

Renovation plans and project outcomes highlighted at Family Ties AGM

Cynthia Dow

NEW CARLISLE: The Family Ties team held its Annual General Meeting on Saturday, September 19, in the backyard of its New Carlisle location, using an adapted format to respect physical distancing and hygiene measures. Luckily, the sun shone making it a perfect day to discuss business matters outside!

Family Ties staff was on hand to report on programming and services offered over the past year including: Early Childhood Education, Youth Programs, Food Security, Destination Family, Putting Pen to Paper, New Horizons for Seniors and many other projects.

The 28 community members who attended the AGM were welcomed with coffee, fruit and delicious muffins made by the new collective cooking animator, Kathy Hayes.

Executive Director Heather MacWhirter was particularly excited to talk about renovations to the building which will take place thanks to \$269,000 in funding from Canadian Heritage, as well as \$20,000 from the MRC and \$18,500 from Caisse Desjardins. This has been an important objective in the organization's three-year action plan in order to increase accessibility to the building. Most significantly, the kitchen and library will be moved to the ground floor of the building.

"Having to climb those stairs with small children, bags and books is ridiculous," Heather MacWhirter told SPEC, "Now we can look forward to a new handicap ramp, and proper kitchen appliances. It will be wonderful to cook in that newly renovated kitchen!" She explained that at this time Family Ties is mortgage-free but they may have to borrow against their building to fin-



Holding the AGM in the parking lot allowed for appropriate social distancing for the 28 members who attended.

Photos: Elizabeth Dupuis

ish the renovations.

Another highlight of the meeting was the presentation of the adult and student volunteer awards. Adult Volunteer of the Year was Suzie McRae who can often be seen helping out in the kitchen and does so without needing to be asked. Student Volunteers of the Year were Bryan Huard, Chase Reid, Lacey Flowers, Keysha Walker-Skene and Tamisha Bujold who help out with Culture Club and always go out of their way to engage with the younger children.

Heather MacWhirter also gave special thanks to President Kathy Gallan who stepped down from volunteering on the Administrative Council after 12 years of service. The new president is Chris Fraser, with Sharon Smith as Vice-President, Robert MacWhirter as Secretary, Joshua Paetkau as Treasurer and Directors Terry Maloney, Angie Walters and Sandi Beebe.

The 92-page annual report on activities indicates in great detail the tremendous impact Family Ties has on its membership, its community, and the Gaspesian community as a whole. The six employees who carried out the activities are: Carolyn Taylor, Melissa Mercier, Maria Chatterton, Amie Major, Elizabeth Dupuis and Kathy Hayes.

The organization's bookkeeper, Johnny LeGrand, presented the 2019-2020 audited financial statements with revenues totalling \$448,651. Johnny pointed out that the budget has grown exponentially since Family Ties first started, due to successful funding applications, but the money is allocated for specific types of expenditures which will allow Family Ties to meet the needs of the community. "We ended with a surplus of about \$13,000," Ms. MacWhirter explained. "This was mainly due to project money that will be used to deliver direct services to the community members."

The COVID-19 situation affected the organization in many ways. Having to suspend on-site activities in March meant that the staff kept busy by supporting families from a distance. A major issue was food security. As a direct response to the confinement measures, Family Ties received \$20,000 from Good Food Centers of Canada and used the money to give out IGA gift cards to families who were struggling to buy food. Staff members sometimes had to deliver groceries to families who didn't have any means of transportation. Without credit cards those families couldn't

place online orders and have groceries delivered.

"I think in terms of the impact of the pandemic on mental health, it has been worse for the seniors, who have really felt the isolation. For families, confined together like that, it can lead to tension and stress. People are worried about their jobs, their future, their health, it's a very stressful situation for everyone. So our staff kept in contact with the families who are in their respective programs, supporting them, lending an ear, en-

couraging them to get outside, trying to help people keep positive."

Also, this fall the recruitment of new participants for programs has not gone ahead as usual. "We can't increase our numbers right now because of physical distancing requirements," noted Ms MacWhirter, however, she did add "But we do want people to call us if they have a particular problem we can help them with."

One recruitment measure that will be taken this fall, pending additional funding, is the hiring of a person responsible for cleanliness and disinfection measures. "With the new guidelines we need someone to be in charge of sanitary measures. So we are working on funding to hire someone for the next ten months," stated Ms. MacWhirter.

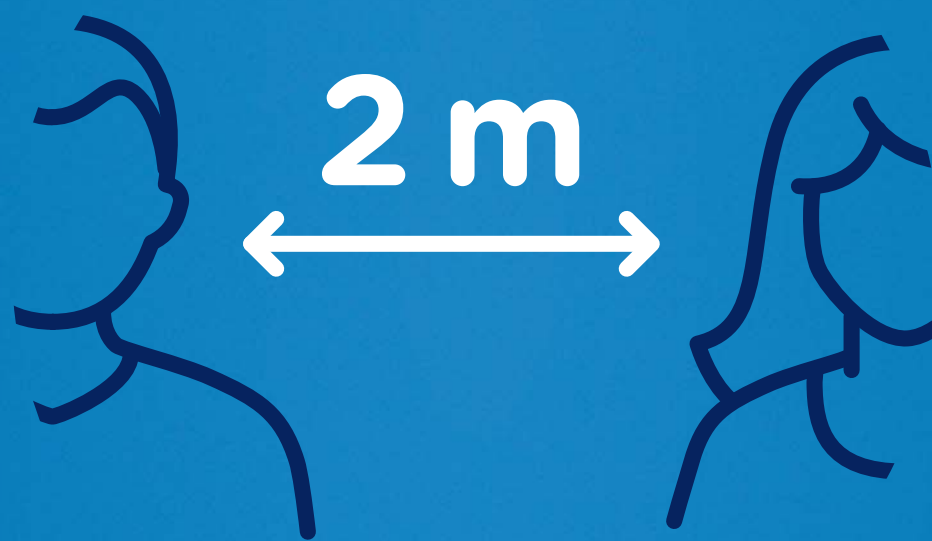
Family Ties membership cards are available at a cost of \$5, ensuring access to the full range of programs and services, and contributing to the development of the organization.

Article compiled with resources provided by Family Ties.



Adult Volunteer of the Year was Suzie McRae, left, pictured here with Melissa Mercier, Food Security Coordinator.

Why do we have to stay 2 metres apart from others?



Staying 2 metres apart protects us from contaminated droplets in the air after an infected person speaks, coughs or sneezes.

By protecting ourselves properly,
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[Québec.ca/coronavirus](https://quebec.ca/coronavirus)

 1 877 644-4545

Police report



Photo: N. Sergerie

John Arthur Girard, 60, from Gaspé, faces charges of dangerous use of a firearm, negligent storage of a firearm, carrying a firearm dangerously and uttering threats following an October 3-4 Sûreté du Québec intervention in the Douglastown sector of Gaspé. During that intervention, Highway 132 was blocked by the police for close to 13.5 hours in front of the suspect's house. He was charged on October 5 at the Percé courthouse.

John Arthur Girard was sent to the Gaspé hospital after the court appearance in order to be evaluated and see if he is fit for trial. The evaluation will ideally be carried out before October 30, the date of his next court appearance. Initially, the Sûreté du Québec officers were called at about 4:20 p.m. on Saturday, October 3, to intervene because a woman was allegedly being confined. The man was alone and armed when the police arrived at his house. At one point, he fled to the woods behind the house.

The Sûreté du Québec SWAT team, based in Rivière-du-Loup, came to Douglastown in case an intervention of that type would be required. The suspect finally surrendered at 5:45 a.m. on Sunday, October 4.

Highway 132 is the only road between Gaspé and Percé in that area. A large safety perimeter was called when neighbours saw the man going into the woods. The Sûreté du Québec has not confirmed that detail yet because the case is still under investigation. For tactical reasons, the Sûreté du Québec will not release information regarding the number of police officers deployed in that case. Firearms were seized in the house of the suspect. *(With information from Simon Carmichael, Le Soleil)*

Mikael Huard Tremblay, 29, from New Carlisle has been imprisoned since Sunday, October 4, following a police chase that took place in the backcountry of Mont-Joli and Rimouski. He was charged on October 5 at the Rimouski courthouse of driving without a valid permit, which was suspended at the time, and breach of probation. However, the department of Justice confirms that the man remains under investigation and that other charges could be laid against him. The police chase was conducted over a distance of 40 kilometres between Sainte-Angèle-de-Mérici and Rimouski. A significant quantity of drugs were found in the vehicle. Sûreté du Québec officers used a nail carpet three times before arresting the man. He also resisted arrest.

Orléans Express maintains its service

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - While the regions of Montreal and Quebec, and even part of Avignon, are now categorized as red zones, Orléans Express has no plans to suspend its service at the moment.

The company has seen a general decline in ridership on its network in recent days, but has said that the coaches are operating, although inter-regional travel is not recommended by the authorities. Adjustments will be made if necessary.

Since Carleton-sur-Mer is in the red zone, stops will continue at Le Héron from Thursday to Sunday as usual, but, on the other days, the stops will be at the Petro-Canada station, near the usual stop.

Sanitary measures continue to be applied with a capacity of 24 passengers in coaches.

Suspended last March following a sharp drop in ridership, the carrier was back on the road in mid-July with help from the Quebec government, which is covering 75% of the service's operating deficit. The Legault government set aside \$8.2 million to support long-distance carriers.

The Federation of Bus Carriers has also asked Ottawa for emergency assistance in the current context when their doors total some \$240 million.

The requested assistance is up to \$16 million to pay the fixed costs and survive into the spring. Ottawa has indicated that it is looking at the possibility.

Unfair gasoline prices still happening on the Gaspé

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - The mayor of Gaspé, Daniel Côté does not rule out returning to the Competition Bureau and the Energy Board when, for a month, gasoline has been selling well above the price determined by the Energy Board.

The difference is between five and ten cents depending on the day. On October 1, the price at the pump was expected to be approximately \$1.07.

Daniel Côté, recalls that a step was taken a year ago. "If we see such marked differences, the Quebec Energy Board must play its role. We will probably also revive the Competition Bureau of Canada by mentioning that the situation is returning to the way it was before the complaint was filed. It is abnormal that the price of gasoline changes according to the moods of politicians," explains the elected official.

The Member of the National Assembly for Bonaventure, Sylvain Roy intends to intervene with the Government of Quebec when, since mid-August, regular gasoline has been selling five to 10 cents higher than the realistic price calculated by the Energy Board.

On October 6, the difference was seven cents. Sylvain Roy emphasizes that remote regions are penalized by this structural inequity and citizens are the losers.

Mr. Roy wants to continue the political fight. "Ask the government to fix the problem and to sanction so that people get a reasonable price for fuel." We will, in fact, ask the government for an accountability on this."

Fewer pigeons in Gaspé

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ: - The presence of pigeons in downtown Gaspé was less noticeable this year. This is what Mayor Daniel Côté has observed after the issue provoked heated debate last year.

The pigeons are in an area further from the town centre this year. "The problem is less serious. Are people more aware of not feeding them? I hope so. We were told that there were people feeding them, but no one wants to denounce them," says the mayor.

No control operation was necessary. Last year, Gaspé had to pass a by-law to crack down on people who voluntarily fed pigeons downtown. The regulations provided for a penalty of \$200 to \$1,000 for a first offense.

Chandler councillors refuse to attend meetings

Nelson Sergerie

CHANDLER - Another incident took place between the mayor of Chandler and four town councillors when they refused to appear at the regular monthly meeting on October 5. After an agreement to finally hold a special meeting transformed into a regular one, the councillors refused to pay the bills related to the mayor's case before the Municipal Commission.

The councillors will continue this action as long as the Municipal Commission has not filed its decision on the request for the end of the proceedings filed by the prosecutor for Louise Langlois in the face of the 20 breaches alleged against Ms. Langlois. However, a session was held on October 7 after two failed attempts on October 5 and 6.

Louise Langlois is criticizing this situation and says that the four councillors are obstructing democracy. "I call it outright taking the citizens hostage," says Ms. Langlois. The first attempt for a meeting on October 5 was postponed to 4:30 p.m. the next day, as provided by law, according to the mayor, who emphasizes the obligation to hold one regular meeting per month which cannot be replaced by a special meeting.

"We will see if these people are really serious about democ-

racy and the advancement of issues," added Ms. Langlois a few minutes after the first failed meeting.

Special session

A special meeting was called on October 7 to settle the essential town matters. Among these items were the Mayor's August and September bills relating to her case before the Municipal Commission. The two invoices total \$24,000.

Although the Municipal Code obliges a town to defend elected officials in the exercise of their functions, the councillors are basing their decision on a recent court decision. "The process is unreasonable and we are relying on a recent judgment of the Superior Court of Quebec in the municipality of Sainte-Lucie-des-Laurentides," explains Councillor Bruno-Pierre Godbout.

This case consisted of a safeguard request and not on the merits. Mayor Anne-Guyline Legault was trying to obtain a safeguard order to force the municipality to reimburse part of the legal costs for a battle before the Municipal Commission. The town administration invoked the fact that it had always recognized that it had to pay reasonable representation costs and invoked multiple remedies to refuse to pay certain bills.

The prosecutor had a long list of the procedures initiated by Ms. Legault to dismiss this order.

Chandler's elected officials are relying on the request for a stay of proceedings to support their thesis.

Ms. Langlois is not excluding an appeal. "They're going to have to face it that maybe they won't like it. Recourse is worrisome. I don't know how Attorney Caza (Charles) is going to take this. But in my opinion, it won't stay there."

An agreement made it possible to hold the special meeting and continue on a regular basis. Certain councillors will not sit until the Municipal Commission's decision on the stay of proceedings is rendered.

"We want to hold short meetings to limit the controversy that the mayor feeds on month after month and we want to await Judge Bilodeau's (of the Municipal Commission) decision," says Councillor Bruno-Pierre Godbout.

Mr. Godbout released through the Access to Information Act the recordings of the hearings before the commission in July.

"We requested the audios of witnesses who testified at Ms. Langlois's hearing and we learned some pretty catastrophic things. We prefer to be careful and no longer sit with that person for the moment," he states.



Gilles Gagné Commentary

Is the lack of discipline hurting Quebec?

Why is the incidence of COVID-19 worse in Quebec, population-wise, than in the rest of Canada? Many reasons have been suggested since the first wave of the pandemic in March. Some of those reasons appear sound but some others remain to be proven.

The timing of the March break at the end of the winter played a large role in the number of coronavirus cases that appeared in Quebec at the beginning of the pandemic because a lot of Quebecers had travelled overseas and down south. Airports were a huge vector of infection at the time. March break takes place earlier or later in other provinces. People knew very little about the extent of the spread and measures to adopt in order to avoid outbreaks; so the virus spread rapidly at the end of March.

Those outbreaks led to a death of 100 people daily in April and 1,000 new cases, also on a daily basis. The Health and Social Services ministry had prepared the hospitals for the treatment of middle-aged citizens but the outbreaks mainly hit seniors' residences, privately and publicly owned.

Those homes were by and large not ready for the overwhelming task of taking care of thousands of suddenly very sick people. The message to the effect that those residences were in need of urgent assistance took days, in some cases weeks before reaching the Ministry of Health and Social Services and close to 6,000 people died within weeks, in a system largely disorganized by the wide centralization of power carried out during the Liberal Party government. Remember Gaétan Barrette?

The summer went by relatively smoothly. The number of cases and casualties greatly diminished and the health system was bracing for the fall, and the potentially high number of outbreaks that would come with the seasonal flu, in November and later.

The health system and the public were wrong. The coronavirus did not wait until the fall before striking back, and it struck back hard, harder and faster than last spring regarding the number of infection cases, but it is not as deadly so far.

The situation differs in the Gaspé Peninsula, where nine casualties occurred within two weeks, the same number as in ten weeks during the spring. The situation likely stems mainly from a bingo night in Saint-Omer, attended by between 80 and 100 people, depending on the source. People attending bingos are mostly relatively old but autonomous people, often still taking care of their parents. While the outbreaks affect younger people in the rest of Quebec, the situation is very different in the Gaspé Peninsula, hence the number of casualties, all factors considered.

Yes, Quebecers lowered their guard this time around. Is it a society trait? It is very hard to say. Did they lower their guard because the first wave was harder here than elsewhere? It is possible.

Health and Social Services Minister Christian Dubé ventured on slippery ground when he said during an interview aired by Radio-Canada that the

big difference between Quebec and Ontario, where the number of cases is significantly lower despite a higher population, could be explained by the lower level of discipline shown by Quebecers.

It might be true but politically, it is a rather adventurous route to take. A lot of Quebecers look at François Legault, Christian Dubé and their supporting cast only to conclude that they seem out of resources to deal with outbreaks that are coming earlier than expected.

Who is right and who is wrong? Sociologists might find that topic an interesting field of study for the years to come. There is bit of truth in both theories expressed. Quebecers reluctantly and slowly went back to cautious practices in September, which explains the sky-rocketing number of cases over the last month. At the same time, the authorities seemed more preoccupied with the state of the economy than preparing for the coming of the second wave.

The suddenness of the outbreaks worsens the shortage of staff that plagues our health system. There lies the biggest challenge of the Quebec society for the months to come. Our health and social services staff members are still exhausted from the spring marathon they were in. That is why showing discipline is important.

Yan Lafrenière replaces Sylvie D'Amours at Aboriginal Affairs

Premier François Legault announced on October 9 that Ian Lafrenière, a former police officer and communication agent for the Montreal police force, replaces Sylvie D'Amours as Quebec Minister of Aboriginal Affairs.

Sylvie D'Amours had shown a slow reaction time following the September 28 tragic death of Joyce Echaquan at the Joliette hospital. Her general lack of prompt actions regarding Native issues was often denounced by a wide range of Aboriginal leaders.

Appointing a former police officer elected to the the National Assembly looks like another awkward move by Mr. Legault regarding Native issues. Upon reaching the first half of his term, the Quebec Premier has not distinguished himself for the importance given to the Aboriginal cause.

Someone had to go after the Joyce Echaquan's death and it was Ms. D'Amours. However, blaming her doesn't fix the lack of consideration of the premier for native issues. He was the one who appointed her in the first place and he leads an extremely centralized government. Sylvie D'Amours was far from perfect but she only went as far as the power she was given.

For years, Ian Lafrenière was the spokesperson for a police force renowned for zealous interventions against Natives living in the city. His appointment is not greeted favourably by many First Nations leaders. However, as Atikamekw Chief Constant Awashish reacted to Mr. Lafrenière's nomination, "We will give him a chance. (...) If the premier doesn't listen to what he has to say, nothing will change."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thanks and Farewell

On September 23, 2020, I informed Eastern Shores School Board that I would not be presenting as commissioner for the Chandler sector in the

election scheduled for early November.

I joined the Board of Commissioners in 1997 and participated in all deliberations for the past twenty-three years. I am pleased to have served under chairpersons Audrey Acteson and Wade Gifford as they led us in efforts to better education on the Gaspésie and Quebec's North Shore.

My announcement of withdrawal from ESSB came exactly day for day, fifty-eight years ago when I had signed my first teaching contract at Listujug on Sept. 23, 1962. During all those years I have worked with many fine and dedicated persons who consistently believed that education is of critical importance to youth and people at large.

With a full heart I say thank you to all the voters of Chandler for their interest in education and their affinity with English language instruction.

Finally, as Karen and I will go up to Montreal for the winter months, we bid farewell to all our Gaspesian friends to whom we wish good health and safety during the COVID-19 epidemic.

Gary Briand
Douglstown, Quebec

The Family Name Shearer

The name, Shearer has appeared in many references, and from time to time the surname was spelled Shearer, Sherar, Sheerer, and Sherer, and these changes in spelling frequently occurred within the family name. Scribes and church officials spelled the name as it sounded and frequently the spelling changed even during the person's own lifetime.

This is exactly what happened in the case of Thomas Sherar (as it is written in many old documents pertaining to him coming to what was called British North America and later on with his arrival at New Carlisle, Quebec.

When Thomas Sherar (Shearer) was born and baptized in Scotland, his date of birth and baptism are recorded in official church record documents. His family name is written as Shearer. His father's name is also written as Shearer. When his father was married, his name is written as Robert Shearer.

For some reason, we do not know and beyond his control, and mentioned in the introduction to this article, his surname Shearer changed to Sherar.

I, Garnet Shearer, who is in the process of researching and writing the genealogy of the Thomas Shearer Family and his descendants will from this date March 10, 2019, write the family name Shearer based on the official documents received from Scotland.

Garnet Shearer
Quebec City, Quebec.

The Gaspé Spec

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Many Gaspésians disappointed, there will only be 32 new child care spaces

Simon Carmichael

GASPÉ - Among the 4,359 new child care spaces announced by the Quebec government on Monday, 32 are in Gaspé, where hundreds of children are on the waiting list. This situation is deemed "urgent" by the Member of the National Assembly for Gaspé, Méganne Perry-Mélançon, who sees it as a major obstacle in the development of the region. The Minister of Families ensures that he is "well aware" of the situation and says that the number announced is "for information only."

The Minister of Families, Mathieu Lacombe, announced 4,359 new subsidized educational childcare spaces for all of Quebec on October 5. Of this number, 32 places have been allocated to the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Island region, all in the Côte-de-Gaspé MRC.

However, for many months, regional stakeholders have been stressing that the region is grappling with a major shortage of child care spaces. For the Town of Gaspé alone, nearly 120 children are on the waiting list.

Same scenario in the neighboring MRC of Rocher-Percé, where a similar number of families do not have access to a subsidized daycare. The situation is also worrisome in the Bay of Chaleur area.

"It's bad will," says the PQ MNA for Gaspé, Méganne Perry-Mélançon, who has worked on this issue for more than a year. "The region's economic players and families have mobilized like never before, and the government decides to ignore the problem," she adds.

She said in "total incomprehension" of the government's announcement, noting that some families are even considering leaving the region if they cannot find places in childcare centers.

"We are putting money into bringing young families to the



Photo: G. Gagné

Member of the National Assembly for the riding of Gaspé, Méganne Perry-Mélançon thinks that the CAQ government has decided to ignore the daycare place shortage in the region, despite the acuteness of the problem.

Gaspé, but we are not offering the services necessary for them to settle and stay!" states Ms. Perry-Mélançon.

Economic development

On October 2, many local economic players, namely the Gaspé Chamber of Commerce and Tourism, the Carrefour Jeunesse-Emploi de la Côte-de-Gaspé as well as the Town of Gaspé joined forces with Ms. Perry-Mélançon and urged the Minister of Families to "deal with the crying lack of places in the community."

This lack of space would slow down the economic development of the region, reports the mayor of Gaspé, Daniel Côté. "The Town of Gaspé is enjoying exceptional economic momentum. The shortage of child care spaces is one of the main obstacles to our growth," he says.

In the riding of Gaspé, nearly 300 families are waiting for a place, and "the list will certainly grow if there is no government intervention," according to Ms. Perry-Mélançon.

In July, dozens of young mothers, accompanied by their children, demonstrated in

Gaspé to make the government aware of the shortage of childcare places in the region. A similar demonstration also took place last January.

The Minister has "heard the message"

In an interview with Le Soleil, the Minister of Families, Mathieu Lacombe, said he had "heard the cry from the

hearts of the people of Gaspé," especially since the mayor of the municipality explained the problem to him. "I am well aware of the situation, but as Minister, we have to work with the usual ways of doing things in the department," he explains.

According to the current assessment by the Department of Families, Gaspé is not considered to have a deficit of child

care spaces. "Initially, Gaspé was not to be included in this morning's announcement as the situation is not considered to be in deficit," noted the Minister. "We took an important step in adding it to the list," he adds.

The minister believes that the difference between the ministerial maps and the reality on the ground is partly due to the size of the territory as well as to the unpredictability of the development of the region.

"Our tools are based on demographic and birth data. It is difficult to assess the impact of a business setting up in the field. The tools (for the distribution of places) need to be improved, but in the meantime you have to be flexible," he notes.

To ensure this flexibility, the minister says that his call for projects includes 500 places reserved for future projects in communities considered to be "poorly balanced," as is the case for Gaspé. Sixteen regions or sub-regions of the province are considered "low balance" by the ministry.

Simon Carmichael, *Le Soleil*, Local Journalism Initiative

SNOW REMOVAL CONTRACT MICMAC NATION OF GESPEG

The Micmac Nation of Gespeg is seeking tenders for a «Snow Removal Contract» for the 2020-2021 winter season for the Community Hall premises located at 34 Montée Corte-Real (Gaspé) and the Interpretation Site located at 783 Pointe Navarre (Gaspé).



BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF CONTRACTOR DUTIES

- Removal of snow and ice off parking lots and driveway to be completed prior to 6:00 a.m. 7 days a week.
 - o garbage and recycling bin area;
 - o front and sides of the commercial fisheries shelter (Corte-Réal);
 - o path up to the workshop (Pointe-Navarre) – discuss;
- Snow removal will be done after any storm, whenever a blockage exists, or accumulations exceed six (6) inches;
- Spread salt to slippery areas to ensure the safety of pedestrians at all times;
- Contractor must provide own equipment, fuel and salt. Contractor will be held responsible for replacing and or repairing damage done to property while fulfilling these duties;
- Applicant must provide proof of liability insurance with a minimum coverage of \$1 000 000.00.

All interested contractors are encouraged to inspect the grounds prior to submitting their bid. All written bids with required documentation are to be submitted to:

Elisha Simon, Executive Director
34 Montée Corte-Real C.P.69 Gaspé, Quebec G4X 6S2
or by email: direction@gespeg.ca

Bids must be submitted by: 4:30 pm October 30th, 2020.

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“A bandaid on an open wound,” says Women’s advocate

Gilles Gagné

CARLETON – The daycare call for tenders announcement made on October 5 by Family Minister Mathieu Lacombe is dubbed “a bandaid on an open wound” by Mireille Chartrand, coordinator of the *Table de concertation des groupes de femmes* (Women’s groups Consultation Table) of the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands.

Ms. Chartrand says the 32 subsidized places announced by the minister only represent a very small portion of the needs identified by the organizations working for the betterment of the daycare situation in the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands.

“The numbers compiled by the daycare coordinating offices indicate that we are short of 500 places in the region, but there are more than that missing. According to the zero-place.ca site, we would need 700 daycare places in the Gaspé Peninsula and the Islands,” explains Mireille Chartrand.

The current lists take into account the parents waiting for a place, parents expecting a child soon and parents who have a child or children in a daycare that is not convenient. “When parents must drive an hour-and-a-half per day in order to have their child taken care of, that is what we call a place that is not convenient,” states Ms. Chartrand.

The numbers of places that need to be filled tend to support Mireille Chartrand’s plea. The 32 places announced in Minister Lacombe’s call for tenders don’t even represent 1.064% of the 4,359 places announced on October 5. A proportion of 1.064% is the demographic share of the Gaspé Peninsula in Quebec. An announcement of 4,637 places would have represented that share of the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands, had the minister respected the region’s demographics in the



Mireille Chartrand assures that the daycare place shortage is worse than the official number of 500.

Photo: Courtesy of Mireille Chartrand



Catherine Cyr-Wright says that her situation would be worse if her parents were not around.

Photo: Gilles Gagné

they lose experience, promotion opportunities and they don’t contribute to their pension fund. They will reach retirement age later, with a lower pension fund. I am also thinking of the people working in a “fly-in-fly-out” fashion. As for us, we wonder if we will keep that pace until May, as Philémon will be 18 months old at that time,” points out Ms. Cyr-Wright, since it is easier to find a daycare place for that age.

Catherine Cyr-Wright and Mireille Chartrand know Gaspesians and Magdalen Islanders who left the region or switched MRCs in order to find a daycare place for their child or children.

“We spend a lot of money to attract young families (to the region) and they will be at risk of experiencing difficulties in finding a place for their children. Some people will not have a second or third child in order to avoid living the stress of finding a daycare place. It is a significant obstacle for regional development,” they both explain.

There is a shortage of 40,000 daycare places in Quebec. Considering the demographic weight of the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands, the regional shortage should not be higher than 425 places. With a shortage of close to 700 places, the situation calls for prompt actions, conclude Mireille Chartrand and Catherine Cyr-Wright.

province.

“The region consequently loses there and also loses when one considers the discrepancy between that number and the real needs,” also points out Mireille Chartrand.

“A complementary study carried out in the Magdalen Islands leads to conclusions; there are 82 places missing on the Island! In Gaspé, there are many spots and jobs available. There are places that were granted to the region but not built yet. It often takes three years before getting a place. When the child gets a place, (he or she) is close to attending school,” she remarks.

Mireille Chartrand doesn’t understand why it takes so long to build a daycare when the context obviously calls for it.

“Women are the ones suffering most from the current situation. In a context of daycare shortage of spots, they are most likely the ones that will stay home if both members of a couple have a job. There are potentially 700 women who cannot go back to work; 700 women who don’t have the choice,” insists Mireille Chartrand.

The working conditions in daycares have contributed to the deterioration of the situation over the last years.

“The occupation in general has suffered from a lack of valorization or from a devaluation

and in family daycares (daycares located in people’s houses), it is even less advantageous. Some daycares have closed. We hope that the recent agreement (between the Quebec government and daycare union representatives) will improve the situation,” states Ms. Chartrand.

In Gaspé, the last province-wide agreement was accepted in a proportion of 82% by the daycare workers of the two unions representing them.

Parents juggle with schedules to make it work

In New Richmond, Catherine Cyr-Wright, development agent at the Women Groups Consultation Table, experiences first-hand the situation stemming from the shortage of daycare places. She gave birth to her son 11 months ago.

“My boyfriend and I are sharing work days. With my parents babysitting Philémon two days per week. We can work 30 hours a week. It makes for little family time and it affects our budget. The weekend is spent preparing for the coming week and we try to get some rest. The shortage of places for the (babies of) 18 months and less hurts. I am lucky because my parents are close, because my boyfriend and I are sharing the working time. He has reduced his working time and we work from home,” explains Ms. Cyr-Wright.

She insists on the fact that she loves taking care of her baby but the current daycare situation makes it hard to balance things out, financially among other things.

“I am thinking of the health care women, who must go out to work. If they don’t do it,



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Another tough COVID-19 week for the region

Gilles Gagné

MARIA – The week of October 2 to 9 was tough for the population of the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands as the number of COVID-19 cases in the region rose from 421 to 549, an increase of 128 cases. That increase was a little lower than the 131 additional cases of the previous week.

The number of active cases went from 154 to 226 from one week to the other. The Avignon MRC still dominates those active cases, as 141 cases were reported there as of October 9, compared to 122 a week earlier. The proportion of the Avignon MRC cases over the regional total fell from one week to the other, as it went from 79.2% to 62.4%.

The slight increase in cases in three other MRCs, namely Bonaventure, Percé Rock and Côte-de-Gaspé explains the relative decrease in importance of the Avignon MRC. Three municipalities of that MRC, Nouvelle, Carleton-sur-Mer, which includes Saint-Omer, and Maria, are marked as a red alert zone, for maximum COVID alert. The central and western parts of the MRC all show a small coronavirus incidence.

In Bonaventure, the number of active cases reached 39 during the October 2 to 9 span, more than three times the 11 cases of the previous week. As consequence, the mayors of New Richmond and Bonaventure, Éric Dubé and Roch Audet, respectively, called for the reduction of municipal services in those municipalities as if they were located in a red zone, or close.

In the Côte-de-Gaspé MRC, the number of active cases went from five to 12 over the two weeks. In percentage, the largest increase occurred in the Percé Rock MRC, considering that the number of active cases went from less than five to 25, between October 2 and 9.

The Haute-Gaspésie went from less than five active cases on October 2 to zero on October 9. That MRC has generated only 10 COVID-19 cases of the regional total of 549 since March 20, when the first case was reported in the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands.

Since September 1, the second wave of the pandemic has generated 335 cases, as of October 9, for 61% of all the cases since the start of the pandemic, in a span of five-and-a-half weeks compared to ten weeks for the most intense part of the spring's first wave.

Stability

During an October 9 conference call, Dr. Yv Bonnier-Viger, head of the region's Public Health Board, remarked that some stability seemed to characterize the last four days of report on the progression of the pandemic, from October 6 to 9. In fact, those four days were marked by 23, 22, 22 and 23 new cases. It remained close to the October 1 daily record of 28 cases.

"We seem to have reached a certain plateau of about 20 cases per day. The measures implemented are coming to fruition. They (the numbers) will likely stay stable for a while and decrease. We see the same thing at the two seniors' residences in Maria. At the CHSLD (Saint Joseph Residence), we see the same phenomenon, almost no new cases for several days, and at Lady Maria, the increase is slowing down," said Dr. Bonnier-Viger.

During the first nine days of October, the René-Lévesque School Service Centre reported seven COVID situations in different classrooms, four in the Carleton area, one at the Bonaventure vocational education centre and two in Port Daniel. Three classrooms were confined, two in Port

Daniel and one at École Bourg, an elementary school in Carleton.

"The situation in schools is preoccupying but it is not out of control," remarked Dr. Bonnier-Viger.

He once more had a message for the thousands of hunters currently in the woods.

"The problems don't come from wandering in the woods. It comes when there are parties. It comes when people are sleeping in small camps, in small trailers. Hunters should sleep in individual trailers or, if they have big ones, keep a distance of three metres between one another. If one hunter gets infected in the woods, he will be sick for ten days and will bring the virus to his family," stressed the doctor.

Asked if negligence could have been a factor in the resurgence of COVID-19 since mid-September, Yv Bonnier-Viger replied that "it is a factor that played a role. People more or less followed the COVID news over the summer and some people let it go. However, the number of cases is much higher over a similar period and I think the contagious strength of the virus has increased. That's a possibility, not certainty," he said.

He was not expecting an October 13 colour code change from red to orange, for moderate alert, a in the region, despite the relative stability of the last days.

"We will be cautious before changing colours. We must give some time to the measures in order to insure their efficiency," stressed Dr. Bonnier-Viger.

Listuguj and Pointe-à-la-Croix return to pre-August 1 situation

Meanwhile, New Brunswick Premier Blaine Higgs indicated on October 8 that his government was putting an end to the inclusion of Lis-

tuguj and Pointe-à-la-Croix as part of the Atlantic bubble with the Restigouche region.

Effective at midnight, between October 5 and 9, the Listuguj and Pointe-à-la-Croix citizens were no longer allowed to go to Campbellton for one-day excursions for "non-essential reasons".

The August 1 agreement included all of the Avignon MRC but it was first modified on October 2 to allow only Pointe-à-la-Croix and Listuguj in the bubble. Check points were installed in Listuguj and Pointe-à-la-Croix on October 3 to prevent the other residents of the MRC from reaching the two communities, except for work and essential service purposes.

That division of the Avignon MRC territory was called "an intrusion by New Brunswick, in Quebec af-

fairs," by Bonaventure riding Member of the National Assembly Sylvain Roy, although the New Brunswick government decision was backed by the Quebec government.

That decision mainly hurting the villages between l'Ascension-de-Patapédia and Escuminac, where the COVID occurrence is very low. People from those villages had to justify their presence in Listuguj and Pointe-à-la-Croix until the check points were lifted on October 8.

People from Listuguj and Pointe-à-la-Croix are still authorized to go to Campbellton for essential goods and services that are not available in their communities, for child-care and school. Native students attending Sugarloaf High School must follow their courses online though.

No plans to establish road check protocols in red zones

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - The Sûreté du Québec has no plans to carry out road checks in red zones on the Coast

The police force made this clarification because the directives from the Quebec government seem unclear.

For the moment, the police indicate that, unless they receive a request from the Public Health Board, they ask the population to adhere to the health instructions, including sticking to essential travel only.

According to the Public Health Board, the police are responsible for ensuring that the measures are respected and applied.

Gaspé hospital designated as a COVID-19 centre

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - Since October 5, Gaspé hospital has been receiving patients with COVID-19 from the Bay of Chaleur, Rocher-Percé and Côte-de-Gaspé areas, however, people from Sainte-Anne-des-Monts and patients requiring intensive care will continue to be sent to Rimouski.

A floor with 10 beds and a dedicated team is in place. The rooms are adapted with negative pressure and adequate ventilation.

While citizens fear community contamination, the director of professional services, Dr. Nathalie Guilbault, is reassuring. "We follow good practices with respect to infection prevention and control. Everything will be done in a safe manner in order to avoid meeting other people in the establishment," says Dr. Guilbault.

The measure, announced on September 17, responds to a request from Quebec.

Optilab

While the four hospitals in the Gaspé Peninsula are in the process of analyzing COVID-19 tests, the Integrated Health and Social Services Centre (CISSS) is continuing its efforts to repatriate laboratory activities to the region.

Last December, the Board of Directors adopted a resolution asking Quebec to reverse the Optilab file and hand over management to the Gaspé Peninsula CISSS, but Rimouski has been directing these decisions since April, 2017.

The CISSS states in an email sent to The Gaspé SPEC that the chairman of the board of directors, Richard Loiselle, is continuing plans to move in that direction, but the pandemic is slowing the process.

The file remains a priority and the CISSS is counting on the support of the Prefects Table.

Bonaventure MNA addresses the fear linked to hunting and COVID-19 virus

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - The deputy for Bonaventure is targeting the Regional Public Health Board, which has raised fears related to the practice of hunting during the pandemic.

The director, Dr. Yv Bonnier Viger, has expressed concern not once, but twice, insisting on the possibility of transmission of the virus during hunting because of the proximity between hunters, and them lowering their guard when it comes to COVID-19.

A fan of the sport himself, Sylvain Roy draws a parallel between the arrival of hunters and the approximately 550,000 tourists who visited the region last summer.

"There is always a kind of generalized fear that exists in the positions taken. I do not think that hunting is as significant cause of infection as those we see in CHSLDs or in a family setting. The hunters are no more irresponsible than the 550,000 tourists who came last summer," says Mr. Roy.

We must remember the basic health instructions, insists the deputy.

The health of others is in our hands COVID Alert app



The COVID Alert app is a complementary tool that you can use to limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus. It lets you know if you have been in contact with a person who has contracted COVID-19. You will receive a notification and recommendations if you have spent more than 15 minutes less than two metres away from someone who has tested positive in the past 14 days. The app is free, easily accessible and keeps your personal information safe.

The app does not replace health measures such as handwashing, social distancing and wearing a mask.



Votre
gouvernement

COVID Alert does the following three things:

- 1 Notifies you if you might have been in contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19.
- 2 Directs you to relevant information concerning the steps to follow after you receive the exposure notification.
- 3 If you test positive, informs other users, anonymously and without sharing personal information, that they were in contact with someone who reported a positive COVID-19 test through the app.

COVID Alert does not do the following:

- 1 Access, collect or archive your personal information or information on your health status;
- 2 Use the GPS on your device to determine your location or any other personal information.

Use of the COVID Alert app is completely voluntary. You are free to download it, use it or delete it. **The more people use the app, the more effective it will be in curbing transmission of the virus.**

How does it work?

The COVID Alert app runs in the background on your device, without hampering or interrupting your activities. The app uses Bluetooth on smartphones to determine how far away you are from other people using the app.

Every five minutes, it exchanges random codes with app users nearby. The random codes cannot be used to identify you or determine your location. It stores the codes on your phone for 14 days.

Every day, when your device connects to the Internet, the COVID Alert app will match your random codes and those of individuals who have indicated through the app that they have tested positive. Even if the app finds matching codes, it is impossible to link them to individuals. **Your identity and the identities of other app users remain confidential.**

If the app finds matching codes, this means that within the past two weeks, for a period of more than 15 minutes, you were less than two metres from another user of the app who has since tested positive and agreed to share that information with other users.

You will therefore receive an alert notification:

- that you may have been exposed to COVID-19;
- that informs you of the next steps to follow.

No personal information or location data is shared. It is, therefore, impossible to know when and where you were in contact with an infected individual.

How do you indicate in the app that you have tested positive?

If you have tested positive and public health authorities have contacted you, you can request a one-time key. To do so:

- Promptly call the telephone number indicated in the app.
- Make note of the key that you receive once your identity and test result have been verified.
- Enter the key in the app within 24 hours, after which it will expire.

If you choose to share your positive result with other users of the app, COVID Alert will not share any information that might identify you. The decision to share your diagnosis is up to you. **Your anonymity will always be maintained.**



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Québec

After nearly ten years of pressure, Fourth range bridge is being replaced

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND – Nine-and-a-half years of pressure is finally yielding concrete results. Work began on New Richmond's Fourth range bridge on October 5. That bridge had been closed by the Town of New Richmond for safety reasons since March 2011!

The \$2.8 million project was awarded to a firm from Lévis, Construction BSL. Demolition work is taking place between October 13 and 16. According to Transports Québec communication agent, Claire Pouliot, the contractor's team will conduct preparation work until January, stop for the coldest winter months, resume activities over the spring and complete the new structure during the summer of 2021.

Transports Québec will pay the whole tab of the initiative, something that was far from assured for years. The complications derived from the fact that the bridge was owned by three entities, Transports Québec for the steel approaches, the Town of New Richmond for the top part of the wooden span, and the Gaspésie Railway Society for the underneath section of the wooden structure.

Three scenarios were also considered over the last decade: replacing the bridge with a grade crossing, a \$2.8 million project that would not have complied with safety rules, repairing it for 15 years at a cost of \$1.6 million without increasing its capacity of 15 tonnes and rebuilding it completely,



Photos: G. Gagné

The Fourth range bridge will be gone by October 16.



The Ruisselet Bridge is already gone and a new structure will be operational in the fall of 2021.

which meant a tab of \$2.6 million in 2013.

Back in March 2013, in the heart of the debate between the Fourth range residents and the Town of New Richmond, the municipality was trying to convince Transports Québec to pay for the

whole reconstruction bill. At the time, the three-way ownership agreement meant that the municipality would have had to pay \$1.1 million, the same amount as Transports Québec, and the Gaspésie Railway Society would have been forced to pay \$400,000.

The municipality and the railway company did not have those financial means.

It took close to four years of talks to convince Transports Québec to pay the whole reconstruction bill, the turning point being the reference to a decree adopted in 2007 by the

Quebec government stipulating that Transports Québec was taking over that kind of structure.

Fourth range resident Lawrence Cochrane is quite relieved to see the construction of the new bridge being underway. Over the years, he and his son Todd attended numerous town meetings in an attempt to accelerate things and put in perspective the safety and inconvenience that was stemming from the bridge closure, for ambulances, fire trucks, school buses, farmers, workers, family members and neighbours who had to make a five-kilometre detour to go around.

"We are very happy for sure. It was a lot of fighting. Yes, we are happy they are going to straighten the road as well. It is also important for all the people working in Cascapedia and along the river, who pay an extra \$20 to \$25 per week for gas," says Lawrence Cochrane.

Caplan's Railway Bridge

Drivers passing through Caplan might have noticed that another bridge is undergoing replacement, the Ruisselet railway structure in Caplan. In that case, the structure was already gone as of October 7.

The \$5.7 million contract was awarded to Hamel Construction, the same company involved in the replacement of the Cascapedia-Saint-Jules railway bridges. The new Ruisselet bridge should be operational over the fall of 2021. The engineering work is carried out by Stantec.

New director of Pin Rouge fired; board president fills-in

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND – The Little Cascapedia River Regional Park Administrative Board has decided to fire its new director general, Tom Lopes only nine weeks after the beginning of his term. The exact reasons for that firing are not provided by the new president of the board, New Richmond mayor, Éric Dubé.

The departure of Mr. Lopes was announced after the annual board meeting of the Little Cascapedia River Regional Park, which man-

ages the Pin Rouge ski centre, its 32 cottages and the Taylor's Point campground. Mr. Dubé became president of the organization during that meeting, when former president Jacques Rivière announced that he was stepping down.

"Mr. Lopes was hired at the beginning of August and he was still under probation. He was not satisfying the expectations of the board. That is all we will say," explains Éric Dubé.

As of October 9, he was planning to meet with the Pin Rouge employees on Octo-

ber 13 in order to determine what must be done in order to open the ski centre in December.

"For now, we will find somebody from the staff to take over some responsibilities. I have to think quick in order to determine what my role will be over the next weeks. We will hire someone to replace the director general but there are positions to fill in many organizations right now. I was not longing for additional work. When Jacques (Rivière) resigned, everybody looked at me. Considering the important

role of the municipality in the park management, accepting for now was the responsible thing to do," explains Mr. Dubé.

In addition to his mayor of New Richmond duties, he was already prefect of the Bonaventure MRC and president of the Gaspésie Railway Society. The COVID-19 pandemic has complicated all those responsibilities.

Éric Dubé is however, relieved by the favourable financial outcome.

"The summer results were good. We had an excellent summer. I don't have all the

numbers for now but we know that we have surpassed the results of 2019 at the campground and with the cottages. We had more people and they stayed longer. We have \$100,000 in additional revenues. The cash flow is in a better state than last year's at the same period. The only drawback comes from the premature closure of the ski centre on March 15 because of the pandemic. We still had two solid weeks of revenues coming, we had a lot of snow and the weather was nice," he concludes.

Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



Global Issues - Local action

"Never underestimate the power of a small group of committed people to change the world." Margaret Mead

Watching or reading the news is no fun. The world has so many problems, COVID being just one. We understand that environmental concerns (including climate change), political turmoil, social needs and the economy continue to be topics that concern us. Some of these issues seem to be heading for catastrophe.

There is so much to worry about, and much of it is out of our control. It can make us feel hopeless, however, best to fight those feelings. There is always something that we can do to make the world a better place, starting with our own community: act locally.

The answers to the really big world problems require governments and huge organizations to cooperate to fix things. Climate change? Political unrest? The hungry people in developing countries. The price of food and the criminally low minimum wage? We see and hear these issues on the news and sometimes feel... helpless and hopeless.

For our well-being, we can try to make a positive difference in our communities related to these issues. Often, local action can make a difference.

Environmental Concerns: You cannot do much at a global level, but there are measures that you can work towards in your community. Remember the old slogan: Reduce, reuse, and recycle? Recycle consistently, reduce the amount of needless spending on consumables and reuse items. Continue to integrate that into your life. If one person practices this, that is admirable. If everyone in a community does so, it will make a local difference. Greta Thunberg would be proud! On the Gaspé, we have an environmental concern which is the McInnis Cement Plant. The concerns are about the emissions and a recent blast that damaged a building there. This is where the media plays a big part. We ask questions. Recent articles in The Gaspé Spec by Gilles Gagné covered those very concerns. People and organizations tend to behave better when they are being watched.

Political turmoil: We cannot do anything about political unrest in the United States, but we can be involved citizens who always vote in our elections. That is your superpower. Democracy is a beautiful concept – but if you do not vote then you have given away your power. At election time, ask questions, read articles, and know who you are supporting and why. This applies to local, provincial, and federal elections, because ultimately all three levels of government affect us. It all trickles down. Even a school board election is important. These elected officials are our local representatives. If you feel that education and our children and grandchildren are important, then vote wisely.

Social needs: The most obvious social (and health and well-being) concern right now is COVID-19. You can look at the numbers of people infected worldwide, and it is shockingly high, however, you can make a difference locally by following the guidelines to protect yourself and others. Wear the mask. Science has proven that mask-wearing cuts down the risk of infection. As Neil Tyson said, "The thing about science is that it's true whether or not you believe in it." Donating to charity is generous but donate to local organizations such as the Linda Lemore-Brown Foundation which supports cancer patients in our community. Your money will not go to fund a fancy office building in a far-away city with a CEO making way too much money.

Economy: We cannot do anything about inflation, and it is happening right now. Apparently during the last seven months of COVID, people are spending less and saving more. That helps us, however continue to shop locally. The businesses in your community need you. If you buy everything from Amazon, then you are making Jeff Bezos richer. He is rich enough.

These are troubling times. Maintain hope. Do not give up. Do things that make a difference in your own community. Local action.

Too many zucchinis!

Diane Skinner

Some vegetables just seem to flourish, no matter the weather. Zucchinis are a very hardy squash and chances are that if you have a friend who gardens, you might be offered a few zucchinis! Accept them because there are so many ways to prepare them that you are bound to find a recipe that pleases your palate. If you are not familiar with them, they look like a cousin to cucumbers. Zucchini are related to pumpkins and other squashes. They originated in South America and were taken to Italy in the 16th century!

Zucchini is a summer squash and if you are in Britain or France, you must order courgette because that is how they are known there. Surprise! They are technically a fruit! They are soft fleshed and have a thin skin which is edible. The skin colour can vary from dark green to pale yellow. Inside there are many seeds, which are usually edible as well. Generally, they can be harvested when about six inches long, but many people allow them to grow much larger. If so, you may need to scoop out the larger seeds.

Zucchini provide a good dose of vitamin C as well as fibre and some B vitamins. They are low in calories. It is the other ingredients you may add, such as mozzarella cheese that increase the calories. They do not need to be peeled and no matter the colour of the zucchini they can be prepared in the same way.

They grow best in a warm, dry climate and will thrive in a variety of soil types. Zucchini is usually ready to harvest in eight weeks. If you are buying your zucchini in the store, look for ones that are firm with glossy and tender skins. You can keep them in the fridge but use them within 3 – 4 days.

They are a versatile food and can be sliced, diced, or cooked whole. You can sauté, boil, steam, deep fry, bake, microwave or barbecue them. You can eat them raw in salads or served with a dip. Add zucchini to soup, casseroles, breads, and muffins.

Stuffed Zucchini

6 medium zucchinis
2 pieces of bacon
½ cup breadcrumbs
1 cup grated cheese (mozzarella or a sharp cheddar)
1 tbsp. garlic, minced
2 tomatoes (chopped, skin and seeds removed)
3 green onions, chopped finely
2 tbsp. melted butter

1. Boil or microwave 6 medium zucchini until just tender. Drain. Cut in half lengthwise and scoop out the flesh into a bowl.
2. Pan-fry 2 pieces diced bacon. Drain.
3. Mix with zucchini, 1/2 cup breadcrumbs and ½ cup of the grated cheese, minced garlic, 2 tomatoes, green onions, and melted butter. Spoon into shells, sprinkle other ½ cup of cheese on top and grill at 375°F until golden brown, about 10 minutes. (Note: Skin is edible if you wish.)

Zucchini Fritters

3 cups grated zucchini, including the skin
1 teaspoon salt
¼ cup all-purpose flour
¼ cup grated Parmesan cheese
2 cloves garlic, minced garlic
1 large egg, beaten
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
2 tablespoons olive oil

1. Place grated zucchini in a colander over the sink. Add salt and gently toss to combine. Let it sit for 10 minutes. Using a clean dish towel or cheese cloth, drain zucchini completely.
2. In a large bowl, combine zucchini, flour, Parmesan cheese, garlic, and egg. Add salt and pepper, to taste.
3. Heat olive oil in a large skillet over medium high heat. Scoop 3 tablespoons (about ¼ cup) of batter for each fritter. Flatten with a spatula, and cook until the underside is nicely golden brown, about 2 minutes. Flip and cook on the other side, about 1-2 minutes.
4. Eat warm.



Baked Zucchini

4 medium zucchinis, sliced into rounds of ½ inch
1 tsp. Italian seasoning
2 tbsp. olive oil
2/3 cup of parmesan cheese
Salt and pepper

1. Preheat oven to 400°F degrees.
2. Place zucchini rounds in a bowl and add olive oil, Italian seasoning, salt, and pepper and 4 tbsp. of parmesan. Toss.
3. Put on a parchment covered baking sheet and sprinkle rest of parmesan on top of slices of zucchini.
4. Put oven on broil and place baking sheet in oven for about 3 minutes or so. Watch carefully!



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Cynthia Patterson: Parish of Gaspé, Holy Trinity and All Saints Memorial

Diane Skinner

Women fill many roles on the Gaspé. Whether working inside the home or in the community, Gaspesian women take the lead in many ways. They are the driving force in organizations, outstanding educators, community advocates, innovators and leaders. Some fill non-traditional roles, but all the women that will be profiled in this series make a difference - not because they are women, but because they lead the way. They are strong, positive examples for young people. This is Week #2.

GASPÉ: Cynthia Patterson was born in 1955 in Gaspé where she lived until the age of 12 when she moved to Toronto with her mum. Cynthia reflects, “Gaspé was definitely the place that shaped me. I was a reluctant urban dweller. My early years saw much loss and sudden, violent deaths. Nature has rescued and rebuilt me from that time until now.”

She attended York University where she earned a four-year Special Honours B.A. degree in Literature and History, followed by an Inter-Disciplinary Master’s Degree in Literature and History. The job market was extremely tight when she completed graduate school. She was happy to do contract research work for a couple of years in Canada and the U.K. before working at the City of Toronto Archives.

In 1984, as she sat at her desk developing and finding aids for the vast and fascinating collections in the city archives, several words began to roll gently in her head: cove, sea, stone, home. Monosyllabic. Solid. “As surely as the salmon finds its river of origin,” she remembers, “I was being pulled home.”

For one season she ran a B&B called Peace and Plenty at the house she rented, while providing historical interpretation in Park Forillon. Hearing a CBC radio story on the federal government’s policy to close and/or privatize all Canada’s 5,221 rural post offices determined the next seven years of her life as she co-founded and built in one community at a time, a na-



Photo: Courtesy of Cynthia Patterson

Reverend Cynthia Patterson at the Blessing of the Animals with Edna Cuning, Café and Sophie.

tional citizens’ group, Rural Dignity of Canada. The people and places of every province, sadly did not get to the North, but taught her how to organize, how to articulate the values of essential services, and shape them into public policy arguments, how to plan and hold effective press conferences, how to advocate with every sector of communities and regions, and with every level of government. Working together, they gave “voice to the voiceless and power to the powerless.” After seven years they won a policy change; a moratorium on the closure and privatization of rural post offices. Cynthia says, “It still feels good to go into or drive by a rural post office and see the employee(s), usually women, doing jobs with decent pay, pension and benefits that would have been completely wiped out had Canada Post and the federal government not been stopped.”

Contract work to initiate a conservation project here in Gaspé’s extraordinary Barachois (fed by four, instead of the more common one river) has led to a long-term commitment as a volunteer to protect coastal and marshland habitat. She mentions, “And train service. Sigh. Train service. Thirty-five years now and that battle has been going backwards. Never give up.”

Just before becoming the

adoptive mum of an infant aged one month and one day, her beloved daughter, Aurora, whose arrival date she had no idea about, she accepted a contract with the Canadian Union of Postal Workers to develop a campaign to unionize the people, mostly women, who deliver the rural mail. Denied all rights to collective bargaining and even the basic rights accorded non-unionized workers, rural mail couriers gave Canada Post a cheap labour pool. That work was tough, but five years later her team won a first contract. For the first time, these people who did the same work as city letter carriers, but had none of the rights, could get a living wage, vacation time, parental leave, pensions, etc. Her daughter travelled all over the country with her and regularly to Ottawa during most of those years.

Cynthia spent almost five years as Vision Gaspé-Percé Now’s first executive director which placed her once again in community work, this time with an emphasis on health and social services. She had never worked with government funding and has never again done so. Cynthia tells us, “While the achievements of the community groups are of great value to those they serve, I chafed against the constraints of the endless cycles of project applications, uncertain disbursement of funds and unnecessarily

lengthy reporting. I also noted that once again such jobs with few or no benefits, pensions, etc. were staffed almost exclusively by women.” A few days after submitting her resignation, she received a call from an Anglican bishop in western Canada, someone with whom she had worked in Saskatchewan, back in the Rural Dignity days. He wanted her to apply to work on a new Suicide Prevention Program being developed by the Council of the North and Indigenous Ministries (part of the Anglican Church of Canada). “The next five years were filled with deep learning, deep grief and deep joy as I listened in many remote communities to trauma suffered, faith forged or sustained in unimaginable circumstances, and sought funding for paths to resilience and healing,” Cynthia recalls.

Cynthia was ordained a deacon in the Anglican Diocese of Quebec in 2012 and priested in 2016. Her vocation was slow in coming and when it did, she was with Bishop Lydia Mamakwa in her home community of Kingfisher Lake, Ontario. Cynthia says, “I am the incumbent of The Parish of Gaspé, Holy Trinity (Grosse Isle) and All Saints Memorial (Entry Island). A priest does what I think of as “iceberg work;” the small amount that is visible and the greater amount that remains below the surface, in the realm of confidentiality. Sacramental ministry, preparation for same, funerals, bible study, meetings, children’s Christian education, camp and administration constitute the visible. Pastoral care, from hospitals to police stations, workplaces to kitchens constitute the significantly larger part. And the unexpected, the unwanted intrusions of shock, illness and grief into people’s lives must be regularly responded to.” She was and continues to be a continuing education student at Ottawa’s University of St. Paul, Department of Theology.

Cynthia reflects, “Grief and trauma are in my experience and observations, the hardest demands made of human beings. We are sent on a journey we do not seek, to a country we never wanted to live in. We might come back. But we are changed. Whether we become more

whole or live with holes, depends on living a spiritual path that includes prayer and meditation, not denying what has happened to you, keeping at the hard work of therapy, letting in your family and friends-as-family, ensuring daily touch with what feeds you: the land, music, art. Then you will come back, and you will be able to extend a hand to help others back. Extending that hand, being permitted to walk even a few steps with someone on the terrifying walk back to feeling, back to rebirth is a humbling privilege.”

“Patriarchy is at the heart of most faiths. That is the hard reality. To convey teachings often root-bound by unfamiliar historical and cultural contexts can be challenging. Our Women of the Bible study group of last year was well attended and generated much discussion as participants linked the stories and lessons with their own lives, struggles and faithful victories. We realized we had more in common than might at first appear with our scriptural sisters.”

“My path in life has always been shaped by listening to God. When I have failed to listen is when I have gone ‘off the rails.’ I am listening intently for how God wants me to serve now, to serve next in these uncertain times.”

Her sage advice for these times is to be courageous. Figure out what fulfills you and make sure you spend much of your day doing that. Seek a balance between change and stability; we need both.

To conclude, Cynthia’s words to grasp onto: “...suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, that has been given to us. Letter of St. Paul to the Romans 5.4”

Please click LIKE and FOLLOW The Gaspé Spec facebook page and SHARE our posts with your friends. It is important to us because it could result in additional funding for the newspaper.

Announcements...



In Memory

FLOWERS: Oliver

In loving memory of a dear uncle who passed away suddenly October 1, 1998.

*He went away without farewell
He said goodbye to none;
But Heaven's gate was open wide
And a loving voice said "Come".
Beside his grave we often stand
Our hearts are tired and sore;
But through the gloom,
There come the words;
"Not dead, just gone before."*

Even though it's 22 years since you've been gone, we will remember you, no matter how long. Forever loved and remembered by Carol and Richard Smollett.

RENOUF - BENWELL

Twelve years ago on October 12, 2008, our hearts were broken with the sudden death of our beloved daughter Charlene and our beloved granddaughter Rebekah who died accidentally. We cherish their memories.

*Nothing can take away
The love our hearts hold dear.
Fond memories linger every day.
Remembrance keeps them near.
Not dead to us who loved them,
Not lost, but gone before,
They live with us in memory
And will forever more.*

Lovingly remembered, sadly missed, no one can take your place, Da (Billy), stepmom (Micheline) xoxoxox.

RENOUF - BENWELL

In loving memory of my granddaughter Charlene and great-granddaughter Rebekah who died accidentally on October 12, 2008.

Gone but not forgotten.
We will always remember your beautiful smiles. Miss you, Na (Dorais) and family xoxoxo.

SMOLLETT: Robert Milton

In loving memory of a very dear father who passed away October 12, 1984.

*Gone but not forgotten
As it dawns another year,
In lonely hours of thinking
Thoughts of him are always near.
Like falling leaves, the years slip by
But precious memories never die;
He lives with us in memory still
Not just today, but always will.
Those we love don't go away
They walk beside us every day.
Unseen, unheard but always near
Still loved, still missed, still very dear.
As we loved him so we miss him
In our memory he is always near;
Loved, remembered, longed for always
With the passing of each year.*

Forever loved and remembered by son Richard and daughter-in-law Carol.

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, and it will be granted to you.

H.S.



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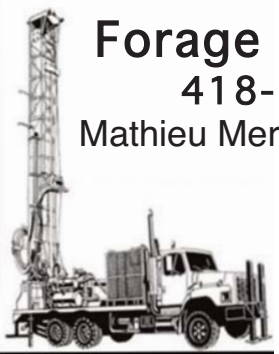
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FREE: Four kittens to give away. Nine weeks old. In the Shigawake area. For more information, please call 418-752-3731.

COAST ROUND-UP

YORK:

York River Seniors

An important message Concerning FADOQ York River Seniors Club Membership Renewals. Your current FADOQ Club membership will expire at the end of September 2020. Membership renewals are now available for \$25 and can be obtained in the following ways. #1: You may call the Regional FADOQ office 418-368-4715 and renew by using a credit card for payment. #2: You may go to the Regional FADOQ office at 78B Jacques Cartier Street (across from Jean Coutu Pharmacy). Payment can be made by cash, cheque or credit card. All protocol safety messages are strictly adhered to within the office. Wear a mask. #3: The last week of September any memberships not re-

newed will be mailed out to individuals. Using the addressed envelope included with the renewal form, please return the upper sections of the form with your payment details. Payment can be made by cash, cheque or credit card. Keep the lower portion (section 3) of the renewal form as this will be your receipt and temporary card. For all three methods described above, your plastic official membership card will then be sent to you by mail after payment and renewals are processed. For further information, call Ron Mundle 418-355-4732, Cynthia McDonald 418-368-9280 or FADOQ regional office 418-368-4715 (Bilingual service).

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:

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, call the office at 418-752-5995. To make an appointment you must also call the office, walk-ins will not be permitted. We thank you for your patience and cooperation during these difficult times.

NEW CARLISLE:

Drive-In Gospel Meetings

Drive-In Gospel meetings at the Fair Haven Bible Campground, 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 information, please call 418-752-3372.

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

Sunday, October 18

New Carlisle

11 a.m. Morning Service

PARISH OF GASPÉ

Sunday, October 18

St. Paul's - Gaspé

10 a.m. Morning Service



ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

Carve out some time to tune into your inner muse, Aries. It's time to have a little fun and put work and household responsibilities to the side.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, don't blow off your obligations, but find a way to make work more fun. That may happen by teaming up with a coworker who shares your perspective.

GEMINI – May 22/June 21

Gemini, if things get a little confusing over the next couple of days, don't feel the need to try to figure everything out. Take the time you need to complete the tasks at hand.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, while you may not be able to engage in all of your wildest dreams this week, you can give yourself permission to take a day off and get started.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23

Are your intuitive senses ringing off the hook, Leo? Trust your gut when someone asks you to help them with a situation. It may not be all that it seems right now.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Give your analytical brain a rest for the time being, Virgo. Lead with feelings and intuition instead. It may not feel comfortable just yet, but a new perspective may help.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, if you have been trying to be more healthy or get in shape, focus on what you're gaining rather than giving up. This can make you more successful in your endeavors.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Romantic vibes are very strong in your life right now, Scorpio. This is great if you're connected or seeking a relationship. But resist if you're currently unavailable.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, your domestic life may start to tug at your heartstrings. If you're balancing work and family, you may regret not spending more time with the kids.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, if you have been quiet in regard to a relationship with someone, it's time to let your true feelings be heard. It may be uncomfortable for a bit, but it's necessary.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, money may be a hot topic in your house lately, particularly how more is going out than coming in. Corral your spending for awhile as you get things under control.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, you're never one for following the pack, so don't start now. Embrace your unique sense of self and continue to march to your own beat.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

OCTOBER 18

Lindsey Vonn, Athlete (36)

OCTOBER 19

Rebecca Ferguson, Actress (37)

OCTOBER 20

John Krasinski, Actor (41)

OCTOBER 21

Amber Rose, Model (37)

OCTOBER 22

Jeff Goldblum, Actor (68)

OCTOBER 23

Ryan Reynolds, Actor (44)

OCTOBER 24

Daya, Singer (22)

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

Please send your Classified or Coast Round-Up to:
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to everyone for their generous donations to Spec.

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SUDOKU

		1	9					
		5	6	2				7
2	6			3		9		
	1		2	7	4			8
	2	6		5				
		7		6				
		2				3	1	8
		9	3				7	2
		4		8		5	6	

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Level: Beginner

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

1	3	4	7	8	2	5	6	9
6	8	9	3	1	5	4	7	2
7	5	2	4	9	6	3	1	8
5	4	7	8	6	9	1	2	3
8	2	6	1	5	3	7	9	4
9	1	3	2	7	4	6	8	5
2	6	8	5	3	7	9	4	1
4	9	5	6	2	1	8	3	7
3	7	1	9	4	8	2	5	6

ANSWER:

Guess Who?

I am an actor born in Iowa on January 28, 1981. I began my career as a child model and even appeared in a Paula Abdul video. I am best known for playing a hobbit in "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy.

Answer: Elijah Wood

⊙ ** ☼ ☽ ☿ ♀ ♁ ♃ ♄ ♅ ♆ ♇ ♈ ♉ ♊ ♋ ♌ ♍ ♎ ♏ ♐ ♑ ♒ ♓

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

CRYPTO FUN

☼ ☽ ☿ ♀ ♁ ♃ ♄ ♅ ♆ ♇ ♈ ♉ ♊ ♋ ♌ ♍ ♎ ♏ ♐ ♑ ♒ ♓
Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to video games.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 1 = e)

A. 7 3 10 1

Clue: Form of play

B. 11 26 6 20 4 26 16 16 1 4

Clue: Directs action

C. 3 11 20 9 26 6

Clue: Process of doing something

D. 8 2 8 20 1 10

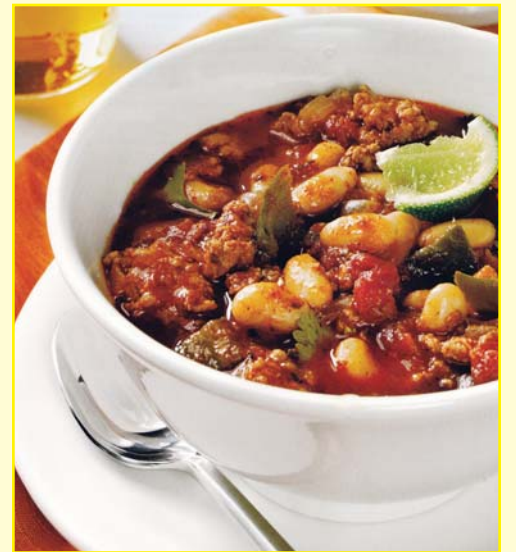
Clue: Hardware components

Answers: A. game B. controller C. action D. system

Turkey and Bean Chili

Makes 6 servings

- 1 cup chopped red onion
- 1/3 cup chopped seeded chili pepper
- 1 teaspoon bottled minced garlic
- 1 1/4 pounds ground turkey
- 1 tablespoon chili powder
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- 2 teaspoons dried oregano
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 19-ounce can cannellini beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 14.5-ounce can diced tomatoes, undrained
- 1 14-ounce can fat-free, low-sodium chicken broth
- 1/2 cup chopped fresh cilantro
- 6 lime wedges



Heat a large saucepan over medium heat. Add the first four ingredients; cook 6 minutes or until the turkey is done, stirring frequently to crumble. Stir in the chili powder and the next eight ingredients; bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer for 10 minutes. Stir in the cilantro. Serve with lime wedges. Turkey and Bean Chili cooks up fast for busy nights.



THIS PIECE OF SAFETY EQUIPMENT IS OFTEN REQUIRED WHEN VISITING A CONSTRUCTION SITE OR ANY PLACE WHERE RENOVATIONS ARE BEING MADE.

ANSWER: HARD HAT

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to comedy.

U L B C

--	--	--	--

Answer: Club

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