

The Gaspé Spec

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NRHS students' poems immortalized in song!

Cynthia Dow

NEW RICHMOND: Nova Scotia artist, Laura Teasdale, has once again teamed up with the students and teachers at New Richmond High School and this time a collection of 11 songs has been created.

Little did the Grade 4-5-6 class know that poems they wrote in the fall would be turned into such lovely music!

"The theme was *Family is Beautiful*," explained Kim Fessenden, Community Development Agent for the school. Last fall, CEGEP professor Marie-Josée Charest worked with the children on poetry, talking about metaphor, imagery and comparison. All 13 of the children, Belinda, Blake, Bridget, Caleb, Emily, Hart, Jenny, Julien, Kaden, Levi, Marissa, Myla, and Phenix wrote poems but two decided they were too shy to share their songs in public.

With a grant from the English Language Arts Network, Laura Teasdale was hired to turn the poetry into music. Ms Teasdale was actually testing some comedy improvisation with the children when she heard about the poetry they had written. "I knew them, and they were very sweet, willing to let me experiment so in turn



Behind members of the Grade 4-5-6 class at New Richmond High are Kim Fessenden on the left and teacher Darlene Dimock on the right.

Photo: Cynthia Dow

I did this project, and it was so rewarding. Every word is from the kids, isn't it amazing? And very touching."

In March of 2019, Ms Teasdale had worked on a concert with NRHS which was greatly appreciated by those who saw it. Just before the COVID situation arose last March, she was supposed to come back to the region. "I've just fallen in love with the area and I've grown quite close to some people there."

Through half a dozen Zoom meetings, Laura Teasdale

worked with the kids to choose the kind of music they thought would go well with their lyrics: from 50s style pop to round songs to raps and ballads. Then over the Christmas holidays she worked with musician Justin Gregg to produce the collection.

"Justin and I actually have a band together, Bingley and the Rogues, and we have been nominated for an East Coast Music Award for children's music. I felt some of the songs should have a techno feel so I got Justin involved and he was

so supportive, he said, "Let's do them all!" She explained that they were so inspired by the NRHS kids that their next album will be written by children. "We'll reach out to some of the kids up there, too."

The final meeting on Zoom was in talk-show format, and two student hosts asked questions about what inspired the artists.

"What the students have produced is as meaningful as any songwriter's work," noted class teacher Darlene Dimock.

The songs have also been

shared on the school's private facebook page, and Ms Dimock noted that family members have been really touched by what they have heard.

The music is now available in a public format. Ms Dimock would like people to show their appreciation for the students' work by going to soundcloud.com and searching for "The Bubble Busters." The name is derived from the family bubbles people have been living in since the beginning of the COVID-19 public health emergency.

No variant so far in the Gaspé

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - Fortunately, as Spec reached its deadline (March 26) the Gaspé Peninsula had yet to experience any cases linked to COVID-19 variants. The region is one of the few, along with Northern Quebec and the North Shore, to maintain zero cases of variants.

The regional director of public health, Dr. Yv Bonnier Viger, notes that it is only a matter of time. Surveillance is being stepped up.

"We treat each of the cases as if they are variants. We are more strict on the level of contacts. They are



Photo: N. Sergerie

Dr. Yv Bonnier Viger

also asked to isolate their family contacts until they have the results," explains

the medical specialist.

The number of tests conducted remains relatively

large, even if there are few cases. The region was moved to "yellow" on March 26, despite the situation in the neighboring region of the Lower Saint Lawrence, which has experienced a meteoric increase in cases linked to variants since March 13.

"It would take a disaster for the region to return to orange. It could always happen. This is why we call on everyone to be very attentive and to respect the basic instructions as much as possible," states Dr. Bonnier Viger.

On the subject of complications linked to vaccination,

where people have experienced medical difficulties, while deaths have been recorded in Europe in particular, Dr. Bonnier Viger stresses that any medical act can lead to this kind of problem.

"Sadly nine people have died in Europe, but 20 million doses were given. We have certainly saved a lot more than nine. Any treatment has side effects," says the specialist.

If a person experiences any effects after the vaccine, such as bleeding or headaches, they should see a doctor quickly to find the source of the symptoms.



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Police report

A significant poaching network in the Bay of Chaleur area was dismantled on March 19 by a team of 40 game wardens. Approximately 100 people were arrested that day and questioned over the following days. The quantities of game seized was relatively limited but Cdr. Éric Champagne, Director of the Forests, Wildlife and Parks for the regions of the Gaspé Peninsula, Magdalen Islands, Lower Saint Lawrence and Chaudière-Appalaches regions explains that the number of people questioned has been rising since the Opération Pie was conducted.

"We had targeted 100 suspects at first but the number progresses gradually. We have questioned 116 or 117 people so far," explained Cdr. Champagne on March 25, six days after the operation that mobilized all the game wardens posted in the Gaspé Peninsula and Lower Saint Lawrence.

"It was the largest operation of that kind in a long time. We must go back many years to see something of that magnitude. (...) It could lead to fines totalling about \$400,000," adds Cdr. Champagne.

It will most likely take months before the poachers stand trial at the New Carlisle courthouse. "The investigators, after the inquiry, are checking the judicial aspect of the charges and then submit each file to the crown prosecutor. We are talking about penal law here, not a criminal procedure," stresses Cdr. Champagne.

The information that led to the investigation and the poaching bust started in 2017 when people communicated information to the Wildlife Department. "It was an operation that has roots in 2017 and the investigation was activated in 2019. The delay is explained by the analysis of the inquiry elements first communicated to us. We must validate those elements and then assess our investigation capacity. Our personnel is limited," explains Cdr. Champagne. He adds that information coming from the public was instrumental in the investigation's initial stage.

"The quantities seized were not significant. The game seized consists of consumption goods. In March, there is almost nothing left in the freezers, as people have been consuming game meat since the summer and the fall," says Éric Champagne. Salmon, trout and moose meat were seized. However, in the months preceding the March 19 bust, the investigators gathered evidence to the effect that significant quantities of rainbow smelt, striped bass, partridge and deer were also hunted illegally and sold since last summer by the members of the poaching network.

The main infractions that will stem from the investigation will likely be fishing and hunting when it is prohibited, illegal possession of game meat, illegal selling and illegal buying of game meat, as well as overfishing and overhunting during the season.

"There is an important message that must be understood by the public: buying game is just as illegal as selling it. Buying or creating a demand for illegal game is just as serious an offence as poaching and selling it. Buyers are creating an illegal market that would not exist without them. We did not only want to stop poaching in that operation, we wanted to break that market," insists Cdr. Champagne.

Most of the arrests and questioning involved people living in the Carleton area, and several others from Saint-Omer and New Richmond. As of March 26, a week after the bust, the investigators were still calling new people to be questioned.

Many investigation means were used to gather the evidence needed to go to court. "We followed people, we used videos, we watched some specific spots, we really deployed all the means to get the clues required to question people like we currently do," explains Éric Champagne, who does not divulge if undercover game wardens made transactions with poachers because some investigation elements are kept until the court procedure starts.

Speaking of court appearances, Cdr. Champagne points out that the COVID pandemic creates congestion in court rooms because it complicates the procedure. That is why those involved will not undergo trial anytime soon. Their identity will be released then.

On March 17, a woman residing in Maria was hospitalized after she was beaten, allegedly by her husband. The man apparently used a hammer to hit her, and some of the blows struck her head. She was able to flee the house when he was busy in his garage.

The victim and the accused are both in their thirties. The man appeared in court on March 18, a few hours after his arrest the previous night. He was first charged with aggravated assault and assault with a weapon regarding the March 17 offences. Charges were also laid with regards to previous events that allegedly took place since January 1, 2021. In that case, the charges are assault, assault with a weapon and assault causing bodily harm.

Crown Prosecutor Florence Frappier-Routhier was preparing to add charges against the man at the New Carlisle courthouse when the SPEC reached its March 26 deadline. Those charges were to cover a much longer period, many years according to Attorney Frappier-Routhier. The bail hearing was scheduled for March 30 at the time. "I will object to his release," she said.

The identity of the accused has not been divulged in order to protect the victim. The number of new charges was not determined yet on the morning of March 26. The accused has been representing himself since March 17 but he was looking for a lawyer a few days later. This affair follows seven cases of feminicides that occurred in Quebec since the beginning of 2021.

Help for the Gaspé Airport

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - Ottawa and Quebec are releasing funds to support regional airports that must deal with the major impacts of the pandemic. The slowdown in activities caused significant losses on several levels in the regions.

Gaspé was not spared: the end of Air Canada flights almost a year ago, the marked reduction in private flights and other related activities left a deficit of \$800,000 in 2020, an amount that should be equivalent in 2021 for a total of \$1.6 million.

The Legault government is advancing \$20 million to ease the financial pressure on municipalities, particularly for operating deficits. Ottawa has also provided \$59.2 million for Quebec to support, among other things, the design and implementation of solutions to increase regional air connectivity,



to complement other measures put in place by the Government of Canada; the development and implementation of improved services to foster regional connectivity; cash flow needs of regional and local airports; and adaptation or modernization measures to maintain or improve operations.

The mayor and president of the Air Transport Committee of the Union of Quebec Munici-

palities (UMQ), Daniel Côté, is satisfied.

"In the Quebec program, the numbers seem relatively close to a study that UMQ did. So I assume that the money would cover the operating deficits. In the case of the federal program, we are talking more about programs developing and supporting the recovery. The two are interrelated," says Côté, who is awaiting the fine details of each of the proposed aids.

Tourism: there is still room in Gaspé

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - Contrary to what has been conveyed, the Gaspé is far from sold out for the summer season. A survey of some 140 establishments by Tourisme Gaspésie concludes that there are still possibilities during the main period between mid-July and mid-August.

First observations show that cabins and motels with kitchenettes are very popular.

"For sure, during the peak period, the cabins are almost 73% full and the campsites 33% full. There is really a lot of availability throughout the territory for the entire summer period," says Marketing Director Stéphanie Thibault.

For example, during June, 72% of establishments only have reservations for a quarter of their capacity. From mid-August to early September, 53% of properties have an occupancy rate of less than 25% and there is still plenty of availability in September.

"Start planning and booking your lodging establishment," says Ms. Thibault. It is important to note that just because a campsite is full for a given period, does not mean that it is the case for the entire territory."

The organization responsible for promoting the Gaspé Peninsula as a tourist destination is working to avoid the overflow that occurred on certain Gaspé beaches last summer. "This is really a very localized problem. But on the whole territory, it went well. The message we are sending is to be well informed," says the marketing manager of Tourisme Gaspésie, who adds that a distinction must be made between nomadic campers who illegally occupy the beaches and those who have no more room at a specific time.

Gaspé experienced significant overflows last summer, particularly on the beaches of Haldimand and Douglastown. The Town has just completed consultations with the population and is seeking to conclude a management delegation to the Ministry of Natural Resources to have control over problematic sites. A by-law is expected to be passed in June. The Town is also working on an overflow site.

Elected prefects, the debate continues

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - The debate on whether to elect prefects by universal vote has been revived in Côte-de-Gaspé MRC. The mayors, however, have already declared an inadmissibility.

The elected representatives of the MRC had refused the principle after an in-depth analysis in 2017. Solidarité Gaspésie de la Côte-de-Gaspé appealed to the elected officials at the March Council of Mayors, arguing that an elected prefect would be a facilitator in the action of municipalities, especially since the MRCs have seen their responsibilities increased in recent years. For them, this is a question of healthy democracy and calls for a public consultation to this effect.

The Côte-de-Gaspé prefect, Daniel Côté, is closing the door on the issue due to the 2021 deadlines. "We will see with the next councils. If the question had arrived last fall, perhaps there would have been a broader consultation. Maybe we would have had it studied externally. If there had been an interest, a notice of motion and draft by-law should have been passed now. Unfortunately, it is too late to discuss it for this time," said the prefect during the last meeting on March 10.

Objective to reduce GHGs

The Côte-de-Gaspé MRC wants to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 12% from municipal entities and 6% from the community. The action plan to achieve the targets over the next 10 years includes 40 actions. The prefect believes that the targets are realistic, in particular because of electric vehicles, and that the development of electric trucks is accelerating. "That's where the biggest push is needed. Beyond that, there is the whole issue of residual materials, public lighting, buildings, drinking water conservation and shorter food circuits. It's a whole range of actions that must be undertaken," explains Mr. Côté. The prefect stresses that the municipalities want to set an example.



Gilles Gagné Commentary

Carbon pricing: A reassuring judgement from the Supreme Court

In a 6-3 decision issued on March 25, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that the federal Liberal Party government's carbon pricing policy respects the country's constitution. That huge decision confirms Ottawa's right to impose a carbon tax on the provinces that are reluctantly accepting the principle of carbon pricing to reduce greenhouse effect gas emissions.

Three provinces were sternly opposed to the imposition of carbon pricing by the federal government, namely Alberta, Saskatchewan and Ontario. Legally, those provinces invoked the argument that natural resources are included in the provinces' jurisdiction under the constitution.

However, it is clear that the main reason behind that opposition to the federal government carbon pricing was essentially based on the economic impact of another tax on fossil fuels' use.

Chief Justice Richard Wagner stuck to the legal arguments submitted by Alberta, Saskatchewan and Ontario to structure the written decision though. The arguments of the six judges are quite solid.

"Climate change is real. It is caused by greenhouse gas emissions resulting from human activities, and it poses a grave threat to humanity's future," wrote Richard Wagner.

In its defence, the federal government used a clause, often referred to as POGG, for peace, order and good government, to justify carbon pricing. That clause provides Ottawa with the necessary authority to enact laws to deal with country-wide problems. There was some uncertainty attached to the use of that clause because the Supreme Court's tendency in many cases invoking that clause was to stick to the division of powers as written in the country's constitution. Natural resources fall under the jurisdiction of the provinces. Truth be told, Ottawa had probably used the POGG clause too often in the past.

Judge Wagner stated that this time around, it was totally justified because pollution stemming from carbon emissions triggers "irreversible harm (that) would be felt across the country," particularly in communities and regions most vulnerable to the effects of global warming.

In other words, an asymmetric approach, which

would allow some provinces to refrain from imposing carbon pricing, would handicap the country's capacity to counter climate change. Judge Wagner insisted on the "broad consensus among international bodies" that a price on carbon represents a "critical measure for the reduction of GHG (greenhouse gas) emissions."

So Ottawa's carbon pricing law does tread on the provinces' jurisdiction regarding natural resources, but reasonably and with "limited constitutional impact."

"The evidence clearly shows that establishing minimum national standards of GHG price stringency to reduce GHG emissions is of concern for Canada as a whole. This matter is critical to our response to an existential threat to human life," Richard Wagner wrote.

For those reasons, the federal intervention "passes the threshold test and warrants consideration as a possible matter of national concern."

Emissions don't know what boundaries are

Richard Wagner rightfully stressed that greenhouse emissions are inevitably "extraprovincial." Consequently it is impossible to avoid cross-border "carbon leakage." Therefore, it is the federal government's role to enforce the principle that each jurisdiction contributes to the national effort.

He added that a "failure to include one province in the scheme would jeopardize its success in the rest of Canada (...). What is more, any province's refusal to implement a sufficiently stringent GHG pricing mechanism could undermine GHG pricing everywhere in Canada."

Now, environmental intelligence seems to have boundaries. Some politicians are already using the Supreme Court to their advantage.

The Supreme Court decision will have a somewhat limited scope if another government decides to scrap the carbon pricing law, which the Conservative Party of Erin O'Toole has promised to do.

In other words, a federal government wishing to enforce carbon pricing is legally entitled to do so, however, the same government level led by another party or another leader of the same party could totally abolish carbon pricing.

Considering that Mr. O'Toole was not even able to convince a majority of his delegates to recognize the principle that global warming exists, one can think that he will certainly axe carbon pricing would he be elected in the next election. Firstly, he has committed to do so and replace carbon pricing by something else. Secondly, in a majority government, something he is far from in all fairness, he could skip tabling a valid environment protection plan.

Politically, the Supreme Court decision represents a victory for Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. It is rather odd that such a win earns him a reputation of a po-

tent defender of the environment while his Liberal Party has paradoxically invested and is still investing billions of dollars in pipelines used to transport fossil fuels, including tar sands' oil.

Alberta Premier Jason Kenney is "obviously disappointed" with the Supreme Court decision and has not indicated what he will do next. Counting on him to implement his own carbon pricing looks very odd. He might let the federal government impose it in his province, a move that would make him look like a victim of Ottawa. He will likely make significant efforts to support Erin O'Toole and hope for a Conservative Party victory later this year in a federal election.

Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe's reaction was not more subtle. The Supreme Court verdict "does not change our core conviction that the federal carbon tax is bad environmental policy" and "simply wrong." It "kills jobs" and "threatens the competitiveness of our industries."

In reality, Alberta and Saskatchewan should have used years and years ago part of their ample oil and gas revenues to revamp and diversify their economy. Some warnings to that effect go back 30 and 40 years. The jobs currently vanishing would just gradually be switched to other economic sectors.

By comparison, Ontario's position regarding the Supreme Court decision sounds much more measured and promising. Environment Minister Jeff Yurek said that the provincial government "will continue to do everything we can to make life more affordable for families and businesses." Ontario will implement a "tough but fair plan" to hold the major emitters accountable for the pollution they generate.

Doug Ford has obviously adopted a reasonable approach since the beginning of the pandemic and that new attitude seems to spread to many intervention fields, not just public health. He has shown a better capacity to adapt to his responsibilities than his Alberta and Saskatchewan colleagues.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We would like to congratulate Public Health for the excellent organization of the Covid-19 vaccination clinic held at the Bonaventure arena on Friday, March 19. We dressed warmly, thinking we would have to wait outside. This was not the case. There was no waiting, everything moved along quickly and smoothly. There were many people guiding us along the way. Every consideration was given to us including speaking to us in English. Health precautions were followed from the time we arrived until we left. Thank you to everyone involved especially the retired nurse who gave us our shots.

*Clyde and Lynda Macwhirter,
Hope Town, Quebec*

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WIND ENERGY:

The "stars are aligned" for a "fantastic future," says Energy Minister Jonatan Julien

Gilles Gagné

CARLETON – Quebec's Energy and Natural Resources Minister Jonatan Julien sees a "fantastic future, honestly," for Quebec's wind energy industry. He adds that "the stars are aligned from now on," for that type of energy he calls "ultra competitive."

During his March 10-12 visit on the Gaspé Peninsula, Mr. Julien, who is also the new minister responsible for the region, explained what he sees as wind energy deployment for the future. In his vision of the upcoming situation, he says that things will move before the end of 2021. That deployment will come through two major waves, the repowering of the existing wind farms and an expansion of the current production.

The following two preliminary steps will occur before those waves.

The development of the Apuiat project with the Innus of the North Shore announced on February 4 to honour a commitment made at the end of 2018 by the then new Legault government. It consists of a 200 megawatts wind farm requiring an investment of \$600 million, equally owned by the Innu and energy project developer Boralex. In that case, the price negotiated by the promoters and Hydro-Québec was set at 6 cents per kilowatt-hour.

The second preliminary step will take the form of a call for tenders destined to establish a benchmark price for wind energy. This call for tenders will likely be launched before the

end of 2021 and will target the installation of wind farms with a capacity ranging between 200 and 500 megawatts. The exact number of megawatts remains to be determined.

Minister Julien wants to use that benchmark price to set up a negotiation base with the owners of the wind farms already built in Quebec. The power supplying contracts will reach their deadline from 2026 and on. They will compose the first major wave of Minister Julien's wind energy redeployment.

"That benchmark price will put us in a position to say: listen, we have reached a competitive price. I know that your contracts will reach their deadline in 2026, 2027, 2028. Are you ready to keep going, since the fiscal life (of your wind farms) is probably amortized, considering that your wind towers are still working? If we are ready to keep going with you for 10 years, what is the price you would be willing to give us, always while keeping in mind the benchmark price we have obtained through the call for tenders? It would be great if you could beat that price because we can have brand new (wind farms) with that price," explains Mr. Julien.

He wants to take advantage of the fact that the existing wind farms "are located in the communities, (that they) provide economic benefits for the communities (...) social acceptability is already in place, to continue, let's say about ten additional years. So, first objective: instead of having to dismantle the existing wind farms at the end of the con-

tracts, let's try to make them last until the end of their real useful life," says Jonatan Julien.

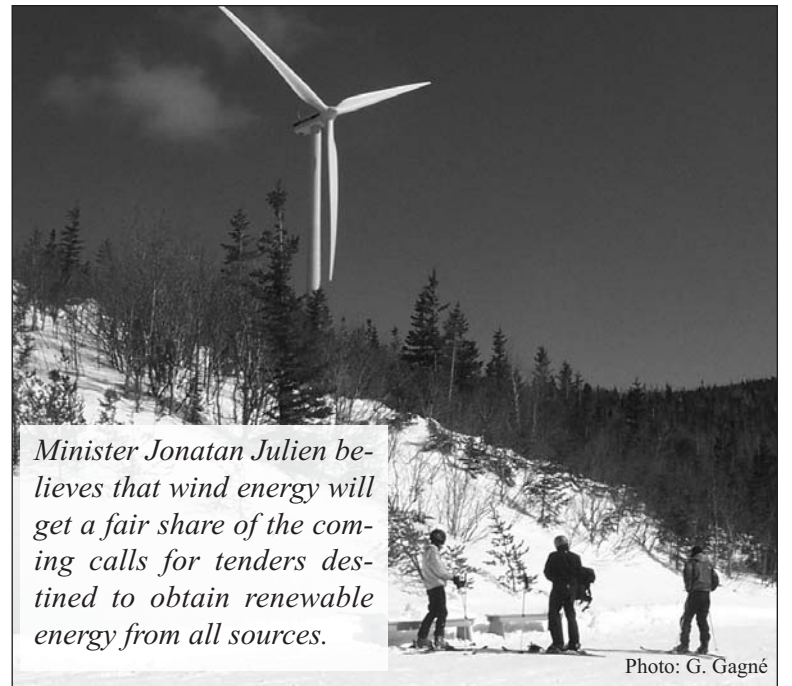
He believes that a call for tenders published in a few months could subtract a few tenths of a cent from the price of 6 cents obtained during the Apuiat Project, characterized by a price of 7.2 cents in 2018.

"Hydro-Quebec has managed to rework the file with the Innu and Boralex to bring it down to 6 cents and probably that in a fully competitive call for tenders a year down the road, we will be at 5.5 (cents)," hopes Mr. Julien.

As for its second wave of development, it will involve the addition of a still undetermined quantity of megawatts of renewable energy in Quebec, not necessarily from wind power.

"After that, it will come quickly, probably at the end of 2022, (it will be a question of) launching new calls for tenders for new supplies. We call it "renewable energy from all sources." (These calls for tenders will go ahead) because the needs are greater than the only renewals that we have in front of us all because we see the supply plan (of Hydro-Quebec), which requires more needs than that (the strict renewals of existing capacity). There, we say all sources; we think that wind power will be able to get its fair share, because it is highly competitive in terms of efficiency and cost," affirms Minister Julien.

Power dams, solar energy and the use of forest biomass to generate electricity also generally rank under the class of re-



Minister Jonatan Julien believes that wind energy will get a fair share of the coming calls for tenders destined to obtain renewable energy from all sources.

Photo: G. Gagné

newable energy from all sources. Each source of energy receives a varying ranking on this point by importing customers. Wind power is considered greener than power dams.

The 6 cents per kilowatt-hour negotiated before the conclusion of Apuiat Project's deal make it the wind farm offering the best cost to Hydro-Quebec since the creation of the wind power sector on a commercial basis, 22 years ago.

Each installed megawatt of wind generally require an investment of \$2.5M to \$3M.

A Quebec call for tenders requiring regional content would increase the chances of the Gaspé-based LM Wind Power plant of landing blade manufacturing contracts. A contractor like New Richmond-based LFG Construction had also landed wind farm assembly contracts during the

2006-2016 stretch. That company was then part of a consortium.

Wind energy provides about 1,000 jobs in the Gaspé Peninsula and the Matane MRC, including wind farm maintenance. The biggest employer of that sector is LM Wind Power. In Quebec, the wind energy cluster provides about 4,500 jobs.

Quebecers currently pay a bit over 6 cents per kilowatt-hour on their Hydro-Québec bill. Part of that price is sharply brought down by the 3.5 cents per kilowatt-hour rate derived from power dams installed before 1990 and usually produced at a cost that is no longer attainable. For example, the latest power dams' production cost nears 10 cents per kilowatt, a data that is not confirmed officially by Hydro-Québec.

Wave of resignations from the Board of Directors of the Chic-Chocs School Services Centre

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - The Board of Directors of the Chic-Chocs School Services Centre took note on March 23 of five resignations of directors that have occurred in the past weeks. Community members Catherine Beaulieu and Michel Perré; staff member Vincent Rineau; and parents Nancy Chicoine and David Dubreuil who was the president have quit. Anonymously, some spoke of psychological harassment, a toxic environment and management's control of the board.

I can assure you that it is not the environment and the way of doing things conveyed to inside our organization; states the Executive Director, Deslilas Fournier, the only person authorized to answer questions by law.

"With all the noise we hear from the left and the right, I wonder what's going on at our school service centre," says former commissioner and education worker, Jean-Yves Dupuis.

Julie Pariseau is now the president and the vacant positions will not be filled until September, according to the law, which Mr. Dupuis criticizes, seeing it as a democratic deficit. In response to the deadline to fill the five vacant seats, Ms. Fournier explains that the organization has the authority to continue administrating and the board has resolved to wait until the next school year.

The MP for Gaspé, Méganne Perry Mélançon, says she is concerned about the issue and is in contact with the office of the Minister of Education, Jean-François Roberge.

It is important to note that the ministry has been supporting the school service centre since last fall.

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Refurbishment still being actively pursued

Gilles Gagné

Simon Carmichael

CHANDLER – Although it's out of the spotlight, the Chandler wharf refurbishment file is still quite active. Local politicians are discussing the matter discretely with Quebec government officials, where there seems to be more interest than ever to acquire the port owned by Transport Canada which neglected its maintenance.

Inaugurated in 1970, the Chandler wharf replaced the old port, located where the marina stands nowadays. Between 1970 and 1999, the current wharf was mainly used to fill the needs of the Gaspesia paper mill. The 1999 plant closure reduced sharply the maritime traffic but in 2004, the CTMA Vacancier cruise ship started calling 30 times a year in Chandler, between June and the end of September.

That activity was not sufficient to convince Canada's Department of Transport to properly maintain the infrastructure, and that ministry announced at the end of August 2016 that the wharf would be closed a month later for safety reasons, after the CTMA Vacancier's season.

In September 2016, the Town of Chandler and Transport Canada had already started discussions for the eventual property transfer to the municipal administration. The ministry had committed to pay for a feasibility study pertaining to the future of the port.

Recently, the Percé Rock MRC joined those discussions, considering that the Chandler wharf's fate is a

state of concern for the whole MRC.

"We want to make the file progress for good," says prefect Nadia Minassian, who would like to know in the coming months where the situation is headed to and clarify the role the port could play in the future of the area.

"At this time, we have an ally with the provincial government. Their vision (of the Quebec government officials) is rather clear. We must just make sure we present the project the right way," adds Ms. Minassian.

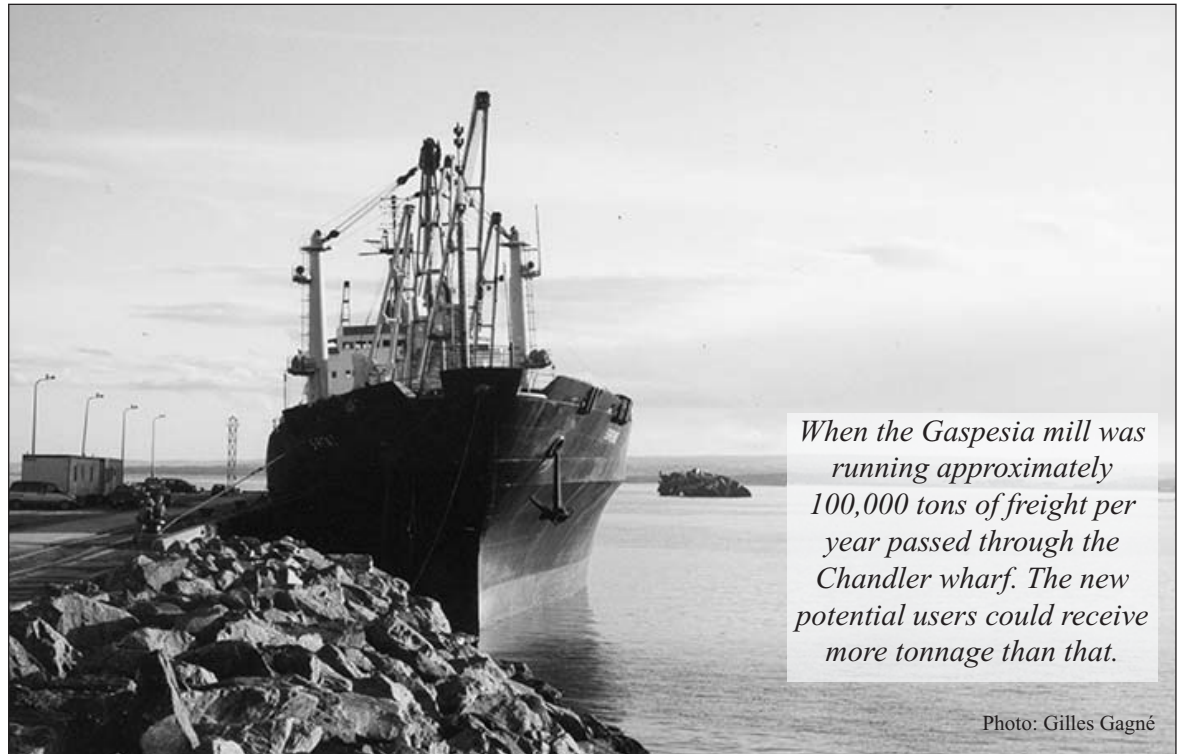
The matter was raised last summer when Quebec Premier François Legault met the regional leaders during a visit in Carleton. The issue of the Chandler port was discussed. Talks also took place with Chantal Rouleau, Quebec's Delegate Minister of Transport responsible for the provincial wharves.

Documents presenting the potential economic spinoffs of a functional wharf in Chandler were also handed to the ministries involved in the file. "There is some momentum," sums up Nadia Minassian.

During his February 10 to 12 visit in the region, Jonatan Julien, the new minister responsible for the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands, was thrilled by the project.

"I see it very, very positively. I will certainly work actively (...) to land that project, which bears economic benefits for the community," said Minister Julien.

Chandler's deputy mayor Bruno-Pierre Godbout shares the optimism of Prefect Minassian. Some premises located close to the wharf and



When the Gaspesia mill was running approximately 100,000 tons of freight per year passed through the Chandler wharf. The new potential users could receive more tonnage than that.

Photo: Gilles Gagné

formerly owned by the Gaspesia mill were recently acquired by the Town of Chandler. They could greet a new industrial development zone, says Mr. Godbout, who confirms that "some discussions already took place with new potential industries."

Even if the current period seems ideal to make progress in the Chandler wharf file, Prefect Minassian and the area's other elected people fear that the momentum will be lost if it is dragging some more, considering that the federal and provincial elections are coming.

"We must know what kind of project we want. It will take a go or no go." She hopes to see a detailed project before "a year from now."

Support from the Quebec government needed

The Percé Rock MRC elected people, who know the complexity of the Chandler port file, want the technical and financial support of the Quebec government so to land the infrastructure refurbishment project.

"We will share all the tools and the information we have, but it is now a provincial file as well. We have a business plan; we receive signals from the governments, the municipalities and the enterprises; now we must sit and decide how we will proceed. (...) We must choose the right property transfer method," says Ms. Minassian.

"Basically, when we will have to negotiate with Ottawa, we want the provincial government sitting right beside us," she summarizes.

In accepting the responsibility of the wharf ownership, the Quebec government will have to maintain it properly, as well as managing that infrastructure, a task way too heavy for a municipality like Chandler, says Deputy-mayor Bruno-Pierre Godbout.

"We have an annual budget of \$12 million. Twenty-five years down the road, some repairs will be needed and it's normal but it is too costly for a small municipality. We need the leadership and support of Quebec," insists Mr. Godbout.



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 April 27, 2021, the following BY-LAW:

By-Law 14: Delegation of Powers

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 repeal at the meeting of April 27, 2021, the following BY-LAWS:

- By-Law 1: Delegation of Powers to the Executive Committee**
- By-Law 2: Delegation of Powers to the Director General**
- By-Law 3: Delegation of Powers to the Director of Education Services**
- By-Law 4: Delegation of Powers to the Director of Adult Education**
- By-Law 5: Delegation of Powers to the Principals**
- By-Law 6: Delegation of Powers to the Director of Human Resources**
- By-Law 12: Delegation of Powers to the Superintendent of Services**
- By-Law 13: Delegation of Powers to the Director of Finance**

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 24th day of March 2021.

Hugh Wood
Director General



COMMISSION SCOLAIRE EASTERN SHORES EASTERN SHORES SCHOOL BOARD

ADOPTION OF BY-LAWS PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that the Eastern Shores School Board adopted the following By-Law:

BY-LAW 11 – Student Ombudsman

The present by-law, adopted by resolutions C21-03-694, replaces all previous versions and will take effect on the date of this publication.

Given at New Carlisle, Quebec, this 24th day of March 2021.

Hugh Wood
Director General

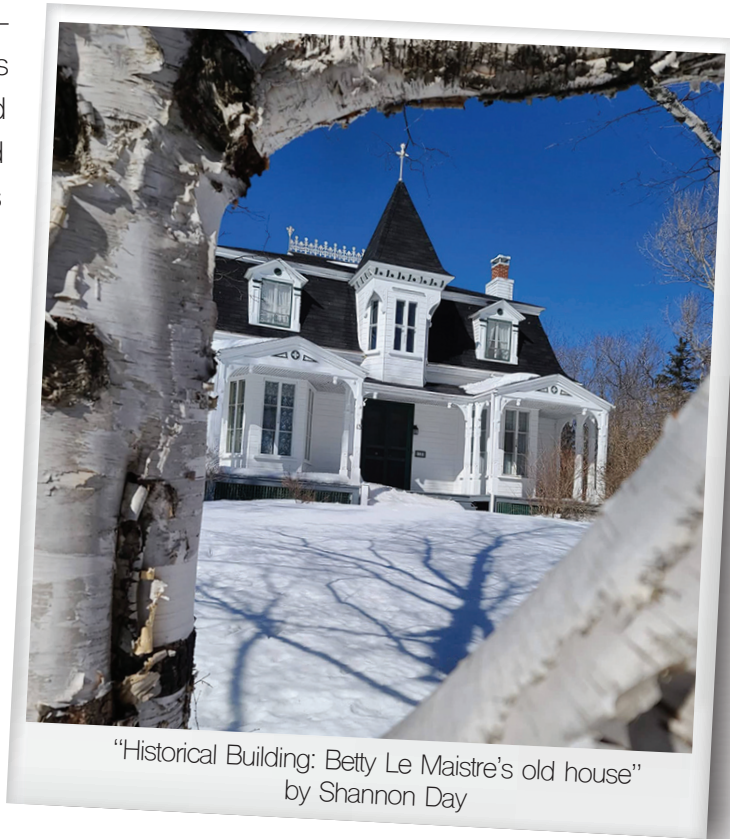
Photography Project - Now You See Us

The title of my photograph is, "Historical Building: Betty Le Maistre's old house." The house is located on Notre Dame in New Carlisle and I often walk past it. The house was built around 1890 by Gordon Francis Maguire, a notary.

I took this photograph on a sunny March day. I used the natural elements as a framing device to emphasize the importance of the subject and draw the viewer's eye instinctively to the house.

My grandmother's husband has been working on the house for the past three years and he often talks to me about its history.

The current owners told him that soldiers from the Second World War would stay there when on leave if they had nowhere to go. There is even a bar inside where they would have a drink.



"Historical Building: Betty Le Maistre's old house"
by Shannon Day

Tip of the Week Frame Within the Frame composition technique

Framing refers to using elements of a scene to create a frame within your frame. For example, you might shoot through a doorway or windows, a cave or tunnel, branches, clouds, or arches to highlight your subject. Using a 'frame within a frame' presents a great opportunity to use your surroundings to be creative in your compositions and shows a viewer exactly where to look.

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



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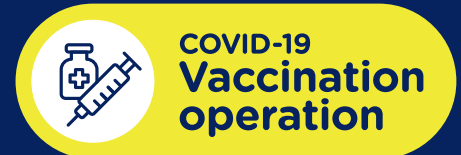
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Quebec.ca/budget

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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?

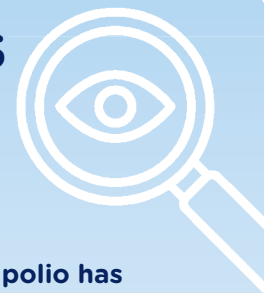
There are many reasons to get vaccinated (all of them good), including protecting ourselves from health complications and the dangers stemming from infectious diseases, as well as making sure they don't resurface.

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

The main potential user is McInnis Cement

Gilles Gagné

CHANDLER – During the decade that preceded the closure of the Gaspesia paper mill, about 100,000 tons of freight were handled at the port of Chandler annually. Usually, about half of that tonnage, 50,000 tons, sometimes more, consisted of newsprint exports, and the same tonnage of bunker for the plant and de-icing salt for the roads were unloaded.

The equipment of the paper mill was exported through the Chandler wharf to Vietnam after the plant's modernization project failed, in January 2004. A study carried out in 2019 by CPCS, a consulting firm hired by the town, indicates that today's potential could reach between 140,000 and 275,000 tons per year if the port is rebuilt.

That tonnage would consist of bauxite, iron oxide and petroleum coke. The user is never mentioned in CPCS studies, however, the McInnis Cement plant in Port Daniel uses those three inputs because its warehouses are often not big enough to store all the input needs. Currently, McInnis Cement uses the port of Belledune, New Brunswick, to fill those needs.

Thirty kilometres separate Chandler and Port Daniel while the road distance between Belledune and Port Daniel stands at 270 kilometres. The railway passes next to the port of Chandler. There are even rails on the wharf. Major bulk volumes could be unloaded on the premises next to the Chandler wharf and be brought by rail to the McInnis Cement facility.

What is the cost of the project?

The CPCS study was referring to a refurbishment cost of \$37 million to put the Chandler wharf back in working order, with its current length of 170 metres and a water depth increased from

11 to 13 metres. A bulk material storage area next to the wharf and the railway is included in the venture. Pillars detached from the wharf would also be built so that ships longer than the berthing space could still be tied safely.

Has the cost of the project changed since the spring of 2019 considering inflation factors?

"That is the question. The first figure was coming from the pre-feasibility study. I am sure that it is more now. We are aware that it will be more (...) What we saw here was government disempowerment. It is proof that neglect costs more than maintaining properly our infrastructure elements. It means that when there is an economic downturn like the one experienced by Chandler, it is cyclical. We had to be ready for the recovery. People are shocked by the refurbishment cost of our transport infrastructure. It is also valid for the railway. If they had been kept functional, even in a reduced role at the time of the downturn, we wouldn't have to invest that much in catching up for the lost time. Our transport infrastructures were neg-



The Chandler wharf, without being completely clear of ice, remains accessible in the winter.

Photo: Gilles Gagné

lected. Now, the economy is recovering, people are settling in the Gaspé Peninsula, and we are stuck with a dysfunctional wharf and a railway that must be repaired before an operation resumption in our MRC. We might lose business opportunities because we are not ready. I hope the governments will learn that lesson," analyzes Prefect Minassian.

In 2019, the federal government envelope for wharf property transfers was nearing the end, with enough funds to tackle two files like

Chandler's. Is another envelope available?

"I don't know. The fact that the file has taken so long time wise is a main stake. The Quebec government being interested in taking ownership of the wharf is a positive aspect though. We have received the authorization from the federal government to keep working on the file (...) Our consultants are still working closely with us. We are talking about a project that would be very structuring for the Gaspé Peninsula, when we think of the emphasis put

on the Maritime strategy by the Quebec government," adds Nadia Minassian.

The economic stakeholders of the Percé Rock MRC are notably hopeful to regain the cruise ship calls of the CTMA Vacancier or its eventual replacement.

Usually, the federal government does not carry out the refurbishment of a wharf before ceding its ownership. Ottawa writes a cheque for the amount stipulated in an agreement with the new owner, which will supervise the work.



Record temperature highs

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - Spring is coming with a bang with two temperature records being broken since March 20. The mercury soared to 17 degrees on March 23, beating the 10 degree mark recorded in 2000. Two days earlier, on March 21, the thermometer had reached 16 degrees, also beating the 13.9 degree mark set in 1976.

In addition, the Gaspé Peninsula experienced the second warmest meteorological winter in its history. For the period from December 1 to February 28, the average was -5.6 degrees, while the normal is -9.0. The hottest winter was 2010 with -4.8 degrees. In addition, on March 26, there was a total of 276 centimetres of snowfall on Gaspé, while the norm is 330 centimetres on March 31. That represents 54 centimetres of snow less than usual.

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diane

Liberals want to decentralize powers

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ - The decentralization of powers to the regions will be an important issue for the Liberal Party in the 2022 provincial election. The Liberals consulted the Gaspé virtually on March 23 with a view to creating the Charter of the Regions. "The objective is to remove the 'across the board' in Quebec and ensure that we can have tailor-made solutions for the region for priority issues," says the leader, Dominique Anglade. Decentralization took up half of the scheduled consultation time, which spanned three hours.

Ms. Anglade admits that the abolition of the Regional Conferences of Elected Officials (CRÉ) by the Couillard government in 2015 was a mistake. "When we apply wall to wall, there has been the abolition of CRÉs across Quebec, but if there hadn't been this province-wide mentality, we could have said that there are CRÉs that work in certain regions and we could have adjusted," she says.

Gaspé initiatives such as the *Régie intermunicipale de l'énergie de la Gaspésie* or the *Régie intermunicipale de transport Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine* are the result of the defunct CRÉ.

Ms. Anglade is committed to giving the regions latitude in their development.

"It's more than that! This decision will come from the re-



Photo: N. Sergerie

Dominique Anglade during a visit to LM Wind Power in Gaspé, in January 2017.

gion and within the Charter because it is a law that we will adopt. In the end, the Gaspé will be able to see it."

For the leader of the Official Opposition, transportation must be seen as an essential service "and we must stop telling ourselves that it costs money, but it also equally pays off because the occupation of the territory is important."

On the avenues to be explored to revitalize the territory, "It's a set of things," she said, citing on-site training with the possible creation of a university branch, the creation of jobs in sectors of the future, support for the modes of transport and the forestry potential to be developed.

Ensuring vitality involves finding solutions for the lack of housing and childcare spaces.

"We cannot just have the solution of childcare centres because we know that in the regions, family environments are important. There have been hundreds of family settings that have closed in the past year with the result that parents are unable to work. When you talk about the vitality of the region, when someone is not able to work, that impoverishes," she explains, stressing that overly strict rules in the family environment do not respond to regional realities.

"If we had less happening across the board, the *Ministère de la Famille* could not implement the same standards whether we are in Gaspé or in the heart of Laval. It is not the same reality."

The charter will be ready in 2022.

COVID-19 numbers at minimum in the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands

Gilles **Gagné**

MARIA - The downward impact of the COVID-19 pandemic seen during the third week of March in the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands was maintained during the fourth week, as only two new cases were reported by the region's Public Health Board, compared to 14 the previous week.

The region was exempt of new cases five days out of seven. One case was reported on March 20 and a second one on March 23. Since the number of active cases fell sharply between the third and fourth weeks of March, the Public Health Board is no longer releasing information regarding the origin of cases.

So, as of March 26, only two active cases remained in the region. There was still one

hospitalization from the previous week. Hospitalizations are always a cause of concern because of the high incidence of fatalities regarding that specific situation since the beginning of the pandemic. That fatality rate is 36.5% in the region.

As of March 26, 1,754 people had tested positive for the coronavirus since March 2020. Forty-six people died of COVID-19 during that stretch and 1,706 Gaspésians and Magdalen Islanders have recovered from it.

The vaccination campaign is evolving in the region. In the last statistical report available, issued on March 22, the proportion of vaccinated Gaspésians was reaching 15.5%, compared to 27.1% for Magdalen Islanders. The overall rate for the region was 17.1%, compared to 11.2% in Quebec.

It means that about 17,400 inhabitants of the region had received their first shot.

On a per MRC basis, the proportion was 17.5% in Avignon, 14.8% in Bonaventure, 16.8% in Percé Rock, 15.5% in Côte-de-Gaspé and 10% in Haute-Gaspésie.

The proportion of vaccinated people aged 59 years or younger was 8.9%, the same proportion for the people aged 60 to 69. The rate climbed to 37.8% for the people aged 70 to 79 inclusively, and 77.4% for the people aged 80 and over.

Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



Scams

If it sounds phishy, it is!

Scammers have been working overtime. Data seems to confirm that in the past year (Year of the Pandemic) all sorts of scams have increased greatly. In the last ten days I have experienced four different scam attempts. Phishing is a way that criminals steal your personal financial information by pretending to be someone they are not.

The first was multiple calls received over about three days from a variety of phone numbers all showing they originated in the same city. At first, I answered only to hear that I owed a great deal of money to the government who was going to take action against me. Not so. The tone was strong and intimidating. These people meant business. The subsequent calls, and there were many, I left unanswered but this did not stop them from trying many more times. My solution? After the next call I did not pick up the phone and after I simply blocked the number, which is easy on a cell phone. Just tap the 'P' to the right of the call on your phone screen. When you do, a menu will pop-up. Scroll to the bottom and tap 'Block this Caller.' After blocking all the numbers, they stopped.

The second scam was an email I received from Canada Post - or it sure seemed to be. It looked very official and had the Canada Post logo. It said that I had a parcel with money owing and that I could have it delivered if I paid for the money owing - in this case it said \$1.75. That's not much money, right? It was something else they were after. It asked for my address, phone number and (these were the big giveaways) my social insurance number and my credit card numbers. These scammers were gathering my personal information. If it sounds phishy, it is!

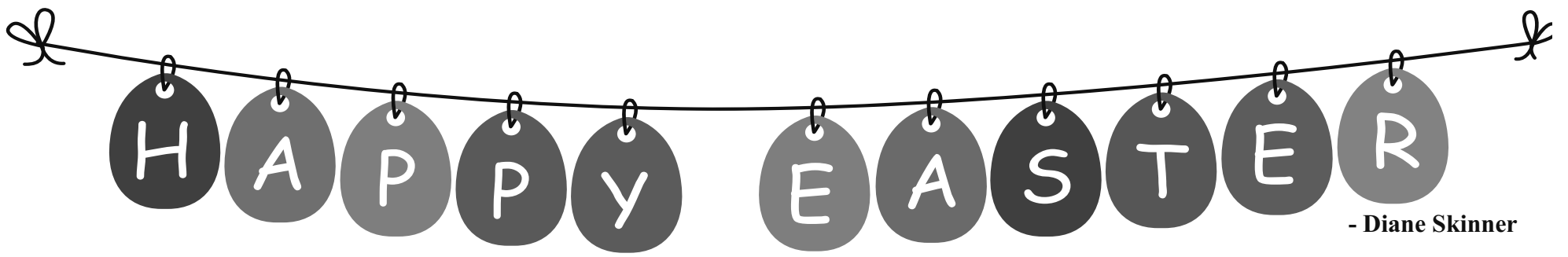
The next scam I had heard about from a friend a year ago but when I experienced it just recently, I now understand why she found it so upsetting. A large pop-up blocked almost my full computer screen and a smaller one at the bottom right had a phone number. That was not the most concerning part. A very loud man's voice was telling me that I had to contact "them" immediately through the computer or by phone because my personal information had been compromised. I snapped a photo of my screen and called a friend to ask if this could be true. No, it was a scam. I turned off my computer and internet connection for 10 minutes. I later did a full scan with my antivirus software and all is well. If you ever have this experience, do not respond to the threats.

The latest scam was an email I received asking me to buy gift cards for another person. The email came from someone I do know and it was from the person's correct email address. This is a well-known scam where once you purchase the gift cards you then give them the numbers on the back by email. Right away this didn't sound right. Further, the language was not totally correct - it seemed to have been translated from another language. This person had been hacked and the email requesting the purchase of gift cards went to numerous people in her email history. A scam.

If any of these scams happen to you, stay calm. Do not act quickly. Reach out to someone (friend or family) who can help you. If it sounds phishy, it is.

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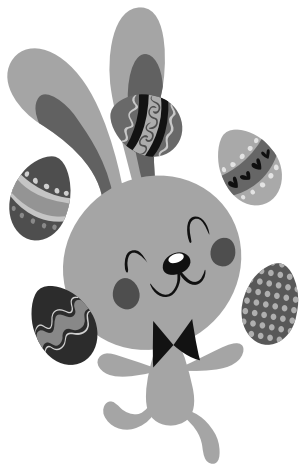


- Diane Skinner

All About Easter

Easter egg hunts, bunnies and chocolate – Easter is full of history and traditions. Did you know that ...

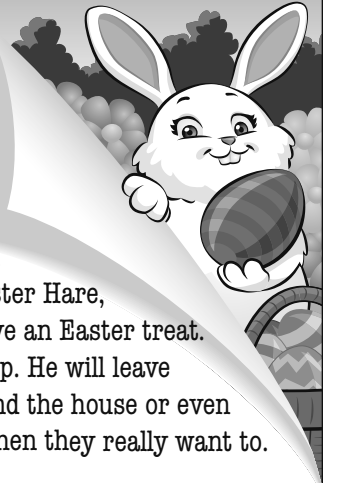
1. The date of Easter changes every year. This year Easter will be Sunday, April 4. Easter always falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the March equinox. This means that Easter can occur from March 22 until April 25.
2. Easter marks the end of the 40 days of Lent.
3. Easter is a Christian celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
4. Eggs are associated with Easter because eggs were traditionally forbidden to be eaten during Lent. Then on Easter, eggs were permitted to be eaten once more.
5. Eggs are associated with Easter because they are a symbol of fertility and rebirth.
6. The week before Easter is Holy Week. It begins with Palm Sunday, then Maundy Thursday (day of the Last Supper), Good Friday (Christ's crucifixion), and Holy Saturday (the day between the crucifixion and the resurrection).
7. In April 2022, Easter will fall on April 17.
8. Easter is the only time when it is perfectly safe to put all your eggs in one basket.



Bunny Kisses

**I'm hopping down the bunny trail
Leaving Easter thoughts and wishes
And because you're such a sweetie
I've brought some bunny kisses!**

The Easter Bunny and other traditions

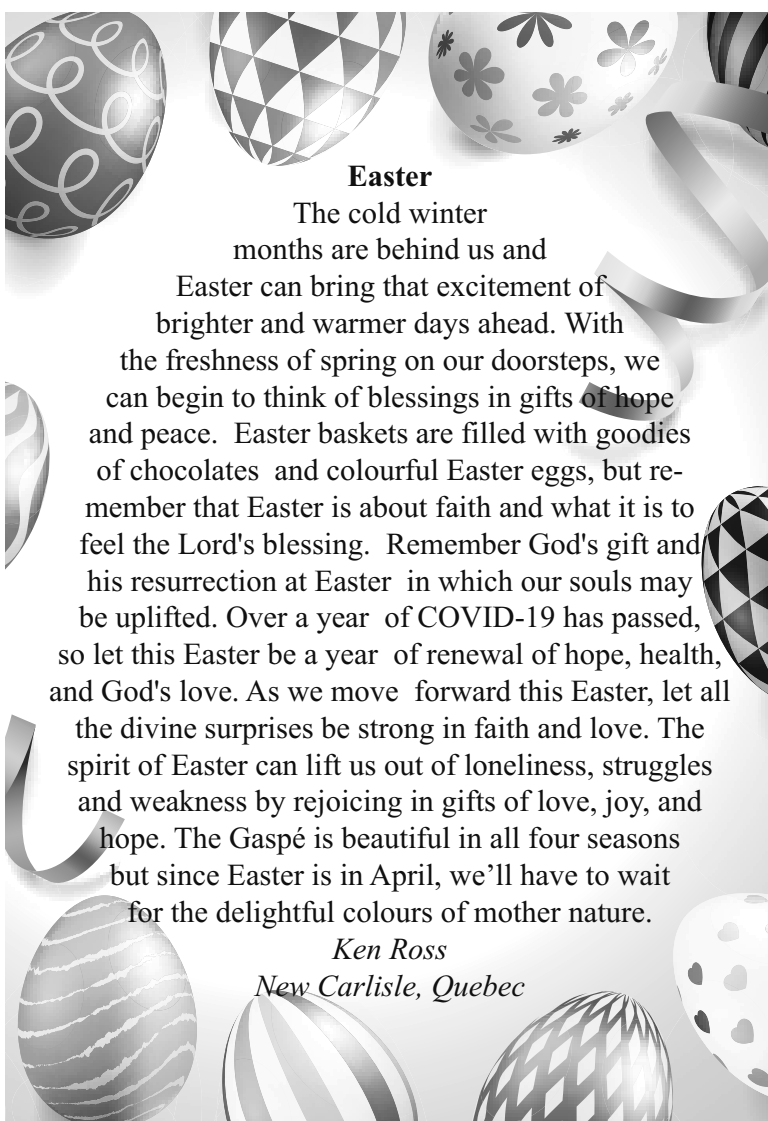


The Easter Bunny tradition began in Germany and he was referred to as the Easter Hare. This dates all the way back to 1680. The Easter Hare, it is said, decided whether children had been good enough to deserve an Easter treat. Today, children may be visited by the Easter Bunny while they sleep. He will leave chocolate eggs and other treats that children will find hidden around the house or even outdoors. Egg hunts are proof that your children can find things when they really want to.

Will you be wearing your Easter bonnet with all the frills upon it? If you do, you may be the "grandest lady in the Easter parade." The song, Easter Parade (also referred to as The Easter Bonnet song) was sung by Judy Garland in 1948. Many years past, ladies of all ages would buy a new hat to be worn to church. It was an exciting day as the ladies showed off their new headwear!

Hot cross buns were originally made by monks which they gave out to the poor at Easter time. "Hot cross buns, hot cross buns. One a penny, two a penny. Hot cross buns." This popular treat is a sweet, spiced bun with a cross decorating the top. An old myth is that buns baked on Good Friday and shared with a friend will guarantee that you will remain friends. That seems a small price to pay for a true friend.

Easter lilies are considered the official flower of Easter. These lovely white blooms are traditional symbols of hope and purity. The legend is that the lilies grew where drops of Jesus' sweat fell as he knelt to pray. Try making paper lilies with a child. Trace your hand on white paper. Cut it out, roll it and glue or tape the bottom. The fingers can be curled by rolling them on a pencil. Add a stem from a pipe cleaner or a coffee stir stick. Make a few and place them in a small jar or vase.



Easter

The cold winter months are behind us and Easter can bring that excitement of brighter and warmer days ahead. With the freshness of spring on our doorsteps, we can begin to think of blessings in gifts of hope and peace. Easter baskets are filled with goodies of chocolates and colourful Easter eggs, but remember that Easter is about faith and what it is to feel the Lord's blessing. Remember God's gift and his resurrection at Easter in which our souls may be uplifted. Over a year of COVID-19 has passed, so let this Easter be a year of renewal of hope, health, and God's love. As we move forward this Easter, let all the divine surprises be strong in faith and love. The spirit of Easter can lift us out of loneliness, struggles and weakness by rejoicing in gifts of love, joy, and hope. The Gaspé is beautiful in all four seasons but since Easter is in April, we'll have to wait for the delightful colours of mother nature.

*Ken Ross
New Carlisle, Quebec*

90 Million
Chocolate Easter Bunnies Sold

16 Billion
Jelly Beans Produced for Easter

Sources: Nielsen, National Retail Federation, National Confectioners Association

Quick Easter Quiz

1. Easter is the second largest candy consuming holiday. What is the first?
2. Most people eat what part of their chocolate Easter bunny first?
3. Why does the date of Easter vary?
4. Easter is celebrated at the end of a special 40 days called _____.
5. Is Easter a statutory holiday in Quebec?
6. The idea of the Easter Bunny originated in what country?
7. What is the most popular colour of jelly bean?
8. The most popular non-chocolate Easter candy is _____.
9. Original Easter baskets were made to look like _____.
10. Using the letters in Easter (all or some) make at least 20 words.

Answers to the quiz, and more Easter fun on page 15.

Announcements...



Obituary



LEBLANC: Yvonne Theresa (Campbell)

Born in Grand Cascapedia, Quebec, on January 28, 1927, (daughter of the late Georgina LeBrun and the late Ernest Leblanc), passed away January 14, 2021, in Georgetown, Ontario.

Wife of the late Cuthbert James Campbell and loving mother of Carol (Paul Maher) and Janet (Dave Bernard); cherished grandmother of Jennifer, Jamie, Nathan, Jason, Jessica and David; and great-grandmother of Elizabeth, James, Alex, William, Matthew, Lancelot, Rylan and Caden. Mourned and deeply saddened by sister Marie (Rudy) and brother Lucien (Lise).

Yvonne is predeceased by her siblings: Nora, Joe, Edgar (Marcelle), Alma (Marius), Evelyne (Raoul), George, Alphe, Leonda; niece Helen and nephew Tony. She will be lovingly remembered by many nieces and nephews and special friends Emily of Scotland, Christina of Scarborough, Ontario and Thelma of Milton, Ontario.

A celebration in honour of Yvonne's life will be celebrated when gathering restrictions allow. Memorial contributions to the Diabetic Association or the Canadian Cancer Society would be greatly appreciated.



In Memory

BOUDREAU: Jean (Buttle)

March 23, 1945 - March 22, 2005
*The depths of sorrow we cannot tell
 Of the loss of one we loved so well,
 And while she sleeps a peaceful sleep,
 Her memory we shall always keep.*

Always yours. Your loving husband, Fred and family.

DAWSON: Emma

November 3, 1919 - April 3, 2017
*Although I cannot hear your voice,
 Or see your smile no more,
 My mother walks beside me still
 Just as she did before.*

*She listens to my stories
 And she wipes away my tears.
 She wraps her arms around me,
 And she understands my fears.
 It just isn't visible*

*To see with human eye,
 But talk to her in silence and
 Her spirit will reply.*

I feel the love she has for me.

I hear it in my heart

She left her human body,

But our souls will never part.

Sadly missed along life's way. Quietly remembered everyday. Love you, Mom. Barbara Ann.

Card of Thanks, Birth Announcement, Engagement, Birthday, Anniversary, Memorial Service announcement:
 \$30 - (\$35 with picture) up to 20 lines.

In Memoriam:
 \$30 - (\$35 with picture) up to 20 lines
 \$40 - (\$45 with picture) for more than 20 lines

Obituary or Wedding:
 \$40 - (\$45 with picture) Max. 300 words

SUBMISSIONS FOR THIS PAGE MUST BE IN OUR OFFICE BY THURSDAY AT 4 P.M.

Happy 90th Birthday!



Will Tapp

Son of the late Mr. and Mrs. James Tapp.
 Brother to seven sisters and two brothers.
 Born April 4, 1931, in Barachois, Quebec.
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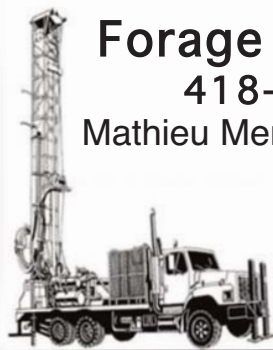


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COAST ROUND-UP

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1936 to 1940. The famous Cox house, built 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: heritagenc@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 14 are: Fernand Bujold & Lauraine Arsenault, Luc Audet, Christiane Audet, Brian Harrison, Benoit Cyr, Luc Gauthier and Viateur Landry.

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...



SUDOKU

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

Fun By The Numbers

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

Level: Beginner

Here's How It Works:

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

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

ANSWER:

Olive oil apple cakes

Prep time: 15-20 minutes
Cooking time: 20-30 minutes
Serves: 4

Ingredients:

- 2 cups flour
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 1/3 cups extra virgin olive oil
- 1 cup whole milk
- 3 eggs
- 1/2 cup pressed apple cider
- 1/4 cup orange juice
- 1 tablespoon orange zest
- 4 red apples, sliced

Directions:

- Preheat oven to 350°F.
- Combine dry ingredients into a medium-sized bowl and set aside. In a separate bowl, add all wet ingredients and beat until smooth.
- Add dry ingredients a quarter at a time; add orange zest and mix until smooth.
- Pour batter into four mini lightly-oiled baking pans or mini cast iron skillet. One large cake pan can also be used, though baking time may vary.
- Arrange apple slices on top of each pan. Bake for about 20 to 25 minutes or until golden brown.



HOROSCOPES

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

Have deep conversations with those close to you as they may have something they can teach you, Aries. You will learn about yourself and those close to you in the process.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, close friendships have the potential to become even closer this week. You are focusing intently on relationships of all kinds lately. This

brings you closer to those you love.

GEMINI – May 22/June 21

Personal growth is important for you, Gemini. It may increase others' admiration of you in the days to come. Keep up the self-improvement because it is producing results.

CANCER – June 22/July 22

Success at work continues to usher in good fortune, Cancer, but you may have a tingling feeling. It may be time to move on to new horizons. Think things through carefully.

LEO – July 23/Aug 23

Leo, relax and be yourself when you

meet new people. You don't need to pretend to be someone else to win others over. Start new relationships with honesty.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, you will propose new ideas to people around you. Don't be surprised when they want to go along with them. Simply embrace the interest and move forward.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

This week shows signs of being a very busy, but fulfilling time, Libra. Even though things can get a tad overwhelming, you'll be able to work through the excitement.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Your financial success is bound to take another step forward, Scorpio. This bodes well for the plans you have in place. Now you may be able to act on them a little ahead of schedule.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

Enjoy the success you have achieved over the past several weeks, Sagittarius. Even though you have been flying high, make an effort to be humble as well.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

You may have been pondering ways to advance your career, Capricorn.

Don't hesitate to put plans in action, especially after they are vetted and you run them by others.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, your strongest relationships are warm and supportive. This is a great time to form romantic partnerships, business relationships or personal friendships.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

Everything is going great for your career, Pisces. Things may seem too good to be true. There are challenges ahead, but you can manage.

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- Diane Skinner

Easter Eggs

A-tisket a-tasket, a gorgeous Easter basket.

Decorating Easter eggs began with staining eggs red which symbolized the blood shed by Jesus. The first chocolate Easter eggs were made in Germany and France in the early 1800s. Cadbury has been producing their eggs since 1875. Their Cadbury Cream Eggs are their most popular type. Over 500 million Cadbury's Cream Eggs are made each year.



The tallest Easter egg ever made was taller than a giraffe! It was 10 metres high (32 feet).

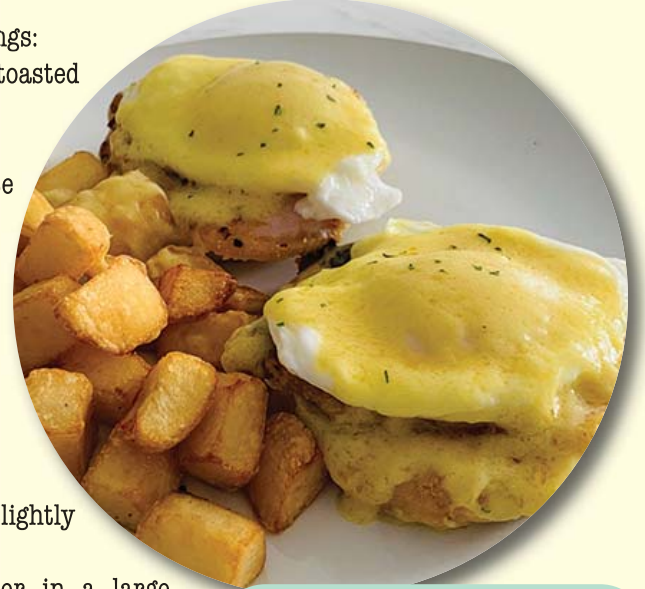
Part of the fun of Easter is decorating eggs. Start by hard-boiling a dozen eggs. Cover the table with pages from old newspapers. (The Gaspé Spec works best!) Mix 8 drops of food colouring in 1 cup of hot water. Add ¼ cup of vinegar. Dunk egg in mixture, the longer you leave it in, the darker the colour will be, and place it in an egg carton to dry. This is a very simple way to decorate eggs. You can take it as far as you wish, depending on your artistic talents.

The wreath (pictured above) was made using a straw wreath form. Cover your surface with newspaper. Then using plastic hollow eggs, cover the eggs with ripped up pieces of printed serviettes. You could also use tissue paper in a variety of colours. Using Mod Podge and a brush, glue the pieces to the hollow eggs. After drying, a hot glue gun is used to attach eggs to the wreath form.

Eggs Benedict

This fancy breakfast is worth the bit of extra time it takes. Basically, it is an English muffin, back bacon, a poached egg and hollandaise sauce.

Ingredients to make 4 servings:
 2 English muffins, split and toasted
 4 slices round back bacon
 4 eggs
 3 egg yolks (for Hollandaise sauce)
 1 cup butter
 1 tsp vinegar
 1 tbsp heavy cream
 ½ tsp salt
 1 tbsp lemon juice
 dash of cayenne pepper



1. Fry back bacon until slightly browned
2. Place 3 inches of water in a large saucepan and heat until simmering. Add vinegar. Break the eggs into the water and cook for about 2½ minutes, just until the whites are set and the yolks still runny. Remove with a slotted spoon.
3. Melt the butter in the microwave until bubbles appear, about 1 minute.
4. Place egg yolks, heavy cream, cayenne pepper and salt in food processor or blender. Add half of the melted butter in a slow, steady stream. Add the lemon juice and then add rest of the butter.
5. Place half toasted English muffin on a plate and put a slice of back bacon and then a poached egg. Slowly pour ¼ of the Hollandaise Sauce over the egg. Eat while hot.

Your cholesterol levels will not benefit from Eggs Benedict every day, but occasionally it is a delicious treat.



Quiz answers

1. Halloween
2. 75% of people eat the ears first.
3. The date of Easter varies as it is based on the lunar calendar and the position of the moon. Easter falls on the Sunday after the full moon after the Spring Equinox.
4. Lent
5. No. Employers must give either Good Friday or Easter Monday as a statutory holiday, though some give both.
6. Germany
7. Red
8. Peeps (Marshmallow candies shaped like bunnies, chicks or other animals.)
9. Nests!
10. Some of the words include: eater, resear, tease, rate, tear, reset, erase, steer, stare, aster, tree, terse, rats, rate, seat, star, seer, rest, ease, eats, art, tee, east, tea, tar, see, ear, ate.

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146 Million Pounds
Easter Candy Purchased



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Feeding hummingbirds

Diane Skinner

Hummingbirds are such sweet, delicate little creatures that it might be enjoyable to set up a feeder or two so that you can watch them feeding. You can purchase the type that sticks to the window and what an amazing photo opportunity that is! If you put out a feeder, it is very likely that you will have some visits from the ruby-throated hummingbird, the only kind of hummingbird found on the Gaspé. Hummingbirds prefer an open style feeder and, when they learn where it is, will become very territorial. If they are feeding, they will chase other birds away. Small, but fierce. Why not put up two feeders? Place these far apart and that way two hummingbirds will feed at

the same time, one at each feeder.

These tiny birds travel long distances and migrate every fall to South America. By mid-May you may see them on the Gaspé after they have travelled all the way back home. Only the hardiest survive the gruelling part of the journey across the Gulf of Mexico. This is because they have to complete that part of their trip non-stop.

You can buy hummingbird nectar or you can make your own, which is much cheaper. Contrary to popular belief, hummingbird nectar should NOT be coloured with red food colouring. Once you make your solution, change it about every week to 10 days. If you do not, the birds may stop coming. They like a fresh solution. When you add the liquid, fill feeder only

half full. This is because in warm weather the solution will expand and burst the feeder. Every time you change the solution bring the feeder inside and wash it thoroughly with warm water. This will discourage wasps who could be attracted by the sugary liquid.

The hummingbird, the smallest of all birds, lives for only three to five years. It is an omnivore, and will eat mosquitoes and fruit flies. They are perfectly built for extracting nectar from flowers with their long, narrow beaks. They have no sense of smell, but can hear much better than humans can. When mating, the ruby-throated hummingbird's wings beat at 200 beats per second! Hummingbirds are the only birds that can fly backwards. They are a tiny wonder of nature.

*"Like thoughts that flit across the mind
Leaving no lasting trace behind,
The hummingbird darts to and fro
Comes and vanishes before we know."*



This male ruby-throated hummingbird was spotted in Maria. The female and young birds have white throats.

Photo: Elaine Clouter

Hummingbird Nectar

4 parts water
1 part white sugar
Place the water in a pot and bring it to a boil. Remove from the heat and add sugar. Stir until fully dissolved. It

will last in the fridge for up to two weeks in a tightly closed glass jar. No need to get fancy with ingredients. Do not use brown sugar, honey, or any sugar substitute. Of course, no red food colouring!



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- ☑ Keep records up to date



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- ☑ Bilingualism is a must

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Only the successful candidates will be contacted for an interview.