place a centre for the promotion of fishery products, an outdoor setting related to the theme of La Bolduc, a fish market and a microbrewery, a \$1.1 million project that would create 14 jobs, withdrew its proposal due to environmental constraints.

The town launched a new tender in December and two people are showing interest in the building that will require quite some care.

The council will choose the promoter in February.



One of the RÉGIM shelters

10 bus shelters for the RÉGIM

Nelson Sergerie

PERCÉ - Users of the Régie intermunicipale de transport Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine will be protected from inclement weather with the installation of 10 bus shelters on the territory.

Seven are already in place in Bonaventure, Carleton-sur-Mer, Percé and Pointe-à-la-Croix. As soon as weather conditions allow the others will be installed in the spring in Maria, Sainte-Annes-des-Monts and Gaspé, "This is an idea that starts from the needs of the citizens but also from the desire of the RÉGIM to improve its level of service," said its president, Daniel Côté.

Quebec is paying two-thirds of the \$150,000 expense.

Several factors were analyzed to determine the locations, including the willingness of municipalities to pay for the installation and maintenance, but also to choose interesting locations.

"To choose stops frequented by users and which give visibility to the RÉGIM," says the director, Marie-Andrée Pichette.

Bus shelters could become a source of advertising revenue for the RÉGIM, as in major city centres.


"We are negotiating to install advertising panels in the bus shelters. We really want it to be limited to the interior. We don't want it to become a bulletin board. We want it to be visible for businesses and we will have signs to indicate our times. It should be settled by the summer," added the director.

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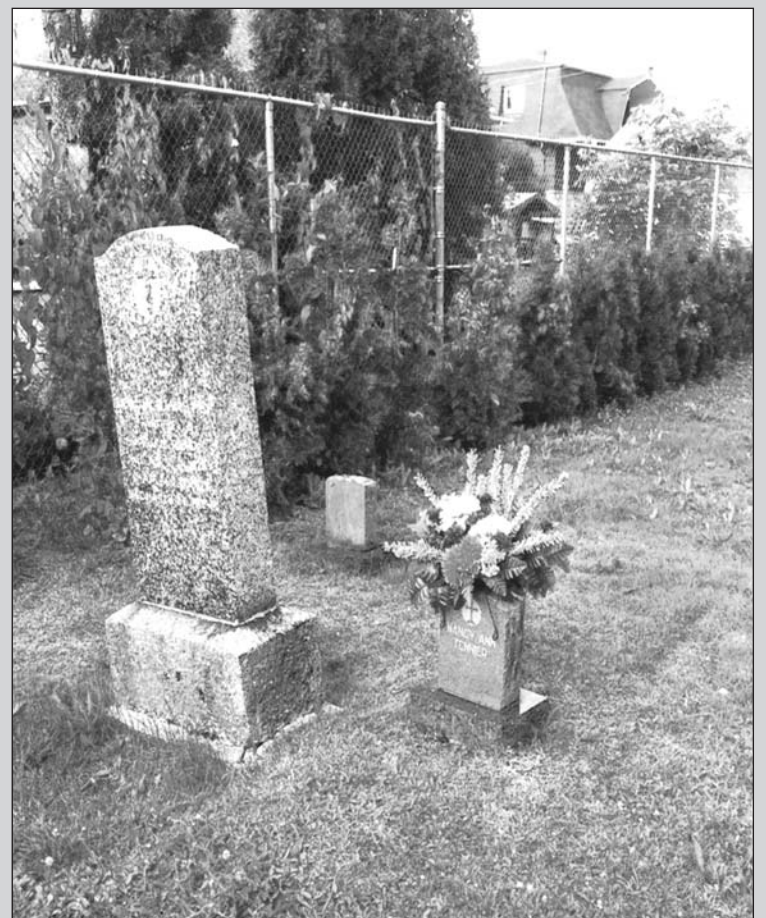


Kenogami cemetery: Found at last

Margaret Mitchell

This past summer two women who had been searching for a very long time for the resting place of their great-great-grandmother were finally rewarded when they visited a cemetery in the Saguenay district. Why this should be of interest to the readers of The Gaspé Spec is that the family had originated in the Port Daniel/Shigawake/Paspebiac area. The question was how and why some of the family members turned up buried in a northern Quebec cemetery.

The two women presented themselves at the gates of the cemetery which are kept locked but display the phone number of the caretaker. They were thus able to contact him and he immediately arrived at the gates not only to open them but to direct them to the exact burial plot. These cousins, one from as far away as Toronto and the other from Campbellton, had brought with them a floral arrangement as well as some folding chairs and proceeded to ask the caretaker if they could spend some time with their loved ones. The questions remained, however, of why their great-great-grand-



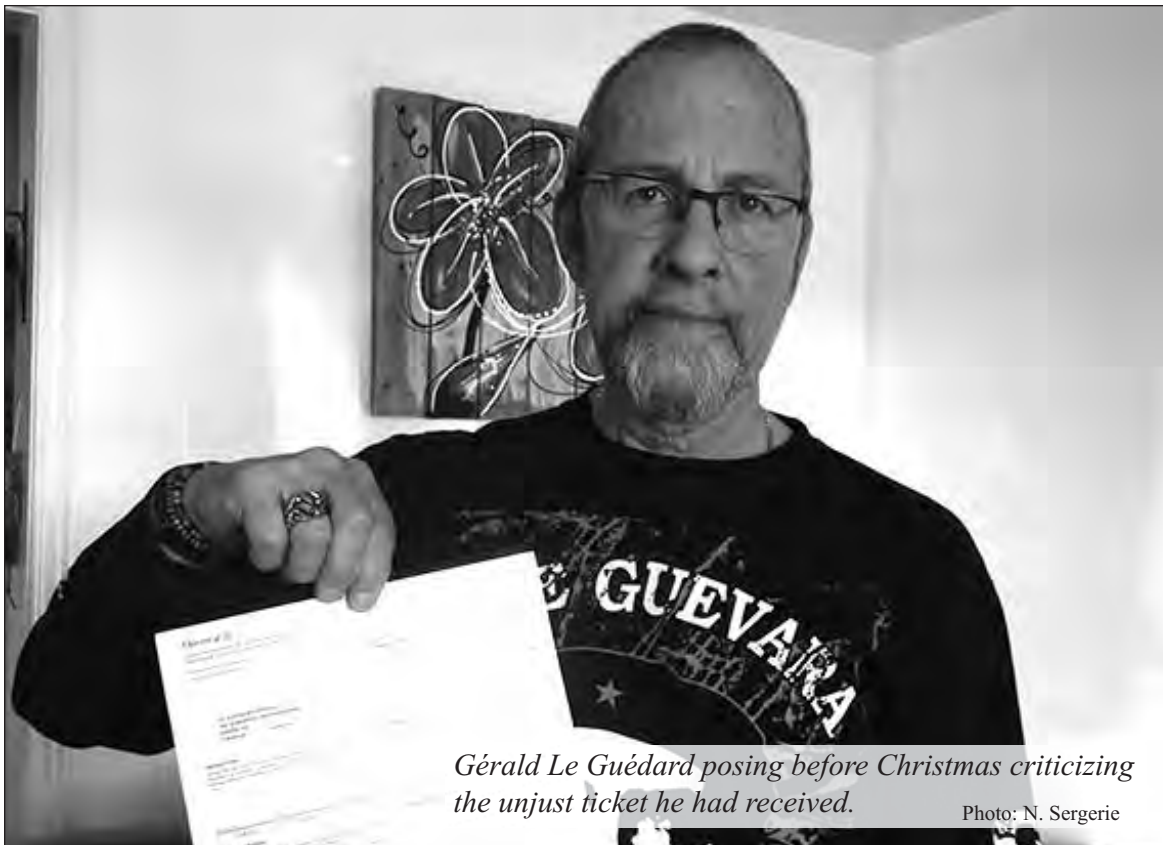
mother was buried in this cemetery and where was their great-great-grandfather laid to rest.

Sarah Ann Mauger, who is buried in the Kenogami cemetery in the Saguenay area of our beautiful province, was married to Joseph Victor Tennier in the Paspebiac Notre Dame Church on January 17, 1865. In 1871 the family was living in Hope with four children. Seemingly Joseph passed away in 1881 and it was after this that Sarah Ann moved to

the Kenogami area to join her son who had acquired a position with the Price Brothers Company. Several other members of the Tennier family are also buried beside her.

At this time the cousins have the answer to one of their questions but are still searching for information on their great-great-grandfather.

If anyone has information that may help them please contact the staff at The Gaspé Spec.



Gérald Le Guédard posing before Christmas criticizing the unjust ticket he had received.

Photo: N. Sergerie

Court cancels Gérald Le Guédard's infraction

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ: - The Gaspé resident who received a ticket from Montreal while he was at his home in Gaspé has received confirmation of the cancellation of his ticket.

The Montreal Ombudsman sent The Gaspé Spec a decision from the Municipal Court which withdrew the statement of offense on Janu-

ary 16.

Gérald Le Guédard had received a fine in the mail accusing him of an offense on October 16 in the east of the city. The ticket issued on November 20 was for \$170.

Statements and supporting evidence showed that Mr. Le Guédard was in Gaspé at the time of the alleged events.

Mr. Le Guédard informed Spec that he was satisfied

with the turn of events. "I am surprised but very happy. I am speechless. This is really good news. I am happy. I thank the media because without you, I don't think it would have happened like that."

At the time of this writing, Mr. Le Guédard had not yet officially received the letter confirming the withdrawal of the ticket.

Claude Rail, 68, from Pointe-à-la-Garde appeared at the New Carlisle Courthouse on January 21. He entered a plea of guilty on 12 charges of sexual touching, of asking children to touch him and of sexual assault. The acts were perpetrated between January 1, 2010 and January 1, 2014. The two victims were aged between six and eight at the time. The acts were committed in a situation of authority and trust, with people he knew. Further details regarding the identify of the victims were placed under a publication ban by Quebec Court Judge Cestina Almeida.

Charged on January 14, 2019 after a short Sûreté du Québec investigation, Claude Rail was sentenced to 12 months of prison. "The law changed on August 9, 2012. Before that date, the accused would have been charged with six counts. The new law divided the charge into two charges. At the same time, the minimal sentence for a sexual crime was 45 days. Since the new law came into force, that minimum period was lengthened to 90 days. Claude Rail is in fact sentenced to the equivalent of four terms of 90 days. He had no criminal record," explains criminal and penal prosecutor Florence Frappier-Routhier.

The name of Claude Rail will be added to the register of sexual offenders for the rest of his life. Once out of prison, he will also be forbidden to contact the victims, or be in contact with youth in a situation of authority. He will not be allowed in public locations such as parks. He will also have to respect a probation period.

Bernard Dupuis, 71, from Rivière-au-Renard was found guilty of criminal harassment on January 15 at the Percé courthouse. The victims were a former employee of the Forillon marina in Gaspé and her husband. Bernard Dupuis repeatedly uttered worrying remarks at the expense of the woman, especially regarding the management of the organization. He took pictures of the marina building and of the couple on many occasions. Moreover, a charge of dangerous driving was also retained against Bernard Dupuis since he used his boat to speed and make waves when volunteers were removing the floating docks from the water in the fall of 2016, thus creating unsafe conditions for them. The pleas on the sentence will take place in February.

Quebec's Department of Wildlife is attempting to solve what appears to be a case of poaching. A moose carcass was found near kilometre 15 of Pellegrin Road, a forestry road located north of Chandler. The animal was cut in half and only the front part of the carcass was intact. People with information about that case are invited to communicate with SOS Braconnage (poaching), by phone or by email. The game wardens are asking the public to avoid the use of social media in order to avoid hampering the investigation.

A fire on January 21 destroyed a Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé house located at 179, Highway 132. The firefighters were called at about 5 p.m. The right side of the house was already burning when firefighters arrived. The residents were not there when the fire broke out. Chandler firefighters joined their colleagues from Grand River and Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé in extinguishing the fire. According to the first observations made by Fire Chief Luc Lebreux the cause of the blaze was accidental.

Sûreté du Québec officers of the Côte-de-Gaspé detachment carried out two drug busts simultaneously on the morning of January 22 in two different locations on Legros Street in Gaspé. Three people were arrested, a 35-year-old woman and a 42-year-old man living together, and a 50-year-old man living in another dwelling just across the street. Following searches, certain quantities of cannabis, methamphetamine and cocaine were found. Some cash and tools used in drug trafficking were also seized. The suspects were questioned and then released. They will be summoned to appear in court at a later date. The investigation was conducted following information received from the public. The SQ has no reason to believe that the three people were working together.

Percé wants to put an end to potholes

Nelson **Sergerie**

PERCÉ: - Percé declares war on potholes. The Town will use a new technique, American Road Patch, a product available in Canada for a year now, to repair pavement. Percé will be the first Quebec municipality to use the new technique.

The hole is filled with asphalt and a membrane is applied to seal the job with the goal of increasing the life of repairs from one to 10 years.

"This is a temporary solution because we are in the process of filing a program with the Ministry of Transport on road repairs. It was while waiting for this work to begin that we said to ourselves that we will not leave citizens out," states the town's director general, Jean-François Kacou.

250 metres of pavement will be repaired this year using this technique at a cost of \$10,000, an experiment that has already been carried



Percé will use a unique technique to battle potholes.

Photo: Courtesy of American Road Patch

out in several large cities in Western Canada which have a climate as harsh as Percé.

Percé invests an average of \$125,000 each year to repair potholes.



Commentary

Gilles Gagné

Jean Charest seemed the only one to ignore...

The former premier of Quebec, Jean Charest, made the right decision on January 21 when he announced that he will not enter the leadership race of the Conservative Party, which is looking to fill the spot left vacant by Andrew Scheer.

Mr. Charest made the right decision for him, for Quebec, for the country and probably for the Conservative Party. The surprising part of the decision is that it took him a month to realize that he would have reached a dead-end before long, had he decided to go.

First, the party he wished to lead is really not the Progressive Conservative Party he left in 1998 to take the leadership of Quebec's Liberal Party. It is now called the Conservative Party, with a strong emphasis on the moral right side of political orientations. Mr. Charest is a "red Tory" a conservative man with an interest in social measures like gun control and environmental issues like the carbon tax.

The former leader of the Conservative Party and former Canadian prime minister Stephen Harper did not want Jean Charest at the helm of the party. Mr. Harper still has a very strong influence on a high number of Conservative partisans.

So the context of Quebec's Liberal Party in 1998 and of the Conservative Party 22 years later was completely different. He was heavily desired by a high proportion of Quebec federalists in 1998 and he would have faced strong disapproval between now and the June 27 conservative convention.

Secondly, the reasons invoked by Jean Charest to refrain from entering the race were all known a month ago, when he expressed an interest for the leadership. It takes time, he said, to build an organization, even a relatively temporary structure like the one needed for a leadership race. Mr. Charest nevertheless had five months left to build and mobilize that organization.

However, the heaviest constraint faced by

Jean Charest was the potentially devastating effects the anti-corruption squad investigation could have revealed about the funding schemes of the Liberal Party of Quebec. He can brag all he wants about what he describes as the sound way he managed that party. The UPAC probe is still ongoing and could potentially affect his credibility.

In fact, the Charbonneau Commission already shed light in 2013-2014 on a set of highly questionable practices characterizing the Liberal Party's funding. It was proven that contracts were given to the big contributors of the party's electoral fund, often through violating the rules. If Mr. Charest was not directly involved in those schemes, which are still being investigated, he remains responsible in part since he was the leader of the party.

Thirdly, in December, Jean Charest was contacted by numerous people who wanted him to enter the leadership race. They saw in him a man who could bring the Conservative Party closer to the political spectrum's centre, however, on January 8, a Canadian Press survey revealed that Mr. Charest would be a distant third in the voting intentions of Canadians, far behind Rona Ambrose and Peter MacKay.

Moreover, when the warrants' content of Jean Charest's close friend and former financing big boss of Quebec's Liberal Party, Marc Bibeau, was revealed, it became evident that the allegations linked to Mr. Bibeau would follow the former premier in the leadership race, whether he did something wrong or not during his 2003-2012 reign. Ethics made Jean Charest extremely vulnerable

The fierce debater he still is really believed that he could have turned things around for the Conservative Party, which will likely stay away from power as long as its orientations are not reaching the part of the electorate that wants a fair set of social and environmental measures.

The most amazing part of his decision remains the fact that it took him a month to realize that his situation in a leadership race would have become unbearable, ethics-wise, because Quebecers would not have been keen on supporting him past the leadership race, and because another "red Tory", Peter MacKay, had given strong indication before the Christmas break that he would give the leadership campaign a shot.

Mr. MacKay would have been more popular than Jean Charest in a race between two red Tories. A Nova Scotian now residing in the Toronto area, he is also seven years younger than Jean Charest. His main flaw for now is the relatively low quality of his French. He could hardly speak

French when he was still in federal politics as a Cabinet member of Stephen Harper's government.

Given that his support in Alberta and Saskatchewan might not be as strong as it would have been for a Western Canada moral right candidate, Mr. MacKay will need relatively strong support in Quebec if he wants to stand a chance of winning a federal election one day.

Leadership candidates have until the end of February to express their interest in the Conservative Party race. With Rona Ambrose and Pierre Poilievre pulling out, it looks as if Peter MacKay will have a field day, come the June 27 convention. Right now, there is hardly a serious contender in the six or seven other candidates that have voiced their interest for Andrew Scheer's job.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Société de conservation ZICO de la Baie-de-Gaspé (SCZBG) attended the Rail Transport Summit in Drummondville on December 9, 2019. We were invited after sending a position paper in October explaining our repeated demands for alternatives to herbicides on the Matapédia-Gaspé line and also for preventive reconstruction on the Port-Daniel-Gascons to Gaspé portion. Our document included the town by-law issue. The MRC of Rocher-Percé, Gaspé, and the MRC of Bonaventure have by-laws preventing herbicide use in all transport corridors, including railways, but they refuse to enforce their own by-laws. This means they are allowing the Société du chemin de fer de la Gaspésie (SCFG) to spray toxic herbicides every year on the railway, in spite of being informed of how harmful this is and having the legal means to prevent it. The focus should not be how quickly trains will return without first ensuring preventive reconstruction and no herbicides anywhere.

One of the herbicides used by the SCFG is glyphosate, a probable human carcinogen (World Health Organisation). Another is imazapyr, banned in Norway since 2001. The European Union will ban glyphosate in 2023, and is turning to alternatives, including ones we have often proposed. Also in Europe, preventive construction and reconstruction of rail lines has been used for years. There is no herbicide use on such lines, and we deserve to have that here, as well as alternatives for the whole railway.

We have asked the Transport Ministry, as owner of the railway, to intervene, and our concerns were received favourably at the Summit. Our elected officials and the SCFG ought to respond favourably too but, once again, did not answer our letters. Gaspé MNA Méganne Perry Melançon did however meet with us. We all need a positive outcome. Our health and environment are at stake, especially our children's.

Margret Grenier, President, SCZBG
Gaspé, Quebec

Correction

It has come to our attention that the name Poirier was missing from the title of the Notable Gaspésians feature in the January 29 issue. Our apologies.



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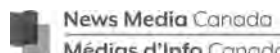


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For now, Transports Québec is maintaining its schedule for the return of the train

Gilles Gagné

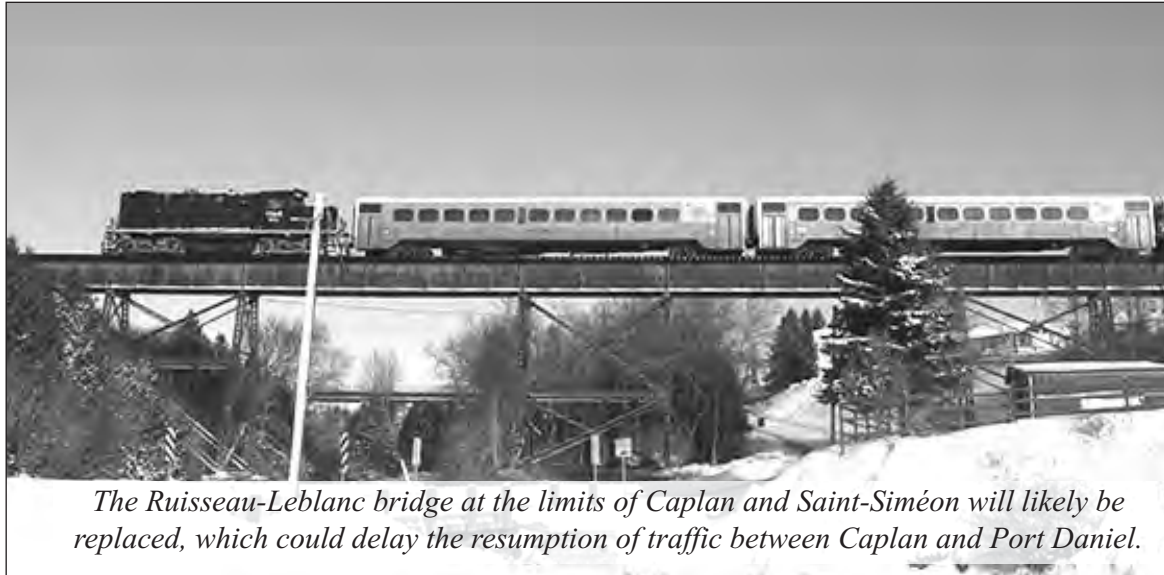
NEW RICHMOND – Transports Québec is for now maintaining that 2025 will be the year of return for railway services in Gaspé, but the schedule which was released on January 17 by the ministry indicates that the Amiral tourist train could be reinstated in 2024.

The document also indicates that significant repair work between Caplan and Port Daniel will start in 2020 but doesn't specify when the service will be restored to Port Daniel.

The documents mention that 10 structures will be repaired by 2022 but it also specifies that 11 structures must be repaired between Caplan and Port Daniel.

In another part of the documents, Transports Québec mentions that the engineering assessment of 21 structures located between Port Daniel and Gaspé will be carried out in 2020 as well, which leads to believe that real repair work will not start before 2021 on that stretch.

“The return to Port Daniel depends on one main element, how long it will take to repair the eleven structures situated between Caplan and the (Port Daniel) cement plant. We were under the impression until recently that eight structures were to be repaired and we now see eleven. I know that some of them are quite short.



The Ruisseau-Leblanc bridge at the limits of Caplan and Saint-Siméon will likely be replaced, which could delay the resumption of traffic between Caplan and Port Daniel.

Photo: G. Gagné

There is a bridge of about 15 feet in those structures. We also initially thought that none of the bridges had to be replaced and we now learn that there are two,” explains Éric Dubé, president of the Gaspésie Railway Society.

The Ruisseau-Leblanc bridge at the town limits of Caplan and Saint-Siméon.

The engineering studies on the Caplan to Port Daniel stretch have already been carried out. The call for tenders for the repairs is supposed to be released very soon.

“Transports Québec was supposed to divide the work in two contracts when there were eight structures. Now that there are eleven, I don't know if it will still be divided in two contracts or if it will be three,” says Éric Dubé.

The Port Daniel to Gaspé stretch

The return year of the train between Port Daniel and Gaspé will also be heavily influenced by the results of the engineering assessment carried out this year, points out Éric Dubé.

“There are 21 structures that must be assessed. We know that at least two bridges will be replaced in the east part of Grand River and in Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé area. One of them is short and the other one is relatively long. The amount of time will be determined by what we will learn at the end of the year,” adds Mr. Dubé.

One positive point that came out of Transports Québec in December is that the Port Daniel to Gaspé stretch is now endowed with a business case status, instead of

an opportunity study case. It means that real investment can take place on some of the parts of that stretch.

As for the return of the Amiral tourist train, the documents reveal that it will come back in 2024 between Gaspé and Percé. Éric Dubé explains that certain conditions must be met then.

“The Amiral cars must be sent to the shop before traffic resumption. It means that we must be able to send a locomotive there to bring them back to New Richmond. In such a case, we will then be in a position to bring (windmill) blade cars from Gaspé. I am anxious to know more about that,” says Mr. Dubé.

The windmill blades are light and the combined weight of an empty car supporting a portion of a blade (three cars are used for two blades) is about the same weight as a

passenger car.

Mr. Dubé also emphasizes that while the Amiral locomotive was shipped in three parts on truck trailers between Gaspé and New Richmond in 2017 so to be used on freight trains, the reverse scenario is ruled out for technical and funding reasons. “We will not do that again,” he says.

In the schedule issued by Transports Québec, the work on the Cascapedia-Saint-Jules new railway bridges will be completed in the fall of 2021. Éric Dubé thinks that it might come earlier.

“We know that the contractor, Construction Hamel, is clearly ahead of schedule. They were not supposed to work during the winter and they are. They found a way. I think it will go faster by several months. It would be a good thing. We could fully load our cement cars in New Richmond instead of loading them partially and topping them off in Nouvelle. We would save a lot of time and could increase the number of carloads,” says Mr. Dubé.

The Transports Québec documents says that the Quebec government is committed to increasing its effort to optimize the delivery schedule of railway repairs between Matapédia and Gaspé. “Work is underway in order to evaluate the other gains that are possible in that time frame,” mentions one document.

Daniel Côté hopes the train returns to Gaspé sooner than planned

Gilles Gagné

GASPÉ: - The mayor of Gaspé, Daniel Côté, still hopes, and thinks, that it is possible to bring back freight trains and VIA Rail's passenger service to Gaspé before 2025. The current conditions imposed by the way the *Bureau Québécois de l'infrastructure*, also called *Bureau des grands projets*, conducts business is a limiting factor, he remarks.

“The *Bureau des grands projets* is a slow machine. The way it processes is heavy. It will be safe, for sure, and we know that it will be done, but we also know that it will take the slow way,” emphasis Mayor Côté.

“When Premier François Legault announced in April



There is nothing certain about the intensity of windmill blade traffic five years down the road, says Daniel Côté.

Photo: G. Gagné

that it would take until 2026 to regain the service in Gaspé, we used political meetings at the end of August to urge Mr. Legault to accelerate the pace.

He came up with a commitment to take a shortcut and convince the ministry (Transports Québec) to bring the service resumption down to

2025. At the present time, we have no control on one main aspect, the engineering assessment that will take place this year between Port Daniel and Gaspé. We will see what we can do there when we get the results of the studies pertaining to the bridges,” he adds.

A way to accelerate things and reduce the repair cost of the railway upgrading between Matapédia and Gaspé “would have been to give the line back to the Gaspésie Railway Society in 2017 and ask the private sector to manage that upgrading process. It didn't happen, however,” points out Mr. Côté.

He says the industries that pushed for a faster service resumption in 2017 will still be around in 2024, if Transports Québec succeeds in cutting

another year to the current schedule, or in 2025.

“They say that they will be able to deal with the projected year of traffic resumption, 2025, however, we don't know what kind of traffic will come out of LM Wind Power in Gaspé by then. The current contract of blade exports will end in 2021 or 2022. Will the company still send blades to the United States after that? It is early to say but other types of traffic will hopefully emerge,” says Daniel Côté.

LM Wind Power is the biggest customer of the Gaspésie Railway Society, money-wise. The hauling revenues linked to the windmill blade traffic would more than double if those blades were loaded in Gaspé instead of New Richmond.



Putting Pen to Paper



Elizabeth Dupuis,
Project Coordinator

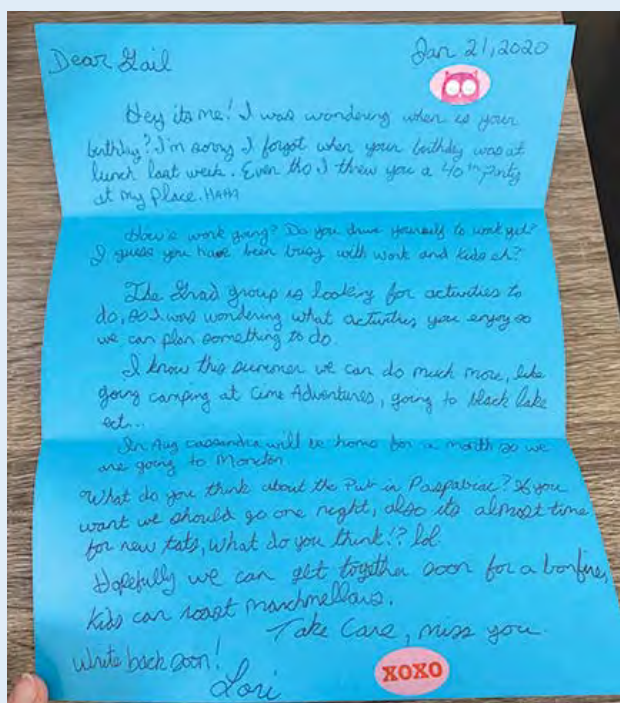
Over the last five months, Family Ties Putting Pen to Paper has been hosting different letter writing workshops such as cursive writing, calligraphy, looking at letters written by famous people, secret letters, pen pals and post-cards. Putting Pen to Paper will also offer lunch-time workshops for students at New Carlisle High School every Wednesday for the next six weeks.

Last week, children in the community produced heart-warming handwritten letters and cards to soldiers and veterans which were then mailed around the province. One of the students wrote the following:

*"Hello,
My name is Madison. I'm 13 and in Grade 8. Thank you for everything that you have done for our country! Just know that you are loved and appreciated. Thank you so much. I know that war isn't easy during or after.
Some sports I play are volleyball, soccer, hockey, basketball, and softball.
Do you think you could write back? If not, it's totally ok... but could you tell me a bit about yourself and your experiences in life?
I'm thinking about joining the Air Force, but I'm scared. Thank you for reading.
PS: Please write back at the Family Ties address.
Love, Madison"*

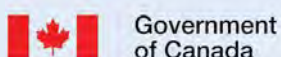
Next week, free community workshops at Family Ties include: Japanese calligraphy with Shino Muraki on Wednesday, February 5, from 1:30-3:30 p.m.; cursive writing and calligraphy with Elaine Almond on Thursday, February 6, from 6:00-7:30 p.m.; and card-making for *National Send a Card to a Friend Day* on Friday, February 7, from 9-11 a.m.

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



Handwritten letters never go out of style.

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



Gaspesian living in Australia discusses bushfires

Gilles Gagné

NEW CARLISLE: – Anthony Beebe, originally from New Carlisle, is currently living in Australia. He arrived in that country two months ago and is currently based in Port Macquarie, a “beautiful coastal city,” he says, located four hours north of Sydney.

Needless to say, Anthony has heard a lot about the bushfire situation “down under.”

“The tragic bushfire crisis has been at the forefront of conversations and news here. The federal government has been criticized by locals in affected regions for what they believe was an underwhelming response to the disaster, citing underfunding of fire and rescue organizations,” he writes.

“Environmentalists also condemn what they perceive as a lack of effort to reduce carbon emissions in the country. Their concerns that climate change will exacerbate seasonal bushfires were high-



While visiting the Whitsunday Islands, Anthony took a moment to enjoy the Gaspé Spec.

Photo: Laurence Morrier

lighted during the impressive New Year’s Eve fireworks display in Sydney, which was shrouded in bushfire smoke and haze,” he adds.

He has seen some signs of the fires. “I visited Sydney for New Year’s Eve, where I experienced the smoke from the fires. In November, I was travelling on an overnight train from Sydney to Brisbane that was delayed due to a bushfire, but it was far enough that it was

only an orange glow in the distance. Thankfully that is all I’ve experienced personally with regards to the fires,” he says.

“Firefighters and other emergency personnel (largely volunteer based), known by locals as “Furies”, have been praised for their work over the past months. This includes many Canadian specialists who have been working in numerous support roles,” concludes Anthony Beebe.



Family Literacy Statistics

5x

Children spend five times as much time outside the classroom as they do in school, so parents and caregivers need the tools to support their learning.



A mother’s reading skill is the greatest factor to affect her children’s future academic success, outweighing other factors, like neighborhood and family income.

↑ 10 points higher

Children whose parents are involved with them in family literacy activities score 10 points higher on standardized reading tests.

× 5-7 reading per week

57% of kids who are frequent readers have parents who read books 5-7 days per week, compared to only 15% of kids who are infrequent readers.

+ impact

One year of parental education has a bigger positive impact on whether a son or daughter will attend a postsecondary institution than an extra \$50,000 in parental income.

↓ 30,000,000 fewer words

Children of low-literate parents are exposed to 30,000,000 fewer words and enter kindergarten with a much larger skills gap than their peers.

↓ 40%

Almost 40% of Canadian youth **do not** have suitable literacy skills



For more information, visit abclifelifiteracy.ca



Newport shipyard about to finish expansion

Gilles Gagné

NEWPORT: – Slightly more than two years after the construction of their Newport shipyard in the fall of 2017, the owners of Conception navale FMP are about to benefit from an expansion they initiated in September 2019 because their bookings justified an additional investment of \$2.5 million.

When brothers Matthew and Francis Parisé launched Conception navale FMP in 2017, they targeted the construction of aluminum lobster boats as a means of filling the necessary renewal of that fleet to cope with the rising volume of fish catches.

The Parisé brothers had not expected that their first client would be a snow crab fisherman, who ordered a 72-foot steel boat, which is much larger than a lobster boat,

whose length usually hovers between 34 and 55 feet. The construction of that boat, the Cap-au-Vent, took all of 2018.

“It was somehow a nice problem and a good start for us. In addition to that, we know crab boats. I am a crab fisherman with my father (Francis Senior). Our experience provides us with a capacity to give good advice to the people who come here to have their boat built. Our boat, the Bel Onil, acts like a test because we rebuilt it completely in 2012, and we lengthened it,” explains Matthew Parisé.

He is a young but relatively experienced captain working fulltime in the management of the shipyard once the fishing season is over.

Between 2010 and 2017, the small team of what was to become Conception navale FMP was working in a shelter



The new wing of the shipyard should be ready during the first half of February. It is visible on the right-hand side.

made of discarded shipping containers. Port Daniel’s Soudure Jones, of which Francis Parisé is a shareholder, was a partner in that initial venture.

With the complete rebuilding of the Bel Onil being as complicated as a new con-

struction, the Parisé brothers broadened the scope of their company’s activities and decided to opt for aluminum boats with an emphasis on limiting their environmental impact, notably through low fuel consumption.

The first two lobster boats, the Ti-Willy and the Pashtienis, were built in 2019. Two new contracts for steel-built crab boats, imposing specimens of 72 and 75 feet, and two aluminum-built lobster boats, forced the Parisé brothers to make a move regarding an expansion. It is a new wing of 100 feet by 50, added to the existing building of 150 by 60 feet.

“There will be a wing for steel boats and another one for aluminum boats,” states Francis Parisé. The two lobster boats will be delivered in 2020. The construction of the

second crab boat is progressing fast but it won’t be ready for the coming season.

The staff which consisted of 29 people in May 2019 has since increased to 32 and will likely rise to 45 during 2020. The new wing of the shipyard will be up and running in the coming weeks, once the equipment is installed.

At the beginning of February, the Parisé brothers will fly to Marseilles, France, in order to attend the Euromaritime event, a fair showing the last technological developments in the marine sector.

“We want to see if there are techniques that would allow us to be even more efficient and check if we can find means to further reduce the environmental impact of the fishing boats, for the propulsion for example. Overall, it will be a good occasion to keep track of the latest developments,” points out Matthew Parisé.

Other boats are parked around the shipyard building. “We keep doing boat repairs even if we mainly concentrate on boat building,” says his brother Francis, who holds Cegep diplomas in industrial hydraulics and industrial electronics.

In December, he attended the New Orleans International Work Boat Show, another way to pinpoint the best equipment to install on the Newport shipyard’s customers’ boats.



The concrete slab of the new wing was installed just before Christmas by the workers of the contractor, N&R Duguay, of Chandler.

Photos: G. Gagné



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New Richmond cross-country club now has chalet for skiers at Duthie's Point

Club honours 81-year-old local athlete Hervé Leblanc

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND: — Thanks to the contributions of the public, business people, the municipal administration and the Bonaventure MRC, the cross-country skiers of the New Richmond area now have a chalet at Duthie's Point where they can get changed and eat food if they wish.

That project was initially planned about a decade ago and officially came to fruition on January 18 when the board members of New Richmond's Club de ski de fond, dozens of skiers and volunteers inaugurated the brand new chalet built at a cost of \$120,000 by a local firm, contractor J.A. Thériault.

"Skiers will now be able to put their gear on without sitting on a snowbank," sums up cross-country skiing club president Benoit Bastien, who with his board members, was able to raise \$50,000.

"We worked very hard and we also received very strong



Véronique Pelletier, Lise Roy, Alain Bourque (back row), Mayor Éric Dubé, Hervé Leblanc Benoit Bastien, Ariane Cyr

Photo: G. Gagné

support from the community, the business sector and the municipality. (...) This is not only coming from the board's work. Other volunteers did a lot, like Denis Dumais, who grooms our trails. It takes up to four hours sometimes," adds Mr. Bastien.

The eventuality of being able to count on a warm place to get prepared has already led to an increase in the number of

members so far this winter, as 152 people have bought their \$35 season pass, compared to 140 a year ago. The club would be glad to count on a 25-member increase this year.

The mayor of New Richmond, Éric Dubé, points out that the new chalet will solidify an activity that is already going strong.

"Towards the end, there was \$51,000 to find in order to

complete the funding. It was not \$50,000, but \$51,000. That is why our contribution is \$51,000. (...) The project allows the community to practice cross country skiing near the downtown area. Not everybody can do cross-country skiing at Pin rouge. My neighbour is 73-years-old and she doesn't go to the Pin rouge trails. The chalet is a warm place for the skiers," Mr. Dubé says.

The Bonaventure MRC, of which Mr. Dubé is the prefect, contributed \$20,000 to the project.

The chalet and the trails are situated on a property owned by Duthie's Point and the Town of New Richmond signed an emphyteutic lease (a type of real estate contract specifying that the lessee must improve the property with construction) for 49 years.

The Duthie's Point trails are used all-year long, as they

greet cross-country runners when there is no snow, as well as mountain bikers. The Marine Cadets are using them to train for the biathlon. They offer the only trails in the Bay of Chaleur area that are groomed for the skating style of cross-country skiing, in addition to the classic style method. There are trails of 3 and 5 kilometres.

The chalet bears the name of Hervé Leblanc, an 81-year-old athlete who has practiced cross-country skiing since 1973 and who considers that activity his favourite sport. Mr. Leblanc is still running marathons at 81, including the Boston Marathon.

"We have been using the Duthie's Point trails for cross-country skiing since 2009. At the time, there was only a trail of 1.2 kilometres. We build some trails to expand the network and we now have trails of 3 and 5 kilometres, mostly in the woods. The chalet will sure attract new people. It brings a bit of comfort and allows people to spend the whole day here if they want because they have a place to change clothes and eat," he says.

Hervé Leblanc and his son Michel who is a cycling coach, will be co-presidents of the Canadian Ski Marathon held on February 8 and 9 at Mont Tremblant. It is the biggest classic style cross-country skiing event in North American. Hervé Leblanc has participated in 30 Canadian Ski Marathons in the past.

GASPÉ CEGEP: Residences will be renovated

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - The Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles ensures that the residences in Gaspé offer a safe and healthy environment, despite the dilapidated nature of the various pavilions which were built 50 years ago.

The Cégep plans to bring the buildings up-to-date and the pace is being accelerated in order to renovate them at the rate of ten rooms per year.

The exterior cladding, which shows several signs of weakness or even holes in some places, and the roof will also be redone over four years.

The windows and thermal insulation of the building, which costs a fortune to heat due to its size, will also be given special attention.

The overall project is valued at \$9 million. The money will come from the Cégep's regular budget. The Cégep is also hoping that there will be some aid from the province.

Between now and then, every effort is being made to keep the building in good condition for the students.



The residences will be renovated at a cost of \$9 million.

Photo: N. Sergerie

Reconstruction of the burned-down pavilion

Construction to replace the Gaspé Cégep residences pavilion which burned down in May 2018 should begin in May.

Plans are nearing completion and tenders will be issued in February and are estimated at \$3.5 to \$4 million, which is fully covered by insurance.

With the overall renovation project for the residences and this new pavilion, the Cégep is setting aside the project to demolish the existing buildings and start anew, a wish ex-

pressed after the fire by the former director of the establishment, Yves Galipeau. The latest estimates are over \$30 million.

"It was unreasonable to consider this. It should be understood that the residence is a self-funded building. To amortize such a large investment was not conceivable and we would have needed the help of the (education) ministry and I do not think it would have helped us to that extent," states the coordinator of the residences, Geneviève Milot.

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Guide to writing an obituary

Writing an obituary for someone you love can be a daunting task. It is important to remember the purpose of the notice. Primarily the obituary will serve as a means of letting the community know of the passing of your loved one. It will announce visitation, service and burial times, as well as memorial information.

The obituary can also contain information about the life of the deceased, including his or her career, community involvement and the family he or she held dear. The goal should be to illustrate the person's personality in a meaningful way.

Essential elements to include in an obituary



1. Photo:

Having a photo to go with the obituary can help readers recognize the deceased. The photo can also serve as a pleasant reminder of a loved one.

The photo will appear in black and white. It's important to choose a crisp photo, preferably a closeup. Ideally the photo should be easily recognizable (not from when the person was very young or very ill). It is important to notice that plastified copies from the funeral home do not reproduce well. A real photograph or digital image is best.

2. Announcement of death:

You will start by providing the name, age and where the deceased resided. People will be curious about the cause of death but ultimately that information is the business of the immediate family and there is no need to mention it.

Keywords to use in this paragraph would be: passed away, died, went to be with his Lord, after a long battle with..., surrounded by family.

3. Condensed biography:

This section of the obituary recounts the person's most important life events and contributions. Milestones can include: date and place of birth, parents,

marriage information, name of spouse, education, and work history.

The choice is up to you about how many life events to include. Choose information you think the deceased would approve.

4. Family:

Next comes the part where you list family members, both living and deceased. It is often beneficial to ask for assistance from other family members when preparing this section to avoid accidentally forgetting to mention a name. Usually survivors are listed first, starting with closest relations (spouse, children, grandchildren, parents and siblings). If there are too many in a certain category, you can simply write "many grandchildren".

Proper listings should include the relative's first name (spouse's first name in parenthesis) and then the surname. If the spouse's surname is different, or the couple is not married, include the partner's surname in the parenthesis along with their first name.

5. Service times:

Include the details for the visitation, service, burial or interment.

Details to include: Dates, times, locations and name of the minister.

6. Special messages:

This is where you can add a heartfelt message, thanks, donation information, etc.

Keywords to use in this section: Special thanks to..., in lieu of flowers..., always in our hearts.

To think about...

Many people prepare their own obituaries, and this can be a great exercise, but it is best to get the input of family members or close friends. It is often difficult to talk about our own achievements or impact in the community. Assistance from friends and family can be helpful.

Have a portrait of yourself professionally taken. This will ensure that, while grieving, your family is not tasked with finding a favourite photo of you.



Obituary



PHILLIPS: Diane (nee Willett)

October 3, 1939 - January 21, 2020

Diane passed away peacefully in Scarborough, Ontario on January 21, 2020.

Diane was born in Chaleurs in 1939. And spent the first 18 years of her life in the Chaleurs/New Richmond area.

She moved to Toronto where she would have a successful career with TD Bank for almost 40 years. During these years she would make multiple trips a year visiting her home on the Gaspé where many of her family still reside.

During her retired life, Diane lived in Mississauga before moving to Ajax, Ontario.

Throughout Diane's life, she took pride in helping raise her nieces and nephews from multiple generations.

She is loved by all of her family and friends and will be missed. We all love you Aunt Dee. Rest in Peace.



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St. Jude's Novena

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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 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 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 to March 25. Gentle Yoga with Isabelle Martin from 5:30 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. \$60/session, \$12/drop-ins. Sessions to February 26.

Dougstown Café 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: Pé-tanque from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Cost \$3. Come and join the fun and learn a new game!

February 7: Bingo beginning at 7 p.m. \$10 per series or three for \$20. Must be 18+ to play.

February 15: Pot luck supper for members and guests beginning at 5 p.m. BYOB event.

February 16: Breakfast from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Adult \$10, children under 10 \$5. Come out and enjoy a hearty breakfast. All proceeds go to the Three Star Golden Age Club.

SHIGAWAKE:

Agricultural Society General Meeting

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

HOPE TOWN:

Community Centre

Every Thursday: Weekly crib tournament beginning February 6 at 7 p.m. For more information contact Linda at 418-751-4398.

February 8: Military Whist beginning at 8 p.m.

February 21: Casserole supper from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. Adults (12 years old and up) \$10, children (7 to 11) \$5, under 6 years old free. Gift bingo beginning at 7 p.m. \$10 per series or three for \$20.

February 22: Games on ice beginning at 1:30 p.m. followed by family game night

beginning at 8 p.m. Both events free.

February 23: Hockey (old timers vs young timers) and free childrens gift bingo. Both events begin at 1:30 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."

NEW CARLISLE:

Royal Canadian Legion

First Tuesday of every month: General Meeting at 7 p.m.

February 1: Crib tournament beginning at 1 p.m. \$10 per person. Contact Norma at 418-752-6214 to register a team.

February 8: Valentine's Dance. Music with D.J. Something for everyone. \$5 at door.

February 29: Dart Club will hold a gift bingo beginning at 7 p.m. \$10 a series or three for \$20. Any Donations can be dropped off at the Legion or by contacting Darlene or Tammy. Proceeds go to the Legion. Bring a dabber and a friend.

NEW CARLISLE:

Heritage New Carlisle Upcoming Workshops

February 15: Rug Hooking-Many Hands. Animator Mary James. Starting at 10 a.m. Four sessions (other dates set with the group). Cost: \$45 for four sessions.

February 22 & 29: Clay Sculpture: The Barn - Telling Stories in 3-D. Animator Enid Legros-Wise. At 9:30 a.m. Cost: \$25 for two sessions.

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.

February 16: Annual Valentine's brunch at the municipal hall from 9:30 a.m. to noon. The cost will be \$12 per adult and \$8 per child. Everyone is invited to attend this event.

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.

February 14: Jam sessions open to all musicians and spectators. Doors open at 7 p.m. and entertainment begins at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend. Thank you for your support.

February 22: Potluck supper from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. (storm date February 23) \$12 for adults and \$10 for children under 12. Bring your appetite. If you cannot stay to eat, come, choose what you like

and take it home. Takeout is available.

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.

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.

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Sunday, February 2
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Sunday, February 2
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Shigawake
9 a.m. Morning Prayer with Vestry

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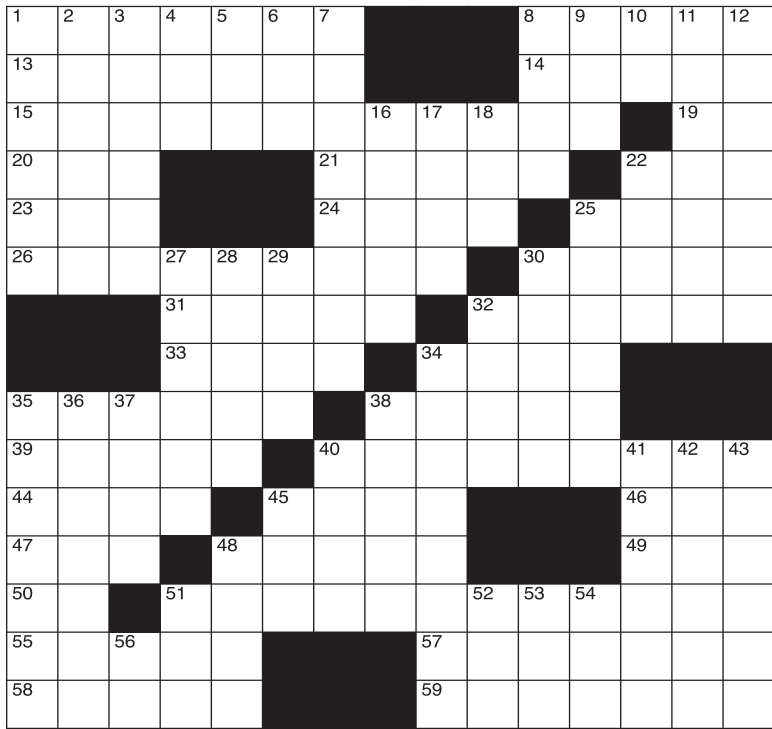
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On the lighter side...



CROSSWORDS

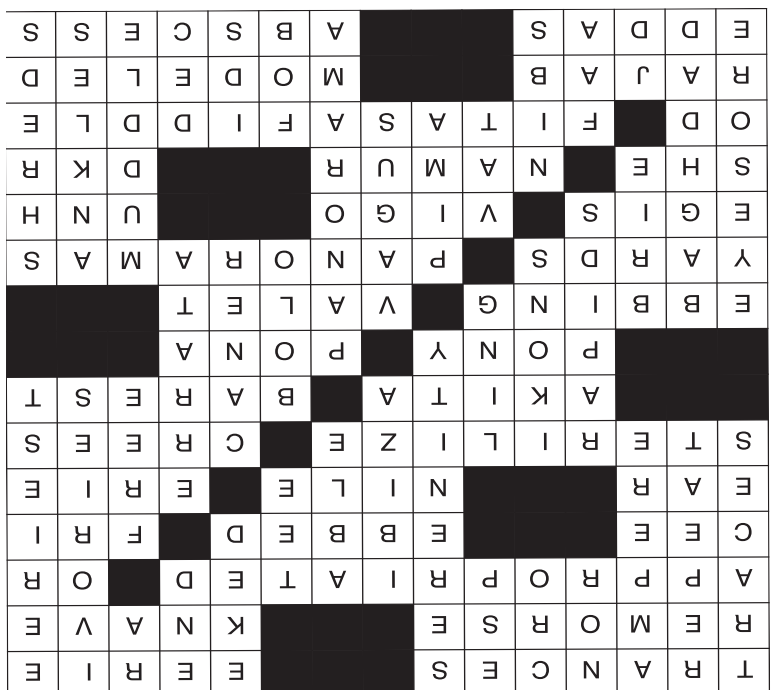


CLUES ACROSS

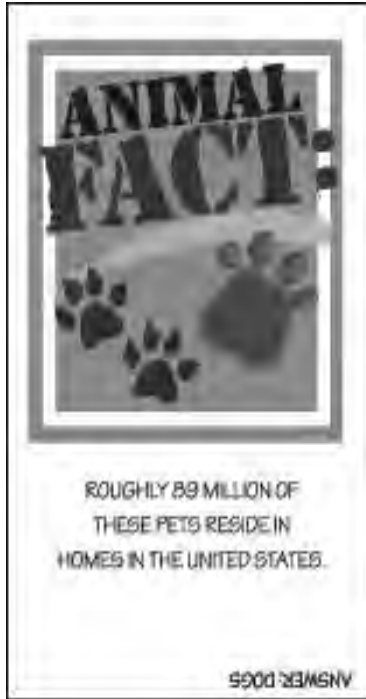
1. Half-conscious states
8. Strange
13. Deep regret
14. Rogue
15. Took without permission
19. An alternative
20. Performer __-Lo
21. Partner to flowed
22. Best day of the week (abbr.)
23. Body part
24. Famed river
25. Lake __, one of the Great
26. Make free from bacteria
30. People native to Canada
31. Japanese seaport
32. Least clothed
33. Horse of small breed
34. Italian doctor and poet
35. Moving away from land
38. One who parks cars
39. Some are front and some are back
40. Views
44. Ancient Greek shield (alt. sp.)
45. Spanish seaport
46. New England college (abbr.)
47. The woman
48. Belgian province
49. Danish krone
50. Excessive dose (abbr.)
51. In great shape
55. 7th month of Islamic calendar
57. Shaped
58. Icelandic poems
59. Swollen area within tissue

CLUES DOWN

1. Small amounts
2. Duplicate
3. Current unit
4. Neither
5. Chromium(II) oxide
6. Second sight
7. The absence of mental stress or anxiety
8. Supplemented with difficulty
9. Not the beginning
10. Dorm employee
11. Hard, white substances
12. Scariest
16. Spanish island
17. Having sufficient skill
18. Where golfers start
22. No charge
25. Print errors
27. Where rafters ply their trade
28. Paintings of holy figures
29. CNN host Lisa
30. Gives whippings
32. Type of tie
34. Unbroken view
35. Blemish
36. National capital
37. "Captain Marvel" actress Larson
38. Tenth pair of cranial nerves
40. Arizona native peoples
41. Confuse
42. Body parts
43. Plays a fast guitar
45. Tub
48. Pen parts
51. Supervises flying
52. Cars come with one
53. Some are fake
54. Calendar month
56. American whiskey (abbr.)



What is old becomes new again!
Don't throw out your old furniture.
Change it up and make something new...



CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to auto care. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 4 = e)

A. 4 14 25 8 14 4
 Clue: Provides power

B. 5 4 24 8 10 1 4
 Clue: Car or truck

C. 12 4 10 24 26 14 8 10
 Clue: Fixes things

D. 3 8 21 4 17
 Clue: Rubber wheels

Answers: A. engine B. vehicle C. mechanic D. tires

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20
 Aries, a budding relationship appears to be on the cusp of taking the next step. Your relationships are your own, so don't be afraid to slow down if things feel like they're going too fast.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21
 Taurus, now is the time to institute a change to your daily routine if that's been on your mind. Planetary energy is pushing you on a course of self-discovery.

GEMINI – May 22/June 21
 Gemini, small influencers in your life may be imperceptible, but they are slowly turning the wheels of change and you'll soon be able to realize what is in store.

CANCER – June 22/July 22
 Connect with your spiritual foundations, Cancer. They will be your guide through a week that figures to have its share of ups and downs. Faith will help you ride it out.

LEO – July 23/Aug 23
 The week ahead should be fairly positive for you, Leo. This lifting of weight will inspire newfound freedom to embark on interesting projects or pursue new interests.



VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22
 You may be looking for fulfillment in your love life or your career this week, Virgo. Some measure of liberation will occur in the days ahead.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23
 Libra, as the days unfold, you may find yourself feeling more creative and perhaps a bit more rebellious in your thinking. It is okay to want to set out on a new path.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22
 Oftentimes you are a master of taking a difficult situation and turning it on its head immediately, Scorpio. Those unique skills may be put to the test this week.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21
 A reorganization will occur in your life. This may involve physically moving things around the house or an intellectual reorganization that produces a new perspective.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20
 Good times with the ones you love do not have to take a back seat to

professional goals, Capricorn. Find a way to strike a balance, even if it means delegating more often.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18
 Even if you have a mind to help the ones you love, those people have to be receptive to your assistance, Aquarius. Give them a chance to come around.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
 Don't let others talk you into something you don't want to be involved with, Pisces. Stand your ground or walk away.

- FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS**
- JANUARY 26**
 Ellen DeGeneres, TV Host (62)
 - JANUARY 27**
 Noah Schnacky, Singer (23)
 - JANUARY 28**
 Ariel Winter, Actress (22)
 - JANUARY 29**
 Adam Lambert, Singer (38)
 - JANUARY 30**
 Christian Bale, Actor (46)
 - JANUARY 31**
 Tyler Seguin, Athlete (28)
 - FEBRUARY 1**
 Harry Styles, Singer (26)

Gaspesian Notables: John Hall Kelly

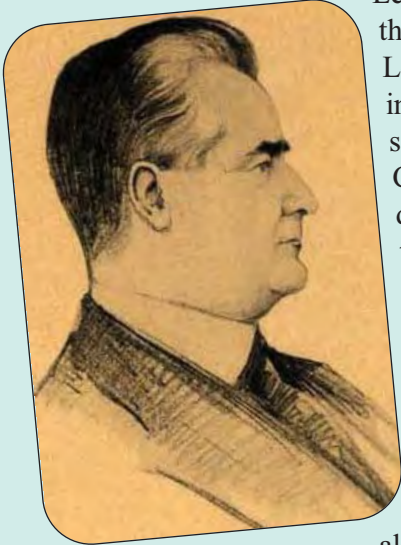
“Every generation writes its own history.”

Diane Skinner

John Hall Kelly was born in 1879 in St. Godefroy (Godefroi), Quebec. He was the son of Manser John Kelly and Sarah Bridget Hall. The Kellys were an influential family on the Gaspé and his great-grandfather Robert Warren Kelly founded the first newspaper on the Gaspé called the Gaspé Gazette. The newspaper office was in New Carlisle and the printing was done in Pabos. He was educated at the Collège de Lévis, University of St. Joseph's College and at the University of Laval. He studied to be a lawyer and was called to the bar in 1903.

John Hall Kelly practiced law in New Carlisle and his specialty was corporate or business law. He was a partner at the law firm with Dominic Levesque, who was the father of René Levesque. He lived in a large, impressive home in New Carlisle that was demolished so that the courthouse could be built.

Kelly became president of the New Richmond Mining Company. He was also president of the North American Mining Company, Cascapedia Mines, Gaspé Mines and Paspébiac Mines. Fur-



ther, in 1905, he founded the Bonaventure and Gaspé Telephone Company. He accomplished an amazing amount of business success in just a few short years.

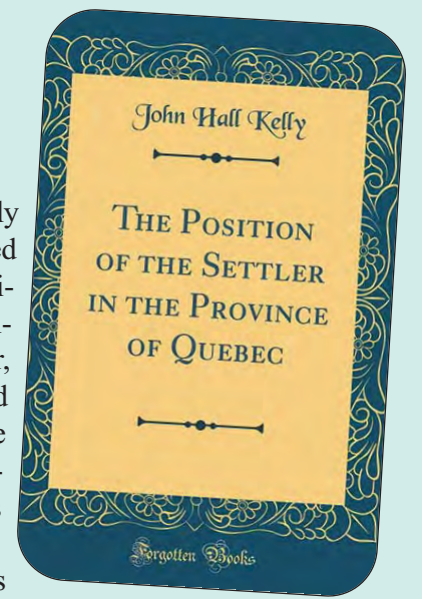
In the meantime, he was accomplishing some impressive political success. In 1904, at the age of 25, he was elected to the Legislative Assembly of Quebec for the riding of Bonaventure. He was a member of the Liberal Party and was re-elected in 1908 and in 1912. During these years he found the time to write a book entitled The Position of the Settler in the Province of Quebec. This book was published in 1907.

John Hall Kelly was also an active promoter of many other businesses in Bonaventure County and, in fact, of the entire Gaspé Peninsula. He is also remembered as a crusader for the forestry and fishing sectors in the region.

Then, in 1914 he resigned his position in the Legislative Assembly and was quickly appointed to the Legislative Council of Quebec. Subsequently, in 1935, he was appointed to be a Minister Without Portfolio in the government of Louis-Alexandre Taschereau.

Kelly resigned this post in 1939 and was awarded a post as Canadian High Commissioner to Ireland. He was the first High Commissioner for Canada in Ireland. John Hall Kelly would never again see his beloved Gaspé home. He remained in Ireland and passed away in Dublin in 1941 at the age of 61. He was buried in Ireland, however, in 1973 his ashes were returned to the Gaspé Peninsula and were buried in the St. Etienne Cemetery in New Carlisle.

John Hall Kelly was a noted Gaspesian businessman, politician, lawyer, author and diplomat. He was highly successful in his many endeavours and was an impressive advocate for the Gaspé region.



Teachers' Guide

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

Comprehension:

1. What was the name of the Gaspé's first newspaper?
2. Where was John Hall Kelly educated?
3. What tells us that Kelly was a clever businessman?
4. Tell about his political career.
5. What indicates that Kelly was a supporter of the Gaspé?

Vocabulary:

Define – corporate, crusader, endeavours, advocate

Extra:

Create a timeline of John Hall Kelly's life. Start at 1879 and end with his passing in 1941. Place important dates and accomplishments on the line.



SOCIÉTÉ DU CHEMIN DE FER DE LA GASPÉSIE



EVERY YEAR, MORE THAN 100 CANADIANS ARE SERIOUSLY INJURED OR KILLED IN ACCIDENTS ASSOCIATED WITH PASSAGES AT LEVEL OR INTRUSIONS. PRACTICALLY ALL THESE ACCIDENTS ARE AVOIDABLE.

The trains of the SCFG circulate daily between Matapédia and New Richmond. They can circulate at any time of the day and at night, during the week as well as the weekend.



THE SCFG REMINDS YOU OF THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING THE RAILWAY:

NEVER

walk, run, bike or drive your ATV or snowmobile on railway tracks or through the railway tunnels.

NEVER

hunt, fish, jump or ski on railway bridges. They are not designed to be sidewalks or pedestrian bridges. There is just enough free space on railway tracks to let a train pass.

NEVER ATTEMPT

to jump on board railway equipment or trains. Slipping can cause you to lose a limb or even your life.

ALWAYS ANTICIPATE THE ARRIVAL OF A TRAIN.

Trains do not follow fixed schedules.

ALWAYS

use the designated crossings for crossing the railway tracks.

ALWAYS

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

ALWAYS

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

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