

# The Gaspé Spec

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## LM Wind Power will create 200 new jobs in Gaspé

Nelson **Sergerie**,  
LJI Journalist

GASPÉ - General Electric is investing at least \$170 million in the LM Wind Power wind turbine blade plant doubling the plant's size, while creating 200 new jobs in Gaspé.

This is the largest industrial investment in the history of the Town.

The plant will manufacture the world's largest wind turbine blades, measuring 107 metres in length. They will be primarily intended for the North American market. For example, the future blades will be at least twice as long as those currently manufactured by the 380 workers currently employed.

The Prime Minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau, came to Gaspé to make the announcement. "With investments like this, we are solidifying our place as a world leader in green energy and we are also helping the world breathe cleaner air and create good jobs for the middle class," says the Prime Minister.

Ottawa will provide another loan of \$25 million and Quebec will provide an amount of \$29 million. "Not only are we making it possible to strengthen competitiveness in this sector of the future, we are

helping to propel the region's socio-economic development even further," says Quebec Minister of Energy, Jonatan Julien.

A portion of the Quebec government interest-free loan could be erased if the jobs created are maintained over 10 years. According to Spec's information, these new jobs will be remunerated at some \$56,000 per year, which will be above the average Quebec salary, according to a source, while a few national media articles indicated that the remuneration did not exceed the Gaspé average.

The 107-metre blades are the pride of LM Wind Power's Americas director, Alexandre Boulay. "Imagine Gaspé, a small town at the end of Canada, which actively participates in the fight against climate change everywhere in the world," pronounced the manager.

Mr. Boulay cannot provide details of future contracts, but he is confident of finding takers as the market continues to grow as it is a product demanded by customers.

"We are going to make large wind turbine blades for North America, so as much for the Quebec market. The Quebec government is relaunching in wind power. We're going to



Federal Minister of Innovation, Science and Economy, François-Philippe Champagne; LM Wind Power director general for the Americas, Alexandre Boulay; Prime Minister Justin Trudeau; GE representative, Heather Chalmers; the Minister responsible for the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands, Jonatan Julien; Member of Parliament for the Gaspésie-Magdalen Islands riding, Diane Lebouthillier; and the Mayor of Gaspé, Daniel Côté.

Photos: N. Sergerie

look at what's happening on the other side of the border for sure. The blades we are going to make are blades where we find a lot of innovation, great powers. Certainly, on the other side of the border there will be interest. These are large blades for North America," adds Boulay. Orders are already full until 2025

### The recruitment challenge

Alexandre Boulay admits that finding 200 employees will be quite a challenge for the

expansion. According to him, a combination of factors will be the key to finding the workforce.

"Yes, there are workers in Quebec who will have an interest in coming to see us at LM Wind Power. Gaspé - as we have seen - has an important power of attraction. There are challenges. It will take us additional housing. We had the chance, the privilege, to be able to have 48 foreign workers. Their integration went very well. Temporary foreign workers will definitely be part of the solution," explains Boulay.

For its part, the plant workers' union, affiliated with the CSN, welcomes the news.

"We were expecting it, but it has happened. The workers are very satisfied," said the president, Denis Giroux, noting that the atmosphere in the facility has become much lighter in recent weeks.

The mayor of Gaspé is pleased to see the main private employer in Gaspé adding 200 new jobs and investing \$170 million in his town. "We are extremely proud of the efforts

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## Lack of child care spaces will be a thing of the past... in 2024

Nelson **Sergerie**,  
LJI Journalist

GASPÉ - If it is up to the Minister of Families, all the needs for childcare spaces in the Gaspé will be met by 2024. Mathieu Lacombe indicated this twice rather than once during his visit in Gaspé on July 14 and 15.

While in Gaspé on July 14, Mathieu Lacombe pointed out that in the Gaspé Peninsula, there are between 500 and 600 places missing, according to figures from his department. The minister is committed to filling them.

"Let's say by 2023-2024, the problem in the Gaspé

should be resolved," the minister clearly says, even adding that journalists could remind him of his statement if it is not respected.

While only 200 places are short in Gaspé and the deficit could increase with the new expansion at LM Wind Power, the minister is making a clear commitment.

"There will be enough places created this summer or that will be announced this fall to meet all of Gaspé's needs," says Mr. Lacombe.

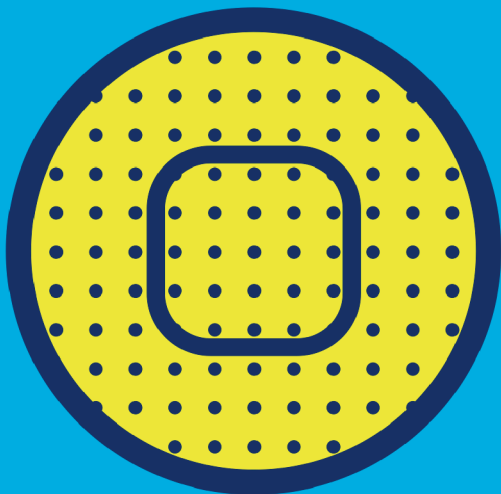
"There will inevitably be more with the economic announcements. Me, I trust," says



Photo: N. Sergerie

The Minister of Families, Mathieu Lacombe, during his visit to Gaspé

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# Quebec opens the door to wind energy

Nelson **Sergerie**,  
LJI Journalist

**GASPÉ** - After bashing the wind power industry for years because of "too high" costs, the Coalition Avenir Québec is doing an 180 degree turn and is opening the door wide open to harnessing the energy created by the wind.

Quebec adopted on July 14 a decree to possibly launch a call for tenders for new renewable energy supplies.

This decree of interest for the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands' Régie intermunicipale de l'énergie presents Quebec's vision of the wind energy sector in its energy portfolio.

In the request, a call for tenders for 300 megawatts of wind

power is on the table while there are needs as early as 2026.

"Probably the next calls for tenders are going to come out at under 6 cents. This is favourable to meet certain needs that we will have in 2026 or 2027," indicates the Minister of Natural Resources, Jonatan Julien, who was in Gaspé on July 14 to participate in the expansion announcement of the LM Wind Power plant.

In the details contained in the decree document, one can note that local authorities (municipalities, MRCs or Native governments will hold 50 percent of the future projects' shares. Quebec content will have to be at least 60 percent of the globeable expensenses while the regional content will

have to reach at least 35 percent either from the MRC where the project will be located or from the MRC of La Matanie or the Gaspé Peninsula and Madeleine islands with contracts for a period of 30 years old.

"We have come to impose constraints on those who want to bid that we, in Quebec, expect the benefits to be maximized for Quebecers and the regions of Quebec," says Minister Julien.

The additional needs by 2029 are estimated at 1,400 megawatts and Quebec says that a significant part will be reserved for wind power.

Quebec's proposal was favourably received by the Régie intermunicipale de l'énergie Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-

Madeleine.

"This government is making a 180-degree turn on the wind power industry and I sincerely believe that this will be a blessing for all of Quebec," said President Simon Deschênes.

Quebec wants a benchmark measure with the first 300 megawatts with a call for tenders by the end of the year.

The Alliance de l'Est, which includes the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands, the Lower Saint Lawrence, the MRCs of L'Islet and Montmagny and private developers, wants to position itself with its 1200 megawatt project.

"We have opportunities in front of us and it is also up to us to play our cards well to posi-

tion ourselves to get the maximum for our communities in the Gaspé," says Mr. Deschênes.

Favourable to renewable energies, the member for Gaspé talks about a change of course for the CAQ government with regard to wind power.

Even if there are still elements to be clarified, the member of the national assembly for the Gaspé riding Méganne Perry Mélançon speaks of a breakthrough. "We welcome it, that's for sure, because we have made representations in this regard, and we will pursue the demands to ensure that local content is always a priority in future calls for tenders and next contracts."

## LM EXPANSION:

### Cont'd from cover

made in recent years to achieve this result: the largest industrial project in the contemporary history of the City of Gaspé," says the mayor and prefect of the Côte-de-Gaspé MRC, Daniel Côté.

Still needed is to link the plant with the Sandy Beach seaport, a \$12 to \$15 million project that will be announced soon.

"We continue to work on the technical side. Quebec is ready to support us in a marked way, but there are still loose ends to tie for financing," says Mr. Côté.

"I won't hide from you that there are a lot of challenges ahead. We will tackle them together: the Gaspé community and the government. If we look specifically at the access road to the port, we had a constructive discussion with Minister Julien and we are told that things are going very well. We are confident that a solution will be found in the coming weeks," adds Mr. Boulay confidently.



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau tours the LM Wind Power facilities.

Another aspect to be resolved is the lack of housing. With 200 new workers, families will need accommodated in a town where there is already a lack of 200 to 300 housing units.

"Today's announcement will put pressure on the promoters. They will understand that there is a desperate and real need. They will make an investment that pays off," believes Mr. Côté.

Construction of the new part of the plant is expected to begin soon and be ready in the

fall of 2022. It is in the winter that people will be able to see the scale of the building.

LM Wind Power has been established in Gaspé for 16 years now.

"You know where LM went 15 years ago. It was said that she would be there for a fixed period. Today, we continue to change the game and adapt and push the boundaries. After 16-17 years, we are talking about an expansion project that will take us even further into the future," concludes Alexandre Boulay proudly.

The mayor of Bonaventure, Roch Audet, noted to Mathieu Lacombe that future calls for tenders will have to take into account the needs of each of the MRCs.

"We submitted a proposal adapted to our realities. If we take that into account, we will be able to work with the ministry and the minister's office to find the right solutions," says Mr. Audet.

In Bonaventure, the waiting list has 143 names, including 47 pregnant women. There are only 70 places currently available.

The Minister visited the temporary facilities at the Centre Bonne Aventure currently being used. The calls for tenders for the expansion will be launched at the end of August. The decision between expanding or building a new one will be made.

"We will see what emerges from the tenders with the prices in the current context of the cost of materials. One does not prevent the other. We will see the opportunities available to us," says the director of the La Baie daycare centre, Julie Dalpé.

## CHILDCARE:

### Cont'd from cover

the mayor, Daniel Côté.

"We hope that each child in the area will have place," says the director of the Centre de la petite enfance Voyage de monfance, Gilles Chapados.

The two CPEs in Gaspé submitted projects for a total of 187 places.

At least 143 spots are missing in Bonaventure.

While in Bonaventure on July 15, the Minister repeated his commitment to fill the 600 missing places by 2024.

## Police report



A July 12 fire completely destroyed a small building located in the Val d'Espoir sector of Percé. The alarm was given in the wee hours of the morning as a passerby saw smoke coming out of the back part of the building. The person woke up the occupants of the village's former grocery store before calling the emergency services. The firefighters of Percé, Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé and Grand River were called to put down the blaze. Damage amounts to at least \$60,000 in municipal value, without including the personal belongings of the occupants. An electrical problem located in the back of the store is the likely cause of the blaze. The occupants were taken care of by the Red Cross.

With the start of the construction holiday, the Sûreté du Québec informs vacationers that its police officers will be intensifying their interventions on the road network as well as on rivers, lakes and all-terrain vehicle trails until August 1. That campaign is conducted under the theme "Safety doesn't take a vacation!" That theme aims to remind all vacationers that they must apply road safety and recreational tourism rules throughout the year, even when they are on vacation. At all times, on roads, on the water or on trails, they must adopt safe behaviours to ensure their safety and that of others.

The construction holiday represents the time of year with the highest number of fatal collisions and accidents causing injuries. During that long holiday a year ago, eight people lost their lives in collisions in the province's area served by the Sûreté du Québec. About a third of Quebecers take time off during this period, which has the effect of considerably increasing travel on the road network. Moreover, this year, due to the pandemic, even greater ridership is to be expected considering that most Quebecers will be spending their vacations inside the province. Sûreté du Québec officers ask the public to remember that helmets are mandatory for all-terrain vehicle enthusiasts, and that it is strongly recommended to wear a personal flotation device at all times when boating.

# COVID-19 situation remains quiet in the region

Gilles Gagné

MARIA – The last documented cases of COVID-19 in the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands go back to July 3rd. Since that day, all the daily reports issued by the region's Public Health Board have been characterized by the absence of new coronavirus cases, as of July 16.

There is not a single active case reported since July 4.

On the vaccination front, the situation has reached something close to a standstill regarding the rate of people having received their first shot, with 77.2% of Gaspésians and Magdalen Islanders protected by that first shot. It has not moved much over the last three weeks. The situa-

tion is progressing much faster for the second shot, as 53.3% of the region's population is now fully vaccinated.

The Magdalen Islands situation is brighter as 84.8% of the people have received their first shot, and 70.9% are benefiting from the booster shot.

In the Gaspé Peninsula alone, the first vaccine rate

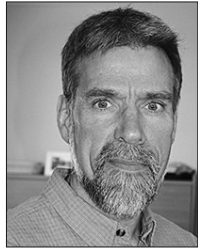
stands at 76% while the booster shot proportion is 50.5%. The Avignon, Bonaventure and Haute-Gaspésie MRCs' vaccination rate is a little under 50% for the second shot. Apart from the Magdalen Islands, the Percé Rock MRC is the only area of the region with more than 60% of its population having received the booster

shot.

Since the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020, 2,073 Gaspésians and Magdalen Islanders have received a positive COVID test, while 139 of them were sick enough to be hospitalized. Forty-seven residents of the region died of COVID-19 and 2,036 people have recovered from it, either after being

## Editorial page

### Gilles Gagné Commentary



### Wind energy: the virtues of perseverance

The emergence of a wind energy industry in Quebec took shape very discretely almost a quarter of a century ago, in Cap-Chat and Matane, through two wind farms totalling 100-megawatts of installed capacity.

Previous attempts, also in Cap-Chat in the mid-1980s as well as in the Magdalen Islands, had been non-conclusive. Installed just before the turn of the millennium, the subsequent wind farms of Cap-Chat and Matane were sharply criticized in more ways than one. In the case of the Capucins sector of Cap-Chat, the towers were very visible from the houses and the roads. In addition to that factor, the royalties paid to the municipality were a paltry \$12,000 per year.

In 2003-2004, during the first significant call for tenders issued by Hydro-Québec and the Quebec government, 1000 megawatts of wind power were reserved for private investors wishing to supply the utility.» It sparked criticisms. The cost per kilowatt hour, higher than the electricity cost from the power dams, disturbed many citizens and analysts, in an energy surplus context.

There were a few factors behind that higher cost. Technologically, 15 years ago, wind power rarely rivaled hydroelectricity, partly because of its intermittence. In addition, successive Quebec governments, those of Bernard Landry until 2003 and Jean Charest thereafter, had decided to create a component manufacturing industry in the so-called "designated" region of the Gaspé Peninsula and the MRC of Matane.

There were consequently costs associated with that new industry. In the calls for tenders, merit points were attributed to the wind farm developers who could submit projects with the highest regional content. There was also a pre-determined minimum level of regional content.

At first, it added to the manufacturing cost because LM Wind Power, for example, had to build a plant in the designated zone instead of flatly making blades in its Denmark plants and sending them to Quebec. The same logic applied to Marmen, a company that reluctantly set up a steel tower manufacturing facility in Matane, while its management wanted to use the existing Three Rivers area plant

to supply the upcoming wind farms.

The admitted goal of the regional approach was to attract an international turbine manufacturer to Quebec. The Quebec government wanted turbines made here, not just towers, blades and other smaller components.

With the exception of a timid attempt in the Eastern Townships, no turbine manufacturer ever built a generator plant in Quebec. The starting 1000 megawatts, as well as the additional 2880 megawatts installed since that time, were too small a volume to convince one of the world's turbine manufacturers to establish such a facility here.

However, the wind industry grew just the same, despite periods of uncertainty. A real industry concentrated in the fabrication of towers, blades, control instruments and maintenance of wind farms gradually emerged.

Groupe Ohmega has developed surveillance devices allowing the company to monitor from its Gaspé office wind farms located at the other end of the continent, near the coast of the Pacific Ocean. Various wind farm maintenance companies, Gaspé-based Suspendem being one, get contracts from all over North America and beyond.

The industry has grown because talented, inspired and patient people have continued to put pressure on various governments to persevere in the field, as research continues to drive down the cost of wind power.

The Apuiat project, by the Innu of the North Shore, was confirmed in February by the government of the Coalition Avenir Québec, the government that had been most resistant to the wind energy sector to date. Apuiat developers will receive about six cents per kilowatt hour, a cost significantly lower than that of recent hydropower projects.

It is sure now that some of the next wind farm development projects in Quebec will produce at a cost of less than six cents or five cents per kilowatt, since technological gains are still being made in that type of production.

Hydroelectricity can hardly keep up with that nowadays. The best rivers have been exploited in Quebec and the environmental norms no longer allow power dam builders to carry out unbridled demolition of the scenery.

The wind energy cost is diminishing at an even faster pace in the United States, under different conditions though. Down south, very large wind farms are installed on flat land, and they are subjected to winds even stronger than those in Quebec. Some Midwest wind farms deliver electricity at a little less than three cents per kilowatt hour, however, that development model doesn't always allow much room regarding the distance between windmills and houses, the noise factor and so on.

While wind power has cost Quebecers more than

hydroelectricity for a few years, the future gains promise to be significant. The increase in the capacity of large batteries will soon make it possible to accumulate megawatts of wind power for continuous use.

In addition to that, the patience, perseverance and resistance of the industry, as well as municipal leadership, have led to the emergence of world-class players, such as the LM Wind Power blade production plant in Gaspé, where more than 160 million dollars will be invested shortly to expand it.

Gaspésians don't always realize that the LM facility in Gaspé is one of the world's best blade manufacturing plants in the world, arguably the best in the Americas. Evidence is there now. The LM Wind Power shareholder, GE, could have invested somewhere else, like in a new plant in the United States, since the production of the Gaspé plant is strictly exported south of the border now. While the currency exchange rate has helped, GE decided to invest in Gaspé because of the competence of local workers and management, as well as for its proximity to a seaport.

This expansion will soon bring in hundreds of millions of dollars a year in net revenues for Quebec's trade balance, since LM has been exporting 100% of its production since 2016 and will continue to do so on a larger scale.

So it was worth being patient over the years with our wind power industry. It was worth paying a tiny bit more for our electricity and develop a very efficient industry. It was worth advocating for support to that industry, all the more considering that it has a bright future, due to its environmental benefits. The wind farms installed in the United States replace coal burning thermo plants. So, yes, it was worth waiting to become some of the world leaders in wind farm component manufacturing.

*The Gaspé Spec*

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# Lobster season finished with another record price

Gilles Gagné

SAINT-GODEFROI – The 140 lobster fishermen of the Gaspé Peninsula received another record price for their shellfish at the end of the season. In fact, the last three weeks of the season were marked by an increasing price, thanks to several long weekends. Those holidays trigger the demand for fishery products.

While the price was set at \$8 per pound during the first seven weeks of the season, the end was marked by important hikes, to \$8.34 during week 8, then \$9.80 and finally a whopping \$10.75 over week 10.

The end of the season for the fishermen between Gaspé's Brillant Cove and New Carlisle occurred on July 1. The lobster fishermen located around Forillon, the north side of the Gaspé Peninsula and the west part of the Bay of Chaleur area continued their season for a week or two, since they usually start later. The same reality prevails for



Photos: G. Gagné

*Lobster fisherman Francis Vautier and his crew were already smiling following their first day at sea. Time proved them right.*

the Gaspésians fishing off the coast of Anticosti Island.

"In those cases, the price increased to \$11.03 per pound," indicated lobster buyer Roch Lelièvre, president of Lelièvre, Lelièvre et Lemoignan, a plant located in Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé.

The price of \$8.00 was already matching the record set 14 years ago.

"We must go back to 2007, a year before the American crash, to see a price like this year, and it was only a week at \$8.00 back then," recalls O'Neil Cloutier, director gen-

eral of the Southern Gaspé Professional Fishermen Group, which represents the lobster fishermen of the region.

The vigor of the demand favoured those strong prices, points out Bill Sheehan, vice-president of E. Gagnon et Fils,

another plant located in Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé. It is the main buyer and processor of lobster in the Gaspé Peninsula.

"It is really a season where, as much for lobster as for crab, there was no inventory left. We sure started with a steep ascent, at \$8 per pound, and we finished even stronger. (...) There again, the currency exchange rate helped. There again, the supermarkets entered the dance and offered lobster in their store, like in 2020, over a lengthy period," analyzes Mr. Sheehan.

It is still early to get an overall view of the economic impact of lobster fishing in the Gaspé Peninsula this year but one data is striking; by mid-season, the region's lobster fishermen had already landed produce valued \$49.4 million, which alone beat the season-long record.

The fishermen don't catch as much lobster during the second half of the season but they still land sizeable quantities.

# Via Rail will gradually return to Eastern Quebec and the Maritimes on August 11

Gilles Gagné

MATAPEDIA - Via Rail will resume service between Halifax and Montreal on August 11, with only one round train per week in the first phase of a gradual resumption of this link. The Montreal-Halifax route has been suspended since mid-February 2020, with the exception of one week in March of the same year.

The Ocean train will leave Halifax on August 11, a Wednesday, for Montreal, where it will arrive the next day. The return will be made on Sunday, August 15. Normally, the Ocean train connects Montreal and Halifax with three weekly round trips. The public corporation does not specify in its press release whether Wednesday and Sunday will remain the travel days for a while, and it does not mention when a full schedule will be restored.

Shortly after February 10, 2020, the Ocean train was suspended for three weeks because barricades were erected in a few places in Canada by Natives supporting the Wet'suwet'en First Nation in British Columbia. The last

barriers were removed on March 5, but a week later, the state of emergency resulting from the pandemic once again paralyzed the Montreal-Halifax link. No Via Rail train has run east of the Lévis-Quebec City sector since then.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the travel options of Canadians in Eastern Canada," said Cynthia Garneau, Via Rail's president and chief executive officer, in a press release. "To follow and respect guidelines and recommendations from public health authorities and provincial governments, we could not provide our passengers the service and frequencies offered under normal circumstances. Our objective has always been the safe resumption of the Ocean when conditions allowed it, and we could not be happier to be able to finally proceed with this gradual return to service in this region."

Wearing a mask on the train, keeping one's seat and compliance with the sanitary measures recommended by the public health departments of the provinces served by the Ocean train will be in force when service is resumed.



Photos: G. Gagné

*Via Rail must think of retuning to Gaspé in phases, assures Cynthia Patterson.*

Travel to New Brunswick has been allowed since the end of June for Quebecers and the Atlantic bubble came back into force approximately at the same time. People entering New Brunswick and Nova Scotia have nevertheless to go through a border checkpoint.

The Ocean train serves in particular the communities in eastern Quebec located between Charny and Matapédia. In the Gaspé Peninsula the citizens are closely watching the situation of the Montreal-Halifax train because the Gaspe-

sians' train, connecting Montreal and Gaspé, has long been part of the Ocean train as far as Matapédia, where the two trains separate.

The Matapédia-Gaspé link has, however, been suspended since September 2013 due to the condition of the railway. Work is underway but it will not be completed until the fall of 2022 in the case of New Carlisle, and in 2025 in the case of Gaspé.

Cynthia Patterson, of Barabois, who has heavily contributed over the last 40 years

to the movement to protect rail services in her region, believes that Via Rail must show better engagement towards its clientele in the eastern part of the country, specifically Gaspésian users.

"It is not a matter of money, because they (Via's decision-makers) are investing in the (Quebec City-Windsor) corridor. (...) It would be ridiculous for Via to wait until the railway is repaired as far as Gaspé before serving us on a portion of our network. Who suffers from it? Again, these are the most vulnerable people, the people who need it most. I can't sit down all those hours, 16 or 18, to go to Montreal by bus," she notes.

She suggests another mobilization on the part of the region's elected people, regardless of their political allegiance. She is disappointed by Gaspésie-Magdalen Islands Member of Parliament Diane Lebouthillier's lack of involvement in the cause, as the politician has written that "it is Via Rail's prerogative" to make decisions about its train operations.

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# The dropout who became a lawyer

## Gérald Maltais, former penal and criminal prosecutor, retires

Gilles Gagné

CAPLAN – Attorney Gérald Maltais, who was a penal and criminal prosecutor for the Minister of Justice for 23 years, recently retired. He was 64 years of age and worked as a lawyer for 27 years, including the years spent at a New Carlisle private articling firm.

Born in Smooth Rock Falls, a small community in northern Ontario, to a Gaspesian father from Nouvelle and a mother from Ontario, he was raised in New Richmond. He left school before getting his high school diploma. He followed a rather odd path before becoming a lawyer and eventually, the assistant chief prosecutor for Eastern Quebec at the Department of Justice.

"I left high school in 1975, with a completed secondary 3, secondary 4 and secondary 5 courses. I entered the Canadian Armed Forces in 1976 and remained there until July 1987. When I left the Forces in 1987, I went back to school to complete my high school and then I went to CEGEP. I finished my law degree at Université Laval in 1993. I was admitted to the Bar in 1994. I worked for four years for what was then called the Landry and Saint-Onge articling firm, before becoming a criminal and penal prosecuting attorney in 1998," he says.

Gérald Maltais became interested in becoming a lawyer after watching regularly movies covering legal issues.

"It was a childhood dream that I hadn't achieved and that's why I went back to school after the Armed Forces. I had three children when I returned to school. My wife was a nurse. We experienced rough times on the budget side. This is my journey, nothing more but when I talk to people about this, or to dropouts, I say that you can al-

ways take charge and do what you wanted to achieve when you were younger," he adds.

Gérald Maltais says hard work is one of the main requirements in order to succeed as a penal and criminal prosecutor, a position often referred to as crown prosecutor.

"You have to be prepared to work a lot of hours and you have to show empathy. I have always told my fellow prosecutors that despite the law, the first quality is common sense. I've always thought of laws as working tools, but once that said, you have to use common sense. A prosecutor must show empathy for the victims without becoming the owner of the person's misery and distress. We have a job to do. (...) One of the principles of our work is that even if there is an offense, we have to ask ourselves whether it is in the interests of justice that this person be charged. When you have somebody who stole baloney from the grocery store because he was hungry and had no other way to eat, it is not necessarily justified to lay criminal charges," he explains.

He dealt with a few hard knots during his first years as lawyer for a private articling firm.

"The most difficult case that I experienced occurred in youth protection in 1996. It was about a child that the DPJ (Youth Protection) wanted to see placed because the parents were unable to give him the care he needed. The DPJ won the case. I represented the father. It was heartbreaking to the point where I never took up a case in youth law," he assures.

He also conducted cases with some originality. They were not always the most heralded cases, but that factor was of lesser importance to him. He has in mind his deci-



Photos: G. Gagné

*Gérald Maltais retired at the end of April, after 27 years of law practice following a rather unusual path.*

sion to suggest to the court that a few delinquents could go and practice with the Carcajou, the now-defunct juvenile football team of the By of Chaleur area. It was a form of alternative measures that was quite efficient.

"In 2002, there was the birth of school football in Bay of Chaleur. We were involved in setting up the Carcajou team, Richard Lavigne (a Legal Aid lawyer) and me. Our sons played on the team. (...) They were young people who had committed offenses and who could not be sent to alternative measures. It was suggested to send them to football practices, and adjust the number according to the infractions. The team had requirements for its players, such as going to school, making an effort according to the athlete's ability and respecting a curfew the day before games. We said to the young offenders: "if you do so many practices, we will not lay charges." The first coach of the Carcajou was Luc Bernier (a police officer). All the youngsters we sent there stayed on the team. Some Natives of Gesgapegiag did not even go to school. Two of

them eventually went to the Lennoxville Cegep and both received partial scholarships in the United States, in football. That, for me, is a huge achievement. Parents were crying as they thanked Richard, me and the team for bringing their kids out of their slump. Richard devoted more time to the team, because I had to leave it, but it allowed me to meet extraordinary young players like Alexandre Audet, who unfortunately died in a traffic accident," says Gérald Maltais.

When he was interviewed to become assistant chief prosecutor in 2011, he talked about that rather unusual way of dealing with young offenders. He wasn't sure that it would be well received, since it was not respecting tightly some aspects of the law. It was going a bit beyond legal provisions.

"I was still selected for the position of prosecutor after that interview. Subsequently, the deputy director of the Directorate of Criminal and Penal Prosecutions wondered how we could extend that kind of alternative measures throughout the province, not exclusively limited to football

but to all kinds of activities, the goal being to bring a case to juvenile court only when it is in the real public interest to do so. The deputy director asked me how to integrate this into the province, but it was well beyond my mandate," recalls Gérald Maltais, with a smile.

He is also very proud of the young team of prosecutors currently working at the New Carlisle courthouse. "I am excessively proud of the young prosecutors that we trained, like Maxime (Rocheville-Paradis and Florence (Frappier-Routhier), and others before. The people we train in Eastern Quebec are wanted everywhere in the province, and we keep those we currently have because we recruit our people from the regions."

Asked how he used to react after losing a case, he mentions that the first thing, you look at the decision and ask yourself: "Did I make a mistake and, if so, will the interests of justice be served if I opt to appeal? We have the right to think over the decision for 24 hours and we have to move on because other cases are waiting."

When asked to give advice to young lawyers who would like to follow in his penal and criminal prosecutor footsteps, he answers that "of course, you have to be a lawyer, and then go through the process to be declared fit to become a prosecutor, through written exams and interviews. (The Department of Justice) will then determine if you have the skills. You must also be ready to go where you will be called. There are only three positions in New Carlisle for the people of Baie-des-Chaleurs, for example. We must therefore be ready to go to Sept-Îles, Amos or any other region of Quebec. And you always have to use common sense," he concludes.

### VIA RAIL:

#### ▶ Cont'd from page 5

"Disappointment? That is an understatement. (...) Our MRCs have been active but everyone has to be more active. Petitions don't work. We have to go and sit down, face to face, in Montreal, at Via Rail's head office, our Members of Parliament, our Members of National Assembly, the MRC prefects and the municipalities. In fact, the Via Rail people should make the bus ride to Gaspé. We

saved Via Rail's services in the past because politicians from all parties made enormous efforts. We try to have a good product, unique and we are hearing zero from them (Via Rail decision makers). I find that extremely disappointing, and it is unjust, for the Maritimes and the Gaspé Peninsula," states Ms. Patterson.

Bernard Babin, of the Coalition of Gaspésians for the return of the train, has mixed feelings about the July 9 announcement by Via Rail.

"I am pleasantly surprised to see that Via Rail is finally returning to the Maritimes, but there is still a long way to go to adequately serve the Gaspé Peninsula. The rails are in good condition between Matapédia and New Richmond, in better condition than on the Bathurst-Miramichi portion, in New Brunswick. The state of the network would allow a gradual return to New Richmond, while waiting for New Carlisle at the end of 2022. I ask Via to find solutions to re-

turn to the rest of the Gaspé Peninsula very quickly," he specifies.

Mr. Babin hopes that the federal carrier will invest in rail equipment for the eastern Canada service.

"Slowly, we have to give Via Rail the idea of acquiring equipment for the east. We must also look at what is happening on the United States' side with Amtrak, where they are investing heavily in re-establishing several links, and in increasing the frequency of

trains. In Canada, we are investing in the Quebec City-Windsor corridor, but there must also be money invested in the rest of the network," he insists.

Via Rail has already sent a train from Montreal to Halifax, on July 12, a month before service resumption. That empty train covered the distance in about 27 hours, including a four-hour stop in Campbellton, where the crew waiting for the arrival of a freight train.

# Shigawake Music Festival and Fair goes ahead

Gilles Gagné

SHIGAWAKE - There will be a Shigawake Music Festival and Agricultural Fair this year but the formula will be different, because of the pandemic. One of the main changes is that the site will be divided into three sections and tickets will be earmarked for the activities taking place on each section.

The schedule will be designed to take that site division into account, explain organizing committee members Emilie Woods and Dave Felker, who presented a preliminary plan of the event on July 13. The event will take place on August 13-14-15 at the Shigawake fairgrounds.

"We are putting together a mini-fair and music festival. It is not the same thing (as usual)," explain Emilie Woods and Dave Felker.

There will be no big tent mounted east of the Trough this year. An outside stage will be installed west of the Trough, which will not be accessible this year.

There will be handicrafts sold on site though, and small groups of five people will be allowed around the area where it will be exhibited. A mask will be mandatory.

Details about how the three site sections will be designed will be communicated soon. For now, the Trough area, the handicraft section and the lawnmower tractor race area can give you an idea about how it might be divided. So, there will be a lawn tractor race. Each section will be closed once the activity scheduled in it is finished, unless sanitary rules change between now and then. Another important aspect of this year's event is the 400-ticket limit per event such as a music show. In that case, as well, further announcements will be made soon, notably about the music line up and the other events, like the judging competitions for animals and produce.

Timewise, the segments will go from 10a.m. to 4p.m., from 5p.m. to 7p.m., and, finally, from 8p.m. to 11p.m.

No dance floor will be set up this year but people will be allowed to dance on their designated spot, where members of the same family bubble will be allowed. Tickets will not be sold on line, only in person. There will be a designated day, or designated days, for ticket sales at the fairgrounds. A cap of four tickets per buyer will be imposed.

A mobile bar will be set up during the events, the way it works during some major sports events, underlined Emilie Woods and Dave Felker. "So there will be no waiting line," they say.

Some aspects of the canteen remain to be fine-tuned. There will either be a canteen service or a barbecue service outside, or both.

Attendees will be asked to use the designated entrance and

exit. There will also be washrooms installed on site.

"The constraints are not implemented to bug people," explain Ms. Woods and Mr. Felker. "The idea is to follow the rules and keep you safe."



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# Small Business Services

Local connections to help your operation succeed.  
- Diane Skinner

More and more people are finding ways to start a small business from their own homes. These ventures can be both goods or services and include such ventures as hairstyling, aesthetics, catalogue sales, crafts, baking, yard work and more.

Technology connects us all and this is a big boon for home based businesses. Social media can support these mini-businesses in a variety of ways. It can inform potential customers about products or services offered or items for sale, indicate pricing, allow for making an order or appointment, and announce upcoming markets. Of course, photos are a strong selling tool. Businesses and customers can access this technology for free and it can be updated often.

The advantages of a home based business may be that it does not require a big outlay of overhead costs, such as renting a commercial space, allowing great flexibility in hours and can be supported by family members when required. A big plus is that you are your own boss. You steer the ship and take it in any direction you choose. This can be very satisfying. Lyndsay Benwell, who designs and makes Gaspesian hoodies, mugs and other crafts, approached Spec with a suggestion for an article, "... Especially with the times we are in, it would be nice to see a piece on Boss Babes." It should be noted that the overwhelming majority of small home based businesses are owned and operated by women.

The downside of a home based venture may be the amount of space needed to store items, the need to rent a commercial kitchen, and it can be isolating since you do not interact with coworkers, just your clients. If the venture sinks or swims,

that responsibility is all on you.

If you have a hobby, consider turning it into a business. Do you sew, knit, make pottery, paint, bake, make jewelry or some other items? Selling your own creations might be an opportunity for you to make a bit of extra money.

Specially printed items are extremely popular, and they do not require stocking a huge inventory at home. You need just enough to fill your anticipated demand. Special request orders can be made up quickly. No need to have 1,000 mugs in stock when you know your demand is 15 to 20 monthly. Printed items allow the seller to be creative and offer unique items that reflect the community where they are sold. These may include books, hats, backpacks, pillows, hoodies, phone cases, key rings, tee shirts and more.

Hairstylists and aestheticians, including foot care, require specialized training but once they build up a clientele, they are not only offering services that are in demand, they are also their own boss and in their own homes, normally. An exception is foot specialist, Roxanne Major Denis, who will come to your home to offer foot care.

There is potential for other home based businesses and services on the Gaspé. Not all can be delivered to the home. After all, businesses may need to go where the people are, such as local markets or to the customer's home but there are opportunities out there for the creative thinker. Where there is a need, there is a potential customer. A few possibilities are housecleaning, dog walking, yard maintenance, personal shopping, running errands and tutoring.

In short, choose your niche, whether a product or a service, and build a clientele by using social media including facebook and Instagram and more traditional methods such as Spec ads, business cards and flyers. Remember, a picture or photo is worth a thousand words. Be patient. Sometimes it takes time to get the word out there. Having a small and successful home based business has the potential to be fulfilling while supplementing your income.

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# Lyndsay's Crafty Creations

Diane Skinner

Port Daniel: Lindsay Benwell, owner and designer of Lyndsay's Crafty Creations stresses that when people shop local, they are supporting a dream and that she is beyond grateful for the support she has received. She makes a wide variety of items including personalized clothing, photo items such as mugs, licence plates, key chains, air fresheners, wallets, wine glasses and more.

Lyndsay gives credit to her parents who have always been supportive of her dreams. She states, "My mother has always encouraged me to do whatever I set my mind to. My father really brought my boutique to life because he actually built it for me!" She also mentions that her boyfriend and her mother can be counted on to help with getting custom orders done quickly when there is a lot to be done. This sometimes is the case in busy times such as for special orders, holidays and other special occasions.

What is her favourite part of the business? She feels that it is the designing of graphics. It gives her the opportunity to be



Lyndsay Benwell shown here at the entrance to her boutique in Port Daniel.

Photo: Courtesy of L. Benwell

creative and produce items that are unique. She is inspired by many different things, including Pinterest and social media – and of course, the Gaspé.

Getting started came naturally because she has always

enjoyed making and designing things. In addition, she has a wish to be her own boss or, as she calls it 'Boss Babe'; and maybe one day to have a shop. She began creating at her kitchen table by making stickers for planners and scrap-

## Why shop local?

There are some compelling reasons to shop local.

1. Talk to the designer/creator of the items. Every item has a story, and you can find out that story by talking to the person who made it.
2. Puts money into the local economy, not big multi-national companies that are based elsewhere.
3. Enjoy stress free shopping because there are no big check-out lines to stand in.
4. Friendly to the environment because items do not need to be transported long distances. Local artists tend to shop and source many items locally.
5. You are buying something that is unique and special.

books and over time branched out a little at a time. She reflects that she is so grateful where those beginnings have taken her.

Her future dreams include expanding her 'little business' as much as possible and maybe even renting a commercial space in Paspébiac or Percé.

The Gaspé has so many artisans of all sorts. It is important that we support our local creators. They make their items with a love of the peninsula and are often inspired by it.

Lyndsay's best sellers are her original Gaspésie de-

sign hoodies which are available online and in her shop. Lyndsay tells us, "When I created this design, I wanted it to represent the Gaspésie. The tourists especially love my sweaters!"

For more information consult: [www.lyndsayscraftycreations.com](http://www.lyndsayscraftycreations.com), Lyndsays Crafty Creations (facebook). Lyndsay is also at the Local market in New Carlisle every Saturday.



Lyndsay's best sellers are her original Gaspésie design hoodies.

# Fireweed

Diane Skinner

If you glance quickly, you may notice the pinky-purple fireweed growing wild in fields and think that they are lupines. They both grow in tall spikes and are colourful. They are not the same plant and are not related. Fireweed is found across North America. It is a perennial

plant (a plant that regrows every spring) and its leaves, roots and young shoots are edible. It can grow in all soil types and in full sun or partial shade. It is a survivor.

Fireweed is a member of the primrose family and the flowers can range from white to pink, purple and magenta. It can grow up to 1.5 metres (5

feet) tall or more. Fireweed is the first plant to appear after a forest fire or in areas that have been cleared by a machine. This is where it earned its name. In Great Britain it is also called bombweed because it was the first plant to bloom in areas that were bombed during WWII. Fireweed is an important plant for honey producers

because it attracts bees. It is a favourite plant for hummingbirds as well.

Unlike most other plants, the flowers on the bottom bloom first and then work their way up to the top of the plant. The flowers have four petals. Fireweed usually grows in large patches. They can be connected to each other by their root systems. The leaves are dark green on top and a silvery colour on the bottom.

Fireweed offers a great deal that is edible. Early shoots can be eaten raw or lightly cooked. You should harvest the shoots when the leaves are still close to the stem and pointing upward. Just snap them off at the base. Young leaves can be pinched off and eaten like spinach. As the plant grows it will become very fibrous and unpleasant to eat. The flower buds are edible and can be added to salads.

Aboriginal peoples used the fireweed for many medicinal purposes and as a food. They used the sap from the inner core on their hands and face to protect them from cold weather. They also made tea from the

roots and core. A syrup was made from the stems and flowers to flavour foods. In spring through to the fall, roots were dug and mashed and used as an anti-inflammatory poultice.

Leaves can be harvested for tea when the plant flowers. Gather the leaves that are green and vibrant. Dry the leaves in baskets or paper bags. Store in a glass jar. They will remain usable for about a year. To make tea use a small handful of leaves for each cup of boiling water. Allow it to steep for about 15 minutes. The taste is mild, and you can add a bit of honey or spices to taste.

Seeds can be used as a firestarter and resemble a milkweed pod, white and fluffy, when they begin to seed. You can gather handfuls quite easily.

So many plants that grow wild have numerous uses and benefits. Fireweed is an important part of the ecosystem. It provides nectar for bees and hummingbirds. If we forage, the fireweed has many uses for humans as well. We can learn from the past to provide for the present.

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## Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



### Be a tourist

Years back, I recall a visitor to Ontario being shocked that people from that province had never been to see Niagara Falls. The only time that Ontarians went to visit the Falls would be when friends and relatives came for their holidays, and they would accompany them.

Perhaps we do the same thing here on the Gaspé. There are so many things we could see and do, yet for many of us it might be for the first time.

Presently the Gaspé has tourists galore! Campgrounds are booked solid for the next two years and good luck for anyone looking for a chalet or other seasonal accommodation to rent. It is all full! We are here, and this beautiful peninsula is our playground too. Plan this summer to get out and be a tourist right here!

Have you ever said to yourself, “I have always wanted to go and see that”? This is the very summer you should do it. Make a list, plan your day according to the weather forecast and enjoy a mini staycation. You will be a staycationer – a person who does touristy excursions near their own home. These can be day trips or even one or more nights depending on accommodation availability.

#### Places to visit and things to do

- Nature Aventure, Matapédia
- Caves of St. Elzéar
- Taylor’s Point
- Gespeg Interpretation Centre
- Acadian Museum, Bonaventure
- Kempffer Centre, New Carlisle
- Miguasha National Park, Miguasha
- Battle of the Restigouche, Restigouche/Point-a-la-Croix
- Outdoor Market, New Richmond
- Microbrasserie Le Naufrageur, Carleton
- Outdoor Market, New Carlisle (Saturday morning)
- Marigot Distillery, Caplan
- Site Historique du Banc, Paspébiac
- Robin, Jones and Whitman Store, L’Anse-a-Beaufils
- Microbrasserie Pit Caribou, L’Anse-a-Beaufils and Percé
- Gaspé Museum, Gaspé
- Circuit des Arts
- Bioparc, Bonaventure
- Forillon National Park, Gaspé
- Emerald Falls, Barachois
- Cascapédia River Museum
- Percé Rock and the town of Percé

Apologies to any sites that I have not mentioned. If you find any of these places of interest to you call or go online to get the most recent updates on admission costs, hours of operation and COVID safety measures.

Get out and be a tourist. See something new and explore your peninsula.



Alanis Morissette posted this photo on Instagram of her family vacationing in Percé about 35 years ago. It is still the most popular tourist spot on the Gaspé.

# Cantine le Tournesol

Diane Skinner

NEW CARLISLE: The pride is evident in his voice when Jason Assels speaks about his new cantine located on the scenic waterfront “Green” in New Carlisle. He mentions the menu and the fresh, never frozen, house cut fries, beer battered fish and specials like lobster rolls, but the real pride comes from the fact that he is continuing in his mom’s footsteps. The sign out front, which is over 20 years old, is from her canteen and is the very one that Jason is standing in front of in the photo.

The canteen opened on May 15 and the official name is Cantine Le Tournesol (au Green), which translates as the Sunflower Canteen. The name came from Jason’s sister Treva when she opened the canteen for their mother 21 years ago on the main street of New Carlisle. The canteen was closed when their mom passed away 16 years ago. Jason did not hesitate when he returned from Calgary to name his new cantine Le Tournesol. He says, “It just felt right.”

Jason has over 22 years’ experience in food preparation and cooking. His training has also included first aid, food handling and he is certified to teach health and safety for hotel kitchens. Over the years he has helped to open three hotels and four large scale kitchens, has designed hundreds of menus, developed thousands of recipes, and even managed to squeeze in a few food competitions and other special food events.

Currently, Jason is the only chef at Le Tournesol, and he has five employees assisting him. He tells Spec, “The menu came from what worked when we had our canteen twenty years ago and a few upgrades. We offer beer battered fish and chips and our Tournesol Burger with our house cut fries. It is not a big menu because I wanted to use good



Photo: D. Skinner

Jason Assels, chef/operator of Cantine le Tournesol on the “Green” in New Carlisle, proudly stands beside the sign from the original canteen, located elsewhere, that his mom and family owned almost 20 years ago.

quality and regional ingredients as much as I could. I added gluten free options like our sauces and buns, hand dipped corn dogs and salads. This year we only serve hard ice cream, but we have a few surprises for next year. Our most popular flavours are cotton candy, bubble gum and French Vanilla, but we do offer many other flavours.”

As much as possible, Jason uses local and regional products. Their potatoes come from Patasol in Bonaventure,

hamburger from a butcher in Paspébiac, and cotton candy from Bonaventure. The best-selling items are the fish and chips and the Tournesol burger.

They are open seven days a week from 11 a.m. until 9 p.m. Jason has signed a three-year lease with the municipality and plans to open indoor dining next season. Presently, you can order for takeout or eat on-site at a shaded table overlooking the water.



The canteen uses fresh, never frozen, house cut fries.

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# Announcements...



## Obituary



**GIRARD: Philip E.**

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It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our father at the age of 90 years and 2 months on June 23, 2021, at the Hôtel-Dieu Hospital in Gaspé. Philip passed away peacefully surrounded by his loved ones. He was predeceased by his wife Ruby, son Joseph, daughter-in-law Wanda, and grandson.

He leaves to mourn his children: Junior (Willa), Debra (Ambrose), Joann (Patrick), and John; 13 grandchildren; many great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandson; his brother Maurice; nieces and nephews; and many friends. He lived a long healthy and happy life.

The funeral was held at St-Patrick's Church on July 2, 2021. The family would like to thank the staff on the 5th floor of the hospital and the special staff at the Manoir St-Augustin in Gaspé for their kindness. A special thank-you to his niece Elizabeth for the many nights she spent at the hospital with his daughters.

[thegaspespec.com](http://thegaspespec.com)

## Thank you



A big, warm, heartfelt thank you to everyone who sent their sympathies and support. It was encouraging and healing to hear so many lovely memories you all had of Peter (Dad) that reminded us how many wonderful friends he had.

Thank you as well for the donations to important causes on his behalf. We are grateful. Much love to everyone.

*Peter's family*

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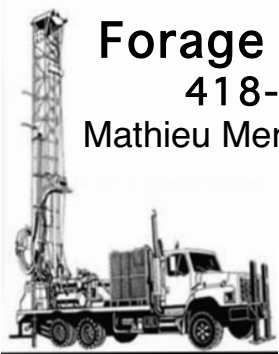


**Tremblay & Barriault, notaires inc**  
Notaries & legal counsel

**Gaël Tremblay, notary**  
**Serge Barriault, notary**

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## COAST ROUND-UP

### YORK:

#### York ACW

Please be advised that the York ACW will not be holding its summer sale and tea. As the situation improves we hope to see you all on November 20 for our Christmas sale and tea. Confirmation will come as we get closer to the date.

### GASPE:

#### Gaspe 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. 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 standing, are afflicted with cancer, and must travel outside the region for treatment,

you are eligible for the following travel assistance: Chandler \$50, Maria \$80, Rimouski \$190, Rivière-du-Loup \$210, Québec \$240, Montreal and Sherbrooke \$300.

### GASPE:

#### Gaspé County WI

The Gaspé County WI wishes to inform you that they have decided to cancel the 2021 edition of the County Fair in September. The program that was originally created for the 2020 edition of the fair will be used for the 2022 fair. So please keep all of your completed entries and continue working on new ones.

### NEW CARLISLE:

#### Heritage New Carlisle Afternoon Tea

**July 25:** A classical concert with musicians Samuelle and Roxane Michaud is being sponsored by Desjardins Caisse Populaire du Centre-sud Gaspésien. It is a repertoire of two violins, playing classical and summer tunes, that will please everyone. It

will be held outdoors under the big gazebo at the New Carlisle Green beginning at 2 p.m. \$10 per person. For more information and tickets, please call 418-752-1334. All proceeds go to Heritage New Carlisle.

Every **Wednesday** until **August 25**, the Kempffer Centre will be holding afternoon tea. There will be two sittings available at 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. and 3:15 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. with options of indoors or the outdoor balcony. \$10 for adults and \$7 for children under 12. A reservation is required by calling 418-752-1334 or by email at heritagenc@globetrotter.net. For your security, the Kempffer Centre now has two air purifiers which will be running at all times during the tea. Also, windows and doors will be open for maximum air flow.

Please be advised that all cheques must be made payable to **THE GASPÉ SPEC**

### NEW CARLISLE:

#### Drive-In Gospel Meetings

Meetings at Fair Haven Bible Campgrounds. Sundays at 2 p.m. Rain or Shine. COVID-19 considerations/social distancing will be respected. All are welcome - invite a friend! For more information, please call 418-752-3372.

[thegaspespec.com](http://thegaspespec.com)

### UNITED CHURCH

**Sunday, July 25**

10 a.m. Hope Town

### ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA Sunday, July 25

**New Carlisle**

10 a.m. Morning Prayer

**Port Daniel**

11 a.m. Holy Eucharist

### PARISH OF GASPÉ

**Sunday, July 25**

St. Andrew's - York

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

**DEADLINE FOR THIS PAGE:  
WEDNESDAY AT 4 P.M.**

**Please send your Classified or Coast Round-Up to:  
holly.smith@globetrotter.net**

## TIDE PREDICTIONS

Sponsored by the Municipality of New Carlisle



| New Richmond              | New Carlisle              | Gaspé                     |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Saturday, July 24</b>  | <b>Saturday, July 24</b>  | <b>Saturday, July 24</b>  |
| 03:12 a.m. - 2.60m ↑      | 03:06 a.m. - 2.20m ↑      | 02:39 a.m. - 2.00m ↑      |
| 10:05 a.m. - 0.10m ↓      | 10:10 a.m. - 0.20m ↓      | 09:43 a.m. - 0.40m ↓      |
| 03:39 p.m. - 1.70m ↑      | 03:41 p.m. - 1.30m ↑      | 03:07 p.m. - 1.10m ↑      |
| 09:11 p.m. - 0.30m ↓      | 09:04 p.m. - 0.30m ↓      | 08:23 p.m. - 0.40m ↓      |
| <b>Sunday, July 25</b>    | <b>Sunday, July 25</b>    | <b>Sunday, July 25</b>    |
| 04:03 a.m. - 2.60m ↑      | 03:56 a.m. - 2.20m ↑      | 03:25 a.m. - 2.00m ↑      |
| 10:50 a.m. - 0.10m ↓      | 10:56 a.m. - 0.20m ↓      | 10:26 a.m. - 0.40m ↓      |
| 04:28 p.m. - 1.80m ↑      | 04:29 p.m. - 1.30m ↑      | 03:56 p.m. - 1.10m ↑      |
| 10:00 p.m. - 0.30m ↓      | 09:55 p.m. - 0.30m ↓      | 09:16 p.m. - 0.50m ↓      |
| <b>Monday, July 26</b>    | <b>Monday, July 26</b>    | <b>Monday, July 26</b>    |
| 04:50 a.m. - 2.60m ↑      | 04:41 a.m. - 2.10m ↑      | 04:08 a.m. - 1.90m ↑      |
| 11:33 a.m. - 0.10m ↓      | 11:39 a.m. - 0.20m ↓      | 11:05 a.m. - 0.40m ↓      |
| 05:15 p.m. - 1.90m ↑      | 05:15 p.m. - 1.40m ↑      | 04:42 p.m. - 1.20m ↑      |
| 10:47 p.m. - 0.40m ↓      | 10:43 p.m. - 0.40m ↓      | 10:10 p.m. - 0.50m ↓      |
| <b>Tuesday, July 27</b>   | <b>Tuesday, July 27</b>   | <b>Tuesday, July 27</b>   |
| 05:34 a.m. - 2.50m ↑      | 05:23 a.m. - 2.00m ↑      | 04:49 a.m. - 1.80m ↑      |
| 12:14 p.m. - 0.30m ↓      | 12:17 p.m. - 0.30m ↓      | 11:40 p.m. - 0.50m ↓      |
| 06:00 p.m. - 1.90m ↑      | 05:59 p.m. - 1.40m ↑      | 05:23 p.m. - 1.30m ↑      |
| 11:33 p.m. - 0.40m ↓      | 11:30 p.m. - 0.40m ↓      | 11:05 p.m. - 0.60m ↓      |
| <b>Wednesday, July 28</b> | <b>Wednesday, July 28</b> | <b>Wednesday, July 28</b> |
| 06:16 a.m. - 2.30m ↑      | 06:03 a.m. - 1.90m ↑      | 05:31 a.m. - 1.60m ↑      |
| 12:51 p.m. - 0.40m ↓      | 12:52 p.m. - 0.40m ↓      | 12:14 p.m. - 0.50m ↓      |
| 06:45 p.m. - 1.90m ↑      | 06:42 p.m. - 1.50m ↑      | 06:01 p.m. - 1.30m ↑      |
| <b>Thursday, July 29</b>  | <b>Thursday, July 29</b>  | <b>Thursday, July 29</b>  |
| 12:20 a.m. - 0.50m ↓      | 12:17 a.m. - 0.50m ↓      | 11:59 p.m. - 0.06m ↓      |
| 06:56 a.m. - 2.10m ↑      | 06:41 a.m. - 1.70m ↑      | 06:15 a.m. - 1.50m ↑      |
| 01:25 p.m. - 0.60m ↓      | 01:22 p.m. - 0.50m ↓      | 12:49 p.m. - 0.60m ↓      |
| 07:30 p.m. - 1.90m ↑      | 07:24 p.m. - 1.50m ↑      | 06:40 p.m. - 1.30m ↑      |
| <b>Friday, July 30</b>    | <b>Friday, July 30</b>    | <b>Friday, July 30</b>    |
| 01:10 a.m. - 0.60m ↓      | 01:07 a.m. - 0.60m ↓      | 12:55 a.m. - 0.70m ↓      |
| 07:34 a.m. - 1.90m ↑      | 07:20 a.m. - 1.50m ↑      | 06:58 a.m. - 1.40m ↑      |
| 01:55 p.m. - 0.70m ↓      | 01:49 p.m. - 0.60m ↓      | 01:24 p.m. - 0.70m ↓      |
| 08:17 p.m. - 1.90m ↑      | 08:07 p.m. - 1.50m ↑      | 07:24 p.m. - 1.30m ↑      |



**ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20**  
You are inspired to study a new culture after reading about it in the news, Aries. Continuing your education may provide the challenge you've been looking for.  
**TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21**  
Taurus, some good news about a friend puts a smile on your face. Congratulate this person and share his or her good fortune with others. Your support is appreciated.  
**GEMINI – May 22/June 21**  
This week you discover your instincts about something important have been spot on, Gemini. You usually can trust your gut when making challenging decisions.  
**CANCER – June 22/July 22**  
Cancer, once you make a plan you typically stick with it. This week, however, your willpower may weaken a tad and you may find yourself going off-script.  
**LEO – July 23/Aug 23**  
Don't be surprised if family members divulge some in-

teresting news this week, Leo. You may alter your thinking about upcoming plans. Remember to follow your instincts.  
**VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22**  
Virgo, some exciting opportunities are on the horizon. Let go of any hesitation you have and dive right in with both feet. Make the most of this exciting time.  
**LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23**  
Someone may need your help in the weeks to come, Libra. Embrace this opportunity to help someone in need. They may show their appreciation in unique ways.  
**SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22**  
Scorpio, success and good fortune are likely in store for you very shortly. You'll feel satisfied when the good news arrives, and it will carry you through the times ahead.  
**SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21**  
This is an excellent week to explore emotions and romantic feelings, Sagittarius. The more you give of yourself, the more you will get in return.  
**CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20**  
It is alright to feel uncertain about recent developments, Capricorn. You can

take your time to process new information, and it is good to be informed.  
**AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18**  
You're adept at reading feelings and anticipating things that are on the horizon, Aquarius. Utilize your skills for the benefit of others. Your efforts won't go unnoticed.  
**PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20**  
Pisces, this week you may feel a little out of sorts. Take some time to get away from it all and reset. It will be time well spent and you will feel recharged.

### FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- JULY 18  
Kristen Bell, Actress (41)
- JULY 19  
Romee Strijd, Model (26)
- JULY 20  
Julianne Hough, Dancer (33)
- JULY 21  
Kyle Hanagami, Choreographer (35)
- JULY 22  
David Spade, Actor (57)
- JULY 23  
Daniel Radcliffe, Actor (32)
- JULY 24  
Kristin Chenoweth, Actress (53)

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(THURSDAY AND FRIDAY)

# The Gaspé is your playground



Photo: Lisa MacWhirter

Diane **Skinner**

The Gaspé offers such a rich and varied environment that is perfect for those vacationers and ‘staycationers’ who enjoy the experience of the outdoors and a physical adventure. Basically, Adventure Tourism contains an element of physical activity.

Outdoor activities can run the gamut from slow and easy walks on the beach to more strenuous hikes and sea kayaking. This type of tourist activity connects you with nature and demands an element of physical activity. Know your limits and stay comfortably within those limits. If you attempt too much, you will not enjoy the experience and it may even lead you to abandoning those outdoor experiences totally.

Adventure tourism can vary greatly in terms of cost and again that is a personal choice best made by the adventurous tourist. Costs may include equipment rental or purchase, such as kayaking or parasailing. Hikes can be free, just requiring proper attire and footwear.

The Gaspé is largely surrounded by water, so there are many ways to play and explore. If you love the water, then the Gaspé is your playground. When going out on the water be certain to have life jackets and keep an eye on the weather. A storm can blow in quickly.

## Water Fun

**Kayaking and canoeing:** You may own your canoe and kayak but there are locations where you can rent these by the hour, such as at Taylor’s Point in New Richmond, at Avolo Plein Air in Percé and Cap aventure in Gaspé. Remember that life jackets for all paddlers are a necessity. On the Gaspé you have the

choice of saltwater paddling in the Bay or Gulf and fresh water paddling in a lake or river. Equipment can be purchased at local sporting stores or rented on site at many locations. Rentals start at \$25.

**Personal watercraft (PWC) activities, sailing and boating:** Ecovoile in Carleton provides day trips on sailboats. Club Nautique Jacques Cartier offers sailboat rentals starting at \$30/hour.

**Swimming:** Enjoy the waters of the Peninsula, salt water or fresh. Cost: free  
Le Malin, Bonaventure River: \$10 for over 10 years, \$5 for 4 to 9 years, free for 3 years and younger.  
In Percé, Club Nautique offers scuba diving for those with experience.

**Fishing:** There are loads of fishing opportunities on the Gaspé. Permits for freshwater fishing can be purchased at most sporting stores. No permit is needed for saltwater fishing off the shoreline or wharves. Be sure to consult periods, limits and regulations in advance.

## Hiking

Hiking is a great way to explore nature and can be done alone or with friends and family. The Gaspé offers so many choices. Climb a mountain, meander through the woods, follow a trail – it is all up to you. How you prepare for a hike depends on how far you plan to go, the weather and how remote the location is. Essential items are weather appropriate clothing, footwear, and drinking water. If you plan to go farther and longer, consider taking a backpack, food and a compass. If you are hiking alone, be sure to tell someone where you are going and how long you expect to be.

Cost: quality hiking shoes, \$100 to \$150.

## Backpacking

Backpacking is simply hiking that is a bit more adventurous. It may involve going further, longer and on seldom travelled trails or areas. This means that you will be out in nature longer, so pack a basic first aid kit in case of insect bites or a minor injury. If you are not very experienced either as a backpacker or in a new and unknown area, it is best to be accompanied by a buddy. Cost:

hiking shoes and backpack \$200.

## Exploring

If you want a unique adventure, there are many to choose from.

### These include:

- Caves of St. Elzéar
- Miguasha fossil hunting
- Boat trip and hike around Bonaventure Island
- Mont Lyall agate hunting
- Nova Lumina, Chandler

*(Call or look online for current admission prices and hours.)*

## Cycling

The Gaspé is a cyclist’s dream. Bikes cost from \$ 150 and up. Do not forget your helmet.

## Four-wheeling, motorcycling and dirt biking

There are so many ways to get outdoors and enjoy four-wheeling and dirt biking. If you don’t already own your own ATV, many of the local shops offer rental packages.



PHOTO: KIM MEYER



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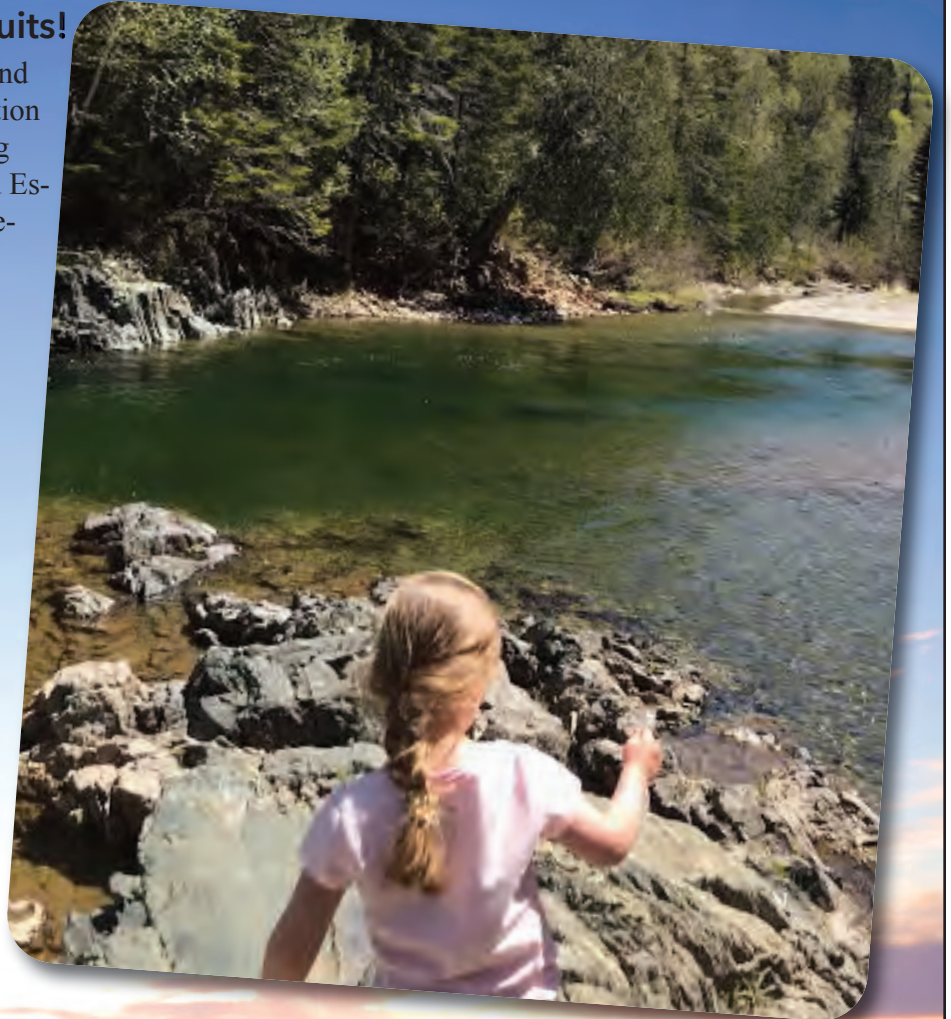
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### Bright Beginnings GMI (CASA) has enlisted two new recruits!

Throughout the year, Elliott (age 1) and Estelle (age 4) will be adventuring up and down the coast in search of fun, family activities! They will be sharing information on the things they find through the Bright Beginnings' Facebook page, including photos, how to get there, prices (if applicable) and other handy hints. Elliott and Estelle will also be sharing information on upcoming events and activities in the region, as well as ideas for crafts and activities at home. There will also be some competitions and prize draws along the way!



If you would like to see the Exploring with Elliott and Estelle Facebook posts, all you have to do is to "like" the Bright Beginnings' Facebook page  
[www.facebook.com/brightbeginningsGMI](http://www.facebook.com/brightbeginningsGMI).



A shining start for children ages 0-8

