

Listuguj blockade prevents passage of one train

Gilles Gagné

LISTUGUJ: – A small group of Listuguj demonstrators blocked the Matapedia-Gaspé railway for a few hours on Monday, October 26, at the same spot as traffic was interrupted for 25 days between February 10 and March 5 earlier this year.

While the previous blockade was erected and maintained as a sign of support for the Wet'suet'en First Nation in British Columbia, this time around, the group likely supported the Mi'gmaq lobster fishermen of Nova Scotia, who are trying to establish a fall livelihood fishery. They face stern opposition from a majority of Non-Native fishermen. The Mi'gmaqs want the Canadian government to determine a clear definition of livelihood fisheries.

"There were three or four



Freight trains resumed circulating between Nouvelle and Matapedia on October 27.

Photo: G. Gagné

people when our employee met them. One lady was present during last winter's blockade. The exchange was very short and their presence pertains to the Nova Scotia conflict, in all likelihood," explained Éric Dubé, president of the Gaspésie Railway Society, the operator of freight trains on the Gaspé Peninsula

line.

"We informed Transports Québec, the owners of the railroad, of the situation. We know that the issue reached the Cabinet," he added.

The first freight train of the day was able to pass on the morning of October 26, but the presence of demonstrators prevented the passage of the re-

turning midday train, which was carrying cement, woodchips, and lumber.

Éric Dubé reached Listuguj chief Darcy Gray upon learning of the existence of the blockade and chief Gray was not aware of the initiative.

The group of demonstrators put a few objects on the

railway and built a fire nearby. However, after leaving the location in the afternoon, they did not come back to it that day or the following day.

A freight train passed through Listuguj shortly before noon on October 27. "We are relieved. We will keep an eye on the situation. Transports Québec is also maintaining contact with us," said Mr. Dubé. Rail traffic has taken place since with no problems. The Gaspésie Railway Society is a municipal entity. It was created in 1996 to prevent the Gaspé-Chandler line from being dismantled by Canadian National. The local corporation acquired the Matapedia-Chandler stretch to save that part from being abandoned as well.

The Gaspésie Railway Society lost \$500,000 in transportation revenues during the February-March blockade.

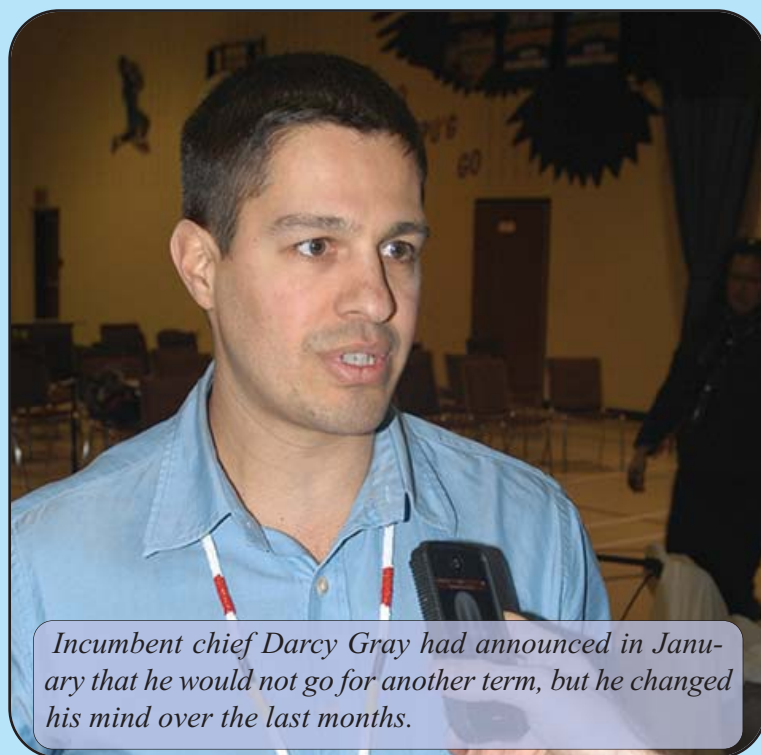
Listuguj election to take place on November 7; incumbent chief Darcy Gray to run again

Gilles Gagné

LISTUGUJ – Three candidates, including incumbent Darcy Gray, are running for the position of chief in the Listuguj election, scheduled for November 7. That will be five months later than the initial June date, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Gray, who had announced in January that he would not seek a third two-year term, is challenged by former chief Scott Martin Senior, who was a councillor during the last term, and Freddy Dedam.

Darcy Gray had threats made against him and his family in January to explain that he would not run again. Scott Martin served terms during the 2000s. His sister, Cathy Martin, a doctor in education, lost by the relatively narrow margin of 88 votes to Darcy Gray in 2018. A former chief councillor, she is making an at-



Incumbent chief Darcy Gray had announced in January that he would not go for another term, but he changed his mind over the last months.

Photo: G. Gagné

tempt to come back to the council this year.

Eight of Listuguj's 12 councillors are trying to win another term. They are: Calvin Barnaby; Dolly Jane Barnaby; Chad Gedeon; Gordon Isaac Junior; George Martin; Sky Metallic; Wendell Metallic, who was the

chief councillor over the last term; and Sheila Swasson.

Incumbent councillors Lloyd Nicholas Alcon, Gary Metallic and Marsha Vicaire are not running this year.

Thirty-six other candidates are running in this election as posted on September 25 by the electoral officer,

Michel Poirier. Anna Isaac, who initially wanted to run for chief, also appears on the list of council candidates. Many former councillors are trying to get elected again this year.

The postponement of the June election was decided on May 13 after discussions with the Director of Health, the electoral officer, chief Gray and the council members, who adopted an order in council to specify November 7, 2020 as the new election date.

The order in council was adopted according to the guidelines for cancellation and postponement during COVID-19 and included an initial extension of the term of office for a maximum of six months after the date that term of office would have normally ended. The mandate of the council would initially have finished on June 2, 2020.

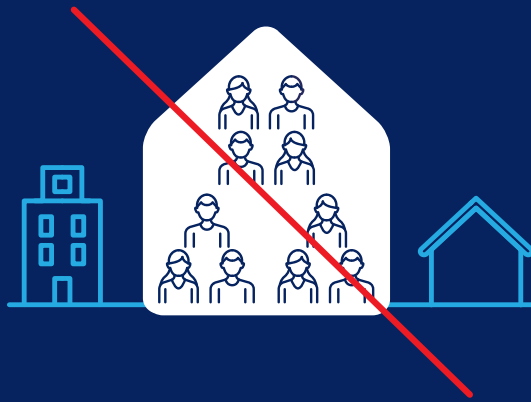
Had the COVID pan-

demic conditions worsened, making it an impossibility to prevent, mitigate or control the spread of the coronavirus in the community, the electoral act would have allowed the Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government to opt for an additional extension period of up to six months after the end of the first extension.

Up to 3,445 members are registered on the electoral list, including 1,351 people living outside Listuguj. The vote by mail started in October, before the advance poll on November 1 and 2.

The counting of ballots will only take place on the morning of November 8 to avoid doing so after an already long day. That procedure was also applied in 2018.

Incumbent chief Darcy Gray has been advocating for four-year terms during the last mandate but that specification has not been approved so far.



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François Bujold is new director general of Bonaventure MRC

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND – François Bujold, a New Richmond town councillor, is the new director general of the Bonaventure MRC. He started his new responsibilities at the end of October in the New Carlisle office, after a search by the MRC that was initiated at the beginning of 2020.

The task of finding a new director general was necessitated by the upcoming retirement of Anne-Marie Flowers, who has worked for the MRC for more than 30 years. Forty-six people sent their resumé to the MRC, and six were called for an interview.

“Ms. Flowers wanted to retire at the end of February. The process of replacing her was slowed down by a few factors, including the COVID pandemic. Ms. Flowers will be available for the transition period,” explains Bonaventure MRC prefect Éric Dubé.

François Bujold is 40 years of age. He has worked in social and economic development for 14 years. He has been a New Richmond town councillor since 2009. He was



Photo: Courtesy of François Bujold

François Bujold is the new director general of the Bonaventure MRC.

already an employee of the Bonaventure MRC as an economic development agent. One of his responsibilities was to analyze projects and to accompany business people when they needed guidance in the process of finding funding. He previously worked as a rural development agent, also for the MRC, between 2012 and 2015, at the time for the Local Development Centre. He was initially hired by the MRC to prepare a socio-economic and community pro-

file, which he proceeded to do in 2012-2013.

Between 2006 and 2012, François Bujold worked for the Carrefour Jeunesse-emploi of the Avignon and Bonaventure MRCs, and his responsibilities included promoting entrepreneurship with youth.

He holds a university degree in communications and psychosociology from the Université du Québec in Rimouski. He has also followed master's degree courses in regional development in 2012 and has regularly continued his training in financial analysis, accounting, sustainable development, time management, web marketing, mentorship and coaching. He is bilingual.

François Bujold will likely finish his term at the Town of New Richmond. “I am starting my 12th year on the council in November. I will probably stay until the end of my term but I will pull out of the council after in order to concentrate on my new responsibilities,” he explains.

The next municipal elections in Quebec are scheduled for November 2021.

François Roussy savours his newfound freedom

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - Satisfied but bitter. François Roussy is fully savouring his freedom as his case relating to the awarding of contracts in exchange for political financing has not been appealed by the Crown.

“This is my first day of freedom for four and a half years,” stated the former mayor of Gaspé, in an interview on October 27, the day after the decision of the Directorate of Criminal and Penal Prosecutions (DPCP) not to appeal the judgment rendered by the Honourable André Perreault. The magistrate had accepted the Jordan-type request on the delays considered unreasonable in this case. According to the Jordan Decision, the Supreme Court of Canada establishes timelines that trials must be heard by 18 months after charges are laid. François Roussy's arrest occurred in the wee hours of the morning on March 17, 2016 at his home.

Mr. Roussy expected such a decision from the DPCP. Three



Photo: N. Sergerie

years ago, he was acquitted of fraud and conspiracy charges when the Crown had no evidence to offer in court. Only the breach of trust remained.

“What happened? Was it used as bait? Were there any other reasons? We expect to have answers with the investigation of the Bureau of Independent Investigations,” he said as a court ruling on the online documents could be available next December.

A developer at heart, Mr. Roussy will continue his real estate and fisheries projects, putting politics aside in the

short term. He says he has benefitted greatly from the trust of the people.

“I'd like to give back to these people by taking a file in the community. I'm going to do what I was doing right and I need that to give back to my part of the world.”

There's no question of prosecution for the moment. Nathalie Normandeau brought up this possibility, but she is giving herself until the beginning of next year to make a decision, stating in a series of interviews to national media on October 27 that she had been robbed of four and a half years of her life.

Judge André Perreault ordered a stay of proceedings against Nathalie Normandeau, François Roussy and four other co-accused on September 25.

The former deputy premier and mayor of Maria was accused of fraudulently subscribing to an election fund, bribery and breach of trust. Roussy was facing a charge of breach of trust.

An October 24 car accident claimed the life of a 42-year-old woman from Chandler, Annie Element. The accident occurred at 8:45 p.m. in the Pabos Mills area, near 15 Église Street, along Highway 132. “The car left the road and rolled. The victim was ejected from her vehicle. She was unconscious when the paramedics reached the site. She was rushed to the hospital where she was pronounced dead. Traffic was allowed to pass by using alternate lanes for several hours while an accident reconstitution technician was on site. Alcohol could be a contributing factor in that accident. The coroner has asked for a toxicology analysis to be carried out,” explains Sgt. Claude Doiron, spokesperson for the Sûreté du Québec. Sgt. Doiron says that according to observations made by the investigator the victim was probably not wearing her seatbelt. “It is the second time in two weekends that a driver has been ejected from their car, if we include the fatal accident that recently (October 17) took place in Hope Town,” adds Sgt. Doiron.

An October 24 fire in a Riverside West Drive house in Listuguj claimed the life of a person. The body of the man was found once the fire was extinguished by the firefighters. The paramedics tried to revive him, but it was not possible. The investigation is ongoing. The Sûreté du Québec was asked to assist the Listuguj Police Department in that case.

Alcohol or drugs were probably a factor in a violent collision that involved three vehicles on Grande-Allée Avenue in Grand River on the evening of October 22, at 5:45 p.m. A driver tried to pass another vehicle and collided with the rear end of that second vehicle. The first car was going east and ended up in the other lane after spinning out and then smashing a third vehicle coming in the opposite direction. The driver of that third vehicle sustained serious injuries, including multiple fractures, but his injuries are not life-threatening.

The driver that allegedly caused the accident was also seriously injured. They were initially hospitalized in Chandler but both were transferred to a Quebec City hospital on October 23. The Sûreté du Québec is conducting an investigation regarding that case and obtained a warrant to make sure that a blood sample of the driver suspected of having caused the collision was taken at the Chandler Hospital. He could eventually face charges of dangerous driving causing bodily harm and driving while impaired by alcohol or drugs. The police officers were already looking for the driver of the vehicle that caused the initial collision, as citizens had reported that case of dangerous driving. The police officers stopped traffic in one lane for many hours to allow the technicians in accident reconstitution to do their work.

Quebec Court Judge Celestina Almeida scheduled the bail hearing of Julie Laurencelle, 28, from Val d'Espoir facing three charges of driving while her permit was suspended, and a charge of complicity in the hit and run causing bodily harm, for November 17 at the Percé Courthouse. Charged since October 13, the accused was initially supposed to appear in court again on October 26 but the case was postponed until October 29.

Julie Laurencelle was arrested on October 13 in relation to a hit-and-run that had occurred on May 20, 2020, in Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé. A woman in her sixties was seriously injured that day when she was run over by a side-by-side vehicle allegedly driven by Laurencelle's boyfriend, Michaël Athot, 24, also of Val d'Espoir. His mother, Rachel Poulin, 49, charged with complicity after the crime in a file of hit and run causing bodily harm, also appeared in court on October 29 and her next court appearance was scheduled for November 30. She is not imprisoned.

Michaël Athot faces four charges of driving while his permit was suspended, one charge of hit and run causing bodily harm, one count of aggravated assault, one count of assault with a weapon, one count of obstructing the work of police officers and one charge of mischief causing damage below \$5,000 on a Sûreté du Québec car, when he was arrested. His bail hearing is scheduled for November 30. A communication ban was imposed on October 13 so that the three accused cannot talk to each other until further instructions.

Julie Laurencelle already has a hit and run record. On August 6, 2017, she was driving a car that struck and killed a 62-year-old woman from Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé, Luce Hautocoeur. After initially entering a plea of not guilty, she pleaded guilty on January 29, 2019. Judge Janick Poirier imposed a sentence of six months less three days of prison at the time. Laurencelle had turned herself in a few hours after the collision.

Gilles Gagné Commentary



The Mi'gmaqs of Sipekne'katik found a justifiable way to make Ottawa move

The situation seems to have calmed down a bit around the Mi'gmaq community of Sipekne'katik in Nova Scotia, where incidents around the native livelihood fisheries have made local, provincial, and national headlines since mid-September. However, in order to avoid a repetition of those incidents, negotiations will not only have to be conducted rapidly between the Natives and the federal government, they will have to yield results.

It is not only a Mi'gmaq issue. The Sipekne'katik battle pertains to the notion of "moderate livelihood," and the eventual agreement that will be reached will likely influence most Aboriginal communities in Canada, not only the ones having access to commercial and sustenance fisheries.

The moderate livelihood expression was referred to many times in September 1999 when the Supreme Court of Canada released what became known as the Marshall decision. The highest tribunal in the country acknowledged that Donald Marshall, a Mi'gmaq fisherman living in Membertou, a Cape Breton community, was entitled to start eel fishing and sell his catches in 1993, based on rights conferred by treaties reached in 1760 and 1761.

There is irony in the fact that those treaties are nowadays called "peace and friendship treaties" while they did about nothing to curtail violent conflicts, considering that European settlers kept claiming an increasing surface of land in the following decades.

When the Supreme Court issued the Marshall Decision, the judgement remained vague about the magnitude of what fishing and selling catches meant.

The fall of 1999 was also marked by violent incidents, mostly in New Brunswick around Burnt Church, where Native and Non-Native fishermen squared off over weeks. The extent of the incidents, which erupted in physical confrontations on the wharves, road blockades and boat burnings, was such that the Supreme Court of Canada came out with a second judgement in November of the same year.

Often called Marshall 2, the decision brought to the cause an important clarification. The Supreme Court added that the rights conferred by the treaties were not unlimited. It was therefore possible to regulate Indigenous fisheries and those regulations had to take into account public objectives, such as the protection of fish stocks. That decision meant that the federal department of Fisheries and Oceans was keeping control of stock protection.

In the following months, agreements were reached quickly with slightly over 20 Native communities of Eastern Canada, including the three Mi'gmaq communities of the Gaspé Peninsula and the Malécites of Viger, near Rivière-du-Loup. Burnt Church was among the few communities that opted for a longer battle with the authorities, which overlapped the summer of 2000, based on arguments that the Natives had not received enough.

At the time, the Marshall 2 decision was interpreted by most non-Indigenous fishermen as a way to force their Native counterparts to respect some form of regulation, notably regarding the Fisheries and Oceans Canada seasonal quotas when it is relevant and fishing rules regarding the number of traps, for example.

The Supreme Court made regular references in the decision to the expression "moderate livelihood" the modern version of "necessaries," the term used in the 1760-1761 treaties. So, the Mi'gmaqs could trade the wildlife catches for food, clothing and housing, and a few other amenities. An accumulation of wealth was not permitted in those treaties.

In November 1999, the court did not commit accurately defining moderate livelihood. Dwight Newman, a University of Saskatchewan expert in Indigenous rights said in an interview aired by CTV on October 20 that "we can critique them (Supreme Court judges) after the fact for that (the vagueness of moderate livelihood) but I think they hoped for negotiation between the federal government and the First Nations to give further definition to that."

As it is too often the case, the Canadian government chose wishful thinking, hoping that the definition of moderate livelihood would sort itself out. It did not happen and Ottawa must deal with crisis management, after weeks of violent acts that could have been avoided, acts that will further delay the necessary healing process and improved understanding that must characterize the relationship between non-natives and Natives.

It is therefore not surprising to see that the Mi'gmaq fishermen are trying to make forward steps in resolving a problem that has been dragging on for 21 years. The fact that they started their off-season lobster fisheries on September 17 was not a random choice. It was marking the 21st anniversary of the Marshall Decision.

As Sipekne'katik chief Mike Sack remarked many times over the last six weeks, considering that the federal government has not stepped in to negotiate the definition of moderate livelihood in 21 years, the Mi'gmaqs will define it themselves. They have been patient enough.

Canada's Natives are dealing with huge delays in about every stake they tackle to rightfully improve their daily lives.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is not the only one to blame here, far from that. He often has problems backing up his words with actions but he has been caught over the last five years with trying to make up for almost a decade of federal government indifference regarding the betterment of the First Nations' issues, courtesy of former Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

Jean Chrétien, who was prime minister in 1999, and his successor, Paul Martin, had not stood out in these matters either.

Although fishing off-season was probably not the first choice of Mi'gmaq fishermen over the years. They would surely have preferred reaching advantageous agreements regarding the definition of moderate livelihood, initiating controversial pressure means has often been the only way for them, as for other First Nations, to accelerate negotiations that would otherwise stagnate.

Who can blame them? Non-native fishermen have hardly lost anything after being forced to share their resources with Natives following the Marshall Decision. That sharing might also have raised everybody's awareness of the fact that fish stocks are not infinite.

First Nations stakeholders must also deal with a wide array of unresolved issues, sometimes issues that have been dragging for decades, like land claims. With a young population eager to improve its future, and considering that patience is not often the main characteristic of youth, the Sipekne'katik move in fisheries is perfectly understandable and justified. That's why inspired negotiations must now take place between the Mi'gmaqs and the federal government.



This picture was taken recently from a popular hiking/biking trail named the Kokopelli Trail. The trail follows a portion of the Colorado River. This view looking downstream is 20 miles west of Grand Junction, CO near the Utah border.

Diane Skinner's informative article in the October 21st Spec about the Juniper prompted me to send this e-mail.

In her article she points out there are over 50 different variants of the Juniper; what you see in the immediate foreground and in the distance, on the other side of the river, is the Utah Juniper. Very prevalent in this high desert environment. Some Junipers are estimated to be 800 plus years old.

Paul Currie-Mills
Grand Junction, CO

On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, we all will remember them. COVID-19 may have dampened some activities this November 11th but let us be proud of those young men and women who gave their lives so we can have our freedom today.

Many soldiers have grown old or may not be here, but they were the "legacy of heroes" from coast to coast and we must express full gratitude, lest we not forget. All these men and women had courage as they gave their lives to something bigger than oneself.

Not only on November 11th but throughout the year we should remember them as they gave us memories too beautiful to forget. Let's be thankful all Canadians for your service, your courage, your sacrifices and for our freedom. Thank you, Dad, and we hold that torch high for you for the many blessings and freedom you have given our family.

Ken Ross
New Carlisle



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COVID-19 numbers continue to increase, with Bonaventure MRC being the most affected area

Four additional casualties, total now reaches 27

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND – The number of new COVID-19 cases increased during the last week of October compared to the previous week in the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands. The Public Health Board reported 117 new cases, an average of almost 17 per day, between October 24 and 30 inclusively, nine more than the 108 of the previous week.

The last week of October was marked by four coronavirus-related deaths, two that were not linked to residents of seniors' homes, one that took the life of a resident of the New Carlisle Centre d'Accueil, and another one that claimed the life of a Gaspé hospital patient. So far, the coronavirus has killed 27 people in the region, nine in the first wave of the pandemic, and 18 in the second wave.

The Bonaventure MRC maintained the lead in the number of active cases during the last week of October, with 81 cases, three less than over the previous week. The number of active cases in the Avignon MRC fell drastically, from 67 to 25, while increases were reported in the Côte-de-Gaspé

MRC, from 25 to 39, and in the Percé Rock MRC, from 42 to 44.

The combined number of cases for the Haute Gaspésie MRC and for the Magdalen Islands increased a bit, from three to six. The distribution between the two areas remains unknown, as the Public Health Board doesn't provide exact numbers when the total is lower than five per MRC.

Overall, the number of active cases decreased during the week, from 221 on October 23 to 195 on October 30. The total number of cases since the beginning of the pandemic in March reached 903 for the region as of October 30, including 689 since September 1, which coincided with the start of the second wave. It represents a proportion of 76.3% of all COVID-19 cases since March. A bit over 500 cases were recorded in October.

The number of individuals who have recovered reached 681 on October 30.

The regional director of the Public Health Board, Dr. Yv Bonnier-Viger, thinks the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands situation is relatively stable but stresses that vigilance is still needed.

"We have made interventions in Bonaventure and they are still ongoing, in order to prevent a rising number of cases. People mainly develop symptoms five or six days after having been in contact with the virus, although it can go as long as 14 days. The situation seems under control in Bonaventure despite the number of active cases," he says.

The Paspébiac outbreak decreased slightly as of October 30, with 40 cases, down from the 42 cases of October 23 and from the peak of 50.

The shutdown of municipal services in Paspébiac and Port Daniel was still effective as of October 30.

Dr. Bonnier-Viger points out that the reopening of certain municipal services in New Richmond and Bonaventure, such as arenas and the pools, "made sense" considering that New Richmond's activities are in tune with the situation in Maria, which has improved greatly.

In fact, the Saint Joseph Residence outbreak was considered finished several days before the end of October. It ended with a total of 46 infected individuals, including 24 employees and 22 residents.

There were nine casualties as a result of that outbreak.

The outbreaks at the Manoir Lady Maria and at the Maria hospital were very stable during the last week of October. At Lady Maria, 41 employees and nine residents were infected but the outbreak was still considered active as of October 30. At the hospital, ten employees were infected as part of the outbreak that erupted at the end of September.

The situation at New Carlisle's Centre d'Accueil was not stable yet on October 30, as one additional employee and two residents were among the new cases that day, for a total of 13 staff and 13 residents.

The same day, the number of cases at the Gaspé hospital stood at six employees and less than five patients. At the Chandler hospital, less than five employees were infected while at the Mgr. Ross residence, the outbreak also affected less than five patients. The two latter outbreaks were announced during the last week of October by the Public Health Board.

Despite a rather low level of incidence in the Magdalen Islands and a clear improvement of the Avignon MRC situation, Dr. Bonnier-Viger could not

say on October 30 when the Quebec Department of Health will change the colour zones of those areas.

He was recommending a change from red to orange for the three Avignon municipalities (Nouvelle, Carleton-sur-Mer and Maria), that had willingly adopted the maximum alert colour code at the beginning of the month, and a modification of the Magdalen Islands code as well, from orange to yellow, considering that the island had gone several weeks without a new case.

"We are waiting for a decision (from provincial authorities). It would be the first time that a colour code has improved in Quebec. (...) I imagine that the communication strategists are thinking of the consequences it would have elsewhere in Quebec," he explains.

Regarding the effects of the big game hunting on the regional number of cases, Dr. Bonnier-Viger notes that "not that many cases were caused by that factor (hunting). Maybe there won't be many but there were already some. We can retrace them well though because they are always coming from the same place."

Le Garage gym affected by COVID-19

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - Struck by two cases of COVID-19, *Le Garage* gym in Gaspé is strengthening its sanitary measures, and resumed activities on October 30.

The co-owner, Marie-Helen Chouinard, points out that she followed Public Health and CNESST measures and that everything was in conformity, noting that she suspended activities on October 25 even though there was no such recommendation by Public Health.

Additional measures were taken on reopening. "We're going to shorten the training time to make sure no one crosses paths. We put squares on the floor and people cannot step out of them. There is no moving around," she says.

Ms. Chouinard took a COVID-19 test which came back negative. People have confided anonymously to SPEC that they presume having contracted the virus while



People working out at the *Le Garage* gym in Gaspé

Photo: N. Sergerie

associating with people who attended the gym. "We train a lot with our friends. There are some people who see each other outside the gym. We are not sure that it was really at the gym, where the people contracted the virus," replies the co-owner.

The *Le Garage* gym isn't the first gym to be hit by COVID-19 on the Coast. At the end of September, at least one

person who had attended the *Énergie Santé* gym in Chandler had tested positive for the coronavirus.

The contacts of the infected individual were contacted and an outbreak was prevented.

Once again, the Public Health Department had not recommended closing the facility, as the source had been fairly well defined.

Federal assistance for Gaspé museums

Nelson Sergerie

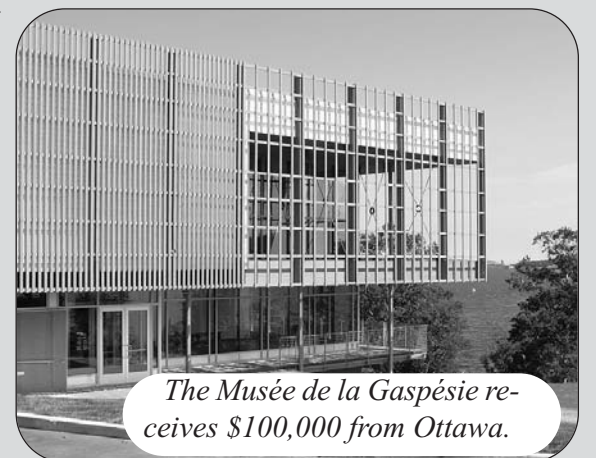
GASPÉ - Ottawa is providing \$371,000 to seven museums in the Gaspé to help those facilities deal with the financial impact of COVID-19.

In a virtual press briefing on October 23, the Heritage Minister, Steven Guilbeault, stressed that the aid will allow museums to continue operating. "These are organizations that have already received funding. We have just increased funds for financial losses related to COVID in recent months," says the minister.

The Musée de la Gaspésie will receive \$100,000, a welcomed help, according to its director, Martin Roussy. "This will help, for this

period, but even for the summer period and the one to come and will allow us to consider a balanced financial year end and that is already a lot," he stated.

Exploramer in Sainte-Anne-des-Monts received \$100,000, the Site historique du Banc-de-Paspébiac \$74,652 and Musée acadien du Québec in Bonaventure \$63,937. The Manoir Le Bouthillier in Gaspé received \$17,410, the Cascapedia River Museum will receive \$10,000 and the Bay Chaleur Military Museum in New Richmond will receive support of \$5,000.



The Musée de la Gaspésie receives \$100,000 from Ottawa.

Photo: N. Sergerie

Letters from the front: Captain Francis Maguire

Diane Skinner

Francis Maguire was born in New Carlisle in 1886. He was six years old when he and his family moved into the then recently constructed Maguire House which still stands proudly in New Carlisle. The Maguire family consisted of father Gordian, mother Isabel, Francis, brother Duncan and his sister Isabella who was born in the Maguire House in 1893. Isabella's son Frank Corbett is still living at an old age home near Quebec City and is 92 years old. Francis completed his degree at Loyola College in 1907 at the age of 21. By 1914 he was practicing law in New Carlisle when the First World War broke out. He enlisted right away in Quebec City and was eager to serve his country. Like many young men of the time he was searching for a great adventure.

When Captain Francis Maguire was fighting in the trenches in Europe, he wrote numerous letters home to his family in New Carlisle. These letters tell about his journey across the Atlantic Ocean on the HMS Scotian, his training in England and his experiences while in combat in France.

Tragically, Francis was killed at the age of 30 by a German sniper while trying to help a friend who had been wounded. He is buried somewhere in France. His father Gordian Maguire died of a broken heart, what we now might call severe depression, caused by the death of his son. He shut himself off from the family, spending his time locked in his office in the Maguire House, the room now known as the den. The maids would leave his meals outside the door for him.

Here are excerpts from a few of the letters sent home by Francis to his family on the Gaspé. Thank you to the Royal Canadian Legion in New Carlisle for allowing Spec to read a copy of the over 50 letters written by Francis between 1914 and 1916 which are stored there.

(In the first letter Francis tells his family about how and why he enlisted.)

*H. M. S. Scotian,
Gaspé Harbour,
Oct. 4, 1914*

Dear Father,

You will be surprised to hear that I am on my way to Europe with the 12th. Battal-



When the First World War broke out, Captain Francis Maguire (left) born in New Carlisle in 1886, enlisted in Quebec City. Tragically, his family would never see him again.

ion. I got a chance with a good company when I got to Quebec and could not resist. Once accepted I was sent down to the Scotian and cut off from all communication with the world. We are 1050 men on board besides the crew. There are in Gaspé Harbour at present 29 Transports with 32,000 men apart from 4 Battleships. It makes a magnificent sight. Our destination is still unknown to us, but it is said to be Aldershot and thence to France. It was very fine when we left Quebec. The band was playing "It's A Long Way to Tipperary" and "The Girl I Left Behind Me" and the boys all joined in.

If you wish to write me, address me "Frank Maguire, C Company, 12th. Battalion, Canadian Contingent. I will try and mail this before leaving Gaspé and then will write

you again from England.

Give my love to Isabel and with love to yourself, believe me,

*Your affectionate son,
Frank*

(This letter, written almost two years later while in the thick of battle.)

Field, July 24, 1916.

Dear Mother,

I was more than glad to get your letter of July 5th. You cannot realize how good it is to get some mail. So, your letters are more than welcome. If I do not answer at length you will understand that it is because there is not much to write about which can be censored and that I have a "war" on my hands. I thank you very much for your good prayers which have pulled me through so well. I am glad to say that the Colonel has strongly rec-

ommended me for honours. Whether I shall get them or not is a different question. Things have been pretty strenuous here lately. I suppose it is not indiscreet of me to say we are holding the apex of the Ypres Salient and have been doing so since I returned to France. As I am writing this a battery is firing over us and it is most disconcerting to use a mild word. Tell Isabel, please, a little more detail in her local news. I shall write Duncan tomorrow if possible.

*Sincerely yours and
with love to you both,
Francis*

(This third letter was written just before Francis was killed, so the family received it well after hearing news of his death.)

Field, Sept. 15, 1916

Dear Mother,

I am so sorry not to have written you for such a long time but really, we have had no rest at all of late. Things are going beautifully down here at the Somme and we are pushing the Boche back with great regularity, but you have no idea what a gigantic task it is. He has been fortifying his position here for a year and a half and it is wonderful how difficult it is to dislodge him. I had no idea what dugouts were till I saw some of the German's. Without exaggeration, you have, in most cases, to go down two long flights of stairs to get to the bottom) and one headquarter dug out I saw contained beautiful furniture, including a piano and billiard table, electric light, wallpaper etc.

So, you can have some idea

how difficult it is to dislodge him from trenches such as these, but we are doing it.

The sad part is the loss of so many friends. I lost my best friend last Friday when the 2nd took 550 yds of trench and about 125 prisoners. The remainder died the death. His name was Bishop.

Another good friend of mine has left for Canada to be instructor of bombing. He will in all probability visit New Carlisle. Will you do your best to make things pleasant for him? He has been with us for over a year and is a good fellow, but is wild as a March hare. Name Harry Strathy. Very good family from Toronto. Profession, Stockbroker.

I was so sorry to read in yesterday's paper about the fall of the Bridge at Quebec. Is it not too bad? I have been getting lots of papers from you recently. Thanks.

If Isabel is on speaking terms with Mrs. Harris tell her to tell the latter that her cousin, Lieut. John Pringle, of this Battalion, was killed last Saturday during an assault on the German trenches. His company was being swept by machine gun fire and could not advance, when Pringle ran forward and jumped on the German parapet and emptied five shots from his revolver into the German crew, putting the gun out of action, when he was shot through the heart. His father is one of our chaplains.

It is getting dark and I shall have to close as I have no light.

*Love to Isabel and yourself
Francis*

The Honourable Diane Lebouthillier
Member of Parliament
Gaspésie—Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine

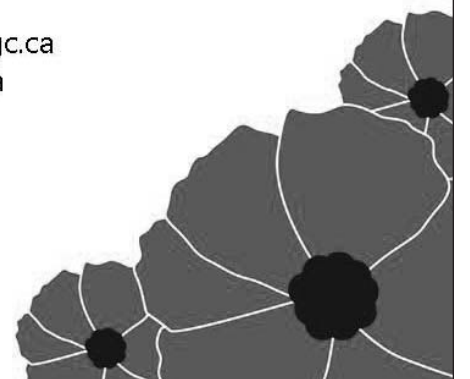
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Website : DLebouthillier.Liberal.ca

- lebouthillierd
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Remembrance Day 2020

On Remembrance Day 2020 – the year we mark the 75th anniversary of the end of WWII – we honour, recognise and remember all veterans, including those who served in WW II. We also acknowledge the sacrifice made by families on the homefront.



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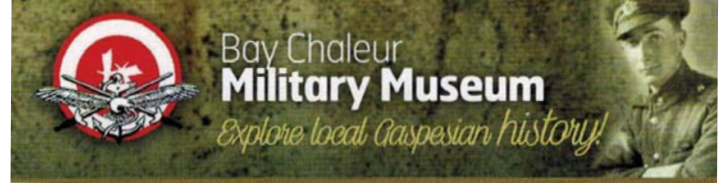


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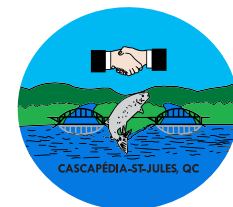
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Understanding Red Zone Restrictions

Full alert!

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.

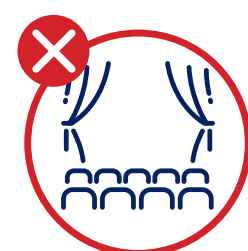


Votre
gouvernement



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 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 students at all times in common 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](https://quebec.ca/alertlevels)

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

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diane

A memorable night: A young lad and a Nazi spy

Diane Skinner

A few years ago, The Gaspé Spec published a letter about an incident that happened during World War II on the Gaspé, in the town of New Carlisle. This actually happened to Ralph Astles, now 93 years old and living in Toronto. At the time he was a young teenager and one night he had this terrifying and memorable experience. Mr. Astles still recalls every detail about that night clearly.

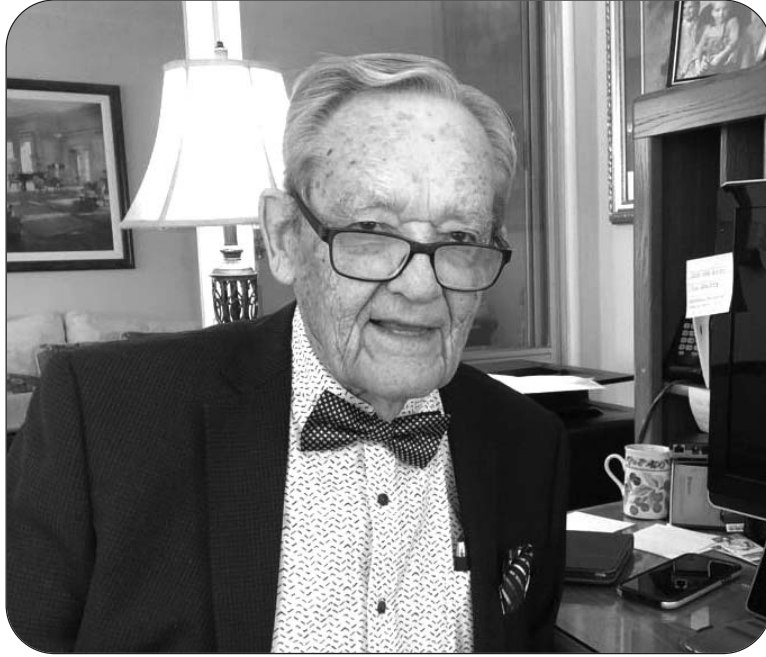
Mr. Astles recounted "I was in the Reserve Army at age 15. It was, I believe 1942. About eight years ago Maclean's magazine published an article on that very subject. The title was The spy who came in on the waters. I will tell you my story because I was there the night he got off the submarine.

At about 11 p.m. an army truck came flying into the yard. A soldier hammered on our door and said 'The Germans have landed. Come quick.' I said to my father, Mansfield, 'Come with me.' He said, 'You got into this. Go yourself.' So, I grabbed my gun, put a bullet in and the bayonet on the end. I then walked down the street, scared to death. Even if my best friend had jumped in front of me, I would have shot him, I was so scared. Then the army truck picked me up and raced all over town trying to stop every car to find a German. So, the driver dropped me on the main street, near the old Bank of Nova Scotia. I was scared and thought that if the Germans had landed, they would come up that street. Then the truck picked me and some other reservists up and delivered us to the beach, near the harbour at that time.

They found my brother, Willie, and brought him to the beach also. It was the middle of the night, so he sat down on a log and fell asleep. We stayed there until approximately 5 a.m. Next day we found out that a spy had left a submarine on the Bay of Chaleur and had given himself up.

So, we went down to the jail to see him. He spoke good English and was friendly to us. He said he was happy to be a prisoner in Canada. I told him we were patrolling the beach last night and we did not see him. He said I saw you guys. I told him he was lucky we didn't see him, because we were so scared, we would have shot at anything that moved."

When Spec spoke with Mr.



Photos: Courtesy Ralph Astles

Ralph Astles, now 93 years of age, clearly remembers that night 78 years ago!

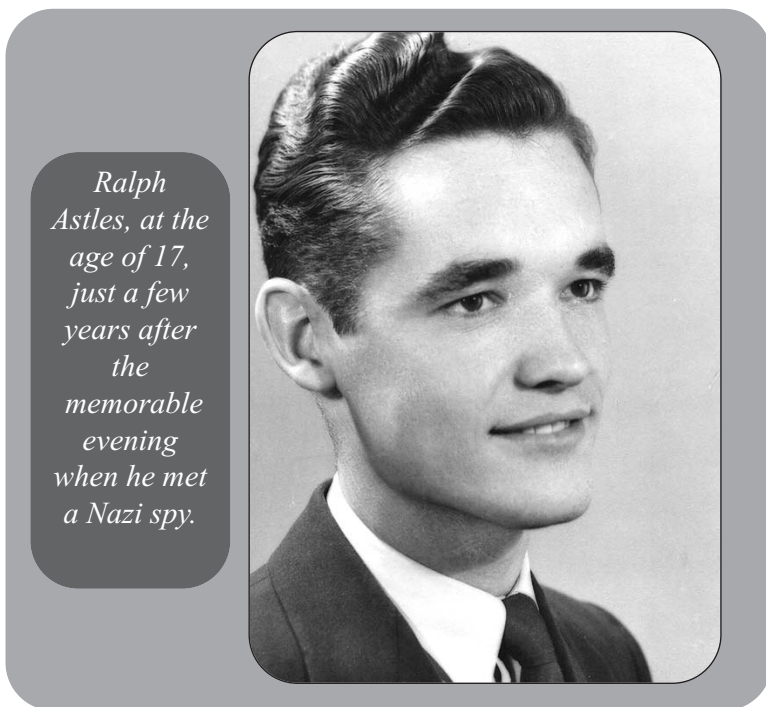
Astles recently, he recalls how well the German spy, Werner Von Janowski, spoke in English. He adds that at the time he thought that Mr. Janowski wanted to be caught. Mr. Astles is correct because the captive became the R.C.M.P.'s first double agent. Some believe he was, in fact, a triple agent who then reported back to the Germans. As it turns out, Janowski provided little helpful information to the R.C.M.P.

Mr. Astles still wonders how Janowski convinced his fellow crew members to drop him off and why? Mr. Astles was a very brave young man that evening and what a memorable experience to have at the

age of 15. Now, 78 years later we can just imagine how he may have felt on that cold night on the shores of the Bay of Chaleur.

After the German was captured, the Canadian military tried to locate the German submarine in which Janowski had arrived. A warship, the HMCS Burlington and the Royal Canadian Air Force searched the area but were unable to locate the submarine. Janowski was sent to England where he was held until the end of the war.

Searching for and meeting a Nazi spy 78 years ago was an unforgettable experience for Ralph Astles.



Ralph Astles, at the age of 17, just a few years after the memorable evening when he met a Nazi spy.

This Was My Brother

- Diane Skinner



The poem *This was my brother* was written by Mona Gould after her brother Howard was killed in the Battle of Dieppe, August 1942. Mona Gould is a Canadian poet, born in Saskatchewan, but she spent most of her life in Ontario. She worked as a reporter, journalist, and broadcaster but writing poetry was her passion. She wrote *This Was My Brother*, and it became her most famous poem. She lived to be 91, and though she had poor eyesight she wrote a poem every day until the day before her death.

*This was my brother
At Dieppe,
Quietly a hero
Who gave his life
Like a gift,
Withholding nothing.
His Youth...his love...
His enjoyment of being alive.
His future, like a book
With half the pages still uncut.
This was my brother
At Dieppe.
The one who built me a doll house
When I was seven.
Complete to the last small picture frame.
Nothing forgotten.
He was awfully good at fixing things,
At stepping into the breach when he was needed.
That is what he did at Dieppe;
He was needed.
And even death must have been a little shamed
At his eagerness.*

The Battle of Dieppe (also known as Operation Jubilee) was an amphibious attack on the port of Dieppe, in northern France which was occupied by the Germans during the Second World War. Over 6,000 infantries, most of them Canadian with tanks as backup, were put ashore. The attack began at 5:00 a.m. and by 11:00 the Allied commanders had to retreat. More than 6,000 men were involved and of those almost 60% were either wounded, killed, or captured. Brave souls.

Quiet heroes who gave their life like a gift, withholding nothing. We shall not forget.



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Maguire House: A Grand Victorian Home

Diane Skinner

The Maguire House at 13 Notre-Dame in New Carlisle is an exquisite example of Victorian architecture. Victorian architecture refers to a style of house that was built between 1830 and 1910, during the reign of Queen Victoria.

Built in 1892, this house displays many of the classic features of that style. Victorian architecture is characterized by lots of decorative trim both interior and exterior, is large with an imposing roofline and many gables and a gorgeous wrap around porch. Betty Le Maistre and her husband are the current owners, it has been in Betty's family since 1952, and it is currently for sale. Speaking to Betty about the house, it is evident that this house and its memories are very cherished.

Betty Le Maistre can recall peeking in the windows of the house in 1952 with her family when they were considering buying it. Her father had left his position as manager of Robin, Jones and Whitman store in Paspébiac and was about to start his managerial job at the former Caldwell store. Betty tells us, "Most of our friends were very discouraging about the condition of the house (68 years ago). It needed a complete renovation, was the story we heard. Once we had gone through the house its condition seemed no longer a problem. We moved in that summer and have loved the house ever since."

The history of the house is fascinating but walking through it today gives you a real sense of the grandeur of

this home. Photos do not do it justice. The high ceilings and crown mouldings are lovely authentic Victorian touches. You can just imagine the maids, so many years ago using the back staircase, soldiers standing at the bar during WWII, elegant family suppers and the families relaxing in the living room while reading. You can imagine the Côté family playing tennis there 100 years ago on a warm Gaspesian summer's day.

Whoever buys this house will also be continuing the 128-year history of this grand home. It will be the next chapter in the history of the Maguire House. Imagine sitting on the verandah sipping on lemonade or relaxing in the peaceful retreat of the "Secret Garden."



Photos: Diane Skinner



A Partial History of Maguire House

1852

The 10-acre property was bought by Francis Gordian Maguire, a young lawyer from Quebec City.

1892

Construction began on the current house, at an estimated cost of \$20,000.

1914 – 1917

The eldest Maguire son, also named Francis, was killed overseas during World War II and buried somewhere in France.

1917

Francis Gordian Maguire was severely depressed after the death of his son. He shut himself off from the family, spending his time locked in his office, what is now the den, and the maids would

leave his meals outside the door. Mrs. Maguire decided to return to Quebec City (where she was originally from) and rented the house.

The house was rented to Pierre-Émile Côté, who was a Federal Member of Parliament and a Deputy in the Provincial government.

1920

Maguire House was sold to Mr. Côté.

1920 – 1930s

Various improvements were made to the house. These include the addition of a large verandah on the west side, a water reservoir and pipeline, and electricity was installed.

1939 -1945

The house became the regional headquarters of the Re-

serve army, as the Côté family decided to remain in Quebec City most of the year. Heavy "battleship" linoleum was installed throughout the house.

A bar (which is still there today) and a washroom were constructed next to the living room. Locks were added to most of the bedroom doors.

1945

The house was sold to the Chaleur Autobus Company.

1952

The house stood vacant for several years and then was bought by the Le Maistre family. Cost was \$8,500.

1958 – 1959

During the winter, the water pipes froze, and the family made do by carrying containers of water brought by horse and sleigh.

1962

C.P. Le Maistre died, leaving the house to his wife Rose Nelson Le Maistre. She took in boarders but after a few winters she decided that the winters were too harsh for her. At times she was isolated for days after a big snowfall. At first, she would spend the summer at the house but eventually moved in with her daughter Betty Le Maistre in Montreal. She died in 1975.

The house and property passed to her daughter, Betty, the current owner.

1977 – 1980

The main house got a new roof; new wiring was installed in the kitchen and the front verandah was replaced.

1997

Additional renovations in the

kitchen and bathrooms, including the discovery of a fireplace in the kitchen that had been covered up.

2001

The remains of an old structure on the east side of the property, which is believed to have been the first building on the site was cleared and painted. It is known to the family as the "Secret Garden." The remains of that building revealed dovetail construction methods that tell us its history likely goes back to Loyalist times.

2003

Electric heating was installed throughout, replacing the old hot water heating.

2006

A new roof was installed.

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Gaspé Cancer Foundation

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dress 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.

YORK:

ACW Christmas Sale

Please note that due to the Covid-19 situation, the York ACW Christmas sale and tea that was scheduled for November 21 has been cancelled.

ST-GEORGES-DE-MALBAIE:

All Saints by the Sea

St. James Anglican Church, Cape Cove, Quebec: Our Story 1875-2011, recently published, 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 communities 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, G0C 2X0. 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 infor-

mation, 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 25 are: Line Appleby, Claude Nadeau, Hugo Cyr, Charlie Deziel, Emilie Leblanc, Marie-Andrée Toupin and Alek

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Sunday, November 1

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11 a.m. Holy Eucharist and Liturgy of Remembrance

On the lighter side...



THE PRICE OF ANYTHING IS THE AMOUNT OF LIFE YOU EXCHANGE FOR IT.



Guess Who?

I am a singer born in Texas on September 16, 1992. I was discovered by a manager and began performing on Broadway as a child. Together with my brothers, I am part of a successful pop group.

Answer: Nick Jonas

high energy inspire you to be a go-getter in the week ahead. They may be on to something, and you can benefit from the extra hop in your step.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18
Even though change is good, it isn't always comfortable, Aquarius. Transitions in your life may feel a bit challenging this week, but surround yourself with support.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
Dreams may have you tossing and turning, Pisces. Just remember that dreams are not necessarily indicative of what's to come. Rest easy.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- NOVEMBER 8**
Gordon Ramsay, Chef (54)
NOVEMBER 9
Chris Jericho, Wrestler (50)
NOVEMBER 10
Zoey Deutch, Actress (26)
NOVEMBER 11
Demi Moore, Actress (58)
NOVEMBER 12
Anne Hathaway, Actress (38)
NOVEMBER 13
Julia Michaels, Singer (27)
NOVEMBER 14
Moriah Elizabeth, Entrepreneur (26)

HOROSCOPES

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, balancing work and family is important. Sometimes one or the other should take priority. Communicate often and openly about your needs.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, the stars are putting out some strong energy that can keep you grounded when you face adversity this week. You will stay calm and focused.

GEMINI – May 22/June 21

Others may be making certain assumptions about you lately, Gemini. Their intentions are good, so don't hesitate to reach out and lend them an ear.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, your life is going to start to equalize a bit. That means you can feel more relaxed, healthy and balanced. This is a great time to examine relationships and make plans.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23

Glowing compliments reach your ears, Leo. You will finally learn how much others respect you. Take the spotlight with grace and remain as composed as possible.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Planning an event or party will be lots of fun for you, Virgo. All the details are in order and you are a master of timing. Others may enlist your help, too.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, now is your time to encourage others to turn their goals into reality. You're a positive force in the lives of so many people, and others recognize that.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, it may not be apparent to you, but you often make a very good role model. You tend to be driven and organized, and young people in your life can learn much from you.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21
Sometimes it's a battle between two sides within you, Sagittarius. Your patient and impatient sides might be at war this week. Take a step back and reconsider your approach.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, let someone with

Spice Pumpkin Cake

- 1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter, at room temperature, plus more for the pan
- 3 cups all-purpose flour, spooned and levelled, plus more for the pan
- 5 teaspoons pumpkin pie spice
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 3/4 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1 1/2 cups granulated sugar
- 3 large eggs
- 1 15-ounce can pumpkin puree
- 1/2 cup whole milk
- 1/4 cup molasses
- 1 1/4 cups confectioners' sugar
- 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice



Heat oven to 350°F. Butter and flour a 12-cup bundt pan. In a large bowl, whisk together the flour, pumpkin pie spice, baking powder, baking soda, and salt.

Using an electric mixer, beat the butter and granulated sugar on medium-high heat until fluffy, 2 to 3 minutes. One at a time, beat in the eggs. Beat in the pumpkin puree, milk, and molasses (the mixture may appear curdled). Reduce the mixer speed to low; gradually add the flour mixture and mix until just combined (do not overmix).

Pour the batter into the prepared pan and bake until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean, 55 to 65 minutes. Let cool in the pan for 30 minutes, then invert onto a wire rack to cool completely.

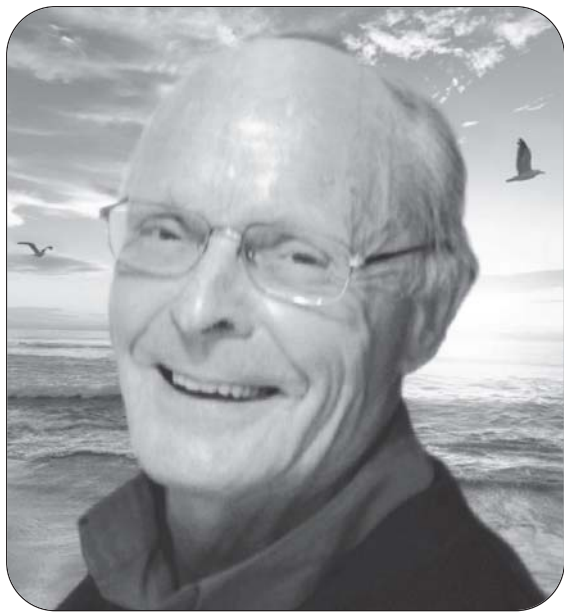
In a small bowl, whisk together the confectioners' sugar and lemon juice until smooth. Drizzle over the cake. Let set before serving.

- Tip: This cake can be baked and glazed up to one day in advance. Store, covered at room temperature.

Announcements...



Obituary



LE GRESLEY: John Francis

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of John Francis Le Gresley at the age of 92.

He was predeceased by his parents Mary Florence Cooke and Francis John Le Gresley and brother and best friend Peter.

He leaves behind his beloved children Faye, Gary (Manon), Bryan (Jocelyne) and Karen (Réjean); his grandchildren Sara, Meredith, Julie, Alain, Maryse, Catherine, Geneviève, Christophe, Emilie and Jessica and nine great-grandchildren.

John had a varied career, including a brief period as a radio announcer, in private business and in the fishing industry, as plant manager and international consultant. Outside the family his biggest commitment was to the Anglican churches between New Richmond and Port Daniel. At the age of 16 he became a lay reader, then a deacon, serving until his unofficial retirement approximately three years ago. He was a strong advocate for ecumenicalism; one of his greatest pleasures working with the clergy and congregations of other denominations. Animals were al-

ways close to his heart and on numerous occasions he explored the possibility of establishing an SPCA on the Coast.

Donations, should you wish to do so, may be made in his memory to the Saint Andrew's Anglican Church in New Carlisle.

A memorial service will be held in the summer of 2021.



In Memory

MILLER: Austin

In loving memory of my dear husband who died November 8, 1991.

*Always a smile, never a frown,
Always a hand when one was down.
Always true, faithful and kind,
Wonderful memories he left behind.*

Mary

REHEL: George

October 16, 1988, 32nd Anniversary
There is a special place in my heart for him:

*There's a special kind of feeling
When I think about you, Dad,
It's a pleasure to remember.*

*All the happy times we had
There's a special kind of caring
That is meant for you alone.*

*There's a place somewhere within my heart
That only you can own.*

Missing you always, your daughter, Helena.

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Collections

Diane Skinner

"There is happiness from adding a new find to the collection, the excitement of the hunt, the social aspect when sharing (and showing) the collection." Gail Vaz- Oxlade

Having a collection can be a lifelong hobby, such as stamp collecting which Lewis Smollett began when he was just 12 years old and has enjoyed ever since. Why is collecting so popular? For many it is possessing something beautiful or historically significant. While others enjoy "the hunt." Most collectors will light up when telling you when and where they acquired an item in their collection. Collections reflect the person's history as well. Perhaps they got some of their collection as a gift or found a treasure at a yard sale. Most collectors can recall exactly how and when the item came into their possession.

Collections may contain valuable items, but not necessarily, and most collectors are on the lookout for other items to add. Some collect just for the beauty of the items, such as Arianne Arsenault's lovely heart-shaped beach stones.

Collecting is a hobby or pastime which can often tell us about the collector and what they enjoy or value. For most collectors it is a relaxing pursuit of the unusual, meaningful, and unique.

The most popular collections include stamps, coins, vinyl records, vintage comic books, old toys such as metal Hot Wheels, and trading cards. Why not start a collection? Choose something you would enjoy collecting. In a lot of collections, the items have been recycled and even rescued from going into landfills. Collecting can be an appreciation of times gone by - an homage to the past.



Coal oil lamps

Nicky Kosman has been collecting antique, and some newer, coal oil lamps for about 15 years. He mentions that he likes old things including antique tools. Collecting coal oil lamps started about 15 years ago when he bought his first lamp at a garage sale for five dollars. He owns 11 now but would like to collect more. He does not burn them but displays them on two long shelves. When asked if he has a favourite he replies, "All of them! Each one has a history."



Sea Glass

Ruth Flowers Goyette has been collecting sea glass for about ten years. When asked how much she has in her collection she replies, "A lot!" She adds I have many bags and containers filled with sea glass and one day she plans to make a small sidewalk to her garden with her sea glass. Her favourite colour is blue glass, but she also keeps yellow, turquoise, purple, and orange pieces in a bowl she calls "special edition." The best times to find sea glass is after a storm and in the spring and she comments that she always finds at least one of the "little jewels" when walking on the beach. Ruth loves her collection because of the beauty of it and the history she imagines. She owns a book, Sea Glass Journey by Terry Hall, which she consults regularly to see what the glass may have been originally.



Nativity Sets

Rose McColm Roussy was given her first nativity set about 35 years ago and started to collect sets over the last 25 years. She owns around 20 sets and comments, "I don't have as many as at Saint Joseph's Oratory. They have thousands in their collection, from all over the world." She finds sets at garage sales and when travelling and the last one she bought was while travelling in Croatia. Her favourite is the first set her sister Eva gave her. Rose's daughters loved to play with it and she and her daughter Julie made a Creche for it and now her grandsons play with it. She mentions a lamb in her favourite set who has a broken leg and every year it needs to be mended. This lamb says Rose, "Has a special place in our hearts."

Sheep

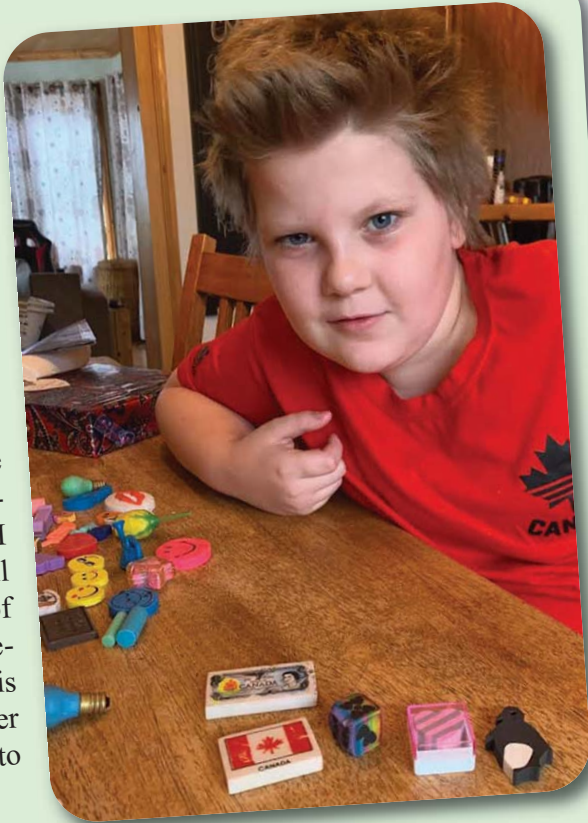


Lucille Murray has always loved sheep and started to collect them about 30 years ago. Some are gifts from friends and family. Why sheep? Lucille says, "Contrary to what they have been described as stupid, defenseless and harmless animal, they are actually highly intelligent, with impressive memory and recognition skills. They are very gentle, soft, and cuddly. Her collection is small, about 15 sheep, but each one is meaningful. Her favourite sheep are two given to her by her parents. Lucille reflects, "When Dad passed away in 2010, I inherited one of the sheep and when Mom passed away in 2018, I received the other sheep. These sheep are a very tangible memory I can hold in my arms." Each sheep has a heartwarming memory, she says, attached to a friend, her family, or a travel souvenir that she holds dear to her heart and mind.

Collections

Erasers

Axl Major, age 9, found his mom's childhood collection of erasers about two years ago. He asked her if he could keep them and so he started collecting too. Axl thought the collection was cool and fun to look at and play with. He likes to take them out and sort them by colour and type. He has about 90 erasers! His favourites are a penguin, a heart in a little box and the Canadian flag. Is he planning to add more to his collection? "It depends if I see ones that I like, I like them to be special." Axl also collects marbles with the help of his brothers. He likes collecting because it is something to do when he is bored. He also owns a cassette eraser and says, "that's what music used to be played on way before Spotify."



Black china cups and saucers

Thelma Day has a unique collection of black china teacups. She owns 12 and has been collecting for over 20 years. She used to work at a seniors' home and set up for "afternoon teas" in their Victorian style living room. At the time she avoided putting them on the table because of their colour and Thelma says, "They were left out." Thelma appreciated their unique beauty and so began her own collection. She hunts for the special cups at thrift shops, garage sales and some are given to her by family and friends. Her favourites are the cups with bright orange flowers inside. Thelma is not searching for more, but if she sees one at a reasonable price, she will buy it. She uses them occasionally - appropriately for Halloween Teas! Have a look at Thelma's blog: Thelma-day.blogspot.com

Miniature cups

Elaine Almond has an exquisite collection of miniature teacups artistically displayed. The mini cups (or demi-tasse) collection was first inherited from her mother and her husband's aunt. Since then she has added to her collection and has received others as gifts from friends. Elaine owns 11 tiny cups, as well as two mini teapots and three darling little milk jugs. Elaine mentions a cup that is imprinted with a photo of Paspebiac beach, one of New Carlisle wharf and another with a photo of Sugarloaf Mountain in New Brunswick. She can tell you the story behind how she acquired each cup. Elaine says her cups are a "link to the past and a way to keep a tangible, positive memory - a connection to the people I loved so much and meant so much to me."



Buttons

Judy Connors has been collecting buttons for as long as she can remember but has increased the pace in the last five years. She has over 2000 buttons and has used many and passed some others to her daughter Amelia who has a career in costume design. Judy started collecting because she was handed a tin of them to keep her busy when she was a child visiting her aunt Bella. She recalls being fascinated with the tin and the buttons as they were so different, small and could be manipulated easily. "I remember arranging them according to colour, naturally, but also shapes and finish. The fancier, the better - pearls, glass, and beaded." She is still adding to her collection. Several years ago, she found, in a store in Bonaventure, numerous priceless vintage buttons on their original cardboard display with the original price and store name. In that "stash" were exceedingly rare original button fastener loops, some velour from the early 1900s! These are collector's pieces, much needed by museums for textile restoration projects. "I will donate them someday!"

Heart-shaped stones

Arienne Arsenaault has been collecting stones for the last three years. She started because she loves nature and picking treasures on the beach. She says it brings her, "pleasure, joy and relaxation." She has never counted her heart shaped stones, but she adds that she never has enough of them. She does not have a favourite stone but loves all of them. They are displayed throughout her house. When she walks on the beach, she always finds at least one heart shaped stone or some sea glass. She concludes, "I smile every time I find one."

