

McInnis Cement releases sticky materials into the atmosphere again

Gilles Gagné

PORT DANIEL-GASCONS - The McInnis Cement plant in Port Daniel-Gascons again released sticky emissions of a beige-white substance into the atmosphere on the evening of Friday, June 18. A rather similar episode had occurred a year ago, starting on June 22 and, in that case, it was repeated a few times in the following weeks, until the beginning of August 2020.

The company confirms those new material releases in a written message. The spokesperson for McInnis Cement, Maryse Tremblay, says it was a "minor episode of dust that occurred on the night of June 18 to 19, due to an unusual irregularity in the raw materials feeding the kiln."

She adds that "the kiln has been shut down in accordance with the procedures in place. We then reported the problem to *Urgence Environnement* (an environmental emergency alert procedure) on time and in accordance with established procedures. We then made additional calls to the Ministry of the Environment as soon as we learned that the dust was reaching a few neighbours in the Gascons area, east of the plant."

In June 2020, the Ministry of the Environment was not notified until 11 days later of the existence of sticky emissions from the cement plant. Moreover, it was not the company that had communicated this information to the ministry. It was an unidentified third party.

In addition, McInnis Cement did not notify the ministry until July 29, 37 days after the first releases. That notice indicated that the sticky particles had exceeded the perimeter of the company's cement plant, however, last year's releases reached the neighbouring properties hours after they started.

Maryse Tremblay notes regarding this year's rejections that "we have proactively initiated meetings with the neighbours the same day, offering cleanings if necessary. The cleaning of a few cars was noted, although most of the neighbours eventually chose to decline the offer after the rain washed their cars."

In her first written statement, she did not provide the composition of the June 18 to 19 sticky rejects. The SPEC insisted on that point.

"On the composition of the material, the dust in question came from the process preced-



Photo: G. Gagné

Another sticky dust emission episode took place at the McInnis Cement plant, on June 18, a year after the start of a streak of such incidents in June, July and August 2020.

ing the preparation of clinker, so it is a raw material by nature. The balance of raw materials was not the same as usual, so we cannot say it was clinker," later replied Ms. Tremblay.

This time around, the emissions ended up in the Anse-à-la-Barbe area of Gascons while in 2020, it was McInnis Cove that received the substances.

The Regional Environment Council, like other members of the McInnis Cement environmental monitoring committee,

was notified of the new episode shortly after the June 18 emissions.

"This time, we were contacted immediately. We got an email the next day, over the weekend. That email might even have been sent the same evening. It was about the emission of particles. It was sent by McInnis Cement," says Caroline Duchesne, director general of the Regional Environmental Council of the Gaspé Peninsula.

The Quebec Department of the Environment was con-

tacted on Monday, June 28, by the SPEC, two days before McInnis Cement and the Regional Environmental Council. The ministry took three full working days before confirming the existence of the emissions and the fact that an inquiry was underway. The information communicated to the SPEC was minimal and was provided in writing.

"On June 19, 2021, Ciment McInnis notified the Ministry of dust emissions. This dust

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Environnement Vert-plus spokesperson tired of McInnis Cement's lack of transparency

Gilles Gagné

PORT DANIEL-GASCONS - The spokesperson of Environnement Vert-plus, Pascal Bergeron, finds the fact twisted that the initial information pertaining to McInnis Cement's June 18 episode of sticky dust emissions was again communicated to the press by his organization, instead of by McInnis Cement or the Environment Ministry.

"McInnis Cement's authorization certificate should be

suspended each and every time that there is such an episode and as long as we have not received guarantees that people understand what happened and that a process is implemented to prevent that kind of accident from occurring again," he says.

In her initial statement, the spokesperson of McInnis Cement, Maryse Tremblay, pointed out that "any report of an explosion is false, misleading and inaccurate. Had such an event occurred, the plant

would have reported the incident and worked with our regulators to determine the cause and corrective action."

Pascal Bergeron is not impressed by that statement, which targets his organization. In the Environnement Vert-plus June 30 message to the press, there was a reference to three relatively loud explosions heard by residents of the neighbourhood. After talking to people of the Port Daniel-Gascons area, a lack of maintenance of the dust filters

might have caused the emissions.

"In the absence of transparency from McInnis Cement and the Department of the Environment, we are talking to people from the area and they are talking to us. We are calling it an explosion because that's what people told us. We bring back the testimonies of citizens. If the company doesn't agree, they can say what happened themselves through communicating the information about the

incident instead of hiding it. We are tired of the opacity of the cement plant representatives," stresses Mr. Bergeron.

He doesn't agree with Maryse Tremblay when she says that the citizens wanting a cleanup from McInnis Cement are satisfied because the job is done.

"A citizen of the Route de la Passerelle is still waiting for the cement plant to come and pick up the dirt on his car, two

Cont'd on page 11 ▶



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Photo: G. Gagné

NCHS will be replaced

Gilles Gagné

NEW CARLISLE – New Carlisle High School will officially be replaced. The Ministry of Education has confirmed the news to the Eastern Shores School Board administrative team, however, no other details have been divulged so far, either by the government or by the school board.

Several factors provided clues to the possible replacement of New Carlisle High School, including problems relating to the age of the building that hampered teaching activities in November 2020 and also the search for land initiated early in the spring by the *Société Québécoise de l'infrastructure*.

Hugh Wood, Director General of the Eastern Shores School Board, cannot provide any additional information about the new school, the time frame of the new construction

or its location due to a non-disclosure clause.

“Other than sharing we will have a new school, I am under a gag order as to the details. As soon as I can share additional information, I will share,” Mr. Wood told the SPEC when asked for additional information.

The *Société Québécoise des infrastructures* (SQI) started searching around mid-April and ran advertisements over a period of six weeks in order to facilitate finding an 11,000 square metre property in New Carlisle or Paspebiac. It was specified in the publicity that the property could be larger. The SQI excluded land in Paspebiac located in an agricultural zone, as well as the presence of power lines and railroad tracks on the lot. The public body was also looking for land located in an area served by municipal services.

The lot could be vacant and if a building is located on the

piece of land, it has to be demolished. The acquisition could be a single lot or a combination of several lots available for sale. No indication has been given since the end of May that the coveted lot has been acquired.

At that time, Hugh Wood confirmed that the search for a lot pertained to the building that will replace New Carlisle High School. He was expecting an answer about the project by late spring or early summer, which is now the case.

The oldest section of New Carlisle High School opened in 1914. Over the last school year, verifications indicated that the air quality of the school doesn't always respect the norms of the Quebec government. Nine months ago, a report issued by a consultant indicated that mold and mildew had to be removed. Sections of the school were consequently decontaminated.

Only 46% of Gaspesian based businesses use IT

Nelson Sergerie

CHANDLER - In Gaspé, the use of information and communications technologies (ICT) in the region's businesses is not as widespread as one might think.

A study by the Information and Communications Technology Technocentre of Gaspé and Magdalen Islands notes that 46% of businesses use little or no information technology.

While not surprising, the region is not behind other regions “Over 90% of our businesses have fewer than 15 employees. These are compa-

nies that may have fewer financial resources,” the director of the Technocentre, Carol Cotton, suggests as a hypothesis.

The survey, carried out in 2019 and 2020, consisted of developing a portrait of the uses of ICT in the Gaspé and the Magdalen Islands. A sample of 301 businesses, organizations and self-employed workers responded to a questionnaire and the responses were used to identify challenges.

The Technocentre will seek to develop them. An evaluation and training plan is under construction with Emploi Que-

bec. Only 11% of workers have information technology jobs.

"And of that 11%, only 24% of workers have specific training in information technology," says Cotton.

Another observation: the region is positioned rather weakly in terms of the integration of information technologies into its economic fabric. As in many areas, there is a shortage of manpower. The aim is to train more workers in this sector. The ultimate goal is to create political support to bring information technology forward in the economic development of the region.

Police report

Two fatal accidents in as many days occurred in the Bay of Chaleur sector on June 28 and 29.

The first accident took place on the morning of June 28, in Caplan, at about 7:30 a.m. According to Sgt. Claude Doiron, spokesperson for the Sûreté du Québec, the driver of the vehicle entered Highway 132 and did not see the oncoming truck and trailer tandem, leading to a violent side impact.

The occupants of the vehicle remained trapped in the car, forcing the first responders to use the jaws of life to free them. The three occupants of the vehicle, a young woman, her young child and a baby, were rushed to the Maria hospital, all suffering from life threatening injuries. The mother and the child were pronounced dead shortly after their arrival at the hospital. They are Sabrina Mathieu, 26, who lived in the Bay of Chaleur area. Her child's name will not be released because he or she was a minor. The baby was flown to Montreal in order to get highly specialized care.

Highway 132 was completely closed to traffic for several hours in order to facilitate the work of the investigators and an accident reconstitution expert was called to clarify the accident's circumstances. A detour was set up via the second range. According to the Sûreté du Québec, there wasn't any criminal element involved in the accident.

The second crash took place in Saint-Siméon on Highway 132, around 8:45 a.m. on June 29. A westbound motorcyclist crashed into an eastbound automobile just as the latter was turning towards a northbound street.

“The driver of the car did not see the oncoming motorcycle. We have not ruled out the hypothesis that speed was a factor in that accident. The motorcyclist was thrown from his motorcycle, and his death was declared on the spot,” specifies Sgt. Claude Doiron of the Sûreté du Québec.

Highway 132 was closed in both directions for hours so that investigators and the accident reconstitution technician could complete their work in order to clarify the circumstances of the collision. A bypass to the second range was established during the interval to accommodate traffic passing on Highway 132, also known as Perron Boulevard. The victim of the accident is Hugues Arsenault, aged 62, from Bonaventure.



COMMISSION SCOLAIRE EASTERN SHORES EASTERN SHORES SCHOOL BOARD

ADOPTION OF BY-LAW PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that the Eastern Shores School Board adopted the following By-Law to set the time, date and location of the Council of Commissioners and Executive Committee meetings for the 2021-2022 school year:

BY-LAW 8 with a view to setting the day, time and location of the Council of Commissioners and Executive Committee Meetings. Unless otherwise indicated, meetings will be held at the Administrative Center of Eastern Shores School Board, 40 Mountsorrel, New Carlisle, Quebec.

For the 2021-2022 school year, the Executive Committee will meet SEVEN (7) times a year at 6:15 pm. on the days indicated below:

The Council of Commissioners will meet SEVEN (7) times a year at 6:30 p.m. on the days indicated below:

DATE	LOCATION	EXECUTIVE	COUNCIL
August 25, 2021	New Carlisle	6:15 p.m.	6:30 p.m.
October 20, 2021	New Carlisle	6:15 p.m.	6:30 p.m.
December 15, 2021	New Carlisle	6:15 p.m.	6:30 p.m.
February 23, 2022	New Carlisle	6:15 p.m.	6:30 p.m.
April 27, 2022	New Carlisle	6:15 p.m.	6:30 p.m.
May 25, 2022	New Carlisle	6:15 p.m.	6:30 p.m.
June 29, 2022	New Carlisle	6:15 p.m.	6:30 p.m.

Given at New Carlisle, Quebec this 25nd day of June 2021.

Hugh Wood
Director General

Cynthia Dow
Guest
Commentary



My Dear Canada

I confess that I have, since I was old enough to contemplate the relative merits of nations, been inordinately proud of you, my country, the true north strong and free.

It is the country of multiculturalism and official bilingualism; the country so welcome to refugees and immigrants; the country of Douglas Cardinal, Senator Murray Sinclair and Matthew Coon Come; the country of Tommy Douglas, Lester Pearson and Terry Fox; and the country of Louis-Joseph Papineau, Rene Levesque, and Louise Arbour. Surely, we do have much to celebrate in your history.

But, oh, Canada, how much is also tarnished! Do we really think it's all roses and sunshine? Are we blind to the challenges that have plagued and continue to plague you as you grow well into your second century?

It was not that long ago that the history books talked of the "two founding nations" which put you on the map, politically speaking. This meant, of course, English and French-speaking settlers. What it REALLY meant was the WASP elites and Roman Catholic clergy which had full dominion of this Dominion for several hundred years. Conveniently forgotten were the more than 50 distinct aboriginal cultures that had been managing your land base just fine for thousands of years before Europeans even knew you existed.

I still hear people talk about the "discovery" of your shores by Europeans in the 15th and 16th centuries. By using such language, we are negating the presence of all those who welcomed the newcomers. We are continuing the racist fallacy that they were somehow subhuman. Your land base was, in fact, discovered, occupied and very capably managed by human beings starting some 10,000 to 15,000 years ago. European arrivals are, in fact, a recent invasive force who brought with them deadly diseases and the even deadlier intent to exploit and exclude, based on racist and elitist attitudes.

How proud we are of your open arms, Canada! Ready to accept any down-and-out refugee to your shores.... Oh, wait, not so fast. What about the Chinese head tax, meant to restrict Asian immigration? This policy was implemented while we were happy enough to have hundreds of Chinese labourers die building our vital railway links. What about that boatload of Jews trying to escape Nazi Germany who were turned away in 1939? Over 250 of them later died in concentration camps. I could go on and on. Dear Canada, you do have blood on your hands!

And today, rather than celebrating your 154th birthday, we are mourning the death of almost 1,000 innocent Indigenous children. Sadly, many more such hidden graves are going to be found as the full extent of the tragedy of the residential school system is brought to light. A man we have in the past lauded as the number one Father of Confederation (note that there is no Mother of Confederation!), Sir John A. Macdonald, was a drunken racist who was behind the Chinese head tax, the residential school system and the execution of Louis Riel. Truly, someone to admire?



Gilles Gagné

GESGAPEGIAG: - Youths, adults and elders held a five-hour awareness campaign along Highway 132 on Canada Day. During the activity they handed out flyers explaining briefly the tragedy of residential schools and the fact that every child should have mattered.

Dear Canada, I do still cherish your dream, but I realize more and more that for many, that dream of a true north, strong and free has in effect been a nightmare; A nightmare of subtle and not so subtle racism, a nightmare of carefully structured genocide of Indigenous people. A nightmare of systemic discrimination against anyone who is not white, European and preferably English or French speaking. Let's face it, even your anglophones and francophones discriminate against each other.

Dear Canada, you can do better than this, but you can only do better by admitting to your erroneous ways and taking the actions necessary to investigate, apologize, and right the wrongs done to so many for so few who benefited. Dismantling

colonialism and the attitudes that go with it, which have seeped into your soil and atmosphere like a kind of invisible pollution, will take time and determined effort. We will have to dig deep to root out every hint of racism and discrimination.

I can suggest some ways to start. Most non-racialised Canadians have no clue about how privileged we really are. So, Dear Canada, re-educate your people. Familiarize them with the many varied, subtle faces of white privilege. Explain to them the full extent of the genocidal policies aimed at Indigenous people since 1534. Ban racist organizations and persecute racist terrorists to the full extent of the law. Let's revisit our Canadian dream and make it a reality for all your citizens.



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Expansion of the LM Wind Power plant in Gaspé

Gilles **Gagné**
Simon **Carmichael**

GASPÉ: - It is both Gaspé's best and worst-kept secret. The LM Wind Power blade plant is expected to soon announce major investments to expand its Gaspé facility and begin manufacturing blades for offshore wind turbines, according to several sources familiar with the matter. The project would require an investment of nearly \$100 million. Between 100 and 200 jobs would be created.

After a major expansion of \$13 million in 2016-2017, LM Wind Power should announce a new expansion phase in mid-July. The project would receive financial support from the government of Quebec and the federal government.

According to information obtained by *Le Soleil* from those familiar with the project, the GE Renewable Energy subsidiary aims to triple the surface area of its Gaspé plant in order to launch the production of blades for the development of offshore wind farms and meet the demand of the northeast part of the United States and Europe.

Reached by email, the company declined to comment on the matter. "We have no comment on this matter," simply replied GE Renewable Energy spokesperson, Timothy Brown.

The project, which has been discussed for more than two years, has reportedly been delayed due to fears over possible tariffs or restrictions on the export of the blades to the United States, however, only a few details remain to be worked out before the official announcement. Details of the project have reportedly already been conveyed to the plant workers, suggesting an announcement is imminent.

Energy and Natural Resources Minister Jonatan Julien, who is also responsible for the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands, is expected to be present for the announcement, since Quebec would fund part of the project. Initially, his cabinet had confirmed that he would be in the region "towards the end of the month (June)," presumably to participate in the LM Wind Power announcement, but his stay was eventually postponed due to "a schedule conflict."

The interest of General Electric, the multinational firm that owns LM Wind Power, in the Gaspé Peninsula seems obvious. In October 2020, the director of the Gaspé plant, Alexandre Boulay, was appointed LM Wind Power's operations director for the Americas.

Gigantic blades

Presumably in anticipation of the project, the Town of Gaspé has initiated the construction of a new road connecting the Augustines Industrial Park, where the plant is located, to the port of Gaspé in Sandy Beach. On December 17, the town council awarded the firm Tetrattech a contract to carry out work related to a possible road.

This route will be available by all companies wishing to export by ship, and possibly by train. It will be particularly useful for LM Wind Power, which will benefit from fast, and above all linear, access to the port to transport the huge blades the company intends to produce. These blades will measure up to 107 metres in length.

When the first section of the Gaspé plant was built, in 2004 and 2005, 37-metre blades were produced there. Since that time, models from 42 to 47 metres, as well as blades of 55.8 metres have been manufactured in Gaspé. The latter were installed at the Mesgig Ugju's'n windfarm in the back country of Escuminac.

The 2016-2017 expansion was intended to meet a huge contract to export blades to the southern part of the United States. That contract has occupied the entire plant since the summer of 2016. It will extend over time at least until the end of 2022.

In that case, it involves replacing the blades of existing onshore wind farms, mainly located in Texas. The expansion of 2016-2017 and the export contract have increased the plant's workforce from 185 to nearly 500 people.

Union reactions

If GE Renewable Energy refuses to react, the president of the Central Council of the CSN union in the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands, Serge Saint-Pierre, comments on the possible expansion of LM Wind Power, although cautiously and using



Photo: Simon Carmichael

The blades produced in Gaspé will be bigger than this model. The area of the LM Wind Power plant will likely triple after the expansion the company will probably announce around mid-July.

general terms. The CSN represents the LM Wind Power workers of the Gaspé plant.

"Of course, we have nothing against this expansion. This is a plus for the workers, and for the region. But there is a shortage of workers, and a shortage of housing in Gaspé and in the Gaspé Peninsula! The dwellings are not there. Before that expansion, it must be ensured that workers can find a place to live. The year before, they (the company) brought in Filipino workers. In addition, if there is an increasing amount of work and if the labour doesn't follow the same curve, the employees will be overworked," says Mr. Saint-Pierre.

"I speak like a union leader but if we settle the housing issue, offering better wages and better conditions, it could also help recruitment. Furthermore, the Government of Quebec does not recognize the problem of the housing shortage in the region. If it does nothing to address it, it could at least make it easier for municipalities to engage in housing development more than they can currently. It could take the form of an improved formula for municipal housing boards," concludes Serge Saint-Pierre, referring to what is called in French, *Office municipal d'habita-*

tion.

Note: Simon Carmichael occasionally collaborates with the SPEC as part of the

Local Journalism Initiative, supported by the Canadian government. *Le Soleil* is his employer.



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Langlois' appeals dismissed in Superior Court

Nelson **Sergerie**,
LJI Journalist

GASPÉ - The Superior Court dismisses the appeals for judicial review filed by the mayoress of Chandler.

Louissette Langlois wanted to overturn the 180-day sanction given by the *Commission municipale du Québec* (CMQ) last December.

In a long 29-page decision rendered on June 30, Judge Chantal Masse notes that the decisions rendered by the municipal commission are rigorous and the analysis is serious, both in law and in fact.

The court rejected the arguments of bias when the defendant alleged that the organization was both the judge and the party involved in conducting the investigation and passing judgment.

On the sanction handed down on December 21, the



Louissette Langlois during the hearings in July 2020 in Gaspé

court ruled that Ms. Langlois had failed to convince the tribunal that there was reason to intervene. The court was also careful to mention that Ms. Langlois did not testify at the hearings held in July 2020 in Gaspé.

On the 180-day penalty, the judge was surprised that Ms.

Langlois complained because the CMQ referred to case law before reaching that decision.

Suspended since January 11, the commission had retained 20 of the 21 breaches against Louissette Langlois under the Code of ethics and professional conduct of elected officials of the Town of Chandler.



Cakes were delivered to Service Canada offices in Chandler.

Employment insurance reform called for once again

Nelson **Sergerie**,
LJI Journalist

CHANDLER - The battle to reform employment insurance continues and a broad coalition bringing together parts of Eastern Canada could make it an electoral issue when an election is potentially called at the end of the summer.

The Liberals had promised to make corrections following Stephen Harper's Conservative reform. Some adjustments have been made, but a major overhaul needs to be made to reflect today's realities.

This coalition involves the *Mouvement action Chômage Pabok* and the Central Regional Council of the Confederation of National Trade

Unions (CSN) in the region.

The group, which also has a presence on the North Shore, Lower Saint Lawrence, Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean, as well as in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, demonstrated in Chandler on June 30.

On site, cakes were delivered to Service Canada workers and brochures were also handed out. Demonstrations also took place in the other participating regions.

"We face the same issues in fisheries, forestry and tourism. Employment insurance needs an adjustment," argues *Mouvement Action Chômage Pabok* coordinator Nadia Mongeon.

The coalition is asking for

fewer hours to qualify - between 350 and 420 according to claims in different regions - a benefit of 70% of salary and a duration of 35 weeks in order to abolish the black hole.

We must recognize the seasonality of work. "80% of seasonal work is done in Eastern Canada. We should stop putting the (responsibility) of the non-employment rate on seasonal workers," adds the president of the Gaspé Peninsula Magdalen Islands Central Council of the CSN, Serge St-Pierre.

According to the two spokespersons, people from Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador could join the movement.

The breaches mentioned include the disclosure of confidential information to citizens in November 2018, March 2019 and September 2019 where the mayoress allegedly disclosed the names or titles of employees who had made psychological harassment complaints to the CNESST. In addition, in March and May 2019, she allegedly sent an email or instant message to a citizen that included professional accounts of legal fees, all contrary to section 6 of the code.

"This is an eye-opening judgment. A fierce case that was quite expensive: \$270,000 to the Town of Chandler. We will discuss with the prosecu-

tors in order to claim the sums," explains the pro-mayor, Bruno-Pierre Godbout.

Last January, the town council passed a resolution to reclaim Louissette Langlois' legal fees that were paid for by the Town for her defence before the Municipal Commission.

The resolution emphasizes in particular that the accusations against Louissette Langlois results from serious or intentional faults by making her personal interest predominate and having taken intentional and premeditated actions, all to achieve her ends.

Ms. Langlois preferred not to comment on the court's decision.



Photo: N. Sergerie

Bruno-Pierre Godbout's expense account continues to raise questions.

Pro-mayor's expense account continues to attract attention

Nelson **Sergerie**,
LJI Journalist

CHANDLER - The Municipal Integrity and Investigations Commissioner for the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing may be investigating the Chandler pro-mayor's expense account.

Bruno-Pierre Godbout, the acting mayor of Chandler during the suspension of Mayor Louissette Langlois, requested a reimbursement of \$1,672.50 for a trip to Quebec from May 26 to 29 in order to address several issues including requests for grants for the asphalt work, and the development of the land of the defunct Gaspésia. However, no detailed agenda was provided on who was met and when.

Citizens claim, in sworn statements sent to the commissioner, to have seen Mr.

Godbout in various public places and at his residence during the period in question.

Denis Pelchat had posed questions to town council in June, noting that the pro-mayor had tabled two invoices totalling \$3,200 in May and for nearly \$7,000 since taking office as mayor last January. The councillor had mentioned that on an annual basis, the tab would amount to some \$21,000, which he described as huge.

"It will be up to him (Mr. Godbout) to demonstrate that there are indeed people who have been met with during his travels," commented Councillor Pelchat.

"I knew it was brewing behind the scenes. It may have made it to the Ethics Commissioner. I will remain cautious in my words... for the moment," replied Bruno-Pierre Godbout.



Bloc MP Kristina Michaud

Photo: N. Sergerie

Seniors have been forgotten by Ottawa, according to Kristina Michaud

Nelson **Sergerie**,
LJI Journalist

VAL-BRILLANT - The defence of seniors who have been forgotten by Ottawa in the management of the health crisis is attracting the attention of the Bloc Member of Parliament for Avignon-La Mitis-Matane-Matapédia.

"There was grumbling after the announcement of the budget when we saw that there was the announcement of the creation of two classes of seniors while leaving out the 74-year-olds and under," explains Kristina Michaud.

The Bloc is asking for a hike of \$110 per month for all seniors.

In addition, the support of parliamentarians was obtained for Emilie Sansfaçon's bill to increase employment insurance sickness benefits to 50 weeks.

"These are two fights that we will never give up on," says

Michaud.

Ms. Michaud also commented on the management of the pandemic "we were there to protect the safety of the population, but also to help get through the crisis."

Some other topics that she deems important are wage subsidies and health transfers, as well as the serious shortage of manpower. The protection of the French language and the bill to protect supply management in agriculture also caught Ms. Michaud's attention.

"The Bloc Québécois has once again proven its relevance in Ottawa by leading battles that no one else was fighting, battles for the interests of Quebecers," says the elected official.

According to her calculations, the riding was able to receive aid totalling \$30 million.

Kristina Michaud has confirmed that she wants to be part of the next electoral battle.



Photo: N. Sergerie

The aircraft crashed at the end of the runway at Gaspé airport, sustaining minor damage.

SOPFIM plane crashes in Gaspé

Nelson **Sergerie**,
LJI Journalist

GASPÉ – An aircraft from the Society for the Protection of Forests Against Insects and Diseases (SOPFIM) crashed around 7:45 a.m. on June 26 at Gaspé airport. Fortunately, the pilot escaped without any injuries.

The aircraft was on its final approach when it stalled, finishing its landing in a fence at the end of the runway. According to what we have learned, a loss of engine power was the cause of the incident.

"We deployed emergency

measures with the firefighters. Chemicals it was carrying spilled during the landing. We are in the process of cleaning it. It's not a big amount," explains Dave Sainte-Croix, the manager of the Michel-Pouliot airport.

The firefighters collected the biological insecticide used in the operations with the help of SOPFIM teams. The airstrip was closed for part of the day, the time needed to clear the aircraft which did not appear to be badly damaged at first glance, and to make repairs to the fence delimiting the runway limits.

The Sûreté du Québec was called in to assist in controlling the flow of onlookers around the airport. As there are no casualties or injuries, the SQ is not opening an investigation regarding the incident. The Transportation Safety Board of Canada was notified and gathered information, without dispatching investigators to the scene.

SOPFIM plans to spray some 258,600 hectares of forests in the Gaspé during its 2021 operation, which is due to end in early July. The Gaspé airport is one of the organization's bases in the region.

ÉPAQ creates boat safety program

Nelson **Sergerie**, LJI

GRANDE-RIVIÈRE - A national program on nautical safety will be designed by the Quebec School of Fisheries and Aquaculture in Grande-Rivière (ÉPAQ).

The institution was selected by Transport Canada following a call for projects with the objective of changing the behavior of boaters and improving safety in commercial fishing.

"To make sure that people thus reduce the number of injuries, the number of deaths, the number of damages that could occur," explains ÉPAQ director François Castilloux.

The Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles will develop audiovisual documentation in French and English to reach boaters, fishing boat captains and other seafarers in harbours and ports in Eastern Canada.

Ottawa is contributing \$200,000 towards the project in addition to other contributions.

The institution had started working on the project in May and is due to deliver the product in May 2022.

After an incident involving Transport Canada's withdrawal of accreditation to train captains in September 2019, with accreditation being restored just a few days later, the gesture is a mark of confidence in the institution.

"This is a clear message from Transport Canada and a nice mark of confidence in our institution, and we consider that the department thus recognizes our expertise in carrying out a national project," says François Castilloux.



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Anglophone and Native communities well-represented at the BleuBleu Festival

Gilles Gagné

CARLETON – Anglophone and Native communities were well represented at the BleuBleu festival, which took place between June 24 and 27 inclusively in Carleton. It was the second such festival, as the first one was held in 2019 and the second one was cancelled because of the pandemic.

A show featuring representatives from the Native, francophone and anglophone communities was scheduled for midday on June 27 at the summit of Mount Saint Joseph. As in all the BleuBleu events, all the tickets had been sold but the weather conditions convinced some ticket holders to stay home. A strong wind was blowing and when the rainfall stopped, there was a heavy fog. The temperature was mild and making the whole dampness quite endurable though.

Listuguj singer Melissa Girvan, Caplan singer MLou (Marilou Brière), as well Nash Stanley and the Narrows played in front of a small audience but the attendees' enthusiasm made up for the bad weather. In fact, the performers and the audience made jokes about the conditions during the whole show.

One of the BleuBleu organizers and founders, Marianne Boudreau, probably put it best in retrospect when she said that "it was not a perfect event but we are very glad about the people's participation and the quality of the show. The rain almost seemed like a bonus to the experience."

Many attendees were listening to Melissa Girvan for the first time and were quite impressed with her talent and fine voice.

Shigawake's Shaina Hayes also opened the eyes

of the people who didn't know her when she presented her set at the Cabane à Eu-dore, an old fishing shack located on one of the two big sand banks of Carleton. A light rain was falling during most of the show but there was no wind at all and the atmosphere at dusk was perfect for that kind of acoustic show. She sang her songs in front of quiet attendees protected by umbrellas and blankets supplied by BleuBleu. There, again, the rain almost added to the experience.

The festival's art director, Myriam-Sophie Deslauriers, indicated on June 28 that the event will be back in 2022. "Hopefully, we will have overcome the pandemic and be in a position to take full advantage of our venues' capacity. We were limited to 250 people per show this year. We know that we could have attracted 3,000 people for some of the shows," she noted.

Photos

Top: Nash and the Narrows, featuring Nathan Hayes, Dave Felker, Nash Stanley and Kevin Jones, made new fans in Carleton. Despite the weather, some even danced during their performance.

Middle: Melissa Girvan, Dave Felker, MLou and Kevin Jones played a song that was composed in three languages earlier this year.

Bottom left: Melissa Girvan impressed the crowd with her voice and talent. Many of her fans from Listuguj attended the show but she also gained many new fans.

Bottom right: Shigawake's Shayna Hayes sang under a very light rain, at dusk. People listened quietly, protected by umbrellas and blankets.

Photo credits: G. Gagné





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Éric Duhaime was wrong to call for the closure of the Gaspé

Nelson **Sergerie**,
LJI Journalist

GASPÉ - The new leader of the Conservative Party of Quebec admits to having made a mistake after declaring that the Government of Quebec should close the Gaspé in 2015.

While he was a host at the FM 93 radio station in Quebec City, Mr. Duhaime said: "Gaspésie, it doesn't work, there are too many distances, and too few people, nor enough local resources to justify the grants it currently receives. The Gaspé must stop asking the rest of Quebec to support it," he declared. He even bought the domain name www.fermonslagaspesie.com, a site that no longer seems active today

While in Gaspé on June 25 in a happy hour with a dozen activists as part of a tour of Eastern Quebec, Eric Duhaime admits he was wrong. "Not only has my thinking changed, but time has proven me wrong. I have the impression that the Gaspé is going to experience a boom. We always spoke of a devitalized and declining region. This was the perception we had of the Gaspé, especially since there was a plant called Gaspésia which was a fiasco," explains the Conservative leader.

"One of the positive things about the pandemic is the need of urban dwellers to live in regions where social distancing is not a problem. Teleworking, this new reality of the last 15 months will favour moving to the regions and the prices are quite reasonable in real estate."



Photo: N. Sergerie

Éric Duhaime met activists on June 25 in Gaspé.

The new leader notes that the Gaspé has been emptied of its resources for the past 50 years and has had to live on dependence from the province.

A "beaver"

Mr. Duhaime remains to be convinced on the wind energy sector. "I love dams! We have a know-how and a niche that has always been ours and it is clean energy. I have always had a favourable prejudice. In terms of wind power, profitability remains to be demonstrated. I am still skeptical, but I ask to be convinced." He says the day they prove to him that economically, it's more profitable, he'll be more receptive.

Very critical of the CAQ management of the health crisis, Eric Duhaime believes that

the decentralization of public health would have allowed better adapted management.

"We saw it during the crisis. I come from small communities and there are many who have very few cases and they have been in the red zone. It has nothing to do with what's going on in the Montreal metropolitan area. We arrived with a wall-to-wall approach and we applied a curfew to you. This is completely crazy. This is what happens when you have a centralized government. We have to adapt that to the realities of everyone."

The example of the Department of Fisheries managed in Quebec is obvious.

"It has always been a bureaucratic problem. We will have to degrease the mechanism and start over on new

bases. We can't move because it's too complicated. We must dismantle and start afresh on new bases. It's easier to hire local people because you're starting from scratch. But when you want to transfer a mechanism, it's very complex."

The leader is careful to say he does not want to eliminate the public service.

The Conservative leader took advantage of his trip east to gather ideas to prepare his platform, which will be presented in November. The Conservative Party of Quebec has "the wind in its sails," according to Mr. Duhaime who took the helm of the political party last April. In November, the party had 1.5% of the voting intentions and some 700 members.

"There are over 15,000 members across Quebec. It is a party that is credited with 8% in voting intentions, according to the most recent polls. We are the party with the most donors."

The door is open for Sylvain Roy, who closes it quickly After attracting CAQ player Claire Samson to the Conser-

vative Party of Quebec, Éric Duhaime did not attempt to approach Bonaventure independent Sylvain Roy. Initially, the Conservative leader refused to respond, citing that he did not negotiate in the public arena and that he had discussions with some deputies.

Eric Duhaime ended up saying that he had not spoken to Sylvain Roy, but he could welcome him on condition: "If he agrees that we must defend democratic rights more, that we must put an end to the state of health emergency and that we must restore freedoms to citizens, I am ready to communicate with all the world."

The independent Member of National Assembly rejects that option.

"I have absolutely no intention of going away with someone who has already created a website called fermonslagaspesie.com, even though there has been some form of mea culpa. I am absolutely not interested in that political approach. It's no," bluntly launches Sylvain Roy, the member of the National Assembly for Bonaventure.

ENVIRONNEMENT VERT-PLUS

Cont'd from cover



Photo: G. Gagné

Environnement Vert-plus spokesperson Pascal Bergeron thinks McInnis Cement should communicate publicly and rapidly the incidents affecting the perimeter outside its facility.

weeks after the incident. Some of the stuff was washed away by the rain but in other cases, it was not," says Mr. Bergeron.

SPEC has tried to reach some of the Gascons area citizens affected by the sticky dust but none of them replied to the paper's request.

"It is understandable. They rarely want to start a battle against a big company," says Mr. Bergeron, reminding us that McInnis Cement is now the property of Brazilian giant Votorantim Cimentos.

He also wonders why the McInnis Cement environmental monitoring committee

doesn't have the mandate to inform the public when such an episode of sticky emission occurs.

Richard Loiselle, the mediator of the environmental monitoring committee points out that it is not his group's responsibility to communicate the existence of incidents such as the June 18 dust emissions.

"Our group has a consultative role. McInnis Cement must pass on the information to us when an incident occurs, but we don't have the mandate to inform the public when such episodes take place," explains Mr. Loiselle.

MCINNIS:

Cont'd from cover

would have reached the Gascons sector. It should be noted that the Department has not received any complaints on this subject. According to the information received from McInnis Cement, the Department carried out an inspection in the Gascons sector, in Port-Daniel. Verifications are still underway at the Ministry. In the event that the situation presents environmental non-conformities, the Department will assess the situation in accordance with the directives on the treatment of deficiencies," explains the ministry's spokesperson, Daniel Messier.

2020 incident still under investigation

SPEC asked McInnis Ce-

ment and Mr. Messier to provide an update on the 2020 re-jects of sticky substances.

"We still have no news. We have provided all the information requested by the Ministry of the Environment," replies McInnis Cement's Maryse Tremblay.

Daniel Messier answers with more details. "Regarding the dust emissions of the 2020 summer, the file was sent to the investigation directorate on August 5, 2020, in order to collect the evidence allowing the filing of statements for a possible penal prosecution and this investigation is still ongoing," he explains.

Daniel Messier can hardly provide additional information about the duration of the case. "It is difficult to predict the end of an investigation process, since it is a process with several stages. Generally,

when an investigation is concluded and conclusive, it is sent to the director of criminal and penal prosecutions (crown prosecutor) who then determines whether there is a matter for prosecution. If this is the case, legal proceedings are initiated at the Quebec Court. When convictions are obtained, the Ministry issues a press release to the media for fines over \$1,000. Usually, as provided for in the act pertaining to access to documents held by public bodies and the protection of personal information (section 28), documents relevant to investigations are not accessible until this judicial process is completed. In order not to interfere with the current process, the Ministry will not reveal the subject of its investigation and will not issue any other comment," he writes.

Pit Caribou and Pub Saint Joseph form partnership

Gilles Gagné

BONAVENTURE - The Pit Caribou microbrewery in Percé has just acquired a large block of shares in Bonaventure's Pub Saint-Joseph. The microbrewery will integrate the establishment to the two other pubs its management operates in Percé and Montreal. Pit Caribou owners may well acquire more pubs over the next few years to create a small network.

Over the next few days, the Pub Saint-Joseph in Bonaventure, which belonged to Stéphane Boudreau of Carleton's Hostellerie Baie Bleue, will be bearing the Pit Caribou colours. Until now, it has been linked to the other pub of the same name located in Carleton.

The co-owner of Pit Caribou, Jean-François Nellis, does not reveal the amount of the transaction, and he specifies that Stéphane Boudreau and two employees of the Bonaventure pub remain partners and part owners.

"The documents are



Photo: Stéphane Boudreau

The appearance of Bonaventure's Pub Saint-Joseph will be gradually modified to align with that of the Pit Caribou pubs.

signed. The transaction is part of a desire to increase our outreach in the Gaspé Peninsula. It is a strategic position, in a heritage building, built in 1908, a former general store that was later the *Fou du village*, a bar and a historically important cultural venue in Bonaventure. There is no micro-brewery in that area and we can see that people

like Pit Caribou products. It went without saying that we had to be more present in that area," explains Mr. Nellis.

The managers of Pit Caribou would like to acquire a few pubs elsewhere in Quebec.

"The objective, and this is one of the parameters that was a factor in Bonaventure for Vincent (Coderre, co-

owner of Pit Caribou) and me, is to develop a system, a franchise model, to go to cities that have an international, multicultural character where our products are coveted. We don't want 40 pubs, or a chain like *Cage aux sports*, but developing a network is part of the game plan," explains Jean-François Nellis.

In 2020, despite the constraints imposed by the pandemic, Pit Caribou increased its sales by 13%, to 900,000 litres of beer. "The goal of the sales team this year is to increase that volume to 1,050,000 litres," says Mr. Nellis.

He notes that recruiting workers is not a major problem at the Bonaventure location because the pub was already open year around. It has about ten employees at the moment. The summer schedule, however, increases the number of open days from four to seven per week.

"For Pit Caribou, recruiting isn't that much of a problem; it's more difficult to find housing than to recruit. For our activities in Percé, we bought a house in Grande-Rivière, where we host the family of one of our employees and an intern. Therein lies the challenge," stresses Mr. Nellis.

The menu at Pub Saint-Joseph in Bonaventure will remain the same for now, before being adapted to the Pit Caribou pub's signature dishes.

Gaspé Cathedral's new roof will cost more than expected

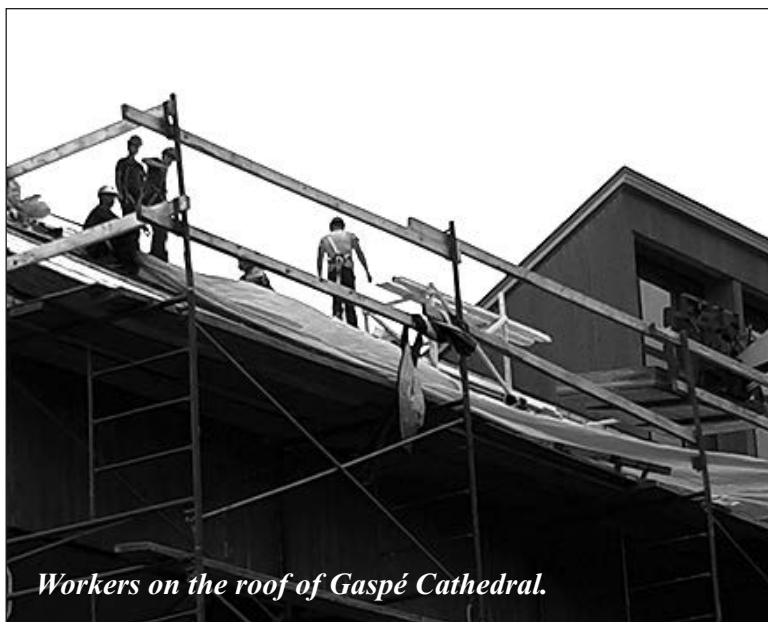
Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - Repairs to the roof of the Christ-Roi Cathedral in the Diocese of Gaspé will cost 50% more than originally planned.

The estimates for phases 2 and 3, which includes the roof on the east side of the building as well as around the bell tower and the presbytery, were at \$750,000; instead, the work will cost \$962,000. Quebec paid \$600,000 towards the work, but the shortfall is significant.

The increase in expenses is attributed to the cost of materials. "If I go with the ministry, it's about \$400,000 (the government's part of the cost increase). For us, that represents at least \$80,000 because we assume 20% of the bill," explains the vice-president of the fabrique and project manager for the repair, Yvan Landry.

The fundraising campaign will be relaunched this fall to



Workers on the roof of Gaspé Cathedral.

Photo: N. Sergerie

get more community support.

There was a pleasant surprise in the spring of 2020 when tenders opened. The work on the west side that was estimated at \$560,000, was carried out for \$445,000.

The roof is being redone in slate and should last between 100 and 150 years. In addition, major work is also planned to better insulate the attic. Water

has seeped in for years in rainy and windy weather, so much so that this risk is no longer insured by the *Mutuelle des fabriques*, the church's insurance company.

The entire job was expected to cost \$1 million according to Landry. Instead, the bill will reach \$1.5 million.

The Cathedral was opened in 1969.

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New Richmond

Saturday, July. 10
03:27 a.m. - 2.40m
03:52 p.m. - 1.60m

Sunday, July. 11
04:05 a.m. - 2.40m
04:28 p.m. - 1.70m

Monday, July. 12
04:44 a.m. - 2.50m
05:07 p.m. - 1.70m

Tuesday, July. 13
05:22 a.m. - 2.50m
05:51 p.m. - 1.80m

Wednesday, July. 14
06:02 a.m. - 2.40m
06:38 p.m. - 1.80m

Thursday, July. 15
06:45 a.m. - 2.30m
07:28 p.m. - 1.90m

Friday, July. 16
07:32 a.m. - 2.20m
08:19 p.m. - 1.90m

New Carlisle

Saturday, July. 10
03:15 a.m. - 2.00m
03:48 p.m. - 1.10m

Sunday, July. 11
03:51 a.m. - 2.00m
04:27 p.m. - 1.20m

Monday, July. 12
04:27 a.m. - 2.00m
05:06 p.m. - 1.20m

Tuesday, July. 13
05:05 a.m. - 2.00m
05:48 p.m. - 1.30m

Wednesday, July. 14
05:45 a.m. - 1.90m
06:33 p.m. - 1.40m

Thursday, July. 15
06:27 a.m. - 1.80m
07:21 p.m. - 1.40m

Friday, July. 16
07:15 a.m. - 1.70m
08:12 p.m. - 1.50m

Gaspé

Saturday, July. 10
02:47 a.m. - 1.80m
03:13 p.m. - 1.10m

Sunday, July. 11
03:23 a.m. - 1.80m
03:50 p.m. - 1.10m

Monday, July. 12
04:00 a.m. - 1.80m
04:28 p.m. - 1.10m

Tuesday, July. 13
04:38 a.m. - 1.80m
05:08 p.m. - 1.10m

Wednesday, July. 14
05:16 a.m. - 1.70m
05:52 p.m. - 1.20m

Thursday, July. 15
05:57 a.m. - 1.60m
06:40 p.m. - 1.20m

Friday, July. 16
06:41 a.m. - 1.50m
07:33 p.m. - 1.30m

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Announcements...



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ASSELS: Frank (Husband)
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Life says we'll be all together someday.

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HOWATSON: E. Joan Fairservice 1932 - 2004

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Your memory a treasure.
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ROSS: Havelock Alward

November 22, 1921 - July 7, 2009

ROSS: Wesley Graham

October 8, 1922 - July 3, 2017

(Brother of Havelock Ross)

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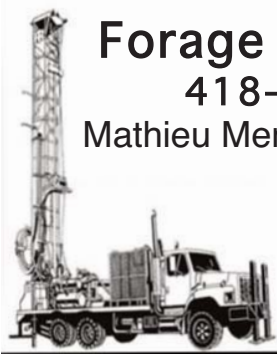


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Sofia Vergara, Actress (49)

Pizzeria opens in New Richmond

Diane Skinner

NEW RICHMOND: There is a new pizza place located at 154. Boul. Perron, and the offerings are varied, not just pizza but that certainly is owner Kim MacInnis’ biggest seller. Garage Pizzeria offers coffee, tea, muffins, danishes and cookies all day long. Starting at 11 a.m. daily pizza and garlic fingers are available to order. After 4 p.m., potato wedges, boneless chicken wings and nachos may be ordered.

You can choose to order for takeout and there is seating available, both indoors and outside. In addition, delivery is available after 4 p.m. Currently Kim is in the planning stages of purchasing a property to build a restaurant in the next year. Kim comments, “I have learned in the past three years that it takes a lot of patience and heartache before these big projects completed.”

In March when Kim was in the process of purchasing a piece of property in New Richmond, the pandemic hit. Due to the uncertainty of the times, she made the decision to rent for now. Kim feels this is a positive because she has time to increase her customer base. It took over four



Photos: Courtesy K. MacInnis



Garage Pizzeria offers take-out, as well as indoor and outdoor seating.

Kim MacInnis, owner of Garage Pizzeria in New Richmond, tells us that her best seller is all-dressed pizza available in 6, 12, 15 and 18 inch sizes.

months to complete the necessary renovations, obtain equipment and finish all paperwork.

Kim gives credit for the assistance she has received through YES and YES coach Coby Ingham who assisted with her business plan and applications for a business loan through the MRC to make

her dream come true. Kim has no formal training other than a Home Economics course she took in high school, but she has always enjoyed cooking. She has been cooking since the age of 14 and for her own family. Kim loves to read through recipes for new and exciting ideas.

Kim and her family moved from Ontario to the Gaspé 18 years ago. At first, she stayed home and opened a private daycare and tells Spec that she loved her job but after eight years she wanted to get out of the house to work. She applied for an employment opportunity through CASA to be the Assis-

tant CLC (Community Learning Centre) Coordinator at New Richmond High School. Kim’s own children were getting older and so she did not need to be home to look after them. At the end of that year the CLC coordinator who also ran the hot lunch program left her position and Kim thought that she would love to do that job.

Now, ten years later Kim looks back and feels that having that job was a win-win situation. She had been volunteering at the school and some of the students had attended Kim’s daycare and summer camp. She loved seeing the children and being at the school also gave her the opportunity to interact with adults. She still offers the hot lunch program at the school and has her own pizzeria!

Kim was offering a pizza catering service for three years and ran the canteen for the New Richmond Agricultural Society. She has a great deal of experience cooking and catering.

Kim’s personal favourites are the specialty pizzas including chicken alfredo, butter chicken and Hawaiian.

Currently Garage Pizzeria is open from Tuesday to Saturday and offers bilingual service. In the fall online ordering will also be available.

YES is a non-profit, community-driven English-language service provider that assists Quebecers province-wide find employment and start and grow businesses.

Charcuterie, perfect for informal gatherings

Diane Skinner

In summertime, the living is easy, less formal. Serving charcuterie (a variety of cold foods, such as meats, fruit, cheeses, nuts and more) on a wooden serving platter is one of the quickest and easiest meals around. It is a fun, communal type of meal which is normally placed in the centre of the table and diners choose what they want, often while chatting and perhaps sipping on a cold, white wine. Originally charcuterie referred to only meats served on a board, but it has evolved to mean a variety of cold foods.

When you make your charcuterie board, strive to vary the flavours, textures and even the colours. It is a feast for the eyes as well. You know that you have suc-



When you prepare charcuterie, strive to vary the flavours, textures and even the colours.

Photo: D. Skinner

ceeded in making a great charcuterie when people see it for the first time and say, “Wow, that looks great!” When you create your charcuterie board, go for a variety of colours as well.

There are no rules for making a charcuterie board, just a few guidelines. They are unique because each one is different and made to suit the tastes of your guests - and

feel free to use what you have on hand. A longer list might include salami, pepperoni, dates, olives, pickles, chopped veggies such as cucumber, cherry tomatoes, carrot sticks or radish, crackers, thinly sliced baguette, fresh (especially grapes) or dried fruit, cheeses, dips and nuts. The aim is that all items should be bite-sized and no cutlery is required. This is fun dining, and

children love it too! You may put out a few spreaders for soft cheeses. You can offer small plates or diners may eat straight from the board to their hand to their mouth.

The board itself is important. It should be wooden and can be whatever style you prefer, or have on hand. Many people choose a round board, but there are no firm rules so choose what you like. A new board would make a lovely gift for a friend or for yourself.

For those who take these matters seriously, it is felt that the best wood is a non-porous hardwood. Porous or non-porous, what is the big deal? Porous wood will absorb water and odours which is not good. Aim for non-porous. This would include hard maple, cherry, olive and bamboo. They have a dense grain

that can handle wear and tear. Wood to stay away from includes cedar, pine, larch and fir. If you want to be fancy, you can use marble or kitchen slate. If you choose kitchen slate, the big bonus is that it is dishwasher safe. Reminder – no wood should go into the dishwasher.

You can make your own one-of-a-kind charcuterie board but be sure to research because there are some helpful guidelines to follow. This includes using a non-porous hardwood and making sure that the wood is completely dry before you begin. Use a mixture of beeswax and food grade mineral oil as a sealant. Charcuterie is great for the host or hostess too, because as long as you have all the foods you wish to serve on hand, after a bit of chopping and slicing, dinner is served! Yum!

Creative Cakes by Amy

Diane Skinner

NEW CARLISLE: Amy Gallon loves to bake and has started her own small business, Creative Cakes. She lives in New Carlisle with her husband Fred and their children Olivia, three years old and Oscar who is one.

Amy has completed training for cooking and the safe and proper handling of food and is proud to mention that she has earned all her papers for these courses. She graduated in 2005, however, Amy started baking when she was really young with her father. She tells Spec, “My dad would have a latenight sweet tooth and I would help him to make a box cake and then I would help him to eat it.”

She currently bakes custom cakes and a variety of sweets. Amy mentions that she makes macarons, which are a small round cake with a meringue-like consistency, that may be made with egg whites, sugar and powdered almonds but there are a variety of different ingredients that can be used. They always consist of two halves with a creamy filling in between. She also offers cakesicles and custom cakes. Her best seller at the moment are the



Photos: A. Gallon

Amy Gallon bakes custom cakes and other delicious desserts. Daughter Olivia, 3, proudly displays her mom’s sign.



Macarons are a very popular treat and are a type of small cake that consist of two halves with a creamy filling in between.

macarons. She likes to make these delicious little cookies and try out new flavours. When asked what her favourite thing to bake is, she replies, “That would be something I’ve never tried before so that I can put my own spin on it. I like to challenge myself.”

However, her favourite treat to eat herself is a recipe that she learned from her father for making peanut butter fudge. The recipe origi-

nally came from Amy’s grandfather on her mother’s side and it has been passed down in the family. She adds,

“It’s absolutely the best!” In the future she hopes to continue having fun baking while creating delicious

desserts. For more information visit the Creative Cakes facebook page.



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