

## Three serving brothers honoured

Diane Skinner

On June 15, 2019, three brothers who are serving in the Canadian military were honoured in Ottawa. The brothers are MWO Harvey Flowers, Infantry; MWO Rodney Flowers, MP; and CWO Paul Flowers MSE (Op), originally from New Carlisle. The very proud parents of these fine men are Harvey Flowers (Sr.) and Janie Crozier who live in New Carlisle. The brothers, and two of their spouses who are also military (or ex-military) were recognized recently by Quilts of Valour Canada.

If you combine the years of service to their country given by the three brothers, it would total 90 years! Harvey Flowers has completed tours in Cyprus, Bosnia, Afghanistan and Latvia, serving over 30 years. Rodney Flowers has served in Haiti, Bosnia, Persian Gulf, Afghanistan and Iraq, and is in his 30th year of service. Paul Flowers has served in Afghanistan, Kosovo, and Alert, Nunavut and is also in his 30th year of service. At the ceremony two of the brothers' spouses were also honoured. MWO Laurie Flowers has served over 23 years and Capt. (Ret'd.) Brigitte Flowers has completed 33 years of service.

The quilt program was initiated by Lezley Zwaal, a quilter from Edmonton. She first

started by making quilts to give to young men who had returned from Afghanistan and were recovering in hospital. She was so impressed by these young members of the Canadian military and their personal stories that she established the Quilts of Valour program which is now nation-wide.

At this point more than 13,000 quilts have been delivered to members, past and present, who have injuries both visible and invisible. These men and women have worked to keep Canadians safe. Quilts of Valour is looking for volunteer quilters from all across Canada to make the quilts for injured and recovering CAF members. The quilts are a symbol of gratitude and to provide some comfort to those who serve.

On June 15, 2019, the Flowers brothers attended the Quilts for Valour ceremony and it was the first opportunity that they had to be photographed together in uniform. After the ceremony that day each of the Flowers brothers took some time to try out the sewing machines to make the blocks that will eventually be bound and topstitched to create a finished quilt.

What a heartwarming and worthwhile program.

The Flowers brothers are certainly an inspiration to their fellow Gaspésians.



MWO Harvey Flowers, Infantry; MWO Rodney Flowers, MP; and CWO Paul Flowers MSE (Op), three brothers originally from New Carlisle.



After the quilt presentation, the brothers tried out the sewing machines.

Photos: Brenda Lee Flowers



## Wakeham-York celebrates its 50th Annual Winter Carnival

Saturday afternoon masquerade. Full story on page 12...

Photo: Andy Patterson

# Quebec adds \$135 million for the railway

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ: – Between now and 2022 Quebec will add \$135 million for the railway, bringing the total amount to \$235 million to rehabilitate the railway to Gaspé, while maintaining the target of 2025. This announcement surprised all the elected officials present on February 25 at the Ministry of Transport garage in Gaspé.

The money will be mainly invested between Caplan and Port Daniel-Gascons while studies are still underway for the Port Daniel-Gaspé section. The line between Gaspé and Percé should be ready in 2024 for the tourist train.

“We really want to speed up the work. We want to make sure that there is enough money for the transformation to take place and that it will be operational by 2025,” says the minister responsible for the region, Marie-Eve Proulx.

“We realized that the state of the situation was worse than we thought,” she stated when asked the reasons for the additional funds.



Minister Marie-Eve Proulx surprised everyone with new money for the railway.

Photo: N. Sergerie

“The \$135 million will be mainly allocated to the second section (Caplan-Port Daniel). This is because we have completed the preparatory studies. Some work will be done on Section 3. We are starting and we will continue the preparatory studies,” says the manager of the rail file at the Ministry of Transport, Mathieu Grondin.

Section 3 requires sub-

stantial work: 24 bridges and 269 culverts to fix, 17 retaining walls to redo and 15 km of track near the sea to protect as well as the Gascons faults and some rail segments that have to be moved.

“During the course of the year, we will have a better estimate of the costs for Section 3,” says Grondin, who does not want to speculate on the amounts to come.

The president of the *Société du chemin de fer de la Gaspésie* hesitated the day before about whether to participate in the press conference in Gaspé or not. Accompanied by the mayor of Gaspé and prefect of the Côte-de-Gaspé MRC, Daniel Côté; and his colleague from Carleton-sur-Mer and prefect of the Avignon MRC, Mathieu Lapointe; Éric Dubé displayed a broad smile when the minister unveiled the envelope dedicated to the Gaspesian rail network.

“We knew it was going to take money of this magnitude. Surprised to hear this announcement this morning and very happy,” says Mr. Dubé.

He hopes that Quebec will complete the line to Gaspé before 2025.

Once the work is finished, the VIA Rail train can return. “The end goal is to bring the track down to 286,000 pounds (for freight purposes) to allow passenger trains to return. From the start, we have maintained this line. We did not want to fix it in a hurry and end up with the

same problem. When the project is finished, I hope to have a rehabilitated railway for the next 75 or 100 years.”

A study by the firm Aecon carried out on behalf of the Ministry of Transport previously mentioned a sum of \$300 million to rehabilitate the entire railway between Matapedia and Gaspé.

In August Ottawa announced \$46 million in funding to protect the railway in the face of coastal erosion and climate change on Section 3.

In total, Quebec intends to invest \$307 million in transportation for the region in 2020-2022. \$169 million will be for the road system, \$8 million more than the period 2019-2021. Among the main projects is the reconstruction of the Moffet Creek culvert on Route 132 in Ristigouche-Partie-Sud-Est as traffic has been alternating in this sector for several weeks. This work is valued between \$5M and \$10M. The Transports Québec will also complete phase 1 of the reconstruction of Route 132 in the Pabos Mills and Newport sectors.

## Replacement of 4th range bridge after nine year closure

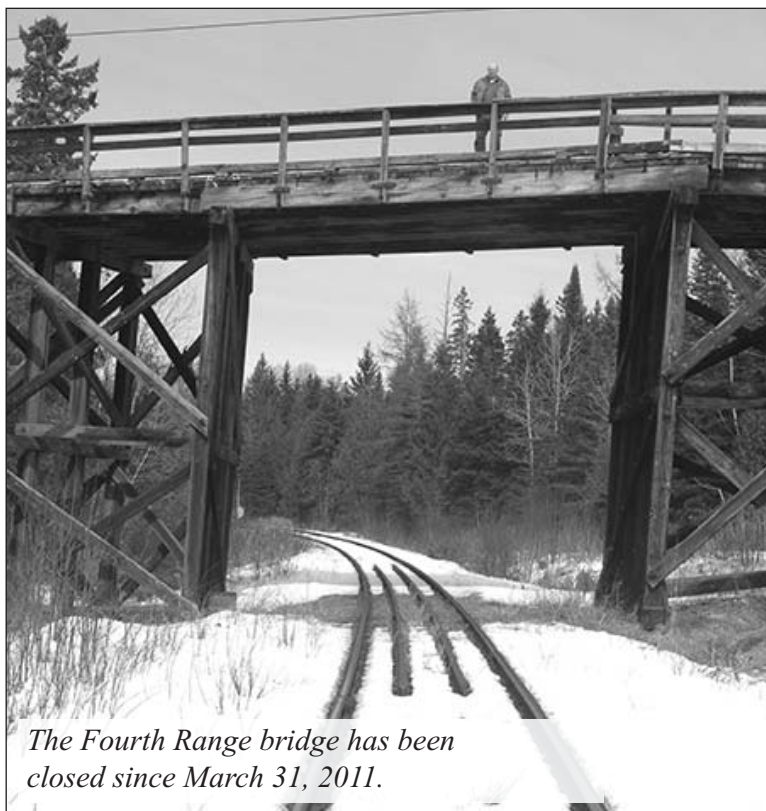
Gilles **Gagné**

NEW RICHMOND: – The replacement of New Richmond’s Fourth Range bridge will take place over two years, with work starting in 2020 and continuing in 2021. The cost of the project has not yet been determined but in Transports Québec’s 2020 program announced on February 25, it is in the \$1 million to \$5 million bracket.

The Fourth Range bridge was officially closed on March 31, 2011, because it was no longer considered safe. It left the residents of the area short in services, as school buses, ambulances, the police and firefighters, to name a few, have to take significant detours to reach some New Richmond areas. It also represents a great inconvenience for the residents, who have to take the same detours just to see some relatives and friends.

The Town of New Richmond director general, Stéphane Cyr, points out that the municipality is still trying to obtain all the details about the project, especially regarding the type of structure.

“What we know is that the



The Fourth Range bridge has been closed since March 31, 2011.

Photo: G. Gagné

bridge will be longer than the current one. The level of safety will evidently be better. It will be a completely new bridge. The width of the bridge will be limited to one lane, not as wide as two standard lanes but wider than one (standard) lane, likely a bridge like the Third Range one. Those limitations had been approved by the municipal council. The Ministry (of

Transports) has obtained the authorizations of the CPTAQ (*Commission de protection du territoire agricole du Québec*, the body in charge of agriculture land protection). Five owners were targeted to cede portions of lots in order to make room for the construction,” explains Mr. Cyr.

In a letter sent in May 2018 to the Town of New Rich-

mond, Transports Québec specified that it would build a one lane bridge with a width that will exceed the minimum required, given the agricultural uses in that sector.

The goal was to reduce the number of beams, the magnitude of the work and ultimately the cost.

“After all those years, we are very happy. That file was not an easy one,” states Stéphane Cyr.

The Town of New Richmond has asked for additional information from Quebec’s Department of Transport and will announce it as soon as it comes in, he adds.

### Trout Brook and Kilmore Brook bridges to be replaced too

In the same announcement regarding regional road work that will be carried out over this year and in 2021, Transports Québec also included on its list of construction sites the replacement of the Trout Brook bridge in Cascapedia-Saint-Jules. The former bridge was completely wiped out by the rise of water at the end of April

2018 and replaced five weeks later by a temporary structure bought in Ontario.

Transports Québec mentions that preparation work will be realized in 2020 and that work will start in 2021. There is no delivery date on the list. The budgetary bracket specifies an investment between \$5 million and \$10 million.

Another construction site of interest in Cascapedia-Saint-Jules is the replacement of the bridge over Kilmore Brook, located along Patrickton Road. It will be completed this year. The cost will hover between \$1 million and \$2 million.

That bridge has regularly caused floods in that area because of its low capacity to allow for large volumes of water to pass under it when there is heavy rain and accelerated snow thaw.





The Town of Bonaventure is turning the former horse racing track into a commercial and industrial zone.

Photo: Google maps

## Town of Bonaventure expects to land multi-million dollar fish-farming project

Gilles Gagné

**BONAVENTURE:** – The Town of Bonaventure is working on a salmon farm project, a multi-million dollar initiative spearheaded by a group of investors that includes a Gaspesian and Nova Scotia business people.

The municipal administration has already made a few moves to facilitate the task of the investors through the acquisition of a property giving access to the former horse racing track which is now inactive.

Mayor Roch Audet explains that the acquisition cost of the property, \$237,000, will be recuperated once the fish-farming company buys the property.

“We will sell it for

\$135,000 as well. We will install water and sewerage to the location of the horse racing track,” he says about the main municipal contribution to the venture.

Various numbers have been mentioned since the fall regarding the magnitude of the investment. When asked about the possibility of an \$8 million cash injection, Roch Audet reacts by saying “way more than that,” although he is not ready to release the real amount and the identity of the investors.

The harness racing track is gradually being turned into an industrial zone by the Town of Bonaventure, which owns the property. The house located on the property bought by the municipal administration will likely be moved.

The municipality has invested another amount of \$50,000 in order to carry out a characterization study of the property’s soil.

“The promoter is presently preparing its implementation plan and has reached the stage of project approvals. (...) He is also busy solving some production details,” adds Mr. Audet.

The fish farm would take its water from the Bay of Chaleurs. About 15 jobs would be created by the project once it is up and running.

If the project does not pan out, the municipality will make the racetrack property available for other commercial or industrial ventures. The racetrack is located about one-and-a-half kilometres east of the church in Bonaventure.

## Daycare: Chandler is also in need of places

Nelson Sergerie

**CHANDLER** - Like many municipalities in the Gaspé, it’s Chandler’s turn to ask for new childcare places. The municipal council adopted a resolution to this effect on February 20.

According to the count made by municipal authorities, 201 children are waiting for a place in the MRC of Rocher-Percé, including a hundred in Chandler.

The lack of places penalizes parents, according to the deputy mayor Bruno-Pierre Godbout. “Many mothers have to take leave without pay to stay at home with their little ones. It is not encouraging new families to settle in the region,” argues Mr. Godbout.

There are 96 places available in family settings, but there is a significant lack of childcare providers. “We must put pressure on the Ministry of Families to create incentives or review the standards so that people are interested in taking these permits.”

The regional minister, Marie-Eve Proulx, is aware of the problem of parents having no childcare spots for their children.

During her visit to Gaspé on February 25, she emphasized that 11,000 places will soon be available across Quebec, some of which are reserved for the Gaspé.

Despite Quebec’s desire to move forward quickly, a CPE project takes two years to materialize. Ms. Proulx blames the former Liberal government. “We are trying to go with the existing places, but we have to make up for the delay caused by the former government. It is unacceptable what has been done. We lacked vision, we lacked planning and today, families are paying the price,” concluded the Minister.

## Police report

The preliminary hearing of Steve Lévesque, 46, living in Montreal, and of Maxime Labrie, 29, residing in Rimouski, both allegedly involved in the murder of Maxime Dugas-Lepage, will be held at the Sainte-Anne-des-Monts courthouse on June 8, 9, and 10. Maxime Dugas-Lepage was first reported missing on January 22 and the Sûreté du Québec investigation revealed that he was murdered even though his body has not yet been found.

Steve Lévesque and Maxime Labrie last appeared in court on February 24 in Sainte-Anne-des-Monts. The room was packed to such an extent that a television was installed outside the courtroom for the people who could not get in. Charged with non-premeditated murder, Steve Lévesque and Maxime Labrie, accused of complicity after the murder, are originally from Sainte-Anne-des-Monts. They are both remanded in custody until at least the preliminary hearing.

Both men were arrested in Rimouski on the evening of January 25. The Sûreté du Québec has not conducted additional perquisition since that date but the investigation is still ongoing. Their arrest followed a massive search operation in Sainte-Anne-des-Monts on January 24 and 25. The police are still asking the public to contact the investigators in order to share clues that could make their work progress. Elements of evidence found in a Sainte-Anne-des-Monts house convinced the police that Maxime Dugas-Lepage is dead even if the body has not been located.

On February 21, the determination of the trial date of Samuel Duguay, 25, of Paspebiac who was accused of sexual assault in July 2019, was postponed once again. Defence attorney Richard Lavigne asked for a delay in order to consult a new element of evidence. Samuel Duguay will return to the tribunal on March 9 at the New Carlisle courthouse. The judge who will hear the case has not yet been appointed. On July 2, Samuel Duguay allegedly assaulted a woman along the beach in Bonaventure. He had previously followed her and left the scene when she started to yell. He was arrested shortly after. He has a history of sex-related crimes.

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### PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE that due to retirement, Dr Peter Charles White, formerly practicing at 130 Perron West, New Richmond, Québec has definitively ceased the practice of dentistry since February 24th, 2020.

Legal custody of all the files of patients having consulted him during the last 5 years have been transferred to Drs Karine Martin and Sebastien Brouillard practicing at: 103 North Cyr Street, New Richmond, Québec.

Take notice that patients can accept this transfer of their file, take possession of the file or ask to transfer the file to another professional by communicating with Dr Karine Martin or Dr Sebastien Brouillard, Monday to Friday from 8-17h.

The files will be conserved for 5 years after October 1, 2018.

To send a *Letter to the editor*  
**THEGASPESPEC.COM**



## Commentary

Gilles Gagné

### Teck Resources gave up Frontier project for business reasons first and foremost make up for bad decisions

The Alberta Premier Jason Kenney and Opposition leader at the House of Commons Andrew Scheer are harshly blaming Justin Trudeau's Liberal Party government for failing to establish a context favourable to the development of the Frontier tar sands exploitation project by Teck Resources, a \$20.6B venture abandoned by the company on February 23 for several reasons.

For them, the federal government "destroyed" the North Alberta project and Mr. Trudeau's "weak leadership" and fear of confronting the left wing and the environmentalists of his party forced the prime minister to nullify the project.

Such statements by Mr. Kenney and Mr. Scheer are misleading and intellectually dishonest. They can criticize the abandonment of a project they liked but blaming that on Justin Trudeau is ill-conceived.

Firstly, the Liberal Party government never expressed a clear stand on the Frontier project. Secondly, that government was supposed to express that stand before the end of February and no longer has to do it.

Let's face it, the Trudeau government escaped a very difficult decision process when Teck Resources announced that the project would not take off. Probably half of the Liberal Party caucus was rooting for the abandonment of the initiative, with the other half supporting it. The realization of the Frontier project would have made Canada miss its 2030 greenhouse gas emission reduction target for sure.

However, the president of Teck Resources, Don Lindsay, presented arguments that can hardly be challenged by the likes of Jason Kenney and Andrew Scheer.

The project would not have been profitable, and by one heck of a margin. When the initiative was first presented publicly in 2011, the price of oil was about \$100 American per barrel. It is now \$50 per barrel. In order to be profitable, the oil extracted from the tar sands must be sold at \$80 per barrel. It means that Teck Resources was short by about 60% of the oil's current price in order to turn a profit. That is a huge gap, no matter the industry at stake, especially considering the magnitude of Frontier's investment.

Moreover, Teck Resources had been looking for a partner for years for its initiative and never found one. That is tied to the project's lack of profitability, not to the political context.

Speaking of that political context though, in the letter sent by the president of Teck, Don Lindsay, to Jonathan Wilkinson, Canada's Minister of the Environment, he partly explained the reasons behind the company's decision. He didn't blame any government in particular but anyone able to read between the lines gathers that Mr. Lindsay was not only referring to the Canadian government. He was also targeting Jason Kenney.

Don Lindsay stressed that the world markets are

evolving fast and that investors are increasingly looking for places that have adopted a well-defined regulatory framework reconciling resource development and climate change control measures.

However, that well-defined regulatory framework doesn't exist in Canada, wrote Mr. Lindsay, who defines himself as a partisan of a ceiling and even a reduction applied to greenhouse gases. He is also in favour of a carbon tax, a fact ignored by Jason Kenney and Andrew Scheer, obsessed by their will to criticize Justin Trudeau systematically and their hatred for that type of tax.

Don Lindsay consequently invites all the governments in Canada, federal and provincial, to reach an agreement on a regulatory framework. It is exactly the opposite of what is currently going on, with provinces like Alberta and Saskatchewan fighting vehemently against the carbon tax, other provinces rooting for it, and a federal government visibly unable to respect its greenhouse effect gas reduction target.

So it is not the presence of rigorous, coherent and fluctuation-less governmental plan that hampers the industry, but a lack thereof. The Conservative Party of Canada and Alberta's United Conservative Party seem unable to understand that concept. The fight between the federal government and some provinces over that reality will unfortunately not end tomorrow.

Jason Kenney, Andrew Scheer and Justin Trudeau are all failing on one clear issue. They are not ready to admit publicly that the exploitation of tar sands is not a promising venture. Unless a major technological development is discovered and applied, the oil extracted from those sands will be too costly to be profitable in the long run and it pollutes too much.

In 2011, the Frontier project was supposed to create 7,000 jobs and bring in \$70 billion to the governments over 40 years. The oil price drop of the last decade cut in half the potential government revenues. The word potential is important here because a money-losing project like Frontier's can only make oil exploitation enthusiasts dream about spinoffs now.

The number of investment funds, banks and venture capital firms staying away from tar sands oil projects is rising, even in Alberta. That tendency will stay, given the context of the fight against climate change, the move towards the decarbonization of the economy and the devaluation of oil and gas related assets, notably those generating a lot of greenhouse gases.

The future of Alberta doesn't rest on oil exploitation but on the diversification of its economy. The problem is that Jason Kenney and Andrew Scheer have not understood that point or act as if they don't understand.

Instead of preparing the economic transition, they are fueling the resentment against Ottawa, for political opportunism and quite probably because they firmly believe that oil and gas have a great future.

Hydrocarbons have a certain future, as most people still use them, but the good old days are behind us. At one point over the next decade or so, their consumption will start decreasing worldwide, and their prices will likely remain low, as other types of energy, renewable ones, are quickly gaining in efficiency and are leaving a much cleaner environmental trace behind them.

The Frontier project is not the only oil-oriented initiative to have been abandoned for business reasons over the last three years. TransCanada let the Energy East pipeline project go because it would not have been profitable, even if the company blamed some authorities for their lack of cooperation.

Kinder Morgan also abandoned the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion initiative for profitability reasons. Since the acquisition of the pipeline by the federal gov-

ernment, the cost of that expansion has risen from \$7.4 billion to \$12.6 billion. It will be almost impossible for Ottawa to turn profits in those circumstances. The acquisition was strictly a political move and the Canadian taxpayers will pick up the tab, instead of contributing to the development of promising forms of energy.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Wet'suwet'en and The "Rule of Law"

As tensions rise across the country between First Nations land protectors and the Canadian governments over Coastal GasLink's pipeline project, the term "rule of law" keeps getting thrown around by the government and the media. Does the Canadian government really have the "law" on their side? It may appear so on the face of it, however some historical court cases suggest otherwise.

### Delgamuukw v. British Columbia 1997

The 1997 Delgamuukw Supreme Court decision is an important legal case that demonstrates the authority of the Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs over their traditional territory. It acknowledged Aboriginal title and it set precedent for future court cases. Key points of the Delgamuukw decision:

- The Supreme Court of Canada observed that Aboriginal title constituted an ancestral right protected by section 35(1) of the Constitution Act, 1982".
- The court found that the provincial government had no right to extinguish the Indigenous peoples' rights to their ancestral territories.
- It defined Aboriginal title as Indigenous peoples' exclusive right to the land, and affirmed that Aboriginal title is recognized as an "existing Aboriginal right" in section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982 (Beaudoin, 2017).

This landmark case is an important one because it defined the Aboriginal title and clarified the government's duty to consult First Nations. In fact, other First Nations have used this court decision to support their own cases regarding Aboriginal title, including the Tsilqot'in in 2014.

### What is Aboriginal Title?

Aboriginal title is a collective right to the use of and jurisdiction over a group's ancestral territories. This right is not granted from an external source but is a result of Aboriginal peoples' own occupation of and relationship with their home territories as well as their ongoing social structures and political and legal systems. As such, Aboriginal title and rights are separate from rights afforded to non-Aboriginal Canadian citizens under Canadian common law (Hanson, "Aboriginal Title").

The Supreme Court of Canada affirms that the hereditary chiefs of the We'tsuwet'en have authority over their traditional territories. Canada has the obligation to provide "Free, Prior and Informed Consent" to First Nations and a failure to do so is a violation of "the rule of law." Furthermore, First Nations have the right to accept or reject any projects that affect them and their territories (UNDRIP).

A law is not lawful simply because it is enacted. Canada has committed atrocities against First Nations under the guise of the law. It chooses which laws to apply and to whom, usually favoring the interests of corporations over people. The Wet'suwet'en are defending their territory and have every right to do so.

Also, what the government and media forget to mention is that an alternative was proposed by the Wet'suwet'en to the oil company and the oil company refused. The government fueled by the billions to be made with private company interest and the promise of jobs did their bidding and decided to steamroll over the rights of the First Nations, just as they have and continue to do. When First Nations stand up against the violation of their rights, the tune "rule of law" and much more is used to prepare the public and justify a physical confrontation displacing First Nations and their rights. They have the power and money to accept an alternative and protect the environment which is in the process of dying in front of our eyes.

It is the government and corporations that are the cause of the pain being experienced in this country. Canada continues to conduct themselves as colonizers of First Nations lands, unjustly criminalizing First Nations for defending their territories. So, who is not respecting "the rule of law"?

Amy Martin, a Gesgapegiag student at Concordia University, submitted this write-up. The text presents where the Gesgapegiag leadership stands on the issue. Amy Martin is majoring in First Peoples studies and is also pursuing a minor in Human rights

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# Listuguj railway blockade still present

Gilles Gagné

LISTUGUJ: – The railway blockade that started on February 10 by the Mi'gmaq of Listuguj was still in effect on February 28, its 19th day, as talks were held in Smithers, British Columbia, between the Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs and ministers of the Canadian government, in an attempt to reach an agreement on the Coastal GasLink issue.

The Listuguj demonstrators were still expecting the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to move out of the Wet'suwet'en traditional land, as requested by that British Columbia First Nation's hereditary chiefs, and a satisfactory dialogue that would satisfy the needs of those chiefs, who have expressed for a decade opposition to the Coastal GasLink pipeline project.

On February 25, the Listuguj blockade demonstrators showed signs of "good faith" (the expression they used when they removed from the tracks some of the items they had put there, mainly wood for their fire). That happened at the beginning of the afternoon. They did not commit to let a train pass later that day though, as expected by the staff of the Gaspésie Railway Society.

One of the protesters, Austin Caplin, explained that

the "good faith" move to clear the tracks was a way to show that "we can let trains pass," even if the intent was not to materialize the same day.

When asked if the railway would be blocked that night and the following night (February 25 to the 26), Mr. Caplin answered "certainly."

Members of the Listuguj Police Department spoke with the protesters that afternoon. By that time, the press had been asked to keep a significant distance. For an hour, journalists settled for a spot located about 100 metres from the railway before being allowed to move closer.

Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government council member Chad Gedeon assisted with communication between the press and the demonstrators for a couple of hours on February 25.

"My role is to make sure that everything is done in a peaceful way," he told The Gaspé SPEC. Mr. Gedeon seemed under the impression that the blockade would be lifted in two days later.

However, the protesters regularly follow what is going on elsewhere, including Kahnawake, Tyendinaga (Ontario), Quebec City and in British Columbia. Although they did not want to be quoted directly, it was obvious they did not like what they were hearing from

the federal and provincial governments.

It became especially evident when Canada's Minister of Transport Marc Garneau made remarks about the Mohawks of Tyendinaga, when Quebec Premier François Legault suspected the Mohawks of possessing AK-47 machine guns and when the Quebec government was granted with an injunction to free the tracks in Listuguj.

"If Sûreté du Québec policemen come here to enforce that injunction, and although I favour the dismantling of the blockade, they (police officers) will find me in front of them," said a Listuguj citizen who want to remain anonymous. He was not a protester.

The director general of the Gaspésie Railway Society, Luc Lévesque, is anxious to see the protesters leave the location along the tracks "because the situation is scrapping years of work done by a non-profit organization," but at the same time he favours a peaceful resolution of the crisis. "Our railway will still pass here after the crisis. We must keep a good relationship."

Listuguj's Gary Metallic, hereditary chief of the Mi'gmaq's Seventh district, called Gespe'gewa'gi, which includes

Cont'd on page 8

# Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government unhappy with injunction

Gilles Gagné

LISTUGUJ – Silent since the February 10 beginning of the blockade along the railway, the Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government reacted strongly on February 26 to the injunction granted the previous day by the Superior Court to the *Procureure générale du Québec* to the effect of dismantling the barricade installed on the tracks, "at the start of Gaspem Road located within Listuguj Lands," wrote Chief Darcy Gray.

The *Procureure générale du Québec*, who is the minister of Justice, acted on behalf of Transports Québec, the owner of the Matapedia to Gaspé line affected by the blockade.

On the Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government webpage and facebook page, Chief Gray stated that his government is "disheartened" that the *Procureure générale du Québec* "sought an injunction without prior attempt to engage or communicate with our com-

munity to resolve this issue. The injunction was unnecessary and not conducive towards reconciling this issue in a peaceful manner. Further concerns remain as the injunction was not served in accordance with the protocols of the Listuguj Police."

The injunction mentioned that five individuals had made declarations before its issuance. They were representations of the Gaspésie Railway Society, which operates the freight trains on the line owned by Transports Québec, and four of the society's clients. Temrex, LM Wind Power, McInnis Cement and White Birch Paper, which receives Temrex woodchips.

The content of the representatives' declarations is not mentioned specifically in the injunction decision but one can assume that the blockade is affecting their operations.

"At this point in time, peaceful protestors remain at the rail line and their physical safety remains a priority for the

LMG (Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government). Let it be known that the LMG has no intention of forcefully removing peaceful protestors from the rail line. We respect their right to peacefully protest and will continue to ensure their physical safety," added Chief Gray.

He concluded his statement by adding that "we have a collective responsibility to protect the land and our relations. The LMG is open to facilitating discussions towards a peaceful resolution. We remain hopeful that solutions can be reached through respectful dialogue."

The Gaspésie Railway Society, a municipal entity, laid off 15 workers, effective February 24 because it was losing \$15,000 a day in hauling revenues since the start of the blockade on February 10. Some of the revenues are delayed, as it is the case for the windmill blade train that was supposed to leave on February 15. By the end of February, lost revenues totalled close to \$300,000.

# Family Ties Putting Pen to Paper



Elizabeth Dupuis,  
Project Coordinator

For the past month, the Putting Pen to Paper project has been taking place at New Carlisle High School on a weekly basis. Wonderful local seniors have been volunteering to teach cursive writing to students in Grades 3 to 6. These sessions will continue until the end of March. As project coordinator, I feel really encouraged by the reaction of the community members who made the following comments on social media:

"So glad they are showing the kids this."

"Great work you are doing with the children. The children must be happy about being able to write."

"A worthwhile project."



Cursive writing workshop led by seniors

The class teachers also confirm that the students look forward to these weekly sessions and enjoy learning handwriting skills with the seniors.

This month, weekly letter writing activities for all ages will be taking place at Family Ties. Quality stationery supplies will be provided as well as refreshments and a friendly, social space for letter writing.

The recipients of letters written through this project are also delighted to be involved. One person reported, "There is something heartwarming about receiving an envelope in your mailbox (that is NOT a bill) and opening it, maybe making a cup of tea and having a little ceremony for yourself as you read the written words. There is really no substitute for receiving a handwritten letter."

If you have examples of handwritten letters or greetings cards from the past that show a moment in time that bring back memories about people and places or that are precious to you in some way, we would love to see them!



Putting Pen to Paper.

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-familyties@hotmail.com. More information about Putting Pen to Paper can be found on the Family Ties facebook page.



Family Ties  
Government  
of Canada

# Listuguj's Viviane Gray receives Medal of First Peoples from Quebec's Lieutenant Governor for her remarkable contribution to Native art

Gilles Gagné

LISTUGUJ: – Viviane Gray who was born and raised in Listuguj and is an anthropologist, art curator, teacher, writer, consultant and mentor, recently received the Medal of First Peoples for the Mi'gmaq Nation, presented by Quebec's Lieutenant Governor J. Michel Doyon.

The medal was awarded on December 16 to one Inuit and ten First Nations individuals whose exceptional contributions spearheaded the influence of their communities either provincially, nationally and sometimes internationally.

The recipients' contribution touched one or more fields: social, cultural, community-oriented or economical. Politics is not a factor considered for the medal candidates who are recognized for their remarkable career and the inspiration they represent, especially for their community members.

Viviane Gray's work contributed significantly to making Native art better known from coast to coast and internationally.

"I was truly honoured to be included with recipients from other First Nations of Quebec. There is no other award or honour of this type from the Queen's representative in Canada. This is a first and it is very meaningful to get this recognition in Quebec. I find that this initiative by our Lieutenant Governor, the Honourable J. Michel Doyon, is admirable as it's an excellent example of reconciliation - on both our parts. There are so many people in our Indigenous communities doing remarkable work in their area of expertise as teachers, doctors, health and community professionals, the military, the arts, and public service. In most cases, we are invisible to the Canadian public as we devote our lives not only helping our communities but being part of Canadian society. The First Peoples' Medal by the Lie-



Viviane Gray received her Medal of First Peoples from Lieutenant Governor J. Michel Doyon.

Photo: François Nadeau

utenant Governor of Quebec will bring more understanding about First Peoples in Quebec and instill pride in our youth," she mentioned to SPEC.

### Notes about Ms. Gray

Viviane Gray is a member of the Listuguj Mi'gmaq First Nations. She is the daughter of the late Joseph Gray Sr., who was Mi'gmaq, and the late Alice Anna Dionne, a Wolastoqiyik, formerly called Malecite of Cacouna, Quebec. Ms. Gray's life experience is largely based on her close-knit family and the community of Listuguj where she was raised. She speaks Mi'gmaq, French and English.

In 1965 she obtained a diploma in Social Leadership and Community Development from the Coady International Institute of St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, and in 1973 a degree in Anthropology and French from Carleton University, Ottawa. She also studied at Université Laval in Quebec City and at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design in Halifax.

In the early 1970s, Viviane Gray realized that First Nations' art was not included in

Canadian contemporary art exhibitions and art galleries. She worked as an independent researcher and curator to acquire skills and experience to develop and promote First Nations' art to be on par with

contemporary Canadian art. Her collaborative work with Indigenous artists and groups across Canada has been the foundation for her life's work.

Her varied work includes consulting and project development for the Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government, director of the National Indian Brotherhood, founding director of the Listuguj Arts and Cultural Centre, sessional lecturer for 10 years on Contemporary First Nations Art at University of Ottawa, and coordinator of the Aboriginal Arts Office at the Canada Council for the Arts.

She was also curator of various national and international art and ethnographic exhibitions. She published as an author various articles and essays and she was curator/director of the Indigenous Art Collection and Art Centre at the Department of Northern and Indigenous Affairs Canada for 21 years until her retirement in 2010.

Importantly, Ms. Gray's

work as associate curator of the international exhibition *L'oeil Amérindien: Regard sur l'Animal for the Musée de la Civilisation*, in Quebec City in 1990-91 was recognized as the first exhibition that properly expressed First Nations' perspectives.

Among her international projects, she was responsible for the first Canadian Indigenous contemporary art exhibition in Russia. The Contemporary Indian and Inuit Art was shown at the Ethnographic Museum in St. Petersburg, Russia in 2003.

Viviane Gray is the recipient of the 2012 Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal and her biography has been included in Canada's Who's Who since 1989. She enjoys her retirement with her husband and family, and continues to promote Indigenous visual art as consultant, writer and mentor to Indigenous youth.

She lives in Ottawa and comes to Listuguj regularly.



**"No disrespect, but..."**

**Cathy Brown**  
Position: Executive Director

**I love the amazing group of people I work with, both in the office and throughout the province!**

As Executive Director, Cathy spends a significant amount of time outside of the office representing the English-speaking community of the coast. She attends meetings and conferences throughout the province to ensure that our needs are heard and understood. Her strong ability to tell the story of the community to decision makers has ensured that the community benefits through improved access to services and increased programming. In her rare free time, Cathy enjoys a good country concert with friends and Tim's iced coffee!



---



**"Don't count your chickens before they hatch!"**

**Rebecca Renouf**  
Position: Animator

**I love helping people grow!**

Becky plans and animates different activities at CASA, including work with children ages 0-8 and their families, and assisting with skills development for youth. Becky brings a lot of positive energy to the CASA team and is always willing to lend a helping hand! During her free time she enjoys spending time with her family. Her guilty pleasures are eating and watching movies by herself and grocery shopping!

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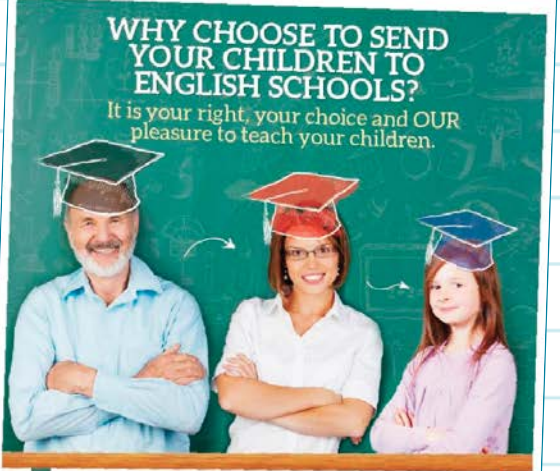


# Staff spotlight



Eastern Shores School Board is proud to feature a staff member who contributes to the organization in a special way. Today we present to you Tammy Chatterton, Community Development Agent. Tammy works at two large schools, namely New Richmond High School (NRHS) and New Carlisle High School (NCHS) and goes over and above to make school life for students better. She is always looking for projects and grants to enrich the lives of the students. She devotes countless hours to ensure that students are provided with various opportunities throughout the school year. Tammy also encourages school perseverance and determination and she herself rarely says no to any challenge sent her way. Thank you Tammy for all you do!

It is that time of the year again, the time to register your little ones for school next year. Did you know that it is a privilege to receive an English education in Quebec? Choose to have your child learn in English, in our full day pre-K classes, and give them the best start for a bright future. Call to see if your child has Bill 101 eligibility and get started on the right foot for the coming school year by calling Melanie at Eastern Shores School Board at 418-752-2247 ext 224.



- In Quebec it is a privilege to send your child to our English schools as Bill 101 restricts access to eligible families. If your child has the right to take advantage of this opportunity here are the reasons we think that you should contact us to register your child today:
  - TO SECURE YOUR CHILD or grandchild's access to English education
  - SMALL classroom sizes
  - INDIVIDUALIZED approach
  - EXPOSURE to English and Mi'kmaq cultures
  - Excellent EXTRACURRICULAR programming
  - #1 SUCCESS RATES in the province during the 2014-15 school year
  - Our schools will assist in transitioning your child into the English classroom.
  - IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING YOUR CHILD'S ACCESSIBILITY TO ENGLISH EDUCATION OR WOULD LIKE TO REGISTER YOUR CHILD:
- Contact the school in your area, you will find the list on the website:  
[WWW.ESSB.QC.CA](http://WWW.ESSB.QC.CA)  
 or CONTACT our Bill 101 specialist  
**MELANIE HAYES: 418-752-2247 EXT 224**
- We will be hosting information sessions in each region later this summer, like our Facebook page to be informed of the dates.  
[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/EASTERSHORES2016](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/EASTERSHORES2016)



**The Anchor, New Carlisle:**  
The Anchor coordinator, Christine Grenier, is proud that all employees contribute equally to the success of the Centre and that of the students.



**New Richmond High School**  
The pre-kindergarten and kindergarten class having a Christmas breakfast in collaboration with the Breakfast Club of Canada program.

## MUSIC in school



**New Richmond High School**  
Secondary students enjoying a guitar lesson workshop after school with Kevin Jones, a former student of NRHS.



**Shigawake Port Daniel School**  
During Perseverance Week, the pre-school students made a personal pledge to their principal to "Never Give Up," as each student received a Perseverance pin. We look forward to watching these little ones grow up and supporting them on their educational journey as they follow the path that is set out before them.

### #CONTEST

Make a video or a meme that shows your school pride, tag us and be entered to win great prizes!

**USE OUR #S AND WIN PRIZES**

- \$150 class budget for best group contribution
- \$100 gift card of winner's choice for most influential/inspirational employee production
- \$150 for most creative
- A Google Nest mini for most professional
- \$50 gift card of winner's choice for the upload with the most likes
- \$50 gift card of winner's choice for the upload with the most shares

A random draw, for a \$10 gift card of winner's choice, will take place weekly from all the contestant's entries.

#ESSBinspires #learnESSB  
 #exploreESSB #ESSB #ESSBpride  
 Contest is for current ESSB staff and students only!



**Shigawake Port Daniel School**  
SPDS took part in I Read Canadian Day, the national day of celebration of Canadian authors and books for young people. On Wednesday, February 19, staff and students gathered in the gymnasium to read Canadian books.

## Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



### Will This Winter Ever End?

*"Dear winter, I am breaking up with you. I think it's time I start seeing other seasons. Besides, summer is hotter than you."*

Perhaps your favourite thing about winter is when it's over? Even those of us who shiver at the thought of the frigid Gaspesian wind whipping around our heads, can see some beauty in winter. The first snow, diamond snow, when the ice crystals reflect the light, snow-covered trees and the quiet after a raging snowstorm, these can all be appreciated by those who do not adore winter, but there is a fairly common malady that affects a great number of people in the darker and colder months. The winter blues are very real for many people. According to researchers about five percent of people have SAD (Seasonal Affective Disorder) and another 15% suffer from what is termed seasonal mood changes, also known as the winter blues. Quite a significant percentage of the population feels down in winter.

Studies back up the notion that this is a real condition and attribute it to this time of year when there is less natural sunlight. The lack of sunlight causes our body rhythms to get all confused because of the reduced sunlight. This leads to a lack of serotonin, which we get from vitamin D. Serotonin is known as the feel-good brain chemical. On top of that, very cold and icy weather means that we may not get outside as much. This adds to a feeling of sadness. Not getting out can also mean that we are more isolated. All of this is not beneficial for our mental well-being.

Should we fight these feelings? Can we fight these feelings? Well, yes, we should because many find that their winter blues cause them to sleep more, crave carbs and thereby gain weight. This does not help improve our mood at all. So, if you have SAD or a case of the winter blues, try these ideas to boost your outlook. Of course, if you are feeling extremely down, perhaps depressed, speak to a health care professional.

**1. Listen to music.** Find the music that you love. Turn up the volume and dance around the room like nobody is watching. Just not at night with the curtains open. If you have no neighbours close by, do as you wish! Music can lift your mood.

**2. Get busy.** Find things to do that take your mind off the winter blues feeling. You could find a new hobby, make a list of books you want to read, do a puzzle, knit, listen to a book on Audible.ca, take a course, go to the gym, read Vesey's seed catalogue or deep clean your cupboards.

**3. Embrace winter.** That's right, get outside and find something you enjoy doing. Skiing and skating is too much for you? Try snowshoeing. Play outside with a child and build a snowman or make snow angels. Have a snowball fight. Build a snow castle. Go for a walk on the beach. Now that is therapy.

**4. Try a light therapy lamp.** These can be purchased online and are lights that you use to restore your happy brain chemicals. Plug it in and sit in front of the lights each morning. We know that there is a connection between sunlight and depression. This light therapy lamps may be effective after about a week, in sessions of 30 minutes or so. Cost starts around \$60.

**5. Take vitamin D.** People over 50, in particular, have lower levels of vitamin D which is said to be mood elevating. Supplements of 400 to 600 i.u. daily seems to be the suggested dosage but do ask your doctor or pharmacist. On the days when the sun is shining, get outside and get your vitamin D the natural way as well.

One day this winter will be over. Prepare to complain about the heat.

# Supermoon

Diane Skinner

In 2020 we will experience, clear skies accommodating, 3 supermoons. There will be three full moon supermoons on March 9, April 8 and May 7. Then there will be three new moon supermoons on September 17, October 16 and November 15, which will not be visible to us. Mark your calendar because the sight of a supermoon is at once beautiful and eerie. A supermoon is a full moon or a new moon that approximately coincides with the closest distance that the Moon reaches to Earth in its orbit, resulting in a slightly larger-than-usual size as seen from Earth.

A few quick definitions may help us to understand what we see in the skies. There are various phases that the moon goes through:

A full moon occurs when we can see the entire lit portion of the moon.

A new moon is when the moon cannot be seen because we are looking at the unlit half of the Moon.

A "blue moon" is when in one calendar month there are two full moons, which happens about once every three years. This is where we get the saying "once in a blue moon."

Can you recall a grandmother cautioning you not to do

certain things on a full moon? Don't get your hair cut. Don't go far from home. Bad things happen on a full moon. Well, statistically, there just might be some evidence for these fears. Is much of it imagined? Do humans and animals behave differently on the night of a full moon? Scientists cannot explain the variation in some events but some believe it has something to do with the quality of sleep, however, others do firmly believe that a full moon affects the birth rate, mental illness and behaviours, crime rate and animal behaviour.

Three theories which attempt to explain these perceptions are the tides, evolution and positive ions. The tides affect large bodies of water, such as the Bay of Chaleur, so they must affect humans since our bodies are approximately 60% water. Nurses and police officers often tell us that the full moon evenings are more active.

The second theory is evolutionary. Primitive man had to protect themselves more at the full moon which would make the night brighter from predators such as lion attacks. This heightened awareness may be survival instinct. Therefore, we are look-

ing for danger, aware of potential danger so we may see more of it.

Positive ions, electrically charged atoms in the atmosphere, increase during a full moon and this is thought to affect human behaviour. These are theories only, not proven. The beliefs about the full moon are based purely on observation.

Here on the Gaspé we have had some tidal surges paired with high winds and supermoons that have affected and damaged the coastline in significant ways. These are real, not theory. On December 10, 2010, and during or around other full moons in 2011 to 2016 storm surges caused damage here. Some may recall most clearly the effects of super high tides here on the coast December 2016 and January 2017. The town of Percé knows too well about the damaging effects of high tides. It demonstrates that Mother Nature can be devastatingly powerful and destructive.

She is also full of spectacular beauty and wonders. Thank you for the second part, Mother Nature. So, watch on those supermoon dates and see if any unusual events happen around you.

### BLOCKADE:

▶ *Cont'd from page 5*

the Gaspé Peninsula, was regularly asked by the protesters to act as spokesperson for the group and he collaborated.

As a pivotal stakeholder of the 1998 logging crisis, Mr. Metallic used his experience to make the link between the protesters and the other Mi'gmaq hereditary chiefs.

"They (the protesters) have the full support of the chiefs as long as it remains peaceful," stated Gary Metallic to the SPEC.

He remarks that Prime Minister "Justin Trudeau lost the opportunity to solve many problems because he went to the AFN (Assembly of First Nations), however, the AFN members are an arm of the Indian Act. They are not a Native organization."

Gary Metallic states that if the governments had integrated the hereditary chiefs in the talks pertaining to the relevant Native issues, numerous problems would have been avoided.

"The resources are ours too. That's why we are here today," he concludes.



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# Announcements...



## In Memory



### MCWHIRTER: Lindsay

In loving memory of a loving husband, father and grandfather, Lindsay, who passed away on March 2, 2016.

*Losing a husband and father,  
As special as you,  
Has left our hearts aching,  
It's broken in two.  
No words can describe,*

*All the grief and the pain.  
We would give all we have,  
Just to see you again.  
But you're with the angels,  
And for now we can wait.  
For we'll meet again,  
Beside heavens gate.  
We think about you always.  
We talk about you still.  
You have never been forgotten,  
And never will.*

Forever remembered, sadly missed, never to be forgotten. Love wife Viola, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. xoxo.

### DUMARESQ: Gail

*We are sad within our memory.  
Lonely are our hearts today,  
For the one we loved so dearly  
Has forever been called away.  
We think of her in silence.  
No eye may see us weep;  
But many silent tears are shed  
When others are asleep.*

Love and miss you always, Ron and the family.

### Card of Thanks

The organizing committee of the pancake supper that was held at St. Andrew's Anglican Church on Tuesday, February 25, would like to thank everyone who donated, worked and attended their supper. It was a great success.

### PHOTO QUALITY



When submitting a photo for this page, please send in a digital photo (.jpg) to [specs@globetrotter.net](mailto:specs@globetrotter.net).

You can also send your photo by mail or drop it off at the office. It is essential that the photo is not a copy printed at home or by the funeral home. It will not reproduce well.



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In Memoriam: \$30 (\$35 with picture) up to 20 lines - \$40 (\$45 with picture) for more than 20 lines

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# On the lighter side...



## What's This Artifact?



Answer: an item used to remove your shoes or boots.

Thank you to Gaetan Garnier for submitting this item.

## Guess Who?

I am an actor born in Alabama on April 26, 1980. As a child I was very active in sports. Although I received a full football scholarship, I went into modeling. A job in a nightclub inspired my role in a popular ladies' night out film.

Answer: Channing Tatum



THIS WOMAN IS CREDITED WITH COMING UP WITH THE IDEA FOR MOTHER'S DAY.

ANSWER: ANNA JARVIS



ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

Hobbies can be a great distraction from your responsibilities, Aries. This week you need to get back to business, or you may fall behind.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, change is in the air and you are excited about all the new prospects that lie ahead. The most difficult decisions will be centred on what you're going to do.

GEMINI – May 22/June 21

Nurturing is a part of your nature, Gemini. This week you may discover

you are spending a lot of time lavishing attention on others at your expense. Find a healthy balance.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, your social and business calendar is full for the next several weeks. Even though you enjoy being busy, you may need a break to avoid burnout.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23

It will be another fortuitous week for your finances, Leo. All of your financial ducks are in a row, and you can take some time off from micro-managing your accounts.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, you may want to show others a new side of you over the course of the next few days. You're often con-

servative, but you might want to let loose a little bit and be adventurous.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

You may receive a few offers this week that seem too good to be true, Libra. Trust your instincts as you navigate through all of these opportunities to find the best options.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, over the course of the next few days you'll get an idea of how many people rely on you. When you are out of commission, things may come to a halt.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

People are drawn to your warmth and good nature, Sagittarius. That is why you are never short on friends or left with nothing to do. This week is no dif-

ferent.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Changes that you have been hoping will occur will finally see the light of day, Capricorn. The effects will be subtle at first and then build as they go.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, now is your opportunity to take care of yourself. You have been freed of some responsibilities and are able to focus on small changes that can add up to something big.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, when things get a tad stressful this week, remember that physical activity can calm you down. Take a walk or hit the gym.

### FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

MARCH 1

Kesha, Singer (33)

MARCH 2

Chris Martin, Singer (43)

MARCH 3

Camila Cabello, Singer (23)

MARCH 4

Draymond Green, Athlete (30)

MARCH 5

Taylor Hill, Model (24)

MARCH 6

Connie Britton, Actress (53)

MARCH 7

Bryan Cranston, Actor (64)

## Gaspesian Notables: Margaret Grant MacWhirter

Diane Skinner

As it is just around Women's Day 2020 (March 8), it is fitting that this week's profile of a Gaspesian Notable is a woman! Thus far profiles of female notables have included Hazel McCallion and La Bolduc. It seems that the Gaspé has a good share of strong and accomplished women. Is the Gaspé a matriarchal society? Perhaps it could be a good topic for a future article.

Margaret was born in Dalhousie, New Brunswick in 1862. As a young woman she worked as a teacher and in 1898 she wed Willie MacWhirter. Margaret had four children; Angus Grant Kirkhill MacWhirter; George Alexander Campbell MacWhirter; Janet MacNeil MacWhirter and Sarah Margaret MacWhirter.

She worked as the editor for a page in the Campbellton Graphic newspaper which was published from 1909 until 1983. The page she wrote was called the "Gaspesia" page. Margaret was definitely a person who was devoted to her writing because her role as wife, mother, and teacher would likely have had to come first.

Her articles included not only events on the Coast, but also traditions and history of the Gaspé. Margaret's writing gained a lot of positive notice and her work was republished in numerous Quebec newspapers at the time. She later became a member of the Canadian Press Club.

Margaret MacWhirter, then went on to write the book *Treasure Trove in Gaspé and the Baie-des-Chaleurs*. Her book was published in 1919. In order to write her book, she had to travel to many places on the Gaspé conducting interviews and gathering material for her book. This was not an easy task because all information had to be gathered in person at

*"We don't get there by wishing for it or hoping for it, but by working for it"*

a time when travel was more difficult. She had no technology to assist her in any way. All notes would have been handwritten and then corrected. There were no cell phones and no computers, but she could have used a typewriter since they became available by the 1880s.

*Treasure Trove in Gaspé and the Baie-des-Chaleurs* is available to read online or you can download the book as a PDF for a cost of \$12.70. This is an extensive book of 310 pages. There are some paperback and hardcover copies available online for between \$25 and \$45.

Margaret MacWhirter, a gifted writer, passed away on February 11, 1940, at the age of 77. At the time of her passing it was said that she was rewriting *Treasure Trove of the Gaspé*, however, the manuscript was passed on to the family but over the years was lost. She is buried in New Richmond beside her husband who passed away in 1941.

From the introduction to *Treasure Trove in Gaspé and the Baie-des-Chaleurs*:

"Here dwell today the descendants of the brave pioneers — of Scotch, Irish, English and French parentage. They are true to the lessons learned from those gone before ready to extend a helping hand to one another in distress, kind and generous to the stranger within the gate, with a bright outlook upon life and facing its vicissitudes with undaunted spirit. To these people, by whose willingness to aid I have been able to prepare this volume, I commend it, trusting that they will pardon its shortcomings, and accept kindly my attempt to preserve the simple tale of the early days in the Gaspé Peninsula and northern New Brunswick."



Margaret Grant MacWhirter was a hardworking and gifted writer whose book *Treasure Trove in Gaspé and Baie-des-Chaleurs* is still read and cherished by many Gaspesians.

### Teachers' Guide

#### Comprehension:

1. Why is this an appropriate week to feature a female Gaspesian notable?
2. When and where was Margaret Grant MacWhirter born? How did she come to live in New Richmond, Q.C.?
3. Tell about her two major writing accomplishments.
4. Why is Margaret Grant MacWhirter a Gaspesian notable?

#### Vocabulary:

Define: matriarchal, manuscript, vicissitudes, undaunted

**Extra:** What challenges would Margaret Grant MacWhirter have faced in writing her book?

Language changes: The excerpt, above, from Margaret's book was written about 100 years ago. Rewrite the paragraph in modern language.

# Celebrating Wakeham-York's 50th annual winter carnival

Andy Patterson

In the summer of 1971, a group of volunteers from Wakeham and York formed a committee and with only \$5,000 in hand they undertook the construction of the York Rink. They leased some property, ran a water line from a nearby brook, purchased the plywood for the rink and salvaged lumber from a lumber camp abandoned by Gaspesia Pulp and Paper. A three-room rink house was constructed and oil drums were used to make three wood stoves for heating.

Much has changed over the past 50 years, as multiple government funded projects and financial assistance from the Town of Gaspé have combined to modernize our community centre. The town purchased the land and constructed the new rink house.

Recently, the addition of the York River Community Hall and a playground have greatly added to the facility, which serves not only Wakeham and York, but also the entire Gaspé area.

To celebrate our fiftieth season of continuous operation, plans were made to hold a special ten-day event to commemorate the anniversary.

The 50th annual Wakeham York Carnival began on Thursday, Feb. 13, with a spaghetti supper hosted by the students of the Gaspé Polyvalent. Over 125 people enjoyed the supper, with proceeds used to support the graduating class. The Teen Valentines Dance on Friday night drew about twenty-five youngsters who thoroughly enjoyed the evening. There was a hockey skills competition on Saturday afternoon, with Kevin Patterson winning the speed skating and his daughter, Hannah, winner of the backwards skating.

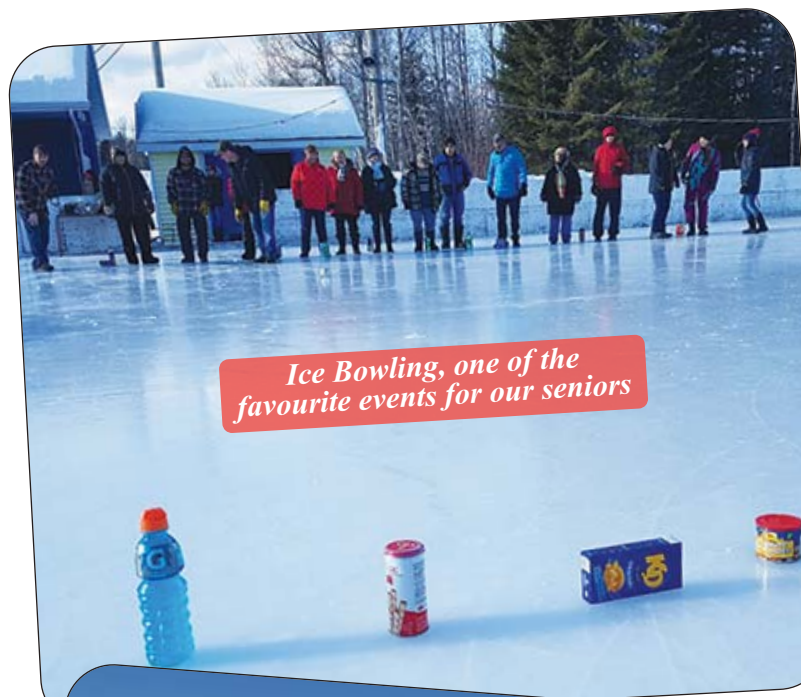
The official opening was on Saturday evening with a wine and cheese followed by fireworks and a bonfire. Sunday was Family Day with snowshoeing, the masquerade, the ever-popular ice bowling, and several contests including tea boiling, nail driving and a tug of war. The fastest to boil a cup of tea was Drapper Clark, and the fastest to drive a nail was Mike Fournier.

The Micmac Nation of Gespeg put on a cultural display for the elementary school on Tuesday morning, and some classes returned on Wednesday for an activity day. Also during the week there were three evenings of cards, with Tuck on Tuesday, Texas Holdem' on Thursday and the monthly senior's whist game on Friday night. The winning team for Tuck was Virginia and Ricky Sinnett, and Drapper and Terry Simpson shared the winnings in Texas Holdem.

The final Saturday began with breakfast, where one 114 people were served. Next began the annual poker run with over 65 snowmobiles heading off for a very enjoyable day of sledding. The weather was very cooperative, with temperatures above freezing and a clear blue sky. Over 200 poker hands were sold and Lorne Jean won the grand prize with a full house of queens. The day finished with a dance



Winner of the Tea Boiling contest in front of his raging fire.



Ice Bowling, one of the favourite events for our seniors



Revving up for the Poker Run



Gespeg leaders lighting the "Sacred Fire"

featuring Nash Stanley, and festivities continued late into the night.

The carnival closed with one of the most popular events on Sunday, the annual

BINGO, and over one hundred people competed for the prizes. Tony Patterson of Sunny Bank won the 50/50 raffle to close the week of activities.

## Wakeham-York Carnival 2020 Thanks to our Sponsors:

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Thank  
You!