# The Gas



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## Fipec finds new markets for all kinds of nets, traps and cages

Gilles **Gagné** 

HOPE TOWN: - Fipec, the Hope Town-based enterprise specializing in the fabrication of fishing gear, has diversified its operations significantly over the last few years. Its expertise in commercial fisheries combined with the flexibility of its employees and management have allowed the company to land solid contracts in other fields.

Fipec is supplying cages to catch deer for various customers, including a firm called GPF Faune, whose wildlife management activities are mainly based in the west part of Quebec.

"The deer are caught to get tagged so that biologists can follow them. We have been getting that kind of contract regularly," says Daniel Desbois, co-owner and president of Fipec.

"The deer cages must be removable and must be equipped with a system that will close them once the deer gets in it, That trigger works with a counterweight system. It also makes a net fall on the animal

in order to control the deer while it gets tagged," explains Mr. Desbois.

Their last order consisted of eight such cages to be delivered to the Sherbrooke area, in the Eastern Townships.

Fipec has also signed a contract with the Ontario department of Wildlife and Parks to deliver experimental nets used in lakes and fish farming ponds.

Regarding the nets delivered to Ontario customers, some orders are used for an experiment conducted to catch Asian carps, an invasive type of fish coming with the ballast water of international ships.

"Those nets provide work to the equivalent of two employees, year-around here. Sometimes, we assign more people to make them because the delivery schedule tighter," adds Mr. Desbois.

Fipec also gets orders from sports clubs wanting various types of nets. Those sports include golf, tennis, badminton, soccer, baseball and, of course, hockey.

The firm gets work from contractors ordering anti-debris



Photo: Pamela Ross

## Pick of the patch!

Pamela Ross

Growing pumpkins has been a yearly thing for the Burton family of Hope Town, Quebec, over the last few years. We have never had much success until this year. Usually the deer would either eat or trample the plant killing it before it even got started. This year we expanded our garden to include some raised beds and a separate spot for our pumpkin/cucumber patch. We had transplanted five pumpkin plants that we had started in the house. Only one pumpkin plant survived the transplanting. It really took off and had six pumpkins at one point. The other five pumpkins died off as the plant focused all its nutrients to the demand of the larger pumpkin. This was just a regular Jack-O-lantern seed that would normally grow pumpkins of an average of 10 lbs. All the other pumpkins that died off were around that size. After removing the pumpkin from the vine we decided to weigh it for fun and were shocked to see that it was a whopping 93 lbs.

horse owners. "The hay is

placed in that net and when the

horse eats, the hay doesn't fall

nets as well. Moreover, some of the specialized nets are sold to

to the ground. It saves hay," he explains. "We first developed that expertise for the fisheries. From there, we developped other types of nets. Once you make nets for fisheries, you can make all kinds of nets. Plus, some of the fishermen make their own nets so the diversification is a good addition,"

> Another type of net is sold to a Shawinigan company, Bionest, which works in the recuperation of pollutants. "We make the nets and they add the pollutants sensors, which absorb the pollutants in lakes and rivers. In that case, one of our

> points out Mr. Desbois, who is

also a crab fisherman.

contacts passed on the information about our capacity to produce that kind of net," says Daniel Desbois.

The website of Fipec has in some other cases provided the link between the company and its customers.

Fipec also operates a plant in Grand River, in addition to the Hope Town facility, which also houses the head office. "In Grand River, we concentrate our activities strictly on commercial fisheries. We have too much work there to do something else. We have been able to expand in Hope Town. We have added four employees there over recent years, people who make nets yearround. We now employ 40





# Why should you avoid private gatherings?

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## Police report

A fatal car accident claimed the life of a 36-year-old man from Paspebiac, Emmanuel Langlois, at 4:55 am on October 17 in Hope Town. The victim was driving his vehicle on Highway 132 towards the west and left the road for a reason that is not known as of now. He was ejected from the vehicle. "He was apparently not using his seat belt. The emergency services were called but the driver was unconscious and was not showing any signs of life. He was pronounced dead at the hospital. Highway 132 is quite straight and there were no obstacles in the area. An investigation was carried out by a technician in accident reconstitution and we think that he might have fallen asleep while driving, because of fatigue," says Sgt. Claude Doiron, spokesperson for the Süreté du Québec.

The Sûreté du Québec officers intensified their surveillance between October 23 and October 29 to make drivers aware of the necessity of sharing the road with pedestrians and cyclists. The *Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec*, the SAAQ, is also conducting an awareness campaign at the same time. SAAQ statistics reveal that 71 pedestrians lost their lives in 2019 after being struck by cars or trucks. It is an 18.7% increase compared to the yearly average of 2014 to 2018. In 2019, pedestrians and cyclists accounted for 23.7% of Quebec's deaths on the roads, compared to 22.5% in 2018. The awareness week is also carried out by the other police forces in Quebec.

#### FIPEC:

Cont'd from cover

people in the two plants and we are about to hit the peak period of the year, with the fabrication of snow crab traps," he says.

Traps for lobster, snow crab, rock crab and other species are notably made in Hope Town and Grand River.

Fipec is consequently equipped to process a considerable volume of steel rods.

"We have competent and versatile employees. They easily adapt to new products. It is one of our strengths," concludes Daniel Desbois.

Fipec also operates a hardware store, quite useful for the fisherman of the south side of the Baie des Chaleurs area.

#### Alzheimer's Society of the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands to present two conferences in English

Gilles **Gagné** 

BONAVENTURE - As part of the upcoming Week of Caregivers, the Alzheimer's Society of the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands will present two conferences in English on the Zoom platform. Those conferences are made possible following some funding supplied for by APPUI, the regional body supporting caregivers. The first conference will be presented on Tuesday, November 3, at 1:30 p.m. It is called Alzheimer's Disease: Causes, Pathology and Prevention, by Doctor Yoland Smith, professor in the department of neurology at Emory University in Atlanta. The second conference will be presented on Thursday, November 5, at 1:30 p.m. The title is Consent to Care and an overview of various legal documents, and it is presented by attorney Myriam Carbonneau Girouard, of the Centre de justice de proximité Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine. Louise Dupuis, of the Alzheimer's Society of the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands, can provide additional information at 418 534-1313 in Bonaventure.



## COVID-19 generates one additional outbreak in the region, as the cases in Paspebiac increase

Gilles **Gagné** 

MARIA – During the week of of October 17 to 23 the number of cases of COVID-19 continued to increase in the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands. The total number of people infected since the beginning of the pandemic increased by 108 from 678 to 786. That increase was slightly lower than that of the previous week, at 129 new cases. The number of active cases in the region declined a bit during the week, from 226 to 221.

A new outbreak was identified at the Gaspé hospital, and the number of coronavirus cases doubled in Paspebiac during that week.

The Gaspé hospital outbreak was announced on October 20 by the Public Health Board of the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands. Three days later, it was still limited to less than five employees and less than five patients.

The Paspebiac situation was more problematic for the Public Health Board. In a week, the number of active cases in that town and the surrounding communities rose from 20 to 42. Doctor Yv Bonnier-Viger, regional director of public health, expressed concern about the overall situation of the Bonaventure MRC, and Paspebiac's in particular. The Bonaventure MRC was accounting for 84 of the region's 221 active cases as of October 23.

"People have difficulty understanding that when they have a small cold, it can be the COVID-19 virus (...) They get families together over evenings (...) A community life that once was a strength is now considered dangerous," he stresses.

The doctor insists on the fact that in an orange alert zone, only two families, always the same, can see one another under the same roof.

Doctor Bonnier-Viger nevertheless doesn't see the ne-



The Gaspé hospital COVID-19 outbreak was still affecting a relatively limited number of people as of October 23, with less than five employees and less than five patients.

cessity for the Bonaventure MRC to change the zone code, from orange to red, the maximum type of alert. "There is no need to close restaurants. It would be useless. It is concentrated in families. We must listen to them and also explain the danger they can cause to their seniors."

The director of public health remains concerned as well about the effect the moose hunting season, which ended on October 25, could have on COVID cases. Moose hunting started at the beginning of September in some territories but the main season took place between October 17 and 25.

"We have groups that transmitted the virus to one another during parties and in hunting camps (...) It is proof that the virus accompanied them into the woods," he says.

Meanwhile, the director of nursing services at the Gaspé Peninsula Health and Social Service Centre, Johanne Méthot, points out that the organization is still experiencing a shortage of staff. "We need experienced nurses above all."

She also points out that the Gaspé hospital outbreak has led the authorities to run tests on over 150 employees.

Meanwhile, the Gaspé Peninsula Health and Social Service Centre also opened sections of Maria and Chandler hospitals in order to treat people infected with the coronavirus. The capacity in Maria stands at 13 beds, compared to seven in Chandler. With the ten beds in Gaspé, the regional capacity now reaches 30 people. However, the patients requiring a stay in an intensive care unit will be transferred to Rimouski.

Two additional COVID-related casualties were reported during the third week of October, to bring the total since March to 23.

As of October 23, the outbreaks were stable at Maria hospital, where nine employees were infected, at Saint Joseph Residence (46 people infected), at Manoir Lady Maria (50 people infected) and at the New Carlisle Centre d'Accueil, where seven employees and six residents were infected. That same day, 11 Gaspesians were still hospitalized because of the coronavirus.





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## Editorial section



#### **Commentary**

Gilles Gagné

## Forbidding the use of a word will not make its implications vanish

Universities are places where people learn. Most university students are young. They can be influenced, which can be a good thing, unless being influenced means getting manipulated. University students already have a background when they get there. They will receive additional knowledge and will develop their own train of thoughts.

For many reasons, including the above-mentioned ones, the decision made by the University of Ottawa to penalize one of its teachers, Verushka Lieutenant-Duval, because she used the word negro, or nègre, in French, does not make sense.

She was not insulting black people, far from that. She was talking about the evolution of the meaning of certain words, using the example of queer to show that sometimes, the meaning of a word can shift from very bad to good, while on other occasions, it will not. Ms. Lieutenant-Duval took another example, the so-called N word, and intended to demonstrate that depending on the country, the meaning of a word can vary. So that meaning can vary geographically and, or, over time.

She was suspended temporarily, with pay, but being suspended for a young professor is far worse than losing money. Her integrity is at stake.

She simultaneously received threats, signs of support, and her address was published on social media, as if her use of the N word was worth the thought of holding a demonstration in front of her apartment. References to the relevance of abusing her some more verbally, which she had already been submitted to since the controversy outbreak, or abusing her physically, as some people suggested, were also mentioned, as if they were potentially good ideas.

More moderate people, including university teachers against the use of the N word in classrooms, rightfully pointed

out that university freedom is not freedom of speech. However, they missed on one point.

They deplore the fact that some students were hurt by the use of the N word but they forgot in some ways the very careful use of that word made by Verushka Lieutenant-Duval, and the time she spent, according to a fair number of students that attended that course, explaining the context of that use.

Those teachers against the use of the N word should know that a lot of students are hurt during their university education. In fact, life hurts sometimes and while nobody wants to maximize the hurting of other people, a university classroom is a learning place, the ideal location to hold debates or tackle a certain degree of "controversy."

In all likelihood, Verushka Lieutenant-Duval did not use the N word for the sake of triggering controversy. However, if a university classroom is not the place to talk about difficult topics, where is that place?

Other words are controversial, like rape, slavery, slaves, genocide, holocaust and pedophilia. What if a fair number of students decide one day that one of those words, or all of them, "hurts" too much. Will university teachers have to ban the use of those words while trying to explain, for example, the terrible implications behind those notions? How can you explain the holocaust if you cannot use that word?

Society will soon run out of words, and out of the necessary clarity needed to avoid the repetition of the acts implied by those words. It looks as if some people are dealing with obscuring the facts.

Most comparisons are weak in that debate. Very few words, if any, compares to the burden linked to being called negro or nigger, however, the context in which Verushka Lieutenant-Duval used that word was not meant to insult anybody, far from that.

A lot of universities are nose-diving in a type of patronage that is slowly making them forget about their role in society. Their role doesn't rest solely on supplying the training required to have their students find a job. They are also supposed to train the citizens of tomorrow, people able to make political and environmental choices after getting informed.

What if a sufficient number of medical students, too shocked the first morning they attend their human dissection course, decide that it is too tough to bear? Will their university management decide to withdraw that course, so important in the advancement of future doctors?

Will the students opposed to the word used by Verushka

Lieutenant-Duval show the same energy in undertaking vigorous actions targeting the betterment of our society, no matter the colour of people's skin? That would be a valuable effort.

Liberal Party of Quebec leader Dominique Anglade, the first Black leader of a province-wide political party, probably says it best when she stresses that "excluding the word negro" from all debates would be a "mistake" and "drifting towards an incapacity to hold a debate, to exchange in our society." The word is "loaded" but it is all in the context of the debate. An environment must be created to hold that debate. "Is there a better place than our universities?" she states.

Asking the question is answering it. Dominique Anglade consequently thinks that, by the same token, talking about the use of the N word, and using it, in the proper context, does not belong to black people only. She is not the only black person to express that view point.

Montreal-based author Dany Laferrière, who also originally hails from Haiti, like Dominique Anglade, says it is important to trust people's intelligence. Two of his books include the word negro in their titles. "We know when people use those words with ill intentions," he stresses.

One of the great quotes to illustrate at once how the Vietnam War was absurd and why some people, including him, decided to boycott the United States Army draft to send soldiers over there, came from the late Mohammad Ali. It is not clear when the former world heavyweight boxing champion stated the following quote and if it started with another much shorter and more famous quote. It can be seen in a 1980 documentary aired as part of a television program called Like It Is, which was broadcasting black public affairs.

"My conscience won't let me go shoot my brother, or some darker people, or some poor, hungry people in the mud, for big, powerful America. For what? They never called me nigger. They never lynched me. They never put no dogs on me. They never robbed me of my nationality, or raped and killed my mother and father. ... How can I shoot them poor people? Just take me to jail," said Mr. Ali, probably in 1967, after refusing to report to the American army.

Supporting the University of Ottawa stand would mean refraining from ever using a quote like that to hold a debate about the relevance of the Vietnam War, or understanding how some minorities were feeling about the actions of the majority. Leaving that quote in the dark would not make sense because it explains so much in a minimum of words. Our society deserves better than narrow-minded principles.



#### **Guest Commentary**

Cynthia **Dow** 

## Counting our blessings, COVID or not

As many feared, the second wave of the COVID pandemic appears to be much worse than what we experienced last spring. Our current situation is certainly far from ideal, and a lot of people are finding it stressful and taxing in so many different ways. But lots of people have lived through worse, including our ancestors, and our elders.

The Spanish flu visited this area right after the tremendous loss of life suffered by our soldiers in World War I. I cannot say how many Gaspesians died of that virulent flu, but I have seen some gravestones marked with it up and down the Coast. Around the world more than 50 million succumbed; so far, the COVID virus has killed 1.13 million.

So we can count our blessings we are not facing that flu, or the Bubonic Plague which killed 50 to 70% of untreated victims during the Middle Ages. Then there's Ebola, that scourge in Africa which liquifies the interior of its victims and kills an average of 50% of those infected.

Starting to feel a bit better now? There is more good news: as scientists and health care specialists learn more about the virus, the survival rate is climbing steadily. At the start of the pandemic, studies show hospitalized victims of the virus had a 25.6% chance of dying, now that has been whittled down to 7.6%

I imagine that the constant stress we feel now is not unlike the stress that families felt throughout the early 1940s when they saw their offspring, siblings and loved ones head off into the great unknown that is world-wide conflict. Looking back now, knowing how long the Second World War lasted and who won, we can easily forget that those facts were unknown to our grandparents.

My grandmother Dow had two sons taken as POWs, one in Europe and one in Hong Kong. Can you imagine how she felt when she was informed of their respective situations? That constant worry lasted several years in both cases. Living with uncertainty, and not knowing how long the challenge will last is one of the hardest things human beings face throughout their lives.

In some countries as I write this, other families are hunkered down at home stressed to the max not only because of the COVID situation, but because they are living through war and insurrection. If they venture outside their homes, they do not know whether they may be shot by a sniper or caught up in a full-blown battle on their street.

We are blessed to live today, here in Canada, where we have an amazing health care system. Yes, that health care system is under siege, under-funded and under-valued. We Canadians often forget that many people around the world have to pay for health care; we do not. If we get sick with COVID, at least we know that costs associated with treatment will be covered

We are blessed that we have government authorities who take this situation seriously and who have taken positive steps to stem the tide of the virus. In the spring, and now during the second wave they are keeping us updated daily so as to reduce the potential for rumour and panic to sweep across the population. Imagine if that were not the case, and all we had to go on was facebook posts and word of mouth!

We are blessed that we have all manner of media (newspapers, radio, television) to keep us as informed as we want to be with the facts of the situation. Some would argue that media are "sensationalizing" the situation. If you are concerned

about the media coverage you see, then check out information directly from government sources.

As the days go by and we gradually hear of more cases of the virus, which feel like they are getting closer and closer to home, let's remember that we are in a country where people do pull together, help their neighbours and support each other in so many different ways. We are not being asked to pack a gun and armour: just to wear a mask, keep a safe distance and stay home when sick.

We can do this, for however long it takes, with the resilience and community spirit passed down to us by people who have been through much worse.



Joan Imhoff

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## Disciplinary hearing for Louisette Langlois postponed

Nelson Sergerie

CHANDLER – The hearing to determine the disciplinary action to be taken against the mayor of Chandler has been postponed by the *Commission municipale du Québec*.

The hearing was to take place on Friday, October 23, but the lawyer representing Mme Langlois was not able to participate for medical reasons.

On October 9, the Commission had rejected the request to stay proceedings and contest the notice of the hearings when the elected official was found guilty of 20 of the 21 accusations made against her by the organization.

Me Charles Caza had pleaded that Mme Langlois was deprived of a full and fair defence. He also stated that the motives behind the 20 accusations against her were not clarified.

According to information we have received, Judge Sandra Bilodeau had laid out her conclusions based on the justifications for the accusations in a document of more than 40 pages.

The hearings may be held during the week of October 26 if the parties find a mutually convenient date.

The Commission municipale believes that the mayor contravened Articles 3, 5 and 6 of Chandler's Code of Ethics.

Judge Bilodeau concluded that Mme Langlois placed herself in a conflict of interest by voting on resolutions related to a complaint made to the CNESST.

The Commission also noted problems related to disclosure of confidential information on several occasions when the Mayor communicated to a citizen the names of two managers who had made complaints of psychological harassment. She



Photo: N. Sergerie

The Mayor of Chandler, Louisette Langlois

also gave the same person account statements from lawyers which contained information protected by professional secrecy

In addition, the mayor was

proven to have communicated to other citizens the positions occupied by the managers who complained, thus allowing them to be identified, and informed the citizens of money paid to the managers, while this information was to have been kept confidential.

Finally, the Commission noted that Mme Langlois guided a citizen in preparing an access to information request while she is the elected official responsible for managing such files for the municipality

Mme Langlois was suspended twice by the Commission, the first time in May 2016 for 30 days for having asked the Town treasurer to add \$135,000 to the 2014 budget without respecting the administrative procedures of the Town

In September of the same year, a 45-day suspension was ordered by the Commission for having participated in discussions while omitting to disclose her personal interests in the case which led to the dismissal of the director of urban planning for the Town, Philippe Berger.

#### **DUTHIE POINT:**

## Ambitious plan to be carried out "bit by bit"

Cynthia **Dow** 

NEW RICHMOND: - The new president of the non-profit organization which manages Duthie Point is one determined lady, and she means to carry out an ambitious rejuvenation project by "starting small."

Danielle Cyr retired to her hometown of New Richmond after years in academia, most recently at York University. Her love of history and languages has prepared her well for her role in trying to resuscitate the 82-acre site after the British Heritage Centre languished.

"There is a very ambitious plan on the table, entitled Reimagine Duthie Point. But the plan calls for \$5.7 million investment in total over four phases, and the advice we have received is that we would not be able to find that kind of funding for the site," she explained to SPEC.

What the group has been able to do, however, is get funding from Bonaventure MRC in the amount of about \$40,000 from the Fonds de développement des territoires: aide aux projets structurants. The money is being used to help make two more of the houses habitable so they can be rented out during the summer months. The Willett House at the back of the site has already been available for



Photo: C. Dov

President Danielle Cyr, left and Vice-President Carole LeBlanc, right, stand before the Brown House which is currently being renovated at Duthie Point.

rent during the warmer months for some years now and has proven quite popular. Once the organization has some money coming in, there are plans to re-establish a boutique in the Gendron Store, use the school building for workshops and exhibits, and use the Campbell House for heritage accommodation.

"Over the next two to three years we hope to tackle about four projects per year and do some fundraising. Once we have proved we can bring in some money, we'll go for larger sums from funding programs," said Mme Cyr.

For the summer of 2021, the site will likely have three houses ready to rent to tourists – the Willett House, the Harvey House and the Brown House – and will rent out the lighthouse for camping. Composting outhouses will solve the toilet issue on the site, and the group hopes to be able to build modern washroom facilities with toilets and showers near the Willett House.

All the houses to be offered for rent will have running water and electricity and will be furnished as they would have been in the era in which they were built.

In the long run, Mme Cyr and her group would love to create a series of small museums and cultural activities outlining the history of all the ethnic groups in the region, including recent immigrants. "We have to celebrate how we have survived hard times and occasional tensions and now live together in relative peace. Even if there have been tensions at times, everyone has kept their own identity."

Mme Cyr went on to say, "We also want to recognize the contributions of the English-speaking community in putting this site together. We must not forget all the work done here."

She noted that people are eager to once again see period costumes on the site, so there may be some activities organized around that theme, as well as festivities featuring different cuisines, music, crafts and so on. "Let's celebrate all Gaspesian cultures!" Mme Cyr said.

Currently volunteers have been stripping layer after layer of wallpaper from the walls of the Brown House and reglazing the windows. Fresh paint and re-wiring will ensure it's attractive to prospective renters for the next tourist season.

The Board of Directors for Duthie Point also includes vice-president Carole Le-Blanc, and five directors: Bruce Willett, Christian Cyr, François Bujold (representative of the Town of New Richmond), Mike Geraghty and Lou LeBlanc.

In the meantime, the board would be happy to have more volunteer help, especially volunteers with skills in carpentry, painting, and other trades.





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## Understanding Red Zone Restrictions



In red zones, where the situation is critical, stricter measures must be enacted because the number of cases is rapidly increasing. **People in these zones** must limit social contact as much as possible to prevent virus transmission. By applying all measures, we can fight COVID-19 more effectively. No single measure is sufficient on its own.

The more we limit contact with other people, the sooner we can resume our activities.









#### Why are restaurants and bars considered high-risk places for spreading COVID-19?

We usually gather in places like bars and restaurants to socialize with friends, family, and colleagues. In these places, we are often close to other people. Both talking and eating greatly increase the risk of virus transmission. Restrictive measures in red zones are meant to minimize close contact between people who do not live at the same address.



#### Why ban activities and audiences in public places?

Large gatherings are an opportunity for people to socialize, often in close proximity to one another. This can increase the risk of virus transmission. The ban on activities and audiences in public places in red zones is meant to minimize social contact between people who do not live at the same address.



#### Why close gyms and stop team sports?

Gyms provide an opportunity for people to socialize with others, and so do many sports and leisure activities. Group sports generally involve social contact with teammates. Some sports are difficult to play while maintaining physical distance. Stricter measures in red zones are meant to reduce close contact between individuals and thus slow the spread of COVID-19.



#### Why must face coverings be worn in high school classrooms in red zones?

Young people are currently overrepresented in COVID-19 case counts and a number of outbreaks have occurred in the school system, mainly in red zones. According to field observations and what we know students at all times in common about how the virus spreads, high schools pose more risk than primary schools.

High school students are older and capable of wearing masks or face coverings for longer periods of time. Therefore, in red zones, face coverings must be worn by all high school areas, including in stable class groups, on school grounds, and during electives with different class groups.

#### We need to act now

To find out the alert level in your region, consult the map of COVID-19 alert levels by region at Québec.ca/alertlevels

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Cédric Paquette is honoured by the welcome he received from Gaspesians as a result of his Stanley Cup win.

#### Gaspé celebrates Cédric Paquette

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ – On Thursday, October 22, the Town of Gaspé honoured its Stanley Cup winner, Cédric Paquette.

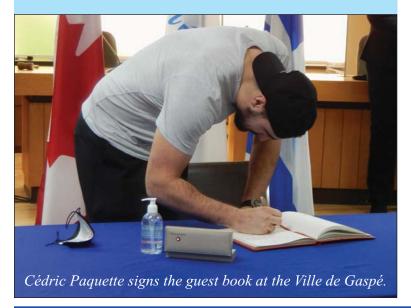
The forward of the Tampa Bay Lightning was very touched by the welcome he received from his fellow Gaspesians. "I never dreamed when I was young that I could come back here and everyone would welcome me like this. It's really heartwarming," said the hockey player.

At 27 years of age and with one more year in his contract, the young man always wanted to play in the NHL. "In my head, I was going to play in the National Hockey League. I just didn't know how I was going to get there. To win the Stanley Cup, that's the summit!" was his response when asked if he ever thought he would win the most important hockey trophy when he was playing minor hockey in the Gaspé arena.

The forward said he takes it one season at a time, and it's always his objective to win the Stanley Cup in the upcoming year.

Asked about the way the Stanley Cup was won this year with a series of games in key cities, Cédric Paquette remains proud of the victory. "There will always be people who say there is an asterisk beside this win, but we gave heart and soul for that cup. For us, it was one of the hardest victories in history, and we are proud of what we accomplished," he replied.

The native of St. Majorique and his family were received at the Town Hall on October 22 where he signed the guest book. Afterwards, a parade was held in the streets of the town. The tour of the municipality ended at the arena in Fox River, where the citizens were able to safely salute their champion from their vehicles.





The IGA Coop supermarket in Maria is currently being refurbished for \$1.2 million.

## IGA Coop in Maria invests \$1.2 million in refurbishment project

Gilles **Gagné** 

MARIA – The IGA Coop supermarket in Maria has undertaken, beginning in June, a \$1.2 million investment project to modernize its equipment and carry out a facelift of the building, including the parking lot. The work should be completed before the end of the year.

Hired on September 1, 2019, director general Claude Carrier points out that he first had to improve the sales before convincing the board of the Maria cooperative and the supplier of the supermarket, Sobeys, of the project's importance.

"Operations had been declining for several years and we needed an improvement of the situation before convincing the funding parties that the refurbishment was worth investing. The modernization project had been approved by the board two years ago but the store was not in a position to make the move, financially. We made changes. After six months, we had improved the sales and we declared a profit of \$140,000. That profit should have been \$200,000 but we had to invest \$60,000 COVID-related equipment," explains Mr. Carrier.

The sales of the last year reached a bit over \$12 million, compared to \$9.8 million the previous year. It represents an increment of close to \$50,000 weekly.

The exterior of the building will benefit from a \$250,000 facelift. It follows a \$150,000 invested in the parking lot in June. The refrigeration system was replaced with new equipment for \$200,000. About \$200,000 was also spent in the replacement of counters and \$100,000 for new furniture. Other types of equipment, like ovens and cash registers, were replaced at a cost of \$100,000, and the roof was changed for \$140,000. The interior of the store was repainted, costing \$80,000.

"It is a work in progress. We might invest a bit more, if it is required but for now, \$1.2 million looks like the real investment picture. We now have the wiggle room to do it, which was not the case in the summer of last year. The cash flow has improved a lot, we have gotten rid of some debt and payables on our credit line. The coop is healthy," adds Mr. Carrier.

The supermarket employs 60 people. Keeping the staff

represents a challenge, like in many retail businesses.

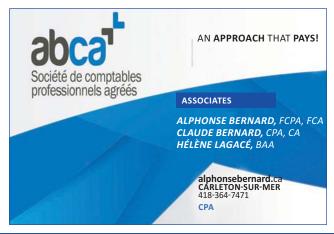
"We are trying something. Some of our older employees want a break and they will get it this winter. At the same time, I have hired youths, ready to work part-time this winter. I want them to be ready for next summer, during the rush, so that they can work full time. We are training them for that," explains Claude Carrier

The cash register area will undergo major changes as four self-serve machines will be installed in the coming weeks. "It takes only one person to supervise two cash registers. Since we have a shortage of staff, we will be able to shift people to another department," he says.

Sobeys is participating in the current investment in Maria but the terms of that agreement are not divulged by the parties.



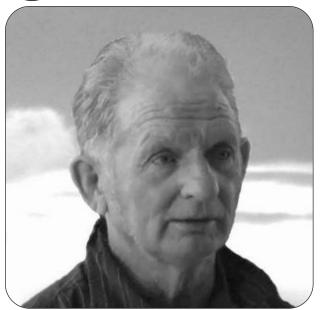












#### **LEMIEUX: Melvin**

In loving memory of Melvin Lemieux of Barachois, Quebec. May 1, 1946 – October 16, 2020. Our brother passed away at Monseigneur Ross, Gaspé, October 16, at the age of 74 years old, after struggling through a battle with cancer.

Melvin leaves to mourn his brothers: Roderick, Gilles, Bruno, Osmund, and sisters: Terrie, Donna, Greta, Della and Ann, nephews and friends.

He was blessed to have some very special people in his life to help him along the way: Carol and Vernon Annett, Clarence Lemieux, Sister Margaret, Father Cotton, Patricia and Rocky Annett, Kathleen and Stephanie Bond, Debbie Girard, Marie Pierre Synott, and many who took time to pray or visit with him during his trying days.

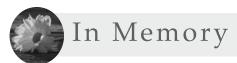
A special thank-you to Mona Rehel, who has been a good friend since moving back home, and for her uncompromised dedication to Melvin during his final weeks. Thank you to the staff of the Hôpital Gaspé, CLSC, and Monseigneur Ross. Thank you all for being part of our brother's life.

Melvin had a favourite prayer. Here, we share in the final verse: "... I live alone Dear Lord, yet have no fear, because I feel your presence ever near."

There will be a service held at St Peter's Catholic Church in Barachois, to be announced at a later date.



foragemoreaumercier@gmail.com



#### FRASER: Alfred Sr.

In loving memory of a dear father, father-in-law, grandfather, great-grandfather and great-great-grandfather who passed away October 30, 1991. God saw you getting tired, When a cure was not to be, So He put his arms around you, And whispered "Come with me."

He took you to his garden, And laid you there to rest. God's garden must be beautiful, For He only takes the best.

Sadly missed and always remembered by your son Jr., daughter-in-law Cheryl, granddaughter Bonnie, six great-grandchildren and two great-greatgranddaughters. We miss you Dad and always will xoxox.

#### **SIMON: Trafford**

In loving memory of a dear father, grandfather and great-grandfather who passed away October 30, 1988.

Sunshine passes, shadows fall Love's remembrance outlasts all. And though the years be many or few They are filled with remembrances of you

Always remembered and sadly missed by Dora (Ronnie), Sandra (Ivan), Duane (Hermeline), Laura (Real) and families.

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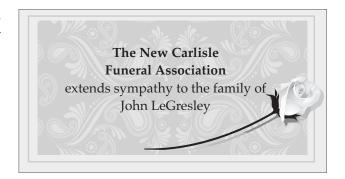
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## COAST ROUND-UP

#### **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.

#### ST-GEORGES-DE-MALBAIE: All Saints by the Sea

The recently published *St. James Anglican Church, Cape Cove, Quebec: Our Story 1875-2011*, which includes the original history book published in 1975 and updated up to the time of deconsecration. This is a fundraiser for the care and maintenance of the St. James' Cemetery. If you have ancestors buried there, or are simply interested in histories of the anglophone com-

munities in the Gaspé, this is the book for you! Send your donation to All Saints by the Sea Anglican Parish, 236 Ch. Bougainville, St-Georges-de-Malbaie, QC, GOC 2XO. Minimum \$20 - more generous donations gratefully accepted and receipted.

#### 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.

ROTARY CLUB WINNERS
The winners for the week of
October 18 are: Lisa Arsenault, Mark Ball, Conrad
McWhirter, Adeline Milligan,
James Martin, Jean-Sébastien
Babin and Chantal St-Onge.

Please be advised that all **cheques** must be made payable to\_

THE GASPÉ SPEC

## On the lighter side...



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FRIGHT NIGHT WORD SEARCH

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

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BONES BROOMSTICK CARVING CAULDRON COFFIN COSTUMES CREEP CRYPT DARKNESS EERIE EVENING FRIGHTEN GHOULS GOBLINS GRAVES HALLOWEEN HAUNT HOWLING MOANS MUMMY PUMPKIN SCARY SCREECH SKELETON SPIDER SPIRIT TOMBSTONE WEREWOLF WITCH



ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Be prepared for some news at work, Aries. There may be a change in the hierarchy or another management change. Stay calm, as this could bode well.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, someone new may come into your life and you could be completely enamored. This may be a romantic interest, or someone who simply understands your way of thinking.

GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21

While technology already is ever-present in your life, this week you may be introduced to a new form technology in your home or place of work. CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, you may find yourself drawn into online activities or a new hobby that you never previously considered. This may awaken a new interest in you and liven things up.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, take a few moments this week to examine your finances. Spend time looking at recurring payments and where you can cut. Opt for a new form of recordkeeping.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Strange developments may infiltrate your normally ordered schedule, Virgo. Even though situations may be outside of your wheelhouse, keep an open mind about all possibilities. LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Take a greater interest in movies, music or entertainment, Libra. It is always good to broaden your horizons. Plus, this will give you new subject matter for conversations.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22 Scorpio, this week you may have a strong urge to do something exciting or adventurous. You might want to book a spontaneous trip or ride a roller coaster.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

An unexpected career opportunity could be coming your way, Sagittarius. It's okay to be nervous, but focus more on the possibilities for advancement and excitement.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

New interests may capture your attention, Capricorn. Study different countries and their cultures to learn more about the world. Then plan future trips to an inspiring locale.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, you may be at a crossroads in your life that has you wondering what the next step may be. Take advantage of increased online educational possibilities.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, if you have been pondering a reason to move, now may be the time to really put a plan into action. Start researching neighborhoods.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS NOVEMBER 1 Penn Badgley, Actor (34) NOVEMBER 2

Nelly, Rapper (46) NOVEMBER 3 Kendall Jenner, Model (25)

NOVEMBER 4
Matthew McConaughey, Actor (51)

NOVEMBER 5 Sal Vulcano, Comic (44)

NOVEMBER 6 Emma Stone, Actress (32) NOVEMBER 7

David Guetta, DJ (53)



Solve the code to discover words related to winter weather. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 24 = i)

**A.** 25 21 24 6 6 16 18 20 Clue: Strong snowstorm

B. 10 18 24 11 24 20 Clue: Very cold

C. 19 21 17 17 15

Clue: Rainy snow

**D. 24 2 17** *Clue: Frozen water* 

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## Pumpkins and their seeds

## How do you mend a broken pumpkin? With a pumpkin patch!

Diane **Skinner** 

Nothing says Halloween as much as pumpkins. The pumpkin, which is technically a fruit and not a vegetable, grows on every continent except Antarctica. Many cultures use the pumpkin for food (soup, juice, desserts), for medicine in India and in North America and by indigenous peoples for numerous purposes. They are used for animal feed in some countries. A pumpkin is a member of the gourd (winter squash) family and though they are most often orange can also be white or dark green.

Pumpkins originated in Mexico and southern United States and pumpkin fragments and seeds found there can be dated back over 5,000 years. The leading countries that produce pumpkins are China (over 8 million tons), India, Russia, Ukraine, and the U.S. Giant pumpkins can exceed one ton in weight.

Pumpkin is an excellent source of beta-carotene and

Vitamin A, and a wee bit of Vitamin C. Pumpkins are 92% water, 6.5% carbohydrates, .1% fat and 1% protein.

Pumpkins are a versatile plant, and most parts of the pumpkin are edible. This includes: the outer flesh, the leaves, the flowers, and the seeds. Pumpkin puree can be prepared and either canned or frozen. The flesh can be roasted, boiled, or steamed. Pumpkins are traditional fall food. Pumpkin pie is a Thanksgiving staple and of course they are carved to make jack-o-lanterns and the seeds roasted. In China and Korea, the leaves are cooked in soups and used to wrap rice and seasonings. In Japan they are made into tempura. (battered and deep fried) In Australia and New Zealand they are roasted with other vegetables. In Italy it can be combined with cheese to stuff ravioli.

Pumpkin seed oil is pressed from roasted seeds and is usually thick and green in colour. It can be used as a salad dressing or cooking oil but has a strong flavour. The oil contains fatty acids. Pumpkin seeds are not only edible they are full of nutrition. They are a popular snack that you can buy in most grocery stores.

Some vets recommend giving canned pumpkin to dogs and cats that have hairballs, constipation, or diarrhea. It is the high fibre that aids with their digestion. Raw pumpkin can be fed to poultry in the colder winter months, as a supplement to help maintain egg production. (Check with your vet first.)

Natives used pumpkins to treat urinary ailments and doctors in the early 19th century adopted this practice to treat patients with intestinal problems. Pumpkin was used for similar purposes in Germany and southeastern Europe.

In Britain and Ireland, carving for Halloween was initially done using turnips which could be used as lanterns. It is said that carving pumpkins for Halloween began around the mid-1850s. The practice originates from an Irish myth about a character dubbed 'Stingy Jack.' Pumpkins are a lot larger than turnips so are easier to carve.

Pumpkin spice has become a popular fall season flavouring. Pumpkin spice latte was introduced in 2003 and has become a seasonal favourite. Since then many pumpkin spice foods are available cookies, breads, soups and

Pumpkins have other, more fanciful uses. In the fairy tale Cinderella, the fairy godmother turns a pumpkin into a carriage – but at midnight that coach turns back into a pumpkin. In the Legend of Sleepy Hollow, the headless horseman used a pumpkin as a head.

#### **Seeds**

Do not throw out the seeds! They are an easy to make, healthy snack. When they are baked, they have a crispy, crunchy with a nutty

flavour and they are nutritious! They have fibre and protein and minerals including zinc and iron.

Scoop them out of the pumpkin and rinse the seeds under cool water. That way the seeds will be easier to clean.

2 cups of fresh seeds 3 tbsp. butter

2 tsp. salt

Clean the seeds and pat dry. Sprinkle seeds with salt and butter on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper and bake them at 250°F.

Bake for about 40 minutes. Stir them occasionally with a wooden spoon. Watch them because they are done when they turn light brown. If you want them crispier, turn heat up to 325°F and bake for an additional 5 minutes.

Try some other seasonings such as curry powder, chili powder, garlic salt, Worcestershire sauce, taco seasoning or herbes de provence. For a totally different taste, sprinkle the seeds with sugar and cinnamon.

































## Tea Leaves: A stranger is coming

With a cup of tea in your hand, anything is possible.

- Diane Skinner

When we were young children here on the Gaspé, after supper and the ritual of tea and dessert, we would all hope for my grandfather to tell our fortunes using the loose tea leaves in our teacups. He would not always agree to do that, but perhaps once or twice a month he would give in to our pleas. We would be overcome with excitement.

We would follow his directions. After drinking the tea, leave a wee bit in the cup and turn it over into the saucer and then spin it gently three times. Then turn the cup upright and hand it over to him. Then our futures would be revealed! We could not wait to hear what life had in store for us.

My recollection is that often we would hear that a stranger was coming, or a dark-haired person would do us wrong. Sometimes more details would be shared. Our grandfather might say, "Look, look there, do you see it?" Well, no we probably did not, but he would enlighten us. "That's a dog and that means you have a friend." Or he might say, "Ooh, those are clouds and that means some bad news is on the way." We always liked to hear that some money was coming our way. However, our favourite prediction was when he showed us a closed circle. That meant a wish was going to come true! My 10-year-old self wished for a new bike, because at the time we did not know that the world was a mess so we should be

wishing for world peace. We believed in those tea leaf predictions and would spend the next couple of days looking for the teacup readings to come true. Because they were generalities, they often did happen, and we would be amazed. My grandfather possessed powers! However, the closed circle, the wish, did not always come to be. We likely justified that at the time by telling ourselves we had wished for too much or it just was not time yet for it to come true.

Reading tea leaves has a fancy name – tasseography – and is defined as a fortune telling method that interprets patterns in tea leaves. Tea leaf reading can be traced back to Romani gypsies in eastern Europe. Medieval fortune tellers used wax and lead to read fortunes. English potters have made elaborate teacup sets especially for the reading of tea leaves. My grandparents used the cups and saucers we used

every day, sometimes mismatched, but they fulfilled our tea reading hopes just the same.

> Teacup readers start from the top of the cup which is the present. They then work their way down, reading the symbols as they go. The very bottom of the cup symbolizes the far future. Of course, it is tradition to use loose leaf tea. Cutting open a tea bag gives you finer cut leaves which do not give much variety to the leaf patterns.

Apparently, there are some fortune tellers that read coffee grounds. In Serbia they use Turkish coffee which leaves a lot of sediment in the cup.

If you drink a cup of loose tea today, swirl it three times in the saucer and gently tip it over. Do you see anything? If you do not, my grandfather would have said that you do not have the power to foretell fortunes. Is teacup reading just the imagination of the reader? Generalities? Does the reader just use the knowledge of the person they are telling the fortune

Local tea leaf reader, Justin Flowers explains the distinction between 'tasseography' and 'tasseomancy.' He practices the latter, which is more occult based, spiritual, and based on sacred practice. That is, based on mystical elements. Justin uses cups with astrological demarcations and relates about a time he read someone's tea leaves and was amazed to hear back that what was revealed turned out to be 100% accurate!

Linda Kosman of Caplan has had her tea leaves read many times and reflects that much of what she was told did come true. She adds that a prediction of what was to happen in the next six months was amazingly accurate.

I do know one wish that did come true for me. I got a beautiful, red, shiny twowheeler bike for my 11th birthday that very same summer. That time, the tea leaves, and my grandfather, were right.



STRANGE HAPPENINGS AND PRANKS

Spec asked readers to share some spooky stories or pranks that have happened here on the Gaspé either to them personally or stories they have heard.

Years ago, Halloween pranks were a common occurrence. Trick or treat often meant just that – tricks would be played on Halloween eve. I recall my grandmother telling the tale of a strange visitor one Halloween. This adult person came into the house and sat in a kitchen chair. Covered from head to toe, including a scarf over the face, a hat, gloves, and a large dark coat. My grandmother greeted the person, but there was no reply. The person sat, wordless, and left after 15 minutes. Was my grandmother scared by this visitor? No, she was not because as she said afterwards, she recognized who he was by his shoes!

#### Unwanted visitor

We lived in a house here on the Gaspé that had some tragic events that happened there about fifty years ago. One day, my son, who was about three years old when this happened, said that there was a man standing by the fridge. I did not think anything of this, so I said, "Is he happy or sad? Tell him he needs to go now." My wife was on the computer Skyping with a friend. Her friend asked her! 'Who is that?' The friend could see someone behind her. It was not me or my son. My wife then felt someone touch her and say, 'Get out!' She described it as a negative energy. Myself, I never saw anything.

-Michael Hayes

#### Haunted house

We once lived in a very haunted house. The house had been unoccupied for some time because the owner and a child had been killed at a train crossing so, it could be that the man was upset because he rented the house to us. When we went to bed, we could often hear a car running. The rocking chair would rock after we went to bed. Old fashioned fiddle music would play in the living room. But the strangest thing happened one morning after a light snowfall. When we got up there were footsteps in the snow but no tracks leading in or out. I've never been able to explain this. The house was sold a few times, and no one ever mentioned anything odd. - Lynda Mac Whirter

#### **Ghost story**

We built our house in 1978 so it isn't that old, but we share it with at least three ghosts or spirits. I have seen these three on different occasions. One was sitting on the edge of the couch with his legs crossed and was a slight man with a plaid shirt. The next one appeared in the doorway and was very tall with curly white hair. The next one ran in front of my tv. The tv went black. This one had broad shoulders. My sister has also seen a movement flit by the patio doors. - Lynda MacWhirter

#### Pranks from back in the day

Years ago, there was a cannon in front of the old town hall in New Carlisle beside the jail. This was 75 years ago or more. It faced across the street towards some businesses and the law

office of René Lévesque's father. As a Halloween prank some teens loaded the cannon with gun powder and fired it towards those businesses which blew the windows out! Another year some pranksters let the air out of the tires of police cars. Then the teens put hay bales all over town in the middle of the streets and opened the fire hydrants. Other pranks that were played years ago were whitewashing windows. But by 8 o'clock everyone was safely home, and the pranks were over until the next Halloween. - Ken Cooke

#### Mystery of the Phantom Ship Part II

(An excerpt from the upcoming sequel to the novel by Al Eden)

The following paragraph follows the kids when they find an old rundown cabin in the woods that belonged to Henry who was Old Ben's father, a soldier that was killed in the war. "Molly looked back at the cabin over her shoulder just as they were leaving and took a deep breath. She thought she saw the ghost like figure of a young man in the window behind the cobwebs. He was dressed in a soldier's uniform. (A few paragraphs later this follows when they are at the cabin.) All of a sudden there was a chill that made the kids shiver. Gord exclaimed, "Where did that chill come from? It's 20 degrees outside." Adam looked around as if searching for a reason. "The hairs on my arms are standing up. Maybe it's Ghost Henry." Just then a large stone at the bottom of the fireplace started to rattle.

- Al Eden, author

## Halloween: Healthy, yummy treats

Children will likely get loads of candy for Halloween, whether trick or treating or not, and these three healthy snacks are still fun while being healthy. Alternatives to trick or treating on Halloween include pumpkin-carving, dressing up for virtual Halloween parties, a candy hunt at home or sharing spooky stories or a movie. Have the children help to prepare these snacks and that is part of the fun!

#### **ENERGY BALLS**

2 cups rolled oats

3 cups pitted dates

3/4 cup good cocoa powder

1/2 cup smooth peanut butter

1/2 cup salted peanuts

1/2 cup desiccated coconut pinch of salt

2-3 tablespoons maple syrup

(Roll balls in a bit more desiccated coconut and cocoa powder)

**Instructions** 

Combine all the ingredients in a food processor and blend until smooth. Form the mixture into little balls. (makes

about 20) Then roll into a bit more coconut and cocoa powder.

Place on a plate lined with parchment paper. Chill in the fridge for at least an hour. Will last about a week in an airtight container.

#### **GREEN APPLE MONSTER MOUTHS**

4 green apples

Peanut butter (for sticking)

Pumpkin seeds (teeth)

4 – 6 strawberries (tongue)

**Chocolate chips (eyes)** 

Instructions

Quarter the apples (leave skin on) Cut into wedges, not too thick.

Use peanut butter and glue together two pieces of apple to look like a grinning monster mouth.

Dab peanut butter at top and stick in 2 or 3 pumpkin seeds for teeth.

Dab peanut butter on top piece of apple and put 1 chocolate chip in middle of each for eyes.

Slice strawberries and insert one slice to look like a sticking out tongue. Arrange monster mouths on a plate.

#### **JACK-O'-LANTERN PEPPERS**

Red, vellow, and orange pepper

Carrot sticks, celery sticks,

small broccoli flowerets

and green pepper sticks

each with a small knife.

Instructions

Cut top off the three peppers and clean out

Carefully carve a jack-o'-lantern face on

Place veggie dip or ranch dip in bottom of each pepper.

**Insert veggie** sticks and trimmed broccoli in each jack-o'-

pepper.

