

Raising Hens: A Family Tradition

Diane Skinner

Saint-Godefroi: Anouk and Mitchel Cyr raise their own hens in Saint-Godefroi, a tradition she learned from her parents when she was a child. She moved home to the Gaspé in 2017 for a job at the McInnis Cement Plant (Ciment McInnis) in quality control. Her university background is in the field of chemistry and while living in Montreal she worked for L'Oreal, also in quality control.

She began to raise her own chickens and is currently on maternity leave. She owns 22 hens and a rooster and most days she gets 15 to 18 eggs. During the day they are allowed to roam freely in the yard and at night they go into one of their roosts. Anouk tells Spec, "When I am outside, I let them free range and eat worms but keep an eye on them. When I am not home, they have an enclosure which is fenced and connected to the coop. They go inside the coop on their own when the sun goes down and I close all of the



Anouk and her daughter Leila visiting "the girls."

doors before nighttime."

For laying hens, the chickens eat special food mixed with corn. Every day the eggs are gathered to make sure the nests are clean. When the chicken coop is cleaned, fresh

hay or wood shavings are added. It is important that "the girls" have access to water at all times because as soon as they lack water they stop laying.

Customers have been asking to buy eggs that have been fertilized so that they can incubate their own eggs. An incubator costs approximately \$100

and Anouk incubates the eggs to hatch her own baby chicks. She does not incubate for customers, but will sell the fertilized eggs.

There are some predators in the area, particularly foxes but Anouk has two large dogs that help to keep them away. She also owns a rooster that helps to protect the hens. An old rooster died trying to protect the flock after he was attacked by a fox. He did manage to save all the hens from the fox.

Anouk says, "He died a few weeks after the attack. He was never the same. Birds are fragile." She has replaced him with another rooster to keep the hens safe.

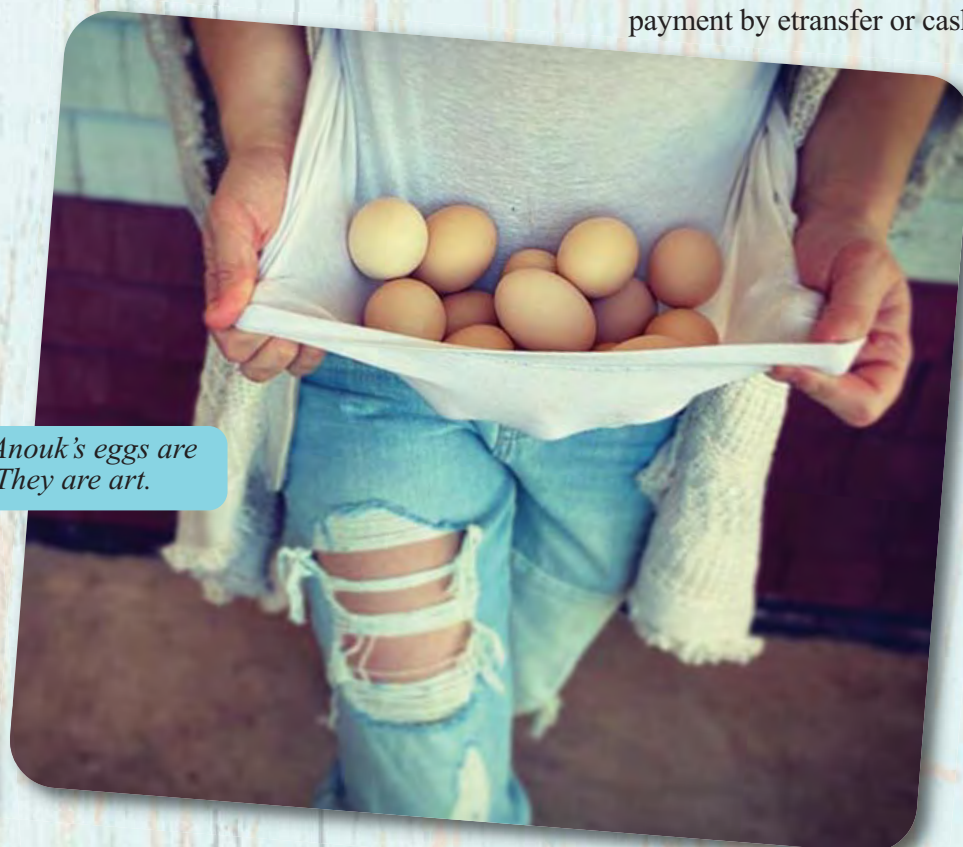
When asked if she likes eggs, Anouk replies, "Yes! I use them when making bread; I make devilled and pickled eggs, but I mostly eat them for breakfast, over easy!"

Having your own chickens is especially important right now because it means fewer trips to the grocery store. In addition, healthier, happier hens produce better quality eggs. Buying eggs locally helps to support local farms and it is a fun activity for children. It teaches them where food comes from. Her eight-month-old daughter, Leila, already enjoys visiting the chickens. Growing up around the hens makes it likely that Leila will one day carry on the family tradition.

If people wish to buy eggs, they can contact her by facebook Messenger at Anouchka Ya and she will add your name to the list of interested customers. She charges \$3.50 per dozen for her fresh and delicious eggs laid by happy free-range chickens. During the pandemic she follows the protocol of maintaining the two-metre distance and will accept payment by etransfer or cash.



These photos of Anouk's eggs are so beautiful. They are art.



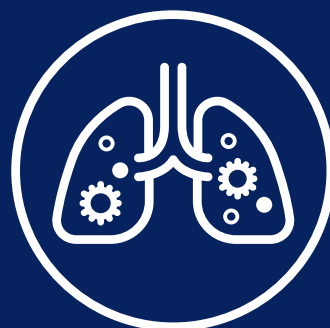
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Cough



Trouble
Breathing

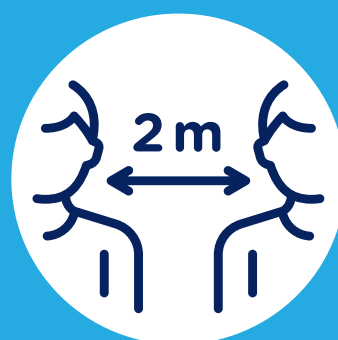
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Town of New Richmond declares surplus of \$250,826 for 2019

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND – The Town of New Richmond experienced a sixth consecutive yearly operational surplus in 2019. This time around, the surplus was \$250,826, compared to \$144,780 in 2018. If the expenses tied to the three corporations under the Town of New Richmond’s responsibility are included, then the net surplus decreases to \$57,091.

The three town corporations are: the Little Cascapedia River Regional Park, which manages the Pin Rouge ski centre and the Taylor Point campground; the Economic Development Society, which used to own the industrial park building sold to LFG Construction last year; and the Tourist Development Corporation, which organized the *Festival d’été de Québec* in New Richmond between 2010 and 2012 inclusively.

“Once our operational budget results are verified, we must integrate the results of the three corporations we manage. We had to contribute \$193,000 (precisely \$193,735) to balance the budgets of those corporations and that explains our net surplus of \$57,091,” points out the mayor of New Richmond, Éric Dubé.

“Let’s admit that the situation is way better now, if we compare it to what it was in 2010, when the annual deficit of the Town was \$1M. In the last six years, we were able to pave 2.5 kilometres of municipi-

pal roads,” he adds.

The operational budget of New Richmond was \$7,928,349 in 2019, and it amounted to \$9,814,573 with the consolidation of the three corporations’ results. Of the three, only the Little Cascapedia River Regional Park brings in substantial revenues because of the Pin Rouge and campground operations.

Mayor Dubé attributes the good results of the Town of New Richmond in 2019 to various factors.

“It came from a bit of everything. Our wind power royalties increased by more 50%, way more than we had anticipated. They represent between 8 and 9% of our tax revenues now. We were supposed to receive \$202,000 and we cashed in more than \$300,000 in 2019. Those revenues allow us to reimburse the amounts borrowed for the upgrading of the pool and the construction of the community hall,” explains the mayor.

While preparing the 2019 budget, the town administration had previewed \$202,268 in wind energy royalties, precisely \$85,791 from the TransAlta wind farm mainly located in New Richmond, and \$116,477 from a few other wind farms located in the region and partially owned by the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands Inter-municipal Energy Board.

Instead of \$202,268, the Town received \$100,694 from TransAlta and \$253,331 from

the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands Inter-municipal Energy Board. Consequently, the total for 2019 amounts to \$354,025, so \$151,757 more than budgeted.

Initially, the Town was not part of the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands Inter-municipal Energy Board, which invested in certain wind farms in the region and in Lower Saint Lawrence. Both regions work jointly in those investments and the last two years have been very productive, energy-wise, with a positive effect on the royalties.

“Overall, our municipal team managed our budget well. We received a bit more money than expected for a few budgetary items, like in-lieu of taxes (government buildings) and the creation of wealth through new constructions and renovations,” remarks Éric Dubé.

That creation of wealth came from a few new constructions, like the \$2M dental office near the Sûreté du Québec detachment, several new houses and a lot of renovations in housing as well.

The Town’s net debt now stands at \$20.45M, an improvement compared to 2018, as it amounted to \$20.98M. It is a \$530,000 improvement.

The net assets of the municipality now reaches \$57,547,084, a bit down from 2018, which was \$57,622,153.

The accumulated surplus of the Town now stands at \$528,841.

Additional whale sightings lead to more grid closures

Gilles Gagné

CARLETON – The sighting of three additional whales on May 17 and 18 in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence by Fisheries and Oceans Canada’s surveillance aircrafts led to the closure of 17 additional grids. In the case of eight grids, the closure came into effect immediately and until November 15, which spells the end of the commercial fishing season there.

Those 17 areas are in addition to the 27 grids that had already been closed following sightings made on May 3 and May 8. The 44 grids that are closed represent a surface of 10,000 square kilometres, the equivalent of a square of 100 kilometres by 100.

According to new rules adopted this year, a seasonal

closure comes into effect “if whales are detected in the same area more than once during a 15-day period.”

The nine other closed grids are located on the south shore of Anticosti Island, about midway between its west and east tips. Their closure came into effect on May 20. The eight grids that are subject to a six-month closure are located around the areas initially closed after the May 3 sightings.

The New England Aquarium has not identified the right whales sighted so far this year in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence. Most of the 400 right whales living off the coasts of the United States and Canada have names.

Considering that the surveillance flight crews never saw more than three right

whales the same day, it is consequently possible that the seven sightings could consist of the three same whales observed more than once.

The snow crab fishermen are the most inconvenienced fishermen since the first sightings of right whales. The turbot fishermen have not started their season yet. The fishermen usually have four days to take their traps or gill nets out of the areas targeted by the closure notice.

Those temporary closures, also referred to as the dynamic zones, are valid for non-tended fixed gear fisheries in Atlantic Canada and Quebec, including anywhere in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, which means around Anticosti Island, the Cabot Strait, as well as the Strait of Belle-Isle.

A sick paramedic is deprived of income

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - A paramedic with medical conditions that put him at risk in regards to COVID-19 has been deprived of income since March 27. Gaston Berthelot is immunosuppressed and, on the advice of his doctor, he notified his employer *Service secours Baie-des-Chaleurs* that he could no longer work. With a termination of employment, he tried to get help through wage loss insurance, CNESST and the Canadian Emergency Benefit, but his requests were refused.

Mr. Berthelot believed he would be paid. “Since there were companies in Quebec that paid their employees like me, I expected to be supported by my employer.” The *Fraternité des travailleurs du préhospitalier du Québec*, FTQ, which represents the paramedic, deplores this situation. “We have heard our political authorities call us a guardian angel. We don't seem to want to pay any money to Mr. Berthelot. We don't have a good understanding of the situation,” says Vice President André Tremblay-Roy.

The Director of *Service Secours Baie-des-Chaleurs*, Gilles Lapointe, refused to comment on the situation, explaining that it was a confidential file.

Projects underway in Percé

Nelson Sergerie

PERCÉ - Percé wishes to convert the Saint-Michel Church into a convention space.

The Fabrique Saint-Michel de Percé wishes to cede to the Town, free of charge, the Catholic church that would be used in a way that would maintain its religious culture.

For the mayor, Cathy Poirier, this transfer, subject to obtaining financial assistance for its renovation, its upgrading and its conversion into a convention space, would be a plus for the Town. “There are really regular requests for conventions in Percé. It's a very structuring development tool. We would eventually be able to extend our season and tourist traffic,” states Ms. Poirier.

“It's because the convention periods are in the spring and fall, at the end of the high tourist season. The restaurants and the hotel structure of Percé are already in place,” says Poirier.

In addition to the church, the sites of the Pratto and the building of the Tourist Office, which was the former freezer, are also targeted in the project. A request for funding has been made to the religious heritage program to carry out the studies.

The agricultural school project is progressing

The agricultural school project is taking another step forward in the Val-d'Espoir sector.

After a conclusive pre-feasibility study, the municipal council goes further by commissioning a feasibility study for this project. “What training would be provided? Would it be a public or private carrier? The architectural study will not be complete, but it will target the potential of the existing infrastructure. The document will be more complete,” says the mayor.

The \$42,000 study, commissioned from regional development consultant and former Minister of Regions Gaétan Lelièvre, is expected to be completed in August.

Percé wants to take advantage of the favourable context for local food production in the current pandemic to submit a project to Quebec City this fall.





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COVID-19 WEEKLY WRAP-UP:

A school closure, a CHSLD employee gets infected and the region has reopened

Gilles Gagné

CARLETON – The third week of May was marked by a school closure, a CHSLD employee infected with COVID-19 in Gaspé and the reopening of the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands. The number of new coronavirus cases remained low, at four for the week, which brings the total to 178.

The Bon-Pasteur School was closed in Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé on May 20 because a pupil tested positive, however, the child was not in school the day he showed symptoms usually linked to the coronavirus, according to his parents. He had a headache on Tuesday, May 19, and had last gone to school on May 15.

After checking with the Public Health Board, the *Commission scolaire René-Lévesque* closed the school “for a few days,” but further verification indicated that the Bon-Pasteur

School will not reopen until June 1, which makes a quarantine of 13 days.

Ten children, their parents and the school’s teachers were put in quarantine for a similar interval, stresses the mayor of Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé, Roberto Blondin. He is also quarantined because his wife teaches at the school.

“Those kids have parents and those parents work. I consequently talked to the employers of Sainte-Thérèse,” also remarked Mr. Blondin.

Between 800 and 1,000 people work in the commercial fisheries sector in the village. Those people come from many neighbouring communities. The employers reached their staff and asked them to start a quarantine if they have a child or children attending the Bon-Pasteur School.

“The school has an enrollment of 50 students but only 10 to 15 of them resumed school

when it reopened,” pointed out Mayor Blondin.

The Public Health Board has initiated an epidemiological investigation in order to retrace all the people that might have been in close contact with the students, the parents, the friends and the staff of Bon-Pasteur School.

Meanwhile, an employee of the Mgr Ross Seniors’ Residence in Gaspé tested positive for COVID-19. The publicly-owned CHSLD, is part of the network administered by the Integrated Health and Social Services Centre of the Gaspé Peninsula (CISSS).

The CISSS was not in a position to communicate further information as of May 22, and only mentioned that an epidemiological investigation is underway to retrace anyone who came in contact with that worker. The CISSS spokesperson did not know if the employee had been in contact with

residents of the Mgr Ross home.

Tests are conducted systematically on CISSS employees in the province.

Since the start of the pandemic, 149 people have recovered from the coronavirus in the region and 17 people were hospitalized. Forty-five health sector employees were infected, including 17 working for the region’s CISSS.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, 4,062 people have been tested for the COVID-19 in the Gaspé Peninsula and the

Magdalen Islands. This includes the 550 tests carried out between May 15 and May 22.

Following the reopening of the Gaspé Peninsula on May 18, the regional director of the Public Health Board, Dr. Yv Bonnier-Viger, asked the population to “adopt an approach of openness and tolerance with visitors to the area. We are getting into a new phase of our life with COVID-19 and it is through solidarity that the people will fight it efficiently.”

(With information provided by Nelson Sergerie)

THE WEEK IN NUMBERS:

- Number of COVID-19 infection cases on May 15: 174
- Number of COVID-19 infection cases on May 22: 178
- Number of COVID-19 related deaths on May 15: 8
- Number of COVID-19 related deaths on May 22: 8
- Number of people still in the hospital on May 15: 1
- Number of people still in the hospital on May 22: 2
- Number of people still in an intensive care unit on May 15: 1
- Number of people still in an intensive care unit on May 22: 1



Gilles Gagné Commentary

A poisoned gift for Dominique Anglade?

When Alexandre Cusson decided to pull out of Quebec’s Liberal Party leadership race, he probably left a battle he could not win against the new leader, Dominique Anglade. The former mayor of Drummondville and president of the *Union des municipalités du Québec* was not really well-known among the supporters of the party. Hardly anybody knew before the November start of the leadership campaign that he was a liberal.

Truth be told, new blood is necessary in a political party, however, when that new blood is a relative unknown; when he has not been elected once for the party, it looks like a long shot, especially when that person has not been rooting publicly for the party until very recently.

Alexandre Cusson wanted to be perceived as the “man from the regions.” It was a good idea, in a party that has conferred to Montreal such importance that only three Liberal Party candidates were elected outside the metropolis and its belt during the October 1, 2018 election.

Two of those three Members of the National Assembly (MNA), former premier Philippe Couillard elected in a Lac-Saint-Jean riding, and former minister Sébastien Proulx in a Quebec City riding, left shortly after. It leaves only André Fortin, a Gatineau-based MNA, as an elected official from outside the Montreal influence zone.

Alexandre Cusson never reached the notoriety needed to get an edge against Dominique Anglade. For the rural people of Quebec, where the Liberal

Party has to rebuild bridges, Drummondville is not fully perceived as one of theirs.

So, the “shock of ideas” necessary to relaunch the party never took place and would hardly have flown even if Alexandre Cusson had stayed in the race. He left for financial reasons. He had resigned as mayor of Drummondville and from the *Union des municipalités du Québec* in November. So, by May 12, he had spent six months without an income.

Whether he had a shot or not at winning the race, which was suspended on March 20 because of the COVID-19 pandemic, will remain a mystery, even if his chances were more than slim.

The element that will likely hurt the Liberal Party, given Dominique Anglade’s easy victory, is the lack of real debate, that shock of ideas. The party has been following a path defined by its higher ups for too long. The supporters have had too little to say about the party’s orientations in the meantime.

Those factors played a huge role in the staggering defeat of October 2018. The party was obviously disconnected from the electorate. When you only get 10% of francophone support in a province where 85% of the population speaks French, you have a major problem. Add to the equation only one remaining seat far from Montreal and one must understand that Dominique Anglade is not out of the woods yet.

A real race, even in 2021, would have created popular interest, even for that unpopular party. It would have probably taken place a little more than a year before the next election. In context, it is permitted to believe that would have followed the worst stretch of the COVID-19 pandemic.

An engineer by trade, Dominique Anglade is bright, well-spoken and she is the first woman to lead the Liberal Party of Quebec. She will be reminded by the old guard of the party that she ran for the Coalition avenir Québec in 2012 and became president of the party after her defeat.

She will also have to explain to the people of the regions why, as an important member of Philippe Couillard’s cabinet, she supported the austerity measures that hurt the regions so much. Those austerity

measures delayed by five years the repairs on the Gaspé Peninsula railway. Austerity multiplied by two or three the repair cost of that line, and an over-utilized highway 132 will also have to be significantly upgraded because the railway repairs were neglected. That is only one example.

The abolition of the regional development organizations, the centralization of health services, the cuts in education and a weak environmental record are all decisions that might come back to haunt Dominique Anglade between now and the 2022 election.

For now, though, she must find a way to be noticed amidst the coronavirus crisis. That is a significant challenge for the next months.

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Price of lobster hits \$6.40 per pound during the first week, despite concerns for the coming weeks

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND – The price of lobster was higher than expected during the first week of fishing in the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands. The price reached \$6.40 per pound for the fishermen, about three times what Nova Scotia fishermen were offered in mid-March, when the COVID-19 hit.

The season started on May 9 in Quebec, and a week later in Northern New Brunswick. For a few years now, the price paid in the Gaspé Peninsula aligned with the price paid to Magdalen Islands lobster fishermen, due to supply management that was adopted a long time ago. The price is determined by an equation that takes into account the three best prices offered by Montreal area lobster buyers.

Bill Sheehan, vice-president of E. Gagnon et Fils, the

main buyer of lobster in the Gaspé Peninsula, was not that surprised by the price paid in the urban markets during the first week.

“It is relatively good but it will not stay. We hear that the price was above \$5 per pound during the first half of the second week but that it is falling under \$5 now. I can only say that the first digit of the second week price will not be a 6 and that we will be lucky if it is \$5,” he says.

The massive landings of New Brunswick started hitting the Montreal market around May 20, five days after the traps were laid in that province. Two days of very strong winds delayed the landings on the New Brunswick side but not in the Gaspé Peninsula, because the north-west wind doesn’t hit the Coast as strongly.

In New Brunswick, the lobster buyers quickly imposed

daily quotas to the fishermen and opted for a six-week season. In Quebec, the season will likely last eight weeks, maybe a bit longer.

“I don’t think daily quotas will be imposed in the Gaspé Peninsula, and not at Gagnon (E. Gagnon et Fils) for sure. Based on the information we currently have, we are getting solid orders for live lobsters and a decent amount of orders for processed lobster. We pay a certain toll because the markets are not too good but that’s business. The problem in New Brunswick is the lack of processing capacity, which derives from the shortage of manpower. There is shortage of 2,000 foreign workers in New Brunswick this year. The problem is not fishing. In some plants, out of a workforce of 500 people, there are 250 foreign workers but they are not around this year, or almost not,” explains Bill Sheehan.

“In Cap Pelé, there is a magnet called Moncton, and some workers go there for a higher salary. The Gaspé Peninsula has an edge in that regard because there is no big city close by,” he adds.

The market of live lobster is expected to decline somewhat between now and July but the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands remain relatively strong in that field, stronger than the Maritimes, where processed lobster is traditionally sturdier.

Roch Lelièvre, the president of Lelièvre, Lelièvre et Lemoignan, a plant also based in Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé, like E. Gagnon et Fils, thinks he will also be able to sell relatively easily his live lobster and most of his processed lobster.

“We will probably need to be more patient for processed lobster even if I was able to secure sales in Spain, in China

and we have hopes for transactions with Korea. In my mind, we will keep some inventory for a while though,” says Mr. Lelièvre.

O’Neil Cloutier, the director general of the Southern Gaspé Professional Fishermen Group, fears a sudden fall in the price of lobster paid to the fishermen.

“The New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island buyers have already imposed limits on catches and a reduction in the season’s length. It is not a good sign. I hope the Gaspé Peninsula buyers are right about our region’s edge in processed lobster,” says Mr. Cloutier, a lobster fisherman himself.

So far, the volume of catches has been very good in most Gaspé Peninsula areas. “I hear from the fishermen that daily catches are reaching 900, 1,000 and 1,100 pounds,” he says.

Southern Gaspé Professional Fishermen’s Group disappointed by federal government support

Gilles Gagné

CARLETON – The management of the Southern Gaspé Professional Fishermen’s Group is disappointed by the federal government program announced on May 14 by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to alleviate the financial effects of COVID-19 on the fishermen.

The director general of the organization, O’Neil Cloutier, says that the federal program is ill-adapted to the reality of Gaspesian fishermen, even if it is a step in the right direction. “It is a program made to help the fishermen and the fishermen’s helpers who get a percentage of the revenues from the catches and who are not related, family-wise. In the Gaspé Peninsula, 98% of the fishermen’s helpers receive a salary. On our boats, almost everybody is a next-of-kin of the boat owner. We are talking about the brother, the brother-in-law, the cousin or the wife working aboard. There are three provinces advantaged by the federal program, British Columbia, Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island, where people get a share of the revenues,” criticizes Mr. Cloutier.

“We gave our advice to the department (of Fisheries and



Photo: G. Gagné

Oceans) through two meetings per week, in addition to representations we made through letters, other conversations and by communicating with our federal minister (Diane Lebouthillier). They told us: “Wait, the program is coming.” They announce it and it is all wrong,” adds Mr. Cloutier, who represents the 149 lobster fishermen on the Gaspé. He is also a lobster fisherman himself.

Gaspesians are also disadvantaged because many of them don’t have a business banking account. They deposit their fishing revenues in their personal account and pay their

fishermen’s helpers from that personal account.

The \$40,000 loan announced by the federal government is designed in such a way that “about 20 to 25% of our members will qualify. The young fishermen who just acquired a permit over recent years and who are the fishermen of tomorrow will not be able to survive if they don’t have access to a loan-grant that fills their needs,” also states O’Neil Cloutier.

The salary subsidy is also ill-designed for the members of the Southern Gaspé Professional Fishermen’s Group.

“They are already excluded from the existing salary subsidy program because they did not receive a salary between January and March 2020. Regarding employment insurance, we have no details. If there are

problems, we don’t know who will be left behind,” he says.

“They make the program increasingly complicated. I wonder why they did not opt for an inclusive program. We need a more accurate picture of our situation but the program comes out in the middle of the season. We have no time to answer questions. The fishermen are very busy but we are trying,” concludes Mr. Cloutier.

The federal government total adds up to \$469.4 million. The amount builds on a previous sum of \$62.5 million, called the Canadian Seafood Stabilization Fund, announced in April that targets seafood processing companies.

The Government of Canada will administer three main programs in order to assist fishermen: The Fish Harvester Benefit, the Fish Harvester Grant and modifications to the Employment Insurance (EI).

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We can gradually restart normal activities while protecting ourselves!

In the coming weeks, activities will gradually resume in Québec, with the consent and collaboration of public health authorities. The reopenings will occur in phases, depending on the type of activities and the geographic zone. You can check information about the reopening phases on the Government of Québec website: [Québec.ca/coronavirus](https://quebec.ca/coronavirus)

Throughout this process it will remain essential to abide by protective health directives, which limit the danger of the virus spreading. If you have COVID-19 symptoms, it is equally crucial to follow the recommendations for home isolation in order to avoid transmitting the disease to others.

Abide by the protective health recommendations

After you go out in public, monitor yourself for symptoms and abide by the following recommendations.



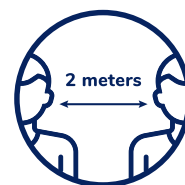
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and warm running water for at least 20 seconds.
- Use an alcohol-based hand rub if soap and water are not available.
- Practice proper cough and sneeze etiquette:



Cover your mouth and nose with your arm to reduce the spread of germs.



If you use a tissue, dispose of it as soon as possible and wash your hands afterwards.



- If you must go out, stay at least 2 meters (around 6 feet) away from people who do not live in your household.
- If you are unable to stay at least 2 meters away from others, wear a face covering.
- If you are sick, avoid all contact with more vulnerable people such as seniors and people whose immune system is weakened or that have a chronic disease.
- Avoid direct contact when you greet someone, such as shaking hands, and use alternative ways to greet people.

Face coverings

Wearing a face covering is recommended in public settings whenever physical distancing is not possible. For example, this could be when you go shopping for groceries or take public transit.

When you wear a face covering in public, you must also follow other safety measures, such as hygiene.

If you are sick, stay home. If you must go to a medical clinic or the hospital, wear your face covering until you are given a procedure mask.



Scarf



Face covering made of paper or a tightly woven fabric



Bandana or a tightly woven fabric

Children under 2 years of age and people with respiratory difficulties or who are handicapped or unable to remove their face covering without help, should not wear one.

You can learn more about the correct use of a face covering and how to make one by viewing the short videos on the Government of Québec website: [Québec.ca/couvre-visage](https://quebec.ca/couvre-visage)

Resources

If you are concerned that you might have COVID-19 or have symptoms like the appearance or worsening of cough, fever, difficulty breathing and/or loss of smell or taste without nasal congestion, call one of the following phone numbers: 418 644-4545, 514 644-4545, 450 644-4545, 819 644-4545 or 1 877 644-4545 (toll free throughout Québec) to be directed to the appropriate resource. If you are a hard-of-hearing person, call 1 800 361-9596 (TTY toll free).

Burial takes place two days later because of red tape at check point

Gilles Gagné

POINTE-À-LA-CROIX – A Pointe-à-la-Croix family was forced to wait two days in order to get permission from the New Brunswick government to bury a next-of-kin who had passed away on March 5 with a brain tumour.

The internment of Rodrigue Guitard was scheduled for May 15 at 2 p.m. in Campbellton. Mr. Guitard was born in that province and had moved to the Gaspé Peninsula close to 40 years ago.

“The funeral home had sent us an email to confirm that it would take place at 2 p.m. So, we had a proof that the ceremony was going to take place there (at the cemetery). We thought that there would be no problem to cross the bridge and get there. When we arrived at the checkpoint, the agent told us: ‘I must call Fredericton and get the authorization.’ At 3 p.m., it was still negative. We could not pass,” explains Michel Goudreau, Rodrigue Guitard’s brother-in-law.

The Goudreau-Guitard family was convinced that an internment planned by a funeral home almost two-and-a-half months after the death was respecting the COVID-19 rules established by the New Brunswick government.

“We were sure that an internment was considered a valid humane criterion. Ro-



drigue’s faith was Bahai. He was not embalmed. His corpse was in the charnel house for two months. Time was a factor. I started a kind of sit in on the bridge to express the revolting nature of the decision. We had made sure that the gathering rules would be respected at the cemetery. We were to be six people, and the New Brunswick rules allow ten people,” adds Mr. Goudreau.

The family was given the green light for the burial of Mr. Guitard 48 hours after the initial scheduled date. He was well known in the area, as he owned a highly popular apple grove attended by thousands of people every year.

“The problem at the checkpoint is that the agents intercepting people have no power.

If it is complicated, they ask Fredericton to deal with it. It doesn’t make sense. I wrote Premier Blaine Higgs. I want an apology. The people living in the western part of the Avignon MRC should only show a proof of residence in order to cross the bridge. The Gaspé Peninsula and New Brunswick communities are deeply integrated here,” further explains Mr. Goudreau.

Many checkpoint incidents have characterized the exchanges between the Gaspé Peninsula and the Campbellton area over the last two months. On May 18, close to 400 people took part in a demonstration on the J.C. Van Horne and asked for the free circulation of the people living in the area.

Photo: Courtesy of Julie Goudreau

CEGEP: Pandemic has taken its toll on finances

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - The closure of the Gaspé and Carleton-sur-Mer Sports Pavilion of the *Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles* has contributed to a loss of revenue of approximately \$250,000.

The suspension of continuing education at the *École des pêches et de l'aquaculture du Québec* in Grande-Rivière and the closure of residences in Gaspé have also contributed to the loss in revenue. Only about 60 foreign students have been on site since March. “These four situations could cause losses of \$250,000, but given the Cégep's relatively good financial situation at the moment, these situations will not affect student services next year,” says Director Yolaine Arseneau.

Nevertheless, the fiscal year

ending June 30 should be balanced or show a slight surplus.

Renovation work on the pool at Gaspé Cégep resumed on May 11, but courses for the fall semester could be compromised due to delays caused by the pandemic.

A hybrid session

The fall semester will be in hybrid form on all campuses. The director noted that the announcement is being made now to allow students and staff to prepare for the rules that will be in place.

Three main factors guided the decision: Everything that can be done remotely will be done at all levels; activities deemed essential will be done on campus, such as practical laboratories; and schedules

and premises will be organized to respect social distancing or, when this is not possible, to ensure that security equipment is available and that there’s flexibility. “The primary element is health and safety,” adds Ms. Arseneau.

Some students had difficulties with virtual classrooms this spring with a deficient internet connection. A survey will be conducted to adjust this situation. “To fully understand the difficulties that might have been experienced in the last few weeks, people will have a little more time to express their needs.”

Foreign students will have to come to Gaspé for their training according to the rules that will be in effect, access to residences will be restricted and social distancing will be encouraged.

Reflections

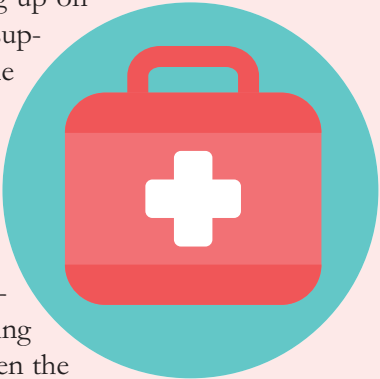
by

Diane Skinner Flowers



Look after yourself

Many of us are stocking up on food and other household supplies, however, there is one area of necessity that we may have neglected. A complete first aid kit and other medical supplies would come in handy in case of illness or small injuries. Most are avoiding going to a pharmacy, CLSC or even the doctor’s office unless necessary. Having provisions in your home may save a trip to an environment where you could come in contact with the virus.



Supplies:

- Rubbing alcohol
- Cotton swabs
- Band-Aids
- Hydrogen Peroxide
- Antibiotic ointment (i.e. Polysporin)
- Elastic bandages
- Gauze pads
- Medical tape
- Cold packs
- Eyewash (such as saline)
- Tweezers
- Vinyl gloves
- Thermometer (a quality one, for all ages, that takes temp. in ear)
- Pain relievers (such as Tylenol, Motrin etc.)
- Pain relievers for children (if necessary)
- First Aid booklet (local pharmacy may supply free ones)
- Cough and cold medicines/cough lozenges
- Stomach remedies
- Vitamins
- Blood pressure monitor

Pharmacy Protocol:

1. Request that all prescriptions be filled at the same time. Refills can often be set up this way.
2. Stock up, if possible. Ask if you can switch to a 30 or 90-day supply. This may require your doctor’s permission.
3. Ask for home delivery.
4. Never let your medications run out. Plan ahead. This is especially true if you have high blood pressure, heart disease, diabetes, or COPD.
5. If you need to speak with the pharmacist, do that by phone.
6. If you absolutely have to go to the pharmacy in person, wear a mask or scarf that covers your mouth and nose.
7. Use hand sanitizer after handling money, bank card or even items off the shelf. Try to pick up only what you will buy.
8. Respect the distance of 6 feet. (2 metres)
9. Do not use the blood pressure machine in the pharmacy. Buy your own.
10. If you use the card (debit) machine use the tip of a pencil (your own) to put in your password, etc. You will be less likely to touch your face with a pencil. Note: A cotton swab (Q-Tip) does not work well.

Have we all become preppers or modified preppers while stocking up? Different times call for different measures. It may be that in the future we will do many of the same things we did before, but in a different way. Time will tell.

Beautiful Memories: Moving Forward Fair Haven Bible Camp

Diane Skinner

NEW CARLISLE - Last week marked a time of renewal for Fair Haven Bible Camp in New Carlisle. Thanks to an anonymous donor and supporter, funds were made available and some of the buildings at the camp were demolished and a foundation was poured for new kitchen facilities and chapel meeting area. Nelson Roussy, and his wife, Rose McColm Roussy, spent an emotional couple of days overseeing the beginning of the process onsite. Many happy memories were made at Fair Haven over the years for campers, counsellors, kitchen volunteers and others and for the Roussys! Both give thanks to their daughter for the computer assisted design for the project.

The camp began 50 years ago as an idea after some discussion around a few kitchen tables. After the input of a number of people including Bill Sinclair, Mervin Rowan, Leslie Main and some others, the camp became a reality in 1970. The property is owned by the Brethren Assembly in New Carlisle. In the early years the campers stayed in tents transported there by Mervin Rowan, the first Director of Fair Haven Bible Camp.

During those early years the camps were filled by “Baby Boomers”. Over the years the number of campers per season has averaged around 130. Rose estimates that over these 50 years, 6,000 campers have attended the camp. There have been about 700 counsellors, over 100 cooks, 500 kitchen staff and numerous



speakers, program directors and craft leaders. Rose’s mother, Isabel Mc-

close to 30 years of her talented cooking to the campers.

Nelson Roussy, current director for almost 20 years, has many wonderful memories of the camp and its importance for the campers and the counsellors. He remarks that many have gone on to take a role as adults in their church, sometimes as leaders.

The children build relationships while attending. Campers come from not only the Gaspé, but other areas of Quebec, Ontario and even a few from the U.S. Over the years Fair Haven has seen generations from the same family attend; parents who attended as children enrol their own children in

the camp. This demonstrates the positive and meaningful experience that the parents had and want their children to have as well.

Mr. Roussy credits the camp’s seaside location for bringing a sense of calm and beauty. The sound of the sea provides a lovely background. Campers have expressed over the years that the activities were all very enjoyable. Fair Haven offers sports, plenty of outdoor time, crafts and an opportunity to hear about God. When the campers attend, they are asked to take a break from technology for the week.

The positive benefits of the camp are not only for the campers, but also for the counsellors and other staff and, Nelson adds, also for the Director. Mr. Roussy has been in that role for almost 20 years and will soon be looking for another person to take over. In a sense, it has been his journey as

well. He comes from a Catholic background and states that the camp has had a significant influence on him. Nelson recalls taking over from Jim Mitchell as director and how helpful he was in making that transition. Mr. Roussy would like to express his gratitude to the people who have faithfully worked behind the scenes to ensure that Fair Haven was able to operate each year. He says, “Their work, financial aid and prayers are invaluable to the camp’s success.”

The pandemic means that camp may not operate this summer for the first time in 50 years. The new construction should be completed by early July. It has been a positive place where many campers and staff have made beautiful memories and built relationships. It will continue to do so in the future with the replacement of the two important spaces.

Ann Kelly, religious animator at Bonaventure High School, asked students a few years ago to draw a picture of their “Happy Place”. She told Rose and Nelson that it was amazing how many students drew pictures of Fair Haven Bible Camp.

Top photo: The kitchen and chapel/meeting areas of Fair Haven Bible camp were demolished recently to make way for a new structure. Photo: Rose Roussy.

Bottom photos: The original buildings at Fair Haven being constructed in 1970. Photo: Mervin Rowan



Colm, always stressed how important it was to offer delicious meals. Rose mentions Esma Cochrane being a faithful cook. In the years since, many talented cooks have volunteered and Lorraine Shrader gave

Some 50 surgeries postponed at the Gaspé Peninsula CISSS

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - Surgeries are expected to resume at a cruising speed in the Gaspé Peninsula once an update of infection risk protocols is complete in order to deal with COVID-19 measures. After reducing activities to 30% at the start of the pandemic, the rate is currently at about 50%.

Approximately 50 surgeries were postponed as the network went into pandemic mode to deal with the coronavirus, due in part to the lack of certain essential drugs and difficulties in procuring protective equipment. Only urgent, semi-urgent and oncology surgeries were performed.

Dr. Nathalie Guilbeault, Director of Professional Services at the CISSS on the Gaspé Peninsula, points out that the backlog will be caught up in the coming weeks.

“We will have to be careful to continue social distancing, to avoid crossing patients so that we can protect the patients themselves and the healthcare workers. That’s more of an issue for us than the amount of surgeries we’ve had to delay because of the pandemic,” she stated.

The doctor cannot indicate a timetable for making up for postponed surgeries. She noted that waiting lists in the region were small.

Lifting of road blocks; Minister Proulx is being discreet

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - Regional Minister Marie-Eve Proulx says she understands the concern that some people may feel about the reopening of the regions. In an email after declining a request for an interview, Proulx says this is a normal reaction.

She recalls that this is a recommendation from the Quebec Public Health and adds that her government is following their recommendations since they are the experts, however, the minister makes no reference to the requests of the Regional Public Health administration and the Gaspé Peninsula Integrated Health and Social Services Centre administrative council who preferred a postponement of the lifting of the blockade in La Pocatière on May 18. The Minister reminds us to follow the general instructions issued by Public Health, such as not travelling for non-essential reasons.

Sépaq activities slowly resume

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - Sépaq’s resumption of operations in the region will vary depending on the location and activity involved.

Parc de la Gaspésie has been accessible since May 20 for hiking, while fishing will only be permitted as of June 13. No camping, equipment rentals, accommodations or activities will be available. No service buildings will be accessible, including washrooms.

Bonaventure Island Park will not open until June 30 due to federal restrictions on boat transportation. The situation will be reviewed according to the directives of the authorities.

Day fishing in the Chic-Chocs and Port-Daniel reserve will begin on May 29. Service buildings and washrooms won’t be accessible. Purchases of access and fishing rights will have to be made online.

Parks Canada will gradually resume its activities on June 1, but details regarding Forillon Park still aren’t available. Currently all activities and facilities are closed.

Camping facilities will remain closed until at least June 21. Group activities and events are also prohibited until further notice

Announcements...



Obituaries



FLYNN: Marietta F.

April 6, 1922 - April 3, 2020

Mrs. Marietta F. (nee Brunet) Flynn, 97, died on April 3, 2020, in Ellisville, Missouri, just three days shy of her 98th birthday.

Born in Port Daniel, Quebec, Mrs. Flynn lived in East Orange, New Jersey, before moving to Verona, New Jersey, in 1959. In 2018, she moved to Ellisville, Missouri.

Mrs. Flynn worked as a bookkeeper for L. Bamberger in Newark, New Jersey, until 1957. She was very active in the Verona community, serving as class mother at F.N. Brown School, as Den Mother of Cub Scout Pack 5 and as a volunteer in the Verona High School kitchen. Mrs. Flynn was also an active member of F.N. Brown's Home and School Association and Our Lady of the Lake Church's Rosary Society.

She was the beloved daughter of the late Dr. Joseph Omer and Ida May Brunet and was predeceased by her loving husband of 50 years, J. Edward Flynn (Percé, Quebec) and siblings, June Worming-

ton, Elise Houseman, Daphne Sabourin, Roberta Brunet and Darcy Brunet.

Mrs. Flynn is survived by her sons: J. Kevin Flynn (Stephanie) and Wayne E. Flynn (Sophia); grandchildren: Emily Heines (Richard), Daniel Flynn (Vivian), Alex Flynn and Andrew Flynn; siblings: Omer Brunet, Ardath Wilson and Marilyn Shea; and many nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Our Lady of the Lake Endowment Fund (22 Lakeside Avenue, Verona, NJ 07044) would be appreciated.

Our most sincere condolences to the whole family. May your happy memories help you get through these painful moments!

Omer & Georgette Brunet
Barbara, Suzanne, Shirley & Martin.



In Memory

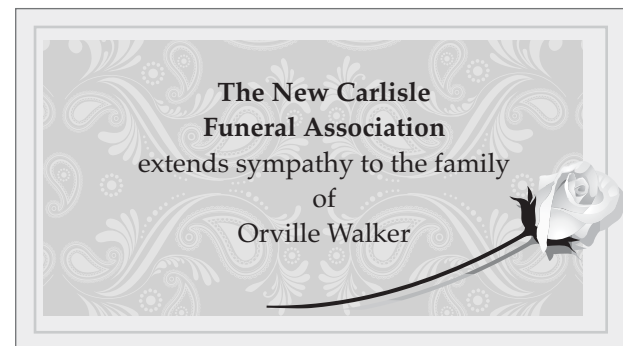


TAPP: Madonna

In memory of Madonna Tapp, September 25, 1947 - May 31, 2019. Gone too soon.

*I watch you all every day. I am always very near.
I know deep within your hearts you realize that I am here.*

*I watch you while you sleep in your beds at home.
I hear you when you speak to me, when you are on your own.
You cannot understand the reason why I have gone,
But I will never leave you, I am there to keep you strong.
Talk to me, I hear you, though you may not see,
We share an unbroken bond that will forever be.
Death can't keep us all apart for love will always be.
Just remember me in your hearts and one day we will all be together.
Live your lives and live them full. Don't waste a single day.
Remember I am with you all for every step of every day!*



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Salmon fishermen still hopeful for a season

Gilles Gagné

CASCAPEDIA - SAINT JULES – The salmon rivers of the Gaspé Peninsula will open on June 1 like other years, despite the uncertainty created by the COVID-19 pandemic. The administration of two of the most renowned rivers in North America, the Cascapedia and the Bonaventure, have noticed that sports fishermen are, nevertheless, eager to come, considering that the number of cancellations is either zero or very low.

Darlene Sexton, director general of the Cascapedia Society, mentions that 30 people have been, or will be hired, to carry out the usual tasks required to operate on or around the river.

“We are hiring our game wardens as they are considered essential workers for protecting the river. Our Society guides will be hired to prepare things for the season but whether or not people can



The rules that will allow salmon camps to deal with the constraints triggered by the coronavirus still haven't all been defined.

come fishing is still the question,” explains Ms. Sexton.

The regional border opened on May 18 and people can come to the region, however, the public health authorities are still asking the people to avoid travelling if it is not necessary.

“We are still not sure if people outside our area can come to fish. I do not know what the camps will be

doing,” she adds.

There are half-a-dozen private camps along the Cascapedia River. A lot of guests attending those camps come from outside the country, notably from the United States, and travellers from that country will not be allowed in Canada until at least June 21. So far, the Cascapedia Society has not lost reservations due to the coronavirus. Sports

fishermen figure out that along a river, with a lot of space, the infection risk is low, however, there is more to greeting sports fishermen than just assuring their spot along the river. Travelling to reach the region and lodging are important aspects.

“We are uncertain how many people will be able to come and fish and how many reimbursements we have to make to our clients. We haven't lost any yet but we assume we will,” explains Darlene Sexton.

The staff of the Cascapedia Society has been working hard to make sure that the fishermen's stay will be safe, infection-wise. “We hope it will all work out. We will all be taking the necessary precautions,” she concludes.

In Bonaventure, Ronald Cormier, the director general of the ZEC de la rivière Bonaventure, points out that his organization has lost very few reservations, despite the

strange atmosphere prevailing since the start of the pandemic. “If we look at the reservations made last fall, following our November 1st draw, we have less than 10 cancellations out of 500 reservations, from Americans under the feeling that they will not be able to cross the border,” explains Mr. Cormier.

“The big unknown as of now is the lodging aspect. We have two campgrounds. How do we manage them? What will we do with the sanitary installation? Will we place someone there permanently? Will we just accept sports fishermen? That is likely. Nobody has a clue so far regarding how we will manage that. Should we implement a 24-hour delay between our customers? Will friends used to fish together have to take their own vehicles instead of travelling together? We know nothing but we are anxious to know,” states Ronald Cormier.

Gaspé is reviewing its *Rivière-au-Renard Capitale des pêches* project

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ – The *Rivière-au-Renard Capitales des pêches* project has been modified.

Gaspé is reducing the scope of the project from \$10 million to \$7 million in order to make it accessible to federal government assistance programs. “The project has been refocused on Rue du Banc. There used to be a boat display park with boats from different eras, which has been removed, however, multimedia elements were added,” explains Mayor Daniel Côté.

Quebec had committed to 30% of the costs in 2017, up to a maximum of \$3 million. Gaspé adopted a general resolution allowing it to knock on all doors for the financial package, thereby committing to assume 20% of the bill. The Town still wants 50% from Ottawa or \$3 million, but must deliver environmental studies



A sketch of the project presented in 2017.

before it can respond and discussions are ongoing. Ottawa has already paid \$1 million in fees. “Maybe we won't get the 50% from the federal government. At that point, we will look at the MRC's programs, at the level of departments in Quebec City or other federal departments to complete the financial package.” say Mayor Côté.

The mayor would like the

work to begin next year.

Major losses at Michel-Pouliot Airport

The paralysis of activities at Michel-Pouliot Airport could leave an operating deficit of between \$1.5 and \$2 million to the Town of Gaspé if the situation persists. The mayor points out that with the suspension of Air Canada and private flights

and the need to keep the airport open for medical evacuations, \$167,000 per month is lost. “We are working with the Quebec Ministry of Transport on a government program to help regional airports that are in the same situation as Gaspé. There is a great opening,” said Mayor Côté. Air Canada flights are suspended at least until the end of June. On the budget as a whole, Mr. Côté estimates that

the Town should maintain a balanced budget in 2020, however, the commercial property assessment, being based in part on business sales, will cause impacts in 2021 or 2022. “If we get government assistance for other expenses or other impacts related to COVID, it will relieve our finance but right now, we don't have those answers. It's a work in progress,” says Mr. Côté.



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