

## Anti-mask demonstration held in Chandler

Ray Venables

CHANDLER - A small group marched in protest on Saturday, September 12, to voice their objections against the mandatory use of masks in Quebec.

The Chandler event *Manifestation pour la libération du peuple* (Demonstration for the liberation of the people) was attended by 19 anti-mask demonstrators who included people from as far as Percé and Paspébiac.

The group met at the Centre Sportif Clément Tremblay in Chandler at 1 p.m. and began their march at 1:56 p.m. along with a police escort.

During their 2.7-kilometre march, protestors shouted slogans such as “Libérez le peuple!” (Free the people!) and carried signs that read, “*Un peuple uni sera toujours vainqueur*” (A united people will always be victorious).

Some passing vehicles honked to encourage the protestors, however, some people were upset and shouted their disdain with one crying out, “They don’t understand anything!” (Ils ont rien compris encore!).

This event is the first one in a series of weekly demonstrations entitled “Saturday Demos” or “*Les Manifs du*



Protestor holds sign saying “A united people will always be victorious.”

Photo: R. Venables

*Samedi*” and is organized by the group Action Coordination.

The local coordinator in Chandler, Nicolas Vallée, says that he had hopes for more people to attend, but that he was confident that the number will grow in time. Vallée says that there were plans to have bus transportation to shuttle demonstrators from Gaspé so they could participate.

Action Coordination, which has been active since August 20, describes themselves as “... a non-partisan initiative to coordinate peaceful actions and demonstrations across Quebec and

Canada.” According to the group’s facebook page, its

goals are to “end the state of emergency concerning health

(pandemic); to end systemic corruption; to stop the censorship of the media, professionals and scientists; and to protect the future of our children.” The group organizes weekly demonstrations, held on Saturdays, throughout the province of Quebec.

Further demonstrations are planned in Montreal, Quebec City, Trois-Rivières, Chicoutimi, Gatineau, Rouyn-Noranda, Sherbrooke and Rimouski. In the Gaspé, demonstrations are planned in Matane and Chandler.

There are currently 1,362 people who like Action Coordination’s facebook page and 30 people on facebook interested in the weekly demonstration in Chandler.



On Saturday, September 12, 19 anti-maskers attended a protest in Chandler.

## COVID-19: The virus is still present on the Coast

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - Even though COVID-19 is less active on the Gaspé Peninsula, the virus remains present.

This is the message from the Regional Director of Public Health, Dr. Yv Bonnier Viger, as the Lower Saint Lawrence has seen its number of cases double in the matter of 10 days.

The Gaspé has recorded a dozen cases since September 10, but nothing comparable to the neighboring region.

Maintaining sanitary rules helps prevent an outbreak. “It’s a big reminder that the four ground rules must be followed

at all times. You never know where the virus will be, but it’s there,” states the director.

Rimouski remains the designated location to treat patients who require hospitalization.

Screening tests for COVID-19 are now analyzed in Maria and Chandler for the samples taken in the Bay of Chaleur and Rocher-Percé areas. Gaspé and Sainte-Anne-des-Monts will also soon have these capabilities, but for the time being their analyzes are done in Rimouski.

With the situation in the Lower Saint Lawrence, the Gaspé health network remains

vigilant.

“The machines (lab equipment) we have here are much less efficient. We have not had any significant delays in production so far,” says Dr. Yv Bonnier Viger.

Noting the situation in the neighbouring region of the Lower Saint Lawrence, elected officials in the region are observing the situation closely.

“We knew there would be this second wave. Currently, in the Gaspé, we are doing relatively well. We will thank the citizens because it is the discipline of the citizens and businesses that has ensured that until now in the Gaspé Penin-

sula, we are still green and we are trying to stay there,” states the president of the Gaspé Peninsula Table of Prefects, Nadia Minassian.

Even if, up to now (September 16) no cases have occurred at the *Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles*, management is not indifferent to the current situation in the Lower Saint Lawrence, where the establishments in La Pocatière (including the *Institut de technologie agroalimentaire*), Rivière-du-Loup and Rimouski had to suspend their activities due to an outbreak linked to student parties.

The dean, Yolaine Arsenneau, emphasizes that the stu-

dents respect the directives issued on the campuses, in particular in Gaspé, which has residences.

She hasn’t heard of any risky events taking place. “There haven’t been any gatherings of that magnitude. On all our campuses, our rules are clear and young people follow them well. From what I hear, young people feel safe.”

An emergency plan has been in place since the spring. “It doesn’t prevent us from having cases, but we want to be prepared to respond, depending on the campus and the extent of the spread, if it does,” says Ms. Arsenneau.

# Why limit the number of people at private get-togethers?



Limiting private gatherings to 10 people makes it easier for those present to stay 2 metres apart and to avoid coming into contact with contaminated droplets.

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☎ 1 877 644-4545



Photo: N. Sergerie

*Plastic bags will not be banned for the moment in the Gaspé Peninsula.*

## Plastic: The Gaspé Peninsula will not follow the MRC de la Mitis' lead

*Nelson Sergerie*

GASPÉ - The MRCs in the Gaspé do not intend, in the short term, to ban single-use plastic as La Mitis is about to do.

These plastics, styrofoam and un-numbered plastics that are not recyclable will be banned at the end of 2021 in the Mont-Joli region of the Lower Saint Lawrence.

"If the population wants that, it's something we can look at, but the question has never been asked," says Gaspé Mayor and Côte-de-Gaspé Prefect Daniel Côté. Other MRCs like Matapédia or cities like Montreal for example have such regulations.

The prefect of Rocher-Percé, Nadia Minassian, does not want to move forward. "It would be necessary that I discuss it with the mayors before going further," she says.

The priority is elsewhere for Bonaventure's mayor, Éric Dubé. "We're in the process of setting up the third collection route with the MRC d'Avignon for composting. In the next year, it will be a priority," says the mayor of New Richmond.

However, the Gaspé is trying to be innovative with plastic as Percé is experimenting with its use in paving roads, concrete slabs or park benches.

Mr. Dubé points out that Quebec is already working to ban these bags, but the industry wants to convince the government to oppose such a ban, especially since these bags have become fashionable again with the current pandemic.

## SPEC experiences deficit in 2019-2020 but first half of 2020-2021 marked by surplus

**Gilles Gagné**

NEW CARLISLE – Sea-Coast Publications, the organization operating The Gaspé Spec, declared a loss of \$34,306 in 2019-2020, for the financial year that ended on March 31. That deficit is almost twice as high as the 2018-2019 shortcoming of \$17,515.

The current assets of the newspaper fell from \$82,880 to \$44,214 between the previous year and last year. The fixed asset is now \$5,376, which leaves the total asset at \$49,590, compared to \$91,308 a year ago. The liabilities of the paper stood at \$13,930 on March 31, compared to \$21,342 a year ago.

Given the balance of \$69,966 as of March 31, 2019, less the deficit of 2019-2020, which was \$34,306, it leaves \$35,660 as a balance at the end of March.

The results were presented at the September 12 annual general meeting in New Carlisle. Nineteen people attended the meeting.

Sea-Coast Publications

board president Roger Wise expressed fear and hope in his report. Looking at the liquid asset of \$44,214, he said that "this means we have, at most, one more year of publication before worries turn into reality. Examination of the figures show that both subscriptions and counter sales were down despite trying to convert to online readership."

Advertising revenues, the newspaper's largest source of income, decreased from \$90,785 to \$84,686, while subscriptions brought in \$54,351, compared to \$61,837 a year ago. Counter sales decreased from \$15,482 to \$12,492. Those three budgetary items brought in \$16,575 less than during the previous year, underlined SPEC's treasurer Ray Venables.

Coupled with almost a downfall of close to \$20,000 stemming from the "employment grants" budgetary item, it surpasses the deficit of 2019-2020.

Total expenses fell from \$333,688 in 2018-2019 to \$308,951. The main decrease

came from the salaries, which fell from \$146,607 to \$134,148, a reduction of \$12,459, and the printing fees of the paper fell from \$54,124 to \$48,497, so \$6,373 less.

Roger Wise attributes the salary cuts to "the dedication of our office staff who have worked reduced hours, taken on sales duties and quite frankly, put in more time and effort than one might expect. The continuance of the paper to this date is solely due to their attitude. The board owes you all, including the helpers and the volunteers, a deep thank-you."

In his report, Mr. Wise acknowledged the contribution of Dennis Palmer, who retired after being a long-time member and a friend of the paper. He also praised the work of Diane Skinner, "who seems to have a constant source of interesting articles."

Through a moment of silence, the attendees also paid a tribute to two long-time volunteers of the SPEC, Mary-Beth Astles and Irene Dallain,

**Cont'd on page 5** ▶

## Police report

A September 2 drug bust carried out by the Sûreté du Québec at an apartment on Legros Street in Gaspé yielded 6,000 methamphetamine pills, a certain quantity of drug that could be GHB, 100 steroid pills, some cash and an array of tools commonly used in drug trafficking. The apartment tenant, a 27-year-old man, was arrested by the police officers when he returned to his home several hours later. He was brought to the police station, where he was questioned. He was released after a few hours but he will be summoned to appear in court at a later date that has not yet been determined. He could face charges of drug possession and drug possession for the purpose of trafficking. Sûreté du Québec spokesperson Sgt. Claude Doiron points out that the investigation is ongoing in that file and that additional people could eventually be questioned by police officers.

On September 11, Sûreté du Québec officers carried out a drug bust in a Sainte-Anne-des-Monts house located on Fifth Avenue West. The operation was carried out by the Haute Gaspésie detachment of the police force. The police seized 64 methamphetamine pills, 1,430 contraband cigarettes, a certain sum of cash and some tools used in drug trafficking. A 61-year-old man living in the house was arrested, taken to the Sûreté du Québec office, questioned and later released. He will eventually be summoned to appear in court and face drug-related charges. The investigation is ongoing in that case.

A September 17 fire completely destroyed a single-dwelling house on Guesclin Road in Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé. The firefighters of that village were called at 6 a.m. There was nobody in the house when the fire broke out. The incident is still under investigation.

## RÉGÎM free summer service

*Nelson Sergerie*

GASPÉ - The free service offered by the Régie intermunicipale de transport Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine (RÉGÎM) between July 1 and August 31 attracted approximately 8,200 users this summer.

The president of the RÉGÎM, Daniel Côté, emphasizes that, despite a drop of 2,000 passengers compared to the summer of 019, he is satisfied.

"We expected a drastic drop. If we had not offered free access, the drop would probably have been really huge," the president says.

The RÉGÎM adopted its 2021 budget, up by \$100,000 to \$3.1 million. Inflation and an adjustment in the wage structure following an analysis explains this slight increase.

Fearing a sharp drop in gasoline tax revenues in the spring, a consequence of an uncertain tourist season during a pandemic, the surprise is considerable.

"We anticipated a loss. Honestly, we're lining up to numbers similar to last year, between \$1.3 million and \$1.5 million. We had budgeted \$1.1 million," says Mr. Côté with relief.

The authority plans to develop a real-time service application in the next year while completing the installation of bus shelters launched last year.

### VIA Rail shuttle

If VIA Rail resumes its service to the Maritimes in November as planned, the RÉGÎM will offer its holiday shuttle to the Campbellton station.

For the moment, nothing is available on the resumption of passenger train service, indicates Mr. Côté, who is ready to restart the shuttle service.

"There is undoubtedly a peculiarity with regard to the bubbles between New Brunswick and Quebec. This is surely problematic. We are ready to renew the agreement under the same conditions," says Mr. Côté.

Last year, 169 passengers used the loss-making service to the tune of \$8,000.

In addition, the agreement between the Gaspé and Keolis for the services of Orléans Express is renewed as is, despite the pandemic.

The five MRCs pay \$37,500 and Quebec pays the difference for a total of \$150,000.

Mr. Côté says that even though, Orléans Express experienced a reduction in income since it had to reduce the number of passengers because of the pandemic, he's satisfied with the company's desire to continue serving the region.

# COVID-19: The number of cases increases in the region

Gilles Gagné

CARLETON – The number of COVID-19 cases in the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands increased more during the week of September 11 to the 18, than during the previous month. However, proportion-wise, the rate of increase in the region remains lower than in the rest of Quebec.

The total number of cases since the beginning of the pandemic went from 218 to 227 over the week that ended on September 18, an increase of nine, compared to six cases between the 31 days that covered between the August 11 to Sep-

tember 11 period. During that third week of September, two days remained case-less, but the September 18 report showed four cases that day.

The Public Health Board only put three cases on its chart for that date and specified that the resident of the Magdalen Islands who tested positive was currently not on the island.

Three of the week's new cases were declared in the Avignon MRC, one in the Percé Rock MRC, two in Côte-de-Gaspé, two in Haute-Gaspésie and one in the Magdalen Islands. No new cases were reported in the Bonaventure MRC.



The number of active cases on September 18 was nine, and the number of recovered individuals increased by three, to reach 209. Nine people died of COVID-19 in the region since the beginning of the pandemic

but nobody in recent months. No one from the region was hospitalized due to the coronavirus since June 7.

The number of people from the health sector that have tested positive since March in-

creased by four, to 59 over the last week, including 23 people working for the Integrated Health and Social Services Centre of the Gaspé Peninsula, one more than the previous week.

## Editorial section



### Commentary

Gilles Gagné

### Like a hangover

After a summer that spelled relief on the pandemic front, the month of September might spell trouble for François Legault's Coalition avenir Québec government. Despite an astounding level of popular support confirmed at the beginning of September by a Léger Marketing survey, the resurgence of COVID-19 cases in most Quebec areas since the end of August means that the government must soon find the right means to control it. It doesn't look evident as of now.

In March, April and May, despite the fact that Quebec was showing the worst coronavirus statistics in Canada, Premier Legault and Horacio Arruda, the head of the province's Public Health, always seemed to find the right words to reassure most of the population.

It also appeared clear that a lot of damage was a consequence of the previous government's cost-cutting and centralization of power in the health sector.

The game is different now. People expect Mr. Legault and his new Minister of Health, Christian Dubé, to come up with real solutions to curtail the second wave of the pandemic. Blaming the previous government will no longer fly. The fact that the people have clearly relaxed their precaution measures over the summer will paradoxically not be retained as a potent explanation by the same people as well.

In politics, you can't tell your electors that they have done something wrong, even if it is true. In reality, everybody needed a break over the course of the summer in order to protect their mental balance. It might have gone a bit too far though.

The Léger Marketing survey indicates that 48% of the electorate would vote for the CAQ at the present time and that the level of satisfaction of Quebecers for that government reaches a whopping 76%. Considering the number of parties in Quebec and the fact that the vote is spread amongst four parties in most ridings, the CAQ could probably win in excess of 100

constituencies, would an election take place this fall. On October 1, 2018, the CAQ won a majority government with 74 of the province's 125 ridings and 37.42% of popular support. One can imagine what a 48% level of support would mean, once translated in seats.

However, another painful COVID-19 episode this fall would quickly erode that support base because the CAQ doesn't have a long tradition going with its supporters. The degree of loyalty for a party born at the end of 2011 is relatively limited, especially amidst a pandemic context.

For now, François Legault can buy a bit of time because the pitch hit solutions are not strong.

Without saying that she is struggling since winning the leadership race after her opponent pulled out, Dominique Anglade faces a major rebuilding job at the helm of the Liberal Party, which must restore links with the electorate outside the Montreal area.

Over the spring, like the other Opposition leaders, Ms. Anglade showed solidarity with François Legault, because it was the thing to do, while 100 people, sometimes more, were dying daily of COVID-19 in Quebec alone. Over recent weeks, Dominique Anglade's questions and remarks concerning the way the CAQ government seems unprepared for the coronavirus second wave are way sharper and sometimes acrimonious. There will be no love lost between her and the premier over the next months. Their closeness, because Ms. Anglade was president and candidate of the CAQ in the early years, has really ebbed away.

Although its interim leader Pascal Bérubé can come with deadly questions sometimes, the Parti Québécois looks as lost collectively as the Liberal Party. The PQ is obviously looking for new sparks that could rejuvenate its membership base and its popular support. With the CAQ playing the nationalist but still Canadian tune, and with Québec solidaire on its left of the political spectrum, there seems to be little room for the Parti Québécois, which can hardly be perceived as a contender for the 2022 election.

Speaking of Québec solidaire, the party looks as if it has platooned with a 10% electorate support. Leader Manon Massé and talented debater Gabriel Nadeau-Dubois are regularly the best critics of the CAQ government, but during crises like the one created by the coronavirus, a high proportion of voters

will reluctantly give the nod to a party that occupies a spot presumably far from old-school politics. People stay close to familiar values in those circumstances.

As an experienced politician, François Legault knows that, having reached the middle of the four-year term, he and his supporting cast must start preparing the next electoral campaign.

He also knows that the CAQ's current degree of support can dive rapidly. In November 1998, then Premier Lucien Bouchard, who had benefitted from an astounding degree of popularity at the beginning of the same year for his management of the freezing rain crisis, won the ensuing election, but with fewer votes than Jean Charest.

Since the end of August, François Legault looks like a man who has lost his touch. He no longer sounds like the reassuring father of the spring. He looks tense, and does not find the appropriate words easily, if at all. He looks a bit like a man experiencing a hangover or fearing one.

The thing driving François Legault is the economy, not solving health problems coming from a world-wide pandemic. He will have to find another source of motivation soon or it could be a long parliamentary session for the Coalition avenir Québec regime.



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#### JOURNALISTS:

Nelson Sergerie

Diane Skinner

#### CONTRIBUTORS:

Cynthia Dow,

Jeanie LeLacheur

208-B Gérard D. Levesque  
New Carlisle, Que.  
G0C 1Z0

Tel: 418-752-5400  
specs@globetrotter.net  
thegaspespec.com

Published every Wednesday by:  
Les Publications de la Côte Inc.  
(Sea-Coast Publications Inc.)

(Taxes included)  
1-year (paper or digital): \$46  
6-months (paper or digital): \$25  
Outside Canada:  
1-year paper \$165 digital: \$46

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We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada.

We acknowledge special funding from the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications.

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**SPEC:**

**Cont'd from page 3**

who passed away during the last year.

**Good news**

Before asking SPEC's accountant Louis Sexton to present the newspaper's recent developments, Roger Wise gave a hint about the improvement of the financial situation of Sea-Coast Publications since March.

"There is no doubt that COVID has severely affected our lives and that of SPEC. Very few businesses are feeling strong enough to buy advertising space and we are grateful to the few that continue. Before we curse Covid to its entirety, it has produced one ray of sunshine in that provincial advertising has filled the centre pages amongst others. Figures will not be finalized until things settle down but, hopefully, we may have gained a little extra breathing room," said Mr. Wise.

Louis Sexton mentioned that since COVID-19 appeared and considering the four-month stretch between March 31 and July 31, SPEC has accumulated a surplus of about \$63,000 due to the presence of the provincial government advertising, which has brought in a gross amount of \$75,000. "Last year, the provincial government bought about \$1,000 in advertising," pointed out Mr. Sexton.

In her report, publisher Penny MacWhirter explained that the newspaper has finally started to benefit from sustained efforts in trying to land grants. Two projects are now or will soon be underway to improve the SPEC situation.

"SPEC was approved for a grant as part of the Local Journalism Initiative to supply civic journalism from "news deserts and under-served areas." Nelson Sergerie was hired as the journalist for the LJI," explained Ms. MacWhirter.

"SPEC was also approved for a grant as part of the Community Media Strategic Support Fund. That project has several components including consultations, revamping the advertising department, and creating promotional material. The hiring process will begin shortly," she also stressed.

After receiving a positive answer for the hiring of a

Canada Summer Jobs employee, that initiative had to be put on hold because of COVID-19 constraints, however, the project was only

postponed and the hiring process will also begin shortly.

The newspaper also benefits from a facebook grant to

assist with having a better presence online. The grant enabled the SPEC to make some updates to its website, explained Penny MacWhirter.

The Gaspé SPEC was founded in 1975 and has been published uninterruptedly for 45 years and produces 50 issues per year.

# PUBLIC NOTICE

Ministère de l'Énergie et des Ressources naturelles

## RANDOM DRAW TO ALLOCATE VACATION LOTS IN THE GASPÉSIE-ÎLES-DE-LA-MADELEINE REGION

The ministère de l'Énergie et des Ressources naturelles (MERN) offers to the public the possibility to participate in random draws to allocate 22 vacation lots in the Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine region.

Draw code	Name of the draw	MRC	ZEC	Number of lots
TE1101	Lac Alpin	Haute-Gaspésie	N/A	5 (semi-waterfront)
TE1102	Lac Marsoui	Haute-Gaspésie	N/A	1 (semi-waterfront)
TE1103	Canton de Fortin	Rocher-Percé	N/A	6 (not waterfront)
TE1104	Lac McKenzie	Rocher-Percé	des Anses	2 (semi-waterfront)
TE1105	Rivière Bonaventure 1	Bonaventure	N/A	1 (not waterfront)
TE1106	Rivière Bonaventure 2	Bonaventure	N/A	1 (not waterfront)
TE1107	Petite rivière Cascapédia Ouest 1	Bonaventure	N/A	2 (not waterfront)
TE1108	Petite rivière Cascapédia Ouest 2	Bonaventure	N/A	2 (not waterfront)
TE1109	Lac de la Ferme	Bonaventure	N/A	1 (not waterfront)
TE1110	Rivière York	Côte-de-Gaspé	N/A	1 (not waterfront)

Covering an average area of 4,000 m<sup>2</sup> each, the lots are semi-waterfront or not waterfront, wooded and accessible by land. The lots are offered on renewable annual leases.

Lots are also being offered by random draw in the following regions: Bas-Saint-Laurent, Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean, Mauricie, Outaouais, Abitibi-Témiscamingue and Laurentides.

### REGISTRATION AND RANDOM DRAWS

#### Registration: September 19 to October 25, 2020

Registration may be completed:

- **Online**, using the entry form available at [Quebec.ca/tirage-terrains-villégiature](http://Quebec.ca/tirage-terrains-villégiature); or
- **Toll-free**, at 1 800 665-6527.

You must be 18 or older on September 19, 2020, and pay a non-refundable registration fee of \$32.19 (\$28 plus GST and QST). Only one registration is allowed per draw code. The MERN recommends that you visit the lots before you register. Caution is advised if you visit the lots during the hunting season.

The draws will be conducted electronically in November 2020, under the supervision of an external auditor and in the presence of witnesses. Individual draw results will be communicated to the participants by email within 48 hours of the draw.

### ALLOTMENT OF LOTS

MERN conduct the allotment **by invitation**, in the order of the draw results. The number of participants likely to receive land is determined by the number of available lots. A letter or email of invitation will be sent to the selected participants informing them of the location and date of the allotment. Attendance of participants is required for the allotment of lots.

The Department reserves the right to remove any lot from the random draw up to the time of the allotment.

### FEES

Participants who are allocated a lot for lease must pay a processing fee of \$133.22 (\$115 plus GST and QST), an administration fee of \$402.41 (\$350 plus GST and QST), the first year's rent as well as a land development fee of \$933.60 (\$812 plus GST and QST), in certain cases. These fees must be paid in full upon being granted the lease. Access roads from the main road shall be built at the lessee's expense, if applicable.

The lessee must pay municipal and school taxes, and must also comply with all municipal by-laws and provincial and federal laws and regulations, notably with regard to wildlife and the environment, as well as all the municipality's construction and land development standards.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For more information on the lots' location, the leases, the requirements, the fees, the obligations and the rights inherent to this offer, visit the website [Quebec.ca/tirage-terrains-villégiature](http://Quebec.ca/tirage-terrains-villégiature) or contact the MERN's regional branch.

MERN – Direction régionale de la Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine : 418 388-2125

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# CASA holds annual general meeting by Zoom 2019-2020 was another busy fiscal year

Cynthia Dow

On September 16, CASA held its Annual General Meeting by Zoom, given the current COVID-19 restrictions. A few dozen people were in attendance from here and there.

The meeting began with a couple of guest speakers, including CASA's former Executive Director, Cathy Brown, who left on August 3 to work for a new organization called the Regional Development Network. "I will still have your back," Ms. Brown told the participants, "and make sure you have access to the funding you need." The new non-profit network she is managing will liaise with both provincial and federal ministries on behalf of nine regional anglophone organizations.

At the end of the meeting she pointed out that CASA is in its 45th year and noted the tremendous growth the organization has seen over the past years. "I can't wait to see what is going on in five years' time. Both governments (federal and provincial) have recognized the important role of non-profit organizations in ensuring the vitality of the English-speaking communities. Keep up the great work."

Also on the roster of speakers was the regional representative for the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages (OCOL) in Quebec, Charles Taker. He noted he would normally be traveling around the province at this time, meeting groups in their regions. It is the 50th anniversary of the Federal Official Languages Act, which the OCOL would like to see substantially modernized. Mr. Taker noted that in these unprecedented times, "Canadians are not always getting reports on this emergency situation in their own language," a major concern for his office. He congratulated CASA on its resilience under the current conditions.

Treasurer for the Board, Dave Douesnard, acted as Chair of the AGM and took the participants through the agenda, which included a fi-



CASA appears to have a great future in the hands of a competent staff. Above at left Fay Galton, Programs Manager, and Kim Harrison, newly appointed Executive Director.

financial review. CASA's budget was up from \$1.9 million last year to \$2.5 million in 2019-2020. The salary envelope topped the \$1 million mark for the first time. Finance Officer John LeGrand explained that some of the revenue now comes from CASA taking on the role of administering the books for other non-profits in the region, providing "a nice little income." This revenue is applied to the mortgage on the group's new building, the former Laurentian Bank.

CASA managed no less than 41 projects last year, helping meet the needs of hundreds of citizens along the Coast.

Shannon Marsh reported on youth programs such as Skills Link which involved 56 youth and after-school programs which reached 129 youngsters. Seniors' programs, headed by Sally Walker, served 7 senior wellness centres along the Coast. A new Baby Boomers event involved 43 people. CASA is also reaching out to isolated seniors who may need help accessing health care in the

region or outside it.

Jennifer Willett had a busy year on the Arts and Culture scene with two retreats for the region's writers, as well as the publication of a book called Home Grown, for which three launches were held. She also heads up a new program called Building Bridges which is helping to introduce the community more to the First Nation culture in our midst. She helped the students from New Richmond High School and Bois Vivant schools get together to write a play which will hopefully be produced once the COVID-19 pandemic is over. Finally, she paired 16 CISSS (Integrated Health and Social Services Centre) professionals with community volunteers for linguistic mentoring.

Shannon Day heads up CASA's Bright Beginnings program for children 0 to 8 years of age and their parents. This year they held some "parent cafés" where things like positive discipline, fire safety and access to health care were discussed. Four children's carnivals were held and issues relating to mental

health will be explored through a series of 12 short videos by Bernard Nadeau, soon to be released.

David Felker is in charge of a new program for CASA, getting involved in tourism development to help bring more English-speaking tourists into the area and to introduce all tourists to the history and heritage of the English-speaking community of the area. The Gaspesian Way includes the on-going management of a 12-month calendar of events and activities, soon to be launched.

CASA is also helping the regional tourism association develop a system to indicate the level of English services available from participating

Finally, a social enterprise

is being developed to promote products and artwork produced by anglophones. A project supported by the SADC highlighted 26 musicians through Facebook Live events, and garnered over 57,000 views.

Board member Tony Conoley served as officer of elections. The organization currently has nine members out of 13 possible seats. There were no changes to the current board membership. He pointed out that under the by-laws the organization can fill the five vacant seats during the upcoming year.

The board members are: President Bruce Wafer, Vice-President Douglas Hunt, Treasurer David Douesnard, Past-President Stella Kennedy, and Directors Sharon Renouf, Tony Conoley, Carl Garrett, Tom Eden, and Frederick Kirch.

Kim Harrison has been appointed to replace Cathy Brown as Executive Director until March 31, 2021. She told SPEC, "For the last couple of years developing partnerships with our francophone partners in the region and across the province has been a priority and that will continue, so that the English-speaking community is better served. Regional organizations such as the social development table and RESSORT (*Réseau solidaire pour le rayonnement des territoires*) are incredibly open to including the English-speaking and Indigenous communities."



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# Power of history: Paspébiac 1886

Diane Skinner

**PASPEBIAC:** - On Friday, September 11 the official unveiling of a project *Paspébiac 1886* was held at the Site Historique National du Banc de pêche de Paspébiac.

On a bright, windy afternoon over 75 people attended the event. This undertaking was four years in the making from initial concept to finished exposition. Curator, Leonard Jordaan, welcomed the attendees and explained that it required a large group of people who were passionate about the project to make this a reality.

Leonard Jordaan explained that four years ago he consulted extensively with the employees at the Site in Paspébiac and with key members of the community. He informs us, "The importance of the Rebellion of 1886 surfaced as did the need to re-define the Site as industrial and to show the scale of work that was done there. We also wanted to increase awareness of the role of women and children in the industry - not on the Site itself but everywhere on the peninsula."

The event took place in one of the main exhibit buildings (one of three), in the iconic Bouthillier Brothers building at the wharf area in Paspébiac. This building is the oldest industrial building still standing in North America. One of the highlights of the exposition is the historical architecture.

It was evident that many of the people there were descendants of Basque (and Channel Islanders) and one couple, Theresa Paulmert and Serge D'amours were chatting about Theresa's Basque heritage and a recent trip they made to the region. Personal history is important to them – and to many of the people



Photo: Brian Carey

*Leonard Jordaan, curator of the new exhibit in Paspébiac.*

who were involved in the project.

Thomas Martens, Director General of the site at Banc de pêche, explained that the three exhibit areas will be available for bus groups, families and individuals. It takes about an hour to walk through the buildings and guides are available to explain and answer questions. The exhibits are in English and French and Devon Small, one of the animators and guides, is bilingual and can assist with any queries and explain the history. He remarks that his favourite building is the B & B (Bouthillier Brothers) building because of its unique architecture and the history behind it.

When asked why this is a significant project, Leonard Jordaan replies, "It is the first time that the roles of women and children have been so central to the story. How

work started in early childhood and continued into old age."

He states that "A crucial aspect of the history presented is the putting into context the stereotypes of the 'Jerseymen' as one-dimensional exploiters. The story is much more complex than that and we have been able to show that the young Channel Island boys who came over to work in the cod industry under the system of indentured servitude were as exploited as the fishermen of the region. The main difference was their religion (Protestant) that put more emphasis on education than the Catholics. The fact that they were generally trilingual and well educated gave them an advantage."

"We also put the idea of the *Paspéya* as being 'slaves' in this context and show with our discussion of the triangular trade routes, that the

British Empire like most of the others European Empires was based on the various forms of enslavement and servitude," says Mr. Jordaan

According to Leonard Jordaan it is probably the first time that so many of Marius Barbeau's photographs of the Gaspé Peninsula have been presented together, giving us a real glimpse into the daily lives and struggles of the people.

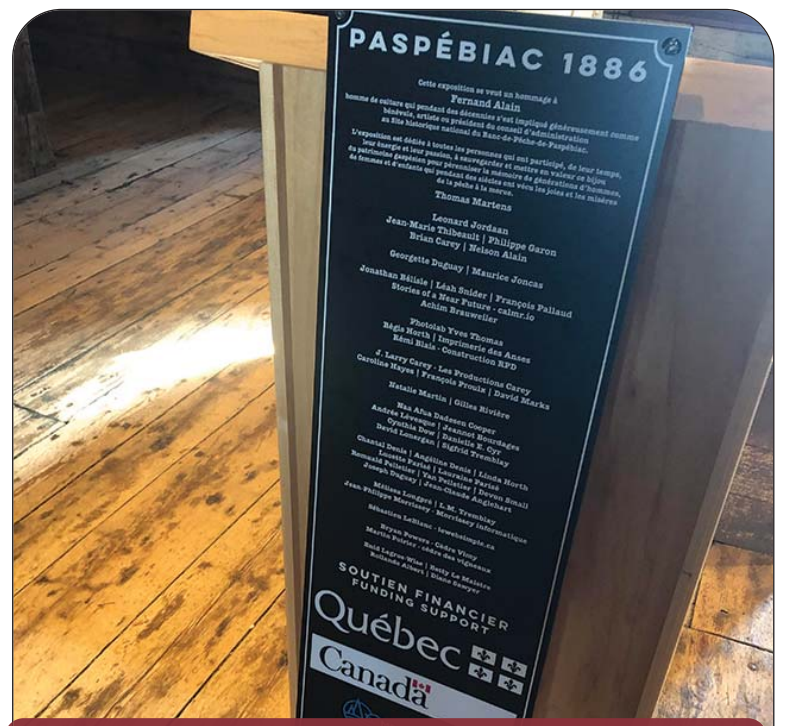
The exhibits are open to the public from June to October, normally. COVID has impacted so many tourist attractions this year. One of the buildings onsite is closed due to COVID restrictions and the whole site will be closing for the season on September 26 this year. Normally, October is a busy month at the site, hosting many European tourists.

Who should visit the site? Leonard tells us, "The primary targets are the various communities here on the peninsula, hopefully to help build bridges between them. Protestant, Catholic, English, French and most importantly

we have begun a discussion of the exclusion of the Mi'gmaq from 'mainstream' economy and communal life. This is an aspect that needs to be explored and presented in depth, but, at least here we show the role of the British Empire (and the French, Portuguese, Spanish...) in the theft of indigenous territories around the world, the exclusion and enslavement of First Nation peoples and the horrors that led ultimately here in Canada to the cultural genocide of the residential school system."

History is important, it informs us about who we were. History also informs the future. *Paspébiac 1886* will serve to keep that knowledge of history alive and help us to understand our collective past, and in some cases find forgiveness.

*(Costs may change, so check before going. Presently, to have access to all displays and demonstrations on the site, the cost is adults \$14, families \$27, seniors and students \$12.)*



*Paspébiac 1886 is a project that took four years from conception to completion. Many people and community partners supported this endeavour.*

Photo: Diane Skinner

## 50 CHSLD attendants to reinforce the Gaspé

Nelson Sergerie

**GASPÉ** - The 50 new CHSLD attendants trained this summer in the Gaspé are not guaranteed to receive the \$26 per hour promised by François Legault.

Although Quebec reaffirmed its promise on September 15, the president of the Federation of Health and Social Services of the CSN for the Gaspé Peninsula and Mag-

dales Islands, Kent Denis, emphasizes that nothing is certain. The base salary is \$20.87 in a letter of employment signed by the new employees.

"The government arrives at \$25 and a few cents an hour, but includes various bonuses which are almost all temporary during the health crisis," states Mr. Denis who does not intend to give up the fight until the employees obtain the

\$26 per hour promised by Quebec as part of the renewal of collective labour agreements.

The Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands Integrated Health and Social Services Centre emphasizes that the remuneration announced for future CHSLD (government-run long-term care facilities) attendants is established according to the hourly rate which varies between \$20.55 and

\$22.35 to which is added the various bonuses and lump sums provided for in collective agreements, as well as those provided for in the ministerial orders taken under the health emergency decree, which totals a rate of nearly \$26 per hour.

Of the 50 new attendants, seven are from Anchor Professional Training Centre in New Carlisle, however, the vast majority will embark on

training to obtain a vocational studies diploma this fall, a training superior to that launched by Quebec in the late spring.

A new CHSLD attendant training will be launched on September 28 in Quebec. The CISSS had obtained 64 scholarships in the spring and is assessing its needs. Eight left training and six others lacked the skills or had too many absences.

# An approach adapted to the different regions to limit transmission of the virus

It is now more important than ever that we follow health measures to limit the spread of the virus. It is essential that each of us remains vigilant and adopts good habits. Since the virus is not spreading everywhere at the same rate, a new tool has been implemented to show how the situation is evolving in each Quebec region. This four-level alert system will make it easier for you to keep track of the government's interventions.

We must contain the spread of the virus throughout Quebec. This is how we can retain some level of normalcy over the next few months. Each region can make a big difference in limiting the spread of the virus. Let's continue to protect each other.

Votre  
gouvernement

## Progressive regional alert and intervention system

The Progressive regional alert and intervention system specifies which additional measures each health region must take to slow the transmission of the virus. These depend on the alert level reached and are intended to limit the health, social and economic impacts of COVID-19, protect those who are most at risk and avoid overburdening the healthcare system.

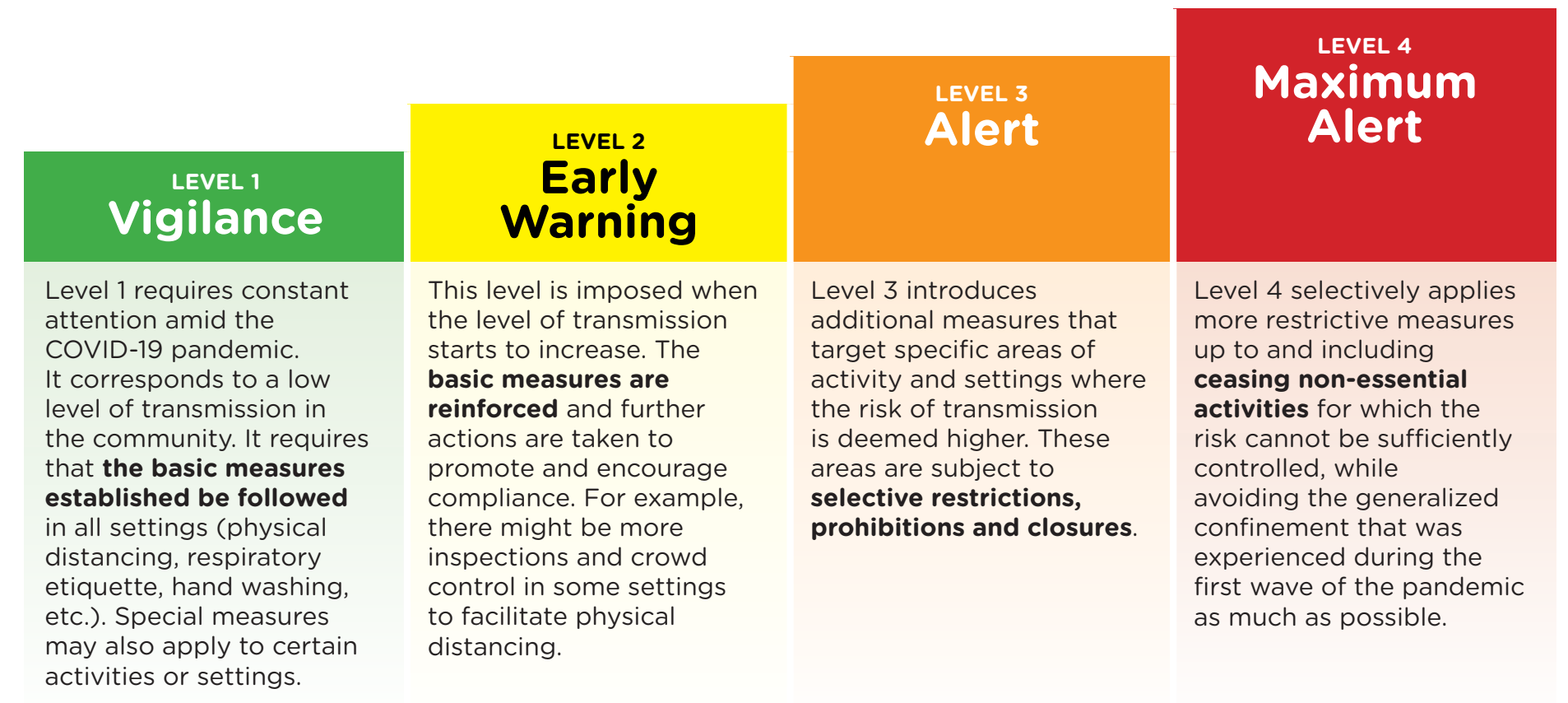
The alert levels are established based on the recommendations of public health authorities who regularly review the situation, taking into account the epidemiological situation, transmission control and the capacity of the healthcare system.

Don't forget that everyone must adopt behaviours that limit transmission of the virus. We do it to ensure that our children can keep going to school, to protect our seniors, to ensure the safety of our healthcare workers and to revive our economy. **Follow the basic measures at all times:**



- › Keep your distance
- › Wear a face covering
- › Cough into your elbow
- › Wash your hands
- › Adapt your greetings

## FOUR ALERT AND INTERVENTION LEVELS



To find out the alert level in your region, consult the Map of COVID-19 alert levels by region at [Québec.ca/alertlevels](https://quebec.ca/alertlevels).

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

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# Tipsy Canoe: Short listed for prestigious award

Diane **Skinner**

CASCAPEDIA: Caitlin Barter received an email from someone who is familiar with her painted canoe paddles and axes and encouraged her to apply for an art award. Caitlyn says she worked hard to complete the application with the assistance of a wonderful friend for the translation. She adds that most people do not realize that the artists themselves need to apply for this type of award. This is the first time Caitlyn has entered her name for any award.

Caitlin has now made the shortlist for the Prix Relève Artistique Télé-Québec - Gaspésie! When she heard that she had made the short list she was shocked. Caitlin says her community has always been so supportive, but that it is exciting to be recognized by a wider range of people.

Caitlin Barter calls Topsy Canoe her “accidental business.” She has a background in art, but never considered herself an artist. During her first year of teaching in Northern Quebec, she returned home during Spring Break. Her father was going to throw out an old paddle that was collecting dust. It had belonged to her grandfather and she felt an affinity for canoe paddles, so she wanted to paint it for use as a decoration. She says, “It was a way to modernize a little piece of family history.”

During the following summer, Caitlin painted a few more paddles and started to get re-

Caitlin was born and raised in Cascapedia. She went to New Richmond High School and Bonaventure Polyvalent. Then she attended CEGEP at Champlain College in Lennoxville and Bishops University where she studied English literature.

When she was young, she took oil painting lessons and as she says, “adored it.” She gives thanks to Therese Gallant for teaching her, however, after that she is a self-taught artist using the trial and error method. Her family is artistic, but in a different way. Her dad has always dabbled in woodworking, her mom was always crafty, and her grandmother quilted and embroidered.

Her family is close, and growing up, she spent a lot of time with her paternal grandparents. Her grandfather was a fisherman, farmer, woodsman and more! Her own parents work in the salmon fishing industry, guiding and hostessing and now managing. Last year she renovated a church just a few houses away from her family home.

Caitlin tells us, “I spent a lot of time in the canoe, and still try to as much as possible. For me, the canoe paddles were a connection to family, home, and the Coast. River culture was and is a huge part of my life, so the canoe paddle made complete sense. Beyond that, from the beginning I chose to make every single paddle different. That took the process one step further, and built on the idea that even though these broad ideas



Caitlin Barter, owner and artist/designer of Topsy Canoe has been short listed for a prestigious artist award (Prix Relève Artistique Télé-Québec - Gaspésie.) The results will be announced soon.

in that we also find connection in the woods. Another reason I’m so fond of using axes and paddles is that they are two tools of trade that are typically associated with work and to merge them with art creates such a beautiful mix of the expression of hard work and the need to stop and look around to enjoy the place we’ve made our homes.”

Over the summer she has paddles available at a few local shops, such as Sexton and Sexton Fly Shop, but for the most part they are available at her own boutique (298 Route 299, Cascapedia) and at her online shop. Her website is [www.topsy-canoe.com](http://www.topsy-canoe.com) and she is launching her fall restock of clothing and paddles in September.

We are all rooting for Caitlin and are hoping that she wins the top spot, but she has made the short list against other exceptionally talented artists and that in itself is an honour.



Every paddle that Caitlyn sells is handmade by local woodworker Larry Brash and every paddle she paints is different with a unique design.

Photos: Courtesy of Caitlyn Barter

quests from people, including visiting fishermen. From there her business grew and she expanded into making wooden earrings, keychains, clothing and axes. She adds that the paddles and axes are where her heart is, but she loves that the clothing provides a connection to the Coast for a lot of people.

of nature and the outdoors connect many of us to our family or the Coast. While our experiences are shared, our stories are all different.”

Every paddle she paints is handmade by local woodworker, Larry Brash. Each one is different, layered with a unique design. Caitlin feels that

she starts the story of the paddle but whatever the person does with it from there continues to build on the story of the paddle. Caitlin adds, “Just like us, these paddles are building a story, with little nicks and marks to

catalogue its lifetime. For me, water is such a strong connection to home, so the canoe paddle was a natural choice. I have also expanded to axes which hold such a strong visual as well. I think the axes are similar

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# Municipal Commission: Louise Langlois requests a stay of proceedings

Nelson **Sergerie**

CHANDLER – The drama continues in Chandler: the mayor, Louise Langlois, is requesting a stay of proceedings and is challenging the notice of a hearing on sanction on September 17 before the Quebec municipal commission.

The commission was to hear the representations on sanction on 20 of the 21 breaches retained against Louise Langlois, essentially in connection with complaints of psychological harassment, but her lawyer, Charles Caza, presented a request affirming that the mayoress was deprived of a full answer and de-

fence and does not have motives justifying the 20 breaches.

Charles Caza would have liked to receive a draft judgment in which the reasons and arguments are detailed to plead on sanction, not excluding a judicial review in Superior Court.

The commission's attorney, Pierre Robitaille, said that case law recognizes the organization's ways of doing things, alleging that there is no reason for the defence to challenge. Mr. Robitaille adds that the plea on sanction is the time to raise the arguments to be made and that the request is unfounded.

Judge Sandra Bilodeau of the Quebec municipal commission is taking the filed motion under advisement. She will render her decision no later than October 23. This is when the sanctioned performances could take place.

Newport ward councillor, Bruno-Piere Godbout, says he was surprised at the latest developments and criticizes new deadlines and the bill that will follow.

"It's just a late strategy to buy time. When you are found guilty of 20 of the 21 breaches and you dare to make a request, it lacks seriousness. Ms. Langlois is not afraid to pass bills on to taxpayers. What is

unfortunate is that it will cost citizens another \$50,000 or \$75,000," says the councillor.

The mayor, Louise Langlois, prefers not to comment since the file is before the commission.

On the other hand, the mayoress claims to be the victim of a political vendetta.

Chandler's first female mayor in 100 years, Ms. Langlois, who first commented on the decision against her following the September 14 town council meeting, is blunt.

"When people go to bars and shops and say they're going to have our heads and that I'm going to be there in the next few months, it's clear. It

has been said for a long time," says the elected official.

Without commenting on the substance of the dispute, the mayoress is surprised by the decision. "Yes, a bit. You never know what to expect. It's a surprise box."

The total amount of the proceedings now stands at \$106,000, of which \$95,000 is just for the defence of the elected official.

"A lot of money that could have been invested for the citizens of the Town of Chandler," says the elected official.

Ms. Langlois says she is serene in the face of this third procedure against her.

# Drop in attendance at Forillon Park

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ - Forillon Park has recorded an overall drop in attendance of 15% this year, but daily admissions have seen a marked growth.

The drop in attendance can in part be explained by the opening date which was delayed to June due to the pandemic and the camping offer which was reduced by half.

The occupancy rate of the campsites was almost 100% in July and August, but only 53% of the site was available to comply with sanitary regulations. On several occasions, staff had to turn campers away because of regulations.

The Visitor Experience Manager, Frédéric Sainte-Croix, is satisfied under the circumstances. "We have seen a drop in overall attendance, but we have seen an increase in attendance for paid admissions, people who do not sleep at the park. It is 5% in July and 20% in August. It's still significant," he explains.

Admissions increased in July from 26,500 in 2019 to 28,000 in July 2020. Those in August 2019 rose from 31,000 to 37,000 in 2020.

In 2019, 170,000 people crossed the boundaries of Forillon Park and 165,000 in 2018. This year, the figure was 123,000 as of August 31.



Photo: N. Sergerie

Although European visitors and cruise lines are absent this fall, September is shaping up to be good, ac-

ording to Sainte-Croix.

Due to the pandemic context, all activities planned to mark the 50th

anniversary of the park had to be cancelled.

The park will close its gates on Thanksgiving.

# Record investments by the Gaspé SADC: Over \$1.1 million in financial assistance for businesses and organizations in Côte-de-Gaspé

Press release

GASPÉ: At its annual general meeting, held virtually on September 9, the Gaspé SADC (Community Futures Development Corporation) drew a positive portrait of its actions in 2019-2020, a record year in terms of investment, with a total amount of \$1.1M in financial assistance being distributed between April 1, 2019, and March 31, 2020. This is the first year of the new five-year agreement with Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions (CED).

This assistance was provided as loans totalling \$1.02 million for 29 investment files. In addition, an amount of \$80,000 in non-repayable contributions was distributed for 30 economic development projects. Together, these ef-

forts have supported the creation of 18 jobs and the maintenance of 128 others, in addition to spurring investments of more than \$7 million within the territory served.

Moreover, two major projects in the Estran sector were supported by an amount of \$312,000. In the words of the outgoing president of the Gaspé SADC, Stéphane Ste-Croix: "We are proud to say that our assistance is now more than ever reaching the entire territory of our MRC."

Other remarkable initiatives have been put in place specifically to support efforts by entrepreneurs and promoters to deal with the COVID-19 crisis. For instance, a moratorium on capital and interest on all loans has been put in place. The Gaspé SADC also established a technical

assistance program for accounting firms to support 91 businesses, enabling them to make the most of the financial assistance offered by the governments.

## About the Gaspé SADC

The mission of the Gaspé SADC is to accompany promoters in their endeavours to develop La Côte-de-Gaspé by providing technical and financial support to businesses and organisations.

*Photo: Ocean-Cam, based in Rivière-au-Renard, has been able to count on technical assistance from the Gaspé SADC over the past year. The company's underwater cameras are constantly being improved and will soon be available on the world market.*



# COVID Checkup: Six months later

Diane Skinner

It has been over six months now, more than 180 days, since COVID entered our world. It has changed our lives and of course as the numbers attest, COVID is not done with us yet. We asked some Spec readers to give us their reflections on what was hard and perhaps even the bright side of a pandemic. One person who has had the COVID test told us all about that and while it is not pleasant, it may be necessary that you take the test one day.

“The hardest part of COVID was not knowing what to expect in the first few months. Now that it has been over 6 months, we are more than prepared for whatever comes next. The stress of the unknown is now behind us. The bright side of COVID is that it makes us spend more time calling family instead of trying to all get together. Grocery shopping once every two weeks helps us save money at the same time. Nobody knows what the future holds, so all we can do is wash our hands, wear our masks when needed and keep our dis-

tance and hope that someday they find a vaccine for this terrible virus around us. As for employees working in residences for the elderly, we get tested for COVID once a month. I can tell you it’s not my favourite thing. They start by putting the Q-tip down your throat, and then they push it up your nose almost to your eye. This by far is the worst feeling ever. We do this out of respect for our patients, colleagues and for our family. I hope you all do the same and go take the COVID test if you have symptoms or if you were in contact with anyone who tested positive or even in contact with anyone from an orange or red zone. We can get through this together.”

Roxanne Major Denis

“The hardest part of COVID was having to cancel our trip to Mexico at Easter. On the bright side I have had time to work on my new book, *The Mystery of the Phantom Ship Continues*. We still get together with friends for an outdoor BBQ. My wife and I have enjoyed watching baseball and basketball and lots of movies on TV. Wear your mask and stay safe.”

Al Eden



both fear and joy. First I was terrified to get Covid-19 and die the terrible death that some people described as drowning. I am a hairstylist and lost work due to COVID-19 so I took a job cleaning at a motel for the summer to make extra money.

I collected CERB for the first two months, took that time to write, paint, bake and snowshoe. It was the best holiday I ever had despite the fear of dying. I don't know what the future brings but I feel safer that laws are put in place to help prevent the risk of sickness.”

Linda Drody

“As a musician and freelance researcher, the hardest thing about COVID-19 has been the little things that I miss, things which bring a certain balance into an otherwise unstructured life. In no particular order, I miss: working for a few hours from a cafe; going to the local library; taking public transit; working out at the gym; and, of course, just being able to get-together with friends at our weekly jam session in downtown Montreal. On the bright side, I've had to learn a lot about organizing live streaming events on facebook involving multiple musicians from all over the province. I've been working with different community groups to put on livestreams about local musical heritage since April. The Thirsty Thursday's series I co-produced with Dave Felker at the Gaspesian Way, for example, was a huge success. Each video got over a thousand views and lots of feedback and engagement from the community. Our Women of the Coast showcase at the end of July quickly saw over 9000 views! Hard to imagine reaching 9000 Gaspesians with an event in the pre-Pandemic world!”

“It was a surprise to hear at school on March 13 before noon that school would be closed for the following two weeks. So, surprise was the first reaction. That quickly turned to shock as news filtered in over the course of the next few weeks of deaths in care homes. The more we heard, the more we were aware of our part in stopping the spread. Personally, the hardest part was the isolation. I am a people person, so being away from school and then closing my B and B for the summer meant little socializing. On the bright side, my son and grandson built me a beautiful gallery in late spring. We held potluck suppers outdoors, afternoon teas and innumerable porch visits with family and friends. Those gatherings made a huge difference. Looking ahead, I'm dreading the isolation which winter brings, magnified by COVID restrictions on gatherings, which will of necessity be indoors.”

Anne MacWhirter

“Working through COVID I have learned to be distanced from people and to make sure that my safety and the safety of

others is my number one priority. Washing hands and wearing masks has become normal. Hopefully to some degree it stays like that. It seems that COVID will forever have changed our lives. It has shown the world the meaning of making sure your hands are clean. I think the way we have adapted to washing our hands constantly should be something that we keep. Hardest part of COVID for me was watching the fear that it was inflicting onto people that are the most at risk. The ones that used to leave their homes and do things have become so scared that they do not leave their homes anymore.”

Devon Small

“I think one of the hardest parts of dealing with COVID19 was not seeing my grandchildren for so long. I missed the hugs and cuddles. I miss seeing people face to face and I felt I needed that contact. I think many people re-evaluated their lives and the amount of time they were spending at work, away from their family. Many people started thinking of others more and not just themselves.”

Carol Beebe Gilker

“For me, COVID-19 brought



## CARP marks National Seniors Day with largest-ever virtual meeting of seniors

CANADA: - This National Seniors Day (Oct 1), CARP (Canadian Association of Retired Persons) is hosting Canada's largest-ever virtual meeting of seniors in honour of older people in our communities. A national Minute of

Silence will also be observed to remember those who have died due to COVID-19 in long-term care homes in Canada.

The event features a welcome from Prime Minister Trudeau, an interview with

the federal Minister of Seniors and special messages from some celebrity guests.

Older people and their advocates are invited to register for this free online event at [www.carp.ca/NationalSeniorsDay](http://www.carp.ca/NationalSeniorsDay). The event starts at 1

p.m. ET on Thursday, Oct 1.

CARP is Canada's largest advocacy association for older Canadians. Its mission is to advocate for better healthcare, financial security, and freedom from ageism.



# Announcements...

## Obituary



### WALKER: Brent James

Passed away peacefully, on September 4, 2020, at his home in Victoria, British Columbia, after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Brent was born on January 22, 1951, in New Carlisle, Quebec, to Thomas Walker and Loretta Imhoff. He was predeceased by brothers Dean, Harold and Barry and his beloved Black Lab, Hopey.

Brent was a devoted husband to his wife Marlene; and a loving father and grandfather to his sons Len (Sharmen) and Brent Jr. (Jodi) and grandchildren Kayla, Farah and Brayden. He will be fondly remembered and forever missed by his six brothers and two sisters.

Whenever Brent entered a room he always had a smile on his face. He was sure to use his quick wit and humour to make everyone laugh. He is leaving behind a legacy of laughter and compassion. He had a great passion for his garlic garden, cooking skills, travelling or just reading a good book. Conversations were always long and thoughtful and he always had some piece of wisdom to pass along to others.

In lieu of a funeral service, because Brent always loved a good party, there will be a "Celebration of Life" with his many family and friends from the East to the West Coast (Vancouver Island, Airdrie, Alberta and Saskatchewan). He chose three of his favourite songs to be played and requested that everyone gather together with singing, balloons, cake, and an open bar.

He has also asked that some of his ashes be scattered in The Bay of Chaleur (Atlantic) to show his love for his Gaspé Peninsula, his family and his friends.

The world is a better place because Brent was here. He will never be forgotten and will be loved forever. Thank you, Brent!

## In Memory

### SIMON: Courtney

In loving memory of a dear dad, father-in-law, grandfather and great-grandfather who passed away September 21, 2002.

*Your presence is ever near us.*

*Your love remains with us yet.*

*You were the kind of father*

*Your loved ones would never forget.*

Lovingly remembered by Eleanor (Clayton), Garfield (Sandra), Carolyn, and Donald (Frank).



### WILLIAMS: Robert (Bob)

### WILLIAMS: Randy (John)

In memory of Robert (Bob) Williams, March 21, 1950 - September 25, 1987 and Randy (John) Williams, September 28, 1951- August 30, 2018.

Fallen Limb

Author Unknown

*A limb has fallen from the family tree.*

*We keep hearing a voice that says,*

*"Grieve not for me."*

*Remember the best times, the laughter, the song,*

*The good life I lived while I was strong.*

*Continue my heritage. I'm counting on you.*

*Keep smiling and surely the sun will shine through.*

*My mind is at ease, my soul is at rest.*

*Remembering all, how I truly was blessed.*

*Continue traditions, no matter how small.*

*Go on with your life. Don't worry about falls.*

*We miss you all dearly, but we must go on*

*Until the day comes when we are together again.*

Sadly missed and never forgotten: Mom (Lois Williams) and family.

### To Jesus through Mary Prayer to the Blessed Virgin (never known to fail)

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendour of heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God. Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. O Star of the Sea, help me and show me that you are my Mother. O Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of heaven and earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succour me in my necessity (make request). There are none who can withstand your power. O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3 times). Holy Mary, I place this prayer in your hands (3 times). Say this prayer for 3 consecutive days and publish it, and it will be granted to you.

### St. Jude's Novena

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the hopeless, pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us.

Say this prayer nine times a day for nine days. On the eighth day your prayer will be answered.

M.B.

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\$30 (\$35 with picture) up to 20 lines.

In Memoriam: \$30 (\$35 with picture) up to 20 lines

\$40 (\$45 with picture) for more than 20 lines

Obituary or Wedding: \$40 (\$45 with picture) (Max. 300 words)

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**FREE:** Four kittens to give away, nine weeks old, in the Shigawake area. For more information, please call 418-751-3731.

## 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.

#### CORNER OF THE BEACH Public Market

A public market will be held

on **Saturday, September 26**, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. To reserve a table (\$10), contact Sandy Combs at 418-645-2874.

#### 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 at 418-752-5995 to make an appointment as we will not be accepting walk-ins. We thank you for your patience and cooperation during these difficult times.

#### NEW CARLISLE: Drive-In Gospel Meetings

Drive-In Meetings at Fair Haven Bible Campgrounds, Sundays at 2 p.m. COVID-19 considerations/social distancing. Rain or shine. All are welcome - invite a friend! Sponsored by the New Carlisle Bible Chapel. For more infor-

mation, please call 418-752-3372.

#### NEW CARLISLE: St. Andrew's Anglican Church

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 practice. Bring a lunch. Hygiene and distancing are applied.

**ROTARY CLUB WINNERS**  
**The winners for the week of September 12 are:** Suzanne Legouffe, Denis Lebouthillier, Michelle Bujold, René Cormier, Chantal Bolduc, Rudy Willett and Alain Arsenault.

## ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

**Sunday, September 27**

New Carlisle

11 a.m. Morning Service

**PARISH OF GASPÉ**

**Sunday, September 27**

St. Matthew's - Peninsula

10:30 a.m. Morning Service



**ARIES** – Mar 21/Apr 20

Professional prospects are excellent this week, Aries. You have all the bargaining power you need to ask for a raise or to land a job if you are ready to change companies.

**TAURUS** – Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, a dilemma confronts you and your romantic partner this week. Approach it straightforward as a team and the problem will soon be solved.

**GEMINI** – May 22/June 21

Gemini, money may be more plentiful for you this week for a variety of reasons. Rather than spending it freely, invest these funds wisely and enjoy a rainy day in the future.

**CANCER** – June 22/July 22

The support of a friend or loved one can help you overcome a setback, Cancer. This heartfelt bond will only strengthen as this person helps you along.

**LEO** – July 23/Aug 23

Leo, if you focus on positive energy, a stronger and healthier version of yourself is possible. It won't happen overnight, but expect some changes soon enough.

**VIRGO** – Aug 24/Sept 22

Your artistic side is just waiting to pop out, Virgo. The universe has gifted you with nimble and capable hands and you're apt to create things that inspire others.

**LIBRA** – Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, you may need to retreat from the spotlight for a little bit and nurture yourself. This can only be done in the privacy and

comfort of your home base.  
**SCORPIO** – Oct 24/Nov 22  
Scorpio, being positive can help you attract money, love, luck and quality company. Make mindful and positive choices and others will soon gravitate toward you.  
**SAGITTARIUS** – Nov 23/Dec 21  
Sagittarius, your financial future could be greatly improved with a lucrative job that seems to be coming your way. This opportunity can enable you to indulge in some luxury.  
**CAPRICORN** – Dec 22/Jan 20  
Capricorn, this is a big week for you that is marked by major planetary energy. This could translate into a boost in your love life or another positive change.  
**AQUARIUS** – Jan 21/Feb 18  
Aquarius, with all of the time you have been spending at home lately, you may want to consider a remodeling project. Embrace your inner interior designer.  
**PISCES** – Feb 19/Mar 20  
Start speaking with people who share your values, Pisces. You can expand your group of friends and make some lifelong relationships.

**FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS**  
**SEPTEMBER 20**  
**Jon Bernthal, Actor (44)**  
**SEPTEMBER 21**  
**Bill Murray, Actor (70)**  
**SEPTEMBER 22**  
**Tom Felton, Actor (33)**  
**SEPTEMBER 23**  
**Bruce Springsteen, Singer (71)**  
**SEPTEMBER 24**  
**Ben Platt, Actor (27)**  
**SEPTEMBER 25**  
**Donald Glover, Actor (37)**  
**SEPTEMBER 26**  
**Christina Milian, Singer (39)**

**DEADLINE FOR THIS PAGE: THURSDAY AT 4 P.M.**

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## Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



### Books tell our stories: Preserve them

Books can inspire. Books provide facts. Books can show us a different world and time. Books amuse and entertain. Books can also reveal so much about a specific culture. The anglophones of the Gaspé are a minority culture with a deeply rooted and unique history. The books that have been written about us and by us reveal who we are and who we were.

There are recently published books available by Gaspesian writers. If you want to read a contemporary title, where do you go to find them? That can be a challenge. Limited printings mean that a book that was available ten years ago is out of print. Something is lost when this happens - a slice of our history is gone. There is no English bookstore here with a Gaspé Lit section, where we can search for books "by us and about us."

There are historically published books, those written 20, 30, 50 or more years ago. They exist, but perhaps in a box in the basement or maybe already discarded. I recently searched for a copy of the Black Whale Cookbook published in 1948 which I would love to own. No luck so far.

There are some steps that could be taken, and that should be soon, to preserve our literary history. Can you name a book, any book about the Gaspé written by a Gaspesian author or books translated from French into English which are set here? The titles do not come flooding to us, but they do exist.

#### Titles that come to mind include:

*G is for the Gaspé,*  
*Charlie the Calf,*  
*Leo's War,*  
*Paul Almond's 8-part series,*  
*Sketches of Gaspé,*  
*Treasure Trove in Gaspé and the Baie des Chaleurs,*  
*The Black Whale Cookbook,*  
*Fishermen and Merchants in 19th Century Gaspé,*  
*Salt of the Sea and The Coral Bride (translated),*  
*Mystery of the Phantom Ship,*  
*Gaspé Through the Years,*  
*Loyalists of the Bay of Chaleur,*  
*Cargo of Lies,*  
*Some Pile of Talkin',*  
*All Families are Different,*  
*Seabirds of Percé and the Gaspé Peninsula,*  
*God's Children,*  
*Scottish Imprints in Quebec.*

There are more. Perhaps you own some of the titles listed here or others. Hang on to them. They are our history.

A central book depository in one location would help to preserve these books for research purposes. Keeping these books in a museum or heritage building would be appropriate. A few bookshelves would likely be adequate. This resource could be for students, now or in the future. The books would be available to anyone who is curious about the information and literature of the Peninsula.

If a permanent location can be found it might be valuable to preserve copies of The Gaspé Spec newspaper there as well. The paper is now 45 years old and contains a treasure of information about, well, us.

Though not the most critical issue that we face today, it is important to preserve our history. To know who you are, it is important to know who you were.



## Roxanne Bouchard: Award-winning author

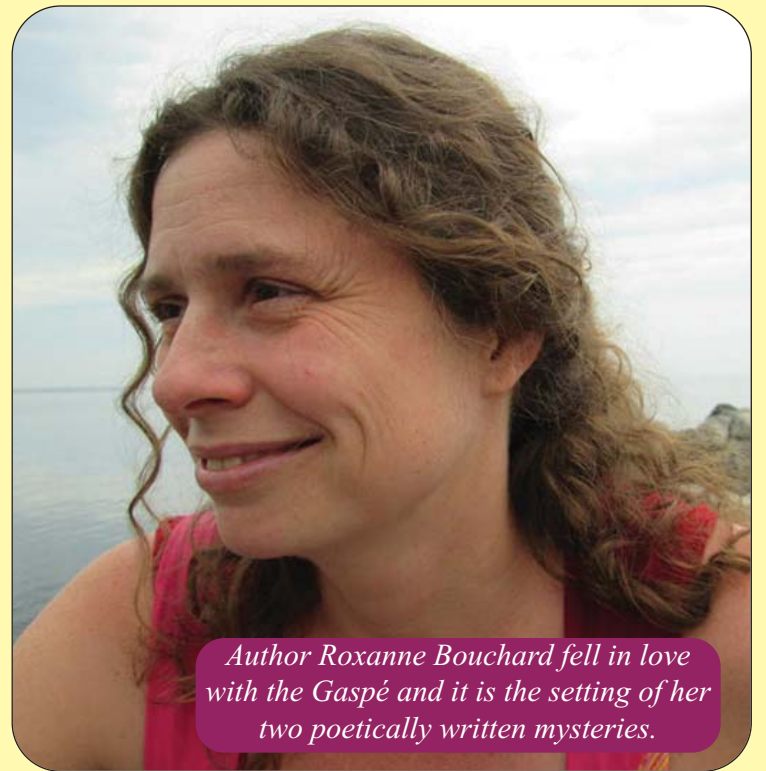
Diane Skinner

Award-winning author and CEGEP lecturer Roxanne Bouchard first visited the Gaspé about 15 years ago when learning to sail in the waters of the St. Lawrence and the Bay of Chaleur. Some local fishermen off Bonaventure invited her aboard to see how they hauled in their lobster nets. This experience inspired her to write two mystery novels set here on the Gaspé. *We Were the Salt of the Sea* and *The Coral Bride*, originally written in French, have now been translated into English and are available to order through Chapters.ca Next summer she will return to the Gaspé to sail and research the next novel in her Moralès series. I contacted her last week and she was happy to answer the following questions by email.

**Tell us a little about what inspired you to write your novels, *We Were the Salt of the Sea* and *The Coral Bride*.** When you don't come from the peninsula, you often only know the Gaspésie in a touristic aspect, made of stops at Forillon Park and in the boutiques of Percé. My challenge was to show a place inhabited by fishing, family ties, stories, nostalgia, tenderness and the sea. Readers are given a glimpse of true stories of courageous people, that we hear of, for example, on the wharves.

**Why use the Gaspé Peninsula as a backdrop? Do you have a link with the Gaspésie? Any family? Friends?**

Several years ago, I was part of a sailing crew and I sailed around the peninsula as far as the Magdalen Islands. On the docks, I met fishermen who took me fishing and told me their stories. This is where Moralès' first investigation began, which is set in Bonaventure and Caplan. (Moralès is the police inspector featured in her books.) I have more and more friends in Gaspésie, especially on the wharves. There I met fishermen O'Neil Poirier, Dan and Réginald Cotton, Jimmy Lepage and the late Leroy Roberts. They were very generous to help me, it is thanks to them that I can tell all these fishing stories.



Author Roxanne Bouchard fell in love with the Gaspé and it is the setting of her two poetically written mysteries.

Photo: Courtesy R. Bouchard

**Tell readers a bit about *We Were the Salt of the Sea* and *The Coral Bride*. Is *The Coral Bride* a sequel?** They are two police investigations (mysteries) but are conducted with poetic language. The first tells the story of the arrival of the investigator Moralès in Caplan. He wanted to take his pre-retirement in a remote station and finds himself investigating the death of a woman sailor.

In *The Coral Bride*, the investigator is sent to the Gaspé Peninsula because a lobster fisherwoman, Angel Roberts, has been reported missing. She will be found off Percé Bay. The investigation into her death will bring Moralès into the stories related to the cod moratoriums of the early 1990s.

**An excerpt from *We Were the Salt of the Sea***  
"On Quebec's outlying Gaspé Peninsula, the truth can be slippery, especially down on the fishermen's wharves. Interviews drift into idle chit-chat, evidence floats off with the tide and the truth lingers in murky waters. It's enough to make Moralès reach straight for a large whiskey."

In the first book, the investigator struggles with nostalgic stories of old sailors who loved a woman, while in the second, he questions the links of family.

**Tell us a brief biography of yourself.** I have lived in Lanaudière since I was a teenager. I did my bachelor's degree at Université de Montréal, my master's degree at UQAM. I have been teaching literature at Cégep de Joliette since 1994. I was 32 years old when I started sailing. That's how I got to know the Gaspésie.

**Are there any English-speaking characters in your books?** I don't speak English well enough to risk doing dialogue in English. I would have liked the Roberts' family in *The Coral Bride* to be inspired by the English-speaking people living south of Forillon. Beyond the linguistic fact, I hope that the fishing communities will find themselves well represented in my books.

**Do you intend to write (and translate into English) other books set on the Gaspé Peninsula?** Yes, I am in the process of writing a novel that takes place in the winter and researching a 4th Moralès book, which will be set in L'Anse-à-Beaufils.

**How many books have you written in all?** Eight books. In addition to the two Moralès novels, I have published three novels, a theatrical monologue (which was performed 60 times in Quebec last year by actress Marie-Joanne Boucher, and directed by François Bernier) and two books on war (a correspondence with an infantryman and a series of stories of soldiers who went to Afghanistan in 2009). I have also been published in several collections of short stories.

**Do you think these two books would make an excellent film or TV movie? Would you like that to happen?** I would like them to become a TV series. It's not impossible to do.

**Do you have anything else to add?** I am very touched that you took the time to take an interest in my books!

# Biohazard: Dispose responsibly

Diane Skinner

When getting out of the car at the grocery store this week, I was surprised, and slightly disgusted, to see a discarded latex glove and a surgical mask on the ground. The immediate thought was who would do this and how hard would it have been for that person to put those items in the garbage? It is disrespectful to the employee whose job is to clean up the parking lot, an unsanitary biohazard and it is a danger for wildlife.

Most people are aware that single-use plastics are best avoided, but during a pandemic we have likely all upped our use of these as protection against COVID, however, let's all use "best practices" when using and disposing of these items.

Masks help to save lives. Masks can take the lives of wildlife that become entangled in them. The person who threw their surgical mask on the ground did not think that the mask can be whisked away by the wind. Then wildlife, such as birds, cats and raccoons, can become entrapped in the elas-



*Tossing masks, latex gloves and wipes onto the ground is not only disrespectful, it is a biohazard.*

Photo: D. Skinner

tic. Even using a garbage can placed outdoors in a public place will not stop animals from searching through that open garbage container. Put those unwanted masks in the garbage at home.

Latex gloves are equally dangerous to wildlife. Do not toss them onto the ground for the sake of others and any ani-

mals who might try to eat that glove.

Wipes, that were impossible to buy after mid-March, are now available. They are very handy to use when out in the car to wipe down surfaces and even your hands. Be responsible and dispose of these safely in a closed garbage container or just take them home and put

them in your own garbage can. Be a friend to the environment and that way you will know they are disposed of properly. By the way, flushing these wipes is not a good idea. They are not meant to be flushed and could cause a big plumbing nightmare.

Now that we have more choices, we do not always have to rely on single-use plastics to help us in the fight against the virus. Some simple and often cost-cutting choices include:

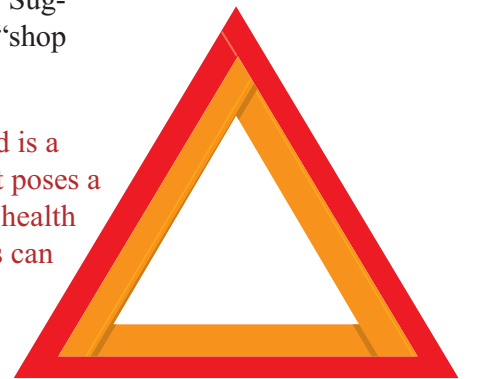
**Masks:** Instead of surgical, disposable masks, use washable cotton masks. Have a couple so that they can be washed regularly. There are so many choices of colours and styles. There is elastic that goes over the ears OR behind the head. Some are made with a little pouch inside so that you can insert a disposable filter. Suggested is a piece of "shop

towel." These are sold by the roll. They are like paper towels and are extra thick, inexpensive and can be cut to size easily. Then, discard each time you wash your cotton mask.

**Latex gloves:** As we learn more about the virus the misuse of latex gloves can actually be a way of transmitting the infection. Use them and then dispose of them safely after a single use only. In fact, the World Health Organization (WHO) has said that people are better off washing and sanitizing their hands than using gloves – in most cases.

The theme for single-use personal protective equipment is simple: Use them and then discard them safely. Otherwise you are leaving biohazardous material in the parking lot of the grocery store.

**Biohazard:** A biohazard is a biological substance that poses a risk to human or animal health or the environment. This can include bacteria and viruses.



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## 2020 Cascapedia-St-Jules Fall Festival

Press release

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES: Organizers of the 2020 Fall Festival would like to inform the public that the festival has been cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The dates of the next Fall Festival are October 1, 2 and 3, 2021. The Fall Festival Committee hopes to see you then and wishes everyone a safe year ahead.

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*diane*