

# The Gaspé **SPEC**

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## Despite COVID, Nous Trois – Nesisieg – We Three pull off a great event

Cynthia Dow

**GESGAPEGIAG:** - On August 29 the Mawiomí grounds in Gesgapegiag reverberated with the sounds of music and laughter as the second annual Nous Trois – Nesisieg – We Three festival was held in one of the teepees at the edge of the bay. Tom Eden, who has helped coordinate the event since its inception in Escuminac last year, told SPEC, “Our event was like a drive-in movie, but without the movie!” Between 30 and 40 vehicles showed up for this unique show.

Mr. Eden explained, “The opportunity to team up with Kathy Kennedy and her FM Drive-In formula which had been used in Douglstown on a couple of occasions earlier this summer, proved a good compromise. People were invited to the Gesgapegiag Pow Wow grounds, and from within the comfort of their vehicles, they were presented with two hours of music and storytelling, interspersed with interviews relating to the successes and challenges that we face as a region in terms of our day-to-day relationships across the differing cultures.”

Performers included Jeanette Martin, who sang traditional songs to open and close the show, Simone Fugère, Nathan Hayes of Shigawake, and Melissa Girvan of Listuguj. Bruce Wafer, Mayor of Escuminac and prefect of MRC Avignon did the land acknowledgement at the beginning of the event. There was also an interview with Chief Martin by Dave Felker, and a story by Pn’nal Jerome about the pugulatm’ muj or the little people who, according to Mi’gmaq legend, lived on Mont St-Joseph. Also during the night, Aaron Condo spoke about the pick-up game of hockey he organized to bring all three communities together to foster friendship after the unfortunate incident of racism last winter at the Paspébiac arena.

Tourism coordinator for Gesgapegiag, Walter Jerome, Jr told SPEC, “I thought it was a success. I had hoped for 50 cars, and we got more than 30, with two people per car so, at least 60 people. Everyone enjoyed it. People said they want more of these types of events.” He explained that the event, due to

Cont'd on page 4



Top photo: Tom Eden, Kathy Kennedy and Pn’nal Jerome in one of the teepees that served to shelter the equipment and performers. Credit: Darlene Dimock

Bottom photo: Melissa Girvan from Listuguj was one of the Indigenous performers.

## The cement plant sold?

Nelson Sergerie

**GASPÉ** - The Port-Daniel-Gascons cement plant is reportedly targeted by a Brazilian cement company, but a Quebec company is also interested.

Sao Paulo's Votorantim has reportedly started talks to acquire McInnis Cement, but the firm's Canadian sub-

sidiary, and the Caisse de dépôt both declined to comment.

According to Quebecor, this possibility is being greeted coldly in Quebec, in particular by the Member of the National Assembly for Bonaventure, Sylvain Roy, who wonders why it would be good for the Brazilians and not the Quebecers while

the Liberals are asking to protect the assets of Quebecers. The government defers to the Caisse de dépôt.

Béton provincial de Matane is said to be interested as the company has registered in the *registre des lobbyistes* in order to obtain \$150 million from Quebec.

If a transaction materializes, the financial losses for

Quebecers, who have invested through loans and equity investments from the *Caisse de depot et de placements*, could vary between \$500 million and \$700 million.

Asked whether the government of Quebec could support a buyer in the process, Premier François Legault was direct in his re-

sponse: he does not intend to add public funds, even if he declares that he would like it bought by a Quebec company

"We can make efforts, but at the same time, we must consider that Quebecers have invested a lot of money. It is out of the question that the

Cont'd on page 4

# Need a medical consultation? Don't wait.



If you need an appointment with a healthcare professional and have no symptoms of the flu, gastroenteritis or COVID-19, contact:

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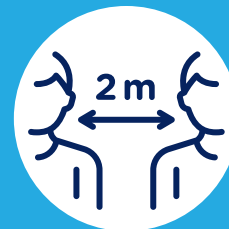
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# Lawyers' fees cause controversy

Ariane Aubert Bonn

CHANDLER: The mayor of Chandler, Louisette Langlois, admits having consulted a lawyer in 2019 when Councillor Bruno-Pierre Godbout suggested in the media, without naming her explicitly, that she was the target of complaints of psychological harassment. "I felt stuck in my job and as any elected official has the right to do so, I consulted a lawyer," says the mayor, specifying that at the time, she was not aware of the content of the complaints in question and did not have the information to know if she was really a target. The mayor specifies that the invoice is dated February 2019, while it was not until May that she was officially notified that she was involved in the case.

The councillor's version, however, is completely opposite. "We had advised Ms. Langlois that there was already a prosecutor on file to defend the Town, that we would not there-

fore pay twice." He adds that the fact that she consulted a lawyer constitutes proof that she was aware of the psychological harassment complaints against her. According to him, if the invoice was submitted to the council after such a long delay, it was to prevent it from being used as evidence at the hearings of the Municipal Commission held this summer, concerning possible ethical breaches of the mayoress.

The two elected officials refrain from saying too much about the precise details of the case, knowing that the Municipal Commission file is still under analysis and that the judge will have to determine if there has been a breach(es) of the case, however, the Director General specifies that if there has been a breach(es), deliberations on the sentence will follow.

By the end of June, the legal fees assumed by the Town of Chandler in this matter reached \$48,540, an

amount that will be much higher once the matter is settled, since several invoices have not yet been received by the Town of Chandler. "It's going to cost a lot more, because the big bill for the audits hasn't come in yet and there are 382 documents that were submitted by the Municipal Commission for analysis to the prosecutors. Once they have them, they do not have the choice but to analyze everything, even if it is not necessarily relevant, which generates astronomical costs," says Louisette Langlois, implying that her detractors caused additional costs by submitting an excessively large file to the court. The director general, Roch Giroux, adds for his part that if deliberations on the sentence must occur, this will constitute an additional burden for the prosecutors in the file and that the Town will have to assume the costs related to it. The court will deliver its verdict on the case on October 26.

# 3rd annual Gaspé Kidney Walk takes place despite pandemic

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - The 3rd annual Gaspé Kidney Walk will be held on September 12 but with modifications this year due to the pandemic.

Instead of having a morning start, the walkers will leave in small groups throughout the day. In addition, the circuit that was a round trip on the promenade along Montée Wakeham and Gaspé Boulevard will go on the promenade and the return will take place along the road. Special security measures will be made by the organizers.

"We really want to educate the population about kidney problems and about kidney failure. Since we installed the dialysis chairs in Gaspé, we have found it important to talk about it and support the people who need it," explains Guy-Gabrielle Boulay-Fortin, co-organizer and herself a kidney transplant recipient who led the fight for the establishment of the hemodialysis service in the Gaspé with Jean Lapointe.

Last year, the walk raised \$35,000. "This year, we did not set a target because we were unable to do fundraising activities given the pandemic and the cessation of all activities," says the young woman.

Gloves, masks and Purell will be available for the walkers. People who prefer not to participate, can make donations via the Marché du kidney Gaspé facebook page or to members of the organizing committee.

# Police report

Roland Jean, 74, from Bonaventure died following a motorcycle accident that occurred on August 29 on Route 299 in Cascapedia-Saint-Jules. According to the Sûreté du Québec, the victim had experienced a malaise.

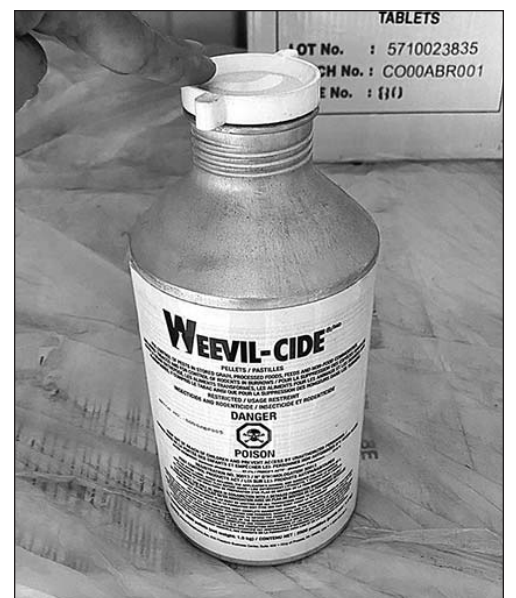
A suspicious fire broke out in a vacant building on August 29 at the end of the day on Curé Allard Avenue in Murdochville. No one was injured. Investigators and the Forensic Identity Service have been on the scene.

A 27-year-old man from Gaspé will face charges after being arrested with a large quantity of drugs. The police intervened on September 2 in an apartment on Legros Street. At the scene, officers found 6,000 methamphetamine tablets, 100 steroid tablets and GHB. They also seized cash and items used for drug trafficking. The individual was released on a promise to appear in court. The investigation is ongoing and the Sûreté du Québec specifies that other individuals could be involved.

The forest fire that devastated 22.8 hectares of forests in the Chic-Chocs Wildlife Reserve is now considered to be under control by Sopfeu. The fire, located about 12 kilometers south of Saint-Maxime-du-Mont-Louis, was started by lightning on August 22.

Extreme caution is required if citizens ever find small bottles on the shoreline. These are empty containers that contained weevil-cide. Weevil-Cide is an insecticide that contains technical grade aluminum phosphide. There is no danger to the environment. The residue within the bottles, however, could pose a health and safety threat to humans if opened.

On the evening of August 26, fourteen 1.5-litre bottles accidentally fell from a ship near the Island of Orleans. The Coast Guard emphasizes that it is very important not to manipulate them and to call the Coast Guard Warning and Alert Network (1-800-363-4735). One of the bottles was found in Saint-Jean-Port-Joli.



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# COVID-19 and arthritis: what you need to know

(NC) It's not clear whether having arthritis makes you more susceptible to the coronavirus infection, but much like the seasonal flu, older adults and people with autoimmune diseases like rheumatoid arthritis may be more likely to get seriously sick if they do become infected.

"The main concern isn't the virus itself, but secondary bacterial infection and other complications that may arise when your body's defenses are in a weakened state," explains

Trish Barbato, president and CEO of the Arthritis Society.

Six million Canadians – about one in five adults – live with arthritis, so the risks of COVID-19 are profound. If you have arthritis, it's critical to take precautions now while researchers continue their work on finding a vaccine.

Follow the standard precautions of maintaining physical distance, wearing a mask when you cannot do so, and practicing good hygiene. Additionally, it is recommended

that you get your vaccinations updated, including seasonal influenza, pneumococcal and pertussis vaccines.

These vaccines won't prevent COVID-19, but could lessen secondary infection and will prevent illnesses that could resemble it.

Some inflammatory arthritis medications suppress the immune system, which may make you more vulnerable to infection. But for most people with arthritis in our country, there is no need to stop your



medications as the risk of contracting the virus remains low.

As always, consult your doctor or rheumatologist about

any change in your health or any questions about your medications.

Find more information at [arthritis.ca](http://arthritis.ca).

## MCINNIS CEMENT:

### Cont'd from cover

government of Quebec will invest most of the reinvestment in the purchase of the cement plant," says the Premier.

François Legault recalls that it was a serious mistake by the Parti Québécois and the Liberal Party to have invested in this project, recalling that each of the 200 jobs created cost more than \$1 million, while the cost of building the cement plant reached \$1.6 billion.

Québec solidaire's Gabriel Nadeau-Dubois deplores the environmental and economic fiasco of the Ciment McInnis file. In a press briefing in Quebec, Mr. Nadeau-Dubois reacted to the possibility of the sale of the company. The elected official states that even if forest biomass is used in fuel, the result remains the

same.

"It's better than nothing. The McInnis project, even timidly improved by that, is still a bad project," says Mr. Nadeau-Dubois.

For its part, the Parti Québécois wants the company to remain under Quebec control. The Member of the National Assembly for Îles-de-la-Madeleine, Joël Arseneau, recalls that François Legault wants the second part of his mandate to be devoted to economic nationalism. "Rather than handing over a gift to Brazilian interests, we will make sure that it can benefit Quebec. As far as I know, we still need cement. I think the model can be seen to the advantage of Quebecers and Gaspésians," says Mr. Arseneau.

It was inevitable, according to the Member of Parliament for the Gaspé Peninsula and

Magdalen Islands, Diane Lebouthillier, who is not surprised. She was the prefect of the Rocher-Percé MRC when the cement plant venture got underway.

"I'm not necessarily surprised that eventually there could be buybacks. It's an international market. We will not be able to move the cement plant or the deposit," says the elected official.

Unionized workers at the company are not worried about their jobs. The president of the United Steelworkers union, Renaud Langlois, calls the sale of the company a rumour.

"The Caisse de dépôt has always been open to purchase offers from the beginning. The Brazilian affair is a rumour. We have a state-of-the-art cement plant. It's one of the best in the world. There is no problem for jobs," says Mr. Langlois.

## WE THREE

### Cont'd from cover

happen in June, was postponed due to the pandemic but, "we didn't want to cancel, we wanted to keep up our annual festival so people could hear about us... and radio was the perfect solution. Rain did not have an impact as everything was kept nice and dry. Gessapegiag may host the event again next year so we get to have a real chance at it."

This was the second edition of Nous Trois-Nesisieg-We Three. It was an idea born a couple of years ago when a few of us were taking part in consultations in Escuminac and we thought there was a need to develop an event that would showcase the French, Mi'kmaq, and English culture

of the Avignon MRC region in a spirit of friendship, respect, and open-mindedness. The committee was chaired by Paige Isaac, and included Bruce Wafer, Walter Jerome Jr., Dave Felker, and a few others. "The respect and support for one another that reigned in that core group is what I will take from the experience. I know I can say that I've grown from being part of this," Tom Eden concluded.

The evening was sponsored by CASA, MRC Avignon, New Richmond Ford, Location Moreau, Gessapegiag Tourism, Maltans Service Station, and McBriere agence-conseil. The goal of the organization is to bring people together to celebrate the Mi'gmaq, French and English cultures of the area.

# Editorial section

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I would like to congratulate Cynthia Dow on her Guest Commentary. She called "a spade a spade." It takes courage and resolve to say what needs to be said particularly when there may be backlash, especially locally. Keep up the good work!

Randy Ford  
Englehart, Ontario

The September 1, 1972, tragedy at the Blue Bird Café is an event that's underreported in Canadian and Quebec history. Except for media reports and, as far as I know, there are no major books or movies that detail the horror of that night. However, there's a very good song, a haunting one, by Montreal roots group, Steel Rail, that covers the basic story. Blue Bird Café was recorded on *Steel Rail's* album, *A Thousand Miles of Snow*, and can be found on the group's website.

Mel Simoneau  
Gatineau, Qué.

An Open Letter to the Prime Minister of Canada  
The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau  
Dear Mr. Prime Minister,

I was wondering, if all goes well from now until October 31, could you declare a mask free day for Halloween?

You see, this year there are two full moons in October, and one, the blue moon, falls on Halloween.

Of course I understand there are numerous individuals you'd have to consult with, and it would have to be left up to the individual mayor of each municipality to make the decision at a council meeting.

Best to give them a fair warning. Last year, 2019, the mayor of Montreal cancelled Halloween due to the weather. This year she could close major arteries and the children would be excited to have their airways unobstructed for a whole day.

*Bien à vous and your family Prime Minister Trudeau,  
Tongue in cheek, I send you this idea,  
Vivian Beebe  
Montreal, PQ*

### Spec office hour for the public

Wednesday and Thursday  
9 a.m to 4 p.m.

Please use front door and  
ring the bell for service and  
please wear a mask.

## SEA-COAST PUBLICATIONS INC. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, September 12  
10:30 a.m.

Municipal Hall in New Carlisle.

Please wear a mask.

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# Tourism: a season comparable to 2019

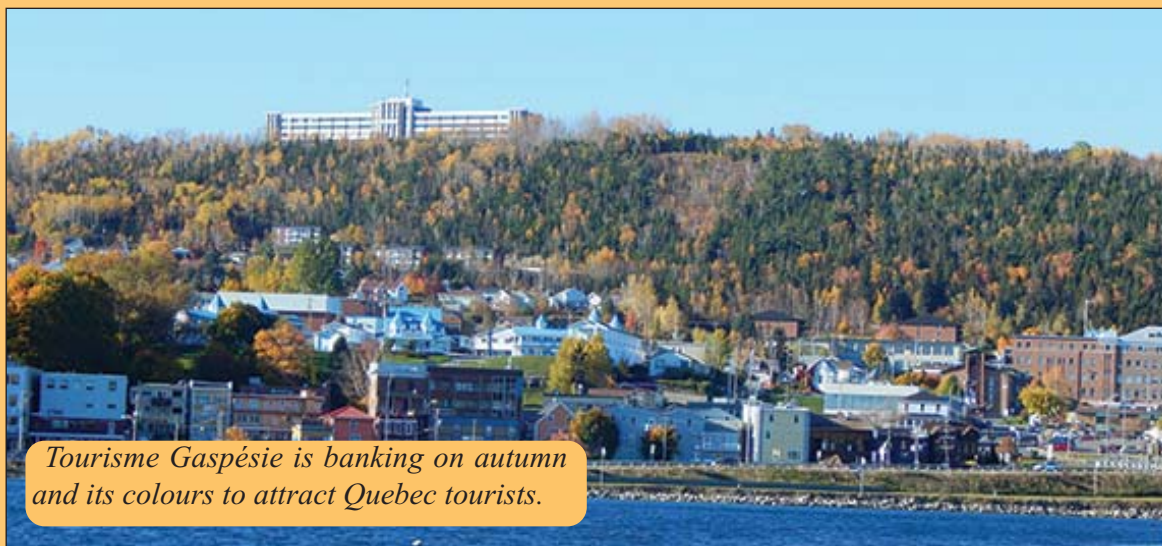
Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ - Tourisme Gaspésie is expecting summer attendance to have been comparable to 2019 when 535,000 tourists set foot in the region.

Fears were huge in the spring when the pandemic hit full force with the bans on gatherings and closure of borders. Many thought there wouldn't be a 2020 tourist season.

However, things changed to such an extent that illegal camping made the headlines this summer in the Gaspé and Percé regions.

Last year, Tourisme Gaspésie estimated it to be one of the best seasons since the organization was formed 40 years ago. "I expect we will have a



Tourisme Gaspésie is banking on autumn and its colours to attract Quebec tourists.

Photo: N. Sergerie

year similar to last year which was still a great season. Since we have a high percentage of Quebec customers, at least we will get by," says Tourisme Gaspésie director general Joëlle Ross.

To continue this momentum, Tourisme Gaspésie is enhancing its fall campaign by increasing its promotional budget to \$150,000 with two components to attract Quebecers, but also local tourists to make up for the

absence of Europeans.

"To try to get a few more Quebecers, so that they understand that they can also come to Gaspé in the fall and that it will be less crowded, but that it will be just as wonderful," says

Joëlle Ross

## Carleton-sur-Mer maintains control

The implementation of measures two years ago in Carleton-sur-Mer made it possible for that town to avoid the overflow of illegal camping experienced at the end of the Peninsula.

Despite the high traffic, everything went well, according to Mayor Mathieu Lapointe. The municipal campsite might even have a record season.

"Up until mid-August, we were beating our numbers from last year. September is still very, very good. We have a lot of reservations. More than this time last year," says the mayor.

# Requests for a change in CISSS administration

Nelson **Sergerie**

MARIA - The tension is mounting between the Union of Nurses, Auxiliary Nurses and Respiratory Therapists of Eastern Quebec (SIIEQ-CSQ) and the Integrated Health and Social Services Centre of the Gaspé Peninsula (CISSS).

The union and the Member of the National Assembly (MNA) for Bonaventure, Sylvain Roy, are asking for ministerial intervention for a change in administration.

Union members held a demonstration on September 2 in front of Maria hospital to denounce the chronic lack of manpower.

The president of SIIEQ-CSQ, Pier-Luc Bujold, deplors the lack of consideration for the improvement of the working conditions of nurses, nursing assistants and respiratory therapists; the culture of silence and the deficiency in resource management endorsed and promoted by the President and CEO of the CISSS, Chantale Duguay.

"CEO Mrs. Duguay has been leading us into the wall for five years, but now we've hit the wall and it hurts. I have the impression that she destroyed Maria hospital and also destroyed the other health service centres in the Gaspé Peninsula, whether in Côte-de-Gaspé,

Rocher-Percé, Haute-Gaspésie or the Bay of Chaleurs. There has to be a change in management quickly if we are to ensure long-term access to health services for the population. People are taking early retirement despite large pension losses. People are resigning and leaving the region more often than not. Work stoppages for psychological reasons are on the rise, without the CISSS really wanting to improve the situation. Appearances, money and power seem to be the only motivations of the organization," the president says rather bluntly.

MNA Sylvain Roy regularly receives comments from CISSS employees who have made the

choice to work part-time in order to maintain their mental health. Having already requested an analysis of the CISSS from the government, he will intervene again.

"Shedding light on what is going on and then making the necessary decisions. Change in governance means a change in the philosophy of personnel management and if that does not work, the ministry needs to take responsibility and change the governance quite simply," says the deputy.

## Surprise at the CISSS

The CISSS does not understand the union which seems

first and foremost to be targeting Maria hospital.

The director of human resources, Martin Brosseau, has difficulty understanding, especially since there have been about sixty meetings with the union since March.

"Despite all our good faith, our attempts to rectify the situation, we find ourselves in a context similar to previous years," says the administrator.

"The SIIEQ has proposed certain solutions that we have either achieved or with which we agree. This year, we have never recruited so many nurses and nursing assistants compared to the two previous years," says Mr. Brosseau.

# Family childcare workers strike

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ - A few dozen people demonstrated the morning of September 3 at the Birthplace of Canada site in Gaspé as part of the rotating strike by CSQ family childcare providers in the Gaspé and Lower-Saint-Laurent regions.

Talks to renew the collective agreement have resumed with the Government of Quebec.

The workers, including the 57 who work in the Rocher-Percé and Côte-de-Gaspé MRCs, earn the equivalent of \$12.42 per hour according to the union and government is offering \$12.83.

"We are asking for \$16.75 for an educator not trained in CPE (Centre petite enfance) at level one. We also have requests for pedagogical days," explains regional union presi-



The workers wore capes during their strike on September 3 in Gaspé

Photo: N. Sergerie

dent Kathy Côté.

If no agreement is reached, an indefinite general strike will be called on September 21 and Ms. Côté believes she has the support of parents.

## Private daycares in Gaspé

Two promoters would be interested in opening private day-

cares in Gaspé.

A few dozen places could be created, according to the mayor, Daniel Côté.

"The pandemic has surely put a bit of sand in the mix. Can these projects be relaunched this fall... probably," states the mayor.

Three family day care serv-

ices have opened, but two others closed in the wake of the pandemic.

New approaches have been made to the Ministry of the Family and the mayor believes there is a political willingness to proceed, recalling that there are financial incentives for people who would like to open childcare services in family settings.

"There is a project for several dozen places. If there were one or two private day cares and a few family day cares, we would find ourselves filling all the missing spaces," says Mayor Côté.

The mayor hopes that Quebec will be open to new projects to address the lack of spaces now estimated at approximately 175.





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A photograph of several young children in a classroom, with their hands raised in the air. The children are diverse in appearance. The background is slightly blurred, showing a classroom setting with a green decorative element on the wall.

# 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

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Votre  gouvernement

Québec 

# Leader of the Government in the House of Commons consults Gaspésians

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ - The lack of labour and housing are the main issues raised by the region to the federal government. On September 1, the Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, Pablo Rodriguez, held virtual discussions with various regional stakeholders to learn about their priorities in order to prepare the economic recovery plan and the upcoming Speech from the Throne.

Resorting to foreign labour, such as the Filipinos who work

at the LM Wind Power plant in Gaspé, is one possible solution to the workforce shortage. "We will have to adapt certain programs to promote access to the workforce and also with the housing that is necessary to accommodate this workforce," explains Mr. Rodriguez.

The topic of air transportation was also discussed during the consultation.

Ottawa has created a multitude of programs to support Canadians and businesses in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Some, like the wage

subsidy, have worked well; the Canada Emergency Response Benefit drew strong criticism as it urged people to stay home rather than return to work. According to the elected official, there is no question of abandoning citizens and businesses during the current crisis.

"We have set up a bunch of programs. They weren't perfect, but we had time to improve them. The wage subsidy has been useful for our SMEs and we will be there for them," says Mr. Rodriguez.

## Canadian lobster

Ottawa is not worried about the investigation into the export of Canadian lobster in the United States.

The Canadian industry replaced Maine lobster catches in China as US lobster was hit with a 35% tariff in a trade dispute with China.

The establishment of the Canada-Europe trade agreement also led an increase in Canadian lobster exports. However, Americans recently made deals with China and Europe, includ-

ing eliminating the 35% tariff on US lobster going to China.

Despite the investigation Canada continues to defend the industry. "We have partnerships that are comprehensive and inclusive that will be beneficial for our businesses and our citizens. We firmly believe in trade based on trade rules and practices that reflect our commitment to transparency and fairness," says the Member of Parliament for the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands, Diane Lebouthillier.

## Massive cuts at Orléans Express

Nelson *Sergerie*

GASPÉ - Orléans Express is laying off 40% of its coach drivers on September 20. In an internal memo obtained by SPEC, the company explains that after analyzing the demand and the market, permanent layoffs are necessary because the forecast does not show a return to work for its employees in the coming months.

38 drivers are thus affected; 60 will remain, including 12 based in Rimouski. Half will be on a recall list with the 75% Ottawa wage subsidy at Rimouski's home port. The terms of separation are determined by the collective agreement and the laid-off drivers will be informed by letter.

Keolis confirmed this information, indicating that they have made every effort to avoid this difficult decision.



## You're invited to CASA's virtual AGM.

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.

## CASA

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
2020

WHEN:

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

TIME:

4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Please RSVP to  
418.752.5995 or  
fay@casa-gaspe.com

### 20 SENTRA S MT

**\$49**  
WEEKLY

**64 MOS.**  
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### 20 KICKS S

**\$52**  
WEEKLY

**64 MOS.**  
**LEASE**  
\$0 DOWN

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### 20 QASHQAI

**\$60**  
WEEKLY

**64 MOS.**  
**LEASE**  
\$0 DOWN

**OR**

**0%**

**60 MOS.**  
**FINANCE**

**OR**

**UP TO**  
**\$2,000**  
NON-STACK CASH

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### 20 ROGUE

**\$72**  
WEEKLY

**60 MOS.**  
**LEASE**  
\$0 DOWN

**OR**

**0%**

**84 MOS.**  
**FINANCE**

**OR**

**UP TO**  
**\$5,500**  
NON-STACK CASH

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# Announcements...



## Obituary



**HALL: John Patrick**

March 17, 1939 - July 11, 2020

We are sorry to announce the passing away of John Hall at the age of 81 on July 11, 2020, surrounded by his family while hymns played softly.

He leaves behind his beloved wife of 53 years, Margaret Ann Hayes; son Stephen (Kim Hawkes) and two precious grandsons: Warren and Thomas Hall; daughter Julie (Jaydee Dupuis); sister Helen Hall (Garnett Sawyer) and many other family members. He was predeceased by his parents Warren and Irene (Tingley) Hall and brother Harold (Carol Hopper).

John had an outdoor funeral service at the New Carlisle Bible Chapel Bayview Cemetery. Mr. Bob MacGregor conducted the service. The passages of scripture read were Psalms 91: 1-4, 9-12 and Psalms 103: 1-5. Mr. and Mrs. MacGregor sang John's favorite hymns: Blessed be the Name and Will Your Anchor Hold.

Jaydee Dupuis read the eulogy, written by Julie with help from John and Ann's family. The pallbearers were Marcel Allain, Etienne Blais, John Prince, Josh Prince, Jaydee Dupuis and Stephen Hall.

John will be remembered for his smile and friendliness, love for his family, his gentle ways with children and animals, and his sense of humour. He was a prankster with a comical nature and quick wit, telling jokes and stories sometimes embellishing them for a greater effect. He had a wonderful memory and knowledge of family and local history.

John was a hard worker who believed in honesty and being trustworthy. He believed that if you do your job well you will always be successful. He passed his great work ethic down to his children and grandchildren. He loved the country life, farming, Hereford cattle, working in the woods with his family and having lunches at the camp in the woods. He also loved his old Ford tractor and last but not least his dependable International 444 Tractor that he used all year.

When John was told on his first appointment that he had terminal cancer, he continued to work on small jobs and stayed positive. He never asked "How long?" instead during those short six months, John continued to tell specialists, family and friends this: "I had a very good life, a wonderful family and God has a plan for my life so when my work on earth is finished, God will take me home and you have to have faith." John remained thankful throughout his journey and his last audible prayer was "Thank you, Jesus."

John will be missed by many and especially his family, however, we have to remember John's words and we cannot go against God's plans. This has given us peace and comfort on difficult days and nights. Until we meet John again in heaven, we will miss his smile, his deep love and care to us and our love to him will remain forever in our hearts.

All our love, wife Ann; Stephen and Kim and grandsons Warren and Thomas; and Julie and Jaydee and grandpets; Winchester and Pixie.



## In Memory



**PRICE: Julie Ann**

In loving memory of a wonderful wife, Julie Ann (Carmichael) Price, who passed away September 9, 2019.

*All the love you created is still there.*

*All the memories are still there.*

*You live on in the hearts of everyone*

*You have touched and nurtured*

*While you were here.*

*Death ends a life, not a relationship.*

Lovingly remembered by husband Ritchie.



**SINCLAIR: Robert Allan**

November 14, 1946 - September 8, 2017

*Today's the third anniversary*

*Of the day that I lost you*

*And for a time it felt as though*

*My life had ended too,*

*But loss has taught me many things*

*And now I face each day*

*With hope and many memories*

*To help me on my way.*

*And though I'm full of sadness*

*That you're no longer here,*

*Your influence still guides me*

*And I still feel you near.*

*What we shared will never die.*

*It lives within my heart,*

*Bringing strength and comfort*

*While we are apart.*

Forever grateful for your love. Miss you dearly, your loving wife Betty.

## Sincere Sympathy



The Board of Directors and staff of The Gaspé Spec would like to offer its sincere sympathy to the family of the late Mrs. Irene Dallain who passed away on August 27, 2020.

Mrs. Dallain was the proofreader at The Gaspé Spec for many years. She was a kind, soft-spoken lady who was very involved in her community. She will be missed.

## Thank You

The family of the late John Hall would like to thank everyone for their prayers, encouragement and support.

How can we ever show our gratitude and thankfulness for the many acts of kindness you have given to us: drop off and pick up at the bus stops, help at hospitals, snow removal, mail and grocery deliveries, phone calls, visits, smiles, waves, talking with people on the street and Tim Hortons, messages, letters, cards, care packages, food, flowers, tilling our garden and supplying seeds.

Thank you for the donations to our family, Fair Haven Bible Camp, Linda Lemore-Brown Foundation and St. Joseph's Hospital in Saint John, New Brunswick.

Thank you to the doctors and nurses for always being just a phone call away and their visits, compassionate care, love and dignity they gave to John. Thank you to Mr. and Mrs. MacGregor, the pallbearers, the speaker system and employees from the funeral home. A heartfelt thanks to those who attended John's funeral. It was wonderful to have you with us. We have certainly been blessed and thankful to have such wonderful family, friends and neighbours and to live in this beautiful area that John and his family love.

*Love and kindness,  
Wife Ann; Stephen and Kim;  
grandsons Warren and Thomas;  
Jaydee and Julie*



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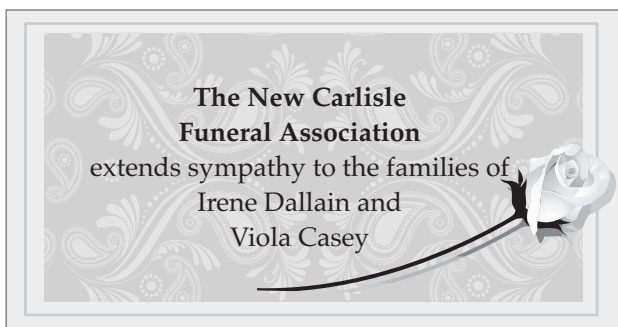
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## COAST ROUND-UP

### 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.

### NEW CARLISLE:

#### Drive-In Gospel Meetings

Meetings will take place at Fair Haven Bible Campgrounds, Sundays at 2 p.m., rain or shine. COVID-19 considerations and social distancing measures will be followed. All are welcome - invite a friend! Sponsored by the New Carlisle Bible Chapel. For more information, please call 418-752-3372.

### NEW CARLISLE:

#### Linda LeMore-Brown Foundation

Members and supporters of the Linda LeMore-Brown Foundation are asked to please note that our office located at 168,

Gerard D. Levesque, New Carlisle, is closed to the public due to COVID-19. To renew your membership or to give correspondence, we ask that you please mail it to our office. For financial support travelling outside the region for cancer treatment or any other information, please call the office, 418-752-5995 to make an appointment as we will not be accepting walk-ins. We thank you for your patience and co-operation during these difficult times.

### NEW CARLISLE:

#### St. Andrew's Anglican Church

After five months of not being able to partake in the sacrament of Holy Communion, the Rector of St. Andrew's Anglican Church of the Parish of New Carlisle is pleased to welcome you to a service of Holy Eucharist this **Sunday September 13** at 11 a.m. Please bring your masks and observe physical distancing regulations. God's blessings to all! Due to issues that pertain to Covid-19 and the Quebec health regulations in serving meals to the public, it

has been decided we will not hold our annual Harvest Supper at St. Andrew's Anglican Church in New Carlisle this year, however, individuals wishing to make a financial contribution may do so by contacting either Norma Chedore (418) 752-6214 or Christine Fraser-Ward (418) 752-6837. Looking forward to organizing our next Harvest Supper in 2021.

### NEW CARLISLE:

**Heritage New Carlisle September 26:** Photography Workshop with animator Barry Le Blanc. Beginning at 10 a.m. at the New Carlisle Optimist Chalet. Learn about light and composition, plus have a change to practice. Bring a lunch. Hygiene and distancing measures will be followed.

### NEW RICHMOND:

**Richmond Manor Annual General Meeting September 16:** The Annual General Meeting for the Richmond Manor will take place at 7 p.m. at the United Church hall in New Richmond. All COVID protocols will be in place. Thank you for your attendance.

## SEA-COAST PUBLICATIONS INC. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Please note that the Annual General Meeting for Sea-Coast Publications Inc. (The Gaspé SPEC) will take place at 10:30 a.m., **Saturday, September 12**, at the Municipal Hall in New Carlisle. Please wear a mask. To request a copy of the Annual Report or to submit a question or comment in advance, please contact specs@globetrotter.net or visit the Spec office Wednesday or Thursday.



### ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

Remember to be careful what you say about others, Aries. If you're talking about someone who isn't in the vicinity, act as if he or she is there so you always remain respectful.

### TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

You might need some time alone this week to get yourself centred, Taurus. This is especially true if you have been running yourself ragged and are feeling stressed out.

### GEMINI – May 22/June 21

Gemini, do not try to fit into some mould that doesn't represent who you truly are. There's only one person you need to please, and that is yourself.

### CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22

Issues around you may be a bit heavy, Cancer. Your role is to lighten up the situation with humour and amusement. Your powers of adaptability will be put to the test.

### LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, if one door will not open for you, don't force it. Simply try another door. Accept that some things are not meant to be and it is time to move on.

### VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, your approach to things may get some push back from others. Don't let that stop you from being independent and forging your own path.

### LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, the old ways of doing things may butt heads with the new, leaving you scratching your head. Go with your gut instinct

on this situation this week.  
**SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22**  
Unexpected events can shuffle things when you least expect it, Scorpio. Don't be discouraged; learn how to go with the flow and you can come out on top.  
**SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21**  
Sagittarius, your confidence may wane a bit this week. All you need is a pep talk from someone to get you out of a funk. Listen to what this person has to say.  
**CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20**  
Aiming for the latest and greatest may not be the best idea, Capricorn. Material possessions bring you entertainment, but strive for other, more grounding goals.  
**AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18**  
Make sure you are nourishing your whole self in the days to come, Aquarius. This means being in tune with physical and mental well-being.  
**PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20**  
A nervous restlessness may urge you to act this week, Pisces. You could be excited about something that you just can't pinpoint right now.

### FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- SEPTEMBER 6**
- Idris Elba, Actor (48)**
- SEPTEMBER 7**
- Kevin Love, Athlete (32)**
- SEPTEMBER 8**
- Pink, Singer (41)**
- SEPTEMBER 9**
- Lauren Daigle, Singer (29)**
- SEPTEMBER 10**
- Misty Copeland, Dancer (38)**
- SEPTEMBER 11**
- Kygo, DJ (29)**
- SEPTEMBER 12**
- Jennifer Hudson, Singer (39)**

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## Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



### Grandparents Day: It's the thought that counts

In Canada, the second Sunday in September, this year that will fall on September 13, is set aside to honour grandparents. This day is the perfect opportunity to celebrate your grandparents as well as the contribution that seniors make to our society.

This is a day where you can do something special for your grandparents or a senior in your life by sending a card, visiting or making them their favourite meal. Most grandparents like to receive a handmade gift. It's the thought that counts.

You can buy a lovely card, perhaps not specifically for Grandparents Day but perhaps a Thank You card or Thinking of You card. You can also purchase lovely cards that have no writing inside so you can write your own heartfelt message. Children can make their own cards. Just put out the craft basket and let them create. It does not need to be perfect. Grandparents will love it just the way it is. Warning: Do not put out glitter. Every child loves to overapply glitter and you will be cleaning up glitter for weeks.

Every grandparent would love to receive a photo of their grandchild! We no longer print out photos, rather just keeping them on our phones. Plan ahead and print out a photo and allow the child to make a frame. They can add shells or smooth small stones. Let them gather small pieces of driftwood and glue onto cardboard frame.

Take a family photo with the whole family as you are today! They will treasure this if they have not been able to see you in person for a while. Print the photo and frame it. Do not forget to date it and put lovey-dovey messages on the back of the photo or frame.

One of the greatest gifts you can give a grandparent is your time. A safe socially-distanced visit and masks will show them that you respect them and the need to keep them safe and face-time or a phone call lets your child show their grandparents that they are thinking of them. This is especially true during COVID when isolation and loneliness has been a problem and for seniors living alone.

You can have older children make a treat for their grandparents. It is the perfect season to make zucchini bread using zucchinis from the garden! Use fresh foods that are in season to make blueberry muffins or apple crisp.

Grandparents Day is not an officially recognized day in Canada. Historically it was deemed by the government in 1995 to be a special day for grandparents, but it was officially discontinued in 2014. Nonetheless, whether it is government sanctioned or not, feel free to celebrate the day in Canada!

Grandparents Day is officially recognized in the U.S. since 1978 when President Jimmy Carter declared the first Sunday after Labour Day to be Grandparents Day. In the States they have an official flower for the day, aptly the forget-me-not. There is also an official song for the day by Johnny Prill titled *A Song for Grandma and Grandpa*.

Let us be grateful for all the wisdom and love that our grandparents and seniors have given us. It really is the thought that counts. They may have said that hundreds of times, but they mean it. Let them know they are loved and appreciated on Grandparents Day and every day.

#### Update on baby Jasmine:

In the August 26 issue of Spec we reported about Jeremy Flowers, Amanda Thompson and the premature arrival of their daughter Jasmine. We are happy to say that Jasmine is now home after spending over a month in hospital. Jeremy reports that she is doing well and now weighs 7 pounds. We wish them all the best and thank them for telling their story in hopes of helping others in the same situation.

## CanLit/Gaspé Lit: Fabulous for Fall

Diane Skinner

The world is in a bit of a mess just now, COVID being just one of the concerns we have for ourselves and our planet. The virus might be at the forefront of our worries, but other issues are still on the horizon: pollution, racism and the economy. Enough about that for now! Let's escape with a good book.

One of the kindest things that we can do for ourselves is find a book and get lost in it. Reading is informative, entertaining, provocative and an escape when we need it. Perhaps you have gotten away from the habit of reading? Fall is the perfect time to pick up a book. Nestled in a comfy chair with a soft blanket on your knees with a hot cup of tea beside you – a perfect scenario.

What shall you read? There are so many great books that await you, but I am going to put in a plug for Canadian books, some of them older titles. There are loads of Canadian titles, and a few set on the Gaspé, to choose from. Feel no guilt in rereading a favourite. Here are a few suggestions:

#### All My Puny Sorrows (Miriam Toews)

It is a book that has been described as “a moving page turner, because despite so much talk of death, there is so much life in this book.” It deals with the bonds of sisterhood and the struggle of depression.

#### The Vinyl Café: Dave and Morley Stories (Stuart McLean)

If you listened to and loved Stuart McLean's radio stories you will adore this book. It is always humorous and sometimes has bittersweet lessons of family life.

#### Stone Angel (Margaret Laurence)

Hagar may be 90 years old, but she is not ready to move into a retirement home even though her son is urging her to do so. So, Hagar sets out on an adventure to find her childhood home but thinking about the past and her unhappy marriage and a secret causes her to become confused.

#### Medicine Walk (Richard Wagamese)

This book by a First Nations author tells about the journey of Franklin Starlight, 16 years old, and his alcoholic father who is dying. They are searching for a burial spot for his father, Eldon, a place that he recalls from his youth that is in the forest.

#### The Orenda (Joseph Boyden)

Warning: The book opens with a brutal massacre and a kidnapping. Snow Falls is a young Iroquois girl and she is captured by a warrior from the Huron nation. Her father, Bird, recognizes the ghost of his lost daughter and it is revealed to him that she possesses powerful magic.

#### Fall on Your Knees (Ann-Marie MacDonald)

This hefty novel takes place in the late 19th and into the 20th century. The book follows four generations of the Piper family. Like most families it chronicles the spectrum of human experience and reveals a terrible secret. A favourite.

#### The Handmaid's Tale (Margaret Atwood)

This dystopian (a society that is undesirable and frightening) novel is set in the future in a totalitarian state that has overthrown the government of the United States. Fiction sometimes mirrors or even predicts reality.

#### The Birth House (Ami McKay)

This is the story of Dora Rare, the first daughter to be born in five generations of the Rare family living in an isolated village in Nova Scotia in 1919. She becomes an apprentice to a midwife. This novel tells about the struggles women have had to have control of their own bodies.

**Anne of Green Gables  
(Lucy Maud Montgomery)**  
Yes, you may have read it long ago, but it is worth another read. It is charming, sweet and heart-warming. We all need that. The sequels are surprisingly entertaining.

#### Random Passage (Bernice Morgan)

This Newfoundland author's historical novel follows the Andrews family who have been forced to leave England and start fresh in Newfoundland. Lavinia, just 17 years old, is lonely in her new land and so begins a journal.

#### On the Proper Use of Stars (Dominique Fortier)

It is the true story based on Sir John Franklin's Expedition, his last, to find a Northwest Passage to the Pacific Ocean.

#### Forgiveness (Mark Sakamoto)

The author recounts the true story of the MacLean and Sakamoto families: two fami-

lies on either side of the Second World War. We can all relate to the pervasive theme of forgiveness portrayed in the book.

#### The Tin Flute (Gabrielle Roy)

Roy's first novel, originally written in French, tells the story of a poor family living in the “slums” of Montreal.

#### Nobody Ever Talks About Anything but the End: A Memoir (Liz Levine)

You may be surprised to hear that this recent book about loss and grief, mental illness and suicide is genuinely funny and moving. You will shed a tear and never forget what you have read. Liz Levine wrote the book in the aftermath of the suicide of her sister and death of her best friend.

### Gaspé Lit

#### The Alford Saga (Paul Almond)

This 8 book historical series is written and set on the Gaspé Peninsula. Every Gaspesian will be able to connect with these books that are very relatable and readable. Names, places and events are all part of our collective memories. If you only read one book in the series start with *The Deserter*, Book 1.

#### We Were the Salt of the Sea and the sequel The Coral Bride (Roxanne Bouchard)

Newly published, 2017 and 2020, these murder mysteries, translated from French, are set in a fishing village on the Gaspé Peninsula. “The body of a woman dredges up in a fisherman's net” and “On Quebec's outlying Gaspé Peninsula, the truth can be slippery especially down on the fishermen's wharves.” If this piques your interest these might be the books for you. I have not yet read them but would love to hear from a Spec reader who has!

If you are finding the print in books is getting smaller or would just enjoy listening to a book being read to you (who doesn't?) consider subscribing to Audible.ca through Amazon. Each month you can choose a book and listen to it on your cell phone or tablet. Once you purchase a book it will always be available to you. It costs \$14.99 a month, which can be less than the cost of buying a “real” book. Besides a book such as Diana Gabaldon's *Outlander* will keep you entertained for 32 hours, and you can always pick up where you stopped listening.

# Musicians of the Gaspé

Diane Skinner

Over the summer months we have profiled over 16 Gaspesian musicians in The Gaspé Spec. The music scene is alive and hearty here on the Gaspé and every one of the musicians has been forthcoming with their responses to all questions. What an articulate and clever bunch of men and women. Despite the pandemic they have continued to entertain us by being creative with how they reach us. Many of them offer live evenings of their music posted on their facebook accounts. Others post pre-recorded videos on facebook for our enjoyment. The Gaspesian Way has been so inventive in bringing great music on their virtual Thirsty Thursdays. Kathy Kennedy has brought music into people's lives using a low wattage radio transmitter which allows people to sit in their cars within a certain distance and listen to live music. Where there is a will there is a way.

The types of music vary greatly from traditional country to classical to Irish traditional to rock and beyond! Some musicians such as Nathan Hayes and Kevin Jones play a variety of genres. Though the styles of music vary, one thing is common to all of them – they continued to bring us the happiness and enjoyment of music during some difficult times. They also give us the feeling of connection at a time when we have been isolated from others.

The following musicians reflected on this pandemic and how it has affected their music.

"Things are certainly going to be different for the foreseeable future. Many industries are going to have to "reinvent the wheel" with how they access consumers and produce their products. Musicians in-

cluded. The magic of festivals will have to wait, but the magic of music doesn't have to. A wise friend of mine told me recently it's as if we've hit the "reset" button. We have a golden opportunity to fix the cracks in the system and trim off some of the excess fat (figuratively speaking). Let's not waste it nor forget the lessons we've learned!"

Nathan Hayes

"This has been one of the hardest years of my life. So many can go back to work but not the musicians who earn their money through performing. That is at a halt. It is sad and depressing, so I decided to perform live shows online every weekend through facebook. This helps people, especially those who are home alone. My shows are 2 ½ to 3 hours long and I have views of up to 60,000. People have messaged me to say that it helps them during this pandemic. This puts a smile on my face and sometimes a tear in my eye! I am grateful that so many people want to hear my music. It makes me want to continue, especially for my mom and dad and other family who I have not been able to hold in my arms since February 2020. I think it's time for COVID-19 to end so that we can get back to our normal lives."

Pamela Rooney

"The two bands I am active in now had about 15 gigs set up this summer. They have mostly been cancelled. I have been happy to host The Gaspesian Way, and the Virtual Thirsty Thursdays, and still be able to hire and pay some musicians, which helps make up for the loss they are all taking. It's not the same as playing to a good-sized crowd. You miss the interaction. Perhaps, the one benefit I have noticed is that musicians and artists are

taking advantage of the situation to use technology and get themselves out there. With the pandemic, many have maximized this and hopefully will be granted opportunities when it passes."

Dave Felker

"Music has had a revival. People are learning to play the instrument that they had no time for before or take up a new hobby. Baking bread has been on the rise, (pardon the pun) and people take time to pick up the phone and call a friend. Even the earth is breathing a sigh of relief with less pollution. So, until we can have a real hug, stay safe my friends." Debbie Sams, who has always wanted to play the fiddle, has spent most of her pandemic leisure time learning to do just that.

"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."

Kevin Jones

Thanks to the musicians who have been profiled weekly in Spec from May 13 to September 2: Roger Lee Martin, Nathan Hayes, Nash Stanley, Tammy Adams, Gweezee, Nadine and Sammy, Pamela Rooney, Dale Boyle, Glenn Patterson, Melissa Furlotte, Dave Felker, Kathy Kennedy, Linda Drody, Wayne Flowers, Kevin Jones, Debbie Sams

## Back to School!

Diane Skinner

LISTUGUJ: When asked if her two children, boys aged 13 and 15, will be returning to school, Sherri Morrison replies, "Yes, indeed." She adds that they both miss school. Her family lives in Listuguj and one of her sons attends AGS (Alaqsit'w Gitpu School) and the other attends SSHS. (Sugarloaf Senior High School).

She is not overly worried with the low case numbers in the area combined with the relatively sparse population. AGS has contacted her about the

measures that will be in effect to keep the students there safe. The colour coded system alerts the community if there is a rise in the number of COVID cases. It starts at yellow and can go to orange and if numbers of infections are high, red.

Sherri feels that it is important that her sons attend school in person to socialize and be engaged with others. In addition, it gives more structure to their day-to-day activities. No school means late nights, a bad sleep schedule and meals at all the wrong times. In addition, it is difficult when two parents both work days.

Sherri adds that the Sugarloaf Senior High School has developed a program for the purchase of laptops that will be required for use at home. She is not yet

sure if this program will apply to students from Listuguj. Sherri tells Spec that approximately 110 students from Listuguj attend high school in Campbellton.

Would Sherri ever consider homeschooling? She replies, "Of course I would if it was necessary but at this point, no." Note that homeschooling would mean withdrawing students from the regular school system and educating them at home.

If the students are asked to stay home from school due to COVID, whether part of the day or full-time, they would still receive support from the school system, such as Zoom, and assignments from their teachers.

## Perspective on homeschooling

Diane Skinner

NEW CARLISLE: - Sharon Ford-Gallibois homeschooled her three children. She tells The Gaspé Spec right at the beginning of this interview that Section 41 and 42 of the Quebec Charter of Rights and Freedoms places both the responsibility and choice to educate firmly on the parents' shoulders.

Sharon feels that homeschooling her children allowed her to ensure that her children Tabby, Zach and Isaac would develop to their "full potential as moral and healthy citizens with a Christian worldview." For many years, and at various times, Sharon, who holds a Bachelor of Education, homeschooled either one, two

or all three of her children. They also spent portions of their school years in the public-school system.

She found support for homeschooling through Home Educators of New Brunswick and contacted other parents, friends and family in New Brunswick to exchange resources and ideas. Sharon comments that the paperwork required by the government can be a challenge.

Sharon adds that it is "an incredibly intense, wonderful and demanding job" to homeschool. She adds that she would not hesitate to do it in the same way again!

She comments that if homeschooling, it is helpful to have support. Her husband Mark Gallibois was, and is, a supportive spouse. She adds that the support of excel-

lent resources available to homeschoolers now is "amazing." She feels that COVID-19 is another reason to consider homeschooling your children.

She discounts the argument that children need social interaction in a traditional school setting. Sharon feels that kids learn social skills from interacting with people of all ages. She adds, "In reality, children will interact with a 'rainbow' of ages, instead of the 'false aged group' world that never exists in reality outside a classroom."

Her final comment is that her daughter, Tabby, a new mother herself, will likely be homeschooling as well.

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