

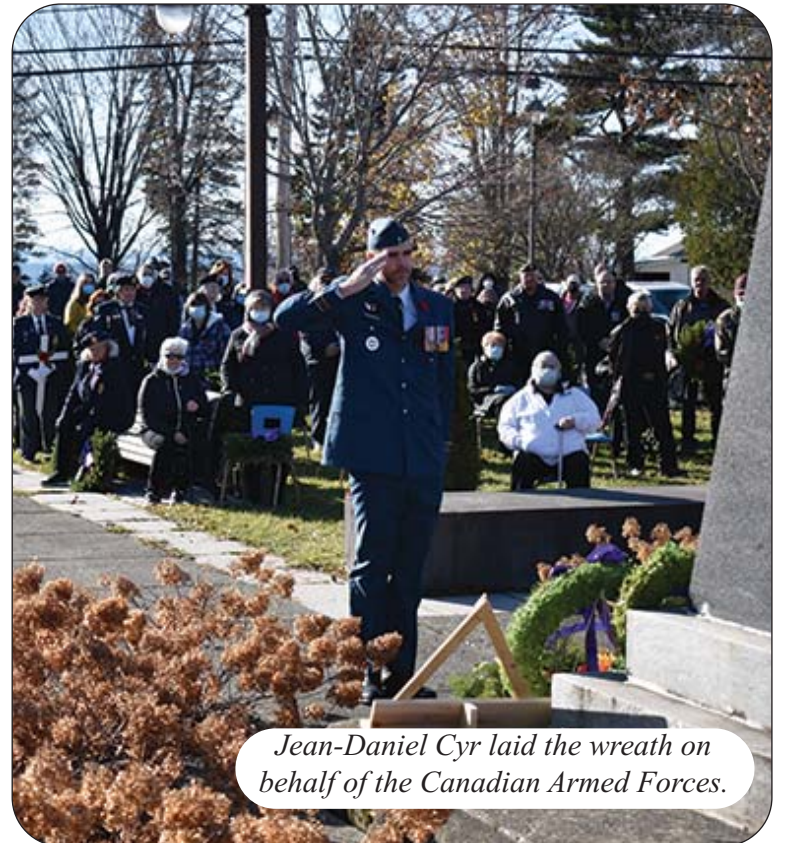
Chaleurs Bay Legion Branch 172 celebrates Remembrance Day

Cynthia Dow

A chilly wind did not stop almost 200 people from gathering at the New Richmond cenotaph on Remembrance Day to lay dozens of wreaths in honour of local veterans. As usual, the event was held in Mi'gmaq, French and English. The ceremony included a reading of the poem *In Flanders Fields*, in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the use of the poppy as a symbol of this day of mourning for Canada's war heroes. Besides Legion officials, at the podium were the Catholic priest, the United Church minister; William Jerome, the spiritual leader of Gesgapegiag and members of the cadet corps.



Linda Hardy laid the wreath on behalf of Silver Cross Mothers



Jean-Daniel Cyr laid the wreath on behalf of the Canadian Armed Forces.

Photos: C. Dow



Veteran Jacques Plourde.

Veteran honoured by the Montreal Canadiens

Nelson Sergerie, LJI Journalist

GASPÉ: Riviere-au-Renard WWII Veteran Jacques Plourde, 97, was still on cloud nine on November 12, the day after his presence at the Bell Centre as the Canadiens marked Remembrance Day.

"It was fantastic. I expected less than that. I got more than I wanted to have. I really liked it," says Mr. Plourde, who was congratulated by the fans after the presentation on the ice.

"It was a little touching, especially when they sang *O*

Canada with the military salute. It gave me butterflies in my stomach," says Mr. Plourde.

Jacques Plourde's presence at the game on November 11 is the result of four years of effort for his son, Simon.

Mr. Plourde received four medals during the war: 1939-45 Star, Atlantic Star, War Medal 1939-45 and Voluntary Service Medal. Jacques Plourde was in the Merchant Navy during World War II and transported fuel for Allied ships while sailing near German submarines between Boston and Newfoundland.

NCHS class participates in Remembrance Day service



Students from Mona Hayes' class at New Carlisle High School recited *In Flanders Fields*

Photos: Joan Imhoff

NEW CARLISLE: There was a modest turnout at the Remembrance Day service in New Carlisle. Those in attendance watched as four wreaths were laid, a minute of silence was observed and *O Canada* was sung.

In addition, students from New Carlisle High School recited the poem *In Flanders Fields*. One student also read a poem he had written himself.



John Kaye Walker and Gilles Martin each laid a wreath in honour of veterans.

2021 Municipal Election Results

Gilles Gagné

The results are in for the 2021 municipal elections in the region. Here are some of the results.

New Carlisle

David Thibault won the November 7 mayoral election in New Carlisle, receiving a clear majority from the electorate with 440 (56.34% of ballots). His closest opponent was Wilfrid Larocque (169 votes). Outgoing councillor Francis Moran finished third (107 votes) and Benoit Maltais finished fourth (65 votes).

The participation rate reached 62.9%, compared to 61.7% in 2017.

David Thibault, who had served a term as councillor between 2017 and 2021, said a few minutes after the confirmation of his victory that his campaign had gone quite well.

"With the new team in place, the next four years will be very positive. With the construction of New Carlisle High School, we will get together around that project and work at installing the infrastructures needed for the new facility," remarked the new mayor, who also intends to work on the drinkable water file.

Results by seat:

Seat 1: Clyde Flowers (460), Ashley Renouf (303).
Seat 4: Cindy Carney (380), Karine Lacroix (244) and Dean Flowers (143).
Seat 5: Stephen Leberre (344), Shannon Day (249), and Brenda Manning (159).
Seat 6: Robert Benwell (439), Brian Gallon (322).

Paspebiac:

Marc Loisel (1445) won with 77.31% of the ballots against Nelson Holmes (424). The five incumbent councillors going for re-election were all defeated.

Results by seat:

Seat 1: Louis-Alexandre MacNaughton (957), Solange Castilloux (906).
Seat 2: Nancy Anglehart (1126), Nathalie Castilloux (738).
Seat 3: Gabriel Huard (1,546), Henri Alain (312).
Seat 4: Marie-Andrée Côté (1,351), Émilien Grenier (283) and Jean-Marie Denis (231).
Seat 5: Sandra Langlois (939), Rémi Whittom (530) Hébert Huard (402).
Seat 6: Christian Grenier (1,012), Rudy Duguay-Huard

(437), Régis Horth (242) and Roméo Briand (177).

"I am 61 years-old and I am by far the oldest council member. We have a lot of work to do with our infrastructures and I would like to land a residence for our seniors," said Marc Loisel minutes after his win.

The participation rate was 67.2% in Paspebiac, higher than the 65.9% of 2017.

Shigawake

In Shigawake, Rolande Couture-Beebe (185), who had been on the council for 34 years, beat incumbent mayor Colette Dow Francoeur (79).

Results by seat:

Seat 1: Marcel Gagnon (152), Daniel Lamarre (91).
Seat 3: Georgette Chapados (145), Diane Donelle (102).
Seat 4: Michael Hayes (126), Joseph Blais (117).
Seat 5: Heather Imhoff (166), Carole Huard (80).
Seat 6: Jeffrey Vautier (179), Réal Aubut (69).

Cascapedia-Saint Jules

In Cascapedia-Saint-Jules, Ashley Milligan (252) had a clear win with 88.4% rate of support against opponents Dwight Coull (19) and David Duthie (14).

Shortly after her victory, Ashley Milligan pointed out that "I have to meet with the director general and check the files, since I was not present at the municipality during the campaign." She wants to put emphasis on certain files like housing for seniors, road safety and services for children, considering the high number of new families moving to Cascapedia-Saint-Jules.

Bonaventure

The voters of Bonaventure voted for continuity by re-electing incumbent mayor Roch Audet (649) for a third term. He still received vigorous opposition from outgoing councillor Benoit Poirier (508) votes.

"I don't see it as a sign of division but people wanted some change. I hear this message. We need to communicate better," said Roch Audet a few minutes after learning of his victory.

He acknowledges that the council will have to focus on investments in culture, "put aside during the last term." He also notes that large projects,

such as the establishment of a fish farm and a microbrewery, "should see the light of day during the next term." These projects have been significantly delayed by the pandemic, he says.

Results by district:

District 1: Richard Desbiens (768), David Girard (365).
District 5: Molly Bujold (671), Véronique Gauthier (480).

Port Daniel-Gascons

In Port Daniel-Gascons, incumbent mayor Henri Grenier was elected by acclamation.

Results by district:

District 1: François Beaudin (146), Richard Dea (55).
District 2: Jo-Annie Castilloux (163), Mireille Langlois (96).
District 3: Denis Langlois (169), Louis Cléodore Langlois (40).
District 4: Marc-Aurèle Blais (132), Alfred Parisé (48).
District 5: Marie-Ève Allain (130), Daniel Huard (102).
District 6: Sylvie Blais (159), Anie Anglehart (58).

Maria

In Maria, outgoing councillor Jean-Claude Landry (767) entered the mayoral election and won against Cathie Belley (285).

Results by seat:

Seat 1: Daniel Audet (732), Patrick Guité (304).
Seat 2: Cindy Gagné (410), Louise Fugère (359) Louis-Marie Guité (274).
Seat 3: David Philippe (614), Renaud Quilbé (430).
Seat 4: France Leblanc (669), José Caissy (368).
Seat 5: Guylaine Audet (676), Jeanne Manseau-Noël (360).

Pointe-à-la-Croix

In Pointe-à-la-Croix, the outgoing mayor, Pascal Bujold (497) won against Jean-Paul Audy (216).

Seat 1: Marie-Christine Langlois (447), Claude Audet (269).
Seat 2: Tara-Lynn Bujold (477), Julien Vallière (118), Gail Parker (109).
Seat 6: Cindy Leblanc (464), Christian Lavoie (241).

Nouvelle

In Nouvelle, Rachel Dugas (727), who was an outgoing councillor, defeated Ivanhoe Caissy for the post of mayor with a 94.17% rate of support,

Ms. Dugas received the biggest majority in the whole Gaspé Peninsula.

Results by seat:

Seat 2: Vanaly Leblanc (440), Denis Richard (250), Jonathan Dufresne (77).
Seat 4: Steven Olscamp (490), Paul Leclerc (279).

New Richmond

In New Richmond Mayor Éric Dubé was elected by acclamation.

Results by seat:

Seat 1: Maryse Soucy (577), Nathalie Motreff (327).
Seat 5: Nathalie Clark (562), Mathieu Martin (348).
Seat 8: Pamela Dow (472), Abbygail Bélanger (431)

Hope

In Hope, multi-term mayor Hazen Whittom, was re-elected by acclamation. They will be joined on the council by three newcomers.

Results per seat

Seat 1: Annick Arsenault (271), Laurette Chapados

(114).

Seat 2: Colette Plusquellec (227), Claude Roussy (157).
Seat 5: Linda Delarosbil (287) Benoit Tremblay (100).

Caplan

In Caplan, incumbent mayor Lise Castilloux (645) won against challenger Renaud Boissonnault (92).

Results by seat:


Seat 3: Keven Desbois (524), Sylvain Bourque (260).

Saint-Godefroi

In Saint-Godefroi, incumbent mayor Genade Grenier won by acclamation.

Seat 2: Georges Chapados (164), Linda Roussy (96).
Seat 3: Gérard Litalien (164), Sylvain Horth (98).





PUBLIC NOTICE ELECTION RESULT

MUNICIPALITY OF GASPÉ
ELECTION HELD ON NOVEMBER 7, 2021

After been informed of the complete results of the election, Me Isabelle Vézina, returning officer, indicate, by this public notice, that the following persons has been declared elected to the positions mentioned below:

MAYOR
Elected candidate without opposition:
Daniel CÔTÉ

COUNCILLOR – WARD NO. 1
Elected candidate:
Mathieu DENIS

COUNCILLOR – WARD NO. 2
Elected candidate without opposition:
Jean-Michel NOËL

COUNCILLOR – WARD NO. 3
Elected candidate:
Charlie-Maude GIROUX-BOSSÉ

COUNCILLOR – WARD NO. 4
Elected candidate:
Réal CÔTÉ

COUNCILLOR – WARD NO. 5
Elected candidate:
James KEAYS

COUNCILLOR – WARD NO. 6
Elected candidate:
Ghislain SMITH

GIVEN at Gaspé, on November 17, 2021.

Isabelle Vézina,
Returning officer

2021 Municipal Election Results

Nelson **Sergerie**,
LJI Journalist

Here are the results for Chandler, Percé, Saint-Thérèse-de-Gaspé and Murdochville and Haute Gaspésie.

Chandler

It's a new start for the Town of Chandler as citizens elected Gilles Daraïche as mayor on November 7 with 1843 votes.

Mr. Daraïche won the election with 49.41% of the vote against outgoing councillor Denis Pelchat (1375) who received 36.86%. Marie-Claire Blais (512) came in last with 13.73% of the vote.

Mr. Daraïche's campaign slogan was to rally the troops to work as a team to put Chandler "in its rightful place".

"I am a gatherer. I am a guy who people want to work with. I think that's the way we're going to do it. I don't even think it will be difficult to do it. There will be no harassment in the Town of Chandler. There won't be any intimidation. We will work together," says the new mayor.

Housing is a priority: "There are already investors who are ready to invest in Chandler. They were just waiting for the new council and harmony," says Daraïche.

Results by district

District 1 - Newport: Bruno-Pierre Godbout (446), Claude Grenier (303).

District 2 - Pabos Mills: Meggie Ritchie (604), Francois Bouchard (81).

District 4 - Chandler East: Raynald Leblanc (301), Marcel Lavoie (123), Winnita Vallée (95), Normand Kearney (39).

District 5 - Pabos: Pierre-Luc Arsenault (294), Nadine Broom (176), Donald Vachon (65), Marc-André Dupuis (28)
District 6 - Saint-Francois: Gaétan Daraïche (366), Monique Travers (103) and Monique Duguay (74).

Rocher-Percé

Barely 24 years old, Samuel Parisé has been elected as the prefect of the Rocher-Percé MRC. He is a social worker by training. Mr. Parisé (2576) obtained 34% of the vote, against the former director of the MRC, Mario Grenier (2004) who received 26% of the vote. Maurice Anglehart (1503) received 20% and Luc Legresley (1274) with 17%.

Mr. Parisé admits having great responsibilities by occupying the position left vacant by former prefect Nadia Mi-

nassian. "When I got into this, I wasn't sure what I was getting into. It's a great adventure for sure. I have big shoes to fill," says the newly-elected prefect after the confirmation of his election.

In the short term, housing and economic development are in the plans. Coming from a social services background, he wants to make sure they are a priority.

"From the first months of my mandate, I will meet with all community organizations so that we can work together and develop a complementary service that is truly adapted to the needs of the population," suggests Mr. Parisé.

Percé

The outgoing mayor of Percé, Cathy Poirier, won a second term receiving (684) 53.56% of the vote against for her opponent, Olivier Lafontaine (593) who received 46.44%. A few days after her victory, Cathy Poirier believes that the low participation rate of 45% could have worked against her. According to what voters told her, some took her victory as a given.

"This time it was heated, I won't hide it from you. The population was also heated," says the elected official who has learned a lesson: communicate more with the citizens.

"Beyond all the public sessions and media coverage, we have to find a way to reach even more people to explain the priorities," she says, mentioning as an example: the Town cannot asphalt all the roads.

"These are not projects that are taken on short notice. We listened and made a lot of repairs. But the people who haven't had it (paving) in front of their homes haven't heard that it will happen in the years to come. It's all about communication," says Ms. Poirier.

Results by district

District 2: Shanna Roussy (121), Jerry Sheehan (45), Michel Després (2).

District 3: Michel Rail (122), Magella Warren (59), Raphaël Blais (22).

District 4: Yannick Cloutier (157), Clifford Vibert (76).

District 5: Gaétane Hautcoeur (108), Guillaume Arbour (67).

Gaspé

Winds of change blew through Gaspé municipal council as five of the six outgoing councillors did not get re-elected.

Results by district

District 1 - from Anse-à-Val-leau to Petit-Cap: Mathieu Denis (378), Carmelle Mathurin (235)

District 3 - Anse-au-Griffon, Cap-des-Rosiers, Petit-Cap: Charlie-Maude Giroux Bossé (411), Nelson O'Connor (267)

District 4 - Saint-Majorique, Wakeham, Sunny Bank: Réal Côté (515) Marcel Fournier (314).

District 5 - Downtown: James Keays (546), Aline Perry (415).

District 6 - Sandy Beach, Haldimand, York and Douglastown: Ghislain Smith (540), Pierre Desrosiers (325)

The only survivor of the previous council which was fully re-elected in 2017 is, Ghislain Smith.

"Everyone arrived in collaboration mode. Honestly, these are new faces and new ideas. Everything that has been happening for some time in Gaspé will continue in the same direction. I have no concerns at this level," commented the re-elected mayor by acclamation, Daniel Côté.

"The first meetings we had; it bodes very well. It is the future of the greater Gaspé that comes above all else," recalls the mayor.

Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé

Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé, outgoing mayor Roberto Blondin was re-elected with (306) 55.94% of the vote against businessman Jacques Desbois (241) 44.06%.

Results by district

District 3: Dorine Langlais Marcoux (52), Joé Lelièvre (51), Jean-Marie Cyr (9).

Murdochville

In Murdochville, Délicia Ritchie-Roussy easily won for a fifth term with (248) 72.09% support over Chantal De Bellefeuille (96) 27.91%

Results by seat

Seat 1: Mathieu Blanchette (200), Martin Pelletier (137)

Seat 2: Harold Mercier (181), Gilles Bernatchez (115), Isabelle Lorange (49).

Seat 3: Jean-Philippe Poulin (184), Line Cyr (158).

Seat 4: Daniel Fournier (210), Frédérique Thibodeau (88), Réjean Lord (48).

Seat 6: André Minville (196), Logan Devouge (150).

Haute-Gaspésie Prefect

The outgoing prefect of Haute-Gaspésie, Allen Cormier, was, however, defeated by the Bloc Québécois

Police report

The 74-year-old cyclist, Dale Ball, a well-known retired teacher from New Richmond, involved in the November 4 Cascapedia-Saint-Jules early afternoon accident and who suffered from life-threatening injuries died on the evening of November 5 at the Maria hospital. For a reason that remains unknown, the driver of a car going in the opposite direction of Mr. Ball deviated and hit him. The accident happened on Patrickton Road, in a sharp curve. Mr. Ball was known for his participation in long distance cycling and skiing events, some of them held to raise money for various causes. The motorist was not injured but suffered a severe nervous shock.

From November 9 to 11, investigators from the Integrated team for the fight against child pornography and the Major crime squad of the Sûreté du Québec, in collaboration with municipal police forces from several regions in Quebec arrested 26 individuals aged 33 to 75, from several areas.

The arrests, carried out as part of a major investigation, took place in Abitibi-Témiscamingue, Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean, Quebec, Lanaudière, the Gaspé Peninsula, Laval, Montérégie, the Eastern Townships, Centre-du-Québec, Montreal and Outaouais.

The accused people appeared at their local courthouses to face charges of possession, distribution and access to child pornography. The names of those individuals will be available soon. The police carried out several searches of the homes of the suspects and computer equipment was seized for analysis.

These searches were coordinated by the Sûreté du Québec and carried out by the Integrated team in the fight against child pornography, created on October 1, 2021, whose mission is to identify and arrest producers and distributors of child pornography across Quebec. This team brings together members of the Sûreté du Québec and municipal police forces from Montreal, Quebec, Longueuil, Laval and Gatineau.

candidate in the last federal election. Jacques Mimeault collected (411) 10.56% and Maxime Esther Bouchard of La Martre brought up the rear with (124) 3.19%.

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Cruise ships are returning to Gaspé

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - After two seasons of absence, large cruise ships will anchor in the Bay of Gaspé in 2022. Destination Gaspé, which oversees the arrival of the "giants of the seas," could accommodate 27 international ships since activities were able to resume on November 1 in Canada.

Public Health recommendations will be applied to the entire Saint Lawrence destination, which includes the main ports of call in Quebec. "We are planning the recovery in terms of reception capacity, in terms of the volume that will be able to transit through the territory. There will be adjustments to be made along the way, that's for sure," says Destination Gaspé executive director Stéphane Sainte-Croix.

The first ship is scheduled to drop anchor in Gaspé on May 22 and the last stopover is scheduled for October 29: a total of 18,832 passengers and crew are expected.

The last ship to have anchored in Gaspé dates back to October 2019, a season that saw 25 ships and 17,000 people.

"We are very, very happy to have clients and we are busy being fully ready for the next step," adds Mr. Sainte-Croix.

Twenty-five stopovers were cancelled in 2021 and 47 in 2020. The economic benefits were estimated at \$7.5 million in 2018.

Percé Rock MRC gets attention because of COVID-19 outbreaks

Gilles Gagné

CARLETON – The magnitude of the COVID-19 situation decreased a bit between November 5 to 12, as the number of new cases went from 27 the previous week to 23. The number of active cases went down more significantly though, as there were 28 cases left on November 12, compared to 50 a week earlier.

The main concentration was located in the Percé Rock MRC, where 21 of the week's 23 new cases were reported. The other ones were detected in the Bonaventure and Haute-Gaspésie MRCs.

As of November 12, four schools of the Centre de services scolaires René-Lévesque were reporting coronavirus cases. Three of them were located in the Percé Rock MRC, namely Bon-Pasteur school in

Grand River, with three cases and two quarantined classrooms, Saint Joseph school in Chandler, with eight cases and three quarantined classrooms, Bourg school in Carleton, with one case, and the Centre d'éducation des adultes of Chandler-Grand River, with one case.

The vaccination rate of the regional population is still making slow progress. The rate for 1 vaccination went from 82.6% to 82.7% October 31 and November 7, according to the last report available. The booster shot has now been provided to 80.5% of the population, compared to 80.3% as of October 31. The provincial rate was standing at 79.5% and 77.5% on November 7. for the first and second shots, compared to 79.4% and 76.7%, respectively, a week earlier. The Avignon MRC vaccination rate remains quite behind the regional numbers, with

74.9% for the first shot, the same rate as a week before, and 72.5% for the second shot, compared to 72.2% on October 31.



Since the end of October, the main incidence of the COVID-19 pandemic has shifted from the Avignon MRC (photo) to the Percé Rock MRC.

Editorial page

Gilles Gagné Commentary



Municipal elections: positive points and worrisome questions

Some observations can be made on the results of the November 7 municipal elections, whether those observations are regional or apply to the Quebec context. However, a few days after the poll, some statistical evidence remains to be obtained but, at first glance, it is already possible to draw some positive and negative conclusions.

On the positive side, the number of elected women has slightly increased, Quebec-wide and in the Gaspé Peninsula. The final count and an accurate comparison with 2017 remain to be done but it is clear that the presence of elected women has risen in the region.

There are now four women on the municipal council of Cascapedia-Saint Jules' seven people team, seven in Hope Town, five in Hope, four in Maria, three out of five council members in Matapedia, three in New Richmond, five in Nouvelle, three in Pointe-à-la-Croix, five out of nine council members in Percé, three in Port Daniel-Gascons, four in Saint-Alphonse, four in Saint-Elzéar, four in Saint-Godefroi and four in Shigawake.

The municipal councils of the region will also be younger and, in some cases, much younger, like in Paspébiac, New Carlisle, Cascapedia-Saint Jules, Gaspé and Shigawake, to name a few. Daniel Côté, aged 41, is now on the older side of the Town of Gaspé municipal council.

Elsewhere, the list of women elected as mayors is impressive, as they now lead councils in Gatineau, Laval, Longueuil, Sherbrooke, Granby, Brossard, Blainville and Val d'Or. Women also kept the top position in Montreal and Saguenay, while a woman almost made it in Quebec City.

The idea is to have municipal councils that better reflect the population they represent. More youth and more women are necessary to represent the population. A higher presence in that field is also a factor that could bolster the participation rate in the future.

Until the end of the 1990s, youth were very rare in municipal councils. When men or women in their twenties were elected back then, it was newsworthy. By 2005, statistics were gradually prepared to check a new phenomenon and follow-ups have been made since.

In Quebec and in the Gaspé Peninsula, the situation has gradually improved on both fronts. We have more women, and we have more youth. The Percé Rock MRC voters elected Samuel Parisé, a 24-year-old prefect. Chapais, in Northern Québec, chose a 21-year-old woman.

Parity in the case of women remains to be reached though. Under age 35, the number of women in politics is slowly reaching parity. However, between 35 and 55 years of age, there are still about twice as many men as there are women. Above 55, there are almost five times more men than women. That compilation was valid before the November 7 election.

The reality of a rising presence of women and youth in municipal politics must not hide a distressing fact that is characterising that level of power like the other ones, for instance, and it is the plummeting rate of participation in polls.

In Montreal, only a few over 35% of the electorate cast a ballot on November 7, compared to 42.5% in 2017, which was also a lower rate than in 2013. It is hard to conceive, considering the media coverage received by the battle between Valérie Plante and Denis Coderre.

Montreal and Quebec City electoral officers probably envy the Gaspé Peninsula rate of participation in municipal polls but at 51% on November 7, it was lower than the 58.4% of 2017.

The fact that sizeable municipalities like Gaspé, Sainte-Anne-des-Monts, New Richmond and Carleton were not holding mayoral elections might explain in part the downward participation rate in the region this year. When the top spot is contested, voters converge more easily to the ballot box.

There is, nevertheless, a demobilization trend that is worrying. About half of the people elected in the Quebec municipalities this fall knew on October 1 that their position was secured because they had won by acclamation. Usually, ideas get fine-tuned faster when they are challenged.

In Matapedia, for example, two seats remained empty as they were not even filled by acclamation. The same situation applies to one seat in nearby Saint-André-de-Restigouche.

That trend comes at a time when municipal responsibilities are increasing, notably because some of them have been abandoned by the Quebec government. The municipal level of power has always been the closest to the citizens and that reality gains in importance.

By and large, municipalities used to manage street lights, water and sewerage, garbage and sidewalks.

Now, they take a greater interest in managing housing, because it is a way to attract new citizens. They are also expected to manage environmental stakes like recuperation, composting, secondary

roads, urban planning and so on. Often abandoned by the federal and provincial levels of government, taxpayers are turning to the municipal administration to fill the gap.

So why aren't they voting more for the level of government that is closest to them? Because they are satisfied? Because they were tired of getting informed, having just voted at the federal level? Because they feared going out to vote due to the pandemic?

It might be a bit of all of the above. In Montreal, we have a city with an annual budget of \$6.2 billion and where decisions seem so deprived of interest that only one-third of the electorate reach a ballot box.

Why can't we be worried about democracy? How can people criticize the supposedly high salary of mayors and municipal councillors when they don't even get informed about the main stakes, when they don't care about voting, when they ignore the rising workload of elected people?

On the other hand, it might be time for the electoral officers and the people interested in the protection of democracy to deploy original means in order to facilitate the circulation of information about the candidates.

The compulsory publication of basic details about people running in every municipal election might be a way to spark interest in the population. It hasn't been tried everywhere. In small municipalities and some cities' suburbs, some candidates have no organization, no web site and very little means purchase publicity in a local paper, when there is one.

Democracy might need that kind of help to get better. Everything has not been tried.

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Business owner Pierre Dubé wants Public Security to pay \$975,000 for not preventing four floods in Matapedia

Gilles Gagné

MATAPEDIA - A Matapedia businessman, Pierre "Pete" Dubé, is claiming \$975,000 in compensation from the Quebec Ministry of Public Security for the inability of that organization to adequately prevent four floods that have greatly reduced the value of the owner's properties.

Those floods occurred in 2008, 2012, 2014 and 2019. The 2019 flood was the most severe, says Mr. Dubé. He recalls the departure of a third entity in the case, the Canadian Coast Guard, which stopped icebreaking on part of the Restigouche River a few hours before the flooding on the night of April 20-21, 2019.

The Canadian Coast Guard's Sipu Muin hovercraft had left the area of that river to travel nearly 200 kilometres further east, mainly to clear the ice at the fishing port of Shipagan, New Brunswick, and facilitate the opening of the snow crab fishery.

In his request to institute proceedings filed with the Superior Court, Mr. Dubé under-

lines that the overflows of 2008, 2012, 2014 and 2019 occurred "after the Civil Security Ministry took over the responsibility for the prevention of floods in Matapedia, at the beginning of the 2007-2008 winter."

In the same document, Pete Dubé recalls that during the 13 winters preceding the arrival of the Civil Security Ministry as the main intervention stakeholder in flood prevention, an "advisory committee, made up of citizens of the municipality of Matapedia. These people are extremely competent by their intimate knowledge of the Restigouche River in all seasons (banks, currents, movements and accumulations of ice, shoals, pits, islands, natural obstacles invisible under the ice for the uninitiated, etc.), was the main contact with the Canadian Coast Guard in support of icebreaking operations on the Restigouche River from 1995 to 2007. It was very effective in preventing flooding for the period mentioned."

In fact, there was not a single flood in Matapedia during those 13 years.



Photos: G. Gagné

Pierre "Pete" Dubé will be heard by the Superior Court on November 19 as he asked the Civil Security department to compensate him for \$975,000, considering the lost value of his properties since 2008 because of repetitive floods.

Mr. Dubé says there's a correlation between "the withdrawal of the Matapedia citizens advisory committee from contacts with the Coast Guard in the spring of 2008, (...) the adoption in 2008 of a new very rigid protocol between the Quebec Ministry of Civil Security and the Canadian Coast Guard" on one side and the four "floods that occurred in 2008, 2012, 2014 and 2019" experienced by the citizens of Matapedia on the other side.

Canadian Coast Guard hovercrafts began intervening in the spring of 1995 in Matapedia, a year after the major flood of 1994.

In a short interview with SPEC, Pete Dubé states that "when Civil Security took control of the flood prevention file, local expertise was completely squeezed out of Coast Guard

interventions and we have had problems since then, in 2008," he adds.

The action filed by Mr. Dubé will be heard on Friday, November 19, at the New Carlisle courthouse. Judge Benoit Moulin might choose to deliberate over the case.

Pete Dubé defends himself without a lawyer but he will be accompanied by an expert witness, Renaud Quilbé, of Pesca Environment, who studied the data on the flow of the Restigouche River during a period of melting and the effects of massive logging on the speed of this snowmelt.

In the document sent to the court, Mr. Dubé also noted that "Civil Security has unquestionably missed on its obligations by deliberately failing to protect the population as required by law. A few tens of metres downstream from the inter-

provincial bridge linking Quebec to New Brunswick, the equipment responsible for destroying the jam abandoned the area without completing the work for which (it) had been commissioned. As a result, the ice formed a compact and practically impassable dam. Water accumulated upstream to inevitably overflow into the village of Matapedia, causing extensive damage. If the work had been properly carried out, this flood of 2019 could have been avoided, as for the years 1995 to 2007."

In conclusion, he notes that "these recurring floods have completely devastated the quality of life of the Dubé family, financially ruined its owner after 58 years of hard work invested in this business." The amount claimed of \$975,000 is also "clearly less than the real inconvenience" experienced by his family. He also says he is ready to examine any mediation proposal.

For 58 years, Pete Dubé operated a motel, a restaurant, a campground and a sport fishing outfitter at 3 des Saumons Street. His house is located at 5 des Saumons Street. He says that his properties have gradually lost all value since 2008, in particular since the damage caused by the ice on the night of April 20 to 21, 2019.

His efforts to sell his 35-room establishment, built on stilts, have been unsuccessful for years. In the spring of 2019, an interested buyer withdrew upon seeing the effects of the flooding. Mr. Dubé had by then reduced his price to \$275,000, a fraction of the price he could have obtained before 2008.



The village of Matapedia experienced an unnecessary episode of flooding on the night of April 20 to 21, 2019, according to Pete Dubé, because the Civil Security Department failed to properly manage the situation.

Massive logging, a "factor to consider"

Gilles Gagné

MATAPEDIA - In his request to institute proceedings, Pete Dubé established for the court "factors to consider" that led to the sudden and extremely high floods on the Restigouche River and its tributaries. Clear cuts are the backbone of that argument.

"The floods occurring in Matapedia are directly linked to massive and intensive deforestation authorized by the government and practiced over the past six decades, thereby causing a 450% increase in water flows on the Restigouche River, between the 94th and the 115th day of

the year as recorded by Environment Canada at hydrological station 018C001," writes Mr. Dubé.

That deforestation favours significant ground freezing and the construction of countless forest roads has compacted the soil in various places in the Restigouche watershed. This situation increases surface runoff during melting and the massive transport of sediment that clogs the river. Those sediments facilitate the formation of ice jams, he says.

According to him the depth of the Restigouche River "has decreased by almost 50% compared to that of the previ-

ous century, thus adding to the flooding of recent years. Moreover, the width of the river is twice what it used to be on certain stretches."

Long standing infrastructures do nothing to help the flow of water in that river, he also argues. He cites a dyke of 4,300 feet or 1,300 metres built between 1868 and 1876 to receive the railway line owned by the Canadian National Railways between Matapedia and New Brunswick, then another dike to protect Highway 132 and the Gaspé Peninsula Railway, which was downstream from Matapedia, in the Sillarsville area. In his court document, he also noted

the construction from 1973 of the Interprovincial Road Bridge, also located downstream from the village.

"Following the introduction of these new obstacles narrowing the width of the river (mainly under the railway bridge), added to the intensive deforestation mentioned, the consequences have favoured the dramatic and remarkable increase in water flows causing major recurrent floods which appeared as early as 1974," he writes.

His attempt to have a Superior Court decision provide him with compensation is far from being Pete Dubé's first endeavour to awaken the au-

thorities to the Matapedia situation. He once wrote a book documenting the link between intensive logging and flooding along the Restigouche River.

In the spring of 2015, he further wrote to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva, Switzerland, to denounce "a case of violation of human rights, freedom of expression and destruction of the environment."

He was targeting the Quebec government for the authorization given to logging and deplored "its indifference to the plight of flood victims" in Matapedia.

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“Mila did not die in vain!”

Gilles Gagné

CAPLAN - The life of Anick Lepage, a Gaspesian from Caplan, changed on Sunday April 25, 2021, when her 26-year-old daughter Mila Lepage-Babin died suddenly when a piece of metal propelled by the explosion of a spray can pierced her throat.

The tragedy happened as Mila was cleaning her backyard, with her boyfriend, a situation that happens on thousands of properties on sunny spring days.

At the time, Anick Lepage was still reeling from the death of her partner, Marco. He succumbed to cancer in September 2019. In addition, doctors diagnosed her with a brain tumour two months later. Non-cancerous, that tumour was partially removed in 2020, but Ms. Lepage has to return for follow-ups twice a year.

Six months after Mila's passing, Anick Lepage looks back on the events of April 25 and maintains the hope that her daughter's death was not in vain.

“Her boyfriend was alone with her. They had lit a fire to burn yard debris, leaves, and sawdust. They weren't the ones who put the can in the fire. There was an explosion and the lives of all these people changed. Her boyfriend called me to give her first aid because I am a first responder. I arrived before the paramedics. She died in my arms,” says Anick Lepage.

From there, the story took two different routes.

A heavy machinery operator by trade, Mila Lepage-Babin has left a mark on the teams she has worked with, whether for seven years at the Saint-Elzéar's Association coopérative forestière's sawmill; one year in a mine in Labrador, or over the last nine months of her life, while working at the McInnis Cement quarry in Port-Daniel.

“The quarry team, when they heard that she would never come back the day after the explosion, couldn't work. They asked the company to take a long break. Later, one team searched for a site where workers could place a stone and a plaque in her honour, and another team

found the stone. It was too large for a single machine to transport it to the chosen site. They needed two machines. They don't know how they would get it there, over that distance. It was something bigger that guided them, it seems,” says Anick Lepage, thinking of Mila.

On August 10, a plaque unveiling took place. Seventeen members of the Lepage-Babin family and Mila's boyfriend, Jonathan Calpepard, attended.

“A Japanese apple tree was planted. Apple trees are important to us because Mila, like me, was a hunter. She was my hunting companion. Why Japanese? It was not a special species for us but because it is white, it refers to the purity and energy of Mila. Her friends say hi to her every morning when they start their work,” says Ms. Lepage.

The plaque reads: *the misfortune of having lost her must not make us forget the happiness of having known her.*

In addition, Mila's accident has raised awareness of the dangers of explosives for employees, for the management of McInnis Cement and for that of the Brazilian firm Votorantim. That company officially acquired the Port-Daniel cement plant on April 30, five days after Mila's death.

“The plaque and the rock overlook the Baie-des-Chaleurs and from there, you can also see the quarry where Mila worked. The McInnis Cement boss who spoke to me said that they worked on it for several days, to flatten the path, install a \$4,000 plaque, spread some small crushed stone around it. During the unveiling, the entire production of the quarry was closed for two hours,” continues Mila's mother.

“Powerpoint training has been prepared on hazardous materials management for all of the company's cement plants in North America. They use the story of Mila and Jonathan. I heard of another international company that used Mila's story to train staff on hazardous materials management. Mila did not die in vain,” recalls Anick Lepage.



Photos: Courtesy of Anick Lepage

Mila's brother, Yoan Lepage-Babin; her mother Anick Lepage; Anick's granddaughter, Maïka Babin-Henry; her mother Audrey Allard-Babin and Jonathan Calpepard, Mila's boyfriend, were reunited on August 10 for the unveiling of the plaque honouring Mila.

“She has doubted herself all her life. At school, she was dyslexic. She had to work hard. She wasn't very confident. She didn't really see herself as others saw her. They saw her for what she was.

At the cement plant, in general, the guys are tough on the machinery. Her co-workers say they realized she was getting more work done, slowly, without stopping. She was not wasting her time,” explains her mother.

Anick Lepage appreciates the support she has received from McInnis Cement over the past six months.

“The company followed the wishes of the employees who wanted to pay tribute to Mila. The company is seen as a polluter, but there is great solidarity in this plant. It united the team. Mila died in my arms. Later my other daughter and I experienced post traumatic shock and they (McInnis Cement employees) offered to take care of the therapy we needed,” she notes.

Anick Lepage and the members of her family held Mila's funeral on September 5.

“This is her monument at the McInnis Cement quarry. I put some of her ashes under the apple tree. We also have a piece of land, where we hunt. Our ashes, her father

Marco's, Mila's and mine, will go there,” she states.

On sick leave after years with the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands organization called Droits et Recours en santé mentale (a mental health rights and recourse organization), Anick Lepage's mention about her eventual death doesn't change the fact that she intends to live a long time.

“I am having issues be-

cause of my brain tumour, such as loss of balance, deafness because the medical team went through the ear for surgery. It took a lot of exercise to regain my abilities. The tumour is only partially removed; there is a small piece left. If it had been taken out completely, it would have hit a part of my brain that would have caused a lot of damage. I would be disfigured,” she concludes.



The apple tree and the stone paying tribute to Mila.

VIA's Ocean train to resume two weekly trips starting on December 8

Gilles Gagné

MATAPEDIA - VIA Rail Canada's gradual service resumption will see the return of the Ocean train's second trip between Halifax and Montreal, starting on December 8. VIA Rail has confirmed all details with the infrastructure owner, Canadian National Railways, to bring back this second weekly trip, "which will provide travellers with more choices on this popular route," the public transporter says in a press release.

Since August 11, VIA Rail has been running one weekly return trip between Halifax and Montreal, with the departure from Halifax on Wednesday around mid-day and the departure from Montreal on Sunday, early evening. Effective December 8, there will be a departure from Montreal on Wednesday and on December 12, a departure from Halifax on Sunday.

So, the two trains will cross one another on every trip, like it used to before the long service halt that started shortly before mid-February

2020 and that ended on August 11, an 18-month hiatus.

In its press release, the public transporter maintains that its "objective has always been the safe resumption of all our services across the country when conditions allowed. As VIA Rail announced in October, the return to full operation will occur progressively to resume full service in the region, and across the country, by June 2022."

A spokesperson of Transport Action Atlantic, Ted Bartlett, as well as Bernard Babin of the Coalition of Gaspésians for the return of the train, both expressed earlier this fall disenchantment at VIA Rail's slow return strategy, considering the much higher level of service in the Quebec City-Windsor corridor, especially between Quebec's capital and Toronto.

They also find June 2022 a late date for the full resumption of the Ocean train schedule, considering that three round trips a week are already insufficient. Mr. Bartlett believes that a shortage of staff



Gaspé Peninsula passengers will be able to count on two Halifax-Montreal weekly round trips starting in December.

Photo: G. Gagné

might explain that slow return. When asked to do so, VIA Rail has refused to comment on that hypothesis.

"The return of this second trip of the Ocean is good news for our passengers who now have more travel options in time for the holiday season," says Cynthia Garneau, VIA Rail's president and chief executive officer, "We are excited to be welcoming our passengers and employees

back on board, and we could not be happier to be able to finally proceed with this next phase of our gradual return to service in this region."

As of October 30, 2021, passengers over 12 years and 4 months are required to be fully vaccinated to travel on VIA Rail trains, as well as to access VIA Rail Business lounges. Up until November 30, 2021, as an alternative to showing full proof of vaccina-

tion, travellers will be able to board a train if they present proof of a valid COVID-19 molecular test performed within 72 hours prior to the scheduled departure time.

The Montreal-Halifax train is used by Gaspésians since the suspension of the Montreal-Gaspé train in September 2013. The Gaspé Peninsula railroad is currently under repair over the Caplan to Gaspé stretch.

NEW RICHMOND:

Tugboat and barge use wharf and bay as shelter

Gilles Gagné

NEW RICHMOND - The people going occasionally to the New Richmond wharf probably saw tug boat Tim McKeil during the last days of October, as her shipowner, McKeil Marine, of Hamilton, Ontario, uses that wharf as a shelter, when strong winds are expected. The New Richmond wharf is also used on occasions by McKeil Marine when the two main ports linked by the tugboat and the barge, the Niagara Spirit, are not busy carrying input between Belledune and Port Daniel.

"When we receive deliveries of raw materials, whether it is gypsum, bauxite or iron oxide, we unload at the plant until we reach the storage capacity on site. The ship then proceeds to Belledune where the rest of its load is stored. This is the barge that will then

make the round trip between Belledune and our terminal to supply the plant when we need either of these materials," explains Maryse Tremblay, spokesperson of Votorantim Cimentos, the company that acquired Port Daniel's McInnis Cement in April.

The Tim McKeil was built 30 years ago but she underwent a major rebuilding job in 2014. The 32.75-metre-long tugboat can count on 4,800 horsepower to push or pull barges or ships.

Visible on the right of the photo, just above the wharf, the Niagara Spirit flat barge is 103.64 metres in length, which is 340 feet. It was built in 1984 in Portland, Oregon, and served along the Alaskan coast for years before being acquired by McKeil Marine. She has a capacity of 7,800 metric tonnes of cargo. A loader and two conveyors are currently



Photo: G. Gagné

The tugboat Tim McKeil was moored at the New Richmond wharf on October 30, as the barge Niagara Spirit was anchored off the coast, on the right, visible just above the wharf.

on board to facilitate the unloading operations. Both ships are registered in Canada.

In recent weeks, the tandem was also seen in front of Miguasha, which also repre-

sents a good shelter, depending on the direction of the wind. The Maria residents also saw the tug and the barge off their coast on July 1.

On October 30 though, the

weather was quite mild and the Baie des Chaleurs was calm, as herring sport fishermen were quietly trying to catch fish, with occasional success.

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Announcements



Obituaries



MACDUFF: Mary "Wina" Edwina (nee Tapp)

Peacefully at the Ross Memorial Hospital on Monday, October 4, 2021, Wina went to be with our Lord and Saviour at the age of 82 years and 10 months.

She was the beloved wife of the late Glen MacDuff and predeceased by her siblings Romeo, Marcella (Harold) and Madonna.

Born in Barachois, she was one of ten children born to the late James and Beatrice Lemieux Tapp. She was the devoted mother of Ken (Beth), Darlene (Terry Keast), Colleen (the late Don Lewis), Dawson, Winnie (Dennis Jess) and Glen Jr. (Kendra); cherished grandmother of Ken, Janice, Amanda, Chantal, Warren, Leslie, Kelly, Sarah, Bryan, Kristen and Alessandra; adored great-grandmother of Jade, Clair, Nathan, Kendrik, Elias and Emery; dear sister of Will (Verna), Lorenzo (Flora), Mill (the late Lionel), Emma (the late Redmond), Norma and Carmel; and sister-in-law of Bob Devouge. Wina will be lovingly remembered by her many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

In keeping with Wina's wishes, family and friends gathered for a graveside service in Gooderham, Ontario.

*Our family chain is broken,
And nothing seems the same,
But as God calls us one by one,
The chain will link again.*

Announcements

Deadline: Wednesday at 4 p.m. to appear in following week's issue.

Obituary/ Wedding: \$40 (picture +\$5) for up to 300 words. If more we will give you a quote.

All other announcements: \$30 (picture +\$5) for up to 20 lines. If it is more, we will give you a quote. *Items must be typed and can be submitted by mail, online or in person.*



SKENE: Andrée Juliette

May 3, 1936 - September 24, 2021

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our beloved mother, Andrée Skene, at the age of 85 years on September 24, 2021, at Maria Hospital.

She was predeceased by her husband: Eric McWhirter, sons: Arthur and Robert; parents: Arthur Skene and Claudia Grenier; sister: Jane; and brothers: Léon and John.

She leaves behind her beloved children: Winston (Joyce), Linda (Gabriel), David (Linda), Eva (Wayne), Jack (Melissa), and Nancy (Jean-Luc); grandchildren: Rachel, Adam (Tera), Amy (Robert), Eric (Stephanie), Nicholas (Karianne), Jessie, and Alex (Sara); great-grandchildren: Lindsey, Jenna and Dominic; brothers: Clifton, Joseph (Gaby) and Winston (Mildred); sister-in-law: Eva Gignac; and brother-in-law: Gordon (Anne).

Andrée (Audrey) was very active in her community for many years. She was very active in the church serving thirty years as treasurer of St. Andrew's United Church, Hope Town; she was president of the Hope Town Sports Club for over twenty year; vice president of L'Age D'Or Saint Godefroi for many years and a member of the Malcom Evans Fund. She did fundraising for these organizations. Her golden years became a little tougher with severe arthritis pain and her decreasing eyesight. She kept busy as long as she was able.

Family was very important to her and she enjoyed visits from her children, grandchildren, brother and friends. We have many beautiful memories. Audrey is gone but will never be forgotten.

Thank you to Dr. Jean Louis Levesque for home visits, Dr. Prevost and Dr. Vachon and the nurses at the CHBC Maria for the excellent care received.

Her funeral was held on October 29 at 2 p.m. at St. Andrew's United Church in Hope Town followed by burial at the cemetery.

Thank you to Reverend Pierre Momberg for the serv-

ice and the organist Mrs. Lois Hayes. We would like to thank everyone for the support at this difficult time.

The MacWhirter Family.



In Memory



SIMON: Wilma

In loving memory of a dear mother, grandmother and great-grandmother who passed away 5 years ago on November 17, 2016.

*We often sit and think of you,
Of the things you used to say and do.
You live with us in memory still,
Not just today but always will.
You are forever in our hearts.*

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COAST ROUND-UP

GASPE:

Shoebboxes 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, Haute-ville, Quebec, QC G1R 4M8.

GASPE:

Gaspe Cancer Foundation AGM

November 14: The Annual General Meeting for the Gaspé Cancer Foundation will be held at 1 p.m. at the Gaspé Legion, Branch 59. Protocols regarding Covid-19 will be respected. Thank you for your continued support.

NEW CARLISLE:

Christmas Bazaar

December 4: A Christmas Bazaar will be held at the Gilker Residence from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Covid restrictions are in effect. Have your vaccination passport on hand.

NEW CARLISLE:

L.I.F.E

Association AGM

November 23: The L.I.F.E Association will hold its Annual General Meeting at 4 p.m. at The Anchor. Come and learn what our association has been doing for mentally handicapped adults this past year and get a report on our financial situation. All are welcome.

NEW RICHMOND:

St. Andrew's United Church

St. Andrews United Church will

begin the advent season with a Christmas caroling service on **November 21** at 6 p.m. Also the Christmas Eve service with communion will be held on December 24 at 6 p.m. A warm welcome is extended to all to join us for these special Christmas services.

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.

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES: Book Room

The book room is once again open on Wednesday afternoons from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. A large selection of books is on

hand. For more information, please contact Kathleen at 418-392-4896.

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES: Christmas Parade

The 1st Annual Cascapedia Saint Jules Christmas Parade will take place on **Saturday, December 4, 2021**, at 4 p.m. All floats, decorated vehicles and sponsors are welcome. Please register your float or vehicle with Lisa Cleary by email: lcleary79@gmail.com. Deadline for registration is Wednesday, December 1, 2021. The parade will end at the Cascapedia Saint Jules Community Centre with a Bonfire. Hot chocolate, soup, and hot dogs will be served. Prizes for Best Overall Float, Best Themed Float, Best Costume, Most Christmas

Spirit, and Best Ugly Christmas Sweater will be awarded to attendees. Floats are to meet at Cascapedia Enterprises (247 Rte 299), no later than 3:30 p.m. Santa is excited to see everyone in attendance this holiday season.

UNITED CHURCH

Sunday, November 21

2 p.m. Hope Town

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

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

WORDS

ADMINISTRATOR
ANCILLARY
ANNUAL
BENEFICIARY
CHILDREN
CODICIL
CONSERVATOR
CONTEST
CREDITOR
DEED
DISCLAIM
ESTATE
EXCLUSION
FIDUCIARY
FUNDS
GRANTOR
HEIR
INHERITANCE
PROBATE
PROPERTY
PROXY
TAXES
TRUST
WILL

Did you know?

READING TO CHILDREN AT AN EARLY AGE CAN FOSTER A LOVE OF READING IN CHILDREN, MAKING THEM LIFELONG READERS.

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to sports.

P R U E I M

□ □ □ □ □ □

Answer: *Umpire*

HOROSCOPES

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, you may not jump out of bed excited to work, but things may change in the next few days. Pleasant interactions at the workplace play a factor into your good mood.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

Stop and smell the roses as much as possible, Taurus. Cherish the good things you encounter, whether they are big or small. Take advantage of an opportunity to indulge.

GEMINI – May 22/June 21

Gemini, don't let trivial things distract

you from the bigger picture. Even if a small opportunity does not initially seem like a big deal, it could grow in the days to come.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, people are interested in what you have to say, even if you're normally inclined to keep things under wraps. Start practicing what you are going to talk about.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, you may experience a burst of productivity in the days to come. Harness this energy and get as much done as possible. Expect a helping hand from others.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

This week will be a lesson in putting yourself first, Virgo. Even if you don't

crave the limelight, people will be shining a spotlight on you for the time being. Prove your worth.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, progress you make in the next several days could be beneficial to you in the long run, even if doesn't seem like it right now. Keep plodding on.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

A surprising energy may compel you to eschew responsibilities and seek out some new horizons, Scorpio. Don't shy away from exploring wherever you see fit.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

Don't be surprised if things get a little stressful at work this week, Sagittarius. Instead of feeling overwhelmed, think of it as an opportunity to find success.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Figure out how to strike a balance in your life, Capricorn. This may mean sharing work with other people to free up more opportunities to spend time with family.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, you will be presented with various opportunities in the days to come. Some may be more worthy of your attention than others. Vet the options that come your way.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, uncertainty may hang over your love life. You may need to find a way to sum up how you feel. Then you can take action.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

NOVEMBER 14

Prince Charles,

British Royalty (73)

NOVEMBER 15

Lily Aldridge, Model (36)

NOVEMBER 16

Pete Davidson, Comic (28)

NOVEMBER 17

Tom Ellis, Actor (43)

NOVEMBER 18

David Ortiz, Sports analyst (46)

NOVEMBER 19

Adam Driver, Actor (38)

NOVEMBER 20

Joe Biden, US President (79)

Dr. Yv Bonnier Viger finalist for College of Physicians Award

Nelson **Sergerie**,
LJI Journalist

GASPÉ - Dr. Yv Bonnier Viger, someone many of us have come to know of since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, was on a short list to receive the Rayonnement award from the College of Physicians. It was presented to Dr. Caroline Quach-Thanh on November 5.

Dr. Quach-Thanh is a familiar face in the French-language Quebec media as she has explained the impacts of the pandemic almost daily, notably on Radio-Canada TV. Attached to the Sainte-Justine Hospital in Montreal, a centre dedicated to children like the Montreal Children's Hospital, the doctor is a full professor of the department of microbiology, infectiology and immunology of the University of Montreal; a pediatrician microbiologist infectious disease, in charge of prevention and control of infections at Sainte-Justine; in addition to being the medical director of OPTILAB at her hospital.

The director of public health for the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands, Dr. Yv Bonnier Viger was on this short list of five candidates. The Integrated Health and Social Services Centre of the Gaspé had



Photo: N. Sergerie

Dr. Yv Bonnier Viger was among the five finalists for the Rayonnement Award.

submitted the candidacy of Dr. Bonnier Viger for his actions in connection with the pandemic. "When you think of all the colour codes and what you could experience with regard to the epidemiological situation, he was a fervent defender of everything the Gaspé asked of him," said the President and CEO of the CISSS, Chantal Duguay.

Modest by nature, the medical specialist wanted to share this achievement with his team.

"I don't necessarily view it personally. I think it's a collective effort that we have all done," explains Dr. Bonnier Viger, who has held the position of Director of Public Health in the region since 2016.

In 2019, the 71-year-old specialist received a Public Health Association Award for Lifetime Achievement. The Rayonnement award is awarded to a doctor who promotes the medical profession in his region.



Photo: N. Sergerie

Participating can be exhilarating

\$100,000 targeted for the 10th Polar Dip in Percé

Nelson **Sergerie**,
LJI Journalist

PERCÉ - The organizers of the Saucette for Operation Enfant Soleil are aiming high for the tenth edition on December 11. They set the goal at \$100,000 and are confident they will reach it.

"It's achievable. We hit \$60,000 last year, so, \$40,000 more. I think we can do it. In any case, that's our goal," says one of the co-organizers, Marie-Ève Trudel-Vibert.

Pandemic obliges: ten teams of ten participants for a total of 100 "dippers." After consulting with the public health authorities to ensure health protection measures, it was decided that the public will not be invited.

In recent years, a party in the heart of Percé was organized as some restaurateurs opened their doors for the event and kiosks were set up showcasing local and regional products.

Since the Polar Dip began in 2011, a sum of \$289,231 has been raised and donated to Opération Enfant Soleil.

The organization never thought it would go this far.

"Already the first year, everyone told us we were pretty crazy thinking that we would go and get some money in exchange for a gesture of taking the plunge. We did not at all project that we would still be here 10 years later," says Ms. Trudel-Vibert.

As of November 11, the organizers indicated that the threshold of \$15,000 had already been achieved. As an example of the size of the sum, the organizers revealed that this amount could be used to purchase a heated bed that provides a warm, comfortable, and newborn-friendly environment. It controls heat, air, humidity, oxygen, light and noise for newborn babies.

Registrations are already full.

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