

## Residents of Sunny Bank reach final leg of class action lawsuit against Transports Québec

Gilles Gagné

CARLETON - On September 7, the members of the Residents' Committee of Sunny Bank reached the last round of a class action initiated in 2014 aimed at receiving compensation of approximately \$3 million from Transports Québec, due to the floods that occurred from December 13 to 15, 2010.

This last step of a trial that officially began in May 2019 aimed to determine whether a bridge constructed by Transports Québec in 1976 is responsible for the damage caused by a York River flood. That flood hit close to 150 properties in the Sunny Bank sector, located about 10 kilometres from the downtown area of Gaspé.

In June 2014, the lawyers of the Sunny Bank Residents' Committee filed a request to ask the Superior Court for per-



Photo: Radio-Gaspésie

*The 2010 mid-December major flood was triggered by record rainfalls. The Sunny Bank residents are adamant that the effects would have been much less if the Road 198 bridge had been constructed differently.*

mission to sue Transports Québec, based on a class action process. That was a mandatory step. Permission was granted in the spring of 2015.

The hearing of the trial's

first witnesses began on May 13, 2019, at the Percé courthouse, where the trial has been proceeding again since September 7. That last stage of the class action could last three weeks.

The citizens of Sunny Bank and their attorneys claim that in December 2010, as on numerous occasions since 1976, the Road 198 bridge over the York River was acting as a dam, thus facilitating

flooding. Committee spokesperson Andrew Patterson noted eleven floods between 1977 and 2017, including the enormous flood of 2010.

According to the lawsuit documents submitted so far to Superior Court Judge Pierre Bellavance, the 1976 bridge was built higher than the previous bridges. Thus, when the volume of water generated by rainfalls or thaw is significant and the clearance under the structure is not sufficient to allow that water to pass, the approaches to the bridge act as a dam.

The upstream sectors are consequently inundated. Sunny Bank is the closest upstream sector. Before 1976, the approaches were low enough to let the water pass over them following heavy rainfalls or sudden thaws.

**Cont'd on page 11** ▶

## Half of the housing shortage will be filled in Gaspé with 144 new apartments

Nelson Sergerie,  
LJI Journalist

GASPÉ - No less than \$25 million will be invested by Logements CVP to build four apartment buildings for a total of 144 units by 2026 in Gaspé.

This is the first massive investment of this kind in over 50 years, according to Mayor Daniel Côté, who has been looking for such a developer for the last four years.

Les Logements CVP is owned by three Gaspésians: Michel Collin, Christophe Poirier and Allyson Cahill-Vibert. Together, they bought the municipal land near Carrefour Gaspé (valued at \$566,000,) for \$300,000 to create Le Domaine de la Baie.

The company must post a bond of \$266,000 which will be repaid in four installments each time a complex is built. The project consists of four buildings with 36 housing units



Photo: N. Sergerie

*The developer will build 144 housing units on municipal land near the Carrefour Gaspé.*

each.

CVP will launch the construction in 2023 and finish in 2026 and will be able to take advantage of the tax credit included in the 2019 private bill for a maximum of \$500,000.

"If there is still a demand,

then maybe we could continue. But the goal is to not jam the units together. We really want people to have green space and a quality of life," explains group spokesperson Allyson Cahill-Vibert.

The size of the units will de-

pend on a study that the Town commissioned this summer to assess the concrete needs in this area.

The site provides an exceptional life by the Bay of Gaspé, near a shopping centre and less than five minutes from the

heart of downtown and at an equivalent distance from the LM Wind Power facility which recently announced a major expansion phase to bring more than 180 additional workers to Gaspé.

The company already has a building in the Rocher-Percé MRC and is looking to expand. One of the owners is also behind a major rental housing development in New Brunswick.

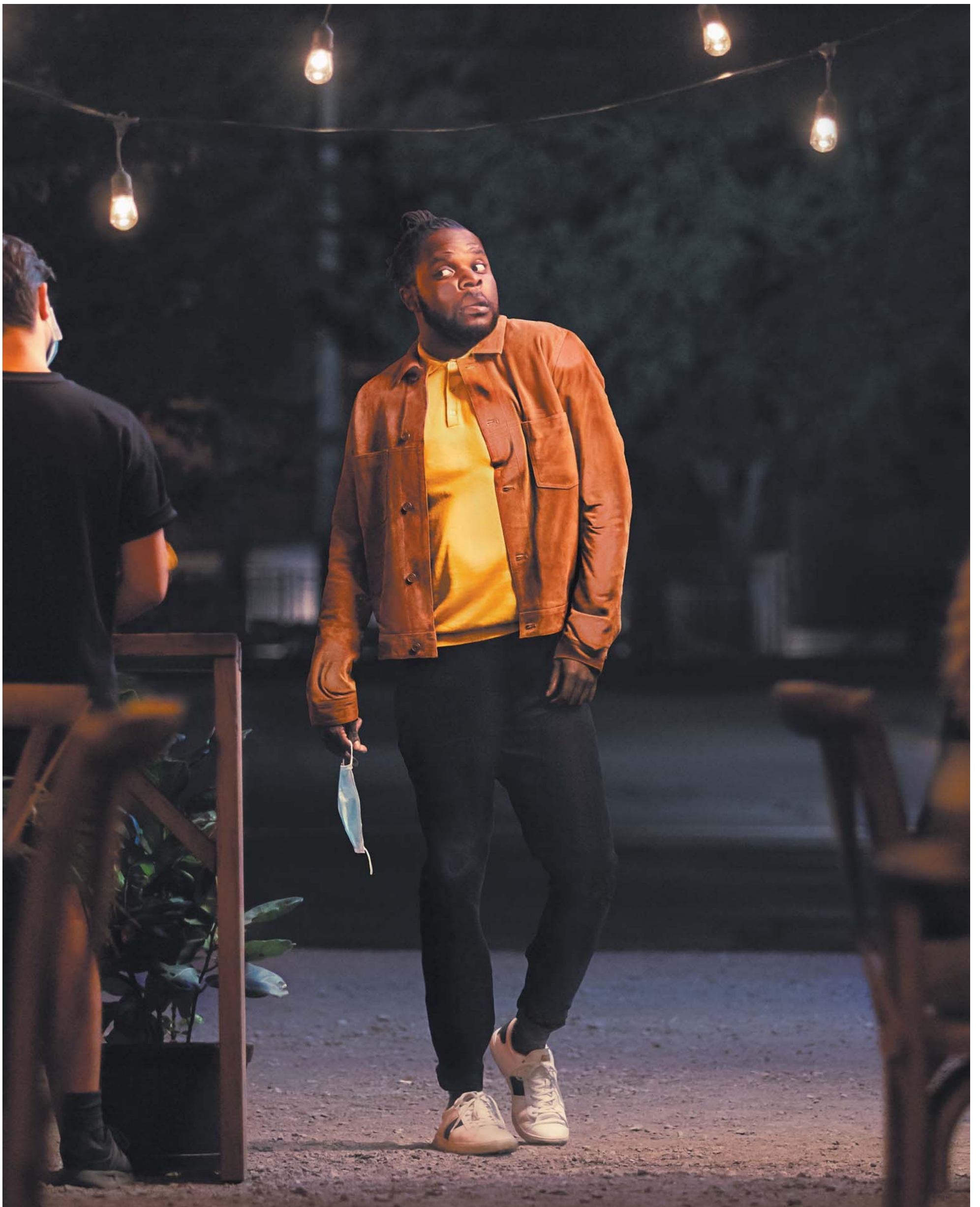
The Town has kept some leeway in case the developer misses its targets. It could simply take back the land.

There is a shortage of between 200 and 300 housing units in the municipality. With 58 units in 2020 and 70 so far in 2021 in addition to 151 social housing units by 2022, the needs will not be met.

"This is a big step that will help us ease the crisis. Will it stop the entire crisis? No. But it

**Cont'd on page 11** ▶





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**Public notice to building owners and occupants of a business establishment**

Ville de Percé

Polling date: November 7, 2021

By this public notice, Gemma Vibert, the returning officer, announces the following to the owners of a building and the occupants of a business establishment.

1. You may have the right to vote if you are the owner of a building or if you are the occupant of a business establishment in the municipality since or before September 1, 2020.
2. To be eligible, you must be 18 years of age or older on polling day and have Canadian citizenship on September 1, 2021. You must not be under curatorship or deprived of your election rights on that date.
3. To exercise your voting right, you must submit the appropriate document:
  - An application for entry if you are the sole owner of a building or sole occupant of a business establishment.
  - If you are one of the co-owners or co-occupants of a building or a business establishment, a power of attorney designating one person among you, who will be entered on the list.

To obtain the required forms, contact the returning officer. Please send the completed form to the address provided below.

4. In order for the application to be valid for the current election, you must submit your form no later than October 22, 2021.

The application for entry on the list of electors or the power of attorney remains valid until it is replaced or withdrawn. If you want to replace or withdraw an existing application for entry or a power of attorney, please contact the returning officer.

**Exceptional measures related to the health situation (vote by mail – COVID-19)**

5. You will have the opportunity to vote by mail if you are in one of the following situations:
  - You will be 70 years of age or older on polling day.
  - Between Sunday, October 17, 2021, and Wednesday, October 27, 2021, you must comply with a request or recommendation for isolation from public health authorities because you:
    - o returned from a trip abroad within the last 14 days;
    - o were diagnosed with COVID-19 and you are still considered a carrier of the disease;
    - o are showing COVID-19 symptoms;
    - o have been in contact with a suspected, probable or confirmed case of COVID-19 within the last 14 days;
    - o are waiting for a COVID-19 test result.

To vote by mail, eligible electors must make a verbal or written request to the returning officer no later than October 27, 2021.

If you are requesting to vote by mail because you must comply with an order or a recommendation from public health authorities to isolate, your request will be valid for the current poll only. If you are in a situation other than those above, your application will be valid for the current poll and any recommenced proceedings arising from this election.

**CONTACT INFORMATION OF THE RETURNING OFFICER**

137, route 132 Ouest Number and street	Percé Municipality	G0C 2L0 Postal Code
418 782-2933 Telephone number	92003 Ext.	

Given to Percé, on September 8, 2021.

**Gemma Vibert,  
Returning officer**

# Police report

Sûreté du Québec investigators are still trying to shed light on an all-terrain vehicle accident that claimed the life of a child aged under two, who tragically died on the evening of August 29 in Pointe-à-la-Croix. “We already know that three people were on the vehicle, the mother, an older child aged under 10 and the victim. We are trying to know more about what happened,” explains Sgt. Claude Doiron, spokesperson of the Sûreté du Québec.

The accident took place on a Chouinard Street private property. The all-terrain vehicle (ATV) apparently overturned following a back-up manoeuvre and the victim remained trapped under it. “Taken to the Campbellton hospital, the boy was transferred to a Nova Scotia hospital due to the severity of his condition where he died the following afternoon (August 30). The Sûreté du Québec was not notified until September 1 by the RCMP of the child’s passing. Quebec police officers had not been informed of the accident,” adds Sgt. Doiron.

The parents of the victim allegedly drove the child themselves to the Campbellton hospital. The Sûreté du Québec investigators are trying to determine why the emergency services based in Pointe-à-la-Croix (paramedics), were not called. A coroner investigation is also expected to clarify some of that case’s details.

David Côté, 36, from Sainte-Paule was charged with careless use of a firearm on September 6 following his previous day arrest in a Sainte-Paule house, five days after an Amber Alert called by the Sûreté du Québec because he had allegedly kidnapped his three-year-old son Jake. The man appeared through a video-conference. Other charges will likely be laid against him in the future. His next court appearance is scheduled for October 5 at the Matane courthouse. He was remanded in custody after that first court appearance. His bail hearing won’t take place until at least October 5.

The Amber Alert was called on the evening of August 31, about seven hours after David Côté showed up at Jake’s mother place and left with the child. The alert initially covered a territory of about 300 kilometres around Sainte-Paule, a village located 30 kilometres in the back country of Matane. The alert was later extended to the rest of Quebec. Northern New Brunswick was already covered by the first alert. At the peak of the police operation, up to 100 people were involved in the search, although the number was hidden by the Sûreté du Québec during the search. The boy was returned unharmed to his mother following his father’s arrest.

The man who had barricaded himself with his son in a residence on Sainte-Paule’s Chemin de la Coulée Carrier was arrested towards midday on September 4. It took roughly a day of negotiations before his surrender. He reached that house after four days in the forest. However, the Sûreté du Québec has not released many details about the man’s wanderings. The suspect is familiar with the woods. His all-terrain vehicle had been found in the forest three days before his arrest.

A company based in Saint-Siméon, Entreprises Sylvain Bigaouette Inc., was ordered on September 7 at the New Carlisle courthouse to pay fines totaling \$257,806 to Revenue Quebec. The company pleaded guilty on 10 counts of making false or misleading tax returns between August 2013 and August 2016. The court case was heard following five investigations carried out by Revenue Québec between May 2019 and June 2020 after discovering discrepancies between the company’s tax returns and its accounting records. The scheme evaded \$124,000 in Quebec Sales Tax and \$62,000 in Goods and Services Tax.

The company provided accounting and bookkeeping services and operated six locations under the H&R Block banner. The banner is not involved in the scheme. The business partnership between Sylvain Bigaouette and the Pétro-Canada Service Station in Saint-Siméon ended on May 19. As a result, the link between Gestion Sylvain Bigaouette Inc. and the company Immeubles Baie des Chaleurs had also been broken. Immeubles Baie des Chaleurs, which owns the Pétro-Canada service station, has been managed since then by Eugène Arsenaux, the founder of the real estate firm.

The 10 charges that initially were personally laid against Sylvain Bigaouette after his company was ordered to pay fines on September 7 have been withdrawn by the prosecutors. In a press release, the businessman stated that his H&R Block branches were sold in September 2020.

A rain storm characterized by intense lightning damaged a Pouliot Street residence in Gaspé in the wee hours of September 6. The Sûreté du Québec and the Town of Gaspé firefighters were called at around 4:40 a.m. by the occupant of the house who had sought refuge with a neighbour. “The SQ assisted the firefighters during that intervention. It was a major thunderstorm. The occupant of the house was not injured when the lightning struck. She saw smoke coming from a closet. The ceiling (of the main floor) was burning. Damage resulting from the fire is estimated at \$75,000. Some damage was caused by water. The house is not totalled,” explains Sgt. Claude Doiron.

Judge Célestina Almeida, of the Court of Quebec, concludes that Brandon Metallic, a man from Listuguj, accused since mid-May of two non-premeditated murders, is currently unfit to stand trial. Judge Almeida is suggesting a treatment that will render him fit to stand trial.

The accused remains incarcerated at the Louis-Philippe-Pinel Institute pending further proceedings. He has been detained there since the beginning of July, when the Court of Quebec ruled that he had to undergo a 60-day psychiatric evaluation.

Judge Almeida used the conclusions of the report by psychiatrist Chantal Bouchard, a report indicating that the 28-year-old accused is not, in the current context, in a position to understand the judicial process. He is also unable to communicate with a lawyer, he displays a detachment from the reality of the case, as well as an overestimation of his abilities, since he still intends to defend himself.

Brandon Metallic was arrested in a house located on Riverside Street in the early evening on May 15 following a six-hour police operation, carried out first by the Listuguj Police Department, then by the Sûreté du Québec. A toddler girl and a man in his early twenties were killed in the home. Shots were fired in or around the home that day.

Lawyer Hugo Caissy, of the Amqui Legal Aid office, is currently defending Brandon Metallic. A publication ban, decreed shortly after the charges were laid, is imposed on the identity of the victims.



Photo: G. Gagné



# Listuguj jumps to “alert level 2” after sudden rise in COVID-19 cases

Gilles Gagné

CARLETON – The Listuguj Mi’gmaq Government announced on September 10 that the number of COVID-19 cases among members of the community jumped suddenly from one to 15 overnight. That number was expected to climb in the following hours or days as more community members were expected to undergo coronavirus tests at the Pointe-à-la-Croix CLSC and at the Listuguj testing site.

That outbreak was the biggest such phenomenon to hit Listuguj since the Christmas-New Year’s Day break. Back then, the num-

ber was slightly higher. The Listuguj Mi’gmaq Government has consequently declared the implementation of the “alert level 2,” often referred to as “yellow,” to impose stricter measures, including a ban on community gatherings.

“Sadly, many of these new cases are our children, under the age of 12 who are not eligible to receive the vaccination,” mentioned the Listuguj Mi’gmaq Government in a press release.

In its September 10 daily COVID-19 report, the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands’ Public Health Board reported only one new case of coronavirus

in the region, located in the Avignon MRC, where Listuguj is situated. The previous day’s report also attributing a new case to the Avignon MRC.

Out of the four active cases contained in the September 10 Public Health Board report, it is reasonable to assume that two were located in Avignon, probably in Listuguj. The number of active cases was expected to climb after the SPEC deadline. However, the proportion was uncertain, a situation attributable to the fact that some Listuguj members reside in New Brunswick. They might have taken their test on the Gaspé Peninsula side but

they will be recorded in New Brunswick.

Three new cases were reported on September 7, in the Côte-de-Gaspé and Percé Rock MRCs, but one of them was considered recovered the following day. There was also a hospitalization reported on September 5 but that person was out of the hospital the following day.

As for Listuguj, the band administration specifies that the “alert level 2” protective measure is required when COVID-19 transmission starts to increase. Basic measures were strengthened, and further action taken to promote and encourage compli-

ance.

This means that all Listuguj Mi’gmaq Government (LMG) directors and private business owners are required to review their specific COVID-19 plans with their staff. It also means that LMG employees will meet with community members or the public “by appointment only.” Everyone entering an LMG administrative building must wear a mask while circulating around the building and in common areas. Emphasis is put on physical distancing, face covering, hand washing, respiratory etiquette and alternative greeting practices.

## Editorial page

Gilles Gagné

### Commentary



### Towards another minority government

On a ballot, there is no box where voters can check the “minority government” option. This time around, it is too bad, because not a single federal party involved in the current electoral campaign deserves to win a majority of seats at the House of Commons. Otherwise, the “minority government” box would find many takers.

The lack of thoroughness of that campaign is striking. It is not the first time but it is getting worse. Electoral campaigns have been run by image makers for decades but it has now become ridiculous, despite the overall appreciation we should have in general for people deciding to run in an election.

In the televised debates, when Liberal Party leader Justin Trudeau is in trouble due to a relevant question, he raises his voice and emotion level, only to shout something that hardly has anything to do with the questions, counting on the surprise effect to shut his opponents’ mouth.

In the same kind of situation, Conservative Party’s Erin O’Toole remains stoical and repeats ad nauseam, “we have a plan for that,” without giving details about those actual plans. In the debates held in French, a language he has improved in without mastering it, a lot of people interpreted that calm as a way to avoid making mistakes. In English, the perception was different, because his rising popularity in polls forced him to look cool, like a potential statesman.

New Democratic Party leader Jagmeet Singh’s participation in the French debates was also shadowed by his level of French, albeit it is also improving. Quebecers like him, overall, but the context is not favourable. The NDP roots for national norms in a number of federal government sectors and that is not popular in Quebec.

Moreover, when the NDP won 59 seats in Quebec under Jack Layton in 2011, Quebecers wanted very little of Stephen Harper’s Conservative Party and Liberal Party leader Michael Ignatieff had a poor political instinct. The Bloc Québécois was on a downward slope at the time; so the NDP led by a good and sensible man like Jack Layton was a viable option. We always have to keep in mind that, for Quebecers, be them federalists or separatists, the federal government is often perceived as a level of power where you must pass on messages, where you can take risks, especially with parties at the centre of the political spectrum, which was not the case for Stephen Harper.

In the CBC debate aired on September 9, Jagmeet Singh scored a few points when he described Erin O’Toole as the man who doesn’t believe in climate change and Justin Trudeau as the man who doesn’t act despite the climate crisis. He targeted and will still target until

September 20 the Liberal Party seats that the NDP lost in 2015 and 2019. He will be disappointed though if the Conservative Party looks like a real contender over the last stretch of the campaign, because some progressive voters will opt for a strategic vote that will give an edge to the Liberal Party. Will it be enough to save Justin Trudeau’s reign? It is very hard to predict.

Green Party leader Annamie Paul’s presence in the debates was almost a surprise. Amidst a deep controversy about her type of leadership within the party, she has only been campaigning in the riding she wants to be elected in, Toronto-Centre, where there is a strong Liberal tradition. She had a couple of good moments during the debates, including one in French when she deplored that her four male opponents were arguing about ways to solve the daycare problems across the country, leaving no place for the only female leader in the room.

Bloc Québécois leader Yves-François Blanchet’s campaign started on the wrong foot when he rooted for the Lévis-Quebec City tunnel. The Bloc is trying to win a few seats in the Quebec capital area and he also wants to help his friend François Legault, who is using Mr. Blanchet’s party to squeeze more money and jurisdiction power from the federal government.

A “political bully” by trade, Mr. Blanchet overpowered the French debate aired by Radio-Canada on September 8, despite the vigour shown by Justin Trudeau, who has obviously put emphasis on improving his French prior to the campaign. The incumbent prime minister often speaks French using direct translations of English and many Quebecers have a hard time keeping track of what he says in certain situations.

In the CBC debate, Mr. Blanchet was insulted by the first question asked by moderator Shachi Kurl, who presides over the Angus Reid Institute. She wanted to know why the Bloc Québécois leader supports secular laws that are, according to her, discriminatory towards religious minorities, anglophones and ethnic minorities. Ms. Kurl probably didn’t want to rejuvenate the Bloc Québécois campaign, but she likely did. Yves-François Blanchet started right after the debate to use that tool as intolerance towards Quebecers. It might spark support for the Bloc, which will likely affect the Liberal Party.

### Premier Legault invites himself in the federal campaign

A few hours before the CBC debate, Quebec Premier François Legault invited himself in the federal campaign. At the beginning of that campaign, he had barely suggested that the Conservative Party seemed more respectful of Quebec’s autonomy. On September 9, he literally broke the barrier he had initially set up by saying that the Liberal Party, the New Democratic Party and the Green Party were rooting for centralization of power. He then added that the ideal scenario would be a Conservative Party minority government with the balance of power going to the Bloc Québécois.

He said that despite the fact that the Conservative Party, should it form the government on September 20,

committed to axing a \$6 billion envelope earmarked for Quebec’s daycares, Erin O’Toole would only leave \$600 million for that budgetary envelope.

On the other hand, a Conservative Party government would finance the Coalition avenir Québec’s beloved Lévis-Quebec City tunnel project. That is far more appealing for an old school politician like Mr. Legault than daycare places, despite the huge shortage affecting Quebec in that regard. Considering that the tunnel project is perceived very negatively by the people living outside Quebec City and Lévis, due to its humungous yet unknown cost and its environmentally retarded aspect, Mr. Legault looks like a man shopping for trouble.

François Legault doesn’t see that the tunnel project might explode in his face, a year down the road, when he will face the electorate. The tunnel project might make the difference between a minority and a majority government for the CAQ. Although the Quebec premier is sometimes able to recognize his mistakes, there are fields where he shows stern stubbornness and the tunnel project, whose real cost is still unknown but believed to be above \$10 billion, is one of those fields.

The CAQ government is still very popular because François Legault often sounds like the average Quebecer. He explains issues using words most people understand instead of the opaque jargon too often heard from other politicians. He is essentially sincere when he expresses himself. However, some of his beliefs, notably in the environment and the exploitation of natural resources stakes, come from the 20th century, and we are almost 22 years into the 21st century.

François Legault is lucky to face a disorganized and weak opposition coming from the Liberal Party of Quebec and the Parti Québécois. Those opposition shortcomings give him a fair chance to run another majority government a year down the road. However, if he doesn’t make corrections to some of his orientations, he will find himself in a minority government situation.

But let’s deal with the federal election first!

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# Six candidates vie for the Member of Parliament position in Avignon-La Mitis-Matane-Matapedia

Gilles **Gagné**

CARLETON – Six candidates are trying to get elected in the riding of Avignon-La Mitis-Matane-Matapedia in the September 20 election. They are incumbent Member of Parliament Kristina Michaud, who represents the Bloc Québécois; Louis-Éric Savoie, the Liberal Party candidate; Christel Marchand of the New Democratic Party; Germain Dumas of the Conservative Party; Mélanie Gendron of the Free Party of Canada; and Éric Barnabé of the People's Party of Canada.

**Kristina Michaud**  
Bloc Québécois



Photo: G. Gagné

Aged 29, Kristina Michaud ousted then incumbent Rémi Massé on October 15, 2019, winning with 18,500 votes, for a 51.43% rate of support from the electorate, a 30.41% rise from the 2015 election. She finished 6,312 votes ahead of Mr. Massé, who retired from politics afterwards.

Originally from Val-Brillant in the Matapedia Valley, she holds a degree in international politics and she speaks three languages, French, English and Spanish. She was not a big fan of holding an election at the end of the summer.

“Although it was clearly not an ideal time to call an election and that October 2019 is still fresh in our minds, the importance of exercising our right to vote whenever the opportunity arises is critical. We have the privilege of living in a democracy where it is possible and safe to exercise this right. Let’s honour that,” says Ms. Michaud.

The fight against climate change, social justice and economic development rank high in her regional priorities. She is also a supporter of the VIA Rail service resumption in the

Gaspé Peninsula and would like to see a high participation rate from the youth. “Young people can play a big role in the decisions that are made today and which will have a big impact on their future. Their participation in the federal vote has decreased in 2019 after an increase in 2015. The downward trend must be stopped and I am convinced that by practicing positive and proximity politics, it is possible to interest young people in politics,” adds Kristina Michaud.

**Christel Marchand**  
New Democratic Party



Photo: Facebook

Born in Montreal to a family that came from the Saguenay region, Christel Marchand is aged 35, holds a degree in communications and archaeology and is currently finishing a master’s degree in public administration. Her thesis covers the topic of the guaranteed minimum income and the role it could have in the development of small and medium-sized enterprises. She started her involvement in politics when she was only 14. She is an independent and she ran for the NDP in Lévis, in 2019.

“That’s one of the reasons why I am involved in the NDP. We have that freedom regarding the future of Quebec, thanks to the Sherbrooke declaration made by our former leader Jack Layton, who said that he would respect the Quebecers’ choice and rights, would they vote for the sovereignty,” says Ms. Marchand, who is bilingual.

Although she lives in Montreal, she has been planning to move to the Gaspé Peninsula or the Lower Saint Lawrence region for a year, no matter the September 20 electoral result. “I’ve known for a long time that I don’t want to live here (Montreal) anymore. I like the

countryside. I have even had a hard time finding a place to campaign. My two intervention priorities are the betterment of the telecommunications network for entrepreneurs, as it takes a reliable high-speed network for them and, understandably, housing. Even if you have a great salary, if you can’t find housing, you can hardly progress in regional development.”

**Louis-Éric Savoie**  
Liberal Party of Canada



Photo: Facebook

A native of Nouvelle, where he was raised on a farm, Liberal Party of Canada candidate Louis-Éric Savoie is a resident of Quebec City who has been away from the region for 10 years. He works as a project manager for the Helios group which is involved in the management of municipal infrastructure and urban services.

Without a college diploma, he was admitted as an adult candidate at Université Laval where he pursues part-time studies in civil engineering after having worked and traveled.

The Liberal Party candidate joined the campaign a week after its August 15 start. The party seems to have problems with its communications as the SPEC twice reached officials of the organization and never received an answer. The newspaper tried to book an interview with Mr. Savoie.

**Germain Dumas**  
Conservative Party of Canada



Photo: Facebook

Aged 68, Germain Dumas is originally from Saint-Moïse and lives in Saint-Noël, two neighbouring villages in the Matapedia Valley.

The Conservative Party candidate is experiencing his third electoral campaign, having run at the provincial level in 1994 for Action Démocratique du Québec led by Mario Dumont, and in 2000 for the Conservative Party at the federal level that time.

Mr. Dumas is trained as an industrial engineering technician and has worked in transport and purchasing logistics. He has been involved in overseas humanitarian projects in the past.

He says he wants to restore “public confidence in the political class,” and he is also worried about the state of public finances. He believes that the Conservative Party is the only party truly ready to replace Justin Trudeau’s Liberal Party.

The Conservative candidate wants “to discuss various regional issues with the community during the campaign, but the lack of manpower is a glaring problem. Foreign workers represent an interesting potential solution,” he says, adding that the fate of the elderly is also a priority for him.

**Mélanie Gendron**  
Free Party of Canada



Photo: Facebook

Mélanie Gendron is a originally from Pointe-à-la-Croix. She is a relatively young female entrepreneur. The party she represents had barely put up its website as the SPEC reached its deadline. She was not conducting an active campaign as of September 9.

**Éric Barnabé**  
People’s Party of Canada

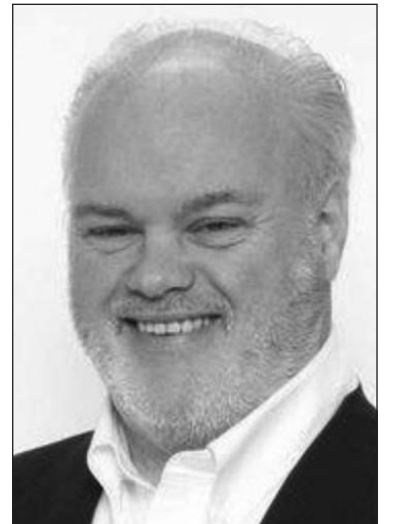


Photo: Facebook

Éric Barnabé also ran in October 2019 for Maxime Bernier’s party. He received the nod of 210 voters, which represented 0.58% of support from the electorate. He lives in Quebec City and is a stern anti-vaccine advocate and is rooting against the health measures implemented by the authorities to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. Some of his social media posts are regularly taken out.

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# Campaign summary for the Gaspésie-Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine riding

Nelson **Sergerie**,  
LJI Journalist

GASPÉ - Six candidates compete in the September 20 electoral campaign in Gaspésie-Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine riding. Here are the main platforms from this election campaign in alphabetical order.

**Guy Bernatchez**  
Bloc Québécois



Photo: G. Gagné

Having lost in the 2019 election, Guy Bernatchez was the first to publicly launch his electoral program based on five components: economy, family and seniors, environment and climate change, fisheries and forests, and port infrastructures are its priorities.

According to him, the big absence from the last Parliament in the riding was the inability of the outgoing Liberal Member of Parliament to settle the fate of the winter dry dock and the Grande-Rivière gantry crane. He also adds the issue of the Cap-des-Rosiers lighthouse, where he promised the sustainability of the infrastructure which is regularly in the news for its lack of maintenance.

On climate change, the candidate stresses the importance of taking rapid action, recalling that the riding has already been experiencing its impacts for several years.

**Diane Lebouthillier**  
Liberal Party of Canada



Photo: Facebook

Liberal candidate Diane Lebouthillier refused to participate in a first debate organized in Haute-Gaspésie, claiming that she would not debate with an unvaccinated candidate, which put a damper on the debate, even though the rules dictated by Public Health were respected by the organizers. However, she took part in a debate in the Magdalen Islands.

Ms. Lebouthillier made two firm commitments during this campaign: the tourist development of the Chic-Chocs and the repair of the built heritage of Grande-Grave in Forillon Park.

On the other hand, she refused to elaborate on the files of the Cap-des-Rosiers lighthouse, being satisfied saying "that she was going to take care of it"; and regarding the Grande-Rivière gantry crane, she promises to help with the project "in consultation with the community."

Ms. Lebouthillier argued that \$318 million has been invested by Ottawa since October 2019 in the riding. However, she forgot to mention that the Gaspé Peninsula share was only \$154 million compared to the \$164 million granted to the Magdalen Islands. Regularly attacked by

her opponents on the relevance of the election, Diane Lebouthillier said she wanted the population to comment on the work done by her government since the start of the pandemic and wants citizens to do so for the future.

In 2019, Diane Lebouthillier won with 637 majority votes over Guy Bernatchez.

**Monique Leduc**  
Free Party of Canada

*A search by The Gaspé SPEC did not find even a photo of the candidate Monique Leduc of the Free Party of Canada. Her name can only be found on the party's website, with no mention of any constituency platform material.*

**Lisa Phung**  
New Democrat Party of Canada



Photo: Facebook

New Democratic Party candidate Lisa Phung has so far kept quiet during the election campaign. A Facebook page was not activated until September 5, and there is very little of the party platform on the constituency.

Asked by an Internet user on the NDP's plan on reducing greenhouse gases by 50%

in just eight years, Ms. Phung responds to general issues drawn from the national program to which another Internet user replied that she had no idea of the concerns of local and regional issues.

Comments on her parachuted candidacy were withdrawn by moderators from his Facebook page.

**Jean-Pierre Pigeon**  
Conservative Party of Canada



Photo: Facebook

The Conservative Party candidate is on his third attempt to win in a federal election. An activist since Joe Clark, he was the right-hand man to former Conservative Member of Parliament for the Gaspé, Charles-Eugène Marin between 1984 and 1993, who was under Prime Minister Brian Mulroney.

Speaking mostly from his party's national platform, Mr. Pigeon nonetheless spoke up on the issue of the Cap-des-Rosiers lighthouse. He mentioned that the lighthouse would be an important part of the campaign. If elected, he intends to work "very hard" to get the historic lighthouse repaired.

On the other hand, he had to defend the position of Conservative activists who had rejected the principle of climate change. Mr. Pigeon argued

that activists in seven out of 10 provinces supported the principle.

**Christian Rioux**  
People's Party of Canada

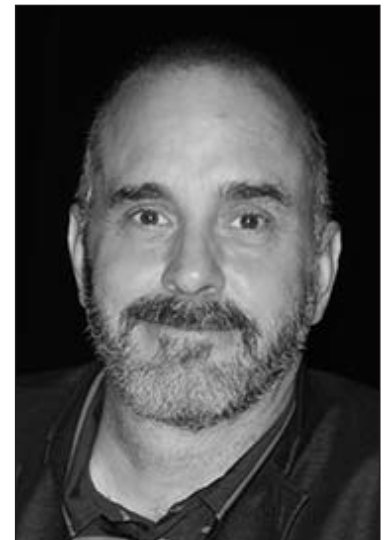


Photo: N. Sergerie

The candidate of the People's Party of Canada in Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine is not hesitating to go against the grain.

Christian Rioux calls Justin Trudeau's debt management a disaster, saying other countries have taken on less debt in dealing with the pandemic. For the county, Maxime Bernier's candidate wants to remove interprovincial barriers and exploit natural resources, blocked for ideological reasons, he maintains.

The party wants to balance the budget by slashing in particular subsidies to companies, giving the example of Bombardier.

Not being vaccinated, he had to defend himself during the debate organized in Sainte-Anne-des-Monts.

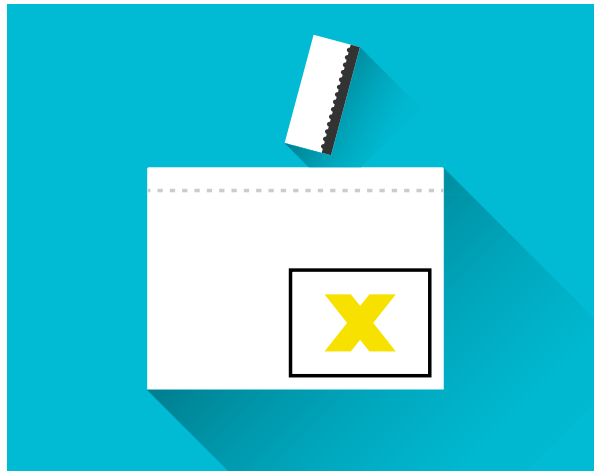
"The vaccine does not prevent transmission. It has been verified by the CDC (Centers of Disease Control and Prevention). The vaccine does not prevent you from having it (COVID-19) nor does it prevent it from being transmitted. So, what's the point of being vaccinated?" says Mr. Rioux.

The candidate is realistic about his chances of winning, preferring to be in the fight to debate ideas.

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## Are you planning to vote?



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- are at least 18 years old
- prove your identity and address



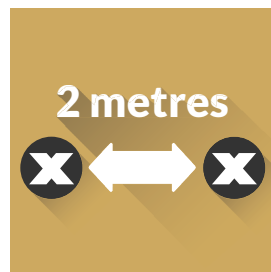
Check your voter information card to find out where and when you can vote.

## Your health and safety is our priority.

At your polling station, poll workers will be wearing masks. There will also be:



Hand sanitizer stations



Clear physical distancing markers

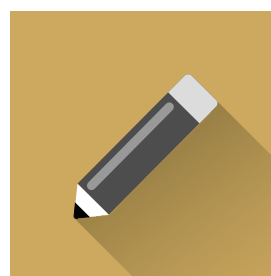


Only one poll worker per desk behind a plexiglass barrier

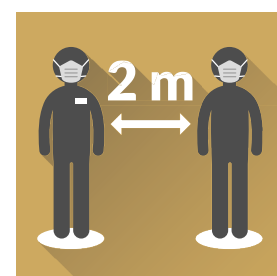
## When you go to vote, don't forget:



Wear a mask



We will provide you with a single-use pencil to mark your ballot, or you can bring your own pen or pencil



Practice physical distancing by staying at least two metres away from voters and poll workers

*If you think you have COVID-19, follow your local health authority's guidelines and stay home.*



**Stay safe. Vote safe.**

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1-800-463-6868 / [elections.ca](https://elections.ca) / TTY 1-800-361-8935





# Proof of COVID-19 vaccination and the vaccine passport: Be well prepared

## Proof of vaccination

When you receive a vaccine in Québec, you are given proof of vaccination. It is usually recorded in your vaccination booklet or provided to you in paper format. This applies for all vaccines, including COVID-19.

Electronic proof of COVID-19 vaccination is also available. It shows the following:

- Your first and last names and date of birth
- Which vaccine(s) you received
- Where you were vaccinated
- A QR code
- If applicable, the positive result of your first COVID-19 screening test.



## How can I get my electronic proof of vaccination?

- 1 Go to [Québec.ca/proofvaccination](https://quebec.ca/proofvaccination) then click on the Self-service portal.
- 2 Enter the requested information to confirm your identity.
- 3 After identity confirmation, download your electronic proof of vaccination.

## The QR code in a nutshell

The QR code is a two-dimensional code that includes lines, squares, dots, polygons or other geometric figures used to store information.

The digital information in a QR code can be revealed by scanning it with a Smart Phone, using a QR code app.

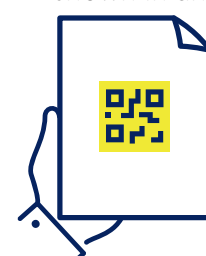
## The vaccine passport

The vaccine passport is an official tool. It confirms that the holder is adequately vaccinated against COVID-19. It relies on the proof of vaccination QR code.

Starting on September 1, the vaccine passport will allow people 13 years of age and over who are adequately protected against COVID-19 or are clinically contraindicated, to enter specified locations and take part non-essential activities where the risk of interpersonal transmission is high.

## How to use the vaccine passport

In order to enter a location where the vaccine passport is required, you need to show **proof of COVID-19 vaccination, including a QR code**. Your proof can be shown in any of the following ways:



**A printed on letter or business card size paper** (the QR code must be digitally readable and not altered in any way)



**A PDF on your mobile device**



**The VaxiCode app.**

**A piece of ID will also be required** when you show your vaccine passport, for compliance purposes.

## The VaxiCode and VaxiCode Verif apps

Two applications are available and can be downloaded free of charge from Google Play and the App Store.



**VAXICODE**

**VaxiCode is meant for individual use.**

**With it, you can:**

- Register your proof of vaccination containing a QR code
- Confirm your COVID-19 protection status in advance (green/red).
- Store all your family's QR codes in a single location to save time when doing an activity together.

Your personal information is protected by encryption when you register proof of vaccination in the VaxiCode app. VaxiCode does not have the ability to go online, and your proofs never leave the application, which acts as a secure wallet.



**VAXICODE Verif**

**VaxiCode Verif is meant for use by venue operators or activity managers.**

**With it:**

- The QR code on the proof of vaccination can be read
- The operators and/or managers can check the individual's protection status

This application only displays the name of the vaccine passport holder and a green or red colour indicator that confirms the individual's level of protection.

No other identification or medical information is displayed.

## How can I download the app and install my QR code?

- 1 Search "**VaxiCode**" on Google Play or the App Store from your mobile device and download the app.
- 2 Once VaxiCode is activated, follow the instructions on the screen.

More detailed information is available at [Québec.ca/vaccinationpassport](https://quebec.ca/vaccinationpassport)

## Any questions?

You can find complete information about the vaccine passport at [Québec.ca/vaccinationpassport](https://quebec.ca/vaccinationpassport)

If you need help, ask a friend or call **1 877 644-4545**.

Please call **1 877 644-4545** as soon as possible if your paper or electronic proof of vaccination information contains errors.

If you do not have Internet access and a printer, you can call **1 877 644-4545** to receive your paper proof of vaccination by mail. You can plasticize your printed proof if you so wish.

### REMINDER

**It is your responsibility to ensure the protection of your personal vaccination information. To avoid potential fraud:**

- Keep your proof of vaccination private, just like a one-time email or text message.
- We do not recommend that you share a picture of your proof of vaccination on social media.

## Not yet vaccinated?

There is still time. Vaccination clinics remain open. Learn more at [Québec.ca/COVIDvaccine](https://quebec.ca/COVIDvaccine)

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

1 877 644-4545



# Federal election: Mayors of Gaspé and New Richmond want to see certain issues addressed

Nelson **Sergerie**,  
LJI Journalist

GASPÉ - Investments in infrastructure and incentives for the housing construction are what the mayors of Gaspé and New Richmond are asking for in re-

gards to the September 20 election.

Federal infrastructure in his town is the investment priority of the mayor of Gaspé, Daniel Côté, who cites the Anse-à-Valleau wharf or the Cap-des-Rosiers lighthouse.

"The infrastructure that suffers from lack of upkeep can receive adequate maintenance in the coming years. They are often regional icons or even national icons that we collectively must preserve," says Mayor Côté.

The regionalization of the workforce and immigration are also elements put forward by Mr. Côté in order to counter the labour shortage.

He gives as an example that of foreign workers who receive permits to work with only one company. Some players in the field are campaigning for an extension of permits to allow them to be employed by more than one company.

"It causes certain irritation. Lots of little administrative tips that would probably be easily revised to help our employers and that could help us as a community to offer quality services to our population," says Mr. Côté.

The fishing sector and

tourism are elements that the mayor of Gaspé wants to hear discussed in the last stretch of the campaign.

## Housing in New Richmond

His New Richmond counterpart puts housing, labour shortages and childcare spaces as top priorities.

Éric Dubé would like to see the candidates speak out on these issues.

In terms of childcare centres, the mayor noted the federal-provincial agreement that led Ottawa to invest heavily in

the creation of spaces.

Housing remains problematic. "I call it a huge problem because the demographic efforts over the past few years have brought us this challenge. It would be nice to have financial assistance or incentives that could encourage private companies and developers to invest in this sector of activity," explains Mr. Dubé.

Four housing units are under construction and a 16-unit project could start this fall. Within three years, Mr. Dubé believes that some 36 housing units could be built in New Richmond.



The mayors of Gaspé, Daniel Côté, and of New Richmond, Éric Dubé.

Photo: Nelson Sergerie

## Be Wise

**Cannabis and Older Adults** is factual information about cannabis for older adults. Easy to understand, written in clear language, the Be Wise booklet is meant to help older adults make wise decisions about cannabis use.

Published by Active Aging Canada, research has been gathered from across Canada and around the world about older adults and cannabis. The result of that work is presented in this comprehensive booklet.

Bright, easy to read, the facts about all forms of cannabis are discussed openly, and the information about cannabis is presented in an objective manner. As well, throughout the book, Active



Aging Canada promotes a message of moderation and healthy active living.

Authored using Active Aging Canada research, reviewed by experts, tested across Canada with older adults, the Be Wise booklet is designed to help older adults know the facts about cannabis before they decide whether or not cannabis use is for them.

**Be Wise is available in 16 languages** (English, French, Farsi, German, Greek, Italian, Korean, Mandarin, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, Tamil and Vietnamese) as well as in Braille and in e-pub form and podcasts (English only).

Active Aging Canada is a national charity. Request your free copy of Be Wise booklet. Visit [www.activeagingcanada.ca](http://www.activeagingcanada.ca) to download a digital copy or fill out the order form for a free mailed copy.





Photo: Radio-Gaspésie

The December 2010 flood led to the eventual demolition of the Sunny Bank convenience store, even if it reopened after that incident. Then owner Johanne Jean accepted the Civil Security Compensation because she thought that another flood would happen and cause damage sooner or later.

**SUNNY BANK:** Associés, which represents the Sunny Bank residents, challenged Transports Québec's claims about the height of the new bridge and its approaches.

**Cont'd from cover**

never granted an interview since the filing of the class action request in 2014, claiming that the ministry does not comment on a case registered in court. However, in the documents provided to the Superior Court, in particular in its "modified defence" statement, filed in May 2019, the prosecutors of Transports Québec alleged that the floods of December 13 to 15, 2010, were exceptional and that they were attributable to the record rain falls of 102 millimetres and 111 millimetres that occurred respectively on December 14 and 15.

Those rainfalls were, according to the defence presented by Transports Québec, two consecutive records, as registered at the weather station of the Gaspé airport. Transports Québec also notes that the 1976 construction, including the approaches, was no higher than the previous one.

In a revised version of its lawsuit arguments, filed in May 2019 after the Transports Québec's modified defence documents, the legal firm Sylvestre Painchaud et

The pursuants' lawyers further claim that the space for drainage was reduced as a result of the 1976 construction, compared to the previous bridge erected in 1952.

The compensations received since 2010 by the citizens of Sunny Bank represent only a fraction of the value of the damages, assures Andrew Patterson. In 2014, he estimated the damage to his properties from the mid-December 2010 flood at \$160,000, and he only received \$18,000 in compensation. He later revised upwards the extent of the damage.

In December, 2010, the water damaged approximately 30 houses and around 70 other buildings such as garages, barns and sheds. The 200 residents of the Sunny Bank area all suffered damage in one way or another.

The community's convenience store was demolished at the end of February 2012, as owner Johanne Jean accepted an undetermined amount of money from the authorities,

certain that other floods would ravage her building in the near future.

In May 2019, one of the lawyers representing the Sunny Bank Citizens Committee, Vincent Blais-Fortin, recalled that the judgment of 1987, the consequence of a legal action initiated by another resident of Sunny Bank, Bruce Patterson, had recognized the responsibility of Transports Québec in the design of the bridge erected in 1976.

It was also a case of flooding. Bruce Patterson and his parents owned and operated the Sunny Bank store between 1960 and 1992. It was more of a general store at the time.

Judge Pierre Bellavance is expected to deliberate for a while over the testimonies presented during the final leg of the trial. In those complicated cases, the deliberation process can take several months.

Since 2010, Transports Québec has only carried out minor work in the section of Road 198 that is suspected of having repeatedly triggered floods, even if some additional damage was caused by water in the following years.

the promoter needed the guarantee of the entire land for the financing. We thought about it and tried to negotiate it, but, in the end, it was easier to go with a financial guarantee rather than property guarantees for each of the units. It was easier. We are inclined to trust promoters who have already proven themselves," explains the mayor.

The good news is piling up

for Gaspé, which was recently granted 111 new childcare spaces. The needs were immense concerning both the issue of housing and childcare shortages.

"There are other housing projects in the works. There is a lot of excitement in the development of housing in Gaspé and that's good," says the mayor.

**Cont'd on page 3**

will meet at least half of current and foreseeable needs in our opinion," says the mayor, Daniel Côté.

The land was not subdivided in the event that the developer had put a stop to the project along the way.

"It would have been too difficult to do it that way because

## Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



### What's new, COVID?

#### Monoclonal antibody treatment

Monoclonal antibody treatment has been in the news a great deal lately, particularly in the news from the U.S. Currently there are four different types of treatments approved in the U.S. but only one in Canada. The monoclonal antibodies help to reduce the severity of COVID-19. This helps to prevent people from being hospitalized and lessens the strain on the health care system. It does not fully treat COVID-19.

Monoclonal antibodies are proteins made in a laboratory that mimic the immune system's ability to fight viruses. They are designed to block the virus from attaching to and then invading human cells. It is normally administered through IV.

So far, the data suggests that the treatment is not a replacement for the vaccine. It is a short-term solution, while the vaccine seems to offer longer-term immunity. Currently in the U.S. it is approved for administering to patients over the age of 12 and weighing at least 88 pounds. Canadian standards vary from the U.S.

Canada has been taking further steps to provide Canadians with therapies to combat COVID. In November 2020 the Canadian government issued a statement: "The Government of Canada has signed an agreement with Eli-Lilly for an initial order of 26,000 doses of their monoclonal antibody therapy." Eli-Lilly is conducting clinical trials.

The COVID situation is very fluid and the infection and the understanding of it by the scientific and medical community is constantly being updated. Consequently, the recommendations change as we navigate our way through the pandemic. There are still questions to be answered and studies to be completed.

Do not assume that the worst is over, but we can still hope that it is. I fear that the next demographics who contract the virus will be children. Covid is still around our area and a few weeks ago a young man in his early thirties died from Covid in the area of Avignon. He, sadly, according to the government, had not been vaccinated. (Source: The Gaspé Spec, September 8, Four new COVID-19 infections.)

The virus took most lives in the first wave in March 2020 of the "senior" elderly, but COVID does not care if you are under 12 years of age. It's happy to replicate inside anyone regardless of their age.

*"I don't understand it, and I don't like what I don't understand." E.B. White, Charlotte's Web*

Some vaccine-hesitant and anti-vaxxers feel that we are "guinea pigs" and the vaccine has not been tested rigorously enough. Yet, we use so many things in our day-to-day life that we do not fully understand. We accept that someone (Government? Manufacturers?) has tested items that we use, and they are safe. I have no idea how a four-stroke engine works, or a microwave, or Tylenol, but I use all of them and never wonder if there is a conspiracy.

Who is informing us that the vaccine is safe and necessary? Doctors and scientists. Cousin Robbie has an opinion, but is it based on scientific data? Very right-wing politicians do not endorse the vaccine but based on what evidence? Have they researched, asked their physician or (hoping not) do they have a loved one who has perished from Covid? This may change their view.

#### Health matters are provincially mandated

There is so much emotion and anger about vaccines and other measures to combat the virus. It is quite shocking. People who are blaming the federal government for measures such as the vaccine passport in Quebec are directing their anger at the wrong government. Vaccines, masks and social distancing are mandated by the provincial governments.

#### Where there is risk there should be choice

I fully support that having a vaccine should be a choice. This choice ought to be based on facts, and listening to trusted, legitimate sources of information. This is not a decision to be made lightly. Ask your doctor. Be informed. Your life, or those of someone you love, could be at risk.



# Darlene Jerome Gijuminag performs in France

Diane Skinner

**GESGAPEGIAG:** Darlene Jerome, whose stage name is Darlene Gijuminag is a singer/songwriter from Gesgapegiag. She has performed in many places, but she is justly proud of being asked to perform in Conques, France on August 5. She sings in her Indigenous language Mi'gmaq and in English.

Darlene has been performing since she was seven years old after being inspired by hearing Buffy Saint Marie singing on television. Darlene says, "I loved how she made me feel and I fell in love with singing." She is self-taught and singing has been her way of connecting within herself, her Indigenous identity and her spirituality. It is, she concludes, her way of praying and healing.

The name "Gijuminag" was given to her by her mother when she first started performing and it means "female energy of life." She adds, "I started singing and songwriting when I lived with my children in the United States in 1997. I started traveling to perform from 1998 to 2011. I was able to travel with my children all over the New England area in the United States. I was able to perform in concerts, shows, radio, TV, schools, and universities, and most importantly at Indigenous Powwow gatherings. When performing in the schools, I would also teach about my culture, traditions, Mi'gmaq language, and Spirituality of the Land and Water."

She moved back to Gesgapegiag in 2012 and took a break from singing. She worked for her community as a project coordinator and in Mental, Health and Social Services from 2013 to 2018. Then in October 2016 she was contacted by Kiya Tabassian who had seen some of Darlene's video projects online. Kiya is part of the band Constantinople, based in Montreal. Kiya was searching for a Mi'gmaq singer who would take part in a private concert

for the Prime Minister of Spain who was visiting the city. After that, Darlene performed in other shows in Gaspé, New Richmond and Carleton. She has also produced video projects online promoting her music through Wapikoni.

In February 2019 Kiya contacted Darlene again to ask her to perform in Montreal with artists from other countries. They performed an original piece using traditional instruments. Darlene uses her traditional hand drum. This performance led to additional concerts in Montreal, Toronto and Quebec City. There were plans to tour further, but COVID prevented that.

Then came the invitation to perform in Conques, France, in August. Darlene, who was in Europe for the first time, has been asked to return to Belgium in April 2022 for another concert. She will be performing three of her original songs.

Darlene is proud to say that her parents are her number one fans and editors of her music. Her mother, Ramona Larocque, was a Mi'gmaq teacher for over 35 years. Both of her parents always spoke to her in Mi'gmaq and taught her about the spirituality of Mother Earth and the Water.

She adds, "We grew up very connected with both. This is why I sing about the land, water, and the elements of life. Each song I wrote has experiences, memories, lessons, and most importantly teachings I've learned in my life, and I feel the more I sing these songs, I add on more experiences. My music has allowed me to travel to different places, and meet amazing people from different cultures, traditions, and spirituality.

Darlene concludes, "I hope singing, and writing will always be part of my life. I have a great feeling there will be more of it in the future."

Listen to Darlene perform on YouTube: Darlene Gijuminag, tambour Mi'gmaq/Mi'gmaq drum.



Darlene Jerome, whose stage name is Darlene Gijuminag, performing in Montreal.




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# Announcements...



## Graveside Service



### MACWHIRTER: Melba

There will be a graveside service held for Melba MacWhirter at the St. Paul's Anglican Church cemetery in Shigwake, Quebec, at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, September 22, 2021.

# Thanks!

## For Your Support

Thanks to the following people for their generous donations to **The Gaspé Spec**

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<b>Irene Gallon-Regan</b> North Bay, Ont.	<b>Gloria Watt-Ross</b> Ottawa, Ont.	<b>William McColm</b> Ottawa, Ont.	<b>Marilyn Morrell</b> Brantford, Ont.
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<b>Anita Letouzel</b> Gaspé, Que.	<b>Peter Caldwell</b> Brossard, Que.	<b>Mary Miller</b> Gaspé, Que.	<b>David J. Michel</b> Westmount, Que.
		<b>Audret Hoggart</b> Montague, P.E.I.	<b>Christopher Hugh</b> Gaspé, Que.
		<b>Glenna Mclellan</b> Hamilton, Ont.	<b>Heather Watt Giannakos</b> Chesterville, Ont.
		<b>Francis &amp; Solange Moran</b> New Carlisle, Que.	<b>Betty Watt Sinclair</b> Ingleside, Ont.
		<b>Omer Brunet</b> Ste-Julie, Que.	<b>Verne Walker</b> Brantford, Ont.

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## COAST ROUND-UP

### **GASPE:** **Gaspé Cancer Foundation**

The citizens of the MRC of Côte de Gaspé are asked to please note that the Annual Gaspé Cancer Foundation Membership Campaign is in full swing. May we remind you that membership fees are \$12 per year. New members have a 30-day waiting period before being eligible to receive their travel assistance. If you are a member in good standing, are afflicted with cancer, and must travel outside the region for treatment, you are eligible for the following travel assistance: Chandler \$50, Maria \$80, Rimouski \$190, Rivière-du-Loup \$210, Québec \$240 and Montreal and Sherbrooke \$300.

### **GASPE:** **Gaspé County WI**

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

### **GASPE:** **Diocèse of Gaspé**

As a result of a hurricane that occurred on August 14 in Haiti, the diocèse de Gaspé has decided to organize a fundraising activity in order to raise money to build a community centre. The centre will serve as a meeting facility and school to replace

the one that was completely destroyed. All donations can be sent to: Diocèse de Gaspé - Mission Haïti, 172, Jacques-Cartier, Gaspé, QC, G4X 1M9 (418-368-2274).

### **BARACHOIS:** **Barachois Market**

The Barachois market will be held September 18 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Barachois Rec Centre, 1062 Route 132 east. For more information contact Janet Harvey at 418-355-4899.

### **NEW CARLISLE:** **Drive-In Gospel Meetings**

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

### **NEW CARLISLE:** **St. Andrew's Anglican Church**

Please be advised, due to the Covid-19 regulations, there will not be a Harvest Supper at St. Andrew's in New Carlisle this year. A small organizing committee has been formed to ask members of St. Andrew's Anglican Church to make a financial contribution toward our Harvest Supper Fund. Any individual interested in contributing can put said donation in the church plate marked "Donation toward Harvest Supper" along with

**UNITED CHURCH**  
**Sunday, September 19**  
10 a.m. Hope Town

your name, amount (and church envelope number if applicable). If preferred, your donation can be given to Chris (Fraser) Ward (418 752-6837) or Norma Chedore (418 752-6214). Donations made by cheque should be made payable to St. Andrew's Anglican Church. We thank you for your support!

### **CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:** **Fifty Plus Club**

Bingo has resumed for the season. Card pricing is \$10 for 3 cards and \$1 for each extra card. All activities are scheduled to return depending on the Covid-19 situation. Everyone is welcome to attend.

### **ROTARY CLUB WINNERS**

**The winners for the week of September 5 are:** Christine Bourdages, Alain Turcotte, Pierre Caissy, Marc Carmacael, Daniel Dugas, Pierre-Luc Cormier and Michael Gagné.

**ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA**  
**Sunday, September 19**  
**New Carlisle**  
10 a.m. Morning Prayer  
**Hope Town**  
9 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
**Port Daniel**  
11 a.m. Holy Eucharist

**PARISH OF GASPÉ**  
**Sunday, September 19**  
St. Andrew's - York  
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

## TIDE PREDICTIONS

Sponsored by the Municipality of New Carlisle



New Richmond	New Carlisle	Gaspé
<b>Saturday, Sept. 18</b>	<b>Saturday, Sept. 18</b>	<b>Saturday, Sept. 18</b>
01:01 a.m. - 2.20m ↑	12:59 a.m. - 1.90m ↑	12:32 a.m. - 1.70m ↑
08:05 a.m. - 0.30m ↓	08:00 a.m. - 0.40m ↓	07:32 a.m. - 0.50m ↓
01:29 p.m. - 1.60m ↑	01:30 p.m. - 1.20m ↑	01:20 p.m. - 1.10m ↑
07:09 p.m. - 0.50m ↓	07:03 p.m. - 0.40m ↓	06:29 p.m. - 0.60m ↓
<b>Sunday, Sept. 19</b>	<b>Sunday, Sept. 19</b>	<b>Sunday, Sept. 19</b>
01:57 a.m. - 2.20m ↑	01:55 a.m. - 1.90m ↑	01:23 a.m. - 1.70m ↑
08:44 a.m. - 0.20m ↓	08:42 a.m. - 0.30m ↓	08:09 a.m. - 0.50m ↓
02:18 p.m. - 1.80m ↑	02:16 p.m. - 1.40m ↑	01:59 p.m. - 1.20m ↑
08:06 p.m. - 0.30m ↓	08:02 p.m. - 0.40m ↓	07:32 p.m. - 0.50m ↓
<b>Monday, Sept. 20</b>	<b>Monday, Sept. 20</b>	<b>Monday, Sept. 20</b>
02:46 a.m. - 2.20m ↑	02:41 a.m. - 1.90m ↑	02:11 a.m. - 1.60m ↑
09:19 a.m. - 0.20m ↓	09:18 a.m. - 0.30m ↓	08:41 a.m. - 0.50m ↓
03:01 p.m. - 1.90m ↑	02:59 p.m. - 1.50m ↑	02:33 p.m. - 1.30m ↑
08:56 p.m. - 0.20m ↓	08:53 p.m. - 0.30m ↓	08:27 p.m. - 0.40m ↓
<b>Tuesday, Sept. 21</b>	<b>Tuesday, Sept. 21</b>	<b>Tuesday, Sept. 21</b>
03:30 a.m. - 2.20m ↑	03:22 a.m. - 1.90m ↑	02:56 a.m. - 1.60m ↑
09:54 a.m. - 0.20m ↓	09:48 a.m. - 0.40m ↓	09:11 a.m. - 0.50m ↓
03:41 p.m. - 2.10m ↑	03:38 p.m. - 1.60m ↑	03:04 p.m. - 1.40m ↑
09:40 p.m. - 0.20m ↓	09:39 p.m. - 0.30m ↓	09:17 p.m. - 0.40m ↓
<b>Wednesday, Sept. 22</b>	<b>Wednesday, Sept. 22</b>	<b>Wednesday, Sept. 22</b>
04:09 a.m. - 2.20m ↑	03:59 a.m. - 1.80m ↑	03:38 a.m. - 1.50m ↑
10:26 a.m. - 0.30m ↓	10:15 a.m. - 0.40m ↓	09:40 a.m. - 0.60m ↓
04:20 p.m. - 2.10m ↑	04:16 p.m. - 1.70m ↑	03:36 p.m. - 1.50m ↑
10:21 p.m. - 0.20m ↓	10:22 p.m. - 0.30m ↓	10:03 p.m. - 0.40m ↓
<b>Thursday, Sept. 23</b>	<b>Thursday, Sept. 23</b>	<b>Thursday, Sept. 23</b>
04:46 a.m. - 2.10m ↑	04:33 a.m. - 1.70m ↑	04:15 a.m. - 1.40m ↑
10:54 a.m. - 0.40m ↓	10:39 a.m. - 0.40m ↓	10:08 a.m. - 0.60m ↓
04:58 p.m. - 2.20m ↑	04:51 p.m. - 1.80m ↑	04:09 p.m. - 1.50m ↑
11:02 p.m. - 0.20m ↓	11:03 p.m. - 0.30m ↓	10:47 p.m. - 0.50m ↓
<b>Friday, Sept. 24</b>	<b>Friday, Sept. 24</b>	<b>Friday, Sept. 24</b>
05:19 a.m. - 1.90m ↑	05:06 a.m. - 1.50m ↑	04:46 a.m. - 1.30m ↑
11:17 p.m. - 0.50m ↓	10:59 a.m. - 0.50m ↓	10:33 p.m. - 0.60m ↓
05:35 p.m. - 2.20m ↑	05:25 p.m. - 1.80m ↑	04:45 p.m. - 1.60m ↑
11:43 p.m. - 0.30m ↓	11:44 p.m. - 0.40m ↓	11:32 p.m. - 0.50m ↓

## Don't miss the deadline!

To avoid disappointment, have your ads, notices, classifieds, cards of thanks, etc., at our office by **Wednesday at 4 p.m. for the next week's paper.**

## Autumn Word Find

Find the words hidden in the puzzle.

BLOWING      JACKET      PUMPKINS  
BROWN      LEAVES      PURPLE  
COOL      ORANGE      RED  
HARVEST      PILES      TREES

B O I L P E S S U T Q B  
R F T I U P G E R U L V  
O V W B M C I E V O B C  
W W M S P Z E L W A X N  
N L O X K S P I E J E E  
R D L O I C N E V S G L  
C S Z M N G A I C N T J  
Y I F T S E V R A H E Z  
D P U R P L E R M U K W  
F E H V L O O C N H C E  
D V R V L X C M N W A B  
N X M Z U J S U Y D J T

**ARIES** – Mar 21/Apr 20  
If you're single, get prepared to mingle, Aries. If you're attached, then your relationship will only grow stronger in the days to come. Romance is in the air, so embrace it.  
**TAURUS** – Apr 21/May 21  
Taurus, even if you're feeling a little stuck in your relationships, do not push others away. There may be a solution you're simply not seeing. Delve deeper.  
**GEMINI** – May 22/June 21  
Gemini, it may be time to break away from the typical routine — at least for a little while. This can offer you a new perspective that puts you on an interesting path.  
**CANCER** – Jun 22/Jul 22  
Someone close to you may be thinking of a reinvention and wants your opinion, Cancer. Support this person and all the changes he or she desires.  
**LEO** – Jul 23/Aug 23  
Good habits will pay off in the days to come, Leo. So if you're ready to make some changes, think about those that will improve your overall health and well-being.  
**VIRGO** – Aug 24/Sept 22  
Virgo, if you're feeling pres-



sured to have fun, then you probably will not enjoy yourself no matter how hard you try. Try not to force things and take them as they come.  
**LIBRA** – Sept 23/Oct 23  
A place you always enjoyed visiting may no longer hold the same appeal for you, Libra. That's okay because everyone grows and evolves. Enjoy finding a new source of inspiration.  
**SCORPIO** – Oct 24/Nov 22  
You must make yourself available if you expect others to want to share ideas or information with you, Scorpio. So far you may have been a bit distant. Change this.  
**SAGITTARIUS** – Nov 23/Dec 21  
Figure out where your comfort levels lie, Sagittarius. Only then will you know just how far beyond those levels you're willing to push yourself to try new things.  
**CAPRICORN** – Dec 22/Jan 20  
Capricorn, even though you have strong instincts about something, your emotions also may be running hot. Therefore, you might

not be able to trust your instincts just yet.  
**AQUARIUS** – Jan 21/Feb 18  
Aquarius, your energy levels could be waning, but that's because you have been pushing yourself very hard lately. It's time to rest to be recharged for later.  
**PISCES** – Feb 19/Mar 20  
Don't let others be your sole focus this week, Pisces. Figure out how to put yourself first without ignoring those around you.

### FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

**SEPTEMBER 12**  
Kelsea Ballerini, Singer (28)  
**SEPTEMBER 13**  
Chris Hansen, Journalist (62)  
**SEPTEMBER 14**  
Andrew Lincoln, Actor (48)  
**SEPTEMBER 15**  
Prince Harry, Entrepreneur (37)  
**SEPTEMBER 16**  
Nick Jonas, Singer (29)  
**SEPTEMBER 17**  
Alex Ovechkin, Athlete (36)  
**SEPTEMBER 18**  
Jason Sudeikis, Actor (46)



# Bluegrass Festival 2021, getting back to normal

Diane Skinner

NEW RICHMOND: - Despite the rainy start to the New Richmond Bluegrass Festival held this year from September 1 to 5, the attendees had a wonderful weekend of music, camping and friendship. The event is Quebec's first and only annual bluegrass festival held since 2003. In 2020 the festival did go on, but with COVID-19 restrictions. This year the number of festival goers was higher but not yet at pre-COVID-19 levels.

The festival takes place annually during Labour Day weekend and normally features some of bluegrass music's top artists from United States and Canada. This year, the talent was from Canada and included some local talent as well. In the past some of the performers have included the very popular Rhonda Vincent, Special Consensus, Dailey and Vincent, Junior Sisk, and the Lonesome River Band. This year the talent was equally impressive and included the gifted musician, Ray Legere. No artists attended from the United States but those who did came from Quebec City, Montreal and the Maritime provinces. Visitors came from Ontario, the Maritimes, Quebec and the Magdalen Islands.

Many of the festival goers camp onsite and they become a small but tight-knit community for the weekend. It is an opportunity to meet up with old friends, something that increased this year with the loosening of pandemic restrictions. Camping cost is included with the purchase of all-inclusive or three-day passes.

Michael Geraghty, festival director for 16 years, tells Spec that last year 300 tickets were sold and in 2021 that number doubled to 600. This year about 30 to 40% of visitors were from out of the province but pre-COVID that number was closer to 50 or 60%.

When preparing for the festival, Michael sent a Covid plan to the government who responded very positively about the measures that were in place. Each year, Michael notes that more than half of attendees are returning from previous years.

Michael spends a great deal of time looking at videos for new talent and booking the groups for the next season. He has already begun to book bands for 2022! The groups bring in the crowds, but a big part of the event is the many jams that take place all around the site. The Bluegrass musi-



*Festival Director, Michael Geraghty spends a great deal of time lining up acts and organizing the festival.*



*Local musician Roger Lee Martin performed his own set, jammed with other musicians and was an emcee.*

cians and their fans are a community that you can sense on the site. Many people greet each other as they come and go into "The Barn," one of the covered venues.

Why does Bluegrass music remain so popular and have so many devoted fans? The music is feel good and upbeat but bluegrass also offers ballads. It has a unique sound, with a foot in country and folk music. The banjo is one of its distinctive markers as is three-part harmony. It seems that the Bluegrass Festival goers are attracted by the music and the temporary, friendly community that exists for the long weekend.

Roger Lee Martin, from Gesgapegiag, performed a few times and sat in on several jam sessions. Roger Lee performs classic country and some bluegrass. He also took on the role of emcee, greeting attendees in both English and French. The linguistic breakdown of festival goers was about 50-50 anglophones and francophones. Roger Lee comments, "My reward is seeing people smiling and having fun!" When asked why people return year after year, he replies quickly, "Hospitality. People feel welcome and have a good time." How long has he been part of the New Richmond Bluegrass Festival? "Every year, since year one," he comments with a smile.

Ray Legere, a professional musician from Sackville, New Brunswick, is a popular mainstay at the Bluegrass Festival. He is known as a generous musician who will gladly sit in with other musicians as well as performing with his own band, Acoustic Horizon: Ray Legere

(fiddle, mandolin, vocals), Frank Doody (banjo, dobro, vocals), Alan Jeffries (guitar, vocals) and Marcel Duplessis (bass, vocals).

Ray Legere has been inducted into the New Brunswick/Nova Scotia Coun-

try Music Hall of Fame and has been featured on a country music television show "Pour l'amour de country" for 16 years. His most recent awards include from the Bluegrass Music Association of Canada (for his videos), Bluegrasser of

the Year Award, 2020, and Lieutenant Governor Award, NB for exceptional performance in the Arts.

Enjoy his music on facebook (Ray Legere) on YouTube (Ray Legere) and have a look at his website at Raylegere.com If you attend the New Richmond Bluegrass Festival in 2022 you can enjoy his music live and in person!

Scheduled groups who played at the festival include Ray Legere and Acoustic Horizon, Sackville, New Brunswick; The Wabo BBQ Band, Quebec City; Robertson and Dion, New Richmond; Nash and the Narrows, Shigawake and Gaspé; The Clemville Outlaws, Paspébiac; Ancient Tones, Moncton; Veranda, Montreal; Eddie LeBlanc and Friends featuring Vicky Vatour, Moncton; and The Bluegrass Diamonds, Memramcook, N.B.



*Award-winning bluegrass musician Ray Legere and his band Acoustic Horizon, is a mainstay of the Bluegrass Festival.*



*Wabo BBQ Band entertains the crowd on a damp Friday afternoon, but the audience did not seem to mind the weather at all.*




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# Grande-Vallée is recovering from a major flood

Nelson **Sergerie**,  
**LJI Journalist**

GRANDE-VALLÉE - Grande-Vallée encountered by one of the largest floods to ever hit the municipality.

state of emergency late in the morning of September 4.

“We have never seen so much water. The water from all sides of the mountains went down to the municipality,” explained the mayor, Noël Richard, the day after

the disaster.

About twenty residents from the home for the elderly were evacuated. Water seeped into the basement of the building. In addition, about thirty residences were

affected on rue de la Rivière.

Over 100 millimetres of rainfall was associated with the passage of the remnants of Hurricane Ida on September 2-3.

Quebec has assured the

municipality that government assistance will be available for the victims.

The Minister responsible for the Gaspé, Jonatan Julien, visited the scene on September 8.



Photos: Courtesy André Richard

Both photos above show Grande-Vallée when it was hit by a major flood on September 4.



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- Ability and experience working with school aged children
- Strong communication skills: both oral and written
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- Must have a valid driver's license and have own means of transportation
- Excellent computer skills necessary including the ability to design and create publications
- Flexible hours – Evening and weekend work is required
- Bilingualism will be considered an asset
- First aid certification recommended
- Successful applicants will be required to pass a police screening

Education / Work Experience:

- Post-secondary education required or relevant work experience

Salary and Work Period:

- The salary of the Youth Program Assistant is \$16.86 per hour
- 20 hours of work per week
- The duration of the work is from October 4th, 2021 to April 29th, 2022

We thank all candidates for their interest, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

Please forward resumes to Heather MacWhirter at the following address [familyties@globetrotter.net](mailto:familyties@globetrotter.net) no later than September 24th, 2021.

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