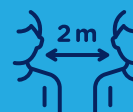




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## Local entrepreneur responds to pandemic needs

Diane **Skinner**

GESGAPEGIAG: - Christianne Jerome Bernard has launched a new hand sanitizer product for her skincare line N'tus. The word N'tus is Mi'gmaq for *my daughter*. Currently only the hand sanitizer is available for purchase, a seaweed facewash and kelp toner will be introduced in the early fall. Christianne plans to continue developing her Mi'gmaq inspired skincare products. Getting the sanitizer produced quickly was in response to the need for this product because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Christianne was born and raised in Gesgapegiag. She is married and has an 8-year-old daughter and a 10-year-old son, Jayden. She and her daughter Melody both love self-care, including skincare and cosmetics and so Melody encouraged her mom to make organic products that are not harmful and safe enough for her to use. Christianne says, "She is a little hippie and a very Mi'gmaq soul. She helps me garden and started composting. She has always recycled and is aware of a lot of environmental issues. My children have joined me on many Earth Day and Save Our Planet walks. I also wanted her to see me making my own path. I wanted her to know that where there isn't a path that she wants to take, to be brave enough to make her own." Christianne tells Spec that she plans a skincare line for men in the future inspired by her son, Jayden.

Christianne was the Economic Development Officer/Director for Gesgapegiag for about six years, and the CEO for MMBC (a corporation owned by Gesgapegiag, Listuguj and Gespeg) for close to three years. She spent all her career working hard for others and her community but could never implement all her ideas and values that she truly felt would have a big impact. She says that community development is moving in a good direction, but she was ready to do something else. She felt that her traditional and Mi'gmaq



*Christianne Jerome Bernard (right) was encouraged by her daughter Melody (left) to make organic products that are safe enough for her to use too.*

Photos: courtesy Christianne Jerome Bernard

values were not being fully "nourished." At this point in her life she wanted to take the skills that she had acquired and her experience to try being an entrepreneur.

The organizations that she worked for helped build her as an entrepreneur and she will always be thankful for that! Now, she tells Spec that she wants to work hard for herself and go in the direction that her intuition tells her to.

"I'm not only creating for myself a job, but I want to create a happy and healing environment for myself and hopefully the many people that I will employ in the future. I know how I want to operate my business. I have the skills to set it up, passion for it to succeed and strong desire to create a peaceful environment. We have such amazing people who are so talented and smart, but as every other human on earth, sometimes these people go through personal challenges and struggles. I have gone through this in my life. Over a year ago I worked myself into a burnout and lost my employment trying to meet everyone's expectations, and my physical and mental health suffered, and the impact was felt on my family. The resilience that my culture and family have taught me has helped me get to where I am. I not only survived but thrived in a world when my first and only language was

Mi'gmaq - I could not read or write in English until I was about 10 years old. I beat cancer in my graduating year of high school and moved on to

sometimes her hours need to be flexible as she has two young children and they need her as well. Last week, Angel Ward (Marketing and Sales Manager) and Christianne took the afternoon off to take their children hiking. Not only did the children enjoy themselves but the fresh air and exercise got rid of Christianne's "mental fog." She plans to add some exercise equipment in her building as her company grows and a space for meditation and is also in the process of creating a space in her office for her children. She has colouring books, craft supplies and snacks in the office for them, and is thinking of different ideas to keep them occupied. She understands that she cannot have them there all day every day, but an hour or two to visit makes them miss her less.

Christianne just recently

get an education and make a difference in her grandparents' and community members' lives.

Christianne says, "Their stories made me sad and laugh and inspired me to want to make a difference. My grandparents were always my biggest supporters along with my parents - making me believe that I could accomplish anything, and my grandmother still is! Although I'm my own boss, she teaches me lessons every day. At break time, I am fortunate to walk across the yard and have a coffee and chat with her! She is a true matriarch, keeping her huge family together all these years, and having the biggest celebrations at Christmas, with over 50 of us. She did not want me to move away for employment, and she said she would make baskets with me to help me survive because that is how she supported her family. We didn't have to make baskets for a living, but I am starting the next part of my life where she wanted me to stay-home!"

Angel Ward and Jessica Jerome, both women from Gesgapegiag, have been helping her with creative design. Jessica is the graphic designer and Angel is the Marketing and Sales Manager. They both work part-time until the company grows!

For the technical business aspects, she developed her own business plan and the opportunity to make the hand sanitizers came up when the skincare company she had been working with offered their formula for a private label. The timing was perfect. There was, and is, a need for quality sanitizer which is certified by Health Canada and carries a Natural Product number. N'tus has quickly brought their product to market at a time when people need it. Christianne says her company is "helping to create building blocks."

(Available at Dejeanneur Martin, Maltan's Gas Station, Micmac Handicraft and N'tus Skincare on Facebook. 120 ml/\$9.99 Other locations soon including Dejeanneur 2000.



*The hand sanitizer is available for \$9.99 and is certified by Health Canada.*

Photos: N'tus Skincare

college. Although with age we bounce back a little slower, I managed to get out of the dark place, a burnout and all the turmoil and crises that follows. We have plenty of support and resources in place when we are in school to help us emotionally, physically and mentally, but these resources lack in many of today's workplaces. Our communities have healing to do, and we spend most of our days at work. I want to incorporate healing in my workplace."

As a woman, Christianne says that she understands that

moved into her new office space but plans on decorating and having a lot of healing components in it. Right now, she has a lot of her grandma's baskets and sweetgrass in there. Her office space is the spot where her grandparents made baskets their whole lives. This is, she explains, a newer building but it was built on the same spot. The energies in this building are healing and inspirational. Her grandparents used to tell her stories of their life in this same spot, and it is the place where she thought to herself that she was going to

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## Anse-au-Griffon wharf: agreement reached between Ottawa and Gaspé

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - Ottawa and Gaspé have reached an agreement on cost overruns for the repair of the Anse-au-Griffon wharf.

Following an initial call for tenders, the work came out at \$2.9 million, but after splitting the work, the bill was reduced to \$2.1 million, excluding the cost of monitoring.

The municipality estimated the total bill at about \$2.5 million. Aesthetic elements have been cut to fit the project within the allocated budget.

Ottawa handed over the wharf to the Town of Gaspé in December 2016 with an envelope of \$1.9 million. Ottawa will assume professional costs, such as study costs of nearly \$100,000 to obtain permission from Quebec to carry out and supervise the work.

Gaspé Mayor Daniel Côté has always said it was not his responsibility to bear the extra costs. The work, which began on Monday, must be completed by December 31.

## The Department of Youth Protection returns to normal

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ – Since the beginning of the deconfinement phase in May, the number of reports to the Department of Youth Protection (DPJ) has resumed to a more “normal” amount.

From 35 to 40 reports before the pandemic, the number had fallen by nearly 60% during the shutdown phase but has since returned to levels seen before the coronavirus.

“Since the end of May, we have received around thirty reports per week. It is a little more like the norm of reports with the return to class,” indicates the interim director of the DPJ for the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands, Michelle Frenette.

On the other hand, it is difficult to give an exact portrait of the reports since the end of the pandemic. “The reports we receive are still psychological mistreatment, abuse and neglect. The consequences of confinement, we will know them as the year progresses,” says the acting director.

Despite the pandemic, services continued, in particular through the use of technological means.

### A new youth centre

The Integrated Health and Social Services Centre of the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands (CISSS) wishes to endow the Côte-de-Gaspé with a new establishment for youth centre services. Young people in rehabilitation at the Le Rivage de Gaspé Unit receive their clinical services at the Gaspé hospital’s Cantin Pavillon.

The CISSS has submitted a request for construction in Haldimand, following a recommendation from the Minister for Health and Social Services, Lionel Carmant. “To replace youth and accommodation services so that they are more adequate, more relevant for clinical rehabilitation services,” says President and CEO Chantal Duguay. The project is in development. The CISSS does not yet know the budget for this project.

## Road work causes big line-ups

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - After two days of heavy congestion due to work on Gaspé Boulevard, the Department of Transport is changing its work hours. Work will now take place in the evening and at night.

On August 4 at the end of the day, several motorists reported having had to wait 45 minutes before being able to cross the area near the Sûreté du Québec station in Gaspé. Traffic was backed up to the Gaspé bridge. The ministry said it was surprised by the extent of the congestion and changed the hours for safety concerns, given the presence of the police station, the fire station and ambulance drivers nearby.

Construction will begin at 6 p.m. and end at 6 a.m. the next day. Traffic is alternated on a 3.5 metre lane. The work is due to end on September 4.



## Camp Bellefeuille closes its day camp

Nelson Sergerie

CHANDLER - Camp Bellefeuille in Chandler is preventively closing its day camp due to the possible presence of COVID-19. During the week of August 3, 113 young people were asked to remain at home.

One of the 10 families who rented a cottage belonging to the camp was placed in preventive isolation because they had come in contact with a person who tested positive for the virus.

The board of directors made the decision on the evening of August 3, even though the Public Health Department did not request the suspension of activities. “That recommendation was not made to us. It was us who didn't want to take a chance. Day camp means a lot of contact: children with monitors, children returning to the community. We did not want to take any chances concerning the health of the local population,” says the director of the camp, Guylaine Michel.

The family in question had to stay in their chalet while the other nine were able to move around freely.



### Few cases among tourists

Fears that tourists will contaminate the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands with COVID-19 have proven to be unfounded.

From June 1 to August 2, five people tested positive for the virus after being tested in the region. A total of 281 people with an address outside the region on their health insurance card were tested in the territory. That is equivalent to 4.5% of the 6,244 analyzes carried out during this period.

The list includes tourists and residents who haven’t yet changed their address.

Modeling done by the INSPQ in late spring predicted that COVID-19 cases would originate in the local population, not tourists.

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Lessons to learn,  
no lessons to give

It's been interesting to see all the righteous indignation in the media lately about the slovenly habits of too many of our summer visitors: garbage on the beaches, camping in fragile areas, urine and excrement around the illegal campsites, running up and down fragile dunes with vehicles. "Who brought these people up?" I hear some people saying.

So I wonder, who brought Gaspesians up? You know, like the ones who litter the road I walk along day after day, month after month, year after year?

The litter I see scattered all along the beautiful Cascapedia River is not deposited by summer visitors. The beers cans (driving under the influence is a daily occurrence here), cigarette packages, empty beer cases, sandwich wraps, Timmy's coffee cups and plastic glasses and water bottles are regularly pitched out into the ditches or directly into this world-renowned salmon river day after day after day, long before our visitors get here and long after they leave. A friend of mine who hikes a lot brings me garbage bags full of the beer cans and bottles she finds in the woods and along the logging roads.

And what of our beaches? Maria beach is not too bad, although I do occasionally find plastic water bottles, broken beer bottles and metal bottle

caps. Last time I visited New Carlisle beach (during the off-season) I spent a good part of my walk picking up candy wrappers, waterbottles, pop cans, straws and all manner of junk, while garbage containers are not more than a few dozen feet away.

I hesitate to speak of beaches down the Coast, since I am not there very often. I find Corner of the Beach is usually pretty pristine, except for stuff washed up on shore from fishing activities: broken lobster cages, ropes and buoys. It was, I admit, disheartening this summer to see so many people on the beach: it was hard to find a place to sit while respecting physical distancing rules.

Let's turn our attention to vehicles on the beach. Except where boat access has been organized, there should not be any kind of vehicle on beaches, period. No four-wheelers, no motorbikes, no jeeps, certainly no cars and trucks. Beaches are not only fragile zones where erosion can be a major problem, they are very important for flora and fauna of all kinds. To drive a vehicle on a beach is an environmental crime, but I see the results of it all the time.

Let's face it, we have no lessons to give about littering or joy-riding on the sand. Perhaps we think our beaches are "clean" because there are fewer of us and the impact does not appear to be so evident as with the enormous number of summer visitors. But the impact of our careless ways is there just the same.

It's obvious the Gaspésie was ill-prepared for the onslaught of visitors we received this summer. Public toilets were not all open, campgrounds

sometimes reduced the number of sites available, many local attractions and shops simply did not open for business. This has forced the large numbers of tourists to take matters into their own hands, with predictable consequences.

Our provincial, regional and local authorities have lessons to learn, too. Knowing that the American and New Brunswick borders were closed, surely they could have foreseen that our beautiful area would be a prime destination this summer? Once the decision to open the Gaspésie region to other regions of the province was made, there should have been better coordination between the province and regional and local authorities.

Financial resources should have been made available to municipalities to ensure roadside public washrooms and spaces were open early and well-tended, and that beaches were supervised and regularly cleaned. Better coordination and forethought could have prevented some of the problems we are experiencing.

Surely the COVID situation has brought home to most – if not all – of us the immense good fortune we have to live in this beautiful place. We have been so lucky to be able to walk out our doors, even during confinement, into such a beautiful natural environment! This is something our summer visitors certainly envy.

But are we really good stewards of this terrestrial paradise? Can we learn to be more careful with our good fortune? How can we teach our local litterbugs and joy-riders to take better care of our natural inheritance?

The Global Village  
just got smaller

The term Global Village describes how our planet has become more interconnected due to media technologies, including social media. The opportunity to connect with others through modern technology has made most of us daily consumers and producers of information. Fifty years ago, our influences likely stopped with our close family and community members. That has changed.

The concept of a global village was created by Marshall McLuhan, a Canadian writer, lecturer, and thinker, in the 60s in his books *The Gutenberg Galaxy* and *Understanding Media*. At the time he could not have foreseen how much media has permeated our lives just 50 years later. Very few of us go a full day without consuming media or creating media. The prevalence of Twitter, YouTube, Tik Tok, Snap Chat, Skype, Facebook and Instagram has changed our social landscape. We are constant consumers of news and there are numerous all-day news channels, both American and Canadian. You can literally access news 24 hours per day.

The term global village explains that as a world the internet has become a major part of our lives. The average amount of time adults spend on media, primarily on their phones, is staggering. The average is six hours every day. Keep in mind that is an average and certain demographics spend upwards to 12 hours a day. This number increases as the user is younger. The trend is not lessening, but if anything is growing.

These newer forms of communication mean that people can interact with others, including those in other countries with ease. This change means that the people who influence us and we, in turn, influence is no longer just those people in close physical proximity.

We can, and do, exchange messages, opinions, posts, videos and conspiracy theories with ease. This can cause a kind of miscommunication,

especially when the someone has an agenda to influence others. This is no small factor in our lives. Conspiracy theories are common. How do we know who to believe? How do we know that the person who posted an opinion about the Canadian government is who they say they are? The answer is – we cannot always know. We have learned in the past four years that massive efforts were made by foreign accounts pretending to be local. The accounts say they are written by Canadians or Americans and include a photo and biographical information. We have no way to know if any of it is real. In some cases, these social media have influenced hatred and even violence. Many, likely all, modern terrorist organizations use a variety of social media to recruit and indoctrinate their followers.

The growth of the Global Village has changed the structure of our society. It influences others, not always in a good way. The media makes an impact on us daily. Every day we read items that inform and enlighten us. Every single day we read items that attempt to influence our beliefs, and our actions. It is hard, albeit almost impossible, to determine what is truth and what is propaganda. It is critical to remember that some users of social media will be more susceptible to being influenced.

In the 60s when Marshall McLuhan coined the phrase Global Village, it was already a fact. The technology was not as rampant as today, but tv and radio was becoming an important part of every household. So, for most people it has always been a factor in their lives. Now the speed of the information coming at us is a constant barrage. Put your phone away for a full day and see how your brain adjusts to a slower more serene pace.

Using the internet means that physical distance is not a hindrance to communicating with others. Working from home for the last four months, for workers and students, has caused a huge shift in how we interact as communities. Without the technology, the pandemic would have had a much greater negative impact on our lives. We can order groceries online, buy goods through Amazon, Facetime with grandchildren, and continue to work

more safely from home. The Gaspé Spec has never missed an issue since mid-March because journalists submit their work online. Laying out the paper for printing, proofreading, contacting advertisers and government agencies is all done from the staff of Spec's respective homes. Without technology, none of that would have been possible.

The Global Village is a double-edged sword. It offers tremendous benefits and has allowed society to carry on since mid-March. It is also a force which can be negative and false. Does the Global Village unify us? Yes and no. We need to be skeptical of what we hear and read. We should verify sources. Some random guy on his facebook account is not a scientist, so beware taking COVID related advice from him. A study recently released (August 3) by CBC finds that almost half of Canadians believe at least one unfounded theory about COVID-19. Researchers say that conspiracy theories about the coronavirus are spreading at an alarming rate. The question is who is spreading these and why?!

All media is brimming full of information and misinformation. The Global Village just got smaller. The reason for this is a pandemic called COVID-19.

*The Gaspé Spec*

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# Two drownings avoided in Chandler

Nelson Sergerie

CHANDLER - Two people were saved from drowning thanks to the vigilance of three rescuers in Chandler on the afternoon of August 5.

Strong winds blowing over the area, a consequence of post-tropical storm Isaías, caused four-foot surf waves. These are the type of waves that can carry swimmers out to sea.

Louis-François Beauchamp, a lifeguard at the Pabos Mills beach, was not very talkative after his feat. “It’s not glamorous. I just helped the person back to the shore,” the young rescuer said moments after performing the rescue. The other rescue was by Cassandra Arseneault and Ryan Esteban Chapparo in Newport.

The head of municipal beaches, Dominique Giroux, urges people to be careful when there are strong waves.

“This is not a saltwater wave pool. I understand it’s hot, but people need to ask the rescuers for information. On beaches where there are no lifeguards, it takes water up to your knees and at least two people: one in the water and the other on the shore,” advises Ms. Giroux.

Photo: Lifeguards Cassandra Arseneault and Ryan Esteban Chapparo.



# O’Hara Cemetery has a new sign

Jim Caputo

GASPÉ: - Those who visit the historic O’Hara Cemetery in the Town of Gaspé will notice that a number of improvements have been made over the last several years, including a new cemetery sign and wooden steps leading to the cemetery. In the cemetery the visitors will find an information placard explaining the significance of the site. The text of the placard was contributed by Dorothy and David Phillips. Over the years many volunteers have played an important role in preserving this site including Ross Bechervaise, Kerry Miller, Velma and Lester Coffin, Gilles Paris, Bruno Dunn, Lucie Rousseau, Eileen Boyle Caputo and Glenn Adams. Hopefully visitors to Gaspé will visit and learn more



about these early settlers and the importance of preserving such cemeteries which are an important part of our heritage and history.

The O’Haras, one of the earliest settlers of the Gaspé Basin area, arrived in Gaspé in 1765. Felix, his wife Martha and family settled on land long known as O’Hara’s Point. Their other holdings included lands that make up much of the centre of present day Gaspé Village. Felix, as well as being a prosperous land owner, played a prominent role in laying the foundations of the Gaspé communities, being made a Justice of the Peace, becoming the second Collector of Customs for the Port of Gaspé, and being appointed Judge of the District of Gaspé in 1777. He also helped protect the Coast from attacks during the American Revolution, and at the end of hostilities helped to survey and distribute lands to the United Empire Loyalists who came to Douglastown and New Carlisle. As well as the efforts of Felix, other members of this family also played an important role in the development of early Gaspé. Of his sons, Oliver became Collector of Customs at Carleton; Edward represented Gaspé in the first legislature of Lower Canada (Quebec), served in the British army, and was appointed the Governor of the Island of St. Lucia in the Caribbean; Henry, the youngest son, was Collector of Customs for many years and was also a Justice of the Peace and a surveyor; Hugh, Collector of Customs in Gaspé, through his compassionate efforts in helping immigrants sick with fever, caught the fever himself and died as a result. The O’Haras also supported the development of education, the establishment of churches, and served in local militias.

Of the original grave markers, only those of Felix O’Hara (the patriarch of the O’Hara family), who died in 1805, Mary Stuart, wife of Henry O’Hara, who died in 1838, and Jane Chevalier wife of James Perchard, who died in 1848, exist today. It is believed that other members of the O’Hara family may have been buried at this site. It is also believed that others outside of the family were buried here as well. I have recently found a document indicating that a relative Sarah Burwood, wife of John L.P. Eden, is buried in this cemetery as well.

Thank you to all those who appreciate the significance and importance of our built heritage and help to preserve it.

# Magdalen Islands surprised about the maritime link with the Gaspé debate

Nelson Sergerie

MAGDALEN ISLANDS - The mayor of Magdalen Islands is surprised by the debate surrounding the crossing between the Island and the Gaspé. With the pandemic, travel restrictions to Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and Quebec were numerous for Magdalen Islanders.

Jonathan Lapierre recalls the 75 years of commercial relations with the Maritimes, but not about being surveyed regarding the willingness of Islanders to create such an interprovincial link.

“We would be interested in receiving them if that was the will of the Island’s community or the Government of Quebec. There are things that can be discussed but out of respect for my colleagues, I will not take a position on a file that emanates from the Gaspé without having at least phoned the main stakeholders,” says the mayor.

Mr. Lapierre recalls the failure of a maritime link between the Islands and Carleton-sur-Mer in the 1990s due to the navigation time being too long.

He is ready to work on stopovers in the Gaspé Peninsula with the Voyageur II which cruises between Montreal and the Island.

The towns of Chandler, Gaspé and Matane had shown a marked interest in obtaining a possible home port for the Magdalen Islands CTMA.

The mayoress of Chandler, Louisette Langlois, had spoken this spring with the deputy for the Islands and according to her, her town is the best option, once the wharf has been renovated, since the CTMA was already receiving ships before the closure of the infrastructure.

The mayor of Gaspé, Daniel Côté, does not intend to go to war, stressing that the offer was initially aimed at solving the problem that had arisen during the confinement.



Photo: N. Sergerie

# Only six dropouts in the CHSLD attendant training program

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - Fifty-eight of the 64 Gaspésians training to become CHSLD (government run long-term care facilities) attendants are still in the program. Six people dropped out for various reasons. The course started in June.

“Half of them (dropped out) at the start of the training when there was a fairly quick abandonment and three others at the time of the practical training. It is truly a vocation to become a beneficiary attendant. There are certainly some who have realized that it was not for them,” states the interim human resources director of the Gaspé Peninsula Integrated Health and Social Services Centre (CISSS), Martin Brosseau.

It is mainly women who are

taking the training - from very young to those returning to work – and approximately ten are from the English-speaking community.

These people responded to the call repeatedly made by Premier François Legault as the COVID-19 pandemic hit seniors' residences head-on this spring. Quebec reiterated that the salary will be \$26 per hour. The modalities are under discussion.

"However, a préposé who has a few years of experience and who works full time is currently making \$49,000," says Mr. Brosseau.

Graduates will be able to secure a full-time position in September if they wish. With the new orientations in CHSLDs, the CISSS is reassessing its workforce needs.

## Surgeries caught up

The surgeries that were postponed due to the pandemic have all been performed.

The CISSS had to postpone about fifty at the height of the fight against COVID-19 in order to face any eventuality. The urgent and semi-urgent operations and those in oncology were still performed.

Activities had been reduced to 30% at the start of the pandemic and were increased to 50% in May, returning to a steady pace in late spring.

The CISSS stresses that the deadlines prescribed by the Ministry of Health for the various surgeries are respected.

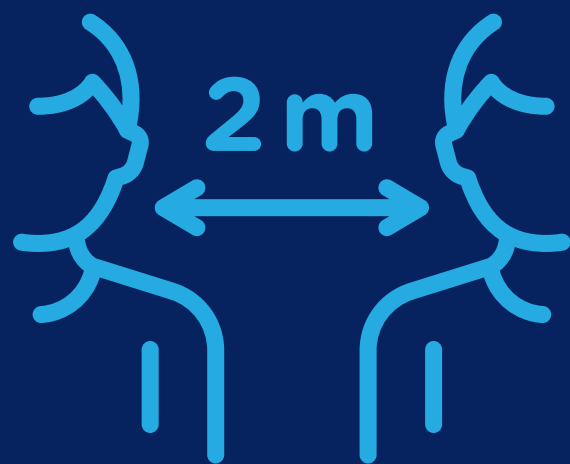
Activities are currently slowed down due to summer holidays, but activities will return to normal after the holidays.



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a mask**



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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.**

**Québec.ca/coronavirus**

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# Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



## A pen, paper and an envelope

I received a lovely letter from a reader of Spec today. Not an email, a real paper and envelope letter, beautifully hand-written on attractive paper embellished with a floral motif.

This sort of communication is so rare these days, that it made me pause and then read it over a couple of times. Emails are quick and efficient. Normally, they are not too filled with emotional or reflective content. To receive a “real” letter makes the recipient feel special. It means somebody took the time for you.

You too have that power. Think of someone that might be glad to receive a letter from you. It could be a neighbour, friend, relative or someone not even in your inner circle. Just think of someone that you would like to say something to. I guarantee that whomever you send the letter or note to will be touched. It is a gesture that says to the other person, “You matter.”

It costs little or nothing to do this. All you need is a pen, paper and an envelope. You could also buy a card with no message pre-written inside. You get to make it your own. If you do not have lovely handwriting, as my sender did have, do not fuss too much about that. There are not many people who will judge your handwriting while reading a personal message from you!

Remember when cursive writing was taught in school? Normally in Grade 3? I skipped Grade 3, having been promoted to Grade 4 after a year of Grade 2. I missed out on the cursive writing lessons, and that is my loss. I still print most handwritten notes and messages. Taking notes in university lectures, pre laptop computers, was much more difficult for me. While my peers took notes quickly and smoothly in cursive writing, I had to print my notes. Much slower.

Though it is no longer part of the curriculum, cursive writing still has its fans. The benefits of “cursive” go beyond the act of writing. Learning to write in cursive is shown to improve brain development in the areas of thinking, language and working memory. (Suzanne Asherson, New York Times, 2013)

The recent project, “Putting Pen to Paper,” offered by Family Ties and Canadian Heritage was led by Elizabeth Dupuis. This project affirmed that letter writing is still an important and relevant skill today in 2020.

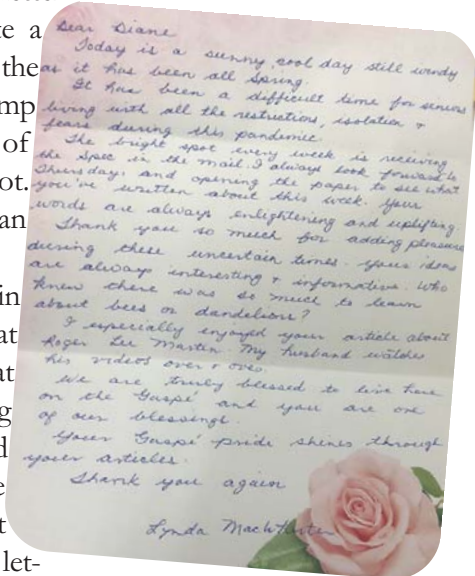
If your handwriting is lovely or just acceptable or if you must print your letter, that is secondary to writing a letter with a heartfelt message.

Why not do that today? Grab a piece of paper and a pen and begin. If you want to write out a rough copy first go ahead. Write that letter. Things left unsaid can lead to regret and these are not the days for lost opportunities. The experience of living through the last four and a half months of a pandemic have reminded us that what really matters is people. Our people. The people who are important to us or who have touched our lives in a good or meaningful way.

The sender of my letter took the time to write a beautiful letter, put it in the envelope, stick on a stamp and mail it. Little acts of kindness mean a lot. Maybe now more than ever.

I believe very much in the saying, “Say what you’ll do. Then do what you said.” So, I am sitting down to write a card today to mail to the reader of Spec who sent me such a lovely, sweet letter.

All you need is a pen, paper and an envelope and a few moments to show someone that they matter.



Abigail and Elizabeth Felker offer freshly-picked, no pesticide produce for sale from their family farm, Pine Crest Farms, in Shigawake. On this day, friend Solomon is helping.

Photo: D. Skinner

## The Little Red Hen

Diane Skinner

SHIGAWAKE: Abigail and Elizabeth Felker are enjoying their summer. Like all children they enjoy swimming in the pool and playing with the barn kittens. In addition, they are taking the lead in selling excess produce grown on their family farm. Abigail, 11 and Elizabeth, 9 sell a colourful array of fresh vegetables and raspberries. Over the summer they have sold potatoes, peas, onions, beets and beet greens, rhubarb, summer squash, rhubarb, eggs, herbs and raspberries. In addition, they offer for sale bundles of firewood perfect for a campfire. They have found that most of their customers are local people, many of them regulars, rather than tourists. They mentioned one man who loves potatoes and will often come and buy all that they have available. Another customer, who they dubbed “Motorcycle Guy”

buys lots of carrots and beans.

Why did the girls choose the name “Little Red Hen/La Petite Poule”? They raise hens and sell the eggs and their proceeds go to replacing hens and towards feed for the chickens. Elizabeth agrees and adds that she saves some of the money to buy gifts. The initial motivation for starting their small business came from their grandfather who set up a little storage spot for their goods. Abigail says, “We owe it all to him.” The girls reply quickly to the question, “What is the best part of this summer’s venture?” They both agree it is meeting people. They add that it gives them something to do. Once school begins, they plan to open on weekends while fresh produce is still available.

Picking the vegetables and raspberries is mostly done by their mom Jennifer Hayes and dad Dave Felker. Then, the girls do the washing and place

the produce in containers ready to sell. Abigail, mostly, takes care of the cash box. Abby and Elizabeth get some help from their cousins and on the day that I visited them a friend, Solomon, was there helping. Their grandfather also cuts and bundles the wood ready to sell. The girls are both bilingual and attend French school. They enjoy being involved in food production and hope to continue with that in some way, but both have their career plans mapped out. Abby plans to be a teacher and Elizabeth wants to be an entymologist. She adds, “That’s because I love bugs!”

Their mother, Jennifer, comments that Shigawake has always been about farming, since 1825, and that the Hayes family is continuing the long family tradition. Abigail and Elizabeth are carrying on that tradition at their family’s Pine Crest Farms.

## 12th edition of les Percéides starts August 14

Nelson Sergerie

PERCÉ - The documentary *Les Rose de Félix Rose* will be the star film of the 12th edition of the les Percéides, an international art and film festival, which begins on August 14.

The film’s world premiere will take place at the Ciné-Parc Paradiso (drive-in theatre) in Chandler in order to comply with health measures related to COVID-19.

The film tells the story of the members of the Quebec Liberation Front who kidnapped Minister Pierre Laporte in October 1970, which triggered a crisis in Quebec.

Fifty years later, Paul Rose's son, Félix, tries to understand what could have led his father and his uncle to commit such an offence.

“This is a world first that we have and we are very proud of

it. The entire film crew will be present at the drive-in theatre on August 14 to present the film,” says festival director François Cormier.

Percé is part of this political and social history and several archive images, rarely shown on screen, punctuate the cinematographic tale of brothers Paul and Jacques Rose and their friend Francis Simard arriving in Percé in the summer of 1969 to open La Maison du pêcheur, a place of gathering and political awareness.

“The filmmaker wanted to understand his father's political actions. That’s a bit of the story of his film,” says Cormier, who believes that the entire film crew wanted to see it presented in Percé.

Gaspesian cinema

Short films made by Gaspésie

sians will be presented at the festival closing on August 20. "I can tell you that there are some very beautiful ones and a few filmmakers will come and present them," adds the director.

Directors Félix Rose and Daniel Roby will meet moviegoers on two separate occasions.

The film *Les fleurs oubliées* by filmmaker André Forcier will close the 12th annual festival on August 20 at the ciné-parc. Then, the jury prizes, chaired by Quebec filmmaker Renée Beaulieu, will be awarded.

The short film jury will be chaired by Quebec actor Pierre-Luc Brillant.

The works will be presented simultaneously and live on the Festival Les Percéides web platform, which will be accessible online at [www.perceides.ca](http://www.perceides.ca).



# Announcements...



## Obituary



### ROBERTS: Leroy

It is with great sadness that we say good-bye to our son and brother Leroy.

It was said and is true that our community will never be the same without you Leroy because it was forever changed by you.

To all the captains, crew and boats and all the individuals who came to the wharf one last time to pay tribute to the father, son, husband, brother and friend that Leroy was, thank you.

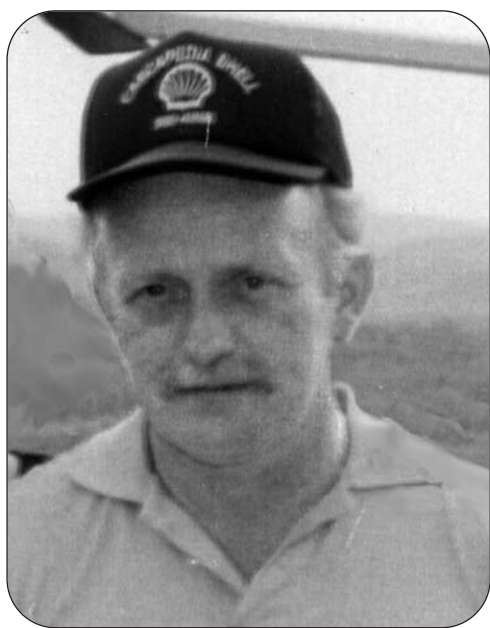
We would like to extend a huge thanks to all who reached out with calls, messages and visits to the funeral home. Thanks for the food and flowers. A special thought for Lynn and Velma who came from Montreal, please know that we are very grateful for each act of kindness prompted by his short illness and death.

Life will never be the same, but love never dies. We will love and miss you always and especially your laugh.

*Mom Geraldynne, Dad Garth, stepdad Irvin,  
brother Andy and sister Angie.*



## In Memory



### HAYES: Larry

Taken from us on August 11, 1992, at age 41.  
*When someone you love becomes a memory,  
The memory becomes a treasure.*

Loved and missed by mother (Jean Hayes) and sister (Brenda Morrison) and family.



### RENOUF: Lester

In loving memory of a dear husband, father and grandfather who passed away August 4, 2014.

*This month of August comes with deep regret.*

*It brings back a day we'll never forget.*

*Six sad years have passed away*

*Since we all said our goodbyes.*

*With tears we watched you suffer*

*While slowly fading away,*

*Our hearts were being broken,*

*When you fought so hard to stay.*

*God saw a cure was not to be,*

*So he put his arms around you.*

*And whispered "Come with me."*

*Memories are something no one can steal.*

*Death is a heartache no one can heal.*

*Life must go on, we know it's true.*

*Until we meet again.*

Always loved and remembered and very sadly missed by wife Yvonne; children Darlene (Luc) and Darin (Joan); grandchildren Alexandra, Daniel, Christopher (Bethany); great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. xoxoxo

### WARD: Elliott Clarence

In loving memory of a dear father, father-in-law, grandfather and great-grandfather, who passed away on August 13, 2003.

*You were a dad who was so special,*

*Who was loved by so many.*

*You brought so much happiness*

*To the many hearts around you.*

*You were always kind and caring*

*And so understanding too.*

*If help was ever needed, Dad,*

*It so freely came from you.*

*You were a gift to us all*

*And brought joy to so many.*

*Life has not been the same*

*Ever since you left us.*

Sadly missed and forever loved by daughter Frances (Bernie); grandsons Mark (Erin) great-grandsons Reid, Cole and Benn; Kevin (Courtney) and great-granddaughters Avery and Carys; sons Ken (Chris); Everette; Wayne (Monique) and grandsons Dave (Josiane) and great-granddaughter Julia, great-grandson Elliott; and Brian (Catherine).

### CORRECTION

Please note that the Burial of Ashes in the August 29th issue of The Gaspé Spec should have read Eileen McKoy not Ellen McKoy. Spec apologizes for this error.

## La Gaspésie

Mudslides in Guatamala, oil spills in the Gulf of Mexico, wildfires in California and hurricanes in Florida prompt me to thank whatever gods control the fates, for the peace and tranquility of the Gaspé.

As I look out my front window, I see the broad expanse of green pasture lands giving way in the west to verdant trees and merging into the waters of Cascadepia Bay. The mountains of the Shick-Shock Range form a backdrop behind the exquisite Town of Maria at the foot of those magnificent hills. After dark the lights along the Maria shore twinkle like jewels, and I can trace the far shore of Chaleur Bay by the ring of lights sprinkling the shore.

Straight out in front, I can look across to New Brunswick and see the blues and greens of the Jacquet River shore. On gusty days in the summer there are sails competing with the white caps of the wind-whipped waves. To the east and south I can see Belledune, and further to the left, the hills of Black Cape on the Quebec side.

In the morning, when the sun comes up and the air is clear, I see the mountains in the west in varying shades of green, with shadows in the tree-covered valleys and the sun shining on the mountain tops.

How fortunate am I to live in a secure place, far from hurricanes, earthquakes, wildfires and floods, where I enjoy the friendship of many people: Anglophone, Francophone, and Indigenous Canadians in the Village of Gesgapegiag.

*Philip Doddridge  
2014-06-30*

## Waterfalls

Waterfalls display the strength of flowing water so beautifully. There are many waterfalls on the Gaspé Peninsula. If you are lucky enough to be camping near one for the night you will hear its splash on the rocks below, along with the echo of wildlife in the distance. If you are really lucky you'll smell nearby evergreens and see the moon glowing in the distance.

With the great speed and current of waterfalls, fishing rod in hand, it may be harder than you think to catch the fish you want.

While relaxing and enjoying life nearby, it is difficult to not bring out the best in ourselves. Mother nature can clear one's mind because of the strength and quietness in letting us know that the outdoors lifestyle with its four seasons is paramount.

*Ken Ross*



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# COAST ROUND-UP

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## 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). Appointments can be made by phone at (418) 355-8612. Masks are required. (A26)

### 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:

#### 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. Dear friends and neighbours of New Carlisle Bible Chapel and Fair Haven Bible Camp: One of the brothers at New Carlisle Bible Chapel, and active at the 2:00 p.m. Sunday drive-in Gospel meetings at Fair Haven Bible Camp, has recently tested positive for COVID-19. He has since been re-tested negative and released from any quarantine. The elders at the Chapel have also tested negative, therefore the meetings and programs at the Chapel and camp will continue as before. Sincerely, the elders

per Bob MacGregor. For more information, please call 418-752-3372.

### CORNER OF THE BEACH Summer Market

The BADC is holding the Summer Market on **Saturday August 22**, 9 a.m. to 12 noon, outside at Corner of the Beach, Percé. Bakers, Crafters, Artisans, Garden produce. Tables \$10, contact Sandy Coombs at 418-645-2874 to reserve a table.

### 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.



### ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

A business associate or romantic partner may make a play for more power this week, Aries. Instead of playing defense, see what happens if you cede some control.

### TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

No matter how tempting the opportunity, do not mix friendship with finances, Taurus. This goes both ways, whether you are asking to borrow money or doing the lending.

### GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21

Pressure at work could be mounting and leaving you feeling awfully stressed, Gemini. Now might be the time to take a brief step back and enjoy the respite.

### CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, you may be inspired to fight the system this week. Be sure you have done all your research before diving in full force. Patience is a virtue, after all.

### LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23

While it may seem like you can mix business and pleasure Leo, there are some complications that you may not anticipate. It's better if you keep things separate.

### VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, no matter what you do this week there will be challenges. Embrace any hurdles you need to clear en route to getting the job done well.

### LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

If you do not make a big deal of a difference of opinion then you can work easily with a person whose perspectives differ from your own, Libra. Learn to cooperate.

### SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Someone's extreme emotions can turn your weekly schedule on its head, Scorpio. As you help this person through a tough time, keep a cool head and listen.

### SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, this week loved ones may want to make a big deal about something you are doing but you're not willing to join the drama parade. Stick to your convictions.

### CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, neglecting your work can have far-reaching consequences. So buckle down even though the last thing you want right now is responsibility.

### AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Keep a close eye on the things that you value the most, Aquarius. Keep these things close to your mind and heart and do your best to avoid taking them for granted.

### PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, you may have a lot of pent up energy his week. Find some creative ways to spend your time and expend your energy.

### FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS AUGUST 9

Michael Kors, Designer (61)

### AUGUST 10

Suzanne Collins, Author (58)

### AUGUST 11

Chris Hemsworth, Actor (37)

### AUGUST 12

Yvette Nicole Brown, Actress (49)

### AUGUST 13

Lennon Stella, Singer (21)

### AUGUST 14

Steve Martin, Actor (75)

### AUGUST 15

Joe Jonas, Singer (31)

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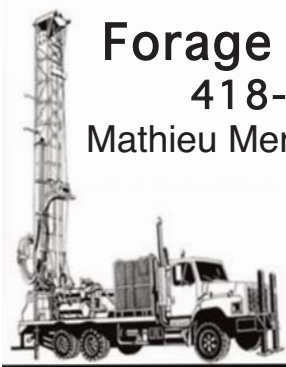
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# Crafternoon

A weekly summer series of themed crafts to keep your child entertained.

-Diane Skinner

*"Music can help spark a child's imagination. It should be part of every child's world of possibility."*  
- Hillary Clinton

## MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

### Bottle Cap Castanets



Photo: D. Skinner

### Bottle Cap Castanets

Cardboard  
2 metal bottle tops  
Craft glue or hot glue gun (adults only)  
Google eyes  
Paint

Cut out cardboard. Make it any size you wish. These are 8 inches by 2 inches. Decorate your castanets with paint, stickers, markers and google eyes. Let paint dry. Then fold in half. Glue the bottle caps with strong craft glue or hot glue gun. Allow to dry. Play your castanets along with some lively music! Castanets, sometimes called clackers, are often used by Spanish Flamenco dancers. Olé!

### Microphone

Paper towel roll  
Construction paper  
Styrofoam ball  
Aluminum foil  
Glue  
Scissors

Cut a paper towel tube in half and wrap it with construction paper cut to size. Glue construction paper to paper towel roll. Allow to dry. Cover the styrofoam ball with a piece of aluminum foil, then use glue to attach the ball to one end of the paper towel tube. Add some embellishments to your microphone with strips of aluminum foil and an "on/off button" with construction paper.



### Microphone

Photo: V. Czerwinski

### Musical Glasses



Photo: D. Levine

### Musical Glasses

7 glasses  
Water and food colouring  
Variety of household "mallet" objects (spoon, chopstick, stick, skewer)

Fill seven glasses with different levels of water (starting from most to least full). Add food colouring to each glass to create each colour of the rainbow in order. Teach a child that the seven colours of the rainbow can be remembered, in correct order, using the name Roy G. Biv - red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet! Allow kids to experiment "playing" their Musical Glasses by gently striking the side of each glass. Use different mallets to make different sounds. Try to play a musical scale or, if you are talented, a song!





# Linda Drody: Multi-Talented Artist

Diane Skinner

Linda Drody was born in Gaspé hospital but grew up in Douglastown. She attended St. Patrick's Elementary School in Douglastown and lived close enough to it that she walked to and from school each day. There were so many children born in town the year that she was born so she had no shortage of friends. Linda comments, "Life was good."

Linda would have loved to take music lessons but did not. The reason for that was she had already taken swimming lessons and quit after about two classes because she was so afraid of the water. Linda says, "I had been to my neighbor's house and heard my friend's brother play piano. I went home and asked my mother if I could take piano lessons and she said, "What's the use, you'll just quit anyway. Your aunts and uncles learned to play without music lessons so you can too."

"My parents came from big families so did not have a lot of money. My mother was a little more tight with the money so had I asked my father he would have said yes right away."

Both of her parents came from musical families but neither of them played instruments. Her mom had a lovely voice and the first songs she learned were the songs that her mother sang.

Linda had been singing with the students of St. Patrick School for the first few years but her first solo was in 1976 when she was 11 years old. She was supposed to be in a skit but was absent from school the first day of the practice. When she went back, the teacher had given someone else her part. The teacher told her that she was too shy to act in a skit anyway. If someone tells Linda that she cannot do something, she will do everything in her power to prove to them she can. So, Linda called her Aunt Mary-Ellen who was a yearly participant in the concert to ask her to accompany her on guitar while she sang *The Wild Colonial Boy*. Linda's aunt was overjoyed that she had decided to sing. Linda sang there every year after that.

Douglastown has many singers and musicians and there were often concerts and sing-a-



*Linda is a professional paint artist and all the other arts including music are things that make her life richer and happier. Her advice to anyone who thinks they are not artistic; just try.*

Photo: Red Kennedy

longs within the community. Linda sang in the children's choir run by Mrs. Karen Briand and learned a lot from her. She sang in the children's choir on Christmas Eve and later joined the adult choir when she was a teenager. Once she learned to play guitar, she got invited to sing in private homes for birthdays or family gatherings. Linda adds, "Long before I started school, sometimes my dad would bring home a co-worker after work and they would have a beer together. My father would always ask me to sing. I was very small for my age and very shy so I would hide at the side of the old woodstove and the visitor could not see me because I was not as tall as the stove. I would sing a song and usually the visitor would pay me fifty cents or a dollar. I never refused singing, because I loved to sing and often got paid!"

Linda enjoys the blues and rockabilly but sings more country and Christian music. She is drawn to the older music that tells a story about life, whether it be sad, or about a hangover or living a simple life. Linda is not a drinker but likes a good drinking song. She also likes the lazy days of summer songs because it makes me long for time to sit and enjoy those days too. "I guess some songs just bring me

to a place that seems so simple, so easy. I guess I like the songs that allow me to dream about being in another place and time, even if it is only for 4 or 5 minutes. I have to say I love George Jones and Tom T. Hall. I have always enjoyed listening to men singers more than women."

She sang at many Irish concerts in Douglastown over the years but also organized concerts and amateur hours, was emcee for a few years, and wrote skits and acted in them. She organized a show or two for the Wakeham-York Homecoming Festival as well as amateur hours for raising money for the elementary school children.

Linda sings with a few lady friends. "We call ourselves Friends in Song." We don't have time to get together often but when we do, we have a lot of fun. We sing a lot of harmony. We don't sing to make money as we are not professionals. We sing to raise money for charitable organizations like the Gaspé Cancer Foundation, the Coin du Banc Church, which is now a cultural museum, and sometimes we get called to sing at funerals. Even at funerals I have a hard time to keep from tapping my toes."

They sang together on July 1 at the Douglastown Community Centre and it was broadcast on radio, so people were able to sit

in their cars and listen to respect social distancing. Last Thursday they sang for The Gaspesian Way for a "Thirsty Thursday" night. They did an Irish show since all the ladies are of Irish descent. They had so much fun laughing before the show started that any nervousness was long gone by the time the show started.

## Visual Arts

Linda has always loved art and was exceptionally good at drawing, but the problem was that she seldom had art classes because many schools didn't think it important. Linda says, "It was to me. When I did any big projects at school, I always had a cover that was a work of art. I put far more time into the cover than the contents of the work, but the teachers were kind enough to give me marks for my cover. God bless them!"

She first tried painting about 20 years ago when her sister brought some Dollarama brushes and paints over to her house to try painting a picture from a new calendar she had purchased. Despite the brushes and paint being poor quality, I thought the paintings were not too bad." Once I had been painting for a couple of years, my mother and close friends were the people who encouraged me the most to continue with painting.

Last summer she had an art exhibit at the Kempffer Center in New Carlisle and a Christmas exhibit at Musée de la Gaspésie. She's also had exhibits at the Douglastown Community Centre, in New Richmond during the Bluegrass Festival, in L'Anse au Griffon, Barachois, Percé and Montreal.

## Dance, Theatre and Writing

Linda is involved in other forms of the arts as well and has been working with a few other couples teaching our local square dances. "We have amazing musicians that were coming every second week to play the local Douglastown tunes for us as we dance. We also had the dancers from Bonaventure and Carleton come to Douglastown to learn," says Linda. Since they were teaching and learning dances in a bilingual setting, their dance group won first prize

with Heritage Canada.

Last summer and fall Linda wrote bilingual comedy skits that were performed to a full house at the Douglastown Community Centre. She received so many great comments about it. Linda says that she will not win the prize for world's best seamstress but is still capable of making lovely costumes. Just don't check the sewing on the inside, she adds.

Last year she attended the first edition of *Grande Barbouille d'Art* which is a gathering of artists who paint at the Birthplace of Canada site. "CASA offered several writing workshops last year and I attended every one and learned so much from these successful authors and writers." A book was created with the writings of the people who attended the workshops along with students and other Gaspesian writers and Linda was honoured to create a painting for the cover of the book.

Currently, Linda is working on a couple of books. They will have lots of her paintings in them, of course. She has so many projects in mind but so little time to work on them these days. She continues to work on her all occasion cards and plans on opening a company featuring her own line.

## Pandemic

Linda comments on this pandemic, "I am tired of the Covid-19 situation because it keeps people from being with other people. Part of our well-being is socializing with others. I do my part to do my social distancing and really wish that all people respected wearing the mask and keeping the six feet distance to keep everyone safe. I must admit I enjoyed my two months of being off work and I wasted no time. I spent my time writing, painting, walking, snowshoeing, baking and doing online workshops with Mary Robertson on Gaspesian Better Living. I lost some work because of Covid-19 and took on another job to make more money. I am a bit worried about Quebec and Canada's economic situation and figured if I worked another job that would be one less person collecting CERB."



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