

Port Daniel residents deal with sticky emissions made by McInnis Cement

Gilles Gagné

PORT DANIEL – Since June, dozens of Port Daniel residents have been dealing with the sticky dust emissions that have fallen on their properties and that have required special cleaning procedures. The Quebec Department of the Environment has launched an investigation to shed light on the emissions that are produced by McInnis Cement.

So far, the company spokesperson has refused to talk to The Gaspé SPEC, invoking that media coverage was sufficient on the matter. That “sufficient coverage,” nevertheless, leaves a number of questions unanswered regarding the toxicity of the emissions and their duration.

About two months passed between the first manifestation of the sticky substances on the premise of the cement plant, apparently on June 5, and its last documented presence on a private property lo-



Photo: Gilles Gagné

The gluey emissions produced by the Port Daniel cement plant have spread to an undetermined number of properties located in the vicinity.

cated in McInnis Cove, on August 6.

Based on verifications made by the SPEC, it took 28 days, from June 5 to July 3, before the Department of the Environment was informed about the presence of the sticky

emissions produced by McInnis Cement, emissions that were falling on individuals' properties. The June 5 date was mentioned by company spokesperson Maryse Tremblay to a *Journal de Montréal* reporter, the only interview she

gave.

Before July 3, the only reference given to the Environment Ministry was that the sticky emissions only affected the perimeter belonging to McInnis Cement. The notification came from the company,

but on July 3, another notification was sent to the ministry. The source remains unknown for now and the ministry is not releasing it because of the ongoing investigation.

From July 3, the Department of the Environment took 32 days before going to the Port Daniel cement plant and starting its field investigation that included taking substance samples and interviewing people at the facility. The ministry staff spoke with citizens of the surrounding area that had been affected by the emissions.

The Environment Department employees did not grant SPEC any interviews but they did answer many questions in writing. One of the first messages insists on the point that the first reference pertaining to the sticky emissions outside the cement plant's perimeter was not communicated by the company or by citizens.

Cont'd on page 12

To eat or not to eat contaminated fruits and vegetables?

Gilles Gagné

PORT DANIEL – Like several other Port Daniel East residents, Raoul McInnis wonders if he should harvest and eat the fruit on his trees this year, as others wonder if their gardens will also produce something edible and healthy.

“I don't know if I will eat them,” sums up Mr. McInnis who has relied on his grove for years, similarly his neighbours rely on their gardens.

“It is not right. It is one hell of a dirty stuff that fell upon us. It shouldn't have happened. I have nothing against the cement plant at first glance but we were here first,” he adds.

Raoul McInnis experienced his first bout of the gluey emissions on June 22. “There was stuff everywhere. My roof is made of tin; it was no longer

black and it was sticky. My car and my sheds were all covered as well. My car windshield could not get clean even after using windshield washer with the wipers.”

Like some of his neighbours, he complained to the company. He was then contacted by McInnis Cement to get his car cleaned at a garage located in the centre of Port Daniel, owned by Gaétan McInnis.

He had to get his car cleaned several times. He knows now how to clean the gluey dust. “It takes vinegar but vinegar makes cars rusty. You don't want to have a \$45,000 car rusty. That dust is as abrasive as sandpaper before being cleaned.”

Raoul McInnis had a dozen chickens before his property was covered with the sticky



Photo: courtesy

Raoul McInnis remarked that the sticky dust that fell on his car could not be cleaned with windshield washer fluid.

dust. “Five of them died. I had noticed days before that their belly was dirty, probably from

the contact with the grass. At my aunt's place, the roof is no longer red; it is pink.”

Cont'd on page 12

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Chandler: Bids too high for the Seniors' Housing project

Nelson Sergerie

CHANDLER - Submissions for the Chandler Seniors' Housing project are well above the estimates.

Without going into details, the director of the *Groupe ressource en logements collectifs Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine*, Ambroise Henry, indicates that it is significant enough to review the file with the *Société d'habitation du Québec* and other partners.

According to what The Gaspé SPEC has learned, the bill surpasses the \$8 million budget by \$1.3 million.

Discussions are being held with the lowest bidder. If an agreement is reached quickly, construction could take place in the fall for this project that has been on the table for more than 10 years.

Otherwise, a new call for tenders will be launched. Quebec had paid \$2.7 million in 2018.

No commitments from Caroline Proulx

Nelson Sergerie

PERCÉ - The Minister of Tourism hasn't made any concrete commitments regarding the projects presented by regional elected officials during her visit to Percé on August 7.

Whether it was for the extension of the tourist season, the development of the Chic-Chocs, the improvement of snowmobile and ATV trails or the convention centre project in Percé, Caroline Proulx was more in a listening mode.

"Business tourism is extremely important. It makes twice as much money as leisure tourism. Ultimately, when the project is submitted, we will pay attention to it," says the minister.

On illegal campsites, the minister highlighted the work of Percé who succeeded in alleviating the problem. "I want to salute the mayor of Percé who very quickly took over the management of campground overflows and, together with the Minister of Public Security, managed to get Sûreté du Québec teams to pass on the message," states Ms. Proulx.

A reflection will be made this fall to find the appropriate solutions, in particular the establishment of overflow areas.

Extending the tourist season

The intense tourist frequentation of the Gaspé highlights the lack of accommodations during the peak period. But before investing concretely in the development of a new offer, we must lengthen the season, believes Ms. Proulx, to which the mayoress of Percé agrees.

"Before adding accommodations in the area, I think we need to stay in our accommodations longer into the season in order to support those (accommodations) which are already there," says Cathy Poirier.



Photo: N. Sergerie

Minister Caroline Proulx and Mayor of Percé, Cathy Poirier.

Better controlled situation in Gaspé

Like Percé, Gaspé is seeing a reduction in illegal camping. The mayor, Daniel Côté, attributes this in particular to the lower volume of tourists, the promotion of the protection of the coastline and the brigade put in place to sensitize campers.

Mr. Côté points out that extending the season to spring and fall would partly solve the problem.

Criticized on social media for not being accommodating enough to overflow tourism, especially over the idea of

adding additional garbage cans or chemical toilets, Mr. Côté had a plan B.

"It is still necessary to empty them and in times of pandemic, disinfect them very, very recurrently. It involves hiring human resources and we didn't have a magic wand to fix it in a week or two. There were some very temporary sites when it was needed to dislodge people from the beaches. These sites were used, but I don't want to promote them."

The minister had visited Sainte-Anne-des-Monts on the afternoon of August 6, before going to Percé and Gaspé the next day.





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Police report

The *Commission des normes, de l'équité, de la santé et de la sécurité au travail*, the CNESST, intervened on August 12 at Crustacés G. Roussy, a fish processing plant in Port Daniel, following a workplace accident that had occurred the previous night outside the main building of the facility. The worker, a man in his sixties, fell and was seriously injured. He was hospitalized in Chandler before being transferred to a hospital in Quebec City.

At about 7:40 p.m. on August 11, the employee was operating a lift to empty a truck, apparently loaded with lobster, when the accident occurred. According to Alexandre Dupont, spokesperson of the CNESST, the man apparently fell from the truck. "It was not from very high, as he fell over approximately four feet after losing his balance," says Mr. Dumont.

He called the CNESST presence at the Port Daniel plant an "intervention," not an investigation. "We are trying to determine the circumstances of the employee's fall. It is not sure that it will lead to an investigation. (...) We still have to check some elements," added Mr. Dumont.

Sûreté du Québec officers quickly ruled out foul play to explain the fall of the employee. On August 13, no additional news was available with regards to the worker's condition. The police and the CNESST, Quebec's authority regarding health and safety at work, were engaged in a discussion as to who was supposed to do the follow-up.

Crustacés G. Roussy is a subsidiary of Gestion Unipêche MDM of Paspébiac. It employs about 10 people during the peak part of the lobster season. It is also involved in rock crab acquisitions and is an important supplier of bait.

Two Gaspésians arrested in February 2019 in the Oursin operation (Sea urchin) will return to the Rimouski courthouse on September 21 to set a trial date. They are Pierre Brotherton, 40, from Gascons; and Florian Aubut, 57, from Gaspé. They are free until the conclusion of that trial. When the Oursin operation was carried out, 32 people from Quebec and New Brunswick were arrested. They are allegedly linked to the Hell's Angels drug distribution network in the Lower Saint Lawrence, the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands regions. Up to six kilograms of cocaine and 232,000 methamphetamine pills were seized during the January-February 2019 drug bust.

An unusual rescue operation took place on August 3 along the Saint John River in Gaspé, and it involved 20 local firefighters. Someone attempted to jump into a spot in the river that is 20 feet deep, but broke a leg when it became stuck between two rocks. The incident occurred around mid-day, 10 kilometres in the woods, according to the firefighters that reported the operation to CHNC Radio. The victim was rescued at the end of the afternoon and sent to the hospital. The rescue team was equipped with a boat, all-terrain vehicles and a stretcher.

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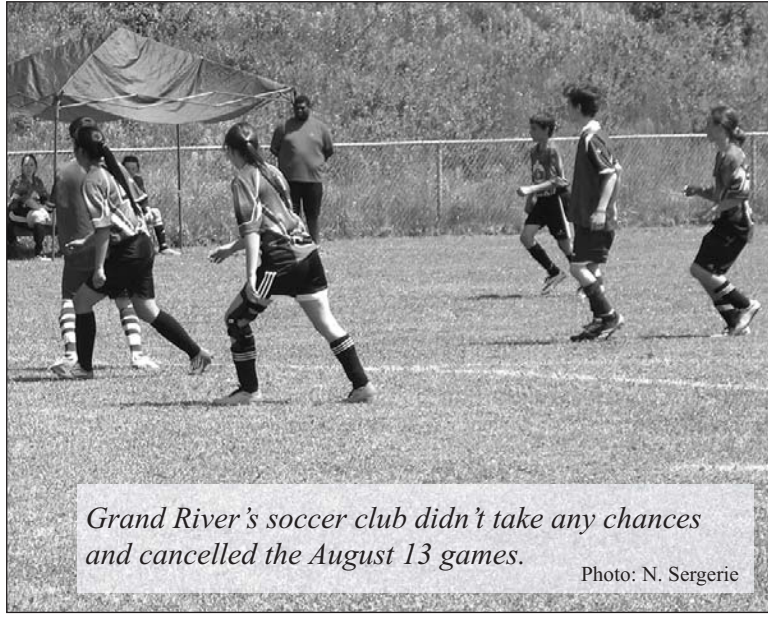
COVID-19 Wrap-up: Five new cases during the first two weeks of August in the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands

Gilles Gagné

Nelson Sergerie

CARLETON – The Public Health Board reports only one case of COVID-19 in the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands for the second week of August. The case was reported on August 13, bringing the regional total to 212.

That latest case is still under investigation. As of August 14, it was the only active case of coronavirus in the region. “The location of the case is not divulged,” mentioned Catherine Blouin, spokesperson of the Public Health Board. The chart released daily by that organization located the case in the Percé Rock MRC. It is the 34th case in that area since the start



Grand River's soccer club didn't take any chances and cancelled the August 13 games.

Photo: N. Sergerie

of the pandemic.

The number of people who have recovered from the virus is 202. Nine people died of the coronavirus since the beginning of the pandemic, but none since

the beginning of the summer. Nineteen people from the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands were hospitalized in connection with the virus. Fifty-four health care employ-

ees have contracted the virus, including 21 who are employees of the Integrated Health and Social Services Centre (CISSS).

As of August 12, 13,074 people from the region had been tested for the coronavirus virus, including 100 on that day.

As a preventive measure, we have decided to suspend our activities until the reception of tests,” explains club president Marie-Hélène Fournier.

Even if those people did not have any COVID-19 symptoms, they underwent tests and the activities are suspended until the results are released.

Grand River soccer league cancels August 13 games as precaution

Meanwhile, the Grand River soccer league cancelled the games that were supposed to be played on August 13 as a precautionary measure.

“We were informed that soccer club members were in contact with a person who has received a positive COVID test.

AS OF AUGUST 13: NUMBER OF CASES PER MRC

Avignon: 87
Bonaventure: 56
Percé Rock: 34
Côte-de-Gaspé: 17
Haute-Gaspésie: 8
Magdalen Islands: 10



Gilles Gagné Commentary

Mclnnis Cement owes transparency to the population

Since the resurgence of the Port Daniel cement plant project in December 2011 by the Beaudier holding, the promoters of that venture have benefitted from many bypasses, especially in environmental matters, courtesy of the different governments that reigned in Quebec over the last decade.

We could say that there was one exception, the Coalition avenir Québec government and, even in that case, the exception was rooted in something other than indulgence, and it was expressed before accessing power. During two electoral campaigns, François Legault tried to make political gains by bashing the Port Daniel project in 2014 and, in 2018, a plant that was already in operation.

His lack of nuance regarding the cement plant venture probably helped him secure some precious votes in the Montreal suburbs and in Quebec City but it yielded anemic results in the Gaspé Peninsula.

Moreover, since ecological protection is not, by a wide margin, a forte of the CAQ government, it will be interesting to see how the Quebec Department of the Environment will deal with the polluting and sticky emissions that have characterized some operations of Mclnnis Cement since June 5.

Affirming that Mclnnis Cement has benefitted from the generosity of the Quebec government since 2011 is an understatement.

One must consider that despite the fact that the Mclnnis Cement project was valued at \$750 million in 2012 and finally \$1.5 billion in 2017 once its construction finished, the cement plant was never submitted to the scrutiny of the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement (BAPE), Quebec's body in charge of assessing the major industrial ventures slated for the province. It must also be specified that the cement plant will soon be considered the largest industrial producer of greenhouse gases in Quebec.

The reason for that exemption stems from the fact that in 1995, shortly before the adoption of a new regulation forcing major industrial ventures to be assessed by the BAPE, the initial promoter of the cement plant, Cimbec Canada, submitted its project a few days before the new law came into force.

The so-called BAPE process includes a round of public hearings where the public and the experts of

the Environment Ministry can and do ask questions to the promoter and the consulting firms hired by that promoter. From the citizen's and community's point of view, a BAPE process is almost always positive. Controversial projects are mostly accepted but improvements are added to make them more acceptable.

In the case of the Port Daniel cement plant, the Quebec government accepted a new promoter without requiring a BAPE, approving a venture that was twice the size of the initial project. Conferring to it, when the construction started in 2014, the advantages given in 1995, nineteen years earlier! Three different governments approved that procedure. They were led by Jean Charest, Pauline Marois and Philippe Couillard, two Liberal Party tenures and one from the Parti Québécois.

A cement plant is not a cookie factory. Such a plant consumes petroleum coke, an oil refinery reject, a very dirty substance whose combustion generally emits dioxins and furans, two of the most hazardous chemicals on earth. Technically, those rejects are intercepted at the top of the stacks and added to the mix that will make the final product, cement. That explains why concrete is considered a toxic waste when a building or a bridge containing some of it is demolished.

Wanting to diminish the financial risk attached to the venture, the Beaudier holding asked for and obtained support from the financial arm of the government, Investissement Québec, and from the Caisse de dépôt et de placement du Québec, the organization managing Quebecers' pension funds.

When a Globe and Mail probe revealed in June 2016 that the construction of the cement plant was marred by a \$444 million cost overrun, which brought the final tab to \$1.5 billion, the Caisse de dépôt et de placement came to the rescue of the initiative. Six weeks later, the CDPQ increased its participation in it by \$125 million and assumed the risk of a \$125 million debenture emitted by Black Rock Alternative Investors, a world giant venture capital firm. As a matter of fact, the CDPQ took control of the project as the majority shareholder in August 2016.

Despite all that funding coming from government-related bodies, despite all those environmental privileges granted over a decade, it is impossible for the public to get informed properly about the financial results of Mclnnis Cement and get details about their polluting emissions, among other things.

Environnement vert plus, a Gaspesian organization advocating for the protection of the environment, has been requesting from the company data about the polluting emissions since 2017 without receiving any answer. Some of the questions were also asked to the so-called “follow up committee” supposed to maintain a transparency link between the company and the community. That committee has not answered Environnement vert plus questions either. The first infor-

mation request was sent to that committee on March 5, 2018. Only verbal answers have been made so far, without results.

The recent episode of sticky emissions from the Mclnnis Cement plant represents another sad case of lack of respect to the population. The company spokesperson, Maryse Tremblay, refused to give interviews after the publication of the first article by a Montreal-based newspaper explaining the problems of Port-Daniel residents being unable to clean their cars and houses because of the glue-like residue apparently thrown in the air by the clinker kilns, an important part of the facility.

It looks clear that the company tried to hide the whole thing under the rug. Mclnnis Cement simply notified the Department of the Environment that emissions had hit its premise, not the premises of the surrounding residents. To the latter, the firm offers a cleanup through a private subcontractor. That was not cool, to say the least.

The Ministry of the Environment will likely investigate the case at length, not superficially, like other issues were dealt with in the past. It could be a few months before getting all the answers pertaining to those sticky emissions.

In the meantime, the CAQ government, so hurried to denounce Mclnnis Cement during electoral campaigns, would be well-advised to get in touch with company officials and try to make them understand the notion of social responsibility and accountability.

It would be normal to get that kind of transparency from a company that has received such support from government-related bodies over the last decade, however, the indulgence granted since 2011 has apparently been interpreted like acquired rights.

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Public Health closes the Mille Délices restaurant in Percé

Nelson Sergerie

PERCÉ - Public Health closed the Mille Délices restaurant in Percé on August 8 at 11:59 p.m. After discussions between the director of Public Health, Dr. Yv Bonnier Viger, the director of prevention-inspection Southeast of the CNESST; and the management of the restaurant, the authorization to reopen was issued on August 13.

The regional director of public health said when issuing the closure order that if a plan to reopen was approved, the restaurant could reopen. The discussions of the last few days have obviously led the management of Mille Délices to listen to reason after having loudly denounced the obligation to respect sanitary standards in the restaurant industry.

Other sanctions

After suffering the wrath of the CNESST on July 8 and again on July 22 because the establishment's employees were not wearing a mask and visors and no protective screens had been attached to the counter, the body



Photo: facebook

Earlier this summer, the restaurant was openly flaunting itself against wearing the mask.

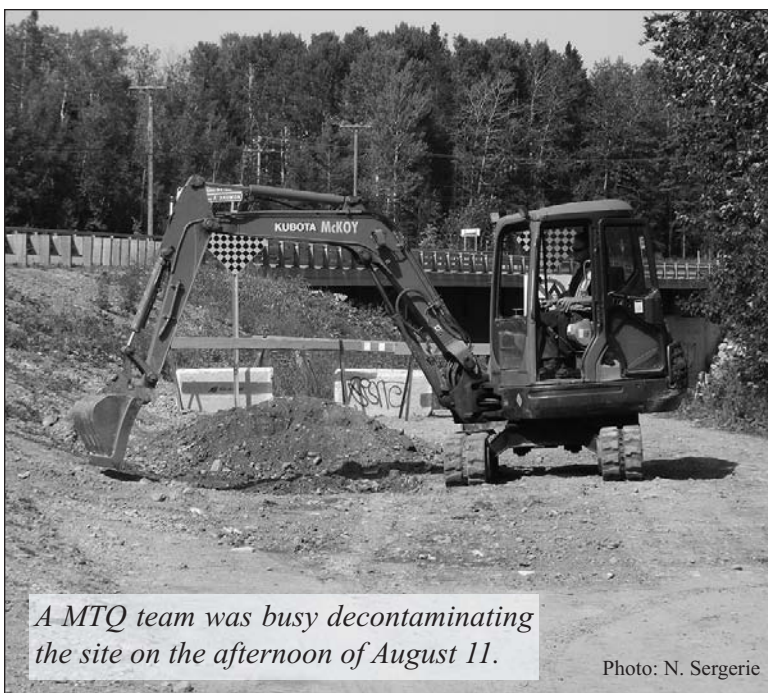
responsible for ensuring compliance with the health rules in place cracked down for a third time between July 22 and the closure order.

However, since Public Health had taken charge of the case, the CNESST gave few details on when this third sanction was served.

As for Public Health, it limited itself to saying that the order had been served "for the whole

work" without commenting further.

"Following all these steps and given that the owner has demonstrated the will to respect the instructions and that the plan is part of a serious process, an authorization to reopen was granted by the regional director of Public Health," says the spokesperson for the CISSS de la Gaspésie, Clémence Beaulieu-Gendron, in writing.



A MTQ team was busy decontaminating the site on the afternoon of August 11.

Photo: N. Sergerie

An engine oil spill near the Saint John River in Gaspé

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - The Ministry of the Environment has launched an investigation to locate the perpetrator of the oil spill on the right-of-way of Route 132 near the Saint John River in Gaspé.

On August 11, Urgence-Environnement helped teams from the Ministry of Transport to recover some five litres of oil left by an individual who had performed an engine oil change. Oil containers and a filter were found on site.

The site was cleaned up during the day and as the ground is very hard. Since the water pipe of the Town of Gaspé passes through this place which also happens to be an access road to the shore, the oil remained on the surface, making cleaning easier.

The Department of the Environment does not foresee a risk to wildlife, including the nearby salmon river. A mini excavator was responsible for recovering the contaminated soil which was taken care of by a specialized firm.

Citizens noticed the situation in the morning and alerted the Town of Gaspé, who contacted the Department of Transport since the land belongs to them.

The MTQ requested the assistance of Urgence-Environnement to ensure that the work was done according to the rules.

Difficult recovery in employment

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - The region is struggling to regain its employment momentum.

According to Statistics Canada, 6,400 jobs have disappeared in the space of a year in the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands, as a result of the pandemic.

Between June and July, 2,600 workers regained their livelihoods, mostly full-time positions.

The number of unemployed fell by 1,200 last month.

The unemployment rate is 10.5% as compared to 8.7% in July, 2019.

The labour force, that is, those looking for work, has decreased by 6,200 people in one year.

Gespeg partially compensated for COVID-19

Nelson Sergerie

Gespeg received its first compensation from Ottawa for additional costs incurred during the COVID-19 crisis, however, this sum is not as large as expected. "It's a help that we appreciate anyway. These are not the large amounts that we thought we would receive to meet our needs. There are other budgets to come," says Chief Shaw, who believes that the Nation had to spend large sums in support of the community during the crisis.

The losses are estimated in hundreds of thousands of dollars in the revenues of the fishing industry.

The chief stresses that it is a difficult year for his community and hopes to receive more money in connection with the ongoing deconfinement.

Gespeg diversifies its economy with a sugar bush

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - Gespeg is continuing its development with the construction of a sugar bush north of Lake Bouchard, in Gaspé.

The Micmac Nation of Gespeg has received \$197,000 from Ottawa towards a project valued at half a million dollars to acquire the equipment for the operation of the building under construction, in order to promote the economic diversification of the nation, says Chief Terry Shaw.

"The Nation has an interest in making various developments and maple syrup is a traditional product that we want to promote in order to offer it to the general public and to the markets."

2,000 taps will be made this fall and the project is expected to number nearly 10,000 within five years.

Ottawa contributed \$4 million to develop Indigenous projects in Quebec. Of this sum, Listuguj received \$163,000 for a development strategy.




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Karen Maloney: Neuroscientist finds her roots in Barachois

Cynthia Dow

She may have been born in Montreal, but Karen Maloney is a Gaspesian through and through. With a father from the region and a mother from Nova Scotia, she has saltwater running through her veins.

So it's no surprise that when she became tired of life in the Big Apple, she turned her sights on Barachois, where she and her father had purchased land years ago.

Her father was the late William John Maloney (aka Willie), the fourth of that name since the first Maloney settled in L'Anse à Beauvils in the late 1780s. Willie left the area when he was 15 years old. Having been an altar boy with a level of intelligence that indicated a promising future, the local priests had supported his education. Eventually he studied psychology at the University of Ottawa.

Karen herself had briefly considered a career in psychology "but that takes a lot of patience, and I knew I didn't have that!" Instead she took a series of science degrees at McGill, eventually becoming a neuroscientist. Working at the world-renowned Montreal Neurological Institute was a highlight. "When you get to see women like Brenda Milner (a neuropsychologist who worked with Dr. Wilder Penfield) walking down the hallway, that's impressive. She and Dr. Penfield discovered the function of the hippocampus," Karen explains.

The year Karen completed her BSc degree, in which she won First Class Honours, her father brought her home to the Percé area as a graduation gift. "When my father and I returned, it was in April. Syd Maloney (the late innkeeper) came to sing to us. I immediately felt a connection, and fell in love with the Coast, its energy and its people." Sydney shared the same great-grandfather as Willie.

"My father wanted to buy a little house, and so we drove around, and were almost at the end of Malbay, where we wanted to be. We were feeling a bit disappointed that we hadn't found something, because we liked the land. When we were just about to turn off of Malbay, we came to a place and I screamed "stop the car". I needed to walk on this piece of land. Miraculously we saw a "For Sale" sign that had fallen during the winter. We bought the land and started building what is now my house."

Karen continued studying at McGill, finally getting her PhD in Neuroscience. Eventually she moved on from McGill to the Big Apple, arriving just two weeks before the September 11, 2001 tragedy. "This was the first time I had lived in such a big city, and I thought this is just what happens in big cities. It was a baptism by fire, but everyone pulled together, people were taking care of each other."

She had gone there to take up a job where she could com-

bine her creative writing skills with her scientific background. She works to promote different aspects of health care. For example, in the case of muscular dystrophy, Karen worked with a team to decide how to prioritize the use of expensive drugs for the treatment of the condition and wrote the final report.

Now she does mostly freelance work through her own company, Covariates, specializing in preparing educational material for doctors and nurses in different health fields. Right now, a lot of her work has to do with infectious diseases, so the current pandemic is of interest to her.

"The field of infectious diseases, I love that, it's an amazing area. They are the smartest doctors, because they are dealing with a very dynamic thing. A new disease is like a moving target, it mutates, migrates, so the doctors have to be very dynamic. They also have to take into account the herd mentality of human beings, so it's all very organic," Karen tells SPEC.

She loves working in Canada, where she says "medicine is viewed as a societal effort and concern. Unfortunately, in the United States it's a very individual affair, but Canada is doing comparatively well because we are looking at the virus collectively, dealing with it as a society."

She's working mostly remotely now, since returning three years ago after the death of her father. "I was sick of



Photo: C. Dow

Karen Maloney and Queenie on the deck of her home looking over Malbay towards Percé Rock.

life in the States and being here was a way to stay close to my father. I am situated near Plato Island, where my grandfather Mic was the lighthouse keeper the night my father was born. I feel so close to the land and the people."

So what does the future hold for someone with this kind of scientific background, living in Barachois? "I'm staying, absolutely! It would take a lot to get me to move. My son, Oliver (13 years old) loves it at Belle Anse School where there are just 30 kids in 6 grades. A small school like

that is more healthy for Oliver, it's a blessing. Principal Beryl Boyle is something else and has been recognized as one of the best educators in Canada. The quality of the teachers at that school is amazing."

And what about sending Oliver back to school in the midst of the COVID crisis? "I don't mind him going back to school during the pandemic: what a good opportunity for the kids to learn those important health practices like washing their hands, sneezing into their elbows, all those things."

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THEGASPESPEC.COM

New Carlisle Market: Open weekly while maintaining all protocols

Diane Skinner

NEW CARLISLE: - Darlene Gallon-Chang, on holiday visiting her parents, shopped at the New Carlisle Market on its opening day. She was thrilled to buy some baking including pies, molasses cookies, banana bread, ginger snaps and cinnamon rolls. She always buys local maple syrup from the market to take home to family and friends in British Columbia. She said the feeling of the market was different with the new protocols but she is so pleased that the market is open this year. Darlene adds that she always comes when home to support the vendors.

Saturday, July 18 was a huge success at the “Marche local New Carlisle Local Market!” Shoppers and browsers were excited to find that there were 17 vendors ready to welcome them on a beautiful summer’s morning. Protocols are enforced so that shoppers can have a safe experience. Carol Beebe Gilker, the committee leader, estimates that they had a couple of hundred people at

the town was convinced and has been behind the concept all the way ever since.

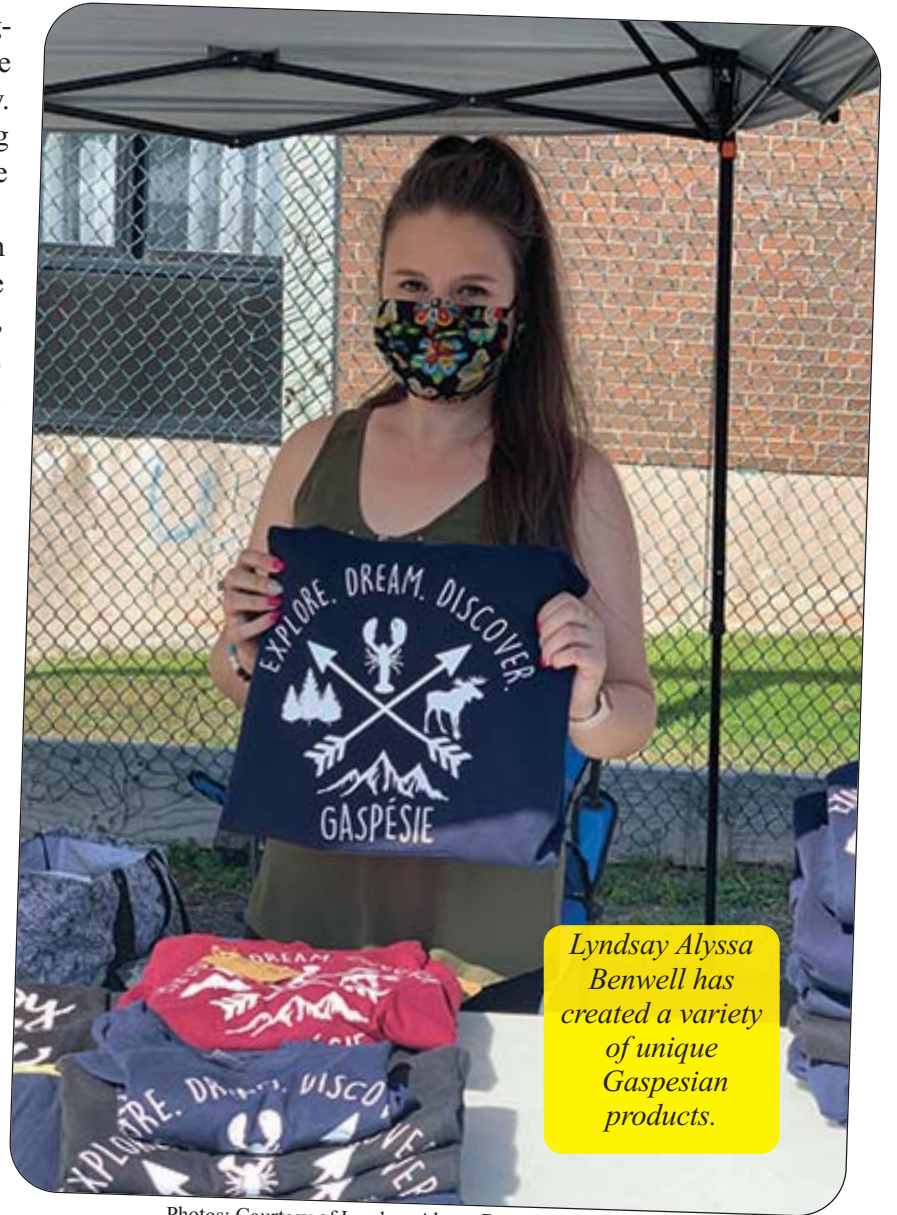
Presently the committee members are Carol Beebe Gilker, Isabel Hubert, Sandi Beebe, Anna Murtough, Adam Royal, Danny Sullivan and Ann Guilbeault. They also have regular volunteers who help: Myriam Beebe, Tammy LeBlanc, Bethany Paetkau, Dominic Lemyre and others from time to time.

This year the planning for the market was different due to COVID-19. The first step was to convince the town council that the committee could do what was required to be successful and safe. The decision was made to move the location of the market from the municipal park to the tennis courts. Overseeing the arrival of shoppers in the park was too difficult to manage. The tennis courts are a perfect alternative. It allows for an entrance for vendors and an entrance/exit for shoppers. Everyone cleans their hands when entering and must wear a mask. There are

rules. There is a designated bathroom in the arena for vendors only. Carol adds, “Everything went smoothly on the first market day.”

Carol tells us that on the first day there were local vegetables, baking, homemade soap, wooden creations of all sorts from unique bird-houses to boxes with secret drawers, knitting, jewelry of many different types from porcelain to silver and other metals to glass, strawberries, honey, maple products and more! In the future she says that the market could accommodate up to 20 vendors and still enforce a safe distance.

After a successful start, Carol tells us that the intentions are to keep the market simple. There are no plans for a garlic festival at present due to COVID-19. She adds,



Lyndsay Alyssa Benwell has created a variety of unique Gaspesian products.

Photos: Courtesy of Lyndsay Alyssa Benwell



Maple products and fresh produce are available at the New Carlisle Market.

tend, but allowed in so many at a time, so the flow was steady all morning.

The market in its present form started six summers ago in 2015. Carol adds that the concept of a market has been a passion of hers for a long time. She had brought it up at meetings a few times and finally a few other like-minded individuals joined her to advocate for the market. The goal was to provide a venue for local producers, bakers and artisans; a place for people to meet and to be entertained. Carol adds that

arrows on the pavement to show directions to walk and the enclosed space makes it easier to count the number of people inside and watch for social distancing. Vendors are required to wear a mask or visor and must clean their hands after each customer. They must also sanitize their table at the end of the day. Signs are posted to remind all of these

that it was important to keep the market this summer because it is so much harder to start something after it is stopped for a year. If they have too many vendors apply, there is a possibility they will rotate the vendors because in the past they have had up to 30 vendors! That number could not be handled at one time, so Carol says, “We will go with the flow and handle whatever comes.”

Carol concludes, “What a wonderful team we have. They work together so well and each one involved does what is necessary to make it work. We

have a strong, dedicated group. Each one of us has our strengths and that really shows in this type of situation. This team includes our town council, without their support we could not succeed.”

The market will be open during the summer, on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Go and have a look at the fresh produce, delicious baked goods plus wonderful and unique items for sale. Support your local economy. Meet up with some old friends and have a chat. Enjoy a morning at the market.



A photograph of several young children in a classroom, with their hands raised in the air. The children are of diverse backgrounds and are looking towards the camera with smiles. The background is slightly blurred, showing a classroom setting with a green banner.

The ABCs of going back to school safely

From assigning **one classroom per group** and **handwashing** to solutions to ensure **all subjects are taught** and **increased support** for students, we've adopted measures for a safe and successful school year.

See the FAQs

[Québec.ca/back-to-school](https://quebec.ca/back-to-school)

Votre
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Québec

Edible Flowers: Bouquet of flavours

Diane Skinner

The presentation was completed with a sprinkle of lavender leaves and marigold petals - green and gold, like a spring morning.
-Elle Newmark

Think of a bouquet of flowers as a bouquet of flavours. Edible flowers can bring a new taste experience. Add to that the visual appeal of flowers and there is a possibility for a new food group in your kitchen – edible flowers.

Edible flowers can be used in a variety of ways. Add them to a salad, a drink or punch, or to decorate a cake. As with any new food, whether foraged or not, it is essential to know what you are eating. Not all flowers are edible, in fact some will cause stomach upset or are even poisonous. Do not let this discourage you. Many people pick wild mushrooms and some of those can be poisonous. Learn about what kinds of flowers are safe to eat. Lily-of-the-valley are poisonous, but lilacs are not. Safety is always first.

To educate and inform yourself about edible flowers, there are a few places to begin. You can read articles posted online, buy a book or, and this is the best method, talk to someone local who harvests edible flowers. A handy way to identify flowers in the wild is to download an app on your cellphone that identifies plants by snapping a picture. Two apps to try are iPlant and Plant

Snap, though there are others available. If you start to gather flowers, keep a small notebook and keep track of what flowers you gathered, whether from your garden or in the wild, and how they tasted.

Edible flowers are not a new idea. Humans have used edible flowers for centuries. Roses have been used for a garnish, a type of candy and as a flavouring. Rosewater is still used today in the Middle East in sweets. Ancient Romans used fennel blossoms and orange flower water was used in Italy in the 16th century. North American natives used elder flowers to make tea.

Do not pick flowers near roads or where chemicals may have been sprayed. Another consideration is allergies because people who have asthma or hay fever should stay away from daisies or any flower in the daisy family.

Flowers, once picked, are very fragile and will need to be used as soon as possible. They should be eaten on the same day they are picked. When serving edible flowers, clean them by washing them gently in a large bowl of cold water and letting them air dry on a paper towel. If you do not use them that day, place them on a cookie sheet lined with paper towel and place a paper towel on top of them. When they are dry put them in a glass jar and store in a cool dark place. Some flowers, such as violets can be frozen. In fact, place a violet in each section of an ice

cube tray, add water and freeze. Makes a lovely addition to a glass of ice-cold club soda.

Violets: Add to a green salad, because their vibrant colour will be a beautiful addition to a plate. Perfect for a cold summer drink and the adventurous cook may wish to try making crystallized violets to use as cake toppers.

Squash Flowers: When your squash plants flower in the garden, pinch off the flowers

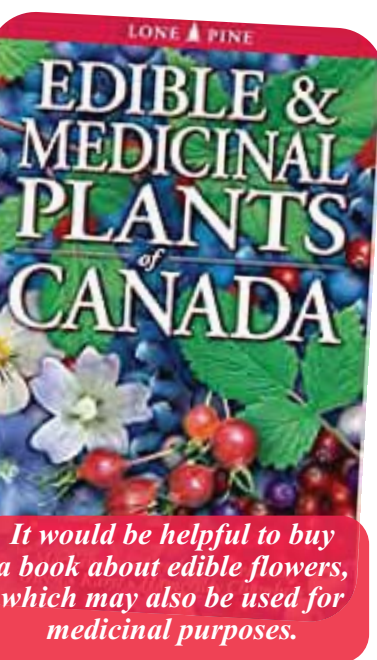


Photo: Amazon.ca

It would be helpful to buy a book about edible flowers, which may also be used for medicinal purposes.

to add to cooked meat such as ground beef, on pizza or in pesto. Zucchini flowers are bright yellow and have a slightly sweet flavour.

Lilacs: Can be sprinkled on ice cream or added to a jug of lemonade for a neat flavour boost.

Pansies: These lovely flowers can be added to cookie dough or used to decorate the top of a cake. The flavour is slightly minty, so add them to a fresh fruit salad. Feeling adventurous? Put some cream cheese on a cracker and a whole pansy on top!

Lavender: The flavour of lavender is much what you might expect – sweet and perfumey. The buds can be sprinkled into a glass of white wine and as a flavour topper on cakes or baked into scones.

Roses The flavour of rose petals is rather fruity and may be added to salad, tea, jam and even soup.

Chives: If chives are growing in your garden and they flower, pinch off the flowers to make a chive flavoured vinegar. Delicious on green or potato salad.

Dandelions: Pick the buds, before they open and the flavour is much like honey. The petals can be used to make jelly, also with a honey like flavour.

Johnny-jump-ups: These plants will bloom into small but vibrant flowers with a flavour that is slightly winter-green. Serve with cream cheese, on a salad or as a beautiful addition to a cake.

Sunflowers: Grab a few unopened sunflower buds, then steam or sauté in butter. They taste a bit like artichokes.

Some readers may find edible flowers a far-out, strange idea, however, if you enjoy fiddleheads then foraging edible flowers is pretty much the same notion. This is just a beginning. Read about edible flowers, buy a book and find a local person who uses edible flowers. Edible flowers are a bouquet of flavours.

Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



It is still happening

“It ties back to ageism and not recognizing the value of our older adults and the value they provide not just to families but to society as a whole.”

- Kathy Majowski

At the forefront of our concerns right now is COVID-19. We have lived through over five months of worries about money, food, risk of contracting the virus, the second wave of COVID-19 and presently what to do about children and schools. While all this dominated our lives, there are other issues, though not at the forefront of the news, that persist. Canada’s last intact ice shelf broke apart this summer. Plastic pollution dumped into oceans will triple by 2040. It is still happening.

Another issue that is not at the forefront of our concerns, though related to COVID-19, is our treatment and the wellbeing of seniors. We are all aware that the deaths of seniors due to COVID-19 is shockingly high. Particularly seniors who live in old age homes are at a higher risk of dying from the virus. We need to examine this in the coming months and years to see if there is a better way to take care of our vulnerable seniors.

The hidden concern that we should continue to be aware of is elder abuse because it is still happening. One in five Canadians say that they know of a senior who may be a victim of some form of abuse. Shocking? Absolutely. Physical abuse is the first kind that comes to mind. However, abuse can come in many forms: verbal, emotional, financial, sexual and neglect. The person who is the abuser will often use threats such as “If I don’t look after you, nobody will.”

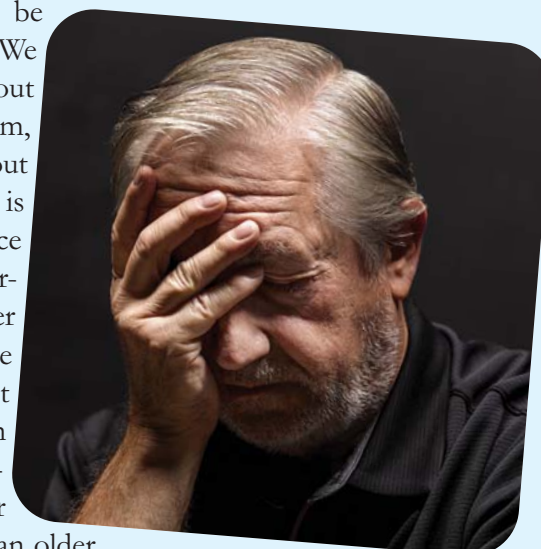
Abusers are most often family members but can be friends or caregivers. There are signs of elder abuse that an “outsider” can spot. If you see any of these signs, it may be time to speak up or alert somebody.

*Unexplained physical injuries
Improper use of medication
Fearful or anxiousness
Poor nutrition and hygiene
Changes in financial security
Confusion*

If you suspect there may be some form of elder abuse happening, what is the first, but most difficult step? If you can speak to the senior and it is appropriate, start there. If you can alert a trusted family member or a professional, that is a step you might consider. If we see a child being abused, we do not and should not hesitate to report that. The same should be true of an older adult. Seniors are human beings who deserve respect and safety too.

Ageism may be an issue here. We hear lots about racism and sexism, but less about ageism. Ageism is simply a prejudice based on a person’s age. Older people can lose their jobs, or not even get hired in the first place because of their age. Sometimes an older person receives poor service in a store simply because of their age. If you feel that this is not likely, ask a person over the age of 70. They may enlighten you about the reality of being older. Sometimes the older years are not the “Golden Years” at all.

While COVID-19 is swirling all around us remember that there are other critical problems still happening that we cannot and should not ignore.



Rose Petal Jam

8 ounces rose petals, fresh
2 cups sugar
1/3 cup fresh lemon juice
3 cups water
1 pkg. Certo
Toss the rose petals, lemon juice, and 1 cup sugar together in a bowl until the petals are evenly coated. Let stand at room temperature overnight.
Next day: Bring the water to a boil in a saucepan over medium-high heat. Stir in the rose petal mixture and 1 cup of sugar.
Stir until the sugar has dissolved.
Reduce the heat to medium-low, and simmer 20 minutes.
Increase the heat to medium-high and return the mixture to a boil for 5 minutes.
Stir in the Certo and boil for 1 minute.
Pour the jam into 4 sterilized half-pint jars. Seal with rings and lids, and store in a cool dark place.
(Recipe from: All Recipes.com)

It's like Christmas! Canada Post and Purolator face historic demand

Diane Skinner

If you ordered an item online and it is coming to you via Canada Post, be prepared for some delay. Canada Post is experiencing "historic" demand and resulting delays caused by COVID-19.

The number of packages being handled since March is even greater than seen at Christmas time. In fact, on a recent day the number of parcels delivered was three times what would have been normal pre-COVID. Canada Post explains that the volume of parcels has been like Christmas since the middle of March. Before mid-March they would have one truck delivering per day to local post offices. Now it is consistently two per day. Once the parcels arrive, the employees work as a team, and the parcels flow out quickly.

Shoppers are ordering much more than usual. This could be for items not available instore in their area or customers who prefer not to make contact with other people in the stores to lessen the chances of contracting COVID-19.

To add to the increase in volume, the social distancing required in post offices and sorting centres have been put in place to protect Canada Post employees. Canada Post spokesperson Phil Legault says, "Because of the large volumes of parcels and the important safety measures we have put in place – most notably physical distancing in our plants that were never designed to keep people two metres apart – it is taking longer to process the mail. As a result, customers should expect delays."

Purolator has had to make some changes in service due to increase in volume of shipments and COVID restrictions. On July 13, Purolator announced that "Due to an increase in volume and operational adjustments required in order to keep our employees, customers and communities safe throughout the COVID-19 pandemic," that there would be necessary adjustments to their service. These include the suspension of on-time guarantees for Purolator Express services; Purolator Ground shipments requiring special handling could be delayed from four to seven days; and the cut-off time for pickups in some areas is now 11 a.m.

Purolator will advise customers who are tracking items that if there is a delay, they will receive a notice stating, "Delayed due to current pandemic disruption." Purolator adds that they are working to process all shipments quickly while maintaining safety measures for employees and customers. Local Purolator delivery hours have been extended to handle the volume of parcels and we can often see trucks still making deliveries from early in the morning until early evening.

(Note: I recently shipped a large item with Purolator and the item was delivered within the 48-hour time frame promised by the company.)

The Gaspé Spec

office and book room are now open
WEDNESDAYS and THURSDAYS
from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Customers are asked to use
the front door.

**Remember to:
Wear a mask**

**Bring your completed
renewal form**

**You can pay by either Interac,
cheque or money order.
If paying with cash, please
bring exact amount.**

**For more information call
418-752-5400 or email
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Cloth masks distributed in Gesgapegiag

Diane Skinner

GESGAPEGIAG: In response to the recent announcement from the Quebec government concerning the mandatory wearing of masks in indoor public spaces by people aged 12 and older, Gesgapegiag is providing cloth masks. Every Thursday, since July 23 and likely for the next 10 weeks, community members can pick up four cloth masks each, made by local seamstresses. Washing and wearing instructions are distributed in a pamphlet along with the masks. Sue Helen Caplin, GHRDC Manager comments that the goal is to keep community members safe while following government guidelines. She says, "that at this point we will likely be giving away 5,000 masks to employees and community members." Sue Helen Caplin concludes, "I hope that everyone on the Coast stays safe."

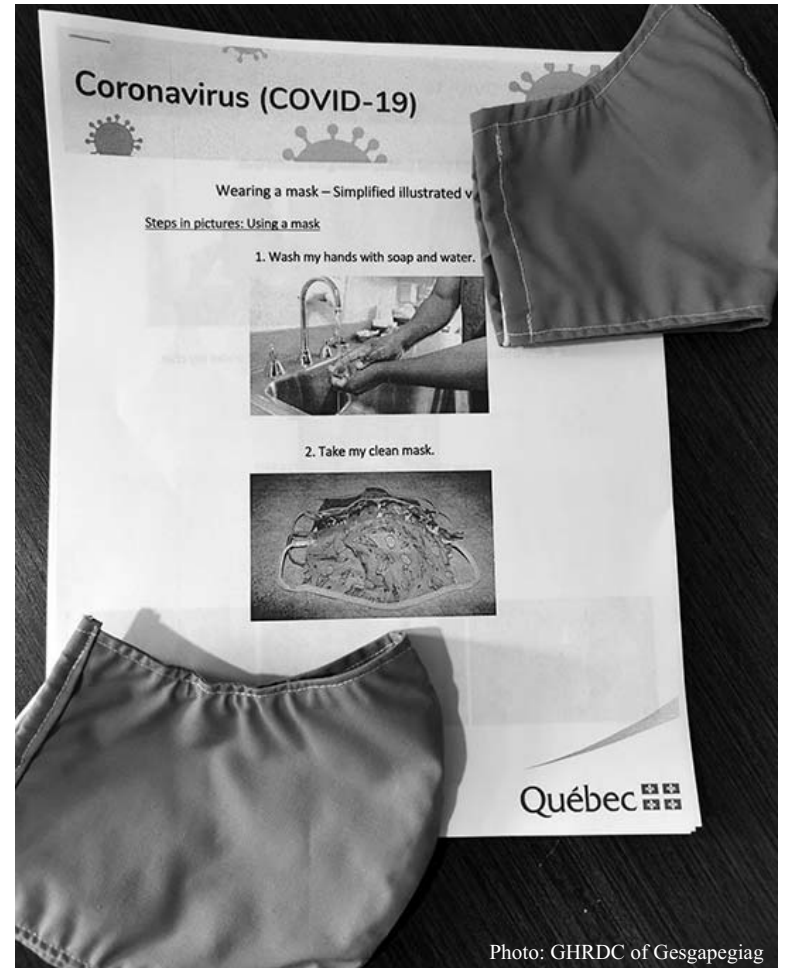


Photo: GHRDC of Gesgapegiag

Local seamstresses are making up to 5,000 cloth masks to distribute to employees and community

Ewhhhh, Earwigs

Diane Skinner

They are here and they are the insect that (pretty well) everyone loves to hate. First, they do get their name from the myth that they crawl into sleeping people's ears and burrow into their brain. Not true. Despite their kind of creepy appearance, they are not harmful to humans. In fact, earwigs are an insect with benefits.

They are about 1.5 to 2 cm (1/2 in. to 1 inch) long and their antennae are about half as long as their bodies. The male's antennae are long and curved. The female's antennae are smaller and straight. These antennae serve a useful purpose to attract a mate and as defense from attackers. The body of the earwig is long and flat, and their outer shell is shiny, tough and dark brown in colour. They have pincers at the end of their bodies.

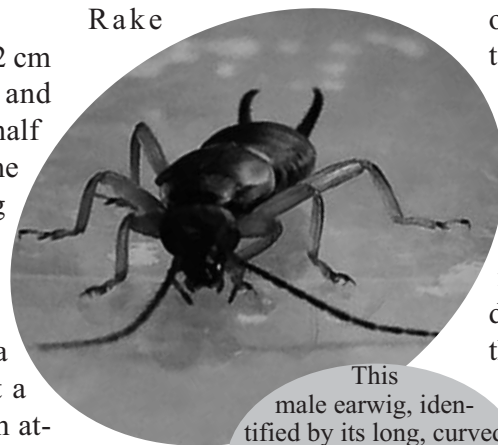
They are scavengers and will eat rotting matter, insect larvae, aphids, slug eggs and other insects. They also feed on shoots, leaves and blossoms of flowering plants. They are cannibals and will even eat each other.

In the day you will likely not see many earwigs. This is because they like to hide in cool, dark places. You may find them under stones and in

garden debris. At dusk, they emerge to hunt for food and in July and August, you may start finding them in your home. They usually come in on people's clothing and quickly scurry to find a dark place to hide.

If you wish to get rid of earwigs, or lessen their numbers, there are a few natural methods that you can use to control them.

Rake



This male earwig, identified by its long, curved antennae, has an outer shell that is shiny, tough and dark brown in colour.

your soil well in the spring and this will bring the eggs to the surface and less of them will survive to adulthood. Cut back plants and remove piles of garden debris, such as dead plants, leaf piles and grass clippings because they love to nestle in these. If you have an outdoor tap, make certain that it does not leak because the earwig loves a moist environment and will nest in the ground where it is damp.

Earwigs like to feast on

garden plants that have been damaged by other insects or are rotting, so clean your garden regularly of these plants. Before you bring vegetables into the house, shake them to dislodge any hidden earwigs.

If you choose to use a pesticide, be careful because there can be other unwanted effects when using pesticides. Read directions thoroughly and pay attention to warnings on the label. Proceed cautiously. There are also many natural insecticide recipes online.

If you want to keep earwigs from getting into your home, you can create a mixture to spray around the door, in cracks and around the foundation. Mix 1 gallon of vinegar, 1 cup Epsom salts and 1/2 cup dishwashing liquid. This mixture is also effective on ridding your property of burdocks.

Earwigs are an insect that makes humans cringe. In fact, many people find them disgusting, however, their season is short, and they do not transmit disease to humans. They have benefits so they should only be "terminated" when there are so many that they are detrimental to your garden. They will not crawl into your ears at night, so perhaps it is best to tolerate them for the short season they are around. But feel free to say "ewhhhh."

Prepare your children for school: Schools prepare for your children

Diane Skinner

Depending on where you live the School Board preparations for children returning to school vary. The return to school leaves some parents feeling quite anxious and others are not worried at all. Many are somewhere in between the two. A lot of these feelings are based on the infection rates where people live. The Gaspé is relatively low so that relieves parents' stress about the return to school.

COVID-19 is still new and even scientists do not know everything about how it is transmitted, how long it survives on surfaces and what role children may play in the transmission of the virus. Additional information is still and constantly being gathered by the scientific community.

Most students have been out of school since mid-March and academics are a concern along with the loss of social interaction with their peers. Experts cite that besides academic and social concerns there are also the physical and emotional impact to consider. Again, the feelings about this vary from family to family. Some feel it is critical that children return to school immediately. Oth-



ers are not so sure.

No matter where you are on the spectrum, there are a few ideas to chat with your children about before they head off to school.

For months we have been social distancing. What do you say if your child asks why it is okay to go to school where social distancing will be a challenge?

We now know more about the virus and there are ways to stay safe when you are near more people. This includes not sharing school supplies, using hand sanitizer, washing your hands well and often and covering your mouth when coughing

with your arm. In addition, some students will be wearing masks at certain times of the day. If your child will be wearing a mask for parts of the school day, have them try it on and get used to it. Remind them not to ever share masks and wash cotton masks regularly.

If your child expresses that they are worried, assure them that the school is preparing for them in many ways and this will help to keep them safe. Extra cleaning of common areas, hand sanitizer, hand washing protocols and reminders about social distancing will all be in place. Extra time will be

spent outside during the school day and some schools will be keeping windows open when possible.

ESSB (Eastern Shores School Board) has posted on their website the "Back-to-school plan for the Fall of 2020 (COVID-19)" released by the Quebec government on August 10. This is a comprehensive document and includes the following:

"Preschool and elementary school students will return to class according to the set educator/teacher-student ratios and the principle of stable groups (students will remain in the same group at all times), in compliance with

the physical distancing guidelines issued by public health authorities.

All subjects will be taught (including Arts Education and Physical Education and Health).

At all levels, students who are part of the same stable group will not be required to follow physical distancing guidelines, however, the one-metre physical distancing rule will have to be maintained between students from different stable groups when they move around common areas, including hallways.

Although face coverings will not be mandatory for students from preschool up to and including Elementary 4, students are allowed to wear them in school and on school transportation vehicles.

Elementary 5 and 6 students will be required to wear a face covering when they are in common areas, in the presence of students from other stable groups and when they use school transportation."

COVID is not done and most experts agree that this is not a short-term problem and it may be years of fighting the virus. The routines and protocols that schools establish and maintain will be critical to keeping our children safe.

MCINNIS CEMENT:

Cont'd from cover

The ministry mentions that the company communicated the presence of "punctual events of dust releases but during those notifications, there was no reference made regarding the presence of dust on neighbouring properties."

The date of that message was specified by the ministry but it was likely communicated at one point in June.

McInnis Cement "having failed over many hours to inform the Ministry of the presence of that dust, a non-conformity warning was issued, according to article 21 of the Law pertaining to the quality of the environment," also mentions the written text sent to SPEC.

The Department of the Environment isn't explaining why its staff took 32 days before going to the cement plant but more information was provided.

"The Ministry carried out

an inspection on the (plant and private properties) premises on August 4, 2020, to verify the validity of the statements made regarding the presence of dust at individuals' pieces of land and take samples. Following different verifications, the Ministry opened an investigation in order to get, at the outset, a fine following a penal procedure. In order to avoid hampering the current process, the Ministry will limit its comments linked to its actions in that file," also writes the media relations branch of the Environment Department.

Since the opening of the McInnis Cement plant in 2017, the company has received five non-conformity warnings and one monetary sanction of \$2,500.

Environnement vert plus asked McInnis Cement and the Ministry of the Environment to stop production at the beginning of August to allow the company and the authorities to solve the problem of gluey emissions. The Environ-

ment Department did not make any move in that direction.

"The Ministry made no request to that effect because when we were informed of the presence of dust on premises belonging to individuals, the emissions had stopped," reads the message sent by the media relations staff.

That reply from the ministry is contested by a resident of Port Daniel, Raoul McInnis, who lives in the McInnis Cove area in a house that is located close to the cement plant. His house, his car and his sheds were covered by the sticky dust several times.

"It started on June 22. (...) The last time occurred on August 6. It is still present on the roof of my house. I don't know yet how we will remove that stuff," says Raoul McInnis.

The Ministry of the Environment specifies having been informed on July 29 of the presence of gluey dust on properties owned by individu-

als. The information came from journalists.

In an article released on August 2, the spokesperson of McInnis Cement, Maryse Tremblay, stated to the *Journal de Montreal* that the dust was coming from the clinker kiln, marred by a technical problem. Clinker is made of heated limestone and other inputs. It is the main component of the final product, cement.

The spokesperson of Environnement vert plus, Pascal Bergeron, believes that this file calls for the public release of all the information pertaining to the cement plant emissions in the air.

"I made a request to obtain the emission data in a continuous way, so that the data com-

ing from the sampling stations can be put online. There would be no fooling around. Once it is available, we can see the overflows in real time," he explains.

So far, his request has been completely ignored by McInnis Cement. The company has not even acknowledged his message. He is not surprised.

"I think that the Public Health Board should intervene strongly in Port Daniel. A nurse should make an intervention and meet with the people that have been affected by the dust. We don't know if that dust is toxic or not so far, but the simple action of breathing dust is bad," he concludes for now.

RAOUL MCINNIS:

Cont'd from cover

Mr. McInnis felt his throat becoming sore at the end of June.

"I was coughing all the time. I was forced to stop my thermopump. The dust was coming in the house. We went to see the

doctor, my wife and I, and he said that we had irritated throats. Some old people cannot go out anymore. It is going better now. The quantity of dust has diminished," concludes Mr. McInnis, whose property was covered again by the gluey emission on August 6.

RENEW ONLINE AT THE THEGASPEPEC.COM

Announcements...



Obituaries



ASSELS: Earl
1951-2020

It is with profound sadness that we announce the death of our husband/father, who passed away on July 25, 2020, at the Bridgeview Hall, Miramichi, New Brunswick, at the age of 68.

Earl was born on December 10, 1951, in New Carlisle, Quebec, later moving to Gaspé, Quebec. He was the biological son of the late Frank Assels and Laurine (Chatterton) of New Carlisle, Quebec, and foster son of the late Ralph and Jessie Clark of Gaspé, Quebec.

He was a welder by trade, who loved and took pride in his work. He was employed with Noranda Mines in Murdochville for many years, and also worked a few years at shipbuilding. He also enjoyed doing welding jobs in his spare time for family and friends.

In his younger years, Earl loved and excelled in sports, and was very involved in hockey and baseball. As he grew older, he enjoyed golf and played often. He enjoyed travelling, driving and spending time with those he loved. He was a very hardworking man, who always put his family first. He was a family man, and was always dedicated and devoted to his wife and kids. He was very kind, caring, loving, determined and very strong-willed. He will also be remembered for being a dedicated Toronto Maple Leafs fan.

Earl was very well-known in Gaspé, and loved to stop and talk and tell stories to everyone he knew! He was always laughing, joking and happy. He always made himself available for helping out, lending a helping hand or doing odd jobs around the community.

He will be greatly missed by his wife, Krista, of 42 years; three children: Jaime, Erin (Shawn Rooney) and Darcy (Ashley Rooney); grandchildren: Riley, Liam, Hannah, Tate and Grayson; grand-dog Abby; biological brothers and sisters: Jim (Sue), Danny (Shirley), Billy, Joan (Robert), Laurine (Harris) and Bev (Keith); foster brothers and sisters: Walter, Stephen (Kathy), Ronald (Carolyn), Garry (Nancy); and Ricky (Kimberley); brothers-in-law; and many nieces; nephews; cousins; and friends.

He was predeceased by his biological parents, foster parents; and foster brothers and sisters: Morris, Della, Kingsley, Gail and Rita.

"In life we loved you dearly, in death we love you still. In our hearts you hold a place, no one else will ever fill."

The New Carlisle
Funeral Association
extends sympathy
to the family of
Luc Jiona



ROBERTS: Leroy

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye 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.*



ROBERTS: Vera (Simon)

Our dear mom passed away June 26, 2020, at the CSSS Côte de Gaspé Pavillon MGR Ross at the age of 91 years.

She was born in Little Gaspé, the daughter of Walter Roberts and Lillian Johnson.

She is predeceased by her husband Courtney Simon and daughter Marilyn. She leaves behind her children: Eleanor (Clayton), Garfield (Sandra), Carolyn (John deceased) and Donald (Frank); six grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; two sisters-in-law; one brother-in-law; nephews; nieces; and many other family members and friends.

Visitation was held on Thursday, July 2, at the Valère Fortin Funeral Home.

The funeral service was held at the Gaspé United Cemetery. Thanks to the Right Dennis Drainville and Sharon Howell for the service and prayers and Bonnie Bourgaize for the eulogy.

The family would like to thank the doctors and staff in Dept. 200 and Father Chester Cotton for the wonderful care and kindness shown to our mother.

Sincere thanks and appreciation to relatives and friends for their many acts of kindness, floral tributes, donations and expressions of sympathy

She will be dearly missed by her family.



In Memory



BEEBE: William Michael

February 19, 1954 – August 19, 2016

We will love and miss you until the stars go out and the tides no longer turn.

Lovingly remembered and missed beyond words by your family.

BOURGAIZE: Ada

In loving memory of a dear mum, mother-in-law, grandmother and great-grandmother who passed away August 16, 2012.

*Memory is a lovely lane,
Where hearts are ever true,
A lane we often travel down,
Because it leads to you.*

Lovingly remembered and sadly missed by Dolly, Merle, Clayton (Eleanor), Lennox, Bradford (Shirley), and families.

LEGGO: Olive

In loving memory of our mom on the anniversary of her passing. May 22, 1930 - August 24, 2019.

*If roses grow in heaven,
Lord please pick a bunch for me.
Place them in my mother's arms
And tell her they're from me.
Tell her I love her and miss her,
And when she turns to smile,
Place a kiss upon her cheek
And hold her for a while.
Because remembering her is easy,
I do it every day,
But there's an ache within my heart
That will never go away.*

Forever in our hearts, your children: Joy (Regis), Blair (Sybil), Dena, Glory (Rodney), Craig (Linda), Darren (Leona); all your grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.



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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:

Annual General Meeting

Heritage New Carlisle will hold its Annual General Meeting on **Tuesday, August 25**, at 4 p.m. outdoors in the backyard at the Kempffer Cultural and Interpretation Centre, 125 Boulevard Gerard-D.-Levesque in New Carlisle. The meeting will begin with a short pop-up performance with Émerillon

Music School. The meeting will be efficiently short, followed by a consultation with members, led by Dave Felker from Projet Rural, regarding 1) their current appreciation of Heritage New Carlisle's infrastructures and activities 2) ideas and inspirations of how HNC can build relevance for community members and tourists 3) the potential for community members to become actively involved with HNC, its activities and administration. Come and join us for a pleasant afternoon!

NEW CARLISLE:

Heritage New Carlisle Upcoming Events

Wednesday, August 26: Spend a few hours learning the basic principles of photography, including the triangle of light. Understand and practice from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Big Gazebo at the New Carlisle Green. Bring a chair, a mask or visor, and a lunch. At least one more session to follow outdoors. Cost \$15 for the session

Tuesday, September 1: Village Sketchers. After a short walk, spend a couple of hours outdoors drawing heritage buildings. Learn some technique, have fun, play with colour. Take home the sketching material. Meet at the Kempffer Centre at 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Bring a chair, a mask or visor. Cost: \$15. To register: sandibeebe@gmail.com, telephone: 581-233-0658 or on facebook.

NEW CARLISLE:

Drive-In Gospel Meetings at Fair Haven Bible Campgrounds, Sundays at 2:00 p.m. COVID-19 considerations/so-

cial 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 am -12 noon, outside at Corner of the Beach, Perce. 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.

Rotary Calendar Winners

The winners for the week of August 9 are Richard Pardiac, Gérald Dubé, Casey Campbell L.H.M., Cécile Saucier, Denise Gauthier, Claude Bourdages, and Claire Routhier



ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, you feel a desire to be of service to others. Humanitarian tendencies are a trait that you should be proud to display. Keep up all of the good work.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, if you have been seeking a romantic partner you may fall in love over the next few days. For those who are in relationships, the bonds of love only grow stronger.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21

Several powerful events have the potential to improve the positive energy surrounding you, Gemini. Bask in this warmth and the good news it is likely to bring.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, you may meet some new people who can introduce you to some other new and influential people. It is always beneficial to expand your network.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

Some exciting experiences are coming your way this week, Leo. You may discover a talent you didn't know you had, or you may involve yourself in a creative endeavor.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, you usually approach situations rationally and scientifically, but sometimes you need to throw caution to the wind. You might be surprised with the results.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, this week you may be feeling more intuitive than ever before. It may seem like you have psychic abilities. Pick up on the feelings

and bits of information coming. **SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22** Scorpio, now is the right time to be more idealistic. Embrace that mood. Put your energy toward being sensitive to social and political conditions and get your voice heard. **SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21** Business and money are going well for you, Sagittarius. You might be thinking in terms of making a big career change or even starting your own business. **CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20** You may be inclined to be more spiritual or metaphysical in the days to come, Capricorn. Explore all avenues of higher thinking, especially if you find it calming. **AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18** Aquarius, you tend to be sensitive to the feelings of others, and this is a good approach that will serve you and others in various ways. Maintain this sense of compassion. **PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20** You tend to see those people closest to you in their best light, Pisces. Encourage them to do the same if a situation arises that requires it.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS AUGUST 16

Steve Carell, Actor (58)

AUGUST 17

Lil Pump, Rapper (20)

AUGUST 18

Christian Slater, Actor (51)

AUGUST 19

Christina Perri, Singer (34)

AUGUST 20

Demi Lovato, Singer (28)

AUGUST 21

Jade Chynoweth, Dancer (22)

AUGUST 22

Richard Armitage, Actor (49)

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Crafternoon

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-Diane Skinner

"Magic is believing in yourself. If you can do that you can make anything happen."

Magic Potions

Fizzing Colours:

- Baking sheet
- Box of baking soda
- Vinegar
- Straw
- Cup

Dump box of baking soda onto baking tray and shake back and forth to evenly distribute soda.
 Add drops of food colouring all over the tray.
 Dip straw into vinegar that has been placed in cup.
 Place index finger over top of straw and drop over one drop of food colouring.
 Watch it fizz up! Repeat. Allow child to finish the experiment by themselves.
 When all the food colouring has been "fizzed," allow child to swirl the colours together to create new colours!



Photo: D. Skinner

Fizzing Colours:

Flower Petal Potion:

- Flowers, petals, twigs
- Water
- Containers
- Sticks and spoons
- Food colouring

Forage flowers, petals and twigs.
 Place all flowers for your Petal Potions on the table.
 Spread them out so that kids can see all the natural materials.
 The flowers and petals used are entirely up to you and what you can find around your home.
 We used lavender petals and stalks plus a few wildflowers and twigs.
 Add each petal or flower to the mixing bowl that contains some water.
 Have your child stir the flowers added with food coloured water and note the different smells and colours that start to occur.
 It's a great opportunity to teach them about primary and secondary colours.
 Add more food colouring and water if needed to fill your potion containers.
 Place on lid.



Photo: V. Czerwinski

Flower Petal Potion

Clean Mud:

- 1/2 roll of toilet paper (shredded into little bits)
- 1 cup of soap flakes (or grate a bar of regular soap)
- 2 cups of warm water.

Combine materials in a large bowl or plastic tub and let little fingers squish and knead until your desired consistency.
 If too sloppy, add more shredded toilet paper.
 Too crumbly add more warm water.
 You can add food colouring, glitter, or beads for extra mud magic!
 Don't look for a finished product. This is a "sensory" experience.



Photo: D. Levine

Clean Mud

Next week: Newspaper crafts

Wayne Flowers: Gaspé Roots

Diane Skinner

Wayne Flowers was born in Bowmanville, Ontario, in 1959. His family moved back to the Gaspé Peninsula around 1970. New Carlisle is his dad's hometown and he has many cousins and his aunt still living there. He currently lives in Red Bridge, New Brunswick, having just moved there with his wife of 38 years, Tressa. It is just outside of Woodstock and is where his wife was born, although she spent most of her life in Ontario.

Wayne's dad played a little guitar as did his brother. His mom's brother was an excellent musician, but he passed away at the young age of 44. He was from Tatamagouche, Nova Scotia. Also, a "New Carlisle" boarded with them, Hubert Bearisto, who is "one of the nicest men you would have ever had the pleasure to know." Wayne has never taken any lessons, but just plays by ear as the saying goes. Wayne just watched and learned! Wayne adds, "I enjoyed watching my uncle and Hubert play."

As far as instruments go, Wayne can usually get some tunes out of the piano, a little fiddle and some accordion, but the main instrument is his guitar. He had no formal training but enjoys playing them. As for Gaspesian musicians, he comments that Roger Lee Martin is particularly good, plus Pamela Rooney and a young man named Nash Stanley.

Wayne says that he really is a shy kind of person when it comes to being in front of people. He adds, "Not nearly as bad as I used to be though. I never really played any public performances other than the New Carlisle Legion and house parties with friends. Although I have posted myself singing many songs that I enjoy, I consider myself



Wayne is a self-taught musician who says that "he watched and learned."

Photo: Courtesy Wayne Flowers

more of a guitar picker. I do enjoy singing much more now so that is why I have been posting videos on facebook. It is always great to get opinions about my music as it can be constructive."

The only way he shares his music currently is videos posted on facebook. He has been asked quite a few times to make CDs but has not yet recorded any. In the future he would like to record one but has not pointed himself in the right direction. He comments that if he did so he would probably need a little help in that area.

Wayne's future plans are to continue growing and expanding the type of music he plays. He has done a few songs out of his comfort zone and had good reviews which has given him some confidence to try new things.

Wayne says, "The advice I might be able to add for young people is practice, practice, practice. Enjoy your talent and don't be shy!"

As far as the pandemic is concerned he and his wife had not been able to visit their daughter and granddaughters until recently and they have not yet had a chance to visit their son and daughter-in-law in Cambridge, Ontario. They have a

grandson there and now a new granddaughter who they have not had the fortune to meet yet. He adds, "Very soon though."

Wayne concludes, "Hopefully this pandemic will be over soon. I certainly plan to visit some very good friends in New Carlisle. For various reasons, it has been difficult to visit as much as I would have liked over the years. It will be great to see and speak with people that I went to school with and talk about old times. Thank you everyone for listening to my music. Very much appreciated."

Enjoy Wayne's classic country music, by such artists as Merle Haggard, George Jones, Hank Snow and one of his personal favourites, Gene Watson. You can listen from the safety of your own home on facebook.



Quebec's first and only Bluegrass Festival

Diane Skinner

NEW RICHMOND: - The New Richmond Bluegrass Festival will be a little different in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. It will, however, still take place from September 3 – 6 at Duthie's Point, New Richmond. This year there are not as many bluegrass bands participating due to COVID-19 restrictions. Many of the bluegrass artists who normally perform cannot travel from the States or the Maritime provinces. Nonetheless the talent who will be featured is impressive.

Mike Geraghty, one of the festival organizers, says that at no time did organizers think that the festival would not happen, however, they have kept close contact with government agencies about guidelines and restrictions.

Music

The festival this year will feature bluegrass, country and folk music by regional musicians as well as rough camping. The lineup will include Pamela Rooney, the Clemville Outlaws, Nadine Landry & Sammy Lind, Roger Lee Martin, Pascal Côté, Nancy Vignola, the Narrows and more.

In addition, the organizers have announced that Canada Day activities will take place on Sunday, September 6 and will include music, food, family activities and possibly fireworks. (Fireworks have not yet been confirmed.) Admission on Sunday will be free for all!

Tickets

Advance tickets are on sale now and ticket numbers will be limited, according to government restrictions. In addition, a limited quantity of tickets and passes will be held for sale at the gate however, there will be no physical tickets. The festival organizers strongly encourage the online purchase of advance tickets. Contact Mike Geraghty at (418) 391-6097 to make ticket arrangements. Tickets will then be emailed to you and volunteers at the gate will have a list of ticket holders. If the festival is cancelled because of the COVID-19 pandemic, all advance ticket holders will be issued a full refund for their tickets.

COVID protocols

Due to COVID-19, the New Richmond Bluegrass Festival has announced numerous safety measures for the 2020 Festival. Organizers remind all attendees that social distancing guidelines should be respected whenever possible and should not gather in groups of more than ten and respect the two metres between groups. The volunteers will do their best to ensure that social distancing is respected. People are asked to please follow their guidance.

Face masks must be worn whenever social distancing is not possible and are always strongly encouraged. The camping section adjacent to the seating area will be reconfigured to enable the seating area to be enlarged and allow more space for social distancing.

Additional space will be arranged between RVs and social distancing guidelines should also be respected in the camping area.

Hand sanitizer will be available at several locations throughout the festival site including washrooms, bar and information booth, admission area and others as required.

All portable washroom facilities will be located near the barn and there will be at least six feet between washrooms.

Organizers remind all that anyone who has symptoms associated with COVID-19 (fever, cough, difficulty breathing, etc.) refrain from attending the festival. Anyone attending the festival who has symptoms associated with COVID-19 or who has been asked to self-isolate because of exposure to COVID-19 may be asked to leave the festival.

Mike Geraghty reminds festival goers that all the people helping onsite are volunteers so please respect their instructions. Mike adds, "Come out and have some fun. Be together, but safely."

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