

Many calls for tenders are about to turn into work contracts on the railway

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND – Several calls for tenders are currently or will soon be released by Quebec's Department of Transport for the refurbishment of the Matapédia to Gaspé railway, mainly the part situated east of Caplan, a part of which has been inactive since 2014.

Most of the calls for tender will have to do with the refurbishment and the construction of new bridges between Caplan and Port Daniel. Although work will also be carried out between Port Daniel and Gaspé.

For now, the complete re-opening of the line to Gaspé remains scheduled for 2025.

One of the new calls for tenders pertains to the repairs of the bridge spanning over the Port Daniel River, the structure that passes in the middle of the village. It will be a major contract, as the sum earmarked by Transports Québec for that bridge ranges between \$15 million and \$19,999,999. Certain elements of the structure have insufficient bearing capacity and the foundations must also be significantly upgraded, stated a document released on June 25 by Transports Québec.

Calls for tenders are also under analysis for works that must be carried out on the Ruisselet Bridge in Caplan. The amount earmarked for that project ranges between \$5 million and \$10 million. Another call for tenders should be released soon for the upgrading of the Little Port Daniel River bridge, located just west of the Port Daniel train station.

The same Transports Québec document specifies that geotechnical and hydraulic studies are ongoing in order to identify the spots that are prone to coastal erosion and submersion. The calls for tenders related to some of these works will be issued in



Engineering work must be done to determine if bridges will be replaced or upgraded. The Brèche à Manon bridge in the east part of Grand River will be replaced, according to Transports Québec documents. It was built 111 years ago.

Photo: Gilles Gagné

2020. It is the case for a rockslide located in the Douglastown area.

This year as well, a significant number of plans and specifications will be prepared so to put back in working order 20 structures requiring repairs or reconstruction between Port Daniel and Gaspé. Four consulting firms are sharing the engineering work that must be carried out before physical work begins.

The situation is more advanced between Caplan and Port Daniel-Gascons. The next months will be spent in preparatory works required to undertake the construction and repairs of eight structures.

One specialized crew is studying how the rockslide located just east of the Port Daniel cement plant will be repaired. That rockslide took place in 2014. As in the case of Douglastown, the track will likely be moved sideways over a certain distance.

Started in 2016, some more trackwork will also take place this year. A contract was awarded to a firm that will change 15,000 ties and 2,000 tie plates between Port Daniel and Gaspé. That contract also includes surfacing work over 29.2 miles along the same

stretch.

Ballast was also spread recently between New Richmond and Caplan and, more recently between Caplan and New Carlisle. The contractors whose services have been retained by Transports Québec have made two large piles of ballast in Saint-Siméon and New Carlisle.

Since standard trains cannot use the track east of Caplan, two small ballast cars pulled by a truck equipped to circulate on the tracks are spreading the ballast between Saint-Siméon and New Carlisle.

Since May 11, a thorough rail anchor job was also carried out east of Matapédia and almost to New Richmond.

Many grade crossings have also been changed along the line.

The president of the Gaspésie Railway Society, Éric Dubé, wants to know if Transports Québec will be able to speed up the traffic resumption schedule, which calls for full service resumption between Matapédia and Gaspé in 2025.

"I am glad to see that it is moving faster now. They are working on the bridges. They are changing ties and engi-

neering firms are drawing the plans and specifications for the structures that must be upgraded or changed between Caplan and Port Daniel," he emphasizes.

Transports Québec's document confirms that the two new bridges in Cascapédia-Saint-Jules should be put in service at the end of 2021. The first bridge is almost ready and construction work on the second has started. Currently, the cement cars passing on the old bridges are only loaded at two-thirds of their capacity at

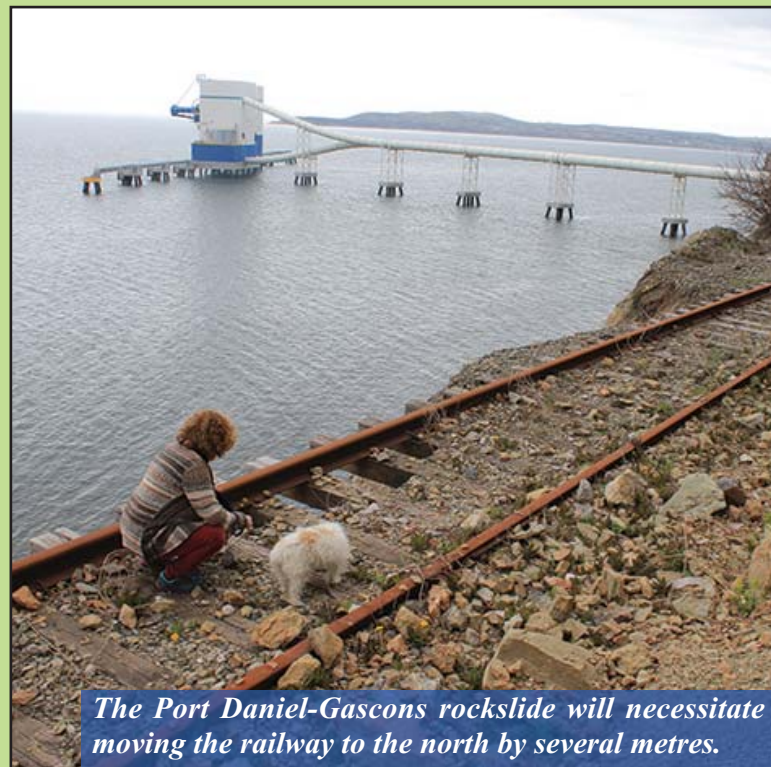
the New Richmond terminal and the load is completed at a second terminal in Nouvelle.

Thirteen structures need work between Caplan and Port-Daniel and their refurbishment or reconstruction should be completed by 2022, which will at last allow the McInnis Cement plant to have direct access to the railway.

Transports Québec expects to open the Percé to Gaspé stretch of the line in 2024, which would include the service resumption of the Amiral tourist train. The full service over the entire Matapédia-Gaspé line remains scheduled for 2025.

SPEC has asked Transports Québec authorities to specify if an acceleration of the work can be applied to the Gaspé Peninsula railway, as mentioned when the CAQ government Bill 61 was tabled before the end of the National Assembly session, only to be postponed until the fall. So far, Transports Québec has been unable to answer that question.

Transports Québec has an envelope of \$235 million for the upgrading of the Gaspé Peninsula railway. The federal government added \$45.8 million in August 2019, just before the electoral campaign.



The Port Daniel-Gascons rockslide will necessitate moving the railway to the north by several metres.

Photo: Gilles Gagné

To stand up to the virus, wear a mask:

at the grocery store,
in shops, on public transit.



Let's keep at it.
Let's continue to protect ourselves.

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Without help from Quebec, Orléans Express will not return

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ – Inter-regional carriers, including Orléans Express, are asking the Quebec government to take action to support the revival of the service.

With losses of nearly \$6 million since the start of the pandemic, the carriers want Quebec to fill the operating deficit estimated at \$2 million per month due to measures limiting the number of passengers on buses to 24.

The operating model will have to be reviewed in the long term. “The government must ask itself the question: what kind of services does it want for its citizens? We will look at the model but, at some point, you have to create the conditions that allow businesses to survive. The pandemic is seriously shaking up the business model,” says Keolis president Pierre-Paul Pharand.

Pierre-Paul Pharand says the model implemented on the Gaspé Peninsula consists of the MRCs contributing \$37,500 and the Government of Quebec making up the difference by paying \$150,000 a year to Keolis to maintain the service.

“I think it's a great example that regional service is necessary, but the model needs to be repaired,” says Mr. Pharand.

One of the examples mentioned: EXO in the suburbs of



Photo: G. Gagné

Montreal. EXO is a public body which manages the passenger transport service, but subcontracts the contracts for the buses. Companies such as Keolis, La Québécoise or Transbus manage the fleets according to the contract awarded by EXO.

Pharand says if nothing moves this summer, the point of no return is fall for the carriers.

After hearing about the exit of the transporters, the Member of the National Assembly for Bonaventure, Sylvain Roy, believes further reflection must be held on the future of these services in the regions.

Mr. Sylvain Roy thinks that a solution must be found. "The case of the RÉGÎM which receives one cent from the tax on a litre of gasoline, making it possible to finance the public transporter, is interesting. If companies like Keolis retire, we should perhaps think of a provincialization of the RÉGÎM model," says the Mr. Roy.

Carriers cannot receive assistance from Quebec's \$400 million emergency assistance for public transit. The bulk of the sum is reserved for transport companies in Quebec and the metropolitan area.

Police report

Alexis Yannick Fortin, 23, died following a collision between the vehicle he was a passenger in and a moose, on Rang Saint-Benoit, a range situated between Saint-Alexis and Saint-François, in the Matapédia Plateaux area. The accident occurred at approximately 10:45 p.m., on June 22. The driver of the vehicle, a 35-year-old man also from Saint-Alexis, was seriously injured but those injuries are not life-threatening. The vehicle was going east on the range. The emergency services arrived quickly on the scene. The victim was already unconscious during his transfer to the Amqui hospital. “He was pronounced dead at the hospital,” points out Sgt. Claude Doiron, spokesperson for the Sûreté du Québec.

“An accident reconstruction investigator was called to the accident location in order to clarify the circumstances of the tragedy,” mentions Sgt. Doiron. Both victims were taken to the Amqui hospital. The Campbellton hospital emergency services, where Avignon West residents usually go, is closed at times due to the COVID-19 pandemic and access to New Brunswick is heavily controlled by the authorities of that province despite the long tradition of Gaspesians going to Campbellton and Atholville to obtain services.

Samuel Duguay, 26, from Paspebiac was found guilty of sexual assault and has received a sentence of 40 months in prison from Quebec Court Judge Janick Poirier. The judge didn't believe the accused, who denied having assaulting a woman on the Bonaventure beach before being caught by Sûreté du Québec officers shortly after. The assault took place at the beginning of July 2019. Judge Poirier subtracted 351 days from the prison term, which corresponds to the time served by Samuel Duguay since his arrest. He will have to supply a sample of his DNA and his name will be added to the sexual offender registry. He will have to undergo therapy and his prison term will be followed by a three-year probation. He will eventually be back in court because of two other files that must be dealt with; a breach of probation and a breach of conditions linked to a previous court case. Samuel Duguay has been sentenced in the past for other sexual crimes, namely sexual contact with a minor female, an act that took place in 2016, sexual luring and possession of juvenile pornography material.

A young man from Newport sustained injuries on the afternoon of June 22 following a collision between an all-terrain vehicle and a motocross in the yard of the local arena at approximately 2:45 p.m. He was taken to the hospital as a precautionary measure but the two other young men involved in the collision refused to go to the hospital. Alcohol was not a factor in the accident.

Chemical herbicides to control weeds on the railway

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - The spraying of chemical herbicides on the railway is once again subject of debate.

For several years, the *Société de conservation Zico* (Zico being the French acronym for an important zone for the conservation of birds) of the Baie-de-Gaspé has criticized the fact that the *Société du chemin de fer de la Gaspésie* has sprayed chemical herbicides, including glyphosate, that will be used this summer.

The president of ZICO, Margaret Grenier, says not much effort is being made by the company or by the MRCs, to enforce their regulations which prohibit such spraying.

"The Railway Society makes no effort to investigate the alternatives that have been suggested to them. In Europe, there is a green light for alternatives. There are construction and rehabilitation methods that prevent the use of herbicides. We must continue our efforts to raise awareness and our contacts so that these practices, which are very bad for health and the environment, are stopped."

Ms. Grenier asked Quebec if alternatives were analyzed, but received no response.

The president of the Railway Society, Éric Dubé, stresses respecting environmental standards and that the spraying is done in a responsible way.

"For all the approaches and the sides of the way, it is done mechanically. The industry is still working on solutions. We use the products that have the least impact on the environment," says Dubé. He repeated that the process is similar on the 34,000 km of track in North America.

"The World Health Organization has said that glyphosate is a probable carcinogen and that should light a red light," says Ms. Grenier.



Photo: N. Sergerie

Another disagreement on Chandler Municipal Council

Nelson Sergerie

CHANDLER – There's another heated issue within the Chandler Town council.

After a stormy special meeting on June 19 concerning the abolition of the Public Works foreman position, on June 22 councillor Denis Pelchat made a facebook post.

The post mentioned the whole process that was launched in 2017 where an organizational diagnosis was made and as a result in September 2017 the director of Public Works, Michel Couture, was hired. The councillor mentions the details of the reduction imposed by the municipal council and Mr. Couture's dismissal after having refused the council's request and its victory before the Labour Court.

The councillor continues his long missive by writing the continuation of the difficult relations between the council and Mr. Couture. Mr. Pelchat even writes that several pieces of information are hidden from citizens.

Following the abolition of the position of the Public Works foreman, the director requested the treatment provided for in Section 30 of the agreement regarding management employees, and he was refused.

When reached by The Gaspé SPEC, Mr. Pelchat did not want to comment further but claims to have received a threat of prosecution following his publication from the director general Roch Giroux. The latter confirms having forwarded the publication to his attorneys and reserves his comments for the future.

Mr. Pelchat does not intend to retract his facebook post.

For his part, Councillor Bruno-Pierre Godbout sent this message to his counterpart. "I just have a little tip for Mr. Pelchat. Perhaps he should watch out for development projects in his business rather than putting false allegations on facebook. It would probably be more beneficial for its citizens," said Mr. Godbout bluntly.



Commentary

Gilles Gagné

Cabinet shuffle: cleverness is needed at the Department of Health

The cabinet shuffle announced on June 22 by Quebec Premier François Legault once again shows his obsession with obtaining results and fulfilling his electoral promises. It also demonstrates that Mr. Legault isn't driven by emotion.

When former Health and Social Services Minister Danielle McCann announced her candidacy for the *Coalition avenir Québec* party in the summer of 2018, she was replacing the "star" that was initially supposed to shine for the CAQ, Jocelyne Bourdon, who had just made the switch to the Liberal Party and, we would find later, into oblivion.

A former director general of the Montreal Health and Social Service Agency, Ms. McCann became Minister of Health following the CAQ electoral victory of October 1, 2018. Her style of management was a welcomed contrast to that of her predecessor, Gaétan Barrette, a power-hungry bulldozer who had just carried out a major and controversial health reform.

Everything went relatively well for her for 18 months, basically until March of this year, when the COVID-19 pandemic started ravaging Quebec's seniors' residences, some of them privately owned but also a wide array of publicly-run homes. It is now regularly called the CHSLD tragedy, and François Legault admitted during the cabinet shuffle press conference that it was a defeat shared by many past Quebec governments, including his.

On repeated occasions after the beginning of the

COVID-19 daily updates held by the CAQ government, Minister McCann learned what was going on in the CHSLDs from journalists. The way Gaétan Barrette had redesigned the Health and Social Services Department's system had heavily centralized the power in the hands of a very few people, and a lot of seniors' homes were completely disconnected from the management, as no accountability was left locally.

Premier Legault now feels that it takes a minister renowned for his strength in management, no matter the field, and he thinks Christian Dubé is the right person to straighten up the Health Department, which he dubbed "a monster."

An accountant by trade, Mr. Dubé was first elected in September 2012 for the CAQ in Lévis. It was a short term because the Parti Québécois won a minority government and Mr. Dubé was re-elected 19 months later in the same riding, however, he resigned four months into the term, in August 2014, to accept the position of first vice-president at the *Caisse de dépôt et de placement du Québec*, the province's administrator of Quebecers' pension plan.

At the time, that resignation was heavily criticized. Mr. Dubé responded to that flak by saying that he could not refuse the job of a lifetime but a lot of people remarked that he looked like a man not ready to make the sacrifice of spending four more years in the opposition and contribute to building a stronger CAQ.

When he entered politics for a second time in the summer of 2018, Mr. Dubé had expressed interest in the Health and Social Services portfolio.

François Legault wants a minister who will "tame the monster," the Health Department representing close to 45% of the Quebec government's total budget. The premier anticipates a second wave of the coronavirus and he wants his government to avoid the improvisation that occurred between March and May, inclusively.

The task is the same size as the monster, for several reasons. Quebec's population is aging, a characteristic that translates into a rising load of health services. Secondly, Quebec's various Health Ministers, with the possible exception of Réjean Hébert, have repeatedly put emphasis on hospitals, instead

of CLSCs, which should be used as first line service centres. When you treat people at home or in a CLSC, it always costs less, much less, and it yields better results.

Thirdly, and it might be the most important point, Quebec has shown a relatively poor record in prevention over the last three decades. The situation is no longer "relatively poor" but downright alarming, considering the 30% cut in the budget of Public Health Boards made by Gaétan Barrette five years ago. Prevention and sensitization campaigns have yielded proven results in the countries that have put emphasis on that approach instead of concentrating their efforts in cure measures.

Quebec has a lot of catching up to do in health prevention. Is Christian Dubé aware of the situation?

He will also have to appoint a considerable number of new administrators to take care of the CLSCs and seniors' residences that have been deprived of precious administrative resources by Gaétan Barrette's centralization.

We must add to the equation the ongoing negotiations with the public sector employees, including those working in the health sector. If Mr. Dubé adopts the approach of a banker with the Health Department employees, who are exhausted after four months of very intense work to cope with the pandemic, he and Mr. Legault will hit a wall, literally and figuratively which, in the latter case, means politically.

Since the 2018 election, the CAQ government has been popular and that popularity had risen for a while during the pandemic but the number of deaths and the way the government's improvisation is perceived, that support is becoming fragile. Health employees, especially the nurses and the care givers, benefit from stronger support right now and will for quite a while.

Christian Dubé will need to show outstanding cleverness in the way he manages Quebec's department of Health in the coming year if he is to remain an asset for the CAQ government because a year down the road, Quebec will already be in a pre-electoral mode, and François Legault wants a second term before retiring from politics.

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JOURNALISTS:
Nelson Sergerie
Diane Skinner

CONTRIBUTORS:
Cynthia Dow,
Jeanie LeLacheur

208-B Gérard D. Levesque
New Carlisle, Que.
G0C 1Z0
Tel: 418-752-5400
specs@globetrotter.net
thegaspespec.com

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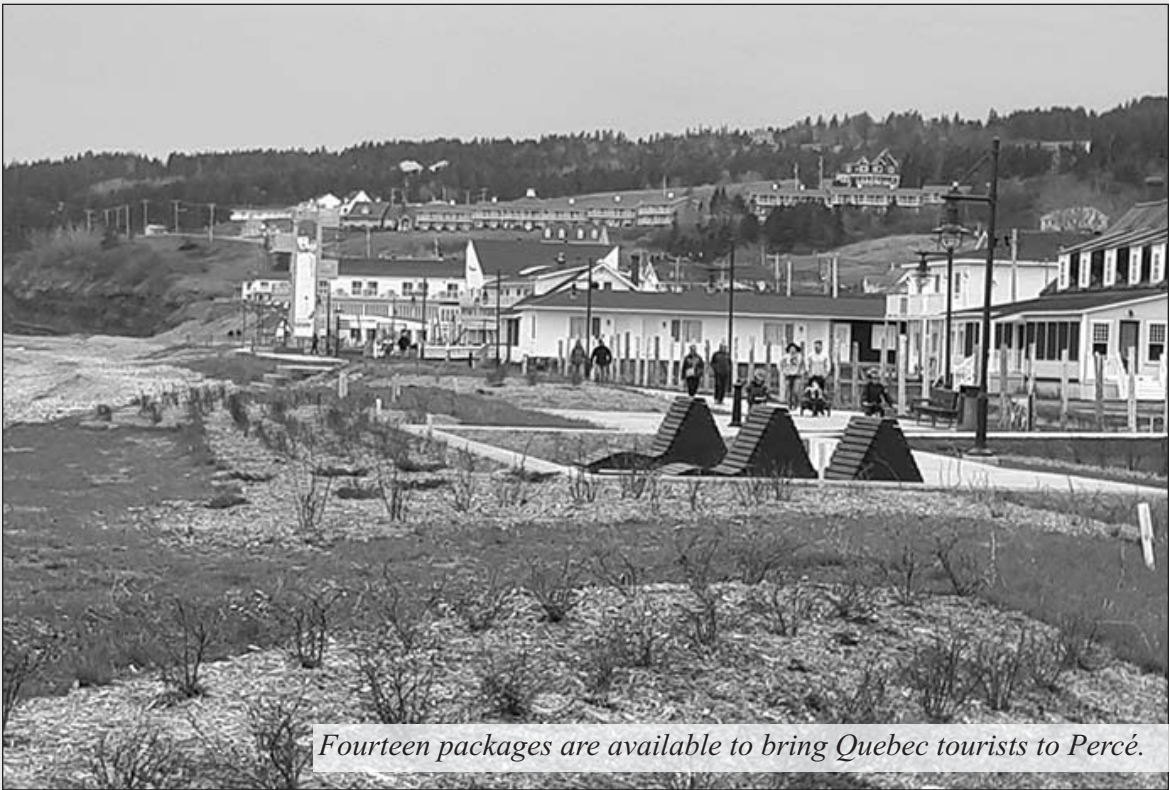
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Discount packages to visit the Gaspé Peninsula

Nelson Sergerie
GASPÉ - Fourteen Explore Quebec packages are currently being offered to Quebecers who want to visit the Gaspé Peninsula.

Packages are for stays of four days or more, along with a host of activities ranging from RV tours, fishing, heritage, or nature. The packages are available from a variety of partners, including travel agencies and establishments. The government of Quebec indicates that the packages are being offered with a 25% discount. The director of the *Agence Réceptives et Forfaitistes du Québec*, Marilyn Désy, points

out that other packages will be added in the coming weeks. It is even possible to create your own package and still benefit from the discount. Currently the only “Attraction Passport” package available on the internet for the Gaspé includes kayaking at Cime Aventure, Nova Lumina in Chandler, the Bioparc de la Gaspésie and the Pin Rouge tourist resort in New Richmond. The package, that normally sells for \$149 now includes a 40% discount for the four activities and is available at \$89. The province is investing \$20 million for within-Quebec tourism promotion.



Fourteen packages are available to bring Quebec tourists to Percé.

Photo: N. Sergerie

A Catholic Church in slow motion

Nelson Sergerie
GASPÉ - Twenty of the 64 Catholic churches of the Diocese of Gaspé were able to re-open their doors on June 27 and 28 in a new phase of de-confinement announced by the Quebec Government.

A maximum of 50 people are permitted, the rules are fairly strict, says the chancellor of the diocese, Father Serge Tidjani. "It's a whole protocol that was done. No one has seen 50 people. It was never discussed. By assimilating us to public spaces, we were limited to 50 people. It was expected that with distancing, churches could be filled to 50% of their capacity. You have churches with 1000 places. We could have had 200-300 people," says the chancellor. By mid-July it is possible that the capacity could be increased to 250 people. People who have planned marriages, baptisms or funerals will be contacted for procedures. "If there are couples who



The chancellor of the diocese, Father Serge Tidjani.

Photo: Archives

have not yet postponed, if possible, we will do the service according to the standards that will be in force. We hadn't cancelled all marriages. The priests will call them to make the decisions." For baptisms, the procedures will change because community ceremonies are not allowed. "We will have to plan them. It will become family

celebrations." The impact on the finances of the fabriques is major. "Yes, no gathering, no income. Even the dimes, the quests, the contributions of the faithful... The impact is great. I cannot give you exact figures because we have not yet done this assessment," says Father Tidjani, who invites the population not to abandon their church.

Church update during COVID-19

Diane Skinner
During COVID-19, churches have had to stop in-person worship, but many have found other ways to keep in touch with their parishioners. **United Church: New Richmond, New Carlisle and Hope Town**

Rev. Ray Kraglund had to suspend church services in the middle of March due to COVID-19. He then called each member of his congregation and gathered their email addresses. Rev. Kraglund comments that this is something that had not been done before and that having that information can be very helpful both now and in the future. He prepares a written message each week of about 500 words, no more than a page, and emails it to everyone who is a member of the church. He has conducted no funeral services in the church but has led a couple of graveside committals. Rev. Kraglund and the church elders discussed when it might be prudent to restart church services. The decision to wait until September was agreed upon out of concern for the safety of the members of the church. Most are seniors, including Rev. Kraglund. He adds that he has had time over the past three months to get caught up on reading that he should have done 40 years ago! **Parish of New Carlisle and Chaleur Bay, Anglican Churches** Rev. Joshua Paetkau's church services were paused in mid-March. Since then he has been offering a service every Sunday evening at 7:00 p.m. (EST) on his facebook page. If you go to on his facebook page, Joshua Paetkau, you will see that all are welcome to join him for weekly Evening Prayer. He provides an outline of what the message will be. You can watch and post comments live to the page. There are normally about 200 people watching the service from the safety of their home. On June 12 a letter was shared by the Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Quebec regarding the reopening of all Anglican church buildings. His message was, "We will continue to monitor the evolving situation with respect to COVID-19 during the course of the summer months." The conclusion was that the churches will open for in-person worship when it is safe to do so.

One new case of COVID-19 reported between June 18 and June 25, was quickly re-classified as recovered

Gilles Gagné
CARLETON – The Regional Public Health Board reported only one new case of COVID-19 during the June 18 to June 25 week. The case was located in the Percé Rock MRC and was investigated. It was the 187th case in the region, however, the person who had tested positive with the coronavirus recovered during the same week. As a result, the Gaspé

Peninsula and Magdalen Islands reported that 178 people in the region had recovered from the virus, which left, as of June 25, not a single active case of COVID-19 in the region. Nine people in the region died since the start of the pandemic. During that same week, the Quebec government stopped releasing daily statistics about the number of people infected with

the coronavirus, a situation that raised heavy criticism from the three opposition parties, who denounced a move that looked like a lack of transparency. The new Minister of Health, Christian Dubé, announced on the afternoon of June 26 that daily statistics will again be published on Monday, June 29. In Percé, inn owner Jean-François Gagné told the SPEC

that he is quite worried about the way the first wave of tourists and local citizens are now neglecting and sometimes ignoring completely basic sanitary instructions. "Only 5% of my clients wear a mask," he stresses. "Last night, a customer at the service station came in and was asked by the cashier to wash his hands." "I will not wash my hands," he

replied. She told him to get out of there, adds Mr. Gagné. "It is a very fragile situation. The Public Health Department must intensify its (sanitary) messages. The locals are not afraid. Nobody here suffered from it (COVID-19) and nobody knows someone who died from it," points out Jean-François Gagné, who owns the Pic de l'aurore chalets and motels.

Canada Day Quiz

Canada Day is the national day of celebration. It is observed every July 1 to recognize the signing and enactment of the British North America Act in 1867. Try this quiz to see how knowledgeable you are about your amazing country.

-Diane Skinner

1.

What three oceans border Canada?
2.

Which province is smallest in land size?
3.

In what industry do most Canadians work?
4.

What is Canada’s system of government called?
5.

What is Canada’s population?
6.

What does the word Inuit mean?
7.

The Chic-Choc Mountains are an extension of what mountain range?
8.

Who was the first Prime Minister of Canada?
9.

What animal is on the quarter?
10.

What is the highest mountain in Canada?
11.

How many time zones are in Canada?
12.

Who was the first French Canadian Prime Minister?
13.

What rodent has been described as having a “greater impact on the history and exploration of Canada” than any other animal?
14.

What was the safe movement of American slaves to freedom in Canada called?
15.

How many provinces are in Canada? Name them.
16.

How many territories are in Canada? Name them.
17.

How many countries border Canada?
18.

What is the trophy called for the winning team of the CFL? What is the trophy called for the winning team of the NHL?
19.

Who is the only Canadian man to be named Sexiest Man Alive by People magazine?
20.

Which province is the only officially bilingual province?

“
*Let us be French, let
us be English, but
most importantly let
us be Canadian.*
- John A. Macdonald”



- Canada Day Quiz, eh!
ANSWERS
1. Atlantic, Pacific and Arctic

2. Prince Edward Island

3. Service industry (includes restaurants, tourism, tech support, health, finance and more)

4. Parliamentary government

5. 35 million

6. The people

7. Appalachians

8. John A. Macdonald

9. Caribou

10. Mount Logan

11. 6 time zones

12. Sir Wilfrid Laurier

13. The beaver

14. The Underground Railroad

15. 10 provinces – British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador

16. 3 territories – Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut

17. 1 – U.S.A.

18. The Grey Cup;

19. The Stanley Cup

20. New Brunswick

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Room 211
New Richmond, Quebec
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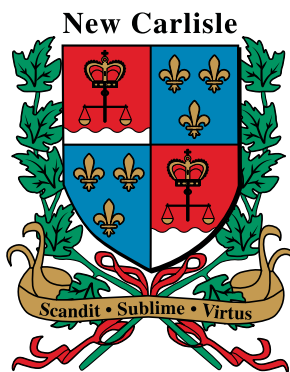


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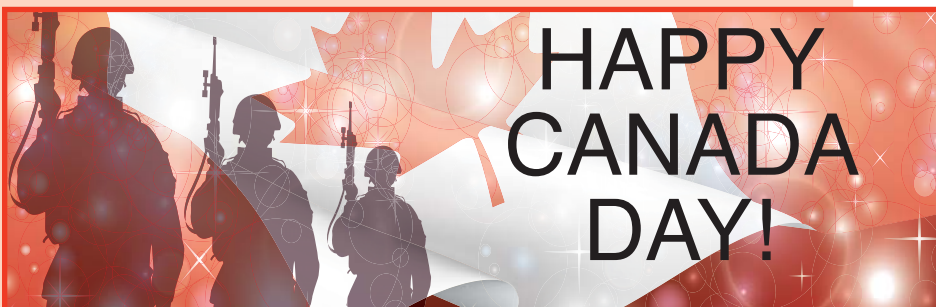


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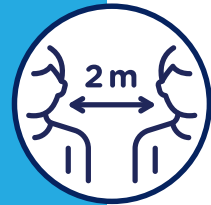
www.chaleurmilitarymuseum.com

Enjoy summer, but continue to protect yourself!

Summer has just begun and like other vacationers, you are likely looking for things to do. To know what is allowed, click on this link: [Québec.ca/reliance](https://quebec.ca/reliance)

The success of reopening depends on everyone's commitment to rigorously implementing public health recommendations at all times.

If you have COVID-19 symptoms, **remain at home, call 1 877 644-4545** and take care of yourself.



Exploring/rediscovering Québec

To safely explore Québec, plan your trips and stays in advance and learn which public health measures have been put in place in the areas you intend to visit.

Check [BonjourQuebec.com](https://bonjourquebec.com) to learn about the attractions you can discover in the regions of the province and take advantage of 25% off package pricing for overnight getaways when you use Explore Québec on the road.

All that's left to do is to choose your destination, and off you go to explore a paradise that awaits you so close to home!

Finding lodging

Various types of tourist lodging are available for rent, such as chalets, ready-to-use campers, yurts and rustic shelters. If you prefer hotels, they are available throughout Québec. Those who wish to sleep under the stars can choose from a variety of camping grounds or outfitters.

Remember how important it is to always follow **all public health recommendations**, including the ones that apply to gatherings and physical distancing.



What's available this summer?

Enjoy the bounty of nature

If you feel the need to chill in the great outdoors, why not take the trail less travelled by hiking, canoeing or cycling? If you enjoy fishing, you can tease the beasts all day long, no problem. Check the list of Sépaq and other Québec trails and lakes—you won't regret it. For more details about available activities and public health recommendations visit sepaq.com/covid-19

Enjoy summer with your family

Are you looking for fun things to do with the family? Try discovering the wild and wonderful animal life at Québec zoos or walk among the plants and flowers in the fabulous public gardens of the province. Whether you are looking to discover the most popular attractions in Québec or little hidden treasures in your own region, don't miss out on savings of 20, 30 or even 40% with the Attractions Passport. Visit [Quebecvacances.com](https://quebecvacances.com) to get one.

If your desire is to take a one-day cruise ship excursion, you will be able to do this as of July 1, 2020.

Are you a "culture culture?"

Québec offers many museums and exhibitions for art lovers. Go to musees.qc.ca/en/museums/ to locate your ideal museum and visiting hours.

Enjoying the water

Are you looking for a great place for a tan and a dip in the water? The endless Québec beaches are now available to you—don't miss out! Fine sand, loungers and multi-coloured beach umbrellas combine to offer you so many paradise experiences for the great days of summer.

If exploring lakes and rivers is your thing, you can try paddleboards, kayaks or windsurfing. But always remember to be careful and abide by applicable safety measures. You don't want to risk drowning!

Staying active outdoors and indoors

Do you like to move your body and stay active? Both individual and group sports are now allowed whether they are practised indoors or outdoors. Just put on your sneakers and get moving!



Savouring local products

If you have a taste for discovering local products, you can visit craft food makers and tourism farms near you.

But you will be able to feast on local products on restaurant patios. In open restaurants, 2 metres physical distancing measures or physical barriers between customers (except for people who live under the same roof) have been put in place to limit contagion.



Spending time with friends and family

From now on you can invite guests to your home, on condition of abiding by all **public health recommendations**. Gatherings must be limited to no more than 10 people and a distance of at least 2 metres must be kept between people who are not from the same household. Furthermore, it is requested that they include people from no more than 3 households.

We are counting on everyone to find solutions that keep the danger of the virus spreading as low as possible. This could include writing the name of each guest on their personal glass and serving in plates or bowls that are unique to each household. Be creative!



Enjoy summer! Being watchful will help the good times stay safe.

This fact sheet is based on information that was available on June 25, 2020. The situation can evolve quickly and changes may occur, so please visit the following website to be sure you have the latest available information: [Québec.ca/reliance](https://quebec.ca/reliance)

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

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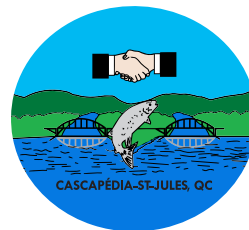
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Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



Loonies, toonies and maple syrup

“Money is not the most important thing in the world. Love is. Fortunately, I love money.” Jackie Mason

This article is not about how to make money, save money or how to invest money. It is all about the actual coins and paper we use (and have used in the past) in Canada.

There was a shortage of currency in 1685, so playing cards signed by the governor of New France passed as a form of money. These could later be traded for silver coins.

In 1858 the first Canadian coins were minted. They came in denominations of 1 cent, 5 cents, 10 cents, and 20 cents. In 1870 the 20 cent coins were recalled and then the 25-cent coin was made the official coin instead.

At first, five cent coins were made of nickel. In the years since they have been made from copper and zinc and since 2000, nickel plated steel.

Between 1870 and 1923 Canada had 25-cent paper money called shinplasters.

In 1935 the Bank of Canada issued “paper” money in value from \$1 up to \$1000. Until the 1940s some Canadian banks were allowed to print their own money.

The first printing of “bank notes” (paper money) was in two different sets – English and French.

Princess Elizabeth, now Queen Elizabeth II, was depicted for the first time on Canadian money in 1935. It was on the \$20 bill.

So far, the Bank of Canada has produced seven different themes for our paper money: 1935 - first series, 1937 – a bilingual series, 1954 – landscapes, 1969 – Canadian scenes, 1986 – Canadian birds, 2001 – Canadian journeys, and 2011 – the polymer bank notes.

A theory went around that the new polymer bills smelled like maple syrup. Don’t bother sniffing them. It’s not true.

The new polymer bills are harder to counterfeit, because of the addition of a see-through window and holograms.

As the years have passed, Queen Elizabeth’s picture has been updated. Her first year as queen in 1953, then in 1965, 1990, and in 2003. Don’t feel too bad if your facebook photo is 17 years old – if it’s good enough for the Queen...

In 1958 Canada’s “other official currency” was first available. That is Canadian Tire money!

The loonie was introduced in 1987.

The toonie (\$2) made its debut in 1996.

In 2000, Canada stopped making \$1000 bills. It was a move to fight organized crime and money laundering! It is thought that there are still a million of these bills around, mostly in the hands of criminals.

The special “poppy quarter” which came out in 2004 was the first coloured coin in the world.

In 2013 the Canadian Mint stopped producing pennies.

In 2017 James Gladstone, Canada’s first Indigenous senator was depicted on a \$10 bill.

Viola Desmond is the first Canadian woman to have her likeness on a Canadian bill - in 2018.

If you receive a counterfeit bill, you are out of luck. Banks will not reimburse you.

Final fact relates to COVID-19 because of course, it’s 2020! Many stores have chosen not to accept cash, instead allowing only debit or credit cards. Is this legal? The Bank of Canada says that is up to the seller! There is no law that compels stores to accept cash money.



Between 1870 and 1923 Canada issued 25-cent paper money called shinplasters. Credit: D. Skinner

10

Accomplished CANADIAN Women

Canadians can be proud of many amazing, strong and successful women. These women have played a role in different areas – writing, politics, space travel, music, fighting for rights and sports. Match their name with their brief biography.

- Diane Skinner

Roberta Bondar
Hazel McCallion
Lucy Maud Montgomery
Margaret Atwood
Buffy Sainte-Marie

Viola Desmond
Hayley Wickenheiser
Julie Payette
Elizabeth May
Chrystia Freeland



1. This woman became the first Canadian woman in space in 1992. She was born in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario and became a doctor and a professor. After intense training she was selected to be an astronaut and spent eight days in space on the space shuttle Discovery.

2. She is currently serving as Deputy Prime Minister of Canada. She is known as a writer, journalist and politician and was born in 1968. She has also served as Minister of Foreign Affairs during some difficult negotiations with the U.S.

3. She has become a literary legend and her books are beloved all over the world. She was born and raised in Prince Edward Island and writing provided an escape from her childhood loneliness. She was a teacher and when her first novel was published it became an instant hit.

4. This woman is currently the Governor General of Canada and is the second Canadian woman to have flown in space in 1999 and in 2009. She has many other talents including singing, fluent in English, French and four other languages and has a commercial pilot license. She was born and raised in Montreal.

5. This internationally renowned songwriter and singer, artist, educator and political activist was born in Regina, Saskatchewan. She was born to Cree parents but raised in Massachusetts by a Mi’gmaq mother. She completed her PhD in 1983. Her best-known song is the anti-war song Universal Soldier.

6. Born in Halifax, Nova Scotia, in 1914, this woman took a stand against racial inequality in a movie theatre. In

1946 this hairdresser caused a ruckus by refusing to move to a section of a movie theatre designated for black customers. She was forcibly dragged from the theatre and put in jail. Her actions prompted a fight for change. In 1954 racial segregation was legally ended in Nova Scotia.

7. This long-serving Canadian politician and businesswoman was mayor of Mississauga from 1978 until 2014. Currently 99 years old, she still holds the position of Chancellor of Sheridan College. She was born in Port Daniel- Gascons, Quebec.

8. Currently still active in Canadian politics, this lady served as leader of the Green Party of Canada from 2006 to 2019. She says “I am not going anywhere” and now serves as an MP. She is known as an activist, lawyer, environmentalist and author.

9. This former ice hockey player is the Assistant Director of Player Development for the Toronto Maple Leafs. She represented Canada at the

Olympics five times, taking gold at four and one silver! She is in her last year of medical studies and is actively locating PPE (Personal protective equipment) for other health workers.

10. This author, born in 1939 is best known for her fiction, but also writes poetry, non-fiction, children’s books and graphic novels. Her books have been adapted for television and film. Her book, now a television series, The Handmaids Tale is, though bleak, very popular.

- ANSWERS
- 1. Roberta Bondar
 - 2. Chrystia Freeland
 - 3. Lucy Maud Montgomery
 - 4. Julie Payette
 - 5. Buffy Sainte-Marie
 - 6. Viola Desmond
 - 7. Hazel McCallion
 - 8. Elizabeth May
 - 9. Hayley Wickenheiser
 - 10. Margaret Atwood

Happy Canada Day!

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IODE de Gaspé chapter: 92 years of community service

Diane Skinner

NEW CARLISLE: The de Gaspé chapter of the IODE, started in 1928, held its final meeting on February 24, 2020. The decision to close the chapter was not an easy one. Some of the members wished to continue, but after much discussion the decision was made. Due to declining numbers and members who were away staying with family for parts of the year, it meant that keeping the group active would be difficult.

The Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire was incorporated in 1901 in New Brunswick. The organization's mission is to "enhance the quality of life for individuals through education, support, community service and citizenship programs."

The de Gaspé chapter of the IODE was established 92 years ago in New Carlisle by Mrs. Eleanor Hall Kelly. From the beginning, the chapter worked to raise money and provide essentials such as food, clothing, school supplies and other necessities for people in the community.

The IODE has always supported those serving in the Armed Forces. During WWII members of the de Gaspé



The ladies of the IODE at their final meeting. Standing L to R: Laura Flowers, Elaine Almond, Katherine Smollett, Sharon Guignon, Carol Bourdages, Jewell Roy, Anne MacWhirter, Leah Gilker. Seated L to R: Ella Beck, Libby LeGros, Olive Smollett

Photo: Courtesy of the IODE

chapter raised funds and gathered hand knitted socks and sweaters for soldiers. They also sent chocolates and cigarettes to local soldiers at Christmastime.

Education was a priority for the group and some of their initiatives were to set up a lending library, promote book exchanges and to acquire thousands of new books for local school libraries. In the early

1970s the "Born to Read" program was introduced in New Carlisle to promote literacy. As part of this project each baby born in the community receives a cloth bag filled with books. That initiative continues today.

The IODE also supports students wishing to continue their studies after high school. Since the early 1950s the chapter has given out over

\$40,000 in bursaries to over 50 students.

Along Boulevard Gérard-D.-Levesque from New Carlisle to Paspébiac, trees were planted by the de Gaspé Chapter in memory of local men who lost their lives in WWI. In 1973 the trees were to be cut down when new water lines were being installed. The IODE successfully

petitioned the government to keep the magnificent trees.

Many of the ladies who were members in 2019 have served faithfully for years living up to the official motto of the IODE – "Women dedicated to a better tomorrow." Over nine decades, the group has offered assistance where and when it was needed. Anne MacWhirter, a member of the IODE, recalled her experiences of coming to the Gaspé as a young teacher and how welcomed she felt by the IODE. Olive Smollett, long serving president of the group, over 20 years, was awarded the Primary Life Membership for her years of service. Her dedication was recognized as a valuable asset to the Chapter. Two other members have received this significant award – Mrs. Irene Dallain and Mrs. Elizabeth LeGros.

The de Gaspé Chapter of the IODE can be extremely proud of their legacy. Their 92 years of faithful service to their community has made a difference to many in the community. When you are driving through New Carlisle you can still enjoy the beauty of the trees that were planted so many years ago thanks to the ladies of the IODE.

Percé: Maison du pêcheur demolished

Nelson Sergerie

PERCÉ - Percé demolished the Maison du pêcheur, the setting for the 2013 film of the same name. The decision was not an easy one for the municipal authorities because of feelings related to the events of 1969 by brothers Paul and Jacques Rose who landed in the municipality with Francis Simard to promote Quebec independence.

It was a safety decision. "The building was beginning to decay and rot. It was no longer safe. There was an issue at stake," says Jean-François Kacou, the city's director general. The space will be used for a municipal project, "which would enrich cultural life with a beautiful view of the rock. It's a beautiful property. I think we can do something interesting."

Details about the project will be announced later.



Photo: Town of Percé

Emerald Falls site closed for summer


Nelson Sergerie

PERCÉ - The first phase of the creation of a municipal park at Rivière aux Émeraudes has begun.

Since the waterfall sector is the most critical area where work to secure the site is needed, the site will be closed to visitors this summer.

The first phase, with a budget of \$75,000, provides for several improvements: sanitary infrastructure, consolidation of existing infrastructures and repairs to the staircase are planned.

"It was decided for safety and health reasons in the context of the pandemic to close the waterfall area. Users will still be able to use the pathways," explains Mr. Kacou.




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Pamela Rooney: All Gaspé, all country

Diane Skinner

Pamela Rooney, originally from Douglastown, now living closer to Quebec City, comes from a musical family. Her mother Christina Hackett Rooney and her dad Bernard Rooney used to play in a band years ago called “The Exceptions.” Her mom played acoustic guitar and sang and her dad played lead guitar and fiddle. In fact, all of her family sings and plays instruments, including her son Connor. Pamela says that he steals the show every time he joins her on stage to sing a song.

Performing

Her first public performance was at the age of four at a St. Patrick’s Day concert in Douglastown. Pamela sang the song *Sentimental* by Charlie McLean and was accompanied by her mom on guitar.

Pamela has performed in almost every town on the Gaspé. She has also performed in Quebec City, Montreal, Magdalen Islands, New Brunswick, Ontario, West Virginia and Nashville. She looks forward to doing shows in many more places in the future.

Over the years Pamela has been backed up by some talented bands and guitarists. She names: Johnny Reid’s band; Groupe Syldan; Oneway; her own band, The Exceptions (she took the name from her parents’ band); Dark Whiskey; Ray Legere; a few bands in Nashville; the house band in Wheeling, West Virginia; Yannick Gravel; and Aaron Curry (who now plays at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville). She

says that she has had the good fortune to play with many talented musicians who are like family to her.

Performing in Nashville was a dream come true. “Since the age of four, I dreamed of performing there. I remember flying into Nashville with tears in my eyes and asking myself, “Is this for real?” She had the opportunity to perform at four different times that week, including Legend Corner, Nashville Palace and twice at Wheeling Jamboree. She mentions sharing the stage with Marty Stuart, a multiple Grammy Award winning American country singer and songwriter. She recalls thinking that she always loved to sing Marty’s music and she could not believe she was there on the very same stage.

Musical Idols

Pamela’s favourite classic country music artists include Waylon Jennings, Merle Haggard, Johnny Cash, Buck Owens and George Jones. She laughs when she says, “I am a true country girl!” She adds that she enjoys listening to any type of country music and bluegrass. Pamela adds to her favourites list: Chris Stapleton, Gretchen



Photo: Olivier Drolet

Wilson, Rhonda Vincent, Luke Combs, Cody Johnson, Nathan Carter and Dean Brody.

Pamela’s most requested song is *Little Angels* by Rhonda Vincent. After that, *Good-Hearted Woman*, *Tonight the Bottle Let me Down* and her own song, *Moose Hunt*. Since she has been doing live shows on facebook, her most requested song would be *The Girl in a Tavern* by Bill McCormack which she plans to record as a single very soon!

Recordings

Since 2015, she has recorded two CDs. Her first CD titled Pamela Rooney, recorded in 2015, has been distributed all over the world. This album contains the songs, Little Angel, Good-Hearted Woman, Tennessee Flat Top Box and

many other country classics. Her second album from 2016, *Bring It On* includes many of her original songs. Pamela’s third album is not completed yet but she plans to finish it in the next few months.

Pamela states, “For many years I wanted to release an album that shows who I am. I want to sing all the cover songs that I have performed over the years and put them on one album titled, Storms Never Last. Keeping it classic country is important to me.”

Fans can contact Pamela through facebook Messenger and she will give you the details about ordering a CD. She adds that Jean Coutu in Gaspé sells her CDs and her music can be found on Spotify. In the near future you can access Pamela’s music on iTunes.

Reflections

Pamela’s future plans include to live her dreams and make people happy with her music. She hopes to record more CDs and continue performing at festivals all over the world! She says that she enjoys meeting people and “putting a little sunshine in peoples’ lives!”

Reflecting on this pandemic she says that this has been one

of the hardest years of her life. “So many can go back to work but not the musicians who earn their money through performing. That is at a halt. It is sad and depressing, so I decided to perform live shows online every weekend through facebook. This helps people, especially those who are home alone. My shows are 2 ½ to 3 hours long and I have views of up to 60,000. People have messaged me to say that it helps them during this pandemic. This puts a smile on my face and sometimes a tear in my eye! I am grateful that so many people want to hear my music. It makes me want to continue, especially for my mom and dad and other family who I have not been able to hold in my arms since February, 2020. I think it’s time for COVID-19 to end so that we can get back to our normal lives.”

Pamela wants to say thank you to her fans for supporting her dream and giving her the strength to continue her journey as a country musician. She is grateful for those who have donated a little something because musicians are not making any money just now. Many are having a hard time putting food on the table and a roof over their heads.

She gives thanks to her mom and dad and says they made her who she is today. Like all families, they have had some obstacles that brought them closer together. Pamela adds, “Without family we have nothing. So, cherish them and give them all a hug, when you can.”

Pamela also gives thanks for the two men in her life including her son, Connor who loves to sing and has performed with his mom which makes her very proud. She says that he is becoming a gentleman with a heart of gold. She says her “better half,” Dominique has stood beside her through good and bad and that he is the missing piece that completes her puzzle.

Her final message is “Gaspé, I miss you all and will see you all soon! Everything will be okay!”




ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, your finances will be hard to corral until you get a firm grasp of your spending and saving patterns. It is easy to find yourself in financial quicksand, so act soon.
TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21
Career concerns have been on your mind lately, Taurus. It may seem like the opportunities you thought were out there have vanished. Opportunity is there if you look.
GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21
The desire to make big changes in your life may not be possible right now, Gemini. Rather, focus on small things you can change immediately and easily.
CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22
Insecurity about the future could put a bit of a damper on daily life, Cancer. No one really knows what is around the corner, so try to take things one day at a time.
LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23
It may be time to have a heart-to-heart conversation with someone you

deeply care about, Leo. You may need to surround this person with positivity right now.
VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, a shock will hit you midweek. An event unfolds in a way you did not anticipate, and you must go with the flow. Things will settle down soon enough.
LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23
Hitting a creative wall can certainly derail your plans, Libra. But only if you let it. Instead, enlist the help of others for some creative inspiration that can put you back on track.
SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22
You may find it very challenging to see eye-to-eye with someone close to you. It’s easy to let things escalate. Agree to disagree and recognize you each have a point.
SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21
Sagittarius, professional matters may require further investigation this week. If you desire stability, it may be time to find a different career path.
CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20
Finding time to do something for yourself can be tough when everyone seems to be relying on you. But you have to set aside moments for personal pampering, Capricorn.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18
Aquarius, count your blessings in the days ahead. Doing so will help you look at things through a new perspective that will help you in the short- and long-term.
PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
You may reevaluate your plans when a bit of shocking news comes your way, Pisces. The nature of this news is positive, so look forward to it.

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JUNE 29
Nicole Scherzinger, Singer (42)
JUNE 30
Mike Tyson, Boxer (54)
JULY 1
Missy Elliott, Rapper (49)
JULY 2
Margot Robbie, Actress (30)
JULY 3
Elle King, Singer (31)
JULY 4
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So He put His arms around you
And whispered, "Come to Me"
So when we saw you sleeping
So peaceful and free from pain,
We could not wish you back to suffer that again.
Though we are full of sadness
That you're no longer here,
Your influence still guides us
And we still feel you near.
What we shared will never die
It lives within our hearts
Bringing strength and comfort while we are apart.*

Forever on our minds and in our hearts, Sonney and Family.

HOWATSON: E. Joan Fairservice

In memory of E. Joan Fairservice Howatson.

*I'm no longer by your side,
But there's no need to weep;
I've left sweet recollections
I'm hoping you will keep.
Eternal joy and memories
Stay in our hearts forever,*

*Strengthening our special bond
That parting cannot sever,
And if times of loneliness
Bring sorrow and dismay,
Don't despair, for I am there...
Just a memory away*

Rita S. Beer

Lovingly remembered by her spouse Harold and their family.



HOCQUARD; C. Wilfred

August 1, 1931 to June 28, 2018.

In loving memory of C. Wilfred Hocquard.
You are always in our hearts and in our thoughts,
You have left this earth,
But you'll never be forgotten.
Till we meet again.

Your loving wife Sheila; daughter Marlene; sons Steven (Mary Lynn) and Brent (Janique); and all your grandchildren and great-grandchildren. We love you!

St. Jude's Novena

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the hopeless, pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us.

Say this prayer nine times a day for nine days, on the eighth day your prayer will be answered.

P.D.



ROSS: Havelock Alward

November 22, 1921 - July 7, 2009

LEMASURIER: Kathleen June

June 24, 1919 - July 14, 1966

Until We Meet Again

*Your memory is for my keepsake
With which I'll never part,
God has you in His keeping.
I have Mom and Dad in my heart.
Those special moments of Mom and Dad
Will always bring a smile.
If I could have Mom and Dad back again
For just a little while.
Though your smiles are gone forever
And your hands I cannot touch
I still have so many memories
Of Mom and Dad, I love so much.
But there forever in my heart
Until we meet again.*

Remembered by son Ken and wife Olivia.



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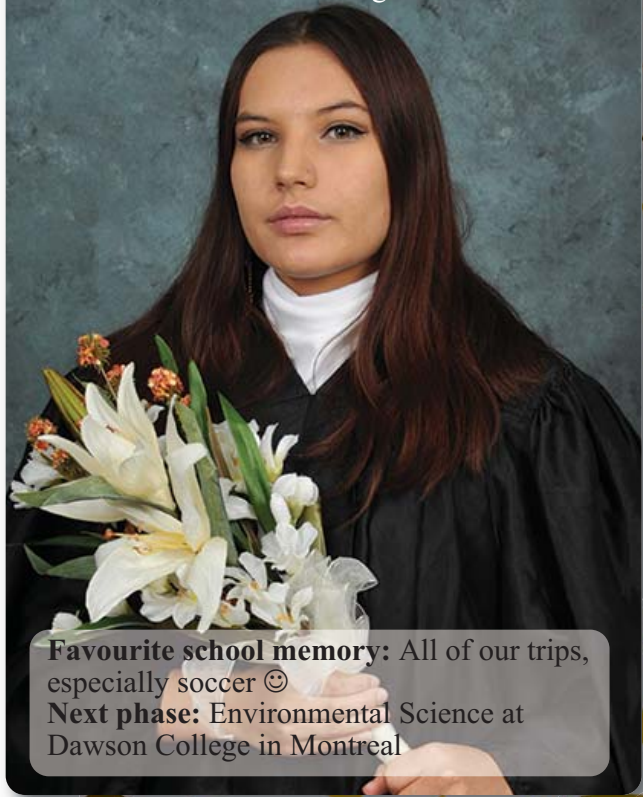
Dear graduates of 2020,

You learned right from the first day of school that we are all different. Some students find school stress-free and seem to breeze through. Others find school a challenge. Every individual is unique and differences should be a cause for celebration. When a classmate struggled to learn, were you compassionate? Did you learn to accept that we are all different? Perhaps you were the student who struggled. Did you find the “helpers” - those adults and classmates who helped you along your way? Accepting differences will always be a part of your adult life. This approach to others creates a compassionate and understanding world.

- Diane Skinner



Hailey Mary-Ann Manca
New Carlisle High School



Favourite school memory: All of our trips, especially soccer ☺
Next phase: Environmental Science at Dawson College in Montreal

Jacob Perreault
Baie-Comeau High School



Favourite school memory: Secondary trip to London, England in April 2019
Next phase: CEGEP de Baie-Comeau, Natural Science



Riley Daniel Dow
New Carlisle High School



Favourite school memory: To hear about the time a classmate had a funny clumsy moment
Next phase: I'll be taking the summer off to think about it.

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