

## Gaspesian farmers adapt to climate change

Gilles Gagné

CAPLAN - Dairy farmer Patrick Arsenault of Caplan has succeeded in recent years in avoiding forage shortages by instituting practices adapted to the reality of climate change. These practices rely, in particular, on the diversity of the forage plant species he cultivates, more frequent soil rotations and provides support for pollinating insects.

Droughts, short but sometimes very intense rainfall, shorter winters, sudden temperature changes, the arrival of new insects and new plants are some of the factors to which farmers must adapt.

Patrick Arsenault is in his sixth year of adopting new methods and he has not lacked fodder over the past three years, as the shortage has hit thousands of Quebec farmers, for whom this almost annual shortage is becoming a major concern.

In 2015, Mr. Arsenault noted problems in his fields, and he started looking for solutions. He heard agronomist Louis Pérusse, a specialist in the agroecological approach, present some solutions to alleviate the changes attributable to the modifications of the climate and he decided to take ac-

tion.

"It was stagnating in my fields. I had seen Louis. It's a name that kept coming back (...) I asked him to come here. The first meeting was quite overwhelming. He took me to another level," summarizes the Gaspé dairy farmer.

Patrick Arsenault modified several of his techniques by diversifying his fodder plants and sometimes by sowing a variety of them in the same field. He invested in drainage, increased the rate of crop rotation, reduced surface runoff and decided, in particular, to leave plants continuously on his land.

"If we leave the land bare, we lose the resource. I changed our techniques for working in fields. You don't have to get a big yield right away. It won't work like that. We didn't want to start right at the top only to go down after. We started from the base and put in place the winning conditions," explains the owner of the Capino farm.

It took three years of transition, roughly from 2015 to 2018, to put in place the changes, and he has seen big improvements in yields per hectare over this time. He is hesitant to quantify them but he smiles because he's far from having a forage shortage for his herd in 2021, "a very, very,



Guy Gallant, Michèle Poirier, Germain Babin and Louis Pérusse think that there are ways to adapt to climate change for the Gaspé Peninsula farmers.

very good year." Louis Pérusse believes that Mr. Arsenault has "practically doubled" his yields in the fields over the past five years.

Investments in adaptation to climate change have been relatively modest, when compared to the value of a dairy farm, which is essentially in the seven-digit range.

"An Olympic athlete gets to the Olympic Games because he works hard and practices. We have invested between

\$5,000 and \$6,000 per year, for a total of \$25,000 to \$30,000 over the past six years. The harvest comes from perseverance, work and observations. We must not be afraid to introduce new ideas," says Patrick Arsenault.

He recently participated, with Louis Pérusse, in the facilitation of a training day on new agroecological practices, on his land, in the presence of between 30 and 40 producers from the Gaspé Peninsula.

The *Union des producteurs agricoles* (UPA) of the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands supported that initiative, as did the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPAQ), among others.

"We have to work in our fields differently. (...) It is by working together that we will have sustainable agriculture," notes Michèle Poirier, president of regional UPA and a potato producer with her husband.

Guy Gallant, director general of the same UPA and a cattle farmer, points out that producers can count on financial assistance to adapt to climate change.

"The MAPAQ Sustainable Agriculture Plan means that there are millions of dollars available for producers, notably through biodiversity training options and soil resilience and adaptation options. It (adaptation) doesn't happen in a snap of your fingers," he says.

Guy Gallant was a dairy farmer until the early 2010s and decided to focus his activities on beef production and forage plants.

"It's been 10 years since I started to change my practices in the fields. I ran after hay during the bad years. Now I am a hay seller," he emphasizes.



Photos: Gilles Gagné

Between 30 and 40 Gaspé Peninsula farmers attended the climate change workshops based on Patrick Arsenault's experience offered by the UPA.



Getting through a pandemic  
takes a good dose of patience.



**And above all,  
a 2nd dose of vaccine.**

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



Photo: S. Carmichael

Even at five in the morning, Ilam managed to make the crowd gathered at Cap-Bon-Ami dance on Sunday.

## FMBM: “culture-nature alliance” makes for a successful 17th edition

Simon Carmichael

GASPÉ - The Bout du Monde Music Festival wanted to put the Gaspé landscape front and centre of its programming for the summer of 2021, and the organization successfully met the challenge. After months of uncertainty, the Gaspé festival concluded its 17th edition “exploded” edition on Sunday with its legendary sunrise meeting in Cap-Bon-Ami.

Looking at the large crowd gathered at Cap-Bon-Ami at dawn on Sunday, it is impossible to deny that the 17th edition of the Festival Musique du bout du Monde (FMBM) in Gaspé was a success, despite the pandemic.

The landscape of the Gaspé point has always been at the centre of the FMBM's programming, and for the second pandemic edition, the management put an excellent package together with that focus. The artists were able to perform at eight sites located outside of downtown Gaspé where the festival traditionally takes place.

From the summit of Mont Béchervaise to a clearing offering a view of the Bay of Gaspé, passing through the *l'Arche de l'Éveil collectif*, performances were in enchanting

places. To this were added a few other unusual places, including the Forillon Naval Shipyard, where there was a surprise performance by singer Ilam. The iconic Cap-Bon-Ami, in Forillon Park, was also used for the traditional show at sunrise.

“You can really say that the culture-nature alliance has been very successful. We had some magical moments,” says the Director General of the FMBM, Steve Pontbriand. “I saw people completely mesmerized by the music and the view of the Bay at the same time. It is fundamental for us to offer our landscapes.”

Despite months of uncertainty and changes in sanitary regulations, festival-goers were there, according to Musique du Bout du Monde, the organization behind the festival. More than two out of three shows were sold out, although new seats had been released shortly before the start of the festival.

“We are almost surprised by the traffic,” says the Director General, who was in his second term at the head of the festival. “The attendance went beyond our expectations. As much for festival-goers as for volunteers. It wouldn't have been possible without them.

They've been there from the start and have followed us even in the dark.

Around 7,500 festival-goers attended the performances and activities over the four-day event, according to preliminary figures from the organization.

### The Senegalese sun passing through the Gaspé

Having become a staple over the years, the show at sunrise was presented by Senegalese artist, Ilam. In notes of Afro blues connecting the warmth of Africa to the fresh salty air breeze of Gaspé, the singer with a vibrant voice wowed the crowd soon after they got out of bed.

Around 5 a.m., as the sun was beginning to rise on the horizon, the artist performed Gilles Vigneault's song *J'ai planté un chêne* in Senegalese style. “There are no oaks in my home, so I planted a baobab tree next to it,” he joked before performing. From the first verses, the gulls joined in, adding a maritime touch.

As the songs progressed, the crowd started tapping their feet and never stopped. These catchy rhythms ended the Islam show well, and kicked off its tour with the 10th edition of the sunrise show.

## Police report



Photo: courtesy of Samantha Dufour

Firefighters from Pointe-à-la-Croix and Ristigouche South East fought an August 4 blaze at the Kempt Road Interpretation Centre in Broadlands. The fire likely started in the attic of the old protestant church. The building was converted into a museum in 2000 for the permanent exhibition highlighting the first road that linked the Bay of Chaleur area to the north side of the Gaspé Peninsula in Grand Metis. No one was hurt. The blaze was controlled and the structure of the building doesn't seem heavily damaged. The basement did not seem to have been affected either, apart from water and smoke damage. A large number of documents, photographs and artifacts of the church and of the expropriated village of Saint-Fidèle-de-Ristigouche are stored there.

An August 10 morning fire at PEC's new head office on Chemin Saint-Edgar in New Richmond caused extensive damage that may be valued at more than \$300,000. “That's our evaluation. The fire was accidental. It was caused by an excavator that cut an electrical line,” explains New Richmond fire chief Patrick Boudreau. Firefighters were called to intervene at 8 a.m. The response only ended at the end of the afternoon. Most damage was concentrated on the first floor in addition to water damage from the intervention. The fire was under the floor, which made it difficult for the firefighters. Fortunately, nobody was hurt during the intervention. Firefighters from Caplan, Maria and Carleton joined those from New Richmond in fighting the blaze.

A 61-year-old man from Trois-Rivières was arrested on August 8 at a Matane campground and later questioned with regards to openly selling drugs near various businesses of the Matane area. The Sûreté du Québec intervention took place at the end of the day. Prior to that bust, police officers had initiated the investigation following information concerning an individual that was selling narcotics in the Matane sector. At about 7 p.m., officers searched a vehicle that was located at the campground situated along the Matane River, where the 61-year-old Trois-Rivière man was arrested and subsequently questioned by investigators. “The drug dealer was going from place to place, offering his merchandise around Matane. He was doing it openly in the mall sector. We received different clues related to that case. He operated in front of various businesses,” explains Sgt. Louis-Philippe Bibeau, spokesperson for the Sûreté du Québec. The suspect was released pending a commitment to appear at the Matane courthouse on February 1, 2022 to face, among other things, a charge of possession of narcotics for the purpose of trafficking. During the bust, the police seized almost 300 grams of cannabis, about 25 grams of hashish and nearly 1,700 contraband cigarettes. The investigators are trying to learn if he operated in other locations.

*Local* Newspapers are ←

**IMPORTANT**

Any Way You Look At It

→

**Fact-Based Reporting**  
**Political Accountability**  
**Local Business Support**  
**Community Connection**  
**An Informed Democracy**

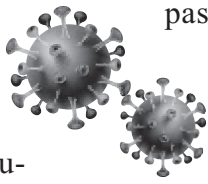
→

**In Print**  
**Online**  
**Mobile**

**THEGASPEPEC.COM** **Subscribe or Donate Today**  
418-752-5400 and support the trusted, in-depth, locally focused reporting that only your community newspaper can provide.

# COVID-19 UPDATE: Slight jump in COVID-19 occurrence in the Gaspé Peninsula during the second week of August

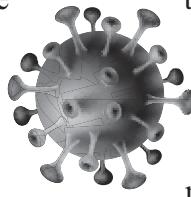
Gilles Gagné  
MARIA – The occurrence of COVID-19 cases increased to a certain point during the second week of August, since six active cases were reported between Au-



gust 6 and 13. Four days were marked by positive coronavirus tests, but the daily total never surpassed two, and it happened twice. The last such active stretch

had taken place at the beginning of June's fourth week.

The geographical location of those cases remained simple, as three cases occurred in the Avignon MRC, all in Listuguj, while the other



three cases were tied to the Bonaventure MRC. As of August 13, four cases remained active but nobody was hospitalized.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, 2,082 Gaspe-

sians and Magdalen Islanders have received a positive COVID test and 2,031 have recovered from the virus. Forty-seven people have unfortunately died after contracting the coronavirus and four people were still infected.

## Editorial page

Gilles Gagné  
Commentary



### Federal election: and the race begins!

As the SPEC was reaching its August 13 deadline, Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was preparing to request a call for an election. He was expected to make that formal request to Governor General Mary Simon on August 15, asking for a September 20 election day.

So the race, already started by numerous candidates, often reluctantly, is officially open. "Often reluctantly" because many candidates, as well as electoral officers, their employees and volunteers, wonder why an election is held now, as the COVID-19's fourth wave is looming and as Justin Trudeau's motives remain vague.

In fact, the only real reason for holding an electoral campaign now is sheer opportunism on the part of the Liberal Party of Canada. In a minority government context, most polls indicate that Justin Trudeau's party stands a good chance to get a majority.

That kind of bet has worked elsewhere in the country, like in New Brunswick, but the situation was different there, as two parties dominated the scene and they were both so close prior to the election that every vote's result at the Legislative Assembly was a gamble.

Justin Trudeau's government has been dealing with a much more stable situation since the beginning of the term that started in October 2019. With the New Democratic Party in a fragile financial situation, the Liberal Government was practically running a majority at the Parliament.

So, scratch a quest for stability as a reason to call an election. As for pandemic management, the burden of the health situation mainly rests on the provinces' shoulders, except for the acquisition of vaccine doses.

Financially, the federal government has practically bought the coming election through expenses reaching hundreds of billions of dollars and running large deficits whose reimbursement will be spread over the next decades. The demonstration of the country's capacity to make those debt payments has convinced most Canadians, it seems, to trust the current government. In fact, most opposition leaders have either approved the economic stimulus programs or criticized them so little that nobody remembers what the drawbacks were about.

So, scratch the economic situation of the country. It leaves Canadians wondering what will be the main ballot box question on September 20, the expected day of the election.

During the second week of August, some federal government cabinet members talked about the rele-

vance of implementing an online vaccination passport. To some Liberal Party strategists, that vaccination passport, which would prove that the citizens possessing it have received their two COVID-19 shots, looks like the perfect ballot box question and would allow their party to win the election hands down.

It might be risky to think so. If the federal government wants to implement the vaccination passport, the collaboration of the provinces will be needed, as health matters are of provincial jurisdiction.

Do the Liberal Party politicians really want to take a chance of holding that kind of complicated debate in an electoral campaign, as all health-related discussions between Ottawa and the provinces are tedious and long?

The provinces are holding a grudge against the central government because they feel they should receive more in transfer payments and shouldn't be subjected to federal conditions, as long as they respect national norms. Who wants to be the minister who will manage that? Who wants to be Justin Trudeau during a television debate pertaining to the vaccination passport?

Who wants to be a Liberal Party candidate in Quebec, a vital part of the country for a majority government, when Yves-François Blanchet, the Bloc Québécois leader, will likely demolish that infringement in provincial competence? Mr. Blanchet is a political goon, but he is also the best debater among all the leaders involved in the current race.

So, electors will likely have to scratch the vaccination passport as a potent ballot box question.

That leaves us with plain opportunism as the only reason to hold a late summer poll, marked by the shortest campaign in the history of a federal election, characterized by Canada's Electoral officer Stéphane Perreault scrambling to organize everything safely, with no wiggle room time-wise, with rising COVID numbers and the duty of finding offices and polling stations with good ventilation systems while health waves are still raging. Moreover, if millions of Canadians choose to vote by mail, the results might not be known on September 20, but the next day or later. Thanks, Liberal Party strategists, must Mr. Perreault think sometimes, with sour irony.

The prime minister is well ahead in the surveys when a combination of factors is considered, namely his lead against his main opponent, Conservative Party leader Erin O'Toole, and the perception of the electorate regarding the country's best potential leader. On that point, NDP's Jagmeet Singh is sometimes quite close to Mr. Trudeau, and he is also in front of Erin O'Toole, which doesn't spell good news for the latter.

So far, the pandemic votes in the country's provinces have favoured the parties already in place. The same phenomenon will likely occur at the federal government level.

However, the electorate could well send a message to Justin Trudeau by handing him another mi-

nority government.

Although an electoral campaign is often defined as an eternity in politics, even a 36-day campaign, some realities must be taken into account.

The Conservative Party is currently going nowhere under Erin O'Toole. A fair portion of his Western Canada membership base is disgruntled, mainly for ideological reasons, like abortion, the recognition of climate change and hydrocarbons, where the leader's position is not always clear and, for some Westerners, not enough right-wing oriented.

Until the end of July, the Green Party also seemed on the verge of exploding, after making gains in the October 2019 poll. Leader Annamie Paul almost quit amidst an attempt by the party's brass to hold a non-confidence vote. Electors might stay away from the greens considering the level of uncertainty at the top levels.

This situation favours the NDP of Jagmeet Singh, who saved his job because of his good performance during the October 2019 campaign. However, Mr. Singh is more popular than his party and his centralized positions regarding the role of the federal government are unpopular in Quebec. The NDP, which was the most popular party there in May 2011, thanks to the popularity of the late leader Jack Layton, has been declining since in Quebec.

In fact, the Justin Trudeau's only major opponent in Québec is the Bloc Québécois, rejuvenated in 2019 after nearly disappearing during the four previous years. That's why the federal government has concentrated so many announcements to end the term.

By launching this electoral campaign, Justin Trudeau is taking the biggest political risk of that nature since Jean Chrétien in the spring of 1997, when he opted for an election while Manitoba was experiencing a major flood. Mr. Chrétien made a calculated risk and won a second majority. In a month from now, we should know if Justin Trudeau's risk factor was well calculated.

*The Gaspé Spec*

**Publisher:** Penny MacWhirter  
**JOURNALISTS:** Nelson Sergerie, Diane Skinner  
**CONTRIBUTORS:** Cynthia Dow, Jeanie LeLacheur

**News Editor:** Gilles Gagné  
**Office Manager:** Joan Imhoff

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** President: Roger Wise  
Vice-President: Elaine Sexton  
Secretary: Maria Chatterton  
Directors: Hayden Sams, Bonita Annett, Bethany Paetkau, Patricia Ste-Croix Annett

**Spec welcomes letters to the editor on subjects relevant to topics covered by the paper. Letters must be kept within 300 words or less and may be edited for clarity or to remove any slanderous, sexist, racist or homophobic statements. We reserve the right to reject any letters. Opinions or letters published do not necessarily reflect the editorial policies or beliefs of this newspaper. All letters must bear the handwritten signature of the writer and include the address and number(s) for verification purposes. (Address & phone number will not be printed.) The Publisher shall not be liable for slight changes or typographical errors that do not lessen the value of an advertisement. The Publisher's liability for other errors or omissions in connection with any advertisement is strictly limited to publication of the advertisement in any subsequent issue or the refund of any monies paid for the advertisement.**

**Tel: 418-752-5400**  
**specs@globetrotter.net**  
**thegaspéspec.com**

Published every Wednesday by:  
**Les Publications de la Côte Inc.**  
(Sea-Coast Publications Inc.)

(Taxes included)  
1-year (paper or digital): \$46  
6-months (paper or digital): \$25  
**Outside Canada:**  
1-year paper \$165 digital: \$46

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada.  
We acknowledge special funding from the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications.

**Canada Québec**

Member of: **QCNA, CARD** **News Media Canada** **Médias d'Info Canada** **CMC AUDITE**

# Forillon Shipyard busier than ever with fishing boat construction contract from Listuguj

Gilles Gagné

GASPÉ – With the signing of a major contract with the Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government for the construction of a multi-purpose 65-foot fishing boat, Gaspé's Forillon Shipyard is busier than ever, considering that its workforce now reaches 80 people and has already reached its order capacity until 2024.

Listuguj and Forillon Shipyard signed the contract for the multipurpose boat in June, following a thorough call for tenders process. The boat must be delivered before the 2022 crab fishing season.

"We are pleased to be working with the community of Listuguj once again, and we are proud to be providing them with a boat whose every last detail is built with innovation in mind," says Forillon Shipyard president and chief executive officer Jean-David Samuel.

The boat will be 65 feet in length by 24 feet in width. "It will be geared for crab fishing when we will deliver it but it will also be adjustable for trawl fishing. We have built two boats in the past for Listuguj, the Migwite™ 1981 and the Ugiit Sma'gnisg. It is not our first business agreement with the community," adds Mr. Samuel.

In fact, the signing of the contract in June came close to three months after a verbal agreement reached in March.

The capacity of the hull will reach 63 cubic metres. All of today's new crab boats are equipped with a huge tank in which the shellfish stay in the water. There will be room for seven crew members in the accommodation section of the boat," he points out.

The construction of the boat necessitates an investment of \$4 million. "It is started. In order to deliver it for the spring of 2022, we had to start its construction quickly. The tanks are well underway and so is the engine room," says Mr. Samuel.



Photo: Igor Nérisson

*Front: Pierre-Émile Côté, Forillon Shipyard director of production; Alex Kocsis, chief executive officer of the Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government; and Jean-David Samuel, chief executive officer of Forillon Shipyard.*

*Back: Hubert Simard, Director of Navanex; Fred Metallic, Listuguj's director of Natural Resources; Denny Isaac, Listuguj's director of Natural Resources, Fisheries division; Jean-Nil Poirier-Morissette, Forillon Shipyard's engineering manager; Jean-Daniel Minville, Forillon Shipyard's operations manager; Tim Wetzel, Poseidon Marine Consultants' president and Gordon Isaac, councillor for the Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government.*

Forillon has assigned the project to three veteran entities. The boat will be designed in-house and the project will be supervised by a project manager with extensive technical expertise. Engineering will be entrusted to Navanex, a naval architecture and marine engineering firm based in Gaspé. The contract hinges on innovation, so Forillon Shipyard will need to put its energy into designing innovative, specific, and customized parts.

"It is the first Quebec-built fishing vessel endowed with Tier 3 norms, which are new standards for exhaust emissions. Those emissions must be treated with urea. There is also a Newfoundland shipyard that has started a Tier 3 boat but we might be able to deliver ours first. There was a lot of competition for that contract. It was not just a matter of price for Listuguj. It was a big file, based on experience, innovation and our capacity to deliver on time," explains Jean-David Samuel.

"The Forillon Shipyard now employs 80 people, about 20 more than five years ago. Labour recruiting remains a challenge," he says.

"It is going relatively well.

It is more difficult for certain trades. It used to be hard to find welders but we have solved our problem through hiring people from Tunisia, and their families are settling here. We mainly need machinists, pipefitters, plumbers, naval architects and technicians in naval architecture. We now have our own naval architecture firm, Navanex, which takes care of our needs in that field while also working for other shipyards. There is no shortage of work in the maritime sector for sure, in the fisheries, in federal government-related projects, the bridges in Montreal and the North," explains Mr. Samuel.

The Forillon Shipyard has been able to stabilize its staff using various means.

"You should ask our employees why they are staying," replies Mr. Samuel with a grin. "Let's say that we are trying to implement nice enterprise values. We are trying to be attractive, not only through the salary. There are so many challenges in our projects that it stays motivating for our employees," he says.

The Forillon Shipyard was propelled to a new level of activity in 2015 when the company won a federal government

call for tenders pertaining to the construction of six Canadian Coast Guard search and rescue boats, a \$40 million contract.

"We have delivered five search and rescue boats at this point. We delivered the fifth one in May and we will finish the sixth one in September. We received another contract for four more in 2018. In that case, they are \$8 million apiece, compared to \$6.6 million for the first order. We have until April 2024 to finish the last boat of the second leg. We are also confident to land another contract for a multi-purpose boat like the one we are building for Listuguj. We are working on the final stage of the agreement with the fisherman. People are reserving their time

slot at the shipyard now because we are so busy. It was not always the case. It is the same in every (Gaspé Coast) shipyard now. It is going well in the fisheries and some people, like the lobster fishermen, want bigger, more comfortable boats," says Jean-David Samuel.

He co-owns Forillon Shipyard with three associates, Jean-Daniel Minville, who is director of operations; engineering director Jean-Nil Poirier-Morissette and Pierre-Émile Côté, director of production.

There has been boat building on the same Forillon Shipyard property of the Sandy Beach area of Gaspé since 1952.







**VILLAGE**  
Real Estate Agency

**Suzanne Landry**  
CERTIFIED REAL ESTATE BROKER AEO  
**418-752-0792**  
suzannelandry@royallepage.ca  
www.suzannelandry.ca

**Friendly bilingual service  
from Matapedia to Port Daniel  
19 years experience**



**Dr. Pascal Cyr**  
Optometrist



**Dr. Stacey Starrak**  
Optometrist


**CLINIQUE D'OPTOMÉTRIE**

●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●

**L'ÉMERILLON**


**LENSES CRAFTED ON THE PREMISES**

**PASPÉBIAC: 104 Gérard D. Levesque Blvd West • 418-752-5553**  
**CHANDLER: 260 René Lévesque Blvd East • 418-689-5553**  
**MARIA: 435 Perron Blvd West • 418-759-5553**



**BILINGUAL SERVICE**

MEMBER OF



Canada's Largest Network of Optometrists

# Town of Gaspé will receive nearly \$4.3M from federal government to maintain regional connections and jobs

Gilles Gagné

GASPÉ – Canada Economic Development, on behalf of the Government of Canada announced a \$4,275,000 grant for the Town of Gaspé airport to support its vital economic role in regional economic development, including tourism.

The project, representing a total investment of \$4,750,011, will make it possible to maintain airport activities and introduce new flight routes to ensure regional connectivity for the Michel-Pouliot Airport, in addition to leading to the creation of five jobs.

It includes the purchase and construction of aircraft warehouses, repairs to a section of the parking lot, the acquisition of an aircraft deicing truck as well as the conceptualization of and development of plans and specifications for the new airport terminal. Those plans and specifications will be realized between now and the end of 2022.

Built in the 1950s and transferred to the Town of Gaspé by Transport Canada in January 1998, the Michel-Pouliot Airport serves the Gaspé Peninsula, mainly serving the travelling public and business people.

Since 2018, the Michel-Pouliot Airport has now received investment amounts

totalling \$18 million. The \$10 million expansion of the runway and the previous acquisition of equipment such as a snow-clearing mechanical broom and the fence protecting the perimeter of the airport are among them.

The current grant announced by Canada Economic Development covers 90% of the total cost of the new \$4.75 million round of investment. The Town of Gaspé will cover the \$475,000 that will complete the financing required to carry out the project.

The initiative “is vital to the surrounding communities and is the only airport on the Gaspé Peninsula to offer direct commercial flights to Quebec and Montreal, as well as to the Magdalen Islands, in addition to providing essential services since it is used for emergency and medical flights,” mentions the Canada Economic Development press release.

## Reactions

“It is a priority of the Government of Canada to ensure communities prosper. That is why we are supporting the Town of Gaspé and its airport, which is vital to the economic development in the Gaspesia region. The airport has been hit hard by the pandemic, and our financial assistance will enable



Photo: Courtesy of the Town of Gaspé

*The Michel-Pouliot Airport will receive an additional investment of \$4.75 million over the next months.*

it to maintain its operations and improve its infrastructure. This is good news for everyone and I am delighted!” says Diane Lebouthillier, Member of Parliament for the Gaspé Peninsula-Magdalen Islands riding and Minister of the Canada Revenue Agency.

“It is important to protect our regional air transportation networks for the thousands of tourists who travel through, the thousands of workers this sector employs and the many businesses and communities that depend on them. Air connectivity to all regions is es-

sential to healthy, inclusive economic growth, and supporting it—here in Gaspé among other places—is part of our plan to build back a stronger, more resilient economy,” says Mélanie Joly, Member of Parliament for Ahuntsic-Cartierville, Minister of Economic Development and Official Languages and Minister responsible for Canada Economic Development.

For his part, the mayor of Gaspé, Daniel Côté, points out that “this major investment in the Gaspé Michel-Pouliot Air-

port will make it possible to implement the second chapter of our airport development plan. Among other things, it will allow for the diversification of airport revenues to sustain and develop offerings for users and provide a solid foundation for the final phase of our plan which is to upgrade the airport terminal. I would like to thank the federal government for believing in our potential and supporting our growth.”

The Gaspé initiative funding comes from the Government of Canada’s Regional Air Transportation Initiative, also called RATI. It was launched in March 2021 and it supports access to air transportation and regional ecosystems. In particular, it enables existing air connections to be maintained and ensures airports remain operational and are able to continue contributing to regional economic growth, while adapting to new post-COVID-19 realities and requirements.

The RATI program, which complements measures implemented by Transport Canada, has a national budget of \$206 million. The funding announced on August 4 is conditional on the signing of a contribution agreement between Canada Economic Development and the Town of Gaspé.

## Watching the night sky: A blue moon

Diane Skinner

Do you recall hearing the expression, “Once in a blue moon”? It means that it is a rare happening, an uncommon event. Blue moons are uncommon but on August 22 that is what will be, weather permitting, visible in the night sky. This will be the third full moon of the summer of 2021, the others occurred on June 24 (Strawberry Moon) and July 23 (Buck Moon). August’s full moon is the Sturgeon Moon and September’s Full Moon on the twentieth is, of course, the Harvest Moon.

### What is a blue moon?

To make sky matters a wee bit confusing, there are two instances when we can see a Blue Moon. The first is when there are two full moons in a single calendar month, which happens every two and a half to three years. The second ac-

cepted definition of Blue Moon (according to the well-respected Farmers’ Almanac) occurs when there are four full moons in a single season. The third full moon of the season is called a Blue Moon. The summer of 2021 will have four full moons, and August 22 will be the third and, therefore, a blue moon. Phew! When the definitions of terms are changed or a new definition added, it can be a bit confusing at first. The next seasonal (the second accepted definition) Full Blue Moon will be in August 2023.

### Does the moon really turn blue?

The answer is yes and no. After huge forest fires or a volcano erupting, the moon can appear blue from the ash and smoke.

However, the Blue Moon, occurring on August 22, does not turn blue at all.

### August night sky

Watch the sky this month because you may be able to spot Saturn and Jupiter. When Earth passes directly between a planet and the sun, that planet will reflect the maximum amount of light from the sun. This causes the planet to appear extremely bright in the sky. This begins for Saturn watchers on August 19 but will still be visible on the night of the Full Moon. Jupiter has already been shining brightly since August 2 but will still be visible on August 22. On the night of August 22, you may be able to spot the Sturgeon Blue Moon, Jupiter and Saturn. In fact, these three celestial bodies should be bright for a week or so, so keep looking particularly on a clear evening.

### Sturgeon Moon

Credit for the name Sturgeon Moon is given to fishing tribes

who lived and fished around the Great Lakes. The sturgeon is a very large fish found in temperate waters and is most easily caught during this month. This moon is also referred to as the Green Corn Moon and the Grain Moon.

### Perseid meteor showers

The meteor shower will be visible until August 22. Up to 40 meteors per hour may be visible and viewing is better in the Northern Hemisphere. If you live in an area with low “light pollution,” that is optimal. Allow an hour of sky viewing, because the showers are not steady but rather come in



Photo: D. Skinner

What is a “Blue Moon?” When there are two full moons in a single calendar month and the new more accepted definition is when there are four full moons in a single season; the third of which is a Blue Moon.

waves.

The night sky is exquisitely beautiful and if you have the time, look up and take a deep breath. Keep your eyes on the stars and your feet on the ground and remember that without the dark we would not see those stars.

# Percé helicopters: Court rules in favour of citizens' group

Simon Carmichael

The members of the Citizen's Group against the nuisances of helicopter tours in Percé are more than satisfied with the Superior Court's decision, which ruled in their favour by rejecting a request for an injunction to stop the distribution of pamphlets related to the helicopter noise. The group welcomes the ruling which states that the information on the pamphlets is "rigorously accurate" and that the group's motives are to "restore some peace," rather than defame.

"This is a judgement that will go a long way," believes spokesperson Louis Beaulieu. For nearly 10 years, the citizens' group of which he is a member of has been fighting for a relocation of the take-off and landing site of a company that offers helicopter tours in Percé.

After many unsuccessful steps that led to a legal dead end, the founding members living around the take-off and landing site decided to start distributing leaflets to visitors, laying out the issues related to the activities of the helicopters around their residences.

In response to the distribution of messages, Québec Hélicoptères, a Mascouche-based company that operates in Percé during the summer, asked the courts to grant an injunction prohibiting group members from distributing the various leaflets. The company, also known as Passport Hélico, argued that the group "is trying, desperately, by various means, to harm the operations (of the company) and to



Photo: S. Carmichael

Louis Beaulieu and his wife are more than satisfied with the judgement of the Superior Court of Quebec handed down on Wednesday, August 4, in their favour.

tarnish its reputation in order to achieve their goal."

This injunction request was rejected by Superior Court Judge Pierre C. Bellavance, who ordered the company to pay \$110,000 for having instituted so-called abusive legal proceedings against citizens with the purpose of silencing them.

"We jumped for joy. It's all a relief. It's been dragging on for a year and we have had this weight on our shoulders," says Louis Beaulieu, sitting at the table in his house which offers a direct view of Percé Rock. "Even our lawyer was a little surprised. This is the first time in all of our efforts that we feel that a judge understands our situation."

"He admits that they tried to gag us on one side, and, on the other, he dared to go into legal gray areas where no one dares to go. He even adds restitution and a punitive

amount to indicate that this kind of prosecution is not the way to go. Really, we can say that we have won across the board," says the financial advisor, who divides his time between Percé and Brossard.

"Finally someone with common sense who understood our cause and the logic of respecting citizens. Since 2014 we have been hoping for that," rejoices Sylvie Boulé, a member of the group who no longer lives in Percé since she "no longer found peace there."

Put on hold while awaiting judgment, "out of respect for the process," the distribution of leaflets inviting visitors to "show solidarity" and "to save the environment (of neighboring citizens)" should soon begin again in the Gaspé village.

**The fight is not yet over**

While this moral and fi-

ancial victory gives hope to the members of the group, the game is not yet won. Members of the group are still in court, as the neighbourhood conflict case is still ongoing.

"We don't want to shut down the business. We want them to move," says Mr. Beaulieu, giving as an example a new helicopter expedition company that recently started operating in Percé. "They are not next to the houses and everything is fine. It just goes to show that you can do it right."

The case is particularly complicated since it concerns a law that is predominant over the others, namely aeronautics. This federal law is therefore opposed to a provincial law governing the Small Claims Court, thus creating a constitutional conflict.

As a result, the group had to involve the Attorney General of Quebec, as well as the Attorney General of Canada. The case is now before the Su-

perior Court, and could well end up before the Supreme Court. "Even better if we have the debate, but we would like to stop at the Superior Court because the costs are starting to accumulate," notes Mr. Beaulieu.

"No matter which forum we went to see, we ended up being referred to Transport Canada since we were in a legal limbo," he adds. Without specifically naming the Aeronautics Act, Justice Bellavance specifies in his judgment that "The absence of municipal, provincial or federal standards that could guide the operations of Québec Hélicoptères also justifies the interest of citizens in making themselves heard by governments."

"He rendered a precise and intelligent judgement which will be able to serve as a legal basis," believes Mr. Beaulieu, who specifies he's "not a lawyer. Either way, it's a great day."



Photo: facebook

A helicopter company operating in Percé filed a request for an injunction to stop the nearby citizens from distributing pamphlets related to helicopter noise.

**Looking to start your business in Gaspésie, LET OUR TEAM ASSIST YOU!**

**OUR SERVICES**

**FREE ACCOMPANIMENT**

**MICROLOANS UP TO \$ 20 000**

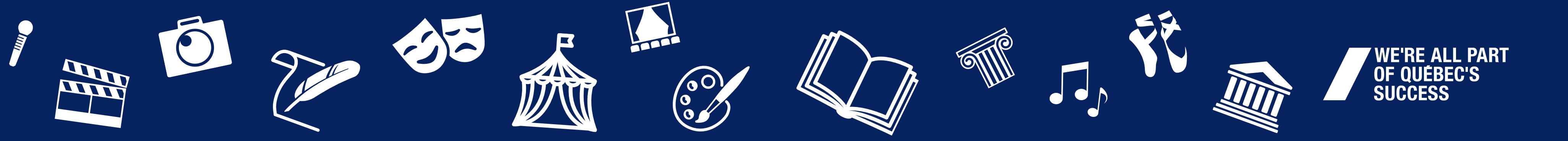


**ACCÈS MICRO-CRÉDIT GASPÉSIE**  
FIER MEMBRE DU RÉSEAU MicroEntreprendre

Accès Micro-crédit Gaspésie is proud to support local entrepreneurs, such as Robert MacWhirter, in their entrepreneurial journey. With the support of AMCG, Robert MacWhirter printed his first book, *Charlie Calf*.



**T: 418-534-3834**  
**www.amcgaspesie.org**



**WE'RE ALL PART  
OF QUÉBEC'S  
SUCCESS**

## SAFELY RECONNECT WITH CULTURE TODAY!

Culture is inspiring, surprising and stimulating—it allows us to experience all kinds of emotions. We have fun and discover new things. Sometimes culture can provide comfort, and other times it can enthrall us. Here in Québec, our culture has become a source of pride, thanks to the talent and creativity of our artists and the people who work behind the scenes.

Are you eager to reignite these emotions?  
Are you ready for culture? Culture is ready and waiting for you.

Whether it's at a museum, a library, the movies, a theatre, a concert venue or a bookstore, you can safely get back to all your favourite cultural activities.

### SAFETY FIRST

Québec's cultural venues follow all the guidelines issued by the public health authorities.

Experience Québec through our vibrant cultural offering—be it virtually, in person or as a gift to someone else. You'll not only contribute to the vitality of the cultural community, but also to the prosperity of Québec as a whole.

## EXPERIENCE QUÉBEC CULTURE.

To learn more about the measures in place and the reopening of our cultural activities, visit

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





# Quebec Fisheries Fund grants more than \$2M for 16 projects in the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands

Gilles Gagné

The Government of Canada and the Government of Quebec announce funding of more than \$2 million for 16 projects that will improve the efficiency, quality and sustainability of Quebec's fish and seafood sector. The Government of Canada's contribution to those projects located in the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands amounts to \$1,833,939, and the Government of Quebec's contribution is \$415,770.

The combined contributions of the federal and provincial governments total \$42.8 million in investments in the QFF, which will create opportunities and increase the market value of high-quality fish and seafood products from sustainable practices in Quebec.

The projects receiving funding in that wave of announcements are the following:

Agrès de Pêche A.C.P.G. Inc. of Rivière-au-Renard is receiving more than \$30,000 to acquire and install a trawl drum in its workshop.

The Coopérative des Capitaines Propriétaires de la Gaspésie is receiving nearly \$100,000 to replace the refrigerant and acquire innovative and ecological equipment for its ice plant.

Rivière-au-Renard's Pêcheries Marc Paré Inc. receives more than \$70,000 for the purchase and installation of a Simrad Trawl Eye monitoring system.

Pêcheries G.M.S. Inc., also of Rivière-au-Renard, receives more than \$80,000 for the purchase and installation of a Simrad Trawl Eye monitoring system and an underwater camera.

Huîtres Baie des Chaleurs Inc. is receiving nearly \$20,000 to develop two oyster production equipment for oyster grow-out facilities in coastal areas.

Based in the Percé Rock MRC, 2973-1288 Québec inc. and Pêcheries Raymond Desbois Inc. are each receiving nearly \$100,000 for the purchase and installation of a Marport M5 monitoring system.

The Regroupement des pêcheurs professionnels du sud de la Gaspésie Inc. is receiving nearly \$70,000 to test modifications to lobster fishing gear in the Gaspé Region in order to reduce the risk of entanglement causing injury and mortality to North Atlantic right whales and other large whales.

Gestion Danfran Inc. is receiving more than \$70,000 for the acquisition of an automated strapping system and an automated box rotation system.

Homards du Cap des Îles Inc. is receiving more than \$800,000 in repayable funding to optimize its holding tank processes to reduce losses and energy consumption.

The Association des chasseurs de phoques intra-Québec is receiving nearly \$60,000 to develop harvesting methods and processing techniques to add value to seal co-products that are still unexploited today.

La Renaissance des Îles Inc. is receiving nearly \$100,000 for the acquisition of an automatic butchering table that will automate the process of separating the claws from the body of the snow crab. In a second phase, the company is also receiving nearly \$70,000 for the acquisition of an automated crate washer. Finally, the company receives nearly \$100,000 for the acquisition of an automated live lobster grading machine that will automate the grading of lobsters by weight and place them into crates.

The Rassemblement des pêcheurs et pêcheuses des côtes des Îles (RPPCI) is receiving more than \$300,000 to

provide fish harvester members of RPPCI insulated bins that will allow them to deliver a superior quality product.

Grande-Entrée Aquaculture Inc. is receiving more than \$90,000 to develop an ergonomic work method based on the mechanized processing of imported oysters in order to increase the operational yield.

## Reactions from politicians

Bernadette Jordan, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, says that "through Quebec Fisheries Fund, we're ensuring that our seafood sector can continue to innovate, invest in new technology, and collaborate with scientists, marketers, and other partners. Canada is known for its world-class seafood, and these investments will help the hardworking people of our Quebec fisheries produce the highest quality, most sustainable product."

For her part, Diane Lebouthillier, Canada's Revenue Agency Minister and Member of Parliament for the Gaspésie-Magdalen Islands riding, points out that "our government will always be there to support our region's vital fishing industry. The contributions announced today will allow, among other things, the development, acquisition, installation and testing of equipment or methods and the optimization of processes and tools, including new types of fishing gear, which will contribute to the growth of businesses in the Magdalen Islands and the Gaspé region while supporting the protection and sustainability of the Quebec fisheries industry."

As for André Lamontagne, Quebec's Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, he stresses that "all of the projects receiving financial assistance today are examples of actions that businesses can take to remain

competitive and expand with a focus on sustainable development. In order to develop our food self-sufficiency, we must take care of our seas and oceans, and that is precisely what today's investments are aimed at. The 16 joint funding awards we are announcing today are examples of fruitful collaboration between Quebec, the rest of Canada and stakeholders in the fishing and aquaculture industry in the Magdalen Islands and Gaspésie to carry out innovative projects."

For five years, the Quebec Fisheries Fund (QFF) will support projects in the areas of innovation, science partnerships, commercial fisheries, aquaculture and processing infrastructure, which increase the value of high-quality fish and seafood products from sustainable sources, and help position Quebec's fish and seafood sector for continued long-term growth.

**WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER**

**DON'T MISS THE EXCITING FREE WEB SERIES FOR SENIORS!**

WATCH ALL THE EPISODES ANYTIME ON

TO FIND US ON FACEBOOK PLEASE SEARCH "WEREALLINTHISTOGETHERQUEBEC"

TO WATCH US ON YOUTUBE PLEASE SEARCH "WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER SENIORS WEB SERIES"

A COLLABORATION BETWEEN elan english language arts network SENIORS ACTION QUÉBEC

THIS PROJECT HAS BEEN MADE POSSIBLE IN PART BY THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA. Canadian Heritage Patrimoine canadien

**ENERGY**  
TRANSPORTATION GROUP

**ASSET-BASED 3PL**

Powered by Integrity. Driven to be Different.

gaspe@shipENERGY.com  
shipENERGY.com | 1-866-530-9555

Improve your business  
by advertising in  
**THE GASPÉ SPEC**

**DIANE LEBOUTHILLIER**  
MP • Gaspésie-Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine

Serving the English-speaking community of our beautiful region!

<b>Grande-Rivière office</b> 418 385-4264	<b>Magdalen Islands office</b> 418 986-1489
<b>Sainte-Anne-des-Monts office</b> 418 764-2890	<b>New Richmond office</b> 581 355-0060

Email: diane.lebouthillier@parl.gc.ca

## RIGHT WHALES:

# DFO's new fund promotes the use of safer gear

Gilles Gagné

PERCÉ - The Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, Bernadette Jordan, announced on August 11 the new \$20 million Whalesafe Gear Adoption Fund, which will help harvesters in Atlantic Canada and Quebec adopt whalesafe gear into their commercial fishing operations.

Entanglements in fishing gear can pose serious harm to whales and other marine mammals. They can impact the animal's ability to swim, eat, and reproduce, and they can be fatal.

The Government of Canada is therefore trying to prevent these entanglement risks from occurring, including requiring all non-tended, fixed-gear fisheries in Atlantic Canada and Quebec to use whalesafe gear by the beginning of the 2023 fishing seasons.

These new gear requirements, such as weak breaking points and low breaking strength rope, will make it easier for large whales to free themselves from fishing gear. It will help reduce the severity and duration of entanglements.

Over the next two years, this funding will be available to support Indigenous and non-Indigenous harvesters, non-profit organizations, academia and other partners to purchase, test and refine exist-



Photo: Fisheries and Oceans Canada

*North American right whales are slow mammals and they can get easily entangled in fishing gear.*

ing whalesafe gear, such as low breaking strength rope and ropeless gear technology, with the goal of making them operational by 2023. The Whalesafe Gear Adoption Fund will also provide support to Canadian manufacturers to encourage domestic supply of commercially-ready whalesafe gear by 2023.

Since August 13, 2021, interested applicants have been able to apply for funding. Up to \$10 million in funding is available during this first call of proposals. An additional round of funding of up to \$10 million will also be available for 2022, with the application process starting later this year. More information on how to apply for funding will be

available on the Fisheries and Oceans Canada website in the coming days.

"Canada's whale-protection measures are world-class, and their success always comes down to the hard work and cooperation of fish harvesters. This program is another huge step forward in our shared efforts. By supporting our industry partners to implement new, whalesafe gear, we're investing in our seafood sector, and building a stronger, more sustainable blue economy for Canadians," said Bernadette Jordan, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard upon the August 11 announcement of the program.

In February 2020, Minister

Jordan announced that all non-tended, fixed gear fisheries in Atlantic Canada and Quebec are required to use certain whalesafe gear by the beginning of 2022 to help further protect North Atlantic right whales. In February 2021, this deadline changed to 2023 due to operational impacts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Canada is taking many actions to prevent whale entanglements, including adjusting the time of fishing seasons, implementing seasonal and temporary fishing area closures where whales are present, and removing harmful ghost gear from our waters.

There were no new North Atlantic right whale entanglements or deaths in Canadian

waters in 2020.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada and partners are currently monitoring two entangled North Atlantic right whales in Canadian waters. One is Eg #3560, also called Snow Cone, which was reported entangled in the United States in March 2021. The second one is Eg #4615, which is Canada's first reported North Atlantic right whale entanglement since 2019.

There are about 400 right whales left in the world and they all live in the northeast part of the Atlantic Ocean, so along the United States and Atlantic Canada coasts. Over the last decade, they have gradually started to come into the Gulf of Saint Lawrence, sometimes north of the Magdalen Islands and off the eastern tip of the Gaspé Peninsula.

Their quest for food, a possible consequence of climate change, is the suspected cause of their greater presence over a larger water territory. Previously, their presence in Canadian waters was mainly concentrated in the Bay of Fundy and along some of Nova Scotia's coastlines.

About half of the world's right whales now spend a significant part of the year in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence and they also come earlier, like the end of April. They were rarely seen before the second half of May prior to 2018. They often stay until November.

## End of mass vaccination centres in the region

Simon Carmichael

As a sign of a successful vaccination campaign, the Gaspé Peninsula's Integrated Health and Social Services Centre (CISSS) is announcing the dismantling of the major vaccination centres in the region. The region's public health department, which can boast of having the best vaccination rate in Quebec, is ending its mass vaccination campaign to focus on setting up mobile clinics that will go from village to village.

"We are there! This is proof that we have really succeeded across the board," rejoices the director of the vaccination campaign in the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands, Johanne Méthot, "but we are continuing our efforts!" As of Wednesday, the few large vaccination centres on the Gaspé will be gradually dismantled to make way for small, more flex-



*Pop-up clinics will be set up in the communities of Gaspé and Magdalen Islands to vaccinate people.*

Photo: S. Carmichael

ible clinics.

"The big clinics were there for large volumes. With over 80% of people vaccinated, there was not much traffic. This is a very good sign. It allows us to move on to our last phase by going to small circles," notes Ms. Méthot.

Rather than focusing on mass vaccination centres, the region's public health plans to reach out to unvaccinated people directly in their communities.

Mobile clinics, vehicles going from one place to another for a few weeks in search

of people to be vaccinated, will change tactics and place themselves in the hearts of communities for several hours, encouraging unvaccinated people to be vaccinated. Rather than being mobile, these clinics will become "transitory," specifies the CISSS. "The goal

is always to get closer to certain areas that are far from fixed vaccination sites."

The Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands region is at the top of the list for full vaccinations, with more than 81% of residents having received the two recommended doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. The Capitale-Nationale region is just behind with 78% complete vaccination.

Since the first weeks of the mass vaccination campaign, the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands were at the top of the list of the most vaccinated regions in Quebec. According to Ms. Méthot, the "personalized and local" strategy worked.

Over the past few days, after several weeks without new cases, four new cases have been identified in the region, all in the Gaspé.

# Carleton Kite Festival starts August 20

Gilles Gagné

CARLETON – The first Carleton Kite Festival will be held on August 20, 21 and 22, 2021, at Parc Germain-Deslauriers, adjacent to the town hall, and near the barachois area. It will be preceded by two days of preparations during which kite enthusiasts can come and practice their hobby.

The organizing committee has opted for a free, family-oriented event where the safety, health and technical aspects of the site will be taken care of by a team of volunteers, in collaboration with the Town of Carleton.

The board of the festival consists of president Jean Benoit, treasurer Gilles Cavanagh, secretary Nicole Allard and directors Jacques Bujold, Lewis Evans, and Jean-François Binette.

“It is an activity for people aged between 7 and 77, as in the old saying but a five-year-old kid or an 80-year-old person can fly a kite. Everybody can fly a kite, even people in a wheel chair or people with other physical disabilities,” points out Jean Benoit, president of the non-profit organization putting together the festival.

The concepts of integration, inclusion, physical and mental health, sustainable development, clean and renewable energy coming from the



Jacques Bujold, Gilles Cavanagh, Nicole Allard and Jean Benoit are confident that the first Carleton Kite Festival will be successful.

Photo: G. Gagné

wind were front and centre in the mind of Jacques Bujold when he decided to make this event a reality.

“I am looking forward to promoting wind-related leisure activities. Carleton has a wind farm. It makes sense to establish a kite festival here. It also makes sense to make it a free event, and family-oriented. It is therefore an alcohol-free event. Parents will like the safety and affordability attached to those aspects. ‘Dad, I am going to the festival!’ The children won’t need to ask their parents for \$5. We are making efforts elsewhere in order to round up the event’s funding. It is an event we want to be perceived as by and for the people,” explains

Mr. Bujold.

The festival’s budget is supported by a fundraising campaign conducted by La Ruche, an initiative set up by Mouvement Desjardins. In the case of the Carleton Kite Festival, the fundraising campaign started on July 10. “People can also make volunteer contributions when they come to the festival,” points out Jacques Bujold.

Carleton municipal councillor Steven Parent stresses that “towns are looking for mid-sized events of that nature. The cost-benefit ratio is advantageous for the population.”

Louis-Philippe Morin, an employee of Bonaventure riding Member of the National

Assembly Sylvain Roy, who contributed to the event’s funding, says that “the wind is not only used to propel windmills; it is used to put smiles on people’s faces.”

A COVID committee was formed and will circulate permanently in the field. Its members will apply the rules dictated by the health authorities and will thus ensure maximum protection for visitors and participants.

The objectives of the festival consist of offering a family activity, inclusive and unique to the Gaspé Peninsula, promoting a healthy lifestyle through the practice of an outdoor activity, individually or in group, using clean and renewable energy, integrating

existing organizations (social, cultural, sports, tourism, etc.), positioning Carleton as a benchmark in wind power, creating goodwill for local merchants and promoting the region’s tourist offer.

The program will include a continuous show of dozens of one-rope kites in the sky; numerous large-format single-rope kite; demonstrations of two and four string acrobatic kites and traction; shows with the acrobats of Coriolis Kite; kite-making and flight workshops for children and adults; introduction to kites for people with disabilities; introduction to acrobatic kite flying with an instructor; creative kite workshops; exhibitions of kites and lectures on the history of kites.

The organizing committee has invited kite professionals such as Michel Gagnon, owner of Cerfs-volants Coriolis of Varennes, near Montreal, who offered his services, advice and expertise to make the project a reality. He will be in Carleton with his kites, exhibition, workshops and demonstrations.

Mario Bélanger, a professional kite-flyer and owner of the Gîte du cerf-volant, from St-Aubert, and distributor of kites in Quebec, will also share his expertise in organizing festivals and will participate in the event with his big kites. He will be accompanied by Hugues Poelman.

## Town of Gaspé to honour hockey player Cédric Paquette on August 19

Gilles Gagné

GASPÉ - The Town of Gaspé will honour the return of hockey player Cédric Paquette on August 19 at the Saint-Majorique community centre, between 1 and 3:30 p.m.

Despite the little time allocated to the Gaspé native athlete with the Stanley Cup, he intends to share this moment with the population of his native region.

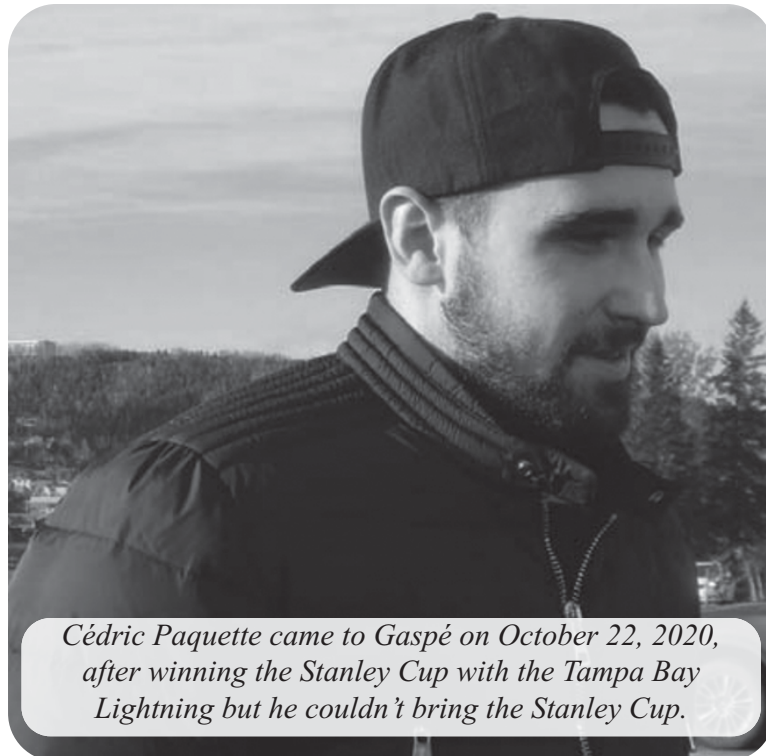
This will be an opportunity for the population to come and meet Cédric Paquette and take a picture with the Stanley Cup.

In order to comply with the pandemic health measures in force, the municipal authorities will ask people to walk along a path that will bring them near the Cup.

People will also need to keep a distance of one metre between family bubbles.

“We are very happy that Cedric has the unexpected opportunity to bring the Stanley Cup with him to Gaspé, and has the generosity to share it with the population, despite the limited time he will have with the trophy. The Stanley Cup in Gaspé is a historic moment in itself! Almost a year after his victory, it will be an honour for us to have access to the Cup and we are still very proud of Cédric and his successes (...) The entire Gaspé Peninsula population is proud,” says the mayor of Gaspé, Daniel Côté.

Cédric Paquette was born in Gaspé and raised in Saint-Majorique where his family still lives.



Cédric Paquette came to Gaspé on October 22, 2020, after winning the Stanley Cup with the Tampa Bay Lightning but he couldn’t bring the Stanley Cup.

Photo: N. Sergerie

Radio-Gaspésie will broadcast a special program for the occasion and entertain-

ment will be provided on site. “Despite the social and health rules and the scheduling con-

straints limiting the availability of Cédric and the Cup, I invite the population to attend this exceptional event organized by our staff,” adds Mayor Côté, praising the municipal administration and the Paquette family, including Cédric.

Cédric Paquette, now under contract with the Montreal Canadiens, won the Stanley Cup on September 28, 2020, with the Tampa Bay Lightning.

He took part in a parade on October 22, 2020, highlighting this historic moment for the Gaspesian hockey player. At the time he couldn’t bring the Stanley Cup because it could not travel due to Covid restrictions.

In 2020-2021, he played for the Ottawa Senators and the Carolina Hurricanes.

# Announcements...



## Obituary



### ROSS: Beverley Page

With a heavy heart it is sad to announce the passing of Beverley Page Ross on March 4, 2021, at the Verdun General Hospital.

Wife of the late Clyde Ross; mother to Harold (Florine), Heather (Ross) and Glenn (Dianne); grandmother to Crystal (Collin), Christopher (Terry), Madison and Aiden; and great-grandmother to Taylor, Nathan, Jackson and Katherine.

Service will be held on August 22, 2021, at the Hope Town United Church gravesite at 2 p.m.



## In Memory

### ANNETT: Gordon

In loving memory of a dear husband, father and grandfather who was called home on August 25, 2020.

*Though his smile is gone forever  
And his hand we cannot touch,  
Still we have so many memories  
Of the one we love so much.  
His memory is our keepsake  
With which we never part.  
God has him in his keeping.  
We have him in our hearts.*

We love and miss you. Wife: Joan; daughters: Catherine, Sylvia (Leyland) and foster daughter Colleen; and grandchildren: Jordan, Zachary, Mathew and Julie. Until we meet again.



### BEEBE: William Michael

February 19, 1954 - August 19, 2016

*Each year we think it will be easier and each year we miss you just as much, Mr. Bill.*

Lovingly remembered and missed beyond words by your family.



### HAYES: Larry

Taken from us on August 11, 1992, at the age of 41. It is heartbreaking to think of all you have missed out on these past 29 years.

*When someone you love becomes a memory,  
The memory becomes a treasure.*

Loved and missed by mother: Jean Hayes; sister: Brenda Morrison and family.

### HOWATSON: Everett John Dumeresque

March 18, 1924 - August 20, 2016

*Do not stand at my grave and weep.*

*I am not there. I do not sleep.*

*I am a thousand winds that blow.*

*I am the diamond glints on snow.*

*I am the sunlight on ripened grain.*

*I am the gentle autumn rain.*

*When you awaken in the morning's hush,*

*I am the swift uplifting rush*

*Of quiet birds in circled flight.*

*I am the soft stars that shine at night.*

*Do not stand at my grave and cry.*

*I am not there. I did not die.*

*~ Mary Elizabeth Frye ~*

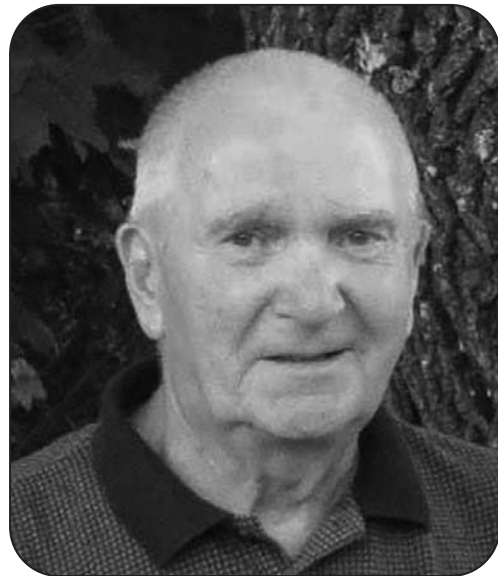
Always remembered by Ferne, Joanne, Janet and Ray.

### Memorial Service

The memorial service for the late John LeGresley, who passed away October 17, 2020, will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, September 4, 2021, at St. Andrew's Anglican Church, New Carlisle, Quebec.

Visitation at the Henri Thibodeau Funeral Home in New Carlisle will be on Saturday, September 4, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. In consideration of government Covid guidelines, only family and a few personal friends will be invited to attend the service. We sincerely apologize for not being able to include everyone.

### Burial



The burial for Mr. Archie MacWhirter Willett will be held on August 21, 2021, at 11 a.m. at the Black Cape cemetery.

PURCHASE YOUR  
ANNOUNCEMENT ONLINE AT  
THEGASPE.SPEC.COM

### Grenier, Grenier & Grenier LAWYERS



Réal Grenier, b.a.ll.l.  
Jules Grenier, b.a.ll.l.

96 Gérard D. Levesque Blvd, P.O. Box 519  
New Carlisle (Quebec) G0C 1Z0  
Tel.: (418) 752-3308 • Fax (418) 752-6935



Tremblay & Barriault, notaires inc  
Notaries & legal counsel

Gaël Tremblay, notary  
Serge Barriault, notary

119B Perron Blvd West, New Richmond, Que.  
Tel.: (418) 392-5282 • Fax: (418) 392-6155  
E-mail: gaeltremblay@notarius.net

FULLY  
BILINGUAL  
SERVICE



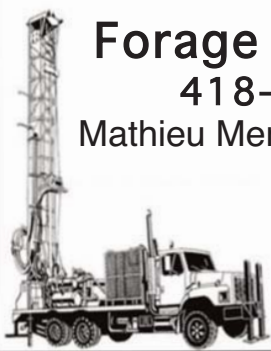
By Appointment

### Richard Ste Croix

Denturologist

Construction and repair of dentures.  
We also make dentures on implants.

9 Adams Street, Gaspé Tel.: (418) 368-1525  
Quebec G4X 1E5 Fax: (418) 368-1542



### Forage Moreau Inc. 418-392-9501

Mathieu Mercier - Driller/Owner

- Artesian Well Drilling
- Budgetary Price
- Bilingual Service
- RBQ: 5672-1467-01

foragemoreaumercier@gmail.com



Going beyond and reliable since 1982



Electricity - Plumbing  
Automation  
Industrial computing  
Counter sales

3 Rue Cerisiers  
Gaspé, Québec G4X 2M1  
Tel. (418) 368-5425  
Fax (418) 368-7290

www.groupeohmega.com



CLASSIC  
MEMORIALS

Four Generations  
of Monument Craftsmen

HIGHEST QUALITY - BEST PRICES

MONUMENTS, MARKERS, CEMETERY LETTERING,  
LASER DESIGNS AND PORTRAITS

### SALES REP:

Steven Imhoff 418-752-6041

Covering Port Daniel to New Richmond



## Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



### August: The Sunday of summer

Does anyone else feel that the weather is changing? Is it my imagination or are the evenings cooler? One evening before the end of the month we will need to use heat to keep out the dampness. Our minds will soon shift to preparing for the end of summer. Children will return to school; people will be putting their wood in the basement and gardens will reap their final 2021 harvests. The days will shorten and grow colder. It's inevitable and we cannot fight it. August is the Sunday of summer.

It is still August, though, so no need to give up on summer yet. There will be more sunny, warm days for walking on the beach. You can still get out and fully enjoy the last days of summer. Do this and you will have no regrets, or maybe just fewer. Go visit some Gaspesian tourist spots, walk the beach, ride your bike, make Sun Tea, go for a boat ride, pick wildflowers and search for sea glass. It's now or, well, not never, but you may have to wait until summer 2022 to do some of these activities again.

#### Things to do... before summer is over!

**Barbecue lots!** Try something a little different. For sure, hamburgers and steaks are delicious when they are barbecued. Now try out corn, potatoes, even romaine lettuce! Chop the tops of the whole Romaine, if withered and then cut romaine into four sections lengthwise. Brush with oil and barbecue slightly. Put it on a plate and add Caesar dressing, croutons and a squeeze of lemon. Super delicious.

**Read a "just for fun" summer book.** Choose a book that you have been meaning to get to all year. Feel free to choose some light reading, such as a romance or detective novel. Summer is not the time to read War and Peace. Feel no guilt about that.

**Go to a fair, a festival, a market or outdoor music.** Nothing says summer like an outdoor event. Basking in the sun while strolling and chatting with friends or enjoying music on a hot, summer evening is extra sweet after the restrictions of COVID kept us apart for a year and a half.

**Enjoy the summer night sky.** Sit outside on an evening when the sky is clear and be amazed by what you see. On the Gaspé you can easily view stars, meteor showers, and the International Space station. Look around also. You may get lucky and see fireflies flickering in the bushes. A lovely sight to behold, with or without a telescope. Lying on a blanket under the stars makes for the most romantic date ever.

**Enjoy ice cream.** Go to a local ice cream place and indulge your sweet cravings. If it is a plain cone you yearn for that is super. But if you desire an ice cream sundae or a banana split, a cone dipped in chocolate or candy sprinkles then do not hesitate. Summer is short.

**Eat seafood.** You are on the Gaspé, and we are surrounded by water so have lobster, crab, shrimp or mussels. Dine on fresh brook trout.

**Go for a picnic.** Pack a lunch. Don't forget some yummy, little sandwiches, fruit and some cold drinks. The kid in you will not be concerned about insects, or sand in your food – this is pure joy.

It's August, the Sunday of summer. Summers fly, and winters walk. When we were children, summer lasted forever! Every day was spent outside from early morning until dark. We would fall into bed, sunburned and exhausted. Sleep came easily in those younger days. Let's aim to have at least a couple of those summer days of happy exhaustion from being outside. There is still time.

*(Still being bothered by earwigs? Place small containers of orange juice around your home. Thanks to a Spec reader for that tip.)*

*(The upside of a pandemic? If your life has improved in any way because of the pandemic and you would like to talk about it for inclusion in a future article for Spec, contact Diane Skinner through Messenger or specs@globetrotter.net)*

# Skunk Spray

Diane Skinner

When you least expect (or want) it to happen, your dog runs inside after being sprayed by a skunk. After the initial shock, what can you do? There are a variety of suggestions both from researching the internet and asking animal specialists, such as vets or groomers. These suggestions vary from very inexpensive to pricier, however, if it happens to your dog, chances are you might be willing to pay big bucks to get rid of the noxious odour.

Right off, we must speak on behalf of the skunk who does not want to spray you. It is their strongest form of defense. After they spray it takes up to a week for their bodies to refill their supply of spray. If they do become threatened, usually by dogs, they are very accurate up to 15 feet away from their intended target. If a dog is sprayed in the eyes, this needs to be washed away as soon as possible because, though it will not cause permanent blindness, it will cause severe eye irritation. The odour can last for days and in some cases, much longer depending on the amount of spray released. Interesting fact – skunks do not spray other skunks!

Skunk spray is a mixture of sulfur-based compounds and

that is what gives it the rotten egg smell. This spray is stored in glands in the skunk's rear and that is why it lifts its tail to spray. That is not much warning for you to run if you are the intended target, but some skunks will stomp, hiss and puff up first. Dogs, sadly, do not seem to read these signals.

How do you neutralize the strong, offensive skunk smell from your dog? There are a va-

**There were two little skunks**  
Named "In" and "Out."  
One day "In" was out  
And "Out" was in.  
The mother skunk asked  
"Out" to go out and bring "In" in.  
So "Out" went out and  
Brought "In" in.  
"How did you find "In" so fast?"  
She asked.  
"Out" just smiled and said, "Instinct."  
*(Traditional poem)*

riety of products available at animal supply stores. One is a spray called SOS Magic Odour. The directions are: If you see yellowish liquid on your dog, remove it with a garden hose or cloth. Spray your dog outdoors with SOS Magic Odour, especially covering the head where most spray will likely be (avoid eyes). Leave animal outside for



Two of the products available to neutralize the skunk spray on your dog. Follow directions carefully.

Photo: D. Skinner

an hour. Take a dry cloth and soak it in the SOS Magic Shampoo. Apply to the dog's fur.

Leave on (no water yet) for 30 minutes. Rinse off with cold water. Dry dog with blow dryer or cloth.

Another, much less pricey option is to make a mixture of the following ingredients: 1 litre of hydrogen peroxide, ¼ cup baking soda and 2 tsp. of dish detergent. Wear rubber gloves and massage the entire mixture into the dog's fur. Rinse well and shampoo with baby shampoo. You may have to repeat this a few times, but each time you do, your nose will tell you that this is a very effective method. Chemist Paul Krebaum informs us that this method works because the solution changes "the odorous thiols into odourless acids thereby neutralizing the skunk odour."

## Fight summer hair frizzies

Diane Skinner

Summer is wonderful; hot, sunny days and lots of time spent outside. Remember to use a good sunscreen and stay out of the sun during the hours of 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., when the sun is strongest. This will protect your skin from sun damage. But, what about your hair? Depending on your hair type it would be wise to wear a hat. A baseball cap is better than nothing, but a brimmed hat will also keep the sun off your ears (yes, tops of ears can get skin cancer) and the back of your neck.

Are there any other measures you can take to protect your hair? Yes, according to hairstylist Tracy-Lee Pelletier. She shares some terrific advice to prevent hair damage and frizzies.

Always start the summer off with a trim.

Before sun exposure or swimming, deep condition your hair. A leave-in conditioner will work as a "shield."

Coconut oil is a good alternative.

Before swimming, if possible, rinse your hair with fresh water. This will help your hair to absorb less salt or chlorine. To avoid hair tangles during swimming, wear your hair in a bun or braid. This will minimize chlorine or saltwater absorption.

Use a clarifying shampoo after swimming in a chlorine pool. This will remove the chlorine. Only use this type of shampoo once a week and follow up with a conditioning mask.

After swimming, rinse as soon as possible with fresh water. No showers available? Bring a spray bottle of fresh water and spritz your hair.

During the summer, minimize the use of hot tools. If you must, use them only once or twice a week.

Got the frizzies? Use an anti-frizz oil to "tame your mane."

Wash your less often. If the



After swimming, rinse hair as soon as possible with fresh water. No showers available? Take a spray bottle of fresh water and spritz your hair.

Photo: Alex Perez

weather is hot and sweaty, it is tempting to wash it often, but if you do this, it will strip your hair and scalp of natural oils.

If your hair is coloured, use products which contain protective ingredients. Use cold water when washing your hair.

Enjoy summer while it is here. You want to make great memories, but you do not want to look in the mirror in September and wonder how your hair got so damaged.

Follow this great advice to prevent "summer hair frizzies."

