

Citizens of all ages work together to keep their town clean

HOPE TOWN: - On Sunday, May 2, Shannon Major organized a community event to help clean up the litter along the town's streets. She says she picks up garbage every year by herself "but (this year) having a young daughter I needed help and I also want her to grow up in a cleaner environment than what we (society) deems acceptable. You can't walk three feet without seeing a piece of trash."

The event that Shannon organized was a huge success. It seems there were many others who were eager to help clean up their town. In total there were 23 volunteers (mostly children). The bags and picking sticks were all supplied by the Municipality of Hope Town.

Shannon says that the group only scratched the surface, that there is more work to be done. She is, however, pleased with the 47 bags of trash, 2 tires and workout bench press that they picked up. "I hope that each year more and more community members will join us to help keep our beautiful little town clean," says Ms. Major



Jace Major, aged 2, sure was happy to have a tool to use during clean-up.



The youngest volunteer was Willow Armstrong, 17 months, along with her mother Shannon Major who organized the event.



McKenna Flowers, aged 6, and her brother Jared, aged 9, were eager to help clean their assigned area. Joanne Ross, the children's mother, told Spec, "My kids said they had fun and were happy to help keep their town clean."



During the activity Lily Major, aged 6, told her mother, "I wish people would use a garbage can or wait till they get home." The group she was in, consisting of her parents and four siblings, picked up 11 Tim's cups full of cigarette butts (a repeat offender). They covered 2.5 km, gathered 11 large garbage bags and it took them 2.5 hours.



Eathan Merrick, aged 13, and his sister Abrianna McRae, aged 9, were part of the crew helping with cleanup on May 2.



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Gaspesian lobster fishermen received \$8 per pound for their first week of fishing.

Photo: G. Gagné

Lobster price hits \$8 per pound for the first week, which ties 2007 record

Gilles Gagné

SAINT-GODEFROI — The price of lobster paid in the Gaspé Peninsula reached \$8 per pound during the first week of landings. It matched the record set in 2007. While the price quickly fell 14 years ago, Gaspesian buyers were expecting a second week at about \$8 when the SPEC reached them.

Landings were going well. Most people noticed an increase of at least 10% compared to 2020. The rate of catches was high enough to make people think of the volume record. The record to beat is a little over 3,000 metric tonnes. Twelve years ago, an average year of lobster catches in the Gaspé Peninsula was hovering around 1,000 tonnes.

The director of the Southern Gaspé Professional Fishermen Group, O'Neil Cloutier, was quite satisfied with the results after 10 days of fishing. He is a lobster fisherman himself.

"The resource is there. One must remember that the legal gauge was raised to 83 millime-

tres this year (from 82.55 mm last year). The weather conditions are difficult but the catches are very good and it is the same in all the sectors," said Mr. Cloutier on May 4.

That same day, Bill Sheehan pointed out that the catches had risen during the first week of the 2021 season, compared to 2020.

"I have not calculated them precisely but, at first glance, I would say that it is 10% higher than last year, depending on the sectors," said Bill Sheehan. Some areas have yielded better results, some others not.

Some lobster buyers were expecting a price higher than \$8 per pound a week prior to the season start. It didn't materialize during the first week.

Bill Sheehan, vice-president of the E. Gagnon et Fils processing plant in Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé, the biggest lobster buyer of lobster in the Gaspé Peninsula, points out that the shellfish have to remain affordable.

"For the consumers, it appears in the same counter as

crab. Some fishermen will say that they could have received more. Everybody sees us coming. Nobody will get to buy at a high price when they know that some big quantities will be available a few days later. It would have been difficult to do otherwise than what we did," he said, pointing out that the New Brunswick lobster season started on May 4, with landings the following day.

The Magdalen Islands lobster fishermen kicked off their season on May 8. The landings of the New Brunswick and the Magdalen Islands fishermen are significantly higher than that of Gaspesians.

With the exception of Newfoundlanders and Nova Scotians, whose catches rarely reach the Quebec markets after mid-April, Gaspesian lobster fishermen usually have the privilege of bringing to the shore the first landings of the spring.

"The fact that we are the first ones to open the season gives us an edge on the price for a certain period. We can pay more," explains Bill Sheehan.

Police report

On the morning of April 30, Sûreté du Québec police officers and investigators from the Chandler detachment, assisted by the canine squad, conducted a drug search in a Commercial Street East residence in Chandler. They arrested the occupants, a 35-year-old woman and a 32-year-old man from Chandler, in connection with drug possession and drug trafficking. The woman will also have to face penal charges for violations of Revenue Québec's tobacco tax act. Following their questioning, they were released and will be summoned to appear in court at a later date.

In the dwelling, the police officers seized close to 450 methamphetamine pills, nearly 150 tablets of prescription drugs, 20 candies containing cannabis, cannabis shoots, a small amount of liquid THC drug, about 2,000 contraband cigarettes, equipment used for drug trafficking and a compressed air gun used to imitate a handgun.

The Sûreté du Québec reminds the public that any information related to drug trafficking or production of narcotics can be communicated confidentially at any time to the Criminal Information Centre of that police force by dialing 1-800-659-4264.

Stéphane Blais, 52, from Paspébiac, faces charges of assault and assault causing bodily harm following a psychiatric evaluation that took place after he allegedly beat his mother on March 20, after a verbal altercation between them. Stéphane Blais is considered fit for trial after that psychiatric evaluation. His mother was sleeping with a stick following the verbal altercation. According to CHNC, Stéphane Blais will be back in court on June 8. He will likely undergo his bail hearing, as he is currently imprisoned in New Carlisle following his last court appearance.

Fifteen fines were handed out in the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands by Sûreté du Québec police officers during the April 26 to May 2 period due to the people's failure to respect sanitary measures. One infraction dealt with someone from a red zone failing to respect the curfew (from region of origin), while the 14 other were for failure to respect the other sanitary measures. Since January 9, the Sûreté du Québec officers have handed out 210 Covid-related fines in the region, totalling \$315,000.

Sûreté du Québec officers are conducting a Quebec-wide safety operation until May 15 in order to reduce the number of cautiousless and dangerous behaviour cases on the roads. The operation is also conducted by all police forces in Quebec, as well as by the patrollers of the *Société de l'assurance-automobile du Québec*, the SAAQ. That campaign is not only carried out on the roads but also on social media. Between 2017 and 2019, reckless behavior was observed in 49% of fatal collisions and 50% of collisions with injuries. Those numbers represent an increase compared to another period, as these proportions were respectively 35.7% and 41.7% from 2006 to 2008. The dangerous or inappropriate behaviours that are most often reported in crashes are failures to give way, passing on a red light, failure to make a compulsory stop, following too closely the preceding car, changing lanes without caution and driving in the wrong lane.

CHANDLER MUNICIPAL UPDATE:

A seniors' residence for Chandler

Nelson Sergerie

CHANDLER — Another seniors' residence is being planned in the Gaspé Peninsula. The \$50 million project will be completed in Chandler by the end of 2022. The Gaspé Peninsula Integrated Health and Social Services Centre (CISSS) wants to expand Villa Pabos to relocate the elderly from the hospital centre and update the facilities.

To do so, the municipal council must authorize a slight encroachment on the *Parc du*

Souvenir.

"The Town will work in close collaboration with the CISSS de la Gaspésie. The CISSS needs part of the land and changes to the pipe system and we will work together. We want this project to be carried out in the summer of 2022," says the pro-mayor, Bruno-Pierre Godbout.

An agreement for asphalt

Chandler and Eurovia have finally agreed to lower the bill for asphalt road works this

year. The bill is reduced from \$2.6 million to \$2.4 million, which is within the planned budget, following negotiations between the company and the town's general manager, Roch Giroux.

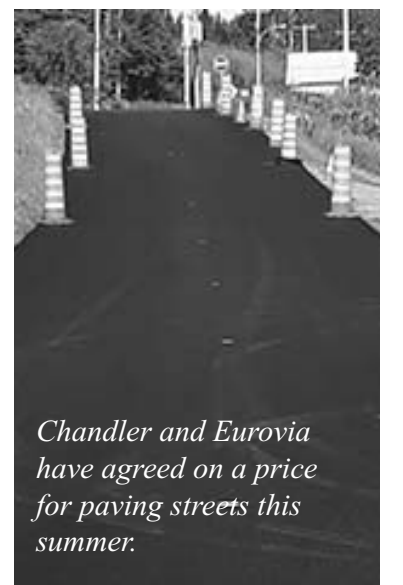
The pro-mayor, Bruno-Pierre Godbout, took the opportunity at the May 3 town council meeting to criticize the "misinformation" that followed the announcement of negotiations in April with the only (paving) bidding company.

This led the Town to ask

for a legal opinion to confirm the legality of the gesture.

"What I find unfortunate is that there are people out there who allow themselves to misinform and comment on Facebook and make threats. Due to these people, we had to take legal advice and we have to pay bills. We knew we were legal. When we are threatened, we will use the information to comply.

Mr. Godbout invites citizens who have questions to contact the general management.



Chandler and Eurovia have agreed on a price for paving streets this summer.

Photo: N. Sergerie

Gilles Gagné Commentary



When the pandemic allows the Quebec government to hide questionable plans

Most responsible governments are dealing with the pandemic through deploying vigorous means. People can understand that some other files will be dealt with at a later date, considering the gravity of the current situation. Decisions are quite centralized and there is a limit to what a small group of individuals can accomplish.

Meanwhile, some other issues are dealt with in the shade, in the sense that governmental authorities decide to make decisions that would normally raise an outcry, but that will likely go relatively unnoticed because most people are obsessed with the COVID-19 crisis.

During the first week of May, Quebec's Energy and Natural Resources Minister, Jonatan Julien, confirmed during the forestry credits study session, that he will nullify the protection status planned for 83 sites located south of the province's 49th parallel and replace the same surface by northern protected areas.

In other terms, those sites are located in the half of Quebec where about 99% of the population live.

First and foremost, the 83 sites are in all likelihood situated where the forestry industry evolves, given that the northern half of the province is covered with either very small trees, moss, lichens and rocks.

Protecting a wide part of Northern Quebec is important, no doubt, and some of it is protected, following consultations with the Nunavik and James Bay's Eeyou Istchee First Nations.

However, the 83 sites that were supposed to be protected in Quebec's southern part also went through a consultation process. People living around those locations got mobilized, submitted briefs, gathered information about the physical characteristics of the areas or, in certain cases, saw a need to study them in depth because they were potentially bearing a nature conservancy value higher than expected. People from all walks of life participated in the effort to protect those sites, including representatives of the First Nations, the tourism sector, environmental movements and wildlife stakeholders.

Minister Julien rejected all of the 83 sites instead of keeping at least some or a few on the list. While testifying in front of the forestry credits study session, he justified his decision by saying that each site was of concern for merely three people who would be disturbed by economic activities.

That is downright contempt. It is an insult to the intelligence of a population that is unfortunately concerned by the pandemic. So the minister is allegedly trying to sweep under the rug an issue that would normally make much bigger headlines.

Since his appointment at the Energy and Natural Resources Department, Jonatan Julien has repeatedly said, just like his Forest, Wildlife and Parks colleague Pierre Dufour, that forestry is an economical way of exploiting something that will grow again.

If their definition sticks to that narrow notion, they should be considered unfit for duty.

Those 83 sites cover a little under 20,000 square kilometres. While 20,000 square kilometres look like a huge territory, it represents a surface of 240 square kilometres per location. It means roughly between 15.5 kilometre by 15.5 per spot, if we make squares with them.

Those spots are located everywhere in Quebec. In the Gaspé Peninsula, for instance, one 90 square kilometre spot is located right next to the *Parc de la Gaspésie*. It is situated near the Grand Cascadepedia River. It is an area that, once subtracted from wood cutting, would help tremendously in protecting the caribou, an endangered species here. The area is also under an oil exploration claim belonging to an Albertan company. The company has been inactive so far with that claim.

Two other protected areas are situated next to two major rivers, the Péribonka, in the Lac-Saint-Jean area, and the Magpie, in the Lower North Shore.

In the first case, a company is planning an intensive wood-cutting operation after the Quebec Department of Energy and Natural Resources opened the area to logging, a few dozen metres from the river, considered a jewel by the Innus of Lac-Saint-Jean. The coveted area represents a surface of 236 square kilometres.

The Magpie case is not brighter. Hydro-Québec has objected to granting a protected status to 2,600 square kilometres, on the basis that the river could potentially receive a power dam eventually. It might be time in Quebec to consider the possibility of keeping a certain number of virgin rivers, given the numerous ones that have been exploited.

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Guest Commentary Emma Buckley

Flying on through the storms

Every year around this time, I start looking out to sea. In particular, I'm looking at what flies above it or bobs on the surface. It's a time of the year I cherish: the annual trek of migrating birds up the Atlantic flyway to their summer breeding grounds.

Hoping for some signs of normality in yet another abnormal year, I started checking the horizon early. There seemed to be fewer birds than usual in the bay. Changing weather patterns? Loss of

habitat? It seemed easy to immediately think the worst.

Around this time of the year, a flock of geese usually frequent our bay for several months. This year a few appeared on Easter weekend then disappeared straight afterwards, just like visiting relatives. For years after my arrival in Gaspésie, I thought they were Canada geese, the only native goose I'd heard of. Eventually a friend pointed out that these birds were Atlantic brant geese. The brant looks like a smaller version of its more well-known relative, with a thicker neck and stubbier bill. It winters on the east coast of the United States, then heads north to the Arctic in summer. When it finally arrives at its tundra breeding grounds it will have migrated further than most other geese. In the autumn it takes a more direct path back home, rather than skirting Atlantic

Canada and the Maritimes. It seems that in spring-time too it may be increasingly opting for this path.

I wouldn't have watched these geese so closely in the past. My interest in birds has grown over the years. Perhaps my mum, a keen bird watcher, has been an influence. (In our family, Mum's outings to photograph birds are legendary, if time-consuming, my dad gives her an hour's head start on their morning walks). The birds around my parents' place in Australia are colourful characters. Rainbow lorikeets hop on the verandah rail, squawking for seed and frightening off the king parrots. Owl-like tawny frogmouths camouflage themselves in tree branches, their chicks like grizzled balls of fluff. Kookaburras vary their diet of mice and snakes with the odd sausage swiped from plates at family bbq's.

Birds aren't just great characters. They know how (to) co-operate. Watching geese in flight is witnessing group strength and efficiency in action. By flying in the uplift of the bird in front and harmonizing their winging, each bird saves energy, much

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I received the April 28 issue of the Spec today and two articles got my immediate attention. One announcement was that CHNC was moving to Paspébiac and the second was that there was a search on for property in New Carlisle or Paspébiac on which to relocate what is so-far been called New Carlisle High School. It seems to me that those are two of the only entities remaining in the town of my birth and in the present climate, it is most likely that a property will be found as suitable in Paspébiac.

There are now few who remember the days when New Carlisle was a bustling town and that number is fast dwindling.

After reading those articles, I could not but go back and review in my mind what the town was like when I was growing up - pleasant thoughts to be sure.

There were businesses both small and large with the railway shops and station, where there were many good-paying jobs as well as the businesses operated by Antonio Jiona and others. We also had a large number of stores and busi-

nesses starting in New Carlisle West with Hilda Gallon, then in town there was Lionel Caldwell's store, Hayward Sinclair's store, Frank Legreslay's, Ron Gilker's, George P. Legrand, Laurent Arsenault's meat market, Lemaire's Restaurant, George Campbell's Red & White, Gus Hocquard's (later a jewellery store), Bonaventure & Gaspé Telephone Company, Alphonse Poirier's garage and store, Wilfred Chapados' clothier, T. J. Caldwell, Dallain's Hardware and Grenier's Texaco. No doubt I have missed one or two. Indeed we had a butter "factory" (W. A. Flowers), a forge (Henry Jacobson) and a number of successful farmers.

It seems that now, New Carlisle has become a bedroom community for Bonaventure and Paspébiac whereas a generation ago the roles were reversed. The town has an interesting history and a patriotism that can be read on the war memorials. However, that will soon be forgotten, history which from my point-of-view is somewhat inglorious.

Don Huntington
Cornwall, Ontario

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Temrex sawmill has new owner, Groupe Lebel, of Rivière-du-Loup

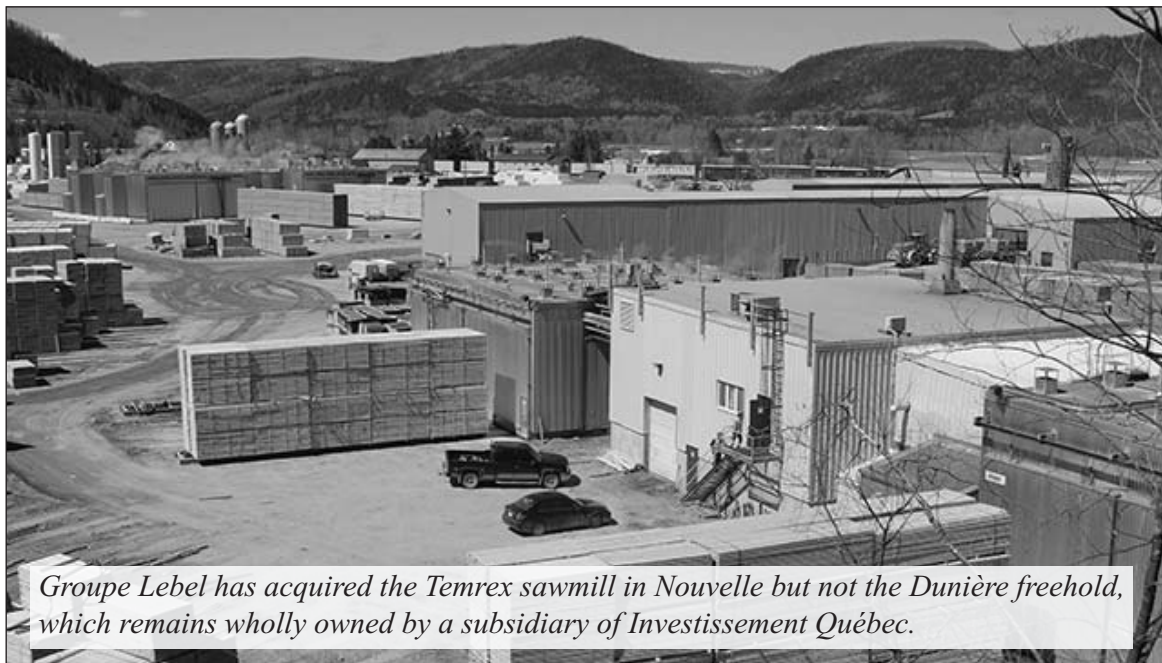
Gilles Gagné

NOUVELLE – The *Produits forestiers Temrex* sawmill in Nouvelle is now owned by a Rivière-du-Loup company, Groupe Lebel, active in many Quebec regions, in Maine and in Ontario. The amount of the transaction was not disclosed. The deal was made public late on April 30.

The Temrex sawmill is by far the biggest such plant in the Gaspé Peninsula, with a public and private supply of 500,000 cubic metres of ground wood and an annual output of 130 million board-feet of lumber. The Nouvelle plant employs more than 140 people and almost as many indirectly.

Groupe Lebel was negotiating with the owner, *Investissement Québec*, since the end of 2020, when that Quebec government's financial arm discretely initiated the steps to sell the Nouvelle sawmill.

"The negotiations lasted until now. Other enterprises were interested. I don't know



Groupe Lebel has acquired the Temrex sawmill in Nouvelle but not the Dunière freehold, which remains wholly owned by a subsidiary of Investissement Québec.

Photo: G. Gagné

which ones. (...) The price we offered might have been higher but other considerations might have played a role as well," explains Frédéric Lebel, the president of Groupe Lebel.

The acquisition of the mill excludes the Dunière freehold, a private piece of land in the backcountry of Nouvelle that supplies annually about 140,000 cubic metres of logs to the plant. The freehold will re-

main the property of *Investissement Québec* through a subsidiary called *Gestion forestière Lacroix*. Other sawmills receive some wood from the Dunière freehold but the volumes are much smaller.

"The supply contract with *Gestion forestière Lacroix* was signed at the same time as the acquisition transaction," points out Mr. Lebel.

Groupe Lebel and its parent

companies are managing 20 sawmills and advanced processing plants. The company now employs 1,200 people in the production and management of a wide array of forest products.

The Temrex plant in Nouvelle is the same size as the Groupe Lebel main sawmills, located in Saint-Pamphile and Daaquam, two villages located in the Chaudière-Appalaches region, in the backcountry of Montmagny, along the border of Maine. The company also owns a plant near Ashland, Maine. In the Gaspé Peninsula, the firm operates a sawmill in Cap-Chat.

Produits forestiers Temrex was wholly owned by *Investissement Québec* since

April 2009 when the former partner, Tembec, pulled out of a partnership initiated in 2002 with SGF-Rexfor. That entity was later integrated with *Investissement Québec*.

Frédéric Lebel explains that his company will gradually become more familiar with the Nouvelle sawmill operations. Some changes might take place in the coming months to optimize lumber production.

"The sawmill has two production lines and one of the two is less productive than the other. It is documented as it was included in the due diligence exercise that we carried out over the last months. We will try to improve the situation. We are producers of lumber, not woodchips. We will try and improve our production of wood on that production line," explains Mr. Lebel, who doesn't know if an investment will be required to better that situation.

The last important investment at the Nouvelle sawmill took place at the end of 2018 and the beginning of 2019 when a second set of kilns was added to the plant so that 100% of the wood produced could be dried on location. It required an \$8 million cash injection.

Groupe Lebel has been involved in the production of lumber and various wood products for 65 years.

No worries for the railway traffic, assures Frédéric Lebel

Gilles Gagné

The *Produits forestiers Temrex* sawmill in Nouvelle is one of the three main customers of the Gaspésie Railway Society. In 2020, a year marked by the COVID crisis and the Listuguj railway blockade, traffic was down to 768 carloads. The 1,230 carloads of 2019 show a more accurate profile of the last few years. The peak year was 2016 with 1,629 carloads.

However, while the woodchip traffic is relatively stable, with between 900 and 1,100 yearly carloads, the lumber traffic has been going down steadily since 2017. For example, the lumber traffic went from 321 to 139 carloads be-

tween 2019 and 2020. It is an odd situation because the addition of new kilns in 2019 was supposed to increase sharply lumber shipments by rail.

Frédéric Lebel wants to be reassuring about maintaining the railway service at the Nouvelle plant, even if Groupe Lebel doesn't use rail transport dominantly in its facilities.

"There are two things here. We will keep honouring the woodchip contract we have with White Birch Paper in Rivière-du-Loup (where Temrex sends its woodchips). It is a 25,000-tonne per year contract. We have talked to White Birch and it will stay. It is true that the Nouvelle plant is the only plant we have that is directly con-

nected to the railway apart from our Maine sawmill. The sales team of each mill will communicate between them and we will see how we reorganize the operations and where we send our products. In time, the flow of lumber coming out of Nouvelle by rail should at least be maintained. In fact, it should increase. I gather that there is a shortage of equipment (lumber cars coming from Canadian National)," explains Mr. Lebel.

The two major sawmills of Groupe Lebel in Saint-Pamphile and Daaquam use the railway indirectly, at a lumber transfer facility located along Canadian National's mainline in Saint-Jean-Port-Joli.



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Request: D43048

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Interested parties may find the free information form to be completed on the following website: www.sqi.gouv.qc.ca, in the section "Faire affaire avec nous", under the heading "Avis d'intention et d'intérêt". For further information, please contact Ms. Marie-Hélène Robitaille at 418 646-1766, extension 3035.

All information forms and required documents must be received **no later than 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 26, 2021** at the Société québécoise des infrastructures, to the attention of Marie-Hélène Robitaille, at the following address: Direction de l'évaluation et des transactions immobilières, 1075, rue de l'Amérique-Française, Québec (Québec) G1R 5P8.

Each Land Proposal (form and required documents) must be submitted in a separate sealed envelope marked: **"Notice of Interest - Site Search D43048"**

Important: This is neither a request for proposals nor an invitation to bid. This request for information does not constitute a call for tenders or a request for proposals. It is intended only to gather general information on the availability of land for sale. Submissions must demonstrate that the lands available for sale meet or will meet the above criteria.

The Corporation will not be obligated to solicit bids or purchase any of the lands and reserves the right to choose any other method of acquisition.

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Votorantim Cimentos intends to reduce access to outsourcing at McInnis Cement, says CEO

Gilles Gagné

PORT DANIEL – The new owner of McInnis Cement, the Brazilian giant company Votorantim Cimentos, will reduce the access to outsourcing at its Port Daniel plant, says the buyer's chief executive officer for the North American operations, Filiberto Ruiz.

The high level of outsourcing, a hallmark of Ciment McInnis since the Port-Daniel plant began production in June 2017, should decrease over the next year or so. It is part of the transition process that is taking place since the transaction was announced on April 30, he notes.

"We should retain skilled people so that they continue to meet the needs of the plant. There is a need to strengthen the skills of our employees and use contractors for specific projects, when the need arises. This is one of the advantages of a partnership; we will bring new knowledge and skills to McInnis," says Mr. Ruiz.

Votorantim Cimentos is the world's seventh largest cement producer. McInnis Cement will be integrated to a subsidiary of Votorantim called Saint Mary's Cement, which operates two plants in Ontario and three in the United States' Great Lakes area or near it.

The head office of Saint Mary's Cement will remain in Toronto but an administrative office will be kept in Montreal, which McInnis Cement is currently using. The 200 employees of the Port Daniel cement plant, including the positions in Montreal, retain their jobs.

In fact, on November 10, when the agreement in principle was reached with the *Caisse de dépôt et placement*



Photo: G. Gagné

The Port Daniel cement plant is now controlled by Votorantim Cimentos' subsidiary, Saint Mary's Cement, based in Ontario.

du Québec, the control shareholder of McInnis Cement, part of the deal was designed to protect the Port Daniel jobs until 2029.

"Over the next few weeks, we will be meeting with all employees in order to better understand how each department works. Afterwards, we will be able to determine how the transition will be carried out. It is very important to understand that we want to expand into North America. We want diversity. It will require an increase in the capacity and skills of the team," explains Filiberto Ruiz.

Growth potential in North America

Mr. Ruiz is therefore focusing on the North American market in order to continue the growth of the firm.

"There are two things to consider. The United States and Canada both plan to go ahead with major infrastructure programs because these items have been neglected in the past. Therefore, cement needs will

be significant in both the United States and Canada. We are seeing growth in this area. (...) There is also room in the market that McInnis is already serving," points out Mr. Ruiz, speaking of the northeastern United States, the Maritimes, Quebec and Ontario.

In addition, the fact that the Port Daniel plant delivers to Ontario, where Saint Mary's operates plants in Bowmanville and the suburbs of Toronto, is not an immediate barrier.

"We are reviewing those elements. There are undoubtedly logistical synergies to be considered, but our plants produce different kinds of cement. McInnis will be able to continue to serve the Ontario market just as Ontario facilities will be able to serve markets served by McInnis," explains Mr. Ruiz.

He underlines that, based on the data the Votorantim officials consulted before the acquisition, the Port-Daniel plant only reaches 70% of its potential capacity of 2.3 million tonnes of cement per year. He

would like full capacity to be reached by the end of 2022 at the latest.

Moreover, Votorantim Cimentos intends to continue the study in order to verify whether there is a way to integrate forest biomass to supply the kilns at the Port-Daniel cement plant. Those kilns have been consuming petroleum coke since the facility's start up in the spring of 2017. Petroleum coke is one of the most polluting fuels available.

"We have made a strong commitment to sustainable development and have set ourselves ambitious goals to reduce our ecological footprint by 2030, notably through the circular economy. We know that McInnis is studying the possibility of using biomass. Over the next year, we will be exploring this avenue. It will start in the second half of this year. It's part of our attempts to achieve carbon neutrality," notes Filiberto Ruiz.

He assures that Votorantim Cimentos will continue to invest in the Port-Daniel plant.

"Our goal is to propel this plant to maximum efficiency and productivity. I have 35 years of experience in the field. I've been working there since I graduated. I have seen 100 cement plants in my career. McInnis has a superb plant, with state-of-the-art technology. We want to make this plant one of the best in Canada, and possibly North America. So, yes, we are going to invest," he concludes.

McInnis Cement has been in the headlines regularly since 2014, due to the strong government commitment to make the project a reality, and then due to a cost overrun of \$444M during its construction. That cost overrun led to the replacement of the control shareholder of the venture by the *Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec*. The total cost of the plant reached \$1.6 billion.

The *Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec* invested between \$400M and \$500M between 2014 and 2020, and the book value of this investment was lowered to an amount of \$50M to \$100M, as of December 31, 2020.

When the construction of the Port Daniel plant started for good in May 2014, the project had been making headlines on a regular basis for 23 years. The limestone deposit that justified its construction was first identified at the beginning of the 1980s.

The cost advantage of the cement produced in Port Daniel is tied to the proximity of the Baie des Chaleurs, just a few hundred metres from the deposit and the cement plant. Between 85 and 90% of the production is sent to McInnis Cement's customers by ship.

GASPÉ MUNICIPAL NEWS:

Dogs and cats must be registered, and new housing projects

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - Gaspé will put in place a new regulation for the registration of dogs and cats in its territory. The town council wants to adopt a major update to the laws in June following a long period of consideration. The current laws regarding dogs and cats were adopted in 1999.

One of the main elements will be the registration of dogs and cats, in particular because Quebec requires the manda-

tory registration of dangerous dogs. This registration will be free for owners who do so by January 1, 2022.

This will make it possible to document the problem of stray dogs and cats, an issue raised by citizens in recent years. "If people register similar to how it is done all over Quebec, we will know how many pets there are in the Greater Gaspé region. We will be able to better structure the animal management system with local organizations," ex-

plains the mayor, Daniel Côté.

In the longer term, the new framework provides for rules on dog parks when they are installed, and various measures to promote the sterilization of animals to limit stray dogs and cats on the territory and the resources to enforce them.

A registration fee will be in place in 2022: \$10 for a spayed cat, \$15 for a spayed dog, \$20 for an unsterilized cat and \$25 for an unsterilized dog.

Developers for new housing units

The mayor mentioned that developers are very interested in constructing housing units in Gaspé. Mayor Daniel Côté says that some are currently doing architectural analyzes.

"Since we're in the private fold, I can't make announcements for them. I feel like it's a matter of a few months at most. It looks good," says the mayor.

Without providing further

details, he points out that a local entrepreneur is working on several dozen housing units on the large vacant municipal land near Carrefour Gaspé, which has been for sale for several years.

In Gaspé there is a need for at least 200 dwellings.

There are also other promoters interested in smaller projects.

Tax credits for five years including land and services are still in effect for these buildings.

Spec hires Holly Smith for exciting new Media Smarts project

Diane Skinner

NEW CARLISLE: - The Gaspé Spec recently received approval for a new project, *Media Smarts*, made possible by the Community Media Strategic Support Fund (CMSSF) offered jointly by the Official Language Minority Community Media Consortium and the Government of Canada.

The Spec serves a large geographical area and is limited as to what can be covered with the number of journalists on staff. At times, this means that Spec misses covering community events or information about organizations. This innovative project will enable the newspaper staff to train community leaders in organizations, (including their employees, volunteers and members), to become Community Correspondents.

Workshops will be offered to cover such topics as "How to write a press release," "What is an editorial," and "How to determine which format to use." Spec Publisher, Penny MacWhirter states, "I am hoping that as a result of the Media Smarts project, we will be able to cover more topics and have a broader geographical reach. The organizations that participate will benefit with more Gaspésians being aware of their activities."

Holly Smith-Couture, has been hired to coordinate this project for 42 weeks. Her role will include organizing and conducting workshops, devel-



Holly Smith-Couture has been hired to coordinate a new project "Media Smarts" for 42 weeks. You will be reading the results of her initiatives in *The Gaspé Spec* in the coming months.

oping a School Ambassador Program, and identifying community leaders and organizations that will become points of contact in their communities. Along with the virtual workshops, a booklet developed by Mrs. Smith-Couture will be published and can be used as a resource tool.

Over the last three years Mrs. Smith-Couture has been working part-time for The Gaspé Spec as Circulation Manager. In this role she answers all your questions about your subscription, missing issues, renewals and payments. She also is in charge of the

Coast Round-up and Announcements pages. When needed, she helps out with the preparation of the paper. She will continue in this role two days per week. On the other three days she will be coordinating the Media Smarts Project. She comments, "At Spec you have to be able to do a little bit of everything. The staff is a team and we all work really well together."

The first day of the new project was April 26 and Holly is now in the process of creating a Media Needs Assessment. The intention is that from that assessment she can

determine the needs of community leaders between Gaspé and Matapédia. From there a plan will be developed to meet those stated needs.

The key components of the project are:

1. To develop awareness of the importance of reliable local news by providing community leaders and organizations with skills necessary to be competent community correspondents.

2. To widen the geographical reach (articles, subscriptions and advertising) of The Gaspé Spec to increase revenues and strengthen the financial capacity of the media.

3. To develop an outreach model that targets community involvement and encourages sharing of information between minority language communities in a large under-served area.

As part of the project, Mrs. Smith-Couture will set up a Spec Ambassador program at each ESSB school. The Ambassador Team will receive a package with tools to help them cover their school's media events.

An example of how this would work is: There's a student council election coming up at a certain school. The student ambassador would write a brief article about the various platforms of the candidates and this article would be published in the Spec. Once the election results are in, the ambassador then writes a fol-

low-up article which would also be published. Another example is: When there is a track and field tournament, the various ambassadors from the schools take photos and provide brief summaries of their school's results. A photo essay about the track and field tournament would then be published in Spec.

Holly Smith-Couture will be available to assist and guide the students along the way.

Another exciting component of the Media Smarts project is all material written by an Ambassador and Community Correspondant will be available on Spec's online platform.

This fund has been established to assist media outlets who serve Official Language minority communities. The goal for the project "Media Smarts" is to strengthen the Spec's capabilities to cover and publish information of interest to the readers about their community. You will be able to read the real results of these initiatives in the coming months.

"I believe this is a great, worthwhile project because who is in a better position to promote their own organization? It is the people who work there or are affiliated in some way! When they open up the pages of Spec, I want them to feel like it is theirs, that it is representing them and their values. The project is all about building partnerships," states Mrs. Smith-Couture.

Gaspé could lose its taxi service

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - Gaspé could lose its taxi service in the coming weeks.

Taxi Porlier had to drastically reduce its hours of operation.

"COVID-19, the Canada Emergency Response Benefit, the guaranteed minimum income have changed things. We no longer have a workforce," explains director Serge Lebreux.

The administrative complexity for a candidate to obtain the necessary permits to drive a taxi is also an obstacle to the recruitment of workers. "The resources in place are running out of steam. If, within a month or month and a half, we still have no reinforcements, we will be forced to

close the doors," says the director, who believes the situation has reached a critical point.

The mayor is launching an appeal

The mayor of Gaspé, Daniel Côté, feels badly about the situation.

"It's never nice to see transport files take a step back," says the mayor. "If people who are retired or who like to drive or be of service, this would possibly be the only way in the short term," states the mayor.

According to Mr. Lebreux, the situation is similar in other regions, citing in particular Rivière-du-Loup and Val-d'Or where companies have closed.

On the other hand, the service in Chandler is doing well,



Gaspé's taxi service is in trouble

Photo: N. Sergerie

having a stable core workforce to function normally.

The director of Taxi Porlier mentioned having tried approaching the Régim to establish partnerships. Daniel Côté, who is also president of the or-

ganization is leaving the door open.

"If there is room for discussion, our leadership is open to it. We are always in innovation mode, but within the limits of the framework that we operate.

If there are things to develop, the company can always make offers," says Côté, who reminds us that Taxi Porlier already operates the Murdochville-Gaspé shuttle on behalf of the agency.

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to protect yourself.**



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[Québec.ca/coronavirus](https://Quebec.ca/coronavirus)

COVID-19 situation deteriorates slightly in the Gaspé Peninsula

Gilles Gagné

Nelson Sergerie

MARIA – The COVID-29 situation deteriorated to a certain degree in the Gaspé Peninsula during the first week of May, as 43 new coronavirus cases were declared between May 1st and 7 in the region. It compares to a mere 15 new cases during the last week of April.

The daily average of new cases climbed to six during that first week of May, compared to two over the last week of April.

While the number of active cases was reported at 12 as of April 30, it rose to 43 a week later. The fact that it is the same as the number of new cases reported during the week is a coincidence.

As of May 7, three people from the region were hospitalized, compared to zero a week before. Hospitalizations are always a cause of concern because 34.3% percent of Gaspésians and Magdalen Islanders who were sent to the hospital because of the coronavirus since the beginning of the pandemic died. However recent such cases were able to get out of the hospital alive.

Out of 43 active cases, 19 people are living in the Bonaventure MRC. Four outbreaks have been identified by the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands Public Health Board. For the first time since the beginning of the pandemic, the Haute-Gaspésie MRC is dealing with significant outbreaks, as 13 people from that area were infected as of May 7. The Côte-de-Gaspé MRC was reporting five COVID-19 cases. The Magdalen Islands did not have a single case that day and there were six cases between the Avignon and Percé Rock MRCs.

Before the first week of May, only 48 cases had been reported in the Haute-Gaspésie MRC. The Magdalen Islands have also fared quite well since the beginning of the pandemic, with 51 cases. All the other MRCs of the region have reported more than 400 cases since March 2020.

The Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands Public

Health Board director, Dr. Yv Bonnier-Viger, explains that the 43 active cases in the region mainly result from four outbreaks, one in Marsoui, in Haute-Gaspésie (where the village school was closed), two in Paspébiac and a last one in Gaspé.

He specifies that even if 50 people are in isolation and that 70 people went for screening in Marsoui on Wednesday, the situation is under control.

"We have more cases in (the MRC of) Bonaventure (19 cases, compared to 13 in Haute-Gaspésie). We do not expect these cases to have repercussions elsewhere. (...) Everyone has been well isolated. (...) If everyone respects the rules, things will return to normal in a few days," concludes Dr. Bonnier-Viger.

As of midnight on May 5, half of the people in the Gaspé Peninsula and the Islands had been vaccinated. In the archipelago, around 80% of the population were vaccinated then, compared to 45% in the peninsula.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, 63.8% of the vaccinated Gaspésians and Magdalen Islanders have received the Pfizer shot, compared to 19.9% that have received Moderna's and 16.3%, the AstraZeneca shot, according to Johanne Méthot, head of the vaccination operation in the region.

Possibly "green" next month

GASPÉ – The Gaspé Peninsula could possibly reach Alert Level Green next month. This is what the Director of Public Health for the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands, Dr. Yv Bonnier Viger says.

The epidemiological situation must return to the level of the end of March when the region passed into the yellow level. If that happens, we can hope for the green level within a month.

"We will see the situation evolve in the rest of Quebec. If we went back to what we experienced a few weeks ago, zero or one case for a long time, we

would certainly go green," says Dr. Bonnier Viger.

The new green level will still have some restrictions and the region could become a laboratory for the rest of the province. But if there was too much of a gap between the Gaspé and the other regions, the traffic restriction would remain.

Decision at the end of the month for tourism

The decision on the next tourist season will be made towards the end of the month, but if taken now, the start of the season would be delayed.

"It will depend on the number of new cases when we go to do the assessment. We want to give tourist operators a little time to prepare, but if we were today on May 31, we would have to delay the season a little because the difference in traffic between the different regions is too great," says the specialist.

Two outbreaks linked to schools are active in Paspébiac, another in Marsoui also linked to a school and a last one in Gaspé.

All of the cases in the last few days are linked to variants and the origin is from people from outside the region.

More vaccines

Vaccination is becoming more increasingly available and the health network is aiming for an objective of 85% of the population having received the vaccine.

Two-thirds of the doses received in Gaspé are from Pfizer and 26,000 doses are due by June, the majority from Pfizer as well. Young people between the ages of 12 and 16 should receive their first dose by June 24.

No vaccine-related incident has been identified in Gaspé. "The main side-effects are pain at the injection site or headaches. Some have had a mild cold. We have no knowledge of anyone having to resort to hospitalization," says Dr Bonnier Viger.

Continued from page 4 - Gilles Gagné

A big river is not strictly a potential site for a power dam. A forest is not only a potential pool of lumber. Walking in nature also represents an economic activity. Besides, the economy is not the only value in life.

Areas must not only be protected where it is easy to do so, namely up north. A wide array of different ecosystems must be protected in many areas of Quebec for the benefits of biodiversity. In an era of climate change, scientists must be provided with that array of ecosystems in order to see how they react to rising temperature, drier weather and other phenomena.

Our nature has often inspired human beings to find solutions to contemporary problems. Neglecting or ignoring the importance of ecosystems is far from an inspired way to deal with the exploitation of natural resources. It might be too much for the comprehension capacity of ministers Julien and Dufour, whose conception of forestry seems to come from the 20th century, not the 21st.

The production of lumber remains and will remain important in Quebec. About everybody agrees on that. However, instead of putting emphasis on two-by-four lumber volumes, Quebecers can also count on their creativity and opt for more-advanced processing than sheer volume. They have already made steps in that direction since the revision of the public land capacity, 20 years ago. Further steps can be made to keep going in that direction. We can cut a bit less wood and process it further. In the end, the value of that wood will be higher, despite a lower or similar volume exploited.

Caring for the environment doesn't only mean targets in reducing greenhouse effect gases and recycling material, which correspond to an urban vision.

Caring for nature, different types of nature, must also be included in the equation. Although Minister Jonatan Julien has waved the protection of 83 sites, people must not throw in the towel. Even if mobilizing people is harder in pandemic conditions, letters can be written and demonstrations can still be held. Reminding the Coalition avenir Québec government that those issues will be remembered in the fall election of 2022 could also be quite useful.

Continued from page 4 - Emma Buckley

like walking through deep snow in someone else's footprints. The more experienced flyers start out in front, and fall back when they tire, letting others take the lead. If a bird is sick or injured, other geese leave the formation and stay with their injured companion until it dies or is able to fly again. Sure enough, the other day I noticed three geese winging over the waves, heading out to sea.

I've found unexpected delight identifying and learning about birds in Gaspésie. Each new identification feels like a discovery, a mystery solved. I have a particular fondness for migratory birds, fellow travellers propelled by instinct to keep going, despite the distance, despite the weather. In the short time I've been here I've noticed the clientele has changed. A few years ago I saw more eiders and red-breasted mergansers. This past winter I saw black scoters for the first time.

I miss the brant geese bobbing in the bay. I realise that I wanted something reassuringly regular - like their presence - to hold onto amidst the uncertainty that seems ever present in our modern world. In their absence is a reminder that very little in life is certain and that nothing should be taken for granted. Amid the murky unease, however, there are still gifts waiting for us. I walked out the other morning and was surprised by noisy cries and whistles drifting from the direction of the cape. Floating on the calm sea was a huge mass of ducks, spread out like a dark cloud. I drank my coffee to the sound of their chorus, all of us enjoying the spring sun.

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Gaspé will regulate its beaches next summer

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ - After having had a frustrating summer in 2020, Gaspé is moving forward by banning camping on beaches this summer. The Town is opening the door to a partnership with local organizations in order to allow nomadic camping in the following years.

Last summer, some campers mistook the sites of Boom Defense, Haldimand and Douglastown for a garbage can, leaving behind rubbish and human excrement, while sometimes circulating in cars or all-terrain vehicles with no respect for the fragile ecosystem of the beaches. Barriers will be installed to prevent traffic, but space will be provided for fishermen to launch their boats.

The ban won a slight poll majority (63% Haldimand, 58% for Boom Defense and 54% for Douglastown), but the Town opened the door to



Gaspé wants to avoid this scenario on the beaches like last summer in Douglastown.

Photo: N. Sergerie

pilot rustic camping projects for the coming years. Offenders will receive a minimum fine of \$200. Waste management and beach protection awareness will also be prioritized

The Town plans to set up an overflow campsite when all the sites in the 15 private establishments in the territory

are full. It will be located near Mont Béchervaise.

A security agency or officers from the Sûreté du Québec will be responsible for enforcing the regulations.

"We are aware that all of this is not perfect, but we had to give a clear signal to the effect that 2021 will not be like 2020. This is what a ma-

jority of citizens, community partners and authorities of the Micmac Nation of Gespeg wanted. We remain open to working on nomadic camping that is better structured over the long term," said the mayor, Daniel Côté, when the by-law was tabled on May 3. Leases remain to be concluded with Quebec for the

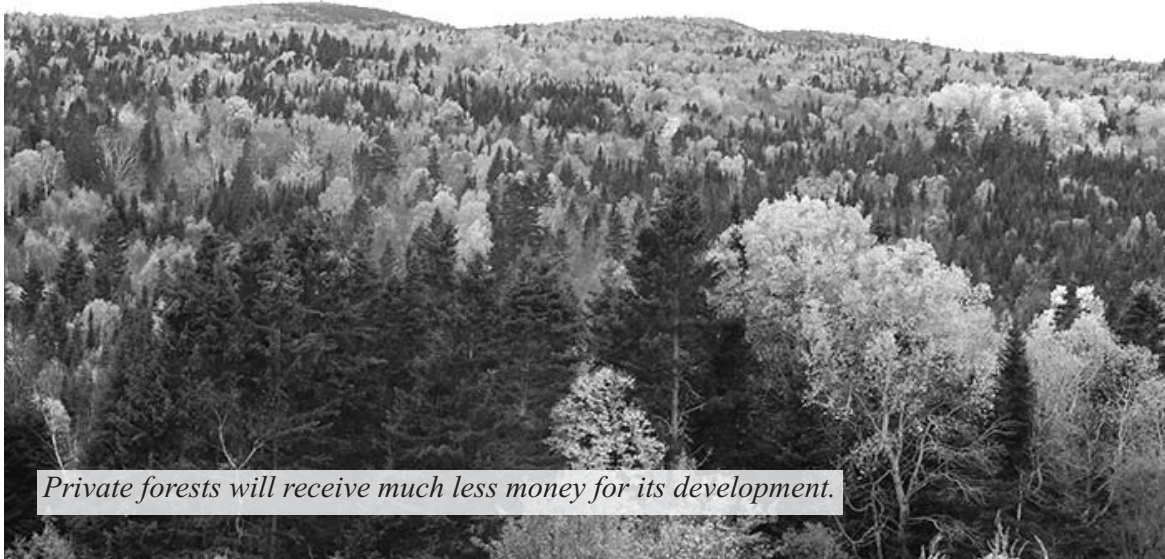
delegation of powers.

Mi'kmaq feel little involved

The consultations conducted by Gaspé for the protection of beaches are considered incomplete and do not respect the rules established by the Supreme Court. Although they agree with the directions taken for the summer, the Micmac Nation of Gespeg believes that these measures go against their ancestral rights over their unceded traditional territory throughout the Gaspé. Members use the beaches to exercise their rights and the settlement could impact their constitutional rights.

The Nation will make known to Gaspé and Quebec its dissatisfaction with the transfer of responsibility to the Town within the framework of the leases, without having completed a consultation with the Nation which wishes to lessen or eliminate any infringement of the rights of the Mi'kmaq.

Less money invested in private forests



Private forests will receive much less money for its development.

Photo: N. Sergerie

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ - The Minister of Forests, Wildlife and Parks will seek to understand why the sums dedicated to private forests have been reduced by more than half in the Gaspé this year.

The budget allocated to the *Agence régionale de mise en valeur des forêts privées Gaspésie-Les Îles* (Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Island regional private forest development agency) decreased from \$4.9 million to \$2.3 million, while the provincial envelope increased by \$1.9 million.

The Parti Québécois

forestry spokesperson and Member of the National Assembly for Bonaventure, Sylvain Roy, was overcome upon hearing of the issue from contractors. With such cuts, job losses and reduced maintenance of plantations are to be expected.

"We don't understand. We can see that in Abitibi, the (decision-makers) have increased budgets by 50%. It is as if the money that was in the Gaspé was collected in the minister's riding," says Sylvain Roy, who fears the file has been politicized.

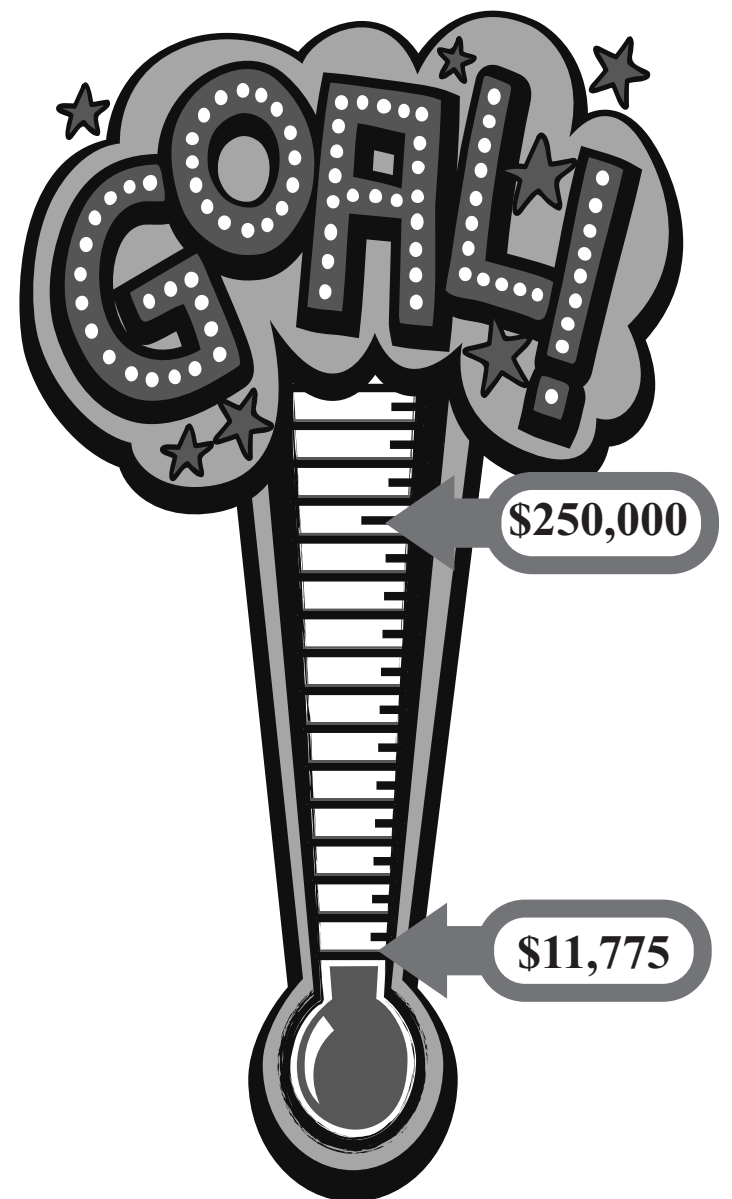
"The Auditor General has denounced in the past that we do not maintain plantations. With the cuts, we will see

abandoned plantations in private forests," says the elected official.

Questioned on May 4 during the study of budgetary appropriations for the next fiscal year, Minister Pierre Dufour had no answer to provide to the MNA for Bonaventure, who wanted a clear answer.

"I will ask my deputy to review the economic situation on this file to make sure we have the right numbers and why the cuts. And if there is a cut, why are we not able to improve the situation compared to the previous year. We will need an explanation," the minister replied to the MNA.

Family Ties Fundraising update



"As anybody who has ever heard of this organization will know FT makes a real difference in the lives of people of all ages."

- From the gofundme page

Lots of rain in April

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ - Gaspé received significant amounts of rain in April, making it one of the wettest months of April in history. 206 millimetres of rain fell and barely six centimetres of snow for a total precipitation of 212 millimetres at the Michel-Pouliot airport, which places April 2021 in 4th place for the quantity received. The record was 373 millimetres in 1980. The normal rainfall is 90 millimetres for April.

"It was a month that was very wet, particularly in the first days when we had exceeded the total in only two days, April 5 and 6 when we had received almost 90 millimetres in total," specifies meteorologist André Cantin from Environment Canada.



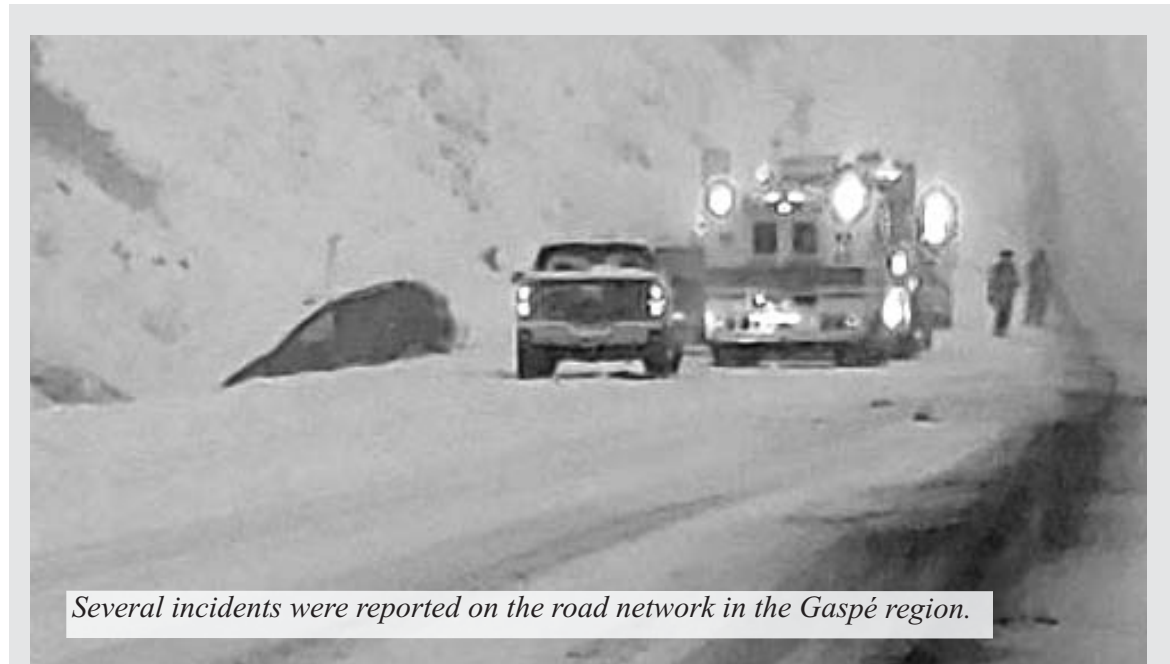
Gaspé received twice as much rain in April than usual.

Photo: N. Sergerie

The average temperature was 3.6 degrees, well above the norm of 1.5 degrees, which is a considerable difference from a meteorological point of

view.

The region will have received less snow than normal this winter with 314 centimetres so far. The norm is 372.



Several incidents were reported on the road network in the Gaspé region.

Photo: Facebook

Still a lot of snow for May 6 in Gaspé

Nelson **Sergerie**

GASPÉ - A snow record was almost broken on May 6 in Gaspé. Environment Canada recorded 12.6 centimetres at Michel-Pouliot Airport while the previous record was 12.7 centimetres in 1943. Receiving snow in Gaspé in May was nothing exceptional. Last year, 17.4 centimetres accumulated on May 4 and 5. The monthly average for May is five centimetres.

There were several incidents of vehicles leaving the road in the region, but according to the Sûreté du Québec, no major accidents were reported. According to the police, some motorists were reckless and some were driving with summer tires.

Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



Birth order

Does it make us who we are?

Does birth order really make a difference to our personalities? Does it shape who we are? Is it true that firstborns are leaders and more responsible? Is the middle child the peacekeeper and more social? Is the youngest more of a free spirit? Studies seem to differ about whether or not birth order affects who we become. However, look at your birth order or that of your own children and decide if birth order affects who you are – or is all just a fun exercise to do?

Oldest or firstborns:

Firstborns are reputed to be ambitious, more responsible and leaders, even bossy. If this is true why would that be? For a period of time, they were the only child, so they had lots of attention from parents. One study concluded that firstborns are slightly (very slightly) smarter than the next child or children. When the next child is born, the oldest tends to help the younger child. This may explain why they are more responsible and leaders. They are used to being in charge and are at times like mini-adults. If you are a first-born, you might be: a high achiever, controlling, structured or even rigid, and reliable.

The middle child:

Is the middle child a peacekeeper, are they obsessed by what is fair and are they more social than the oldest child? They cannot do everything their older sibling is doing so that is when you might hear, "Not fair!" They become more social because they do not have their parents to themselves, so they have more friends. If there are more children in the middle, as in a family of four or five children, then what? If there is more than one middle child, they tend to go their own way – to develop personalities that are different from their brothers or sisters. They are trying to carve out their place in the family by being different. If you are a middle child, this may describe you: values friendships, likes to please others but can be slightly rebellious and is a peace-maker.

The youngest:

The baby of the family is known as a free spirit. They tend to take risks and are often the 'charmings' in the family. They are the funny ones, the jokesters. Theories about why the youngest tends to be this way are partly to do with parenting. Parents are less cautious by the time they have raised two or more children. Youngest children likely have had fewer rules to follow. However, youngest get loads of attention, so that may explain their charm. The babies of the family might be described as: outgoing, attention seeking, a bit self-centred, and fun-loving.

There are other factors that influence who we become. These include genetics (born this way), children with special needs, and even gender. For example, if there is one girl in a family with four brothers, she will stand out because of her gender. This will affect who she becomes.

What about an only child who does not have the influence of other children in the home? They have the luck of getting all the parental attention, though this can be a burden for the child too. Only children tend to be: perfectionists, leaders, and mature for their age.

From your observations about your family, do you find anything in this theory to be even partially accurate? Our personalities come from a wide variety of sources and influences. Birth order, though part of it, is not the only factor that makes us who we are.

My grandmother, who had 12 children, likely had no time to consider whether birth order affected her children's personalities. She just accepted them all for who they were and loved them all the same.

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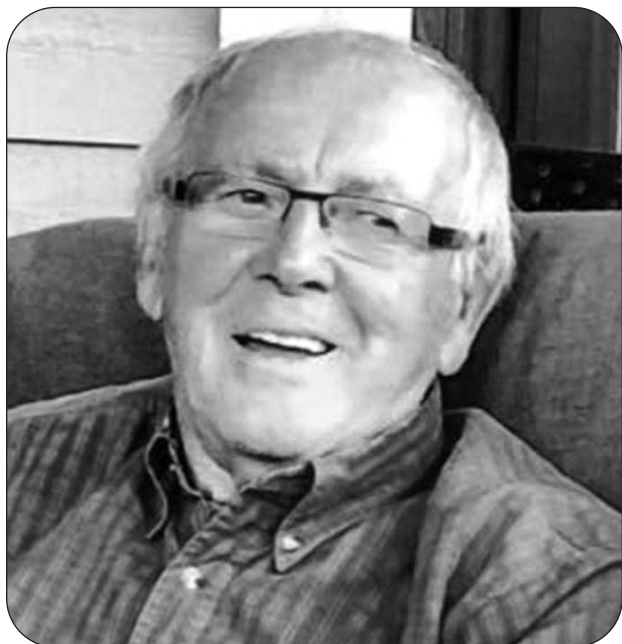
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Announcements...



Obituaries



KEAYS: James Albert

It is with great sadness that the Keays family announce the passing of Mr. James Albert Keays at the Hôtel-Dieu Hospital in Gaspé on April 26, 2021.

He was the beloved husband of Marcella Gagnon and father to Ron, Peter (Nancy), Judy (Brian), Jackie (Alain) and Stephen (Kari). Born in Pabos, Quebec, he was the son of the late Victoria Tennier and the late Edward Keays.

He will be deeply missed by his six grandsons: Michael (Jolaine), Matthew (Carmen), James Cassivi (Marie), William Cassivi (Emilie), Ethan and Simon; three great-grandsons: Madden, Louka and Andrew; two sisters: Phyllis and Shirley; sisters-in-law; brothers-in-law; cousins; nieces; nephews and friends.

Due to the Covid-19 situation, the funeral will occur at a later date to be determined. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Fondation Santé de la Côte-de-Gaspé.



KERR: Ruth
1943 - 2021

On Thursday, April 22, 2021, at her residence at the age of 78, Mrs. Ruth Kerr of Tide Head, New Brunswick, passed away. She was the wife of Mr. Claude Cyr and the daughter of the late Catherine (born McKinnon) and the late Ronald Chambers.

Besides her husband Claude, she will be sadly missed by her son, Layton Kerr (Deborah) of Ottawa, Ontario, and grandchildren, Layton Ward (15) and Adelaine Kathleen (11), also by many members of the Cyr family and friends.

The service for Mrs. Ruth Kerr was held at Savoie Funeral Home in Campbellton, New Brunswick, on May 5. Due to the coronavirus pandemic and social distancing protocols, the funeral was held with limited capacity because of government regulations. The burial immediately followed the service at the Our Lady of Lourdes Cemetery, Tide Head, New Brunswick.



MALONEY: Jan (née Thompson)

January 4, 1941 - April 30, 2021

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Jan Maloney (née Thompson) on April 30, 2021, in Mississauga, Ontario. She is predeceased by her loving husband Stanley. She is survived by her beloved children Rhonda (David), Arnie (Sharona) and Pierre-Paul (Francine), grandmother to Amelie (Sebastien) and great-grandmother to Samuel and Julianne. She also leaves behind sisters Bridget (Lester), Ola (Leonard), brother Alfred (Beatrice), and sister-in-law Valerie (late Zenon) as well as many other family and friends.

Cremation has taken place. Due to COVID - 19 services will be livestreamed at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Heart and Stroke Foundation. For condolence messages and future updates, please visit www.dbburlington.ca



In Memory



FLOWERS: Beatrice (Gallan)

April 28, 1926 - May 17, 2019

The day God took you home

*We thought of you with love today,
But that is nothing new.*

*We thought of you yesterday,
And the days before that too.*

We think of you in silence.

We often speak your name.

*All we have are memories,
And your picture in a frame.*

*Your memory is a keepsake
With which we will never part.*

God has you in his keeping.

We have you in our hearts.

With much love, your daughter Olivia and son-in-law Ken Ross.



WILLETT: Ralph James

July 1, 1949 - May 12, 2017

*In tears I saw you sinking
And watched you fade away.
Only God knows how I miss you
As it dawns on four years today.
In death, you laid with a smile of eternal peace
And we are so thankful for your memories
That we'll cherish them as if they were yesterday
In our hearts forever more.*

You are missed, Marilyn Campbell and family.

Happy Birthday



Ruth Duguay Craig - 90 years loved

Whether in Gascon, Port Daniel West, St. Bruno or Lacombe, Alberta, you have lived every day with gratitude, kindness and love. We are so blessed to share this birthday with our beautiful Mom.

Love, Janice, Kathy and Monica.



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COAST ROUND-UP

GASPE: Gaspé Cancer Foundation

The citizens of the MRC of Côte de Gaspé are asked to please note that the Annual Gaspé Cancer Foundation Membership Campaign is in full swing. The blue registration form can be found in your Publisac. May we remind you that membership fees are \$12 per year. New members have a 30-day waiting period before being eligible to receive their travel assistance. If you are a member in good stand-

ing, are afflicted with cancer, and must travel outside the region for treatment, you are eligible for the following travel assistance: Chandler \$40, Maria \$70, Rimouski \$170, Rivière-du-Loup \$190 Québec \$210, Montreal and Sherbrooke \$270.

NEW CARLISLE: Heritage New Carlisle

Just published! Now available: The Cox House of New Carlisle by Historian Bob Chisholm. Born and raised in New Carlisle, Quebec. Mr. Chisholm lived in the Cox house from 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.

NEW RICHMOND: Fifty Plus Club June 5: From 9 a.m. to 2

p.m., weather permitting. We are having a yard sale to raise money for the club. Due to Covid-19, we haven't been able to have any of our regular functions which keeps the club going every year. We are now at the point where we need to do something to raise money or we will have to close the club permanently. We will be at the club all day on May 29 to accept any donations you are willing to give for us to sell at the yard sale.

ROTARY CLUB WINNERS The winners for the week of May 2 are: Pascal Poirier, Raynald Arsenaault, Nicole Cyr-Al-lard, Donald Dugas, Ronald

Legouffe, Yvon Murphy and David Boudreau.

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

Sunday, May 16

New Carlisle

10 a.m. Morning Prayer

Port Daniel

3 p.m. Holy Eucharist

UNITED CHURCH

Sunday, May 16

10 a.m. Hope Town



ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

It could be that you are very aware of things going on around you this week, Aries. Unfortunately, many of them will be out of your control. Still, keep an open mind.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

Relax and settle down for a few days, Taurus. Take some time to enjoy the people around you and try to travel to some new locales along the way. A little vacation can be helpful.

GEMINI – May 22/June 21

Don't be surprised if some relatively minor details cause a set-

back in the days ahead, Gemini. Some heightened focus might be in order. Try to zone in.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, if you need to confront someone this week, do so tactfully. Remember the adage about catching more flies with honey. You'll find that tactic is handy.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, this week could become a tad challenging as strong astrological energies are affecting people's emotions. Maintain your composure at all costs.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Your organizational skills are about to increase productivity ten-fold this week, Virgo. Don't be afraid to take big chances and

even grab the helm on a large project.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, write down new goals, as it seems your emotions have changed over the past several days. This way you can channel your ambitions accordingly.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, this week you dare to go against the grain and make your voice heard. Embrace your self-confidence and don't hesitate to take on a leadership role.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

Your presence will be remarkable this week, Sagittarius. You radiate confidence and energy for all to see, and the people around you could be counting on you for lead-

ership.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20
It's not possible to transform the people you know with a magic wand or a twinkle of your nose, Capricorn. Let others be who they are and appreciate their individuality.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18
Aquarius, if you are feeling a bit neglected and unloved this week, ask your partner for some support. He or she will take the cue and the spark will reignite.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
Some conflicts within the family have you serving as peacemaker, Pisces. Negotiate with others to resolve their differences.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

MAY 9

Billy Joel, Singer (72)

MAY 10

Missy Franklin, Athlete (25)

MAY 11

Sabrina Carpenter,

Actress (22)

MAY 12

Rami Malek, Actor (40)

MAY 13

Debbie Ryan, Actress (28)

MAY 14

Rob Gronkowski,

Athlete (37)

MAY 15

Alexandra Breckenridge,

Actress (39)

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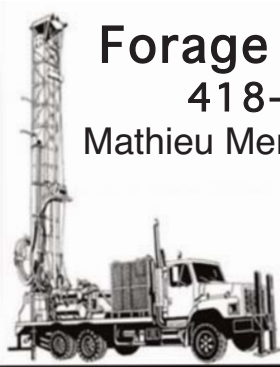


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Auberge and café opens in New Carlisle

Sous l'étoile du Sheriff Sheppard

Diane **Skinner**

NEW CARLISLE: - In February, 2021, a young family bought the historic Sheriff Sheppard House in New Carlisle. They welcomed their first customers in April to both their café and for overnight accommodations. Presently they have four lovely, comfortable rooms, newly furnished, available by reservation. Breakfast is included for overnight visitors.

The new owners are Héléne Desaulniers and her partner Daniel Cloutier, along with their two children Audrey-Anne, aged 11, and Alice who is nine years old. Héléne is originally from the Côte-Nord and she and her family arrived in the Gaspé in 2017. Héléne's mother, Lorraine Déry, is an integral part of the family business and she takes care of the reception of the Auberge and all matters related to catering. Héléne says, "We are a united family that wishes to get involved in our community by diversifying economic activity and by innovating to make our beautiful Gaspésie shine more and more!"

Héléne is an animal therapist and works mainly at Maria Hospital accompanied by her three dogs: Lincoln, an English cocker spaniel, Albert, an Aus-

tralian shepherd and Edgar, a labradoodle.

The house was built in 1825 for Sheriff Sheppard and his family. Over the years, the owners have made improvements and it has always been lovingly maintained. For a decade, the last owner, Bernard Huard, operated a B&B there which was open in the summers.

The café is located on the first floor of the house. They serve their own coffee blend, *Mélange du Sheriff*, roasted by the *Brûlerie du Quai* in Carleton-sur-mer. They offer homemade pastries and desserts, "served with love." You can choose from a cappuccino, a maple latte, an espresso or an iced coffee. They also offer brunch on special occasions. They have indoor and outdoor seating and if you wish you can order take-out. Héléne tells us that they offer quality service, using many local products.

You do not need a reservation to drop by for a coffee, pastry or dessert. They will be offering dinners for small groups, by reservation only. When summer arrives, their schedule will be extended. At the moment they are open Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Héléne tells Spec, "We are starting our first season with



The historic house was built in 1825 for Sheriff Sheppard and his family.

motivation and dynamism. We are excited to meet you! We want to become a 'must-see' destination in New Carlisle and in the Baie-des-Chaleurs! We have several ideas that will be revealed to you as we go along! Follow us on social media so you don't miss a thing!"

Currently, there are four bedrooms available upstairs and large common areas (living room, dining room, den, bathroom, powder room, café area, and an outdoor courtyard). The family is proud to take over and to bring this historic house back to life and to contribute to its history!

Everyone is welcome to visit the "Auberge Café sous l'étoile du Sheriff Sheppard!"

To travellers, the owners say, "We can't wait to meet you, to talk to you, to make you fall



Héléne Desaulniers and her partner Daniel Cloutier are the new owners of "Auberge Café Sous L'étoile" in New Carlisle.

Photos courtesy of Héléne Desaulniers and Daniel Cloutier

in love with our beautiful Gaspésie. We want to pass on our passion and motivation to

you and we want to inspire future entrepreneurs, in all sectors, to dare!"

Merle Haggard: Country music outlaw

Diane **Skinner**

Many Gaspésians love country music, particularly classic country. Entertainer and musician (check him out on facebook) Roger Lee Martin of Gesgapegiag feels that the music from artists such as Johnny Cash and Merle Haggard still connects with people because the songs are about things they can relate to. Roger Lee comments, "Mr. Haggard, along with other artists was a good influence on me growing up in the early 60s and 70s. I would listen to his music on the radio from CKBC Bathurst on a show hosted by Al Hebert. When I was learning to play the guitar and singing, a lot of great songs came from 'The Hag.' Even today, we still play and sing his music and the audience still requests particular songs which they like to dance to."

Merle Ronald Haggard, (The Hag) born in 1937 and passed away in 2016, was an American country singer and



Merle Haggard, 'country music outlaw,' pictured here at age 34, had a long successful country music career; achieving 38 number one hits.

songwriter. Born during the Great Depression, he had a hard life, especially after the death of his father when Merle was just nine years old. He had frequent run-ins with the law as a teen and a young man. He skipped school, hopped freight trains and stole. At the age of 23 after being released from prison, he started on the road to a highly successful country music career. Between 1960 and into the 1980s he had an as-

ounding 38 number one hits!

It is said that Merle got his musical talent from his dad who played the fiddle and guitar. Merle, however, was a self-taught musician who learned to play the guitar as a teen by listening to records.

When in prison he joined the prison band and was very influenced by Johnny Cash who came and performed at San Quentin prison when Merle was incarcerated there. Merle commented that he loved Johnny Cash's attitude and said, "He had the right attitude: he chewed gum, looked arrogant and flipped the bird to the guards — he did everything the prisoners wanted to do. He was a mean cat from the South who was there because he loved us."

Merle had his struggles and demons as he went through life. He started smoking at a young age but quit in 1995 at the age of 58. He admits that at one time he bought \$2,000 worth of cocaine and partied for five months straight. He was mar-

ried five times. He had four children with his first wife, Leona Hobbs. He then married Bonnie Owens to whom he always gave a lot of credit for his success as a country music artist. In fact, she is credited as co-writing his big hit, "Today I Started Loving You Again." She helped to raise his four children from his first marriage and was the maid of honour for Haggard's third marriage. In fact, all their lives they remained close friends right up until his death in 2016.

His distinct voice and his songs were often hard-edged and he was very open about the fact that he disliked modern or 'new' country music. He said, "There's two or three kids out there trying to make good music, and the rest of them sound like it's been strained through some kind of white

toast or something. It all sounds just too neat and perfect, with no surprise to it at all. No story, no nothing. It's like building cars, like an assembly line. It doesn't sound like anything that came from a guitar."

Some of his best-known songs include "Okie from Muskogee," "Mama Tried," "The Fighting Side of Me," "Yesterday's Wine," "Sing Me Back Home," "The Fugitive," "Workin' Man Blues," and "Yesterday's Wine."

Merle Haggard was a giant in the country music scene and is considered one of the true greats in outlaw country music. His music was less polished with a hard edge and lyrics that sounded like he believed what he sang. Roger Lee Martin adds, "He may be gone, but his musical legacy will be with us forever."

*Today I started loving you again.
I'm right back where I've really always been.
I got over you just long enough to let my heartache mend,
then today I started loving you again.
Merle Haggard & Bonnie Owens*

Rainbows: The science and the beauty

Diane **Skinner**

After a rain it is always a beautiful sight to spot a rainbow. The arc of colour in the sky catches our attention. No matter how old we are, a rainbow can make us smile.

The science

A rainbow is a multi-coloured arc in the sky. Rainbows form when the sun's rays hit raindrops falling from clouds. Rainbows appear in the sky, opposite the sun. They appear most often in the early morning or late in the afternoon. A rainbow is created when light is bent when entering a droplet of water. It is also referred to as refraction. When the light passes through the millions of droplets needed to make a rainbow, it separates. The raindrops bend the light waves. The separated white light appears in the colours of the rainbow.

The seven colours of the rainbow are identified as red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet. Sir Isaac Newton first identified the seven colours that make up the colour spectrum, also known as the bands of colour. A simple way to remember the colours in the correct order is by recalling this fictitious name - Roy G. Biv.

The brightest rainbow you see in the sky is referred to by meteorologists as the primary bow. Sometimes you may be able to spot a fainter rainbow that forms outside the primary bow. This is technically termed the secondary bow, but we more commonly call it a double rainbow.

Here is a trivia fact – the area between the primary rainbow and the secondary bow has a name! It is called Alexander's band.

What causes the double rainbow? This occurs when the light is bent twice inside the water drops. If you look quickly, because it won't last long, you may spot that the colours in the secondary rainbow are in



A double rainbow occurs when the light is bent twice. The colours in the secondary rainbow are in the opposite order from the primary rainbow.

Photo: D. Skinner

the opposite order of the primary rainbow. So, violet, indigo, blue, green, yellow, orange and red.

Although it is extremely rare, light may be reflected three or four times to make a third and fourth rainbow!

You can see a "rainbow effect" on a sunny day by spraying water from a hose. Stand with your back to the sun and adjust the water coming out of the hose into a fine spray. In the mist of the water, you might spot a rainbow.

Sometimes you may see a rainbow effect at a waterfall. A rainbow viewed from an airplane is a special experience because it appears as a circle. Rainbows can be seen not just in rain but also in mist, spray, fog, and dew. This happens whenever there are water drops in the air and light shining from behind them at just the right angle.

The beauty

Due to their beauty, rainbows are featured in art, folklore, music, literature, poetry and religion. In ancient Greece, the rainbow was thought to be a path between Heaven and Earth. In Irish folklore, the leprechaun hid

end of the rainbow because as we walk towards it, it seems to move. In the Old Testament, after the Great Flood, God placed the rainbow in the sky as a sign of hope.

In cultures of the Amazon, rainbows are considered a bad sign. In fact, there is a tradition that they close their mouth when a rainbow appears to prevent disease from entering the body. In Hindu philosophy, the seven colours of the rainbow represent the seven chakras, or centres of spiritual power in the human body. Different cultures have different beliefs.

In art, the rainbow is most often a symbol of happiness and hope. Since March, 2020, Quebecers have been displaying a rainbow in their windows as a sign of strength along with the message "Ça Va Bien Aller" or "Things Will Get Better."

Rainbows are a common theme in music. "Somewhere

Over the Rainbow" is sung by Dorothy in the film *The Wizard of Oz*. It is a place where there is peace and harmony.

*Somewhere over the rainbow
Bluebirds fly.*

*Birds fly over the rainbow.
Why then, oh, why can't I?*

The rainbow flag has been a sign of hope and social change at different times in history and in different cultures. It is used today to symbolize gay pride and the LGBTQ community. It is also used in South Africa where it stands for the many ethnic groups that live there.

Rainbows are beautiful, almost magical, like shooting stars and are brought to you free of charge by Mother Nature. Our world is full of so much natural beauty just outside our door.

his pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. Of course, it is impossible to ever reach the

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