

Back-to-school plan receives a mixed review from New Carlisle parent

Gilles Gagné

NEW CARLISLE – Quebec Education Minister Jean-François Roberge announced his back-to-school plan on August 10, a plan that will have students in grade 5 and up wear masks in common areas and hallways, but not in class. That plan also stipulates that classmates will stay together and won't mix with other groups.

It will also be possible for some students to learn online while remaining at home but only if they get a valid medical note confirming that they are particularly vulnerable to the COVID-19 virus.

The plan also calls for teachers and other staff members to wear masks but Minister Roberge specified that it will not be compulsory in class because of the interpersonal communication challenge, considering that face-to-face contact and facial expression are important. He presented the guidelines three weeks before school resumption, which is scheduled for August 31 in a majority of establishments.

An increasing number of studies show that wearing a mask, even for children as young as 10 years of age, adds protection against the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

New Carlisle parent Roberta Billingsley, a mother of four whose youngest child will soon begin grade 10 at New Carlisle High School, was not surprised by Jean-François Roberge's plan.

"I feel that most of the details within Minister Roberge's announcement were as expected for a back-to-school plan for the province, however, I feel disappointed that the plan did not include the offering of online classes as an option for students and families to



Photo: Gilles Gagné

Parent Roberta Billingsley would have liked a simpler way to secure online learning for the students who like that method.

decide upon. I was expecting the province to ensure that students have access to every route possible to succeed," says Ms. Billingsley.

She is anxious to see if additional support will be provided to the teachers and other school staff, considering the rising workload the pandemic is causing.

"Quite honestly, our school staff and teachers have had to manage curriculum delivery as well as social and behavioural conduct, encouraging mental and physical well-being and student engagement prior to COVID and, well, the short version is: our schools need and deserve some back-up," adds Roberta Billingsley.

She gives examples of situations that are or will be

causes of concern as time passes.

"Certainly, there will be several adaptations, including the enforcing of safety precautions that are controllable, such as seating arrangements, keeping an eye on distancing in hallways, on the bus, and the wearing of face masks, however, there will be actions that are going to be outside of the staff's control and could be more present amongst teens, such as attitudes that mirror what they hear and practice at home. For example, there are young people, as there are adults, who do not believe that any safety measures are necessary and are really fed up with pandemic protocol. It affects how they protect

themselves and, therefore, affects others. All of this coupled with parents having mixed feelings about the announcement may have a negative effect on student attendance, and without an option for online learning, we could very well be facing an unwelcomed increase to the drop-out rate," she states.

Roberta feels that offering a hybrid approach, class attendance and online learning, in the secondary 4 and 5 level is "a good idea," in general.

"Many elements of post-secondary education require students to be familiar with the concepts of attending online scheduled and unscheduled classes and using designated student management interfaces like Omnivox or Moodle. So, I am all for online learning at the high school level, and my son copes well with it. He has had no issues with participating online, he can access and share documents, communicate with his teachers by email, and use the Zoom platform. I am speaking from experience and I do realize that online options are not for everyone," she underlines.

Roberta Billingsley expects a bit more from the Eastern Shores School Board and the school management in communicating directly with the parents and the community.

"Concerning readiness and evidence of improvement within our school, I have to say that so far, I haven't met anyone from our school board who also practices as an infectious disease specialist. Behind every job title in the education system is a human being going through many of the same concerns as the parent community of their respective schools. So, in my books, that means our school com-

munity should be working together as we listen, gather information, and adhere or advocate for what is the best way to move forward under the circumstances. Working together in the best interest of the student means creating spaces and support for them, as well as parents. Parents have the right to know and even participate in the planning that is carried out in their child's school to ensure that measures are in place that match the vigilant practices and efforts made in our homes and daily lives since March.

For weeks now, parents, teachers' unions and even the opposition have criticized the government for what they called a lack of clarity, as they expressed concerns that the initial set of guidelines didn't go far enough. As far as what our parent community sees, well, I read the infographics that have been designed at the provincial level and shared on social media, and letters to parents written by the education minister, but as I write this, I have not yet seen any internal action plans or messages exclusive to secondary parents for what "catching up" workloads will look like so that we can be clearer on our role within this "plan de match" (game plan) for the 2020-2021 school year. I can only remain hopeful that details and plans will become clearer in the coming weeks," she concludes.

Meanwhile, Minister Roberge committed to being transparent about any new coronavirus outbreaks. "If there is a declared positive COVID-19 case in your child's school, you will be informed," he said, pointing out that such transparency will be applied whether the outbreak takes place in the same classroom or in another one.

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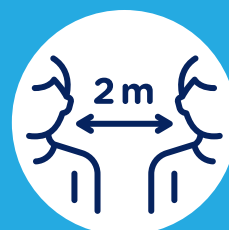
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Pascan now serves Gaspé airport

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - Pascan made its maiden flight on the afternoon of August 17 in Gaspé.

The plane arrived from the Magdalen Islands and continued on its way to Quebec City and Saint-Hubert, on the south shore of Montreal. The company is offering one flight six days per week initially and will double its frequency in mid-September to land at Montreal-Trudeau airport as well.

Gaspé mayor, Daniel Côté, emphasizes that this is a step, but the objective remains for the long term. "We have to review the model. Pascan is not an end in itself. It's the start of a new era, but we must continue to work hard to continue to develop regional air transport,"

The two municipal unions proposed their solution on August 7 and 10. The Union of Quebec Municipalities is proposing a hybrid public-private model where the operator would be a board or a cooperative and would sign agreements by call for tenders of at least five years with private carriers with schedules, reasonable prices and guaranteed

frequencies.

The Quebec Federation of Municipalities suggests instead pooling the most-costly elements such as marketing, ticket sales or negotiating interconnections at Montreal-Trudeau.

But the co-owner of Pascan notes that the proposals on the table do not take into account the imperatives in air transport.

"We just signed up for three new devices at \$3 million (US) per device. We, our commitment, is a long-term commitment. It doesn't make sense to start going back to calls for tender every two or three years," criticizes Yani Gagnon, who was present during the inaugural flight at Michel-Pouliot airport.

Quebec and Ottawa are monitoring the situation closely. Quebec has even created links with several players in order to find possible solutions.

"I am convinced that together we will find an effective, viable and lasting solution for all regions of Quebec," says Regional Minister Marie-Ève Proulx, who was in Gaspé for this inaugural flight.

For its part, Ottawa believes Air Canada has been

part of the problem and must be part of the solution as well.

With several proposals in Quebec, the Minister of Economic Canada Economic Development for Quebec, Mélanie Joly, indicates that air transport is important for the regions. "We cannot think that our regions will be able to develop their economic potential if there is no air service that makes sense. It is one of the basic missions of the government to ensure access to our regions."

For his part, the former minister of regions under the Marois government, Gaétan Lelièvre, now a regional development consultant, finds it sad that the two municipal unions are not working together, which does not help the matter.

The cooperative model is the solution. "We are in the process of perpetuating a model that has not been proven in the past 30 years. The regional cooperative project, for the development of an air transport model designed above all for the regions and not for the shareholders, is the possible solution," states Mr. Lelièvre.

Negotiations not easy at LM Wind Power

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - Union members at the LM Wind Power plant in Gaspé have rejected their employer's offers for a second time, but will vote on new proposals on August 27.

In a meeting and a virtual vote held on August 12 and 13, the union affiliated with the CSN rejected the proposal by 59%.

According to our information, less than half of the 350 unionized employees voted on the proposal which had been concocted with the help of a conciliator.

"The employer must understand that its offers are unacceptable to members. Working in difficult conditions, such as heat, chemicals, 12-hour shifts, they are entitled to receive more," explains Marko Collin, president of the union.

The union even mentioned the possibility of pressure tactics going as far as a strike, however, the employer submitted a new proposal to the union on August 17. The CSN will submit it to its members. The content of this fifth collective agreement to be reached will not be disclosed until members are aware of it.

A spokesperson for GE Renewable Energy wrote to SPEC but was unwilling to comment on the negotiation.

This is the first negotiation between the CSN and GE since the acquisition of the plant in October 2016. The agreement expired on December 31, 2019.

Tri-cultural celebration to take place on August 29

GESGAPEGIAG: - On August 29, the second tri-cultural celebration *Nous trois | Nesisieg | We Three* will be held at the Gesgapegiag Pow Wow grounds. This event aims to celebrate the three cultures present in the Bay of Chaleur area: francophone, anglophone and Mi'gmaq. In addition to celebrating the richness of these three origins, this event wishes to foster links and to highlight positive aspects of inter-culturalism.

For this year's event, the organizing committee is pleased to present a radio drive-in. The event will take place at 7 p.m. and there is no cost to attend.

The event will consist of two hours of music and stories and will be hosted by Kathy Kennedy. Those in attendance will be able to tune into 92.1 FM from the comfort of their vehicles and listen to the programming.

Radio Drive In – Stay Tuned

Jeanie LaLacheur

DOUGLASTOWN: Radio Drive-In, a creation of Kathy Kennedy, better known as composer sound artist and singer of Studio XX is turning out to be a great success.

Kathy's idea started in the early days of the Corona virus as a way to explore the Gaspé, imagining herself as a perfect 21st century pirate travelling the Coast and transmitting along the FM radio spectrum with her well weathered low watt kit.

The idea according to Kathy "responded to the need for live culture in physical isolation during the life changing Covid-19 and also helped mitigate the impacts on social and community interaction." Funded by the MRC Cote de Gaspé, Town of Gaspé and counselor Ghislain Smith, it is co-managed by Marie Claude Briere of l'agence MCBriere.

The first FM 92.1 broadcast went out on July 24 from the Douglastown Community Centre, reaching an audience of 1km radius and fulfilled the primary objective of the project which was to offer citizens and visitors an opportunity to listen to local musicians and storytellers.

The second Radio Drive In happened August 14. Friends in Song (Debbie Sams, Linda Drody, Suzanne Briand, and Kathy Kennedy), Fred Kraenzel –poetry, Nash Stanley, and Juan Sebastian Larobine all participated in the event.

Linda Drody, a member of Friends in Song performed songs including *Whiskey in a Jar*, and the *Orange and the Green* in true Irish flavour said the event was "informal, but even at a distance, it was fun. We could hear the car horns honking and knew people were enjoying the show."

Although the initiative was originally planned for multiple MRCs, timing and funding constraints resulted in just two broadcasts from the Douglastown Community Centre, however, the event has also led to an additional opportunity and a third Radio Drive In will take place in Gesgapegiag. The first two broadcasts are available at the following address: <https://soundcloud.com/kathykennedy/>

Guy Bernatchez will once again wear the colours of the Bloc Québécois

Nelson Sergerie

BONAVENTURE – On August 19, in the Gaspé Peninsula-Magdalen Islands riding, Guy Bernatchez became the first Bloc Québécois candidate for the next federal election.

This is the first convention for the sovereignist party as an election could be held as quickly as the parliamentary reopening in September when Justin Trudeau's government prorogued Parliament. The Liberals will have to table their priorities in the Speech from the Throne when business resumes. This is when the government will face a first vote of confidence.

Hoping this time will be the right one, Guy Bernatchez, who is on his second attempt to get elected, admits that the October 2019 loss was hard to digest, but the decision to return to the ice was quick. "The disappointments quickly returned following the decisions made by our representative in our constituency. In December, I



Photo: N. Sergerie

Guy Bernatchez and his leader, Yves-François Blanchet, a few minutes after the inauguration.

announced that I wanted to come back," says the Bloc candidate.

The leader, Yves-François Blanchet, argues that his candidate could have become a Member of Parliament in the last election against the Liberal Diane Lebouthillier.

"If the election campaign had lasted a week longer, Guy Bernatchez would already be the Member of Parliament for Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine. He worked so hard," says the leader who attacked the work of the

deputy minister.

"There are clear issues that anyone with a sense of state is able to see, to anticipate: whether in tourism, fisheries, airports. Nothing gets done," says Blanchet.

The Bloc Québécois is setting five conditions to support the Liberals in a vote of confidence including assistance to seniors, a modified Canadian emergency benefit to counter the labour shortage, settle the compensations for supply management and health transfers to Quebec.

Gilles Gagné Commentary



Chrystia Freeland, the solution for the Liberal Party

If there is an ounce of common sense left in the Liberal Party of Canada brass, Chrystia Freeland will be the leader of that party come the next election. Since Canada is currently run by a minority government, which means an election could occur in the short term, a move has to be made, less probably before the end of 2020, so more likely in the first half of 2021.

The August 17 resignation of Finance Minister Bill Morneau due to the We Charity controversy might contribute to the acceleration process of current Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's eventual departure, which seems highly probable before the next poll.

Bill Morneau tried to escape the We Charity affair when he explained his departure from politics. He and Mr. Trudeau experienced misunderstandings when dealing with the COVID-19 emergency measures, as the Finance Minister did not want to extend the support to the elderly. He was also taken aback when the prime minister appointed Mark Carney, the former Bank of Canada chairman, to draw an economic recovery plan but the We Charity controversy was enough to justify Mr. Morneau's resignation or dismissal.

The August 18 cabinet shuffle made Justin Trudeau appoint Chrystia Freeland as Mr. Morneau's replacement. She becomes the first woman to hold such a position in Ottawa.

She might also become the first woman to be designated and eventually elected the country's prime minister relatively soon. Of course, Mr. Trudeau will have to leave before that but the likelihood that he will understand that necessity is high. He might have had enough in the first place, considering the hardship of the last four years, a stretch that started with Donald Trump's election as president of the United States.

Mr. Trudeau will not leave now because people would think that it is directly linked to the We Charity affair, and he first wants to install a distance between him and the organization that received a huge amount from his government for various international endeavours. Justin Trudeau rather wants to be remembered as the man who stayed calm and composed during the main COVID-19 crisis.

Chrystia Freeland is a lot of things Justin Trudeau is not, and the other way around.

She has a structured way of tackling files. She has an outstanding talent for diplomacy and she delivers what is expected from her. It takes a lot of wisdom, patience, discipline and a strong capacity for improvisation, all at once, to deal with a man as unstable and unpredictable as the president of the United States. She never lost her calm despite having to adjust over four years to his unpredictable and rather erratic decisions, when she was Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs. She is renowned for her judgement.

Justin Trudeau is more often messy in the way he deals with problems, undisciplined, and ill-prepared at times. He is also poor at improvising, a weakness when he must adapt to situations at the last minute. That weakness has often affected his credibility. He has often distinguished himself through his lack of

judgement in situations that have reached highly and useless controversial levels because he had not anticipated them.

In the context following the October 21, 2019, election, Chrystia Freeland was transferred to the Intergovernmental portfolio, which meant dealing with the 10 provinces, an almost impossible responsibility, given the considerable tensions prevailing in Canada.

Those tensions, notably, stem from the fact that some provinces are trying to adopt greener environmental practices while others, Alberta, Saskatchewan, New Brunswick and Newfoundland still want to put a lot of emphasis on oil and gas development. The equalization payments represent another bone of contention between the provinces.

Ms. Freeland has an approach that has been able to defuse some of those tensions over the last 10 months, while Justin Trudeau's tendency to centralize power as much as possible in Ottawa, like his father, did nothing between 2015 and 2019 to alleviate the alienation feeling of the provinces towards the federal government.

It must be acknowledged that Stephen Harper had practically ignored the provinces during the almost 10 years of his tenure, and the level of frustration between them and Ottawa was already considerably high when the Liberal Party won the 2015 election. On paper, Justin Trudeau made attempts to alleviate those tensions but, as it happened too often in his case, the commitments never went much further than words.

Now, what about the probability for Canadians to hit the polls over the next months? It is very low, for many reasons.

Even if the Bloc Québécois and the Conservative Party are asking for the resignation of Justin Trudeau and an election, the reality is different. The Conservative Party is only about to get a new leader, Peter MacKay or Erin O'Toole, and the party's brass would like to give the winner, probably Mr. MacKay, the chance to get his feet wet. He must show Canadians that he is capable of standing toe-to-toe with any leader of the other parties and that requires a few months.

Secondly, the New Democratic Party, despite leader Jagmeet Singh's decent performance during the last electoral campaign, is still quite vulnerable financially. There is no way the NDP is hoping for the next election. The rebuilding job is still considerable. For now, the rebuilding job spells paying the electoral

debt.

Regarding the Bloc Québécois, leader Yves-François Blanchet, the best debater of the last electoral campaign, must know that he will suffer from a backlash if his party triggers a campaign that is considered unnecessary by the Quebec electorate, especially in the pandemic atmosphere. Quebec was hit harder than the rest of the country by the coronavirus and if Quebecers feel not ready to vote again, the party that will force it will have to deal with anger. After the unlikely resurrection of the Bloc, which won 32 seats 10 months ago, it would be surprising to see Mr. Blanchet take an exaggerated risk. It is easy for him at the present time to brandish the threat of defeating the government when the chance that it will happen is about null.

As for the Green Party of Canada, it also needs time to strengthen its base and make its new leader better known.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

All too often we seem to take for granted such precious writing like that of your writer, Ms. Diane Skinner.

Consider this a mid-summer's hello just to say how we appreciate her sensitive, à propos and well written articles on such a great variety of topics, people and events - contemporary and nostalgic.

The last issue was another fine example of making us aware and putting us in touch with beautiful human beings like Kathy Hayes, Kathy Kennedy, etc.

Traditional folklore topics such as "curing cod" helps to re-ignite the true spirit of all Gaspesians. Timely articles coinciding with berry picking and recipes associated with each fruit makes for summer delight as it reawakens our senses of taste, touch, smell, sight and, of course, hearing the little flies buzzing around us for added stimulation and speed. We can all learn more about gardening and share in the importance of preserving for the inevitable "covid-times." Life can be so rich as we become more sensitized to what our beautiful Gaspé has to offer.

So...again Cheers to You, Diane, and Your Art of Communication...and you too, SPEC Team, take time to Enjoy Summer!

*Normand Desjardins,
Bonaventure, Quebec*

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The regional minister wants a solution for illegal camping on the beaches

Photo: N. Sergerie



Mélanie Joly and Diane Lebouthillier announce \$3 million for businesses in the Gaspé

Photo: N. Sergerie

Tackling regional issues and the lack of accommodations

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - Regional Minister Marie-Eve Proulx wants to make sure that the situation that arose this summer when hundreds of tourists invaded the beaches with their tents, without necessarily worrying about the environment, does not happen again.

Ms. Proulx recalls that police officers have been added to ensure that order is maintained.

While Haldimand Beach is a municipal responsibility, says the minister, Douglastown Beach falls under provincial jurisdiction.

“The ministry is working with the mayor (of Gaspé). The mayor confirmed that to me. There are agreements to be signed to ensure that Douglastown is also protected there,” says the minister on the sidelines at the air service announcement in Gaspé on August 17.

There remains a lack of accommodations during the high season and Quebec is said to be active on the file. “We are already working with various promoters. We see that many tourists have stayed in Quebec because of COVID. This is likely to continue in the coming years, so we're going to prevent a situation,” she says.

Nothing yet for daycares

The lack of child care spaces continues to grow. The most recent statistics in the Gaspé region show that 185 places are needed, not counting those missing in Rocher-Percé and in the Bay of Chaleur area.

Marie-Eve Proulx isn't making a specific commitment as the situation continues to deteriorate across the Gaspé. Last year, Ms. Proulx indicated that she was working on the file, but nothing has yet been released.

“The Minister is closely monitoring the situation in the Gaspé. This is worrying for the economy. I am working with my colleague at the Family Ministry to accelerate the pace. He's been working on this all summer and he should have something to announce,” she states, without being able to give a specific date.

In the meantime, parents are trying to find a temporary solution in Gaspé, such as cooperative childcare among parents currently not working.

The mayor of Gaspé, Daniel Côté, cannot promise anything, but intends to be a facilitator.

Nothing for the MTQ garage

Last winter, the minister indicated that good news was soon to come in the transfer of the Ministry of Transport service centre from downtown Gaspé to the industrial park.

The bill had been added to the defunct Bill-61 to speed up the pace, but with the abandonment of the piece of legislation, Ms. Proulx hasn't moved forward.

“Everything that was in Bill-61 has been delayed. But my colleague François Bonnardel said it would be imminent, but we have to wait for what happens next before moving forward with the 200 projects that were in the plans,” says Ms. Proulx. The Minister emphasizes that the file has, nevertheless, advanced this summer.

Ottawa supports 14 businesses in the Gaspé

Nelson Sergerie

L'ANSE-À-BEAUFILS - Ottawa is providing \$3 million to 14 economic development or adaptation projects related to COVID-19.

\$2.3 million comes from Canada Economic Development and six businesses will receive \$677,000 from the Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF) in support of organizations affected by the pandemic.

“We are here for the Gaspé. We are there for our regions. We want the Gaspé to develop. There is an extraordinary potential which is developed little by little and we want to be there with you. We were there during the pandemic. We are there now and we will be there in the future,” says Canada Economic Development Minister Mélanie Joly, who made the announcements on August 14 in Anse-à-Beaufils.

The Ateliers Will Nicolas and Soudures Jones will receive \$1.1 million for extensions and improvements to equipment for a total investment of \$3 million.

Microbreweries and distilleries, Auval, Brett and Sauvage and des Marigos are supported in their start-up or in improving productivity.

The Bonaventure Bioparc and the TDLG are receiving help to adapt to the measures in place related to COVID-19.

Supporting the accommodation industry

Ottawa is not closing the door to investing in the development of accommodation infrastructure when there was a glaring shortage of places this summer, especially in the Gaspé. Improvised campsites had to be set up in some municipalities to counter overflows.

Minister Mélanie Joly recalls that sums have already been released to renovate and upgrade the current capacity.

Money is earmarked for development. “Because we cannot think that we are going to create destinations in the country without having major accommodation projects that will attract tourists and who will come year-round. It will be our pleasure to study projects,” says Ms. Joly.

Nothing concrete for Escale Gaspésie

The federal government maintains that there are funds to

support Escale Gaspésie, whose survival is threatened after the cancellation of the 2020 season due to the pandemic.

Already in April, the organization confided that its future was in jeopardy with the cancellations, including those by CTMA in the spring.

“This is precisely why we created the RRRF. I invite them to contact us to see what can be done because we are aware that the cruise sector has been affected,” says the Minister.

The head of Escale Gaspésie, Stéphane Sainte-Croix, heard the Minister during the press briefing and points out that he has done his homework through the various programs that only compensate for ongoing losses while income and expenses are stable in the spring and summer for his organization. The situation will hurt in the fall.

“We've discussed it, we chatted, but there is not really a significant evolution at this level. The next few weeks will be decisive for the corporation,” states Mr. Sainte-Croix.

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The health and safety of our community members is our main priority. With current Covid restrictions, the AGM will be carried out online, using the Zoom platform.

A link to connect to the meeting, and the documents for the AGM, will be sent via email to members who have RSVP'd.

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2020

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Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



Harvest Moon

*"Because I'm still in love with you
I want to see you dance again
Because I'm still in love with you
On this Harvest Moon."
- Neil Young*

In 2020, the Harvest Moon rises on September 2. The Harvest Moon relates to the timing of the autumn equinox, which is on September 22 or 23. For several evenings, the moonrise will be visible just after sunset. The term "Harvest Moon" refers to the full, bright moon that occurs closest to the start of autumn. The name dates from the time before there was electricity, so farmers depended on the moon's light to finish harvesting their crops. The Moon's light is particularly important during this time of the year when harvests are the largest and farmers are in the fields working until late at night.

All about the Moon

The Moon takes about 27 days to go all the way around the Earth and return to its starting position. The path of the Moon, its orbit, is a slightly squashed circle. It is called an eclipse. The Moon is old, incredibly old. It is 4.5 billion years old. The Moon rises in the east and sets in the west. The Moon is around 380,000 km from the earth. (250,000 miles) The diameter of the Moon is about 3,500 km. (2,000 miles) The surface of the Moon has mountains, valleys, and craters. The craters were formed about 4 billion years ago by meteors which landed there. The Moon has very thin atmosphere, so it has no "weather." The Moon does not have a source of light, rather it reflects light from the sun. The Moon causes tides in the oceans. This is caused by the gravity pull between the Moon and the Earth. During Full Moons, like the Harvest Moon, this pull produces the highest tides. The Full Moon rises at sunset and sets at sunrise.

The Full Moon has specific names depending on when it appears. Different cultures have their own names: (This is a partial list.)

- January - Wolf Moon or Old Moon
- February - Snow Moon or Hunger Moon
- March - Sap Moon, Crow Moon, Worm Moon or Lenten Moon
- April - Grass Moon, Frog Moon or Egg Moon
- May - Milk Moon or Planting Moon
- June - Rose Moon, Flower Moon or Strawberry Moon
- July - Thunder Moon or Hay Moon
- August - Grain Moon or Green Corn Moon
- September - Harvest Moon or Fruit Moon
- October - Hunter's Moon
- November - Frosty Moon or Beaver Moon
- December - Moon Before Yule or Long Night Moon.

A Blue Moon occurs when a second full moon occurs within the same calendar month. The next Blue Moon will occur on October 31, 2020. Ooh, spooky!

On September 2, think about your Gaspesian ancestors out gathering their crops late into the evening, their fields illuminated by the Harvest Moon!

Daycare: looking for a temporary alternative solution

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - A woman from Gaspé is trying to create a temporary alternative solution to help some 185 parents who are looking for a place in day care for their children.

Eileen Fortin Lanslott, a mother of a 10-month-old infant, who cannot return to work, wants to create a network of parents who could look after children during their time off to allow others to return to the workforce.

A common place, such as a community centre, would have to be found and parents would have to provide materials.

Within days of launching the idea on facebook, some parents were already showing interest.



Photo: N. Sergerie

Ms. Fortin Lanslott wants to respond to the need as quickly as possible. "If we are at this place, it really is because there is a problem with child care. It's a last-minute alternative to get back to work and not just miraculously wait for a childcare centre to be built or a day care centre to open," says the young mother.

During his visit to Carleton-sur-Mer on July 16, Premier François Legault was aware of

the shortage of hundreds of places across the Coast. He said he was looking for a quick fix for the lack of child care spaces.

Mr. Legault had stressed however, that in the medium term, the creation of full-time four-year-old pre-kindergarten across the province would make childcare spaces available. There are already several of these classes in Gaspé Peninsula, so it would not solve the problem here.

The development officer of the *Table de concertation des groupes de femmes de la Gaspésie*, Nastassia Williams, says that this lack puts a halt on post-pandemic economic recovery since hundreds of women in the region cannot return to work.

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DE GASPÉ

The Gaspé SADC invites all Côte-de-Gaspé residents interested in economic development to its

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

Wednesday, September 9, 2020
at 7 pm, on Zoom conference

Registration required at sadcgaspe@outlook.com
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Blue Bird Café – Wagon Wheel Nightclub Fire

Diane **Skinner**

Forty-eight years ago, on September 1, 1972, the Blue Bird Café – Wagon Wheel Bar fire resulted in the deaths of 37 people and injuries to over 40. This fire was the result of deliberate arson. The Wagon Wheel was a country and western bar located above the Blue Bird Café in downtown Montreal. Mostly English-speaking young people, including many from the Gaspé, would enjoy evenings of music, drinking and dancing.

It was on a Friday evening and more than 200 happy young people had packed the bar at the beginning of Labour Day weekend. At about 10:45 p.m. three men were not allowed in because the doorman determined that they were drunk. The three men did not accept this well and in retaliation set a fire on the main staircase to the bar. This was also the exit. A police inspector at the time, determined that the three likely used gasoline as an accelerant and the entire bar was in flames very quickly.

The customers panicked

and tried to find another way of exiting the nightclub. There were only two other possibilities: a folding staircase accessible through the kitchen and climbing through the window in the women's washroom and jumping 20 feet onto a parked car. Tragically the emergency exit was chained closed. Most of the victims, who ranged in age from 14 to 39, perished from asphyxiation because of the dense smoke. Five people from the Gaspé and two from Tide Head, New Brunswick, died there that night. Those who were from the Gaspé include Elizabeth Montgomery, Val Huntington, Marlene Dery, Sandra Annett, and Patrick Maher. Kathy Wirtanen and Bonnie Rae Evelyn Hill were from Tide Head.

All three of the men who had set the fire were convicted of either second-degree murder or manslaughter. All three were granted parole within 10 years of their sentencing. The families of the victims received compensation from the Montreal Fire Department and the owner of the bar of \$1,000 to \$3,000 each.



Photo: Lloyd Willett

Lloyd Willett (centre front) attending first Candlelight Vigil to honour the 37 people who perished in the fire at the Blue Bird Café / Wagon Wheel Bar fire of 1972. This photo was taken in 2011, one year before the permanent memorial was unveiled in Montreal.

As a result of the tragedy, fire regulations at bars and nightclubs were improved throughout Canada.

On August 31, 2012, a memorial in memory of the victims was dedicated in Montreal on the 40th anniversary of the fire.

Lloyd Willett of Cascapedia

played a large part in having a memorial constructed in honour of the memories of the 37 people who perished that evening.

Lloyd got involved because he knew that some of the victims were from the New Richmond area. He connected with others online who were inter-

ested in this project and he, Marley Dow Wirtanen and Sharon Share made this a reality in 2012. Lloyd comments, "This was one of the best things I ever did in my life. I will never forget it." Lloyd plans to be in Montreal on the 50th anniversary of the fire in 2022.

A family's hope: Additional hospital staffing

Diane **Skinner**

New Carlisle: Amanda Thompson and Jeremy Flowers are a young couple from New Carlisle who were thrilled to be expecting their first baby in August and when they found out that they were having a girl their hearts were full of love, however, as can happen with pregnancies, the unexpected occurred and they have a story they would like to share with others.

"I would like to start by saying, I am incredibly grateful to all the nurses and doctors at the hospitals in Quebec City, Maria and Chandler. I do not want them to read my story or hear my story and have them think that I blame them for anything because they are doing an extraordinary job, and I commend them for their efforts," says Jeremy

Amanda's water broke on July 15 around 3:30 p.m. so she called Jeremy at work and they immediately headed to Chandler Hospital. Amanda's due date was six weeks away, so the hospital, anticipating that Jeremy and Amanda's baby would be born prematurely, arranged to transfer her to Quebec City's CHUL (Centre Hospitalier de l'Université Laval). Based on the position of the

baby, they knew that the baby would be coming soon. Jeremy adds, "But not that soon!" He adds, "We were anxious to meet our daughter."

Jeremy and his father, Reid Flowers, set out by car for Quebec City and just as they were about to go through the Matapédia Valley, they got a call. Amanda had delivered their daughter Jasmine at 34 weeks and 6 days on July 16 at 7:31 a.m. in Quebec City. They were happy but of course Jeremy was anxious to meet his baby and see Amanda.

After Jasmine was born, Jeremy says that they faced challenges in being able to speak with the doctor and tried on multiple occasions. They wanted to know why the transfer to Quebec City was necessary and more about Amanda and Jasmine's health.

Jeremy and Amanda were surprised the next morning to hear that the nurses were preparing to discharge Amanda from the hospital. Jeremy tells us that she was not feeling well enough to be discharged. Jeremy went to the Human Resources Department to find out more about this decision that he felt was hasty. Jeremy also contacted Chandler Hospital to ask about this plan to discharge Amanda.



Photos: Jeremy Flowers

Amanda Thompson and Jeremy Flowers, with baby Jasmine, are excited for the day that they can take Jasmine home.

Jeremy tells Spec that because of his call, a doctor from Chandler contacted the CHUL and requested that Amanda be examined and consequently Amanda was kept for an additional day in the hospital. Jeremy states that the staff at Chandler Hospital was quite helpful in connecting with the CHUL.

At the same time Jeremy reports the additional stress of him and Amanda having to find a place to stay in Quebec City. The new parents had been told that Jasmine would have to remain in the hospital for a while, yet undetermined, due to being

a premature baby. The plan was that as soon as it was appropriate to transfer Jasmine to either Maria or Chandler Hospital that would be arranged. There were almost 60 premature babies in the CHUL neonatal unit at the time.

Jeremy says that he and Amanda were not able to stay at Ronald McDonald House, a facility for parents whose children are hospitalized. Jeremy was told that due to COVID restrictions staying there was not possible. The young couple asked if they could stay in the hospital, "but that was not al-

lowed also because of COVID," Jeremy says.

Amanda and Jeremy found a hotel with reasonable rates, Hotel Classique, who gave them a reduced rate of \$82.00 plus taxes a night. Jeremy adds that food costs in the city were excessive. They tried to save money by buying microwavable meals, but that was not always possible, so they had no choice but to pay for restaurant meals most of the time. Jeremy has kept all the receipts and is hopeful that he will be reimbursed for some of the money they spent while staying in Quebec City for 23 days. During this time, at about the tenth night, Jeremy says that they were told that, "their baby might be transferred, but the hospitals in Maria and Chandler had a shortage of staff and were not able to receive the baby yet." Jeremy concludes that "the family spent 12 more nights than necessary in Quebec."

They finally arrived back on the Coast, after 23 days in Quebec and Jasmine was admitted to Chandler Hospital. Jeremy tells us, "Well, once I had arrived at the hospital, I spent that night there, and then we were approached by a doctor the next morning, who

Cont'd on page 16

A photograph of three young children in a classroom setting. The child in the foreground is a young boy with brown hair, wearing a green and white striped shirt, looking towards the camera with a slight smile. Behind him, two other children are visible, both with their hands raised in the air. The background is slightly blurred, showing a classroom environment with a green wall and some decorations.

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)

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Homeschooling in Quebec: Your legal option

Diane Skinner

A recent headline from Global News confirms the rumblings we are hearing about homeschooling. The headline of August 11, 2020, reads, “Tsunami of parents interested in homeschooling amid COVID-19 pandemic.”

Homeschooling is a type of alternative education, generally delivered by parents that have chosen not to place their children in the public-school system. The reasons why parents choose this option include a preference to have family values instilled in the child, as a criticism or mistrust of the school system, to meet very special needs of a child and to

offer a different approach to learning.

In 2020 many parents are looking into homeschooling as an option due to COVID-19 and a concern about the safety of their children. There has been a rise in “learning pods” where parents create their own grouping of children and pool resources to deliver curriculum. This also gives the children another social group. Schools are not the only place that children can experience socialization. Family, extended family and neighbours all provide socialization. Do not underestimate the socialization that an engaged grandparent, for example, can offer to their grandchildren. “Everything I

Know About Life I Learned From My Gaspesian Grandmother” is not a book yet, but it should be.

Homeschooling is not only a legal option for parents in Quebec, it is part of the Civil Code of Quebec. The Quebec Association for Homeschooling is an organization which helps to inform and support parents who choose this option. Their comprehensive website can answer all your questions.

A few of the topics and questions covered on their excellent website include:

- Links for numerous resources and information about homeschooling in Quebec.
- Information about regula-

tions regarding the language of instruction.

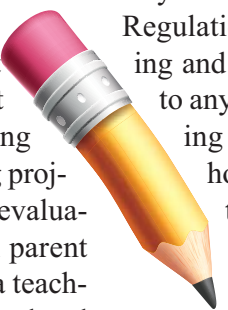
- Information about the various teaching methods. For example: “Learning by theme, by project and natural learning, for instance, conveniently allows children from different ages to participate in common activities.”
- Regulations about time frames for student withdrawal, submitting official notice, learning project deadlines and how evaluations are done. (ex. A parent does not need to have a teaching degree to homeschool and evaluate their children.)

According to the Quebec Association of Homeschooling website (aqed.qc.ca) in

2019 – 2020, there were 6,000 registered homeschooled children in Quebec. That number will almost certainly increase this coming school year.

The site also notes that a school cannot deny you the right to homeschool your child if you follow the Law and Regulations on Homeschooling and they offer assistance to any members experiencing difficulty in their homeschooling adventure.

Watch the news because as the new school year approaches, we are likely to hear more about this legal option for Quebec children and their parents.



A Homeschooling Perspective

Diane Skinner

BOURGET, ONTARIO: Tammy Gallan Fitzpatrick, originally from Fauvel, now resides in Bourget, East Ottawa with her family of seven children, who range in age from seven to twenty.

The Gaspé Spec contacted Tammy to ask about her decision to homeschool her children for the school year 2020/2021. This will be the second year she will be doing so. This means that her decision to homeschool her children was made pre-COVID.

Tammy believes that it is a parent’s fundamental right to ensure that their children are receiving their education in a way that they see fit. Over the years Tammy had noticed a decrease in resources at the schools in both staffing and physical supplies. Along with that she observed less support and accountability on the part of the school system. Now added to those existing concerns and systemic issues Tammy says, the “brick and mortar,” schools will be dealing with COVID-19 which presents some further complex issues. These factors combine to create a “highly dysfunctional, anxiety-pro-



Photo: Courtesy Tammy Fitzpatrick

Tammy Gallan Fitzpatrick, originally from Fauvel is starting the second year of homeschooling for her children.

ducing situation.” This anxiety will be felt by both students and their parents.

Tammy reflects, “In homeschooling I’m able to cater curriculum for my kids that is interest led and ensure that they are working at the appropriate level. Homework is a thing of the past. Our morning starts at 8 a.m., and even the eldest kids are done school for the day by 11:30 a.m. Socialization is not an issue. There are many opportunities

such as homeschool gym provided at local sports facilities, and we often meet up with other homeschool families during the weekdays to do such activities as nature walks, sledding and skating.” Socialization does not have to be with same aged peers. Children socialize with family, friends and neighbours.

Most parents likely agree that school ought to be a positive experience for every child who attends. Pre-COVID,

Tammy found that was not the case and says, “The education system is already stretched thin dealing with various budget cuts, reduced staffing and sometimes large classroom sizes. COVID challenges will add to these pre-existing issues. A mask wearing, hand sanitizing, cannot play with friends classroom does indeed paint a grim picture.”

Tammy’s advice to parents considering homeschooling:

“My advice to parents who are not confident in their abilities to homeschool is to relax. Take the time to research through YouTube and facebook groups what approach to home learning best accommodates their families’ needs. Start with one key subject like math, find a curriculum both parents and kids enjoy, and build from there. There’s absolutely no need to start a homeschooling journey with frustration and anxiety. Once a routine is in place with the first subject, implement a second subject, so on and so forth. If your child is not enjoying a study unit/subject, table it until they are ready. As a homeschooling parent you are in complete control of the learning schedule. Lastly, do not overburden yourself or your children. The general rule of thumb for homeschooling is 20 minutes daily per each grade level. For instance, a grade 3 student requires 100 minutes of home instruction weekly. And do not be afraid to indulge in whims. Taking a Friday off to go on a nature walk, visit a museum or indulge in movies is part of what makes homeschooling fun.”



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Kevin Jones: "It's All About the Bass"

Diane Skinner

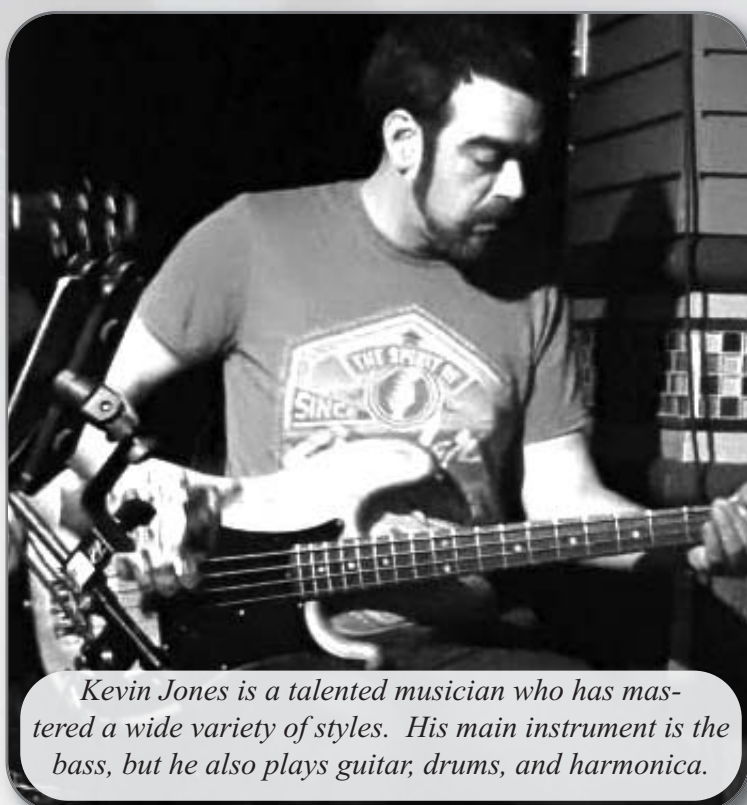
"The bass, no matter what kind of music you're playing, it just enhances the sound and makes everything sound more beautiful and full. When the bass stops, the bottom kind of drops out of everything."
Charlie Haden

Where were you born and raised? Where did you go to school? What are your connections to the Gaspé? Do you have family here? I was born and raised in New Richmond right here on the Gaspé Coast. I attended New Richmond High School and Bonaventure Polyvalent. My connection to the Gaspé is music, family, and friends. My family is based in New Richmond and most of us still reside there.

Do you come from a musical family? Yes, absolutely. Most of the members of my family can play the guitar and sing. Some of my earliest memories are of my mother and uncles playing and singing. Country was the style of choice among family members with the exception of my brother whom I witnessed playing rock and metal on bass when I was very young.

What were your musical beginnings? Did you take lessons or are you self-taught? I'm a self-taught musician for the most part but I must acknowledge and thank the hundreds of musicians that I've worked with throughout the years who have all had something to teach me. As I mentioned in the previous question, my brother Brian was the person who introduced me to my main instrument, the electric bass. At a young age, I would sneak into his room when he was away from the house to plug in his bass and make some noise. With time my brother realized that I was keen on playing so he ended up lending his bass to me for six months. It was during that time that I learned my first songs and had my first jam sessions with classmates from school. It wasn't long before I headed to New Brunswick with my father on a road trip to buy my own bass. I never looked back since.

Where and when was your first public performance? I did my first show when I was



Kevin Jones is a talented musician who has mastered a wide variety of styles. His main instrument is the bass, but he also plays guitar, drums, and harmonica.

Photo: Eric Dumaresq

15 years old in a bar in Pointe-à-la-Croix. I can't recall the name or location of the place. It was quite a thrill for my bandmates and I to head out on the road as underaged high school kids to go and perform our first gig in a place normally reserved for adults. We were taking part in a competition and we won second place. It's something that I'll never forget.

What instruments do you play? My main instrument is electric bass, but I can also play guitar, drums, and harmonica. I like being able to play different instruments because it deepens my understanding of music. It allows me to see certain situations from the point of view of other bandmates. This is very practical when writing or learning songs as a group.

What are your musical influences and favourite artists? My favourite artist of all time is Jimi Hendrix. He broke so many barriers during his short career and he produced so many great songs. He is an endless source of inspiration to me. Other artists that I really appreciate are Jaco Pastorius, Rush, Muddy Waters, Black Sabbath, Bob Marley, Howlin' Wolf, Primus, and many others. My tastes in music gravitate more towards particular artists instead of just liking a particular style. The result is that I appreciate artists from a wide variety of styles.

Do you write songs? I've composed and collaborated on dozens of songs throughout my career. I've been generally more comfortable creating music and not so much writing lyrics, but I have written a few lyrics throughout the years. Lately I've been involved with bands

that perform mostly cover songs but we're starting to get some original songs together.

Do you perform a variety of musical styles? What were your musical experiences while living in Montreal? I've played many styles of music in the past 30 years. I've played punk, blues, rock, doom metal, hardcore, fusion, alternative, country, jazz, death metal, and funk. I spent 18 years in Montreal learning many of those styles. Most of the bands I was working with were writing their own material, so I also learned about writing songs in my time there. Montreal was a great place to acquire musical experiences and life experience. My time there helped shape me into the musician I am today.

Tell us a bit about bands you have performed with? Where have you played on the Gaspé? I've performed with countless bands and artists during my career. My experiences with bands can be broken down into two phases or eras the first being my time in Montreal and the second being my time here on the Coast.

I spent my time in Montreal playing in bands from the underground punk and metal scene. I appeared on many albums and I took part in a few tours of Quebec, Europe, and the United States. It was in bands like Seized, Saturation, Maruka, Rostrom, Towards Darkness, Blodewed, Negativa, and Longing for Dawn that I learned what it meant to be in working bands. Montreal was a great learning experience for me.

When I moved back to the Coast in 2014, a whole new musical experience awaited

me. In 2015 I teamed up with my long-time friend Troy Willett to form the Willett and Jones Duo. We performed country, rock, and blues covers. We played dozens of shows up and down the Coast for a few years. I learned a lot about rock and country music during our time together and my association with Troy would lead me to many new opportunities in our local music scene including The Bogans Band that we ended up putting together with Daniel Athot and Luc Bigaouette. With time, Troy introduced me to people like Dave Felker and Nathan Hayes whom I ended up working with under a variety of band names. Today we call ourselves The Narrows and we're currently working on some original songs and we also offer full shows of rock, country, and Irish covers.

In 2018, Dave, Nathan, and I teamed up with Trevor Buttle and Pierre Yergeau to form a Guns and Roses/AC DC tribute band called Guns and Voltage and we make regular appearances around the Gaspé Coast. In 2019, I was asked to join The Route 66 Band (formerly The Clemville Kids).

I've been working with The Route 66 band and its different iterations depending on the type of event. Route 66 is the rock/blues version of the band. We also work under the name Big Bad Q for our stripped-down acoustic shows and The Clemville Outlaws (second version of The Clemville Kids) when country is the theme of the show. The current lineup of Route 66 is Dominick Briand, Marc-André Brilliant-Levesque, Eric Dumaresq, Catherine Maldemay, Terry Wall, and me. My current bands can be seen and heard at the upcoming Bluegrass Festival in New Richmond. I'll be performing with The Narrows on Friday, September 4, at 10 p.m. and with The Clemville Outlaws on Sunday, September 6, at 1 p.m.

How can people hear you

perform? Facebook? The Gaspesian Way? The best place to hear me play at the moment is at The Bluegrass Festival as I mentioned before but both The Narrows and Route 66 will soon be featured on some upcoming webcasts for The Shigawake Fair. People can check our facebook pages for The Narrows, Route 66, and The Shigawake Fair for more information. I would also like to mention that The Narrows can be seen and heard performing web shows on our facebook page and on The Gaspesian Way facebook page. Both The Narrows and Route 66 are in the process of writing original songs and information about the eventual release of these songs will be available on facebook as well.

Anything else you would like to add? I would simply like to thank The Spec for giving musicians such as myself a voice to promote ourselves in our community. Our local music scene is rather small and any help we can get to make ourselves known is greatly appreciated.

What are your thoughts on this pandemic and particularly how it affects musicians? The pandemic has been horrible for all musicians. From the local level to the international level, all musicians are in the same position. We've all had to rethink how to be a musician during all these restrictions. For myself, it's been all about learning how to do videos and webcasts with my band mates. Others have been doing shows on the back of pickup trucks. Some have mastered how to rehearse over the internet. Many have taken to writing their own songs while in isolation. Music is presently being held back but watch out when the restrictions are lifted because there may be a huge wave of new music coming your way.

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Announcements...



Obituaries



ARSENAULT: Isabelle

October 4, 1961 – June 26, 2020

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our daughter and sister Isabelle Arsenault on June 26, 2020, at the family home in Bonaventure, at the age of 58 years.

Isabelle attended Bonaventure High School in her youth. She pursued her schooling at the Gaspé Cégep, University of Moncton and University of Ottawa, before working around the Gaspé Peninsula as a social worker in Bonaventure, Gesgapegiag, Gaspé and New Carlisle. She was the first born of a family of five children and was always protective and loving to her younger siblings. Like her father Marcel and grandmother Marcelline, she was known for her great knowledge on the history and roots of the people from Bonaventure and beyond. She had such a great smile, beautiful eyes and a very considerate way of speaking.

She leaves behind her mother Délia Cormier and father J. Marcel Arsenault (deceased); her sisters: Jovette (Raynald) and Jeanne; her brothers: Gaétan and David; her niece Dahra; her nephews Pierre Carl, Jean-Felix and Daniel; as well as many aunts; uncles; cousins; and friends.

The Henri Thibodeau Funeral Home has been entrusted with organizing the above mentioned services. The funeral was held at the church in Bonaventure on Saturday, August 22. Sympathies can be received online at <https://www.hthibodeau.com/en/Obituaries/Details/22984/isabelle-arsenault>.

Donations can be made in memory of Isabelle Arsenault, to the Fondation Santé Baie-des-Chaleurs, at 419, boulevard Perron, Maria (Québec) G0C 1Y0, <https://fondationsantebdc.com>.

The family would like to acknowledge the outstanding support provided by her sister Jovette in helping Isabelle during her long standing battle with leukemia, and providing her with continuous support and love throughout. Special thanks also to Dr. Simon Prévost, as well as to the home support team from Caplan and Paspébiac's C.L.S.C.

A bright new star is shining in our sky!

A prayer to St. Jude to be said in cases despaired of

St. Jude, Glorious Apostle, faithful servant and friend of Jesus, the name of the traitor has caused you to be forgotten by many but the true church evokes you universally as the patron of the things despaired of. Pray for me who is so miserable, pray for me that finally I may receive the consolations and the succor of heaven in all my necessities, tribulations, sufferings, particularly (here make your request) and that I may bless God with the elect throughout eternity. Amen.
St. Jude, Apostle, Martyr and relative of our Lord Jesus Christ of Mary and of Joseph intercede for us.

J.R.



BOLLEN: Eileen "Reta"

Passed away peacefully surrounded by photographs of family and friends on August 15, 2020, in her 92nd year.

Predeceased by her loving husband Charles "Chuck" of 57 years. Loving cousin of Edna Cunning and Sharon Baird. She will be dearly missed at all the Hall family (Merleen, Tom, Sandy, Tracy) functions, and also by the Heal family (Elaine, Martin, Alison), longtime friends Pat Roberts and Dora Pert, her sister-in-law Jean Casino, her nieces, and her many friends.

The family would like to thank the staff of Amica Bronte Harbour, and the caring staff of the palliative care unit at the Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital.

Reta was born and raised in the Gaspé, and always loved going home. She worked for the Royal Trust in Montreal and Toronto for many years. She was well known for her love of cats!! In lieu of flowers, donations to your local Humane Society would be appreciated.

Reta's funeral was held Thursday, August 20, 2020, at 2 p.m. in Oakville.

A recording of proceedings was made and it, along with a slideshow of photos, can be viewed (and downloaded if desired) for the next 30 days by going to the following website (www.arbormemorial.ca) and searching for "Reta Bollen".



JONES: Jane Skene

(1933-2020)

She reached heaven on March 9, 2020, after a long struggle with Alzheimer's. Many thanks to all the staff at the Villa Pabos in Chandler who took care of her since November 2015 and to our dad who cared for her at home for years before she was placed.

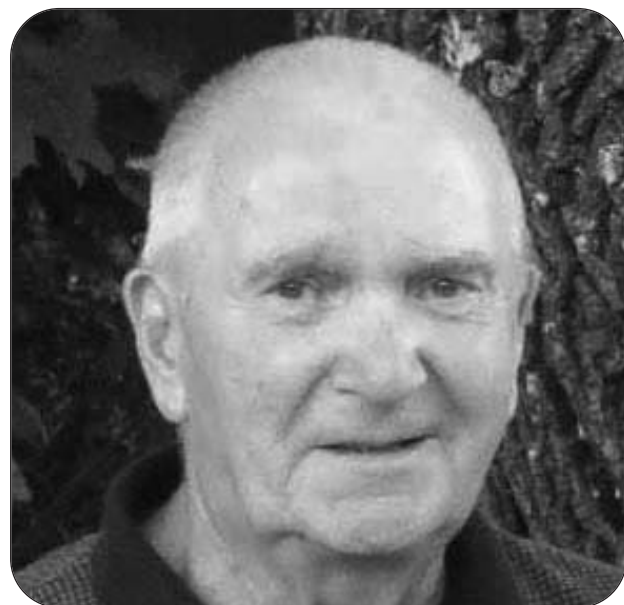
She was reunited with her parents: Arthur Skene and Claudia Grenier; brother: Léon; and brothers and sisters-in-law: Eric, Jerry, Josette and Irene. She was the sister of: Clifton (Melba), Andrée, John (Eva), Joe (Gaby) and Winston (Milly).

She was the devoted wife of Conrad Jones for 60 years; the loving mother of Jeannine (François), Daniel (Nancy), Louise (Dean), Isabelle (Renaud), Georges (Line) and Terence; the proud grandmother of Tracy, Jean-François, Caroline, Bryan, Samuel, Gregory, Émy, Sophia, Megan and Katherine; and a great-grandmother to Léana, Émily-Jade and Kamilia-Rose.

She also leaves behind nephews including Patrick (Manon) and Anthony (Jennifer) Jones, many nieces and caring friends such as Léonard and Yvonne.

She was a member of the church choir for 38 years. She was a cancer survivor and the pillar of our family. She was a kind, honest and loving person with a heart of gold. She will be remembered for her smile by those who knew her and sadly missed by all. We will cherish her forever as she lives on with us with her recipes, her favourite music and all our memories together. We will miss you, Jane. Until we meet again...

The service will be held at the Catholic Church in Port Daniel on Thursday, September 3, 2020, at 2 p.m. Sadly, we will not be permitted to have a eulogy in her honour during the service nor to accept condolences. Anyone attending will be required to wear a mask and follow the protocol at the church.



WILLETT: Archibald (Archie) MacWhirter

Archie passed away July 31, 2020, at the age of 90 years, 11 months at Residence St. Joseph, Maria, Quebec.

Archie was born August 17, 1929, in Chaleurs (New Richmond) Quebec to James Willett and Marjorie Willett (nee MacWhirter). He was the middle child of seven, Doug (Marjorie), Gwen (Theo), Sylvia (Jake), Helen (Lloyd), Merle (Barb) and Diane.

Archie is survived by his wife of 65 years, Elsie Barter, who he married in 1955; son Michael (Cathy) and daughter Wendy; grandchildren Alex, James (Kristine), and Sarah (Blake); and great-grandchildren Griffin and Abigail Willett and Kate Huber.

Archie enlisted October 13, 1943, at the age of 14 in the 82nd Field Battery Royal Canadian Artillery Militia, training in Val Cartier, Quebec, where he remained until the end of the war in 1945. This is also where he learned to drive a 2 ½ ton truck pulling a 25 pound field gun.

Archie entered the work force at an early age: working in the woods as a deck hand on the freighters on the Great Lakes and in the mines in Murdochville.

He was employed by the Cascapedia Manufacturing and Trading Company, Chaleurs, as a tractor and bulldozer operator, working on Pico Mountain during the forest fire of 1955, making access roads for the firefighters.

Archie drove truck in Ontario in the 50s and 60s before moving to Bathurst, N.B., where he was employed at Brunswick Mines. He then moved back to New Richmond and worked for Consolidated Bathurst as a foreman at the sawmill in New Richmond until its closure when he then transferred to the Bathurst N.B. mill.

After retirement in 1984, Archie returned to long haul truck driving, which he loved and gave both he and Elsie the opportunity to travel across North America meeting family and people who would become lifelong friends. He also had the opportunity to drive heavy equipment for Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting in Leaf Rapids, Manitoba, and haul products for Multi Crete Systems across Northern Manitoba to various mines.

Anything that involved driving Archie loved, such as hauling travel trailers from plants in Ontario

and the USA to R.V. dealers across Canada.

When Archie retired from trucking, he did lawn maintenance at both New Richmond and Black Cape cemeteries as well as maintaining headstones in both cemeteries. After that he even turned his hand to woodworking.

Archie was also a lifelong hockey lover, playing for the senior teams all along the Gaspé Coast as well as one season with the Falconbridge Jr. Hockey Team in Sudbury, Ontario.

He coached both senior and junior hockey teams in New Richmond where he had the opportunity to coach both his son Mike and his many nephews.

Archie served on many committees at St. Andrew's United Church, enjoying the camaraderie of the church and the people at the many suppers and get togethers held there. For many years he was a member of the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 172, New Richmond.

He loved his family and would do anything to help them. His children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren were his pride and joy and he loved spending time with them.

His siblings and their children gave him great joy over the years. He loved to visit them and for them to visit him.

Archie loved animals of any kind but especially dogs and over the years had many who were not just pets but family members.

Archie will be deeply missed by his wife Elsie, his children, grandchildren, family and friends.

Burial will take place in 2021 Black Cape Cemetery.

Card of Thanks

The family of the late Archie Willett would like to thank the staff of Residence St. Joseph for their care of Archie during his stay there, also a thank-you to Dr. Bordeleau. We would also like to thank Marco Bourdages, who during the covid lockdown kept the family up-to-date on his health and the care he was receiving.

Thank you to the many people who took the time to visit Archie while he was at St. Joseph's and also to the people who brought food for the family during this trying time. Thank you to Rev. Kraglund for the prayers at the funeral home.

A special thank-you to Bruce Willett for the many outings he took Archie on, the many haircuts he provided and the care and kindness he showed Archie. Archie enjoyed every minute of this time.

Care and kindness are never wasted. They always make a difference. They bless the one that receives them, and they bless the giver.

 In Memory

HOWATSON: Everett J.D.

In loving memory of Everett Howatson who passed away August 20, 2016.

Do not stand at my grave and weep.
I am not there. I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow.
I am the diamond glints on snow.
I am the sunlight on ripened grain.
I am the gentle autumn rain.
When you awaken in the morning's hush,
I am the swift uplifting rush
Of quiet birds in circled flight.
I am the soft stars that shine at night.
Do not stand at my grave and cry.
I am not there. I did not die.

Missed always by wife Ferne, Joanne, Janet and Ray.

BEEBE: Carol Marsh
August 30, 2018

Your picture is still on the dresser.
You're the first and last that I see
Thought I've pleaded, cried and begged God
"Please Lord, let her come visit me!"
My heart at times so heavy
With what I'm sure is lead
I scarcely remember some wise words
That someone to me once said.
"In heaven there is no sorry,
No suffering, nor strife,
They can only feel love and happiness.
They have moved on from this life."
That came from the Good Book
Thus I knew it to be true
But when I fell asleep last night
I had a visit from you!
Your smile made a thousand bricks fall
Off of my shoulders that were so heavy.
The river of sadness poured from my heart
Seeing you had broken the levee.
With your hands clasped together behind you
You happily began the tour
Down a well beaten path we walked upon
I guess somehow I expected more.
There were no bright lights that shone around us.
There were no streets paved with gold.
No angels with beautiful voices singing.
There were no mansions to behold.
We walked together casually
Like nothing between us had changed
Though I couldn't help myself staring at you,
Yet your head stayed focused, down range.
Finally my mind had stopped whirling at the wonder
And I began to speak at free will,
"Oh, how, I've begged God to see you again.
It hurts so much, my heart is broken, still!"
As we continued down that road ahead
My happiness I could not contain
But through the hugs and warmth and laughter
I began to feel a familiar pain.
"Please don't leave me again!" I cried
I miss and love you, please stay!
"I must go for now, the Father is calling me
But I'll never be too far away."
"Don't be so sad anymore," you said to me.
"I was summoned to you by Our Master.
You were in Spiritual trouble and that's why I came.
Now let the tears in your eyes be from laughter,
For it's only a heartbeat until we meet again
When all of your work will be done.
So go back now to the life and family you love
And remember to cherish each and every one."

Lovingly remembered and sadly missed, Dan, Adam and girls.



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Happy 95th Birthday




Birthday greetings to Harold Howatson, Black Cape, Quebec, celebrating on September 4.

For 95 years of living life the way it is meant to be, For all the warmth and wisdom that you have shared so lovingly, For bringing joy to other people just by being you, You are honoured and admired and wished a Happy Birthday, too.

Have a wonderful day, Dad, FIL, Guppy!
All of our love and our deepest gratitude,
Barbara, Jean-Jacques and Julieanne
Ross and Leslie
Linda and Alfonso

Congratulations!



Congratulations to Courtland Lee upon completion of his Biotechnology Advanced Course from St. Lawrence College, Kingston, Ontario.

He was awarded the Biotechnology - Advanced Award of Excellence.

He is presently employed at Kingston General Hospital doing research on Crohns. In the fall he will take up residence in Prince Edward Island where he will be employed by Biovectra in Charlottetown

SUBMISSIONS FOR THIS PAGE MUST BE IN BY THURSDAY AT 4 P.M.



Dr. Pascal Cyr
Optometrist



Dr. Stacey Starrak
Optometrist

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COAST ROUNDUP

GASPE:

Annual General Meeting
Notice is hereby given that the 2020 Annual Assembly of FADOQ – Région Gaspésie Îles-de-la-Madeleine will be held: **Thursday, September 3**, at 9:00 at the Club FADOQ le Croissant d'Or de Gaspé located at 75, boulevard de Gaspé.

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:

Heritage New Carlisle

Upcoming Event

Tuesday, September 1: Village Sketchers. After a short walk, spend a couple of hours outdoors drawing heritage buildings. Learn some technique, have fun, and 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.

GASPE:

Gaspé Cancer Foundation
Members and supporters of the Gaspé Cancer Foundation are asked to please note that

ARE YOU MOVING?



Give us your new address **early** so we can ensure uninterrupted delivery service of your Spec.



ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, acting your age will not feel like fun this week, but you have to hunker down and be the adult. Even as others shirk responsibility, you know how to get the job done. TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, it is all right to go against the grain once in a while if it means that much to you. Sometimes you have to be a trendsetter. This week you stand out in a good way. GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21

This week could mark the start of a fun and informative phase for you, Gemini. Look around at all the possibilities to learn new things. You can expand your knowledge tenfold. CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, eagerly follow all impulses to explore new interests. This is a great time to start a new hobby or even change careers. Be aggressive with your goals. LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23

There is some tension going on with you this week over what you desire and what you know is good for you, Leo. You'll need to walk a fine line if you are to get both. VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, sometimes the best conversations you can have are the ones in which the person you are chatting with disagrees with what you are saying. It's an opportunity to debate. LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, take inventory of the value of what you have. That doesn't strictly mean material things. It

also refers to the friends and loved ones who always have your back. SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, it can sometimes be best to walk into a situation without any expectations. This way anything that happens can be taken at face value. SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

It's required patience, but things will start to make sense in your life this week, Sagittarius. All of the parts start to fall into place and the bigger picture is revealed. CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

There is no need to deny yourself some guilty pleasures, Capricorn. Dig into a big piece of cake or indulge in some binge-watching. You've earned it. AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, expect more plots than a soap opera in the days ahead. The good news is that you decide which course things will take. Surround yourself with your support network. PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, excitement is fine, but your eagerness to jump into a project may seem too intense to others. Temper some of your emotions.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

AUGUST 23

Andrew Rannells, Actor (42)

AUGUST 24

Sofia Richie, Model (22)

AUGUST 25

Blake Lively, Actress (33)

AUGUST 26

Melissa McCarthy, Actress (50)

AUGUST 27

The Great Khali, Wrestler (48)

AUGUST 28

Florence Welch, Singer (34)

AUGUST 29

Noah Syndergaard, Athlete (28)

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Crafternoon

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

-Diane Skinner

This is the eighth and final week of summer crafts for young children. If you have tried any of this summer's crafts, we would love to see a photo! Send it to specs@globetrotter.net In the subject line, type Crafts.

NEWSPAPER CRAFTS

Newspaper Gift Bags



Photo: D. Levine

Newspaper Gift Bags

Newspaper
Tape

Select a sheet of newspaper that is about twice as wide as it is long.
Trim to your liking.
Fold the sides into the middle to meet, and tape the seam. Flip the top sheet of the bottom opening 1/3 of the way up and crease the side triangles.
Fold the open portions of the bottom into the centre of the opening and tape the seam. This is the bottom of your bag.
To create the structured side seams, fold each side about 2 inches toward the middle and crease.
Open your bag and play with creasing each seam and the bottom to create the smooth structure you are seeking. Fill with goodies or gifts!
If you learn best by seeing it done, go to
YouTube: <https://youtu.be/pdRdUXqVviQ>

Flibbers



Photo: D. Skinner

Flibbers

Also known as newspaper trees
Pre-read copies of The Gaspé Spec
Elastics (2 per tree)
Scissors

Roll the newspaper and loop the elastic tightly around the bottom.
Add another elastic to the middle of the rolled newspaper.
Take scissors and make 4 cuts from the top of the roll down to the middle.
Pull out and up the inner pages.
Ta-da! You have made a “flibber” (a Dr. Seuss word) or a newspaper tree.
You can add paint or other embellishments.

Floral Newspaper Bouquet

newspaper
tape
pipe cleaners (or a twig wrapped in pipe cleaner for a sturdier stem)
leaves or other embellishments

Cut strips of newspaper in 3 to 4-inch widths and keep them the length of a single page.
Cut as many as you would like in your bouquet; the bigger the bouquet the more strips will be needed.
Roll each strip loosely around one of your fingers and then tape the bottom of the roll. Gently pull the tops of your “petal” open and spread them out a little bit, even tearing them a little will add depth and character to your petals.
Tape all the bottoms together so they are held securely and then add your bouquet stem by taping it to the bottom of your bouquet.
Add your leaves or other bouquet embellishments such as colourful bows!

Photo: V. Czerwinski



Floral Newspaper Bouquet

Talking Tomatoes

Diane **Skinner**

It's tomato season and large baskets of gorgeous, ripe red tomatoes beckon you. If you have grown your own or bought more than you can eat, why not make a spicy, flavourful salsa! Tomatoes do not last forever. This freezer salsa recipe can be frozen for up to three months and is delicious for dipping tortilla chips, on a burger and even as a side with many other meals. This recipe makes about 5 cups.

Freezer Salsa

4 pounds of tomatoes (about 12 large)
 ¼ cup olive oil
 3 tbsp. hot peppers, chopped
 6 cloves garlic, chopped
 6 green onions, chopped
 3 tbsp. lime juice
 Cilantro
 Salt and pepper

Core tomatoes and plunge into a large pot of boiling water for 1 to 2 minutes. Remove using a slotted spoon and place in a bowl of cold water.

Peel, cut in half and squeeze out seeds and juice.

Chop coarsely and place in a large sieve.

Gently press to extract juice, but do NOT mash the tomatoes.

Place tomatoes in bowl. In a frying pan over low heat, add peppers and garlic. Cover and simmer for 10 minutes until garlic is

soft. This will smell heavenly. Stir in green onion. Then add this to tomatoes and gently stir. Add lime juice, cilantro, salt and pepper.

Ladle into containers, leaving ½ inch from the top. When cool, cover.

Place in freezer for up to 3 months. Thaw overnight in fridge when ready to use.

More about tomatoes

Tomatoes are technically a fruit because they have seeds and grow from a flowering plant.

They originated in Peru. China is currently the largest producer of tomatoes, with the U.S. and India coming in second and third. Most tomato varieties are red, but also can be green, yellow, orange, pink, black, brown, white and purple.

The heaviest single tomato on record was 7 pounds and 12 ounces! That's a lot of toasted tomato sandwiches!

There are over 7500 varieties of tomatoes.

Beefsteak tomatoes are large and usually used for sandwiches. Plum tomatoes are oblong in shape and are used to make tomato sauce. Cherry and grape tomatoes are sweet and are great in salads and as a snack.

Tomatoes contain antioxidants which are good for your heart and effective against some cancers. They also contain vitamins A and C, calcium and potassium. Besides, they are delicious!

Tomatoes are technically a fruit because they have seeds and grow from a flowering plant. No matter what we call them, they are delicious in a toasted sandwich, salad, spaghetti sauce and salsa.

Credit: D. Skinner



FAMILY'S HOPE:

Cont'd from page 7

again mentioned that they were short of staff and that a woman was going into labour, and they would probably need to transfer us to Maria. I was livid, and this was the very moment that I felt that something needed to change. I want people to know about this. I do not want any other parents to go through this." Much to Jeremy's relief the transfer to Maria Hospital didn't happen after he spoke to administration in Quebec City

Baby Jasmine was 4 lb. 6 oz. at birth. At her most recent weigh-in she was 5 lb. 13 oz. She still has an issue with the saturation of oxygen in her

blood.

There is a possible upcoming trip to Maria for additional tests, but at this point that is on hold, Jeremy tells us, due to staff shortages. Jeremy and Amanda are still not sure when they can bring Jasmine home, but staff mentioned to them that when that happens, it is possible that she will require oxygen at home. Jeremy adds that Amanda is really looking forward to having Jasmine home. Jeremy does not hesitate to praise the staff of all three hospitals and says the nurses and doctors do a great job. His hope is that management can address staff shortages and lack of specialized equipment for premature babies so that no other

family has this added stress at a difficult time.

Jeremy gives thanks to his mother and father who have been a big support for him and his wife while they were in Quebec and now while trying to catch up on bills. He also mentions the numerous friends and family who messaged or left encouraging comments. Jeremy adds, "It was helpful and made a big difference in how we are dealing with the situation."

Jeremy concludes, "I just hope that my story will help to improve the way the hospitals are staffed here on the Coast, so that future parents do not have to go through the difficult and stressful experience that my family has."

Cut here

Are you an anglophone travelling to Quebec City for health services? Are you looking for support while you are there? Patient Navigator Steve Guimond can assist you while you are in Quebec City or before you arrive there.

Call 418-932-0095 or navigator@qchfoundation.org

Anglican Church offers airport pick-up, a drive to your destination, hospital visits, and some translation.

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