

Ferme Natibo stops production of cheese Farm to keep raising Highland Cattle

Gilles Gagné

CAPLAN: – The owners of Ferme Natibo, in Caplan, are stopping the farm's production of goat cheese, after seven years of hard work that has left the owners exhausted and needing to rebuild their health.

Natalie Saint-Onge and Simon Thibodeau say they've tried as hard as possible to make a living out of cheese production, however, the loss of their cheese maker a few weeks ago greatly eroded their resistance.

"The problem is that our production cost was too high for the revenues we were getting. We would have had to expand. I can't. I was already spending too much time by myself, working between 80 and 100 hours a week, without a salary. What happened to the Ruban bleu (another cheese factory, located in Mercier near Montreal), where Caroline Tardif saw her husband commit suicide, made me reflect," explains Natalie Saint-



Happier days in February 2013; Natalie Saint-Onge and Simon Thibodeau were increasing their goat herd to be ready to produce cheese, which they started a year later.

Photo: G. Gagné

Onge.

She doesn't want people to keep in mind a predominantly negative impression of the Natibo farm cheese production halt.

"We are not going bank-

rupt. We will keep raising Highland cattle and we will still sell hay. We will still have cheese for sale for several months. A month ago, despite the loss of our cheese maker, I was telling myself that we

were going to keep producing, that I was able to produce the cheese just like I did at the beginning of the operation but we must take care of us, of our relationship, and our family. Simon had to take an outside

job to keep the farm afloat. I've suffered from a muscle torn in my shoulder since 2018 and I have not had the time to nurse it, to go to physiotherapy, despite feeling pain 24 hours a day. My mother was hospitalized recently and I want to spend some time with her," adds Ms. Saint-Onge.

The couple invested at least \$1.5 million in the production of cheese since purchasing the farm in 2011. In 2018, Ferme Natibo processed 25,000 litres of goat milk and 5,000 litres of cow's milk, as cow cheese was added to the variety of products in the later years. Ms. Saint-Onge has not calculated the 2019 numbers but they were higher.

"The problem was not that we couldn't sell. On the contrary, the grocery stores, the restaurants and the tourists were buying our cheese as we were producing it but we would have had to expand. I was not ready for

Cont'd on page 8

Gesgapegiag artist Heather Condo attends documentary film training in Winnipeg

Gilles Gagné

GESGAPEGIAG: - Heather Condo is a member of the Gesgapegiag community. Though born in Quebec, she grew up in Massachusetts. About 15 years ago she returned to live in Gesgapegiag. When she is not learning and practicing her passion for documentary filmmaking with an indigenous focus, she works at the Gesgapegiag Health Centre.

Her first documentary was entitled *My Father's Tools*, and featured her partner Stephen Jerome and his art of basket making in the traditional method of his ancestors and, in particularly, his own father. This lusciously beautiful film received a great deal of attention and was highlighted at the Sundance Film Festival in 2017. Since that premiere, the



Heather Condo

film has been shown at many festivals.

In 2018 she was chosen to work on another documentary

project in Listuguj. This is a 13-episode series in post-production and will be shown on APTN (Aboriginal Peoples

Television Network) in 2020.

Currently she is in Winnipeg having been chosen as one of eight indigenous filmmakers from across Canada. Heather will be returning home on February 15. She is the only participant from Quebec and in fact all of Eastern Canada. This program is offered by the National Screen Institute - Canada and is being taught by highly esteemed filmmakers. Heather is excited to have been chosen to participate in NSI IndigiDocs. She says that it is "an incredible opportunity."

Heather applied for a spot in this course and found out in December, 2019, that she had been chosen for the program.

Heather's project title is *The Mi'gmaq Fighter* and she is devoting her time in Winnipeg to writing her script and

learning more about producing and directing. This is phase 1 of the program. At the end of it, the expectation is that students will have a polished film proposal.

The next step is that a jury will choose four of the eight completed scripts and those filmmakers will receive cash and in-kind services to help them complete their film. If Heather is successful in being one of the four students chosen, she will complete the majority of her film in her own community. There are other perks of being one of the four students chosen. They will attend the Hot Docs Documentary Film Festival in Toronto. Completed films will be shown on APTN and on the Documentary Channel.

Cont'd on page 8

News briefs



Fred gives his 11th prediction to event president, Roberto Blondin.

Spring will be early, says Fred, the Gaspé groundhog

Nelson Sergerie

PERCÉ: – Fred, the Gaspé groundhog, did not see his shadow on February 2. This means that spring will be early.

"After a deliberation from the caucus, Fred tells us that spring will be early," stated Town of Percé general manager, Jean-François Kacou. The famous groundhog made his prediction before approximately 300 people gathered at daybreak at the Val-d'Espoir church entrance.

As is customary, by not seeing its shadow, winter "should end" in six weeks.

According to Meteomedia, Fred's success rate is 67%. "It's very good. I think we are the best in Canada. We will not beat Phil in the United States. That's normal because he has been there since 1886, but in Canada, Fred from Quebec is the best," says event president Roberto Blondin.

According to him, Fred's prediction, "is like Val-d'Espoir's Super Bowl. Everyone (in Quebec) hears about Val-d'Espoir," adds Mr. Blondin.

After 10 predictions, Fred Sr. retired last year and was succeeded by his descendant, Fred Jr. According to the organizers, to keep in shape the famous groundhog eats mainly lettuce and carrots.

Groundhogs don't always agree with each other. Shubenacadie Sam saw its shadow in Nova Scotia, which means a late spring. On the other hand Punxsutawney Phil, in Pennsylvania, agrees with Fred who also predicts an early spring.

Preparations underway for the 18th TDLG

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - The 18th edition of the Traversée de la Gaspésie (TDLG) on skis and snowshoes will begin on February 22 and be a bit different this year.

In the past, the event commenced in the west and participants headed east, finishing their adventure at the Birthplace of Canada site in downtown Gaspé.

Organizers are showing some originality with this year's edition. Participants will travel east to west starting in Gaspé with stops in Percé and Murdochville taking the road to the Parc de la Gaspésie where the event will end on February 29.

Approximately 250 participants and volunteers will be participating, including journalists from the United Kingdom and France. The theme for the 18th edition is "light."

"This fall a book will be published with the writers who came to experience the Gaspé Peninsula during the winter. There will be a photo exhibition that could travel across Quebec and we hope elsewhere," said TDLG president Claudine Roy.

It should be said that at each edition, photographers and videographers capture images of the adventure, which are then displayed on the TDLG website and on social media.

The regional minister, Marie-Eve Proulx, will take up the challenge launched by Ms. Roy. "It really stimulates me. I have been practicing cross-country skiing for years. I have known of this challenge for a long time and I have always wanted to give it a try. This is a great opportunity," said the minister.



Members of the endowment fund committee, Alexandre Gallant, Dan Gleton, Joannie Maltais, Claude Blais, Liette Babin (president of Service Secours Baie-des-Chaleurs), Gaétan Lelièvre and Bernard Babin were present for the \$100,000 donation.

Photo: Alzheimer's Society of the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands

Alzheimer's Society receives \$100,000

Gilles Gagné

BONAVENTURE – Services Secours Baie-des-Chaleurs will contribute \$100,000 to the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands Alzheimer's Society's endowment fund. The announcement was made on January 30 at the Alzheimer's Society head office in Bonaventure. So far, it is the third significant sum of money deposited in the endowment fund which was created just a few months ago. On October 5, a fundraising supper held at Pin rouge raised \$23,000 and a second funding drive raised \$9,000, mainly from municipal and government employees. The endowment fund accumulates donations and the money is placed in a foundation that will generate interest money. The Alzheimer's Society will benefit from a steady flow of that interest money over the long term. Services Secours offers paramedic services in the Maria to Escuminac territory. "This exceptional financial contribution gives us the energy to maintain the efforts destined to increase the money invested in the dotation fund," states Bernard Babin, director general of the region's Alzheimer's Society. The next major funding event for the organization will take place on June 13 in Grand River. It is called the Mayor's Banquet. Mayor Gino Cyr is a major collaborator for that event, which will be held under the honorary presidency of businesswoman Mona Cahill.



The participants created beautiful artwork.

Photo: Nelson Sergerie

Countering mental illness with photography

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - Six people who accessed mental health services in the Côte-de-Gaspé were able to achieve self-improvement through photography.

Their photography exhibition was presented on the evening of January 29 as part of Bell Let's Talk Day. The aim is to combat prejudice against mental illness.

For Sébastien Dumas, who finds social outings difficult, the activity has had positive effects. "It is to try new things. I have an illness that prevents me from going out in front of people. It allowed me to know a new world. I like that," he says, adding that this activity has done him a lot of good.

"We want to promote good mental health. We favour a positive approach and we really want to fight prejudice and stigma in the community," says Marie-Claude Allain, a special educator with the Gaspé CISSS (Integrated Health and Social Services Centre).

Bell contributed \$9,000 and other local partners are also contributing to this initiative on the Côte-de-Gaspé.

The two organizers hope that the project will develop in other local health networks in the Gaspé.



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Police report

The body of Maxime Dugas-Lepage, 27, from Sainte-Anne-des-Monts who has been missing since January 22, still has not been found. The Sûreté du Québec investigators working on that case know that he has been killed, based on clues that were likely found in a Sainte-Anne-des-Monts house.

“The investigators will probably not release information about the possible location of the body until it is found, so to avoid affecting the investigation. They know that it is an urgent file,” says Sgt. Claude Doiron, spokesperson for the Sûreté du Québec.

Despite the absence of a body, a 46-year-old man from Montreal, Steven Lévesque, was charged on January 27 with the non-premeditated murder of Maxime Dugas-Lepage. A second man, Maxime Labrie, 29, also from Rimouski, is charged with complicity after the murder. He also appeared at the Sainte-Anne-des-Monts courthouse on January 27. The two men are originally from Sainte-Anne-des-Monts and were arrested in Rimouski on the evening of January 25 by the Sûreté du Québec.

The victim, who was shot, was the son of Martin Lepage, a Sainte-Anne-des-Monts man arrested in July 2018 with Rimouski resident, Langis Bélanger, in the Caribbean Sea. Their sailboat was loaded with 53 packs of cocaine weighing 1.5 tonne, valued at approximately \$100 million. The two men are still waiting in a Martinique prison for their trial.

A 55-year-old man living on Legros Street in Gaspé was arrested on January 30. He was the fourth person in nine days arrested for drug possession and alleged drug trafficking. The accused was questioned and released. He will be summoned to appear in court later.

5,000 methamphetamine pills, three cases of contraband cigarettes, \$4,000 in Canadian currency and a Chevrolet Silverado 2020 truck were seized during the operation.

In addition to the drug-related charges, the accused will face potential charges related to the income tax law, which applies to contraband tobacco and cigarettes.

That operation followed two other drug busts that were carried out on Legros Street on January 22. A couple was arrested of suspected drug trafficking and another man was also arrested in a second operation that same day. Cannabis, cocaine and methamphetamine, drug related paraphenalia and money were seized in the two apartments. The three people will also be summoned to appear in court.

Two drivers were stopped by Sûreté du Québec police officers in the Carleton area on February 4 for using their cellphones while driving. Four additional drivers were stopped for speeding during a police intervention that lasted only two hours and was part of the *M’as-tu vu* (Did you see me) operation, a campaign conducted as part of the 32nd National Week of School Bus Safety, held until February 8 across Quebec.

“It is a yearly operation involving school bus owners and sensitizing people of the necessity to pay attention to school buses. We try to check if people respect the flashing lights of school buses when they are stopped. In the case of the Carleton operation, we were informed by school bus drivers that they were seeing people every day using their cellular phone while driving. Bus drivers are well placed to see that. They are higher than cars and can see what is going on inside. We decided to carry out an operation while some of our officers watched the situation from a bus parked near the church, along Highway 132. That is how we stopped two people using their phones at the wheel and four others that were speeding,” explains Sgt. Claude Doiron, spokesperson for the Sûreté du Québec.

Sûreté du Québec investigators are searching for suspects following an emergency call the police received around 7 p.m. on February 6 at the Laurentian Bank branch in Paspébiac. According to Ann Mathieu, of the Sûreté du Québec, there might have been an attempted robbery but it was not successful, given the details she had on hand the following morning. She did not specify how many people were suspected of having taken part in the attempted robbery, or if cameras took images of those suspects.



Approximately 120 people participated in the consultation.

Photo: N. Sergerie

Gaspé Multifunctional complex: The council will have to decide

● Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - Opinions remain divided on the ice format of the new arena in Gaspé.

Supporters of an Olympic-size ice and a North American-size ice put forth their arguments on January 27 during a consultation regarding the new multifunctional complex.

It was practically unanimous on the chosen site, which is behind the Polyvalente C. -E. Pouliot, near the centre of town.

Size of rink

Several ice-related sporting organizations, including hockey players and speed skaters, spoke during the consultation.

According to Simon Germain, who works with hockey players and is a former player for the Rimouski Océanic of the Quebec Major Junior League, a North American surface is perfect.

"From the Atom level, if we open this big Olympic ice, we have just lost our engagement objective. We find ourselves with too large an ice surface. Imagine our Atoms playing on ice larger than that of the Montreal Canadiens! To me, it doesn't make sense in terms of development for young people," argues Mr. Germain.

There is already Olympic-size ice in Matane, Rimouski and soon Rivière-du-Loup.

The coach of the speed skating club in Gaspé sees

this as a safety issue.

"When we talk about four more metres - two metres on each side - this is major. Two metres is a fraction of a second that can make the difference between a major concussion, cuts and fractures. This is a safety issue," says Jean-François Monette.

The multifunctional surface proposed in the project is also attracting attention. It is clear from the consultations that the complex will have to be suitable for multiple uses in order to cater to various sports such as karate, volleyball, soccer, tennis and perhaps even lesser known sports like ultimate frisbee.

Participants also suggested having a multifunctional surface and not being limited to synthetic turf.

Town officials took note of all the proposals.

The costs

Olympic ice would cost \$2 million more on a project that is already valued at \$15 to

\$18 million. Shrink tape would add \$500,000 to the total.

Gaspé wants to file the project with Quebec. The deadline for the infrastructure project is February 21.

The financial package provides 66% aid from Quebec and Ottawa, 13% from private sponsorships including selling the name of the future complex to a company and 20% from the Town of Gaspé.

According to calculations by the municipal administration, the impact on the tax account of a building of \$18 million would be about \$25 per year over thirty years.

The operating costs of the complex are yet to be determined.

After hearing the results of an online and public consultation, the council will now have to make a decision.

"What I want as much as possible is not to interfere with the practice of any sport. I want people to be able to practice them safely," says Mayor Daniel Côté.





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Commentary

Gilles Gagné

Criticism comes easily for initiatives set up by Gaspesians

The Gaspé Peninsula is regularly a target when people from the city find something they don't understand about the region or regions in general. They heavily criticized the Gaspesia mill modernization project, and its ensuing cost overrun. There's often criticism of wind energy and Port Daniel's cement plant, just to name a few.

Sometimes, the criticism is somewhat justified but city people rarely use the subtlety required to make a decent attempt at understanding an issue. The Gaspesia mill modernization project made sense at the time but the project was neglected by the then new mill owner, Tembec.

The way wind energy was deployed could have been different in 2003-2004 and the cost per kilowatt could have been lower had a different approach been adopted, however, that imperfect deployment is nonetheless now showing the extent of that energy's great potential.

The latest Gaspesian file that received heavy criticism was unveiled on February 1 and 2 by L'Aut'journal, an alternative publication, and on February 4 by Le Devoir, one of Montreal's daily papers. The Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Is-

lands Cegep currently has approximately 2,000 foreign students at a Montreal campus called Matrix College. The project was initiated in 2015 with a few dozen students and the enrolment increased quickly.

The students come mainly from India and China to take an intensive training of one year. It is called a collegiate studies attestation. Training is offered in computer science, childhood education, transport logistics, project management, smart phone application development, management and so on.

Based on tuition of approximately \$14,000 per student yearly, the training brings in approximately \$28 million to the Gaspé Cegep and its partner, Matrix College. It is a lot of money, for sure, and the enrolment is larger than the school's four campuses in the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands.

People are criticizing the "business" side of the project: the fact that the recruitment has only been carried out in English so far, the short duration of the training and the background of the Matrix College owner, Naveen Kolan, who is currently sued for \$3.8 million by one of its subcontractors.

For a lot of people, one disturbing aspect of the whole issue is its business side. A Cegep based in the Gaspé Peninsula has found a way to finance some of its basic services through reaching a deal with a businessman and offering tailor-made intensive training sessions. The school nets between \$500,000 and \$1 million yearly from that venture, which is not publicly funded by Quebec's Department of Education.

While it is true that Cegeps shouldn't be driven by business opportunities as they are supposed to train people to become citizens, not only workers, their underfunding has forced them

to find profitable ventures. The Gaspé Cegep board found one that obviously filled a need for some foreign students.

Those students are generally not potential immigrants. They usually go back to India and China to work.

At the same time, the Gaspé Cegep and Matrix College are not competing with other Montreal Cegeps for foreign students because the training developed with Naveen Kolan does not reach their core clientele, however, a lot of Montrealers seem shocked that such a venture was developed by outsiders, some of them from the remote Gaspé Peninsula, as if people from the regions are not supposed to be innovative.

The language side certainly brought a lot of attention to the issue as well. As a preventative means and in order to respect the dispositions of Law 101, the Gaspé Cegep should have thought of translating all the documents and advertisements right from the start and offer courses in French. The management of the college had planned to do it later this year but the mistake was already made. By the way, a lot of Montrealers only learned over recent days that the Gaspé Cegep has always had a bilingual status.

Another characteristic of the Matrix College training programs that considerably bugs people is that it doesn't offer full-fledged two-year and three-year study options like a real Cegep. They are also disturbed by the fact that no thorough follow-up seems to be made regarding the number of foreign students who find a job when they return to their country. This is an odd solicitude, and it seems rooted in the need to criticize, no matter what.

Before ranting too much, people should wait until there is proof that the training is useful or not. Here lies more preventive homework for the Gaspé Cegep.

The critics act as if the students attending Matrix College will never and cannot go back to school later in their life. Again, those critics seem rooted in a will to blame a school located in the Gaspé Peninsula an easy target.

The Gaspé Cegep administration must straighten up some aspects of its partnership with Matrix College, even if it is for the record in some cases.

Before trying to give Gaspesians ethics lessons, a lot of city people should think about the millions of dollars spent annually by people from the coast in the Montreal, Quebec City and other Cegeps and universities to educate their children. Gaspesians are underserved in superior studies, and the main beneficiaries of that reality are Montrealers.



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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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CÉGEP DE LA GASPÉSIE ET DES ÎLES: Controversy over English courses in Montreal

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ: - The Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles intends to correct the controversy over programs given only in English. After suffering from the wrath of French language defenders and the Minister of Education, the cegep will also offer courses in French with Collège Matrix, its Montreal partner.

The controversy peaked during the weekend of February 1 and 2 with the publication of an article in an alternative newspaper L'Aut'journal, revealing that the courses offered by the Cégep de la Gaspésie et des

Îles at Collège Matrix were given only in English to some 2,000 students, mainly from India and China.

The story, which was picked up by provincial media and the Mouvement Québec français on February 4, unleashed a controversy in Quebec over the role of French in training.

The Minister of Education, Jean-François Roberge, criticized the situation that same morning at the National Assembly. Even if the Cegep has had bilingual status since its creation in 1969: "I have a problem with it exclusively in English. We are going to ask them to include at least French

lessons in each course."

The Minister also asked that the Collège Matrix website also be translated into French, which the Cegep plans to do.

At the same time, in response to the "crisis," Cegep management indicated that courses would be offered in French starting next fall.

"There is already a plan to offer training in French in Montreal, which will be added to the programs we offer in English," replies Montreal campus manager Sylvain Vachon.

The Cegep will target clients from French-speaking Africa, South America, and

also the Philippines.

Income reinvested in Gaspésie

The Cegep entered into a partnership with the Collège Matrix in 2015 in order to serve an international clientele. Each student pays approximately \$15,000 in tuition fees and the profits go to finance Cegep activities in the Gaspé. The Collège Matrix is responsible for recruiting students, student life, the premises and equipment. The Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles is responsible for admitting student applications, pedagogy, in addition to hiring and supervising teachers and administrative staff.

Vachon says the educational institution earns approximately \$500,000 in net revenue from its activities on the Montreal campus.

"We can think of acquiring new equipment, developing teachers, developing new study programs and improving our buildings and premises," says Mr. Vachon. The board administration will rule on the use depending of the amounts received.

However, the Member of the National Assembly for Bonaventure, Sylvain Roy, has doubts. "Does the income it generates really contribute to improving the situation in the Gaspé? It remains to be demonstrated."

Asked about the situation, the Minister responsible for the Gaspé says that it was a "unique situation."

At the outset, Marie-Eve Proulx points out that Quebec is not contributing any money to this initiative, which is part of a self-financing activity. This situation demonstrates the importance of better funding Cegeps in the regions.

"We reinvested an additional \$150 million over the past year because we saw that regional Cegeps were underfunded," says the minister.

Authorized in 2015 under the Liberals of Philippe Couillard, Marie-Eve Proulx puts the blame on the former government. "The former Liberal model prompted specific initiatives, hence the objective of new funding to preserve college education in the regions."

All opposition parties have backed Minister Jean-François Roberge in this matter.

Terry Shaw wins Gespeg election

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - Following the February 5 elections, the new Micmac Nation of Gespeg Chief Terry Shaw realizes that the members want change. Shaw was opposed by Mark Sinnett. As Spec was going to press, only the partial release of the results was available.

Mr. Shaw first wants to improve the image of the Nation following allegations about the electoral process. "We have small fires to put out, a structure to put in place, the Membership Code and all that. There is a lot of revision to do because it dates back. There's updating to do. We have to restore confidence to the members. That is the challenge."

The new chief wants better communications, to unite the community and tackle economic development with different partners. "I want to set up a beautiful structure and have a strategic plan with short and long-term visions in order to meet the needs. We have great opportunities to seize," says the new chief.

The director of forest resources will resign from his functions, a sensitive issue among the members. "With the new board, it would no longer exist. It's a sensitive issue. From the outside, you can see a perception that I understand, hence the importance of separating administration from politics. It is in the council's best interest to focus strictly on politics, but to make sure the administration is well structured," says the new chief, who believes he has a good team and will get good results for the community.

Band members have determined by consultation the number of councillors: eight will represent the Nation in Gaspé and one person in Montreal, rather than 15 under the previous Electoral Code. One of the articles of the Code provided for one councillor for 100 members, but was amended at a general assembly last December.

These elections were marked by allegations of manipulation of the electoral list when the former chief, Manon Jeannotte, filed a complaint with the Sûreté du Québec. The outgoing Band Council replied, indicating that it was acting in accordance with the rules in force. Members not on the list were at the heart of the debate.

Partial results

Chief position:

Terry Shaw - 279 votes

Montreal councillor:

Nadia Robertson - 321 votes

Gaspé councillors:

Danny Basque - 301 votes, Céline Cassivi - 272 votes, Emily Roberts - 269 votes, Patricia Dorion - 269 votes, Samuelle Boulet Ste-Croix - 267 votes, Diane Kelly - 262 votes, Yan Tapp - 259 votes, Francis Mainville - 242 votes

Source : Me Marie-Christine Côté, présidente d'élection.

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INSURANCE HIKES: Forestry truck drivers and farmers hit hard

About 50% of drivers ready to call it quits

Gilles Gagné

CARLETON: – Insurance premiums for forestry drivers and farmers have increased substantially, so much, that an informal survey conducted by Bonaventure riding Member of the National Assembly Sylvain Roy indicates that close to 50% of truckers hauling wood or wood by-products are thinking of abandoning their trade.

In some cases, premiums have doubled over the last three years. In addition, there are fewer insurance companies established on the Gaspé.

“We reached 100 truck drivers and 37 of them answered our questions. Out of those 37 people, half of them are thinking of abandoning that occupation, mainly because of the rising insurance fees. The cost has risen even for the drivers that have not had any accidents,” states Sylvain Roy, who is the Parti Québécois critic in agriculture and forestry.

“The situation is unbearable for many truck drivers. We are already experiencing a shortage of truck drivers. The situation could worsen,” he adds.

“The same phenomenon is hitting a lot of farmers. I think that the *Financière Agricole du Québec* could have a role to play in alleviating the burden of farmers, who are often also wood producers... The *Financière Agricole du Québec* has accumulated surpluses of over \$1 billion in the last ten years. A chunk of \$300 million was placed in the *Caisse de dépôt et de placement du Québec*. I don't think the *Financière agricole* should accumulate such surpluses on the back of farmers and wood producers,” states Sylvain Roy.

He wants the *Union des producteurs agricoles du Québec* (UPA) to think about creating an insurance branch to handle the current situation. “The UPA used to offer insurance services. It is something that should be considered again, given the current situation.”



Some trucking companies and independent truck drivers are dealing with premium hikes of close to 100% in three years.

Photo: G. Gagné

Sylvain Roy thinks that the Coalition avenir Québec government “should intervene and help the truckers in order to slow down those unjustified increases. In addition to worrying current truckers, those increases will discourage investments and prevent existing companies from growing as they go through a manpower shortage,” he insists.

Sébastien Bernard co-owns Transport Philippe Day in Nouvelle. The company employs 42 people, pays \$1.2 million in salaries annually and owns 70 trucks, trailers and units of heavy machinery.

“My insurance fees have gone up by \$150,000 in two-and-a-half years, from \$166,712 in 2016-2017 to \$316,626 in 2019-2020. This is a 90% increase. It will have to stabilize. We can't absorb increases of \$75,000 to \$100,000 yearly. We will have to transfer the cost increase to our customers,” says Mr. Bernard.

Of the ten companies willing to insure Transport Philippe Day five years ago, only two remained this year.

“They (insurance brokers) say that insurance companies have reached a point where they have to increase the fees. That is why some players are getting out of that business. The insurers don't talk a lot. There are only Northbridge Insurance and Intact in the market at the present time,” explains Sébastien Bernard.

The company's largest cus-

tomers is the Temrex Sawmill in Nouvelle. Transport Philippe Day hauls woodchips, sawdust, shavings and bark for the sawmill. A five-year contract links the two companies but the transporter now has competition from New Brunswick companies that were not very present in the territory a couple of years ago.

“Irving is more and more present in the area. Their subsidiary, Sunbury, comes to Temrex and hauls some by-products to New Brunswick. They have a huge fleet of trucks. They might pay 50 cents per litre for their fuel since they are linked to an oil company. They are so big that they insure themselves. I am gradually losing \$500,000 out of a \$5 million contract. I don't blame Temrex. Noël Godbout, of Saint-Quentin, is another company taking an increasingly larger importance in the area. Large New Brunswick companies have advantages that we don't have. Insurance fees are cheaper in New Brunswick,” explains Sébastien Bernard.

Guy Gallant, director general of UPA for the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands, has also noticed an increase in insurance fees for the farmers of the region.

“I have given a mandate to the UPA Federation in Longueuil to verify certain aspects of the problem. A lawyer from our group has carried out a survey and we realized that the problem is not only present

in our region. We see that some insurance companies give up, or they give up on certain clientele or concentrate on specific sectors of activities characterized by lower risk. In agriculture, we have seen a reduction of insurance companies from 10 to four or five. The case of Promutuel illustrates a part of the reality. They did not raise their premiums fast enough and they must now calculate their risk. So they give up on certain areas where they judge that

they can't make money,” explains Mr. Gallant.

“Some insurance companies will tell you that they cover your area. A farmer I know asked a company for a bid and the company official's answer said just about anything to avoid a deal. His house was too old, and the barns were too close to the house. Another farmer was answered that he could not get insured because his main revenues were not made in agriculture,” says Mr. Gallant.

“The UPA in Longueuil is studying the case. Founding a mutual insurance company in farming like it was done in the municipalities is not evident. It takes money and as we progress in the file, we see that there are insurance companies insuring other insurance companies. When an \$8 million farm burns to the ground, it takes a lot of farming premiums to pay for that. Before, farms were valued at \$250,000. We will study the case but it is not easy,” says Mr. Gallant.



Something we haven't seen much of so far this winter.

Photo: N. Sergerie

A normal winter!

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - The Gaspé is experiencing a slightly milder winter but precipitation is in the normal range.

In Environment Canada's January report, Gaspé experienced a month 1.5 degrees warmer than usual while 17 centimetres less snow was measured, however, for the first two months of winter, the data falls right on par.

“It has not been a very difficult winter so far temperature wise. Same thing for snow. It is actually 11 centimetres less than normal. Up to now, we should have received 195 centimetres. We received 184. That's not too bad,” says meteorologist Simon Legault. We would need to receive 188 centimetres by the end of the winter to reach the average of 372 centimetres in Gaspé. Usually 177 centimetres falls between February and May.

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Free and low cost Valentine Gifts

- Diane Skinner

Buying flowers, chocolates, a bottle of wine or even a lottery ticket will always be an appreciated gift for Valentine's, however, look around and get creative. You do not have to spend a lot of money to show someone that you care for them. In fact, an "out of the box" gift can be a memorable and appreciated one. If it is the thought that counts, these suggestions are full of thought and caring.

1. A card! You can buy a card at a drugstore or even a card store, however, Dollar Stores have huge selection of cute cards. Some are mushy love cards and some are humorous. Take a few minutes and choose just the right one that says what you feel.
2. Prepare and serve breakfast in bed.
3. Cuddle up on the couch with snacks and watch a favourite movie.
4. Go for a winter walk on the beach. When you get home, enjoy hot cocoa and cookies.
5. If you have been meaning to do a home repair that your partner has been reminding you to do, do it! Then point out that you did this out of a place of love and caring.
6. If you do not normally cook supper, this is the day or just prepare your partner's favourite meal! Plan the meal, prepare it, serve it and, most importantly, clean up afterwards. Nothing kills a loving moment like a burned hard to clean frying pan.
7. Make one of the easy to make Valentine treats found in this edition of Spec – Sweet Treats.
8. Read to each other. This can be from a novel, the Gaspé Spec, a magazine or even an old love letter or note that they sent you long ago. This can be surprisingly intimate. It might even be the beginning of a regular habit.
9. Go out for a coffee date. Focus on each other.
10. Go for a drive to a favourite place, perhaps where you went for your first date. Reminisce. Maybe even talk about feelings. This is not something we do every day, but is worth the effort.

Saying "I love you" can be done in countless ways. Taking the time to do something for your partner that they will remember is worth your effort. Flowers and chocolates are terrific, but going the extra mile will make a beautiful memory.

Match the Couples

- Diane Skinner

"The sun's gone dim.
The moon's turned black.
For I loved him.
He didn't love me back."

Love comes and, sadly, love goes. Have a look at the following two lists and try to match the famous couples. I have listed just one match for each person. Imagine how complicated it would be if you had to match all six wives of Henry VIII? You would need to include Catherine of Aragon, Anne Boleyn, Jane Seymour, Anne of Cleves, Catherine Howard and Catherine Parr. Similarly, pairing Elizabeth Taylor with her partners would be a challenge. If you identified them all, the list would be Conrad Hilton, Michael Wilding, Mike Todd, Eddie Fisher, Richard Burton, John Warner and Larry Fortensky. That's a lot of love! The following lists include royalty, fictional characters, entertainers, politicians and more.

Prince William
Blake Shelton
Celine Dion
John Lennon
Ozzy Osborne
Oprah
Mickey
Adam
Napoleon
Johnny Cash
Sonny
Romeo
Prince Charles
Goldie Hawn
Nicole Kidman
Will Smith
Tim McGraw
Brad Pitt
Barack Obama
Justin Trudeau
Lucille Ball
John F. Kennedy

Josephine
Minnie
Sharon Osborne
Gwen Stefani
Cher
Jackie Kennedy
Juliet
Jada Pinkett
Keith Urban
Faith Hill
Kurt Russell
Michelle Obama
Kate Middleton
Stedman Graham
June Carter
Eve
Yoko Ono
René Angélil
Angelina Jolie
Desi Arnaz
Sophie Grégoire
Camilla



*Answers in next week's paper.

Valentine's Day! Sweet Treats

- Diane Skinner

What is sweeter than love? Chocolate! Fudge! Cheese-cake! Making a sweet treat for Valentine's Day, or any other day, is always appreciated by any of the special somebodies in your life. Surprise your loved ones by trying out a new recipe. All of the recipes are easy to make, so your child can help or an older child can make these with supervision.

Chocolate Dipped Strawberries

This is a quick and easy and pairs nicely with a glass of white wine or a hot chocolate for those who can never get enough chocolate.

Ingredients:

- 15 strawberries, not overly ripe
- 1 cup of milk chocolate chips

Directions:

1. Wash the strawberries and pat dry in a tea towel. Do not cut off the leaves. They will be the handle.
2. Put chocolate chips in a glass bowl and microwave for about 30 seconds. Stir. If chips are not fully melted, repeat. When chocolate is smooth and shiny looking it is ready!
3. Dip the strawberry in the warm chocolate. Put on a cookie sheet with wax paper on it. Refrigerate until the chocolate sets.

Valentine Rice Krispie Treats

Ingredients:

- 10 cups of Rice Krispies
- 20 oz. marshmallows (check the bag, sizes vary)
- 6 tbsp. butter
- 2 tbsp. cherry or raspberry jello powder

Directions:

1. Melt the butter over low heat in a large pan. Add the marshmallows, 3 tbsp. jello powder, and stir using a spatula. When mixed well add the Rice Krispies one cup at a time. Work quickly so mixture does not start to set.
2. Remove the mixture onto parchment paper sprayed with Pam or other non-stick spray. Place a second piece of parchment paper on top and squeeze until the mixture is flattened. You can use a rolling pin and roll mixture until about 6 mm (1/4 in.) in thickness.
3. Cut krispie mixture with a heart-shaped cutter. Top with red and white sprinkles or red cinnamon hearts. Shape the leftover bits into small balls and roll in coloured sprinkles.

Chocolate-Covered Pretzels

Do you like chocolate? Do you like pretzels? This combination of sweet and salty is a great Valentine treat!

Ingredients:

- A bag of pretzels, the style that are folded and crossed over (Sometimes referred to as arms crossed pretzels)
- Milk chocolate chips, white chocolate chips

Directions:

1. Melt chocolate chips in the microwave in a glass bowl.
2. Dip pretzel into chocolate and place on waxed paper lined cookie sheet.
3. Allow to harden. Then drizzle melted white chocolate over each pretzel.

40 Million

Cards are purchased each year in Canada, making it the second-largest card-buying holiday after Christmas.

NATIBO:
▶ *Cont'd from cover*

that,” says Natalie Saint-Onge. The red tape that comes with farmwork represented a burden that marked Natalie Saint-Onge and Simon Thibodeau. “There is the production side, the birth of the kids (goats), answering the tourists at the kiosk. The only thing I could do without was the... paper work, the forms to fill out non-stop. The authorities, the Financière Agricole among others, were forcing us

to fill out those forms, written in a language that we don’t understand. I felt stupid despite the fact that I attended university,” she criticizes. Most of the farm’s 225 goats are up for sale. “We will keep a few for ourselves. Choices will be hard to make. I saw the birth of all of them except one. So I know all of them,” she says. Natalie Saint-Onge insists on the point that all their suppliers will be paid. She will soon have the time to do the things she told people to do for years.

“I have been telling people to eat local food and I was so rushed most of the time that I ended up eating junk food like defrosted pizza on the corner of the counter because I had no time to cook,” she concludes.

HEATHER CONDO:
▶ *Cont'd from cover*

Heather’s goal is to bring First Nation Mi’gmaq stories to light through film. She does not have an extensive background in film, but

has been encouraged to keep going. She feels that NSI has been very supportive and makes all participants feel comfortable and helps in any way it can. Heather mentions Lisa Roth who helped with the application and director Shane Belcourt who have been supportive. Heather is honoured to have been chosen for this opportunity and her hope is that her film will speak to all Indigenous people and non-Indigenous also. This medium will give her the chance to tell Indigenous

stories that might not have been heard before. Heather states, “As long as we keep telling our stories we have a chance to be seen in a different light.” Whether or not Heather is chosen for Phase 2 of the program, she has developed filmmaking skills that she will put to use in the future. Heather feels so fortunate for this opportunity and concludes, “I’ve always wanted to find my place and maybe I finally have. I want to make my family and my community proud.”

Engagement & Wedding Announcements

Announce your Engagement or Wedding in The Gaspé Spec

Engagement Announcement:
\$30 (\$35 with picture) up to 20 lines

Wedding Announcement:
\$40 (\$45 with picture)
max. of 300 words

PUBLIC NOTICE

URBANISM

Minor exemption

516, boulevard de Forillon: allow the subdivision of the lot 3 618 836, cadastre du Québec, to create 2 building lots with a width of 31,5 m for the lot with the building on (516, boulevard de Forillon) and of 31,58 m for the vacant lot.

880, boulevard du Griffon: allow the construction of a greenhouse with an area of 123 m².

740, boulevard de Saint-Majorique: allow the construction of a farm building with an area of 134 m² and a height of 7.8 m.

LEGAL SERVICES AND CITY CLERK’S OFFICE

Enactment of By-law

By-Law 1413-20 « décrétant l’adoption d’un programme d’aide sous forme de crédit de taxes pour promouvoir la construction de logements locatifs sur le territoire de la ville de Gaspé. »

By-Law 1414-20 « remplaçant le règlement 1385-19 et créant un nouveau règlement pour imposer de nouveaux tarifs pour la collecte des déchets, l’entretien du lieu d’enfouissement technique, la gestion intégrée des déchets, la collecte des matières recyclables, le transport de ces matières et leur traitement au centre de tri de Grande-Rivière, la collecte des matières organiques, le transport de ces matières et leur traitement au site de compostage de Chandler. »

GIVEN at Gaspé, February 12, 2020.

Isabelle Vézina,
Director of Legal Services and town clerk

In accordance with the by-law concerning the publication of public notices, the city of Gaspé informs you that you will find all of these notices on the website of the city of Gaspé at the following address: ville.gaspe.qc.ca in the section of public notices.

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Announcements...



Obituary



BUDD: Constance Winnifred

Connie Budd, aged 98, passed away surrounded by family on February 3, two months minus a day short of her 99th birthday. Born April 2, 1921, in Campbellton, New Brunswick, she was the daughter of the late John and Alice (Montgomery) Anningson. She was predeceased by her husband Powies of over 50 years and infant daughter Catherine Linda. They made their home in New Richmond for many years until moving to Ontario. Connie was the last surviving member of her family of 13 brothers and sisters. She is survived by her sons Curtis (Brenda) of Nova Scotia; Grant (Jacquie) of Seeleys Bay; and Blake (Sylvia) of Manitoba; her grandchildren Gary and Melanie both of Ottawa; great-grandson Alexander of Nova Scotia; and special granddaughters Charu and Neety; along with valued nieces and nephews.

Connie was an air woman who served during the Second World War in the Royal Canadian Airforce, Women's Division in Europe as a rigger packing parachutes. Connie was very proud of her military career, an avid traveller, known to go on road trips with her niece Brenda, and a dedicated wife, grandmother, sister, aunt, and friend. Connie was a woman well loved who led a life well lived. She will be greatly missed and fondly remembered by those she left behind.

A celebration of life will be held in May in New Richmond, Quebec. As expressions of sympathy memorial donations to Soldier On would be appreciated by the family (Soldieron.ca, 295 Coventry Rd., Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K2) For online condolences please go to www.tompkinsfuneralhome.ca



In Memory



BOURGAIZE: Betty (Morrison)

1938 – 2019

*We, your family miss you,
In the house where you used to be.
We wanted so much to keep you,
But God willed it not to be.
Now you are in God's keeping,
You suffer no more pain,
So dear God take care of her,
Until we meet again.*

Loving husband Weston, daughter Lori, grandson Shane and Ingrid.

SIMON-LANGLOIS: Vera

In loving memory of a dear mother, mother-in-law, grandmother and great-grandmother who passed away February 18, 2019.

The face we love is missing.

The voice we love is still.

*The hands that did so much for us
are resting - it is God's will.*

*But every day there is a sign
and we know that it is true*

*We have a guardian angel now
and we know that it is you.*

Always remembered and sadly missed by Dora (Ronnie), Sandra (Ivan), Duane (Hermeline), Laura (Real) and families.

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In Memoriam:
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\$40 - (\$45 with picture) for more than 20 lines

Obituary or Wedding:
\$40 - (\$45 with picture) Max. 300 words

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

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

YORK:
York River Seniors
February 16: In conjunction with the 50th Wakeham-York winter carnival the York River FADOQ Seniors Club will be holding a lumberjack supper at the York River Community Hall beginning at 5 p.m. No takeouts. \$12 for adults and \$6 for children 10 and under. Some of the items on the menu include corned beef hash, baked beans, shepherd's pie, sausages, baguettes, tea biscuits, jam, and cottage pudding. Bar service available.

YORK:
York Community Centre AGM
On February 2, the AGM for the York Community Centre was supposed to be held, however, no members from the public showed up. The meeting is rescheduled to **Monday, February 17** at 7 p.m. If we do not have sufficient attendance on the 17, we risk losing control of our community centre, because we will be unable to form a new committee. Please try to come out and support your hall.

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.

February 14: Painting workshop for two from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Create a painting with the help of painter Linda Drody. Bring a friend, family, spouse or special someone. Supplies and light meal provided. \$50 for two people.

February 16: Join us for a community breakfast from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Voluntary contribution: adults \$8, children 5 to 11 \$4.

February 18: Travel talk "Canada & USA's national parks" by Mathieu Côté and Marie-Claude Rancourt beginning at 7:30 p.m. Presentation in French. Voluntary contribution.

February 27: Zero waste workshop beginning at 6:30 p.m. Make your own eco-friendly sanitary napkin with Isabelle Martin. For information, call 418-368-0288. Registration required. \$5.

BARACHOIS:
Legion Branch 261
Every Monday: The Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 261, will be having a money bingo at 7 p.m. at the Legion. 18+ only.

Every Thursday: Cards and games from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Free. For more information, contact Lloyd Roussel at 418-645-3700 or 418-645-2786.

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 15: Potluck 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.

HOPE TOWN:
Community Centre
Every Thursday: Weekly crib tournament beginning at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Linda at 418-751-4398.

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 children's gift bingo. Both events begin at 1:30 p.m.

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

HOPE TOWN:
Hope Baptist Church
Hope Baptist Church welcomes you. Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 a.m. and Corporate Worship at 11 a.m. on Sundays. Prayer Meeting and Bible Study at 7 p.m. on Wednesdays. Young Peoples for grades 7-11 at 7 p.m. on Fridays. 305 Route 132 West, Hope Town, 418-752-5838.

NEW CARLISLE:
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:
LLB Curling Bonspiel
Anyone wishing to participate in the LLB Curling Bonspiel on March 13, 14 and 15, please

call Dave Douesnard to register your team at 418-752-6645.

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.

NEW CARLISLE:
Royal Canadian Legion
First Tuesday of every month: General Meeting at 7 p.m.

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.

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:
Fifty Plus
Every Tuesday: Grocery Bingo at 7 p.m.

Every Thursday: Dame de Piques will resume in March.

February 14: Jam session 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.

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.

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.

UNITED CHURCH
Sunday, February 16
2 p.m. Hope Town

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA
Sunday, February 16
New Carlisle
9 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Hope Town
10 a.m. Morning Prayer
Shigawake
11 a.m. Holy Eucharist

PARISH OF GASPÉ
Sunday, February 16
St. Andrew's - York
10 a.m. Holy Eucharist

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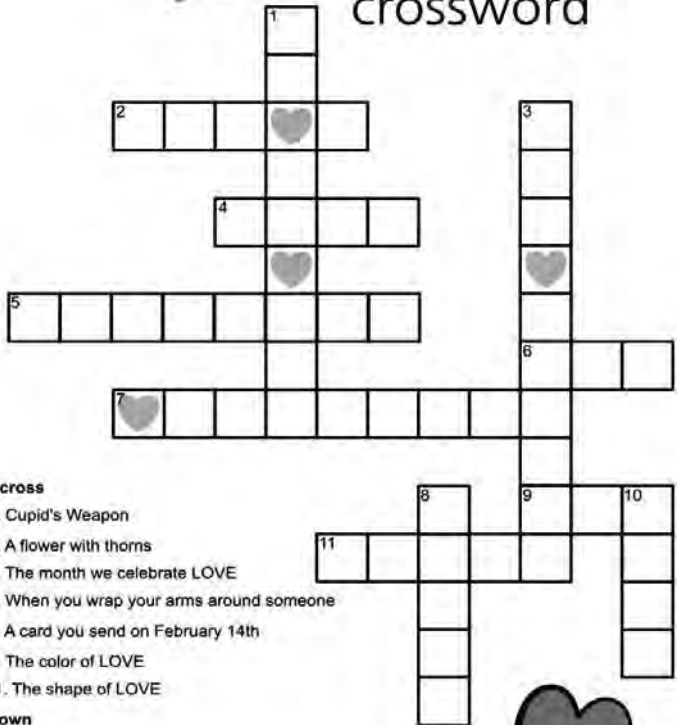
New Carlisle, Québec G0C 1Z0

418-752-5400

Page 10, February 12, 2020 - Spec



Valentine crossword



Across

- Cupid's Weapon
- A flower with thorns
- The month we celebrate LOVE
- When you wrap your arms around someone
- A card you send on February 14th
- The color of LOVE
- The shape of LOVE

Down

- A Sweet Treat
- His honey, baby, _____
- Full of Joy
- When two people go out

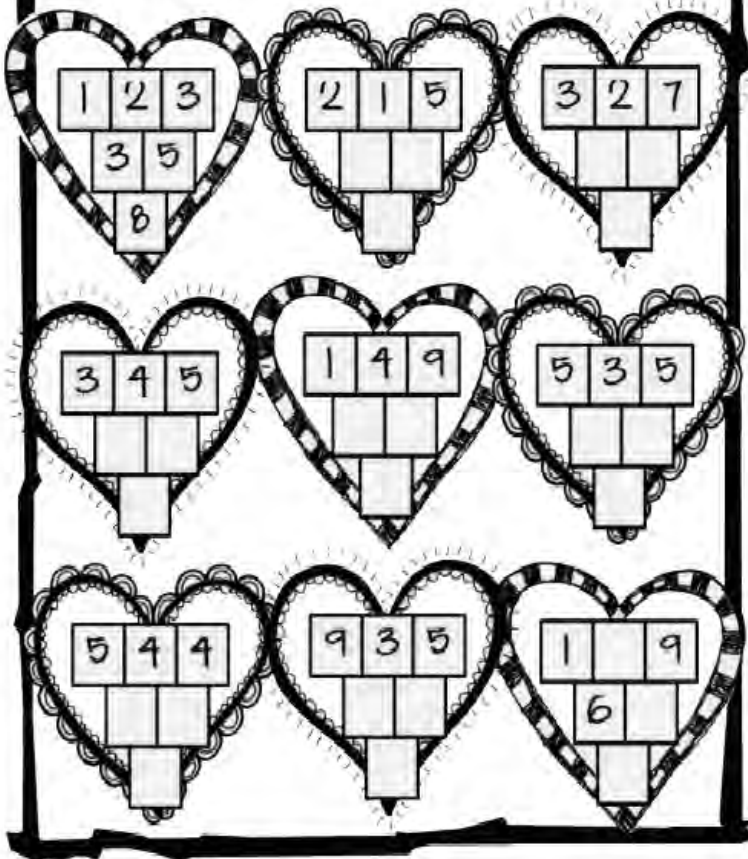


COLOUR ME BEAUTIFUL!



Addition Hearts Set A

Complete these addition hearts adding the 2 numbers beside each other and writing the total in the square below. The first one has been done to show you what to do. Work from the top to the bottom of each heart.



VALENTINE'S DAY WORD SEARCH

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

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

ANNIVERSARY
ARROW
BOUQUET
CANDY
CARDS
CELEBRATION
CHOCOLATE
CUPCAKE
CUPID
DESSERT
DOVES
EMBRACE
FEELINGS
FLIRT
FLOWERS
GIFTS
HEARTS
HOLIDAY
HUG
JEWELRY
KISS
LACE
LOVE
MARRIAGE
MEMORIES
MUSIC
POEM
RELATIONSHIP
ROMANCE
ROSES
SAINT
SERENADE
SWEET
TRADITION
VALENTINE
WOOL



FARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

Align yourself with the movers and shakers, Aries. Sometimes it's not what you know but who you know. Find a solid team and stick with them.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, if you're already running on fumes, it may not be possible for you to tackle any additional tasks this week. Make some hard cuts and you'll be better for it.

GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21

You have several weeks to under-

stand 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, don't be surprised when someone from your past approaches you for some advice. You may not have all the answers, but you can help guide this person in the right direction.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, some new information has put you in a better position to make an important decision. These details have come just in the nick of time.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, you may need to make some important decisions regarding your

finances in the days ahead. It's now or never to square away your short- and long-term budget.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

An important relationship is on the cusp of reaching a milestone, Libra. Enjoy this special time and make every effort to commemorate it in a unique way.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Find a way to cool your jets for the time being, Scorpio. Extra pressure may have you feeling the stress, and you may not be putting your best self forward.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, a passing comment rings true to you this week and commands your immediate attention. You do not

want to let any opportunities pass over the next few days.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Learn how to count the small blessings in your life, Capricorn. Doing so will help you overcome a challenging issue that may pop up shortly.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

You may need to look inward and make changes before you start suggesting others make their own modifications, Aquarius. Be honest in your personal assessment.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

There are a few things you are still trying to uncover about a new person in your life, Pisces. Keep digging because the reveal is worth it.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

FEBRUARY 9

Tom Hiddleston, Actor (39)

FEBRUARY 10

Elizabeth Banks, Actress (46)

FEBRUARY 11

Khalid, Singer (22)

FEBRUARY 12

Josh Brolin, Actor (52)

FEBRUARY 13

Robbie Williams, Singer (46)

FEBRUARY 14

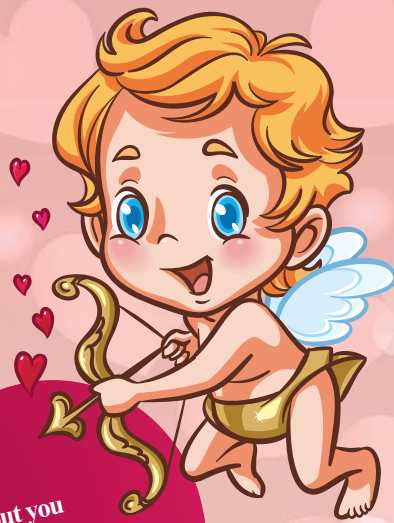
Christian Eriksen, Athlete (28)

FEBRUARY 15

Matt & Ross Duffer, Producers (36)

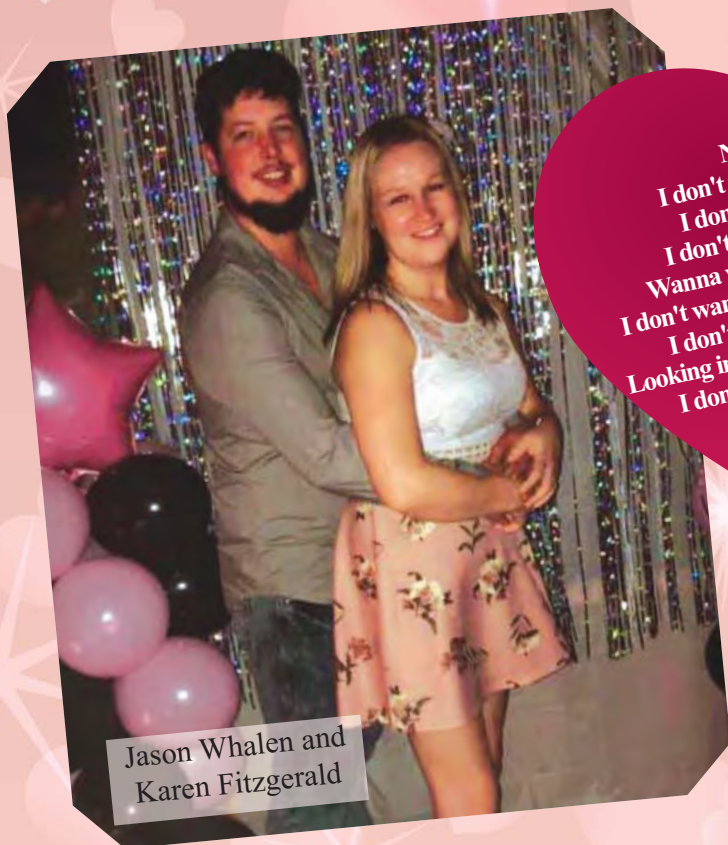
LOVE

is in the air!



St. Valentine

was a Catholic priest who performed marriages for young lovers in secret while Rome was under the rule of Emperor Claudius II, who banned all marriages and engagements believing that Roman men were unwilling to join the army due to their attachment to wives and families. There are two more patrons named St. Valentine who were martyred in ancient Rome.



Jason Whalen and Karen Fitzgerald

Nobody But You
I don't wanna live without you
I don't wanna even breathe
I don't wanna dream about you
Wanna wake up with you next to me
I don't wanna go down any other road now
I don't wanna love nobody but you
Looking in your eyes now, if I had to die now
I don't wanna love nobody but you.
by Blake Shelton & Gwen Stefani



Ashley Renouf and Chris Flowers
"Our Wedding - Sept. 2, 2017.
One of the best days of my life."

To love is nothing. To be loved is something. But to love and be loved, that's everything. ♥



Brandy Hottot and Jonathan Main married July 22, 2017.

Rumor has it...

Some tales suggest that the type of bird a girl watches on Valentine's Day predicts her future husband. A goldfinch indicates a millionaire, while a dove indicates a mate for life. If you see a squirrel on Valentine's Day, you may marry a cheapskate who will hoard your money.

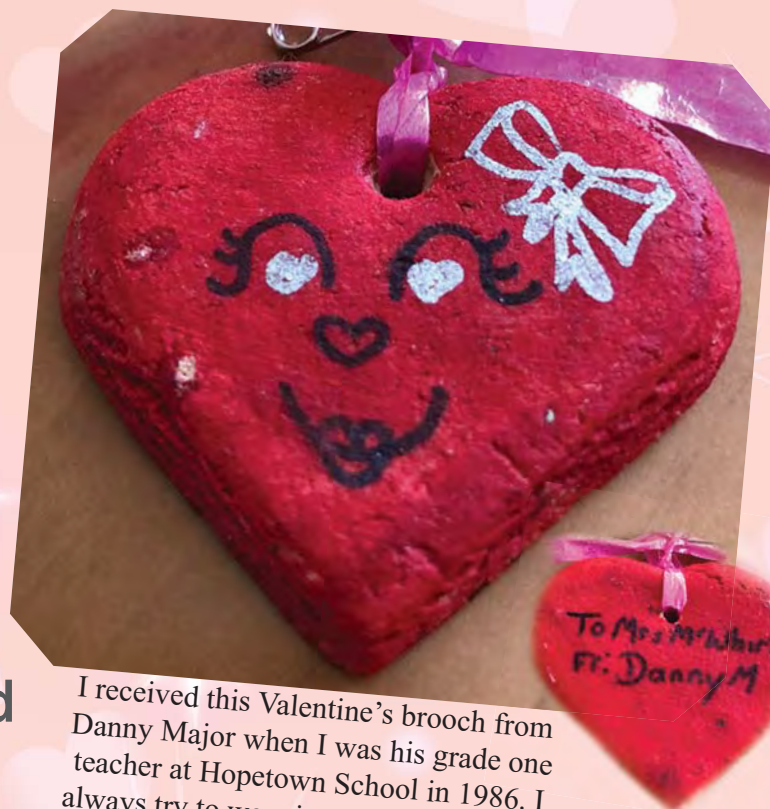
Top gifts for Valentine's Day

35%
of Valentine's Day
spending in Canada
is devoted to travel

\$6.38 billion
in wine is purchased

\$3.38 billion
worth of jewellery is sold

\$70.9 million is spent on flowers



I received this Valentine's brooch from Danny Major when I was his grade one teacher at Hopetown School in 1986. I always try to wear it on Valentine's day.
Lynda MacWhirter