

## Shigawake Music Festival goes virtual

Gilles Gagné

SHIGAWAKE – After cancelling the 11th Shigawake Music Festival, the organizers of the event are planning a new formula for 2021 that takes into account the COVID-19 pandemic.

While usually taking place in August in Shigawake, the next festival is adopting a new formula with free online programming. Additions might come later, depending on the epidemiological context.

As it has become a tradition since the event was founded in 2009, the festival will feature a mix of Montreal-based artists and local bands from the Gaspé Peninsula. The organizers filmed all the Gaspesian musicians in various places and did the same in Montreal in February at the Hotel2tango recording studio.



After an absence of several years, singer and composer Socalled will be part of the Shigawake Music Festival's virtual version.

Photo: G. Gagné

"The music festival has been super focused on this virtual festival that we will launch Friday and Saturday. We haven't had much time to really consider what we will do this August. We do know

that we would like to do some sort of event, whether it be in person, online, or some sort of hybrid of the two. Our priority is to keep everyone safe so we are playing it by ear for now. I am sure you will hear news

from us over the coming months," says Meghan Clinton, the festival's artistic director since its inception.

The Montreal-based artists featured in this year's line-up are Elisapie, Matt Hol-

lubowski, Urockaoke, les Deuxluxes, Anachnid, Dely Tapa, Shauit, Socalled, Gaspesian native Marie-Pierre Arthur and the Barr Brothers, who have played a vital role in promoting the festival since the beginning.

The Gaspé-based artists will be Quimorucu, Wood'n'Steel, Nadine Landry & Sammy Lind, Mlou (Marie-Lou Brière), Friends in Song, Nash and the Narrows, Melissa Girvan, Martin Henry, the Narrows and Nathan Hayes. The Sunday Morning Gospel Band will also play in the online part of the festival.

That virtual segment will start on March 26 and 27, as one song by each artist will be featured on the festival site, and then one set by each artist or band, in its entirety, will be uploaded daily between April 1 and April 22 inclusively.

## Gesgapegiag food bank project is progressing well

Gilles Gagné

GESGAPEGIAG – A food bank project is currently in the making in Gesgapegiag. The initiative is spearheaded by several organizations and should be fully functional relatively soon. In the meantime, people who need food assistance can contact the Gesgapegiag Medical Centre, as an inventory is available there following a successful food drive held on March 6.

Gesgapegiag community mobilizer and involvement coordinator Alexander Jerome, who supervises several aspects of the initiative, explains that many organizations have been thinking of setting up a food bank in the community over the years.

"The need has always been there. It never came because the initiatives were planned in silos, without a link between them. We decided to join all the efforts. The Health Centre, the Adult Ed Centre, the Micmacs of Gesgapegiag band adminis-



Police officers Maude Crevier and Marc-André Mousseau participated in the food drive.

Photo: Courtesy of Alexander Jerome

tration and the Gesgapegiag Human Resources and Development Centre are all involved and things are progressing well," says Mr. Jerome.

He mentions that the March 6 food drive mobilized

a significant number of volunteers and consequently yielded good results. The pandemic situation complicated the collection.

"We had a great turnout. We had to respect a protocol for the pandemic. We had

asked people to leave non-perishable food on their porch. A lot of people left a bag of groceries outside, as we had asked. It worked very well," says Alexander Jerome.

Even if there is a food

bank close to Gesgapegiag, Maria's Source alimentaire, the residents of the community who need such services are reluctant to use it most of the time.

"There is the language barrier and pride is also a factor. When our people go to Maria, they must be accompanied by someone who speaks French usually. They need to follow a line of procedures, and they often need a drive. (...) It is difficult when you don't understand the paperwork, the language and when you need to ask for a drive,"

Right now, the procedure to have access to the food inventory collected on March 6 is much more simple.

"People just have to call the Medical Centre. There is a little section in the building where the food was placed. It is easy to access. The Medical Centre people already work with the most vulnerable. We want people to be as comfortable as possible. They are accompanied when they choose



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# Police report

Christine Dow, 59, from Paspébiac who faces two charges of arson, will return to the New Carlisle courthouse on April 12, as her trial date should then be set. She was charged following a September 28 fire that caused damage to a Paspébiac apartment building. She last appeared in court on February 1, opting for a Quebec Court trial, which means that the trial will take place in front of a single judge, without jurors. She is represented by Attorney Richard Lavigne.

Jean-Guy Lavoie, 89, from Marieville charged with sodomy, gross indecency and sexual assault, will return to court on March 26 and decide which court he chooses for the trial. So far, the accused had virtual appearances at the New Carlisle courthouse on January 11 and March 8. Marieville is located near Montreal. He was a priest at the New Richmond retreat house when he allegedly committed the acts he is charged with. Those acts occurred between 1983 and 1986. He was initially arrested on December 11 in Marieville, questioned by the police and released after agreeing to appear in court at a later date. The alleged victim was a minor between 1983 and 1986.

Sûreté du Québec police officers handed out 20 additional COVID rule-related tickets in the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands between March 1 and 14. Nine were distributed between March 1 and 7, and 11 more during the ensuing week. Of those 20 tickets, 12 were related to breaking the curfew. Since the tightening up of the COVID rules on January 9, Sûreté du Québec officers have given out 131 tickets in the region, including 91 for not respecting the curfew. The fines now total \$186,500, considering that each ticket comes with a \$1,500 fine.

On March 13, an accident involving six vehicles took place on Road 198 at the east end of Murdochville, in a curve near the cemetery road. The accident was caused by very strong gusts of wind following a light snowfall; snowdrifts formed as a result of the winds. The Sûreté du Québec and the local firefighters were called at 8:40 a.m. to intervene. The wind surpassed 80 kilometres per hour at times.

“There was no visibility because of the snow blown by the high winds. It started with a collision between two vehicles and the others were added one by one. A truck and trailer carrying vehicles was involved in the accident. The road was closed for four hours. The truck was in a precarious position on the bridge. One person was sent to the Murdochville hospital and was treated for minor injuries. The road was reopened at 1 p.m.,” explains Sgt. Claude Doiron, spokesperson of the Sûreté du Québec.

That accident occurred at the same spot as another serious accident involving 25 vehicles on January 22, 2019. Since then, the Town of Murdochville has asked Transports Québec to correct the situation in that area to reduce the effects of the wind. The municipal administration is trying once more to request remediation measure in that area.

“It is just a two-kilometre stretch where we don’t see anything. The wind becomes so strong and again Saturday (March 13), it was the same case. The problem is not solved. The Ministry of Transport should do something to correct the situation, maybe by putting trees,” said Mayor Délicia Ritchie-Roussy, following the accident.

Transports Québec has committed to look for solutions in order to solve the cemetery road curve problem. “The ministry maintains its analysis to find the best solution. Will it be short term solutions while waiting for a long term solution? That is what is presently being analyzed and the ministry wishes to find a solution for the fall,” states Sophie Gaudreault, of Quebec’s Department of Transport.

In 2019, flashing panels were installed along Road 198 in Gaspé and Anse Pleureuse to warn drivers. A surveillance camera was also installed last fall to monitor the curve during bad weather.

## Family and seniors policy for Gaspé

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ: On March 1 Gaspé adopted its new five-year policy for families and seniors. The document is intended to be multigenerational, inclusive and participatory.

The occupation of the territory, the living environment and social participation are the main components of this policy, which includes matters such as transportation, housing, services, security, sport, culture and leisure, the environment, civic engagement and communications.

Fifty actions that have been identified and prioritized, including developing an incentive program for the purchase of ecological personal hygiene products in order to reduce their landfill; facilitate access for people with reduced mobility and the elderly to municipal infrastructures and find housing solutions adapted to vulnerable clientele.

The issue of childcare spaces is also a priority. “This new municipal policy for families and seniors is intended to be concrete and focused on results. It will be an important tool to guide our actions in the coming years, in consultation with our various partners, who are always at the heart of the results that we continuously deliver,” says Gaspé Mayor Daniel Côté.

## GESGAPEGIAG: By-election to fill three council positions

Gilles Gagné

GESGAPEGIAG – Thirteen candidates are registered for the by-election that will take place in Gesgapegiag on April 17 in order to fill three positions on the band administration council. Recently, councillors Mitchell Caplin, Douglas Martin and Gary-Luc Martin announced their resignation.

The thirteen candidates are Christopher Braizier, Charlie Caplin, Tracy Condo, Aaron Condo, Daniel Condo, Angelique Condo, Suzanne Gedeon, John Gedeon, Jason Jerome, Elias Jerome, Bernard Jerome Sr., Allister Martin Jr. and Shawn Martin.

An advanced poll will be held on April 10. Up to 1,297 members living on and off the community have the right to vote. Electoral officer Michel Poirier points out that the results will be counted on the evening of April 17.

“In Listuguj, we now decide to count the ballots the following day but the population is less in Gesgapegiag and we will count the ballots right after the voting period,” he says.

Mr. Poirier and his team have already started sending ballots by mail to off-community members. Some of them live in the immediate area of Gesgapegiag but a significant proportion lives quite far away, such as the United States, for example.

The next complete election in Gesgapegiag will take place in the summer of 2023. The three new councillors will join Chief John Martin and councillors Armand Martin, Tammy Martin, Christianne Jerome-Bernard, Amy Martin and Dorothy Gedeon.



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## Gilles Gagné Commentary



### Gearing up for a late spring federal election? We should know before Easter

Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau recently said in a television interview aired mainly in Quebec that an electoral campaign might be needed to counter the alleged obstruction triggered by the Conservatives on some issues debated in the House of Commons.

Mr. Trudeau said that his government needs a Parliament that can function. He invoked the manoeuvres of some parties, especially the Conservative Party, in the debate pertaining to the right to die, as obstruction evidence.

It is a rather strange grief from a prime minister who has regularly avoided the House of Commons debates since the beginning of the pandemic bypassing most parliamentary conventions and using the sanitary rules as an excuse to do so. In addition to that, he has repeatedly refrained from giving details about the exact cost of the Canada Emergency Response Benefit, the CERB.

While most Canadians agreed with that stimulus measure announced shortly after the outset of the pandemic, basic information about the long-term impact of the CERB upon the country's finances would have been necessary and responsible, especially considering that the Liberal Party is running a minority government.

Speaking of a Parliament that must function, let's remind Mr. Trudeau that he has not tabled a budget in two years, that is six months before the 2019 election. A budget is a valid way to establish, in details, where public finances are headed to. He has failed in that accountability step.

The Liberal government will likely submit to the House of Commons a mini budget characterized by electoral goodies. It will probably add a \$100 billion post-pandemic economic recovery program, despite the fact that there is a lot of cash currently circulating in the country and that a large proportion of the population has been able to save money since the beginning of the coronavirus crisis.

That mini budget will likely avoid serious measures assuring a better distribution of that money, given that the pandemic has also generated a rising proportion of poor people. Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland will almost certainly bypass divulging how Canada will control its long-term debt and reduce its yearly deficit in the short, medium and long term.

Justin Trudeau's main idea at the present time is to repeat a third electoral win, just like his father did in 1968, 1972 and 1974. He aims for a majority. If he succeeds, it would be a repetition of a majority-minority-majority government streak as well, just like Pierre Elliot Trudeau, who ran a minority government between the fall of 1972 and the summer of 1974. Like his father, the son benefits from the support of the New Democratic Party to stay in power during his second term.

However, the Liberal Party strategists might be able to convince Justin Trudeau that it is poor timing to aim for a June election.

While Conservative Party leader Erin O'Toole's record since being elected in August 2020 is far from stellar, as he recently seems to lose ground every week after being neck-and-neck with Mr. Trudeau at the beginning of February, the Liberal Party brass must broaden its analysis scope.

Firstly, the pandemic is far from over. The rising presence of coronavirus variants in Ontario and Quebec, the main strongholds of the Liberals, is food for thought for their strategists. The pandemic might become out of control in Ontario, as the number of cases started rising again during the second week of March. The Ontarian public health experts are already stating that the third wave has started.

If the situation keeps deteriorating in Canada's largest province, the province where the Liberal Party must perform in order to be re-elected, with a majority or not, the Ontarian electors might think that the situation would have been different, had the reigning party been able to acquire vaccines earlier, as it happened in many countries.

Ontario's provincial government might be held responsible for the slow vaccine rollout but if that province is to experience its toughest coronavirus stretch during a federal electoral campaign, there will be little room for the subtlety needed to sort out culprits.

Quebec is not potentially exempt of another deterioration of the situation on the COVID-19 front either. The variants will likely surpass the occurrence of the original virus, if it is not already done so. Premier François Legault sure helped Justin Trudeau a bit when he promised on March 16 that all adult Quebecers will be vaccinated before Saint-Jean-Baptiste day, on June 24, however, in order to reach that goal, the Quebec health authorities will have to increase the vaccine rollout by 66% on the average over the next 100 days, roughly from 30,000 to 50,000 doses daily.

A Canadian vote spread over several weeks, like Newfoundland and Labrador were forced to do this winter, would certainly play against Justin Trudeau, as millions of electors would question his judgement to launch an electoral campaign at the dawn of the pandemic's third wave.

The Canadian Armed Forces' poor handling of the sexual harassment scandal, and the National Defence Ministry's awful management of that situation, doesn't seem to ebb away yet. It represents another factor that could torpedo the Liberal Party brass' desire to launch an electoral campaign soon. The recent gaffes in that file might affect the party's support from women, especially when one considers the options offered by Green Party Leader Annamie Paul and Jagmeet Singh, of the New Democratic Party. The Bloc Québécois must also receive some attention in Quebec, as its leader Yves-François Blanchet is a fierce debater.

As the SPEC was reaching its deadline, the Conservative Party was holding a convention. Despite an awkward start of seven months at the helm of the party, Erin O'Toole was more than likely going to receive vigorous support from the delegates, because proving to the Liberal Party that the Conservatives are ready for an electoral campaign is vital, even if they are not.

Mr. O'Toole is right when he affirms that the Canadian electorate will not tackle the electoral campaign with their eyes exclusively set on what happened since the beginning of the pandemic. Canadians will, by and large, want to know how they will take the shorter route towards a sound economic recovery.

The competence of the main party leaders will al-

most certainly be the ballot-box question. That explains why the Liberal Party think tank will assess carefully the Canadians' perception tied to launching a spring electoral campaign.

That also explains why Erin O'Toole deploys frantically, albeit awkwardly, all those efforts to present his party as a potent option. He also secretly hopes that Mr. Trudeau will not launch an electoral campaign before the beginning of the summer. Mr. O'Toole must realign his position closer to centre-right politics before a poll. Over recent months, he has been too often associated with right-wing extremists, bible-thumping and stern anti-abortion partisans who look and sound like north-of-the-border Donald Trump supporters. They heavily supported Erin O'Toole during the 2020 leadership race.

Although he is strongly backed in Alberta and Saskatchewan, the country's main producers of fossil fuels, he will somehow need to develop a somewhat convincing environmental platform if he wants to rally voters in Ontario and Quebec.

Canadians usually prefer leaders close to the centre of the political spectrum. Stephen Harper was an exception in May 2011 but millions of Canadians are still reeling from the 2011-2015 Conservative Party term. That repelling effect is still felt by today's Conservative Party when the time comes to convince voters without strong right-wing ties.

Over the last couple of months, the Liberal Party government has multiplied project funding announcements, just like it usually happens in a pre-electoral mode. We have seen that in the Gaspé Peninsula, Member of Parliament Diane Lebovillier has clearly accelerated the pace in that regard, even if some announcements were not worthy of press conferences.

The Liberal Party organizers have started the electoral machine. The candidates have been called to get their picture taken. It doesn't mean for sure that an election will take place on June 8, the date most often mentioned for election day.

Under the new dispositions of the electoral law, a campaign must last at least 36 days and no more than 50. Two months are usually slated by the reigning party to prepare and hold an election. So we should know before Easter if an election will take place in June.

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## Guest Commentary

Emma Buckley

### Watering the positive seeds

I recently took part in an event I'm not sure even existed before COVID: an on-line meditation retreat. Pre-COVID, going on retreat generally meant going "offline" escaping to a secluded environment to recharge or reflect. I had signed up to spend countless hours in front of a screen, in the name of mindfulness. I had no idea what to expect. Would the peak hour traffic outside dint my zen mindset? Would the cat resent my absence and start nibbling houseplants as vengeance? How does one eat mindfully on Zoom?

I also knew very little about the organizers of the retreat: Plum Village, a monastic community set up in France in the early 1980s by a Vietnamese Buddhist monk named Thich Nhat Hanh. Thich Nhat Hanh first captured the West's attention with his anti-war activism during the Vietnam War, which led to a long exile from his native country. He devoted his life to peace, peaceful activism, and teaching what he called "engaged Buddhism." Plum Village – now the largest Buddhist monastery in the West – became a haven for those seeking refuge and healing, welcoming Vietnamese refugees and American Vietnam veterans alike.

The current mindfulness movement owes much to Thich Nhat Hanh. He successfully distilled traditional and often complex aspects of Buddhism into simple, concrete forms. Mindfulness, he taught, is simply being present and aware in the moment. By bringing our awareness to basic things – breathing, walking, eating an orange – we can lead healthier and happier lives. It seems simple, but given our tendencies to ruminate on the past or mentally dart ahead to the future, it requires practise.

The very first morning of the retreat, I was up early, seated cross-legged on my cushion in the guest room, laptop open in front of me. I navigated through the retreat website, clicked "Join Meeting" and waited expectantly. A large, empty room mate-

rialized on my screen. Zoom informed me, somewhat ominously, that there were two participants in attendance. Where was everyone? Crestfallen, I left the meeting and did my own meditation. It was only later I realised I had clicked on the link for participants in Central European Time, who were at that moment probably taking an afternoon nap.

Happily it was the only glitch during the retreat (not counting my attempts to follow the Plum Village nuns' surprisingly agile exercise routine in the small space of our guest room). Every morning I rose early for meditation, lulled by the soft chanting of the monastics. Later I would join my small "dharma sharing" group (dharma means teachings), where we reflected on the talks and presentations and practiced listening carefully to one another. During this activity only one person may talk at a time, and the speaker indicates with a small bow when he or she is finished. (The first time I was part of a dharma sharing group, I had to be gently reminded to hold my comments until the end. It made me realize that

we are so used to interrupting others that we don't realize we are doing it).

Thich Nhat Hanh – who is still living, though debilitated following a severe stroke – taught that we need to acknowledge and embrace anger and pain in ourselves, in order to keep it from spilling over and hurting others. Embracing suffering can seem counter-intuitive; often we prefer to run away from difficult emotions, or distract ourselves rather than face them. Being compassionate and caring towards ourselves, so the logic goes, helps us be more compassionate to others, creating fertile ground for positive emotions – joy, gratitude and kindness – to flourish.

Now the retreat has finished, I think often of my little group, of us confiding in and supporting each other and watering these positive seeds. I can picture the dozen or so beaming faces arranged in a grid on my computer screen. It is an image that, for me, represents the pandemic, but also our capacity for resilience and joy amidst it.



*In mid-March, sisters Lois Williams and Ella Beck, both over 90 years of age, rolled up their sleeves for the COVID-19 vaccine! Lois and Ella are grateful to have received the vaccine and appreciate the nurses who came by their homes to administer the vaccines! - Submitted by Connie Williams*

## Twelve CEGEPs from the regions unite

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ - Twelve cégeps now make up the *Regroupement des cégeps de Régions*. The group made up of establishments from the Côte-Nord, Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean, Abitibi-Témiscamingue, Bas-Saint-Laurent and Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine presented a united front on March 9.

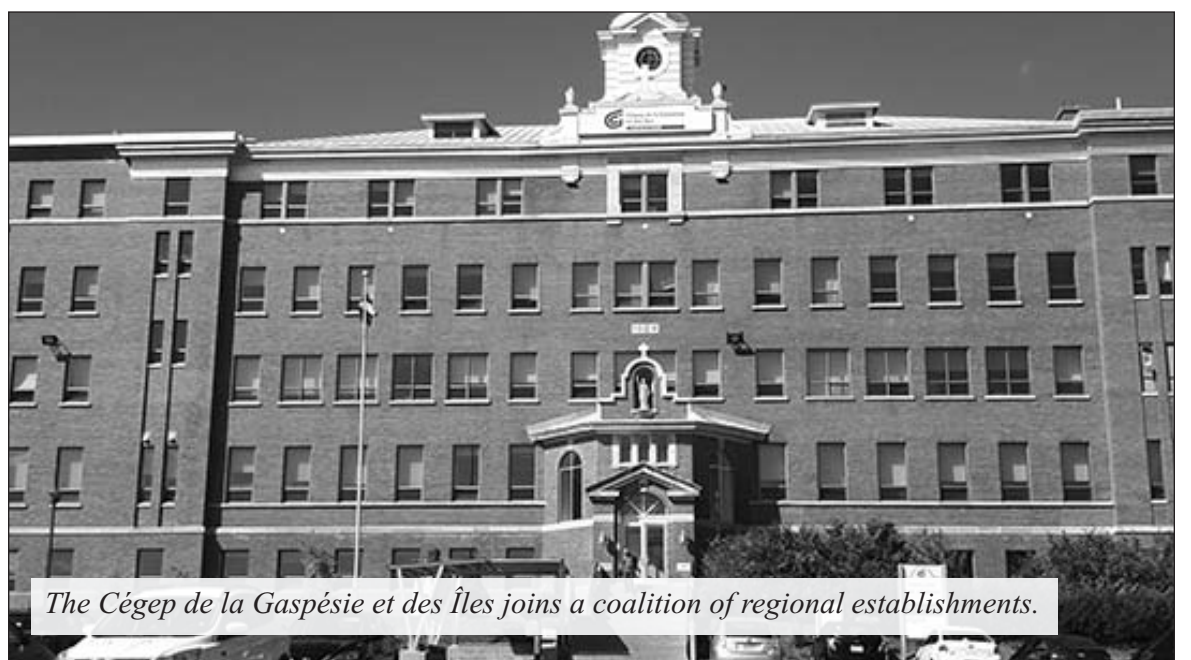
The Ministry of Higher Education put forward, in early 2020, a new framework for managing the supply of college education. The group aims to revise the system, such as the way the number of students are authorized in each CEGEP, and the authorizations of new study programs.

In the wake of the review

of the college education offer, the group proposes to ensure accessibility to college education in the regions by expanding the offer, increasing the attractiveness and promoting student mobility.

This mobility becomes important as there is a shortage of places in the Montreal region and the regions can accommodate future students. "This is the very basis of our thinking. We have 9,000 good places and not just for students who will choose our regions as a plan B. We must promote interregional mobility," explains the director of Cégep de La Pocatière, Marie-Claude Deschênes.

Institutions in the greater Montreal area will have to absorb between 20,000 and



*The Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles joins a coalition of regional establishments.*

Photo: N. Sergerie

25,000 students in the coming years. Those in the regions want to have their share.

The Liberal National As-

sembly Member for Gaspé, Georges Mamelonet, has already suggested giving money to students so that

they could study in the regions rather than investing in the establishments in the Montreal region.

# Fort-Prével Golf Club submits its business plan

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - The business plan to renovate the accommodation component of the Fort-Prével Golf Club has been submitted to local politicians. The organization hopes to obtain \$2.5 million from Quebec to revamp buildings that now require immediate renovations.

The document received a more than positive reception by the elected officials of Gaspé and Percé, especially since the club ended the last fiscal year with a surplus of \$250,000. Even if we subtract the savings made by the position of general manager which remained vacant, and the difficulty of recruiting all the staff in times of a pandemic, the surplus would still be \$100,000, a first since the resumption of the facilities. The government body had recorded a deficit of \$750,000 in its last year of

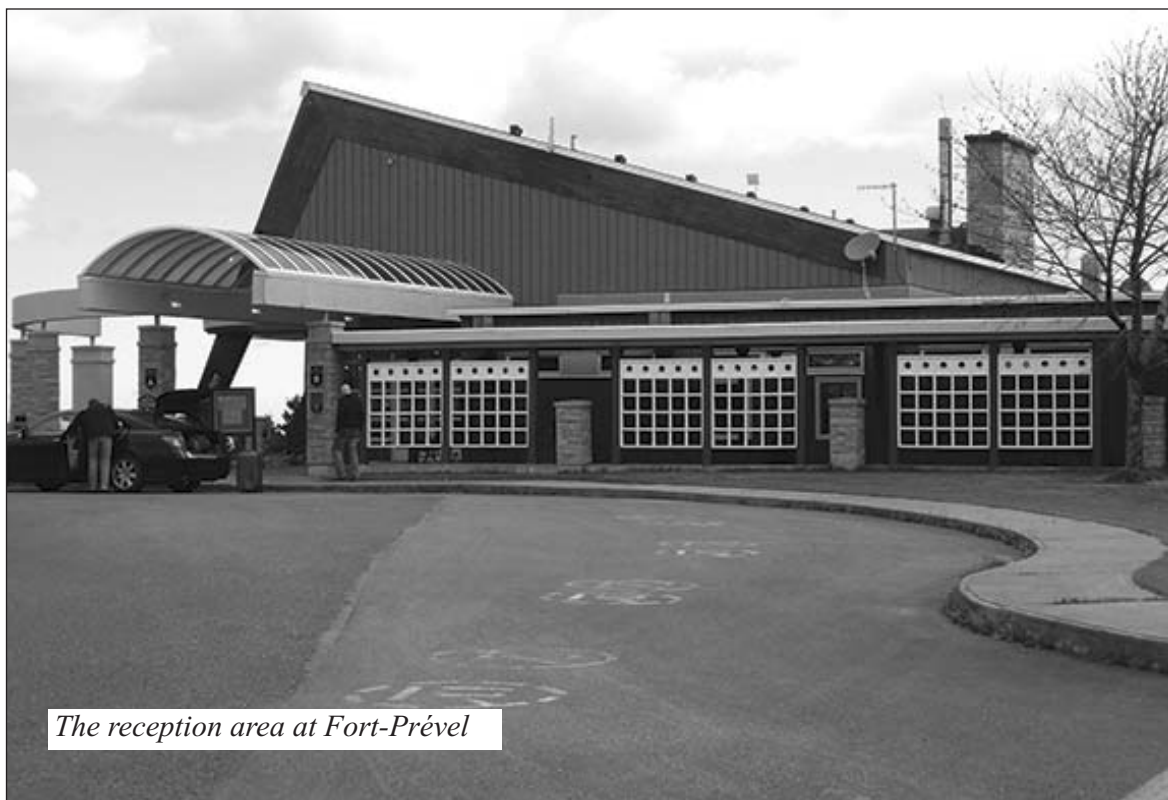
club operation.

Local politicians will now have to take the matter to the Quebec government. "An organization that corrects a situation like ours and manages to achieve a balanced budget is a great business accomplishment. All our partners have given us their support by telling us if you need us, we will be there," states the head of the revival committee, Gilles Pelletier.

A renovated infrastructure will increase prices and turnover from \$800,000 to \$1 million and ensure the sustainability of the club, which relies on economic recovery to move the project forward.

"With COVID, if we're going to have an economic recovery, we want to be on the starting line with our business plan," says Gilles Pelletier.

A \$3 million Phase II plan including the pool, children's



The reception area at Fort-Prével

Photo: Nelson Sergerie

water games, more luxurious cabins and condos would add another \$200,000 to the revenue.

The first project was refused, but the organization surrounded itself with a

group of partners and the MRCs of Côte-de-Gaspé and Rocher-Percé.

The renovations are essential since there is water infiltration through the roof, and the windows.

In 2015, when SÉPAQ bequeathed the infrastructure to Relance Fort-Prével it was in a state of disrepair. At the time Quebec promised that it would not forget about the non-profit organization.

## Enrollment is down for the English section at Gaspé Cegep

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - Even though the Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles saw a sharp increase in enrollment during the first round of applications, which ended on March 1, the institution recorded a drop in enrollment for English-speaking students.

Last year 30 were enrolled on March 1, this year that number decreased to 24. This data is contrary to the

general growth of registrations which went from 524 in 2020 to 582 this year, despite the pandemic.

The clientele from outside the region is more and more important. "You know that we have been experiencing demographic growth in the Gaspé and the Magdalen Islands for several decades now: 57% of admission requests come from outside the region," explains the director of education, Jean Gagné.

That proportion was 52% last year, although the retention rate for the Gaspé and Magdalen Islands remains at 77%.

On the French-speaking side, Gaspé received 301 registrations: 119 in Carleton-sur-Mer and 54 in the Magdalen Islands.

The Grande-Rivière School of Fisheries and Aquaculture is experiencing strong growth. "We had 84 requests this year compared

to 54 last year. These requests were reflected in the requests for the two professional study diplomas, namely marine mechanics and professional fishing," explains Mr. Gagné.

### Teachers strike

Teachers from the Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles, Gaspé campus, will be on strike on March 30. The impasse in the negotiations and

the inflexible financial framework of the government of Quebec led the Centrale des unions du Québec (CSQ) to use this as pressure tactics.

The CSQ is asking the government to recognize the work of teachers at its fair value, while the proposals on work overload, lack of resources and other network problems are being dismissed by Quebec.

## The Attorney General of Quebec intervenes in the appeal of Louise Langlois

Nelson Sergerie

CHANDLER - The Attorney General of Quebec has decided to participate in the appeal of the mayoress of Chandler who is challenging her 180-day suspension by the Commission municipale before the Superior Court.

The request, filed on March 12, is based on article 79, paragraph 2, of the Code of Civil Procedure, which indicates that the Attorney General can generally intervene ex officio in proceedings involving a matter of public interest. He acts as a party, without notice or formalities and without having to demonstrate an interest.

The request comes after the court refused on March 9 the Town of Chandler's request to intervene in the case.

On December 21, the Municipal Commission found Louise Langlois guilty of 20 of the 21 breaches of Chandler's Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct, the court considering that the elected had placed herself in a conflict of interest in the process surrounding a complaint to the CNESST, on the disclosure of confidential information and having guided a citizen in a request for access to information while she was responsible for the file at the Town.

In addition to her suspension effective since January 11, Louise Langlois is calling for the annulment of the decision of October 9 relating to the request for a stay of proceedings and to contest the notice of hearing on sanction which had been rejected by Judge Sandra Bilodeau of the Municipal Commission.

The case is due to be heard on April 26 at the Montreal courthouse. Louise Langlois has been suspended twice in the past.



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# How do I know COVID-19 vaccines are safe?

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Learn more about **COVID-19 vaccines** at  
[Canada.ca/covid-vaccine](https://Canada.ca/covid-vaccine)

1-833-784-4397



The COVID-19  
**vaccines**  
& **you**

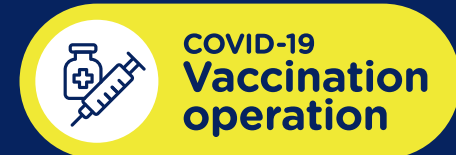


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of Canada

Gouvernement  
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Canada

# 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?

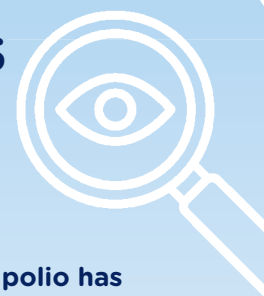
There are many reasons to get vaccinated (all of them good), including protecting ourselves from health complications and the dangers stemming from infectious diseases, as well as making sure they don't resurface.

### 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.

Québec.ca/COVIDvaccine

1 877 644-4545



# Town reiterates its request for a BAPE for Galt

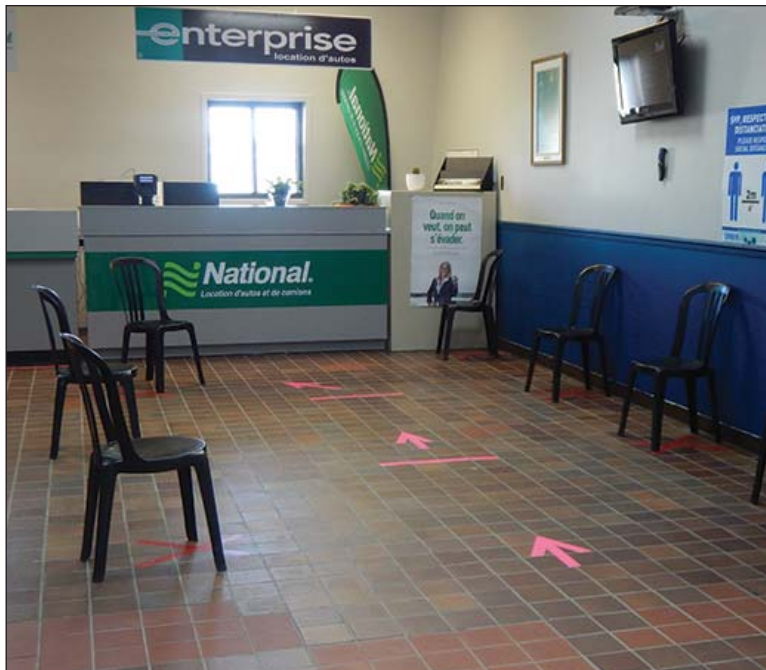
*Planning is underway for airport terminal renovations and Anse-au-Griffon wharf is almost ready*

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ - In the event of a victory by Gaspé Énergies against the Government of Quebec in the Galt file, the Town of Gaspé can do nothing to counter the project.

Responding to a question from Solidarité Gaspésie who wanted to know the town's position in the event of a victory for the oil company, the mayor, Daniel Côté, reminded the municipal council on March 15 that the project is outside the perimeter of the town, while trusting the justice system to analyze the dispute over the protection of the water network. Mr. Côté also underlines the vigor of Minister Jonatan Julien in defending the regulations on hydrocarbons.

The mayor brought up the request for a *Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement* (BAPE). "We are going to reiterate our request that the project pass into the hands of the BAPE before going too far. Through the BAPE, the project could be subjected to economic, social and environmental tests, as with any such project. Finally, we would have the right time for the state to make the best



Part of the lobby at the Gaspé airport.

Photo: N. Sergerie

decisions," says the mayor.

### Project to renovate the terminal at Michel-Pouliot Airport

After renovating the runway and approach systems last year, Gaspé is now tackling the terminal at Michel-Pouliot Airport. The municipality has mandated an architectural firm to come up with different scenarios for upgrading the infrastructure.

"We don't have a preconceived idea. We know that our terminal is tired, outdated. We may have a super nice runway,

but we have a terminal from the 1970s that has suffered from a lack of maintenance for 30 years. We gave a mandate

to an architectural firm to look at the different possibilities," says the mayor, who stressed that anything is a possibility, from renovations to new construction.

The very preliminary assessment estimates the investment between \$2 million and \$3 million and government assistance will be requested. Quebec normally covers 30% of the costs under the current program, but any help will be scrutinized. Perhaps some elements could be supported by Ottawa.

### Anse-au-Griffon wharf is almost ready

The repair of the Anse-au-Griffon wharf is within the planned budgetary frame-

work. In addition, the work generated a slight surplus over the \$2.4 million planned, which made it possible to add equipment.

"We were even able to build a boat launch that had been removed from the plans because there was a lack of money, but in the end, we found the money to do it. Everything is taking off as planned in the allocated budget," says the mayor, who recalls that no municipal sum has been allocated, except for the work carried out by municipal employees. The federal government paid the bill as part of the handover of the wharf. Initially, Ottawa gave the Town of Gaspé an envelope of \$1.9 million in 2016 to restore the infrastructure.

## Camp Bellefeuille is hoping to have its summer camp this year

Nelson **Sergerie**

CHANDLER - Camp Bellefeuille in Chandler is hoping to be able to open its summer camp this summer. Last year, due to sanitary constraints, the organization was able to offer only a limited day camp and cabin rentals.

The director, Guylaine Michel, would like to have quick answers to properly organize for the summer. "Everything will depend on the conditions that will be associated with the opening of the summer camps if ever the health authorities go in that direction," says Ms. Michel.

Even at the day camp level, it is difficult to plan without having clear guidelines. "We're going to have to limit our reception capacity both at the day camp and summer camp level to be able to have indoor spaces for everyone," explains the director.

All the measures have a financial impact, but the support of the community and the government has helped to lessen the blow. Non-urgent work had to be postponed.

In addition, it is difficult to plan the recruitment of staff when management does not know what will be allowed in 2021.

Last year, nearly 120 children attended a limited day camp due to the rules in place. Management had to suspend day camp activities for a few days in August when some individuals who had rented a chalet on the site had been placed in preventive quarantine because they had contact with a person who tested positive for the coronavirus.



Funded by the Government of Canada



## Photography Project - Now You See Us

The title of my photograph is "Harvest Moon". I took this photograph in New Carlisle, on a moonlit night in October, using a slow shutter speed and a low ISO to reduce graininess. I tried taking photographs from different angles, but I liked the way the viewer is led to the moon by the curve where the shore ends.



"Harvest Moon" by Sharon Guignon

Some people write and record words, but photographs can also be a journal. The moon brings me comfort and lifts my spirits, especially through these difficult times. When I saw there was a full moon, I went for a drive and stopped the car to take a photograph. We are lucky as we get a clear view of the moon and the stars here in New Carlisle. I love taking photographs of nature, especially of the moon as it plays such an important role in our lives.

### Tip of the Week

Move around and play with perspective! The best way to get a bit more creative with your photography is to experiment with perspective. The exact same scene can often look very different when approached from a different angle and capturing your subject from above or below may change the whole feel of a photograph.

Not every angle will work for every photograph, of course, but you'll never know what works and what doesn't if you don't experiment.

### Upcoming events:

Check out the Family Ties Facebook page for upcoming photography activities and workshops led by local photographers!

### Registration info

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

[Follow Family Ties' Facebook Page for more details](#)

# Matane shrimp boats join the Joint Plan

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - The Shrimp Fishermen's Office in the Town of Gaspé is now the Office of Quebec Shrimp Fishermen.

The Régie des marchés agricoles etimentaire du Québec has agreed that the shrimp fishermen of Matane can join the Joint Plan of the Shrimp Fishermen of the Town of Gaspé. That plan will become the Joint Plan of the Shrimp Fishermen of Quebec.

A majority of Matane fishermen wanted to join the plan: 70% of fishing license holders land their catches at the Fruits de mer de l'Est de Matane factory, which represents 71.4% of boats and 69% of total shrimp landings at this plant, according to the report made by the management.

Thus, the Régie extended the plan to include the landings made in Quebec dedicated to factories in the Lower Saint Lawrence and Gaspé Peninsula. The extension of the scope of the plan will allow better equity between fishermen by guaranteeing everyone the same market conditions, writes the board in its decision.

The management emphasizes that the grouping of shrimp fishermen from the Gaspé and the Lower Saint Lawrence within the Joint Plan will be beneficial for the development of this sector as well as for the promotion of the product on the Quebec market.

The Quebec Association of the Fishing Industry (AQIP) did not oppose the principle, because it viewed it in a good light. "Everyone is going to be in the same boat. We are going to have a single negotiation and a single marketing agreement," explains the director, Jean-Paul Gagné.

The office of shrimp fishermen in the town of Gaspé was also in favour. "We think it will improve our position and the fluidity of negotiations in the future if the Matane plant is subject to the Joint Plan," added the director of the office, Patrice Element.

A group of shrimp boat owners was heard on February 26 to make the request.



*Fishermen will be paid the same price for shrimp processed in the Gaspé and the Lower Saint Lawrence.*

Photo: N. Sergerie

## Towards protection of supply management

Nelson Sergerie

CARLETON-SUR-MER - The Bloc Québécois bill to protect supply management is moving forward in Ottawa. Only Conservative Members of Parliament opposed the principle during the second reading of Bill C-216.

Bloc Québécois MP Kristina Michaud wants to ensure that supply management does not become a bargaining chip in the negotiation of international agreements. "Kind of like the cultural exception. We want to make sure that we do not touch this anymore and that we do not make any more concessions as has been done in recent years," explains Ms. Michaud.

Dairy, poultry and egg producers are still awaiting compensation for the new NAFTA. The elected representative from Avignon-La Mitis-Matane-Matapédia hopes that this issue will be resolved. "With the budget approaching, I don't see why we couldn't have them soon. I think the Liberals could get this on the agenda pretty quickly."

### Caution with milk producers

Gaspésie milk producers remain cautious as the bill continues to move forward. "These are very well received promises for the producers under supply management, but it points to an election campaign," commented the regional representative, Normand Barriault, cautiously.

Compensation to close the market breach in the Canada-US-Mexico agreement has yet to be paid. Mr. Barriault does not believe he will have a cheque anytime soon. "In my opinion, that will be an election promise that is going to be in the electoral machine for 2021."

The producer estimated the opening of the Canadian market at 15% after the agreements with the European Union, the Trans-Pacific Agreement and the new Canada-United States-Mexico agreement.

### GESGAPEGIAG:

Cont'd from cover

their food, ideally healthy food," explains Mr. Jerome. He has established a sound relation with the organization Second Harvest, which distributes food given by big banner stores such as IGA all over the country. There are conditions to satisfy before receiving food from that organization.

"Instead of just having the food riding in locally, we get

food from Second Harvest. When I get in contact with Second Harvest, it is free of charge but the three communities, Listuguj, us and Gespeg have to agree and all take food during that delivery because it is very costly for them to come here. I am the coordinator of that part of the operation. Listuguj already has a food bank and Gespeg starts to get used to the idea," says Alexander Jerome.

The budget of the Gesgape-

giag food bank and its eventual location are "works in progress. We don't know if we will go to a new building or an old building. Second Harvest has a budget of \$8 million for initiatives across Canada. They are mentioning that the money could be distributed in \$20,000 sums for 400 projects. We would sure like to get one. We are working hard to find other programs. We are working hard to make it," concludes Mr. Jerome.

## Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



## Passover

Passover is a week-long celebration of the Jews leaving Egypt and escaping from slavery. Passover takes place this year from sunset on March 27 until nightfall on April 3. It is one of religion's most sacred holidays.

Passover's main event is the seder which is a festive meal where excerpts from the book of Exodus, Numbers and Deuteronomy from the Old Testament are read aloud. Passover food is unique, partly because it is forbidden to eat leavened foods, such as bread or even pasta. This has its origin in the history of the exodus from Egypt. The Jews had to flee quickly and did not have time to wait for their bread to rise. So, instead they eat matzoh which is an unleavened bread.

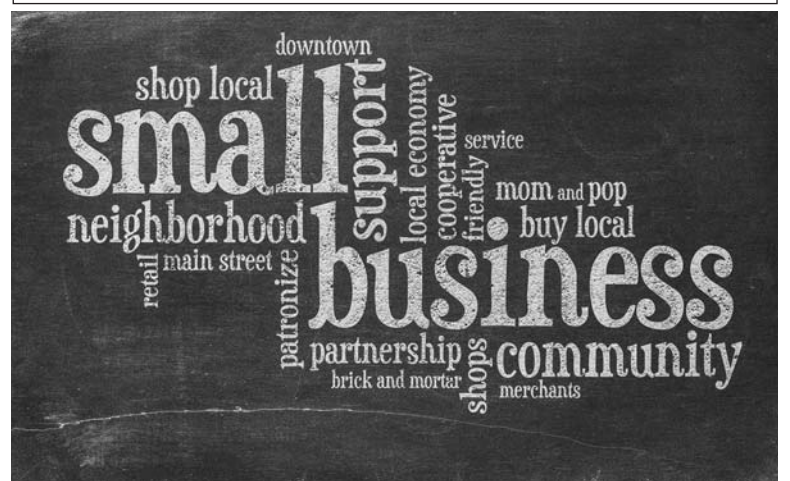
According to the Bible, the history of the Jewish people settling in ancient Egypt goes back to Joseph, the son of Jacob and the founder of one of the 12 tribes of Israel, who moved there with his family when there was a famine. For years everything was peaceful, but as the number of Jews increased the Egyptians began to see them in a negative way. When Joseph died, an Egyptian pharaoh ordered that the Jews be made slaves and that all male Hebrew babies were to be killed.

One of these babies was Moses who was adopted by the pharaoh's daughter! Moses fled Egypt as a young man but later returned after an encounter with God to lead the people of Israel into freedom. Pharaoh refused to free the Israelites but relented after Egypt was struck with a series of plagues. The angel of death passed over the houses of the Israelites, sparing their children from the plagues. This is where the term Passover comes from.

Jesus himself is, of course a Jewish man who celebrated the Passover during his earthly life. The 12 apostles were, likewise, all Jewish. Easter itself has links to Passover. Easter and Passover both symbolize the movement from death into life, from slavery into freedom.

The Anglican Church of Canada has sought to recognize and redress past sentiments towards the Jewish faith through specific prayer, 'For Reconciliation with the Jews.' Reverend Joshua Paetkau, Parish of New Carlisle and Chaleur Bay states, "This prayer is intended to move us beyond old hatreds and to seek forgiveness for prejudice and arrogance which has harmed so many people."

*In an article published in The Gaspé Spec, March 3, 2021, about Mentoring, Mary Robertson made a comment about women helping other women. She said, "I have learned that, as women, we are more the same than we are different." That is also true of religion. Christians share the Old Testament in common with the Jewish religion. When we hear about prejudice it can be baffling – yet when we learn about how human beings are different but also the same, it opens our hearts and leads to understanding.*



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# The Gaspesian Way: Online Irish Party well received

Cynthia Dow

It was a St. Paddy's Day celebration like no other! The Gaspesian Way hosted an online party through Facebook Live that drew an audience of several hundred on March 17.

The festivities included videos produced specifically for the evening, as well as archive material from past Cascapedia-St-Jules and Douglstown events. There were songs, of course, as well as jokes and stories, square dancing and acoustic music. It was beautifully produced and presented by Dave Felker, Coordinator for the Gaspesian Way.

Participants included Friends in Song (Debbie Sams, Linda Drody, Suzanne Briand and Sharon Howell); the delightful duo of Lyne Sexton and M'Lou (Marie-Lou Brière Berthelot); the Douglstown Dance Orchestra with Camille Bolduc, Catherine Gauthier-Dion, Guy Bouchard and Laura Sadowsky; and The Narrows featuring Nathan Hayes, Kevin Jones, Dominick Briand and Dave Felker.



Doug Hunt and Jim Cahill did solo performances taped especially for the evening. There were videos from past celebrations including songs by the children of Cascapedia-St-Jules captured by Darlene Dimock, and dance parties at the Douglstown Community Centre taped by Debbie Sams. Also included were clips from the 2007 CASA Story-Telling CD that featured Pat St-Onge and Leo Fitzpatrick, to name a few.

MCs for the show were Dave himself and the head of the Douglstown Community Centre, Isabelle Martin. Dave started producing the event in

mid-February and decided early on it would not be done live: "When we did the Thirsty Thursdays' events live, you had to worry about whether the musician's wifi link was up to standard. The interaction isn't always the same. If you can record the musicians, then they can take part in the commentaries. They are able to chat and exchange with audience members."

He noted that online shows are wonderful for local musicians at a time when live performances are not possible. "It's great for them to have a platform at this time." He was

also impressed by the number of people who watched the entire two hours and 45 minutes!

"Chat stream is one thing that is a real benefit of online shows. When you see a performance live you can whisper to those beside you, but this way you are right in front of the stage, you can talk as much as you want to whoever is with you, and chat online with people all over the place! That ability to exchange and share in the sense of belonging -- that is what The Gaspesian Way is all about."

The audience for the evening tuned in from all over

Canada and even in the US. "Our most numerous group was women over 65 years of age, 70% of our audience was from Quebec, 20% from Ontario, and we had watchers in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and even Newfoundland where I had put the show up on the Newfoundland Kitchen Party Facebook page. Now that is bringing people together!"

Dave added that the Gaspesian Way online events are a great tool for tourism as it reminds people that there is a substantial English-speaking community in the area.

As SPEC went to press on March 19, 1,268 people had watched the entire recorded version of the show, and about 4,000 had tuned in for some of it. Dave says the show will be on The Gaspesian Way Facebook page "...forever, or as long as people are interested in watching it."

Sponsors of the event included Canadian Heritage, CASA and Vision Gaspé-Percé Now, the Douglstown Community Centre and O'Dwyer's Distillery.

## COVID-19 update: A slightly better picture

Gilles Gagné

MARIA – The third week of March proved a little quieter than the previous one on the COVID-19 front, as 14 new cases of coronavirus were detected in the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands, 10 fewer than between March 6 and 12 inclusively.

Three days went without a new case during the third week of March, according to the Public Health Board data, however, the March 19 report was marked by two new hospitalizations. Those cases are always a source of concern because since the beginning of the pandemic, 36.5% of the region's population that was hospitalized due to COVID-19, eventually died.

The March 19 statistical report also mentioned seven additional individuals have recovered from COVID. That day, there was still 14 active cases.

Six of the 14 active cases were located in the Côte-de-Gaspé MRC, and five in the Haute-Gaspésie area, a rare occurrence since the beginning of the pandemic, as that latter MRC only reported 43 positive cases in a year. Given the Magdalen Islands' 37 cases over the same period, those two areas have generated roughly 10 to

12 times less COVID cases than each of the other MRCs.

As of March 19, the Avignon and Rocher Percé MRCs had less than five cases each. In fact their combined total was three active cases. There were no cases in the Magdalen Islands and the Bonaventure MRC that day.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the Public Health Board has reported 1,753 cases in the region; 46 people have died from the coronavirus and 1,693 have recovered.

In a document issued on March 15, the Public Health Board indicated that as of March 14, the proportion of the Gaspé Peninsula population vaccinated so far was 12.5%, with a rate of 11.8% for the peninsula and 17% for the Magdalen Islands. About 11,400 people had received their vaccine.

The proportion of vaccinated people aged less than 60 was 8.5%, compared to 7.1% for the people aged between 60 and 69. As for those aged between 70 and 79, the proportion was 16.5%, and 59.1% for the people aged 80 or more.

On March 19, the age range for seniors to get vaccinated decreased again, and people aged between 65 and 69 inclusively were included in the appointment brackets, however,

an important but undetermined number of seniors in the 70-80 age range still hadn't been able to get their vaccination appointments. They were put on a waiting list as younger people were added to the appointment possibilities.

Jean Morin, the spokesperson of the Public Health Board, explains that "normally, even if we still vaccinate people aged 70 or more, we gradually open the vaccination schedule for the people aged 65 and more. The word "gradually" is important here because we must make sure that vulnerable people and people aged 70 and over have all received their first vaccine before greeting the 65 and over. To be specific, the people aged 70 and over will receive priority."

As of March 19, the Gaspé Peninsula Integrated Health and Social Services Centre was still working with what was left of 9,260 vaccines, the valid inventory number on March 12. Those vaccines were coming from three sources, Pfizer, Moderna and Astrazeneca.

Meanwhile, some situations are stabilizing in the Listuguj and Avignon West area. Firstly, the Vitality Health Network indicated that from now on, Gaspé Peninsula family members of people hospitalized in Campbellton will be allowed to

visit. It follows incidents during which a number of Gaspesians died alone at that New Brunswick hospital because the health authorities were improvising in the management of visits.

### In-class learning to resume for Listuguj students

The New Brunswick government also announced that the Listuguj students will return to in-class learning at Sugarloaf High School on April 19.

As explained by the Mi'gmaq Government, "all Listuguj students will have an opportunity to return to in-class learning in New Brunswick. To ensure that our students are engaged in week-long in-person learning, LETE (Listuguj Educational, Training and Employment Centre) will be maintaining support services at the hub for students' on-line learning schedules. (...) The Government of New Brunswick has indicated that they wish all students, aged 16 to 18 be vaccinated. We recognize the health benefit of such a position and, as a result, will be offering vaccinations to all Listuguj students aged 16 to 18."

The Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government adds that the band administration "has been successful at securing access to the

Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. The delivery of the vaccines will be coordinated through the Listuguj Community Health Services (LCHS) through their partnership with Quebec Public Health. Two weeks following the date of the vaccine clinic, all students will have access to in-person learning according to their in-class schedules. Informed consent is an important aspect of any vaccination strategy. We encourage folks to consult their health care providers or health care professionals."

### Eventual change in travel restrictions

Following an announcement by the Atlantic premiers that their bubble will be reinstated, New Brunswick Premier Blaine Higgs also stated that Listuguj, the Avignon and Temiscouata MRCs will be included in the New Brunswick bubble, effective April 19.

"Please keep in mind that this is conditional to New Brunswick's cases of COVID-19 remaining low. Residents planning to travel into New Brunswick must not have travelled outside of those regions within the last 14 days or must have received the first dose of the vaccine at least 14 days prior," mentions the Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government.

# Announcements...



## Obituary



### MCGOUGH: Andre

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Mr. Andre McGough at the age of 79 years. Predeceased by his parents Roch McGough and Bertha Doiron, daughter Sandra, son Dereck, brothers Claude and John, and grandson Brent.

He leaves behind his beloved wife: Margaret Doiron; his children: Glenn, Patrick, Michael, Andre (Ken), Robyn (Luc), Brian and Devon; grandchildren: Krystal, Brayanna, Ashley, Sara, Jesse, Jimmy, Amy, Jeffrey, Jonathan, Brenna, Robbie, Nicole, Andre, Jessica, Mike and Bobby; great-grandchildren: Evan, Byson, Greyden and Jessica; sister: Louise; daughters-in-law: Lois, Leanne, Heidi, Denise and Kim; many nieces and nephews; and many other family members and friends.

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## In Memory



### COPAGE: Raymond

In loving memory of a dear husband who passed away one year ago, on April 1, 2020.

*We made our vows together  
Joined in love to death do us part.  
God came and took your hand.  
My life fell apart.  
No one knows the heartaches  
I've tried so hard to hide.  
No one knows how many times  
I've broken down and cried.  
I thank you for our children.  
Without them I don't know what I'd do.  
Each one in their own special way  
Reminds me so much of you.  
Looking back upon our lives,  
The ups and downs, the good and bad,  
I'm so happy you chose me to share with you  
The precious years we had.*

Sadly missed and forever in our hearts, your loving wife Doreen; children: Michael (Linda), Terry (Kelly), Donna (Cantal), Beverly (Bob), Brenda; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

### WARD:

In loving memory of the Ward family: Justin and wife Stella, Stanley, Elliott, Verona and Jean.

Forever in our hearts, Doreen, Leila, Marsha and Lloyd.

### WATT: Jessie (Munro)

In loving memory of a dear mother, mother-in-law, grandmother and great-grandmother who passed away four years ago, March 27, 2017.

*Your end came sad and sudden.*

*No time to say goodbye.*

*You were gone before we realized,*

*And only God knows why.*

*There will always be a heartache,*

*And often a silent tear,*

*But always precious memories,*

*Of the days when you were here.*

*Those special years will not return,*

*When we were all together,*

*But with the love within our hearts,*

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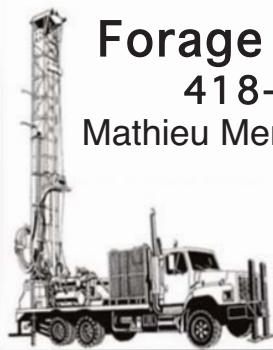


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## COAST ROUND-UP

### NEW CARLISLE: Heritage New Carlisle

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circa 1786, holds many stories from New Carlisle's early days, including the Courthouse and the Caldwell family. Mr. Chisholm always had an interest in family history. Included in his various writings, he has had several publications, including the Chisholm Family and his memoirs. Cost: \$20 plus postage and handling: \$5. To order by email: herita-

genc@globetrotter.net. Telephone: 418-752-1334 or facebook: centre culturel et d'interprétation Kempffer-page officielle.

**ROTARY CLUB WINNERS**  
**The winners for the week of March 7 are:** Desneiges D. Turbide, Melissa Sullivan, Marc Nellis, Myriam Leblanc, Patricia Fournier, Poissonerie de la Baie and Darlene Munro.

## ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

### Palm Sunday/Holy Week Services March 28, 2021

St. Andrew's 11 a.m. / St. James' Port Daniel 3 p.m.

**April 1 Maundy Thursday** - St. Andrew's at 5 p.m.

### April 2 Good Friday

St. Andrew's 11 a.m. / St. James' Port Daniel 3 p.m.

Holy Saturday ~ Ecumenical Vigil TBA

### April 4 Easter Sunday Sunrise Service

St. Andrew's at 5:30 a.m. / St. Andrew's 9 a.m.

St. James' Port Daniel 11 a.m.

# On the lighter side...



## Why do we say ... by Gary Briand

A long standing friend from Granby wrote me in 2017. His grandson, a budding basketball star, had been awarded a scholarship to the University of Pennsylvania. A French Canadian to whom English was a great challenge, he constantly heard his friends say, "Step up or I'll Broderick you!" He looked up "Broderick" in the dictionary and came away empty.

I answered my friend by pointing out that the phrase was an American idiom and while absent from the dictionary, it occupied a prominent place in dictionaries of American idioms.

It owes its existence to a New York City policeman named Broderick who relied on his fists more than his revolver. He daily strolled the Broadway Beat and dealt out punishment so that to many his name became synonymous with "to clobber." In one day, he flattened the hoodlum Jack (legs) Diamond and then knocked out Francis (two gun) Crowley before the crook could touch his revolvers.

Another day he observed two men molesting a young woman on Broadway. He approached the two. One answered him aggressively. Broderick tackled him, swinging him down and then threw him against his culprit friend. Both of them were hurled through a huge plate glass window. He then arrested them both and fined them three thousand dollars for breaking the window.

Broderick was always an example of sartorial splendour. When not on the beat, he wore the best of fashionable clothes as merchants rewarded him for his diligent protection of their storefronts. He also ate free at New York's finest restaurants.

When President Roosevelt and the heavyweight champion Jack Dempsey visited New York, both insisted that Broderick be in their security entourage. In fact, Dempsey in his biography stated the only man he wished not to meet in a fight was Broderick. So hated was Broderick in his day by the Mafia that the New York gamblers once gave 9-5 odds that he would be shot on any given day. He fooled them all, dying in his bed in 1966 at 72 years of age.

I told the young man to visit a video store and rent the movie Bullets or Ballots. In it he will find that Edward G. Robinson plays Johnny Brannagan, the film's name for Broderick.

## COMEDY CLUB WORD SEARCH

D F S C O W E L J N A V P K M U M P D L  
E V B R O L D O M B E D B S C G E W C O  
L A U G H I N G F W S E A G C R O R O H  
B C H S H O W J U I C T K O F R E R U E  
I T C V E N U E Y N I D M O C N B O T A  
M W T O H I K L E R K E R F E I H O I D  
Y G E I A R L I E D D M N P T V T M K L  
N B K O L L D I D I A G O E R M G K S I  
N M S L P U L W A N K F R E I S K C A N  
U Y S E A E F N C L A I C O S C D I D E  
F F W H R L N E S A Y F M U I E C T L R  
B H V E G U D M L P P M E T S U L S M K  
U O B C A V T T I R M K H I Y Y K P L I  
L B Y K T V T A E C O S V A H R L A O E  
C O L L A N I M E J J O E V Y E O L U H  
C O F E G K I C D F R G T E D Y G R S J F  
I K H D D S N O N P A I E E I N W J H T  
M I F K E J L P M T G M F K S I O J E G  
O N N K F T N I S A O I O F N R D P K S  
C G B D Y B K L G C A U W V U B S N L J

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

## WORDS

AUDIENCE  
BIT  
BOOKING  
BRINGER  
CLUB  
COMEDIAN  
COMEDY  
COMIC  
CROWD  
FEATURE  
FUNNY  
GAG  
HEADLINER  
HECKLE  
IMPROVISED  
JOKE  
LAUGHING  
OPENER  
OPEN MIC  
PERFORMANCE  
PREMISE  
RIFF  
ROOM  
SATIRE  
SET  
SHOW  
SHTICK  
SKETCH  
SKIT  
SLAPSTICK  
SOCIAL  
STAGE  
TAG  
VENUE

Life is better  
when you  
cry a little,  
laugh a lot, and  
are **thankful**  
for everything  
you've got.



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

## CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to winter.  
Each number corresponds to a letter.  
(Hint: 26 = I)

**A. 5 1 3 14**

Clue: White precipitation

**B. 16 21 26 8 8 6 24 18**

Clue: Strong snow storm

**C. 2 24 26 25 26 18**

Clue: Very cold

**D. 26 7 4**

Clue: Frozen water

Answers: A. snow B. blizzard C. frigid D. ice

## HOROSCOPES

**ARIES** – Mar 21/Apr 20

Don't shy away from the issues that keep cropping up this week, Aries. They may cause a few headaches, but they also are making the days much more exciting.

**TAURUS** – Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, many people like to live by the mantra "don't judge a book by its cover," but many times appearances matter. Don't regret picking out a nice outfit or a trendy restaurant.

**GEMINI** – May 22/June 21

Change may take you in unexpected di-

rections this week, Gemini. The good news is that things are finally turning around for you. Enjoy this exciting time.

**CANCER** – Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, you may be drawn to people who appeal to your analytical side this week. You could be interested in some intellectual debate and need a worthy sparring partner.

**LEO** – Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, if you see a chance to get ahead this week, jump on it. No matter what is involved or how inconvenient, you do not want to let this opportunity pass you by.

**VIRGO** – Aug 24/Sept 22

There is much more clarity in your life this week, Virgo. It's almost as if a veil

has been lifted or if your eyeglasses prescription has been fine-tuned.

**LIBRA** – Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, there might be a lot of activity going around you over the course of the week. Whether it's good or bad, you won't be directly involved in any of it.

**SCORPIO** – Oct 24/Nov 22

Exercise caution when sharing your secrets, Scorpio. Make sure others can be tight-lipped, as some people cannot resist passing on a little gossip here and there.

**SAGITTARIUS** – Nov 23/Dec 21

There is great harmony in your life right now and it's due mostly to the fact that you are working together with people both at home and at

work. Keep up the collaborations.

**CAPRICORN** – Dec 22/Jan 20

Listen to people around you to get a fresh perspective on various components of life that you share. People may have good ideas and be willing to share their advice.

**AQUARIUS** – Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, if you have been trying to become better acquainted with someone in your personal life or even at the office, pay attention to their body language. It can say a lot.

**PISCES** – Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, trust your heart this week and be honest with how you feel about situations. Not every decision has to be based on analysis. Trust your gut.

## FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

**MARCH 21**

Matthew Broderick, Actor (59)

**MARCH 22**

JJ Watt, Athlete (32)

**MARCH 23**

Brett Young, Singer (40)

**MARCH 24**

Tommy Hilfiger, Designer (70)

**MARCH 25**

Elton John, Singer (74)

**MARCH 26**

Jonathan Groff, Actor (36)

**MARCH 27**

Jessie J, Singer (33)

# The Downy Woodpecker

Diane Skinner

*“Advice from a woodpecker: Find your own rhythm, peck away at obstacles, be colourful, carve out a place for yourself, it’s okay to be a little flashy, and use your head.”*

There are more than 200 species of woodpecker found throughout the world and of these 13 are found in Canada. The Downy Woodpecker is the smallest, about 15 to 18 centimetres long (about 6 inches), and is the most common woodpecker found on the Gaspé and, in fact, in all of eastern North America.

The Downy Woodpecker is black and white, normally with a wide white stripe down its back. The wings have a checkered pattern of black and white which are clearly visible when they are in flight. Male and females are about the same size and the male

sports a small vibrant red patch on the back of its head. The downy woodpecker’s bill is shorter than its head. It takes its name from the soft, white feathers on the white stripe that is found on its back. The rest of its feathers are more “hairlike.”

Woodpeckers of all species have some similarities. These include their ability to dig holes into wood. The shape of the bill gives it super-strength for digging because it is made of strong bone with a hard covering and with nostrils that are spaced far apart to spread the force of pecking. The nostrils are covered with feathers to keep out sawdust.

Woodpeckers have a long tongue with barbs (spikes) that it uses to search in holes for food. Its saliva is sticky so that insects can be gathered on the tongue.

They will display aggressive behaviour towards other

birds that come too close.

They often choose a dead tree to nest in and place their holes about four to six metres (13 to 20 feet) above ground level.

In March woodpecker couples search for a safe nesting spot. They are ready to start their family. Once they are bonded the male and female will likely return to the same nesting spot each year. The male and female each have their own nesting hole in the tree near each other. It takes the birds about two or more weeks to complete their nesting hole. If you hear the unmistakable sound of the male woodpecker tapping, particularly in March or early



*This male Downy Woodpecker was photographed in Maria. Notice the red patch at the back of his head and the black and white checkered wings.*

Photo: Elaine Clouter

April, he is getting the nesting area ready. The male, who does most of the drilling, will spend half the daylight hours, in 20-minute sessions pecking away noisily. He only stops to rest or eat.

While the male Downy Woodpecker is working away, the female will feed, fly around and chase away any other nosy birds. The female Downy lays about four or five eggs and both mother and father take turns sitting on them or guarding the entrance to their nesting place.

After 12 days, more or less, the tiny woodpeckers hatch, most often from May to July. They are tiny at birth, just 1.6

grams (less than .056 ounces) but they grow rapidly. The parents feed the babies and keep the nest clean for about 18 days when the newborns are just about fully grown. They are very hungry and the parent brings food to them about four to five times every hour.

After 18 days the parents bring less and less food so that the hungry babies try their first flight. After a few weeks they are able to get their own food consistently.

The Downy Woodpecker dines on insects, moths and caterpillars. They have been a helpful species who eat elm bark beetles which cause Dutch elm disease.

## FASCINATING FACTS

Woodpeckers don’t peck at night.

*They can peck over 12,000 times in a day.*

A group of woodpeckers is called a descent.

*Though they can make holes in live trees, they prefer dead ones.*

A woodpecker may visit your hummingbird feeder to drink because of its extra long tongue.

*They have a special bone called a hyoid in their head which acts like a shock absorber.*

If a woodpecker’s beak wears down, it will regrow.

*In some cultures, a woodpecker pecking is considered a bad omen – perhaps a death.*

# Different places - Shared moments

Diane Skinner

Over the past year we have found ways to connect with others, despite the pandemic. The New Carlisle Book Club has been meeting since 2009. That was the year that Sandi Beebe retired from teaching and she provided the impetus for getting the Book Club going. Of course, from 2009 and up until March 2020 the members met in person. Now they continue to meet virtually via Zoom.

At present there are 18 members, but the number who participate each month varies. Usually there are eight to ten who attend any particular meeting. Others read the books suggested by the group, but prefer not to be involved in online discussions. Most of the members live in New Carlisle, but there are also members who live in Shigawake and New Richmond.

Choosing books is done collaboratively. In June eight books or so are chosen. Then from the list the next book or

two to be discussed is chosen so that members can obtain the book, either to read on a platform such as Kobo or some choose to buy the actual book.

Sandi Beebe sends out the emails and keeps track of information. Another member looks after the Zoom links. The person who originally suggested the book title animates the meeting and manages the questions.

The Book Club is especially important now because, as Sandi comments, “It gives a sense of normalcy and keeping things going.” Members mention that the discussion is stimulating and being able to discuss books in-depth with others is enjoyable and thought-provoking. These shared moments are a great way to connect with others. The book title for the next month is confirmed at the end of the meeting and this provides members with something to plan for and look forward to. Sandi comments that the Book Club has lost some of its vigour since the pandemic but the peo-



*Sandi Beebe, member of the New Carlisle Book Club, shares that next month’s book will be The Forgotten Daughter by Joanna Goodman.*

Photo: Courtesy of Sandi Beebe

ple who are still actively participating enjoy their evening very much.

This month the group read *The Bush Runner: The Adventures of Pierre-Esprit Radisson* by Mark Bourrie. Radisson was the first European to explore the upper Mississippi and author Mark Bourrie describes him as “an eager hustler with no known scruples.” He was kidnapped at the age of 15 by Mohawk warriors. Escaping after a year he travelled to New York City. His escapades are

many and he is remembered as a fur trader who led to the founding of the Hudson’s Bay Company. His journals provide insight into seventeenth century Canada.

Books can take you to a different time and place which is particularly meaningful at a time when we cannot travel. Reading gives wings to our imagination. Books inform. Books can give you motivation and even courage. During COVID-19 these are all assets to our lives.

Book clubs add more depth to the reading experience: “For most people, what is so painful about reading is that you read something and you don’t have anybody to share it with. In part what a book club opens up is that people can read a book and then have someone else to talk to about it with. Then they see that a book can lead to the pleasure of conversation, that the solitary act of reading can actually be part of the path to conversation and community.” Bell Hooks

*Books + friendship = Book Clubs*

# For the birds: Birdfeeders

Diane Skinner

You can go one of two ways when it comes to feeding the birds. You can buy a feeder and there are many, many styles available in a wide range of prices. You can make a bird-feeder from simple to a more elaborate wooden feeder.

## Buy a feeder

You might want to consider a “sturdy” feeder if you want it to last. You can buy very inexpensive feeders but you will likely get what you paid for. You want the feeder to stand up to wind, rain, snow and squirrels. As well, the birdfeeder should keep the seeds dry and be able to be taken apart and then put back together for easy maintenance and cleaning.

One thing to keep in mind when buying a feeder is that different birds like different seeds. On top of that some birds prefer a certain type of feeder. If you want to attract one type of bird that’s great or if you want to attract a variety, that will cost a bit more.

The main types of feeders are: platform feeders, window

feeders, suet feeders, tube feeders and house feeders.

**Platform feeders** – This type of feeder attracts a wide variety of birds. Tray feeders are open so they have no protection from snow or rain, however, drainage holes can help to keep seeds from becoming water-logged.

Some have screen bottoms and these seem to work well. These feeders can be filled more often, perhaps every day or two so put just enough for a few days. A down-side of tray feeders is that squirrels can easily access the seeds.

**Window feeders** – These feeders are usually light, because they attach to windows with suction cups. The lovely thing about these is the close-up views you get and the chance to take some award-winning photos.

**Suet feeders** – These are made of an outside layer of wire mesh and can be tied to a branch or even nailed to a tree trunk. They can be a bag type or cage which is often coated with plastic.

**Tube feeders** – Tube feeders will keep the seeds dry and can be difficult for squirrels to ac-

cess. Clean the tube every once in a while. These come in a variety of styles and sizes. You can buy a “bird hotel” size that will allow a number of birds to feed at the same time.

**House feeder** – These are very popular because they are often very cute and made to look like a tiny house. Some are small works of art. Clean them out from time to time.

## Make a feeder

Make-your-own feeders can be cheaper, and a lot of fun for adults and children. There are countless ideas to be found online for making birdfeeders. You can follow the ideas exactly or use them as inspiration and put your own spin on it.

### These include:

- Suet feeder** (Very easy)
- Pine cone feeder** (Very easy)\*
- Popsicle stick bird feeder** (Very easy)
- Peanut butter jar feeder** (Easy)
- Wooden tray feeder** (Easy)
- PVC pipe feeder** (Easy)
- Milk jug bird feeder** (Easy)
- Pop bottle bird feeder** (Easy)\*



*This pop bottle feeder is low-cost and easy to make. Instructions in this article.*

Photo: D. Skinner

### Wine bottle bird feeder (Medium)

- Lego bird feeder** (Medium)
- Flower pot feeder** (Medium)
- Wooden birdhouse feeder** (Medium to difficult)

### Pine cone feeder

Simply take a pine cone and roll it in peanut butter and then in bird seed. Attach a piece of string so that it can be hung from a tree branch. Kids will love trying this.

### Pop bottle feeder

You need an empty, well-rinsed pop bottle, twine, wooden skewer, hot glue gun. Insert skewer, and cut a hole (flaps) for the birds to get the seeds. Then use a darning needle to put the twine through the bottle. You can hot glue the flaps, but may not need to. Hang in a tree and enjoy the visitors.

*(Next week: Hummingbird feeders)*

# Full Worm Moon

Diane Skinner

The Full Worm Moon will occur on March 28 and it is considered the last full moon of winter, though it occurs after March 20, the Spring Equinox. It is named after the earthworm as they soon come out of their period of dormancy.

In 2021 there will be four supermoons. These will be on March 28, April 27, May 26 and June 24. Four in a row! It is called a supermoon when a full moon or a new moon is closest in distance to Earth. This results in the moon appearing slightly larger than usual. This is an opportunity for photographers to take some lovely photos.

To the sky watcher this moon will appear full the night before and the night after. So, if

the skies are cloudy on the March 28 you may catch a fullish moon on March 27 or March 29. Still picture worthy.

We always see the same side of the moon, but part of it can be in shadow. Sometimes – once in a blue moon – the moon is full twice in the same month. There are no blue moons in 2021.

In 2021 the full moons are on January 28, February 27, March 28, April 26, May 26, June 24, July 23, August 22, September 20, October 20, November 19 and December 18.

If you want to take a photo of the moon that is more than a tiny white sphere, here are some tips:

### Cell phone photo tips

1. Use a tripod. This will give you a sharper image be-

cause it will eliminate vibration. A tabletop tripod is less expensive.

2. Zoom in on the moon, try to make it appear as large as possible. Use your fingers to enlarge it on the screen.
3. Turn off the flash. To do this manually, go to the flash icon and choose OFF.
4. Using the sun logo slider on the right-hand side of the autofocus lockbox
5. Use the self-timer. The three second delay gives you time to step back from the tripod.
6. Clean your camera lens. A few quick wipes will get rid of dust, fingerprints and bits of food or coffee.

### 35 mm. camera photo tips

1. Use a tripod and a shutter speed remote.
2. Use a long and slow shutter



*(Source: Elizabeth Dupuis, Family Ties - Coordinator, Now You See Us funded by Canadian Heritage.)*

### Moon Facts

- The moon is the only location outside of Earth where humans have visited. The moon’s gravitation pulls on our oceans causes tides.
- In our solar system there are more than 190 moons.
- Many years ago, humans did not know that other planets had moons, so they called our moon, “Moon.” In 1610 Galileo Galilei dis-

covered that Jupiter had four moons.

- There is no weather on the moon. Tracks from astronauts are still there.
- No evidence has been found that the moon has ever had any living things on it, besides astronauts. So far, 12 humans have walked on the moon.
- The United States has left six flags on the moon but they do not own it. In 1967 an international law was written that prevents any country from owning the moon, planets or stars.
- There are 500,000 craters on the moon.
- It takes the moon 27.3 days to orbit the Earth.
- More moon missions are planned with the hope of setting up a permanent moon space station.

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