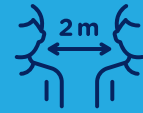




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Illegal camping: Gaspé region demands action

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ – Gespeg is the latest community to criticize what it's calling an "out of control situation," as a multitude of campers "squat" on environmentally sensitive sites.

The Mi'kmaq Nation of Gespeg is concerned and disapproves of these campers who take advantage of these sites. They do not know the environmental importance of these fragile areas.

The council notes that some places are at high risk including beaches, where driftwood, that is so important in stopping the damage from erosion, is burned without awareness of the consequences.

Some migratory birds are excessively disturbed on their nesting grounds. We have lost count of the large piles of waste that litter the rivers, beaches, and even the parking lots at rest areas.

"It concerns us a lot.



The phenomenon is taking on an unrivalled proportion in Gaspé.

Photo: N. Sergerie

Someone has to take action somewhere. We are here to support the Town of Gaspé in finding ways to resolve the problem," says Chief Terry Shaw.

Even before the release of Gespeg's statement, the Town of Gaspé created an emergency team to educate campers.

"We can't wait for action to happen. We created a sort of team for the preservation of the beaches. It does not necessarily have coercive powers but at least has the power of awareness," says Mayor Daniel Côté, who admits that the situation has become unmanageable. On the evening of July 22 dozens of cars and

about 40 tents were still present in fragile environments on the beach.

"We are disgusted. We're starting to have had our fill of them. The Ministry of the Environment came once this summer. We hope they will do it again, but it would take full-time ministry people on the beaches," states the mayor.

Quebec is solicited

The member of the National Assembly for Gaspé intervened with Quebec in hopes of finding a solution to the problem of illegal camping experienced this summer. Méganne Perry Mélançon has received dozens of testimonies and photos of beaches which are left in questionable conditions.

The MNA spoke with the offices of the Department of Public Security and Regional Minister Marie-Ève Proulx who suggested hiring a security agency to do increased surveillance.

It will take a long-term solution. "What can be done as a regulation to have a much tighter surveillance of the premises and ensure that we no longer find ourselves in this situation in the coming years," says the MNA.

She cites the example of South Carolina giving out what looks like passes for local residents for easy access to beaches.

COVID-19: two citations for a recalcitrant restaurant owner

Nelson **Sergerie**

PERCÉ - The restaurant Mille Délices de Percé has been sanctioned twice for not having respected the protective measures in connection with COVID-19.

CNESST visited the facility on June 30 and employees were not wearing face shields or visors and no protective barriers were attached to the counter. Changes have been requested. Follow-up visits were carried out on July 8 and 20.

"Following these interventions, the Mille Délices restaurant received two tickets relating to the absence of the wearing of a protective shield by workers and the absence of a protective barrier at the counter," indicates the spokesperson for the CNESST, Maxime Boucher.

Several establishments

have been visited so far in the Gaspé and this is the only place to have received citations. The penalties vary between \$1,500 and \$3,500.

The restaurant clearly displayed its position against the use of masks during the weekend of July 18-19, which coincided with the start of the construction holiday. The owners refused a request by SPEC for an interview.

Emerald River Closure

Percé was forced to close access to the Emerald River. The mayor emphasizes that the rules of social distancing were not respected in connection with COVID-19 due to the high traffic. In addition, the signs installed for this reason were vandalized.

Mayor Cathy Poirier saw the situation for herself. "It could have been attended in a



The restaurateur "proudly" displayed her opposition to masks during the weekend of July 18.

Photo: facebook

very calm way where we didn't have to intervene. We really did not have the choice to do it," justifies Ms. Poirier.

Concrete blocks have been installed on the access road to Route 132.

In addition, illegal camping has also forced the municipality to intervene, especially at the Malbaie Barachois.

"Pedestrians will be able to go for a walk and enjoy the beach and the fresh air, but the road must be closed to vehicles to avoid camping," states Ms. Poirier. The Town is also trying to cope with the problem of illegal camping on this territory.

During the last municipal council meeting on July 7, the

mayoress criticized the lack of respect certain campers have for the fragile environment. Ms. Poirier pointed out that statements of offense had been issued by the Sûreté du Québec, which patrols the territory, but the numbers have increased, particularly with the construction holidays.

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restaurants,
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1,200 megawatt wind power project in Eastern Quebec

Nelson **Sergerie**

SAINTE-ANNE-DES-MONTS - L'Alliance de l'Est will submit a public-private 1,200 megawatt wind power project to the Government of Quebec.

The *Régie de l'énergie de la Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine*, Bas-Saint-Laurent and the MRCs of L'Islet and Montmagny, are responding to a request from Quebec to prioritize three structuring projects per region to aide with the economic recovery.

"We have held on to prioritizing the wind energy sector, which could provide fairly significant economic benefits in each of the communities of the Lower Saint Lawrence and the Gaspé," says the president of the Gaspé section of the Energy Board, Simon Deschênes.

Increasing the capacity of the transportation line network is included to allow the construction of new windfarms east of Rivière-du-Loup. The Alliance was told by Hydro-Québec that there will be a shortage of energy by 2026.

"In the interests of economic recovery, well-positioned, the wind industry becomes a priority. We are going with the request made by Hydro-Quebec," explains Mr. Deschênes.

According to sources, the project foresees six 200



Photo: N. Sergerie

megawatt wind farms and could inject \$6.4 billion into the economy.

Significant royalties

The *Régie intermunicipale de l'énergie Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine* paid \$3.5 million in royalties to municipalities for the first half of the year, the amount forecast for the entire 2020 fiscal year. This is an increase of \$500,000 from the amount paid on this date last year.

Two main factors explain this record. "There was a lot

of wind for the first months of the year and the performance of our wind turbines in all of our windfarms," says the president.

Last year, the municipalities shared \$6 million for the 2019 fiscal year. Deschênes remains cautious. "It's a bit premature and tricky to come up with numbers. We hope for \$4 or \$4.5 million this year. If it's better, so much the better!"

The Dunes du Nord wind farm in the Magdalen Islands will go into production this fall, which will add revenue to the Régie.

CMQ has Mayor Langlois' fate in its hands

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ - The fate of the mayoress of Chandler is now in the hands of Judge Sandra Bilodeau of the *Commission municipale du Québec*.

In pleadings that lasted all day, on July 23, Louisette Langlois' attorney, Charles Caza, first attempted to destabilize the commission's lawyers by filing a motion for the reopening of the investigation aimed at determining if Louisette Langlois committed 21 breaches of the code of ethics and professional conduct of elected officials of Chandler.

Caza wanted to file a recording of a conversation between the municipal prosecutor Philippe Asselin and the mayor made on February 27 because the defense only learned on July 22 of the existence of this audio. The litigation of the commission was opposed and after a 45-minute break, the request was withdrawn by Mr.

Caza.

Upon resumption, Louisette Langlois' lawyer attempted to demonstrate that the mayor was never informed of the psychological harassment cases and that the procedure was not followed according to the law. The proof has never been made, according to her lawyer, saying that one should not rely on hallway rumours.

The commission's prosecutors allege, on the contrary, that the witnesses called to the bar confirm that Ms. Langlois did not know the names, but of the actions taken.

The breaches mentioned include the disclosure of confidential information to citizens in November 2018, March 2019 and September 2019 when the mayoress allegedly disclosed the names or titles of employees who had submitted psychological harassment complaints to the CNESST. In addition, in March and May 2019, she reportedly sent an email or

a Messenger message to a citizen with legal professional fees accounts, all contrary to section 6 of the code.

Conflict of interest

The Commission also accuses the elected official of conflicts of interest in the adoption of resolutions concerning the signing of a mediation agreement following a complaint of psychological harassment. She is criticized for failing to disclose a personal interest in the resolution, to participate in the debate and to vote on the resolutions.

The organization also accuses her of having refused to affix her signature to the minutes of the council meeting where the resolutions were discussed.

If Judge Bilodeau accepts elements of the complaint, representations on the sentence will be made in September.

Ms. Langlois has been suspended twice in the past.

Police report

On July 22, a woman in her twenties and a man in his thirties were seriously injured in a single-vehicle accident that took place on Forillon Boulevard in Gaspé at 5:30 p.m. For an unknown reason, the male driver lost control of the vehicle and it rolled several times before landing upside down on the road. The jaws of life were used to get the two occupants out of the vehicle. Both occupants were rushed to the Hôtel-Dieu hospital in Gaspé. "The woman sustained injuries that could be life-threatening. The man is seriously injured but his life is not threatened," says Béatrice Dorsainville, spokesperson for the Sûreté du Québec. Alcohol and speeding could have been contributing factors in that accident. A technician specializing in accident reconstitution was on the scene. The location was closed until the technician concluded his work the following day.

A man driving a motorcycle was injured on Bougainville Road when he made an unsuccessful attempt to pass a pickup truck, shortly before noon, on July 22. The motorcycle came in to contact with the pickup truck during the manoeuvre and the driver fell off. "His injuries are significant but not life threatening," says Sûreté du Québec spokesperson Béatrice Dorsainville, who did not know any additional details about the accident.

Maxime Roy, the attorney for the former Member of the National Assembly for the riding of Bonaventure, Nathalie Normandeau, made representation on July 22-23 in his attempt to stop the procedure initiated in March 2016 against the former minister. Using the Supreme Court of Canada's Jordan decision, Maxime Roy argued that the court delays justify the acquittal of Ms. Normandeau, considering that up to 57 months will span between her arrest and the probable conclusion of the trial, at the end of this year or the beginning of 2021.

Along with her, five others are charged with various accusations, including corruption, breach of trust and fraud. Some of them face only one or two charges. The co-accused are former Liberal Party minister Marc-Yvan Côté; Bruno Lortie, who was Minister Normandeau's chief of staff; Mario Martel and France Michaud, who were working like Mr. Côté as executive of Groupe Roche, an engineering firm carrying out mandates for the Quebec government; and the former mayor of Gaspé, François Roussy.

Groupe Roche was involved in many corruption affairs denounced during the Charbonneau Commission and has since changed its name to Norda Stelo.

All the defence attorneys of the six accused are asking Judge André Perreault to use the Jordan decision to declare a stay in procedure in that case. The Jordan decision stipulates that a Quebec Court trial cannot last more than 18 months between the laying of charges and its conclusion, when there aren't any preliminary hearings.

The delays have so far been "cruel and inhuman," according to the defence attorneys. Nathalie Normandeau's lawyer mentioned to Judge Perreault that his client "wanted a trial" to clear her name. "She will probably never get it," he concluded on July 23.

Nathalie Normandeau took a different route than the others accused at one point following their March 2016 arrest, which followed a Permanent Anti-Corruption Unit investigation. Maxime Roy says that she wanted to take the fast approach in order to get her trial as soon as possible. For example, Marc-Yvan Côté submitted the case of a journalist, Marie-Maude Denis, to the Supreme Court of Canada, in order to force the Radio-Canada-CBC reporter to divulge her source of information. Ms. Denis had released on television information that was incriminating Mr. Côté. During the same period, Nathalie Normandeau asked if her trial could proceed as quickly as possible, a recourse that was refused.

The July 2020 recourse is Nathalie Normandeau's second attempt to convince the Quebec Court that a stay in procedure is required in her case. In March 2018, two years after the laying of charges, the judge refused her attorney's request, invoking that the charges are complicated. She and the co-accused were initially facing eight charges, or a sample of them, and five accusations were dropped in 2019.

Marc-Yvan Côté's attorney, Jacques Larochelle, is also trying to convince the judge that the charges should be dropped. In this case, the main arguments used by the lawyer are related to the media leaks. Those leaks occurred since March 2016 and they are preventing the former Liberal Party Health Minister to benefit from a fair trial, points out attorney Larochelle.

The stay of procedure request was still ongoing as the SPEC reached its deadline. Judge André Perreault was expected to deliberate before rendering a decision.

Nathalie Normandeau was hosting a mid-day radio show in Quebec City when she was arrested at her apartment, questioned at the police station and charged in 2016.

Three new cases of COVID-19 in the region

Nelson **Sergerie**

CARLETON – The Public Health Board of the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands declared three new COVID-19 cases between July 17 and July 24. Two cases were reported on July 21 and the third one on July 22. One of the three new cases involve a health care worker.

Two of this week's cases are located in the Avignon MRC and the third is in the Côte-de-Gaspé MRC. The new cases are currently under an epidemiological investigation.

Until these three new cases,

there were only nine regional cases since May 30 and those nine cases were in all likelihood "false positives." The total number of coronavirus cases since mid-March now stands at 196. Nine people have died as a result of the virus and 184 people have recovered. Nobody from the region is hospitalized due to the coronavirus.

On July 18, the compulsory use of a face mask in closed spaces came into force in Quebec, and the transition went relatively smoothly in most Gaspesian businesses, including stores in Carleton.

Elena, a Russia-born woman living in Sherbrooke

now, was met at the Bar rayé craft store, where she was shopping for an additional mask. "I find it hot but I understand that it is for the good of the society. My in-laws are also old and it protects them," she said to the SPEC.

Meanwhile, the Premier of New Brunswick, Blaine Higgs, is weighing the possibility of opening the New Brunswick border to the citizens

of the Avignon MRC, if they respect a quarantine after having



Elena, a tourist from Sherbrooke, stopped at the Bar rayé craft shop in Carleton on July 18, the first day of compulsory mask use in Quebec. She bought another mask. Store owner Marie-Hélène Beaulieu says that she is selling a lot of masks.

Photo: G. Gagné

gone to another sector of Quebec. On July 24, Mr. Higgs had

not issued any release regarding that possibility.



Commentary

Gilles Gagné

Increased taxes for cyclists?

There is a growing tendency among vehicle drivers requesting that the Quebec government impose road maintenance fees to cyclists. The reason is tied to the rising number of cyclists on those roads. The logic is that if the cyclists use the roads, they should be contributing.

There is undoubtedly another reason for some drivers; they hate sharing the road with cyclists and see them as a nuisance. Those drivers forget that the roads are made for vehicles, and that a bicycle is a vehicle. They also forget that a fair number of our roads were initially used by pedestrians and horses pulling carriages carrying human beings.

Making cyclists pay would also imply putting together a registration system, or a special tax when bicycles are bought. Creating a registration system would undoubtedly wipe out all the amounts collected from the cyclists, unless the tax reaches exorbitant levels. Many European countries, including Switzerland, have evaluated that cycling tax option and concluded that it would become an unnecessary mountain of red tape.

Right now, in Quebec, the average yearly vehicle registration fee ranges between \$150 and \$250. It is about 1% of the average value of a car. Applied accordingly, the registration fee of a \$500 bicycle would cost \$5 annually. It would clearly not even cover installing a computerized system and enforcing compulsory registration.

The assumption on the drivers' part pushing for a bicycle registration system is based on a false hypoth-

esis: cyclists do not pay for the maintenance of our road network if they don't own a car and they should pay an extra cost based on cycling.

In a way, the hypothesis would be true if the drivers were paying 100% of the road maintenance tab. They are not; in fact, they are not even paying close to that. Car drivers only pay one-third of Quebec's road budget, based on Transports Québec statistics and according to a study carried out in 2017 by Trajectoire Québec, a group advocating for better commuter services. The numbers they used date back to 2015, the most recent statistics available. Updating cycling statistics more frequently isn't very high on the Quebec government priorities.

The road network costs \$6.6 billion annually to the Quebec taxpayers. The province's towns and villages taxpayers must cough up the \$3 billion share of that total solely spent on municipal roads and streets, whether they own a car or not. That tab is mostly paid through municipal tax bills.

The Quebec taxpayers also pay \$3.2 billion for the other roads, namely freeways, highways and regional roads. They pay for that through different means, including the driving licences, vehicle registration and the tax charged on gasoline.

However, of that \$3.2 billion, a chunk of \$800 million comes directly from the Quebec government, so from other sources of taxes accumulated in the consolidated fund. Those \$800 million are consequently supplied by all taxpayers, including those who don't own a car. By the way, most cyclists own a car and already pay for their licence, car registration and fuel taxes.

Another chunk of \$400 million comes from the federal government for its infrastructures in Quebec, mostly bridges like Samuel de Champlain, Jacques-Cartier and Mercier. They come from all the taxpayers as well, whether they own a car or not.

Using individual cars also generates a cost for the society, externalities amounting to \$7.6 billion a year. The pollution emitted in Quebec by the existing and rising number of cars is one dominant factor explaining that huge social and economic bill.

The breakdown of that tab includes as well the

health costs associated with the gases emitted by our vehicles and the respiratory and cardiac problems they trigger, the degradation of the environment caused by that pollution, like filling up nature-friendly swamps when roads are built, and the consequences tied to the way we design our towns and villages to receive all those cars.

Wide streets and large parking lots represent a significant source of unnecessary heat in the hot summer months, leading to a rising and intense use of air conditioning. By the way, air conditioning is the art of taking hot air inside a building and spitting it outside, thus worsening the effects of a heat wave.

The giant waste of time due to road congestion around and in our towns and cities is also contributes to the \$7.6 billion total.

A cost-benefit analysis made in various European countries by a publication called Science Daily about the use of bicycles versus individual cars draw the same conclusions; using cars comes with a cost for the society while using bikes provides benefits. The difference is striking.

Every kilometre travelled in an individual car generates a cost of 20 cents for society, a cost taking into account the benefits people draw from that use, but also the overall drawbacks, such as pollution, traffic congestion, the degradation of ecosystems and so on.

At the other end of the spectrum, each kilometre covered by a cyclist generates an advantage of 22 cents for the same society. Those benefits come under the form of better health, a negligible environmental impact and the joy provided to the users.

Based on the argument used by the drivers wanting cyclists to pay for road maintenance, the same cyclists should receive money instead of paying registration fees or a special tax applied to the acquisition of a bike!

Currently, the budget earmarked for the cycling trails in Quebec amounts to one-thousandth of the road budget, year in year out. This includes about \$3 million for the Route verte, the cycling network that generates tens of millions of dollars in annual spinoffs. Thousands of foreign tourists converge here to benefit from a network that should be expanding much faster. We must admit that foreign tourists are not numerous this year because of the pandemic. The coronavirus has sparked Quebecers' interest for cycling though. They are travelling in record numbers right now around the Gaspé Peninsula.

Vélo-Québec, an organization promoting the use of bicycles in Quebec, makes an assessment of the cycling situation in the province every fifth year. Made in 2015 and based on 2013 numbers, the latest evaluation showed that 52% of Quebecers use a bike at least once a year, with various degrees of assiduity. That percentage was rising slightly in 2015 compared to 2010.

It will sure be interesting to see if the next study, which should be released over the coming months, will show an increase in cycling over recent years and if the Quebec government will dynamically encourage that practice. Premier François Legault committed to a greener government over recent months. He and his cabinet members have an occasion here to follow up with actions.

The Gaspé Spec

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Lobster landings increased by 9.3% during first half of season in the Gaspé Peninsula

Complete season results not available yet

Gilles Gagné

SAINT-GODEFROI – The lobster landings increased by 9.3% during the first five weeks of the 2020 season, May 9 to June 13, in the Gaspé Peninsula. According to statistics released by Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the landings reached 1,878.6 metric tonnes during that period, compared to 1,719.4 metric tonnes last year for the first half of the season.

That increase in catches is counterbalanced by a significant price drop, from \$6.82 per pound to \$4.99. The decrease reached 26.8% during the first five weeks of 2020 compared to the first half of 2019. Consequently, the overall revenues of the Gaspé Peninsula lobster fishermen fell by 20% between May 9 and June 13, from \$25,868,000 to \$20,684,000.

The 150 Gaspesian lobster fishermen fish in zones 19, 20 and 21. There was an 18.4% decrease in catches in only one sector, zone 21, by far the smallest zone.

Going back a little further in time, the Fisheries and Oceans Canada data of 2018 show that the 2020 catches are 25.9%

higher than two years ago. The 2020 overall revenues of the fishermen fell by 1.54% because the average price fell by 20.8% this year compared to 2018.

All the subzones of zone 19 experienced higher catches in 2020. The increase is a major one, at 42.3% in 2020 compared to 2019. Zone 19 covers most of the north side of the Gaspé Peninsula and the catches have increased steadily there over the last decade.

Martin Bourget, communication officer at Fisheries and Oceans Canada, points out that in zone 20, the major zone of the Gaspé Peninsula, the increase in catches was lower than in zone 19. Subzones 20a and 20b cover the area included between Cape Gaspé and Bonaventure East.

“For zone 20, we see a 7% increase in the catches compared to 2019. At the same time, the value of catches fell by 21.5% compared to last year,” says Mr. Bourget.

Varying results

Shigawake lobster fishermen Jeffrey Vautier is happy about the 2020 season, specially considering the bleak prospect many anticipated in March and April, when the prices in Nova



The landings were higher than last year during the first five weeks of the 2020 season but it is still too early to determine if the overall volume of catches over ten weeks was better. The Fisheries and Oceans Canada statistics will not be available until the end of the summer.

Photo: G. Gagné

Scotia, where lobster is fished over much of the year, was lower than \$3 per pound, sometimes as low as \$2.

“Overall, it was good, from where we fish. We were lucky to have a season. We didn’t know how long the season would last at first. Thanks to fish buyers, thanks to local people buying our products, we had a fairly good season,” says Mr. Vautier.

Except for the lower prices paid this year, he points out that the people on the boats were not

affected by the COVID-19 crisis. The price even increased at the end of the season, and finished with three weeks of \$6.03, \$6.00 and \$6.00 between the end of May and the end of the season, on July 16 and July 18, depending on the zone.

“That was good, the higher price. You can’t ask for much during a pandemic. I am saying it from a personal point of view but we did not see the pandemic on the boat. It did not affect us but I know it affected a lot of people,” he says.

While the Fisheries and Oceans statistics show an increase in catches for the first half of the season, Jeffrey Vautier’s numbers were better during the last stretch.

“I was down in May compared to last year and June was better. Overall, I would say that I have a 5% increase for the season,” he says.

Most buyers say that the end of the season was quieter than the beginning. It is the case of Roch Lelièvre, president of Lelièvre, Lelièvre et Lemoignan, a Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé plant acquiring the catches of 14 Gaspesian lobster fishermen.

“It was very good at the beginning, and quieter during the last half of the season but then, it depends on the fishing sectors. It can vary a lot,” says Mr. Lelièvre.

Over the ten weeks of the season, the price went from \$6.40 over week 1, to \$5.01, to \$4.50 for three weeks, then \$4.75, \$5.04, followed by \$6.03 and the last two weeks at \$6.00, for an average of \$5.27 per pound. That average doesn’t take into account the weight attached to the weekly volume of

catches. In 2019, the average price was \$6.78.

Despite a sharp reduction in the price offered to the fishermen between 2019 and 2020, it reached a level that was unexpected five months ago.

“The demand was strong all over the season. There is a drop in demand after Mothers’ Day usually and this year, it remained steady until Fathers’ Day. The demand was weaker in the United States this year but I sold a bit there. This year, we sold a bit everywhere and it helped. Europe bought some products and Asia too. In Quebec, the people consumed lobster at home because the restaurants were closed. The big supermarket banners kept lobster on special during more than a month and it helped,” states Mr. Lelièvre.

His industrial neighbour, Raymond Sheehan, president of E. Gagnon et Fils, the largest lobster buyer in the Gaspé Peninsula, totally agrees on the role played by the supermarkets.

“What helped a lot is that Metro and the other banners offered lobster at competitive prices. Everybody was eating at home and eating lobster at home was cheaper than any restaurant meal,” says Mr. Sheehan.

Delaying the season start over two weeks, from April 25 to May 9, was a wise decision, adds Raymond Sheehan.

“Look now. We have 100 daily cases of COVID in Quebec, not hundreds like in April, or 1,000, when the restaurants were closed, and the cruise ships. The 15-day delay at the beginning of the season was a good shot,” he says, mentioning that the confidence of consumers were better in May than in April.



Fishing boats in Rivière-au-Renard.

Photo: N. Sergerie

A good start to the shrimp season

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - After a two-month delay, the shrimp season began on June 9 and has been very good. The catch is significant in the sector of the Anticosti zone where the shrimp boats have cast their nets.

“The catch rates are excellent. It is early to give precise figures, but I would say that the catch rates are probably 20-25-30% better than last

year,” says the director of the shrimp fisheries office for the Town of Gaspé, Patrice Element.

The speed in capturing the resource reduces the costs. “It helps especially in the context where prices are low. Taking more time or more travel to catch shrimp and if there is damage to the equipment, the profitability will not be there,” adds Element.

The deal achieved in early

June provides that the shrimp boats receive \$1.20 per pound for large shrimp, \$1 per pound for medium-sized and \$0.84 for small ones since July 1, but the fishermen had obtained \$1.65, \$1.35 and \$0.84 respectively before July 1.

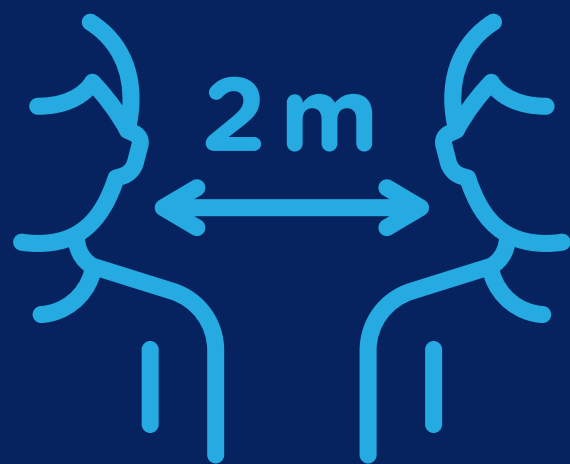
The shrimp boats will gradually move to the Sept-Îles area over the next few weeks in order to catch their quota, which is close to 18,000 tonnes this year.



**Wear
a mask**



**Wash
your hands**



**Keep your
distance**



The virus is primarily transmitted from person to person by contact with contaminated droplets released into the air when an infected person talks, coughs or sneezes. These contaminated droplets can travel up to two metres and reach people nearby.



The virus can also be spread by contact with contaminated surfaces or objects. Droplets expelled by an infected person can land on surfaces, and the virus can survive there anywhere from several hours to several days. An infected person can also contaminate their hands by touching their face, thereby increasing the risk of contaminating surfaces they touch. Other people who touch these surfaces or objects can contaminate their hands. And if they then bring them to their face, they can infect themselves.

By staying two metres away from others at all times, washing your hands often and wearing a mask, we can reduce the risk of contamination.

Let's continue to protect ourselves.

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Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



Done with COVID? It is not done with us!

Getting tired of social distancing? Hate wearing a mask? Of course, these are not enjoyable changes in our lives, however, we have worked too hard and adhered to guidelines for almost 120 days and to give up now would mean that we did all those measures for nothing. The second wave of COVID-19, whether we like it or not is real. Watch the news about numbers of cases in the States where the citizens got tired of the protocols or even deny that they are necessary. The numbers of people infected with the virus are surging. With that, the number of people dying has increased. You cannot deny when someone dies with COVID-19 that it is a serious and real pandemic.

As of Saturday, July 18, which coincides with the Construction Holiday in Quebec, masks have become mandatory. This is not a coincidence. During the two weeks after this date many more people have been moving around the province while on vacation. Areas, such as the Gaspé, with low COVID-19 numbers would be wise to protect their health. Premier Legault stated, "It's better to wear a mask than to be confined at home."

The new mask regulation applies to anyone aged 12 and over. Legault adds that younger children could be encouraged to wear one also. People who work in customer service have been asked to wear a mask with a clear window in the mouth area to help people who may be hard of hearing or have other issues.

Wearing a mask in an indoor restaurant, can be a challenge. You must when moving around or if you cannot maintain a two metre distance. When sitting down, you are permitted to remove your mask. If you are dining on a terrace or patio a mask is not required if physical distancing is followed.

Students 12 and over will be required to wear masks in school this fall. This will apply when they are in the hallways or moving around the classroom, however, if they are seated and following the 2 metre guideline, they may remove their mask.

Masks will be required in churches because the droplets can be spread when singing. Masks do not need to be worn in gyms or fitness centres but must be worn in common areas such as change rooms, bathrooms and hallways. Masks are mandatory in museums and art galleries.

Currently business owners are responsible for enforcing the mask rules in their stores and restaurants. If they do not, they can be fined between \$400 and \$6,000. Beginning August 1 people who do not wear a mask can be fined.

Who can enforce the rules? The police can issue fines and if someone causes a disturbance or makes a threat to others that will be a different and more serious charge. Over 100 inspectors will be circulating through the province to make sure that masks are being worn. There are exceptions for certain medical conditions, such as serious cardio-respiratory issues and those under the age of 12.

COVID-19 is not done. Be vigilant. Don't give up.

Mask Guidelines

- Make sure your mask fits tightly.
- Do not wear your mask under your nose.
- Do not remove your mask to talk.
- Do not share a mask.
- A mask only works if worn properly.



Putting Pen to Paper: Family Ties letter writing project

Diane Skinner

NEW CARLISLE: - On Sunday, July 18, due to Covid-19, an online virtual experience was posted by Family Ties and project coordinator Elizabeth Dupuis. The onsite exhibition had to be cancelled which was to have taken place at the Municipality of New Carlisle building. In consideration of safety during Covid-19, a unique virtual experience was created to showcase and celebrate the conclusion of the project called Putting Pen to Paper which was funded by Canadian Heritage.

From September 2019 to June 2020, sixty-three people took part in a range of activities and workshops about letter writing. As well as writing and sending handwritten letters about themselves and their lives on the Gaspé Coast, participants learned new skills such as traditional and Japanese calligraphy and gained awareness of local history by looking at letters from the past. Younger participants had cursive writing lessons taught by seniors. Other activities included: Postcard Designing, Letters of Change where younger community members discussed issues and wrote formal letters to try to promote change on issues they felt strongly about, secret letters that participants hid for lucky people to find, Valentine cards to soldiers and troops in Quebec, and letters from the past written by local people.

Participants expressed "What a wonderful time we had, greeted by Elizabeth with kindness, openness, and fun materials. It was an opportunity, a time to connect with people we care about and put a smile on their faces. It was nice to de-stress and be around community members that I had never connected with before. It is great that the project does not require any specific skills. Anyone can take part in the project and the activities. It was a worthwhile project. In these technologically advanced times, letter writing has become a dying art. Many people only receive bills through the mail and there is a great pleasure in opening a personal letter."

Activities had to be adapted due to Covid-19. During the Covid-19 crisis, participants received writing materials and postage stamps



Elizabeth Dupuis was Coordinator of the project Putting Pen to Paper offered by Family Ties with funding from Canadian Heritage.

Photo: Courtesy E. Dupuis

and were encouraged to continue to create and send handwritten letters as part of the project. Participants said it was enjoyable to have an activity that did not involve technology.

Family Ties developed this project in line with its vision of a community where everyone is part of the family. Putting Pen to Paper gave an opportunity to people of all ages to come together, to express themselves, and to feel a sense of pride in where they come from and who they are. Photographs were taken by local photographers, Allyson Hocquard, Jennifer Bujold and Sheena Langlois for a book and an exhibition.

After the virtual exhibit, Elizabeth was pleased to receive several appreciative comments thanking Family Ties for the project. A participant who attended most of the community activities commented, "My grandmother

and I enjoyed very much the Putting Pen to Paper project. Thank you to Elizabeth and Family Ties and all the people who took their time with this project." The exhibit has had a total of 389 views, so far. If you wish to watch the virtual exhibit, go to Family Ties facebook page.

Family Ties gratefully acknowledges the financial support of Canadian Heritage, which made this project possible. They also thank the teachers and students of New Carlisle High School, The Gaspé Spec newspaper, The Anchor Adult Education Centre, Heritage New Carlisle, and the Kempffer Cultural Interpretation Centre who were valuable partners in the realization of this project. They would also like to thank all participants. Elizabeth concludes, "We appreciate the time you spent with us and loved reading the letters you wrote."

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Announcements...



Obituary



HARRIMAN: Lois Meredith

Called to her Heavenly Home on May 5, 2020, at the age of 86 years.

Predeceased by husband Hubert Harriman; sons Bradley and Jerry (Heather); grandson Timothy; parents George Meredith and Greta Sawyer; brothers Tracy (Bonnie), Reynold (Kathy) and Johnson (Elsie).

She leaves behind her beloved children: son Douglas (Betty); daughters Verna (Barry), Donna (Murray, deceased), Linda (Kevin), Marlene (Edward), Maxine (Jim), Allison, Karen (John) and Michelle (Peter); her grandchildren: Jerry Jr. (Amy), Andrew (Michelle), Crystal, Nathan, Joey (Leigh-Ann), Cindy (Kyle), Corey (Ashley), Erica (Tyler), Katie, Adam, Rebecca, Zachery and Julia; her great-grandchildren: Kadence, Hailey, Madison, Hudson, Aiden, Nolan, Catherine, Myles, Marlowe, Bradley and Mya; her brothers: Irvin (Ethel) and Ellison (Janie); and many nieces, nephews, cousins, dear friends and her sweet furry companion, Mojo.

Family and friends of Lois Meredith Harriman are respectfully invited to attend a Celebration of Life Service, which will be held outdoors at Black

Cape Cemetery on August 2, 2020, beginning with visitation at 1 p.m., followed by the service and burial at 2 p.m.

We encourage all attendees to maintain social distancing during the visitation and service, and follow all recommendations from local and public health officials.

Everyone is welcome to bring a lawn chair for the service and should the weather forecast call for rain, please remember to bring an umbrella.



Burial of Ashes



MCKOY: Ellen

The obituary for Ellen McKoy appeared in the November 6, 2019, edition of The Gaspé Spec. Please be aware that due to the pandemic restrictions, the funeral mass announced to be in St. George's Church will now be a Celebration of the Word at St. Peter's Church in Barachois followed by burial in St. George's cemetery. The time remains the same at 1 p.m. on August 13, 2020.

Please Note: Following the guidelines laid down by the government as of now (mid-July) only 50 people are admitted in the church for any celebration. Wearing of a mask is mandatory.

Happy 70th Birthday!



Wishing a very happy 70th birthday to our beloved father, Alfred Buttle! A wonderful parent, grandparent, and friend. We hope you are surrounded by as much love and happiness as you give to us every day.

With love and appreciation, Meaghan, Danny, Holly, Melissa (Mario and Dixie Mae, Michelle, Cassidy and Theodore, Benoit, Logan, Colton and Zoe, Kevin and Isaiah)



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FOR SALE: Two bedroom newly renovated 24' X 28' cabin at Lac Menard (situated behind New Carlisle/Paspebiac). Open concept, two bedrooms. Serious inquiries only: 418-752-6041 and ask for Steven.

FOR SALE: Ball of baler twine; Husqvarna gas weedeater, 122 cc like new; 50 feet of 4" drain-pipe; Formula 1 toolbox; 4 summer tires 20560R16; 7 1/4" circular saw; a set of winter chains and drift cutters for large snowblower; rural mail box; four car chains for 16"; two pulp hooks; one pv for rolling logs; two electric weed eaters; four handicap bars; one scythe; one small scoop; one animal trap; small inflation pump; garden tools; three bucksaws; 12.5 digital heat gun; two bumper stands; one animal spray; stand for tractor cab; bandsaw blade slicer and much more. Call 418-392-4001. (A5)

WANTED: I am looking for a copy of the Black Whale Cookbook. Please contact me at msdianeskinner@gmail.com

COAST ROUNDUP

BARACHOIS:

Used Clothing Sale!

Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and Fridays from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Mountain View Golden Age (857 Route 132 East, Barachois). Appoint-

ments can be made by phone at (418) 355-8612. Masks are required.

NEW CARLISLE:

Open for the Season

The Kempffer Cultural and Interpretation Centre is open for the season! Hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, until August 29. Heritage New Carlisle has everything in place to ensure the health and safety of its employees and visitors.

NEW CARLISLE:

Yard Sale

New Carlisle Royal Canadian Legion will be holding a new and used yard sale on **Saturday, August 1**. Doors open at 9 a.m. We will be following all safety measures for the Covid-19 pandemic.

NEW CARLISLE:

Julia's Tea Corner

Julia's tea will be coming to a close early this year. Final sitting **Wednesday, July 29**. We look forward to seeing you next year when we can have an indoor experience as in years past. Upon reservation only: 418-752-1334. Heritage New Carlisle has everything in place to ensure the health and safety of its personnel and visitors.

NEW CARLISLE:

Drive-In Gospel Meetings

at Fair Haven Bible Campgrounds, Sundays at 2:00 p.m.

COVID-19 considerations/Social distancing. Rain or shine. All are welcome - invite a friend! Sponsored by the New Carlisle Bible Chapel. For more information, please call 418-752-3372.

GASPE:

Gaspé Cancer Foundation

Members and supporters of the Gaspé Cancer Foundation are asked to please note that our office at the Gaspé Hospital has been temporarily closed due to COVID-19. To renew or become a member of the Foundation, please send your twelve dollar (\$12) payment to the address indicated below. For members who have travelled outside the region for treatment while we are closed, please send your referral paper(s) with your address and phone number to The Gaspé Cancer Foundation, CP 6078, Gaspé, Qc G4X 2R6. Your request will be processed and a cheque will be mailed to you.

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SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

You may be a little moody and things may not be going according to plan right now, Scorpio. But all it takes is a minor adjustment to change all of that immediately.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, with all the pressure you have been under lately, it can be easy to buckle. However, you have energy reserves in droves and can muscle your way through.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Miscommunication at work may lead to confusion and broken agreements, Capricorn. You may have to be the level head in this situation and pull everyone together.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, keep a level head through a demanding time. You're being pulled in many directions, but you've always been cool under pressure and now is no different.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

Dreams fill your mind, Pisces. But you have to operate in the real world. See if you can merge your goals with your dreams this week.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

JULY 26

Elizabeth Gillies, Actress (27)

JULY 27

Triple H, Wrestler (51)

JULY 28

Ali Krieger, Athlete (36)

JULY 29

Josh Radnor, Actor (46)

JULY 30

Joey King, Actress (21)

JULY 31

Mark Cuban, Entrepreneur (62)

AUGUST 1

Jason Momoa, Actor (41)



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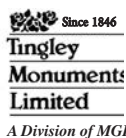
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Crafternoon

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-Diane Skinner



Mason Jar Crafts

Mason Jar Collage

Mason jar
Tissue paper, various colours
String
White glue
Paint brush

Cut or tear tissue into small pieces.
Mix white glue with a bit of warm water. Stir.
Brush glue onto a section of jar. Apply tissue paper.
When jar is covered, add more pieces of tissue if you wish.
Brush more glue gently on top of tissue. Allow to dry.
Put a string of tiny battery-operated lights or a battery-operated single light inside of jar. Enjoy in the evening.

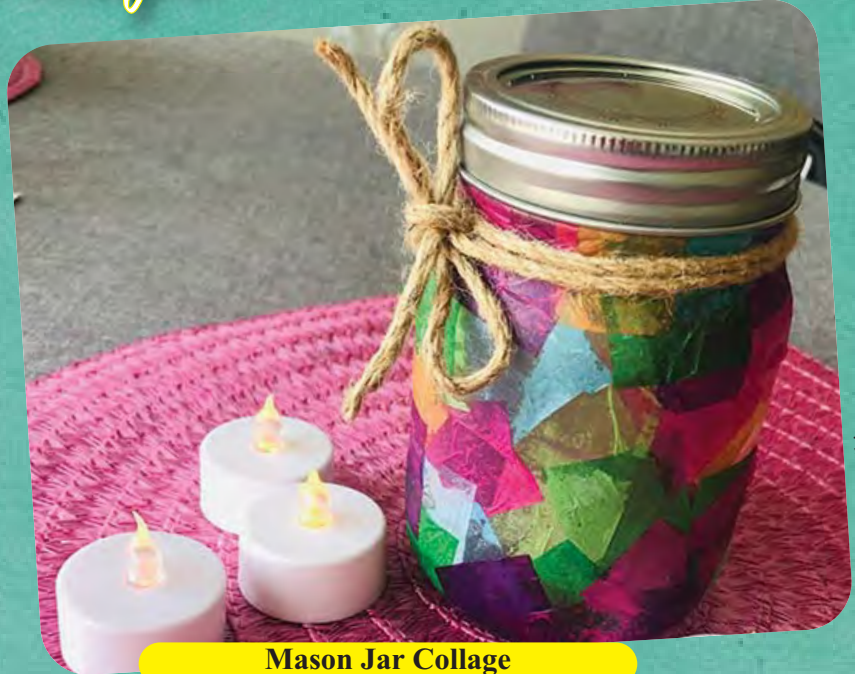


Photo: D. Skinner

Mason Jar Collage

Mason Jar Pencil Holder

Yarn or twine (multicolour or ombré yarn works best for a vibrant look)
Mason jar
Modge Podge or white craft glue
Paint brush
Scissors

Paint the entire mason jar in a layer of Modge Podge or white glue.
Tie the end of your yarn tightly under the neck of the jar and begin to wrap the yarn downwards around the jar until you near where the bottom of the jar curves inwards.
Coat your paintbrush with a thick layer of Modge Podge or glue and use the brush to help wrap the saturated yarn around the remainder of the jar bottom. Snip the loose end and turn upside down to dry.
If you want to wrap the neck of the jar, repeat this process working upward. Trim and secure loose ends.



Photo: D. Levine

Mason Jar Pencil Holders

Mason Jar Aquarium

Distilled water
Blue food colouring
A faux aquarium plant (or other decor you choose)
Small rocks, shells
Toy aquatic animals
(We also used a toy boat for the lid)

Fill mason jar with clean rocks, shells and distilled water.
Add two drops of blue food colouring to water.
Add in plant or any underwater decoration that you choose.
Add in your marine life – tiny plastic fish etc.
We also decorated the top by gluing a boat on the lid.



Photo: V. Czerwinski

Mason Jar Aquarium

Next week's theme: Beach Crafts

Dave Felker: Music and Community

Diane Skinner

SHIGAWAKE: Dave Felker was born and raised in St. Catharines, Ontario. His mother was the manager of a convenience store and his father was, among other things, a bookkeeper for an insurance firm. Dave studied Media Communications at Brock University and later started his own café in downtown Niagara Falls, in 2000. To make a long story short, he took a vacation to the Coast in May of 2003, and fell in love with the opportunity and tranquility of the Coast. He returned home, sold the café, said goodbye to his family and landed here in July of 2003. Dave adds, "My mom is an avid reader of The Gaspé Spec. Hi Mom!"

Beginnings

Dave tells us there is not much musical background in his immediate family. His siblings are all ten plus years older, so he grew up listening to classic and hard rock for the most part. His dad was into country, which at the time, Dave was not into. His mom has diverse tastes, focusing mostly on golden oldies like Paul Anka and such, but she knows who Alice Cooper is! His brother Ken used to scare him with the darker sounds of Pink Floyd when Dave was young. That created an interest. Dave explains, "I fell into Pink Floyd on a whole other level, while enjoying the rock that was around me; Rush, Van Halen, ACDC, Iron Maiden, Ozzy, and Black Sabbath. As a teen, my grandmother shipped me her piano, from Windsor to St. Catharines. I bought a set of drums at sixteen because I was always interested in them. When my grandmother passed away, she left me a bit of money with the stipulation it go towards my interest in music. I bought a fender Stratocaster guitar (like David Gilmour from Pink Floyd) even though I had no idea how to play it and a Marshall amp. Both of which I still have and play today."

On the Gaspé

When Dave moved to the Coast, Terry Dimock owned the Bar 4 Roues in Black Cape and invited him to set up his drums on stage and join in for live music on Sundays. They reformed the band Whiskey River and were playing country. His Dad was proud, and Dave was just happy to be playing. From his experience as a DJ, he was used to interacting with the crowd and was recognizing it was hard to do from the drums when he was

not the one singing and was behind everyone.

Dave's grandmother's piano has followed him to the Gaspé Coast, 1800 kilometres from where it started at his grandmother's. He plays it (as do his daughters) and he can play basic stuff. He plays the drums but has never reached the level that he wants to. He has learned to sing while playing the drums, which can be challenging. He has picked up the bass and has joined others on stage playing it. He has played his Stratocaster on stage, as rhythm guitar because guitar solos, Dave says, are beyond his abilities. "What I lack in skill I try to make up for in energy on stage."

After Whiskey River, his involvement with music took place mostly while teaching at Bonaventure Polyvalent School. He created a couple of events there such as Gaspesian Idol for a couple of years and then Bonapolooza. Hughes Bujold and he created a band called New Shigabon (including members from New Richmond, Shigawake and Bonaventure).

"The next year at the Shigawake Fair, Hughes and I thought we would give some students a chance to shine and created a band called Forking Around. Then, I joined Nathan Hayes for the first time and we started this rotating door of musicians and did shows in a few different places like the Green in New Carlisle, and multiple years at the Fair, always under different names with different people until finally we picked up Tyler Gilker as a steady member. We formed Cropduster which has remained a uniquely Fair band every year.

For awhile, I was joining others as a drummer when they needed one, sitting in on sets with various musicians here and there. We put together a band called the Landsmen with Billy Meikle and Rob MacWhirter. I was the drummer and we were having trouble finding a bass player. I knew another drummer, Trevor Buttle, and so I asked him if he wanted to play bass. He said, "No." So, I said alright, want to play drums with us? He said, "Yes." That is when I decided I better learn bass. So, I watched a few YouTube videos to pick up some basics and went from there. We played quite a few big shows, including the Rock and Ride in Port Daniel. I continued to back up others and do smaller projects, as well as the Cropduster thing. After that, Nathan Hayes and I

started a band with Kevin Jones on bass and Pierre Yergeau on guitar and vocals called the Shigawake Groove band doing CCR tributes, and blues funk. Then we added Trevor into a mix and created an ACDC/Guns and Roses tribute band called Guns and Voltage. We used wigs and props and being ridiculous all in the name of everyone having fun.

So currently, I am doing the Guns and Voltage bit as well as a project with Kevin and Nathan called The Narrows. With the Narrows we are exploring our own original stuff, writing some songs, and exploring our creative side. We do covers in a mix of genres from country to rock, blues and Irish."

Shigawake Fair

Dave first played at the Shigawake Music Festival, with Hughes Bujold and Claude Arsenault as New Shigabon. Over the next years he performed with students as Forking Around, Red Rocks, Gettin' Shiggy With It, the Nathan Hayes Band, and others. He recognized that he wanted to be a part of organizing. It was through his work at the CLD, CEDEC and CASA that helped him put together an infrastructure project and set up some of the markets and vendors over the years. He also helped Meghan Clinton with booking local artists and over the years, has taken a larger role with the musical side of things.

The Trough

Though the Trough was already in existence, Dave has enjoyed helping to make it into something that was operational outside of the Fair. One event he mentions is a beer/wine and cheese night in the Trough in 2014. At that time there was no stage, but he recalls friends, including Rob MacWhirter, building a stage before the Fair. That year, a few different musicians performed there. The next year Dave introduced an official Trough lineup during the fair. This evolved into the idea that weekly fundraisers could be held leading up to the fair which became Thirsty Thursdays. It gave people an opportunity to get out and enjoy some local music. Now, Thirsty Thursdays happens every year, usually starting at the end of June and running up to the Fair. During the Fair they host about 15 different acts in the Trough over 3 days. Due to the pandemic Thirsty Thursdays is presented online and the Shigawake Fair and Music festival is cancelled for 2020.



Dave Felker hopes that the talented musicians here on the coast will be recognized for their unique sound as musicians are from Newfoundland and Cape Breton.

Projet Rural

Dave and his wife, Jennifer Hayes, have started a community development consultation business called Projet Rural. They were hired by CASA to create an online cultural and heritage showcase for English speaking Gaspesians. The idea is to help promote and let the world know what wonderful people and products we have here on the Coast. They started by consulting the community and informed them about this concept. They are building a website to serve as a calendar listing of what is happening here. This allows tourists and locals to look over the website and choose what they want to do. Organizations or small business entrepreneurs can post activities and products on the site. They hope to be launching by the fall. Dave comments, "It'll help people cross promote, work together, but most importantly, let people know across the continent that there are English speakers here on the Coast and we have cool stuff to offer. We currently have our facebook page up and running, showcasing musicians and local entrepreneurs. Check out The Gaspesian Way and drop us a message you want to promote on the upcoming website."

Musical Dreams

Dave wants to continue performing and adds the idea of recording something original

with The Narrows is a dream project. He wants to do this as a keepsake one day for his great-grandkids.

Dave's hopes for Gaspesian musicians include having the English-speaking community take their place with the niche markets of traditional Newfoundland and Cape Breton music, for example. He adds, "We have talented musicians here on the Coast, doing kitchen parties and beach parties and live shows everywhere. We need to let the world know that we are an amazing product as well as those other places. Expose it, promote it and create opportunities."

His reflections on this pandemic: "The two bands I am active in now had about 15 gigs set up this summer. They have mostly been cancelled. I have been happy to host The Gaspesian Way, and the Virtual Thirsty Thursdays, and still be able to hire and pay some musicians, which helps make up for the loss they are all taking. It's not the same as playing to a good-sized crowd. You miss the interaction. Perhaps, the one benefit I have noticed is that musicians and artists are taking advantage of the situation to use technology and get themselves out there. With the pandemic, many have maximized this and hopefully will be granted opportunities when it passes."

The Gaspé Spec

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