

The Gaspé Spec

ESTABLISHED • MAY 1975

VOLUME 47 / NO 41, OCTOBER 20, 2021

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Gas prices reach an all-time high

Nelson **Sergerie**,
LJI Journalist

GASPÉ - Gas stations in the region have posted record prices at the pumps since October 7. Most retailers are charging between \$1.514 and \$1.519 per litre for regular gasoline.

The last time such a high price was seen was April 28 and 29, when a record price of \$1.497 was reached, according to data from the Energy Board. That record price was first seen in June 2008 in the region.

Based on data from the board, the realistic price was \$1.519 on October 13. CAA-Quebec placed the realistic price at \$1.535. So there appears to be no abuse on the part of the retailers or the oil companies.

Despite everything, the Gaspé is the only remote region to have such a high price.



Photo: N. Sergerie

The price of a litre of regular gasoline has reached an all-time high in the Gaspé

On the average, on October 13, a litre of gas was selling for \$1.479 in the Lower Saint Lawrence, \$1.451 in Abitibi-Témiscamingue, \$1.449 on the North Shore

and \$1.371 in Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean.

In the greater Quebec City region and in Montreal, a litre sold for around \$1.499.

Strongly rising interna-

tional demand with the global economic recovery and shrinking oil supplies would explain the three-cent increase at the pumps on Thursday.

An investigation without any updates

In November 2019, the Competition Bureau opened an investigation following a request for intervention by the mayor of Gaspé, Daniel Côté, after publicly calling for verifications on questionable practices.

According to a compilation made by the Town at the time, a litre of gas was selling for 8.3 cents to 18.5 cents higher than the minimum price estimated by the Energy Board between June 3 and August 26, 2019. That data places the region in second place among the places where gasoline is sold for the highest price in the province, after Nord-du-Québec.

Even if the context is not the same today, the fact remains that a conclusion still hasn't been made regarding that claim.

Gaspesian tree planter Antoine Moses' record considered one of the 15 most inspiring 2021 initiatives in Quebec

Gilles **Gagné**

CARLETON – Antoine Moses, the Gaspesian who set on July 19 a new world record for the largest number of trees planted in 24 hours, has been nominated by a Quebec-wide television network for having accomplished one of the 15 most inspiring initiatives over the past year in Quebec.

His feat, planting 23,060 trees in 24 hours and 19,040 trees in 18 hours of daylight, took place in Alberta but it received national media coverage. Télé-Québec put it on its list of 15 outstanding initiatives youths aged 13 to 17 can vote on before October 29.

That vote is called Sondage Mammouth and the voting site can be easily found online.

Télé-Québec will pres-

ent a show in December featuring the five initiatives that received the highest popular support before October 29.

Some of the other people nominated are well-known. Female weightlifter Maude Charron, of Rimouski, who won a gold medal at the Tokyo Olympic Games over the summer, is another nominee. Tennis player Leylah Fernandez, who, at 19 years of age, reached the finals at Flushing Meadows, the most important tournament held in the United States, is also nominated.

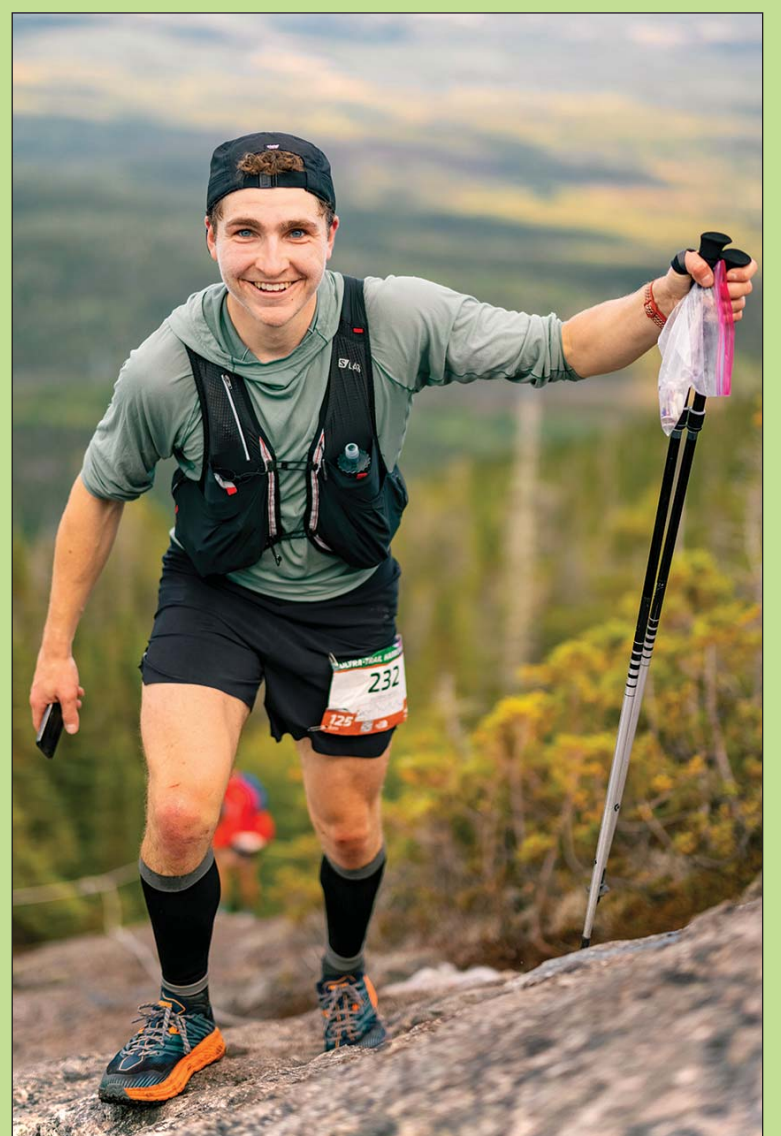
Canadiens hockey player Jonathan Drouin, for his role in raising people's awareness regarding mental health issues, movie-maker Denis Villeneuve, who realized one of the biggest American movies over the last year, Inuit artist Shina Nova and Kaytranada, the first Black musician to win a Grammy award for the electro-dance

album of the year are also nominated.

Antoine Moses, who lives in Carleton, not only broke the world tree-planting record, he also contributed \$3,000, his pay for the 23,060 trees he planted, to a fund in honour of Isabelle Brisson, a silviculture worker who died in the summer of 2020, crushed under a large tree during a storm. She was part of the group for which Antoine Moses worked. More than \$50,000 was raised for that fund that will award an annual scholarship to a Queen's University student in engineering, based on academic grades and financial needs.

Photo: Antoine Moses planted 23,060 trees in 24 hours on July 18-19, in Alberta. He is shown here keeping in shape in the mountains.

Photo Credit: Carl Vignola



Get tested, even if you've been vaccinated.



If you've been exposed to COVID-19

or you have COVID-like
symptoms such as:



Fever



Cough



Loss of smell
or taste

Follow self-isolation
guidelines and get tested.

Let's continue to protect ourselves.

[Québec.ca/testCOVID19](https://quebec.ca/testCOVID19)

Municipal Commission: Bills continue to climb for the defence of Louise Langlois

Nelson Sergerie,
LJI Journalist

CHANDLER - Bills for the defence of Chandler's outgoing mayor, Louise Langlois, against Quebec's Municipal Commission totals \$267,365 so far and it is not over yet.

The bills are piling up. On October 4, the Town Council authorized the payment of \$1,766 in invoices from the Morency Avocats, the law firm representing the Town in this case.

In addition, the municipal administration has received an invoice from Louise Langlois' attorney, Charles Caza, which will be submitted at the next municipal council meeting in November for payment approval.

After hearings held in July 2020, the outgoing mayor was found guilty on December 21 of 20 of the 21 breaches under the Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct of elected officials of the town.

Having asked the Superior Court to examine the case, the court dismissed, on June 30, the appeals for judicial review seeking to review the dismissal of an application for a stay of proceedings, and a challenge to the notice of hearing on October 9, 2020, and the sanction issued on December 21, 2020, by the municipal commission.

In a long twenty-nine-page decision, Judge Chantal Masse noted that the decisions



Photo: N. Sergerie

The outgoing mayor of Chandler, Louise Langlois

rendered by the municipal commission are rigorous and the analysis is serious both in law and in fact.

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

On the sanction handed down on December 21, the court ruled that Ms. Langlois had failed to convince her that there was reason to intervene.

The court was also careful to mention that Ms. Langlois did not testify at the hearings held in July 2020, in Gaspé.

On the 180-day penalty, the judge was surprised that Ms. Langlois complained because the commission referred to case law to get there.

The mayor was suspended from January 11 to July 12. The breaches mentioned include the disclosure of confidential information to citizens in November 2018, March 2019 and September 2019 where the mayoress allegedly disclosed the names or titles of employees who had made psychological harassment complaints to the CNESST. In addition, in March and May 2019, she allegedly sent an email or instant message to a citizen with legal professional fees accounts, all contrary to section 6 of the code.

The outgoing mayor has filed for leave to appeal the decision to the Court of Appeal.

The case was heard on October 19 in Montreal.

Police report

Slightly before 7:30 a.m. on October 13, the investigators of the major crimes squad of the Sûreté du Québec in Chandler assisted by their colleagues from the Côte-de-Gaspé MRC detachment, carried out three drug busts in a Legros Street apartment building. They seized a small quantity of cocaine, cash, cellular phones and two vehicles. Two individuals aged 36 and 23 who were living in that building were also arrested by the police before being released a few hours later, pending a promise to appear in court at a later date. They must respect certain conditions while awaiting further proceedings. They could face various counts of drug possession and drug trafficking.

The Thanksgiving weekend was exempt of fatal accidents this year in the Gaspé Peninsula, Magdalen Islands and Lower Saint Lawrence regions. A year ago, it was marked by one fatal accident. Nine collisions causing injuries were reported in this territory between October 8 and 11, compared to eight a year ago. Eight people were arrested for driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol, compared to three in 2020. Up to 411 speeding tickets were handed out this year and nine people received fines for not fastening their seatbelts. Fourteen drivers were stopped for using their cellular phones at the wheel and 101 additional drivers received other types of road safety fines. Up to 32 operations were held over the weekend to verify if drivers were under the influence of drugs or alcohol. The total number of tickets given out over the Thanksgiving weekend in the two regions amounted to 535 compared to 486 a year ago.

On October 12 at the New Carlisle courthouse, The Superior Court trial of Michel Perron, a 52-year-old man from Campbellton charged with break and enter, theft and forcible confinement, ended before the testimonies of the witnesses as he entered a plea of guilty on all charges. The 12 members of the jury selected on October 4 and 5 were consequently released. The three following days were mainly used to hear different requests from the defence side. Michel Perron was represented by a New Brunswick lawyer, Mikaël Bernard, and they asked Judge Étienne Parent that a presentence report be prepared. That report will be prepared by probation agents based in New Brunswick. The representations on the sentence will take place on December 8. Michel Perron remains free until that date. In fact, he was incarcerated between his arrest on March 29, 2019, and May 6 of the same year before being released with some conditions to respect.

The acts he pleaded guilty of occurred on the evening of March 19, 2019, in a Nouvelle house situated along Highway 132. The two seniors living in that house were tied by the accused and his partner in crime, Jimmy Lévesque, aged 38, of Dalhousie, who has died since. Three weeks were initially scheduled for the trial.

Hope Town municipal council formed with seven women

Gilles Gagné

HOPE TOWN – The municipal council of Hope Town is now elected, all by acclamation, and it will be formed by seven women, a rarity in the Gaspé Peninsula, in Quebec and probably in Canada. When candidate Kyle Bujold decided to pull out of the race in seat 3, where he was opposed by Shannon Major, that seat was no longer contested.

Since it was the only contested seat in Hope Town, the town's municipal council is chosen. Shannon Major joins incumbent mayor Linda MacWhirter, and incumbent councillors Lida Francoeur and Elizabeth Thériault, as well as newly elected councillors G. Joanne Ross, Tracy Major and Gisèle Delarosbil.

Meanwhile, in the Avignon

MRC, the electors will have to be patient before they see a complete municipal council in Matapédia and Saint-André-de-Restigouche. Another candidacy round will eventually take place over the winter to fill the vacant positions, likely by February.

Incumbent mayor Nicole Lagacé won by acclamation, like outgoing councillors Brian Cooke, Martine Levesque and Serge Denis. Newcomer on the council Caroline Pelletier was also elected without opposition but nobody filed candidacies for the positions in districts 3 and 4.

In Saint-André-de-Restigouche, incumbent mayor Doris Deschênes, who has occupied that position for 16 years, faces two opponents: Scott Irvine and Jean-Paul

Landry. Incumbent councillor Roch Gohier, and newcomers Tammy Arsenault, Edgar Boilard, Patrick Charest and Stéphane Benoit were elected by acclamation. Nobody filed a candidacy for the district 5 seat.

In L'Ascension-de-Patapédia, incumbent mayor Guy Richard and incumbent councillors Françoise Gallant, Marie-Marthe Chabot, Jean-Guy Francoeur, Louise Chiasson, Marc Couture and newcomer Nancy Arsenault all won by acclamation.

In Saint-François, another village of the Plateaux area, incumbent mayor Ghislain Michaud and incumbent councillors Louis Plourde, Rémi Lagacé, René Lambert, Danie Martin, Martial Pitre and newcomer Mélissa Gauthier were all elected without

opposition.

In Saint-Alexis, there will be no election as well since incumbent mayor Cynthia Dufour, incumbent councillors Alain Poitras, Mario Martin, Pierre Denis, Normand Richard as well as newcomers Sylvie Dufour and Jacques O. Dufour were all elected by acclamation.

In Ristigouche-South-East, incumbent mayor David Ferguson won by acclamation. Incumbent councillors Daniel Charest, Lucien Leblanc, Francis Levesque and Mélanie Côté all won without opposition, like newcomer Sabrina Landry-Court. There will be a race in district 4 between incumbent Bertrand Breton and Marie-Ève Nadeau.

In Pointe-à-la-Croix, incumbent mayor Pascal Bujold

faces opposition in the person of former mayor Jean-Paul Audy. Other races are taking place in three of the six council seats. Former municipal director general Claude Audet is challenging incumbent councillor Marie-Christine Langlois in seat 1, while three newcomers Tara-Lynn Bujold, Gail Parker and Julien Vallières are targeting seat 2. In district 6, Christian Lavoie is challenging incumbent Cindy Leblanc. Mathieu Ferguson Dufour, incumbent Marc Lord and Sylvain Robichaud were elected without opposition in seats 3, 4 and 5, respectively.

In Escuminac, incumbent mayor Bruce Wafer faced no opposition and is beginning his third term. The six positions on the council were also

Cont'd on page 6

Gilles Gagné Commentary



What is it that non-vaccinated people have not understood yet?

Despite numerous critics, Quebec's Health and Social Service Minister Christian Dubé made the right decision when he decided to postpone until November 15 the compulsory vaccination of health network employees. Without that postponement, the province would have hit a wall, to use his own words.

Altogether, between 10,000 and 14,000 health workers are still not fully vaccinated. Minister Dubé says suspending them without pay would have had Quebecers re-experiencing the worst stretch of the pandemic's first wave when often more than 100 people died daily.

He adds that the Quebec health network is currently in worse shape than it was at that time, as the staff is out of breath after 18 months of fighting COVID and working overtime. In April and May 2020, up to 12,000 workers were on sick leave at one point, mostly because they had contracted the coronavirus, or because they were exhausted.

Verifications made before the decision communicated on October 13 by Minister Dubé indicate that 600 short-term beds would have been closed, had the ministry suspended thousands of health workers. In the province there are 80 operating rooms that are already closed, and 35 more would have been closed in the days following October 15. There are 470 operating rooms in the province. It means that 25% of them would have been closed.

Home care, mental health and youth protection services would have been reduced. Some private residences for seniors would have closed because only 50% of their employees were vaccinated. Minister Dubé could see an-

other chaos in the making.

The saving grace of the network at the present time is the availability of the vaccines. Paradoxically, a proportion of the health sector employees are boycotting those vaccines.

There is consequently something quite odd about the fact that thousands of health workers refuse to get vaccinated. During the first and second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, some of them singlehandedly witnessed the death of dozens of people struck by the coronavirus. Some specialized doctors working in Montreal hospitals' intensive care units saw in excess of 100 patients die of COVID-19.

Keeping health employees at work while unvaccinated presents a risk of spreading the virus, even if assigning those boycotting workers to other tasks is possible. In fact, though, assigning them to other tasks would have complicated the organizational work of the management employees, who already have to cope with a shortage of staff and often force them to carry out compulsory overtime shifts.

What is it that the unvaccinated staff members have not understood since March 2020? How much more do they need before understanding common sense? How self-important can unvaccinated health employees consider themselves through thinking that their caprice warrants staff reorganization because they can no longer be in contact with patients? Why are they ignoring the contagious strength of the Delta variant? Why can't they understand that as time passes, other variants will emerge, thus triggering additional COVID-19 waves and that, consequently, everybody must contribute to the common fight against the coronavirus?

A lot of people think that they probably deserved and still deserve to be suspended. The weight unvaccinated health employees put on their vaccinated colleagues is unfair.

However, despite those relevant points, suspending vaccine refractory employees would create chaos in the health system. That chaos would have impacted heavily on vaccinated staff. Besides, talks are better than coercion, most of the time. Christian Dubé points out that

30,000 Quebec health employees accepted to be vaccinated since the end of August. It is still possible to convince more of them.

Moreover, between now and November 15, the vaccine refractory staff will be tested three times weekly and lose their 4% to 8% COVID-19 bonus. That's food for thought. Governments at all levels are also adding constraints to unvaccinated people who want to live a normal life, as vaccination proofs are increasingly required in various places.

Many non-vaccinated health employees will think that if Christian Dubé surrendered on October 13 about the October 15 deadline, he might surrender again before November 15. It is possible. Maybe he shouldn't have opted for a deadline in the first place and put emphasis on talks and awareness, as the Parti Québécois and Québec solidaire proposed, as well as five major health sector unions.

However, Christian Dubé's attempt to normalize an odd situation was well-intended, albeit awkward. It is too late to go back to square one. The CAQ government will be judged on many aspects a year down the road, come election time, and its management of the public health situation will be assessed. Although the Coalition avenir Québec has often displayed electoralism lately, including in health management, it is far from certain that it was the case for the decision to impose suspension to unvaccinated staff members.

Quebec, as the rest of the North American society, has reached a complicated situation, where a proportion of the population advocates for an individual right, that of refusing the vaccine, at the expense of the general public's right to live in the safest environment, health-wise. The freedom of a small minority mars the freedom of the majority.

The fight against the coronavirus represents a journey in uncharted waters. Good and bad decisions will often alternate between now and the end of the pandemic, which might only occur years down the road. The proper assessment of some of those decisions will only come once we have gotten rid of COVID-19. From now on, staying calm and composed in the middle of that storm will be helpful.

Cynthia Dow Guest Commentary



The price of mental health

A few days before World Mental Health Day on October 10, it was announced that hockey player Carey Price would be taking some time out to deal with an unnamed mental health issue.

Those who have never had to struggle with their mental health do not know the courage it takes to publicly take a break from responsibilities – whether work or family related -- to take care of themselves. As Gilles Gagné noted in last week's editorial, this is especially true of professional male athletes who are under enormous pressure to perform, no matter the consequences to their mental and physical health.

Taking care of yourself in our society is okay if you have a physical problem, but if you need to take time because you're feeling stressed, depressed or grieving, woe betide you! People will talk, people will judge, and you are likely to judge yourself harshly as well. Taking a break feels like admitting a weakness when in fact it is not only the healthy thing to do, it is the brave thing to do.

Hats off to Carey Price, who has chosen to do what so many men do not have the courage to face: admit they have a problem, take a break, and ask for help. Our society is full of men who try to escape their struggles in alcoholism, workaholicism, domestic abuse, and child abuse. If their crisis becomes really serious, they leave behind them a trail of traumatized, wounded – and sometimes dead – men, women and children. Would they had the guts of a First Nations goalie!

Speaking of First Nations, we should not be surprised to hear that some of Carey Price's mental health chal-

lenges have been exacerbated by the discovery of hundreds of graves of Indigenous children found around the sites of various residential schools. That has been like a punch in the gut to me, I can only imagine how it feels to Indigenous people.

The mental illness and substance use challenges which so many Indigenous individuals struggle with today have deep, deep roots that go right back to 1492, the first of multiple European invasions. Anthropologists have termed it a "soul wound" that is never allowed to heal, forced opened time and again through centuries of abuse, discrimination and bullying which, shamefully, continues even today. Every Canadian has a role to play in healing those wounds.

In the mid-1990s I came out of the closet about my own mental illness in a commentary in this very newspaper. At the time, I could not believe how many people came forward to share similar stories with me – in whispered tones, when they could pull me aside at community events, in the grocery store or on the street. The best thing that ever happened to me was when I found out I was not alone, that other people suffer from anxiety and panic disorder.

It's perfectly normal throughout one's life to deal with one mental challenge or another. Grief, depression, bipolar disorder, all are very common all around us. But how can we know we are not alone if people will not share their own experiences?

Sadly, those who do speak up are still judged. I spoke about my mental illness at a school event in 2019. One of the adults came over to me later and said, in front of half a dozen people, "I'm so surprised to hear about this weakness of yours. Members of your family are so strong!" I sincerely hope this kind of ignorance about mental illness and the courage it takes to face it openly and honestly is not systemic to our school system. It is vital that our youngsters be influenced by informed adults with the right kind of attitude and compassion about mental illness.

The federal and provincial governments keep talking a good game about the importance of mental health, and say they intend to increase access to services and resources. But as someone who has been active in community mental health affairs, I have yet to see the promised dollars or the impact they are supposed to have. Mental health services should be made available to all Canadians just like physical health services are. You should not have to be rich to get the help you need to deal effectively with a mental illness.

Carey Price, you know that your mental health is priceless and you are seeking the help you need. Don't let anyone tell you that you are weak or somehow lacking. Because of your honesty, more people than you know are going to find their own courage and get help themselves, and that could be your greatest legacy! Thank you for your leadership!

The Gaspé Spec

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CONTRIBUTORS: Cynthia Dow, Jeanie LeLacheur

208-B Gérard D. Levesque
 New Carlisle, Que.
 G0C 1Z0
 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

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

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Gaspésie Railway Society turns things around financially and declares \$708,000 surplus

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND – The Gaspésie Railway Society declared a surplus of \$708,000 for the financial year that ended on March 31, 2021. An \$800,000 increase between 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 in its transportation revenues made a big difference in the financial statements of the transporter.

In 2019-2020, the Gaspésie Railway Society had lost \$799,000 because of the Canadian National Railway strike, the railroad blockade in Listuguj and the beginning of the pandemic, which at first almost paralyzed economic activities for two weeks.

“We made \$10,325,620 in total revenues, to be accurate, including the annual grant handed out by the Quebec government, which totalled \$2,28 million last year, when all our admissible expenses were included. The total revenues also include \$800,000 of additional fees we contracted when we participated in the completion of the Cascapedia-Saint Jules railway bridges just before Christmas,” explains the Gaspésie Railway Society president, Éric Dubé.

Transportation revenues reached \$6.8 million in 2020-2021, compared to \$6 million the year before.

Other smaller miscellaneous sources of revenues, such as right of way licences and a \$100,000 salary compensation handed out by the federal government to enterprises affected by the coronavirus, complete the income side of the transporter’s financial statements. Those results were presented to the administrators on September 22.

The expenses reached \$9,725,000 in 2020-2021, close to the level of 2019-2020. The accumulated surplus of the transporter is now \$2,739,804.

“It is not \$2,739,804 sleeping in one of our accounts. It is on paper surplus, coming from our balance sheet. It is what we would have if we sold all of our equipment and land,” points out Éric Dubé.

During the 2020 calendar year, the Gaspésie Railway Society hauled 4,202 carloads with its freight trains.

“Various factors con-

tributed to our transportation revenue increase. We had a hike in cement hauling and overall stability for the windmill blade traffic,” says Mr. Dubé about the transporter’s two main sources of revenues.

The next major revenue increase is expected to occur when Transports Québec, the owner of the Matapedia to Gaspé line, will open the railway between Caplan and Port Daniel.

Cement traffic has to begin in New Richmond because some railway bridges still need to be fixed or replaced between Caplan and Port Daniel. Since the summer of 2017, part of the McInnis Cement plant’s output is therefore trucked to New Richmond at a higher cost. The same phenomenon is applied to the windmill blades made by LM Wind Power in Gaspé.

Transports Québec has committed to reopening the Caplan to Port Daniel line before the end of 2021 but Éric Dubé is confident that those repairs will be carried out eventually, and wonders if the ministry will fulfil its commitment, time-wise.

“I am starting to be worried. There is always a delay of close to six months before the call for tenders is out, and the turn key step that takes place when the repairs are done. Transports Québec has not issued a call for tenders for bridge repairs on the line for more than a year now. We have been dealing with efficient contractors so far but as long as the calls for bids are not out, they can’t work,” states Mr. Dubé.

Four bridges located between Caplan and Port Daniel need either to be replaced, like the Ruisseau Leblanc structure at the municipal limit of Caplan and Saint-Siméon, or upgraded, like the Bonaventure, Shigawake and Port Daniel bridges. In the latter case, it is the bridge just west of the train station, not the one located in the centre of the village, and currently being refurbished.

“When a call for tenders is issued, we must count 30 days before the bids are sent by contractors, and 60 more days for the Transports Québec people to analyze those bids. It often takes another period of three months before the contract is



Photo: G. Gagné

Cement and windmill blades represent by far the two main sources of revenues for the Gaspésie Railway Society.

awarded and before work starts,” explains Éric Dubé. “So far, we have been lucky because the contractor hired for the bridges, Hamel Construction, has always delivered the bridges in advance but as long as the contracts are not awarded, nothing moves,” he adds.

For example, Hamel Construction delivered the Ruisseau Leblanc bridge in Caplan five months ahead of schedule at the beginning of May, while the contractor had until the end of September to do so. The contractor did not want to demobilize its crew for the summer and bring it back in September to complete the contract, as a clause was forcing Hamel to stop work in the summer because of the presence of a campground next door.

“The Ruisseau Leblanc bridge is located just east of the Ruisseau Leblanc bridge. Suppose that the call for tenders would have been ready for Ruisseau Leblanc and that Hamel had won it, the crew would just have had to move a short distance to the east and work would be underway. The Ruisseau Leblanc bridge is almost the same length as the Ruisseau Leblanc one and there is more space to move for a contractor. It is hard to understand why it is taking so long to run the call for tenders for Ruisseau Leblanc,” explains Éric Dubé.

So far, Hamel Construction, or one of its subsidiaries, has won all the

railway bridge contracts awarded by Transports Québec over the last three years.

Board of administrators changes to come for the Gaspésie Railway Society

Meanwhile, the Gaspésie Railway Society’s board of administrators will greet new members in the weeks to come, as two members are stepping down from the transporter, a municipal entity.

The two representatives of the Percé Rock MRC, the mayor of Chandler, Louise Langlois, and the Percé Rock MRC prefect, Nadia Minassian, are quitting municipal politics.

“The MRCs are responsible for appointing two board members per MRC. It doesn’t have to be the prefect or the mayor of the main town. So, the next mayor of Chandler and the next prefect will not necessarily be appointed to the board of the SCFG. It could also be someone from

the private sector but it never happened,” explains Éric Dubé, using the French acronym designating the Société du chemin de fer de la Gaspésie.

He has presided over the transporter’s board since the spring of 2014 and is interested in staying on.

The mayor of Carleton, Mathieu Lapointe, and Matapedia mayor, Nicole Lagacé, represent the Avignon MRC on that board. Mr. Lapointe is also prefect of the Avignon MRC. Éric Dubé, who is mayor of New Richmond and prefect of the Bonaventure MRC, and Saint-Siméon mayor Denis Gauthier, represent that MRC. In the Côte-de-Gaspé MRC, the mayor of Gaspé and prefect Daniel Côté sit on the board, with the mayor of Murdochville, Delisca Ritchie-Roussy, whose seat is contested in the current municipal election campaign.

The Gaspésie Railway Society provides work to between 35 and 40 people.



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filled without battles by incumbents Robert Belzile, Léon Arsenault, Jean-Marc Vallée, Roch Savoie and newcomers Maxime Cellard and Raymond Perkinson.

In Nouvelle, Ivanhoe Caissy and Rachel Dugas want to replace outgoing mayor Yvan Saint-Pierre, who is retiring. Geneviève Labilloy, Rémi Caissy, Julie Alain and Sandra MacBrearty, four incumbent councillors, were elected by acclamation. Battles are taking place in districts 2, between newcomers Jonathan Dufresne, Vanaly Leblanc and Denis Richard while in district 4, Paul Leclerc is opposed to Steven Olscamp. They are newcomers.

In Carleton, the whole council was elected by acclamation, including incumbent mayor Mathieu Lapointe, who is also the Avignon MRC prefect. Incumbent councillors Jean-Simon Landry, Alain Turcotte and Denise Leblanc are all back, and they are joined by newcomers Régis Leblanc, Esteban Figueroa and Sylvie Tremblay.

Maria will have a new mayor, either Cathie Belley or Jean-Claude Landry, since Christian Leblanc is leaving politics after two terms. Five districts are contested. In fact, only Patricia Chartier, who was a council member before 2017, was elected by acclamation in district 6.

Eleven candidates are trying to get the nod in the five other seats. Incumbent Daniel Audet receives opposition from Patrick Guité in district 1, while former councillor Louise Fugère and Cindy Gagné are trying to oust incumbent Louis-Marie Guité in district 2. In district 3, incumbent David Philippe faces opposition from Renaud Quilbé. Two newcomers are trying to win in seat 4, namely José Caissy and France Leblanc. In district 5, incumbent Guylaine Audet gets opposition from Jeanne Manseau-Noël.

The municipal elections will take place on November 7, with the advanced poll being held a week earlier.



PUBLIC NOTICE OF POLL MUNICIPALITY OF GASPÉ

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given to the electors registered on the municipal list of electors that:

- a poll will be held;
- the candidates in this election for the positions mentioned below are:

Office : COUNCILLOR, WARD NUMBER 1

- Mathieu Denis
306, boulevard de Petit-Cap
- Carmelle Mathurin
913, boulevard de l'Anse-à-Valleau

Office : COUNCILLOR, WARD NUMBER 3

- Charlie-Maude Giroux Bossé
713, boulevard de Forillon
- Nelson O'Connor
1895, boulevard de Grande-Grève

Office : COUNCILLOR, WARD NUMBER 4

- Réal Côté
315, montée de Wakeham
- Marcel Fournier
478, rue des Tourterelles

Office : COUNCILLOR, WARD NUMBER 5

- James Keays
204, rue Wayman
- Aline Perry
170, rue De Pontbriand

Office : COUNCILLOR, WARD NUMBER 6

- Pierre Desrosiers
437, boulevard de Douglas
- Ghislain Smith
474, montée de Sandy Beach

- Advance polling will be held from 9 h 30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the following locations on **October 31, 2021**:

Ward number 1 :

- **École St-Paul, 33, chemin de l'Église**, St-Maurice de l'Échouerie (sections 1 to 4, Anse-à-Valleau, Pointe-Jaune, Saint-Maurice de l'Échouerie and Petit-Cap);

Ward number 3 :

- **Chalet sportif de l'Anse-au-Griffon**, 85, Rang St-Patrice, Anse-au-Griffon (sections 13 to 15, Anse-au-Griffon and Cap-des-Rosiers) ;
- **École Notre-Dame-du-Sacré-Cœur**, 43, rue Fontenelle, St-Majorique (sections 16 and 17, Grande-Grève, Cap-aux-Os and Forillon);

Ward number 4 :

- **École Notre-Dame-du-Sacré-Cœur**, 43, rue Fontenelle, St-Majorique (sections 18 to 21, St-Majorique, Corte-Real and Pointe-Navarre) ;
- **École secondaire C.-E. Pouliot**, 85, boulevard de Gaspé, Gaspé (sections 22 to 24, Wakeham) ;

Ward number 5 :

- **École secondaire C.-E. Pouliot**, 85, boulevard de Gaspé, Gaspé (sections 25 to 32, Gaspé centre-ville) ;

Ward number 6 :

- **Carrefour intermodal**, 8, rue de la Marina, Gaspé (sections 33 to 38, Sandy-Beach and Haldimand) ;
- **Salle de York**, 702, boul. de York Ouest, Gaspé (sections 39 to 41, York and Sunny Bank) ;

- **Salle Trachy**, 15, rue Trachy, Gaspé (sections 42 to 44, Douglstown) ;

- Regular polling stations will be open for the poll on **November 7, 2017, from 9 h 30 a.m. to 8 p.m.** at the following locations :

Ward number 1 :

- **École St-Paul**, 33, chemin de l'Église, St-Maurice de l'Échouerie (sections 1 to 4, Anse-à-Valleau, Pointe-Jaune, Saint-Maurice de l'Échouerie and Petit-Cap);

Ward number 3 :

- **Chalet sportif de l'Anse-au-Griffon**, 85, Rang St-Patrice, Anse-au-Griffon (sections 13 to 15, Anse-au-Griffon and Cap-des-Rosiers) ;
- **École Notre-Dame-du-Sacré-Cœur**, 43, rue Fontenelle, St-Majorique (sections 16 and 17, Grande-Grève, Cap-aux-Os and Forillon) ;

- **Petite école de Forillon**, 1826, boulevard de Forillon, Cap-aux-Os (sections 16 and 17, Grande-Grève, Cap-aux-Os and Forillon);

Ward number 4 :

- **École Notre-Dame-du-Sacré-Cœur**, 43, rue Fontenelle, St-Majorique (sections 18 to 21, St-Majorique, Corte-Real and Pointe-Navarre) ;
- **École secondaire C.-E. Pouliot**, 85, boulevard de Gaspé, Gaspé (sections 22 to 24, Wakeham) ;

Ward number 5 :

- **Centre Colombien de Gaspé**, 25, rue de la Cathédrale, Gaspé (sections 25 to 32, Gaspé centre-ville) ;

Ward number 6 :

- **Carrefour intermodal**, 8, rue de la Marina, Gaspé (sections 33 to 38, Sandy-Beach and Haldimand) ;
- **Salle de York**, 702, boul. de York Ouest, Gaspé (sections 39 to 41, York and Sunny Bank) ;
- **Salle Trachy**, 15, rue Trachy, Gaspé (sections 42 to 44, Douglstown) ;

- You will be required to wear a face covering inside the polling places;

- You may bring a pencil or pen with blue or black ink to mark your ballot paper;

- If you are registered to vote by mail:

- The returning officer must have received your ballot papers no later than Friday, November 5 at 4:30 p.m.;
- If you are registered to vote by mail and you have not received your ballot papers a few days after you made the request, you can contact the returning officer to obtain new ones.

- The addition of the votes will take place at the following location, date and time:

TOWN HALL
25, RUE DE L'HÔTEL-DE-VILLE, GASPÉ,
AT 9 P.M., ON NOVEMBER 7, 2021

- You can contact the returning officer (or her assistant, where applicable) at the following address and telephone number.

25, rue de l'Hôtel-de-ville
418-368-2104 ext. 8505

DONE at Gaspé, October 21, 2021.

Me Isabelle Vézina,
Returning officer



Your QR code is your vaccination passport

If asked, show your vaccination
passport—either the print or digital version,
or in the VaxiCode app—along with a piece of ID.



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Slight enrolment increase at Eastern Shores School Board in 2021-2022

Escuminac Intermediate School explains big part of the increase

Gilles Gagné

NEW CARLISLE – The enrolment in the Eastern Shores School Board network increased slightly between 2020-2021 and 2021-2022, as the total number of students attending the 16 schools of the organization went from 1,050 last year to 1,070 this year.

Based on net statistics, that 20 student increase explains the enrolment hike at Eastern Shores School Board, as the number of students attending that school went from 28 to 45, which is 17 additional people, or a 44.74% increase. In a way, the Escuminac Intermediate

School number represents 85% of the overall hike.

“It comes from an increase of students from Listuguj, but we are still not aware why this year. It could be due to the pandemic, but we cannot say for sure. It’s not something we ask at registration,” points out Hugh Wood, Director General of the Eastern Shores School Board (ESSB).

Eight other ESSB schools registered an increase. Number-wise, New Richmond High School made the second biggest progress, with nine additional students, from 97 to 106, a 9.28% jump.

The two schools located in Sept-Îles, Flemming Elementary and Queen Elizabeth



Escuminac School

High School, also made forward strides with seven more students in the first case and

eight more in the second case. The increase at Flemming Elementary, the most populated school of the ESSB network, is 4.46%, compared to 11.6% at Queen Elizabeth.

The two schools located in Gaspé, Gaspé Elementary and Gaspé Polyvalent, also registered increases, a small one in the first case, from 117 to 118, and a bigger one in the second case, from 83 to 89, which represents 7.23%.

The Grosse Isle School in the Magdalen Islands made progress with a slight increase from 37 to 39 students, which means a 5.4% jump.

The Shigawake-Port Daniel School saw its enrolment increase slightly, from 69 to 70 while in Chandler, the Saint Patrick School also registered a one-student increase, from 41 to 42.

On the minus side, the biggest losses are seen at Baie Comeau High School,

with a 22.5% decrease in enrolment, from 40 to 31 students, and at Metis Beach School, from 65 to 58 students, a 9.28% drop. The Fermont School lost three students, from 15 to 12, which represents proportionately a 20% drop. The small initial enrolment at Chandler Evergreen School, a high school, also made a four student loss look big, at 17.4%, as the number went from 23 to 19.

New Carlisle High School, which offers elementary and high school studies, saw its enrolment go from 141 to 137 students, a 2.84% loss.

Port Cartier’s Riverview School lost three students, from 33 to 30, for a 9.1% drop. The Belle Anse School in the municipal limits of Percé lost two students between 2020-2021 and 2021-2022, which represents 5.7% of its enrolment.

ESSB School	2020-2021	2021-2022	Variation (%)
Baie Comeau High School	40	31	-22.5
Belle Anse School	35	33	-5.7
Escuminac Intermediate	28	45	44.74
Evergreen High School	23	19	-17.4
Fermont	15	12	-20
Flemming Elementary	157	164	4.46
Gaspé Elementary	117	118	.85
Gaspé Polyvalent	83	89	7.23
Grosse Isle School	37	39	5.4
Metis Beach School	65	58	-10.77
New Carlisle High School	141	137	-2.84
New Richmond High School	97	106	9.28
Queen Elizabeth High School	69	77	11.6
Riverview School	33	30	-9.1
Shigawake-Port-Daniel School	69	70	1.45
St. Patrick's Elementary	41	42	2.44
Totals	1,050	1,070	1.9%

Increase in unemployment rate during September

Nelson Sergerie, LJI

GASPÉ - Despite a slight drop of 600 positions occupied in September compared to August, the employment rate is maintaining its post-pandemic recovery rate in the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands.

According to Statistics Canada data released on October 8, 37,600 jobs were held in September in the region. That's 4,900 more jobs than in the same period last year as the second wave of COVID-19 hit the region.

The number of unemployed individuals rose by 500 to 3,700 from August to September.

As a result, the unemployment rate increased by 1.3% to 9%. It was 9.4% in September 2020.

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The workers walked out for the first time on September 24.

Photo: N. Sergerie

CPE educators demand better conditions

Nelson **Sergerie**,
LJI Journalist

GASPÉ - The educators of the CPEs affiliated with the CSN in the Gaspé called a new two-day strike on October 14 and 15 to force the finalization of a new agreement with Quebec.

The educators have made some progress, however, they continue to show solidarity with their colleagues in childcare facilities.

"They are all in solidarity with each other, to offer better service. There is a labour shortage. To attract people, we have to offer good working conditions, and this is what daycare workers strive to achieve," says

Serge Saint Pierre, president of the Central Council of the CSN for the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands.

More than 99% of educators voted in favour of a bank of 10 days off work. The first strike took place on September 24.

The CSN is present in practically all the CPEs in the Gaspé and represents more than 250 educators.

Demonstrations took place on October 14 in front of the centres and on October 15 in Quebec City.

In reaction, the President of the Treasury Board, Sonia Lebel, defended her offers to educators on October 13. She

pointed out that the pay at Level 1 would go from \$19 to \$21.38 per hour and at Level 10 - the last - the hourly rate would increase from \$25.18 to \$28.31.

The next day, Ms. Lebel and her colleague at the Family Ministry, Mathieu Lacombe, indicated in a press briefing in Quebec City that the offers on the table were applied the same day, insisting that the negotiations were not over.

"This is only a first concrete gesture, a gesture to demonstrate the good faith of the government," says Minister Lebel.

According to the minister, in some cases, the increase could represent a gain of 17%.

Good season for shrimp fishing

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ – According to the Quebec Shrimp Fishermen's Office, shrimp trawlers had another good fishing season in 2021, which will be like that of 2020.

Most fishermen in Rivière-au-Renard and Matane filled their quotas this year.

In the Anticosti zone, the shrimp were smaller, which reduced overall revenues and partially offset the positive impact of the prices obtained this season.

Even if the shrimp were smaller, which could be a sign that the resource is declining, that's not the case. It's too early to predict what impact this finding will have on quotas, but according to Director Patrice Element that's good news.

"This is an encouraging sign. What scientists are saying is that there is the presence of all classes of shrimp, of all ages. This is good for the sustainability of the resource," says Mr. Element.

The season could stretch into early November for the few shrimp boats that have not yet reached their quota. The global quota was set at 18,000 tonnes.

Asked about the first year of operation of the joint plan with the fishermen of Matane, Mr. Element said that everything went well.

In March, the Régie des marchés agricoles alimentaire du Québec agreed that the shrimp fishermen of Matane would join the Joint Plan of the Town of Gaspé which has become the Joint Plan of Quebec shrimp fishermen.

Most Matane fishermen wanted to join the plan. The administrators underlined that the decision would be beneficial for the development of this sector as well as for the promotion of the product on the Quebec market.

The Régie des marchés agricoles had set prices at \$1.48 per pound for large shrimp, \$1.15 for average and \$0.96 for small for the 2021 season.

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Healthcare workers have until November 15 to be fully vaccinated

Nelson **Sergerie**,
LJI Journalist

GASPÉ – On October 13, the government of Quebec gave health network employees an extension of 30 days for mandatory vaccinations. The new deadline is set for November 15.

The unions representing the workers of the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands Integrated Health and Social Services Centre are quite surprised by the extension.

Minister Christian Dubé made the decision when he was faced with the risk of seeing the health network grappling with unbearable pressure.

The union of nurses, licensed practical nurses and respiratory therapists of Eastern Quebec (SIIEQ) estimates that between 70 and 75 members are affected by the obligation.

Fearing service breaks, SIIEQ president Pier-Luc Bujold says it's a logical move, especially since the CISSS could not provide him with the impact of the measure.

"A very interesting fact is that the government has once



Photo: N. Sergerie

Healthcare workers have an extra month to get vaccinated.

again recognized that there are problems in the network. The situation is serious. The government must act quickly to retain and attract people to the network," says Mr. Bujold.

For its part, the CSN, which represents, préposés, technical and maintenance employees, estimates that around forty of its members are not vaccinated.

Category 2 regional president Pierre-Luc Boulay notes that the imposition of October

15 would have been dramatic because the CISSS would have needed to fill the positions of private préposés with public ones.

"What worried the members, both vaccinated and unvaccinated, was the additional workload in a context of labour shortages," says the union representative.

Mr. Boulay has favoured vaccinations from the start, but the concept of obligation provokes him. At the APTS

(Alliance du personnel professionnel technique en santé et services sociaux), we say we're more than surprised. The union, which represents medical technologists and Youth Protection workers, is unable to quantify the impact on its members.

"One less person in the network means fewer services for the population. Do we have the means to lose employees? The answer, unfortunately, is no," says union spokesperson, Jenny Tardif.

A little more than 200 people are still not vaccinated at the Gaspé Peninsula Magdalen Islands CISSS.

Among other measures announced by the minister, staff who are not adequately vaccinated must undergo a minimum of three COVID-19 tests per week, both in the public and in the private sector, starting October 18.

These workers will not be able to receive the COVID premiums as well as the \$18,000 premium for nurses who return to work in the public network.

They will get their premiums if they get double vaccinated within the next 30 days.

Vaccination obligation maintained for visitors

Despite the postponement of the vaccination deadline for workers in the health network, the CISSS maintains compulsory vaccinations as of now for visitors, caregivers and visitors.

The measure, which entered into force on October 15 as planned, means that people will have to present their QR code and proof of photo identification upon arrival at a CISSS facility.

However, some exemptions are foreseen: users who are there to receive care; a person providing assistance to a sick patient, a child under 14, a patient who gives birth or a person unable to consent to the care required; a parent or guardian of a child in a rehabilitation centre; a peace officer or a firefighter in the performance of his duties; the visitor of a loved one at the end of their life; and the operator and family members of an intermediate or family-type resource whose place of residence is within the resource.

Utica wants Quebec to keep hydrocarbons

Nelson **Sergerie**,
LJI Journalist

GASPÉ - "We believe that banning and putting an end to natural gas production projects would represent an extremely important strategic error for Quebec."

This is what Utica Resources said after the Legault government recently said it was studying the legal impacts of a buyout of existing permits. At the same time, the Parti Québécois intends to table a bill in the fall to ban the oil and gas industry in Quebec.

Utica, which owns Galt near Gaspé, believes that the government of Quebec should instead be inspired by the Caisse de depot et placement du Quebec which last week maintained that its assets in the gas industry, as a crucial energy in the energy transition and the fight against climate change.

The company says global natural gas prices are soaring and Europe is experiencing an unprecedented energy crisis that is even forcing some

countries to restart coal plants. This situation is made necessary by the inability of several European countries to take advantage of strategic natural gas reserves like the ones we have.

Utica Resources says that one of the main objectives of Quebec oil and gas legislation is to locally produce a portion of the significant oil and gas resources that Quebec currently imports in order to meet our consumption needs, adding that hundreds of millions of dollars have been invested to prove the presence of gas and oil resources in Quebec's subsoil. These investments made it possible to discover in Quebec one of the largest gas deposits in North America, the Utica Shales.

The oil company claims that this deposit has recoverable reserves that could meet Quebec's demand for more than 100 years and its value is several hundred billion dollars, as shown in the report of the Geological Survey of Canada.

It concludes that replacing



Photo: N. Sergerie

Equipment is still present at the Galt site near Gaspé

imported natural gas with local natural gas would have positive consequences on the overall reduction of greenhouse gases.

Utica management did not return our calls for clarification following their statement issued last week.

The Member of the National Assembly for Gaspé is still against hydrocarbons. Parti Québécois MNA, Mé-

ganne Perry Mélançon, has been vocal about the issue on numerous occasions, calling for the end of the oil and gas industry and also mentions an IPCC report which emphasizes that Quebec must lessen their use of hydrocarbons.

Based on the Galt project, near Gaspé, the MNA is unwavering in her viewpoint. "What is the point of embarking on drilling over

forty years to fetch roughly the equivalent of 40 days of consumption in Quebec. There are very few economic benefits for the region. We must instead turn to green energies. I will continue to stick to it. We must not follow up with the Utica company and we should even withdraw their licences immediately," suggests the elected official.

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COVID-19 situation remains stable in the region

Mandatory vaccination for visitors, caregivers and attendants remains

Gilles **Gagné**

CARLETON – On paper, the COVID-19 situation improved slightly in the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands between October 8 and 15, as the number of active cases decreased from 24 to 15 over that week. However, the October 15 daily report announced a 49th death related to the coronavirus since the beginning of the pandemic.

On a more positive note, the number of new cases reported in the region during the second week of October decreased to 14, from 22 during the previous week. Two days were exempt of new cases between October 8 and 15.

Out of those 14 new cases,

all but one were geographically located in the Avignon MRC, the strong tendency over the last weeks.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, 2,195 people received a positive COVID-19 test, and 2,131 recovered from it. Those numbers were effective on October 15.

Regarding the vaccination rate, the regional rate stood at 82.1% for the first vaccine and 79.3% for the booster shot, as of October 10. It compares to 81.9% for the first shot and 78.8% for the booster shot a week earlier. The Avignon MRC vaccination rate still lags significantly behind the regional proportion, at 74.3% for the first vaccine and 70.4% for the second one. It is almost 8% less in the first case and

close to 9% in the second case.

The vaccination rate in the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands remains above the Quebec-wide average of 78.8% and 75.8% respectively.

Meanwhile, the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands Integrated Health and Social Services Centre would like to remind the public that, despite the 30-day postponement for the entry into force of the compulsory vaccination of health network personnel, the October 15 deadline for visitors, caregivers and attendants remains in effect.

Those people will have to present their QR code and proof of identity with photos upon arrival in all CISSS fa-

cilities.

Certain exemptions from this measure are provided for, for example, users who come to such a place to receive health services and social services; a person who accompanies another individual who, because of his state of health or for security purposes, requires assistance that cannot be provided by someone else; a parent or babysitter of a child accommodated in a rehabilitation centre for youths with various difficulties as well as anyone with a right to visit ordered by a decision rendered by the Quebec Court.

Exemptions can also apply to a peace officer or firefighter in the performance of his duties, visitors for a loved

one at the end of his or her life, or the accompanying person of a child aged 14 and under, and a midwife or a person unable to consent to the care required by his or her health condition.

The operator of an intermediate housing facility or a family-type housing facility whose main place of residence is located in such a building, can also benefit from an exemption.

People who want to get their QR vaccination code can visit the free portal of the Health Department, or get service on the Web. Further information is available through calling 1 877-644-4545 or by going to one of the vaccination clinics in the region.

Chilly enough for chili

Diane **Skinner**

Cooler days are here and even when it is warm during the day, the evenings are getting close to zero degrees, and we can feel that the change of season has arrived.

It is time to start thinking about making warm, hearty soups, stews and, of course, chili. A big pot of chili simmering away on the stove all afternoon is so comforting. The smell of the ingredients fills the house, and we eagerly look forward to supper and ladling out big bowls of chili, served with a baguette and if you have room, a crisp green salad. Another pairing that makes this meal even heartier is corn bread or as it is also called, Johnny Cake.

As with all traditional foods, there are many different recipes available. This recipe is for Classic Chili and will serve about 4 - 6 people. Well worth the effort!

Classic Chili

1 can of diced tomatoes
1 can kidney beans, rinsed
1 8 oz. can tomato sauce
1 small can tomato paste
1 pound ground beef or ground turkey
2 cups beef broth
1 tbsp. olive oil
1 medium yellow onion, diced
2 ½ tbsp. chili powder
2 tbsp. cumin powder
1 tbsp. garlic powder
2 tbsp. sugar
1 ½ tsp. salt

½ tsp. pepper (if you want it spicier, use cayenne pepper)

1. Place olive oil in a large pot and heat over medium to high for about 2 minutes. Add the chopped onion, cook while stirring for about 5 minutes.
2. Add ground beef or ground turkey and break it apart with a wooden spoon. Cook for 7 – 8 minutes, stirring occasionally.
3. Add chili powder, sugar, cumin, tomato paste, garlic powder, salt and pepper. Add cayenne if you wish. Stir well.
4. Add beef broth, canned diced tomatoes including the juice, kidney beans and tomato sauce. Stir.
5. Slowly bring mixture to the boiling point. Then reduce the heat to low or medium-low and allow the chili to simmer.
6. Continue to cook gently for 30 minutes uncovered. Stir occasionally.
7. If you are in a hurry, serve



the chili. If you have time, allow to simmer longer to allow the chili to blend and enhance the flavours. Yum.

To increase the flavour you can also add on top of the bowl: grated cheddar cheese, sliced green onions, diced avocado or green pepper, a dash or more of hot sauce or a dollop of sour cream.

Doubling this recipe works well and is handy to have in the freezer for a quick meal.

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NOVEMBER 7, 2021
MUNICIPALITY OF NEW CARLISLE

PAID ADVERTISING

Written by David Thibault

Candidate for Mayor of New Carlisle

The trees have started changing colours, the nights are getting colder, the gardens have been harvested and the first fires have been lit in the stoves. Autumn has arrived but this year there's something special going down and it only happens every four years. It's the municipal elections throughout the province of Quebec.

In retrospect, I wanted to take the time to inform the local population of the impact I have had these past four years as councillor for the municipality of New Carlisle. First off, I'm responsible for obtaining multiple grants for the Green (park) totalling nearly \$200,000. These grants helped pay for the following: gazebo on the beach, picnic tables, barbecues, fish cleaning station and a brand-new boardwalk complete with solar LED lighting.

Also, I was responsible for obtaining the financing and overseeing the construction of the new municipal garage and fire department building for which the municipality received \$1.3 million from the provincial government. The old garage will be used for general storage and the old fire house is now a workshop for town employees.

Another jewel in our town is the Optimist chalet on Normandie, for which I obtained over \$100,000 in grants to redo the kitchen, bathrooms and outside terrace. All the work was done with accessibility in mind creating an intergenerational space for all to enjoy. Moreover, the electrical entrance was modified, and a generator was purchased in order to power the chalet during a power outage and house people temporarily.

I was also responsible for upgrading our 190 streetlights to LED technology which helps save the town \$12,000 in electrical costs annually.

After four years as councillor, I am responsible for going after and obtaining about \$1.6 million in grants with an average subsidy of 70 % for these projects.

There were a few other grant projects that I worked on but were refused such as: a dehumidifier for the arena, town hall basement retrofit and a global warming impact assessment study.

I was also part of several committees as well that touched on crime prevention, drinking water and the future of our garbage/recycling v. composting.

In closing, I wish the whole Gaspé Coast a pleasant fall, a great hunting season and a COVID free winter full of fun. I hope my actions speak louder than the words of others and that I can count on your support in the coming elections.

Please vote! October 30th - 31st and November 7th.

PAID ADVERTISING

Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



Is your Smartphone making you dumb?

Technology is everywhere and has changed much about how we work, learn and interact with others. Over the last 20 years it has been a slow, but sure, revolution in our personal lives and the world. Many people, if not most, own a smartphone, a computer and a tablet. We have learned to rely on and enjoy our technology. According to the Consumer Technology Association, 86% of Canadian adults own a smartphone. This statistic varies from region to region. In Alberta, 92% of adults own a smartphone. That number is lowest in Atlantic Canada at 74%.

There are a lot of smartphones, but the more sobering statistic is the amount of time that people spend on their smartphones. On the average, Canadian teens and adults spend 10 hours per day on their phone.

Technology is a tool so to subscribe to the theory that smartphones are a negative thing is blaming “the tool.” Overuse of a cell phone is under total control of the user. Many people say that they take their phone to bed and keep it close, “just in case” someone needs to reach them. That is reasonable, however, many people use their phones at night to check social media, play games and read the news.

Overuse of a smartphone may have some negative repercussions.

Dry eye: People who use their smartphones for extended periods may find they have an eye condition known as “dry eye.” Dr. Judy Parks, an optometrist from Ancaster, Ontario, states, “More and more, I’m seeing patients in my clinic who are suffering from sore, tired eyes and blurry vision. They come in thinking they need to adjust their glasses prescription, but in many cases, they’re actually suffering from dry eye due to the hours they’re spending in front of screens, which is impacting eye health and vision across all ages.”

Phone use becomes addictive for some people: If you always text your friends, try to break that up a bit by calling them or meeting in person, if possible.

Texting instead of calling, can lead to miscommunication.

Smartphones can lead to sleep issues. The bright light of the phone is a sleep disruptor.

When people spend too much time on their phone, it becomes an anti-social factor. When you are in a room with friends and family, or in a restaurant, put the phone down. Otherwise, the people present get the message that you have someone more important to communicate with on your phone.

Smartphones can have a negative impact on parenting. You can see parents at a playground with their children, but instead of watching their children they spend the time on their phones. Children like attention.

Some people live out their private lives on their phone. There are certain thoughts and emotions that should be kept private. Social media is not your counsellor.

Do not confuse the number of likes you receive as a sign that you are supported or cared about. You may receive lovely and encouraging comments and that is a positive. But 100 people saying they like a photo does not mean you are more loved or admired than the person who receives 10 likes.

The overuse of smartphones may encourage taking shortcuts to many cognitive tasks – don’t let your smartphone do all the thinking.

Use your cell phone to make your life better.

I love my smartphone and use it to access many things: social media, banking, news, weather, games, texting, email, camera, shopping and music. The smartphone is a huge asset, a positive in our lives but it is a tool, and we ought to control that tool, not vice versa.

Just a thought: Technology and tools are useful and powerful when they are your servant and not your master.

Look here! Does this catch your eye?

Diane Skinner

Our eyes are amazing. They take in so much information from the moment we wake until we go to sleep. Our eyes send information to our brain, and we process that to make sense of the world around us.

Our eye is about the size of a ping-pong ball and sits in the eye socket. The lid keeps the eye moist and clean. Blinking is both a voluntary and an involuntary action. We can blink when we want to, but it also happens when we aren’t thinking about it.

The white part of the eye is called the sclera, which is the outer layer of the eye. If you look closely in the mirror, you may see tiny red lines. They are blood vessels.

The cornea is transparent and is located in front of the coloured part of your eye. The iris is the coloured part of your eye. If someone has hazel eyes, we really mean that they have hazel irises. The black circle in the centre of the eye is called the pupil. The pupil has an important function because it lets the light into the eye. When there is more light, the pupil gets smaller and in dim light it becomes larger.

You can’t see what is behind the eye, including the lens whose job is to focus light on the back of your eye, called the retina. The retina is impressive because it contains millions of cells that respond to light. The retina changes the light into signals to the brain so that we can understand what we see.

Eye colour

The human species once all had brown eyes. Blue eyes are a genetic mutation which scientists believe occurred 6,000 to 10,000 years ago.

Brown is the most common eye colour, with about 70 percent of people worldwide having brown eyes. Between eight and ten percent of humans have blue eyes. Approximately five percent have hazel eyes, mostly in Europe and the North America. Hazel eyes are a light or yellowish-brown with specks of gold, green and brown in the centre. About two percent of people have green eyes, most found in Northern, Central and Western Europe. People with green eyes tend to be from Celtic or German ancestry. Amber eyes account for almost five percent and are a golden yellow or coppery colour with specks of gold, green or brown. Amber eyes are common in dogs, fish and birds. Less than one percent of people have



Photos: D. Skinner

Cat eyes are very unique as they have vertical shaped pupils.



The human eye is about the size of a ping-pong ball.

grey eyes.

Animals’ eyes

It is an advantage for nocturnal animals to have yellow eyes. This includes wolves who hunt at night. They are often born with blue eyes which turn yellow as they mature.

Owls typically hunt at dawn, and their yellow eyes help them to hunt in dim light. When it comes to low light or night vision it is believed that owls have the best sight.

Cats have some of the most unique eyes in the animal kingdom. Instead of having circular pupils like humans do, the black parts in the centre of their eyes are vertical. Their eyes can quickly open wider and then

smaller like the aperture of a camera.

Ravens and crows’ eyes are almost completely black with a blue sheen.

Seals have the darkest eyes in all the animal kingdom. They also have large eyes which helps them to see underwater by allowing more light in. This characteristic makes seal pups look so adorably cute. Most coyotes have golden-brown irises.

Contrary to the widely held belief, dogs can see colour. Their vision is not as good as humans, but they are much better at detecting motion. They are able to see better than humans in low light.



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Announcements...



Obituary



COCHRANE: Herbert

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Herbert Cochrane on July 29, 2021, at Maria Hospital at the age of 76, after a seven-year battle with acute myeloid leukemia. He was always so grateful for the excellent care received from doctors and nursing staff at Maria Hospital and Rimouski as well.

He will be forever loved and missed by his wife of 52 years, Elaine Bujold; daughter Lynne Faye (Eric Tremblay); grandsons: Ryan and Matthew Tremblay; brothers: Lawrence and Wilson (Frances); nieces; nephews; family; and friends.

Herbert was predeceased by his parents Leslie Cochrane and Alice Hardy and sister Helen Bisson Cochrane.

A celebration of life was held on August 7, 2021, at the New Richmond United Church cemetery with Reverend Darla Sloan officiating.

We would like to thank everyone for their love, kindness and support during this difficult time. We miss Herbert every day and our memories of him will last forever



PRATT: Judy Lee (Brooks)

January 19, 1949 – September 17, 2021

It is with heavy hearts we inform you of the death of our sister Judy who passed away peacefully at the Oshawa Hospital on September 17. Judy was born in Campbellton, New Brunswick, on January 19, 1949. She was the beloved daughter of Tad and Nan Pratt.

She spent her youth in Murdochville, Quebec, and eventually moved to Ontario in the late '60s. Throughout the years she returned home to visit, whether that was Murdochville or Tide Head. Home was always where our parents were. Judy was funny, kind and caring, just a genuinely nice person. To say we'll miss her is an understatement.

Left to mourn are her daughters: Melissa and Brandy; her grandchildren; sisters: Freda (nephew Danny), Donna (Carl) and Nancy; brother: Barrie (Louise) as well as her companion: Jamie; best friend: Joanne; cousins and her many many friends. Judy was predeceased by her son: Jimmy, who sadly passed away in July; her brother: Bev (2016); as well as Mum and Dad. Cremation took place in Oshawa, Ontario.

We think about you always, we talk about you still.

You have never been forgotten, and you never will.

We hold you close within our heart, and there you will remain.

To walk and guide us through our lives, until we meet again.

Happy 50th Anniversary!



Stephen and Edith Edwards
Escuminac, Quebec

Saturday, October 23, 2021

Love, joy and happiness to you both!

Best wishes and congrats from your family!



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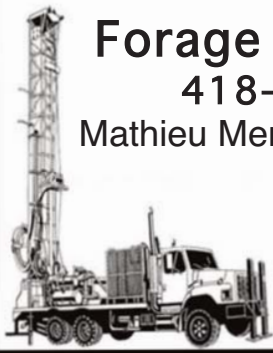


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COAST ROUND-UP

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Gaspé Cancer Foundation

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make donations or memorials. If you are a member in good standing, are afflicted with cancer, and must travel outside the region for treatment, you are eligible for travel assistance.

GASPE:

Shoeboxes for Sailors

Please be advised that there will be no collection of shoeboxes for sailors for the 2021 season. However, donations would be greatly appreciated. All donations can be sent to: Quebec Seamen's Club, 150 Dalhousie, C.P. 80, Hauteville, Quebec, QC G1R 4M8.

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.

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 October 10 are: Gisele Leblanc, Succession Gilles H.Bujold, Alda Arsenault, Konrad Witkowski, Caroline Nadeau, Suzanne Willett and Danny Lemieux

UNITED CHURCH

Sunday, October 24

10 a.m. Hope Town

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

Sunday, October 24

New Carlisle

10 a.m. Morning Prayer

Hope Town

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Port Daniel

11 a.m. Holy Eucharist

PARISH OF GASPE

Sunday, October 24

St. James - Wakeham

9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer

On the lighter side...



Why do we say ...

by Gary Briand

A Gaspé student phoned to ask me all about "cat-o'-nine-tails." The expression refers, of course, to that terrible weapon which marks one's back as do the claws of an enraged cat.

Historically, the Egyptians were the first people to invent the instrument of torture. Made up of nine thongs of cat hide, with each ending in a small knot, sometimes covering small pebbles or stones, it became the best means of scourging criminals. One beating blow carried nine tentacles, but in medieval England the weapon proved more lethal as an instrument of torture. Now the nine things were attached to a wooden handle of eighteen inches, providing greater force and better leverage for each swing. Then, too, more stones were added, three to each thong. Each swing gave the possibility of striking the victim's back with twenty-seven blows. Men were flayed to death!

People of the day described the torture as "holy" because the nine tails were a "trinity of trinities" (3x3=9). No doubt that the 9 had something to do with the belief that a cat had nine lives.

I concluded my response to the young man by imploring him not to test the thesis that a cat has nine lives. As evidence I told him about the four teenage boys who threw a cat from the twelfth floor of the Empire State Building. A shovel job followed!

SAFETY TERMS WORD SEARCH

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

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

ACCIDENT
BODY
CRITICAL
DANGEROUS
DATA
EGRESS
GEAR
HAZARDOUS
HEALTH
HELMET
HOOD
ILLNESS
INGRESS
INJURY
LIFT
LOCKOUT
MACHINE
MANUAL
MONITORING
NIOSH
OCCUPATIONAL
OSHA
RISK

create
your
own
sunshine.

Guess Who?

I am an R&B singer born in Michigan on May 13, 1950. At a young age, I suffered an illness that led to blindness. That didn't stop me from signing with Motown Records at age 11. I have recorded more than thirty top 10 hits during my career.

Answer: Stevie Wonder



ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, this week may start off with a little confusion. However, within a few days you can sort through much of the haze and make sense of things.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

Everything is not what it seems, Taurus. That doesn't mean you have to be on guard. Some surprise await you and you will welcome them with open arms.

GEMINI - May 22/June 21

Gemini, it is easy to get swept up

in nostalgia this week. Memories of the past will bring a smile to your face, but you recognize that you need to take steps forward as well. CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22 Cancer, even if it feels like your mind is playing tricks on you, you have to sort through what is false and what is true to get to the real heart of the matter.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

Be careful where you spend your money, Leo. It can be easy to overspend if you're not careful about keeping receipts and monitoring your money.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, you typically function at your peak when you think through all

sides of a story before acting. But when something pops up at work, you may have to think on your feet. LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23 Libra, a craving for fantasy could be strong, especially if a lot of things in your life have been difficult lately. It can be tempting to slip into a dream world.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

Be mindful of activities you attend to and which people you keep in your inner circle, Scorpio. Time and who you spend it with are important.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

There's a lot of energy swirling around you, Sagittarius. In face, you may need to find an outlet for it. Direct this sudden influx of energy into

creative projects.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Start making some travel plans, Capricorn. A change of scenery is likely just what you need at this point in time to give you a fresh perspective.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, this may not have been the easiest year to develop new relationships. However, you will manage to walk away this week with one or two new acquaintances.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, instead of branching out into the unknown, try sticking with what you know for the time being. Enjoy this time in your comfort zone.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

OCTOBER 17

Eminem, Rapper (49)

OCTOBER 18

Zac Efron, Actor (34)

OCTOBER 19

Rebecca Ferguson, Actress (38)

OCTOBER 20

John Krasinski, Actor (42)

OCTOBER 21

Amber Rose, Model (38)

OCTOBER 22

Jeff Goldblum, Actor (69)

OCTOBER 23

Ryan Reynolds, Actor (45)

Garlic, plant now!

Diane Skinner

“Garlic, like perfume, must be used with discretion and on the proper occasions.”

The famous chef and traveler Anthony Bourdain had extraordinarily strong feelings about garlic. “Garlic is divine. Few food items can taste so many distinct ways, handled correctly. Misuse of garlic is a crime... Please, treat your garlic with respect... Avoid at all costs that vile spew you see rotting in oil in screw top jars. Too lazy to peel fresh? You don't deserve to eat garlic.”

If you have never planted garlic, this is the fall to give it a try! Garlic is a perennial and is best planted in the fall to be harvested the following summer. Choose a hardy variety, preferably from local sources. Imported bulbs, like imported garlic, may have been treated with chemicals or even irradiated. The best bulbs feel firm.

Plant bulbs in the fall, between middle of September and late October. Pick a spot

that will receive full sun and a well-drained soil. Rotate your garlic beds every four years.

Take your garlic buds and divide them into cloves. Plant cloves about 10 to 15 cm apart (4 - 6 inches) with the point facing upwards. Cover each clove with three finger widths of soil. Cover the bed with mulch made from shredded leaves and straw.

In the spring, after last frost, weed and water garlic as needed. Use natural fertilizers such as seaweed or fish emulsion. When the stems begin to grow, you can harvest them and use them in a homemade pesto. Delicious.

Garlic should be ready for harvesting on the Gaspé in September when the upper portion of the leaves are still green. After harvesting, hang the plants in a dark, warm and well-ventilated place for three weeks. Then place them in a cardboard box, a basket or even paper bags. Never store them in plastic or in the fridge.

Garlic pesto

This recipe is super easy to



Photo: D. Skinner

These freshly harvested garlic bulbs should be stored in a cardboard box, or a basket but never in plastic.

make and can be used in a variety of ways. Mix it with pasta, stuff large, cooked pasta shells with cottage cheese and pesto, or use it with meat dishes. Serve it on lightly toasted baguette slices. Heat-

ing the pesto makes the flavour really stand out!
 2 heaping tablespoons of fresh, chopped garlic
 3 cups of chopped fresh basil
 1 cup of a good oil
 ½ cup pine nuts (optional)

2/3 cup parmesan cheese
 Put basil in a blender and add 1 tbsp. of the oil and blend. When this mixture is a paste, slowly add pine nuts (optional), parmesan, garlic, and the rest of the oil. Blend until smooth.

All about garlic

- Garlic is part of the Allium family which includes onions, leeks, chives and shallots.
- Worldwide, there are 600 varieties of garlic.
- The word garlic comes from an old Anglo-Saxon word “garleac” which means spear leek.
- French physician Henri Leclerc dubbed it “stinking rose” over a century ago.
- Some studies indicate that garlic can lower blood pressure.
- Garlic may prevent colds.
- Some people are allergic to garlic. They may experience a rash, headache and even an elevated temperature.

Garlic is a member of the onion family, so it should NOT be fed to pets.

Getting your car ready for winter

Diane Skinner

Get ready for it, because whether we love it or not, winter will arrive. Spending some time preparing your car for the next season is well worth your time and effort. Preventative maintenance is key.

Winter tires: From December 1 to March 15, your vehicle must be equipped with four winter tires that meet established standards. For traction the depth of your tires should be at least 4.8 mm (6/32 inch) across the entire width of the tire. Vehicle traction can decrease quickly once treads get worn.

Check your battery, brakes, lights and fuses, cooling and heating systems, belts and hoses. You can get a garage to do this.

Change your wiper blades to winter blades. They are heavier so they can swish snow and ice more easily.

Keep your windshield washer fluid filled. Keep an extra container in your car.

Prepare a winter emergency kit for

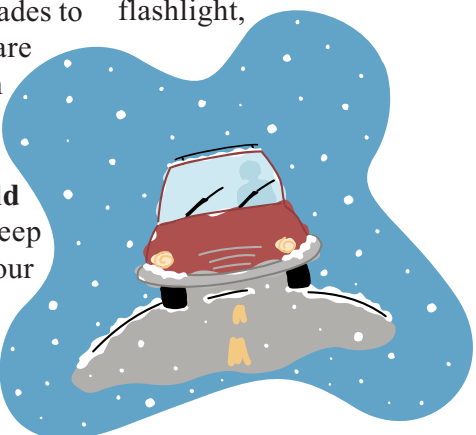


Be prepared. You never know when the first storm will hit.

your car. Include extra clothing, battery jumper cables, a flashlight,

flares, lighter, fuel line antifreeze, spare tire and wheel wrench and jack.

Have a good quality snow-brush and windshield scraper. **Keep your gas tank full.**



This will help to avoid condensation and moist air in your tank. This can cause fuel lines to freeze.

Particularly in the winter, keep your cell phone charged. Do not leave it in the car because it can freeze.

Why are winter tires mandatory?

They will provide better traction and grip. As soon as the temperature drops below 7°C, or when there is ice and snow on the roads, the rubber of summer tires hardens and loses its grip. The treads on summer tires are not designed to hold snow. Winter tires are. The snow in the treads improves their traction and grip. The rubber of winter tires is specially designed to grip the road.

AVAILABLE TREATMENTS

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Plant, prune and propagate: Tending your gardens in the fall

Diane Skinner

Gardening season is not over just because you have harvested your fruit and vegetables. This could be the perfect opportunity to get out in the garden and plant, prune and propagate.

It is fall and the weather can be warm which makes the soil easier to work with. Take some steps to prepare your garden for next spring and you will be glad you spent the time now.

Did you wish you had more colour in the garden last spring? If yes, it is the right time to plant spring bulbs. Daffodils, crocus and tulips are easy to plant and are available in the stores now.

If your local garden centre still has trees and shrubs available to buy, they will be on sale and the fall can be a good time to plant these.

Transplant perennial flowers if you want them in a different location next spring.

Pruning trees and shrubs now will help them grow back healthier and fuller next spring. It is the perfect time to prune deciduous hedges. This

is not the time to prune flowering trees and shrubs such as forsythia and lilacs. Prune those plants in the spring.

Do not fertilize the garden in the fall, but it is perfectly fine to fertilize the lawn. This will pay off in the spring when the lawn begins to grow again.

However, it is the perfect time to add organic matter to the gardens. This will provide improved drainage and promote the growth of microorganisms making the soil more "alive." The soil will process the nutrients all winter. Add compost on gardens and then a small layer of mulch or straw. This will protect your soil from erosion.

Clean up the gardens

Remove all plant debris and particularly if any of the plants were diseased. Do not turn them back into the soil, but throw them into the garbage, not the compost pile.

Herbs: Thyme is extremely hardy and is a perennial. Do not worry, it will grow in the spring. Chives can be placed in a pot and

brought indoors to provide fresh snipped chives all winter. Cover oregano with a mulch of straw.

Raspberry canes should be cut way back. This will produce thicker fruit next season. Blueberries are quite hardy, but a bit of mulch placed around the base of the plants will protect them all winter. Strawberries should be covered with a layer of straw mulch.

Winterize your roses by removing any dead canes. Add a bit of mulch around the base of the plants.

If you have a young fruit tree, wrap the lower trunk to prevent mice and other small animals from gnawing on the bark.

Other

Empty all containers to prevent cracking.

Hang your pails over a hook in a shed and store all nozzles in it.

Mow your lawn as late in the fall as you can – grass that is long will turn brown in spring.

Do not leave thick layers



Photo: D. Skinner

Gardening season is not over even though you have harvested your vegetables and fruits. It's time to plant, prune and propagate.

of wet leaves on the lawn. Rake them into a pile and go over the pile with the lawn mower. This will make mulch to place in the gardens.

Cover the compost pile with a plastic tarp or a thick layer of straw.

Drain the tank on your lawn mower.

Clean all your garden tools and put them away. Tip: put vegetable oil on a paper towel and then rub your garden tools with it to prevent rusting.





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