

## COVID-19: Gaspé hospitals say they are ready

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ - The CISSS de la Gaspésie is taking the necessary measures in preparation for patients with coronavirus. Sixty-four additional beds are ready in hospitals in the Gaspé to cope with covid-19. Currently there are 25 beds available in Maria, 16 in Gaspé, and 13 in Chandler while in Sainte-Anne-des-Monts there are 10.

All elective surgeries, that is non-emergency surgeries, have been cancelled until further notice, and breast cancer clinics have suffered the same fate. No appointments will be made.

"There is work being done with all the staff to assess the patients currently hospitalized. Can we do anything but keep them in hospital, in particular to protect them and at the same time allow people with covid-19 to be hospitalized?" says assistant director Johanne Méthot.

Homecare, front-line and



*Dr. Yv Bonnier Viger, Director of Public Health*

Photo: N. Sergerie

telephone services are being strengthened.

On March 20 as Spec was going to press, no cases had been listed in the Gaspé region, but the Director of Public Health, Dr. Yv Bonnier

Viger, is still expecting cases in the region.

Four screening clinics were active in hospitals, but they have been relocated.

"We have trailers outside. People will no longer be

screened in our premises," said Ms. Méthot.

The time delays for receiving the results of these tests will also be reduced. Currently, the average is four days, but Quebec has opened clinics across the province. The samples from the Gaspé will be processed in Rimouski to speed up the processing.

### Necessary material

Health authorities assure that all the equipment necessary to deal with the crisis will be made available. For example, the network has 42 respirators: 11 are available in Maria and Chandler and 10 are in Gaspé and Sainte-Anne-des-Monts. Orders have been placed to increase the number.

The CISSS estimates that up to 15% of all people who will be affected by the disease will need to be hospitalized. Extreme cases could be treated in Quebec or Montreal.

Those who are not in the

hospital will be followed closely. "They will be at home with the treatment they need to recover properly," says Dr. Bonnier Viger.

### Back in service

In addition, 12 retired nurses have returned to service and 16 other people have indicated their interest in returning.

"There is really great solidarity. People who are retired are calling us. We even received names of teachers since the schools are stopped to give their availability," says the President and CEO, Chantal Duguay.

While people returning from trips and seniors are not respecting all of Quebec's instructions, Dr. Bonnier Viger reminds people to take the disease seriously.

"It is only on this condition that we will succeed in winning this battle. Most people understand this well. The prevention messages must be repeated."

## CORONAVIRUS: Breakdown of the facilities and services available to Gaspésians

Gilles **Gagné**

Number of beds earmarked for coronavirus patients in the Maria, Chandler, Gaspé and Sainte-Anne-des-Monts hospitals: 64 for the region.

Number of intensive care beds earmarked for coronavirus patients: 16 in the region (usually four per hospital).

Number of respirators per hospital as of March 19: (total for the region: 42) Maria: 11; Chandler: 11; Gaspé: 10; Sainte-Anne-des-Monts: 10

Effective Friday, March 20, those needing to produce a sample for analysis for the covid-19 will have to do so without entering any of the Maria, Chandler, Gaspé and Sainte-Anne-des-Monts hos-

pitals. Mobile units will be installed on hospital grounds, for that procedure. Until then, samples will be taken from vehicles in Chandler and Gaspé, and inside the hospital in a designated area for the people going to Maria and Sainte-Anne-des-Monts.

According to Dr. Iv Bonnier Viger, director of the Gaspé Peninsula Public Health Board, between 10 and 15% of the people contracting the coronavirus will have to be hospitalized. They will not be systematically sent to the intensive care unit. Their state will determine the place where they will be treated.

Up until March 18, a sample taken from a Gaspésian and sent to a Quebec City or Montreal laboratory necessi-

tated five days before the issuance of a result, positive or negative. The rising number of laboratories able to make those analysis in Quebec has since reduced that waiting time to four days.

There is no laboratory located east of Quebec City authorized to carry out such analysis, despite a regular request to that effect expressed by the interim leader of the Parti Québécois, Pascal Bérubé. Doctor Bonnier-Viger has heard that such a laboratory could be set up in Rimouski but there was no time frame or confirmation available as of March 19.

Quebec's Department of Health has released the number of coronavirus detection tests carried out so far in the

Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands. As of March 19, at 2:30 p.m., 81 samples were sent to the eight laboratories of the province and the results of 43 tests were available, all negative. The results of 38 tests were still unknown as of March 19.

So far, 80 samples of bodily substance from Gaspésians and Magdalen Islanders have been sent for an analysis to one of the Quebec City and Montreal laboratories; 71 tests have been negative and nine test results are unknown, as of March 20 at 2 p.m.

### Important information for clients of The Gaspé Spec

**Although the office is currently closed, staff is working from home in order to continue to provide you with important information.**

- **Daily updates and links regarding COVID-19 can be found on our website at [thegaspespec.com](http://thegaspespec.com)**
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# How are Gaspesian businesses reacting to the coronavirus?

## *This is how the Gaspésie Railway Society is coping*

● Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND – The coronavirus is forcing businesses to change the way they operate and this holds true for the companies based on the Gaspé Peninsula. The example of the Gaspésie Railway Society illustrates the measures recommended by the Public Health Board of the region.

“The management staff is working from home, except for the accounting clerk, who is alone at the office. We have reduced the number of employees per unit of equipment. For example, we have only one employee on our snowplow units instead of two. We have also adopted a contingency plan for an eventual occurrence of minimal

operations, if it is required,” explains the Gaspésie Railway Society director general, Luc Lévesque.

The employees who were following courses have adopted distance training methods, with computers and software enabling them to do so. The employees who were supposed to leave for vacation had to cancel them, “including mine,” points out Mr. Lévesque.

A list of qualified employees able to fill in for colleagues who could become sick was also prepared.

“So far, only one employee has pulled out of work for preventive reasons but it is because of influenza,” adds Mr. Lévesque.

The Gaspésie Railway Society has 34 regular employ-



*The Gaspésie Railway Society has implemented a set of measures to insure the health of its staff.*

ees on its payroll. Its activities were slowed down and then paralyzed during the 25-day Listuguj blockade, between February 10 and March 5. The coronavirus crisis has not hampered the traffic of the Gaspésie Railway Society so far, mentions Luc Lévesque.

## “Respect the quarantine!” says the mayor of Gaspé

● Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - The mayor of Gaspé, Daniel Côté, is criticizing the fact that people returning from travel are not respecting quarantine instructions.

In a message to his citizens posted on social networks on March 17, related to the coronavirus, the mayor was clear, "If you came back from a trip on March 12 or after the 12, you should be in quarantine for 14 days. So, you stay at home and have someone else do your shopping for you and deliver it to your front porch. You don't go to shops or in public. It's as clear as that."

The elected official insisted that people could be carrying the virus without knowing it. The act of quarantine is to avoid any contamination.

The mayor contacted a few industrialists in the town who assured him that they had strict measures in place for those who returned from a stay abroad.

Côté said, however, that he had no power to act against the recalcitrant. "I do not manage the private sector or public health. Neither I nor the police have the power of coercion to confine people to quarantine. There's no point in calling 1-877 to report people; this line is an information line. Neither the police, nor Public Health, nor I can force people to respect quarantine... but we can try to convince them," states Mr. Côté

## New Richmond is preparing plan to provide essential services

● Nelson Sergerie

New Richmond is working on a continuity plan to provide essential services to citizens in the wake of covid-19. The Town wants to ensure its citizens that it has the resources required to continue managing the water, sewer and snow removal systems.

"We have people returning from trips who have been quarantined. We want to make sure that if the disease arrives, that we are able to cope with it to provide services," says the mayor, Éric Dubé.

Discussions are being held with surrounding municipalities to help each other if basic services become at risk.

"We have several municipalities that have only one resource person dedicated to this work. If that person falls ill, is there any possibility of mutual assistance to ensure the maintenance of essential services," says the mayor.

## RéGIM commuter services maintained over main lines, adapted transport greatly reduced

*Gilles Gagné*

CARLETON – The Régie intermunicipale de transport de la Gaspésie et des Îles-de-la-Madeleine (RéGIM) is maintaining its commuter services but is applying some restrictions in order to limit the propagation of the covid-19 virus.

The other regular routes are being maintained, however, the RéGIM management is asking its riders to use its services only for essential reasons, such as grocery shopping, going to work or to travel for health services.

Users of the service should wash their hands, avoid touching their faces, cough or sneeze into their arm, and stay home if they have cold or flu symptoms. The administrative offices of the RéGIM in Carleton, Bonaventure, and Sainte-Anne-des-Monts are now closed to the public. Customer service is maintained and easy to reach by calling 1 877-521-0841, extension 0.

The adapted transport service for handicapped people has been reduced by 95% in the Bay of Chaleur, Haute-Gaspésie and Estran (Grande-Vallée, to Cloridorme) areas, as a result of the measures implemented by the Quebec Government. The small part that is being maintained is considered essential for health and work purposes.

## A larger gymnasium for Grand River Elementary School

*Nelson Sergerie*

GRANDE-RIVIÈRE - The Grand River Bon-Pasteur school gymnasium project will be going ahead, but at a larger size.

The René-Lévesque School Board is launching a call for tenders for the professional services of an architect and engineer for this enhanced project valued at \$5.5 million.

Rather than a 12 x 18 metre gymnasium at an estimated cost of \$3.7 million, the infrastructure will instead be 18 x 24 metres.

The school board emphasizes that the project will meet the needs of the municipality and the mayor, Gino Cyr, had requested a revised project to meet those needs.

"Often, the ARSEQ (Est-du-Québec regional sports association) competes. In the Rocher-Percé sector, we could not hold competitions because we did not have the necessary infrastructures. It will be very interesting for the municipality of Grand River as well as for the MRC," says Mr. Cyr.



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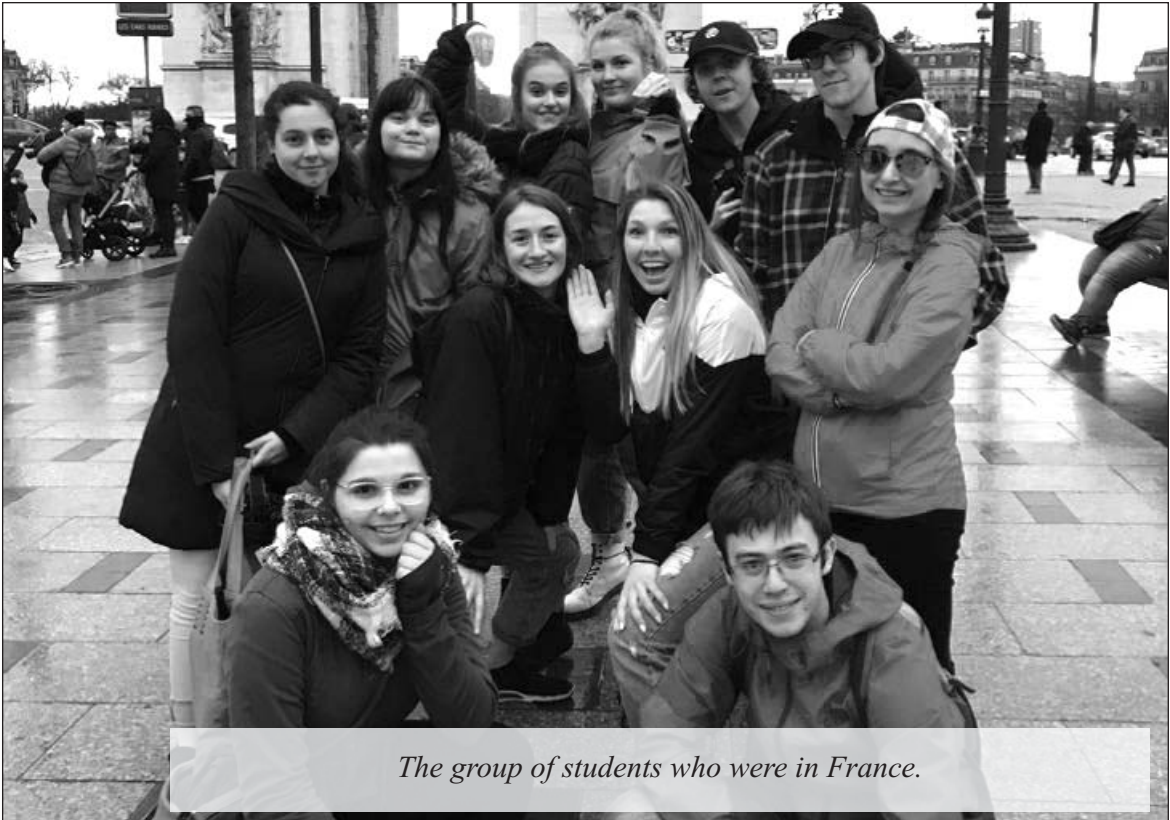
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The group of students who were in France.

Photo: Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles facebook

## Students have returned home

Nelson Sergie

GASPÉ - All the students from Cégep de la Gaspésie and des Îles who were outside the country have returned to Quebec.

A group of 11 students: six from Carleton-sur-Mer and five from the Magdalen Islands, along with two teachers, who were in France, returned on March 15. A second group of seven students and two teachers in Buenos Aires, Argentina, who were scheduled to return on March 21, returned on March 18. All the students were able to return together, on the same flights. Some left the group during a stopover in Quebec due to the suspension of classes. The three remaining students landed in Gaspé on March 19. Two other students, who were in Switzerland and in France, are also back in Canada.

The CEGEP ensured their repatriation and coordinated their return as soon as government instructions were given on March 12.

"We feared that the borders would close. We managed to get plane tickets before this announcement. It is certain that there was less and less space. We had put all our teams to work to have plans A, B and C. It is never simple but since it didn't take us long to get started, we still succeeded quite early on when people were going to come back," says the director, Yolaine Arseneau. To her knowledge, the airfares were "reasonable", given the circumstances.

The educational institution ensured that the instructions for these students were followed. "We made sure to pass on the recommendations of public health regarding the measures to be taken in the face of quarantine," added the director.

## Cap-des-Rosiers lighthouse: Status quo for Diane Lebouthillier

Nelson **Sergie**

GASPÉ - While the community is calling for its integration into Forillon Park, Minister Diane Lebouthillier refuses to take a position on the Cap-des-Rosiers lighthouse.

Several stakeholders, including Patrimoine Gaspésie, took advantage of the consultation of the management plan for the next 10 years for Forillon Park to make this request.

Questioned several times on this issue in the past on this issue, the member for Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine recalls her commitments during the last election campaign and no question of going further.

"My priority is that the lighthouse remains open; that we have students and that the lighthouse is safe and that tourists can visit it. It's an evolving process but my goals

that I clearly announced during the campaign remain the same."

The lighthouse is a stone's throw from the boundaries of Forillon Park. Ironically, the park's administrative team manages that of Pointe-au-Père, 369 kilometers from Cap-des-Rosiers.

### Gaspé still claims its integration

In a brief on Forillon's consultation plan, Gaspé highlights the situation of the Pointe-au-Père lighthouse.

The Town writes that the lighthouse is "left in the orphanage by another federal entity that has very little to preserve it," namely Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

Gaspé suggests moving the park's border a few tens of meters "which could be beneficial for the preservation of the tallest lighthouse in Canada."



Photo: N. Sergie

Diane Lebouthillier

The Town believes that it will take a strong political willingness.

The brief emphasizes that the lighthouse was recognized as a heritage monument by Pierre-Elliott Trudeau in 1974. For the town, "it is the role of Parks Canada to protect and present the country's heritage properties."

## Police report

Fisheries and Oceans Canada has released a list of offenders fined in recent months for various offences under the Fisheries Act. Five of them are based in the Gaspé Peninsula.

René Durette, of New Richmond, was fined \$500 for having taken and kept, during the same day, a quantity of more than 300 clams, thus contravening to the recreational fishery rules pertaining to soft shell clam harvesting. He was also fined \$500 for having wasted clams suitable for human consumption, which falls under the same softshell clam harvesting rules.

Pierre Fortin, of Rivière-au-Renard, paid a fine of \$4,300 for having been found in possession of snow crab less than 95 millimetres wide, which is not permitted under the snow crab fishing rules.

Pierrot English, of Gaspé, was fined \$1,000 for having used or having on board, the boat fishing nets with a mesh size of less than 152 millimetres, thus contravening to the Greenland halibut fishing regulation. The gear initially seized was confiscated permanently.

Gilles Chapados, of Gascons, was fined \$1,000 for having been found in possession of a female lobster with eggs attached, which contravenes to the lobster fishing rules.

Ghislain Roberge, of Bonaventure, was fined \$1,000 for harvesting shellfish in a closed area which is forbidden in the recreational softshell clam digging rules. The items seized upon the intervention of the wardens were confiscated permanently and he will have to respect a three-year ban on being in any area where shellfish harvesting takes places, whether in open or closed areas.

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Samuel Barriault-Saint-Pierre, 22, from Sainte-Anne-des-Monts, was arrested on March 11 shortly after a drug bust conducted by Sûreté du Québec officers in an apartment building revealed a significant quantity of methamphetamine. The suspect was arrested near the apartment building. He appeared in court the following day to face a charge of drug possession for the purpose of trafficking. Additional charges could be laid soon since the investigation is still ongoing. About 2,500 methamphetamine pills, various objects used in drug trafficking, a prohibited firearm and a certain quantity of contraband cigarettes were seized during the drug bust. Samuel Barriault-Saint-Pierre was already targeted by a warrant with regards to a previous file when he was arrested.

## Holy week services cancelled

Nelson Sergie

GASPÉ – On March 19, the Catholic Church of Gaspé cancelled all of the activities surrounding Holy Week, which is fast approaching.

This is one of the measures that applies because of the coronavirus pandemic.

In a new directive sent to all members of the churches on the Gaspé and Magdalen Islands, Mgr Gaétan Proulx mentions the importance of following the instructions of civil authorities.

"Following the consultation meeting that I had with the Bishop's office today (NDLD: March 18), I bring to your attention certain decisions that will seriously affect our Easter celebrations," writes Bishop Proulx in a note.

The Palm Sunday celebration is cancelled, as are the community celebrations of Forgiveness and those of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday Mass. Personal and private prayer meetings with priests are still possible.

All other celebrations had already been cancelled with rare exceptions, which included baptisms, except where the child was in danger of death; weddings and funerals.

Priests over 70 are not available to provide pastoral service or visit the sick, but the younger priests can take over with the necessary security measures.

The impact on the parishes will be significant. Many are worried about the drop in their income. The Diocese is monitoring the situation closely.





## Commentary

Gilles Gagné

## What will we learn from the current crisis?

The coronavirus pandemic will leave lasting marks on this era. We don't know how many people will die of covid-19 over the next weeks or months and we certainly hope that it will be the lowest number possible. This kind of worldwide shock is, nevertheless, not comparable to anything experienced over the last century.

It will likely kill less people than World War II but that conflict did not slow down the overall economy like the coronavirus did in less than two short weeks. Between 1939 and 1945, the economy of some countries, like Canada, experienced a boom because, except at sea, there was no open war on the continent and those countries had to make up for destroyed facilities. That is not counting the production of weapons.

Now, the worldwide economy, so entrenched in globalization, is experiencing a downturn everywhere, more than during the stock market crashes in 1987 and 2008.

That economic slowdown is rooted in three el-

ements, the fear of the virus, the uncertainty stemming from the strength and duration of the covid-19 propagation and the decision made by most governments to stop social and economic activities in order to reduce or nullify that propagation.

As hundreds of millions of citizens are confined to their homes, finding something to do becomes a preoccupation for a lot of people.

It would consequently be interesting if some people took the time to reflect on the future.

Boucar Diouf is a well-known Quebec humorist and columnist. He is also a science geek. He holds a doctorate in oceanography. A native of Senegal who made his superior studies in Quebec, he has an original, astute and practical way to look at things.

Like other oceanographers, he knows that in the sea, the strongest viruses usually "attack" or concentrate on the strongest predators as if, over hundreds of millions of years of life, nature has settled for that way of keeping things in balance.

Over the history of life on our planet, human beings arrived late. If we had to transpose the four-billion-year existence of the planet to a year, we could say that the homo sapien species, us, arrived on December 31, at 11 hours, 59 minutes and 56 seconds p.m. In other words, we arrived four seconds before the end of the year, that end of the year being now.

In four seconds, over a whole year, human beings have created chaos on the planet. Thank you for reminding us, Mr. Diouf.

We will likely need between three and four planets, maybe more, depending on the experts, to keep consuming the way we have been doing,

especially since the beginning of the 20th century. Without having to believe in a message "sent" by Mother Earth regarding covid-19, it is more than the right time to reflect on the way our society functions or doesn't function.

We are currently fighting an invisible enemy, a virus that requires a microscope to be seen. We are, by and large, deploying considerable means to overcome that enemy.

There are visible signs of another disaster that has slowly begun to affect nature and human beings. The pollution created by our overconsumption is way more conspicuous than the coronavirus will ever be, concretely and figuratively. The environmental damage triggered by that overconsumption is also evident, through a plummeting quality of air, a plunging water quality, downgrading ecosystems and a soon-to-be reduced life expectancy for living animals, including human beings. Yet we hardly move when we face evidence that has been visible for decades now.

Beside the good health of the population, our governments are currently obsessed with the way the economy will be relaunched once the crisis is over. It is normal in a way, but it is not reassuring as well. Will we embark on the same consumption driven pace once the coronavirus propagation will diminish or end?

Considering the mobilization capacity, or economic demobilization capacity, shown by human beings since about March 12, we have collectively proven that a switch in the way our world can adapt to a crisis is possible.

It is relatively easy to prove that the state of our nature is hurt, that the cause of the hurting comes from human behaviour.

If the coming weeks are used to reflect and tell our leaders that the environment has to be taken care of concretely, the coronavirus pandemic will not have been a total disaster.

Overall, North American politicians have failed miserably over the last decades in environmental matters. They are not leaders in that field. The leadership will have to come from elsewhere, from the public. Will it be the right time?



## COVID-19 Coronavirus

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# Evolution of foreign workers file

Gilles Gagné

## The week started with many doubts and concerns

On March 17, Bill Sheehan, vice-president of the E. Gagnon et Fils crab and lobster processing plant in Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé, thought there was still a slim chance the 55 Mexican workers he had recruited for 2020 would be able to join his workforce.

François Ducharme, director of international recruitment and integration for Dotemtex, a firm specialized in the hiring of foreign workers, has analyzed the latest regulations decreed by the federal government and concludes that “every foreign citizen wanting to take an international flight and who has lived outside Canada over the last 14 days,” will not be allowed to board the plane.

“So it is negative. We are discussing it but so far, it is nay,” said Bill Sheehan on March 17. He is also president of AQIP, the *Association Québécoise de l’industrie de la pêche*, the organization regrouping the province’s fish processing companies. Discussions are taking place between Mr. Sheehan and Quebec’s Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and its minister, André Lamontagne, who called Bill Sheehan because of his role with AQIP. “Minister Lamontagne called me to say that we will not be left without support. He was targeting the fishermen, the plant employees and the companies,” added Mr. Sheehan.

Based on what Canada’s National Revenue Minister Diane Lebouthillier affirmed on March 16 regarding the likelihood of accepting Mexican workers in Canada, Bill Sheehan thought, until receiving the message from Dotemtex, that it would be possible to greet his foreign workers on April 2, although he also had doubts about that, given the instructions the same day by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

The workers were aware that they would have to be in quarantine for 14 days upon their arrival here. Before that speech by Mr. Trudeau “we thought that the Mexicans would qualify, but not the Guatemala workers,” adds Bill Sheehan. The Mexicans who already came to the Gaspé Peninsula and the ones

recruited for this year have a working permit “but it is a temporary one. It is not a visa given to people who can stay for years. I take it that Minister André Lamontagne will try to check if there is some flexibility that can be obtained from the federal authorities,” explains Mr. Sheehan.

The office of André Lamontagne has not returned SPEC’s call in order to clarify the magnitude of the support that can be provided to the fish processing plants and the possibility of convincing the federal government to show some flexibility regarding foreign workers.

## As the week comes to an end owners of fish processing plants are told foreign workers will be allowed to come

Gaspesian fish processing plant owners who were worried about the border closure decreed by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on March 16 were relieved to learn two days later that an agreement between the provincial governments and the federal government will allow temporary seasonal labourers to enter the country.

That border closure came into force on March 18, but the agreement reached by Quebec Premier François Legault, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Canada’s Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland will make room for exceptions, especially for seasonal temporary workers from Mexico.

“The goal of the federal government is to allow all the foreign seasonal workers, who already have a job here, to pass. That is clear,” pointed out Premier Legault in his March 18 daily coronavirus update.

“It must be understood that it is important. We import a lot of fruit and vegetables during the winter but, in the summer, there is a big part of the production that is made by foreign seasonal workers. So, I want to take the opportunity to reassure the farmers who are listening, because I know that a lot of them are worried. We are preparing an agreement that will work with the federal government so that those labourers will be able to work here,” he added.

About 16,000 workers from Mexico and Central America now come to Quebec every year to work

mainly in the province’s farms. After the March 16 bad news, Bill Sheehan asked Quebec’s Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, André Lamontagne, to talk to the federal authorities.

“The fish processing plants of the Gaspé Peninsula, the Magdalen Islands and the North Shore will need between 250 and 300 foreign workers this year. We also know that the fishing industry of New Brunswick will need 2,000 of those workers for the season. The pressure on the federal government came from there as well. In certain New Brunswick processing plants, the proportion of foreign labour reaches 50% of the workforce,” says Mr. Sheehan.

At the E. Gagnon et Fils plant in Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé, 55 foreign workers are expected to arrive for April 2.

“They will have to follow a quarantine. They will be available for work 14 days later, so on the 16. It is not ideal but it is the rule and it will be followed. It is a year of constraints,” underlines Bill Sheehan.

He does not rule out trying to bring the workers earlier in order to start the quarantine before the end of March.

The E. Gagnon et Fils plant greeted 20 Mexican workers in 2018 and 40 last year. “The procedure to get that manpower must be started a year ahead,” he specifies.

The company employed up to 650 people during the peak period in 2019. That number not only includes the plant workers but also the management people, the truck drivers and the employees working on the wharves. Slightly more than 500 people work in the main plant, located along highway 132.

“The Mexicans fill about 10% of the plant’s production needs, and sometimes more. If they don’t come, there are some types of production that we will not do, like niche products for the Asian markets, for Japan precisely. We would then only make 30-pound packages for the American market,” explains Bill Sheehan.



## Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



## School’s Out! Now What?

A month ago, we never could have foreseen the extent to how quickly the response to COVID-19 has unfolded. One of the big but critically important moves was to close schools and daycares. Parents are finding the best way to be with their children all day, every day for the near future. The trick might be to keep them busy. Of course, they need down time or free play, but you do want them to feel a sense of purpose – and continue their learning. Please do not allow them to keep their pyjamas on all day. Getting dressed and ready for the day ahead is a routine they should still follow.

How that learning will look at home will be different than their normal school day. However, parents have so much that they can teach their children. It may be helpful to divide the day into two related yet different approaches to learning. The first is more traditional school learning, such as reading, writing, math and science. The second is an opportunity to teach your children life skills appropriate to their age. Don’t forget to make sure they get outdoor time and physical exercise. No playdates, no parties. Social distancing is one of the key ways to slow down the spread of COVID-19.

Traditional school type learning can be informal too. It can include some reading, some writing and some math and science. All of these are readily available online. There is a huge number of websites that offer worksheets. If you have a workbook at your children’s level have them do a few pages daily in that workbook. You can read to your children. Start a novel with them depending on age that may include *Charlotte’s Web*, *The Twits*, *Anne of Green Gables* and for older children *The Hatchet*.

Here are a few websites to get you started: [turtlediary.com](http://turtlediary.com), [thecolor.com](http://thecolor.com), [funfonix.com](http://funfonix.com), [freechildrenstories.com](http://freechildrenstories.com), [spellingtraining.com](http://spellingtraining.com), [funbrain.com](http://funbrain.com), [rockalingua.com](http://rockalingua.com), [sightreadingfactory.com](http://sightreadingfactory.com), [sciencespot.net/Pages/](http://sciencespot.net/Pages/)

Also, virtual tours online at: [kids.sandiegozoo.org](http://kids.sandiegozoo.org), [nps.gov/yell/learn](http://nps.gov/yell/learn) and loads more! For children who love the computer or iPad use those tools BUT do not let them sit at the computer all day.

The non-traditional method of teaching your children just might be more fun for you and your children will likely be less resistant to these “real life” activities. All activities should be appropriate to the children’s age.

- Teach your children to cook, or even food preparation. There is a lot of learning in cooking: reading a recipe, measuring, hygiene, spices, portion sizes, temperatures and cleaning up afterwards.
- Why not teach them how to do laundry? Teach them to gather, sort, measure soap and operate the washer/dryer.
- Have them deep clean their room. Teach them how to sort. For example, make three piles; to throw out, to give away and to keep. This is learning.
- Teach them how to sew on a button. This is fine motor skill and might come in super handy. Teach them to knit or crochet.
- You can have them watch you change the oil of your vehicle and they can learn.
- Write letters. If you have stamps, they can write actual notes or letters to friends and family. Do your children know where to put a stamp on an envelope? Many do not.
- Have them rake the yard and plan a garden. They can decide what they will plant and design their garden. Then come good weather, they can plant their garden.
- They can (and should) help with other household chores: always take your dishes to the counter, scrape them and put them in dishwasher; make their beds every day, put dirty clothes in the basket or hamper, and help with taking out the garbage.

Give them a purpose. They will learn so much along with that. We are all in this together and family will be exceedingly important and even more so in the days to come.

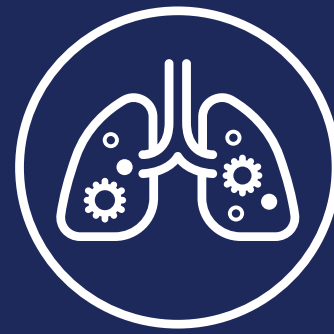
The coronavirus disease (COVID-19)  
causes a respiratory infection that  
can involve the following symptoms:



Fever



Cough



Trouble  
Breathing

# Protect Yourself!

**Wash your hands often** with lukewarm running water and soap for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based sanitizer if you do not have access to soap and water.

**Stay home:** do not go to school, child centres or daycares. Avoid public spaces and work from home, whenever possible.

**Protect those close to you,** particularly the elderly and those at greater risk for infection, by avoiding visiting them if you are feeling sick.

It is strongly recommended that all persons returning from abroad self-isolate at home for a period of 14 days and watch out for any symptoms.

[Québec.ca/coronavirus](https://quebec.ca/coronavirus)

 1 877 644-4545



# Simple Acts

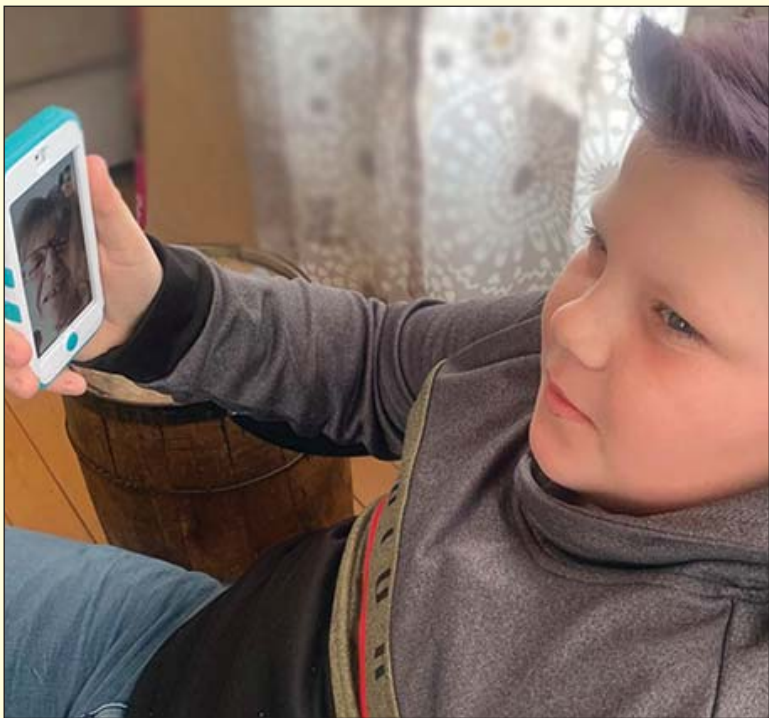
*"It is the small things, everyday deeds of ordinary folk that keep the darkness at bay. Simple acts of love and kindness."*

Diane Skinner

We are living in strange and potentially dangerous times. Let us not underappreciate how very serious the coronavirus is and will be in the coming days and even months. There is no need and, certainly, it is not in anyone's best interest to panic. Some simple, common-sense measures will minimize the increase in cases. Simple common-sense measures will help to protect you and those you come in contact with. Do not panic, but do not ignore.

We have not seen anything like this in our lifetimes. So, we will need to act in new ways, use a different approach and be vigilant. The virus can be transmitted very early on and the signs to watch for include a sore throat, fever, cough and shortness of breath. If your symptoms develop into something more serious, seek medical attention immediately. These include difficulty breathing or shortness of breath, persistent pain in your chest, confusion and/or a bluish tint to lips or face.

We are being cautioned to



Facetime is a great way for children to stay in touch with their grandparents.

avoid public gatherings and many large and meaningful steps have been taken to ensure this. Schools and day cares have been closed as well as many other places of work. The best way to prevent getting the coronavirus is to avoid being exposed to it. This virus is mainly passed on from person-to-person from those who are less than 6 feet away. The virus

can also live on surfaces so wash your hands thoroughly and often. If you have no access to soap and water immediately, use hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth before you wash your hands. Do pay attention to the news for updates on all information.

These are times when kind-

ness and consideration will be critical to dealing with this virus. Think of yourself as a member of the community and your actions may be helpful and maybe even save a life.

## Practice simple acts of kindness and love:

**Stay home as much as you can.** This prevents you from getting the virus and spreading it to others you come in contact with. In particular, the elderly are vulnerable, especially those over 70.

**Call people, email, facebook message, facetime or Skype with those who are in self-isolation.** Outside contact will make them feel cared for. It will reduce their anxiety.

**Offer to drop off food or other necessities** but only if you are NOT exhibiting symptoms. No need to go into the home just drop off the items.

**Do not hug or shake hands with people that you encounter.** This is not the time for close physical contact. Greet by using a wave or a yoga "namaste."

**Protecting yourself will obvi-**

**ously protect others.** Wear disposable gloves when using a shopping cart. Use Purell before and after going into a store, using a bank machine, using a debit machine and handling money. Clean your cell phone often. You can also use alcohol wipes.

**If you have a face mask, use it.** This is for you and others.

**Don't forget the children in your life may be scared.** Talk to them and answer their questions. Reassure them that many people are working hard to find an answer for this. Tell them that you love them.

**If you can, help someone who will be struggling to buy the necessities.** People with limited income cannot stock up on food. Donate to your local food bank.

**Remind yourself that things will get better one day.** They will. They must.

*"I wish it need not have happened in my time," said Frodo. "So, do I," said Gandalf, "and so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide" J. R. R. Tolkien*

# Precautions

Diane Skinner

**No handshaking ever.** Not even a high five or a fist bump. Clasp hands together and bow if you wish. Better still stay six feet away from other people.

When you fill your vehicle with gas, NEVER use your bare hands on the handle of the pump. Wear gloves or even wrap a piece of paper towel around the handle and then dispose of the paper towel.

If out in public, open doors with a closed fist and never hold the handle in your bare hand. Disposable gloves would come in handy. If you have none, follow the suggested habits:

**Wash your hands.** Use soap. Wash for at least 20 sec-

onds. You can also use hand sanitizer that is at least 60% alcohol. In a pinch you can use alcohol wipes. Dispose after using.

**Use disposable disinfectant wipes.** Wipe the shopping cart handle and door handles both in your home and when out.

**At every entrance to your home place a bottle of hand sanitizer.** Use it when going in and out. Keep a bottle in your car. Use it before leaving your car and when you get back in. Don't forget the door handles.

**Kleenex is your friend.** If you cough or sneeze, use a tissue and discard. Cough into your elbow ONLY if there is no other option. The virus may be

able to live a long time.

**Avoid touching your face.** Most people touch their face 90 times per day. Time to change that. This virus only has receptors for lung cells. The only way that it can infect you is entering through your nose or mouth.

**Things to buy if possible:** disposable gloves, surgical masks, disinfectant wipes, hand sanitizer that contains 60% or more alcohol, zinc lozenges seem to be effective in blocking the virus from multiplying, and Betadine nose spray and throat spray also seem to help block the the virus.

If you cannot buy these items, do not stress too much.

Ask when the supplies might be restocked. Order online. Practice social distancing – stay six feet away from others, no big crowds and minimize your outings. Practice self-isolation or self-quarantining. That means do not go out at all. Have your medications delivered. If your grocery store offers personal shopping – you send your grocery list to the store by email or an app and an employee goes around the store and puts the items in a cart. Then you just need to pay and pick it up. Call around and ask.

Scientists are working hard to understand this virus and how it works. There has been a great increase in their scientific

knowledge of this virus, however, there will be no vaccine available this year. Try to follow these few guidelines whenever possible. Watch the news, as hard as that is to do right now. There may be new suggestions for how to keep safe.

Until this is over, walk around and look up at the sky, the sun and the clouds. Admire the beauty of trees and birds. (While maintaining social distancing.) Give yourself a break from worry. Don't be selfish and make sure the elderly and those living alone have what they need.

Stay well. Wash your hands.



FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON THE COVID-19 NOVEL VIRUS  
FOLLOW THE GASPÉ SPEC PAGE ON FACEBOOK  
OR VISIT THEGASPESPEC.COM



# Gaspesian Notables: Gérard D. Levesque

Levesque was a long-time Quebec politician and cabinet minister, who twice served as interim leader of the Quebec Liberal Party.

**Diane Skinner**

Gérard D. Levesque was a long-serving Gaspesian politician who can be admired for several reasons, but particularly his political longevity and the fact that he was held in such high regard by the Quebec Liberal Party and the residents of the Gaspé. He was born right here on the Coast in 1926 in what is now called Port Daniel – Gascons.

He was educated in Montreal at McGill University, returned to his beloved Gaspé, and was first elected to represent the riding of Bonaventure in 1956. He was just 30 years old when he started on the path of serving as a lifelong provincial politician. Levesque was a member of the Quebec Liberal Party for his entire career.

Levesque held many positions of additional responsibility in the government. Under Premier Jean Lesage he served as the Minister of Housing and Fisheries. Later he also held the post of Minister of Trade. In 1970 when Robert Bourassa was elected Premier of Quebec, Levesque was again selected to hold positions of added responsibility. These included Minister of Justice, Minister of Trade and subsequently Deputy Premier.

When Bourassa was defeated in 1976, Levesque became Leader of the Opposition because Robert Bourassa had lost his seat in the parliament of Quebec. Claude Ryan then became leader of the Quebec Liberal Party, but did not yet have a seat, so again Gérard D. Levesque was chosen to be acting Leader of the Opposition.

Levesque is remembered for his strong opposition to what was then called Bill 1, the Charter of French Language. As a result of his very vocal opposition to the proposed Charter it had to be rewritten and was then renamed Bill 101. In 1985 when Bourassa and



Gérard D. Levesque was a Gaspesian politician who was born in Port Daniel in 1926 and passed away in 1993 at the age of 67.

the Quebec Liberal Party regained power, Levesque stepped aside as Interim Leader of the Opposition. In Bourassa's new government Levesque was appointed Minister of Finance. This was a position he held until his death in 1993 when he was just 67 years old.

Gérard D. Levesque was a popular and trusted politician, but he never aspired, at least overtly, to be the Leader of the Quebec Liberals and potentially the Premier of Quebec. He served his people but chose to stay here and serve the loyal voters of the Gaspé. A section of Route 132 in Bonaventure, New Carlisle and Paspébiac is named boul. Gérard D. Levesque in his honour.

The spelling of his name is quite interesting. His last name is correctly spelled without an accent, even though René Lévesque spelled his surname with the acute accent. This can cause some confusion. If one researches Gérard D. Levesque's biographies, they confirm that his surname Levesque is spelled correctly with no accent. These sources include minutes of Quebec Cabinet meetings and the biography 'Gérard D. Levesque, le maître politique' by Serge Lambert. In addition, he was always known politically as Gérard D. Levesque. The middle initial was always part of his name. All articles about him or official government documents include the "D."

Spec reader Brian Dea, who lives in Australia, provides the explanation. "Joseph Edmond Gerard Dea was born in Port Daniel West in the county of Bonaventure on May 2, 1926. His father was Thomas Leonard Dea. On the death of his mother, Estelle Litalien, Irene Dea, the sister of his father, and her businessman husband, Joseph-Edmond Levesque, became his parents. Henceforth he went by the name Gérard D. (for Dea) Levesque."

If we consider politicians, good politicians, as leading a life of service then Gérard D. Levesque served his Gaspesian people well. We should learn about him and remember him as a Gaspesian notable.

## New contract for Percé civil servants

*Nelson Sergerie*  
PERCÉ - Percé civil servants have signed a new agreement with the municipality.

On February 20, 89% of the workers accepted the proposed collective agreement which provides for increases of 14% over six years.

The 34 union members affiliated with the CSN also made gains on their pension plans, leaves, vacations and the agreement governing snow removal. The agreement also provides for an improvement in labour relations and in the management of labour disputes. In this regard, a committee is now included in the collective agreement in order to find a quick settlement before litigation is brought to court.

The collective agreement expired on December 31, 2018. "Although the negotiation process was long, we believe that we have achieved our negotiation objectives because of the solidarity of our members. That decision in assembly, to vote by means of pressure, unblocked the negotiations. We achieved concrete progress that will improve our working and living conditions for the next few years," says Jason Quirion, president of the Union of Workers for the Town of Percé, in a press release.

## Musée de la Gaspésie closed until March 29 at least

*Gilles Gagné*  
After announcing on March 13 that it would remain open over the following days, the Musée de la Gaspésie in Gaspé announced in March 15 its closure until at least March 29. Following the recommendations issued on March 15 by the Government of Quebec, the museum management changed its earlier decision. Further instructions regarding future activities will be communicated as soon as other Quebec-wide recommendations are issued, specifically through the museum's website and social media.

### Teachers' Guide

#### Comprehension:

1. Where and when was Gérard D. Levesque born?
2. Where was he educated, when did he become a politician and what party did he represent?
3. List some (at least 4) positions of responsibility he held in the government.
4. How did Bill 1 become Bill 101?
5. How was he honoured in Paspébiac, Bonaventure and New Carlisle?

#### Vocabulary

**Define:** Define: longevity, aspired, opposition

#### Extra:

1. Research Bill 1 and Bill 101. Tell some additional information about that change.
2. What do you consider a good or effective politician? What qualities should they possess?

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**NOTICE TO ALL CLIENTS**

**Effective immediately we are implementing the following directives.**

If possible send paperwork by email or text to:  
taxes.serviceshs@gmail.com or 418-759-5790.

**Dropping off paperwork in person: Papers must be in an envelope with your name and phone number on it. Please wear gloves.**

**For more information: call Donna Harrison or Louis Sexton at any time in Cascapédia-St-Jules at (418) 759-5790.**

**Call the Spec office on Tuesday before coming in (418) 752-5400**  
208-B Gérard D. Levesque, New Carlisle  
10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (front west entrance)

**DEADLINE FOR FILING INCOME TAX HAS BEEN CHANGED TO JUNE 1, 2020**

**Services d'Impôts H & S**  
**H & S Tax Return Services**



# Announcements...



## Obituary



**LEGROS: Phyllis (nee Patterson)**

Passed away peacefully on February 3, 2020, at the St. Catharines Hospital in her 90th year. Predeceased by her husband Erskin (2012), her son Charles (2012), and all her sisters and brothers of both families. She is survived by her son Allison LeGros (Jocelyn) and her daughter Gerry Lise as well as eight grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Funeral arrangements and service will take place later in Gaspé. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to your local Catholic Church.

**The New Carlisle  
Funeral Association**  
extends sympathy to the family of  
Marion Smith



## In Memory



**WATT: Jessie (Munro)**

In fond and loving memory of a wonderful lady who passed away March 27, 2017.

*You had a smile for everyone*

*You had a heart of gold*

*You left the sweetest memories*

*This world could ever hold*

*To us you were someone special*

*What more is there to say*

*Except, wish with all our hearts*

*That you were here today*

*The times we spent together*

*The happy days we knew*

*Are lived again so often*

*In memories of you.*

Loved and missed everyday by your family.

**Card of Thanks, Birth Announcement,  
Prayer, Engagement, Birthday,  
Anniversary, Memorial Service  
announcement:**

\$30 (\$35 with picture) up to 20 lines.

**In Memoriam:**

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

\$40 (\$45 with picture)

for more than 20 lines

**Obituary or Wedding:**

\$40 (\$45 with picture) (Max. 300 words)

**SUBMISSIONS FOR THIS  
PAGE MUST BE IN OUR OFFICE  
BY THURSDAY AT 4 P.M.**



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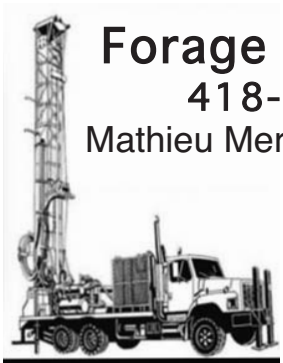


**Tremblay & Barriault, notaires inc**  
Notaries & legal counsel

**Gaël Tremblay, notary  
Serge Barriault, notary**

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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.

## COAST ROUNDUP

### SHIGAWAKE:

#### Advance Notice St. Paul's Anglican Church Women

**July 18:** Tea, bake and craft sale will be held from noon to 2 p.m. at the Shigawake Community Centre, Adults \$7 and children 6 and under free. Door prizes. Everyone is welcome.

### PORT DANIEL:

#### Advance Notices:

Marcil Woman institute will hold the following events at the Three Star Golden Age Club in Port Daniel

**June 6:** Military Whist starting at 7 p.m. \$5 per person

**July 25:** Strawberry social from 12 noon to 2 p.m.

## COVID-19 Closures & Updates

### CAISSE DESJARDINS:

The following Caisse Desjardins will remain open to public. If your local Desjardins branch is not listed below, only Guichet service will be available. Centre de services de Maria (Maria), Centre de services de Bonaventure (Bonaventure), Mer et montagnes (Grande-Vallee), Centre-sud gaspesien (Chandler), Pointe de la Gaspesie (Gaspé), Ramées (L'Étang-du-Nord), Ramées (Grande-Entrée), Havre-aux-Maisons (Havre-aux-Maisons) and Littoral gaspésien (Grande-Riviere).

### VIA RAIL:

VIA Rail's overnight train (Montreal-Halifax) has been cancelled beginning March 13, 2020.

### CHURCH SERVICES:

All services at the Anglican, United and Catholic Churches along the Coast have been cancelled.

### MATAPEDIA:

TOWN HALL: For any information please contact 418-865-2917. ALL sports, cultural and community centres closed including (arenas, sports chalets, community halls, ski resorts, li-

braries, gyms). First payment of property taxes postponed without penalty to March 30. For more info. contact 418-865-2917.

PETIT CHAMONIX: Closed  
CLUB RESTICO ST ALEXIS: Closed for two weeks.

CENTRE SPORTIF AND CANTINE: Closed

SADC: Open but doors locked. Please advise us before coming by telephone at 418-629-4474 (post 221).

CLUB DE CURLING DE LA VALLEE: Closed

PARC REGIONAL DE VAL D'IRENE: Closed

### MARIA:

IGA: Regular hours. Delivery available. Call 418-759-3440.

### GESGAPEGIAG:

MICMACS OF GESGAPEGIAG: All offices closed until March 30, 2020, however, the departments of Health and Social Services, Public Safety and Public Works will continue to provide essential services.

RELAIS DE LA CACHE & CONDOS: Closed

MAWIOMI TREATMENT SERVICES INC: Closed

### CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

TOWN HALL: Closed to the public. For any information please call 418-392-4042 or email cascapedistjules.loisirs@globetrotter.net.

CHRISTIAN BIBLE SERVICES: March 29 – cancelled.

COMMUNITY CENTRE: Closed until March 30.

YOUTH CENTRE: Closed

50 PLUS CLUB: Closed

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION: Closed

### NEW RICHMOND:

TOWN HALL: Visits for essential services only. For any other information, please contact 418-392-7000. ALL sports, cultural and community centres closed including: arenas, sports chalets, community halls, ski resorts, libraries and gyms.

SUBWAY: Monday to Friday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

TIMS: Takeout and drive thru only.

IGA: New hours: 8 a.m to 8 p.m. Delivery is available please contact 418-392-4237 for more information.

MAXI: New hours: 8 a.m. to p.m. until further notice.

CHRISTIAN BIBLE SERVICES: March 26 and April 2 – Cancelled.

THE SOURCE: Closed

ACCENT: New hours: Monday to Saturday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday: closed. In case of emergency, please call 418-392-0744 or 418-392-0559.

### NEW CARLISLE:

TOWN HALL: Closed to the public. For information please call 418-752-3141 or email newcarlisle@globetrotter.net to reach staff who will be present

at the office. Community hall closed, citizen centre (arena) and municipal chalet closed.

FAMILY TIES: Closed from March 14 to March 29 inclusively. If you belong to a private Facebook or Messenger group through Family Ties, you can contact the coordinator as usual. If not, please feel free to send a message via the Family Ties Facebook page.

NEW CARLISLE LEGION: Closed until further notice.

CLC: Closed until further notice.

CASA: All activities, Senior wellness centres, Bright beginnings and Mental health first aid training are cancelled or postponed. SPEC NEWSPAPER: Closed Please contact specs@globetrotter.net with any questions or concerns (including cancellations) or inbox The Gaspé Spec on facebook.

HERITAGE NEW CARLISLE: Closed until further notice.

DEPANNEUR 2000: New store hours are the following. Monday to Friday: 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday: 6:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday : 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

ESSB BOARD OFFICE: Closed to the public. There are limited staff working at the office so responses to voicemails may be delayed.

CANTEEN WIMPY: Open regular hours. Delivery available by calling 418-752-2020.

### PASPEBIAC:

TOWN HALL: Closed. For more information please contact 418-752-2277 or servicesauxci-toyens@villepaspebiac.com.

IGA: New hours: 8 a.m to 8 p.m. Delivery available. Call 418-752-2288.

FAMILI PRIX: Regular hours. Delivery available. Call 418-752-6635.

JEAN COUTU: Regular hours. Delivery available. Call 418-752-3807.

TIMS: Takeout and drive thru only. New hours: Open from 5 a.m. to 11 p.m.

SUBWAY: Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

HARTS: New hours: Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 12 (noon) to 5 p.m.

LA GANACHE HUPPEE: Home delivery to isolated people. Call 1-581-701-1236.

RESTO PUB GASPESIEN: Closed.

DIXIE LEE: Regular hours. Beginning March 18 for a trial period from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. delivery between Hope and New Carlisle. Delivery cost of \$5 and a minimum purchase of \$15 is required. Tips not included. Cash only / Interac system will be available soon.

PRO PIEDS DE LA BAIE: Closed until March 30.

THE SOURCE: Closed

CANADIAN TIRE: New hours beginning March 20, 2020.

Monday to Friday: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### HOPE TOWN:

TOWN HALL: Closed to public. We can be reached by phone 418-752-2137. All residents over 70 to stay at home and have relatives do their errands. For people living alone with no relatives close to them, please contact the municipality.

COMMUNITY CENTRE: Activities cancelled.

### SHIGAWAKE:

TOWN HALL: Closed. Citizens are asked to contact the office by phone or email. Call 418-752-2474 or email shigawake@navigue.com

COMMUNITY CENTRE: closed

FIPEC: Closed. For orders or more information, please call 418-752-3632 option 1 or email info@fipec.qc.ca.

### PORT DANIEL/GASCON:

TOWN HALL: Essential visits only. For more information please contact 418-396-5225 (day) or Mayor Grenier 418-751-3156 (day and night). All municipal infrastructures (arenas, centre plein air, community centres, clubs and library closed). Other activities (cross-fit, dances etc..) cancelled.

THREE STAR GOLDEN AGE CLUB: All events cancelled

JEAN COUTU GASCON: Regular hours. Delivery available. Call 418-396-2025.

RESTAURANT L'ETALE: Closed

### CHANDLER

PLACE DU HAVRE (SHOPPING CENTRE): New hours. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday and Friday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 12 (noon) to 4 p.m.

SUBWAY: Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

TIMS CHANDLER: Takeout and Drive thru only.

THE SOURCE: Closed

SAAQ CHANDLER: Closed

CAB CHANDLER: In order to maintain essential services CAB is in urgent need of volunteers under the age of 70. For more information contact 418-689-6023 or visit cabchandler.com

TOWN OF CHANDLER: Essential visits only, for more info call 418-689-2221. All sports centres, gym, pool, dances, yoga, arenas, libraries (Chandler and Newport) and community centres closed until further notice.

### PERCÉ AND

#### SURROUNDING AREA:

VILLE DE PERCE: Closed to the public including municipal buildings, such as the town hall, libraries and community centres. VISION GASPÉ-PERCÉ NOW: Staff will be working from home and can be reached by email. TOWN OF GRANDE-RIVIERE: Open Monday to Thursday from

8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m. to 12 (noon). All municipal buildings, libraries, community centres, arenas closed until March 29.

BARACHOIS LEGION: Closed

CERCLE DE FERMIERES DE BRIDGEVILLE: Closed

GEOPARC: Closure of the Desjardins playroom, Jacuzzi and Tektonik multimedia room. The trails remain open and parking is available. Snowshoe and toboggan rental on week-ends only.

BARACHOIS REC CENTRE: The Barachois Rec Centre has put together a group of volunteers to assist seniors in the community. If you are aware of a senior(s) who has no family near and is in need during the difficult time, please contact us. Our volunteers can assist in running short errands, deliver groceries or deliver a magazine to them. There will be no physical contact with the senior(s). The items will be dropped off at the door. The Barachois Rec Centre committee can also assist with purchase of basic food essentials in an emergency. Please contact 418-645-3779 or 418-645-3782 or email rocky.annett1@gmail.com for assistance or more information.

FIPEC GRANDE-RIVIERE: Closed to the public. For orders or more information please call 418-385-3333 option 1 or email info@fipec.qc.ca.

### GASPÉ AND

#### SURROUNDING AREA:

TOWN GASPE: All sports, cultural, community facilities will be closed. Arenas, sports chalets, community halls, ski resorts, libraries, auditorium, gyms and sports plateaux will be closed until further notice. Town Hall: Closed to the public. Please call 418-368-2104 for information.

CARREFOUR GASPE: New hours are as follows: Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday and Friday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 12 (noon) to 5 p.m.

DOUGLASTOWN COMMUNITY CENTRE: Closed.

YORK RIVER SENIORS: All activities cancelled.

GASPE COUNTY WI: Cancelled

LIONS CLUB: Closed until April 25, 2020.

SPORTS EXPERTS: Closed

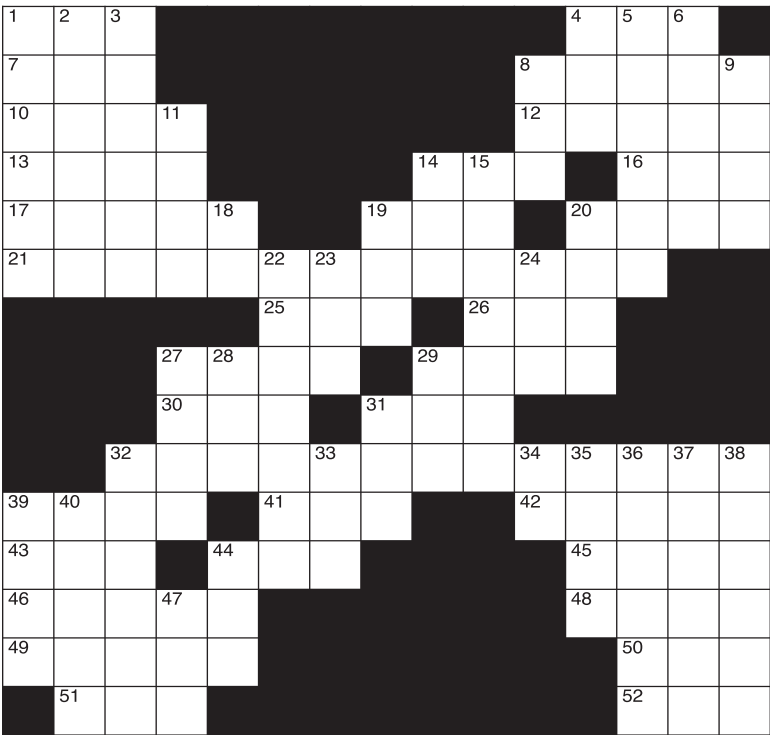
MARCHE IGA CRONIER: NEW hours: Monday and Tuesday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

GASPE CANCER FOUNDATION: Closed until April 3. Anyone wanting to renew their membership can mail it to the Foundation P.O Box indicated on the Blue sheets found in last week Publisac.





CROSSWORDS



CLUES ACROSS

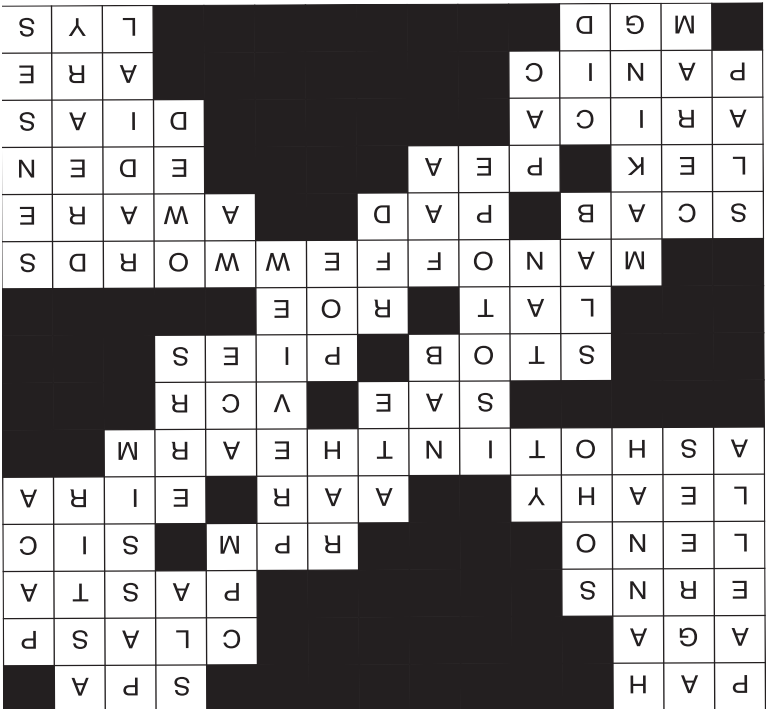
- 1. Expression of disgust
- 4. A place to unwind
- 7. A type of cooking range
- 8. Grasp tightly
- 10. Sea eagles
- 12. Carb dish
- 13. Late-night host
- 14. Revolutions per minute
- 16. Indicates odd or erroneous
- 17. FDR's military chief of staff
- 19. Swiss river
- 20. Norwegian district and river
- 21. A form of motivation
- 25. Car mechanics group
- 26. Once a must-have home theater accessory
- 27. Broken branch
- 29. Apple and pumpkin are two
- 30. Skeletal muscle
- 31. Small Eurasian deer
- 32. Tight-lipped fellow
- 39. Comes after a cut
- 41. A place one lives
- 42. Cognizant of
- 43. Albanian monetary unit
- 44. Carrot's partner
- 45. Famed garden
- 46. Chilean seaport
- 48. Days (Spanish)
- 49. Sudden anxiety
- 50. 100 square meters
- 51. A type of beer
- 52. French/Belgian river

CLUES DOWN

- 2. Concurs
- 3. \_\_\_ and her sisters
- 4. Patti Hearst's captors
- 5. Used to refer to cited works
- 6. A state of excited movement
- 8. Advertising term (abbr.)
- 9. Nocturnal S. American rodent
- 11. New York art district
- 14. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
- 15. Pre-release viewing
- 18. Northwestern Canadian territory (abbr.)
- 19. Consumed
- 20. Falters
- 22. Radioactive form of an element
- 23. Catch a wrongdoer
- 24. Breeze through
- 27. Thick piece of something
- 28. Yellowish-brown color
- 29. "The Raven" poet
- 31. Rural free delivery (abbr.)
- 32. Creating
- 33. Supervises flying
- 34. Northwestern state
- 35. Was obligated to repay
- 36. Diverging in lines from a common center
- 37. Bleak
- 38. We all have them
- 39. Hit with the palm of one's hand
- 40. Sea that's part of the western Pacific
- 44. Political action committee
- 47. Famed Spanish soldier El\_\_

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Spanish dish



Great Ideas for old WINDOWS & DOORS



**ANIMAL FACT:**

THIS TAILLESS SOUTH AMERICAN RODENT IS A POPULAR PET.

ANSWER: GUINEA PIG

**CRYPTO FUN**

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to slow cooking. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 3 = c)

**A. 3 20 16 3 25**  
Clue: Food container

**B. 12 6 4 10**  
Clue: Hearty meal

**C. 12 7 2 2 4 20**  
Clue: Below boiling point

**D. 25 7 6 3 13 4 11**  
Clue: Food prep room

Answers: A. crock B. stew C. simmer D. kitchen

**ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20**  
Aries, having friends in high places can open doors to some unique places. But you can only keep those doors open through hard work.

**TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21**  
Widen your social network to have the best opportunities for success this week, Taurus. New people can provide useful information and approaches you never imagined.

**GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21**  
Gemini, surround yourself with people who can help advance your career. The changing landscape of your job means you need to be open to all possibilities.

**CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22**  
There is no need to keep a calm facade if you are experiencing some anxiety, Cancer. Be honest with those closest to you and you'll benefit from their feedback.

**LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23**  
The strong force of your sensitivity may surprise you over the course of the next few days, Leo. Just try not to let emotions cloud your judgment on the professional front.

**VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22**  
Single Virgos will have plenty of op-

**HOROSCOPES**

portunity to be flirty and fun this week. But even those in relationships can get in on the action, putting romance to the forefront.

**LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23**  
Libra, others may see you as the advice guru this week. That is a role you excel in, but you must balance the extra counseling work with your existing responsibilities.

**SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22**  
Someone who lays on the flattery can win you over in an instant, Scorpio. But once you delve deeper, you may grow suspicious. Accept praise but don't let it cloud your vision.

**SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21**  
Sagittarius, you tend to give freely without worrying about the bottom line. But today's stars flash warnings that you may need to keep a tight hold on your cash.

**CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20**  
It is never a good idea to enhance the facts, Capricorn. However, you can be enthusiastic about your efforts and what those efforts may lead

to. Stand behind your work and opinions.

**AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18**  
Aquarius, no matter how busy your schedule may be, carve out some time to take care of some financial issues that have cropped up in the last few weeks.

**PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20**  
Take a new approach to a similar task and you may come away with something surprising, Pisces. Take that leap of faith.

- FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS**
- MARCH 22**  
Nick Robinson, Actor (25)
  - MARCH 23**  
Keri Russell, Actress (44)
  - MARCH 24**  
Peyton Manning, Athlete (44)
  - MARCH 25**  
Ryan Lewis, Music Producer (32)
  - MARCH 26**  
Jonathan Groff, Actor (35)
  - MARCH 27**  
Mariah Carey, Singer (50)
  - MARCH 28**  
Lady Gaga, Singer (34)



# Another successful edition of TDLG

**Nelson Sergerie**  
GASPÉ - The Traversée de la Gaspésie (TDLG), which ended on February 29 in the Parc de la Gaspésie, was once again a success. It was an edition that took place in more spring-like than winter conditions.

This is the assessment made by the president of the 18th edition, Claudine Roy. "It was an incredible success. We had ideal temperatures. The weather was even a little too hot the first few days. People were dazzled by the beauty of the landscape of our beautiful Gaspé," states the president.

Even though a storm struck on the night of February 28, the planned activities proceeded normally.

The theme of the 18th edition was "light." A group of photographers from all over

joined the event to produce a photo exhibit. The organization hopes that the captured images will be exhibited, especially in Paris.

Some 250 participants and volunteers participated, including journalists from the United Kingdom and France, the benefits of which amount to millions of dollars, according to Ms. Roy.

At the local level, the money left in the communities is significant.

"It's 250 people that we have to house and feed. It's about \$1 million in the middle of February. When you have lunch or lunch at the Café de l'Anse de l'Anse-au-Griffon, these organizations generate significant revenues. You can leave between \$10,000 or \$15,000 for a breakfast. It's significant for our communities."

No unpleasant situations occurred during this edition.



There was a large crowd at the end of the first day of activities in downtown Gaspé.

Photo: N. Sergerie

## Blasting: concerns in Grande-Rivière

**Nelson Sergerie**  
Grand River - Residents of the west sector of Grand River are worried about the blasting done by Blastech Dynamitage Inc.

Residents are concerned that the shock waves will damage their homes, especially those living within 500 metres of the quarry.

Mayor Gino Cyr indicates that they received seven or eight complaints about each blast which has occurred approximately once a week since last October.

The municipal authorities indicate that the rules are respected and ask the Ministry of the Environment to carry out verifications, even if the company cooperates well with the Town.

"It's the Ministry of the Environment that issues operating permits, but it's the municipalities that are keen to follow up on complaints. The cooperation is excellent between Blastech, the entrepreneur, and the town," says general manager Kent Moreau.

The municipality received a message by email to the effect that an inspector from the Ministry of the Environment would visit the site.

The quarry provides stones for work at the Percé, Sainte-Thérèse and Anse-à-Beaufils harbours.

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