

The Gaspé Spec

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Now this is a Fort!



CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES: The mastermind behind this huge endeavour, was Dominic Poulin De Courval, his wife Jenna Boudreau, and their two daughters Callie and Tessa.

- Elaine Sexton



Have you built, constructed, sculpted or designed an exceptional winter creation? If you'd like to share your creation with Spec readers, please send your photo to specs@globetrotter.net Please include the full names of those in the photo, along with a brief description of the creation, including which town it was built in.

More protected land near Forillon

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ - 36 additional hectares (86 acres) have been added to the protected ecological corridor west of Forillon Park, north of the Saint-Majorique sector, in Gaspé.

These four acquisitions of private land by the Nature Conservancy of Canada at a cost of \$284,000 bring the protected area to 207 hectares.

This area is under pressure by housing construction and Route 197. The territory is essentially forested, and home to, among others, groves of balsam fir, white spruce and balsam poplar, characteristic of the region.

The purchase connects the park to the east and public lands to the west.

"What is important is to ensure that there is a suitable natural environment on the other side of the road. When animals cross, it can be a risk. We are in communication with the Department of Transport. Perhaps it would be good to announce the location of certain ecological corridors," comments the project manager, Camille Bolduc.

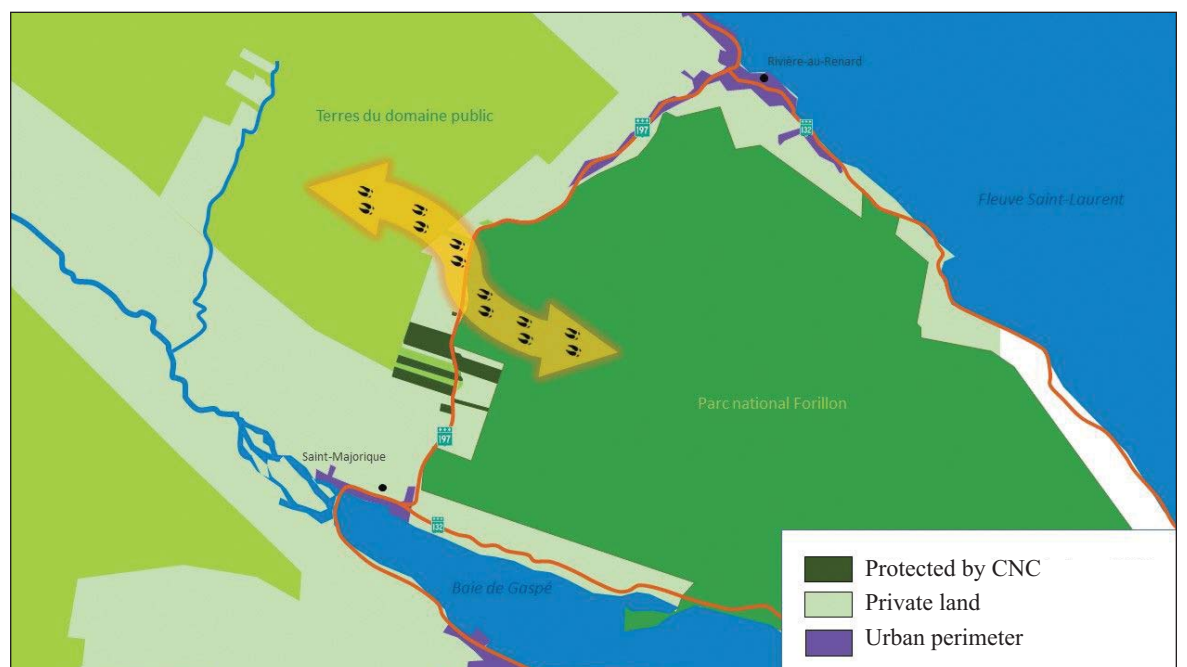
"I had decided to sell my land, an estate that had been

in my family for over 30 years, since I no longer had the time or the resources to take care of it. I thought I would sell it to another individual, but considering the Nature Conservancy of Canada's proposal to preserve it so that future generations could also benefit from it, I saw only benefits. I now have all the peace of mind I could possibly want," Explains Jérémie Gagné, owner of one of the four lands acquired by CNC.


Bear, moose, lynx and martens can be found in this area. The Canada lynx, for example, must have access to an area of at least 70 square kilometres in order to ensure its survival, which it cannot find only within the limits of Forillon Park, so it must be able to move towards forested environments further west.

Photo 1: This map illustrates the ecological corridor between Forillon and public lands.

Photo 2: Part of the ecological corridor linking Forillon and public lands.



Photos: Courtesy



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- * Wash your hands regularly
- * Avoid travel to other regions and non-essential trips
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Spring will be early, according to Fred, the Gaspé groundhog

Nelson Sergerie

VAL-D'ESPOIR - The Gaspé groundhog, Fred, did not see his shadow at dawn on February 2. This means that spring will be early. "Fred predicts that spring in Quebec will be early. It means that there are new days coming, spring is coming, the snow will melt. The restaurants will open. The world will be happy to return to a normal life," says Groundhog Day organizer and Fred spokesperson Roberto Blondin.

As is customary, seeing no shadow, means winter should be over in six weeks.

Each year, 300 to 500 people gather in front of the steps of the Val-d'Espoir church to see the famous groundhog, however, due to the pandemic, no spectators were allowed on the site in order to respect the instructions issued by the regional public health.

"In terms of culture, there are virtual shows. We too have adapted, but we hope that next year, there will be children, songwriters and people qui mange des crêpes," says Mr. Blondin, while the event was broadcast via the internet and on local community TV.

It was Fred's 12th predic-



Roberto Blondin listens to Fred's prediction

Photo: N. Sergerie

tion. He has an average of 76% since the start of his career.

Controversy over Fred

Host and comedian Guy A. Lepage lashed out at Fred on social media.

"Are you getting hold of the groundhog?" wrote the host of the program *Tout le monde en parle* on the French network of Radio-Canada, expressing his disdain for the activity that is making Val-d'Espoir the talk throughout Quebec.

"It appealed to me and I wanted to correct the facts,"

says Minister of the National Assembly for Gaspé, Méganne Perry-Mélançon, who replied to the host.

Ms. Perry-Mélançon noted that little is mentioned about the region in the national media. "How much news do we hear from major centres? I think we are entitled to this moment of glory year after year in the Gaspé."

The MNA highlighted Groundhog Day in Val-d'Espoir in the statement of elected officials on February 3 to the National Assembly.

Request to quash the mayor of Chandler's suspension heard on February 15

Nelson Sergerie

CHANDLER - The court is postponing the hearing of the two appeals of the mayoress of Chandler who wants to overturn her 180-day suspension imposed by the Commission municipale du Québec. A management conference was scheduled to be held on February 4 rather than the 12, but it was postponed to February 15.

It was agreed between Louise Langlois' attorney and those of the Commission to consolidate the file into a single appeal and the Town of Chandler again becomes a stakeholder as planned in the first case. The court will have to rule on the authorization to merge the appeals. Subsequently, the parties must produce a brief and develop a hearing schedule.

In addition to her suspension, Louise Langlois is calling for the annulment of the October 9 decision relating to the request for a stay of proceedings and to contest the notice of hearing on sanctions which had been dismissed by Judge Sandra Bilodeau of the Municipal Commission. The case will be heard by the Superior Court in Montreal.

Storm dumps 59 cm on Gaspé

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - Snowfalls amounted to 59 centimetres in Gaspé and 40 to 50 centimetres in the New Carlisle area on February 2 and 3. This is Environment Canada's assessment of the biggest storm to hit the Gaspé this year.

"Sometimes it got mixed up with a little rain and a little sleet. It may be that the totals are lower in terms of snow. But there was so much snow that the ice storm had little impact," explains meteorologist Simon Legault of Environment Canada. Environment Canada had forecast 20 to 35 centimetres for the Bay of Chaleur area, 35 to 50 centimetres for the Chandler region, and 50 to 65 centimetres for Gaspé. On February 3, several roads were closed, along with schools and businesses.

A record month of January

In addition, Gaspé experienced the warmest January in its history. With an average of -6.1 degrees, that's 5.5 degrees above the seasonal normal of -11.6 degrees. "When you start talking about a 1 to 2 degree difference, it's still pretty significant. But here we are talking about five degrees. We had less precipitation. It's a type of winter that we're not very used to," states Brigitte Bourque of Environment Canada. Only 68 of the 80 centimetres normally expected fell on Gaspé. There was 29 centimetres on the ground, in comparison to the usual amount of 42 centimetres.

Police report

Getting caught by the police when going too fast is usually costly. A 31-year-old man from Sainte-Anne-des-Monts learned it the hard way on January 22. At approximately 7 a.m., he was intercepted by police driving at 200 kilometres per hour in a 90 km/hr zone of Highway 132 in Cap-Chat. The driver received a speeding ticket of \$1,988, including fees and he lost 24 demerit points. The man's driving licence was suspended immediately for seven days, as it is the rule for excessive speeding cases. Two children were passengers in the vehicle.

Jean Aubuchon, 29, from the Montreal area, will be remanded in custody until his next court appearance on February 8 at the Percé courthouse, as he faces charges of aggravated assault (the weapon being his car), hit and run, dangerous driving, car theft, mischief on two vehicles and obstruction in the work of police officers. According to Sûreté du Québec spokesperson Sgt. Claude Doiron, the situation started on January 30 in the Rivière-au-Renard area when the suspect almost hit a police officer with his car, triggering a police chase.

The suspect allegedly drove his vehicle dangerously in the curvy and hilly section of Highway 132 in Rivière-au-Renard. "At one point, the suspect put on the brakes very suddenly, and the police officer following him had to make a last second manoeuvre to avoid a collision. The suspect then used his car to bump into the Sûreté du Québec vehicle many times, including hitting the side of the vehicle, heavily damaging it. He could not use it after that," adds Sgt. Doiron. The policeman then called for the intervention of colleagues. Once in Sainte-Majorique, the other cops installed a nail carpet. The suspect passed on it and kept going. "It took a little while before the tires deflated," says Sgt. Doiron.

The suspect passed through two red lights before coming to a stop in the middle of a roadblock in downtown Gaspé, where he was finally arrested.

Jean Aubuchon first appeared at the Percé courthouse on February 1 for charges to be laid, and again two days later for his bail hearing, which was postponed until February 8. "We don't know for sure what his address is. He didn't have a driver's licence. We know that he has lived in the Montreal area but he has not given us his address," points out Cédric Falardeau-Leblanc, the Crown Prosecutor in the case. The suspect was also subjected to warrants for previous acts committed in the Terrebonne judicial district, however, his presence in prison is strictly tied to the January 30 police chase in the Gaspé Peninsula. Cédric Falardeau-Leblanc indicates that he intends to object to the release of the 29-year-old man on February 8.

Sûreté du Québec's Claude Doiron points out that according to the police records, Jean Aubuchon is from Val d'Or, in Abitibi.

The interventions of Sûreté du Québec police officers in the Gaspé Peninsula since the January 9 imposition of a curfew have led to the handing out of 47 fines, including 35 for failing to respect the 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. curfew. Between January 11 to 17 week, 27 tickets were handed out, including 19 for disrespecting the curfew. The number of tickets fell to 10 between January 18 and 24, including nine curfew-related fines. Ten more tickets were given to citizens between January 25 to 31, and seven were tied to the curfew. Every ticket holds a fine of \$1,000 plus \$500 in fees. The total amount of fines therefore totals \$70,500 since the beginning of the curfew. Beginning on February 8, the curfew will be extended to 9:30 p.m.



COMMISSION SCOLAIRE EASTERN SHORES
EASTERN SHORES SCHOOL BOARD

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 392 of the Education Act, public notice is hereby given that the Council of Commissioners of Eastern Shores School Board intends to adopt at the meeting of February 23, 2021 the following BY-LAWS:

By-Law 9: Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct
By-Law 10: Virtual Participation

A draft of the By-Laws may be examined at the office of the Secretary General of Eastern Shores School Board, situated at 40 Mountsorrel Street, New Carlisle, Quebec.

Given at New Carlisle, Quebec this 1st day of February 2021.

Diane Smith
Secretary General

COVID-19 situation remains stable, region switches to orange zone

Gilles Gagné

MARIA – The COVID-19 situation was remarkably stable in the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands during the week of January 29 to February 5. The number of active cases fell from five to four, but it must be noted that there was not a single active case in the region for two days.

Three new active cases were reported on February 4 and two more on February 5, but one of the new cases was already considered recovered that day, which brought the total down to four.

The number of hospitalized individuals remained stable at three for most of the week, even when there was not a single active case in the region.

Asked to explain how such a situation is possible, Jean

Morin, spokesperson of the Gaspé Peninsula Integrated Health and Social Service Centre, pointed out that those three people who “came to the hospital suffering from COVID, were then treated, and they tested negative, but they remained in the hospital because they contracted another illness there.”

One additional person was hospitalized on February 4, bringing the total to four, but a case was subtracted the following day.

The Listiguj outbreak, which still had one active case as of January 29, was over a week later. The outbreak affected 21 people in one month.

Orange zone

After three weeks of reporting arguably one of the best

COVID-19 records in Quebec if not the best, the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands, along with five other rural regions were switched to an orange zone.

This means that as of February 8, the curfew is now extended to 9:30 p.m. instead of 8 p.m., a detail that will help the restaurants, which can now open in the six designated regions. It was put into effect on February 8. The curfew still ends at 5 a.m.

Premier François Legault refused to put up regional checkpoints though, for reasons he did not clearly explain during his February 2 announcement.

Dr. Yv Bonnier-Viger, the region’s Director of Public Health, agrees to some extent with the premier. As he had first explained over the fall, “setting

up checkpoints at the entrance of regions would require considerable mobilization of the police force in order to cut all the road options, including the ranges. It would in fact require the intervention of the army and the results would probably not be as good as expected. Random checks made by the police can probably be as efficient.”

Premier Legault announced that theatres and cinemas will be allowed to reopen on February 26 in the six designated regions.

He also relaxed the rules for some sports practiced inside gymnasiums and arenas, but only individual sports. Arenas are not open to hockey games yet. Outside activities can now be held by groups of up to eight in orange zones.

“We cannot do more for now. It wouldn’t be responsible

because it would be a lack of respect towards the employees working in our hospitals,” added the premier.

Quebec’s health authorities also encourage people to get tested in order to detect if one of the coronavirus’ variants is present outside Quebec’s urban areas. Some COVID test trailers seem busier since the beginning of February.

Premier Legault also announced the reopening of all stores in the designated regions, with respect to some attendance conditions in correlation with the space available. “We have to give some oxygen to our business people,” he stated.

Meanwhile, the Sûreté du Québec will pay greater attention to gatherings, which are still forbidden, including on the snowmobile trails.

Editorial section

Gilles Gagné Commentary

Gilles Gagné



House of Commons refuses environmental accountability

Legislative bills coming from an opposition party are rarely adopted at the House of Commons, no matter their relevance and their timing. It is even more difficult for a Member of Parliament coming from the Bloc Québécois, often perceived as the sovereigntist enemy in a federalist room.

The same phenomenon regarding the perception of legislative bills coming from an opposition party applies for Quebec’s National Assembly, barring rare exception.

On February 3 in Ottawa, Member of Parliament Kristina Michaud, who represents a riding partially located in the Gaspé Peninsula, Avignon-Mitis-Matane-Matapédia, submitted to the House of Commons a bill called C-215, which would have conferred to the Canadian government an onus of accountability pertaining to the respect of its commitment with regards to the Paris Agreement on climate change and environmental protection.

Canada signed the Paris Agreement in 2016, along with 189 other countries that had participated in the December 2015 summit and adopted the United Nations Framework convention of climate change.

One of the accord’s major characteristics is the long-term temperature goal consisting of keeping the increase in global average temperature to well below 2 degrees Celsius, or 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit, so above pre-industrial levels. The agreement first and foremost suggests to limit the increase to 1.5 degree Celsius, or 2.7 degrees Fahrenheit. According to the Framework convention, this should be done through reducing greenhouse gases as soon as possible.

While previous accords such as the Kyoto Protocol put emphasis on cutting emissions from the developed world, the Paris Agreement set a global goal to which every country has agreed to contribute.

Following the Paris Agreement, Canada set a target to reduce its greenhouse gases to 30% below 2005 levels by 2030. In real numbers, it means that the 2005 emissions, the equivalent of 750 million tonnes of carbon dioxide, must be cut by 227 million (mega) tonnes in order to reach 523 mega-tonnes.

So far, since 2005, Canada has fared poorly in emission reduction, considering that we also signed the Kyoto Protocol in 1997 and again in 2002. Our emis-

sions have mostly hovered between 700 and 760 million tonnes. A projection of our pattern if we stick to our current consumption habits sends us around 742 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions by 2030. It is pretty close to our level of 2005. It is also called standing still.

In fact, the country has done very little to reach that target. Since Justin Trudeau was elected in 2015, Canada has approved some greenhouse gas emission reduction policies but, at the same time, the government has invested in the Trans Mountain pipeline, \$4.5 billion to buy it and a tab that is now reaching \$12.5 billion to expand it. The same government recently tried to defend another pipeline initiative: TransCanada Energy’s Keystone XL project.

Saying that people caring for the environment, not die-hard tree huggers, just ordinary citizens, are worried when they watch Canada’s pro-oil actions of late is an understatement.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau defends those actions by saying that the profits generated by the Trans Mountain pipeline, for example, will be used to invest in environment-friendly initiatives. The problem lies in the facts that our polluting emissions will keep rising, thus putting our targets more distant than ever, added to the reality of oil prices that might never regain a profitable level to repay the Trans Mountain pipeline, let alone invest in so-called green ventures!

When Member of Parliament Kristina Michaud submitted her bill C-215, it was to make up for Mr. Trudeau’s weak bill C-12. That bill is weak because there is no obligation of results attached to it and the government is not forced to submit the policies deployed by the country to the scrutiny of the Environment Commissioner’s office. Normally, that body can assess the efficiency of the means selected to reach our emission reduction targets, but not regarding the Paris Agreement, it seems, thanks to Mr. Trudeau’s government.

The last 25 years in Canada have proven that goals or targets become unreachable goals and targets when they are not bound by official constraints and submitted to the scrutiny of the Environment Commissioner’s office.

It is worth noting that by refusing to adopt Kristina Michaud’s bill, the Liberal Party of Canada’s Members of Parliament joined their colleagues of the Conservative Party, the party that has allowed Canada to be perceived as an ecological dinosaur between January 2006 and October 2015, three months short of a full decade.

Most science experts on climate change agree on one point: the collective contributions put forward so far do not yet add up to what is needed to meet the global goals on climate change. The past agreements were essentially designed as a starting point. Local governments, provincial and municipal in our case, have to get involved too. Incidentally, in Quebec, the provincial gov-

ernment is ahead of the federal initiatives. Having Hydro-Québec around, despite the numerous critics directed at our public utility, helps our environmental record.

Besides, as climate policy expert Maggie Comstock says repeatedly: “countries and businesses will continue to take meaningful action because they get that climate action is not only smart for the planet — it can be smart for their businesses as well.”

In her attempt to table bill C-215 and have it approved, Kristina Michaud tried to convince a majority of the Members of Parliament that the path to the 2050 carbon-neutrality Canada is aiming for doesn’t make sense if the goals of 2030 are widely missed.

Accountability verified once in a while along the 30-year path is therefore a necessity, as human beings are crisis-management creatures.

Kristina Michaud will come back with a modified version of her ill-fated bill C-215, which she calls, probably with a bit of irony, an improved version of the government’s C-12 bill! It doesn’t mean that she will succeed the second time but publicly, hammering the same useful nail repeatedly, will boost the cause of environment and life protection.

Corrections

Please note that the photo in Diane Skinner’s article about blue jays in the last edition was taken by Elaine Clouter of Cascapedia. We apologize for the accidental omission.

On page 3 of the January 27 paper, in the article entitled *Demographics, An excellent performance*, the name in the second paragraph should have been Dan-ick O’Connor.



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JOURNALISTS:
Nelson Sergerie
Diane Skinner
CONTRIBUTORS:
Cynthia Dow,
Jeanie LeLacheur

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

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

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AUDITE

North Shore's Apuiat windfarm project could generate spinoffs in the Gaspé Peninsula

Gilles Gagné

GASPÉ – The announcement by Hydro Québec of the Apuiat wind farm project on the North Shore, a \$600 million venture, will likely have important spinoffs for several Gaspé Peninsula-based enterprises, according to Frédéric Côté, director general of Nergica, the organization promoting renewable forms of energy in the region and in Quebec.

Apuiat is a project that has been in the works for eight years. It is spearheaded by the Innu First Nations of the North Shore and Boralex, a Quebec developer of wind farms and other renewable energy projects.

"It is great news. I am not surprised because there is a new momentum in wind energy. This is a very important project for the Innu communities and for the North Shore in general. Bravo! They worked very hard to land that project," points out Frédéric Côté.

Just before the 2018 electoral campaign, then premier Philippe Couillard, of Quebec's Liberal Party, promised that the wind farm would be built.

In November of the same year, one month after being elected, current premier François Legault nullified his predecessor's commitment. It was one of Mr. Legault's first decisions, and it raised an uproar amongst the Innu First Nations, the North Shore business sector and the wind

energy cluster.

François Legault invoked Quebec's alleged important energy surpluses to call off the venture. At the time, he was claiming that those electricity surpluses would last 20 years. Over the last year, he gradually adopted another viewpoint, and eventually admitted in 2020 that wind energy was competitive. He stated at one point that the Apuiat project would be the first initiative to add electricity to the Quebec grid.

Frédéric Côté stresses that the Apuiat project is rather competitive. "The energy cost is six cents per kilowatt in that project. It is the most competitive cost of all the wind farms built in Quebec to this day."

Today's Quebec power dams can rarely deliver electricity for less than nine cents per kilowatt. Until the February 4 announcement made in Port-Cartier, the lowest cost of electricity linked to a Quebec wind farm was in Murdochville in 2003, when 3Ci, the original owner of that town's first two wind farms, signed a deal for about 6.3 cents per kilowatt. Considering the value of the dollar in 2003, that cost was higher than a similar amount in 2021 because of the inflation rate.

The Apuiat wind farm is supposed to enter production in December of 2024. The contract is signed for the 30 years following the startup.

The original project was drawn after a call for tenders issued by the Quebec govern-



The biggest windmill component manufacturer in Quebec is Gaspé's LM Wind Power.

Photo: G. Gagné

ment of Pauline Marois in 2012-2013 as part of the community-oriented call for tenders spearheaded by then Natural Resources Minister Martine Ouellet. As things progressed, the Apuiat project took shape, as submitted by the Innu First Nations.

Its capacity will reach 200 megawatts. It will be one of the four or five biggest wind farms in Quebec.

Between the original project and the venture announced on February 4, the cost of electricity generated by the Apuiat wind mills has decreased by 17%, thanks to the technological progress that is still characterizing wind energy.

"In the message presented by François Legault and Hydro-Québec's new president Sophie Brochu, we understand that new calls for tenders will be issued before long. There are clear signs of consumption increase in Quebec, especially because of the installation of major computer servers and because of rising

exports. We have entered a development cycle," analyzes Mr. Côté.

It is too early to quantify the impact the Port Cartier project will have on the firms based in the Gaspé Peninsula but Frédéric Côté has little doubts about a positive drive. "The First Nations and Boralex have not announced their suppliers yet but the Gaspé Peninsula and Quebec, in general, have the supply chain to carry out a lot of work there. The project is driven by Hydro-Québec Production instead of Hydro-Québec Distribution. It changes the way things will be done. We don't know yet if a Quebec content clause will be included in the call for tenders but our enterprises are well-placed to land some contracts," he specifies.

Since the real beginning of wind energy development in Quebec 20 years ago, the wind farm builders have been submitted to a 60% provincial content.

In the Gaspé Peninsula,

the biggest manufacturer of wind mill components is by far LM Wind Power, of Gaspé. It is in fact the biggest such manufacturer in Quebec with close to 500 employees making wind mill blades. The company operates at full capacity and has solid contracts for the next two years.

In the east part of the Lower Saint Lawrence region, Marmen, a wind tower manufacturer located in Matane, has recently laid off about one-third of its workforce due to a lack of contracts. Port Cartier is situated almost directly across the Gulf of Saint Lawrence from Matane.

Construction contractors like New Richmond's LFG could also land contracts regarding the Apuiat project. Many other and smaller companies in the Gaspé Peninsula offer a wide array of services in wind energy.

Between 300 and 400 people will likely find work on the construction site of the Apuiat project.

The Mi'gmaqs of the Gaspé Peninsula have taken the lead in the development of wind energy among Quebec's First Nations as co-owners of the Mesgi'g Ujus'n wind farm, in the back country of Escuminac. The 150 megawatt venture was completed at the end of 2016. The Mi'gmaqs were highly involved in all aspects of the project, from the planning to the operations, including the construction in 2015 and 2016.

Orleans: the region is looking for a solution

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - The mayor of Gaspé is not giving up and is continuing to work on the possibility of replacing Orléans express in the Gaspé Peninsula. Daniel Côté, who is also president of the RéGÎM, has mentioned the possibility of looking into the issue.

"We still have not digested the way Keolis has behaved, taking hostage and asking for a ransom from Quebec," says Mr. Côté.

Quebec finally put on the table an additional \$10 million to absorb 75% of the operating deficit of intercity transport companies. In addition, the Legault government

has added a specific component for losses incurred on secondary lines. The aid is also equivalent to 75% of operating losses. A reliable source told SPEC that Orleans' loss in the Gaspé currently amounts to \$170,000 per month.

Faced with the current situation, the reflection mentioned by Mr. Côté now involves legal, financial and technical aspects. One of the scenarios is to provide service with Rimouski as the home base.

"It's part of the scenarios. There are so many technical and legal elements to look at, for example with the MRCs in the east of the Lower Saint Lawrence. I don't want to go too far because it is monumen-

tal in complexity. That's why we've have experts working on the file," says Mayor Côté.

Collaboration with the Lower Saint Lawrence seems to be a given. The president of the regional table of elected officials of Lower Saint Lawrence, Michel Lagacé, is bowled over by Keolis's attitude. In order to serve Matane, Amqui and Mont-Joli in the plan mentioned by Daniel Côté, the MRCs of Mitis, Matanie and Matapédia must be involved in the file.

Mr. Côté cannot make any promises, but he wants to put together a concrete proposal if the case is successful, in the event that Keolis brings everything before the *Commission des transports du Québec*.

Service will be maintained. At the very end of the day on February 5, Keolis Canada announced in a press release that Orléans express services were maintained in the Gaspé. A last-minute agreement with Quebec saved departures as the carrier threatened to suspend its routes due to the marked drop in ridership since the curfew.

"Our priority, however, remains to ensure the sustainability of the company in order to be present when the effects of the pandemic wear off. The program allows us to maintain our services in Eastern Quebec and we will continue to assess the possibility of opening other routes depending on demand," indicates Pierre-Paul

Pharand, President and CEO of Keolis Canada.

Orléans indicates that it is losing \$2 million per month on its network and according to our information, the Gaspé circuit generated losses of \$170,000 per month. Sources say there were fewer than six passengers per departure and parcels were virtually absent on the coast.

The prefect of the Haute-Gaspésie MRC, Allen Cormier, is satisfied with the turn of events. "We can say that the negotiations have worked. We understood the importance of maintaining service in the Gaspé. This is excellent news for us and for the elderly and the vulnerable," says the prefect.

Eurovia invests in multi-million move and expansion in New Richmond's Industrial Park

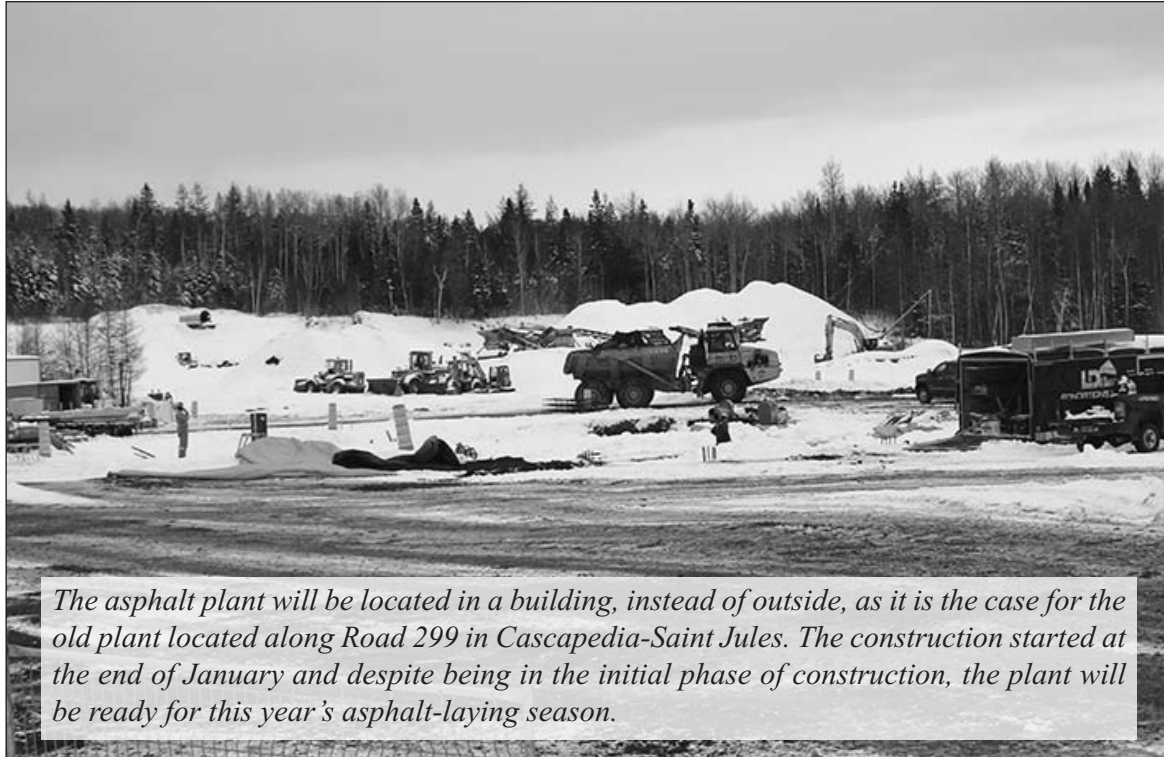
Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND – Eurovia, mostly referred to as Pavages Beaubassin in the Gaspé Peninsula, is currently investing in a multi-million-dollar project in the New Richmond Industrial Park. Work started at the end of January regarding the construction of a new asphalt plant while the new head office and garage will follow at some point over the spring.

The asphalt plant currently used in the Bay of Chaleur area has been located in Cascapedia-Saint-Jules for decades. As for the head office and the garage, they are both situated in downtown New Richmond and they have raised criticism on occasions because of the noise and the smell linked to heavy machinery movements and maintenance.

“The new asphalt plant will be located in a building, for aesthetical and environmental reasons,” points out Luc Forest, director general of Eurovia’s facilities in the south part of the Gaspé Peninsula. The plant will be ready on time for the asphalt-laying season at the end of May.

As for the downtown garage and office, Mr. Forest



The asphalt plant will be located in a building, instead of outside, as it is the case for the old plant located along Road 299 in Cascapedia-Saint Jules. The construction started at the end of January and despite being in the initial phase of construction, the plant will be ready for this year's asphalt-laying season.

Photo: Gilles Gagné

says that the needs have surpassed the capacity of those buildings. Eurovia specializes in road construction and road improvements. The firm operates asphalt-making plants and quarries.

“Those facilities are no longer adequate. The company has been there since 1976, I think, and we have always expanded our activities, but our buildings have remained the same. That explains our move to the industrial park. We are also aware that our presence was rather disagreeable in that

part of New Richmond,” adds Mr. Forest.

Eurovia bought a 66,000 square metre premise in the industrial park. It is the equivalent of 735,000 square feet. Although some details remain to be settled about the plans of the new office, Luc Forest says that it will be big enough to satisfy the needs of the staff.

The new garage will have eight doors. Eurovia operated a fleet of close to 100 vehicles and heavy machinery units between Chandler and Matapédia. About 70 people

work for the firm in that territory.

“Our new facility will in-

crease our work force. We expect to hire eight additional employees,” says Luc Forest.

He isn’t divulging the amount currently invested by Eurovia in the industrial park. “I’ll use a Quebec government analogy: the amount stands between \$1 million and \$5 million,” he says with a grin. He admits, however, that the amount is closer high end of the bracket.

LFG Construction was awarded the contract for the three buildings, located practically across the street from the contractor’s facility in the New Richmond Industrial Park.

Eurovia employs about 230 people between its Mont-Joli and Gaspé facilities, including its Baie des Chaleurs and Chandler activities.

BEACHES:

Gaspé negotiates a lease with Quebec

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - Things are getting clearer on beach management in Gaspé while the Town and the Côte-de-Gaspé MRC are negotiating a lease with the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment in order to speed up beach management for this summer.

Once the lease has been concluded with the MRC, management will be transferred to the Town.

The mayor, Daniel Côté, explains that this way of doing things is the fastest.

“The quickest and most effective legal route is to negotiate a lease. Its content could be very broad to give us the leeway required to make local applications,” states the mayor.

Public consultations will be held at the end of the month.

“We don’t have the impression that we are going to come up with a general and total consensus. The file is too divided for that. We will go there with the strongest possible consensus and with the recommendations of the ZIP committee,” says Mayor Côté.

The cost of the lease is marginal, according to Mr. Côté. The Town wants to avoid the mess on the beaches that happened this past summer.

Intersection still being studied

Studies are ongoing at the Department of Transport in order to find the best solution to make the intersection of

York South, East and West safer. Among other things, those studies are taking into account the number of collisions.

Improvements had been made by cutting back lanes and adding reserved ones, but that was not enough. The mayor stresses that the configuration of the sector makes the search for solutions difficult.

“At first glance, the issue of a traffic light seems complicated. We are at the foot of a hill, we are in a curve. There are private entrances like the one to the nearby hospital. It (a solution) is not obvious. But there are surely other solutions in the ministry’s engineers’ toolboxes,” notes Mr. Côté.

Reflection on this intersection began in July 2019 following a fatal collision.

CHANDLER: Childcare project underway Streets to be paved

Nelson Sergerie

CHANDLER - Chandler is setting up a committee to increase the number of childcare spots available in the town. Discussions were held with the Integrated Health and Social Services Centre (CISSS) in order to get the childcare centre project back on track, a file that had been on hold for several years.

“It is for the employees of the CISSS and the employees of the Town. We are aiming for 20 to 30 places, which could free up places at the CPE in Chandler for other citizens. It is abnormal that nurses or social workers have to delay their return to work due to a lack of childcare spaces,” explains pro-mayor Bruno-Pierre Godbout.

A meeting is scheduled with the Rocher-Percé MRC. There is approximately a shortage of 400 places in the MRC, including 120 in Chandler.

Asphalt work

Meanwhile, the town council is moving ahead with a \$2.2 million investment to repave the town’s streets. “There were some areas that the municipal streets were in poor condition. I am very happy for the various districts which will have major investments in the coming months.” \$1 million is reserved for Saint-François; Pabos Mills will receive \$500,000; Chandler \$450,000 and Pabos \$300,000.



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Documentary on fisheries debuts February 13 on APTN

Cynthia Dow

LISTUGUJ: A 13-part series on the Listuguj commercial fisheries, "Gespe'gewa'gi: The Last Land," begins in English on APTN this Saturday, February 13, with a Mi'gmaq version starting on February 18.

Gesgapegiag resident, Heather Condo, was hired by Rezolution Pictures as a trainee director for the series. She had previously garnered a reputation for filmmaking after her short doc, "My Father's Tools," gained international recognition for her talents.

"This look at the Listuguj fisheries is from a fun angle. We didn't get into politics," Ms. Condo told SPEC. Although, of course, no series on the Listuguj fisheries would be complete without a mention of the infamous police raid of 1981.

The first half-hour episode also gives a summary of the 1991 Supreme Court judgment in the Marshall case which acknowledged that Mi'gmaq Treaties signed in the 1760s give members of the Mi'gmaq Nation the right to hunt and fish for a "moderate livelihood."

The documentary indicates that commercial fisheries now employ about 10% of the Listuguj community, being the single largest employer and largest source of financial support for services in the community.

The film company's promotional material indicates: "...success has been hard won over the years, clashes with police, raids and court cases all played a role in the birth and development of the fishery that began humbly but has emerged years later as a multi-million-dollar enterprise with a progressive attitude and a keen eye on the future."

The series looks at the community's current commercial fisheries – lobster, shrimp, crab and salmon fishing, from the point of view of the many characters involved. In the first episode, community leaders Chief Darcy Gray, Director of Fisheries, Dr. Fred Metallic and Hereditary Chief Gary Metallic, Sr are featured, as are Captain Rodney Barn-



Photo: Courtesy of Heather Condo

Heather Condo, Gesgapegiag filmmaker

aby, and various employees of the fisheries such as Meredith Bernard, Chris Wilmot, Josh Barnaby, Peter Martin, Denny Isaac, and many more.

"I learned a ton about directing, and I learned so much about Listuguj. It was an eye-opener for me," Ms Condo said. "The people are amazing: smart, committed to their community. They have an amazing spirit. They're educated and they know what they are talking about."

Ms Condo's apprenticeship came out of a chance meeting with representatives of Rezolution Pictures when her film was shown at the Sundance Festival in 2017. In 2018 she was asked if she would be interested in helping with the series, which was then awaiting approval from APTN. She hopes to participate again if a second season moves forward.

"I was involved in interviews with the fishers on a lobster boat off Carleton, in an episode with scientists harvesting salmon eggs, filming Mi'gmaq guides on the New Brunswick side of the Restigouche River. I think it really helped for me to be there, as a Mi'gmaq person. It helped the community members accept the production," Ms Condo explained.

Producer Lisa Roth agrees with Ms Condo, and noted that the fact that she was from Gesgapegiag and not Listuguj was also vital to giving the filmmakers another perspective. "Heather's participation was awesome. Her input helped us understand the sub-

tleties of the communities. The fact that she was from outside looking in gave us another angle."

The idea for the series was

born after members of the Rezolution Pictures production team visited Listuguj in the winter of 2018. Filming took place over a year, from the fall of 2018 to the fall of 2019.

"The stories we heard were crazy. We could see this was a very interesting place. I had never been to the Gaspé Peninsula before. I was just blown away by the people, the landscape, the sea, the little churches along the Coast... And the Indigenous people were so generous with their time, with information, with their sharing. They really trusted us," Ms Roth noted.

According to the producer, APTN liked season one so much, Rezolution Pictures was asked to start researching ideas for a second season, maybe adding Gesgapegiag fisheries and those in Nova

Scotia to the mix.

For Heather, this collaboration has a special meaning. "It is so exciting to see my people in a show like this, about all the good things, a positive look at Mi'gmaq people. I can't wait for the rest of Canada to see who we are."

Watch the English series Saturdays on APTN starting at 7 p.m. on February 13. The Mi'gmaq version will be shown on Thursday mornings at 7 a.m., starting February 18. For more information on the series, check out the English Website: <https://www.gespegewagilastland.ca/eng/>; the Mi'gmaq Website: <https://www.gespegewagilastland.ca/mic/>; Facebook: www.facebook.com/LastlandTV or Instagram: www.instagram.com/lastlandtv



Photo: Rezolution Pictures

On June 11, Mi'gwite'tm, it's a day to remember the raid of 1991, an event that changed everything in Listuguj.

Parks Canada Parcs Canada

Business opportunities at Forillon National Park!

Request for proposals to become a food services provider

Parks Canada is currently seeking providers (businesses, organizations or individuals) for the development and implementation of food concessions in Forillon National Park, starting in summer 2021.

- Food service at the Petit-Gaspé Recreation Centre
- Food counter service at the Penouille Visitor Centre

The deadline to submit your project is **March 10, 2021 at 2 p.m.**

Interested? Contact:
Frédéric Ste-Croix, Acting Visitor Experience Manager
 418-360-5375
frederic.ste-croix@canada.ca



Page 7, February 10, 2021 - Spec

#StayHome...

and let us bring the news to you!

The Gaspé **SPEC**

We all want to know more about COVID-19 vaccination



COVID-19 vaccination in Québec began in December 2020 as part of a massive effort to prevent serious complications and deaths related to COVID-19, and stop the virus from spreading. Through vaccination, we hope to protect our healthcare system and allow things to return to normal.

A VACCINATION OVERVIEW

Why get vaccinated at all?

There are many reasons to get vaccinated (all of them good), including protecting ourselves from health complications and the dangers stemming from infectious diseases, as well as making sure they don't resurface.

How effective is vaccination?

Vaccination is one of medicine's greatest success stories and the cornerstone of an efficient healthcare system. That said, as with any medication, no vaccine is 100% effective. The efficacy of a vaccine depends on several factors, including:

- The age of the person being vaccinated
- Their physical condition and/or state of health, such as a weakened immune system

THE IMPACT OF VACCINES AT A GLANCE



- The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that vaccination helps **prevent over 2 million deaths** every year, worldwide.
- Since the introduction of vaccination programs in Canada in 1920, **polio has been wiped out** across the country and several other illnesses (such as **diphtheria, tetanus** and **rubella**) have virtually disappeared.
- **Smallpox** has been **eradicated** throughout the world.
- The main bacteria responsible for **bacterial meningitis** in children—Haemophilus influenzae type B—has become **much rarer**.
- **Hepatitis B** has for all intents and purposes **disappeared** in young people, due to their having been vaccinated in childhood.

COVID-19 VACCINES

Are the vaccines safe?

Definitely. COVID-19 vaccines have been tested for quality and efficacy on a large scale and passed all necessary analysis before being approved for public use.

All required steps in the vaccine approval process were stringently followed, some simultaneously, which explains why the process went so fast. Health Canada always conducts an extensive investigation of vaccines before approving and releasing them, paying particular attention to evaluating their safety and efficacy.

Who should be vaccinated against COVID-19?

We aim to vaccinate the entire population against COVID-19. However, stocks are limited for now, which is why people from groups with a higher risk of developing complications if they are infected will be vaccinated first.

Can we stop applying sanitary measures once the vaccine has been administered?

No. Several months will have to go by before a sufficient percentage of the population is vaccinated and protected. The beginning of the vaccination campaign does not signal the end of the need for health measures. Two-metre physical distancing, wearing a mask or face covering, and frequent hand-washing are all important habits to maintain until the public health authorities say otherwise.

On what basis are priority groups determined?

The vaccine will first be given to people who are at higher risk of developing complications or dying from COVID-19, in particular vulnerable individuals and people with a significant loss of autonomy who live in a CHSLD, healthcare providers who work with them, people who live in private seniors' homes, and people 70 years of age and older.

As vaccine availability increases in Canada, more groups will be added to the list.

Order of priority for COVID-19 vaccination

- 1 Vulnerable people and people with a significant loss of autonomy who live in residential and long-term care centres (CHSLDs) or in intermediate and family-type resources (RI-RTFs).
- 2 Workers in the health and social services network who have contact with users.
- 3 Autonomous or semi-autonomous people who live in private seniors' homes (RPAs) or in certain closed residential facilities for older adults.
- 4 Isolated and remote communities.
- 5 Everyone at least 80 years of age.
- 6 People aged 70-79.
- 7 People aged 60-69.
- 8 Adults under the age of 60 with a chronic disease or health issue that increases the risk of complications from COVID-19.
- 9 Adults under the age of 60 with no chronic disease or healthcare issues that increase the risk of complications but who provide essential services and have contact with users.
- 10 Everyone else in the general population at least 16 years of age.

Can I catch COVID-19 even after I get vaccinated?

The vaccines used can't cause COVID-19 because they don't contain the SARS-CoV-2 virus that's responsible for the disease. However, people who come into contact with the virus in the days leading up to their vaccination or in the 14 days following it could still develop COVID-19.

Is COVID-19 vaccination mandatory?

No. Vaccination is not mandatory here in Québec. However, COVID-19 vaccination is highly recommended.

Is vaccination free of charge?

The COVID-19 vaccine is **free**. It is only administered under the Québec Immunization Program and is not available from private sources.

Do I need to be vaccinated if I already had COVID-19?

YES. Vaccination is indicated for everyone who was diagnosed with COVID-19 in order to ensure their long-term protection. Nonetheless, given the current limited availability of the vaccine, people that contracted COVID-19 should wait 90 days from when they were diagnosed before being vaccinated.

Québec.ca/COVIDvaccine

1 877 644-4545

Photography Project - Now You See Us

The title of my photograph is “You Can Find Me in the Wilderness”. The photograph was taken in St. Jules in natural lighting during the month of October. I used a Canon Rebel T7 camera on the aperture priority mode.

In the words of John Muir, the Scottish-American naturalist, “And into the forest I go, to lose my mind and find my soul.” Being in nature reduces my levels of stress and anger and contributes to my well-being. I chose a composition using leading lines and wide depth of field, filling the frame. This perspective creates a sense for the viewer of actually being there.



“You Can Find Me in the Wilderness” by Roger LeBlanc

Tip of the Week

Slow down and take your time whenever possible. Double-check your camera settings. Then, keep the same mindset for other important decisions; composition, focus, and lighting conditions. Remember, quality over quantity!

Upcoming events:

February Photography Fun!

On-going photography activity, “7 Days of Photography” and workshops via Zoom for the month of February. Cameras available to borrow. Register today!

Registration info

Elizabeth Dupuis,
Project Coordinator
Edupuis-familyties@hotmail.com
or via Facebook
(418) 752-7265

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Serve your pancakes with butter, real maple syrup, ideally from the Gaspé.

Photo: D. Skinner

Shrove Tuesday

Diane Skinner

This year Shrove Tuesday, also known as Pancake Tuesday or Pancake Day, will be on February 16. Shrove Tuesday takes place on a different date each year, depending on when Easter falls. It is the day before Ash Wednesday in the Christian calendar. Ash Wednesday is the first day of the 40 days of Lent, typically a time of fasting, or in modern times, giving up a favourite item such as chocolate or wine. The word shrove means “to confess.” In the Middle Ages, people would confess their sins, ask for forgiveness and then return home to a feast, where pancakes were sometimes served.

This year there will be no traditional church Pancake Suppers, another one of the special events that has to be cancelled due to the pandemic. For some churches this day not only provided a delicious meal for the community it offered an opportunity for people to get together and raise funds for the church. In the spirit of making the best of it, celebrate this day at home and have pancakes for supper!

There are a number of ways that you can prepare pancakes on Shrove Tuesday. Choose the way that best suits your culinary skills. You can buy frozen pancakes that just need to be heated and add the toppings. That’s Skill Level 1.

Next is Level 2 which is to buy a box of pancake mix that is also available at two levels of difficulty. The first kind you just add water and cook them. The second type of boxed pancake mix is one where you add an egg and milk. Both are perfectly acceptable, but the second type has a better texture and flavour.

Level 3 is for those who like to cook from scratch and

the homemade batter produces a more delicious fluffy pancake.

Pancake Mix

(Makes about 20 pancakes)
4 cups all-purpose flour
2 tsp. baking soda
3 tbsp. baking powder
1 tsp. salt
3 tbsp. sugar
Mix well.

(Make this ahead of time. This provides your dry ingredients, which you can store in a sealed container, then use whenever you wish.)

When ready to make your pancakes, preheat your greased pan over medium to high heat.

Take 1 cup of the pancake mix (if you want 5 pancakes) and add 1 fresh egg and ½ cup of milk. Pour about 1/3 cup of batter into pan and cook until you see bubbles on the top of the pancakes, wait until the bubbles pop, about 3 minutes. Flip and cook another 1 – 2 minutes until the pancakes turns golden.

Some helpful hints:

Use fresh eggs and fresh baking powder.

Don’t overmix the batter; in fact the lumps are good.

Grease your pan with oil because butter may burn.

The pancake maker often eats alone after feeding the rest of the family. Instead, in order to eat together, place cooked pancakes on a baking sheet in the oven on low heat as they are made!

You can add buttermilk instead of milk, or add blueberries, a touch of vanilla and cinnamon, orange extract or chocolate chips.

However, always serve your pancakes with some butter, real maple syrup, ideally from the Gaspé, and a side of crispy bacon. A glass of cold orange juice, a fresh fruit salad and a coffee afterwards will round out the perfect pancake meal.



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Wilbert Coffin

Diane Skinner

Wilbert Coffin was executed 65 years ago, on February 10, 1956, however, there are still questions all these years later about whether Mr. Coffin was wrongfully convicted. He maintained right until the end of his life that he was innocent of the murders of three American hunters who were visiting the Gaspé.

Was he a scapegoat who became a convenient fourth victim? Was there pressure to find and punish someone in order to keep the American tourist dollars flowing into Quebec? Hunters who visited the Gaspé in the 1950s brought a great deal of money into the Gaspesian economy. The provincial government, headed by Premier Maurice Duplessis, was faced with a big problem that needed to be solved. Duplessis himself chose the prosecutor and the lead detective.

Wilbert Coffin, born in 1915, served his country in World War II. Mr. Coffin of York was a mining prospector and woodsman but not a rich man. Articles written about him indicate that he was known as a kind person. He knew the bush well and hunters would hire him to be a guide. He knew where the bears were.

Three Murders

In June 1953, Eugene Lindsey, his 17-year-old son Richard and 20-year-old friend Frederick Claar came to the Gaspé to hunt bear. A month later their bodies were found in the bush and it was a gruesome sight because they had been mauled by bears. After examining the clothing belonging to the men it was



Photo: CBC

Wilbert Coffin is buried in consecrated grounds because the minister at the time made that decision. This was uncommon for alleged criminals who had been executed.

evident that they had been shot.

Wilbert Coffin was the last person to be seen with the men, so he was under suspicion immediately. Mr. Coffin had taken one of the three Americans into town to get a fuel pump for their truck for which they paid him. To make matters worse for him he was found with some of the men's possessions, a crime he later admitted to. He said that he stole the items from the back of their truck. Were they proof that he had committed the crime? What would his motive be for killing three men? Was he just in the wrong place at the wrong time?

The Trial

Coffin was brought to trial and ultimately found guilty of murdering one of the men. His sentence? Death by hanging. Looking back 65 years, the trial was mishandled at best. Wilbert was interrogated for 16 days, still maintaining that he was innocent. To no avail. When it

came time for Coffin's lawyer to call witnesses, he called no one to testify on his behalf. Coffin's lawyer was a supporter of Duplessis and was described as "drunk for much of the trial." There was so much pressure on the judicial system to find and punish someone for these murders that Wilbert Coffin was an "easy target."

Coffin never testified at his trial either, because his lawyer did not request it and he was never given the chance to explain how he came to have the hunters' possessions. This was a large piece of what is referred to as circumstantial evidence.

If not Coffin, then who?

To make this case even more puzzling, the two younger men's bodies were found four km. (over 2½ miles) from Eugene Lindsey's body. Coffin stated that two other Americans joined the three hunters as he was leaving after delivering the fuel pump. This information was never brought up in court.

In 1958, a man from Saint-Regis, Francis Gilbert Thompson, after being arrested in Florida for stealing a yacht, admitted to the murders of the American hunters. The Quebec justice system showed little interest in questioning Thompson and he disappeared.

In 2006, Marian Scott of the Montreal Gazette wrote a thorough investigative report about Coffin and she reached the conclusion that the most likely murderer of the three hunters was Philippe Cabot, who died in 1998. He had apparently confessed to the crime in front of his children.

Final Days

Wilbert Coffin escaped from the Quebec City prison in the fall of 1955, not long before his execution date, at that time. (His execution was postponed five or six times.) Wilbert was very experienced at navigating the woods, and may have been able to remain a free man. After talking to his lawyer, Raymond Maher, he returned to prison after

just a few hours of freedom to prove his innocence.

Coffin's sentence was appealed to the Supreme Court of Canada but his conviction was upheld, at a vote of 5 - 2. A Royal Commission also upheld his conviction. Those decisions are still questioned today.

On February 10, 1956, a black flag flew in front of the Bordeaux Prison in Montreal. A father, a prospector and hunting guide, a military veteran, a poor anglophone Gaspesian, aged 41, was executed. He left behind his 8-year-old son James but the request to marry James' mother before his execution was denied by Duplessis who commented at the time that it would not be a "decent thing" to do.

Wilbert Coffin's body was brought home to be laid to rest and almost 500 people were at the station to meet his remains. He is buried in the churchyard of St. Andrew's Anglican Church in the town of York on the Gaspé. Wilbert Coffin was buried in consecrated grounds because the minister made that decision, which was uncommon for alleged criminals who had been executed. His headstone reads "Judge not, that ye be not judged." His family and residents of the Gaspé keep his memory alive.

Wilbert Coffin went to his grave swearing that he was innocent.

“The dead cannot cry out for justice. It is a duty of the living to do so for them.” - Lois Bujold

WILBERT COFFIN: Stephen Dow donates newspapers to Gaspé Museum

Diane Skinner

Stephen Dow, retired teacher living in Port Daniel, recently donated a large collection of original newspapers that covered the Wilbert Coffin story in the 1950s to the Musée de la Gaspésie in the town of Gaspé. Included were papers such as The Quebec Chronicle and The Montreal Star. Stephen recalls glancing at the stack of papers as he got them ready to donate to the museum and seeing the headline that read, "Coffin to be

executed today."

Stephen Dow acquired the papers more than 20 years ago and he gives credit to his friend, Mr. Edward Vautier, who was the original collector of them. Before Stephen donated them, he checked with the Vautier family who agreed that the papers should be donated to the museum. Stephen and Alice Hayes, who helped him make the arrangements to make the donation, drove down to Gaspé where the staff was very grateful to receive additional

items for their displays and files about Wilbert Coffin.

Stephen states, without reservation, that the trial and execution of Mr. Coffin was, "a cover-up."

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ASSOCIATION DES
NATUROTHÉRAPEUTES
DU QUÉBEC

Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



Time waits for no one

One of the many lessons that we have been reminded of this past year is that time flies. We are already half way between the winter solstice and the spring equinox. It is about day #335 of the pandemic and though we have experienced and continue to experience many changes in our lives, time is marching on.

The original expression "Time and tide wait for no man" is a very old one. Though the exact origin is unsure, the earliest example of it has been traced back to around 1200. An early variation of the saying was "Tyde nor time tarrieth no man." This is also a good example of how language changes over the years. The original expression was basically "Time waits for no man" meaning humankind.

Has our perception of time changed during the past 11 months? We have all heard jokes about all the days blurring into each other. Particularly for those who stay home most of the time, this is likely so. What day is it? Does it matter? Likely the healthiest approach is to make it matter by setting some goals each day. Time will pass.

Past

Living in the past is a natural feeling over the past 11 months. Remember when we used to go to bars and restaurants? Recall getting together with friends for fun and laughter? Do you have sweet memories of huge extended family meals? We cannot help but think how it was before the pandemic. This very week we see the cancellation of pancake suppers at churches and the outings to celebrate Valentine's Day. If looking back brings us a wistful sense of remembrance, that's okay. This makes us appreciate our lives.

Present

Our present is different than before the pandemic and we cannot change that. Perhaps it would serve us well to enjoy the present as much as we can safely do so? Celebrate Valentine's Day – but safely at home. Make your own pancake supper. For a child's birthday, arrange a drive-by with tooting horns and lots of waving and blowing kisses. Just this week an easing of restrictions on the Gaspé gives us hope.

Future

The future will come because time marches on. We are all looking to the time when our routines can return to a somewhat normal scenario. Time will pass, spring will come and, hopefully, the vaccines in time will lessen the impact of the virus.

The expression "Time waits for no one," reminds us that many things in life are inevitable. Despite the pandemic, babies are born and people die. Celebrate those precious babies because it tells us there is a beautiful future ahead. It gives us hope.

We still can do many of the things we did before. We cook and eat, go for socially distanced walks, clean the house, do laundry, feed the animals, clear the snow, watch movies and shows, read books and listen to the news. Essential workers are going to work and we are immensely grateful for them. Let us all remember to thank them.

Time does not wait. Count down the days until spring because one day it will be here. "Turn your face towards the sun and the shadows will fall behind you." Walt Whitman

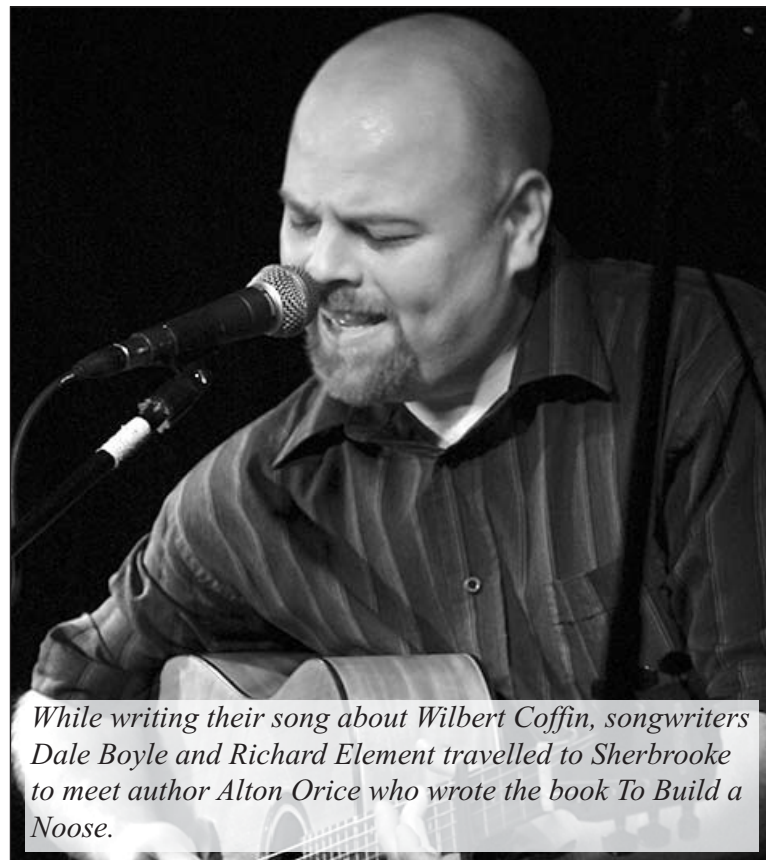
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THEGASPESPEC.COM

WILBERT COFFIN: Songwriter and Musician Dale Boyle

Diane Skinner

Dale Boyle, Gaspesian musician, wrote the song below in 2003 about Wilbert Coffin. "Growing up in the Gaspé region, we all had some awareness of the Wilbert Coffin story. Writing about the Coffin case was a natural thing for me, especially considering that my first solo album was largely grounded in Gaspé experiences. Actually, I started writing "The Wilbert Coffin Story" and my bassist at the time, Richard Element, helped me finish the lyrics. Richard contributed one of my favourite lines in the song, and it sums up how we and many others felt: Justice does leave holes that the innocent sometimes fill."

Dale comments that the story was first told to him by his father who recalls seeing Wilbert Coffin in handcuffs being transported to the court-



While writing their song about Wilbert Coffin, songwriters Dale Boyle and Richard Element travelled to Sherbrooke to meet author Alton Orice who wrote the book *To Build a Noose*.

Photo: D. Boyle

house in Percé.

Dale Boyle and co-writer Richard Element travelled to Sherbrooke to meet Alton

Price, author of the book *To Build a Noose*, a book which details the case for Coffin's innocence.

The Wilbert Coffin Story

(D. Boyle & R. Element)

My daddy seen him, with shackles on his hands.
He was young but knew who it was, all the talk was of this man
And the stories grew, and some they knew more than they would say.
Three Yankees shot, down in Gaspé, some poor boy's gonna pay.

Just a stoic man, with a few mining claims
When Altoona County cracked the whip, at him was laid the blame.
You see, they got their man, but any man could have killed.
You see justice does leave holes, that the innocent sometimes fill.

Coffin's lawyer, never called on anyone
In his defence, no one took the stand
The prosecution claimed, "Find the thief, and you'll solve this crime,"
But have you ever been, in the wrong place at the wrong time?

Three years went by, and they sentenced him to hang.
He swore "I ain't the one," and his hangman felt the same.
With seven unlucky chimes, and a single death flag raised
Wilbert Coffin was sent to an early grave.

(partial lyrics)



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– Peter

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Announcements...



In Memory



BRENNAN: Carmelle (Brideau)

In fond and loving memory of my wife who passed away February 14, 2007.

*I have lost my soul's companion,
A life linked with my own;
And day by day I miss her more,
As I walk through life alone.*

Always loved and remembered by husband Frank and family.

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PATTERSON: Bernice Alette (née Oftebro)

November 19, 1935 - February 8, 2020

*If roses grow in heaven,
Lord, please pick a bunch for me.
Place them in Bernice's arms
And tell her they're from me.
Tell her that I love her and miss her,
And when she turns to smile,
Place a kiss upon her cheek
And hold her for a while.
Because remembering her is easy,
I do it every day,
But there's an ache within my heart
That will never go away.*

With all our love, Mac, Michele and Trevor,
Patrice, Kathryn, Greg, Dale and Meredith.

SAWYER: Reid

October 4, 1920 – February 16, 2019

In loving memory of a dear father who passed away two years ago.

*You're not forgotten, father dear,
Nor ever shall you be;
As long as life and memory last
We shall remember thee.*

Lovingly remembered by Joan, Ralph, David and their families.

SIMON-LANGLOIS: Vera

In loving memory of a dear mother, mother-in-law, grandmother and great-grandmother who passed away February 18, 2019.

*If roses grow in Heaven,
Lord, please pick a bunch so lush.
Place them in Mum's arms
And tell her they're from us.
Tell her we love and miss her
And when she turns to smile,
Place a kiss upon her cheek
And hold her for awhile.
Because remembering her is easy,
We do it every single day,
But there's an ache within our hearts
That will never go away.*

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

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Jules Grenier, b.a.ll.l.

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Gaël Tremblay, notary
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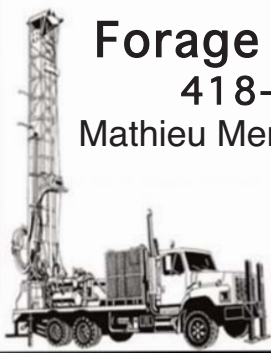
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COAST ROUND-UP

GASPE: Gaspé Cancer Foundation

Members and supporters of the Gaspé Cancer Foundation are asked to please note that our office at the Gaspé Hospital has been temporarily closed due to COVID-19. To renew or become a member of the Foundation, please send your twelve dollar (\$12) payment to the address indicated below. For members who have travelled outside the region for treatment while we are closed, please send your referral paper(s) with your address and phone number to: The Gaspé Cancer Foundation, CP 6078, Gaspé, QC, G4X 2R6. Your request

will be processed and a cheque will be mailed to you.

YORK: York Hall

Please note that the York Hall has a new number: 581-887-9351. We can also be reached through our website, www.yorkhall.ca, where you will also find rental information and prices.

NEW CARLISLE: United Church Pastoral Charge

Anyone wanting to pay their 2021 church dues, make cheque payable to: United Church Pastoral Charge. Anyone wanting to donate to the following cemetery or building funds: St. Andrew's United Church, Hope Town, Cemetery or Building Fund and Zion

United Church, New Carlisle, Cemetery or Building Fund. Make cheque payable to St. Andrew's or Zion. Please mail to: 229 chemin du Vieux Moulin, Hope Town, QC. G0C 3C1 Thank you to all who have already sent their donations. Linda MacWhirter, treasurer. 418-751-4398

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, traveling outside the region for cancer treatment or any other information, call our new number at 418-752-7223 and leave your name, telephone number and a brief message. We will get back to you as soon as possible. To make an appointment you must also call the above number. Walk-ins will not be permitted. We thank you for your patience and cooperation during these difficult times.

ROTARY CLUB WINNERS

The winners for January 1 and 2 are: Alain Henry and Christiane Turcotte.
The winners for the week of January 3 are: Sherry Biggar, Sylvie and Janic Poirier, Éric Cormier, Olivier Binette, Odette Turbide, Jason Budd and

Catherine Coderre.
The winners for the week of January 10 are: Clifford Green, Lise Element, Ludger Poirier, Hélène Poirier, Martin Poirier, Édith Nadeau and Shannon Bujold.

The winners for the week of January 17 are: Norma Leblanc, Hermel Audet, Sébastien Guignard, Bernard Doiron, Town of New Carlisle, Patricia Fournier and Otis Coull.

The winners for the week of January 24 are: Guy Leblanc, Liette Babin, Casey Campbell, Sheila Clark, Guy Normandin, Frank and Lena Cleary, and Sylvain Ringuette.

The winners for the week of January 31 are: Paul Imhoff, Ginette Cyr, Harold Francoeur, Claudette Gauthier, Anne-Marie Martin, Sylvain Levac and Mireille Cyr.

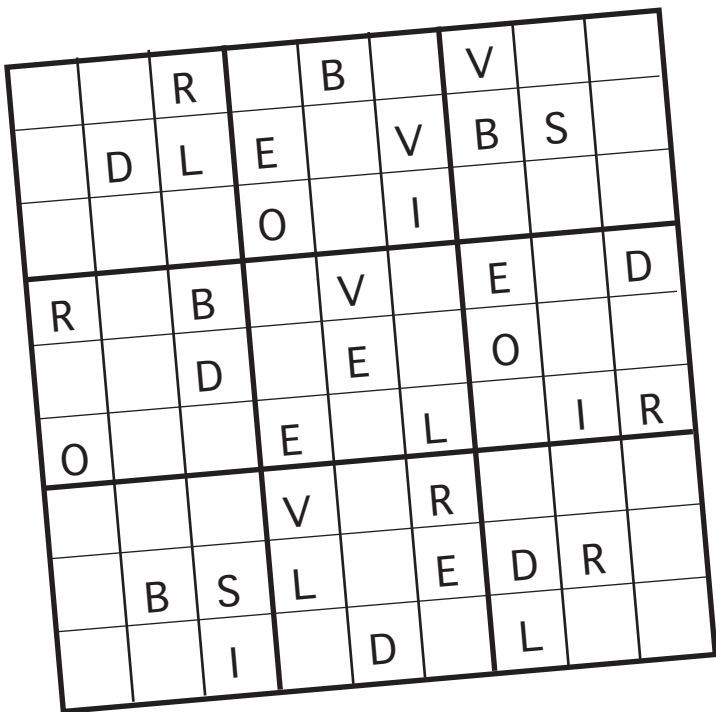
On the lighter side...



Valentine's Day Sudoku



Every row, column and mini grid must contain the letters LOVEBIRDS. Don't guess - use logic.



Great Ideas for old

WINDOWS & DOORS



HOROSCOPES

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, an open discussion with a loved one yields positive results. Take what is said to heart and work on strengthening this relationship even further going forward.
TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, reassess your finances before making a big financial commitment. Start adding things up and comparing expenses to income before signing on any dotted lines.
GEMINI – May 22/June 21
Gemini, some time off spent entirely

with family and friends is just what the doctor ordered. Cherish this time and appreciate the opportunity to enjoy it with those you love.
CANCER – June 22/July 22
Cancer, some time alone may be necessary to figure out a problem. Once you can get free of distractions, the solution will present itself rather quickly.
LEO – July 23/Aug 23
Leo, now is the time to begin planning an important project. Your mind is clear and you have the time, so embrace your creative side as you begin to hash things out.
VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22
Spiritual endeavors may take up much of your time this week, Virgo.

Surround yourself with other spiritual people or examine your faith more deeply on your own.
LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, a change of scenery can be just what you need. A day trip to enjoy the great outdoors can prove refreshing and provide some new perspective.
SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, a new person in your life proves invigorating. Foster this relationship and be grateful for the opportunity to invite a new person into your life.
SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21
Sagittarius, a new hobby piques your interest. Introduce others to this activity and enjoy pursuing this

new found passion with someone you care about.
CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20
It is alright if it seems like you're a beat behind everyone else this week, Capricorn. You will catch up soon enough and others are more than capable of picking up the slack.
AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18
An attraction to someone you meet this week catches you off guard, Aquarius. Forge ahead and explore these feelings if your situation allows.
PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
Offer support to a friend in need, Pisces. This generous offer will be much-appreciated and you will reap the rewards as well.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- FEBRUARY 7**
James Spader, Actor (61)
- FEBRUARY 8**
Bethany Hamilton, Surfer (31)
- FEBRUARY 9**
Tom Hiddleston, Actor (40)
- FEBRUARY 10**
Elizabeth Banks, Actress (47)
- FEBRUARY 11**
Dansby Swanson, Athlete (27)
- FEBRUARY 12**
Gucci Mane, Rapper (41)
- FEBRUARY 13**
Jerry Springer, TV Host (77)

Chocolate

Diane Skinner

Chocolate is one of the most popular treats and often given at Valentine's Day to those we love. Chocolate, however, is popular all year round and in various forms. It is found in puddings, cakes, candy, desserts, drinks and ice cream. It tastes sweet because chocolate makers add sugar and milk to it. It is delicious but is best eaten in moderation.

First, what is the difference between "cacao" and "cocoa"? Cacao (pronounced kuh-cow) refers to the plant and its beans that are used to make chocolate. Cocoa (pronounced co-co) refers to products that are made from the beans after they are roasted. Cacao is a fruit which grows in Central and South America and more predominantly in Africa now. In fact, almost 40% of the world's cacao is produced on the Ivory Coast.

Every cacao fruit contains 30 or more cacao beans. These fruit are usually harvested by

hand. In order to produce one kilo (2.2 pounds) of chocolate, over 20 fruit have to be used. This means 600 to 900 beans will be needed.

A new tree does not produce fruit until its fourth year. A cacao tree can live up to 200 years. Cacao contains a strong source of antioxidants.

After the beans have fermented, they are dried, cleaned and then roasted. After that, the shells are removed and ground to make chocolate in its most basic form. Then it may be heated to make a liquid and cooled to create cocoa solids and cocoa butter.

Most of the chocolate we eat is a combination of cocoa solids, cocoa butter or vegetable oil and sugar. White chocolate contains cocoa butter, sugar and milk but no

cocoa solids. Some people consider that white chocolate is not true chocolate because it

product.

Milk chocolate was first created in Switzerland in 1874. Condensed milk was added to give a more pleasant taste, since the cacao beans are quite bitter, and this also gave a nice creamy texture. Toblerone chocolate bars are still produced in Switzerland. The first chocolate bar made by Cadbury was their Cadbury Dairy Milk bar and it remains the most popular chocolate bar in the world.

Chocolate can be harmful to dogs and cats and, in fact, it can be lethal for them. This is because of the ingredient theobromine. Smaller dogs can be very affected by chocolate so keep it away from them at all times. This same ingredient can be the cause of some people having heartburn after eat-

ing chocolate.

Dark chocolate is reputed to be the healthiest chocolate because it contains a higher percentage of cacao. Dark chocolate often contains less sugar and as a result may taste quite bitter. If you have tried very dark chocolate, such as Lindt 99% cacao, you may not have enjoyed it due to the strong bitterness. Perhaps start at a bar with about 75% cacao to see if you like dark chocolate. Milk chocolate though remains the most popular type of chocolate.

You may have seen the 2001 movie Chocolat starring Johnny Depp and Juliette Binoche. A woman and her daughter open a chocolate shop in a small French village and it shakes up, even shocks, the townsfolk. It seems that chocolate may have aphrodisiac properties.

Charles Schulz, creator of the Peanuts comic strip said, "All you need is love. But a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt."



Photo: Diane Skinner

For some, there is never enough chocolate! Pictured, double chocolate cake with chocolate cream cheese icing topped with chocolate chips

A sumptuous Valentine's supper for two...or more

Diane Skinner

One of the traditions for couples at Valentine's is to go out and enjoy a romantic meal at a restaurant. Great food, mood lighting, flowers on the table and some great music playing in the background sets the scene. It's not going to happen this year due to pandemic restrictions but don't deny yourself and your partner a lovely meal and some special moments together.

Right now, we need to know we are loved and show a love more than ever. We need some magical moments.

Include the children depending on their ages. Very young children may go to bed early enough so that you can postpone your meal until they are asleep. You may have the older children join you and enjoy a family Valentine's Day meal together. If

you have teenagers, feed them early and enjoy a supper with just the two of you later. Most teenagers will say "Ewhhh" anyway if you invite them to dine with you after you explain that it is like a date for their parents.

Make the supper special with a recipe that can be modified for the children if needed. Set a beautiful table with battery operated candles, the good plates, a touch of red, some lovely wine and music. Don't forget a delicious chocolate dessert.

Now make the whole dining experience special by adding little touches. A green salad with a vinaigrette dressing is a great side dish with a fresh baguette. Serve a crisp, icy cold white wine. Set a lovely table with mood lighting, serviettes, put on Spotify and relax.

Just because there is a pandemic, it does not mean we have to deny ourselves some special moments.

Seafood Mac and Cheese can be prepared with the seafood that is available and that you enjoy, such as lobster, pre-cooked shrimp or scallops, or crab-flavoured Alaskan Pollock.



Seafood Mac and Cheese

This recipe makes 8 servings
A bag of elbow macaroni
2 tbsp. butter plus 5 tbsp. butter
1 onion
Salt and pepper
5 tbsp. flour
2 cups milk
3 cups shredded cheddar cheese,
1 cup shredded Romano cheese,
1 cup shredded Gruyere cheese
Seafood of your choice
3 tbsp. bread crumbs



Photo: Diane Skinner

Instructions:

1. Cook pasta until al dente. (firm, not mushy)
2. If you have some lobster frozen from last season, use that or use canned lobster, pre-cooked shrimp or scallops, or crab-flavoured Alaskan Pollock. (pictured above)
3. Melt 2 tbsp. butter over medium heat. Add chopped onion and stir until onion looks clear. Set aside.
4. Preheat oven to 350°F degrees.
5. Melt 5 tbsp. of butter over low-medium heat. Add flour and stir with a whisk until it becomes a golden colour. Now add the milk while stirring for about 10 - 12 minutes.
6. Place the macaroni and the cooked onions and milk mixture into a large casserole dish and add the cheeses. Add a bit of salt (cheese contains a lot of salt, so just a bit) and pepper. Stir. Add the seafood. Sprinkle with bread crumbs.
7. Bake for 15 minutes or until top is golden brown



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diane

A special Gaspesian turns 100!

On February 14, a very special Canadian will turn 100. Hazel McCallion (née Journeaux) was born on February 14, 1921, in Port Daniel and was the youngest of five children. Her father operated a fish plant and her mother was the first formally trained nurse in Port Daniel. McCallion left Port Daniel when she was 16 and went on to have many great accomplishments, including playing professional hockey, but she is probably best known for being the mayor of Mississauga, Ontario, from 1978 until 2014, being the longest-serving mayor in the city's history, having served for 36 years at the time of her retirement in 2014.

What I remember about Aunt Hazel when I was very young is a tribute to Hazel from her nephew, Dean Journeaux.



What I remember about Aunt Hazel when I was very young

Aunt Hazel is 16 years older than me. Every year since I could remember, as a child, we always received Christmas gifts from her. She would come to Port Daniel every summer for her vacation and I remember one year, about 1945, she arrived with a beautiful new 4 door green Ford car. When I went to Quebec High School, I remember seeing her graduation picture from Commissioners High School, the predecessor to Quebec High. This was pretty impressive to me, a 15-year-old, to see that my aunt had her picture in these hallowed halls. I had known that she had attended there but that may be why my mom and dad (Violet and Lockhart, her brother) sent me there for grades 10, 11 and 12 and that is where I met Sylvia. We were married in 1960. So, thinking about it now, there may be a connection there. Had she not gone to Commissioners, maybe I would not have gone to Quebec High and would not have met Sylvia. Many years later she told us about her first job in Shelter Bay, now Port Cartier. She didn't stay long she said, "not a place for young ladies." Sylvia and I lived there in the 1960s for about 8 years but it was transformed from a fishing and lumber community to a bustling mining, port and railway town. So, Aunt Hazel has been exceptionally good to us. She has never forgotten her family and Gaspesian roots. May she have many more birthdays.

With love from her family and nephew Dean Journeaux, Rockland, Ontario

In honour of **Hazel McCallion's 100th birthday**, the Mississauga Arts Council is streaming a new 100-minute musical documentary celebrating the one-of-a-kind story of Hazel.

**HAZEL A CELEBRATION:
100 YEARS IN THE MAKING**
Streams live on
Sunday, February 14
at 7:30 p.m. on the
Mississauga Arts Council
facebook page and
youtube channel

Trivia lovers, eat your hearts out with these fun facts about the traditions, superstitions and customs surrounding the year's most romantic holiday on February 14th!

**40 Million
Valentine's cards**

are purchased each year in Canada, making it the second-largest card-buying holiday after Christmas.

**Top gifts for
Valentine's Day**

35%
of Valentine's Day
spending in Canada
is devoted
to travel

\$6.38 billion
in wine is purchased

\$3.38 billion
worth of jewellery is sold

\$70.9 million is spent on flowers

Rumour has it...

Some tales suggest that the type of bird a girl watches on Valentine's Day predicts her future husband. A goldfinch indicates a millionaire, while a dove indicates a mate for life. If you see a squirrel on Valentine's Day, you may marry a cheapskate who will hoard your money.

St. Valentine

was a Catholic priest who performed marriages for young lovers in secret while Rome was under the rule of Emperor Claudius II, who banned all marriages and engagements believing that Roman men were unwilling to join the army due to their attachment to wives and families. There are two more patrons named St. Valentine who were martyred in ancient Rome.

Sources: Statistics Canada, MasterCard; *RetailMeNot.ca