

Racist remarks at hockey game could spark movement to ban intolerance in arenas

Gilles Gagné

GESGAPEGIAG – Racist remarks made by members of a hockey team participating in a “friendly” tournament in Paspébiac on January 4 could spark a movement to ban intolerance in the Gaspé Peninsula arenas, considering the support given to the people, including children, who experienced prejudice that night.

During a game between the Gesgapegiag Chiefs and the Chandler Goons, racist remarks were made against the Native players on the ice, in the locker room and against some of their children attending the game.

Pamela Boisvert described the scene on her facebook page: “My daughters brought their Chiefs flag, which is what they often do (It has the team’s logo on it). They were holding it with two other girls. I was disgusted to hear that every time they held that flag, some adult women were booing these young girls, taunting them and teasing them.” Her husband, Tony Martin, was playing for the Chiefs.

After the game, one of their daughters, Ténika, went down to wait for her dad, and Ms. Boisvert was about 30 feet away, chatting. Her daughter then came up to her and said “Mom, that lady over there is being really awful, she said ‘Ostie d’indiens devraient même pas jouer!’”

“I wanted so desperately to go to this lady and explain to her how “indien” is not a term that should be used and give her my whole rant,” wrote Ms. Boisvert.

Gesgapegiag’s Dave Condo, a 26-year-old police officer, was playing in that game and explains that racist slurs were also uttered on the ice.

“At one point in the game, behind the net, one of our players stopped playing as if he had received a blow. Later in the locker room, between the periods, he said that he had been told ‘Christ d’Indien’ by a member of the



Ténika Martin, in the middle, proudly holding the Chiefs flag at the January 4 hockey game during which the Gesgapegiag players were the victims of racial slurs.

Photo: Courtesy of Dave Condo

other team. I went to see the referee and told him that we were hearing racist slurs on the ice, that we are in 2020 and that there is no place for that in today’s society,” says Mr. Condo.

He says that one of the referees was close to the scene when the Chiefs player, John Mallette Jr, was insulted. Dave Condo feared that things could turn bad on the ice if the Chandler players didn’t adopt a better attitude.

“The referees told me that they would give a penalty if other racist remarks are made,” says Dave Condo.

“I experienced it like hell when I was a kid. I thought that with time, I had become insensitive to that kind of remarks. My seven-year-old

told me ‘Dad, I don’t want to come anymore to watch you play.’ That is sad,” adds Mr. Condo.

The handshake after the game was less than warm and some pushing was done before the players went back to their dressing rooms.

Dave Condo states that he even experienced racism in a tournament for police officers held in Rivière-du-Loup in 2014, when he was a young cop. “We had won the tournament and some family members of other policemen shouted insults at us.”

His wife Amanda Ottawa reacted to the event by starting an online petition to implement zero tolerance in the region’s arenas. Dave Condo is encouraged by the results.

“Up to 700 people have signed the petition in less than 24 hours (as of the morning of January 6). What is encouraging is that people are not only signing the petition. They make comments to denounce the situation,” states Dave Condo.

Pamela Boisvert also wrote on facebook that “as a mother to two amazing Mi’gmaq girls, I wanted to yell at that young woman, tell her that we are (in) 2020 and that my girls should never feel less than for being Native. So to that young woman. (...) I hope someone has the chance to educate you before you have children. I’m pretty sure you wouldn’t want your kids to know how much of a racist their mom was.”

A regional policy is needed

Dave Condo wants to contact the mayors of the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands and ask them to adopt a policy that would forbid any racist slur within the walls of the region’s arenas. “It shouldn’t be limited to what is said on the ice. It has to be applied in the stands as well,” he says.

Meanwhile, one of the main organizers of the tournament, Rémi Whittom, was quite affected by the events of the January 4 evening.

“We do not endorse racist slur. What was said is totally unacceptable. We are always glad to greet the Gesgapegiag team. They are competitive and we like to see them play here. (...) They will always be welcome to come to our tournament. The teams of all origins are welcome at our tournament, whether they are Natives or anglophones,” says Mr. Whittom.

The players taking part in the 2021 *Tournoi amical of Paspébiac* will have to sign a code of ethics and any unacceptable remarks made on the ice will be penalized. “A ten-minute misconduct penalty can hurt a team a lot,” says Mr. Whittom.

He called the Sûreté du Québec on that Saturday night when he heard of the remarks uttered during the game and the police officers came, although they cannot intervene directly in racist slur matters. “They came to the tournament every night,” adds Rémi Whittom, who had not been able to reach the man responsible for the Chandler Goons, Félix Albert, when the SPEC reached its deadline.

“As for the behaviour in the stands, it is a totally different matter. It is very hard to control that. We have a message written on the floor at the entrance of the arena saying: ‘This is a game.’ We will see if more needs to be done,” he concludes.

Town of Gaspé increases taxes by 3.49%

Gilles Gagné

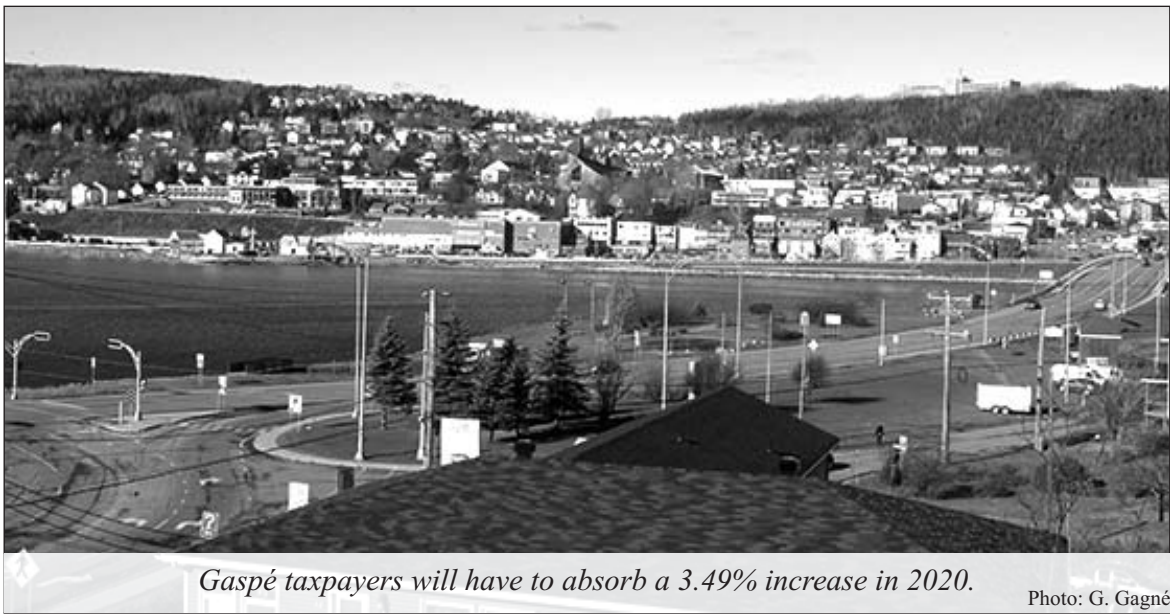
GASPÉ: – The Town of Gaspé will increase its taxes by 3.49% in 2020 to deal with the increase in its fixed expenses. The impact on an average house valued at \$167,250 will amount to \$69.90.

That increase in taxes comes from a \$21.50 water and sewerage tariff, which is the equivalent of 4.13%, and a 4.54% increase in the municipal tax rate, from \$0.88 to \$0.92 per \$100 of property value.

The total budget will reach \$27.9M in 2020, a 5.7% hike over the \$26.4M of 2019. In 2010, the town budget was \$20.4 million. It is a 36.76% increase over the last decade.

Gaspé Mayor Daniel Côté points out that the town administration had to work very hard to cut some expenses and lower the municipal tax increase, which could have reached 7% without those efforts.

“External contracts for snow removal and garbage are increasing by 3%, while the Sûreté du Québec bill climbs by 4%. Our insurance bill increases by a whopping 45%. Our share of the bill attributable to the worldwide crisis in recycling material amounts to \$120,000. Therefore, the compounded amount of all those bills totals \$1.23M and our new sources of revenue reach \$500,000. Theoretically, we could have charged 7% to our taxpayers but we didn’t want to go there so we had to make changes as usual to cut that increase,” explains Mr. Côté.



Gaspé taxpayers will have to absorb a 3.49% increase in 2020.

Photo: G. Gagné

The amounts of those new expenses are \$442,629 for the renewal of existing contracts and salary indexation, \$262,752 for the preparation of a new evaluation roll, a \$83,109 increment for the insurance contract, a \$99,168 hike for the Sûreté du Québec, \$118,933 more for snow removal, \$120,680 as a recycling tab for the Régie intermunicipale de traitement des matières recyclable de la Gaspésie (the Grand River sorting centre) and a \$161,206 addition to the amount earmarked for debt reimbursement and interest.

The new sources of revenues come from the Quebec government’s new fiscal pact for municipalities, for an amount of \$129,000, an increase of \$142,000 coming from the airport operations, an \$85,000 increase in wind energy royalties and \$140,000 from various sources, mainly an increase in the property transfer tax and interest from the town’s accumulated surplus.

With the inclusion \$85,000 in additional revenues, the wind energy fund now brings in \$745,000 annually to the Town of Gaspé. That amount comes from the municipality’s share of the royalties stemming from the region’s participation in certain wind farms based in the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands. That participation is managed by the region’s Intermunicipal Energy Board.

The value of the construction permits increased significantly between 2018 and 2019, from \$27.5M to \$53.7M, a jump of 95.3%.

The accumulated surplus of the Town of Gaspé will decrease from \$6.99M to \$5.96M in 2020. Part of the situation is attributable to the council’s decision to increase its share for the Gaspé Cegep swimming pool upgrades, which went from \$2.4M to \$3M after the call for tenders.

“We are increasing our initial participation of \$554,000 to \$703,000. We will spread our

participation over a span of seven years. The Quebec government is not increasing its part of the project, which remains at \$1.2 million. The MRC will increase its share from \$75,000 to \$200,000 and the Cegep will increase its part to \$903,000 to complete the funding,” explains Daniel Côté.

The Town of Gaspé has started consultations regarding the sports centre project, which

will include the new arena. “The project will cost between \$15M and \$18M. The construction will start in 2021 so there is no impact of the current budget,” adds the mayor.

The municipal administration is also launching two new initiatives, an entrepreneurial fund, fed by a sum of \$50,000. It will be applied in 2020 and will support people wanting to acquire existing businesses by taking care of certain costs, like the property transfer tax.

Another municipal venture will kick off in 2020, the “green initiative” which will start with a population consultation to identify one or several projects that could have a positive impact on the environment. Although the consultation will start in the new year, the money will likely be spent only in 2021, once the best initiatives will be identified.

The municipal value of all the properties in Gaspé amounts to \$1.4 billion.

CHART

Main categories of expenses:

Airport and transport	\$6,646,377
Debt management	\$5,499,786
Water and sewerage	\$5,092,541
Administration	\$4,076,801
Leisure and culture	\$3,230,156
Public security (Sûreté du Québec)	\$2,733,339

Main sources of revenues:

Municipal taxes	\$14,229,000
Service tariffs (water, sewerage, garbage)	\$4,743,000
In lieu of taxes (government properties)	\$2,511,000
Revenues of the airport	\$1,953,000
Revenues linked to the landfill site	\$1,120,000
Revenues linked to property transfer and interest	\$1,116,000

Percé: majority of taxpayers will be spared

Nelson Sergerie

PERCÉ: - Thanks to an increase of \$290,000 in revenues from equalization payments, the majority of Percé’s taxpayers will catch a break on their 2020 tax bill.

The only increase will be for owners of buildings with six or more dwellings, non-residential and industrial buildings. Their taxes will increase by 2%.

The different tariffs are also not all affected the same. In fact, citizens of the Cap-d’Espoir sector will even see their sewer rate decrease from \$320 to \$300 following an internal reorganization of the worker assigned to this task.

The budget will go from \$6.4 million to \$7 million next year.

In addition to equalization payments, Percé will receive



Percé Mayor, Cathy Poirier

Photo: archives

\$29,000 from the percentage point of QST growth as negotiated in the new fiscal pact and an additional \$175,000 from the Ministère des Transports snow removal.

“It’s an interesting budget. It is increased by \$570,000 compared to last year. It gives us a little more oxygen to plan and organize,” says Mayor Cathy Poirier.

The mayor does not understand the increase in equalization due to the complexity of the calculations, especially since Percé lost \$196,000 in 2019. According to her “It’s a mystery!”

2020 priorities

The three-year capital plan totals \$4.3 million for the year

2020.

The most significant project is the reconstruction of the Barachois fire hall, ravaged by fire in July 2018.

Since the reconstruction will involve a wooden structure, the \$1.070 million project qualifies for a government subsidy of 70% rather than 65%.

The reconstruction of the rue à Bonfils in the Anse-à-Beaufils sector, expected for years and estimated at \$1.6 million, will be financed via the excise tax on gasoline and the development of an industrial zone in the Lemieux Road sector is attracting attention.

Works in municipal parks and beaches are also included in the 2020 plan. Projects will be 48% funded by grants, 34% by loan regulations, 9% from reserve funds, 7% from

surpluses and 2% from working capital.

Money for the Pratto building

The Pratto de Percé building, which was closed by the CNESST last spring, will undergo renovations.

An amount of \$75,000 is planned in the 2020 budget to redo the roof and paint.

The CNESST had revealed that there was a risk of the ceiling collapsing, water leaks and the presence of mold.

An architect verified the structure and assured that the building was solid and free from mold. However, municipal workers did not return to the site.

Ms. Poirier does not want to reveal the municipality’s intentions for the future of the building.

Police report

On December 10, four people, three men and a woman, were arrested in Paspebiac and charged at the New Carlisle courthouse with various drug related charges. They were arrested in their respective homes early that morning and charged later the same day. The operation was conducted by Sûreté du Québec police officers from the major crime squad, members of the swat team, the canine squad and regular policemen.

A search was conducted in two Paspebiac residences, one located on Highway 132 and the other on 4th Avenue. Approximately 504 cannabis plants were found during the police search.

One of the accused is Éric Maldemay, 43, faces charges of cocaine possession for the purpose of trafficking, growing cannabis for the purpose of trafficking and possession of cannabis. Régis Maldemay, 44, along with his girlfriend Annick Denis; and a third accused Dany Larocque, 42, all face charges of illegal cannabis culture. They will return to court on January 20.

Brothers Éric and Régis Maldemay were remanded in custody. Annick Denis and Dany Larocque were released after appearing in court.

Éric Maldemay is well-known to police. In 2008, he was sentenced to 12 years of imprisonment for drug trafficking and other drug-related charges. He waived his December 20 bail hearing and it was postponed until January 9. His defence attorney is Ariane Cayer of Chandler. Régis Maldemay's attorney is Jules Grenier of New Carlisle.

Samuel Duguay, 25, from Paspebiac, who was charged with sexual assault the beginning of July, will undergo his trial on February 12 at the New Carlisle courthouse. The incident happened while the victim, a woman was walking on the beach in Bonaventure. She yelled and the accused left the scene. He has been remanded in custody since his arrest and he waived his bail hearing in October. Samuel Duguay has a criminal record of similar matters. In 2016, he asked a minor girl to have sexual contact with him. He was also found in possession of juvenile pornography material.

The Sûreté du Québec is investigating an armed robbery that took place on the evening of December 8 in a Pointe-à-la-Croix convenience store located on Interprovincial Boulevard. The police was called at around 10 p.m. The robber was alone and he spoke English to the employee of the store. He uttered threats to that employee and asked her what was in the cash register. The spokesperson of the Sûreté du Québec, Sgt. Claude Doiron, refuses to say if a weapon was shown to the employee of the store. He does state that the criminal left on foot with a sum of money. The amount was not disclosed by the police. The direction taken by the man remains unknown. Anyone in possession of clues that could help the SQ in solving this case are invited to call 310-4141 or *4141 when using a cellular phone. A description of the suspect will likely be published soon.

A small fire at the Manoir Saint-Augustin in Gaspé on January 2 triggered the evacuation of the 131 residents of that private residence for seniors, which is owned by Groupe Sélection. The alarm was given at 12:50 a.m. Smoke was coming from one of the 123 units of the residence. The evacuation was promptly carried out by the firefighters, the paramedics and the police officers. According to Sgt. Claude Doiron, the intervention was quick and there were not any hospitalizations. "The sprinklers came on and they did their job,"

Gaspé mayor Daniel Côté, who is a volunteer firefighter, points out that the use of the cafeteria to greet the residents was of great help in the evacuation. Another factor that helped reassure the residents was the proximity of the hospital, located next door to the Manoir Saint-Augustin. Most of the residents were able to re-enter their apartments a few hours later and others were assisted by family members and the Red Cross.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation However Sgt. Doiron states that "An item used by a smoker could be the cause of the fire. The fire started in a mattress." Groupe Sélection management is still working on the damage assessment, which was mostly caused by smoke and water.



The Chandler budget meeting took place on December 16.

Photo: N. Sergerie

Minimal tax increase in Chandler

Nelson Sergerie

CHANDLER - Taxes are increased on average by 2% in Chandler. The total budget is \$11.8 million.

The base rate remains at \$0.88 per \$100, however, the average tax bill will increase by approximately \$40. The increase is due to the special tax on loan regulations increasing from \$29 to \$48 due to the acquisition of vehicles for public works totalling \$1 million; and an increase of \$20 for recycling.

The special tax for the Town financing goes from \$0.065 to \$0.059 and the residents of Saint-François can

see a marked drop in the tariffs for the aqueduct, sewers and water treatment from \$510 to \$174 with the end of the borrowing regulations for sewers.

A taxpayer in a Chandler neighbourhood whose house is valued at \$100,000 will have an increase of 2.2%; in Pabos Mills, the increase is higher at 2.67% and in Newport the increase is 3.51%.

Residents of the Pabos sector will have an increase of 2.09% while those of Saint-François experience a sharp drop of 17.68% with the end of the loan related to water and sewers.

The council preferred to

spare the taxpayers since large projects are coming soon.

"We will see in the future because we still have large loans coming. We are trying to spare the citizens and not come with large amounts. However, we have always maintained the increase in line with the consumer price index," says Mayor Louisette Langlois.

Among the projects included in the three-year capital plan are the water purification in Newport, an investment of \$12 million, the extension of services in Pabos Mills for \$3 million and the municipal garage at \$5 million.

For now, Gaspé riding won't change its name

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ: - The riding of Gaspé will keep its name, at least for now.

PQ Member of the National Assembly, Méganne Perry Mélançon, launched a consultation on facebook after comments from voters.

The annexation of Haute-Gaspésie to the riding of Gaspé since 2012 prompted this reflection.

"The riding is huge and covers an area from Cap-Chat to Grande-Rivière and we can see the difference in the feeling of belonging from one citizen to another, depending on where they live in the riding. The idea was to make sure everyone felt well represented," said the MNA, who explained the initiative.

The rules of change stipulate that the name of the electoral division must consist of a maximum of two elements. Thus, a name like the federal riding of Avignon-La Mitis-Matane-Matapédia could not be reproduced in Quebec.

Finding a new name will not be easy. "We had a lot of proposals but Gaspésie cannot be used because it does not include the entire region. We cannot speak of Gaspésie-Nord because that excludes Rocher-Percé. There is Pointe-Gaspésienne or the Peninsula as it is often called. There are several names that came out and I find it very interesting," says Méganne Perry Mélançon

At the dawn of a reform of the voting system, the renaming is being put on the back burner but could be restarted in the future.



Photo: N. Sergerie

Member of the National Assembly Méganne Perry Mélançon

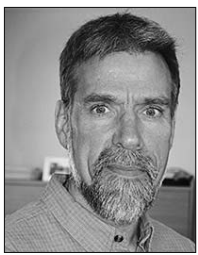
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Commentary

Gilles Gagné

An ethics code for arenas is needed

The January 4 incident at the Paspébiac arena triggers a debate that seemed to have ebbed quite a bit ten years ago, racist slurs in public. In the winter, public space often means the arenas.

Native children were targeted by adults because they were waving the flag of their favourite team during the *Tournoi amical of Paspebiac*. "Amical" means friendly by the way. Some players must've forgotten the very essence of the tournament.

On the ice, an undetermined number of Chandler players insulted their Gesgapegiag opponents, calling them "christ d'Indiens," or damn Indians. On at least one occasion they were told to "go back home."

Well, Mi'gmaq people are indeed at home, everywhere in the Gaspé Peninsula or at least they should be. Without going back too deeply in history, they greeted the Europeans, starting about 1,000 years ago. Natives arrived here about 8,000 years ago, in all likelihood.

Secondly, as police officer Dave Condo eloquently remarks, we are in 2020 and racist slurs should be a thing of the past. In fact, it should never have occurred but our society made progress over the last decades and the level of collaboration between the Mi'gmaqs and the Non-Natives is a testimony of that.

We collaborate in fisheries and wind energy, among other things. We manage together one of the greatest salmon rivers in the world, the Grand Cascapédia. It is not always easy but we

succeed quite often in all walks of life, socially, culturally and economically. It would be even more common if we could avoid the kind of behaviour that was witnessed on January 4.

In those three fields, fisheries, wind energy and salmon fishing management, the results of that collaboration have yielded better benefits to the Natives and Non-Natives than the previous management systems. The commercial fisheries are bringing in more revenues that at any period over the last 40 years at least, since statistics are collected by Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

The construction of the Mesgig Uguj's'n wind farm in the back country of Escuminac is still remembered as a reference in that field, as francophones, Natives and anglophones collaborated in a \$330 million investment.

However, what is worrying about the last decade is the deterioration of human values, maybe a consequence of social media and the rising number of incognito interventions in our society. Some filters and reflection are no longer used by a cross-section of the population that seems to be growing.

Social media is probably not responsible for the entire situation. The downward number of humanities courses in our schools could also explain part of the problem. We are increasingly trained to become workers, instead of citizens.

The Paspébiac incident is not unique. It has happened in other Gaspesian arenas in the recent past, and throughout Quebec and Canada as well. Sometimes, Aboriginal people are targeted, but people of African and Asian descents are also the victims of racist slurs in sports events.

The movement initiated by Dave Condo, Amanda Ottawa, Pamela Boisvert and the hundreds of people that have supported them since January 4 could grow and spread to the rest of Quebec. What if the Gaspé Peninsula becomes the first region to officially forbid racism in public spaces? Let's try.

Forbidding here would mean applying the principles of acceptance, courtesy and friend-

ship that should be the rule in 2020. Every hockey game could start with a message stating that it is a game, meant to have fun, like it is written on the floor, at the entrance of the Paspébiac arena. The message just needs to be reminded by the public announcer before all the games. Yes, let's try.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It was with great interest and concern that I read the article in The Gaspé Spec of December 11, 2019 concerning disrupted travel plans by air. Considering that computer problems and poor weather conditions occur, nobody, however, should be stranded at airports, temporary accommodations for this period of time. It is especially concerning that people with health issues or family issues were perhaps delayed.

It is interesting to note that two of our MNA's found themselves involved in this situation as they should be better situated to remedy such failures in our transportation system. Perhaps Mayor Côté's suggestion of increased air competition in our area would improve the situation, but this may take time to accomplish.

But what really comes to my mind, is this not a situation that should encourage all parties to once again take measures, make efforts, to improve rail transportation on the Coast? My family and I traveled by rail for many years. It was especially important when my mother and sister had health issues that had to be taken care of in Montreal. In all regards, it was a great way to travel.

Hoping that in the New Year improvements will be made in both means of transportation.

Jim Caputo

Vankleek Hill, Ontario and Gaspé

CASA has done a lot for the English people on the Gaspé. Having Steve Guimond in Quebec and Laval hospital is a godsend.

I was there due to a heart attack and I also just had an operation. Steve was always there for me. My only wish is that, we English, could have a Steve in Rimouski. I have to go there a lot and I find it very hard as there is very little English and no one to help in any way. I find that very hard on people who are very sick.

Thanks Stephanie Gallan for the nice write-up. Also thanks to the Linda Lemore-Brown Foundation.

Irene Buttle Burton
New Richmond, Quebec

Send a *Letter to the editor*
THEGASPESPEC.COM



208-B Gérard D. Levesque
New Carlisle, Que.
G0C 1Z0

Tel: 418-752-5400
specs@globetrotter.net
thegaspespec.com

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Publisher:
Penny MacWhirter



News Editor:
Gilles Gagné



Office Manager:
Joan Imhoff

JOURNALISTS:
Nelson Sergerie
Diane Skinner
CONTRIBUTORS:
Cynthia Dow,
Jeanie LeLacheur

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Quebec to develop a rail transport strategy

“We have neglected rail transport in Quebec,” says Minister Bonnardel

Gilles Gagné

DRUMMONDVILLE: — Quebec’s Transport Minister François Bonnardel has announced that his government will intensify its support to rail transport of people and freight through the implementation of new governmental initiatives, including a long term “rail strategy.” Another measure is a program to sustain rail infrastructure and emphasis on intermodal transport that includes railways.

Mr. Bonnardel made that announcement on December 9 in Drummondville, at the conclusion of the Rail Transport Summit. The new program is called *Programme de soutien aux infrastructures de transports ferroviaires et à l’intégration modale* (PSIT-FIM).

He does not divulge a budgetary envelope for the program and the rail strategy or a time frame for both but he mentioned to SPEC that “it is a strategy for 20 to 25 years.” He had mentioned minutes earlier in his closing remarks to the 250 participants of the summit that “rail transport was rather forgotten in the priorities of the (Quebec) Transport department (since the beginning of the 1990s).”

Thousands of kilometres of railway was effectively dismantled in Quebec over the last 40 years, some of



The president of the rail transport committee at Quebec’s Union of Municipalities, Jean-Maurice Matte, is glad that Minister François Bonnardel retained as priorities most of the main orientations made a year earlier at the Railway Forum in Trois-Rivières. Photo: G. Gagné

them over recent years. In Beauce for example, a Quebec Central line, the Chaudière subdivision, was partly dismantled midway between Charny and Lac-Frontière.

Transports Québec had acquired that line for \$18 million in 2007 and 2008 but authorized its partial dismantlement in April 2015 turning it into a cycling trail. That authorization over 30 kilometres condemned the rest of the line up to Lac-Frontière, a 100-kilometre stretch presenting an annual potential of 3,000 carloads.

In the Gaspé Peninsula, former Transport minister Robert Poëti, the same minister responsible for the Beauce decision, put the line between Caplan and Gaspé in a dormant state in March 2015 de-

spite the fact that the Port Daniel cement plant was under construction and would generate thousands of carloads as well. The line needed upgrading back then but work just started in the fall of 2018 east of Caplan and not on the bridges. Minister Poëti was also mentioned turning that stretch into a cycling trail in March 2015.

François Bonnardel did not mention those examples in Drummondville but he insisted that from now on, it is important for Transports Québec “to send a strong message to the shippers about increasing their access to our rail network, whether we are talking about freight or passengers.”

He also emphasized that “There will be money for line rehabilitation, for the tracks,

bridges, culverts, retaining walls, buildings, sidings and handling equipment,” also for the infrastructure and the tools necessary to increase rail traffic.

Minister Bonnardel affirmed that safety issues will be dealt with seriously in order to avoid another tragedy like Lac-Mégantic’s.

He invited the major transporters such as Canadian National and Canadian Pacific, companies under a federal jurisdiction, to collaborate with Transports Québec to increase rail traffic in the province. In Quebec, 27% of the railways are under provincial jurisdiction and 73% are under federal jurisdiction. There are still 6,300 kilometres of tracks in Quebec.

“We must create synergy with the majors (CN and CP). We must develop a long term vision, overall. That includes

the environment. Transport is part of the problem and we can also be an important part of the solution. Considering that 43% of Quebec’s greenhouse gases are caused by transport, if we want to improve our record, we must reduce our emissions and rail transport is advantageous compared to trucks in that regard,” he explains.

His remarks are well received by most people involved in the railway industry, like the mayor of New Richmond, Éric Dubé, who is also president of the Gaspésie Railway Society. “The government is taking the right way to assure the progress of that transportation mode. We must now sit and make sure that the long term strategy is designed properly to assure the mobility of freight and people.”

The president of the rail transport committee at Quebec’s Union of Municipalities, Jean-Maurice Matte, is also satisfied with what Minister Bonnardel presented at the summit.

“The minister delivered most of the expectations stemming from the Railway Forum held in November 2018. We will make sure that the intentions expressed today (December 9) will become delivered items as well. There are still 500 municipalities served by rail in Quebec,” says Mr. Matte who is also the mayor of Senneterre, in Abitibi, an important railway town.

WIND ROYALTIES: \$6 million paid to member municipalities

Nelson Sergerie

CHANDLER: - The municipalities that are members of the *Régie intermunicipales de l’énergie Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine* will share \$6 million. This is double the amount that was budgeted for 2019.

“The performance of our turbines and the winds explains the increase,” says Simon Deschênes, president of the Régie. “Recently, I read an article that said that in the last decade, the wind has increased in North America. Our wind turbines have captured that wind,” he said.

The board, nevertheless, kept \$500,000 of its surplus as a precautionary measure.

“It’s a question of security, to be sure that we can fulfill our obligations. Considering that there is missing data, we wanted to be cautious, which is normal,” says Mr. Deschênes.

The organization plans to distribute \$3.5 million in royalties in 2020, despite a surplus of \$4.5 million last year and \$6 million this year.

“This money is used to ease the tax burden on citizens. But we can’t base next year on 2019. It would be irresponsible to be aggressive on forecasts and distributions. It’s rather wise as an orientation,” says the president.

Boralex reduces its debt

Boralex has refinanced its debt on Le Plateau I wind farm, which will save \$30 million.

The company, which holds a 51% interest in the wind farm located in the MRC of Avignon, has signed a new credit agreement for its debt of more than \$200 million which will mature in 2032, that is to say when the supply contract with Hydro-Québec will end.

The wind farm, with a capacity of 139 megawatts, is also 49% owned by the *Caisse de dépôt et de placement du Québec*.

Boralex bought Ivernergy’s stake in June 2018. The wind farm has 60 wind turbines and entered into service in March 2012.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

1 2 3 4 5

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Thursday for the next week's paper.

Gaspesian Notables: Hazel McCallion

“I’m not saying all seniors should be running a city or running a business, but I am saying seniors are good for a lot more than simply running a bath, baking cookies or babysitting grandchildren.”

-Hazel McCallion

Diane Skinner

Hazel McCallion is ours – a native of the Gaspé Peninsula, born and raised in Port Daniel, Quebec. She was born Hazel Journeau on Valentine’s Day, 1921. Her family owned a fishing and canning company here. Hazel was the longest serving mayor in all Canadian history, from 1978 – 2014.

Hazel was always feisty and displayed a strong, winning personality. She played hockey with her sisters when she was a little girl here on the Coast. Of course, she played forward. When she moved to Montreal she played for a semi-professional women’s team. Hockey is a passion she still supports.

After graduating from high school, Hazel attended business and secretarial college in Quebec City and Montreal. She wanted to attend university but could not afford it at the time. In 1942 she was transferred to the Toronto office of her Montreal firm. Almost immediately she became active in several projects in her community: Lakeview Generating Station, British American Refinery and a pilot project for the Tar Sands in Alberta. She worked for that company for 19 years.

She met Sam McCallion, was married in 1951 and had three children: Peter, Linda and Paul. She has strong faith and is a member of the Anglican Church and she often gives credit to her faith for giving her the immense energy required for her many years of service as a politician. She always liked to do her own housework because, she said, it gives you exercise and keeps you humble.

Her political life began in 1967 when she became Chairperson of the Streetsville Planning Board. Soon after that she was elected Mayor of



Streetsville. She was a political meteor. She became mayor of Mississauga in 1978, narrowly defeating a popular incumbent. She was acclaimed in 1980, re-elected in 1991, 1994, 2000, 2003, 2006 and 2010. Under her leadership, Mississauga did not have to borrow money from the time of her election in 1978 and was debt-free.

Hazel was mayor for an amazing 36 years! Don Cherry, a personal friend, referring to her strong electoral support, that 98% of the residents of Mississauga voted for her and that he was going out to look for the 2% that had not. Her style has been defined as forthright and no-nonsense. Her career was not without controversy, mind you, but the overwhelming majority of voters always continued to support her. She did not accept donations for her political campaigns, but instead asked her supporters to donate the money to a favourite charity.

Hazel McCallion always held the philosophy that a city should be run like a business.

Likely this view was shaped by her family’s background as successful business people here on the Gaspé combined with her education in the field of business and economics.

She has received many awards and has been a strong supporter of numerous charities. Some of her accolades include: World Leadership Award, Canadian Family Values Award, Robert Baldwin Award for Career Achievement, Honorary Doctorate of Laws and many more community service awards.

At a birthday gala, this tribute was made: “Mayor McCallion is a true inspiration to us all. Through her extraordinary terms as mayor of Mississauga, her outstanding leadership, volunteerism and philanthropy have become well known both nationally and internationally.”

Mississauga might like to claim Hazel McCallion as their own, but we Gaspesians know that her strength, no-nonsense views and perseverance come from her roots here on the Gaspé Peninsula.

Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



Say what you will do

You do not hear as much talk of resolutions these days. Perhaps the immense pressure of making those resolutions, and the inevitable breaking of them has become too self-defeating over time. It is an artificial starting point after all. However, making plans and setting goals is always a positive thing. The old adage “Say what you’ll do and then do what you said,” should be what we live by every day.

Common resolutions many of us have stated over the years include lose weight, be more active and live on a tighter budget. If these are goals you wish to achieve, plan to do those very things, not just starting on January 1. Why set goals at all? Well. If you were planning a vacation there are a number of things you need to have decided and arranged before you go. When are you going? How much do you want to spend? How will you get there? Who will you travel with? Where is your passport? Planning ahead is important.

Setting goals is really a gift to your future self. Making your bed in the morning is a gift to your bedtime self. Shopping for healthy foods is a gift to your future health and well-being. Saving money is a gift to your future financial self. It means having an idea or a hope that you turn into reality. Figuring out something you want to achieve makes it more likely that you will achieve what you want.

When you define what you want to accomplish there are a few things to keep in mind. Keep your goals realistic. Keep your goals small and manageable. Have a goal for when you would like to achieve your goal. Keeping these simple ideas in mind will help you achieve what you want. This, in turn, will raise your self-confidence.

There are a few simple things to keep in mind when goal-setting

1. Think about what is important for you to achieve.
2. Write down your goal. This will make that goal more real.
3. Now write smaller steps that you can achieve to help you to get to that bigger objective.
4. Plan how you can get started.
5. Keep your eye on the target.
6. Remind yourself often that you are worth it.
7. Reward yourself on the way.

As an example, if you wish to lose weight try not to set yourself up for failure by stating that you will lose 30 pounds by the end of March. Probably not a realistic goal. Therefore, you will fail. Not good for your self-esteem.

Look back to the seven things to keep in mind. Using weight loss as an example: It is important for me to lose weight so that I will feel more energy, look better and lower my blood pressure. I will lose 30 pounds by July 1. I will do this by losing five pounds each month. I will get started by throwing out all the junk food in my cupboard, shopping for more fruits and vegetables and planning my meals in advance. I will keep focussed on reaching that loss of five pounds per month. On the way to your goal reward yourself by getting new running shoes, buying a book or enjoying a long hike in the woods.

Reaching goals is best achieved by planning. Yet in the end try to stick to it. You are worth it. Say what you will do. Then do what you said.

Teachers’ Guide

(Teachers: This is #1 in an eight-part series about Gaspesian Notables, intended for students from grade 5 – 8.)

Comprehension:

1. When and where was Hazel McCallion born?
2. Describe Hazel McCallion’s education.
3. Tell about Hazel’s husband and family.
4. She became mayor of Mississauga in 1978. What other elections did she win?
5. List some of the awards that Hazel McCallion has won.

Vocabulary:

Define the following: feisty, forthright, accolades, philanthropy

Extra: Hazel McCallion has been described as ‘no-nonsense.’ Why do you think that is? Refer to the article.



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A Merry Christmas, 20,000 kilometres from home, thanks to generous Gaspesians

Gilles Gagné

PORT DANIEL: – The foreign sailors of two cement carriers were recently surprised when they each received several Christmas gifts, from generous Gaspesians. Under the leadership of Anglican Church Reverend Joshua Paetkau, those gifts were collected during the two weeks preceding the holiday season.

Reverend Paetkau leads the parishes of New Carlisle, Port Daniel and Shigawake. The parishioners first honoured a long-time tradition in the Anglican Church by collecting gifts and sending them to Quebec City, where they were redistributed to many international sailors, something that congregation has done for decades.

Peter Fenton, the Port Daniel Harbour master for McInnis Cement, mentioned to Reverend Paetkau that the context has changed in the area since the cement plant opened in 2017.

“This year, we collected the gifts as usual, and we sent them to Quebec City. Then, Peter Fenton told us that some international sailors are now coming to the Port Daniel terminal. So we decided to collect gifts a second time,” explains Joshua Paetkau.

Two ships were in Port Daniel around Christmas time. The sailors of the *Cembay* received their gifts and turkeys on December 22 from the crew of the *Ocean Sept-Îles* tugboat, while the crew members of the *Cielo di Gaspésie*, received theirs on the morning of December 27. The gifts and the turkeys were also delivered by the

tugboat, again with the participation of harbour master Peter Fenton.

The tugboat brought the pilot, Captain Harold Ouellon, to the *Cielo di Gaspésie* very early on December 27, as it left the Paspebiac wharf at 3 a.m. The docking manoeuvre began approximately three hours later. The tugboat also assisted in the berthing operation of the 183-metre (604 feet) long bulk carrier.

Once the loading operations started, Captain Vitaliy Zakharchenko, of Ukraine, and Russian first mate Sergey Dugarev, greeted Rev. Paetkau and Peter Fenton on board. Most of the 20 other crew members, all Filipinos, were invited to join the group and unwrap the gifts. It was clearly a moment of genuine happiness for them. The other sailors were asleep and received their gifts later.

“One of the things that came to mind when we prepared this was giving in the spirit of Christmas and reaching out to people,” summed up Rev. Paetkau discretely. He had brought his guitar on the ship so he sang and prayed with the sailors.

The gifts were quite diversified. The sailors found warm clothes, chocolate, books and other items that quickly instilled a Christmas atmosphere, on an early afternoon of December 27, about 20,000 kilometres from home in the case of the Filipinos.

“We spend between seven and nine consecutive months on board before being on vacation for two to three months,” points out second mate Patrick Rodriguez.

Most of the sailors have

children. “We keep in touch with the family in the Philippines with our phones, FaceTime and the Internet,” adds another sailor, who was in Brazil on another ship during the Christmas period in 2018.

“I was here (between New York and Port Daniel) last year around Christmas. The captain gave us gifts,” explains a third sailor.

The Filipinos working on the *Cielo di Gaspésie* experienced a Christmas filled with anxiety this year since the centre of their country was swept by the Phanfone typhoon, and they were trying to get some news of their next of kin.

“We were able to reach our families and everything is okay but there is too much rain,” said another sailor. The *Cielo di Gaspésie* was anchored off the coast of Port Daniel on December 25.

While they find the weather rather cold on Canadian waters, “the sailors of the *Cielo di Gaspésie* are well

equipped for our winter but the warm clothes offered by Gaspesians are always useful,” says Peter Fenton.

The ship was built in South Korea in 2012 and is registered in Monrovia, Liberia. The owner of the bulk carrier is D’Amico Dry, a company that has its head office in Dublin, Ireland. Its maiden name was *Cielo di Viaino* but it was changed to *Cielo di Gaspésie* once it was assigned to the Port Daniel cement plant delivery route, two years ago.

The *Cembay* is a smaller

ship. In that case, 17 bags of gifts and two turkeys were prepared and transferred on December 22, as the ship was leaving for Providence, Rhode Island, a regular destination for the vessels loading cement at the Port Daniel marine terminal.

The *Cielo di Gaspésie* left on December 29 with 33,000 tons of cement for Houston, Texas, where the Filipinos found weather conditions comparable to their country’s.

How do we say Merry Christmas and Happy New Year in Filipinos? “Mali-gayang Pasko” and “Manignon Bagong Taon”, writes down one of the sailors, with a smile proving that the Gaspesian generosity made some people quite happy.



Bethany and her husband Rev. Joshua Paetkau, of the Anglican Church, pose in front of the gift boxes prepared by the parishioners for the sailors of the *Cembay* (the cement carrier that left Port Daniel on December 22 for Providence, Rhode Island). Eurda Hoorweg-Lodge in New Carlisle and Lois Williams in Shigawake-Port Daniel played a vital role in the collection of donations.



Rev. Joshua Paetkau and Harbour Master Peter Fenton before they boarded the ship, on December 27, to meet with the *Cielo di Gaspésie* crew members.



Peter Fenton and Rev. Joshua Paetkau, seated in the middle, made the crew members of the *Cielo di Gaspésie* quite happy. Reverend Paetkau praises the contribution of the parishioners that made such a joyful outcome possible.



The equipment should be installed before the end of February. The workers of contractor N & R Duguay were preparing the building for that step, on December 18.

Photo: G. Gagné

E. Gagnon et Fils invests \$3M in plant expansion

Gilles Gagné

SAINTE-THÉRÈSE-DE-GASPÉ: – E. Gagnon et Fils, the largest snow crab processing plant in Quebec and the largest buyer of lobster on the Gaspé, is currently investing \$3M to expand to its main Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé facility. The new wing will be the receiving point for snow crab and lobster coming from the wharves.

George Sheehan points out that the addition will be very useful in saving time and maximizing the working period of the employees.

“The new building will allow us to optimize the delivery of lobster and crab at the entrance of the plant, for the cleaning and pre-cooking steps. Before, we received the catches for one specie and we had to change all the equipment when we switched from crab to lob-

ster and vice versa. We were wasting time, two to three days sometimes, and the employees were waiting, which was affecting their number of hours worked. Now, we will be able to start the two productions upon receiving the input, as much for the crab as for the lobster,” explains George Sheehan.

The new building follows a series of investments undertaken in 2016 that total close to \$10M in three-and-a-half years. A warehouse for frozen products and a huge cooking unit were the main components of the capital expenses carried out between 2016 and the beginning of 2019 by E. Gagnon et Fils.

The construction of the new wing started on September 15 and will be completed in February with the installation of the equipment.

The annual revenues of E.

Gagnon et Fils surpassed the \$100 million mark over the last years. Up to 615 people were on the payroll during the peak period of production last spring.

The new building and its equipment will not add to the workforce but “they will consolidate existing jobs. We will move 15 positions towards other sectors of the plant, where we always need employees. We will hire 55 Mexicans on our staff in 2020. We started with six or eight four years ago. It has about doubled every year” says Mr. Sheehan.

E. Gagnon et Fils won a Quebec-wide award in job creation on October 15 during the *Créateurs d’emploi du Québec gala*, organized by the Fondation of the CSN union, the *Corporation des parcs industriels and the Quebec Employers’ Council*. The company won a special mention of the jury.

One Small Step for Man

Some famous person said recently that progress is made in small steps, not in giant leaps. So, here is a small step for you to consider as a 2020 New Year’s Resolution.

More than once I have used the kitchen stove and forgotten to turn it off, and discovered it a while later. Needless to say, that is very dangerous and could lead to a fire, or even to a tragic outcome.

Fortunately, sometimes, some good can come out of bad events. A good idea did come to me from my experience. Now, when about to use the stove, for whatever reason, I immediately turn on the light in the ventilator above the stove and have trained myself to never turn off the light without checking the stove elements and the oven, to ensure they are turned off.

I must tell you that, notwithstanding my good intentions, recently after broiling some salmon filets, I sat down to dinner without turning off the broiler. After dinner, there was the oven, going full blast at five hundred degrees, with the light still on, which probably saved the day.

Certainly it is best to turn off the stove completely as soon as it is no longer required, but in addition, it is a good idea to leave the light on until later, after everything is cleaned up and you are leaving the kitchen. The light reminds you to make sure “All is well” when you are finished. The light saved the day for me with the broiler.

It could be a good idea to have a light built into every stove when it is manufactured, which would come on automatically whenever any component of the stove is turned on. It could even start to flash on and off after a specified time. Why don’t manufacturers think of these things?

As an aside, I am reminded of the time a few years ago when I barbecued steaks on the outdoor patio and then we enjoyed a very nice dinner. Later, everyone was off to bed, stomachs full. In the morning after breakfast, I went out onto the deck, only to find the barbecue still going, and very hot! If you sometimes wonder how long a tank of propane will last, rest assured, it is a long time! Fortunately, the lid was up, and the flame was on low, or the thing may have melted, with unknown consequences. I think I need to rig up a light of some kind over the barbecue, but at least I am more careful now than I was before.

We cannot practise too much safety.

Wishing all Gaspésians, at home or away, a Happy 2020 New Year.

- Bob Chisholm

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Announcements...



Obituary



DEVOUGE: Lloyd

January 6, 1946 – December 21, 2019 - 73 years old.

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Mr. Lloyd DeVouge at the age of 73.

He leaves behind his spouse: Doris Hotton; three children: Dean (Lois), Glen (Darlene), Sherri-Leigh (Jean-Claude); four grandchildren: Justin, Julia, Tyler and Jason; brothers and sisters: Eric, Carl, Nellie, Leslie, Kathleen, Judy, Bobby; also many nieces, nephews and many other family members and friends.

Visitation was held at the Funeral Home Valère-Fortin on Saturday, December 28, 2019. Donations can be made in memory of Mr. Lloyd DeVouge to the Heart and Stroke Foundation. The Funeral Home Valère-Fortin has been entrusted with organizing the above mentioned services.

A prayer to St. Jude

to be said in cases despaired of

St. Jude, Glorious Apostle, faithful servant and friend of Jesus the name of the traitor has caused you to be forgotten by many but the true church evokes you universally as the patron of the things despaired of. Pray for me who is so miserable, pray for me that finally I may receive the consolations and the succor of heaven in all my necessities, tribulations, sufferings, particularly (here make your request) and that I may bless God with the elect throughout eternity. Amen St. Jude, Apostle, Martyr and relative of our Lord Jesus Christ of Mary and of Joseph intercede for us.

A.W



In Memory



ANNETT-BEEBE: Marguerite Vivian

January 1915 - March 2000

Mom was a wonderful mother; she loved us, her children, ferociously; no grizzly could have been more protective. Yet, she was so loving, in essence she taught me how to love and care for those I love. Even though it's been twenty years since she's been around to guide and give hugs, her teachings and the sound of her laughter live forever in my heart.

Mom was born in Gaspé but moved with her family to New Carlisle when she was sixteen. Her father, Earle Annett, had decided to build a hotel in that community and consequently his children were to embark upon a new adventure. It was there that Mom met the love of her life, her "Rock of Gibraltar," Cecil Beebe.

Together Mom and Dad had five children, and for Mom raising her family was her life's work. She had the ability to make us feel special. Her hot biscuits, chocolate cake and homemade fries were enticing. She would encourage us to eat and put a bit of "fat on our bones." I loved her cooking, but even more, I loved the stories she would tell.

How many evenings did she entertain with stories,

The German Spy at the hotel; Gramps and Dad at Wilbert's trial in Percé; the American tourists she'd drive from Campbellton to Gaspé and the flat tires along the way... She never failed to hold my attention and in doing so reinforce my love of the Gaspé Coast.

For all her strength of character and physical strength, Mom was not a feminist. Her two confidants and best friends were both men, her father and her husband. She believed in partnerships and the sharing of responsibility. In fact, because of her, I grew up with the impression that women were the stronger of the genders, and believed men were reliant upon women.

My father trusted Mom completely. When he was mayor of the town and he had a speech to make for an event, he'd dictate to Mom, then she'd read back what he'd said and together they would edit. To hear them working together, sharing ideas was reassuring. Sometimes Dad would walk into the kitchen and pick Mom up and swing her around. All the while she'd be shouting, "Cecil, stop this foolishness; put me down." Her screaming combined with his laughter always left me with a sense of comfort and safety.

I miss having Mom around. I miss her laughter, her stories and her hugs. Fortunately she created a wonderful sense of home for me and that's one of the reasons I keep a summer house in New Carlisle. That sense of home Mom established is never lost and for that I thank her. I think of her often and appreciate all the valuable lessons she taught me.

To you Mom

*You will always be missed,
You taught us to laugh and cry,
To work and have fun.*

*You helped us develop pride
and a sense of well being.*

*You taught us that warm tea and a snack,
can help warm up even the gloomiest of days.*

Thank you.

Vivian Anne xo



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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 - adult and \$40 - children. Drop-ins: \$10 - adult 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 11: Square dancing at Trachy Hall beginning at 7:30 p.m. Voluntary contribution \$5.

January 13: Beginner computer workshop from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Register with Nyree at 418-368-3212.

January 15: Free creative dance class with Zaolie for 6 to 10-year-olds from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Possibility of a 2020 winter session, if there is enough interest.

For information, call 418-368-0288.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dougtown Café closed for January will reopen 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, 8 p.m. \$5.

Please take note of the following advance notice of events happening in 2020.

February 7: Bingo

February 15: Pot luck supper.

February 16: Breakfast.

February 22: Military Whist.

March 9: Bingo.

March 14: St Patrick's Day supper.

March 22: Breakfast

March 28: Military Whist.

April 4: Spaghetti Supper.

April 19: Breakfast.

April 25: Military Whist.

May 2: 500 Card game.

May 10: Breakfast.

May 23: Spring tea.

May 30: Military Whist.

June 6: 500 Card game.

June 20: Father's Day BBQ.

June 27: Military Whist.

July 1: Canada Day (hotdogs and ice cream).

July 10: Gift Bingo.

July 17: BBQ.

July 25: Military Whist.

August 1: 500 Card party.

August 2: Pancake supper.

August 8: BBQ.

August 22: Military Whist.

September 4: Bingo.

September 5: Rock-a-thon.

September 19: Pot luck supper.

September 26: Military Whist.

October 3: 500 Card game.

October 18: Breakfast.

October 24: Military Whist.

November 6: Bingo.

November 14: Christmas tea.

November 21: Pot luck supper.

November 28: Military Whist.

December 5: Members Christmas Party.

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

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

Fifty Plus

Every Tuesday: Grocery Bingo at 7 p.m.

Every Thursday: Dame de Piques will resume in March.

GESGAPEGIAG:

Important Meeting

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

GESGAPEGIAG:

N.A. Meetings

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

UNITED CHURCH

Sunday, January 12
10:30 a.m. Hope Town

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

Sunday, January 12

New Carlisle

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Hope Town

10 a.m. Morning Prayer

Port Daniel

11 a.m. Holy Eucharist

PARISH OF GASPÉ

Sunday, January 12

St. Paul's - Gaspé

10 a.m. Holy Eucharist

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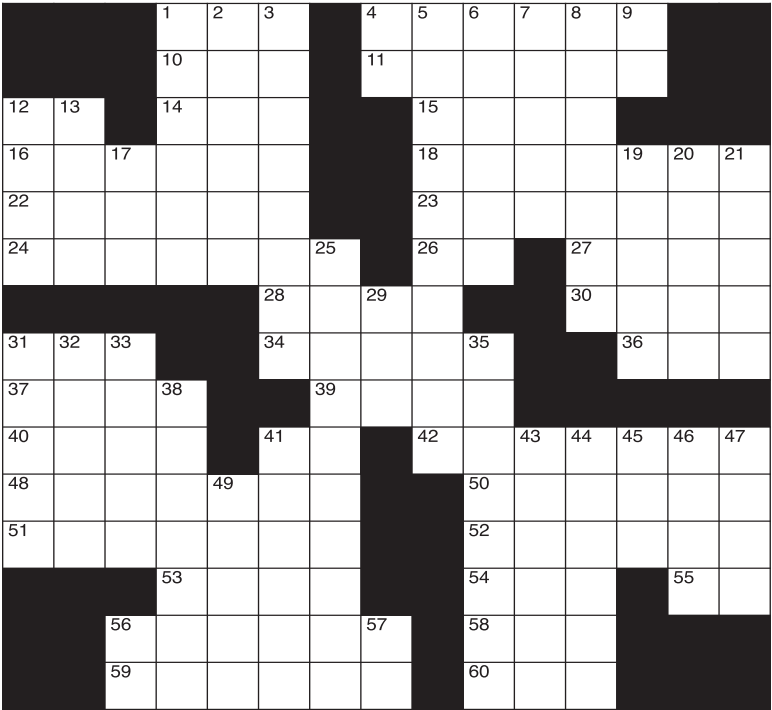
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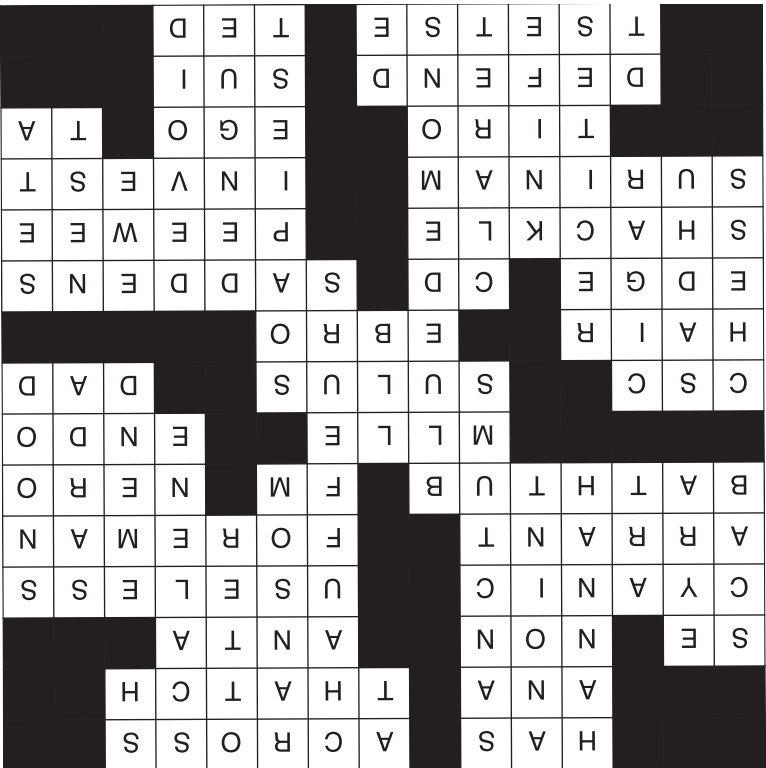


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Maintains possession of
- 4. Other side
- 10. Comedienne Gasteyer
- 11. Lawn buildup
- 12. Southeast
- 14. Negative
- 15. Greek temple pillar
- 16. Blue
- 18. Pointless
- 22. Complete
- 23. Supervisor
- 24. Where kids bathe
- 26. Radio frequency
- 27. Cruel Roman emperor
- 28. Young woman (French)
- 30. Within
- 31. Civil Service Commission
- 34. Sarongs
- 36. Father
- 37. It grows on heads
- 39. A Spanish river
- 40. Boundary
- 41. Contains music
- 42. Causes to feel sorrow
- 48. Used to restrain
- 50. Fictional kids character
- 51. South American country
- 52. Devote resources to
- 53. Beginner
- 54. Everyone has one
- 55. University worker (abbr.)
- 56. Resist an attack
- 58. Unifying Chinese dynasty
- 59. Blood-sucking African fly
- 60. CNN's founder

CLUES DOWN

- 1. __ and her sisters
- 2. Smear or rub with oil
- 3. Holy places
- 4. Indicates position
- 5. Drives around
- 6. Price
- 7. Semiaquatic mammal
- 8. With three uneven sides
- 9. Sacrifice hit
- 12. Covers a wound
- 13. Jaguarundi
- 17. Works produced by skill and imagination
- 19. A way to improve
- 20. River along India and Nepal border
- 21. Hairnet
- 25. DePaul University athletes
- 29. Bachelor of Laws
- 31. Game of skill
- 32. Holy man
- 33. Cylinder of tobacco
- 35. Most ingratiating
- 38. Repeats aloud
- 41. Red wine
- 43. Debilitating tropical disease
- 44. Entirely lacking
- 45. Female sheep
- 46. Where a bird lives
- 47. Stalk that supports the capsule
- 49. Cutlery
- 56. Symptom of withdrawal (abbr.)
- 57. Delaware



Why do we say...

By Gary Briand

"Ho Ho Ho"

In malls and stores we see and hear, "Ho, ho ho" frequently at Christmas time. Only normal then for a friend to ask me to trace its origin.

The image of Santa Claus was painted almost exclusively by Clement Moore in his 1822 poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas." In the course of the immediate following years, folklore made considerable additions to the myth of Mr. Claus. He was moved from Turkey where he originated to the isolated North Pole. But along with Santa Claus changing his address, the author Frank Baum, who also wrote The Wizard of Oz, made his own alteration, now inseparable from North American Christmas. In his 1902 children's book The Life and Adventures of Santa Claus, Mr. Brown had him living in summer-time in the Valley of Hohoho where he constantly sang:

"With a ho ho ho, and a ha ha ha,
And a ho ho ho, ha ha ha,
Now away we go o'er the frozen snow
As merry as we can be. "

And ever since 1902 the North American Santa's catch word has been "Ho ho ho."

What is old becomes new again!

Don't throw out your old furniture,
change it up and make something new...



ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, you have met some people who may have greatly influenced your attitude and partnerships. Even if people are pushing you one way, you have free will to go another.
TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, if you want to modify something in your life, now is your chance to do it. This is the week to make some concrete changes that will benefit you.
GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21
You have several weeks to understand how recent changes will affect you, Gemini. You may need to get a few new friends in your circle of supporters.
CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22
Cancer, do not expect any enormous revelations this week, as things will work a lot more slowly. But keep an eye on the sidelines for the little changes that may occur.
LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23
The week ahead should be fairly positive, Leo. As a new phase in your life progresses, you will have the opportunity to express yourself more and more.



VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22
Expect some major movement in your career and love life, Virgo. The two may even be intertwined in some way. You may be floating on air in all this good news.
LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23
Although no major events will come to fruition, this is an excellent week for you to simply sit back and breathe a little. Things will get busy in the weeks to come, however.
SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, look at events from a different perspective to fully take them all in. Over the next several days, you'll be on a mission to correct something in your past.
SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21
A feeling of newness and openness are driving your decisions, Sagittarius. Attend all of the events presented to you; you never know where opportunity lies.
CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20
A new person may come into your

life this week, and this can potentially change things forever, Capricorn. Exercise caution but do not be opposed to trying something new.
AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18
A voyage to faraway lands might be on the table, Aquarius. A trip may be just what you need to find that extra energy as you look to shake things up.
PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
Pisces, if your romantic relationship lacks spark, you may have to speak up and express your hopes and desires. Embrace all ideas.

- FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS
- JANUARY 5
Deadmau5, DJ (39)
 - JANUARY 6
Rowan Atkinson, Actor (65)
 - JANUARY 7
Eden Hazard, Athlete (29)
 - JANUARY 8
Carolina Herrera, Designer (81)
 - JANUARY 9
Nina Dobrev, Actress (31)
 - JANUARY 10
Abbey Clancy, Model (34)
 - JANUARY 11
Kyle Richards, Reality Star (51)

The year that was: 2019 in The Gaspé Spec

The year 2020 signals the beginning of a new year, and a new decade. Readers of The Gaspé Spec have enjoyed articles during 2019 about local events, government, social programs, elections, the economy, Police Reports, cultural happenings, births, deaths and commentaries. There is no other way that local Gaspesian news can be accessed in English and to this extent. The Gaspé Spec keeps you informed and at times entertained. How many of these articles can you recall? Those who say that there is “nothing in the paper” ought to read the paper weekly. These are just a few of the many articles and features that we brought you during the past year. Looking back at the year that was 2019.

- Diane Skinner

January

- Modest increase in New Richmond taxes as presented by Mayor Éric Dubé.
- Town of Gaspé raises taxes by about \$65 per household.
- McInnis Cement employees sign first collective agreement.
- Rail GD receives \$2.5 million loan from Investissement Québec.
- \$16.6 million in investments for three Gaspesian airports.
- Gaspé hit by record snowfall.
- Gaspésie Railway Society registers fourth straight traffic record.
- Avalanche causes injuries to six skiers from the Maritimes.
- 16.7% fewer deer harvested, mainly due to tough 2017-2018 winter.
- Gaspesian, Claudine Roy, receives the Order of Canada

February

- Extreme downhill skating event in Percé.
- Quebec government announces modifications to the gun registry.
- Modernization plan at Saint-Elzéar sawmill progressing well.
- More snow in Gaspé than anywhere else in Quebec.
- Temrex invests \$8M in Nouvelle sawmill.
- Festi-Neige: winter is busy in Percé.
- Heart Attack: Warning Signs.
- 50 Plus Games to be held in the Matapedia and Plateaux area.
- Quentin Condo nominated for Indigenous Music Awards.
- Twelve teams to participate in the Gesgapegiag First Nations Hockey Tournament.

March

- New Richmond's Legionnaires are having a fantastic hockey season.
- GALT: No fracturing according to Cuda.
- Town of New Richmond: Public consultation about the arena's future.
- CASA opens an office in Pointe-à-la-Garde.
- Musée de la Gaspésie presents Normand Desjardins' exhibition Ma Gaspésie.
- Federal government funding supports seven Bay of Chaleur organizations and businesses.
- MAPAQ wants to leave the Rivière-au-Renard Industrial Park.
- Navigue.com invests \$1.2M to install fibre optics network.
- Musée de la Gaspésie unionizes.
- Unipêche MDM closes Grand River plant.

April

- High school students tackle stigma surrounding mental illness.
- Influenza hits the Gaspé hard.
- Jérémie-Viktor Lagacé pleads guilty of non-premeditated murder.
- RéGÎM: VIA Rail shuttle service.
- Family Ties celebrates Collective Cooking.

- New service for men diagnosed with prostate cancer.
- Snow crab quota increases by 32.9%
- Jérémie Viktor Lagacé not admissible for parole before 2030.
- Sunny Bank: Class action suit goes to court.
- Hovercraft assigned to de-ice Restigouche River before flooding.

May

- Matapedia flood could have been avoided.
- Controversy re: job advertisement: Method considered discriminatory against women.
- Seven years to complete the refurbishment of the Matapedia-Gaspé line according to Premier Legault.
- 30 Gaspesians have asked for medical assistance with dying.
- Escalade Gaspésie slowed down by right whales.
- Too many moose at Forillon Park.
- Arianna's Story: An Allergy Journey.
- Avignon MRC prepares by-law to protect parts of territory against mining.
- Obstetrics shifts at Maria hospital left uncovered due to staff shortage.
- Bay of Chaleur area businesses receive federal funding for expansion.

June

- Former Gascons general store under renovation.
- Pieridae abandons Gaspésie project.
- Quebec-based company is lowest bidder for construction.
- Last Call: Bar Don-Lynn is closing.
- Relay for Life raises over \$315,000.
- Sandy Beach Wharf: Gaspé has ambitious plans.
- Gaspésie Railway Society to weigh options regarding the Amiral train.
- Necropsy carried out on right whale first located 50 miles off the coast of Percé.
- Bones found in Forillon Park identified: Carricks shipwreck hypothesis confirmed.

July

- Port of Chandler has real potential.
- Hong Kong Association presents plaques to Legions.
- Lobster catches to hit a record this year, with steady price.
- Glory of Gardening David Duthie: Rows and rows of raspberries.
- Necropsy on 6th dead right whale reveals clues about possible collision with ship.
- 21 Carricks shipwreck victims get proper burial.
- Lebouthillier, a victim of Desjardins fraud.
- McInnis Cement refinances debt and invests to expand and build storage facilities.
- Bertha Hayes: A Shining Example.

August

- Annual Powwow attracts large crowds.
- Teenager had to wait almost 46 hours before undergoing surgery for broken femur and wrist.
- \$26 million to protect Highway 132 from storms.
- Groups organize rally in Gaspé asking for train return before 2026.

September

- Chef Norma Condo opens Montreal's first Indigenous restaurant.
- Slight enrolment increase at Gaspé Cégep.
- Highway 132 work progresses in Newport-Pabos Mills area.
- Tie-changing crew now working in Caplan.
- Marjorie LeGrand Doherty: Inspiring and helping others.
- Raid international Gaspésie: - Youth event is a smashing success.
- Diane Lebouthillier wants Ottawa to keep the Cap-des-Rosiers lighthouse.
- Chef catches giant tuna off the coast of Grand River.

October


- Close to 2,000 people participate in global climate change walk.
- Kidney Walk in Gaspé raises \$35,500.
- Gaspé Peninsula anglophone groups meet with Parliamentary Assistant.
- Major support for women entrepreneurs in Quebec YES launches women entrepreneurship program.
- White shark in Bay of Chaleur.
- Cascapédia-St-Jules holds 19th annual fall festival.
- Richmond Manor: Labour Administrative Tribunal to decide legality of review request concerning racism and sexism.

November

- E. Gagnon et Fils and Conception navale FMP win regional awards on job creation.
- 16 cruise ship stopovers cancelled in 2019.
- Eastern Shores School Board announces a new Director General.
- Progression of the Spruce Budworm.
- Glencore carries out drillings in Murdochville.
- Remembrance Day: Standing room only in Cascapédia-St-Jules.
- Gesgapegiag honours the contribution of Native soldiers in both World Wars.
- Four municipalities unite to develop approach against coastal erosion.

December

- Celebrating 180 Years: St. Andrew's United Church, New Richmond.
- Diane Lebouthillier remains minister in Trudeau's cabinet.
- Tourism: Gaspé Peninsula has excellent performance in 2019.
- System to determine level of services available in English.
- Fallout from CN strike could last several weeks.
- New gym for SPDS is a source of pride.



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ASSOCIATES

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

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



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