

## With better safety precautions, Temrex worker's death could have been avoided

Gilles Gagné

NOUVELLE: – In a report released on February 20, the *Commission des normes d'équité, de santé et de sécurité au travail* (CNESST), states that the Temrex sawmill in Nouvelle was applying a deficient control method for moving parts when repairing the combined grapple that fatally wounded mechanic Martin Boudreau-Labilliois on July 8, 2019.

Mr. Boudreau-Labilliois, 29, was the employee repairing the combined grapple when the upper part of that equipment hit him on the head. The accident took place at 6:20 a.m. The driver of the loader on which the combined grapple was installed had previously noticed a leak in one of its hydraulic hoses.

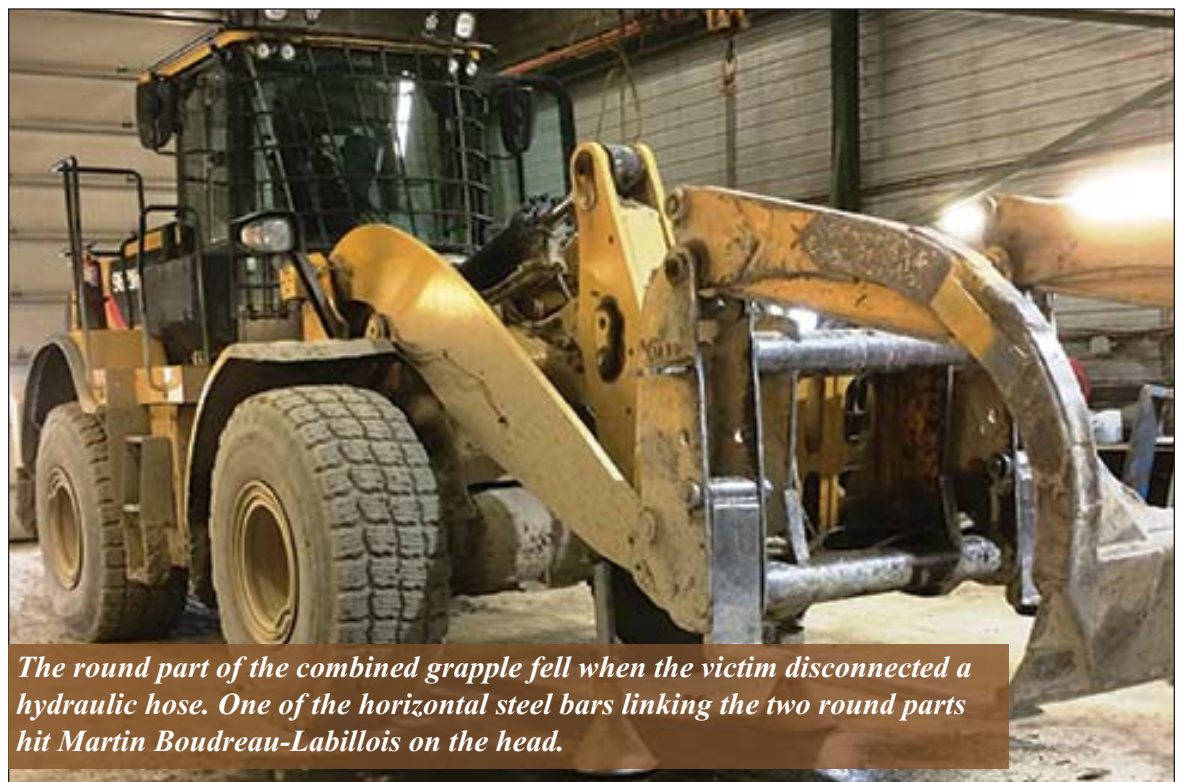
The upper part of the combined grapple was lifted prior to the repair job. That top part

is normally used to stabilize the wood bundles lifted by the lower section of the grapple, however, that top part was not blocked after being lifted prior to the repair.

“When he (Mr. Boudreau-Labilliois) disconnected a hydraulic hose, it triggered a pressure loss and the top part of the combined grapple fell, hitting the victim on the head,” explains Jean-Philippe Synnott, the main investigator of the CNESST in that case.

Mr. Synnott points out that the deficiency involved the maintenance of heavy machinery with moving parts, such as a loader equipped with a combined grapple. Temrex's maintenance method for fixed equipment was satisfactory.

Since the fatal accident, Temrex has stopped using combined grapples on its loaders. The company has implemented corrective training



The round part of the combined grapple fell when the victim disconnected a hydraulic hose. One of the horizontal steel bars linking the two round parts hit Martin Boudreau-Labilliois on the head.

Photo: Courtesy of CNESST

sessions for its mechanics and the control method applied to mobile heavy machinery's moving parts has also been corrected.

CNESST has not decided yet if a fine will be imposed.

The accident occurred slightly less than eight months ago and the Commission has up to a year before deciding if a fine will be imposed. The range of that fine could hover between \$16,000 and \$68,000.

Temrex employs close to 100 people at its Nouvelle sawmill. It is by far the largest sawmill in the Gaspé Peninsula, with an annual wood supply of 500,000 cubic metres of logs.

## Douglastown Comedy Show - Take One

Jeanie LeLacheur

DOUGLASTOWN: The theatrical extravaganza recently held at the Douglastown Community Centre was a huge success. Over 100 people attended the bilingual comedy skits.

Lorraine Blais, a long-time board member of the Centre approached Linda Drody and asked if she would like to take on the Heritage Canada project designed to bring the English and French speaking communities together in a comedy show. Linda who is always up for an adventure, agreed.

“It was more challenging than I thought it would be to actually find people to take part in the show,” admits Linda, but in the end 14 actors took part in the three skits, construed to allow both English and French speakers to understand the dialogue.

One spectator particularly liked the exchange of two



Actors left to right are Estelle Nauroy, Fred Kraenzel, Suzanne Briand, Kurt Rooney, Reid Kennedy, Ron Mundle, Beth Yuzwa, Debbie Sams, Eric Bond and front left to right is Anne Nober, Gordon Drody, Alfred Cassidy, Debbie Touzel and Linda Drody.

Photo: J. LeLacheur

neighbours at their respective clotheslines: an escort who was new to town was hanging out sexy lingerie and a long-time resident with a more modest array of underwear was at the other line.

Lorraine Blais-Morin who first approached Linda about

the show had only good things to say about the end result, emphasizing Linda's enthusiasm and dedication to the project.

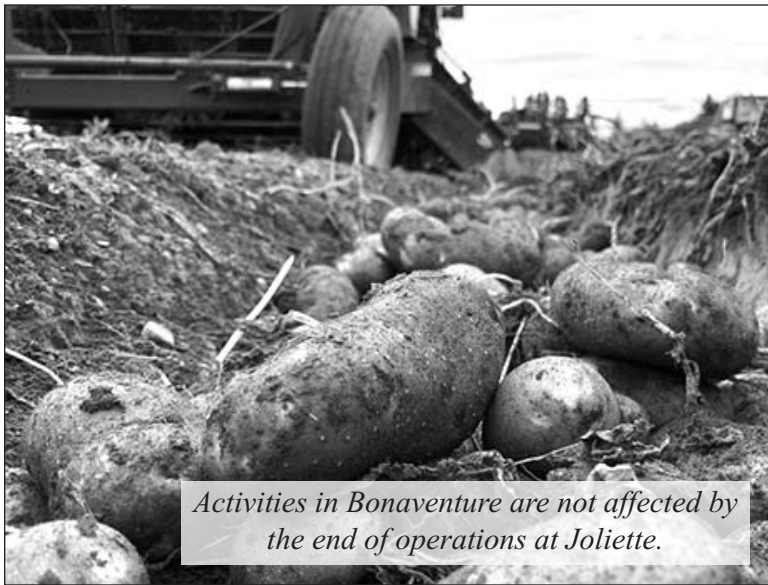
Kurt Rooney who played Ronald McDonald with a shrunken suit as well as a senior lady looking for the

fashion show said he “really enjoyed being in the production and is looking forward to doing it again.”

Bonnie B. who considered not even going to the show now laughingly admits she's a groupie and ready to follow when they take it on the road.

So after weeks of hard work and challenges Linda was very happy with the final result and especially the turn out for the evening and perhaps the biggest praise is the response of those who attended and those who took part saying they had so much fun.

# News briefs



Activities in Bonaventure are not affected by the end of operations at Joliette.

Photo: facebook

## Patasol abandons its activities in Joliette

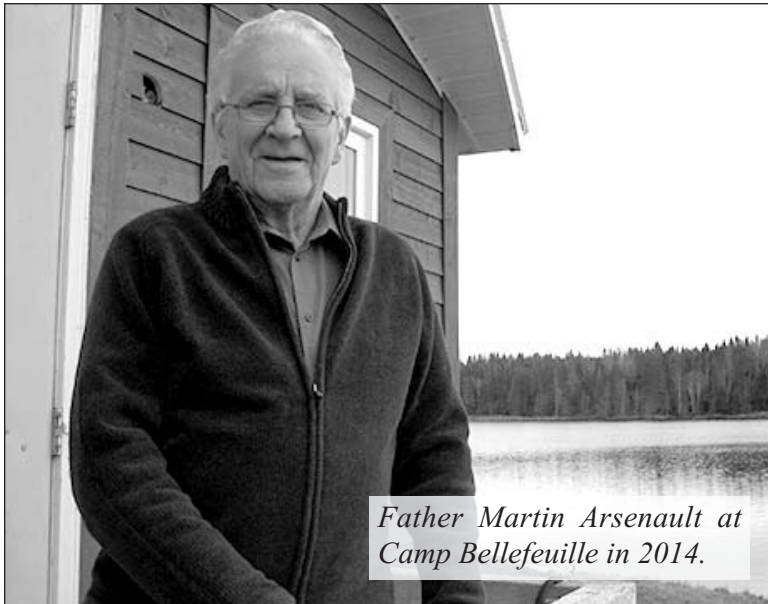
Nelson Sergerie

BONAVENTURE : - The Joliette division of Patasol is bankrupt. The company sold its assets on January 31 and the first meeting of creditors was held on February 20 in Quebec City.

The president, Michèle Poirier, explains that the inclement weather and the early arrival of winter were the reasons for the Lanaudière business closure.

Some 600 acres of potatoes had been planted, which was a strategic mistake, indicating that this division was doomed to do something great, but Mother Nature will have had the last word.

The management emphasized, however, that this decision does not affect the Bonaventure division, which is doing well.



Father Martin Arsenault at Camp Bellefeuille in 2014.

Photo: facebook

## Tribute to the founder of the Camp Bellefeuille

Nelson Sergerie

CHANDLER - The founder of Camp Bellefeuille in Pabos Mills will have a street in his name.

The former Highway 132 in this area of Chandler will be named after Father Arsenault, who founded the provincially renowned camp in 1974.

It was a duty to pay tribute to him, said Chandler mayor, Louise Langlois.

"He started with plastic utensils that he washed and it's where it is today. He is the strength of the Camp Bellefeuille. We are very proud to give the name of Father Arsenault to the road to Pabos Mills."

The project of a camp originated at the Grande-Rivière high school where Martin Arsenault was chaplain. Following a youth drug conference, the project took root thanks to his experience at Tekakwhitha summer camp in Maine. A board of directors was formed and the camp under tents was created in 1974.

In 2012, Martin Arsenault received the first builder's prize from the Quebec association of summer camps.

Each year, some 600 young people participate in the summer camp, not counting the day camp for young people from Percé to Gascons and visitors to the family vacation centre.

# North American ice for Gaspé

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - After months of consultations Gaspé finally makes a difficult decision and opts for a North American ice surface for its future multi-sport complex.

The project ranges from \$17.4M to \$20.4M depending on which of the six scenarios is chosen. The complex will also include a synthetic turf field of 45 x 90 metres.

"In the analysis, a variety of factors were taken into account, but the determining factor was cost. In all of the scenarios, the lowest cost was \$17 million. The highest cost was around \$23 million. The council had wanted the administrative team and myself to stay below the parameter of \$18 million," explains Mayor Daniel Côté.

The Gaspé Speed Skating Club believed until the end that the Town would acquire an Olympic ice rink with a system of shrink bands, which, according to the Town, would have added \$2.5 million to the bill, a figure that is disputed by the Speed Skating Club.

"We were served the extra sauce of \$2.5 million when our assessment was at a fraction of the price. In a scenario put forward by the mayor, it was possible to keep the building identical, but to enlarge the ice surface by removing two rows of seats, that does not generate a cost of \$2.5 million," explains one of the directors, Jean-François Monette.

"We have to take into account the needs of the users. If we cut in the stands, we went to 700 to 800 seats. Would it



Several members of the Speed Skating Club hoped for an Olympic-size rink.

Photo: N. Sergerie

have been enough? (...) We understand the needs of all the clubs and we would have liked to meet everyone, but at the end, it is the column of figures that speak to us," says the mayor.

Above all, the Olympic surface would have avoided the risk of injury for skaters versus North American ice.

"It complicates the task in terms of security. Around the age of 14, skaters reach speeds that ensure that the slightest fall can have harmful consequences. We cannot ask our young people to skate slowly for safety reasons," states Mr. Monette.

The Forillon Minor Hockey Association is pleased with the turn of events. The organization has always been against the Olympic ice. "In terms of the development of our youngest, it goes against what Hockey Quebec requires in minor hockey. Especially the events that we bring to Gaspé at the economic level, it is considerable. It could have weighed on the scale in the choice of obtaining the

Dodge or Desjardins Cup," believes president, Myriam Lagacé.

### If Quebec said no?

In the financials 66% of the aid comes 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 from 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 defined.

### What will Gaspé do if Quebec says no?

"We are going to start from scratch with a much more modest project. Usually, in sports and recreation programs, Quebec pays 50% and at 50% we would go into a much more modest project, possibly an arena, period," says Mr. Côté.

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## Commentary Gilles Gagné

### Bombardier: no job protection commitment

The sale of two Bombardier divisions over the last two weeks seems more like a dismantling operation of the former transportation giant born in Quebec, but whose activities were spread all over the world.

In back-to-back transactions dictated by a debt of nearly \$12 billion Canadian, Bombardier sold its remaining stake in the A220 aircraft production to European giant Airbus and its train production division to another giant from Europe, Alstom, a predominantly French company.

The A220 move involves what was formerly known as the CSeries, developed solely by Bombardier until the arrival of Airbus in 2016, a move prompted to instill new life in a project that had required cash injections of \$6 billion by the Quebec company, whose management had clearly underestimated the development cost of the A220 model.

Bombardier's brass had initially planned \$2 billion for the development of that mid-sized aircraft, one third of the real cost. When Airbus entered as a partner in 2016, Bombardier needed help to such an extent to save that program that Airbus did not have to invest any money up front. The European company just jumped in, assuring that its team would better the production of the newly named A220 and improve its marketing.

The Quebec government, through *Investissement Québec*, invested \$1.3 billion in the CSeries now A220 project in 2016. Its share in the venture was 16% at the time. It is now 25% following the exit of Bombardier, however the move came with an accounting loss of \$600 million for *Investissement Québec*, despite the share hike from 16 to 25%. Business currents are hard to understand sometimes. So the *Investissement Québec* part in the project is now worth \$700 million but the buyout option Airbus was supposed to make in 2023 is now postponed until 2026.

It means that if the A220 sells well over the next few years, the *Investissement Québec* stake might increase in value and be worth more than \$700 million and maybe more than \$1.3 billion six years down the road.

Considering all the problems experienced by Airbus' main competitor lately, Boeing, the possi-

bility of *Investissement Québec*, which is a sort of extension of Quebec's taxpayers, seeing its 2016 cash move paying dividends, is fair. The order of the A220 aircraft is well-endowed with about 650 units to produce, which is between three and four years worth of work.

Bombardier's shareholders are the big losers here, including the Beaudoin-Bombardier family. The value of the stock has been divided by at least six over the last decade.

As for the 3,300 employees of Airbus in Quebec, mainly at Mirabel, they were not given a guaranteed job. They were just told that Airbus will do its best to further fill the plant's order book. Quebec's Economy Minister Pierre Fitzgibbon was frank enough to say that those jobs are not guaranteed.

In fact, Airbus can now pit its Mobile, Alabama, plant against its Mirabel plant if the order book doesn't fill up adequately in the coming years. Eventually, the company could decide to keep only one plant. Considering the protectionist policy adopted by the United States under Donald Trump, the possibility of his re-election and the size of the American market, the Mirabel plant employees will have to be productive if they want to keep making aircrafts.

It must be specified that Bombardier will keep making private jets, a division that seems highly profitable.

Now, the company made another major move on February 17 through selling its train division to Alstom, incidentally a smaller firm since Bombardier was number one in the world.

The Bombardier dept, already reduced by about \$800 million Canadian following the Airbus latest transaction, could be cut by another chunk of \$8 billion. The Alstom deal will probably only be effective at the beginning of 2021. There again, the company has not promised to protect the Quebec and rest of Canada jobs, about 1,000 altogether.

The only positive point in that deal is that the *Caisse de dépôt et de placement du Québec*, the Quebec body managing Quebecers' pension fund, is now owning 20% of Alstom as a consequence of the transaction. Alstom being a well-managed company overall, that investment might benefit the population of Quebec in the long run.

So Bombardier might become at last a sound company, financially, a year down the road. Over the last years though, the firm will have lost a lot. It will have lost money, the appreciation of millions of Quebecers, who lost faith in its management when some members of the high brass, president Alain Bellemarre first and foremost, received millions and millions of dollars worth of bonuses and monetary options while the corporation was sinking in debt.

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Note from SPEC: Andy Patterson, a Gaspé resident who has been the leader of the Sunny Bank citizens who initiated in 2013 a class action against

Transports Québec because of the damage sustained during the December 2010 flood, recently wrote to them in order to provide the most recent update regarding a trial that started in May 2019 at the Percé courthouse. Close to 200 citizens form the group that is concerned by the class action. The value of damage sustained in December 2010 amount to \$3 million. Attorneys Marie-Anaïs Sauvé and Vincent Blais-Fortin are representing the citizens of Sunny Bank. They want to prove that Quebec's Department of Transport ill-conceived the York Boulevard bridge passing over York River. The conception of the bridge goes back to 1974 and the bridge was built in 1977. At least ten floods have occurred since 1977. Judge Pierre Bellavance, of the Superior Court, presides over the case. He is expected to clarify three points: the responsibility of Transports Québec regarding the flood, the relevance of giving compensation to the people affected by the flood, and the relevance of correcting the bridge and the approaches so to prevent additional floods. Here is Mr. Patterson's latest letter:

**To the victims of the Sunny Bank Flood of 2010:** From Andrew Patterson, February 14, 2020 Good news! Our hydraulic engineer's report has been submitted to the court, and it essentially demonstrates that the flooding problems experienced in Sunny Bank were caused by the construction of the causeway of 1977. The report concludes that the MTQ did not follow the standards required at the time. The causeway should have had the capacity to evacuate a "hundred-year" flow rate. During the planning stage in 1974, it should have been clear that "hundred-year" flow rate would exceed the capacity of the bridge. The breaches have had a significant impact on the hydraulic capacity of the structure and the flooding that occurred in December 2010 was predictable. [This is exactly what Sunny Bank residents stated in a petition to the MTQ, dated 1977]

English translation and summary of the conclusions of our expert report: "The breaches in the standards have a significant scope on the flow capacity of the structure, which is insufficient. As a result, the natural flow of water from upstream is prevented and the structure causes a significant raising of the waterline. The flow that occurred in December 2010 was predictable for the MTQ because it was within the design flow that should have been used by the MTQ in 1974. In short, the December 2010 flood occurred because of the MTQ's failure to properly evaluate the design and the impact of the backwater caused by the causeway on the Sunny Bank properties."

The MTQ's representative was questioned out of court in July in Quebec City by our lawyers. The answers confirmed several key points and helped prepare the study mentioned above.

The MTQ has changed lawyers once again, and M. Letendre has returned to the file. He was the first lawyer for the MTQ in 2013. The MTQ has until today (February 14) to submit counter arguments.

Unless the MTQ attempts to settle out of court, the second part of the trial will begin as scheduled on May 18, 2020. This second phase concerns mainly the expert's reports. Experts from both sides will scrutinize the studies done for our case, and in May and June will give their testimony to the court. There are 13 days set aside to conclude proceedings. Once complete the court will have about 6 months to reveal the verdict.

Further information can be found at the web address below, and if you were a resident of Sunny Bank or owned property in Sunny Bank in 2010, please make sure you are registered. <https://spavocats.ca/class-actions/floodings-in-sunny-bank-gaspesie/>

This correspondence is made without admission and without prejudice. The English translation of the conclusion is not certified by the author of the report.

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

Tel: 418-752-5400  
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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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# Forillon prepares its 10-year management plan

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ: - Forillon Park is preparing its 10-year management plan. Four main areas will be discussed during public consultations with the population: a concerted strategy with all partners, including the Micmac Nation of Gespeg and the grouping of people expropriated from Forillon and their descendants; the preservation of ecosystems, the forest and the coastal environment in the context of climate change; the creation of events in all seasons in order to enrich the recreational tourism offer and the heritage to be preserved and enhanced.

Regarding heritage, the park management also wants to specifically ask people about the Cap-Bon-Ami and Grande-Grave sectors.

"This represents one of the important challenges. We must review how we are going to ensure the protection and enhancement of these buildings. As this is a very popular area for visitors, we



Attention will be given to the buildings in the Grande-Grave sector.

Photo: N. Sergerie

must make sure that we have the proper layout to adequately accommodate these visitors. For Cap-Bon-Ami, we want to review the development of infrastructure while taking into account the issue of erosion that exists on the cliffs and on the coast," explains the park director, Stéphane Marchand.

The management plan does

not come with an envelope, although it is obvious that funds will have to be invested.

"We will continue to work with the central agency to seek the budgets necessary to achieve the set objectives. The moment we set goals, it gives us the legitimacy to seek funding to achieve them."

The park has not assessed the amount of money required

to achieve the goals that will be in the 2020-2030 plan.

The overabundance of moose in Forillon Park is leading management to establish a herd reduction plan.

In January 2017, the date of the last available data, 35 moose per 10 square kilometres were identified, while in 2009, the park had 18.

Most of the 2010-2020

management plan objectives have been achieved, including a 47% increase in ridership and investments of \$80 million in assets.

The public was consulted on February 12 at the Micmac Nation of Gespeg community hall and on February 13 at the *Centre culturel le Griffon*. An online version of the consultation will be available until March 15.

## Culture

Patrimoine Gaspésie has called for the integration of the Cap-des-Rosiers lighthouse in Forillon. There was also interest from participants, but Marchand says it would be a political decision.

Further development of the cultural aspect of the park is also proposed. "It is already well integrated into our programming. We can always adjust and we are open to discuss it."

The 10-year management should be proposed later this spring.

## Forillon: Moose are part of discussions

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ - The overpopulation of moose in Forillon Park caught the attention of the hundreds of people who participated in public information sessions on February 12 and 13 about the upcoming management plan.

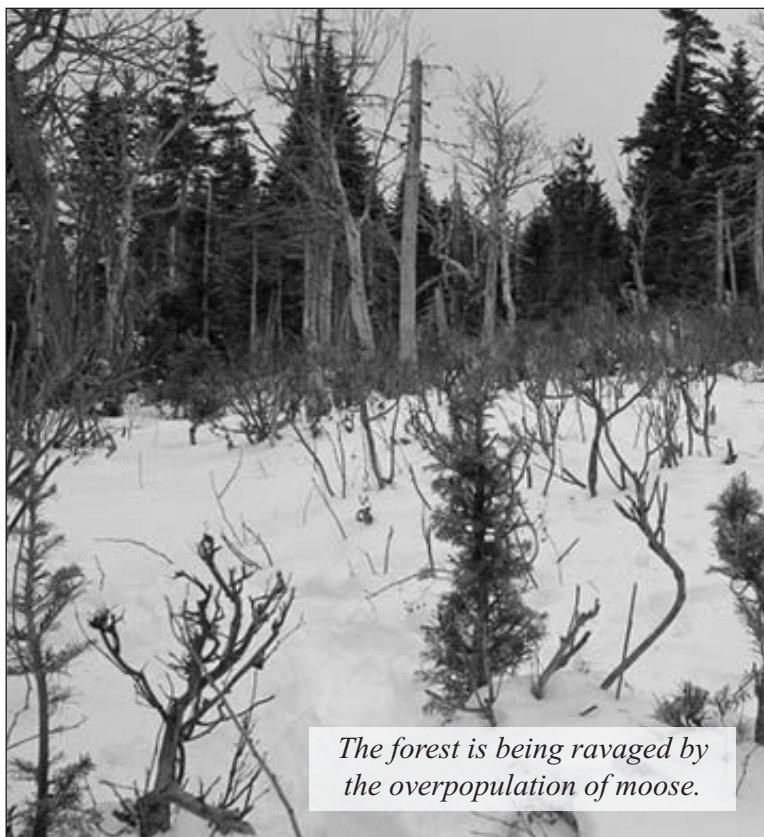
"The population is constantly increasing and it goes beyond what a healthy forest can bear in the short and medium term," says the park director Stephan Marchand.

"There were people who had concerns. In some cases, it was a question of debunking myths or false perceptions. For us, it was a good opportunity," says park director Marchand.

Forillon Park is better equipped to assess the impacts of the moose overabundance within its boundaries, thanks to images captured by drone and field visits last fall.

The population reaches 35 animals per 10 square kilometres. It is not an irremediable situation but it is a concern.

Last year, the park discussed the removal, sterilization or movement of animals



The forest is being ravaged by the overpopulation of moose.

to restore balance.

"It is a density that we consider high. In the medium term, the impact of this population on vegetation could be problematic," says the coordinator of the moose project at the park, Pierre Etcheverry.

Several measures could be taken to control the moose population. A plan proposed by management is being submitted to the public during consultations on the manage-

ment plan, which will continue on the internet until March 15.

The management plan will be implemented in the fall.



## Gaspé: Another offensive for housing

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ - After adopting the program to promote the construction of housing, Gaspé is launching a new phase to stimulate the acquisition of properties and intergenerational housing.

Incentives will be paid to home buyers in the Anse-à-Valleau in Petit-Cap and L'Anse-au-Griffon in Cap-aux-Os sectors to counter the effects of devitalization.

"We are considering, probably, a welcome tax credit and a property and service tax credit up to a maximum of five years and \$10,000 for a property. What is important is that it is people's main residence," says Mayor Daniel Côté, regarding the program to be approved by town council.

Help is planned for multi-generational housing by opening the way to several family packages. The definition of this type of housing is widened so that the occupant can be a grandfather and or grandmother, son or daughter, grandson or granddaughter of the owner(s) instead of only father and/or mother, stepfather and/or stepmother.

The objective of these programs retroactive to January 1 is to address the housing shortage in the town.

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# Costa Rica - Blame It On My Gypsy Soul

Jeanie LeLacheur

GASPÉ: - A good friend of mine recently gifted me some barn boards with the words “Blame It On My Gypsy Soul” and I laughed out loud, but thank you, Michelle, that probably is how I wound up in Costa Rica for an extraordinary three-week adventure.

I decided to do volunteer work in Costa Rica, preferably with bats at the Cloudbridge private nature reserve situated on the side of Costa Rica’s highest mountain peak.

In addition to volunteering I wanted to roam around a bit, pay a visit to a fellow Gaspesian and meet up with a good friend and cousin who would join me and we’d spend a week being tourists.

I flew out of Montreal and arrived in San José, Costa Rica, on a sunny day in December. Since I was traveling alone I booked a shuttle to



Cindy Bourgaize and Jeanie LeLacheur at San Jose airport.

the hotel where I spent my first night. Figuring out the local bus schedule was also on my agenda.

The Caribe shuttle had the friendliest driver and I was re-

ally impressed with the service and professionalism of that experience.

As it turned out one of the other passengers was from Montreal, and he was an experienced traveller in Costa Rica. He was fluent in Spanish and arranged for us to visit the bridge where a group of crocodiles live. So my first wildlife sightings were of the massive crocs and macaws with their splashes of living colour who just happened to be hanging out in the nearby trees.

I had booked a hotel in Jaco, a bustling little touristy surfing town and I was certainly not disappointed in my choice. What a beach! I arrived after sundown and having left Montreal in the middle of the night opted for some fruit, a bag of chips and bottle

of water for supper, fell into bed and slept for 12 hours straight.

My plan had been to get around using local buses since it was an inexpensive choice and I knew I would get to meet local people and experience the “real” side of the country while on a bus.

However, there were some details I hadn’t taken into consideration and now would be a good time to mention that if you’re planning a trip à la carte, how important it is to have some sort of plan as to where exactly you’re going and leaving from and at what time and, most importantly, have the place names written down and know how to pronounce them.

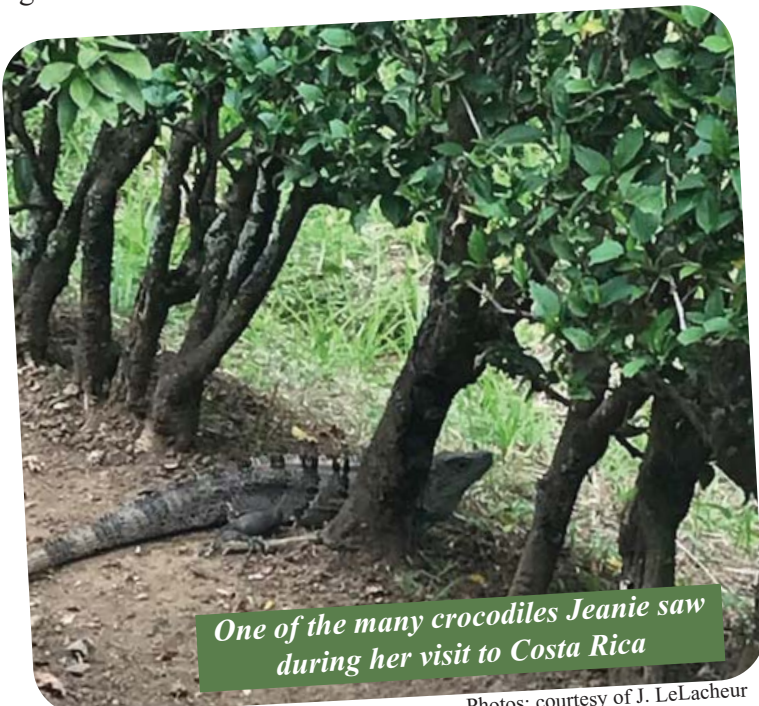
The following day after exploring the beach, swimming, and meeting the hotel owner

who is from the States and happens to own a farm in Costa Rica with vampire bats on it, I was ready to set out for my mountain destination.

I hailed a taxi and asked the driver to take me to the bus station in Jaco and he said there wasn’t one and dropped me off at the bus stop on the side of the road outside of town. I later learned that there is actually a bus depot in Jaco and buying a ticket there would have made my trek to Cloudbridge less complicated but chalk that up to miscommunication and lack of foresight on my part.

A bus stopped, but I was told it did not go to San Gerardo de Rivas and the Cloudbridge Nature Reserve. The driver of the second bus said a lot of things very quickly in Spanish that I didn’t understand. He put my backpack under the bus and helped me count my money for the fare so I clambered aboard. I sat next to an older gentleman who pointed out interesting aspects of the landscape and agricultural activities along the way. I’ll say again my Spanish is not strong and thank the powers that be for Google translate. We also shared pictures of our grandkids. An hour or so later the bus stopped and the driver motioned for me to get off, even though the gentleman I was sitting beside was not so sure it was the right place. It’s comforting to think that there are people in this hustle

Cont’d on page 9



One of the many crocodiles Jeanie saw during her visit to Costa Rica

Photos: courtesy of J. LeLacheur



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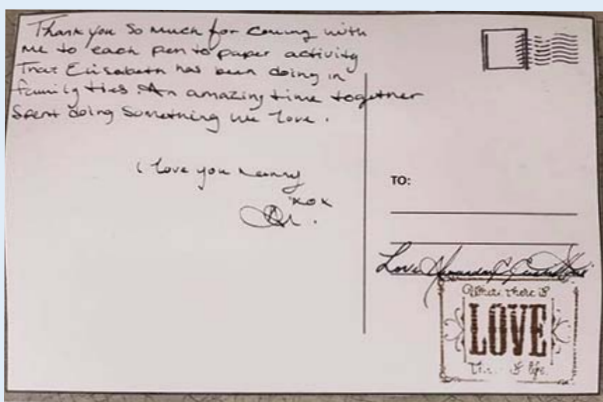
## Family Ties

### Putting Pen to Paper



Elizabeth Dupuis,  
Project Coordinator

A number of Putting Pen to Paper activities took place this week. On February 6, Family Ties held a second calligraphy workshop with Elaine Almond. Elaine kindly brought a selection of beautiful, vintage cards to show examples of handwriting styles from the past. The participants practiced different calligraphy techniques, using a selection of materials, and crafted their own unique Valentine cards. On February 11, Kaneesha Smith led a workshop demonstrating how to make postcards with the theme of Gaspesian Heritage. Everyone was surprised and pleased with what they were able to produce. One participant revealed, "I really look forward to these activities and I cannot wait to come to other workshops." Below is an example of one of the postcards created by a participant.



On February 12, Eurda Lodge and Lynda MacWhirter led the first of eight cursive writing workshops with students from Grades 3 and 4 at New Carlisle High School. Although some of the students found the activity challenging, they felt a sense of pride in the results.



Cursive writing workshop led by seniors

March 2, from 9 to 11 a.m. participants will examine vintage letters. If you have any precious handwritten letters and handmade cards, join us at Family Ties. We would love to see them!

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

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



Family Ties  
Government of Canada

# Understanding how financial stress impacts your well-being

NC) Canadians consistently rank money as their biggest source of stress – higher than health, work or family obligations.

This is not surprising when you consider that more than half of us do not regularly save money to cover unexpected expenses, according to the first national survey of financial well-being conducted by the Financial Consumer Agency of Canada. Moreover, one in seven of us often uses credit to purchase basic necessities like food because their money has run out.

These numbers tell part of the story of why more and more Canadians regularly experience financial stress in their daily lives.

If you're one of them, it's important to understand the full impact that financial stress can have on your well-being and health. It could be bigger than you think.

According to the Financial Health Network, an organization mandated to improve the financial health of Americans, if you're struggling with financial stress, you are twice as likely to report poor overall health, and four times more likely to suffer from insomnia, headaches and other

illnesses.

Financial stress can also lead to more serious health problems, such as cardiovascular disease, high blood pressure, and mental health issues like depression and anxiety.

Financial stress doesn't only affect your health. According to the Canadian Payroll Association, 43 per cent of workers are so financially stressed that their performance at work is actually suffering.

In short, there is no shortage of reasons to take charge of your personal finances – and the sooner the better. Yet, many of us just don't know where to start.

The good news is that – whether it's debt, a mortgage, your children's education or your retirement savings you're concerned about – help is out there. There are many free and unbiased online resources available to help you take control of your finances.

Many are focussed on helping you to create a budget, which is one of the most important steps you can take to better manage your money. This includes the FCAC's new budget planner, which generates charts showing where your money goes and compares your spending habits with other Canadians in similar life situations.

## Tithe collection 2020

Capitation (or tithing) is the traditional means through which the church raises the money it needs to sustain its essential pastoral and administrative services in the Christian community. The tithe enables the parish to offer the following:

- Liturgical celebrations
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- Weddings
- Funerals
- Faith education
- Community prayer
- Accompanying the sick and the lonely
- Anointing of the sick
- Help couples in their vocation
- Family and youth pastoral
- Maintenance of churches
- Maintenance of cemeteries
- Church assemblies
- Secretarial work

Your donation will first serve to proclaim Jesus Christ, make Him known, loved and served. Together, let us take the missionary turn in which we all commit ourselves for the mission that will make our communities, living communities!

*Do not forget to ask for your charity receipt from your parish.*

Let's donate generously to the tithe collection 2020!

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# Barricade still in place

Gilles Gagné

**LISTUGUJ:** – The Listuguj barricade was still present at mile 11.7 of the Gaspé Peninsula railway on the twelfth day of demonstration in support of the Wet'suwet'en First Nations hereditary chiefs in British Columbia.

In Listuguj, there are moments when the demonstrators appear in fewer number on the barricade, and sometimes there is nobody. It was the case on the morning of February 19, as the demonstration location was vacant, with only a fire going.

The Listuguj demonstrators are asking the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to leave the traditional land of Wet'suwet'en. They are also waiting for a signal from that community's hereditary chiefs to the effect of lifting the Gaspesian barricade before doing so.

Are the Listuguj demonstrators showing signs of fatigue or were they busy attending a meeting, or taking a rest between the night and the middle of the day? Around noon, on February 19, there was only a pickup truck with one demonstrator inside along the track.

At the Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government office, spokesperson Hillary Barnaby indicated on that same February 19 that the band council was not taking a stand yet regarding the demonstration issue and she had not been in contact with the demonstrators. "I have not heard anything linked to what is happening with the people demonstrating," she said.

Ms. Barnaby indicated that



*On the tenth day of demonstration in Listuguj, there were times when the location was deserted by the local supporters of the Wet'suwet'en First Nation.*

Photo: G. Gagné

the Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government will communicate news pertaining to the blockade on its website.

The support given to the demonstrators is not unanimous in Listuguj. A couple of citizens asking to remain anonymous voiced their concerns about the long-term effects of the railway barricade.

"The demonstrators have made their point but it is time now that we go back to a normal life. We don't want to ruin our relations with the Non-Natives. We just hope for a soft dismantling of the blockade," said one Listuguj citizen.

The blockade particularly hurts the Gaspésie Railway Society, as the transporter loses \$15,000 in revenue with each day of demonstration. By February 21, the company had lost at least \$180,000 in revenues. A windmill blade train in New Richmond has been ready to leave since February 15.

The president of the Gaspésie Railway Society, Éric Dubé, has been making phone calls every day since February 10 to get the latest news from

the Canadian and Quebec governments regarding crisis resolution. He is in discussions with people from Transports Canada, Transports Québec and the Sûreté du Québec. A liaison officer is assigned to the relations between the Listuguj people and the Non-Natives.

"Nobody is moving. I am waiting. I am not surprised to see such a situation," pointed out Mr. Dubé on February 19. He was still hoping for a peaceful resolution of the crisis, especially because the railway used by the Gaspésie Railway Society will always pass in Mi'gmaq territory.

Trucks are hauling some of the woodchips, lumber and cement that would normally be loaded in freight cars. In the meantime, the crews of the Gaspésie Railway Society were moving loaded cement cars, close to 50 of them, as close as possible to Pointe-à-la-Croix, ready to be delivered when the blockade will be dismantled.

On February 21, the transporter issued a press release announcing 15 temporary layoffs because of the blockade.

## Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



## Can't Live in the Past

I was busy reminiscing about the way it used to be just recently, when a friend cautioned me. She said, "Don't long for something that no longer exists." Of course, she meant not just a physical place, but a time in life that would not be coming around again, no matter how much it is pined for. Not ever.

She was right and it made me realize that many of us do just that. We recall another time and place, and how it used to be, and wish that we could go back. Those memories can make us feel down in the dumps when we realize that those times are not coming around again. The trick may be this. Just be glad that those memories are yours and nothing can take that away. Remember and be glad. Remember and be grateful.

Nostalgia, or a yearning for the past, is a curious human fixation. When we look at the past we tend to do so with rose coloured glasses. Everything was better then. People were kinder, food was tastier and there was more fun to be had, at little or no cost. Children respected their elders and the streets were cleaner. And, this one is 100% true, gas was cheaper. But beware – it wasn't all better back in the day. There were no shelters for abused women and their children and no social safety nets.

Do you agree with the following statement? "The children now love luxury. They show disrespect for elders and love to chatter in place of exercise. Children today are tyrants, not the servants of their households. They no longer rise when their elders enter the room. They contradict their parents, chatter before company, gobble up sweets at the table, cross their legs and tyrannize their teachers."

Well, it was written by Socrates over 2,400 years ago! Every generation seems to look back and lament about today's youth. I guess we are no different today.

It is important to acknowledge the past because, after all, it has made us who we are. You may have heard this expression, "I am part of all those that I have met." This is true and our past lives on in us; in the person we are today.

The past is over. Done and gone. Rejoice about all the happy memories, but do not live in them. Besides, if you live in the past you might miss out on the joy of living in the present. When we think about a loved one who has passed on, we sometimes say we wish that we had them back or had them for a longer time. True. But also remind yourself about how blessed you were to have had them in your life at all. Say to yourself, "At least I had them in my life."

Remember the past. Appreciate the past. Talk about the past. Especially your Gaspesian history and ancestors! Just be mindful of this... "You can clutch the past so tightly to your chest that it leaves your arms too full to embrace the present."

## Hydro-Québec-Innergex transaction well received by the Régie de l'énergie

Nelson Sergerie

**GASPÉ** - The Régie intermunicipale de l'énergie Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine has a positive view of Hydro-Québec's involvement in Innergex. The crown corporation is investing \$661M in 20% of the company's shares and is ready to extend \$500M for future renewable energy projects around the world.

President Simon Deschênes sees it as a sign for the wind industry. "There is a complete change in the discourse of the CAQ which is in favour of the energy transition and wind farms. I really see this in a positive way," states the mayor of Sainte-Anne-des-Monts.

What interests the management is the money that is earmarked for the development of future projects. "When I hear the word future project, it is wind farms with us. We have taken great steps in the past year to highlight the wind industry. Since there is money on the table for future projects with Innergex, it is clear that Hydro-Québec will not only be able to favour Innergex. It indicates that there will be other projects on the table in the coming years. It's up to us to position ourselves."

This transaction comes at a certain point to break the plans of the management which discussed with Innergex in order to conclude a partnership. "It has been over a year that we have been negotiating with Innergex to become a shareholder in the five parks they acquired in August 2018. Is it finished? I don't have the answer yet. There are discussions, but I have a fear because we would have liked to expand our energy portfolio," says the president. Innergex owns the Baie-des-Sables, Carleton-sur-Mer, Gros-Morne, Anse-à-Valleau and Montagne sèche in Cloridorme and is a partner in Mesgig Ugu's'n Park with the Micmacs.

### Significant revenues

Revenues from the board are important for member municipalities. In 2019, they shared \$6M - double what was forecast - and \$4.5M in 2018. The organization is cautious and plans to pay \$3.5M in royalties.

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bustle world we live in who would really be concerned about a traveller who was unsure about where exactly they were going and having difficulty understanding the language in a new country. Kind of restores one's faith in humanity.

I got off at an intersection near Uvita and Dominical in a spot that felt like it was the middle of nowhere. While I was sitting there wondering what to do next I happened to look at a tree and saw the most amazing site. What looked like a line of green leaves was marching down the trunk. Upon closer examination I discovered that the leaf bits were actually being carried by tiny ants and are called Leafcutter ants. Gift of the day!

So after waiting and waiting I finally wandered over to a police station that was on the other side of the intersection and an officer there gave me directions.

When the bus stopped I asked the driver if he was going to San Isidro, and he said no, but luckily for me the lady sitting behind him understood my horrible English/French pronunciation and said, "Get on. We're going there."

I made it to San Isidro where I was supposed to walk to a different bus depot and take yet another bus, but at that point I decided to just buy some food for my stay at Cloudbridge and take a taxi. "Sometimes a girl's gotta do what a girl's gotta do." The taxi cost \$10 and it was probably the best money I spent on the whole trip.

I spent that week volunteering at Cloudbridge at the Welcome Centre where hikers from all over the world are greeted. I ran into a couple from Sagaenay. How small is this world? I also met the extraordinary people who operate Cloudbridge and the many researchers and volunteers. I hiked up the mountain to check camera traps which monitor wildlife, including ocelots, coyotes, mountain lions, Baird's tapirs, jaguars and coatis. I also helped let-

ter the Welcome Centre sign and talked with two young ladies from (you're not going to believe this) Nunavut, Canada, into drawing and painting some wildlife pictures on the sign, including a bat.

Incidentally, Costa Rica accounts for only 0.03% of the earth's surface but contains nearly 6% of the world's biodiversity so it really is extraordinary to see the vegetation, birds, insects and wildlife.

In a 45-minute bat acoustic inventory I recorded 16 species of bats making this one of my most incredible bat experiences. As a longer term project and a collaboration with Cloudbridge we (SOS Bats) hope to provide an acoustic monitor to Cloudbridge and implement a monitoring program. (Student groups are welcome at the site.)

Nightfall at Cloudbridge was simply magical, a symphony of jungle sounds, fireflies lit up the night sky and bat shadows flitted by the river song in the background.

Lodging is available onsite and I would urge travellers to check out their facebook page (cloudbridge nature reserve) for more information about this enchanted place.

The remainder of my adventure was spent visiting a Gaspé relative, and I'd like to say how happy I was to see a familiar face waiting for me in Alejeula when I climbed off the bus there. How much I appreciated her hospitality.

During my stay in the San José Valley I visited the Doka coffee plantation with an exceptional guide who just happened to have a picture of a bat that he had taken at an evening inventory. I have to admit that it would not necessarily have been on my list of places to see and things to do but I was pleasantly surprised and would say, if you visit Costa Rica, don't miss the Doka Coffee Tour.

I also visited the Costa Rica Animal Rescue Centre during my stay in the valley. I chose this wildlife rehabilitation centre because of its honourable reputation. It is government accredited but is run strictly as a non-profit or-

ganization, therefore, receiving no government funding.

I met volunteers from all corners of the world at the centre. Many were young people wanting to make a difference in the world. Two releases were planned for the afternoon that I visited: a turtle and birds. The reputation of this centre for release whenever possible and its campaign to stop illegal wildlife activity, including capturing wild species (ie monkey lizards and birds) and administering substances to calm them so that tourists can have pictures taken with them, along with its promotion of education and in relation to wildlife, make it a valuable addition to the region and a great fit with the Costa Rican attitude of sustainability and environmental responsibility. I was told at the site that in an act of protection and conservation, Costa Rica recently outlawed the capture and possession of all monkey species.

During my visit I also met the cutest sloths: one who was born with a cleft palate, another who had been severely injured in a run-in with some electrical wires, and one who was born with organs that were too small to allow him to survive alone in the wild.

While in San José I also had the pleasure of visiting a therapeutic equine centre called DALUZ. That centre brings so much healing and sheer joy to youth and adults alike. The centre isn't currently equipped to accept residential volunteers but is considering the possibility. More information on the Daluz centre can be found on their facebook page (DALUZ Vivencias Equinas).

My last week was spent at the Buddha House in Jaco, with its brightly coloured decor, charming staff, awesome breakfast and coffee, resident-opinionated tabby cat and occasional super cool glimpses of the common opossum. Those last days allowed for long luxurious hours on the beach, a market that allowed the purchase of fresh fruit and vegetables, local cheeses and everything needed for DIY lunches and the best food at reasonably

priced restaurants and to die for pizza.

I have to mention that I met a lot of environmental people on this trek, including Sean Rowan Laughlin, a young man who I met at the bus depot in Jaco as we headed out. Sean happens to be a group leader at National Geographic Student Expeditions, loves snakes and bats and has travelled the world in an environmental education context. He shared his Toronto bat contact with me and his enthusiasm for life, wildlife and teaching during our short visit while waiting on the bus. His pictures can be found on Instagram (thewildgingerbeast). They are literally out of this world. My cousin Cindy who spent that final week with me also just so happened to strike up a conversation at the same bus station with a gentleman from Green Peace who was travelling there from Italy.


My Costa Rica adventure rates high on my list of life experiences. Somebody asked me if I was afraid and I said; "If I only did in life the things that didn't scare me I wouldn't do much." So, yes, I was a little scared by times but ul-

timately I travelled alone safely and confidently in a country where I did not speak the language and had interesting and positive interactions with everybody I met (locals, tourist industry people and fellow travellers). I think everybody should make at least one trip alone in a country where they don't speak the language and can't hop into a car to get around like they do at home. It's humbling.

Here is my advice to anyone setting out on a solitary travel experiences. Write down where you're going and make sure you can say it properly. Use bug spray (I had a mosquito experience and wound up at a local clinic). Be prepared for different temperatures (bring a tuque and wool socks and of course a bathing suit). Get informed about rip currents.

Perhaps the most important bit of advice I found on the internet while packing for my travels: once you've packed your bag, unpack it, only put half back in and double the amount of money you were planning to take. I'm on my way to buy a smaller backpack and plan my next adventure. Happy travels!



 **PUBLIC NOTICE**

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

**Enactment of By-law**


By-Law 1415-20 « Règlement décrétant l'adoption d'un programme d'aide sous forme de crédit de taxes pour promouvoir la construction de logements intergénérationnels sur le territoire de la ville de Gaspé et remplaçant le règlement 1360-18. »

GIVEN at Gaspé, February 26, 2020.

Isabelle Vézina,  
Director of Legal Services and town clerk

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

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

## COAST ROUND-UP

### YORK:

#### York River Seniors

**March 14:** St. Patrick's supper and dance at the York River Community Hall. Cocktails at 5 p.m. with supper at 6 p.m. BYOB. Irish coffee will be available. Cost is \$15 members and \$20 nonmembers. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Deadline is March 6. For tickets contact Elaine Coull 418-368-3935, Ron Eden 418-361-5270, Tony Patterson 418-368-3276 or Alfred Cassidy 418-368-2011.

### DOUGLASTOWN:

#### Community Centre

**Tuesdays:** 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.

### DOUGLASTOWN:

#### St. Patrick's Activities

**March 14:** St. Patrick's Parish will be holding the following activities: 4 p.m. Mass; 5 p.m. Supper. On the menu: choice of pork loin or irish stew. Adults \$12, children under 12 \$5. Everyone welcome.

### 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!

**Sundays:** Line dancing from 7-8 p.m. Cost \$8. Everyone welcome.

**Monday, March 9:** Bingo at 7 pm 1 series \$10 or 3 series \$20. Canteen available. Must be 18+ to play

**Saturday, March 14:** St. Patrick's Day Potluck Supper at 5 p.m. Members and their guests. Entertainment to follow BYOB event

**Sunday, March 22:** Breakfast/ Brunch \$10 adult, \$5 children under 10 yrs, 9 am to 1 pm

### HOPE TOWN:

#### Hope Baptist Church

Hope Baptist Church wel-

comes 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.

### HOPE TOWN:

#### Community Centre

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

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

### HOPE TOWN:

#### Crib tournament

**Saturday, February 29,** 1 p.m. \$10 per person. Bring a partner and join us. To register contact Linda 418-751-4398. Organized by Hope Town Sports and Recreation Club

### 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 - 7:30 p.m. All are welcome.

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

**March 14, 21 and 28:** Needlepoint: Tapestry with animator Noellie Doiron. Cost \$35.

**April 4, 11 and 18:** Stained

glass: House of glass with animator Mario Boulianne. Cost \$35.

To register please contact [heritagenc@globetrotter.net](mailto:heritagenc@globetrotter.net), telephone 418-752-1334 or facebook.

### 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:

#### Fifty Plus

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

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

### CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

#### Book Room

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

### CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

#### Royal Canadian Legion

#### Br. 172

The Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 172, meets monthly every third **Saturday** at the Legion located at 55 Gal-

agher St.

### GESGAPEGIAG:

#### Important Meeting

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

### GESGAPEGIAG:

#### N.A. Meetings

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

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## UNITED CHURCH

#### Sunday, March 1

1:30 p.m. Municipal Hall  
in Hope Town

## ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

#### Sunday, March 1

#### New Carlisle

10 a.m. Morning Prayer

#### Hope Town

10 a.m. Holy Eucharist

#### Shigawake

10 a.m. Morning Prayer



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# On the lighter side...



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

### Fun By The Numbers

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

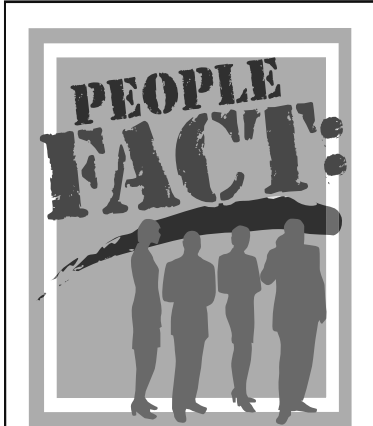
Level: Beginner

### Here's How It Works:

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

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

ANSWER:



THIS PERSON IS CREDITED WITH POPULARIZING WESTERN CIVILIZATION'S WHITE WEDDING DRESS TREND.

ANSWER: QUEEN VICTORIA

## Crossword Puzzle

1				2				3
4					5		6	
7						8		
						9		

### ACROSS

- Clothing items
- Female garment
- Opposite of "down"
- Invited people
- Not in

### DOWN

- Marriage ceremony
- Performs an action
- Purple color
- Chance or try
- Adverb: Very much

ANSWERS:  
Across  
1. Wedding 2. Does 3. Eggplant 5. Shot 8. So  
Down  
1. Wardrobe 4. Dress 6. Up 7. Guests 9. Out

## THIS DAY IN...



## HISTORY

- 1801: THE TIE BETWEEN AARON BURR AND THOMAS JEFFERSON IS BROKEN BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, ELECTING JEFFERSON PRESIDENT.
- 1904: PUCCINI'S OPERA "MADAMA BUTTERFLY" PREMIERES IN MILAN.
- 1996: CHESS CHAMP GARRY KASPAROV BEATS THE IBM COMPUTER DEEP BLUE, WINNING THE SIX-GAME MATCH.



## VOWS

solemn promises

## What is This Artifact?



The artifact in this photo is a peculiar thing that some of our readers may be familiar with. This item is made from wood but what do you think it is? The answer will be in next week's issue of The Gaspé Spec.

## How they SAY that in...

**ENGLISH:** Bride

**SPANISH:** Novia

**ITALIAN:** Sposa

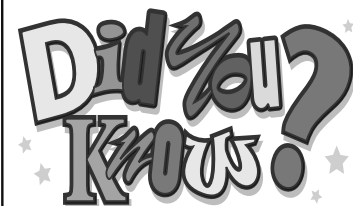
**FRENCH:** Mariée

**GERMAN:** Braut

## BRAIN TEASER

I can bring a smile to your face, a tear to your eye, or even a thought to your mind. But, I can't be seen. What am I?

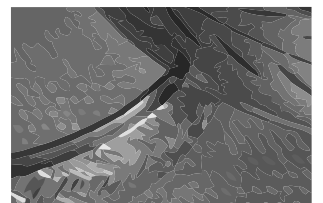
ANSWER: A MIRROR



JOHN LEGEND'S "ALL OF ME" IS ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR WEDDING SONGS AMONG MILLENNIALS.



## GET THE PICTURE?

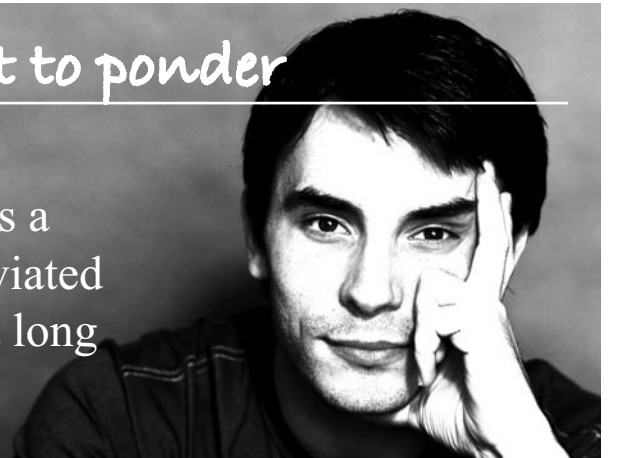


Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: WEDDING RINGS

## Point to ponder

Why is a abbreviated such a long word.



## HOROSCOPES

**ARIES** – Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, you are seeking success but are frustrated by a lack of results. Explore some new ways to approach your goals, and your mood can improve.

**TAURUS** – Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, sometimes the road you are traveling on has an unexpected detour. Rather than get frustrated by the situation, enjoy the new scenery that comes along the way.

**GEMINI** – May 22/June 21

Gemini, the more research you do,

the more secure you will feel with your decisions. You may have to delve a little further into a decision in the days to come.

**CANCER** – Jun 22/Jul 22

Your career is about to take a unique turn, Cancer. However, you may have to devote some more of your personal time to be able to handle the new responsibilities.

**LEO** – Jul 23/Aug 23

Whatever problems have cropped up around the house can be easily remedied, Leo. There is no need to stress about them. Instead, get a new perspective.

**VIRGO** – Aug 24/Sept 22

Friendly and approachable is what you need to be this week, Virgo.

Someone may be watching you carefully, and you need to be mindful of perceptions.

**LIBRA** – Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, you're all revved up and ready to go but really have no solid destination. Don't fret. Some inspiration will soon come to you and guide your path.

**SCORPIO** – Oct 24/Nov 22

Pay attention to all of the small details, as they help complete the bigger picture, Scorpio. This involves dotting every "i" and crossing every "t." Follow up on all loose ends.

**SAGITTARIUS** – Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, express how you are feeling, even if all of your beliefs aren't popular with everyone. Don't worry; there are many people who are in your

corner.

**CAPRICORN** – Dec 22/Jan 20

Don't be intimidated by other people who think they have all of the answers. Be bold and your assertive attitude will soon lead to positive results.

**AQUARIUS** – Jan 21/Feb 18

Taking each day as it comes without thinking too much about where you are going could be a great strategy right now, Aquarius. Overthinking things could be a recipe for trouble.

**PISCES** – Feb 19/Mar 20

It is one thing to have big ideas, but quite another to put plans into action, Pisces. You are ready to step up this week and make things happen.

## FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

**FEBRUARY 23**

Josh Gad, Actor (39)

**FEBRUARY 24**

Floyd Mayweather, Jr., Boxer (43)

**FEBRUARY 25**

Sean Astin, Actor (49)

**FEBRUARY 26**

CL, Rapper (29)

**FEBRUARY 27**

Josh Groban, Singer (39)

**FEBRUARY 28**

Patrick Monahan, Singer (51)

**FEBRUARY 29**

Cam Ward, Athlete (36)

# Women's Day 2020

Diane **Skinner**

GASPÉ PENINSULA: - In the Gaspé, it is very encouraging to see so many capable women in positions of responsibility. In some areas of the world, women continue to make positive gains slowly but surely. Women are increasingly advocating for themselves, pressuring politicians and supporting each other. Men are not the enemy here. Many men are vocal about this need for change. Everyone benefits in a world that is fair and respects all people.

It remains important to celebrate Women's Day. We can be encouraged by the progress that has been made but cannot be content. There is more work to be done. We all need to continue to think globally but act locally. Local Women's Day celebrations offer just that - a way to be locally and positively involved. In 2011, 2012 and 2013, very successful Women's Day celebrations were held in New Carlisle, offered by Family Ties. St. Godefroi has been holding a Women's Day event for the past 20 years at the Optimist Club. Mrs. Germaine Duguay-Aubut and a committee of ladies have worked together to host an event that is attended by both francophones and anglophones.

On International Women's Day, Sunday, March 8, CASA will be hosting an event at Centre Bonne Aventure at 105 Avenue Grand-Pré in Bonaventure. The event entitled *Shine Your Light* will give women an opportunity for *Connection, Conversation and Celebration*.

CASA hopes "to highlight some of the things that we can do to support women's mental health and wellness, through connection, conversation and celebration as well as laughter, song, skits and sharing a meal together," says Mary Robertson, event coordinator.

This celebration will run from 1:30 until 6 p.m. and will feature speakers, music and more. This is a free event and there is a limit of 150 places available. Women are asked to reserve their spot at [www.eventbrite.ca](http://www.eventbrite.ca) Woman's Day - Shine Your Light. They can also find the link on CASA's facebook page or call the CASA office at 418-752-5995.

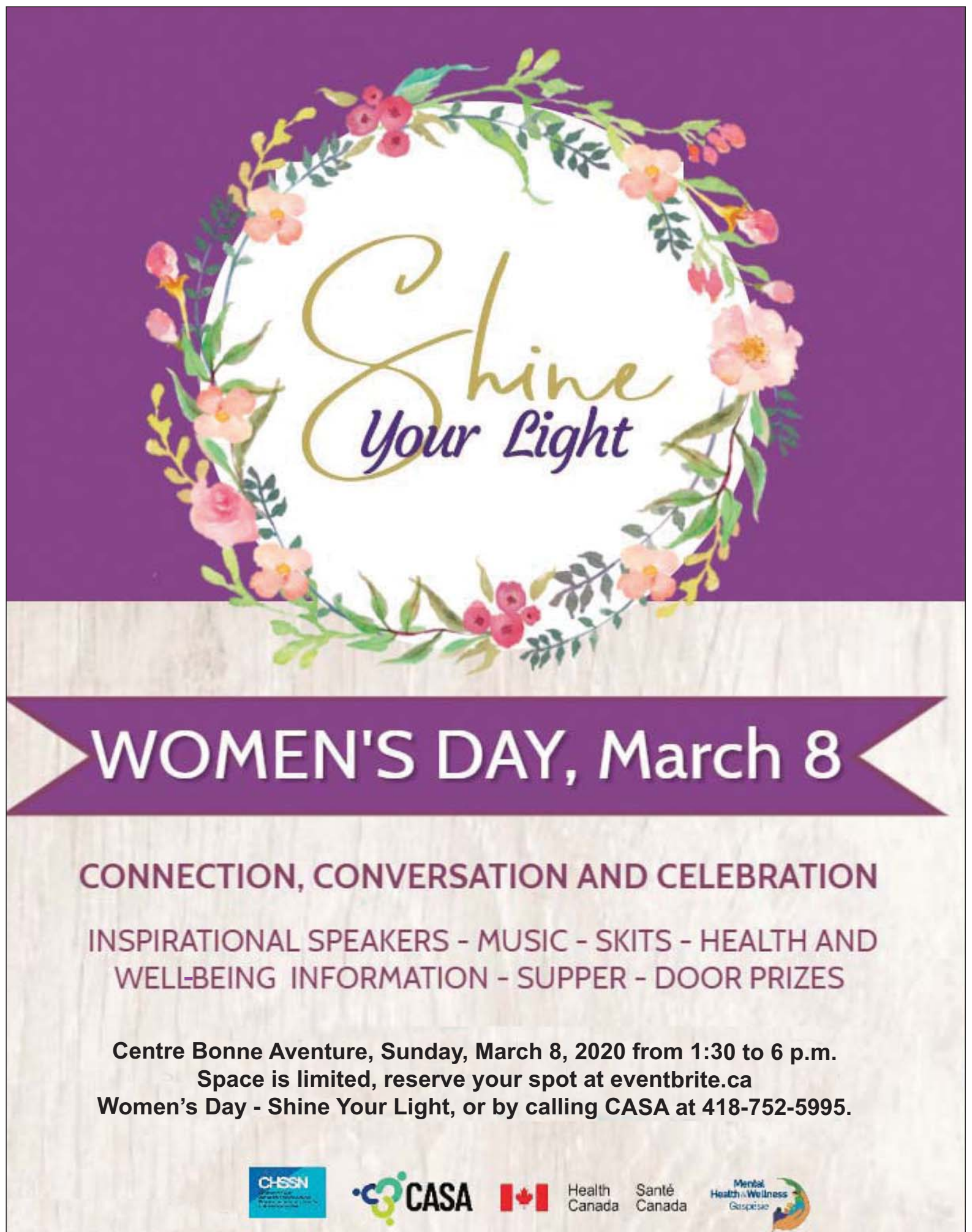
Heather MacWhirter, director of Family Ties, comments, "I am so pleased that CASA has taken the lead to organize an event to celebrate International Women's Day. It is very important for women to celebrate women's achievements as well as to continue to work towards women's equal-

ity."

International Women's Day is all about togetherness, re-

flection, advocacy, celebration, and action. We should continue to support meaning-

ful and positive Women's Day celebrations. They are important.

**Shine Your Light**

**WOMEN'S DAY, March 8**

**CONNECTION, CONVERSATION AND CELEBRATION**

**INSPIRATIONAL SPEAKERS - MUSIC - SKITS - HEALTH AND WELL-BEING INFORMATION - SUPPER - DOOR PRIZES**

**Centre Bonne Aventure, Sunday, March 8, 2020 from 1:30 to 6 p.m.**  
**Space is limited, reserve your spot at [eventbrite.ca](http://eventbrite.ca)**  
**Women's Day - Shine Your Light, or by calling CASA at 418-752-5995.**

If you are celebrating Women's Day in your community please send us a photo and a short caption from the event (who's in the photo, where was it taken, etc.) to [specs@globetrotter.net](mailto:specs@globetrotter.net) or by messenger to The Gaspé Spec

