



Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands organization tackles the labour shortage

Gilles Gagné

CARLETON – Like other organizations, the Social Economy Cluster of the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands mobilizes to try to mitigate the effects of labour shortage on its intervention territory. The actions of the cluster will likely unfold in several areas.

Based on a survey consultation conducted at the beginning of the pandemic, the director of the cluster, Noémie Bernier, states that the needs of the communities and the 350 social economy companies and organizations in the region are quite diversified. Those needs are also interrelated, she noted.

"We wanted to know how those companies, cooperatives and organizations were going. There is the issue of human resources that comes back regularly but other elements than the scarcity of labour are identified. Demography is also a concern. We see the age structure of our population as a challenge (the region has a high average age) and we also see a movement. We have people who come to settle," explains Mrs. Bernier.

"We are, therefore, called upon, at the Social Economy Cluster. There are important issues. We have to house the people who want to settle here. The Groupe Ressources en logement collectif of Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands is also called upon, and the



Photo: G. Gagné

SARGIM was relying heavily on labourers to carry out some tasks but, recently, the cooperative acquired equipment to do the same work.

businesses as well, to look for innovative solutions and reduce the effects of this housing problem," she adds.

The Groupe Ressources en logement collectif of the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands is a member of the Social Economy Cluster that is assisting various community groups of the region in their attempt to land collective housing projects.

"There are many ways to mitigate the effects of labour shortage. Facilitating the task of those who are already working by increasing their productivity through using web tools and task automation is a solution," says Noémie Bernier.

"It's been there for a long

time, the opportunity to have web platforms, but it was not seen as an emergency for a good period of time," she says.

SARGIM, a cooperative of the Baie-des-Chaleurs producing tree plants for reforestation, has invested in automating the handling of certain current operations and are facing the difficulty of finding workers to perform those tasks.

SARGIM is one of 350 social economy companies in the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands. Those companies employ nearly 3,700 people, according to 2016 statistics. The overall revenues of those companies and organizations was \$347 million annually five

years ago, and 89% of those revenues came from the sale of products and services

Held on October 14, the annual meeting of the Regional Economy Cluster was followed by workshops during which the members present were able to become familiar with means of reducing the effects of labor shortage. The theme of the workshops was entitled "recruiting otherwise; counting on human beings."

In her workshop, Corinne Pedneault, director of CIRADD, a Carleton-based research initiation centre for applied sustainable development, covered topics such as flexibility at work, with proactive staff

able to count on opportunities for development, such as mentoring and training, and personalized equity.

For his part, Patrice Blais, director of the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands Regional Development Cooperative, explained the employers' cooperative model as a human resource management solution, based on a pooling of employees who can work for more than one company.

Two other experts, Étienne Brisson and Pierre-Olivier Gagné, said how the digital transformation of a firm can mitigate potential staff departures, taking up the challenges that could lead to a sense of valuation and increase the interest of employees in staying for their employer.

Florine Gelineau, a trainer affiliated with the Sectoral Social Economics and Community Action Workforce Board, also addressed the importance of adequate remuneration and attentions to staff which can make a big difference.

Taking the form of non-profit organizations, cooperatives and mutual bodies, social economy companies carry out the sale or exchange of goods and services not to make profit but to meet the needs of their members or of the community where they are based.

In the region, the Social Economy Cluster is mostly referred to under its French name, the Pôle d'économie sociale.

A Gaspesian whodunit...

Penny MacWhirter and Diane Skinner

It was a misty morning on the Gaspé in late fall so the air felt damp and cool. The trees had turned colour and the leaves were starting to fall and fly around. It was a strange morning because I had received a call at the police station about an unusual theft. It was puzzling for several reasons. The item stolen was antique but very heavy.

Whoever had stolen the item had to have been strong and clever and had help. Thefts from barns and sheds occur more often than you might think. Items like chainsaws and even ladders go missing all the time, but this was way out of the ordinary.

The missing item was a wood burning stove that weighed about 300 pounds. The owners, Haddie

and Lorney Skene, had been away for a week hunting deer and called the police as soon as they discovered that the beloved stove was missing. The stove had sentimental value to Haddie but was also valuable because of its age and the fact that it was in pristine shape. It was handed down through the family and was owned by her family, the Lupines since 1955, over 65 years

ago.

"Who would do this?" Lorney Skene asked me. They lived in an isolated farmhouse off the 132. I asked them the usual questions and made notes of their answers in my notebook. I questioned them if anyone had shown interest in buying the stove or was there a family dispute over who rightfully owned it and were there any other items

missing or disturbed.

I reassured the couple that we would do what we could to find the stove, but in my heart, I felt that locating the stove would prove difficult and even impossible.

After looking in the barn where the stove had been stored, I did notice that there were multiple footprints in the soft earth and tire tracks.

Crack the code of the five clues in this week's edition of The Gaspé Spec in order to eliminate suspects and determine the culprit. Children may need the help of an adult to crack the codes. Those with the right answer will be entered in a draw for prizes by the following sponsors:

Pêcheries Jeffrey Vautier, Shannon Marsh (Scentsy), Cindy Carney (Cindy's Sewing & Creations), Family Ties, Lyndsay Benwell (Lyndsay's Crafty Creations) and Famili-prix.

VIA Rail will increase its Montreal-Halifax line to two weekly trains in December

Gilles Gagné

MATAPEDIA - VIA Rail Canada announced on October 18 the final phase of its gradual service resumption plan with new frequencies being added beginning in December 2021 and full operations across the country to return by the end of June 2022. The frequency of the Ocean train, which links Montreal and Halifax, will increase from one to two weekly trains in December.

The full service of the Ocean train will only return at the end of June 2022, with a third weekly round trip between Montreal and Halifax being added. That train stops in Matapedia, Quebec, and Campbellton, New Brunswick.

Those two points are used by Gaspésians wishing to use VIA Rail's services despite the suspension of the public transporter's Matapedia to Gaspé line in September 2013.

In December, the Halifax-Montreal train frequency, at 66.6% percent of its regular schedule, will still lag significantly behind the normal services offered in the Quebec City-Windsor corridor, where 85% of its trains will return by December. That corridor also benefits from multi-daily trains, which is far from the case between Montreal and Halifax.

Moreover, the Toronto-Windsor stretch did not bene-



Photo: Gilles Gagné

VIA Rail's second weekly train between Montreal and Matapedia will not be reinstated before December. The third weekly train will only return at the end of June 2022.

fit from a level of service resumption as high as in the Quebec City-Toronto corridor. That situation underrates the resumption percentage of the latter stretch.

In its October 18 announcement, VIA Rail did not provide a schedule tied to the December service improvement. The current service, reinstated on August 11 after a 17-month hiatus, has a train running Sunday and Monday between Montreal and Halifax, and Wednesday and Thursday for the return trip.

So far, VIA Rail has not specified either if, by the end of June, the original schedule in place before March 2020, with departures from Mon-

tréal on Sunday, Wednesday and Friday, will be restored as it was.

In its press release, VIA Rail specifies that its team is currently finalizing details, including access to the infrastructure, and will communicate information such as specific resumption dates as soon as it becomes available.

"Our objective has always been the safe resumption of all our services across the country when conditions allowed it, and we are encouraged to be able to proceed to this final phase of our gradual service resumption plan," expresses Cynthia Garneau, VIA Rail's president and chief executive officer. "We look forward to

welcoming our passengers back on board our trains."

VIA Rail's ridership dropped by more than 95% at the peak of the pandemic and although it is still down from the pre-pandemic levels, the public corporation is now seeing a steady demand.

Bernard Babin, of the Coalition of Gaspésians for the return of the train, thinks that VIA Rail should have resumed the complete service east of Quebec City much faster and should even have considered coming back to

New Richmond, given that the track east of Caplan still requires some work before service resumption to New Carlisle and Gaspé is assured.

"I find that VIA Rail is failing in its responsibilities which were entrusted by the Government of Canada via the Transport Ministry. VIA Rail is responsible for serving all Canadians and between Halifax and Montreal, they do not fulfil the needs. Around a table, when we are invited to a meal, we expect the hosts to serve everybody, even the ones sitting at the end of the table. The citizens of Eastern Canada are still inadequately served and the same reality prevails for Gaspésians living east of Matapedia; they are not well served. It is a breach of VIA Rail's responsibilities," affirms Mr. Babin.

Meanwhile, wearing a mask is required at all times in VIA Rail's stations and on board VIA Rail trains. Passengers who do not wear a mask during their trip will be required to disembark the train or will be refused entry upon boarding. Furthermore, VIA Rail asks that passengers stay informed of public health guidelines and respect those that apply to them and their travel plans, including mandatory vaccination as of October 30.



CLUE 1

Locate the words in the message.
You will need them to form a sentence.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	GLASSES	MOUSTACHE	SKIRT	RADIO	VERY	WHEN	JUICE
2	HAIR	CRIME	RIVAL	FEUD	MATH	IS	FUN
3	DRILL	EXERCISE	PAPER	RANDOM	FOUND	RIGHT	SCENE
4	VICTIM	ANTIQUES	KNIFE	PYRAMID	LLAMA	PHONE	UP
5	TRUCK	TAXI	STATION	ASHES	JOURNEY	SPOON	CLUE
6	URGENT	VICTIM	WERE	LONG	THEIR	TOO	SUDDENLY
7	BANANA	TIME	TOKEN	PEOPLE	BOLD	IF	THE
8	RINGS	FRESH	FAMILY	AT	IMPORTANT	PARK	GUN
9	TOWARDS	WHEN	DOWN	PENALTY	NEVER	AT	DOCTOR
10	AS	TRACKS	EACH	URBAN	EXTRA	CAMP	PLACES

When I returned to my office, I was puzzled by the fact that portable tools had been overlooked; only the stove was missing.

How many people would be needed to move a heavy woodstove? At least two. Years ago, I had seen two men move a stove with leather straps under the stove and over their shoulders. They moved the stove at least 15 feet to lay new flooring in the kitchen.

MESSAGE:

A5, B10, C6, E3, F9, G7, B2, G3

Police report

Daniel Thibeault, a 45-year-old man from Matane who was the subject of several arrest warrants in connection with cases of sexual assault with a weapon, aggravated assault, pimping as well as drug trafficking, was arrested on October 20 in the St-Hyacinthe area. Public assistance was requested in this case on



October 18. Those warrants were linked to events that occurred in the regions of Quebec, Matane and Gaspé in 2020 and 2021. Daniel Thibeault appeared in court on October 21 in Saint-Hyacinthe to face the charges linked to the warrants that had been initially issued.

Despite his arrest, the Sûreté du Québec is still looking for people that could have had contacts with Daniel Thibeault. In addition, any person who has information related to this individual or his actions can communicate, confidentially, to the criminal information centre of the Sûreté du Québec at 1 800 659-4264. Before his arrest, Daniel Thibeault was driving a Volvo car, model S60, a navy blue four door vehicle registered W25 WQF. He stands 1.73m (5'8") in height and weighs about 84 kg (186 lbs). His hair and eyes are brown. The police are trying to complete their investigation of the case and checking if he could have perpetrated other crimes in the Gaspé Peninsula and other regions.

"We are not closing the door on other information that could complete this case. That man was travelling and was active in many places. In Gaspé, he is suspected of drug trafficking between September 2020 and March 2021. It is noteworthy to mention that he was arrested in the Montérégie area after we issued information that was only communicated to the Eastern Quebec public. People were vigilant," says Sgt. Claude Doiron, spokesperson for the Sûreté du Québec.

Photo: Sûreté du Québec



Photo: Gilles Gagné

Brandon Metallic, a 29-year-old man accused since May 16 of two murders without premeditation, will continue his treatment at the Louis-Philippe-Pinel Institute in Montreal. That treatment is aimed at making him fit to stand trial in connection with the murders of a girl and a man in his early twenties. Those murders took place in a Listuguj house on the early afternoon of May 15. In the past five months, Brandon Metallic has undergone a 60-day psychiatric evaluation and, since September 16, treatment including medication to bring him into line with the reality of his situation. Chantal Bouchard's psychiatric report ruled that, in the current context, the accused was unable to understand the legal process to which he was subjected. He was also unable to communicate with a lawyer, he displayed a detachment from the reality of the case, as well as an overestimation of his abilities since he intended to defend himself.

The court assigned him a lawyer, Hugo Caissy, from Legal Aid. Upon returning to court on October 15, Quebec Court Judge Janick Poirier ruled that Brandon Metallic is still unfit to stand trial. The accused will return to court on November 12. Meanwhile, the Bureau des enquêtes indépendantes, Quebec's independent investigation bureau in charge of assessing the Sûreté du Québec and Listuguj Police Department intervention on May 15 in Listuguj, still has not released its report. The murder itself is being investigated by the Quebec City Police Department.

Online conference on Alzheimer's disease in the Gaspé Peninsula

Gilles Gagné

BONAVENTURE - As part of the National Caregiver Week, the Société Alzheimer of the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands, also called SAGÎM, is organizing a series of online conferences on November 1 and 2.

Under the theme "Uniting to help each other better," SAGÎM wishes to equip family caregivers in their role with people experiencing neurocognitive disorders and to publicize the respite resources available in the region.

One of the SAGÎM conferences will be offered in English, on November 1, at 6:30 p.m. Megan McCallum, doctor of clinical psychology, will present a conference on personality traits and their impact on the experience and adaptability of a caregiver. Her inspiration comes from fictional characters who each have their own personalities and experiences. Ms. McCallum will offer suggestions related to communication, emotion management or her own lifestyle. She will offer this conference in French as well, earlier that same day.

Ms. McCallum mentions that "finding yourself in a caregiver role is not always planned, and this responsibility unfortunately comes without specific instructions! We all have our own unique history, backgrounds and personalities."

Registration is compulsory for all and it is free for SAGÎM members. The registration cost is \$10 for non-members for all conferences. All other conferences will be offered in French.

All the conferences will be online. People can attend the conferences online from their home.

In the days following registration, people will receive one or more links which will allow them to participate in the chosen conferences. It is not necessary to download an application to one's computer or tablet. On the other hand, it is necessary to have access to the Internet.

People can also attend some face-to-face conferences in a room where it will be projected on the big screen.

In that case, a worker from SAGÎM will be on site and health measures must be respected, including the vaccination passport, a maximum number 25 people, the use of



Photo courtesy of: Megan McCallum

Megan McCallum is a doctor in clinical psychology. She offers clinical services in private practice and is a psychology professor at the Gaspé Cegep. As a born-and-raised Gaspesian, providing psychoeducational services locally is one of her favourite ways to give back to her community.

masks and social distancing.

Megan McCallum's conference will be offered in Gaspé as well as online.

For full details about the conference program, which extends to November 2, and to register online, people can go to <https://sagim.ca/evènements/> or contact the organization at 418-534-1313.

"In Quebec, nearly one in

four people dedicate themselves every day to the well-being of a loved one. With this 7th round of our Alzheimer's disease conferences, SAGÎM wishes to offer resources and support to families, friends and relatives of people living with a neurocognitive disorder," says Bernard Babin, director of the organization.

**Municipal Election
November 7th**

FRANCIS MORAN

**Candidate for
MAYOR**



Citizens of New Carlisle,

My name is Francis Moran, a retired employee of Canadian National Railways. I worked for 34 years beginning as Station Agent, rising to Rail Traffic Controller, Superintendent of Transportation and also Supervisor of Rail Equipment with 80 employees under my supervision.

Being a family person, I also have my community at heart. After retiring from the railroad, I became involved in the community with two mandates as municipal councillor, I also became involved with different organizations as a volunteer: 15 years with the Linda Lemoire-Brown Foundation; two terms as church warden at the local church; and serving two mandates on the Board of Directors of the New Carlisle Seniors Corporation (Gilker Residence). Before becoming a board member of the New Carlisle Seniors Corporation, I was a volunteer assisting with activities in the summer and removal of snow in the back of the residence in winter making it safe for the residents to evacuate the building should there be an emergency.

My goal for the future of New Carlisle is to see it grow with better paying jobs, better living conditions for all citizens and to lead a dynamic team to administer our town.

A vote for me as your next mayor is a vote for honesty, integrity, compassion for others and equal service for all.

**PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU
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Gilles Gagné Commentary



Quebec's oil and gas exit: for business reasons as much as for environmental purposes

There are so many elements in the October 19 inaugural speech of Quebec Premier François Legault that it could and in fact it will be discussed over the next weeks. In all likelihood, those topics will repeatedly make headlines over the next year, as he launches the pre-electoral campaign, given that Quebec's election will be held in October 2022.

Premier Legault promised to solve the daycare place shortage, to decentralize health services which were heavily centralized under Liberal Party former Minister Gaétan Barrette, and to end the exploration and exploitation of oil and gas in Quebec.

He promised much more in that speech that launched a new National Assembly session but the oil and gas deserves a bit of attention because of its impact on the Gaspé Peninsula.

Oil and gas exploration has been the subject of intense debates in the region for the past 20 years. Truth be told, at first, the debate was not that loud before the message of environmentalists was not always taken seriously. The consequences of oil and gas exploration were not always well-known, sometimes falling on deaf ears as unconditional prosperity was often taken for granted publicly when the word "oil" was said.

Over the years, oil was found in Haldimand, then at

Galt, about 20 kilometres west of Gaspé. Other drillings conducted in the back country of New Carlisle in 2007 and in Miguasha during the same period, hundreds of metres away from one of the most precious reserves of fossils in the world, were less conclusive for the hydrocarbons industry.

Companies like Petrolia and Junex showed small test tubes containing a rather light crude oil, transparent and easy to refine. Some mayors, civil servants and even journalists received some and brought those test tubes home. There was oil in the Gaspé Peninsula! People were impressed.

However, the last decade proved less enchanting. The supposedly vast potential of the region's deposits was clearly over-evaluated. Oil exploration companies have all the reasons in the world to do that kind of optimistic assessment. They can more easily sell their shares on the stock markets, after issuing promising reports about the alleged quantities contained in their projects' deposits. Those companies have a special ability to pinpoint solely the optimistic side of the resource evaluation, and the regulatory bodies supposed to check that information perform a lousy job.

The shares sold by the oil companies were also bearing important tax breaks. It was a way for the government to help the industry. More over, governmental bodies like Investissement Québec and Ressources Québec lent money, bought shares and became partners of companies like Junex, now known as Utica Resources.

At the same time, experts like Marc Durand, a doctor in geology, warned the public. The Gaspé Peninsula oil deposits are made of a series of small pockets. Those small pockets will be relatively costly to exploit because they will require a lot of drilling.

Another option could have been to use fracking, that technique consisting of sending huge quantities of water and chemicals underground in order to create a link between the small oil pockets and ease up their exploitation. However, that technique, as it was proven in Pennsylvania, poses a huge problem for the watershed, as oil and gas

contaminate the sources of drinkable water. That contamination can spread over a volume of ground thousands of times bigger than the exploited zones of oil and gas.

In a region counting heavily on its water quality like the Gaspé Peninsula, endowed with salmon rivers, pure springs and where commercial fisheries and tourism are so important, abandoning efforts to find hydrocarbons make sense. There is too much to lose to take the risk of exploiting low potential deposits.

Moreover, the Gaspé Peninsula has other energy options. This is the place where an important cluster, wind power, was born in Quebec. It is a form of green energy that has been emerging for two decades, sometimes heavily criticized because, for a while, its production cost was above that of hydroelectricity. However, predictable technological gains have immensely transformed wind energy.

Despite the outcry manifested by the oil industry, the cold economic facts are there. Over the last 10 years, that industry has received from the Quebec government more than \$100 million in grants, shares and compensations for the Anticosti Island fiasco, all that without a major discovery. The \$100 million tab excludes tax write-offs.

In the meantime, most wells dug by the industry remain unsafe, as gases and sometimes small quantities of oil make their way to the surface, thus contaminating nature.

As the fate of those unhealthy leaks remains unknown, the companies that drilled those holes dare ask for government compensation! It would be foolish to hand out lump sums, considering that in many cases, public funds will be used to patch those wells. Those companies took risks, as it happens in business, and they lost.

If the oil and gas cluster is abandoned, it might be for environmental reasons, as Premier Legault put it. It is first and foremost because the Gaspé Peninsula and rest of Quebec potential is relatively limited, economically. It is not worth the risk of exploiting it. Many members of the Coalition Avenir Québec government were still dreaming of domestic oil and gas development when they were elected in 2018. Money talked otherwise.

Cynthia Dow

Guest Commentary



Anglo institutions were no gift of the state!

I don't pay much attention to language issues any more. I abhor nationalism: ethnic and linguistic issues used by politicians as a distraction from the real challenges facing our society: the obscene and growing rift between the rich and poor, on-going racism and discrimination, and the environmental crisis governments are so slow to act upon.

But the way Premier Legault talked about the English-speaking community on October 19 really got my dander up! "No minority in Canada is better served than English-speaking Quebecers and we are proud of that," he said in his inaugural address at the new session of the National Assembly.

How condescending can you get? And how manipulative? Anyone ignorant of the history of our province would be led to believe that the "schools, colleges, universities, hospitals, and the media" which Legault indicated we "enjoy" were a gift of the state to a beleaguered community which should be forever grateful for such generous hand-outs. I tend to agree with Gazette reporter Phil Authier: that statement was actually not meant for anglophones, but to make francophones feel good about the way they "treat" their minority.

In fact, these institutions were no gift of the state, but were built gradually over the last 250 years by Protestant and Jewish communities shunned by the Roman Catholic authorities that ran the colonial administration in collaboration with the British Crown. Had our ancestors not created their own institutions at the time, they would have been poorly served indeed.

Now, due to changing times and ways of governing, these institutions are supported by the province, and they serve everyone who walks in the door: Protestant or Catholic or Muslim or Jew, anglophone, francophone or allophone. They include some of the finest educational and medical institutions in the world. This is a legacy that all Quebecers can and do "enjoy".

Legault is using this historical manipulation as a means of covering up the very flagrant attacks on basic human rights which are encased in Bill 21, the law that forbids the wearing of religious symbols by public servants (except, of course, discreet crucifixes), and Bill 96, a new take on Bill 101 which the National Assembly is about to start debating again.

I find it ironic that the Québécois people believe themselves to require defence from the "threats" posed by widescale use of the English language. To me, the Québécois have by far the most vibrant culture in North America: a legacy of incredible music, drama, films, literature and art that is among the greatest treasures of the human imagination.

The increasing use of English in the Montreal metropolitan area is the main worry. So, why not take steps to encourage the use of French there rather than limiting the human rights of non-francophones throughout the province?

Among other things, Bill 96 would impose restrictions on the use of English in small businesses and make it difficult to require a knowledge of English on job postings. Here in

the Gaspé, the English-speaking community already suffers from the lowest economic vitality of any linguistic minority in Canada. What more hardships are we expected to bear to try to solve a problem that exists 500 miles away?

No, Mr. Legault, you should not be "proud" of the way you intend to treat our community. Surely you can find more creative ways to deal with the linguistic challenges of Montreal.

The Gaspé Spec

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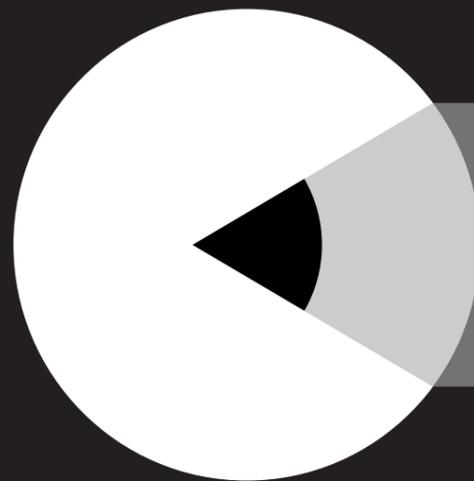
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Municipal elections 2021

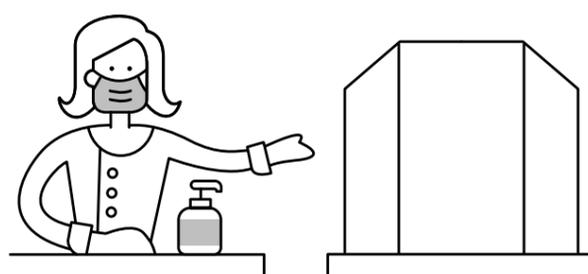


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- Be entered on the list of electors.
- Be 18 years of age or older on Election Day.
- Have obtained Canadian citizenship no later than September 1, 2021.
- Not be under curatorship nor have lost your electoral rights.

Meet one of the two sets of conditions below as of September 1, 2021:

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- > If your domicile is not located in the municipality, you must have been the owner of a building (cottage, apartment building, etc.) or have occupied a business establishment located in the territory of the municipality for at least 12 months and must have sent the municipality either an application for entry on the list of electors or a power of attorney, in writing and within the timeframes set forth.



Where to vote?

Pay particular attention to the notices sent by your municipality; they will inform you of where you need to go to vote. Do not hesitate to contact your returning officer for full details.



What you need to bring to vote

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COVID-19 : Stability remains the norm in the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands

Gilles **Gagné**

MARIA – The Public Health Board of the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands reported 13 new cases of COVID-19 during the third week of October, which ended on October 22. While six cases were located in the Avignon MRC, four others were tied to

the Magdalen Islands, a rather rare occurrence, and one in the Côte-de-Gaspé MRC

That number of new cases represented a slight decrease compared to the prior week, marked by 14 cases, or the first full week of October, characterized by 22 cases.

As of October 22, the region reported 17 active cases,

two more than on October 15. While the exact breakdown of active cases on a defined day is not provided by the Public Health Board, 12 of those active cases were likely located in the Avignon MRC, four in the Magdalen Islands and one in Côte-de-Gaspé, on October 22.

Since the beginning of the

pandemic, 2,206 people of the region have received a positive COVID-19 test, 2,142 people recovered from the coronavirus, while 49 unfortunately died from it.

As for vaccination, the regional rate stood at 82.3% for the first dose and 79.7% for the second dose, on October 17. It compares to 82.1% for

the first shot and 79.3% for the second shot a week earlier. The Avignon MRC vaccination rate still stands behind the regional numbers, at 74.5% for the first dose and 71.2% for the second one. It is again almost 8% less than the regional statistics for the initial shot and 8.2% below, regarding the second dose.

Gaspésians less affected by the pandemic

Nelson **Sergerie**,
LJI Journalist

GASPÉ - According to recent surveys, people from the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands were less affected socially and economically during the pandemic than elsewhere in Quebec.

This is what was revealed by the Quebec Population Health Survey for 2020-2021 published on October 19 and other data published by the region's Public Health Board the following day.

We note that the region is the fourth least affected area. Two thirds of the citizens say they have felt a decrease in their social life compared to

66.6% in Quebec.

Among the sources of concern: 70.9% said they feared for the health of a loved one at risk (73.1% in Quebec), a rate that drops to 52.5% for a loved one in good health, compared to 57.3% in Quebec.

Fifty-seven percent of respondents were concerned about their own health, compared to 61.9% in the province.

The region was less concerned about its ability to balance childcare, school and work. Only 17.6% of people mentioned this concern, compared to 25% of Quebecers.

With an enviable epidemiological record, fewer people had to quarantine themselves.

The survey establishes 17.9% in the Gaspé and 26.3% for the provincial average.

One citizen out of five had difficulty meeting his or her economic obligations, compared to 25.7% in Quebec.

Workers were also less affected: 53.4% of workers saw their situation change compared to 67.7% in the province.

In terms of healthy lifestyle habits, the decrease in physical activity is less marked (34.6% versus 44.7% in Quebec).

The increase in tobacco use (4.4% in the region compared to 5.0% in Quebec) and alcohol consumption (7.3% vs. 14.2%) remains below the provincial average.

A first frost that was long overdue on the Gaspé



Photo: Nelson Sergerie

This porcupine took advantage of the good weather in Forillon Park during the Thanksgiving break

Nelson **Sergerie**,
LJI Journalist

GASPÉ - The first fall frost was long overdue. We had to wait until October 8 to see the mercury drop below freezing

in the Gaspé region.

The descent has stopped at -1.6 degrees when on the average the first frost is on September 18.

Despite this late frost, it is far from a record. According to Environment Canada data, the

latest frost occurred on October 28, 1933. By this time, the thermometer had "dipped" to -0.6 degrees.

The earliest frost occurred on August 19, 1976 when the mercury had stabilized at 0.0 degrees.

Indian summer

According to history, you have to wait for the first frost before decreeing Indian summer. Other criteria include three consecutive days with less than five millimetres of precipitation per day, temperatures that are five degrees above normal during the day and near normal at night, and light winds.

From this definition, the period of October 10, 11 and 12 meets these criteria, with temperatures of 15.9 degrees, 19.4 degrees and 21.8 degrees while the normal is 10 degrees.

The period ended on October 13 as the sun disappeared from the radar screen.



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.

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Vautier says conditions to enter commercial fishing not favourable to youth

Gilles Gagné

SHIGAWAKE – Ian Vautier, a 23-year-old fisherman from Shigawake, finds that the regulatory context prevailing in commercial fisheries makes the integration quite difficult for youth like him, when they don't possess a lobster, crab or shrimp licence.

Ian Vautier was raised in a family of fishermen. He started fishing regularly on the lobster boat of his father Francis, when he was 12. Last winter, he became a captain by obtaining his Class 4 diploma, as part of the first group that received its training at the Anchor Trade and Vocational School in New Carlisle.

However, as a licence holder of species like herring, mackerel and groundfish, such as flounder and halibut, he feels short-changed by the way commercial fishing is administered by the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the group he is a member of, the Association des capitaines propriétaires de la Gaspésie. That association regroups mainly ground fish and cod fishermen.

Ian Vautier draws a rather dark picture of his 2021 season for several reasons. "It started with spring herring. The quota was only 32 tonnes for the Bay of Chaleur area and the Gulf of Saint Lawrence. My catches amounted to nothing. All the

fish were caught in New Brunswick. The quota was so small at 32 tonnes. It represented two boatloads on the New Brunswick side," he says.

"My next species was flounder, but the quota was reduced and I had to stop fishing. If I and other fishermen take too many lobsters as bycatch, our zone is shut down and that's what happened. Another problem comes from the Regroupement (Southern Gaspé Professional Fishermen Group, which represents lobster fishermen), which keeps spawning new lobsters along the Coast. I see it as pressure to stop flounder fishing," points out Ian Vautier.

Young fishermen like him



Photo: G. Gagné

Ian Vautier believes that Fisheries and Oceans Canada is not doing its job in sharing quotas fairly and making sure that the information is passed to all fishermen.

were also short-changed regarding the halibut quota, he feels.

"I have only been in the group (Association des capitaines propriétaires, or ACPG) for two years. I originally had an individual quota of 2,700 pounds of halibut. The price was \$4 a pound this year. It is

a low price but considering my quota, it would have given me revenues of about \$11,000. There was a vote held over the summer by the fishermen and my quota was reduced by 75% for the rest of my life. They redistributed the pie. I have 750

Cont'd on page 9

Inaugural speech raises questions among Gaspesian elected officials

Nelson Sergerie, LJI Journalist

GASPÉ - The Member of the National Assembly of Quebec for Gaspé, Méganne Perry Mélançon, deplores the lack of vision of the Legault government for regional development in the inaugural speech. Her colleague from Bonaventure will monitor the decentralization aspect of the premier.

Ms. Mélançon notes that there is nothing for the recreation and tourism sector, nothing to address the housing shortage and nothing for the regionalization or decentralization of the area.

"When we talk about decentralization and the regional offices are still in the Lower St. Lawrence, we don't have the same definition of decentralization," says the elected official.

Even if regional offices exist, decisions are still made in Quebec City, according to the elected official.

On health, the premier is proposing decentralization. The MNA for Gaspé notes that the management of the pandemic was set up in Quebec City rather than in the regions. "We did not give real powers to regional public health. I find it hard to imagine that the CAQ will succeed in decentralizing the health network in barely a year," she said.

An ambitious speech

Decentralization will also be in the sights of the Member



Photo: Nelson Sergerie

Méganne Perry Mélançon would have liked Quebec to talk about regional development

of the National Assembly for Bonaventure, Sylvain Roy, who describes the speech as ambitious.

"Many people are wondering how much the plan will cost and where the human resources are," said Roy.

The MNA questions the announced decentralization of the health network.

"In some CISSS where psychological harassment is used and where staff are terrorized, will this be questioned?" he said.

On childcare spaces, the elected official believes that the method of analysis should be reviewed: statistics show a decrease in the population while the region is experiencing a demographic increase.

On innovation, Sylvain Roy brings back his project of an innovation zone to develop the exploitation of the forest.

"It's an election speech. The goal is to instill dreams in people. I have nothing against dreams ... as long as they are realistic," says Sylvain Roy.



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Friendly bilingual service from Matapedia to Port Daniel 19 years experience

After doing a bit of research and asking others at work, a lot of opinions were shared, but why would someone steal this item? Woodstoves are superb sources of heat and on top of that they are lovely historic links to our Gaspesian past. A woodstove is a great investment if you are willing to heat with wood which is a method that requires a great deal of preparation and work. My uncle used to say, "Heating with wood is like looking after a baby. It is always in your arms."

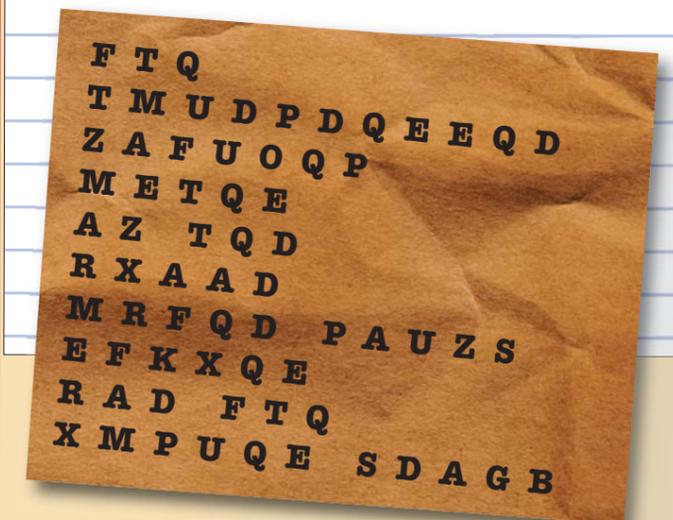
A wood stove is extraordinarily heavy because of the solid metal used in them – cast iron and steel. The weight can vary from 300 pounds up to a whopping 800.

CLUE 2

In this coded message, each letter of the original message has been replaced by a new letter

Hint:

All the As were replaced by Ms
All the Ds were replaced by Ps



MESSAGE:

COMMERCIAL FISHING:

▶ Cont'd from page 8

pounds left. The reason? There was a switch in decision-making. They gave a list of reasons. Essentially, the difference was given to big boats. The distribution of the quota was put into a voting system and two-thirds of the group voted yes. The Association des capitaines propriétaires de la Gaspésie favoured the fishermen based on the historical catches made from 1986 to 2016. I got my licence just before the winter of 2020. They are not using all the (recent) data. You are at a disadvantage before you put your boat in the water," he says.

Ian Vautier finds it hard to

believe that fishermen that had not been active for years in ground fish were still favoured during the August vote.

"Fishermen that have not used their licence in a long time are still favoured if they had some historical catches during that 1986-2016 period. Another factor that bugs me is that some fishermen were never answered when they called for the halibut quota. I was never informed about my halibut quota. The vote was held in mid-August and halibut fishing opened a little later, during my fall herring season," he says.

His fall herring was not great, quantity-wise, as he and his crew caught 20,000 pounds, compared to 40,000 to

50,000 pounds for a good season. "I scrapped my new nets. So, I ended up with \$15,000 in expenses for revenues of \$7,000. I still can't accept that we were never informed about the halibut season start."

Ian Vautier finds it unacceptable that the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) delegates that much power to a fishing association like the ACPG, without at least checking if the information is rightfully passed on to fishermen like him.

"I just don't know why DFO leaves quota decisions to the Association. They (the Association managers) are in charge of telling me if and when I go fishing. This year, the DFO people never told me

that I was allowed to go fishing. All they have to do is answer the phone and tell me that I can go fishing, or send me an email. The DFO people know that there is something wrong in the system but they are trying to diminish fishing efforts through shady back-alley means. It means less work for the DFO," analyzes Ian Vautier.

He found small consolation during the mackerel season. "It was pretty good in mackerel. I sold my catches to an independent buyer. Without mackerel, I wouldn't have a licence. I was paid a good price, \$1 a pound. The season was divided into two parts and I caught 25,000 pounds during the first part plus 15,000 pounds in the second part. So, an extra \$11,000 for the halibut season would have been nice. My licence value went down this year. I paid

\$100,000 for the permit (two years ago). If I had known, I wouldn't have bought it. Getting \$100,000 in gross annual revenues would be pretty nice. When the revenues are lower than that, if your motor blows, you are out of luck," he remarks.

There have never been such important amounts of money made in the Gaspé Peninsula commercial fisheries than in 2021, as record prices were paid in lobster and snow crab, while the shrimp sector remained strong. Ian Vautier consequently wishes for a more openminded approach regarding young fishermen like him.

"I am just trying to make a living with fisheries. I don't understand why fishermen with bigger quotas are trying to block people like young fishermen," he concludes.

End of hydrocarbons: Quebec reaffirms its intention

Nelson **Sergerie**,
LJI Journalist

GASPÉ - The confirmation of the end of hydrocarbons in the inaugural speech by Premier François Legault on October 19 was welcomed by Gaspesian environmentalists.

A gesture mentioned in September by both the Premier and the Minister of Natural Resources, Jonatan Julien, was clarified in the opening statement as the final stretch before the October 2022 elections begins.

For the group Ensemble pour l'avenir durable du grand Gaspé, which has led a fierce fight against the Haldimand deposit project, 300 metres from homes and some 2 kilometres from downtown Gaspé, this is a self-evident gesture in the current state of the planet.

Pieridae is suing Quebec for \$32 million because the Hydrocarbon Regulation is blocking the project. The oil company is claiming abusive and illegal expropriation. Without giving details, it recently told the daily, *Le Devoir*, that discussions are being held with Quebec to reach an agreement.

On the lawsuit, President Lise Chartrand recalls the withdrawal of permits without compensation in the Gulf in 2011.

"We believe that even if there was compensation, the Legault government will not grant permits in the future," said Chartrand.

No more backtracking

The spokesperson for Environnement Vert Plus in the Bay of Chaleurs is relieved.

"The CAQ is putting its arm

even deeper into the wringer. It's almost impossible for it to back down now on this issue. Finally, we will see the end of this saga in Quebec," says Pascal Bergeron, who recalls that Utica, owner of the Galt site some 20 kilometres west of Gaspé, had foreseen in its business plan to sue Quebec if it could not drill in the province. The company went to court in the spring to force the government to allow drilling within 1,000 metres of a water environment, which is prohibited by the Hydrocarbons Regulations. Energy Minister Jonatan Julien defended his regulation passed by the Liberals in 2018. The decision is still pending.

Recently, the oil company said that putting an end to natural gas production projects would represent an extremely important strategic error for Quebec.

Many activities at the SADC de Gaspé

Nelson **Sergerie**,
LJI Journalist

GASPÉ - Dozens of entrepreneurs were supported last year by the SADC de Gaspé, particularly because of the pandemic.

The federal organization issued loans of \$1.3 million in 48 businesses and awarded \$372,000 in grants in its fiscal year ending March 31.

In addition, SADC provided accounting technical assistance to 133 businesses to enable them to access government assistance programs during the pandemic. This component required an investment of \$62,000.

According to the director, Dave Lavoie, the 48 businesses supported have made it through the crisis.

"That's not counting the

fact that we have invested about \$420,000 in regular business succession projects as there have been several entrepreneurs handed relief in the past year. New business opportunities were taken in this very special year," says Mr. Lavoie.

Several projects have been started while the current fiscal year is already halfway through.

Among the projects underway, a technical assistance fund for innovation has been developed, which will support 15 ideas for a total of \$225,000.

In addition, in the context of a glaring shortage of child-care spaces on the Côte-de-Gaspé, the SADC supported family childcare providers in the spring with various measures.

CLUE 3

CRACK THE CODE TO
DISCOVER THE MESSAGE

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

Woodstoves are heavy and add to that their bulky size, often 40 inches high and 30 inches in depth and width.

To move a stove would require helpers, perhaps a dolly, and a "getaway" vehicle, definitely a truck. Removing the door or griddle would lessen the weight, so a screwdriver would be the right tool for that job.

MESSAGE:

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The fate of the Château Dubuc rests in the hands of Mother Nature

Nelson **Sergerie**,
LJI Journalist

CHANDLER - "Ms. Nathalie Roy. You are a Gaspesian. If the Château Dubuc goes into the sea, you are responsible. And I will hold you responsible for this mess."

It is with these harsh words that the co-owner of the Château Dubuc in Chandler, Michel Saint-Pierre, expressed his annoyance at the indifference of the levels of government in front of what is the last element of the industrial history of the 20th century of the town. Quebec is only offering \$40,000 to protect the building from the fall storms.

Time is of the essence as the October 17 storm further damaged the structure since the protective wall meant to keep the building safe is no longer doing its job.

"All the cages that were installed are gone and the roof is starting to lean," says St. Pierre.

Three projects were on the table: relocate the house at the end of the lot, build a wall, or move it to the former Gaspesia mill. The latter scenario was rejected because the costs were too high. The wall would have cost \$1.6 million. Moving the house back 100 feet would have cost just over \$300,000 and the entire redevelopment



Photo: Courtesy of Michel Saint-Pierre

The Château Dubuc is increasingly threatened by the sea since the protective wall is virtually gone.

would have totalled some \$700,000.

Mr. St. Pierre says he has invested \$55,000 of his own money since January to commission studies to find the best solution.

His first calls for help went out in June to the public. Nothing happened. He then turned to the Quebec government and Federal Minister of National Revenue Diane Lebouthillier, but the call went unanswered.

Chandler Mayor Louisette Langlois was able to mobilize potential players and the Quebec government indicated that its program would only support 20% of the costs for private

property after she was suspended for six months by the Commission des affaires municipales.

"In early October, Hénault and Gosselin indicated that to save it, it would have to be moved aside and put on wooden cages while the project was reviewed," says St. Pierre.

The chateau would have to be moved back 50 feet and put on blocks at the cost of \$153,000. On Friday, he received a call that a letter from the Minister of Culture was offering \$40,000.

"The town couldn't give money because of the unrest there. The MRC didn't give any. I don't have any. Are you kidding the world? How do you want to move the house? I see that you have not understood anything."

Mr. Saint-Pierre is referring in particular to the council's refusal to advance \$50,000, which would have served as leverage to solicit other levels of government. Three councillors objected to the assistance because they "didn't have enough information to make a decision."

Member of the National Assembly for Bonaventure to make final rescue attempt

The MNA for Bonaventure indicated on October 19 that he will make a final attempt with the Quebec government to save the chateau. Sylvain Roy notes that some people have not taken their responsibilities, citing the town and the MRC of Rocher-Percé first.

"The collective enrichment was caused by the presence of the Gaspesia and by extension,

of the Dubuc family, whose last vestige is the Château Dubuc," said the MNA.

The elected representative wants to convince the government to speed up the budgets in order to secure the house for the winter.

The MNA believes that the chateau could have been moved to the site of the late Gaspesia mill to make it a historic site. Mr. Roy believes that the Quebec government should have chosen the building for Espace Bleu rather than the Villa James.

"We sent that to Percé and it doesn't get everyone's approval. It is ignoring regional history. This is a missed opportunity and we will point it out to the ministry," added the Independent MNA.

The Culture Minister's office emphasized that this is a collective responsibility, inviting the other levels to participate.

The century-old building is a testament to the presence of the newsprint industry in Eastern Quebec. J. Alfred Dubuc used to invite American and European personalities at the beginning of the last century. Nicknamed the King of Pulp, he ran a multinational company that had mills in Chandler, Val-Jalbert, Chicoutimi and Port-Alfred, in Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean and in Brooklyn in the United States. Admitted to the upper levels of American finance, he ended his career as a member of the House of Commons.

I was becoming more curious about who did this and why.

CLUE 4

There's no code to crack,
it's all in how you read it.

E	A	L
R	S	T
E	V	E
L	D	N
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S	H	E
A	L	L
D	T	O
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A	F	R
H	I	S
M	I	T
C	E	S
D	E	N
P	R	U

TOP SECRET

MESSAGE:



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SPOTLIGHT ON BUSINESS:

M.J. Brière builds new facility in Caplan

Gilles Gagné

CAPLAN – M.J. Brière Inc., the Caplan-based supplier of farming machinery and heavy equipment, is investing several million dollars in a new building that will be located next to the current facility, which was built when the company was founded in 1974 by brothers Magella and Jocelyn Brière.

Contractor LFG Construction started constructing the 1,135 square metre building in August and should complete it in March, says Manon Brière, the owner of the business that sells Kubota products, specifically agricultural machinery and heavy equipment.

"We have been planning this new facility for three years. Our building was obsolete and we needed a new construction to be up to date. We are now selling to a much wider range of customers than



Photo: Gilles Gagné

The new M.J. Brière Inc. building is well underway and the whole project should be completed in March.

just farmers. We used to sell solely to farmers. Things have changed a lot over the last five years though. We still have that clientele but Kubota is a company that is selling products for

families like small tractors, small excavators and so on. They are also fabricating heavy equipment like loaders and excavators. So, we are now selling heavy machinery and

construction equipment. We have 18 employees and we needed more room for offices, a dining room for our staff and more space to have a bigger inventory," explains Manon

Brière.

The new building has about the same surface as the current one but it is higher because of the rising importance of heavy equipment in the Kubota dealer's inventory.

Manon Brière points out that, for now, the size of the staff will remain the same.

"We would gladly hire mechanics! However, they are so hard to find. We never thought it would be that hard to find staff. It is crazy," she says.

The LFG Construction team has mounted the steel structure of the building and was working on the roof on October 20.

"LGF will enclose the building in order to work on the interior while protected from the elements. The front windows will only be delivered in December. That is late but a lot of building supplies come in late because of the production delays due to COVID," concludes Manon Brière.

Black Bears

Diane Skinner

Some people on the Gaspé are reporting that they are sighting more bears this year. Recently there was a black bear spotted behind a house located on the 132 in Paspébiac.

Hunters are saying that at least one black bear has been seen at their hunting spot, where they leave apples and carrots to attract deer and moose, but the bears have found the food! We know that bears can find food using their strong sense of smell. Therefore, we should never leave food inside a tent we are sleeping in. They will find that food and will not take "no" for an answer.

Each year there are numerous reports about unwanted bears. Problems arise when bears become accustomed to humans. In years when the fruit crops are sparse, black bears will travel longer distances to find food.

Black bear populations had declined significantly up to the 1990s. Since that time, management plans have been prepared for the species and bear populations have grown as a result in the last two decades. (Quebec Govern-

ment Management Plan)

The black bear is related to grizzly bears and polar bears. It is a bulky animal about 150 cm, long (60 in.) and a height at the shoulder of 100 to 120 cm. (40 in. to 48 in.) The ears are rounded, and the eyes are exceedingly small. The tail is truly short, almost unnoticeable. Each foot has five, strong curved claws which are not retractable. The bear uses his claws for digging and tearing when searching for food. The male averages 135 kg (300 pounds) and the female is much smaller averaging 70 kg (155 pounds). The black bear is predominately black with a brownish muzzle and a white patch across the chest or throat.

The black bear makes sounds that include growling, snorting, whining and jaw snapping. A female who is protecting her cubs will make a loud "woof woof" to warn her babies of danger. A young cub sounds eerily like the cries of a human baby.

The animal prefers to live in heavily wooded areas and dense bush. They can travel long distances, at times more than 200 km from their homes. As other animals,



Photo: Holly Smith-Couture

A trail camera placed behind Port Daniel recently captured this photo of a large black bear feeding on apples that had been placed out for deer.

such as the cougar, they establish trails which they will regularly follow. Experienced bear hunters and trappers will find the trails and use them to their advantage.

They are most active from dawn until dark, but in areas with lots of people they may switch to night hunting to avoid people. At this time of year, the black bear is searching for the perfect spot for a den. Their dens are not large and often have just enough room for one curled-up bear and her babies. The females will line the den with leaves and grass, but males do not. The males who sleep alone

often wait until the first snow before entering their den for the winter.

Black bears are not true hibernators but have some characteristics of hibernating. Their body temperatures lower slightly and they survive on their own fat, however, they can be roused from their winter's sleep and may leave the den and walk around for a bit.

Characteristics

The lips of a black bear and its agile tongue can be used to eat tiny pieces of food, such as blueberries and

even ants.

They have poor eyesight, but a keen sense of smell and hearing.

They can move quickly and have been clocked at up to 55 km per hour over short distances.

They are terrific climbers and, in a few bounds, will climb a tree by grabbing with their front claws and pushing with their hind legs

According to Bearwise, if you encounter a bear unexpectedly, "Never run from a bear. Don't approach a bear – just quietly move away and leave the area, however, if a black bear does approach you, make yourself look big, make loud noises, clap your hands, and continue to back away."

In Quebec, black bears may be hunted and trapped, since the species is classified as both a large game species and a fur-bearing animal. A hunter may kill two black bears per year if they have purchased a tag: one during the spring season and one in selected zones during the fall season. The Gaspé is Zone 1, and, therefore, hunters here are permitted to hunt one black bear in the spring and one in the fall.

Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



A walk to remember

According to a recent IPSOS poll, 40% of people choose autumn as their favourite season, spring and summer are tied at 26% and winter takes last place as favourite season at just 8%. Do you have a favourite season?

I love fall and especially October because the weather is cooler, but often sunny and pleasant, sometimes chilly, during the day with cool nights, just perfect for a fire in the wood stove. It is sweater weather, hooray! October is to be savoured because it passes so quickly. The absolute best part of autumn, besides the smell of the damp earth and the beauty of the changing leaves, is a fall walk. Looking out the window is lovely but getting outside and taking in the autumn weather with all your senses is wonderful.

Psychologists have compiled studies and from this data they have extrapolated some similar personality traits of people who prefer a certain season. See if you agree with their conclusions.

Spring: If this is your favourite season, you crave new experiences and spring offers those opportunities for increased activity and renewal. It is a chance to embrace new beginnings.

Summer: Do the longer, warmer, brighter days entice you? It may mean you are a person who loves to be active outdoors. You like to travel and tend to be outgoing, even extroverted. Others may describe you as assertive and personable.

Fall: The vibrant colours and cooler weather appeal to those who like change in their lives. People who choose fall as their favourite season tend to be reflective and like to look back and take stock of their lives.

Winter: People who choose winter as their number one favourite season tend to be a bit introverted, even homebody types. If you choose winter as your favourite, you enjoy curling up on the couch with a hot drink and a soft blanket.

Time is fleeting and soon this month will be over. Get out and enjoy a walk to remember. It can be a short stroll to a brisk walk to a challenging hike. Choose whatever is best to allow you to enjoy the last days of October.

A Walk in the Leaves

*I kick the leaves along the ground.
I breathe the fresh, crisp air.
The sun is warm. There's a touch of breeze -
Enough to ruffle my hair.
A lovely walk on a lovely day
Enjoying the fall colours on trees.
The reds, the yellows, golds and greens.
A delight that is sure to please.
I love the fall in all its splendour
From warm days to the cool of the night.
My favourite season to just walk and admire
This most glorious and amazing sight.*



Photo: Diane Skinner

*The fall birch has given up most of its leaves,
but still enough remain to rustle in the sun.*

Celebrate a Green Halloween It is eek-o-friendly!

Diane Skinner

Halloween is almost here so it's time to bring out the pumpkins, cobwebs and creativity! Parents are deciding upon costumes for their little ones but for eco-conscious consumers, Halloween can be a challenge. Many of the choices that we make for the celebration are not very friendly to the well-being of our planet. Holiday traditions were formed when the environment was not a big concern.

When possible, make choices that are not only environmentally wise, but set a good example for your children. You do not have to lose the magic and excitement of Halloween, but a few considerate adjustments can make a difference.

Pumpkins

Carve only one or two pumpkins and leave the rest intact and use them to make pumpkin bread, vegan pumpkin pie, pumpkin seed granola or even pumpkin soup.

Save the pumpkin seeds to roast with a bit of added oil and salt. You can add seeds to salads!

If you grow your own pumpkins, it is an exciting event when the pumpkins are ready to pick!

If you buy pumpkins, buy organic, locally grown pumpkins. Pumpkins that are trucked in from giant agri-businesses have likely been sprayed with heavy-duty pesticides. Add to that the environmental impact of being trucked over long distances. The carbon footprint is high.

If you have the option to go to a pumpkin patch and pick your own, that is a lot of fun for children.

Costumes

Costumes come prepacked, plastic and disposable, sometimes shipped from the other side of the planet. They clog up landfills when the character is no longer the hot new character from a tv show.

Browse through the internet for ideas for easy, inexpensive costume ideas.

Swap with another family rather than buy a costume every year.

Make a costume from what you have around the house. Make this a family activity. It will be part of the Halloween fun!

Go to a second hand shop with an open mind and you might find something unique and inexpensive.



Credit: Diane Skinner

Grow your own pumpkins or buy local organic pumpkins.

Candy

Candy and Halloween go together like sugar and spice. We must maintain that aspect of Halloween but with an eye to less sugar and less packaging.

Wrappers thrown out years ago are still sitting in landfills. Choose candy with less plastic packaging.

Let neighbours and family know you are making treats. Put your name on the treats so that they know who made them.

Give small gifts instead of candy: pencils, notepads, hair barrettes or glow sticks.

Look for organic or fair trade brands. These are more expensive, but the benefits are obvious.

Decorations

Halloween decorations are inexpensive – but they are often disposable, plastic trash. Try to

choose decorations that are reusable.

Have an afternoon for creating decorations with your child. Make your own from recyclable materials such as straw and brown kraft paper.

Bags and buckets

Use reusable buckets, fabric shopping bags or cotton pillowcases.

Avoid buying the orange plastic buckets because more plastic in the world is not a good thing for our future.

Over 90 % of all trash floating in our oceans is plastic. Much of that is eaten by fish, birds and other marine life.

Halloween is the night for ghosts, zombies and fun! With a wee bit of planning ahead it can be environmentally friendly too.

Eek! It's Halloween!

The harvest season is over, cool nights are here and kiddies are on the hunt this Halloween. New Carlisle has always celebrated Halloween by treating little children and this year is no different. The old saying by parents is "Never take candies from strangers" but all you do is dress up and say "Trick or Treat" just for one night, "It's Halloween!" Spooky night with scary sounds among the trees and Jack-o-lanterns with creepy faces sitting on window sills doing little harm. Front porches are lit up, scary-looking youngsters running around wearing their unique costumes and saying "trick or treat." These little children scampering up the steps holding bags with sticky fingers and leaving so quickly to see what the next house has to offer. Halloween is a fun tradition for children and folks of all ages.
Ken Ross
New Carlisle, Quebec

Announcements...



Obituary



SEXTON: Sheila

"Those we love don't go away. They walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard but always near, still loved, still missed, and held so dear."

Our beautiful Sheila left us on Thursday, February 25, 2021. Memories to be cherished forever are with her husband: Michael Nellis; their daughter: Sherrilyn, and her husband Adam McGrath; Mom: Ethel; and siblings: Louis (Donna); Della (Dennis); Elaine (Tommy); Judy (Michel); and Darlene (Larry). Sheila was preceded by her dad, Velson.

Her funeral, officiated by Father John Leblanc, was held at her Catholic Church in the parish of St-Jules in March with pallbearers: nephews Keith and Geoffrey; brother-in-law Tommy; and cousins Guy, Evan and Ken respectfully carrying her home. Sheila was laid to rest in May as the flowers began to bloom once more.

There are never enough years for us to spend with our loved ones, but Sheila, our oldest sister, certainly made her time with us have meaning. The love she had for Mommy and Daddy, her siblings, her Nellis

in-laws, nieces and nephews from the Sexton and Nellis families, for Zoey, Liam, Callie, Riley, Loik and Tessa, her many, many cousins and friends, who we can't even begin to describe.

Sheila loved flowers and balloons, took up playing the piano as an adult, and we were all the better for it as she would send us videos to enjoy. Michael and Sherrilyn will cherish you always. We will never forget your spirit and your loving ways. As our oldest sister and Mom and Dad's oldest daughter, you were our leader. We so love you, sis. We will see you in our dreams. As their daughter Sherrilyn so eloquently wrote, *"Family is the best legacy a person can leave, and her legacy is strong. No one who knew her will ever forget her."*

Rest well with Daddy, all our Sexton family, your departed friends, and Aunt Evelyn, who passed two years ago on the same day. You are so much alike that when God called you home, it had to be that day. Sheila loved her Irish roots so this blessing is for the beautiful soul of Sheila.

*"May the raindrops fall lightly on your brow,
May the soft winds lighten your spirit,
May the sun shine bright in your heart,
May the burdens of the day rest slightly,
And may God enfold you in the mantle of His love"*



In Memory

FRASER: Alfred

In loving memory of my father, father-in-law, grandfather and great-grandfather who passed away on October 30, 1991.

*There will always be a heartache,
And a silent tear.
But always precious memories,
Of the days when you were here.
We hold you close within our hearts,
And there you will remain
To walk with us throughout our life
Until we meet again.*

Sadly missed and never forgotten by your son JR, daughter-in-law Cheryl and family. *"We love you, Dad."*

REHEL: George

October 16, 1988

*There's a special kind of feeling
When I think about you, Dad.*

*It's a pleasure to remember
All the happy times we've had.*

*There's a special kind of caring
That is meant for you alone.*

*There's a place somewhere within my heart
That only you can own.*

Missing you always, your daughter, Helena.

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MONSTERS

On Halloween, ghosts and ghouls, witches and werewolves, demons and devils walk the streets looking for treats. The spooky, slightly scary monsters we see in movies and books have remarkably interesting histories. A monster is, of course, a fictional creature first found in horror, fantasy and science fiction literature.

The depiction of these fictional monsters varies in books, films and television shows. Some are appropriate for children and others are not. As with anything your child is exposed to, take into consideration their age and maturity.

Witch

According to legends, witches are born with magical powers. People have believed in witches since ancient times. Witches, in books and movies, can be good or bad, young or old, ugly or beautiful. The word witch usually refers to a woman, while men who practice magic are called warlocks or wizards.

Werewolf

A werewolf is a human who takes the shape of a wolf at night. They are fictional, but in history people have believed in them. Some people with psychiatric disorders can believe they are werewolves. This disorder is called lycanthropy. *The Wolfman*, 1941 film starring Lon Chaney Jr. is an example.

Frankenstein

Frankenstein is not the name of the monster but the name of his creator, Viktor Frankenstein, in the classic book written by Mary Shelley in 1818. An example is *Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein*, film 1948. "From my laboratory in the castle east to the master bedroom where the vampires feast. The ghouls all came from their humble abode



Credit: Universal Studios

Frankenstein is not the name of the monster, but the creator of the monster.

to get a jolt from my electrodes." from the song: *Monster Mash*.

Vampire

Vampires are fictional monsters that come out at night to

drink the blood of humans. They use their sharp fangs to bite the throat of their victim. According to legend, a person bitten by a vampire becomes a vampire, too. An example is the

wildly successful *Twilight* series of books and films.

Mummy

Mummies are known as the preserved bodies of deceased Egyptian pharaohs and their families and even their pet cats. The mummy in literature and films is portrayed as being wrapped head to toe in wide gauzy white bandages and suddenly coming to life. Example: *Hotel Transylvania*, 2012 .

Ghoul

These are evil spirits or phantoms who rob graves. Example: the *Harry Potter* series.

Goblin

A goblin is a mischievous creature of small stature. Example: *Rumpelstiltskin*.

Demon

A demon is an evil spirit, devil or fiend. Example: *Lord of the Rings*, books and films.

Zombie

A zombie is a body said to be revived by magic or witchcraft. Example: *ParaNorman*, animated film, 2012.

Ghost

A ghost is a apparition of a

deceased person. Example: *Casper*; *The friendly Ghost*, comics and TV show, and *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens, book and film.

Sasquatch

A Sasquatch is an exceptionally large, hairy creature who is also known as Sasquatch. There are people who claimed to have seen him in the Northwestern United States and Western Canada. His size has been reported to be between six and fifteen feet tall. Example: *Harry and the Hendersons*, film.

Yeti

The yeti is the wintry weather counterpart to the Sasquatch. He is said to live in the Himalayan Mountains. He is also referred to as the Abominable Snowman. Example: *Abominable*, 2012 animated film.



CLUE 5

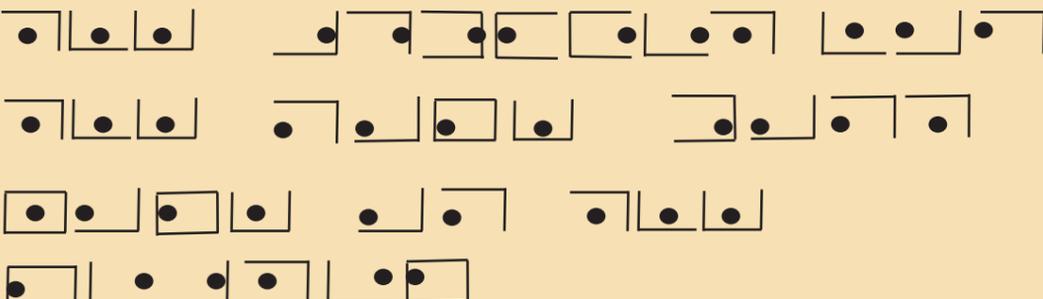
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I returned the next day to talk to the Skenes to ask a few more questions. They had some suspicions about who might have stolen the lovely old stove. A scrap dealer looking for a heavy piece of valuable metal? Who else? A collector looking to sell the stove to the highest bidder? Was it someone who wanted to own the gorgeous piece? It was quite a curious situation. The couple could not name anyone, but it was clear that it was a crime of opportunity.

Someone knew the stove was stored in the barn and that someone knew the Skenes had gone hunting. The thief or thieves were well prepared. In addition, the mastermind really wanted that stove for some reason.

MESSAGE:



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ERRATUM PUBLIC NOTICE OF POLL TOWN OF GASPE

Please note that there is an error in the public election notice published on October 21, 2021. In fact, it should read in the public notice of poll:

"Regular polling stations will be open for the poll on **November 7, 2021, from 9 h 30 a.m. to 8 p.m.** at the following locations

- **Chalet sportif de Cap-des-Rosiers**, 1252, boulevard de Cap-des-Rosiers, Cap-des-Rosiers (section 15, Cap-des-Rosiers) »;

DONE at Gaspé, on October 28, 2021.

Isabelle Vézina,
Returning officer

Suspect list

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	GENDER	VEHICLE	ACCESS TO STRAPS AND ROPE	OCCUPATION	ALIBI
PHYLLIS	JABBERSALOT	F	CAR	YES	CHURCH BOOKKEEPER	IN THE FIELDS
GUNNER	COOKE	M	SUV	YES	RIVER GUIDE	BREAKFAST WITH COWORKERS
MIRABELLE	BOND	F	TRUCK	NO	STORE CLERK	GETTING READY FOR WORK
DANIEL	CLIFF	M	TRUCK	YES	FISHERMAN	PAINTING BOAT WITH HELPER
PRUDENCE	SMITH	F	TRUCK	YES	FARMER	FEEDING COWS
PATRICK	SHORTY	M	SMART CAR	NO	BANK MANAGER	AT CHARGING STATION
MOLLY	MARTIN	F	CAR	NO	BAKER	MAKING BREAD ALONE
WILSON	BALONEY	M	TRUCK	YES	LUMBERJACK	SPLITTING WOOD WITH FATHER-IN-LAW
PATIENCE	YOUNG	F	SUV	NO	BANK TELLER	PUTTING CHILDREN ON THE BUS
EARL	BUNTER	M	VAN	YES	PLUMBER	UNCLOGGING JOE'S DRAIN
HAZEL	LUPINE	F	TRUCK	YES	PRINCIPAL	DRIVING TO WORK
TOM JR.	HOWELL	M	TRUCK	NO	SCHOOL TEACHER	IN THE STAFF ROOM
GENEVIEVE	KNOWSALOT	F	CAR	NO	HAIRDRESSER	TRIMMING PETER'S BEARD
JOE	MAJOR	M	CAR	YES	GAS STATION OWNER	GETTING DRAIN UNCLOGGED
CRISCO	CAMPBELL	M	TRUCK	YES	FARMER	TENDING TO A SICK COW
CLIFFORD	POWERS	M	SPORTS CAR	NO	INVESTMENT BROKER	AT CAFE READING NEWSPAPER
MILLY	MARTIN	F	BICYCLE	NO	FISHPLANT WORKER	AT WORK
MANDY	POWERS	F	MOTORBIKE	NO	FISHPLANT WORKER	AT WORK
ALBERT	MCGEE	M	CAR	YES	RETIRED MINER	AT HOME ALONE
BONNIE	P. PIE	F	SMART CAR	YES	BEEKEEPER	IN THE FIELDS ALONE
TIMMY	HORTONS	M	NO VEHICLE	NO	BARTENDER	SLEEPING
GAIL	HENRY	F	TRUCK	YES	FISHING NET MAKER	JOGGING
BANKS	ROBINS	M	TRUCK	YES	TRANSPORT DRIVER	SLEEPING
PETER	HAMILTON	M	CAR	NO	MAILMAN	EATING BREAKFAST ALONE
TERRY	HICK	F	CAR	YES	MAYOR	ON THE BOARDWALK
MITCHELL	COCHRANE	M	TRUCK	YES	CAMPGROUND OWNER	CLEANING OUT THE POOL
MAISIE	HICK	F	CAR	NO	ANTIQUÉ COLLECTOR	WATCHING TV ALONE
AMELIA	SEXTON	M	CAR	NO	PSYCHIC	DOING YOGA

CONTEST ENTRY FORM

MESSAGE 1:

MESSAGE 2:

MESSAGE 3:

MESSAGE 4:

MESSAGE 5:

THE THIEF IS:

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AGE:

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