

Air Canada axes Gaspé airport from its services *Local authorities are looking for solutions*

Gilles Gagné

GASPÉ – Air Canada announced on June 30 that it is permanently axing its services at the Gaspé airport due to the crisis triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Michel-Pouliot Airport in Gaspé is thus losing almost all of its revenues, but the Town of Gaspé, the owner of the airport, was already looking for solutions mere minutes after hearing the announcement made by the international carrier.

The private company, which was previously controlled by the Government of Canada, invokes “continuing weak demand for both business and leisure travel due to COVID-19 and provincial and federal government-imposed travel restrictions and border closures, which are diminishing prospects for a near-to-mid-term recovery,” to justify cutting its link with the Gaspé airport.

In addition, the company will no longer serve the Mont-Joli, Baie-Comeau and Wabush airports, as well as Bathurst, New Brunswick. Three airports located in Ontario are also being cut.

Air Canada expects the industry's recovery will take a minimum of three years. As a consequence, “other changes to its network and schedule, as well as further service suspensions, will be considered over the coming weeks as the airline takes steps to decisively reduce its overall cost structure and cash burn rate.”

In total thirty aerial links are being cut in Canada, including evidently all the flights reaching and leaving from Gaspé, Mont-Joli and Bathurst. Sept-Îles and the Magdalen Islands are keeping reduced services. In the case of the Magdalen Islands, the transporter will just maintain a summer service, from June to September.

“As a result of COVID-



Pascan Aviation, whose aircraft appears on the left-hand side of the photo, is likely interested in taking over the spot abandoned by Air Canada.

Photo: Gilles Gagné

19, Air Canada reported a net loss of \$1.05 billion in the first quarter of 2020, including a net cash burn in March of \$688 million,” mentions Air Canada’s press release.

A workforce reduction of approximately 20,000 employees, representing more than 50 percent of its staff. A company-wide cost reduction and capital deferral program that has to date identified around \$1.1 billion in savings; a reduction of its system-wide capacity by approximately 85 percent in the second quarter; and an expected third quarter capacity reduction of at least 75% from the third quarter of 2019 are other measures deployed by the firm to save money.

The permanent removal of 79 aircraft from its mainline and Rouge fleets, raising approximately \$5.5 billion in liquidity since March 13, 2020, through a series of debt, aircraft and equity financings were also applied. “Further initiatives are being considered,” specifies the press release.

The mayor of Gaspé, Daniel Côté, held a press conference 90 minutes after learning about Air Canada’s decision to axe the Michel-

Pouliot Airport from its service points. He was on holidays.

“We deplore that decision made during the period of economic relaunching. We expect Air Canada to reimburse ticket holders with money, not travelling coupons. Minutes after learning that decision, we were reached by private airlines ready to take over and reorganize a service in Gaspé as soon as possible,” said Mayor Côté.

“We are in a solution mode,” he added, referring to a conference call that was immediately following the press conference. He refused to identify the names of the airlines that had contacted him but mentioned that there are only a handful of private regional carriers in Quebec.

Was Pascan Aviation one of the companies that contacted him? He refused to answer directly but finally named a few companies, including Pascan, Air Inuit and Air Creebec.

A regular critic of Air Canada services in Gaspé, Daniel Côté, repeatedly mentioned that his strategy won’t involve more criticism since it’s a waste of time.

“Air Canada always said that there was a market problem in Gaspé. That is not true. The aircrafts were regularly full and the company was switching to a bigger carrier in the summer because the clientele was growing during that period. So, there was no problem with the market. Moreover, if they (Air Canada executives) had opted for reasonable fares, there would have been more people on their aircrafts,” he explains.

How long can it take before the service to Gaspé is resumed, given that works to lengthen the air strip are currently being carried out and that they will last until mid-August?

“We can talk about a few months. I think it is possible to get the service back in September,” said the mayor.

One condition must be met for a quick resumption of a daily aerial service. “We need the support of the Government of Quebec and of the Government of Canada. We will not be able to make it if we are alone,” warns Daniel Côté.

“We will also need some governmental support in order to reduce the cost of

aerial travel; 43% of the ticket cost consists of taxes,” he states.

Overall deterioration

Air Canada’s move makes long distance travel in the Gaspé Peninsula even more fragile, considering that VIA Rail services have been suspended east of Matapédia since September 2013 and given that Orléans Express also temporarily stopped its bus links in March due to the pandemic.

Daniel Côté stresses that the departure of Air Canada could lead to a positive outcome over the midterm if the next carrier adopts a better approach than the multinational firm.

“The model remains to be decided. It could be a private company. We could adopt the cooperative model and there is also an intermunicipal board model as well. If we change the current model, we might need a partnership with existing private carriers. Acquiring aircrafts takes time and they already have them,” he says.

The mayor of Gaspé, who chairs the aerial service committee of the *Union des municipalités du Québec*, points out that the other regions experiencing airline service problems, including the North Shore, Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean and Abitibi, are already exchanging information regarding the possibility of working together to find a global solution.

A partnership with private aircraft companies is one of the solutions envisioned by the stakeholders of those regions, including the Gaspé Peninsula.

Air Canada’s departure leaves a big hole in the Michel-Pouliot Airport budget.

“It is enormous. It is about \$150,000 per month. In fact, we have the results of April and the revenue lost amounts to \$167,000. (...) We can’t cut the cost accordingly. About

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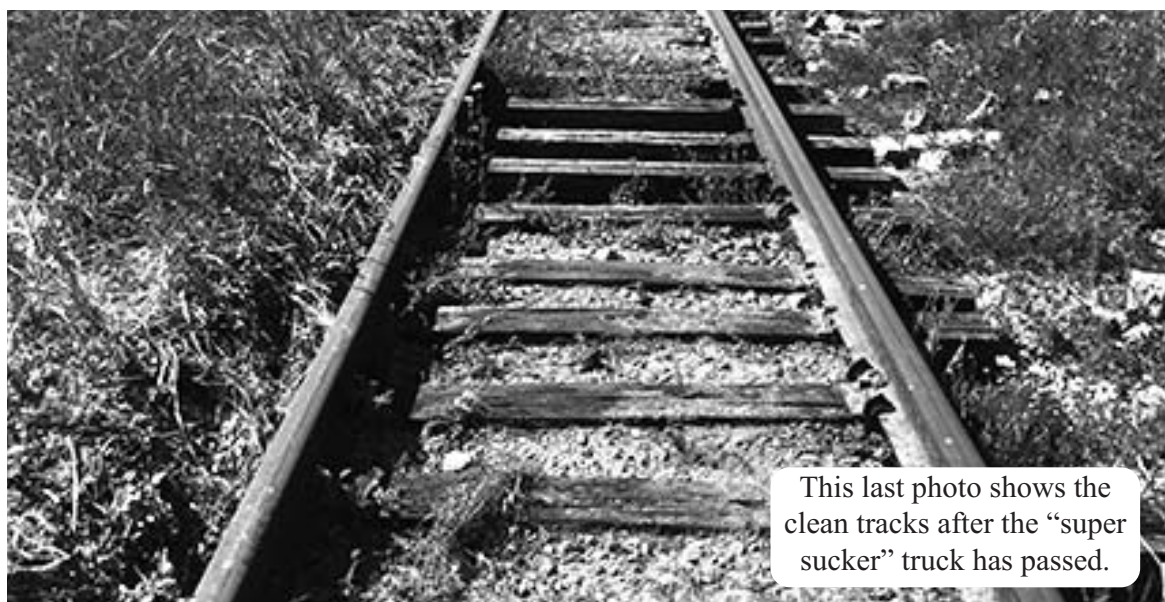
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“Super sucker” cleans tracks

Gilles Gagné

Transports Québec has hired a subcontractor that owns the “Super Sucker” truck to do work between Corner-of-the-Beach and Barachois. This unit cleaned the sand on the tracks that had accumulated since the passage of the last train in 2014. A lot of sand accumulated from a storm that occurred on December 30, 2016. Some ties will be replaced along the Corner-of-the-Beach-Barachois stretch later.



This last photo shows the clean tracks after the “super sucker” truck has passed.

Photos: : Courtesy of Transports Québec

Police report



Photo: G. Gagné

Tourelle wharf.

Three individuals living in the Tourelle sector of Sainte-Anne-des-Monts will eventually be summoned to appear in court and face various charges of illegal fishing following an operation conducted by Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Sûreté du Québec, during the night of June 22/23.

The bust occurred at the Tourelle wharf. Three individuals in a fishing boat were returning with lobster and groundfish, mainly cod. The catches were made at night. Despite being on a fishing boat, the suspects didn't have fishing licences.

The fisheries officers not only seized significant catches but they also seized the fishing boat, lobster traps, long lines for groundfish and a small boat. The fines associated with this illegal fishing case could reach \$100,000 if the three people are found guilty, points out Jean-François Sylvestre, from Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Gaspé Peninsula and Lower Saint Lawrence regions. He adds that the case could be larger than the initial operation suggests.

“Illegal fishing was taking place in a sector of exploratory fishing, where the resource is assessed for future commercial fishing purposes, maybe that (illegal fishing activities) is distorting data linked to that potential fishing. The illegal acts can compromise the research side,” mentions Mr. Sylvestre.

The investigation is far from over since the three fishermen were selling their catches.

“Other people will be met with over the next days, here and there in Quebec. There is a network attached to it,” adds Mr. Sylvestre.

The volume of catches seized is being kept private “because it is an important element of evidence that will be used later,” adds Jean-François Sylvestre, referring to the eventual court appearance of the suspects.

Usually, this type of case is heard in a penal tribunal but the Fisheries Act is a mixed law, which means that criminal charges can stem from such an investigation. Prison terms are consequently not ruled out in the present case.

Sûreté du Québec police officers participated in the Tourelle operation because some of the suspects have a criminal record and the police wanted to question them with regards to another affair.

The trial will not take place soon, warns Jean-François Sylvestre. “There are many people to meet and it can take a year, sometimes more, before closing a case like this one,” he says.

The value of the seized goods, including the fishing boat, reaches easily tens of thousands of dollars.

The lobster fishermen of the Gaspé Peninsula have made thorough efforts over the last 25 years to protect and expand the lobster stock. The results of those efforts are reflected in the record catches of the last five years. Most experts state that the cod stock remains in a precarious state. The cod decline began 30 years ago.

Documentary Film Project. “We Were Royal Rifles”

Press Release

With 2020 being the 75th Anniversary of the end of the Second World War, the timing is right for the production of a full length documentary film entitled “We Were Royal Rifles” which retells the story of the 200 Gaspé Coast soldiers who participated in the 1941 Battle of Hong Kong.

Background

In the fall of 1941, a contingent of 1976 Canadians was sent across the Pacific Ocean to assist in the defence of the British colony of Hong Kong. Among this group, known as “C Force,” were 200 Gaspésians, members of the Royal Rifles of Canada.

Shortly after the Canadians’ arrival in Hong Kong, the colony was attacked by the

forces of Imperial Japan. Severely outgunned and outnumbered, and with no outside support, the isolated outpost was overrun by the invaders, and on December 25, 1941, after 290 Canadians were killed in the fighting, the British Governor of Hong Kong surrendered.

What would follow for the survivors of the battle was 44 months of captivity as prisoners of war under horrific conditions where malnutrition, disease, forced labour, as well as physical and psychological abuse were the norm. An additional 260 members of “C” Force died as prisoners of war.

The Film Project

Featuring interviews with the last surviving Gaspésian Veteran of the Battle of Hong

Kong and former prisoner of war, New Richmond’s Philip Doddridge (now aged 98), “We Were Royal Rifles” is written and directed by Gaspé Coast regional military history researcher Tom Eden and produced by Thomas Wadham-Gagnon of WG Productions.

Initial production funding was provided by the Committee for Anglophone Social Action (CASA) as part of its “The Gaspésian Way” initiative.

Further fundraising efforts for post-production are ongoing in order to complete the 44 minute documentary before the end of 2020, the 75th Anniversary year of the end of World War Two.

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COVID-19 WEEKLY WRAP-UP:

Of the three new cases reported between June 25 and July 3, two of them have already recovered

Gilles Gagné

CARLETON –The Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands Public Health Board reported three new cases of COVID-19 during the week of June 25 and July 3, which brought the number of regional cases to 190.

Two of the three cases were considered recovered the

day they were reported, which is likely explained by the fact that there was a delay in the release of information due to statistical updates.

The third case was reported on July 1 and it was located in the Côte-de-Gaspé MRC. On July 2, the Public Health Department added a hospitalization case to its statistics, the nineteenth such

case, without making the link between the Côte-de-Gaspé case and that addition. Past statistical adjustments have proven that such a conclusion cannot be made.

The Public Health Department has also adjusted from 46 to 50 the number of health care employees that have contracted the virus. The organization does not reveal details

about those employees, such as where they are posted and when they contracted the virus.

Considering that the number of recovered cases in the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands now stands at 180 and given that nine people died of COVID-19, it means there was only one active case in the region as of July 3. The

nine casualties represent a death rate of 4.73%, compared to 10% for Quebec.

On June 29, the Quebec Department of Health and Social Services resumed issuing daily statistics.

During the last ten days of June, 1,319 people were tested in the region, for a total of 7,711 tests since the beginning of the pandemic.

Editorial page



Commentary

Gilles Gagné

It is possible to find better than Air Canada

The permanent departure of Air Canada from the Gaspé airport is another blow to the capacity of Gaspésians and their visitors to travel, considering the long-term suspension of VIA Rail services and the temporary suspension of the Orléans Express bus service.

Considering the interest shown by a certain number of private aerial companies since the June 30 decision made public by Air Canada, it will be relatively easy to replace that giant.

Will the service be better? It could hardly be worse. Since InterCanadian left 20 years ago, Air Canada mainly distinguished itself for its exorbitant pricing; for the frequency of cancelled flights; for an awful communication strategy, sometimes essentially characterized by silence; and a lack of investment in its aircrafts and flight equipment.

It is also appalling to see that certain customers, after years of struggling to reserve online tickets, had put up an impressive number of tricks to pierce that wall of inefficiency. Those tricks were so numerous that they could make a booklet.

It is just as striking to see that Air Canada repeatedly implemented a dumping policy regarding the fare charged to the customers as soon as a competitor showed up in Gaspé. The huge transporter would then reduce its prices long enough to get rid of the competition and would immediately jack them up again to stratospheric levels.

While it is reassuring to see that other players, Pascan being one despite its relative discretion since Air Canada's June 30 announcement, currently make proposals to replace Air Canada, the current system will likely not change. The fares will remain high, and that reality must change.

In today's society, there are situations requiring swift and affordable moves. Aerial services are handy to allow doctors, patients, entrepreneurs and various experts, including ours, to travel efficiently, despite the generally poor environmental record of aircrafts.

The same context applies to young families ready to move to the Gaspé Peninsula or any other rural region. It should be normal for them to feel something less than stranded and unable to visit their relatives elsewhere for less than \$4,000 or \$6,000.

It is clear that the governments of the last 35 to 40 years have failed to understand this basic principle. There is no development possible if you cannot supply to a region reliable and affordable transporta-

tion means.

It is odd to realize that 50 or 60 years ago, it was much cheaper and much easier to travel from one region to the other than today, the inflation rate taken into account. An impressive number of Gaspesian workers travelled by plane to the North Shore between the early 1950s and the 1980s, paying their ticket themselves for sums varying between a few dollars to a bit more.

Gaspesian lumberjacks working on Anticosti Islands and on the North Shore had to fly to get to their jobs. We are not talking about people earning doctors' and engineers' salaries here.

The Gaspé Peninsula had daily trains, two if we are counting the mixed one bringing the mail and express, in the 1960s.

The population might have dwindled a bit but the travelling needs have increased. The use of the individual automobile has sharply increased and still is, especially since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, as commuting services have practically been reduced to zero.

The striking indifference, negligence and incompetence of our national politicians in regional transport is hurting us once more.

The way aerial transport is organized in Quebec is ridiculous. In fact, the entire province and country need a transportation policy designed for the rural regions. Those regions are handicapped in their development by constant shortcomings in land, water and aerial transport, with a few exceptions. Aerial transport is better organized in the rest of Canada but some areas, Labrador, New Brunswick and certain parts of Ontario will nevertheless suffer from Air Canada's recent service cuts.

It will be interesting to see if those slashes have sent the necessary electroshock that will wake politicians up. It is unlikely though. It will once more necessitate public mobilization to make them move.

Most governments are looking for ways to rejuvenate the economy of the country. In the rural regions, the work to come is already determined. Provide them with decent transportation modes. It is basic.

The countries with efficient transportation means have flourishing rural areas. The Scandinavian countries, Finland, Sweden, Norway and Denmark, have both. So it exists. There is no excuse. We must duplicate their model.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

WARNING: There will be herbicide spraying on the Gaspésie railway, from Matapédia to Gaspé, July 1 to July 31, 2020. The *Société du chemin de fer de la Gaspésie* (SCFG) has hired Asplundh to spray Arsenal (imazapyr) and VP484 (glyphosate). Once again, the SCFG is using toxic herbicides, despite

available alternatives that the *Société de conservation ZICO de la Baie-de-Gaspé* has repeatedly proposed, and despite by-laws in the Rocher-Percé and Bonaventure MRCs and the Town of Gaspé that prevent herbicide use in transport corridors.

Glyphosate is a probable human carcinogen (World Health Organisation) and imazapyr has been banned in Norway since 2001. In Switzerland, the railway will ban glyphosate by 2025, and is conducting tests on alternatives, just like the German IZT Institute is doing, including ones we have often proposed.

Also in Europe, there are railway construction and reconstruction measures that do away with herbicide use. We deserve to have that here, too, for example on the Port-Daniel-Gascons-Gaspé portion.

The SCFG is making no efforts to stop herbicide use, is continuing to break our by-laws, and has not even answered our letters. This is completely unacceptable, especially for a public corporation.

We attended the Rail Transport Summit last December, and we have asked the Transport Ministry, as owner of the Gaspésie railway, to intervene in order to make sure that our by-laws are obeyed and that alternatives, including no-herbicide reconstruction, are used. However, the response has not been encouraging. There is also a lack of understanding in general that the focus should not be on how quickly trains will return without first ensuring no-herbicide reconstruction and other alternatives to herbicides for the whole railway.

Our health and environment are at stake, especially our children's.

Margret Grenier

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Work has begun on the runway at Rocher-Percé Airport

Nelson **Sergerie**

GRANDE-RIVIÈRE - After nearly a decade of waiting, work to extend the runway at the Rocher-Percé Airport has begun. The investment of \$10.4 million will allow for development as well. "It will be easier for the air ambulance to make medical transfers for the safety of our citizens. It will also allow us to develop tourism, to be better able to accommodate charter flights and to work on public services. We are in the process of drawing up this development plan for our airport at the same time," says Prefect Nadia Minassian.

The weather station and runway lighting will also be upgraded. The provincial government has provided \$8.3

million in assistance to carry out the work. The prefect wants to work with the other airports to ensure regional complementarity. "The airport files have been a source of tension in the region. The fact that elected officials have changed their minds and are working on improving air service in the region, I think that is why Rocher-Percé, Gaspé and Sainte-Anne-des-Monts took the lion's share of the MTQ's program." This work can be carried out thanks to assistance from the Government of Quebec that was announced in Gaspé, in December 2018, by Premier François Legault. Gaspé and Sainte-Anne-des-Monts have also received funding.

The renovation of the ter-



The symbolic groundbreaking ceremony was held on June 30.

Photo: Courtesy

minal is already on the drawing boards. "To become much more welcoming and to make

it inviting for tourists to disembark at the Rocher-Percé airport, we have a good plan.

We're in the process of evaluating the budget," says Ms. Minassian.

"It's a shame," says MP Diane Lebouthillier

Nelson **Sergerie**

GRANDE-RIVIÈRE: - It's a shame. That is the reaction of the Member of Parliament for the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands after learning about the suspension of Air Canada services in the Gaspé from the news on television.

"A company of this size is acting in such an unworthy manner. It is a real shame. Shame on Air Canada," she says.

Discussions will be held in cabinet to find alternatives, with the provinces and municipalities to find the best solutions. Saluting the companies that are stepping forward to take over, Ms. Lebouthillier points out that people have the right to this fast method of transportation. That is important for economic development. With the suspension of bus and train services, Ms. Lebouthillier is using her own example to illustrate the mobility problems in the Gaspésie.

"It is so major that I currently have no carrier capable of getting me to Ottawa. It is quite unbelievable," she says.

Tourism Gaspésie is also criticizing the closure

Tourisme Gaspésie is criticizing the closure of Air Canada's air service to Gaspé and Mont-Joli. According to the organization, this decision is contrary to the efforts made, with the Explore



Diane Lebouthillier calls Air Canada's decision shameful.

Photo: N. Sergerie

Québec program, which offered reductions of up to 50% on the cost of a plane ticket to remote regions. According to its president, David Dubreuil, "access to affordable air transportation is an important issue in Quebec and the Gaspé Peninsula.

The consequences are enormous for the region, which receives close to 800,000 visitors annually." Tourisme Gaspésie is calling on the regional minister, Marie-Ève Proulx, to help the region's elected officials find solutions.

Shockwave

The members of the Gaspé Chamber of Commerce and Tourism were shocked by this announcement. The CCTG believes that a regional business must be able to travel effectively to major centres for

business development. "At first, it was a shock, but now people know that we're going to find a different solution that will benefit everyone. We're not just talking about businesses. We're also talking about citizens. Everyone is affected by this," says director Catherine Briand.

The Chamber points out that this loss is in addition to that of VIA Rail and Orléans Express. The organization believes that the issue of transportation must become a priority.

AIR CANADA:

▶ *Cont'd from cover*

80% of our costs remain since we must leave the airport open for emergency purposes and because the SOPFIM (*the Société de protection des forêts contre les insectes et les maladies*) is currently using it to spray its products," explains Mr. Côté.

There, too, the mayor expects some governmental support in order to erase some of the losses. The same scenario characterizes many municipal and regional airports all over the country.

About 23 people work at the Gaspé airport in activities related directly to Air Canada: five ticket counter agents, ten security people and four at the baggage section. A certain number of them worked for a subcontractor. Air Canada did

not inform them that they had been laid off before the public announcement.

A consultant in regional development, Gaétan Lelièvre, the former Member of the National Assembly for the riding of Gaspé, hopes that the solution drawn to insure traffic resumption at the Gaspé airport will be a long term one.

"I understand that we must reinstate some flights as soon as possible but we must also develop a long-term solution that will take into account the affordability of aerial travel. On June 30, I checked the Pascan rates for a July 6 flight between Bonaventure and the Saint-Hubert airport near Montreal and it was \$1,587 for a return trip! That is certainly not affordable. The model has to be changed," he says.

Several temperature records broken on June 18

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ PENINSULA: - Three heat records were broken on June 18 in the region.

The mercury reached 36.7 degrees in the Carleton-sur-Mer area compared to the previous 31.1 degrees set in 1971. In New Carlisle, the thermometer climbed to 33.4 degrees, breaking the 2009 mark of 27.6 degrees. An easterly wind blew over Gaspé and slowed the rise of the mercury there, which stopped at 32.0 degrees, but the mark to beat was 31.9 degrees set in 2006.



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Difficult to relaunch New Richmond's Serres Savoura

Nelson **Sergerie**

NEW RICHMOND: - The former president of *Les Serres Jardins Nature*, Christian Côté, has made several attempts to take over the facilities of *Les Serres Savoura* in New Richmond with no success. The company had acquired the facility in 2017, but due to distance, Savoura suspended operations this year.

A final attempt is being made in collaboration with the UPA to create a revival committee. An environmental issue hindered the transaction: initially, the greenhouses were heated by hot water supplied by the former Smurfit Stone factory.

"When there's a change of ownership, it takes environmental studies. Since we're near a former industrial site, a level 2 study is required. It's up to the seller to see to it and we couldn't agree," says Côté, who points out that this in-depth study costs about \$75,000.

Côté made attempts at the political level and had the support of MAPAQ (Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food) to revive the company in a context where local food production is at the forefront with COVID-19.

Mr. Côté hasn't thrown in the towel: "If we want to relaunch the company, it must be done in 2020. There's no more plastic on the greenhouses. It's going to deteriorate quickly."

Political support

Québec solidaire supports the promoters in this attempt to revive the economy.

Vincent Marissal, Québec solidaire's spokesperson on the economy, invites the government to review the rules that are holding back this recovery.

"The two ministers involved in this issue - the Minister of the Environment and the Minister of the MAPAQ - should talk to each other and perhaps also to (Pierre) Fitzgibbon at the Economic Development Department, because if we are killing the recovery because of that. It's nonsense. That's also where we have to use our judgment."

The MRC is ready to help

New Richmond has been working for almost a year to find a buyer for the greenhouses.

The mayor, Eric Dubé, was contacted by a broker a year ago and work had begun.

In the context of the pandemic, where the awareness of producing local food is awakening, Mr. Dubé is very hopeful. The Bonaventure MRC is ready to help.

"If the MRC is asked for help because we have financial assistance programs, we're sure to be there," says Dubé, who is also the MRC's prefect.

Conservative race: Peter MacKay is supported by Jean-Pierre Pigeon

Nelson **Sergerie**

SAINTE-ANNE-DES-MONTS - The President of the Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine Conservative Association supports Peter MacKay in the leadership race for the Conservatives. Jean-Pierre Pigeon recalls that the former Minister of Defence and Foreign Affairs under Stephen Harper was the last leader of the Progressive Conservative Party before the merger with the Canadian Alliance. "As everyone knows that I am a Progressive, I support Mr. MacKay for his Progressive side in the leadership race of the Conservative Party of Canada," says Mr. Pigeon, who made his choice a few months ago.

"Our party needs to move a little more towards the centre rather than the right. Our last two leaders have been very much to the right. Mr. MacKay is going to address a number of issues that hurt us in the last election: Abortion - He's pro-choice. I appreciate that. The matrimonial issue - that's settled for him. With him, it's clear," says the man who suffered defeat in the last federal election against the outgoing Liberal Member of Parliament, Diane Lebouthillier.

Mr. Pigeon believes that Mr. MacKay would be in a position to win the next election against Liberal Justin Trudeau. "I think so," he said, "I think so," so let's drop Mr. Pigeon.

Mr. MacKay may visit the Gaspé Peninsula in the near future. 43 candidates in the last election and five Conservative MPs from Quebec support Peter MacKay.

Galt: Environmental impact study is behind schedule

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ - Originally scheduled for last September, the environmental impact study leading to the operation of the Galt project has not yet been completed.

As of February 2019, 406 comments had been submitted to the Ministry of the Environment on water protection, the project's response to climate change, wildlife habitats, impacts and social acceptability.

Since then, the project has moved from Cuda to Utica, which has delayed the process and the pandemic has slowed the work. The company must describe the modifications and mitigation measures on this project near Gaspé, which aims to extract 15 million barrels over 40 years, with some 30 conventional wells, without hydraulic fracturing. The former owner, Cuda, realistically hoped to extract 8 mil-

lion barrels.

The study was supposed to be led by the *Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement* in the spring, but it has to be said that the time frame is getting longer in this area as well.

In the meantime, movement has been observed in the field. Utica indicates that this is maintenance work on the site.

Where are the monitoring committees?

Environnement vert plus deplores the fact that the monitoring committees responsible for linking hydrocarbon projects to the population do not divulge their information. The organization notes that Pieridae has never published information about a possible monitoring committee. Utica disconnected the Junex site where information on the Galt project was located. Accord-

ing to the spokesperson, Pascal Bergeron, both companies are in violation and asks the Ministry of Natural Resources to crack down. "The hydrocarbons law stipulates that all this must be online and they are exposed to fines," the environmentalist says.

The ministry replies that the objective of setting up monitoring committees is to encourage the involvement of the local community in the entire project, however, a hydrocarbon licensee does not have to form a monitoring committee with the local community, as the obligation to form one is essentially incumbent on the licensee. The Ministry adds that Utica is not a hydrocarbon licensee and is therefore not subject to this obligation. The Ministry received, in 2019, a report from Pieridae from its monitoring committees for the year 2018 and the reports for 2019 are due by June 30.



Photo: N. Sergerie

Simplifying the sale of beer from microbreweries

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ - Québec solidaire is calling for deregulation for microbreweries to make it easier for them to sell their products. Solidarity critic for the economy, Vincent Marissal, hopes that the Legault government will open more doors for these producers, some of whom have difficulty selling their products to the general public.

Two simple things can be done, depending on the political party: either by decree or allowing delivery directly to consumers. "These actions would cost nothing at all in public funds and would make it possible to relaunch the activity of microbreweries towards new markets. They can't sell in public markets right now. What a great showcase for this kind of product," adds Mr. Marissal.

Democratizing agriculture

Beyond microbreweries, the rules allowing the sale of agricultural products directly to consumers must also be reviewed, especially in the post-pandemic context.

Words such as self-sufficiency, buying local, short circuit and organic products are used by the Member of the National Assembly to allow an economic recovery that is profitable for the communities.

"Meat producers or market gardeners who want to develop new markets always have obstacles in their way. Take the example of winegrowers who had to fight for 20-25 years before finally being able to sell directly to their customers," says Mr. Marissal.

"Microbreweries and small producers don't have the luxury of waiting 20-25 years, especially with the losses they've just experienced." The CAQ has created a committee to table a plan on deregulation.



Fauvel Golf Club president Roger Cyr, superintendent Wade Gifford and coordinator Médor Doiron are glad to offer a free game of golf to all essential service employees of the whole Gaspé Peninsula.

Photo: G. Gagné

Free golf for essential workers

Gilles Gagné

BONAVENTURE – The Fauvel Golf Club wants to thank the essential employees on the Gaspé Peninsula by offering them a free round of golf during the summer of 2020. The club will supply the equipment to those who don't have any. The initiative applies to all the employees of organizations that provide essential services, including the Integrated Health and Social Services Centre, Sûreté du Québec, paramedics, community organizations, as well as grocery stores and pharmacies.

“We are proud to honour all those who have worked hard for the public in providing essential services in a difficult context. The board of directors and all the club's staff would like to allow these people to enjoy an outdoor meeting with friends. For those who do not play golf, we will be happy to accompany them at the course and show them our facilities, including the course itself. This gift is our way of telling them a big thank-you,” says Fauvel Golf Club president Roger Cyr. A golf day is worth \$42 at Fauvel.



Thelma Day's (Fauvel) grandchildren, Mathieu and Sabrina, collected rocks from the beach and painted them for Canada Day, 2020. Then they added them to their grandmother's garden path.



Photo: G. Gagné

Cathy Brown, right, with the board members of CASA in September. President Bruce Wafer appears on the left.

Cathy Brown leaves CASA to direct new network

Gilles Gagné

NEW CARLISLE – The president of CASA, Bruce Wafer, announces that the organization's director general, Cathy Brown, is leaving for a year in order to manage a new body called the Regional Development Network.

Ms. Brown has been managing the Committee for Anglophone Social Action for more than a decade. The new network represents a certain number of organizations, including CASA, that have recently left the Quebec Community Groups Network.

“We left because we were not well represented by the QCGN. We are part of the RDN (Regional Development Network) and they offered the director's position to Cathy. She has a wealth of experience and it is a beautiful challenge for her. It is a big loss for CASA but we win an ally,” explains Mr. Wafer.

He thinks that the Regional Development Network will “better recognize the community organizations” than the QCGN.

Kim Harrison will replace Cathy Brown at CASA on an interim basis. She has headed CASA in the past, before Ms. Brown.

“Cathy must inform us in March if she will come back and when,” says Bruce Wafer. The Regional Development Network is based in Quebec City, where Cathy Brown will be based.

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Canada Day ceremony draws a good crowd in Cascapedia-St-Jules

Approximately 60 people showed up for the Canada Day ceremony organized by Legion Branch 172 in Cascapedia-St-Jules. It was a lovely afternoon as a parade of about 20 cars was book-ended by the community's two fire trucks. The vehicles drove across the bridges and then on to the community centre on Gallagher Road. There Sergeant-at-Arms William Jerome and past-President James Martin took charge of the brief flag-raising ceremony as the national anthem was sung. Mayor Gaétan Boudreau was invited to speak and thanked the people for attending. He referred to the COVID-19 pandemic, noting that he was glad to see so many people out at the event. “And it's good that there have been no new cases of the virus in the Lower Saint Lawrence area over the past week,” he said. The President of the Legion, Joanne Barter, also addressed the crowd. “I wish we could have had the Legion open, and I hope that next year it will be possible to have a bigger event and welcome you into the Legion hall.” Quite a few people remained in their cars for the event. Among the attendees, with her daughter Lou, was 97-year-old Lorraine “Zanie” Leblanc, a former President of the Ladies' Auxiliary.

- Cynthia Dow



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 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 to get one.

If your desire is to take a one-day cruise ship excursion, you can do this since July 1, 2020.

Are you a "culture vulture?"

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)

Votre gouvernement

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

1 877 644-4545

Québec

Lupines: Summer is here!

Diane Skinner

The lupines are blooming! They are a sign that summer has truly arrived! Lupines, (which may also be spelled lupins), are a member of the pea family which grow in tall, majestic spikes. This colourful show only lasts for a couple of weeks or so. Enjoy it while you can.

The word lupine comes from lupus which is Latin for wolf. In fact, in some countries the lupine is sometimes referred to as the wolf flower.

Lupines are loved because of their intense colours and, in turn, they love sandy soil and lots of drainage. This is why they are often found near beaches and in ditches. They are a beautiful example of a wildflower and are often, but not always, perennials. The scent is sweetish with a wee bit of peppery and spicy fragrance.

The flowers of the lupine are lovely but examine the leaves because they are lovely



Photo: N. Kosman

The lupines, a sure sign that summer has arrived, are in need of rain this year or their season will be beautiful but short.

in their own way. The leaves are normally gray-greenish or a soft green in colour, and are covered in dense, short, silvery hairs.

The seeds of lupines, which are sometimes referred to as lupine beans, were popular as food as far back as Ancient Rome. In Australia lupine

seeds or beans are cultivated for food. They are high in protein, antioxidants, and fibre; are low in starch; and contain no gluten. They can be used in baking, sauces and in fermented foods. They are also used to feed pigs, poultry and farmed fish. In Europe lupines are sold in a salt solution, like

olives. In Egypt you will see people walking along the street eating them as a salty, crunchy snack food. In North America, aboriginals used the seeds as a food, going back hundreds of years. Some people have allergies to lupines, and often people who have peanut allergies are also allergic to lupines!

Lupines are not just beautiful, enrich the soil and can be consumed, but they are hosts to endangered butterflies. If you wish to save the butterflies and want to plant lupines you can use seeds or cuttings, though the success rate using cuttings is low. Some of you may take that as a challenge! Please let us know if you are successful. Seeds can be purchased at a large garden centre.

They love acidic soil so you can help by adding coffee grounds, peat moss or evergreen needles to make the soil more acidic. Lupines like to stay put where they are planted. Transplanting is less successful because they do not like having their roots dis-

turbed. If you do attempt to transplant, scoop way underneath the plant roots and re-plant quickly in a well-watered hole with a little gravel or even sand at the bottom. Add sun and you have the perfect environment for your lupines.

Once you get your lupines started, they will self-seed. If you are an adventurous gardener, you can save the seeds from the lupine plants. If you are planting seeds, best to soak them overnight in water so that the seed coating is softened. Some gardeners have had success with putting the seeds in the fridge for a week to allow them to chill. Plant lupines in the fall for best results and while they are in the ground all winter they will be chilled by nature.

Even if you do not grow your own lupines, you can still enjoy the lovely, colourful flowers growing freely, abundantly and proudly on the Gaspé. Rejoice because this is a sign that summer has truly begun!

They're back! Ruby-throated hummingbirds

Diane Skinner

Why do hummingbirds hum? It's because they don't know the words!! Sorry, hummingbirds, that is a cute joke for four-year olds!

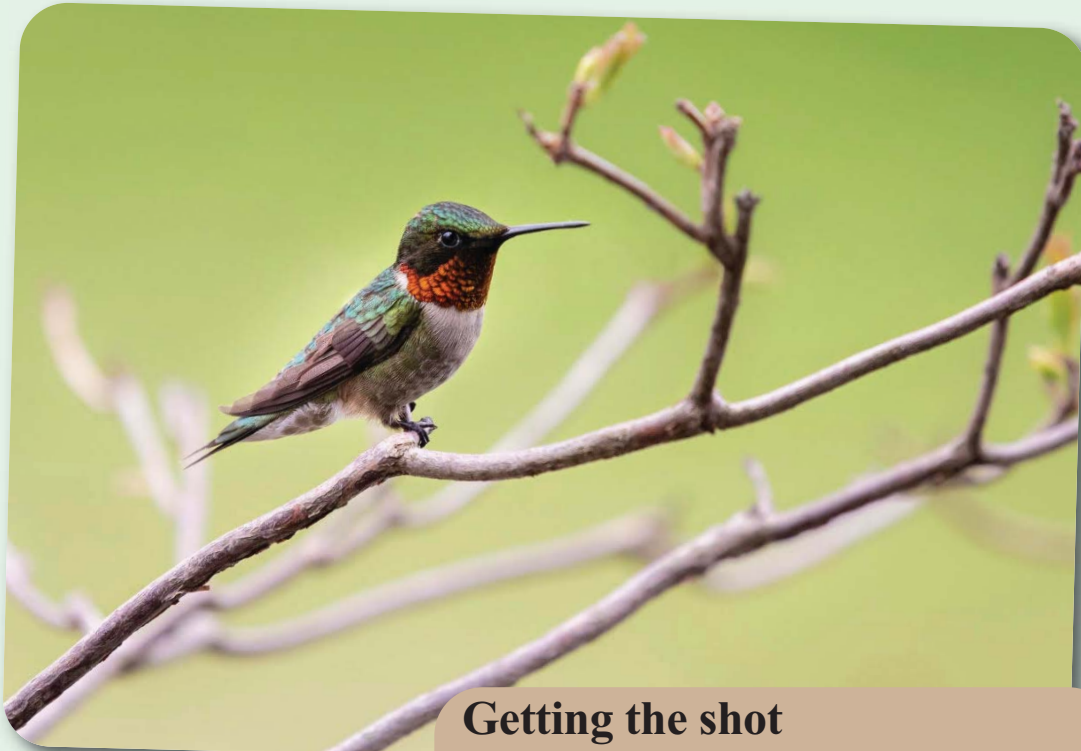
Hummingbirds are the sweetest tiny bird and having a feeder in your backyard or attached to a window will give you many hours of pleasure. The only species of hummingbird found on the Gaspé is the ruby-throated hummingbird. Its name comes from the male's bright red throat. The female and young birds have white throats.

These lovely little creatures are long-distance travellers. They migrate each fall to the warmth of South America and they fly non-stop across the Gulf of Mexico. Sadly, only the hardiest survive and many perish on the journey going south and returning home. They arrive in the Montreal area around the end of April and in the Gaspé a few weeks after that. They usually return and depart each year at about the same time so jot these dates down for next year so that you have your feeders ready to put up. Most hummingbirds depart from the Gaspé about the third or fourth week of September. They

have a long, long trip ahead of them.

Hummingbirds can be seen in most of southern Quebec, including the Gaspé Peninsula. If you put out a feeder, it is very likely that you will have some visits from the ruby-throated hummingbird. Generally, they like feeders that are not too close to the house so place feeders more than one metre away. Hummingbirds prefer the open style feeder and when they learn where it is will become very territorial. If they are feeding, they will chase other birds away. Why not put up two feeders? Place these far apart and that way two hummingbirds will feed at the same time, one on each feeder.

Contrary to popular belief, hummingbird nectar should NOT be coloured with red food colouring. Once you make your solution, change it about every week to 10 days. If you do not, the birds may stop coming. They like a fresh solution. When you add the liquid to the feeder, fill it only half full. This is because in warm weather the solution will expand and burst the feeder. Every time you change the solution bring the feeder inside and wash it thoroughly with warm water. This will discourage wasps who could be attracted by the sugary liquid.



Elaine Clouter, a talented nature photographer, took this photo of a ruby-throated hummingbird in Cascapedia-St-Jules.

Hummingbird Nectar

4 parts water
1 part white sugar
Place the water in a pot and bring it to a boil. Remove from heat and add sugar. Stir until fully dissolved. If you make extra, it will last in the fridge for up to two weeks. No need to get fancy with ingredients. Do not use brown sugar, honey, or any kind of sugar substitute. Of course, no red food colouring!

Getting the shot

Elaine Clouter, an avid nature photographer, captured this photo of a ruby-throated hummingbird in Cascapedia-St-Jules. She shares these tips for taking bird photos.

Try to have a plan of what birds you are interested in so that you can study their behaviour including flight pattern, perch pattern and tolerance to people. The lower the tolerance to people, the bigger the telephoto lens you will need. Dress for the occasion - the drabber the clothing colour, the better. Proper footwear should be safe and comfortable. If you are in wetlands, wear water resistant and non-slip shoes or boots. Be familiar with your camera and settings. Use a fast shutter speed for birds in flight. If you want to show wing action, a slower shutter speed makes this more achievable. How much the subject is in focus is determined by the aperture. A high aperture means more of the bird is in focus. The main thing is to go out and have fun and just keep shooting! (Ruby-throated hummingbird taken at Cascapedia: Autofocus mode-continuous area mode/single point AF- Exposure mode manual i.s.o. 800 f4 1/1000 second @ 300 mm.)

SMOKING FOOD: Going back to the old ways

Diane Skinner

BONAVENTURE: Stede Hinson has had years of experience smoking food and he says there are four compelling reasons to try it: the flavour, preserving the food, increasing your self-sufficiency and “it is going back to the old ways.” Stede learned to smoke food, along with many other life skills, as a young boy. He credits his family for teaching him the ways – important lessons for feeding yourself and your family. Recent disruptions in the food supply due to COVID-19 really raised our awareness of the importance of looking after our basic needs. Food is kind of important!

Stede, who was born and raised in South Carolina, and now lives in Bonaventure, grew up in a family and community where he learned the basics of life. He states that the two most important things a body needs are to eat healthy food and to work. Stede grew up with both of those and laughs when he says, “I guess it worked because I’m 6’5” and 280 pounds and I started working when I was nine years old washing dishes in a restaurant!” He is proud to say that he was raised in a family where they fed themselves by learning traditional skills – growing food, trapping, fishing and hunting and preserving food. One of the ways of preserving foods he is masterful at is smoking.

When he moved to the Gaspé, one of the necessities that he brought with him is the 35-gallon drum that he converted into a smoker. He says that you can buy a smoker, but that converting an old drum or even an old fridge can work as well. He points out that there is nothing stopping anyone from trying smoking.

If you are cold smoking foods, it can take as little time as four to six hours. Depending on the size of the meat it can take 10 to 12 hours. Stede



Photo: Courtesy Stede Hinson

Stede Hinson with his smoker which he calls “Granny.” Smoking food is an important traditional skill which allows people to do more for themselves!

makes his brine with ½ cup of kosher salt, ½ cup brown sugar and ½ cup of maple syrup, honey or molasses. He then adds 2 tbsp. of onion powder and 2 tbsp. of garlic powder. He reminds the novice smoker that you should keep the temperature below 100 degrees because you are not cooking the meat, you are preserving it with the smoke. On a very hot day it can be hard to keep the temperature down. The ideal temperature for your smoker is 80 to 85 degrees.

The wood chips he uses are hickory, cherrywood and apple. Some of those can be ordered online. He adds that if you know your trees you can use others, such as lilac and juniper. The chips should be pre-soaked for maximum flavour. Stede smokes all kinds of meat including fish, deer, beef and hog. He remembers his grandmother smoking cheese with raspberries or other fruit and what a delicious treat that was.

Smoking preserves food and he recalls that a ham he smoked and sugar-cured was

still great to eat two years later! To store meat a long time, he recommends wrapping it in cheesecloth and hanging it in the house if possible. Do not wrap your smoked food in plastic as this makes it sweat. Stede changes the cheesecloth after a while but says the best advice is to “follow your instincts.”

Stede recalls reading the Foxfire books and the Bluebell Guide to Canning Food and says that he learned a lot from these. He also mentions Jackie Clay’s Backwoods Home magazine. All of these teach traditional skills. This leads you to increased self-sufficiency and that is a good thing.

Smoking is an example of “going back to the old ways” and Stede feels that people who want to learn these skills will find their way. Growing and preserving your own food makes you more thankful for what you have got. Stede’s advice is to just get started. As you learn one traditional skill it will lead to others. He says, “We have to do more for ourselves.”

Smoking Lobster

1. Parboil your lobster (2 or 3 pounders are perfect) in a rolling boil for about 6 to 7 minutes.
2. Remove from pot and using a meat cleaver split the tail, head and claws and wrap them in kelp from the bay.
3. Place in the smoker for 4 to 5 hours with heat around 90 degrees.
4. Remove from smoker and check that they are cooked all the way through.
5. Serve with herb butter and homemade bacon bits.



Thanks to Stede Hinson for recipe.

Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



Deal me in!

Many rainy summer afternoons, before the advent of technology such as iPads, cell phones and computers, children got out a deck of Bicycle Brand playing cards and spent an enjoyable time. For the price of one deck of cards they were busy and entertained for many hours. There are loads of advantages to playing plain old card games. Now try to convince your children or grandchildren.

For the price of a deck of cards:

1. Everyone can play. If children can hold the cards in their hands there is a game that they can learn. Go Fish or Concentration can be good fun for a younger child. Adults can keep their brains engaged with games such as Euchre and Bridge.

2. Different generations can play. Chances are your grandmother plays a pretty strong game of Rummy 500. I have memories of three generations playing Rummy at the kitchen table. We only paused to identify the drivers of cars or trucks driving by.

3. There are card games like Solitaire that can be played solo. There are worse ways to pass the afternoon. Many find it quite relaxing.

4. Card games can make you howl with laughter. A game such as Cheat can be a great time.

5. Card games allow for real face to face human interaction. So many life skills can be learned while playing cards. Taking turns, reading facial expressions, how to be a gracious winner and how to be a gracious loser are all part of the game. I won’t go as far as to say that playing cards makes you a better person, but maybe it’s part of it. This one is for adults too.

6. Playing cards can teach you some transferable skills such as: counting, estimating and predicting, memory and sequencing.

7. People who enjoy cards are minimalists - no big fancy toys or games, nothing technological, no staring at a screen for hours. It’s just you, friends and family and the cards.

8. Playing cards also teaches children about negotiation. The need for learning to say what you want and to compromise is part of successful card playing. What game shall we play? Who is the dealer? Who keeps score? Who puts the cards away?

9. There is an opportunity to increase your manual dexterity! Can you shuffle cards like a card shark? An impressive feat. There might be a player who will learn a card trick or two.

10. If you can have hours of fun with 52 cards it shows you that you can have fun doing anything. This is another example of going back to the old ways. Making more of less. Making do.

If your friends and family are reluctant to get out the deck to play cards or to learn a new game the key is simply: snacks. Provide some crunchy, salty snacks and players will want to join. That’s called motivation. Deal me in!

Did you know? The four suits represent the four seasons. The 52 cards represent 52 weeks in a year. If you assign a number value to each card with ace being one point all the way up to king being 13 points – then add up all four suits, it comes to 365. That happens to be the number of days in a year.



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Dale Boyle: Award winning songwriter

Diane Skinner

MONTREAL: Dale Boyle is a Gaspé-born award-winning roots singer-songwriter. He has been called "One of the best to emerge from north of the border" (Americana Homeplace) and "an accomplished musician, a fine singer, and an exceptionally thoughtful, meticulous songwriter." (Canadian Blues.ca) In recent news, Dale's song "The Only One For Me" was recorded by Dawn Tyler Watson for her "Mad Love" album. On June 29, 2020, "Mad Love" received the JUNO Award for Best Blues Album of the Year!

Spec: What town did you live in as a child?

Dale: I grew up in Belle Anse, one of the small towns along that stretch where you'd also find St. Georges de Malbaie, Barachois, Bougainville, and Bridgeville.

Spec: Do you still have family living on the Gaspé?

Dale: Yes, my parents and many relatives still live in the area.

Spec: Where did your love of music/ performing/songwriting come from? Your early influences?

Dale: I grew up around a lot of musicians in my family. In a cluster of five houses there were maybe 15 people who played guitar, or fiddle, or sang. These were the days of "house parties" and people created their own entertainment. I'm glad I got to experience and be a part of that. As for songwriting, even when I covered other peoples' music, I liked rearranging their songs, changing lyrics and chords, so the transition to songwriting oc-



Dale Boyle

Born in Belle-Anse, Dale Boyle is an award-winning singer-songwriter. Enjoy his music at www.facebook.com/daleboylemusic

Photo: Janine Metallic

curred pretty naturally.

Spec: Where and when was your first public performance?

Dale: Hmm...I'm not 100% sure. An early performance was at the Malbay Festival when the band allowed me and my friends to get up and perform a few instrumentals. This may have been around 1985.

Spec: Who are your musical influences? Favourite bands/singers/ songwriters?

Dale: I listen to and have been influenced by a wide range of music. As far as "rock music," I tend to lean towards roots-rock styles. Artists like Tom Petty, John Mellencamp, Bruce Springsteen and John Fogerty are big influences. Of course, I grew up around the music of artists like Hank Williams, Tom T. Hall and George Jones, so those influences seep in. Perhaps the artists that have had a more obvious influence on my Americana Alternative-Country style are people like Steve

Earle, Kris Kristofferson, and Waylon Jennings - artists on the edgier side of country music!

Spec: Where do you live now?

Dale: I live on the West-Island of Montreal.

Spec: What song are you most proud of that you have written?

Dale: Okay, I have to name a few! "Small Town van Gogh" is an important one for me because it pays tribute to a local artist, Tennyson Johnson. I got to write that song and perform it to him before he passed away, so that one is extra meaningful for me. "You Might Come Around" did well for me and it was named a winner in the 2012 Nashville-Based International Songwriting Competition. I remember that Martina McBride was a judge at that time. The song "Gasoline" is also a key one for me. I recorded that roots-rock song with Kenny Aronoff and

James LoMenzo (from John Fogerty's band), and the song was named a winner in another Nashville-based music competition in 2017, called Unsigned Only. Also, I have a new Americana Alt-Country song called "Dust on the Fiddle." I've never worked so hard on a song! When I was in Nashville, I played it for Grammy award winning songwriter and producer Gary Nicholson who has worked with a long list of artists such as Willie Nelson, Garth Brooks, and Waylon Jennings, and he gave me some good advice on the direction of the song. I think it's the best thing I've written. It will be the title track on my next album.

Spec: What are your future musical plans and dreams?

Dale: I'm slowly recording and putting the pieces together to release "Dust on the Fiddle." There are many roles in recording and releasing an album - engineering, producing, editing, mixing, graphic design, etc. This is typically

done by a team of 10 or so people. I'm doing all those jobs myself in my studio, so it's slow, but I love the process.

Spec: Is there anyone you would like to mention in your personal life who encouraged or inspired you?

Dale: Specifically, my parents encouraged me to play music and I don't recall ever being asked to stop playing or to turn the volume down! That was good! Generally, growing up in such a musical culture was amazing, particularly for country music. For other styles such as blues, I had to turn on a TV, or order a CD, to gain access to that style. But country music was different. People were listening to and performing it everywhere. I didn't have to go looking! I appreciate that now more so than ever.

Spec: Where can readers go to listen to your music? To purchase CDs?

Dale: People can visit www.daleboyle.com and www.facebook.com/daleboylemusic

Spec: What are your thoughts on this pandemic?

Dale: For sure, it has forced me to slow down and take stock of what is important. Obviously, it's a very bad situation and it's not over yet. Be cautious, be safe and stay well!

Spec: Anything else you want to mention?

Dale: I'm looking forward to releasing this new album and I cannot wait to share it, especially the song "Dust on the Fiddle." That song, for me, brings me full circle to my musical roots: A country song that is a tribute to country music!

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Announcements...



Obituaries



CAMPBELL: Dan

April 3, 1964 - March 30, 2020

It is with great sadness that we announce the sudden passing of Dan Campbell at the age of 55 years. He was predeceased by his brother Bobby and father Warren. Dan leaves behind his beloved mother, Elva; his devoted brothers, David (Karen) and Howard; his loving sisters, Patsy (Mike) and Sarah; his devoted and loving nieces, Candace (Ryan) and Kristen (Nick); his lifelong friend Barb Fairservice; along with his aunts, uncles and many cousins.

His many attributes were respect for others, a gentleman, kindness, a good confidante and his generosity.

Dan had a love for nature, spending countless hours on his woodlot, strolling and reminiscing with friends on the family homestead. He will be remembered for his ability to create friendships with everyone he connected with, his great sense of humour, always joking with his friends and family, the thrill of his motorbike rides with his buddies and being able to fix anything he put his hands on. He was a totally devoted uncle to Candace and Kristen who thought the world of him. He had a heart of gold.

He will be sadly missed by all who knew him, especially his great friends and close cousins. To the world, Dan was a son, brother, brother-in-law, nephew, uncle and a great friend. To his family, he was our world.

Dan was buried in Black Cape Cemetery on May 30, 2020, with only his immediate family in attendance due to the strict laws associated with COVID-19.

A Celebration of Life will be held in the future in New Richmond, Quebec for friends and family as soon as the COVID-19 pandemic rules have been lifted and we are able to have a church gathering.



CARTER: Peter Simon

November 15, 1946 - June 6, 2020

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Peter Simon Carter at the age of 73 years and six months on Saturday, June 6, 2020.

He leaves behind his beloved wife Fern Assels; his stepdaughter Sascha Buttle; his grandchildren: Ashley, Kristie Lee, Kara-Lynn and Christopher; his six great-grandchildren; his sisters: Helene and Ann; his brothers: George, Mike and Gordie; and many other family members and long time friend Albert George.

He is predeceased by his son Peter Bernard and stepson Keith Buttle.

His ashes were interred in Saint Andrew's Church Cemetery in New Carlisle.

The Carter family would like to extend its sincere thanks to the ambulance drivers, nurses and doctors at the different hospitals, the CLSC and the Centre d'Accueil de la baie in New Carlisle for their excellent care. Many thanks for the cards, phone calls and food.

Peter will be forever missed and loved by wife Fern and family, xoxo



In Memory

ASSELS: Frank

Remembered on Father's Day
Sadly missed Dad - January 9, 1999

CHATTERTON: Laurine Ena

Remembered on Mother's Day
Sadly missed Mom - July 5, 1981.

*You have loving flowers to show
how much we love you both and miss you.*

Your daughter Laurine, Harris, and grandchildren. xxoo

Engagement



Congratulations to Kristen Darbyshire and Nick England on their recent engagement which took place at Lake Louise, Alberta. Kristen is the daughter of Patsy Campbell-Darbyshire (formerly of Caplan, Quebec) and granddaughter of Caplan resident, Elva Robertson-Campbell. Wishing the happy couple many years of happiness.

Card of Thanks

On behalf of the family of Elva Robertson, we would like to thank all those who were so kind during our loss of a son, brother, brother-in-law, nephew, and uncle, Dan Campbell. Thank you for the cards, the flowers, the phone calls and all the messages we received during this difficult time.

*Elva, Howard, David, Patsy, and Sarah and
nieces Candace and Kristen*

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COAST ROUNDUP

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 the public.

NEW CARLISLE:

Julia's Tea Corner is back!

Starting on July 8, every Wednesday until August 26. Two sittings: 2 to 3 p.m. and 3:15 to 4:15 p.m. Cost: \$10 adult, \$8 children. The Tea will be held outdoors ONLY for this year, on the back balcony and in the yard

on the east side of the Kempffer House. Upon reservation only: 418-752-1334, weather permitting!

NEW CARLISLE:

Drive-In Gospel Meetings

At the Fair Haven Bible Campground, Sundays at 2:00 p.m. COVID-19 considerations/Social distancing. Cancelled for rain. All are welcome - invite a friend! Sponsored by the New Carlisle Bible Chapel. For more information, please call 418-752-3372.

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 the office is 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.

Rotary Calendar Winners

The winners for the week of June 7 are Eric Cormier, Gilbert Arse-

nault, Réjean Babin, Daniel Leblanc, Jean-Paul Arsenault, Jean Paquin and Hélène Landry. The winners for the week of June 14 are: Simone Young, Simon Veillette, Jean-Pierre Landry, France Bujold, Christine Bourdages, Benoit Bouffard and Ian Gilker.

The winners for the week of June 21 are: Régis Babin, Gilberte Langlais, Michel Goulet, Pauline Cyr-Bujold, Denis Normandeau, Pierrette Babin and Harry Best.

The winners for the week of June 28 are: Daniel Berthelot, Luce Thériault, Yanick Cloutier, Blanche Alice Cote, Johanne Cyr, Jean Babin and Denise Roy.

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Marilyn Campbell
Black Cape, Quebec
Anita Babin
New Richmond, Quebec
Peter Caldwell
Brossard, Quebec
Ellen & Sheldon Walker
Cornwall, Ontario
Irene Rehel
Colborne, Ontario



ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, you are a master of turning the tides very quickly. You may need to do so as you face an unforeseen challenge this week. Roll your sleeves up and get to work.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

Communication with others seems to be going well and you have a full social calendar, Taurus. This will boost your self-esteem and possibly propel you toward new goals.

GEMINI – May 22/June 21

Don't feel like you need to make sense of everything all of the time,

Gemini. Sometimes things will work themselves out and will become more clear with time.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22

Relating to others can sometimes be difficult for you, Cancer. You tend to see things more deeply and emotionally than others. Afford others the chance to express themselves.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23

Finding a comfortable point in a relationship may take some time, Leo. But once you are there, it will feel like this was the course from the beginning. Just have a little patience.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

You may be full of fast-paced energy this week, Virgo. This is an extension of your lively, upbeat nature.

You can make tremendous career strides with very little effort.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Do not hesitate to take advantage of an opportunity or it could cost you, Libra. Push your indecisiveness to the side once and for all and jump in.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, you are currently in a great place to make a significant move in your life. You have what it takes to make a push toward big goals. Opportunities come from all angles.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

It may take some time to rally from a physical slump, Sagittarius. Once you've committed to a fitness routine, expect a learning curve until you get into the swing of things.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Someone might be trying to ruffle your feathers by invading your personal space, Capricorn. Set the boundaries politely but effectively. Don't give in to childish behavior.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, things may be moving more quickly than you are comfortable with right now. If you need to slow the pace, put on the brakes and explain why to others.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, now is the perfect time to start a work-at-home routine or take a pre-existing situation to the next level. Productivity is booming.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

JULY 5

Edie Falco, Actress (57)

JULY 6

50 Cent, Rapper (45)

JULY 6

Ringo Starr, Musician (80)

JULY 8

Milo Ventimiglia, Actor (43)

JULY 9

Jack White, Musician (45)

JULY 10

Phyllis Smith, Actress (69)

JULY 11

Alessia Cara, Singer (24)

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-Diane Skinner

LADYBUGS
*The ladybug's a beetle.
 It's shaped like a pea.
 Its colour is a bright red
 With lots of spots to see.
 Although the name is ladybug,
 Some ladybugs are men.
 So why don't we say "gentleman bug"
 Every now and then?*

Apple Stamp Ladybugs

- Apples, halved
- Red paint
- White paper
- Black magic marker
- Green construction paper
- Glue stick

Dip halved apples into red paint and stamp onto white paper. Allow to dry completely. Draw and cut large leaf shapes. Return to stamped shape to create ladybug head, antennas, wings, and spots with black marker. Cut out ladybugs and paste onto leaf shapes. Experiment with different apple shapes and colours to create flowers, leaves, or other bug "friends" too!



Apple Stamp Ladybugs



Whirly Twirly Ladybugs

Whirly Twirly Ladybugs

- Red and black construction paper
- Glue
- Tape
- 16 big googly eyes (for 2 whirly twirly ladybugs)
- 2 black pipe cleaners (now called chenille stems!)
- Black paint
- Marker lid
- String/black yarn

Cut 4 circles from red construction paper for body and wings.
 Cut 8 quarter moons from black construction paper for head.
 Cut 2 pipe cleaners, each into 4 pieces.
 Glue black heads onto red wings.
 Used marker lid to dip into black paint to stamp black dots on wings (do one side and let dry. Then do other side.)
 Glue googly eyes on each head.
 Cut halfway up on two, and halfway down on other two and piece together.
 Tape string and pipe cleaners to ladybug.
 Hang from a tree and watch your ladybugs whirl and twirl!

Ladybug Headband

- Long strip of red construction paper or Bristol board
- Black construction paper for face
- Black marker
- Googly eyes
- Pipe cleaner antenna
- Glue

Cut strip from red paper to wrap around head. Cut half circle from black paper for face. Glue onto red strip. Use black marker to draw black dots all over band. Vary size.
 Glue on googly eyes. Punch 2 holes in top of red strip and add bent pipe cleaner. Staple or glue together to fit child's head.



Ladybug Headband

Photo: D. Skinner



Dear graduates of 2020,

The world is changing quickly. You are setting out into a world that will present many new challenges not seen before. Technology has been a big part of your school life. This will continue and increase during your lifetimes. Learning to use it so that it benefits you is a critically important skill. Learning to not let it control you is just as important. Technology is a great tool – people are more important. The arrival of COVID-19 was bad timing for the graduates of 2020. You are about to set off in the next part of your life and you will find roadblocks – literal and figurative - that previous graduates did not. This is uncharted territory we are all in. Be ready to adapt to the huge changes as they present themselves. You are a high school graduate and nobody can take that away from you. Remember to say thank you to all those who have helped you on this important journey. Stay in touch with your people. Good luck in all you choose to do.

- Diane Skinner

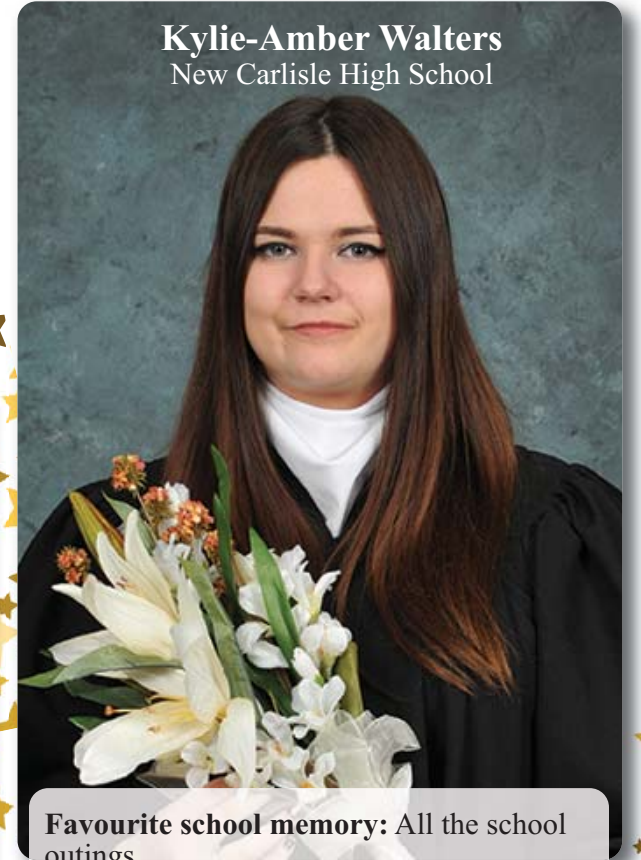


Ashley Amber Wylie
New Carlisle High School

Favourite school memory: School trips and having a fun time with my friends.
Next phase: Going to work for a year then going to take a trade.



Aaron Walker
New Carlisle High School



Kylie-Amber Walters
New Carlisle High School

Favourite school memory: All the school outings.
Next phase: I will be continuing my studies this year with a trade in nursing at the Anchor, before enrolling in Cegep next fall to continue my studies further in the medical field.



Jenna Marie Prince
New Carlisle High School

Favourite school memory: All the trips with Ann and Guy.
Next phase: Going to UNB Fredericton for a Bachelor's of Science in Biochemistry



Keshia Dow
New Carlisle High School

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