

Antoine Moses breaks tree planting record

Gilles Gagné

CARLETON - Antoine Moses, a Gaspesian from Carleton, broke the world record at the crack of dawn on July 19 for the most trees planted in 24 hours. He accomplished the feat in northern Alberta, under the supervision of his team, whose members followed him continuously during the operation.

In fact, the 22-year-old young man actually broke three records. He first broke the record for the most trees planted in a day, planting 19,040 plants between 4:20 a.m. and 11:11 p.m. on July 18. The previous record was made by Kenny Chaplin in 2001, who at the time was working in Saskatchewan. Mr. Chaplin had planted 15,170 trees in just over 18 hours. The two men spoke to each other a few days before Antoine Moses' attempt.

"I broke the daylight record after 14 hours and 51 minutes, for (planting) 15,170 trees. I continued... to 19,040 trees, as attendants turned on the headlamps and lights. It was cloudy. If it had been sunny, I could have had daylight a little longer," says Antoine Moses.

Once the daylight record was under his belt, he decided to keep planting until 4:20 a.m. the following morning to complete 24 hours of continuous action and to get to 23,060 trees.

Tired? "Physically, I'm tired but mentally, not that much! I slept two and a half hours between the end of the race and our departure from the site. There was a lot of work to do before leaving: picking up empty boxes, plastic and dismantling the tents," he explained after coming back to a hotel room where he and the record supervising crew, all co-workers, were stationed after the feat.

Antoine Moses had been in regular contact with Guinness over the past few weeks to inquire with the worldwide organization management about how to make the record official. Guinness initially wanted to send an administrator to northern Alberta, a contingency that would have cost approximately US\$20,000.

Guinness did, however, elaborate on the terms of a free "in-house" solution, as to determine how many people would be needed to oversee the record, and how.

"I had two witnesses at all times with me, and one per-



Antoine Moses planted at a rate of 3.75 seconds per tree over 24 hours. He was constantly accompanied by two witnesses in order to testify that he was planting all the trees in his bag.

Photo: Courtesy of Evan Barker



Young entrepreneur, Gabriel Kruse, is selling firewood to help him save for a helmet for his four-wheeler. Pictured here in front of their home in Hope is little brother William, aged 2 and Gabriel, aged 9.

Photo: Monica Deraiche

Young entrepreneur sells wood for camping at roadside stand

Diane Skinner

HOPE: Gabriel Kruse, aged 9, has decided to sell bundles of firewood in front of his home in Hope. What inspired him to try out this venture? He tells Spec that he wanted to make some money to buy something for his parents and little brother. He then adds he is also saving for a helmet for his four-wheeler and maybe even a phone.

How did Gabriel know what to charge? He saw other people selling similar sized bundles for five and six dollars, so he decided to stay competitive and charge just five dollars.

Gabriel gives credit to his mom and dad, Jonathan Kruse, who help him out. He and his dad get to spend some time together getting the wood ready to sell. His mom says an important lesson here is that Gabriel is learning the value of money. He can buy gas to put in his four-wheeler himself. On a recent outing to get sub sandwiches he spent \$20 to treat the family. His mom, Monica Deraiche, got a menu from a canteen and showed him what \$20 could buy so that he understands how he is spending his money.

It is a great opportunity for Gabriel to earn a bit of money and to learn the value of that money!

son per box of 420 trees. At all changes of witnesses, a written followup on the tree count was made. There were eight people in total who accompanied me, including a medical assistant for first aid, my boss and the foreman, to make sure how to manage the tree-planting, where to put the boxes of trees, and the witnesses, who changed shifts every three hours," explains Antoine Moses.

Guinness has not yet made the record official, but the Gaspesian believes the approval could come days after the evidence is sent by Blue Collar Silviculture, his employer. Another planter tried to break Kenny Chaplin's record the same day, not far from the field where Antoine Moses was. He couldn't keep pace with the young Gaspesian, who was planting a tree

every 3.75 seconds for 24 hours.

"It helped me with motivation but we didn't see each other all day," he says.

His motivation was fueled in particular by the desire to donate as much money as possible to a fund in honour of Isabelle Brisson, a silvicultural worker who died in the summer of 2020, crushed under a large tree during a storm. She was part of the group for which Antoine Moses worked. He will donate nearly \$3,000, the sum associated with his record, at the rate of 13 cents per tree, his usual compensation.

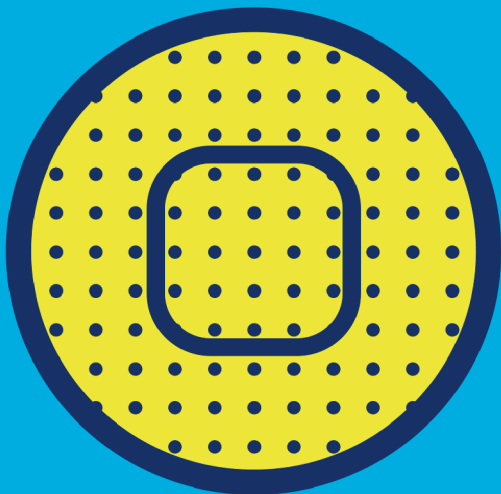
"The goal is to endow the scholarship awarded in Isabelle's honour with a fund of \$50,000. We were 68.2% off target before the record. Blue Collar will make a significant contribution and another

forestry firm, Tolko, will as well. With these two contributions, the target of \$50,000 will be exceeded," says Antoine Moses.

The scholarship will be awarded to a civil engineering student attending Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. That student will be distinguished by his academic results, but also because of financial need.

Memories of Isabelle Brisson undoubtedly inspired the Gaspesian in his quest, a regular participant in various endurance events.

"It was the longest ordeal of my life. There was never a moment when I didn't smile, where I had a down, when I didn't say thank you to my helpers. I have always been positive. There was no negativity associated with this ordeal," he concludes.



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People visiting the site cannot use the dining room this summer again, except for takeout meals.

Takeout only at Paspébiac's National Historic Site

Gilles Gagné

PASPEBIAC - After another cautious season start at the Paspébiac National Historic Site's L'Ancre restaurant, the hope of an easing of the measures by mid-July has vanished. The reopening of the dining room seemed possible until then, but lowering the social distance from two metres to one metre in stores was not applied to restaurants. So, there is no other choice than to maintain the "takeout" formula until the end of the season, on September 25.

As confirmed by the Ministry of Health and Social Services, certain types of trades are exempt from the new less strict

measures. The sanitary rules in force since June 2020 in the restoration sector, therefore, remain unchanged until further notice. At the Paspébiac National Historic Site, the small size of the heritage building housing L'Ancre makes it difficult to comply with the rules in force, both in the dining room and in the kitchen where the lack of space limits the number of employees. It would therefore have been impossible to have enough staff for the kitchen and the dining room while respecting the norms.

"The disappointment both on the part of the site team and the population in general is significant. We have worked hard to meet the repeated re-

quest to open this popular Paspébiac dining room. (...) We obviously put the health of the visitors and that of the team first but we share the disappointment of the population and we deplore the resulting loss of earnings. So, we are accumulating another deficit already started last year, not to mention the frustration in the Gaspé Peninsula population and among tourists. Unfortunately, we will have to be patient and hope for an improvement next year. In the meantime, there are meals to go, still as delicious as ever," explained president Nicole Grenier and Director General Thomas Martens in a press release.

Return of Louise Langlois as mayor of Chandler

Nelson Sergerie,
LJI Journalist

CHANDLER - Suspended for six months by the Commission municipale du Québec, the mayoress of Chandler returned to her post on July 12.

Louise Langlois is undertaking the task of analyzing the decisions made by the council since her suspension on January 11.

"Many files were already on the table and they were done differently. I will inform the population following an assessment that I will do this week," says the mayor.

The commission had retained 20 of the 21 breaches against Louise Langlois under the code of ethics and professional conduct of elected officials of the Town of Chandler.

The elected representative had tried to overturn the sanc-

tion in Superior Court without success. The bill for this legal saga exceeds \$270,000.

Ms. Langlois used the six-month forced leave to prepare for the end of her term and isn't providing any information about a fall candidacy.

"I always said this was my last term. Am I going to leave the population in a total vacuum? This is something else. I will see at that time if there is not a valid candidate," says the mayoress.

Godbout is no longer certain about his candidacy for mayor

It is no longer certain that Bruno-Pierre Godbout will be in the mayoral race next November. The Newport councillor who announced his candidacy in February and who acted as pro-mayor during Louise Langlois' suspension,

is no longer so categorical.

"I'm going to reflect and I will make a final decision in October, but I have realized especially in the last month that politics is extremely dirty in Chandler and extremely difficult," says the councillor who saw his private life spread out in the public eye, admitting that his private life has tainted his public life.

Questions have also been raised about his expense account over the past six months.

Mr. Godbout says he is proud of the last six months as pro-mayor.

"We are extremely proud of the work we have done in collaboration with the management team and the majority of the town council and we are very proud to have worked in peace and quiet. We unblocked several files that had been dragging on for several years," says Mr. Godbout.

Police report

A 36-foot Winnebago caught on fire on the afternoon of July 17 on the hill road leading to the top of Mount Saint-Joseph in Carleton. The firefighters and the Sûreté du Québec officers received the emergency call at 12:35. "The big vehicle was parked along the road shoulder and flames were coming out of the windows. That's the description we received from the passer-by who called the Sûreté du Québec. Nobody was inside the vehicle at the time of the call," explains Sgt. Claude Doiron, spokesperson of the police.

The Route de la Montagne was blocked for a relatively long period, close to two hours, and only one lane remained open for a while after that, in order for the towing company to put the remains of the large RV on a flat bed truck and some debris on another large pick-up truck.

The cause of the fire remains unknown and might never be known for sure because of the degree of damage caused to the vehicle. "The occupants saw some smoke coming from the back part of the vehicle. The ensuing operation mobilized some people. Besides the firefighters and the police, Environnement Québec had to come because some fuel leaked on the road and it had to be recuperated," adds Sgt. Doiron.

The vehicle was a 2003 model. Consequently, its value was relatively low, at \$30,000. The SPEC noticed that no clear indication is given to the people driving up Mount Saint Joseph, which stands at 560 metres above sea level. It is a highly popular attraction in the summer but the road is characterized by steep slopes. Sgt. Claude Doiron refuses to comment on that aspect directly but he advises drivers to "make sure that their vehicle is in a good state, that it has the capacity to climb up and go down those hills. It is also mandatory to check if the type of vehicle used to get up there is legally accepted for that purpose. One must not surpass the capacity of the vehicle," he points out.

A July 18, all-terrain vehicle accident in Rivière-à-Claude claimed the life of a 40-year-old man from Richelieu, Dominik Thériault. The accident occurred at about 4 p.m. along a federated trail near Castonguay Road. The emergency services were called at 4:18. "We were called by a witness, as a side-by-side all terrain vehicle had left the trail. The driver had apparently lost control of the vehicle. The passenger, a woman, was just slightly injured but the driver was very seriously injured and he was rushed to the Sainte-Anne-des-Monts hospital. He was not wearing his seatbelt properly since he was ejected from the vehicle. A technician in accident reconstitution was called to shed light on the cause of that accident. Speed was a factor explaining why the vehicle left the road. We received another call from the hospital at 9:45 p.m. to inform us that the driver had died from his injuries," explains Claude Doiron, of the Sûreté du Québec.

There is a third fatality as a result of the June 21 accident that occurred in Caplan, in which a 26-year-old mother, Sabrina Mathieu, and a child died. The young victim, who was rushed to a Montreal hospital following the collision, succumbed to her injuries 23 days later. The accident, which took place around 7:30 a.m., involved the young woman's vehicle and a tractor-trailer tandem. For some unexplained reason, the driver had deviated from her lane shortly after entering Highway 132. The Sûreté du Québec was notified of the baby's death by relatives of the first victims, before publicly confirming the bad news. (The identity of the children is withheld by the police, a usual procedure when the victims are minors).

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COVID-19 update:

Two cases are reported during third week of July

Gilles Gagné

MARIA – Two new cases of COVID-19 were reported in the third week of July by the Public Health Board of the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands.

Located in the Percé Rock MRC, the first case was part of the July 20 daily report while the second one, situated in the

Côte-de-Gaspé MRC, was notified on July 23.

However, the July 23 case was tested a second time shortly after the initial result and that second test was negative. The Côte-de-Gaspé case was therefore never recorded as active.

As of July 23, there was only one active case in the region the Percé Rock MRC per-

son diagnosed on July 19 and included in the following day's report, which is the standard procedure.

Prior to the July 20 case, the last documented positive coronavirus tests had been recorded on July 3.

Vaccination-wise, the regional numbers are improving. The regional vaccination rate for the first shot stood at 77.7%

of the population as of July 19, and 61.4% for the second shot. Comparatively, the Quebec-wide rate was 72.6% for the first shot, and 48.2% for the booster shot.

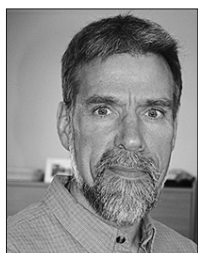
The Gaspé Peninsula population had a rate of 76.5% for the first shot, as of July 19, and 58.6% for the second shot, compared to 85.6% and 78.6% respectively in the Magdalen

Islands, which have always been ahead because emergency cases are more precarious to deal with on an island.

Region-wide, the vaccination rate for the second shot improved considerably during the third week of July compared to the previous week, as the percentage went from 53.3% on July 12 to 61.4% a week later, a jump of slightly more than 8%.

Editorial page

Gilles Gagné
Commentary



The Quebec government made the right decision by axing the GNL Quebec project

Despite a favourable opinion about the relevance of the project initially, the Coalition avenir Quebec government opted for common sense on July 21 through deciding to axe the GNL Quebec project to build in the Saguenay region a pipeline and a huge plant to liquify the natural gas that would have come from Western Canada's hydrocarbons fields.

It would have been a \$14 billion project. However, despite the reassuring stand of its American promoters, the extraction, pipeline transport and liquifying plant operation would have added the equivalent of 3.3 million fossil fuel-propelled cars on Canada's roads, which is pure non sense in a country officially supposed to fight climate change and global warming.

This is not counting the other effects of the fracking operations needed to extract that gas in Western Canada and the impact of an significant increase in navigation along the Saguenay River would have had on beluga whales, an endangered specie.

Fracking does contaminate the watershed to proportions that are exponential and impossible to predict when those operations are "planned". Fracking also pollutes the air and those gases induce diseases over the long term for the people who breathe them.

Initially, a sizeable number of CAQ government cabinet members were rooting for the GNL Quebec project. That was before the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement, the BAPE, Quebec's authority in the assessment of ventures that can potentially impact the environment, tabled a devastation report on the project in March.

The BAPE commissioners then concluded that the GNL Quebec initiative would result in a "net addition" of greenhouse effect gas emissions on the planet. On Canadian soil alone, those emission would have reached nearly eight million tonnes per year which amounts to, as previously mentioned, the polluting rejects of 3.3 million cars.

The BAPE also argued that in terms of social acceptability, "the sum of the risks associated with the project exceeded that of its benefits." Moreover, regardless of the decision that would have been made on the project, "the societal divide observed was likely to persist," according to the commissioners.

Because in addition to creating division in the region, GNL Quebec had sparked strong opposition from environmental groups, scientists and the three opposition parties in the National Assembly.

Not surprisingly, only the Conservative Party of Quebec was favouring the project. Éric Duhaime's party counts on only one elected Member of National Assembly, and that person recently switched from the CAQ.

Worldwide, the project would not have been beneficial either, as shipping liquified gas to Europe would also have delayed the energy transition that must also take place over there.

Berkshire-Hathaway, Warren Buffett's financial conglomerate, had also previously pulled out of the project, because it was no longer presenting long term profitability potential.

The GNL Quebec promoters had initially convinced the North Shore and Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean Innu First Nation to become partners in the project but that aspect too eroded as time passed. After learning more about the poor record of gas in the energy transition process, the Innu took a distance from the venture, and later pondered the possibility of suing the promoters.

The Canadian Energy Centre also contributed to putting the GNL Quebec project in its right perspective. One of that organization's reports stated that the country had to abandon the fossil fuel venture in order to stand a chance of respecting its commitment to lower its carbon emission by 2030. It was also mentioned, in an economic analysis, that the number of gas-liquifying plants in the United States is already high enough to supply the European customers targeted by GNL Quebec, also called Énergie Saguenay.

During the July 21 announcement that the project would not take place, Quebec's Environment Minister Benoit Charette affirmed that the end of GNL Quebec also marks the suppression of the 780-kilometre pipeline initiative that was to supply the plant with Alberta natural gas already reaching the Montreal area. Without a liquefaction plant, there will be no gas pipeline, he summed up.

Minister Charette admits that the Government of Alberta and Albertans will likely criticize Quebec once more. Alberta, which is increasingly producing natural gas using hydraulic fracturing, is looking to export its output.

However, Quebec is already behind in its strategy to lower greenhouse effect gas emissions and will likely miss its 2030 reduction target. The province cannot get farther from its target just to please Alberta, where the government seems completely unaware of the importance of the energy shift that must be implemented.

After the rejection of gas projects in the Saint Lawrence River valley, the end of the costly oil saga on Anticosti Island and the abandonment of the Energy East pipeline project, it certainly looks, at first

glance, like the end of fossil energy projects in Quebec.

Projects like those all over the world are struggling to qualify and funding is increasingly difficult to obtain. What it means is that there is global awareness. The climate emergency is increasingly recognized. This forces developers to plan projects where the energy transition is real, which was not the case with Énergie Saguenay, explains Minister Charette. One would wish that the CAQ government will make the same reasoning for other ridiculous projects.

At one end of the spectrum, that government is involved in at least four lawsuits initiated by a company finding the Quebec regulation too tight against the development of fossil fuel deposits. On that front, the CAQ government looks like an entity protecting the environment.

However, at the other end of the spectrum, the first reaction of that party's cabinet has often been to welcome projects involving higher greenhouse gas emissions. Its tunnel project between the south and north shores of the Saint Lawrence River on the east side of Quebec City is a testimony of that reality.

The Saguenay region loses close to 300 long term jobs with the abandonment of the GNL Quebec project. With a touch of imagination, there are ways to find similarly significant jobs without investing \$14 billion.

Our governments are too often blinded by the alleged glory coming with megaprojects and the heralded ribbon-cutting ceremonies that characterize them.

Canada's federal and provincial governments are still opting too often for projects involving high polluting plants, as if their strategists have not understood so far that tomorrow's leading countries will be the ones that have been able to make the greatest progress, environment-wise.

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Large surplus at the RégîM

Nelson **Sergerie**,
LJI Journalist

CARLETON-SUR-MER - Despite the pandemic and its impacts, the Régie intermunicipale de transport Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine ends its 2020 fiscal year with a significant surplus of \$600,000.

Due to the lockdown that occurred in the spring of 2020 and no summer shuttle for festivals and Via Rail the Régie was able to save money.

In addition, the surprising increase in gasoline tax revenues, to the tune of nearly \$1.5 million, one of the highest ever, and due to the exceptional traffic of tourists last summer and the popularity of online shopping, which has resulted in more deliveries



Photos: N. Sergerie

The RégîM's Via Rail shuttle could resume service this year.

and the consumption of more fuel, are all contributing factors.

This surplus makes it pos-

sible to carry out development projects. "We have a development fund that allows us to invest in our major projects

such as those announced in the last year such as TCiTE or the mobility plan project. This allows us to make capital investments and create development at the management," indicates the general manager, Marie-Andrée Pichette.

Launched in June, the TCiTE municipal electric vehicle car-sharing project is off to a good start, on target, with about 20 users. The RégîM wants to double the pace in the fall.

Return of the Via Rail shuttle?

The Via Rail shuttle could be back this summer.

The rail carrier recently reported the return of the Ocean train between Montreal and Halifax once a week starting

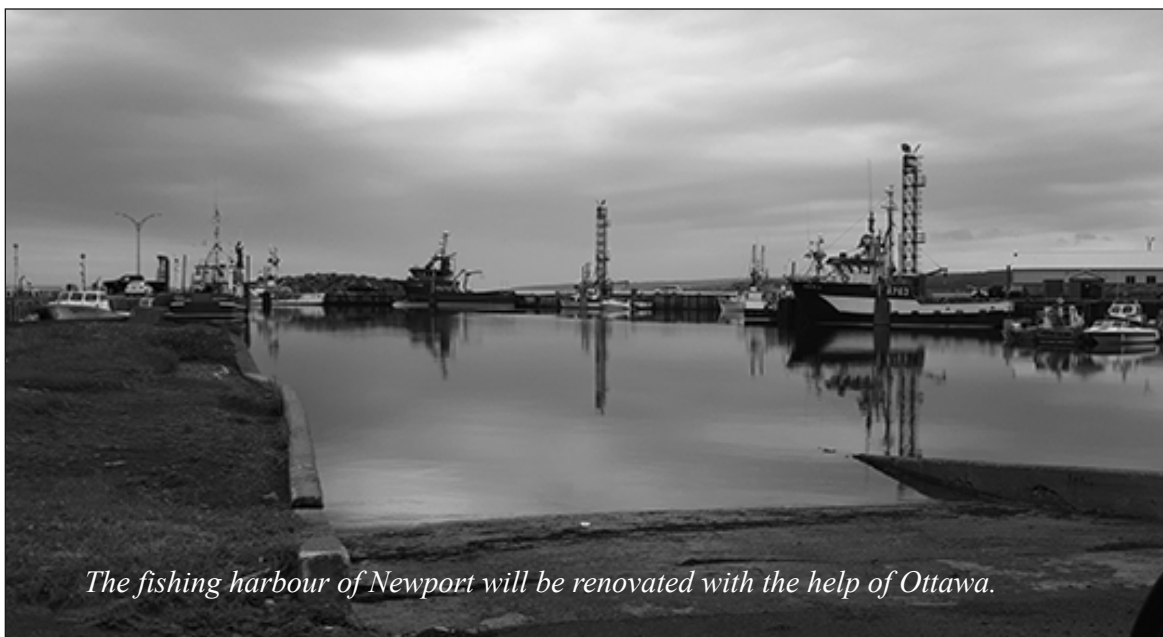
August 11. The train stops in Matapedia and Campbellton, New Brunswick.

The CEO finds this feedback interesting, especially since the activities are integrated into the Via Rail platform.

Already, customers have expressed an interest.

"We have not had any contact with Via Rail. We have contacted the organization with which we are working on the projects and we are awaiting feedback on the possibility of organizing the shuttle. But we are seriously considering it. It would give us a glimpse of what it could be like for the holiday shuttle," explains Ms. Pichette.

If the shuttle returns, it could be in effect until the end of September.



Photos: N. Sergerie

The fishing harbour of Newport will be renovated with the help of Ottawa.

Ottawa invests in five fishing harbours on the Gaspé

Nelson **Sergerie**,
LJI Journalist

CHANDLER - Five ports in the Gaspé and the one in Matane are receiving more than \$18 million to carry out various infrastructure works.

Ottawa will fund the start of the first phase of rebuilding the port of Newport.

The reconstruction of a loading station, the repair of the launching ramp and the carrying out of dredging work in the exclusion zone are planned at the port of Saint-Godefroi.

In Paspébiac, a new launching ramp and the dredging of the basin in the area of the ramp are planned while in Grande-Rivière, the harbour docks will be repaired and improved to adapt to the growing dimensions of the coastal and offshore fishermen's fleet.

The installation of a cathodic protection system and painting work to slow down

the corrosion process of metal components are announced for Cloridorme and Matane will benefit from a shelter for used oil tanks.

"Investments in local small craft harbours benefit not only the commercial fishing industry but also Quebec as a whole," says Member of Parliament Diane Lebouthillier, who was in the Newport district of Chandler to make the announcement on July 20.

"The work that will be carried out will not only renew and maintain essential infrastructure for the region, but also stimulate employment opportunities that will benefit fishermen and support our local communities. We can see this at the level of small craft harbours, all the processing and shipbuilding companies that set up around these ports," added the deputy minister.

The president of the Regroupement des MRC de la

Gaspésie, Nadia Minassian, is satisfied to see these investments in the fishing sector and asks for more.

"Innovation will be beneficial. We are going to create a strategic plan for the fisheries that we will want to present to the federal government and also to the provincial government to structure this sector of activity," says Ms. Minassian.

Ottawa also announced \$8 million in investments in the Magdalen Islands and \$9 million for infrastructure on the North Shore for four main projects located in Blanc-Sablon, Les Escoumins, Sept-Îles and Rivière-au-Tonnerre.

In addition, \$550,000 is earmarked for inspecting non-essential ports in the province and addressing certain safety issues. The value of the projects remains confidential due to the tendering process.

The money comes from the small craft harbours program.

Ottawa says, "No", to the Grande-Rivière gantry crane

Nelson **Sergerie**

CHANDLER - After six months of waiting, Ottawa is adamant that the federal government will not be there on the issue of the gantry crane at the Grande-Rivière wharf.

Asked on the sidelines of an announcement for small boat harbours on July 20 in the Newport district of Chandler, Member of Parliament, Diane Lebouthillier, was clear.

"I verified. There are areas of jurisdiction. What concerns the federal government are small craft harbours and slipways. With regard to gantry cranes, this is really a field of provincial jurisdiction," explains Ms. Lebouthillier.

That response did not please the mayor of Grande-Rivière, Gino Cyr. He says that it would take \$1.4 million to complete the financial package. "I have a feeling that since January we've been getting heckled from left to right and back to square one. I'm a little disappointed," says Mr. Cyr.

The mayor intends to pursue his demands to ensure the safety of fishermen. He estimates that he could still get \$263,000 from Ottawa for the boat ramp "that could go there."

Quebec had hoped for a modification to the Fisheries Fund to have the project approved. Mr. Cyr is now awaiting a reaction from the provincial government. The office of the provincial Minister of Fisheries, André Lamontagne, could not be reached due to summer vacations.

The fishing community and the Town have been asking for a 60-tonne gantry crane in the industrial park for four years, a project estimated at \$2 million.

The community is ready to inject \$500,000 when governments have paid for 100% of infrastructure elsewhere, recalls the mayor, who had many discussions with André Lamontagne's cabinet.

The value of the landings is approximately \$36 million annually at the Grande-Rivière wharf.

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MP Kristina Michaud wants to discuss Via Rail's return with the Transport Minister

Gilles Gagné

CARLETON – Member of Parliament for the riding of Avignon-La-Mitis-Matane-Matapedia, Kristina Michaud, intends to discuss with the Federal Minister of Transport, Omar Alghabra, the acceleration of the return of Via Rail's service in the Gaspé Peninsula.

Ms. Michaud knows that Via Rail serves three of the four MRCs of her riding, one in the Gaspé Peninsula, Avignon (which includes the village of Matapedia), and two in the Lower Saint-Lawrence: (Matapedia and Mitis), she stresses that the service was already insufficient prior to the pandemic.

She is relieved to see that Via Rail will come back on August 11 between Halifax and Montreal but she adds that it could have been faster, and that the train frequency could have been higher. She also states that the service between Matapedia and Gaspé must be put back in place as soon as possible and in stages if necessary.

"It seems that we still have

to convince some politicians of the relevance of the service," she says, when asked to comment on her Member of Parliament geographical neighbour, Diane Lebouthillier, who represents the Gaspésie-Magdalen Islands riding. Ms. Lebouthillier has so far refused to comment the return of Via Rail to the Gaspé Peninsula, "leaving the prerogative to the public transporter," as she recently said.

"We don't have to sensitize the region's people to the necessity of bringing back the service but government officials obviously need to be sensitized. Via Rail's services have been neglected for decades. Now, the government will spend billions of dollars on the High Frequency Train and people from the rural areas seem forgotten in that project. They are always of lesser considerations," criticizes Kristina Michaud.

She affirms that the Via Rail service must come back by stages between Matapedia and Gaspé, considering that the track is supposed to be func-



Photos: G. Gagné

Member of Parliament Kristina Michaud spent time in the Avignon MRC on July 13 to meet some constituents.

tioning as far east as Port Daniel by the end of 2022, and Gaspé in 2025.

"It is up to the political class to call the shots. People want the train back. It must be part of the (post pandemic) regional economic recovery plan. Government members must realize that the recovery plan cannot be limited solely to the cities," adds Ms. Michaud.

As a resident of Val-Brillant, in the Matapedia Valley, she took the train before the

pandemic when the schedule suited her transportation needs "and despite the fact that the stations are closed in the middle of the night, when the train passes. The train almost doesn't stop," she says with a grin.

"Transport Minister Omar Alghabra seems less interested in Quebec's stakes. I will contact him and tell him that it is

an essential service here," stresses Ms. Michaud.

She doesn't have clues about the next federal elections date. "We hear the rumors. We know that they can be called any time. The pandemic played a role. The electors don't appreciate the partisan game that seem to influence the election date. It might be held between the end of August and November. We will have to be ready and we will. The municipal elections in November will likely influence the choice of the date."

She doesn't know the identity of her opponents, including the Liberal Party's candidate. "My last opponent (Rémi Massé) has moved to another region (Rivière-du-Loup). I guess that no news is good news. I'll keep working for the riding. I prefer being a Member of Parliament for the constituents than being perceived as a candidate," she concludes.

New modern emergency room at the Gaspé hospital

Nelson Sergerie, LJI Journalist

GASPÉ - After more than twenty years, the new emergency department at the Gaspé hospital centre welcomed its new patients starting at 7 a.m. on July 15.

The 2,300 square metre complex at a cost of \$31.7 million was inaugurated on July 14 in the presence of the Minister responsible for the Gaspé, Jonatan Julien, and the President and CEO of the CISSS de la Gaspésie, Chantal Duguay.

The new wing replaces outdated facilities built in 1972 and has seven observation beds, including one in respiratory isolation, one adaptable for mental health, and one adaptable for pediatrics.

A trauma centre is also included which includes a stretcher, a minor surgery room and five multi-purpose examination rooms that are independent rather than separated by simple curtains.

In addition, the new three-bed intensive care unit is also located there. Work has also been done to connect the new emergency room to the exist-



Photos: N. Sergerie

One of the intensive care rooms located in the new ward of the emergency department of the Gaspé hospital

ing building.

The media was able to visit the new space and observe the marked technological advances of the new installations. "It really changes the quality of life at work. The premises are spacious with high-tech medical equipment. We have nothing to envy to large centres," notes the President and CEO.

The complex is already creating an attractive effect on the workforce, according to the CISSS.

A phase II has been launched for a second floor in order to move the surgical unit and laboratories there.

"What had been prioritized was to move the file forward as a first step. Our second step is the surgical unit. We are already working on the file to present it to the ministry," explains Ms. Duguay.

The Department of Health contributed \$30.6 million. The financial package was completed by the CISSS to the tune of \$1.1 million.

Surplus of over a million in Percé

Nelson Sergerie, LJI

PERCÉ - The tourist capital of the Gaspé Peninsula is doing quite well financially, since the Town of Percé posted a significant surplus in 2020.

On a budget of \$7.8 million, the town council posted a surplus of \$1,027,000.

Several factors explain this surplus: Quebec's assistance for COVID-19 in the amount of \$270,000, more assistance for local roads and higher transfer taxes. In addition, savings have been made in the areas of town planning, tourism, recreation and investments have been postponed. The accumulated surplus is \$1.8 million.

"A surplus like that, which is interesting, allows us to reinvest in development and what we aimed for as development are projects that will bring back a return. Whether it is the Emerald River project, whether it is the cultural space and congress project, these are projects carried out by the municipality and which will eventually bring income to the municipality," explains the mayor, Cathy Poirier.

The elected official noted that Percé should have acted in this direction several years ago, and given taxpayers a break.

The school of permaculture and innovative agriculture continues

Nelson Sergerie, LJI

PERCÉ - A crowdfunding campaign has been launched to build a four season agricultural greenhouse for the future school of permaculture and innovative agriculture in Val-d'Espoir.

The objective of \$50,000 for this first phase of the project aims to involve the community under the aegis of the Société de développement économique de Percé.

"This is the first brick, because then there is the modification of the school as such: we are talking about classrooms to be re-developed; we are talking about a laboratory. The greenhouse is what will define the identity of the project," explains the president of the Société, Jean-François Kacou.

Percé has already invested \$60,000 in the feasibility study for the project.

In the short and medium term, vocational training will be offered in order, in the longer term, to offer training recognized by the Ministry of Education. The project aims to develop short-circuit agriculture with the arable land available in the region.



Photo: Facebook

An Emperor Eagle observed for the first time in Canada, in the Gaspé

Nelson Sergerie, LJI

GASPÉ - The sighting for the first time in Canada of one of the largest known raptors in the world arouses a lot of curiosity in Gaspé.

The Emperor Bald Eagle is the largest and most powerful of the eagles. Its height can be 105 centimetres, its wingspan ranges between 195 and 245 centimetres and its weight from six to nine kilograms. Among its characteristic features, it has a long tail ending in a wedge shape, a massive beak, and the female is considerably larger than the male.

The bird was first seen in Canada on June 29 along the Restigouche River in New Brunswick and reappeared on July 9 on the York River in Gaspé.

No sightings have been noted since July 11. The bird, which breeds in Siberia, Japan and Korea, was reportedly seen in Alaska in August 2020, Texas in March, New Brunswick in June and most recently in Gaspé.

"It's already a wandering bird that is able to fly a few thousand kilometres all over the place. But now I think he's breaking records. This bird is in great shape, it seems," notes the vice-president of the Club des ornithologues de la Gaspésie, Pierre Poulin, who was unable to determine the sex of the bird during his observations in Gaspé. (The life expectancy is around fifty years.)

The bird probably followed its food. "Normally, during the salmon season in Siberia, it consumes salmon that die in the rivers. In other times, it is content with young seals, birds, gulls, and it is able to eat carrion, much like our bald eagle we know better."

According to Mr. Poulin, being in the region could be a favourable habitat for the bird. "This is the chance of a lifetime unless you go to Japan to see it in the winter. Companies that organize birding trips around the world always advertise winter trips to Japan with beautiful photos of bald eagles on the ice," says the club's vice president.

Its presence has attracted bird watchers from Ontario, the Maritimes, Montreal and Quebec.

"There are some who missed their shot at Restigouche and were quick to get behind the wheel and this time around, they were successful. It's part of the life of an ornithologist," says Mr. Poulin.

The species is threatened and is estimated to number only about 5,000 individuals worldwide.



These signs on the Jacques-Cartier promenade will be replaced.

Photo: N. Sergerie

LM Wind Power expansion announcement accelerates housing projects

Nelson Sergerie, LJI Journalist

GASPÉ - The major real estate project of several dozen housing units near Carrefour Gaspé is gaining momentum.

Mayor Daniel Côté says the announcement of the expansion of the LM Wind Power plant and the creation of 200 new jobs is getting developers to move faster. "The day after LM Wind Power's announcement, we met these promoters. We are in the final technical details before making an announcement in the coming weeks. Everyone has their foot on the accelerator, both the promoters and us," says Mayor Côté.

According to our information, a nine unit complex will soon be under construction near the town hall. "The announcement of LM and its expansion, which will be valid for at least the next 20 years, secures the investments of devel-

opers. Honestly, it arouses more enthusiasm," confirms Mr. Côté

A petition for a reduction in speed

Citizens of Montée Wakeham are asking the authorities to decrease the speed limit from 80 to 50 kilometres per hour between downtown and Placements Gaspé. A petition was filed with the town council on July 19.

"People are very inconvenienced by noise and, also, it is a matter of safety for pedestrians. We can't talk to neighbours because vehicles go so quickly and the noise is loud. We have to stop talking," says spokesperson for the movement, Yvette Moulin.

The Town has received the petition which was signed by 75 people and will forward it to the Ministry of Transport. "We are sensitive to that, however, we are on a provincial road. We

will forward this to the Ministry of Transport to analyze the possibility of reducing the speed," confirms the mayor. A resolution will support the request to the next municipal council.

New signs on the Jacques-Cartier promenade

Signs that have been worn out for several years on the Jacques-Cartier promenade will finally be replaced. The new historical signs have been ordered and will be installed shortly.

"It was requested by people. A little rejuvenation is done on the promenade. We saw them wasting away and the time has come to fix the problem. The content was still visible on the signs, but it was dated. It's a small investment that can make a difference downtown," comments Mr. Côté.

Updating the panels represents an investment of some \$7,000.



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Do you behave violently toward your partner? It's time to seek help.

[Québec.ca/ressourceshommes](https://quebec.ca/ressourceshommes)

If you are having difficulty controlling your aggression, anger or emotions in your couple relationship, know that resources are available to help.

Go to [Québec.ca/ressourceshommes](https://quebec.ca/ressourceshommes) to find social agencies that provide support, mutual assistance and treatment for men whose circumstances are difficult, behave violently, and who are perpetrators of sexual abuse or were themselves sexually abused as children.

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If you need immediate help, call 911.

If you need support, compassion or advice on what to do, call SOS violence conjugale at **1 800 363-9010**.

The help line is confidential, bilingual and open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Our female frontline workers will listen to you, reassure you and answer all your questions. They can also help find a temporary shelter for you and your children.

[Québec.ca/violenceconjugale](https://quebec.ca/violenceconjugale)

Vacation at Home

How to enjoy this year's staycation

Make the most of a vacation spent at or near home.

— Diane Skinner —

Where are you going to holiday this summer? The pandemic still affects our lives as we head into summer 2021. Will travel restrictions keep us closer to home? Will those exotic trips we have dreamed about happen this year? If not, let's make the best of our own backyards and day tripping.

The relatively new term "staycation" is a portmanteau (combination) of the words stay and vacation. I have recently heard a five-year-old say holication, which she coined herself! Other terms that are portmanteaus include motel (motor and hotel), brunch (breakfast and lunch) and smog (smoke and fog).

The word staycation describes a leisure activity or activities either at home or within a day's drive. Staycations do not require overnight accommodation. Some refer to this as domestic tourism – holidaying close to home.

The safest and least expensive staycation is to plan some fun right in your own yard. Get creative and plan to have some fun at home. Of course, strive to make this fun happen outside. We have had enough of being cooped up. Time to soak up the sun!



Photo: Phil Goodwin

There is so much fun to be had in the backyard. Children love to get wet, so having a pool or even a hose will provide hours of staycation enjoyment.

Staycation ideas adults:

Dine outside.

Barbecue.

Horseshoes, badminton and croquet.

Grab a great book and relax in a comfy chair. Create some shady areas to relax in.

A hammock is a great way to totally chill out. A nap, anyone?

Decorate with lots of lights placed in the trees or solar lanterns.

Fire pit. This is a fun for all ages activity. Grab a stick because somebody has to poke that fire!

Sample some Gaspesian craft beers or O'Dwyer's gin.

Staycation ideas for families with children

Water pinatas. Fill balloons with water and tie with string from low tree branches. Provide sticks and let the kids bash those pinatas. Warning: One 'hitter' a time to prevent injuries.

Horseshoes. This is family fun because all ages can play. Some sets have metal horseshoes or you can buy plastic sets, depending on the ages of the players.

Croquet. Loads of fun can be had with a croquet set. Make it a tournament!

Badminton. All you need is a net, badminton rackets and a birdie for hours of fun.

Tent. Set up a tent in the yard. Children will enjoy playing in the tent in the daytime. Try sleeping in the tent, though there is no shame if you and the children decide to go inside if it gets cold.

Picnic lunches. Pack a picnic lunch and enjoy it outside on a picnic table. Half of the fun for this activity is having the children plan the food and help with the preparation.

Outdoor movie night. There is something so exciting about watching a movie outdoors. You will need a white sheet for the screen, a rope for hanging a sheet, a laptop to stream or download a movie, a wireless (Bluetooth) speaker, an extension cord and a projector. These are available starting at \$100.00. Serve popcorn and everyone can sit or bring out blankets and pillows.

Fire pit. This is great fun and of course snacks make it even better. Set up seats around the fire and tell spooky stories!

Scavenger hunt. You can hide treats or objects and children hunt for them.

Photo day. Have kids take backyard photos. Suggest a theme such as Birds, Clouds or Tiny Creatures (insects and spiders).

Water fun: A pool, Slip 'N Slide or even running through the sprinkler is great fun on a hot, sunny day. Don't forget the sunscreen.



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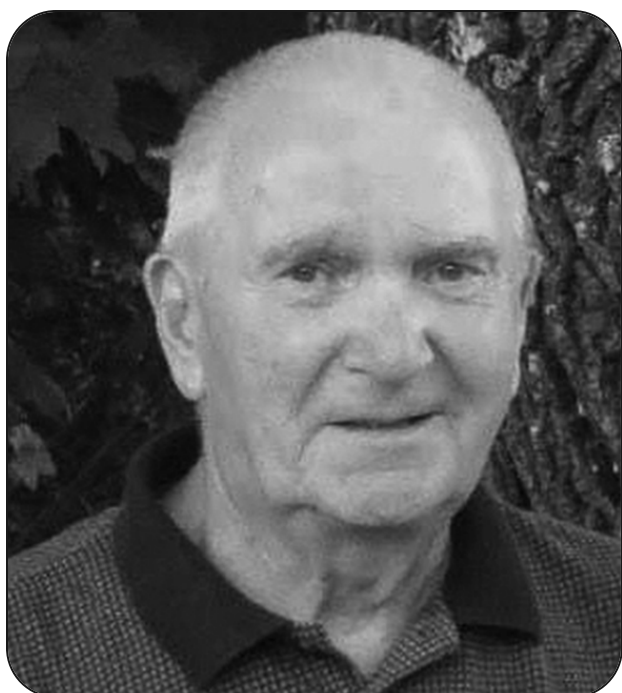
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Announcements...



In Memory



WILLETT: Archie

In loving memory of a dear husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather who passed away July 31, 2020.

Softly the leaves of memory fall.

Gently I gather and treasure them all.

Unseen, unheard,

You are always near,

So missed, so loved, so very dear.

We love and miss you so much. Always remembered by wife Elsie; children; Mike (Cathy) and Wendy; grandchildren: Alexander, James (Kristine) and Sarah (Blake); and great-grandchildren: Griffin, Abigail, and Kate.

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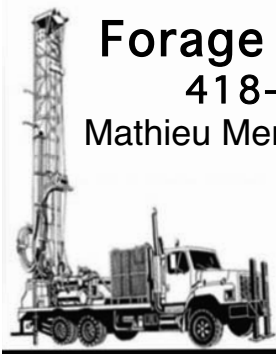


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Gaël Tremblay, notary
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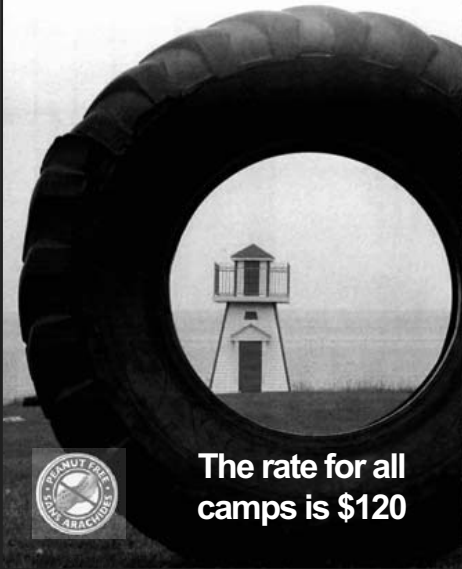
You can also send your item by the post, however, it is still preferable that it is typed. This will avoid confusion regarding the spelling of names. If you are including a photo, it must be an actual photo. It is essential that the photo is not a copy printed at home or by the funeral home. It will not reproduce well.

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Little Campers (B) (boys / girls)	7 - 9 yrs	July 19 - July 23
Boys Camp	10 -12 yrs	July 26 - July 30
Teen Camp	13 -18 yrs	Aug. 2 - Aug. 6

NOTE TO PARENTS:

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Fair Haven Bible Camp will only run a day camp this year. Parents are to bring their children to camp for 8:30 a.m. Monday through Friday and campers are to be picked up at 4:30 p.m. each day.

Registration will take place the Sunday before the start of each camp from 3 - 5 p.m. and is first come, first serve.

Required for registration is: The full \$120 fee and a completed registration form.

For further information on all camps please phone:
Daryk and Nicole Legouffe: (418) 391-6309
Nelson Roussy (418) 392-5706 (after 7 p.m.)
Fair Haven Bible Camp
(July and August) (418) 752-5221

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

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

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

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:

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. 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.

BARACHOIS:

Mountain View Golden Age

July 30: For women only! Fantastic supply of slightly used women's and children's clothing for sale at the Mountain View Golden Age, 857 Route 132 east from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Men's clothing sale will be in August. For more

information about this fundraiser please call or leave a message at 418-645-3876.

CORNER OF THE BEACH: Local Market

August 7: There will be a local market with flea market and garage sale items from 9 a.m. to noon. Tables are available to rent for \$10. Contact Sandy at the Barachois and Area Development Committee at 418-645-2874 for more information. All COVID-19 requirements will be met.

NEW CARLISLE:

Heritage New Carlisle Afternoon Tea

Every Wednesday until **August 25**, the Kempfer 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 Kempfer 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.

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.

ROTARY CLUB WINNERS

The winners for the week of July 11 are: Alma Kerr, Francine Cyr, Léon Arsenault, Michel Bernard, Francis Gauvin, Régis Audet and Raymond Parent.

ROTARY CLUB WINNERS

The winners for the week of July 18 are: Gérald Pitre, Clarence Harquail, Nathalie Babin, Claudine Gallant, Luc Gravel, Sébastien Cantin and Clinique Vétérinaire.

BLANKET CLASSIFIEDS

WARD'S & BUD HAYNES FIREARMS AUCTION, Saturday, August 21, Edmonton, Alberta. Hundreds of Lots in all Classes. www.WardsAuctions.com. Call Brad 780-940-8378; Linda 403-597-1095 to consign.

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

UNITED CHURCH

Sunday, August 1

10 a.m. Hope Town

PARISH OF GASPÉ

Sunday, August 1

St. Matthew's - Peninsula
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

TIDE PREDICTIONS

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New Carlisle



New Richmond

Saturday, July 31
02:06 a.m. - 0.70m ↓
08:15 a.m. - 1.70m ↑
02:22 p.m. - 0.70m ↓
09:09 p.m. - 1.90m ↑
Sunday, August 1
03:10 a.m. - 0.80m ↓
09:01 a.m. - 1.50m ↑
02:54 p.m. - 0.80m ↓
10:06 p.m. - 1.90m ↑
Monday, August 2
04:23 a.m. - 0.80m ↓
09:59 a.m. - 1.40m ↑
03:46 p.m. - 0.80m ↓
11:07 p.m. - 1.90m ↑
Tuesday, August 3
05:43 a.m. - 0.80m ↓
11:08 a.m. - 1.30m ↑
04:51 p.m. - 0.80m ↓
Wednesday, August 4
12:04 a.m. - 2.00m ↑
06:54 a.m. - 0.70m ↓
12:23 p.m. - 1.30m ↑
05:50 p.m. - 0.80m ↓
Thursday, August 5
12:55 a.m. - 2.10m ↑
07:49 a.m. - 0.60m ↓
01:26 p.m. - 1.40m ↑
06:40 p.m. - 0.80m ↓
Friday, August 6
01:42 a.m. - 2.10m ↑
08:35 a.m. - 0.50m ↓
02:12 p.m. - 1.50m ↑
07:27 p.m. - 0.70m ↓

New Carlisle

Saturday, July 31
02:06 a.m. - 0.60m ↓
08:01 a.m. - 1.40m ↑
02:17 p.m. - 0.60m ↓
08:55 p.m. - 1.60m ↑
Sunday, August 1
03:15 a.m. - 0.70m ↓
08:47 a.m. - 1.20m ↑
02:49 p.m. - 0.70m ↓
09:49 p.m. - 1.60m ↑
Monday, August 2
04:33 a.m. - 0.70m ↓
09:43 a.m. - 1.10m ↑
03:32 p.m. - 0.70m ↓
10:49 p.m. - 1.60m ↑
Tuesday, August 3
05:52 a.m. - 0.70m ↓
10:51 a.m. - 1.00m ↑
04:24 p.m. - 0.70m ↓
11:50 p.m. - 1.70m ↑
Wednesday, August 4
06:59 a.m. - 0.70m ↓
12:03 p.m. - 1.00m ↑
05:21 p.m. - 0.60m ↓
Thursday, August 5
12:46 a.m. - 1.70m ↑
07:52 a.m. - 0.60m ↓
01:05 p.m. - 1.00m ↑
06:17 p.m. - 0.60m ↓
Friday, August 6
01:33 a.m. - 1.80m ↑
08:36 a.m. - 0.50m ↓
01:57 p.m. - 1.10m ↑
07:09 p.m. - 0.60m ↓

Gaspé

Saturday, July 31
01:53 a.m. - 0.70m ↓
07:43 a.m. - 1.20m ↑
02:01 p.m. - 0.70m ↓
08:18 p.m. - 1.40m ↑
Sunday, August 1
03:00 a.m. - 0.80m ↓
08:30 a.m. - 1.10m ↑
02:40 p.m. - 0.80m ↓
09:22 p.m. - 1.40m ↑
Monday, August 2
04:19 a.m. - 0.80m ↓
09:26 a.m. - 1.00m ↑
03:21 p.m. - 0.80m ↓
10:30 p.m. - 1.50m ↑
Tuesday, August 3
05:40 a.m. - 0.80m ↓
10:37 a.m. - 1.00m ↑
04:07 p.m. - 0.70m ↓
11:31 p.m. - 1.60m ↑
Wednesday, August 4
06:48 a.m. - 0.80m ↓
11:49 p.m. - 1.00m ↑
05:00 p.m. - 0.70m ↓
Thursday, August 5
12:22 a.m. - 1.60m ↑
07:38 a.m. - 0.70m ↓
12:45 p.m. - 1.00m ↑
05:55 p.m. - 0.70m ↓
Friday, August 6
01:07 a.m. - 1.70m ↑
08:17 a.m. - 0.70m ↓
01:29 p.m. - 1.00m ↑
06:47 p.m. - 0.70m ↓



ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, you may have to tend to family matters this week. Seek input from trusted family members and work together to come to a solution that everyone can embrace.
TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, it can be difficult to know when to stop talking and start listening. It is a fine line to walk, but be patient and feel out the room before offering your input.
GEMINI – May 22/June 21
Things that appear to be confusing or intimidating may not be as complicated as they seem, Gemini. Keep doing your research and don't be scared away.
CANCER – June 22/July 22
Cancer, remember to treat others how you want them to treat you. This simple approach is a great way to build lasting friendships and strong relationships.
LEO – July 23/Aug 23
Get as much work done around the house as possible this week, Leo. You

may soon be pressed for time, so now is the time to tackle projects.
VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22
Have fun with family and friends in the days to come, Virgo. Make the most of this precious time to relax with those you love. It will provide the kickstart you've been seeking.
LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23
Devote some time to figuring out the details of your spending habits. A little financial discipline now may pay big dividends down the road.
SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, seek others' input when faced with a tricky situation. Sometimes a fresh perspective is all that's needed to make sense of a perplexing problem.
SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21
Sagittarius, expect to make some progress on financial situations that may have seemed daunting in the past. A financial professional can help you navigate some confusing waters.
CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20
Connecting with friends has been a priority for you lately, Capricorn. In the days ahead, pend as

much time as possible with those you hold near and dear.
AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18
Hidden strengths come to the surface when you are thrust into an unfamiliar situation, Aquarius. When forced to think on your feet, you realize you can adapt on the fly.
PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
Connect with your community in any way you can this week, Pisces. Give back by volunteering or by offering financial support.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

JULY 25
Meg Donnelly
Actress (21)
JULY 26
Jason Statham
Actor (54)
JULY 27
Alex Rodriguez
Businessman (46)
JULY 28
Ali Krieger
Athlete (37)
JULY 29
Josh Radnor
Actor (47)
JULY 30
Daniel DiMaggio
Actor (18)
JULY 31
J.K. Rowling
Author (56)



Dr. Pascal Cyr
Optometrist



Dr. Stacey Starrak
Optometrist

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Patsy's Seaside Treasures

Diane Skinner

Saint-Georges-de-Malbaie: Gertrude LaFlamme describes herself as an artist who enjoys painting. This has inspired her to paint beach rocks and transform them into owls, seals, crabs, turtles and other animals. If you visit her shop, Patsy's Seaside Treasures in Saint-Georges-de-Malbaie, you will see her painted rocks and a lot more!

Gertrude tells Spec that she got the idea from her sister Jeannette who was also an artist who passed away suddenly two years ago. Gertrude tells Spec, "She left a huge impact on my life. I can now understand how she would walk the beach looking for rocks and would pick one up and say, 'I can bring this rock to life. I can make it into something more than just a rock.'"

As she walks along the beach, Gertrude finds herself doing the same thing. "I cannot walk the beach without looking down and saying, 'This would make a beautiful owl or seal.'" It has also become an enjoyable pastime to do with her own grandchildren. She adds that it is so nice to be living in an area which has a beach right behind her house where she can go and find the perfect rocks. It is rewarding to take something you enjoy so much and turn it into a small business.

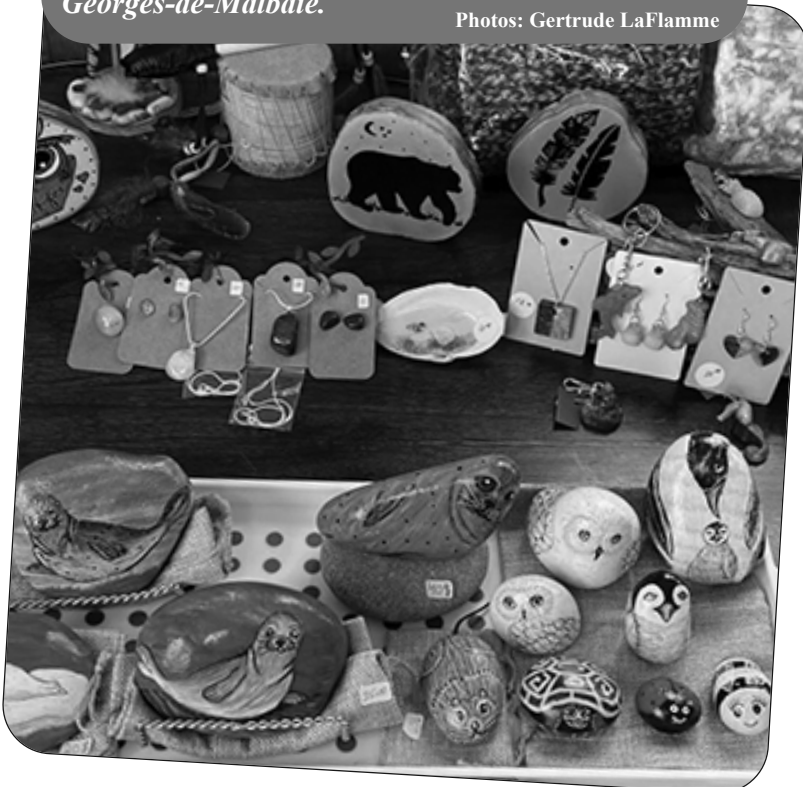
The little boutique sells a variety of crafts from different artisans who are also family members. Some items include maple wood wall hangings (Amie Chicoine), resin jewelry (Laura Comeau), crocheted scarves (Dana), beach agate jewelry (Sophie Wheeler), and native crafts (Carole Chicoine), as



Photo 1: Gertrude LaFlamme was inspired to paint beach rocks by her sister Jeannette and to transform them into owls, seals, crabs and turtles.

Photo 2: Displayed are some of the handcrafted, unique items available at Patsy's Seaside Treasures in Saint-Georges-de-Malbaie.

Photos: Gertrude LaFlamme



well as Gertrude's own rock paintings. She comments, "There is a little something for everyone!"

The boutique, Patsy's Seaside Treasures, opened at the beginning of the summer 2021 and will be open until the fall, but Gertrude is not

sure yet what exact date she will be closing. It is located at 30 Rte. de la Pointe St-Pierre, St-George de la Malbaie.

Gertrude concludes, "If you happen to be in the area, stop in. I am looking forward to meeting you."

Getting back to normal

Diane Skinner

New Carlisle: There was no live music on the Green in New Carlisle last summer due to the pandemic, but this summer it is back and by all accounts and the large turnout, people are happy to hear live music again!

Trevor Buttle coordinates the musical evenings financed by the Municipality of New Carlisle which will take place from July 16 until August 20. He tells Spec the entertainment is free but

there is a "passing of the hat," and those proceeds go directly to the band. Trevor has arranged a wide variety of music from country to rock and even a bit of rap. He mentions a new young rap artist will make his debut with all original material on August 20, ahead of the band Guns and Voltage. At this time, Vern Huntington is confirmed for August 6 and Mike Robertson and Dion for August 13.

Trevor comments, "The first night was absolutely

amazing and so many people came out. I estimate 250! They were spread from the boardwalk to the tent. It felt back to normal and that was a powerful thing to see."

Do not forget to bring a chair. The shows go on rain or shine! The canteen located on the Green, le Tournesol, will stay open until 10 p.m.

To see upcoming bands, look at the electronic sign each week in front of the Town Hall or the Municipality of New Carlisle's facebook page.

Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



Yes, you can

In the mind of every artist, there is a masterpiece

The Gaspé is home to countless artists of all sorts. We can boast talented painters, sculptors, photographers, potters and ceramists, designers of jewelry, weavers and textile makers, sea glass and stained glass creators, and wood craftsman. Just about every town has an art gallery or other space that offers beautiful and unique items made right there. Now it is your turn. Why not give it a try!

If you are saying to yourself, not me, because I cannot draw a straight line, don't let that hold you back. Everyone has something inside of them that they can express in a creative way. If you create something it can be for your eyes only if that is your wish. The creative process is for you to enjoy. If your art turns out well, you can show it off and even flaunt it if you want to!

You could buy some inexpensive materials to experiment with, such as Dollar Store canvas, paints, and brushes. You can gather driftwood on the beach and make something unique. Gather sea glass and create some patterns or a picture. Pick up some smooth rocks and paint them.

Why is creating a piece of art good for you? It is a positive experience for several reasons.

1. It can lift your spirits and make you smile, even laugh. Do not take it too seriously, this is just for fun!
2. It is relaxing to create. Many people who paint, for example, get so absorbed that they lose track of time.
3. It can connect you with other people. If you take an art class of any sort you will bond with others in the group. Everyone is likely feeling a bit nervous, and laughter will come easily once the ice is broken.
4. It will give you a sense of accomplishment because you are making something real and tangible.
5. It will give you a sense of pride. This may come from producing something you like or just from feeling positive about making the step towards creativity.
6. You may inspire others to try creating.

Keep in mind that you are not striving to make that masterpiece that is in your mind because you may never be able to make that a reality. That is perfectly okay. Enjoy the process. Enjoy trying it out. Let the professionals create the masterpieces.



Photo: Linda Drody

Linda Drody created this lovely wooden art scene using the headboard of a crib that her sons had used.

Artist François Gignac featured at Duthie's Point

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND – The Gendron store at Duthie's Point presents the original work of metal artist François Gignac, a New Richmond mechanic and auto body technician who has fabricated over the years a wide array of items including toys, musical instruments and various other objects.

Mr. Gignac's uses very unusual materials in his artwork. For example, he has upcycled many Singer sewing machines over the years and turned them into toy car and tractors. He has also fabricated guitars made of tools and metal pieces generally found in his auto shop. Three of the guitars he made weigh between 20 and 30 pounds. They have strings, although not tuned.

"I started when I was eight or nine years old. I always had that in me. I have always taken apart objects to see how they are made and

how they work. I also like challenges.

If someone tells me: 'You are not able to do that,' I take it as a challenge. I invent things. It comes without effort. It takes a good eye and patience," explains François Gignac.

He still works full time at 63. His shop is located on



Photos: Gilles Gagné

Chemin Cyr in New Richmond. "If I have a few minutes between

two jobs, I'll take that time to move forward on one projects. You have to like what you are doing and I always liked being a handyman. The first guitar took me a lot of time, but I was faster with

the next ones. I can do what I want with steel. I can cut it, bend it and fold it. I can make what you want. I can make parts, any metal part needed. I have all the tools and if I don't have it, I'll make. If that tool doesn't exist that I need it, I'll fabricate it," he explains.

In addition to working on cars and making all those objects, including decorative

items, François Gignac buys and repairs bicycles.

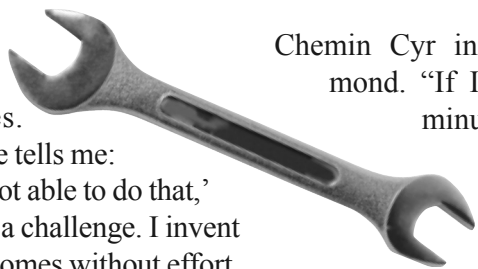
"There is a shortage of bicycles since the beginning of the pandemic. Some people don't need their old bikes and leave them to me. I repair and sell them. I sell two or three bikes per day," he says.

The Gendron store activities are coordinated by president of Duthie's Point,

Danielle Cyr. Most of François Gignac's objects can be bought there.

Photo 1: François Gignac makes cars and a tractors from sewing machines. The steering wheel even works.

Photo 2: François Gignac also makes guitars with real strings.



Circuit des Arts

Diane Skinner

The Circuit des Arts, also referred to as the Gaspesian Art Tour, invites you to visit over 30 creative spaces, including galleries and shops, located along a 500-mile (800 km) route that circles the peninsula. You are welcome to visit any of the locations on the Circuit des Arts free of charge between June 1 and October 31. This also offers you the opportunity to speak directly with the artists and creators.

The Circuit des Arts brochure informs us that the Circuit "is an invitation to see the Gaspé from another angle. It is an open window through which you can see the talent of the region's artists and fine crafters who fashion their works with a potent mix of creativity and passion. It is an ideal en-

counter with these creators who invite you to discover their universe. Take the Gaspé Visual Arts and Fine Crafts Tour. We invite you to visit the entire Gaspé and see it through the eyes of our creative fellow residents. The Tour reflects the tremendous diversity of the Gaspé's cultural landscape and the many sides of the people who live here. Experience and enjoy the know-how of these artists and fine crafters who will be delighted to see you."

Some artisans and locations you may already be familiar with include Enid Legros-Wise, exquisite ceramics; Julie Frappier, unique jewelry; Jako Boulanger, pottery; Rhéal McIntyre, large paintings; La Savonnerie du Village, hand-crafted soaps; and the Boutique Gospel Chapel, a wide variety of locally made crafts.

The art you might see includes traditional paintings



Photo: CircuitdesArts.org

One of the destinations on the Circuit des Arts is the gallery of Enid-Legros-Wise, 384 Route 132 east, Hope Town.

and drawings, most inspired by the Gaspesian landscape but also a great deal more. You will see jewelry, ceramics, sculpture, textiles and even

soaps.

Note: Some artists prefer that you contact them ahead of your visit. Check for contact information and locations on-

line or on Facebook (Circuit des arts de la gaspesie). For more information contact 418 534-41391 or 800 820-0883 or www.circuitdesarts.org.

Did You Know?

the Gaspé has
4
National
Historic Sites

Battle of the Restigouche
National Historic Site

Miguasha National Park
and Natural History
Museum

Site Historique National de
Paspebiac, Paspebiac

Parc national de l'île-
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SEE YOU
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EVENTS AND EXHIBITIONS

The first floor holds an exhibition room. We are now presenting the work of Claude Côté and Marien Jomphe, two watercolour and sculpture artists.

We also have a concert hall where we mostly hold concerts but also all kinds of events like conferences and workshops.

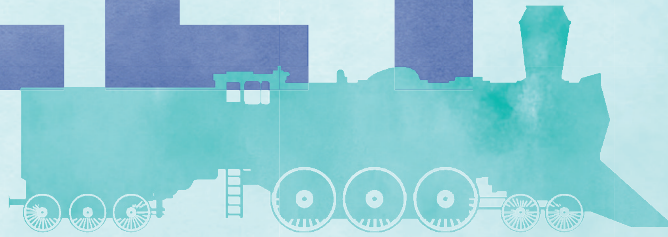
Both of which can also serve as reception rooms. The concert hall offers an incredible view of the St. Lawrence Gulf.

CAFÉ DE L'ANSE

Over the years, we developed recipes right in the heart of the cafe's history. Our entire menu is inspired from its origins and is rich in regional products. Come enjoy our delicious food in our warm and attractive café or on our terrace by the sea. We are open every day from 8:00 am to 9:00 pm.



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